



For God and Country

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Seward Post 5 Newsletter

American Legion Seward Post 5

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COMMANDER'S COMMENTS

By Bobby Dunno



So how many of us had serious worries about that early snowfall we experienced way too early in October. I know I did, out at my house we had 4" and I thought we were really in for it this winter. Of course while I am not one to start counting chickens, but I have managed to ride my motorcycle 3 times since then, so tempting fate maybe, really worried.....well maybe a little.



While the Post has starting to engage in our normal winter activities such as the Winter Pool League and of course maintaining a warm and friendly atmosphere for all of us to visit. Our folks at the post supported the Marathon Wrestling Dinner, helping them raise funds and get our youth involved in a great sport.

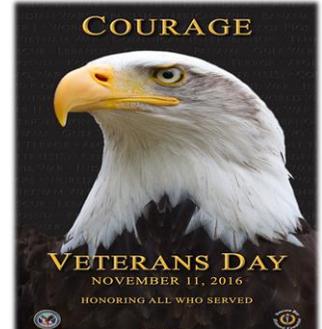
Unfortunately, our Department Commander's Visitation was canceled as Commander Dolly Carr's husband passed on to Post Everlasting. When it may be rescheduled we will have to wait and find out as there are many variables to consider.

Has everyone noticed the awesome decorations at the Post, it definitely has a ghoulish atmosphere pervading the otherwise friendly surroundings around Post 5. Must be Halloween! Which brings us to the start of Holiday Season. Stop on in and bring the kids there is candy and fun to be had as the little ones explore the spooky decorations and surprises.

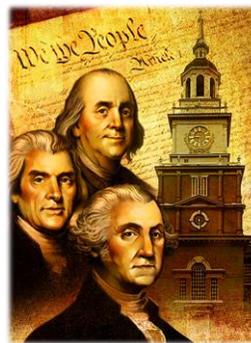


With the holidays upon us the Post will be planning Veterans Day activities and the annual community feast for Thanksgiving. As usual we will be organizing our

volunteers for the effort. Post 5 will be performing our traditional Veterans Day Ceremony at the Senior Center. And then I hope many veterans follow me to the Seward Elementary School to attend the outstanding program they put together to honor those who have served our country. For Thanksgiving we will need people to man the kitchen, do the decorating and delivering the awesome Thanksgiving Turkey Meals that Post 5 is so known for. Last year the awesome members of the Post 5 family served up or delivered better than 400 plates heaping with holiday cheer for Thanksgiving in an effort that that we all should be truly thankful.



When we think of Thanksgiving we all should take time to reflect on the many blessings that God has bestowed on our country. And while many in the public only see the Thanksgiving Holiday as a long weekend to play, sleep in, watch the Cowboys play football or otherwise engage in distracting fun activities, we need to be cognizant of our forefathers and what Thanksgiving originally meant to them. While some modern historians and politicians work to diminish their influence; it is more important than ever that we remember and offer thanks. To that end I have chosen to include George Washington's original Thanksgiving address. Reading it I found it striking that the words he spoke so long ago still apply.



George Washington's Thanksgiving Address 1789

"Whereas it is the duty of all nations to acknowledge the providence of Almighty God, to obey His will, to be grateful for His benefits, and humbly to implore His protection and favor; and Whereas both Houses of Congress have, by their joint committee, requested me "to recommend to the people of the United States a day of public thanksgiving and prayer, to be observed by acknowledging with grateful hearts the many and signal favors of Almighty God, especially by affording them an opportunity peaceably to establish a form of government for their safety and happiness:"

Now, therefore, I do recommend and assign Thursday, the 26th day of November next, to be devoted by the people of these States to the service of that great and glorious Being who is the beneficent author of all the good that was, that is, or that will be; that we may then all unite in rendering unto Him our sincere and humble thanks for His kind care and protection of the people of this country previous to their becoming a nation; for the signal and manifold mercies and the favor, able interpositions of His providence in the course and conclusion of the late war; for the great degree of tranquility, union, and plenty which we have since enjoyed; for the peaceable and rational manner in which we have been enabled to establish constitutions of government for our safety and happiness, and particularly the national one now lately instituted; for the civil and religious liberty with which we are blessed, and the means we have of acquiring and diffusing useful knowledge; and, in general, for all the great and various favors which He has been pleased to confer upon us.

