

VETERANS STRENGTHENING AMERICA

SEWARD POST 5 NEWSLETTER

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American Legion Seward Post 5

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COMMANDER'S COMMENTS

By Clare Sullivan



The weather is getting better, the snow is going away and we're happy about seeing our lawns starting to show but that now means cleaning up yards during "Break Up!" 🙄🙄

I hear from our fishermen and tour folks that things are shaping up to be a really great year, bookings have been coming in fast and early. I'm guessing lots of people from the "Lower 48" are getting tired of doing the same old grind and are heading where it's easier to get to the "great outdoors," and I can't think of any place better than Alaska! 👍👍😊

As we are in May, we are planning on our regular activities, which means a really busy month! This includes first and foremost taking care of our "Post Everlasting" grounds. Our cemetery clean-up will begin in mid-May and I'll send out info on that date and time once we have that set up; we'll be working hard to get the cemetery grounds spiffed up in anticipation of our **Memorial Day Ceremony** on the 29th. On the 20th we will also be having the **ALR Bike Blessing, Armed Forces Day** celebration in the harbor and **Harbor Opening Festivities**. On the 24th we'll be providing the **Armed Services YMCA Combat Fishing Tournament** support which is a huge event; we'll also have the **3rd Sunday of the Month Breakfast, Mother's Day Breakfast**; the **Pioneers Igloo #9** will have their monthly meeting as will the **Coast Guard Auxiliary**. And we're planning on a few incoming Naval and Coast Guard ships that will stop over and visit!!!! **Whew!!!!**



No newsletter for a non-profit can go without acknowledging membership and the volunteers who are also our members. I want to give a huge thank you for all of you who renewed and a big welcome to all who have joined for the first time! Your support has allowed us to keep our membership in good shape and our post home filled with good fun and good camaraderie!



thank you!

As mentioned before we have an exceptionally busy May ahead of us and if you're looking for something to do or want to volunteer some time, we'd be happy (*really, really happy*) if you'd come on by and lend a hand. We have a fun time helping others, putting on events and serving our community. We particularly enjoy celebrating our



awesome holidays and putting on special events - whether it's Memorial Day, Independence Day, Flag Day, Veterans Day.....Combat Fishing Tournament support, Polar Bear events, Membership & Volunteer Appreciation special dinners or traditional holiday meals such as Thanksgiving, Christmas or Easter. It is important we keep our traditions, heritage and our history alive as we have an

amazing American culture that is the envy and the goal of so many who are not privileged to call the USA home.

The Summer is coming, so come on by the post. We have nightly meals for donation (except Friday Steak night - we can't afford donation only for that meal 😊), and they really are quite good! We welcome new folks and new ideas on how we can better support our veterans, our membership and our community.

On a sad note, one of Post 5's favorite Department of Alaska visitors has been called to Post Everlasting. Steven Huisman from Post 30 in North Pole died on April 24th. Steve was a consummate

legionnaire and always friendly and welcoming to all he met. Every Department event we had here in Seward he helped where he could and every year when he came to fish in town he spent his non-fishing time here at the post having good chats and sharing fishing stories with the rest of us. Steve, a Vietnam War Air Force Veteran with 27



continuous years of membership in the American Legion served in nearly all post and department officer positions, as well as numerous national positions where they shaped and influenced American Legion policy as well as provided significant input to national decision making on veteran and active duty issues. Steve, you'll be missed and we all send our condolences to your wonderful wife Terry and all the Huisman family.

Vice & Adjutant Report.....

By Mike Calhoon



Summer is right around the corner, no really it is!! Cool weather to start out the month but it will soon be time to mow your lawns. Get ready for the influx of visitors.

I would like to thank all the great volunteers for their help this last month. The continued social area and kitchen help was exceptional, as usual. The breakfast crew, Melody, Connie, Matt Stanley and kids, Debbie, Sharon, and Charlie did a marvelous job.



This month we will host the crew of the USCGC Fir on May 7th, we will have a memorial service for William Turley on May 10th at the cemetery at noon, Mother's Day breakfast on May 14th, a retirement party for Dave Joslin on May 17th, Armed Forces Day hotdog feed on May 20th, community breakfast on May 21st, Combat Fishing tournament help on May 24th, and Memorial Day on May 29th.

