COMMANDER’S COMMENTS

By Clare Sullivan

Wow! We did it! May is such a hugely busy month for all of us at the Post 5 Family!!! And as always, I am so impressed at the talent we have and so thankful that all these dedicated folks volunteered to make all of our events a huge success! What is particularly notable is the reasons for volunteering. These folks are service oriented and hugely patriotic. They all have busy lives, families and their jobs to attend to but these amazing people manage to carve out time and for some a considerable amount of time to serve others in our community. Thank you for all you do!

Our month was very busy, and we were involved nearly every week with something that helped others and required the help of lots of volunteers. For those who were not aware of the events (above and beyond our monthly activities) we served one of our largest Mother’s Day Breakfasts to all the amazing mom’s out there, we celebrated Armed Forces Day with the Chamber of Commerce and the Military Rec Camp with a yummy hot dog feed during the Harbor Opening Weekend, every (rainy) weekend we were out there doing the cemetery clean up in preparation for our Memorial Day ceremony, we supported the Armed Services YMCA Combat Fishing Tournament Banquet by feeding all participants in the tournament at the banquet, and we closed out the month with Memorial Day ceremony at the American Legion Cemetery and provided everyone lunch at the post at the conclusion of ceremony. That was quite the month, and all done by our volunteers from our American Legion Family! Your actions speak volumes of your character and your commitment to this community and our veterans. It is so appreciated and although we do not get a lot of fanfare or publicity for our activities, we do all with the right motivation and incredible dedication because we all care about our mission of support. I have to admit, it is sometimes a bit demanding on all of us with all our busy schedules, but with lots of good folks who continually step up to the plate, it makes it easier on everyone! Thank you all; your selfless service makes the difference for our American Legion and for many in this town.

We manage to get a lot done that helps others and is also fun to do. We also get the collateral benefit of making good friends with “quality” people - those who value “service before self.” I’d like to list everyone, but you know who you are! 😊 And, for anyone who would like to see what is being done, please take a look at our American Legion Seward Post 5 Facebook page. You’ll get a good appreciation of what we do and what we’ve accomplished. There you can see our American Legion Family “in action.” 😊

This month looks to be another good month just not at the same frenzied pace. We should be able to schedule ourselves with expected activities including our weekly events that you’ll see on the calendar, plus of course we will have a Flag Day Ceremony on Thursday, 14 June at around 6pm and of course our Father’s Day Breakfast on Sunday 17 June.

Flag Day, like our other important patriotic holidays, is necessary to preserve our significant history and to educate and keep traditions alive. Observing Flag Day not just honors a great flag of our country but it also reminds us of where we have been as a young country fighting for our freedom, and the incredible journey we have travelled to be the great nation that we are now. The road to where we are has been paved with bravery and the blood of those who found it worthwhile to keep pursuing our ideals of freedom and justice. As life’s events compete for our attention, sometimes these patriotic holidays get shelved or receive token attention. Sometimes the overt demonstration to display patriotism is met with a bit of condescension, resistance or ignorance simply because the observances have taken the backseat to other activities surrounding the day. Often too, there are those that take what we have as a country for granted and hold those who are proud to openly patriotic with disdain or arrogance - which is sad open commentary to their demonstrated ignorance. With that said, we have the obligation as members of the American Legion Family to keep these traditions alive and inspire others by our actions of our love of country.

Please consider reading up on our patriotic holidays, particularly Flag Day for this month and fly the flag. We have a great country and all our patriotic holidays are so very important to us as a nation and a free people.
cobbled together from various New England militia companies. They had no unified chain of command, and although Artemas Ward of Massachusetts exercised authority by informal agreement, officers from other colonies were not obligated to obey his orders. The American volunteers were led, equipped, armed, paid for, and supported by the colonies from which they were raised and they were not expected to stand a chance against Britain's seasoned professionals.

Recognizing the need to enlist the support of all of the American seaboard colonies, the Massachusetts Provincial Congress appealed to the Second Continental Congress in Philadelphia to assume authority for the New England army. Reportedly, at John Adams' request, Congress voted to "adopt" the Boston troops on June 14, although there is no written record of this decision. Also on this day, Congress resolved to form a committee "to bring in a draft of rules and regulations for the government of the Army," and voted $2,000,000 to support the forces around Boston, and those at New York City. Moreover, Congress authorized the formation of ten companies of expert riflemen from Pennsylvania, Maryland, and Virginia, which were directed to march to Boston to support the New England militia.