And also that we may then unite in most humbly offering our prayers and supplications to the great Lord and Ruler of Nations, and beseech Him to pardon our national and other transgressions; to enable us all, whether in public or private stations, to perform our several and relative duties properly and punctually; to render our National Government a blessing to all the people by constantly being a Government of wise, just, and constitutional laws, discreetly and faithfully executed and obeyed; to protect and guide all sovereigns and nations (especially such as have shown kindness to us), and to bless them with good governments, peace, and concord; to promote the knowledge and practice of true religion and virtue, and

the increase of science among them and us; and, generally, to grant unto all mankind such a degree of temporal prosperity as He alone knows to be best.

Given under my hand at the City of New York the third day of October in the year of our Lord 1789.

Go. Washington"



I also want to take this last opportunity and encourage every Post member and Citizen to vote in our general election to be held on November 7th. While many of us look forward to that date as the day our phones stop ringing from pollsters and the political ads dissipate from our TV screens. Most importantly it is the day that we as a people chose our future government, so please stand up and take the time to be counted. Vote and ask others to join you at the polls, bring your children and grandchildren so that can see you engaging in this critical choice as a free citizen of the greatest of all countries.

It is sad that our political system and parties have voter drives and target only select demographics when it is the duty of each and every one of us to Vote. I have said many times that the day we have a true majority of the people vote the political system that exist today will be force to reconcile with the people. Understand that unlike a politician's opinion that they control events it would do a lot of good for them to be reminded of exactly who they work for and where the power and authority they enjoy is derived from. So, to that goal please go to the polling station and vote. I don't care who you vote for as long as you are counted among the number of my fellow Americans who chose to stand up and be counted this election.

THANKS
FOR VOTING!

A Short History of Veterans Day

World War I - known at the time as "The Great War" - officially ended when the Treaty of Versailles was signed on June 28, 1919, in the Palace of Versailles outside the town of Versailles, France. However, fighting ceased seven months earlier when an armistice, or temporary cessation of hostilities, between the Allied nations and Germany went into effect on the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month. For that reason, November 11, 1918, is generally regarded as the end of "the war to end all wars."



Soldiers of the 353rd Infantry near a church at Stenay, Meuse in France, wait for the end of hostilities. This photo was taken at 10:58 a.m., on November 11, 1918, two minutes before the armistice ending World War I went into effect

In November 1919, President Wilson proclaimed November 11 as the first commemoration of Armistice Day with the following words: "To us in America, the reflections of Armistice Day will be filled with solemn pride in the heroism of those who died in the country's service and with gratitude for the victory, both because of the thing from which it has freed us and because of the opportunity it has given America to show her sympathy with peace and justice in the councils of the nations..."

The original concept for the celebration was for a day observed with parades and public meetings and a brief suspension of business beginning at 11:00 a.m.

The United States Congress officially recognized the end of World War I when it passed a concurrent resolution on June 4, 1926, with these words:

Whereas the 11th of November 1918, marked the cessation of the most destructive, sanguinary, and far reaching war in human annals and the resumption by the people of the United States of peaceful relations with other nations, which we hope may never again be severed, and

Whereas it is fitting that the recurring anniversary of this date should be commemorated with thanksgiving and prayer and exercises designed to perpetuate peace through good will and mutual understanding between nations; and

Whereas the legislatures of twenty-seven of our States have already declared November 11 to be a legal holiday: Therefore, be it Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring), that the President of the United States is requested to issue a proclamation

calling upon the officials to display the flag of the United States on all Government buildings on November 11 and inviting the people of the United States to observe the day in schools and churches, or other suitable places, with appropriate ceremonies of friendly relations with all other peoples.

An Act (52 Stat. 351; 5 U. S. Code, Sec. 87a) approved May 13, 1938, made the 11th of November in each year a legal holiday—a day to be dedicated to the cause of world peace and to be thereafter celebrated and known as "Armistice Day." Armistice Day was primarily a day set aside to honor veterans of World War I, but in 1954, after World War II had required the greatest mobilization of soldiers, sailors, Marines and airmen in the Nation's history; after American forces had fought aggression in Korea, the 83rd Congress, at the urging of the veterans service organizations, amended the Act of 1938 by striking out the word "Armistice" and inserting in its place the word "Veterans." With the approval of this legislation (Public Law 380) on June 1, 1954, November 11th became a day to honor American veterans of all wars.

Later that same year, on October 8th, President Dwight D. Eisenhower issued the first "Veterans Day Proclamation" which stated: "In order to insure proper and widespread observance of this anniversary, all veterans, all veterans' organizations, and the entire citizenry will wish to join hands in the common purpose. Toward this end, I am designating the Administrator of Veterans' Affairs as Chairman of a Veterans Day National Committee, which shall include such other persons as the Chairman may select, and which will coordinate at the national level necessary planning for the observance. I am also requesting the heads of all departments and agencies of the Executive branch of the Government to assist the National Committee in every way possible."