We will begin the cemetery clean-up and prep for Memorial Day in the next couple of weeks and will let everyone know when that occurs.



Pool league is going well, poker on Sundays has kicked in, and Bingo is going great on Mondays. Pool and Poker are Member only activities and Bingo is open to the community. We still serve food every night so come and enjoy some fun and some good food.

The 2023 membership year is rolling along. You can renew online at mylegion.org, by mail, or here at the Post. The dues remain \$60.00. Membership is the backbone of this organization, and we need to keep that backbone strong to continue to carry the load we do for our veterans and the community of Seward.

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.

Sounding Off from the Sons...

By Mike Calhoon, SAL 1st Vice



Well, some great weather days and some cooler days still hanging around. Time to get the mowers ready and the rods restrung.

Thanks to the great volunteers who helped the Post with the April functions and activities. Your investment of time and energy is greatly appreciated.

how can I help?

This month the Post will need help with Mother's Day breakfast on May 14th, Armed Forces Day hotdog feed on May 20th, the community breakfast on May 21st, Combat Fishing on May 24th, and Memorial Day on May 29th. Busy month for all of us.

The Squadron is held the drawing for the I.R.B.I. knife raffle on April 22nd and the winner was Terry Moon. Congrats to him!!!

Renew now



The 2023 Membership year continues and the Squadron is very close to its 100% goal so please consider renewing your membership at any time. The dues are \$35.00 for the 2023 year. Membership is the foundation for all the SAL programs.

If you have any questions or concerns, feel free to contact me at 224-5440. Thanks again for all your support of the Post 5 family and I look forward to seeing you all around the Post when possible.



Honor and Remember



From the President's Desk...

By Connie Kullander



Hello!

Well, another month has sped past us. Thank you everyone who helped us do what need to be done last month. We have another busy schedule ahead of us for May.

First of all, its poppy month, so we will be placing our poppy cans in various locations around town. Please donate to those cans as we are raising money for our veterans, active-duty service members and their families with needs. Meeting the need of our veterans should be the concern of every American who values his or her freedom. The Auxiliary promotes the poppy as a symbol of the sacrifices our military have made, a symbol to open people's hearts and inspire them to donate.



We will be assisting the Post in the welcoming of the USCGC Fir on Sunday the 7th. Volunteers are greatly appreciated. Then on the 14th of May, it's time to honor your mom. It's her day to be recognized for all she has done. We will be having breakfast at the post 9:00 am to 11:00 am.



On May 20th its Armed Forces Day. This is a day we honor all our military services. We will have hotdogs, chips, beans and potato salad at the front entrance of the Harbor Master's Office. Come join us in celebrating all our military services.

Next, we will be needing help for the third Sunday of the month breakfast. Volunteers needed. Also needing help as once again we are helping with Combat Fishing. Getting those who have never fished a chance to do so and another way to say Thank You for your service and all you do. Combat fishing is on May 24th.

Memorial Day, May 29th, is the day we recognize and honor those who lost their lives while defending their country. Ceremonies begin at 11:00 am at the American Legion Cemetery.

Graduation is also upon us as well as scholarships. So please get your kids to get their scholarship's turned in. Have a good month and I also have a reminder - we will need help

cleaning up around the post and the cemetery. Thank you to all the volunteers and all your hard work.



Armed Forces Day Excerpt from Military.com

Among the many military holidays celebrated each year is **Armed Forces Day**. Celebrated the third Saturday in May, Armed Forces Day falls during Military Appreciation Month and joins Memorial Day, Military Spouse Appreciation Day, and Victory in Europe Day (V-E Day) as another May military-themed holiday.



The History of Armed Forces Day

On Aug. 31, 1949, Defense Secretary Louis Johnson announced the creation of an Armed Forces Day to replace separate Army, Navy and Air Force Days. The single-day celebration stemmed from the unification of the armed forces under one agency -- the Department of Defense.

In a speech announcing the creation of the day, President Truman "praised the work of the military services at home and across the seas." He said, "It is vital to the security of the nation and to the establishment of a desirable peace." In an excerpt from the Presidential Proclamation of Feb. 27, 1950, Truman stated: "Armed Forces Day, Saturday, May 20, 1950, marks the first combined demonstration by America's defense team of its progress, under the National Security Act, toward the goal of readiness for any eventuality. It is the first parade of preparedness by the unified forces of our land, sea, and air defense."



