



For God and Country

Seward Post 5 Newsletter

November 2017
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American Legion Seward Post 5
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COMMANDER'S COMMENTS

By Bobby Dunno



Ready are not here comes Ole Man Winter, while I know a few of us enjoyed the way too short period of those sunny days we get in the Fall some call Indian Summer. I go a few short but happy motorcycle rides, but with the snow events at the end of October, slick roads and probably too much common sense there will be no more riding until the springtime of 2018 brings the opportunities around again. I also need to apologize for not getting my article written last couple of months but thankfully Clare came to my rescue (again).

As for things going on at the Post we will continue to have our usual Steak Nights and Taco Tuesdays with warm food available most evenings. No one should miss the third Sunday breakfast (and if you do you're missing some seriously great chow). Our usual Pool and Cribbage tournaments will and have been cranking up. The outstanding Ladies of the Auxiliary had their Toys for Tots Auction and fun was had by all and they had a large assortment of really great items many of which sold for a lot less than I thought they were worth. Next Year some guy I know is going to try and bring more money! How many of us are looking forward to Santa and Mrs. Claus visiting the Post again this year?



The Post is hosting the Alaska Department Commander and we will be feeding him and his group an excellent Post 5 dinner for his visitation. It has been a couple years since we hosted a Department Commander and a first for me as Post Commander, and while I am not much for pomp and circumstance I am hoping to find it interesting.

With the advent of November we have a couple of important dates one being Thanksgiving. But before that we have Veterans Day. There are a couple events around the Post and Seward that we promote and participate in for Veterans Day. So, do not be surprised if you see us around town from ceremonies at the Seward Senior Center, to celebrating our Veterans with the classes at Seward Elementary. To all important visits to Veterans residing at Mountain Haven. There are many ways one can honor those who not only have sworn to protect and defend our country, but also stood the

watch, manned the line or walked their post in defense of our freedom. If you have visited the Post you probably could not help but notice all the wickedly cool decorations, and soon they will be replaced by decorations for the Thanksgiving Holiday. Along with the Thanksgiving Holiday the Post will once again be turning out the mass quantities of delicious turkey and other holiday fare and Mike will be mustering the small army of volunteers required to pull off the feat again this year. Mentioning that I want to use a few sentences to thank our many volunteers who spent time at the Post at the many activities and those that are away from the Post from the Legion Cemetery to supporting Cub Scout Pack 327 who we hold the charter. Without your faithful service Post 5 would not be the warm and welcoming place so many love and look forward to visiting. These past days of summer I was a lot of places just not at the Post much. Some would think a Post Commander would hang out a lot more, but Mike and the crew keep the atmosphere around the Post welcoming and warm, and it still overwhelms me with a genuine sense of pride that I get to say I belong to American Legion Post 5. There are many good and important services we provide to those around us and we can all take pride in what the American Legion Family at Post 5 has accomplished in filling those needs.



Membership Update.... By Clare Sullivan, 1st Vice Cdr.

November is **Membership Retention Month**. We have already hit our target for October and have a goal of 65% for November. As we get closer to the end of the year renewals slow down with the holidays looming. If you have renewed - thank you! If you haven't, please renew and help us continue to serve our veterans and our community. Membership allows us to support people not just here in Seward but veterans and their families throughout the country. This is important as the American Legion is continually advocating not only for our veterans but also for America's families through their Child Welfare, Child Education and the many Children and Youth programs.

Also a growing membership helps us reach our membership goals for the year and shows we continue to be a healthy and productive organization serving our community (in addition, we don't want to get ragged on by our "higher headquarters" 😊 (just kidding - well sort of.....).

Celebrating the Veterans Day Holiday

United States Senate Resolution 143, which was passed on Aug. 4, 2001, designated the week of Nov 11 through Nov. 17, 2001, as "**National Veterans Awareness Week.**" The resolution calls for educational efforts directed at elementary and secondary school students concerning the contributions and sacrifices of veterans.

The difference between Veterans Day and Memorial Day, Memorial Day honors servicemembers who died in service to their country or as a result of injuries incurred during battle. Deceased veterans are also remembered on Veterans Day but the day is set aside to thank and honor living veterans who served honorably in the military - in wartime or peace.

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."

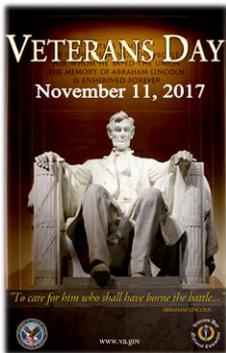




President Eisenhower signing HR7786, changing Armistice Day to Veterans Day. From left: Alvin J. King, Wayne Richards, Arthur J. Connell, John T. Nation, Edward Rees, Richard L. Trombla, Howard W. Watts

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.

In 1958, the White House advised 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.

Military.com has compiled a list of Veterans Day discounts on restaurants, goods, services and events for 2017. Click below to search for discounts by category. Visit daily as the list is updated frequently!