Washington received his appointment as commander-in-chief of the Continental Army the next day, and formally took command at Boston on July 3, 1775.

The Army was born, and we have come a long way since the "cobbled together" group of militiamen!

Facts About the United States Army

- Twenty-four U.S Presidents served in the United States Army
- George Washington chose the colors of the modern U.S Army uniform
- The U.S Army is older than the United States
- Over the past 10 years, Green Berets have been deployed in over 135 countries worldwide
- The U.S Army is the second largest employer in the U.S
- In 2011, the U.S Army estimated it used 1 billion gallons of gasoline.

United States Army Birthday

By John R. Maass, Historian
US Army Center of Military History

When the American Revolution broke out, the rebellious colonies did not possess an army in the modern sense. Rather, the revolutionaries fielded an amateur force of colonial troops,
Sounding Off from the Sons....
By Mike Calhoon

Greetings from the SAL First Vice Commander.
Well, we cruised through May with lots of volunteer opportunities and the volunteers came through in a big way! Squadron 5 again displayed its dedication to fulfilling the mission of the Post 5 Family.

The Post hosted Mother’s Day breakfast, Armed Forces Day Hot Dog feed, Community Breakfast, Combat Fishing, and Memorial Day. All of this was done with great help from Squadron 5 members. On top of that, there were many hours spent preparing the Legion Cemetery for the Memorial Day ceremony. Again, there were many Squadron 5 members assisting there. I will give a special thanks to David Osborn for his continued dedication to the maintenance and improvements at the cemetery. Without his work and coordination, a lot of the required repair and maintenance would not have been possible.

Squadron members, along with Post members and local volunteers also helped to repair a handicap access ramp for a local veteran in need. Great job everyone!

June settles out a little. There are still opportunities to volunteer as the Post will have the Flag Day ceremony on Thursday, June 14th and Father’s Day breakfast on June 17th. We will still be doing some smaller projects at the Post and we will let you know when these will occur. Also, on the horizon is 4th of July. Lots of help needed then.

We are in the last month of the 2018 Membership Year which ends on June 30th. Please consider renewing your membership if you have not done so and if you know an eligible veteran please bring them to the Post so we can discuss membership with them. Membership is the foundation for everything we do. A larger and active membership helps us plan more ways to assist our veterans and the community of Seward. You can renew via mail, in person or online at legion.org.

Poker, and bingo are going strong so come on in and enjoy some good food, drinks, and harassment from the bar staff.

Remember, those of you on the Building Committee, the next meeting is on Tuesday, June 5th at 7:00pm.

Thanks to all of you who continue to support your Post and all the activities designed to support our membership, our veterans, and the community. We look forward to seeing you all and please feel free to call if you have any questions or concerns.
From the President’s Desk....
By Deb Van Tassel

Whew! We made it through a very busy month of May! Mother Nature didn’t always cooperate and was probably one of the wettest and coldest May’s we have had in many years but that didn’t stop the American Legion family from completing their many projects and activities.

Once again, a HUGE thank you to all the volunteers who donate countless hours to help accomplish our goals, without the volunteers we would not be able to accomplish what we do to serve our community, veterans, children and youth and active duty military.

One of the Units biggest programs of the year is the Poppy Program. Thank you Angela for getting the Poppy cans out into the community.

A Short History of the Memorial Day Poppy

The red cloth poppies first became a symbol of the tragic cost of war and the sacrifices and valor of the US military in the days following World War I. In the battlefields of Belgium, poppies grew wild amid the ravaged landscape. How could such a pretty little flower grow wild while surrounded by death and destruction? The overturned soils of battle enabled the poppy seeds to be covered, thus allowing them to grow and to forever serve as a reminder of the bloodshed during that and future wars. They became the enduring symbol of the sacrifice of lives in war and represented the hope that none had died in vain. The American Legion Auxiliary Poppy has continued to bloom for the casualties of wars and conflict since its beginning following World War I.

The poppy movement was inspired by the poem "In Flanders Fields" written by Lieutenant Colonel John McCrae of the Canadian forces in 1915 before the United States entered World War I.

The wearing of the poppy has become a familiar tradition in almost every community. This distribution of the bright red memorial flower to the public is one of the oldest and most widely recognized programs of the American Legion Auxiliary.

Unit 5 awarded three scholarships to Seward High School graduating seniors. Congratulations to Elena Hamner, Maile Moriarity and Chance Lechtner. It is an honor to be able to assist them to continue their education.