Special Dates in May

May is **National Military Appreciation Month** - A month to recognize and show appreciation to the Armed Forces of the United States of America.

May is also the **Month of the Military Care Giver** - The Month of the Military Caregiver is observed in May each year to honor more than five million caregivers in the United States. Paying tribute to the people who care for more than two million veterans is an important part of supporting troops and military families.

May 12th - **Military Spouse Appreciation Day**. On Military Spouse Appreciation Day, we honor the contributions and sacrifices made by military spouses. Their commitment and support help to keep our country safe. America's military spouses are the backbone of the families who support our troops during mission, deployment, reintegration and reset. Military spouses are silent heroes who are essential to the strength of the nation, and they serve our country just like their loved ones.

May 8th - **VE Day** (Victory in Europe). A day which marks the anniversary of the Allies' victory in Europe during World War II on May 8, 1945.

May 13th - **Children of Fallen Patriots Day**. A day to honor the families our Fallen Heroes have left behind - especially their children. It's a reminder to the community that we have an obligation to support the families of our Fallen Patriots

May 14th - **Mother's Day** - come down to the Post for a great breakfast served up by the awesome Breakfast Crew to our honor mothers!

May 15th - **Peace Officers Memorial Day**. Peace Officers Memorial Day falls on May 15 each year to pay tribute to the brave local, state, and federal peace officers who have died or been disabled in the line of duty.

May 20st - **Armed Forces Day** - a day to pay special tribute to the men and women of our Armed Forces.

May 26th - **National Poppy Day** - The red poppy is a nationally recognized symbol of sacrifice worn by Americans since World War I to honor those who served and died for our country in all wars. It reminds Americans of the sacrifices made by our veterans while protecting our freedoms. Wear a poppy to honor those who have worn our nation's uniform.

May 30th - **Memorial Day**. A Federal holiday observed on the last Monday in May and commemorates the men and women who died while in the military service. Pay tribute to the U.S. men and women who died during military service by observing a national moment of remembrance with a minute of silence at 3:00 PM local time.

The **National Moment of Remembrance** is an annual event that asks Americans to pause for a moment of silence for a minute at 3:00 pm on Memorial Day. The 3 pm time was chosen, because it is the time when many Americans are enjoying their freedoms on the national holiday. It is intended to be a unifying act of remembrance for Americans of all ages. The National Moment of Remembrance Act became law in the year 2000.



ALR Director's Notes

By Bobby Dunno



Well, if we have not got out for a ride yet, it's May and there is almost a certainty that we will get at least one nice day to ride.....maybe? All kidding aside we have all seen those intrepid riders out braving the gravel clogged and slightly wet roads because we just can't wait anymore! I, myself, only got my Victory out in the past two days.



News from the ALR Alaska, we have elected a new Officer core. The highlight of that while Carrie "Chunkz" Hintz remains our Director; it will be yours truly as the Assistant Director for the ALRA. The rest of the officers remained the same with the exception of Sgt-at-Arms/Road Captain position remains vacant. Carrie will be making that appointment soon. Interesting to note that Carrie will be the first to hold the ALRA Director position for 3 years straight, since Vicky Kosman repeated it ending in 2011. The only other news of note is the ALRA by-laws have gone through a couple administrative updates, but I will bore the membership with those details at our upcoming meeting. 😊😊😊



This month Seward Post 5 will be hosting our annual Bike Blessing at 09:30 am in the front of the Post on the 20th of May and we'll be celebrating Armed Forces Day too! We may see some visitors from other ALR Chapters this year as there was some interest from riders on the peninsula's other chapters. Our Post will be producing the Seward Harbor Opening Hotdog Feed in front of the Harbormasters Office shortly after the Bike Blessing. So now that the roads are clear and the bikes are revving, ya'll keep a lookout because we American Legion Riders are **Getting on our Bikes and Riding.....finally!** 😊



"It is foolish and wrong to mourn the men who died. Rather we should thank God such men lived." - George S. Patton

Memorial Day Poem In Flanders' Field



Taps



A hallmark Memorial Day poem was written by Lieutenant Colonel John McCrae. It is titled "In Flanders Fields" & remains to this day one of the most memorable war poems ever written. It is a lasting legacy of the terrible battle in the Ypres Salient in the spring of 1915.

