



VETERANS STRENGTHENING AMERICA

SEWARD POST 5 NEWSLETTER

MAY 2024
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American Legion Seward Post 5

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COMMANDER'S COMMENTS

By Clare Sullivan



The weather is finally 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!" 😬😬

Although we had a busy winter at the post, it's starting to look like "Tourist Season" in town as we're getting more people stopping in and our snowbirds are returning to Seward for the spring and summer months. I'm guessing a lot of people from the "Lower 48" are getting tired of doing the same old grind and are heading out 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 27th. Please plan on attending the ceremony which begins at 11:30 am.



The month starts out with the ALR monthly meeting on the 2nd as well as the Igloo #9 having their monthly meeting immediately following the ALR's meeting; the following week will be meeting week for nearly everyone else. Saturday the 11th the ALR will have their monthly breakfast feed. And, Don't forget Mother's Day on the 12, where we'll have a hearty breakfast for all those Moms out there!!!

On the 18th we will also be having the **ALR Bike Blessing, Armed Forces Day** celebration in the harbor, **Harbor Opening Festivities and the Mermaid Festival**. During that same weekend we also have the 3rd Sunday of the month breakfast at the post.

On May 22nd we'll be providing the **Armed Services YMCA Combat Fishing Tournament** support which is a huge event, and we'll need lots of volunteers from early morning to early evening.

Take a look at the calendar, all this is on there!!!! 😊

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 volunteer and all those 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!



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 of so many who are not privileged to call the USA home. We have a jewel of a country, and although not perfect, it is the best nation and form of government out there for a amazing and diverse citizenry that we have.



The Summer is coming, so come on by the post. We have nightly meals for donation (except Friday Steak night - we can't afford a 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 final note, congrats to all the new officers elected at the Department's annual convention at Post 20 in Kenai. All the best for a fabulous year and we look forward to our attendees info at our May meetings.

Congrats

Vice & Adjutant Report.....

By Mike Calhoon



Hello from the Second Vice and Adjutant,

Good weather has kicked in a bit and maybe summer is on the way. We have been welcoming back many of our snowbirds recently and it has been great seeing them back in Seward for the summer.

Last month we will be hosted the crew of the USCGC Fir for dinner on April 3rd, we had the ALR breakfast on April 13th, and we had the community breakfast on April 21st. Not our busiest month but lots of fun.

This month is much busier as we will have the ALR breakfast on May 11th, Mother's Day breakfast on May 12th, the Armed Forces Day hotdog feed on May 18th, our community breakfast on May 19th, the Combat Fishing tournament on May 22nd, and Memorial Day activities on May 27th. Along the way, we will be prepping the cemetery for Memorial Day. Please let us know if you can help with any of these activities.

We are running another gun raffle for a Ruger American 30-06 with a 3-9x Vortex scope. The drawing will be held on May 17th.



Members only Pool League has ended and our members only poker will end on May 11th. Bingo will continue through the summer on Monday nights @ 6:30pm.



It is getting busier at the Post, so I would like to ask everyone to be considerate of others when you come to enjoy the food here. We provide these meals as a benefit to our membership and would like to see as many members have had the opportunity to eat as

possible. Please limit yourselves to one helping until it is apparent that most folks who want to have eaten. Thank you for your consideration.

The 2024 membership year is coming to a close soon. The Post achieved its goal for 100% membership for 2024 but you can still renew if you have not done so.

[Renew now](#)



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



Greetings from the SAL First Vice Commander.

Dare I say, Spring has sprung and maybe summer is looming in the not-too-distant future.

A big thank you to everyone who continues to support the Squadron and Post activities. March was particularly busy this year for the Post and your attendance and participation helped the Post complete its mission.



This month the Post will host the ALR breakfast on May 11th, Mother's Day breakfast on May 12th, Armed Forces Day hotdog feed in the harbor on May 18th, community breakfast on May 19th, Combat fishing banquet on May 22nd, Memorial Day on May 27th, and cemetery clean-up all mixed in there. Please let us know if you are able to lend a hand with any of these activities.

Randy Kockritz attended the Department of Alaska convention at Post 20 in Kenai and came back with lots of information to share.