POPULAR VETERANS DAY RESTAURANT DISCOUNTS

- [Texas Roadhouse: Free Lunch on Veterans Day](#)
- [Golden Corral: Military Appreciation Night](#)
- [Applebee's Offers Free Meal on Veterans Day](#)
- [See All Veterans Day Restaurant Offerings at Military.com](#)

POPULAR VETERANS DAY RETAILER DISCOUNTS

- [Great Clips Offers Free Haircuts on Veterans Day](#)
- [Home Depot Offers Veterans Discounts](#)
- [See All Veterans Day Retailer Offerings at Military.com](#)

All of the discounts have been confirmed, either through press release or direct communication with the company.

Keep in mind that most businesses require proof of military service, which can include a VA Universal Access Card, Military I.D., DD-214 (Discharge Papers), Veterans Service Organization Card (VSO's include groups like the VFW, DAV, AmVets, MOAA, FRA, and of course the American Legion).

Note: Not all franchise locations participate in their national chain's Veterans Day programs -- be sure contact your nearest establishment to make sure they are participating.

House and Vice Report.....

By Mike Calhoon



Hello from the Second Vice/Club,

Boy did October fly by. Lots going on involving the Post 5 Family. We hosted the Marathon Wrestling Fundraising auction and dinner, the Auxiliary Unit 5 Toys for Tots Fundraising auction and dinner and the Department of Alaska Commander's Visitation Dinner. If you missed any of these you missed great food and great auction items!! We also catered food for the Seward Seahawks Football Team banquet, which was a huge success, and prepared food for the Seahawk Boosters Club Taco Booth at the Halloween Carnival.

In addition to all of that we had Guest Chef nights with John Moline preparing wild wild game Brats and Hotdogs and wild game fajitas. David "Ozzie" Osborn prepared beef stew and turkey with rice, both being baked in pumpkins and served right out of those same pumpkins. Again, if you missed out on those you missed really good food!



Guest Chef Nights are designed to raise money for the building improvements we are continuing to work on so come and support your Post and enjoy some great food. You can volunteer for a guest chef night by contacting me here at the post.

November will bring **Veterans Day** food at the Post, Thanksgiving Dinner at the Post, our community breakfast on the 3rd Sunday, and all the other normal activities. There is always stuff going on with good food and good conversation. Come and support the Post 5 Family activities and relax with us during the off season.

I want to give a big thanks to all the great volunteers who continue to step up and support the Post 5 Family. Without volunteers we would not be able to successfully pull off all the functions and activities we are involved in.

I also want to **thank all of you who have renewed your dues** and would like to encourage those who have not to consider doing so. Membership drives the American Legion and all its programs. If you know a veteran in town who is not a member, invite them in and let them see all the things we do for our veterans and the community of Seward.

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

Thanks again to all of you who continue to support your Post and Club. 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



Greetings from the SAL First Vice Commander. Our wet fall continues but winter, it seems, is just around the corner.

I want to thank **David Osborn** for his continued service to the Post 5 Family. His untiring effort during all Post 5 Family functions and activities truly exemplifies the spirit of the Sons of American Legion mission. He also has continued to coordinate the work and other volunteers in maintaining the Legion Cemetery which is a huge job. This year he was also able to secure the installation of lighting for the cemetery flags. Great Job Ozzie.



Post 5 had the pleasure of hosting the Department of Alaska Commander Kirk Waldhaus and the Detachment of Alaska Commander, our own Dave Dieckgraeff, for dinner on October 28th. Commander Dieckgraeff spoke to us about the growth and changes happening within the S.A.L. and it was interesting to see the evolution of our organization. Those who attended were treated to this good information and a great prime rib dinner prepared by Connie. Great job!!

This month the Post will have Veterans Day dinner on the 11th, the community breakfast on the 19th, and Thanksgiving dinner on the 23rd. Let us know if you can lend a hand and we will gladly put you to work.

Remember that membership renewal time is here. I thank those who have already renewed and encourage those who have not to consider doing so. Membership drives the train for the S.A.L. and all of its programs locally and nationally.

Thank you again for all your hard work and support of the Post 5 Family mission of service to the veterans and other community members in Seward.

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.

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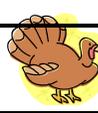
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November 2017


SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1	2	3	4
 VETERANS DAY			Guest Chef Night	ALR Meeting 7 pm 	KARAOKE 7PM 	 Pool League
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
"Texas Hold 'em" 6PM  Luscious Leftovers Daylight Savings Time Ends	OMAHA POKER 6PM Luscious Leftovers  BINGO 6:30PM 		Auxiliary Meeting 7pm  Guest Chef Night	SAL Meeting 7pm 	KARAOKE 7PM 	 Pool League Veterans Day Dinner
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
"Texas Hold 'em" 6PM  Luscious Leftovers	BINGO!!! 6:30PM  OMAHA POKER 6PM  Pork Loin Dinner	Post Meeting 7pm 	Guest Chef Night		KARAOKE 7PM 	Pool League 
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
"Texas Hold 'em" 6PM Luscious Leftovers 3rd Sunday of the Month Breakfast	OMAHA POKER 6PM Luscious Leftovers  BINGO!!!! 6:30PM 		Guest Chef Night	Dinner @ 2 pm 	KARAOKE 7PM 	Pool League 
26	27	28	29	30		
"Texas Hold 'em" 6PM Luscious Leftovers	BINGO!!! 6:30PM Luscious Leftovers OMAHA POKER 6PM 		Guest Chef Night			