President Eisenhower signing HR7786, changing Armistice Day to Veterans Day. From left: Alvin J. King, Wayne Richards, Arthur J. Connell, John T. Nation, Edward Rees, Richard L. Trombla, Howard W. Watts

On that same day, President Eisenhower sent a letter to the Honorable Harvey V. Higley, Administrator of Veterans' Affairs (VA), designating him as Chairman of the Veterans Day National Committee.

Notes from the President

By Michelle Swartz



Summer is gone and the days are getting brisk. Wood stoves are burning and we're starting to think about the holidays.

Mark your calendars. **Veterans Day is Friday November 11th**. The history of Veterans' Day dates back to the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month of 1918 when armistice between Germany and the allied nations came into effect, bringing the end of World War I. It was originally observed as Armistice Day and became known as Veterans Day in 1954 and became a holiday for Veterans of all wars. It honors both men and women that have served as military veterans. So, take a moment and say thank you to those who have served.



A date for the kids to visit with **Santa and Mrs. Claus** has been set for **Saturday, December 10th**. With that in mind, I am giving advanced notice that we will be seeking help with wrapping and labeling Christmas gifts for the kids. A wrapping party date and time will be announced in December's newsletter. So, if you can spare an hour or three, plan on setting some time aside. We sure would appreciate the help! Last year there were more than 150 kids that received gifts. Many hands make light work.



Please note the new membership cards for 2017 are out and available.

We have bingo every Monday night and it is open to the public. Doors open at 6pm and bingo starts at 6:30pm. So, grab a friend and join us, we would love to see you there!

If you have questions, comments or suggestions, as an officer of **your** American Legion Auxiliary I want to make myself available 907-491-1325.

House and Vice Report.....

By Mike Calhoon



Hello from the Second Vice/Club,

Well, Winter is holding off but looks like it is just around the corner.

October was a pretty busy month. We had the Marathon Wrestling Club Taco Feed and Auction Fundraiser on Oct 8th and our breakfast on Oct 16th. Halloween, of course, was great fun with the Post scarily decorated for the occasion.



I want to thank all the great volunteers who helped make those activities possible and lots of fun. I would like to give a **special thanks to David Osborn and Jeff Roy (and his crew from the harbor)** who assisted us in getting new hardware and rope on the flag pole so

we can display the symbol of our great nation.

This month we will have **Veterans Day dinner on the 11th** instead of the usual steak night. It is a meal for our members and any other veteran (and their family) that would like to attend. There will also be entertainment provided by **Lulu Small** ☺. Great time to come check out the Post.



We will also have our **community breakfast on November 20th** and our **Thanksgiving Dinner on November 24th**. We will need lots of help for these activities. Please let us know if you can give us a hand, particularly on Thanksgiving.



We are fully into the new membership year. I thank all of you who have already renewed for 2017. You can renew at the Post, mail in your renewal, or go online to Legion.org and pay online. Dues for 2017 have increased to \$60.00 due to an increase at the national level. If you have any questions on that please feel free to give me a call.

We have a raffle going for a great commercial type vacuum sealer. The value is \$1000.00 and the tickets are \$10.00 each with no more than 250 to be sold. Drawing will be held on Halloween night.

Pool league is on Saturday night, Bingo is on Monday night, and Poker is on Sunday and Monday night.

Thanks to all of you who continue to support your Post and Club. I look forward to seeing you all and please feel free to call if you have any questions or concerns.

Salutations from the Sons

By Mike Calhoon



Greetings from the SAL First Vice Commander.

Fall has been great so far but feels like winter is closing in on us. Get ready!



Once again our great volunteers in Squadron 5 supported showed their stuff. **David Osborn, Mike Mooter, Scott Wilde, Jed Wilde, Dave Dieckgraeff, and Randy Kockritz** did all the wood cutting, splitting, and hauling for the Firewood Raffle that is underway at the Post. **Good job guys!** Tickets are \$5.00 or 6 for \$20.00. Drawing on November 26th.



Squadron members also helped with the Marathon Youth Wrestling Taco Feed, community breakfast, window trim installation, and Halloween decorating. Great job everyone!!



In November, the Post will honor our veterans with a dinner on November 11th, there will be the community breakfast on November 20th, and Thanksgiving Dinner on November 24th. Lots of help will be needed so let us know when you can come and lend a hand.

The new membership year is in full swing. The SAL Dues for 2017 have increased to \$30.00. I thank all of you who renewed early. Please consider renewing your membership if you have not done so already Your continued support help Squadron 5 with its mission of service to veterans and our children and youth 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.