In May we helped with the Mother’s Day breakfast, 3rd Sunday breakfast, Combat Fishing Tournament and the Memorial Day Ceremonies at the Cemetery. The Memorial Day Ceremonies were well attended and Mother Nature finally decided to be nice and we had a beautiful day to honor our service members who are no longer with us.

So now onto June and our activities June 3rd the Auxiliary is trying a new fund raising event. We are hosting a Pampered Chef event. The representative is offering to donate her commission back to the Auxiliary so this has a great potential for being a very successful fund raiser for the Unit. If you have ever considered buying Pampered Chef items come to the Post on June 3 between 1 and 4 PM. If you can’t attend you can order online at www.pamperedchef.com/go/alux5. Please help support the Auxiliary with this fund raiser.

June 14 is Flag Day. The reason we celebrate Flag Day is simple- it’s the day that marks the adoption of the flag of the United States which happened on June 14, 1777, thanks to a resolution of the Second Continental Congress. Flag Day is also a special day for the United States Army because it’s the day they celebrate their birthday. 

June 17- Father’s Day and 3rd Sunday breakfast-

Every Monday night is Bingo-

So as usual there are a lot of things going on at the Post and Auxiliary. Come on down and lend a hand and support these many wonderful programs that support the goals and mission of the American Legion Auxiliary.

FOR GOD AND COUNTRY
The Korean War (1950-53) was a military conflict between the Republic of Korea, supported by the United Nations, and the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea and People’s Republic of China (PRC), with air support from the Soviet Union. The war began on 25 June 1950 and an armistice was signed on 27 July 1953. The war was a result of the political division of Korea by agreement of the victorious Allies at the conclusion of the Pacific War. The Korean peninsula had been ruled by Japan prior to the end of the war.

In 1945, following the surrender of Japan, American administrators divided the peninsula along the 38th parallel, with United States troops occupying the southern part and Soviet troops occupying the northern part. The failure to hold free elections throughout the Korean Peninsula in 1948 deepened the division between the two sides, and the North established a Communist government. The 38th Parallel increasingly became a political border between the two Koreas. Although reunification negotiations continued in the months preceding the war, tension intensified. Cross-border skirmishes and raids at the 38th Parallel persisted. The situation escalated into open warfare when North Korean forces invaded South Korea on 25 June 1950. It was the first significant armed conflict of the Cold War.

The United Nations, particularly the United States, came to the aid of the South Koreans in repelling the invasion. After early defeats by the North Korean military, when a rapid UN counter-offensive repelled the North Koreans past the 38th Parallel and almost to the Yalu River, the People’s Republic of China (PRC) came to the aid of Communist North. With Communist China’s entry into the conflict, the fighting took on a more dangerous tone. The rapid Chinese counter-offensive repelled the United Nations forces past the 38th Parallel. The Soviet Union materially aided North Korea and China. The threat of a nuclear world war eventually ceased with an armistice that restored the border between the Koreas near to the 38th Parallel and created the Korean Demilitarized Zone (DMZ), a 2.5-mile (4.0 km) wide buffer zone between the two Koreas.

During the war, both North and South Korea were sponsored by external powers, thus facilitating the war’s metamorphosis from a civil war to a proxy war between powers involved in the larger Cold War. From a military science perspective, the Korean War combined strategies and tactics of World War I and World War II – swift infantry attacks followed by air bombing raids. The initial mobile campaign transitioned to trench warfare, lasting from January 1951 until the 1953 border stalemate and armistice.

The American Legion supports such an amendment through ongoing support and formal resolutions. The American Legion continues to urge the Congress of the United States to propose and approve an amendment to the U.S. Constitution that would allow the Congress to prohibit the physical desecration of the Flag of the United States.

A similar resolution was brought forward in light of pro athletes kneeling during the National Anthem which states The American Legion expects participants of its American Legion sports programs to show proper respect to the U.S. flag at all times, including during the playing of National Anthem... and that if a participant involved in any Legion program "cannot or will not” meet the Legion's expectation, the resolution further states "the individual should not be a participant in American Legion programs.”
Since not everyone can get to Facebook, I thought I would add a few select photos of the events and our great volunteers for the past month’s activities. We have some great volunteers in our American Legion Family...

**Combat Fishing Tournament Banquet**

**Cemetery Clean Up**

**Memorial Day**

**Armed Forces Day, Bike Blessing & Harbor Opening**

Thanks to all who participated in all our May events!
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Cell: 907-362-1727
marconinspect@yahoo.com

Black Rifle Coffee Company

https://www.blackriflecoffee.com/
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