We are closing in on the end of the end of the 2024 membership year so please consider renewing your membership. Dues are \$35.00. I think the online issue has been resolved but if you try to renew online and it says the dues are only \$16.00, please let me know and come to the Post to renew or mail in your \$35.00 to PO Box 3091. Remember, your membership helps us support the mission and goals of the Sons of American Legion and the Post 5 family.

If you have any questions or concerns, feel free to contact me at 907-224-5440. Thanks again for all your support of the Post 5 family and I look forward to seeing you all around the Post when possible.



From the President's Desk...

By Deb Vantassel



Well, I am hoping the old saying April Showers bring May flowers is true - I am certainly ready for the April Snow showers to go away and bring us some nice May weather that lets the flowers start to show up!

Auxiliary Membership is at 102%. However, if you have not renewed for the 2024 year please do so. The membership dues help support the ALA programs on a Unit, Department and National level. Renew Today!



May is always a busy month for the American Legion Family and this year will be no exception. The Auxiliary will start off the month by putting the Poppy Cans out around town. When you see these cans, please take a Poppy to

honor our Veterans and leave a donation which goes to help Veterans. All of the poppies are made by Veterans.

Next the Auxiliary is going to start a **50/50 Split the Pot Raffle**. One winner will take away half of the money we earn from the raffle. Tickets will be available at the Post, at Monday Night Bingo and from Auxiliary Members. Monies earned will be used by the Auxiliary to support our programs like scholarships, and Santa Parade. The drawing will be at 7 PM on May 27, 2024. Please purchase a raffle ticket and help support the Auxiliary.

Speaking of Bingo, mark your Calendars for every Monday night. Doors open at 6 PM and games start at 6:30 PM. It is a fun way to get out of the house for a few hours and again, the proceeds go to the Auxiliary gaming fund, which is used for scholarships, Santa parade and to help community members who are in need of a little financial assistance. I would like to thank all the volunteers who give their time every week to make Bingo happen.



There are many opportunities to volunteer and help out this month. May 12th is Mother's Day breakfast. May 19th is the 3rd Sunday breakfast and the Post is always appreciative of the volunteers that come in and help out with the breakfast.



The weekend of May 18th is going to be a busy one. It is the Mermaid Festival, Harbor Opening Weekend and Armed Forces Day plus the ALR blessing of the motorcycles. The Post will be at the Harbor Masters office serving up Hot Dogs, Potato salad and other great food. Again, another great opportunity to put on your volunteer hat and help out.

The YMCA Combat Fishing is set for May 22nd. This annual event is our way of saying Thank you to our enlisted Military personnel that are serving here in the state. The soldiers come down from JBER and even from Ft. Wainwright and Eielson up around Fairbanks. The fishing charter fleet in Seward, donate a day of fishing for the soldiers to go out and catch some halibut and rockfish and many memorable stories. The evening is capped off with great food and fun at the Banquet staged at the AVTEC Diesel Mechanic shop. This is a VERY busy day for the Legion Family, and we are always looking for volunteers to be up early to meet the soldiers and get them on their assigned charter boat. Then it is off to the AVTEC building to set up tables and chairs. At the same time, volunteers are needed to help cook the food for the banquet. If you are interested in helping with this great event, please check with Mike at the Legion.

We end the month of May with the Memorial Day Ceremony at the Legion Cemetery. We will need Volunteers on either Saturday or Sunday (depending on weather) to put the crosses and flags out on the gravesites. Please check with the Post to see which day we are putting them out. On Memorial Day please come to the cemetery for the ceremony and then the Post will have food available.



ALR Chapter Stuff

By Bobby Dunno, ALR Director



Well as I write this, I am in the mist of the 105th Annual American Legion Department of Alaska Convention so there is all kind of cool news. The news that may most directly affect ALR Chapter 5 is that once again I will be the Director for the American Legion Riders for the Department of Alaska. For me it means a lot more riding 😊 and a sense of satisfaction if it works. For the Department ALR, it means Bobby is visitin' and sitting in on a meeting and giving an overview of the by-laws. The mission is to see if knowledge and experience can get the ALRA pulling in the same direction....again. Sounds like fun don't it. For Post 5, well I just hope I make us look good, not that Post 5 needs help with that. 😊



ALR Chapter Stuff Cont....