1ST Vice Notes

By Clare Sullivan

VICE
COMMANDER

It's looking like we're finally heading into the Fall and toward the beautiful and chilly months of Winter! We've had another great month that was busy and fun with all our great volunteers of our American Legion Family working together to make things happen! Thanks to all who helped in all our activities and those who came by to support our efforts to provide a warm and welcoming place for our members and guests. We started out again this year with supporting the Marathon Wrestling Dinner and Auction - what a great time and there were some wonderful items auctioned off. We also had our Third Sunday of the Month Breakfast and of course Halloween and all the fun that has brought to the Post! It's been busy and fun doing "our thing" while we serve and support others which is what we're here for - to help veterans, their families and the community!

I want to thank everyone who has renewed their membership, your current membership is keeping our local and national organization viable and significant in representing veterans and our active duty personnell!

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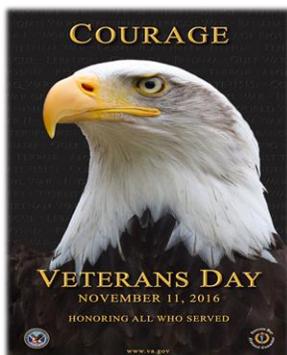
In 1958, the White House advised the VA's General Counsel that the 1954 Designation of the VA Administrator as Chairman of the Veterans Day National Committee applied to all subsequent VA Administrators. Since March 1989 when the VA was elevated to a cabinet level department, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs has served as the committee's chairman.



The Uniform Holiday Bill (Public Law 90-363 (82 Stat. 250)) was signed on June 28, 1968, and was intended to ensure three-day weekends for Federal employees by celebrating four national holidays on Mondays: Washington's Birthday, Memorial Day, Veterans Day, and Columbus Day. It was thought that these extended weekends would encourage travel, recreational and cultural activities and stimulate greater industrial and commercial production. Many states did not agree with this decision and continued to celebrate the holidays on their original dates.

The first Veterans Day under the new law was observed with much confusion on October 25, 1971. It was quite apparent that the commemoration of this day was a matter of historic and patriotic significance to a great number of our citizens, and so on September 20th, 1975, President Gerald R. Ford signed Public Law 94-97 (89 Stat. 479), which returned the annual observance of Veterans Day to its original date of November 11, beginning in 1978. This action supported the desires of the overwhelming majority of state legislatures, all major veterans service organizations and the American people.

Veterans Day continues to be observed on November 11, regardless of what day of the week on which it falls. The restoration of the observance of Veterans Day to November 11 not only preserves the historical significance of the date, but helps focus attention on the important purpose of Veterans Day: A celebration to honor America's veterans for their patriotism, love of country, and willingness to serve and sacrifice for the common good.



November is **Membership Retention Month**. We are on a just slightly ahead of our goal of 65% so a huge **THANK YOU** for renewing and keeping us in a positive light with Department and National. December has a 75% goal so let's keep up the momentum and work toward that one. If you haven't, please renew; continue your benefits of membership and help us reach our membership goals for the next few months (in addition, I don't want to get ragged on by our "higher headquarters" 😊 (just kidding - sort of....)).

In case anyone was wondering about it and what we're doing for our Seward and Moose Pass kids in the military, I've been collecting names and addresses for **Operation Apple Pie** so, get those addresses to me and we'll get a fun package to our kids who are serving in our armed forces - in time for the holidays!

On a somber and sad note, we had a long time and incredibly dedicated Legionnaire pass to Post Everlasting this past month. James "Jim" Malone departed our ranks to his final posting on 18 October 2016.



Jim enlisted in the Army from July 1948 until retirement on Oct. 31, 1971. Jim served during the Korean War and two terms in Vietnam, received the Bronze Star medal in 1962;

was recognized by high officials in the Chinese and Korean government for 25-plus years for lobbying for the American Legion; and was Past Department Commander '88-'89 American Legion Post 28. Jim visited every Legion post, except Bethel during his year as commander. Jim, being very active in the American Legion, laid the Memorial wreath at Fort Richardson for 55 years, missing only one year when he was in Vietnam. Jim was very proud of this honor. He helped build the current American legion Post 28, going after work each night. He even had the honor this past year in October 2015, to go on the Alaskan Honor Flight #5. He now is laid to rest in the National Cemetery he had so honored himself.

Jim was an amazing Legionnaire who always had a good word for others and a wonderful sense of humor. He was humble and clearly loved all in his life, and all felt that love and compassion. We are saddened by his passing but the richer for knowing him.

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