As a surgeon attached to the 1st Field Artillery Brigade, McCrae, who had joined the McGill faculty in 1900 after graduating from the University of Toronto, had spent seventeen days treating injured men -- Canadians, British, Indians, French, and Germans -- in the Ypres Salient.

One death particularly affected McCrae. A young friend and former student, Lieutenant Alexis Helmer of Ottawa, had been killed by a shell burst on 2 May 1915. Lieutenant Helmer was buried later that day in the little cemetery outside McCrae's dressing station, and McCrae had performed the funeral ceremony in the absence of the chaplain.

The next day, sitting on the back of an ambulance parked near the dressing station beside the Canal de l'Yser, just a few hundred yards north of Ypres, McCrae vented his anguish by composing a poem. The major was no stranger to writing, having authored several medical texts besides dabbling in poetry.

In the nearby cemetery, McCrae could see the wild poppies that sprang up in the ditches in that part of Europe, and he spent twenty minutes of precious rest time scribbling fifteen lines of verse in a notebook.

*In Flanders fields the poppies blow
Between the crosses, row on row,
That mark our place; and in the sky
The larks, still bravely singing, fly
Scarce heard amid the guns below.*

*We are the Dead. Short days ago
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,
Loved and were loved, and now we lie,
In Flanders fields.*

*Take up our quarrel with the foe:
To you from failing hands we throw
The torch; be yours to hold it high.
If ye break faith with us who die
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow
In Flanders fields.*



Of all the military bugle calls, none is so easily recognized or more apt to render emotion than the call Taps. The melody is both eloquent and haunting and the history of its origin is interesting and somewhat clouded in controversy. In the British Army, a similar call known as Last Post has been sounded over soldiers' graves since 1885, but the use of Taps is unique with the United States Military, since the call is sounded at funerals, wreath-laying and memorial services. Taps began as a revision to the signal for Extinguish Lights (Lights Out) at the end of the day. Up until the Civil War, the Infantry call for Extinguish Lights was the one set down in Silas Casey's (1801-1882) Tactics, which had been borrowed from the French. The music for Taps was adapted by Union General Daniel Butterfield for his brigade in July, 1862.



Daniel Adams Butterfield was the commander of a brigade of the V Corps of the Army of the Potomac and served in the Shenandoah Valley during the Bull Run Campaign. During the Peninsular Campaign Butterfield served

prominently when during the Battle of Gaines Mill, despite an injury, he seized the colors of the 83rd Pennsylvania and rallied the regiment at a critical time in the battle. Years later, he was awarded the Medal of Honor for that act of heroism.

As the story goes, General Butterfield was not pleased with the call for Extinguish Lights feeling that the call was too formal to signal the days end and with the help of the brigade bugler, **Oliver Willcox Norton** from Harrison's Landing, Virginia, wrote Taps to honor his men while in camp at the Seven Day's Battle. These battles took place during the Peninsular Campaign of 1862. The call sounded that night in July, 1862, soon spread to other units of the Union Army and was even used by the Confederates. Taps was made an official bugle call after the war. As the years went on many more versions were created. There are no official words to the music but here are some of the more popular verses:



"Fading light dims the sight,
And a star gems the sky, gleaming bright.
From afar drawing nigh -- Falls the night.

"Day is done, gone the sun,
From the lake, from the hills, from the sky.
All is well, safely rest, God is nigh.

"Then good night, peaceful night,
Till the light of the dawn shineth bright,
God is near, do not fear -- Friend, good night."

"TAPS" is customarily played at funerals at Arlington National Cemetery as well as at ceremonies at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldiers.