Other than ALRA Officer Elections not much else was accomplished. So here is our new ALR State Officers. And yes, I rode my bike to convention it was Awesome!

Director	Bobby Dunno	Chapter 5
Asst. Director	Larry Block	Chapter 15
Secretary	Deb Davis	Chapter 3
Treasurer	Diana Estrada	Chapter 35
Sgt-at-Arms/ Road Captain	Bill Hintz	Chapter 35
Chaplain	Larry Gentry	Chapter 5
Webmaster	Lisa Williamson	Chapter 30
Historian	Andrea Huyck	Chapter 16

Back to Chapter 5 stuff we are having some success with our **2nd Saturday Breakfast**. Gotta thank Mike for all the extra effort he has put into getting things ready on Saturday mornings! If y'all have not gotten the word we have expanded the menu a bit to include bacon or sausage and also biscuits and gravy to the plain pancake menu.

Now for the riders or if you ride a bike that can keep up (which I mean "can do the speed limit") bring your Motorcycle down to the Post around 11ish when we stop serving pancakes and cleanup is complete, we are going to ride! That is unless it is really raining. Then like Dave we are all probably riding home. The only question is where we ride? To where and back is a nice answer. I hope to coordinate with other Chapters to meet for riding - Yea, Ice Cream/Pie/Picnic and Fun. Hope for dessert, Wildman's for Ice Cream or Sterling just because. It is time to get in the saddle, giddy up n go! And the next 2nd Saturday is May 11.

Other upcoming happenings have us showing up at the Post for a 0930 hrs Bike Blessing on 18th of May which is also Armed Forces Day. Memorial Day falls on the 27th and the Post will be holding our traditional service at the Legion Cemetery.

Chapter 15 is hosting the **ROMP** in Palmer on the 21-22 of June. A sunny 4th of July parade in Seward this year and we'll be part of that, and we're excited to participate in the Salute to Vets to be held on 19-21 July. So, we have lots of reason to ride (like we need a reason!) but it is time - Riding Season has finally arrived, so get them out, straddle'm, light them up, and **Get On Your Bike and Ride.**



Significant Days in May

May 1st - **Silver Star Service Banner Day**. A day and a time to recognize those who have been awarded The Silver Star Medal and remember the sacrifices of our wounded and ill veterans.

May 1st - **Loyalty Day**. In the United States, National Loyalty Day is a special holiday meant for the reaffirmation of loyalty to the United States of America, and for the recognition of the heritage of American freedom.

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 10th - **Military Spouse Appreciation Day**. On Military Spouse Appreciation Day, we honor the contributions and sacrifices made by military spouses.

May 12th - **Mother's Day** - come down to the Post for a great breakfast served up by the awesome Breakfast Crew to our honor mothers!

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 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 18th - **Armed Forces Day** - a day to pay special tribute to the men and women of our Armed Forces.

May 24th - **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 27th - **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.



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" & is still 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:



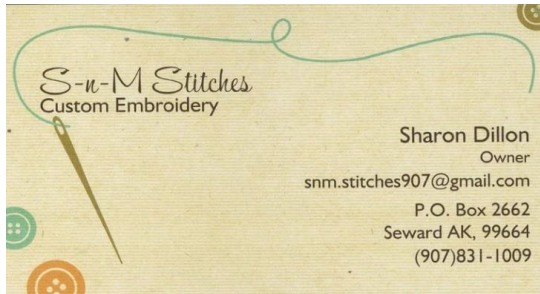
"Fading light dims the sight,
And a star gems the sky, gleaming bright.
From afar drawing nigh -- Falls the night.

"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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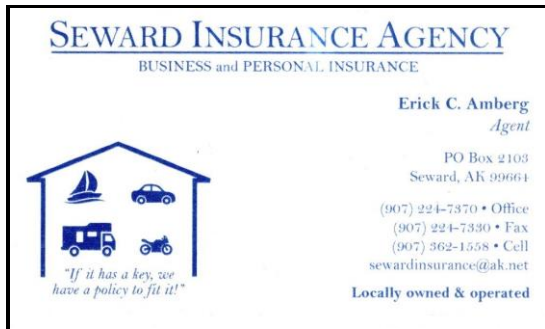
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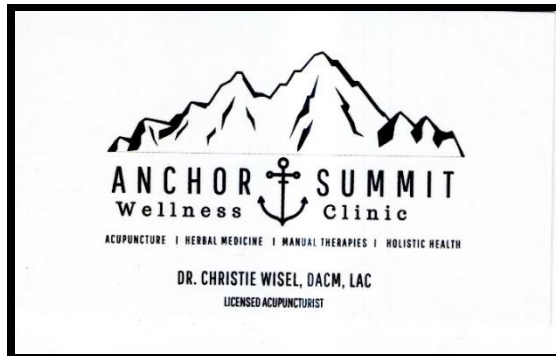


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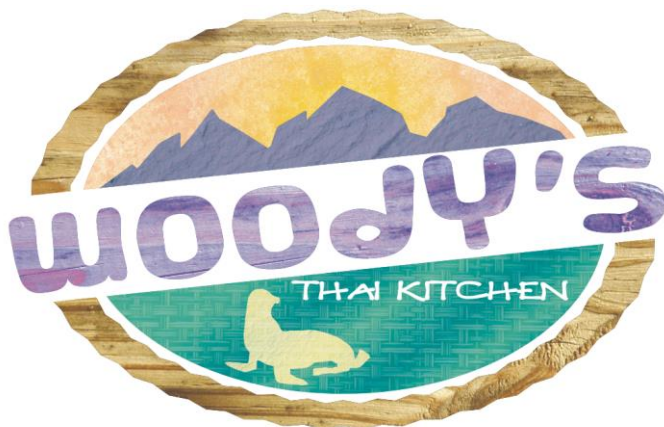
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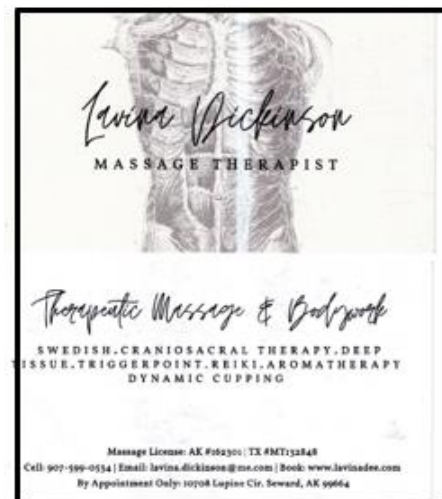


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May 2024


SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1	2	3	4
Month of the Military Caregiver	 ARMED FORCES DAY	National Military Appreciation Month	Silver Star Service Banner Day 	ALR Meeting 5:30 pm  Pioneers Igloo #9 Monthly Meeting		
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Luscious Leftovers  Members' Poker 5:00 pm	Chili Dog Monday  Bingo 6:30 pm	Mexican Martes 	Auxiliary Meeting 6:00 pm  VE Day	YOU'RE THE CHEESE TO MY MACARONI 	 Military Spouse Appreciation Day	Armed Forces Week  11 - 18 May ALR Breakfast 9-11am
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
Mothers' Day Breakfast 9am-11am  Luscious Leftovers Members' Poker 5:00 pm (season's last)	Chili Dog Monday  Bingo 6:30 pm Children of Fallen Patriots Day	I ♥ TACO TUESDAYS! 	Peace Officers Memorial Day 	Post Meeting 5:30 pm  SAL Meeting 7pm 	 Harbor Opening Hotdog Feed in the Harbor 11-2 pm	 Armed Forces Day
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
3rd Sunday of the Month Community Breakfast 9am-11am Luscious Leftovers LEFTOVERS 	Chili Dog Monday  Bingo 6:30 pm		Armed Services YMCA Combat Fishing Tournament 	Burgers, Bacon, Mac and Cheese 	National Poppy Day 	
26	27	28	29	30	31	
Luscious Leftovers  LEFTOVERS!	MEMORIAL DAY Memorial Day Ceremony at Cemetery 11:00 am Lunch Served at Post at noon					

Food Served Every Night at the Post