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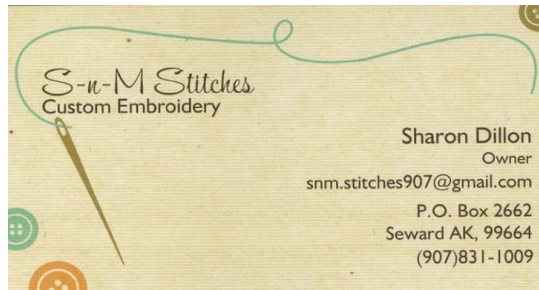
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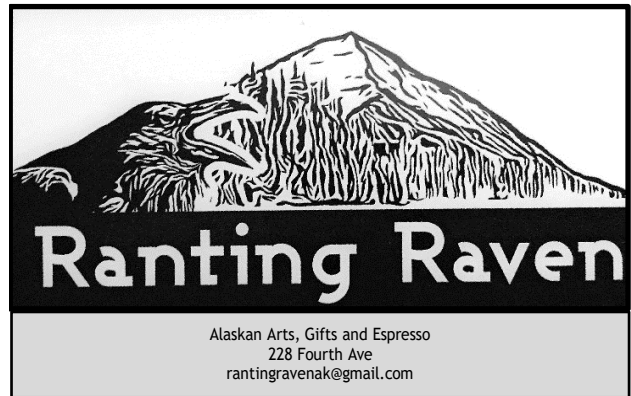
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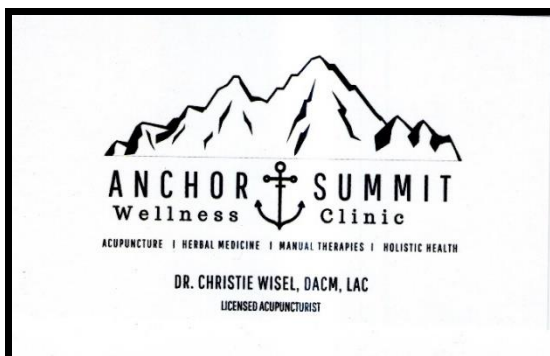
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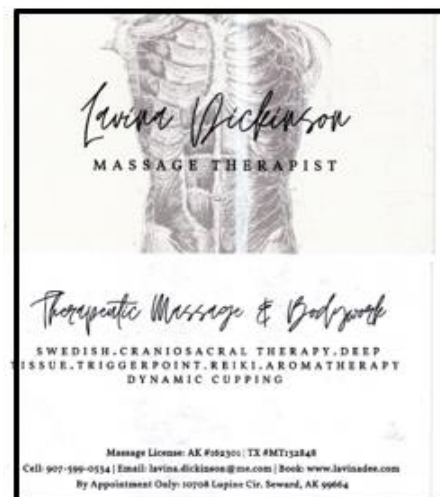


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May 2023

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1	Mexican Martes 2	3	B,B,M&C 4	Steak Night 5	6
	Chili Dog Monday  Bingo 6:30 pm	 Tuesday	Jewelry Class 6:00 pm 	<u>ALR Meeting</u> 5:30 pm  Pioneers Igloo #9 Monthly Meeting		Pool League End of Season Dinner 7:00 pm 
7	8	Mexican Martes 9	10	B,B,M&C 11	Steak Night 12	13
USCGC Fir Crew Dinner 	Chili Dog Monday  Bingo 6:30 pm	<u>Post Meeting</u> 5:30 pm 	<u>Auxiliary</u> <u>Meeting 6:00 pm</u>  Jewelry Class 6:00 pm	<u>SAL Meeting</u> 7pm 	 Military Spouse Appreciation Day	
14	15	Mexican Martes 16	17	B,B,M&C 18	Steak Night 19	20
Mothers' Day Breakfast 9am-11am  Luscious Leftovers Members' Poker 5:00 pm (season's last)	Chili Dog Monday  Bingo 6:30 pm		Jewelry Class 6:00 pm 	YOU'RE THE CHEESE  TO MY MACARONI		 ARMED FORCES DAY Harbor Opening Hotdog Feed in the Harbor 11-2 pm
21	22	Mexican Martes 23	24	B,B,M&C 25	Steak Night 26	27
3rd Sunday of the Month Community Breakfast 9am-11am Luscious Leftovers 	Chili Dog Monday  Bingo 6:30 pm		Armed Services YMCA Combat Fishing Tournament  Jewelry Class 6:00 pm	Burgers, Bacon, Mac and Cheese 	National Poppy Day 	
28	29	Mexican Martes 30	31			
Luscious Leftovers  LEFTOVERS!	memorial DAY  Memorial Day Ceremony at Cemetery 11:00 am Lunch Served at Post at noon		Guest Chef Dinner By Charlie Jackson Salisbury Steak  Jewelry Class 6:00 pm	 ARMED FORCES DAY		

Food Served Every Night at the Post

