Commander’s Comments…

By Clare Sullivan

Well, here we are again in the beautiful Fall Season and heading into the much cooler days, so far no Termination Dust has been seen on Marathon that I know of so we’re still safe for a while. (I think) :) With this cooler weather we will be saying goodbye to all the fabulous flowers we have been enjoying all summer long. We have a few hangers-on and a few late bloomers but it was a great run for them and a brilliant splash of color thanks to Brent Johnson who has kept the flowers going and the weeds down all summer. Many thanks Brent!

With the cooler weather arriving we will get back into our Winter projects and fundraising events. We are starting out the month with a Retirement Dinner on the 2nd for a long time Seward resident and 26-year employee of Spring Creek Correctional Center. Terry Quiring’s retirement dinner will be Thursday night and it will be a fun event as the crew from “the Creek” say a fond farewell to one of their own.

We’re also starting our Winter Members Only Pool League on Saturday the 4th, which is always a big hit with the membership.

As it is October, we’ll also be busily decorating the post for Halloween for those trick or treaters and those who just want a candy bar or two… We also are planning a dinner for
the crew of the Mustang as we have new folks to meet and to thank them for all they do for us not only at Post 5 but throughout the community. Look for the dinner announcement in the next week or so.

As we look toward November we have Veterans’ Day, followed by Thanksgiving, and of course the Auxiliary has the ever fun and successful **Toys for Tots Dinner and Auction** to get us going into the Holidays. There is a lot of work for this auction including obtaining and organizing the items for auction as well as getting the word out. It is an open event for anyone to participate so spread the word about the really neat items that come up for auction. There is generally something for someone and you might just find a nice gift for the holidays. As you may know this event raises funds for lots of gifts to be purchased for our Seward kids. Santa and Mrs. Claus come to town in December to ride in the Christmas parade and then give out gifts to all the kids who come and brave the elements to meet them and an elf or two! Last year Santa and Mrs. Claus handed our well over a 100 presents to our Seward children so as you would imagine the fundraiser auction is a huge part of getting those gifts!

The post will also be starting to get the packages organized for our yearly **“Operation Apple Pie”** where we send out gift and care packages to our young service men and women from Seward who are serving their country and are away from home. We like to let them know we’re thinking of them, and want to send them a reminder that we appreciate what they are doing for this great country at the same time send them some fun goodies that remind them of friends and family. If you know of any Seward men or women who are in the military and you think they could use a gift package, let us know, we’ll get them something nice that will be comforting and remind them of home.

I would like to thank everyone who attended our Early Bird Dinner, it was a good time and of course great food. I really appreciate you renewing your membership, as a strong Post and a strong Legion Family we are able to help our veterans and our active duty men and women. Your annual dues help support programs in our community and across the nation. Locally, your support assists us in giving annual scholarships that we award to graduating seniors going to college or vocational schools, youth activities throughout the community, and helping veterans and community members in need. On the national level your dues assist the American Legion in programs and services including: Troop Support, Child Welfare Foundation, Heroes to Hometowns, American Legion Baseball, Department Service Officers, Family Support Network, Flag Advocacy & Etiquette, Junior ROTC & ROTC, Operation Comfort Warriors, Scholarships, Veterans
Job Fairs, and many others. Thank you for your membership, your participation helps to ensure The American Legion remains the most powerful voice in America on behalf of veterans, service members, their families, and communities across the nation.

September was a busy month - as it seems most of our months are fairly busy, but I’d be remiss if I didn’t thank everyone who volunteered their time in helping around the post to make this a family center, a sanctuary, and not just a place to come and have fun but a place to turn to in times of need. We Couldn’t do any of these activities for our members or the community without your selfless dedication and commitment.

With this in mind, I want to acknowledge the continued dedication of everyone who run our nightly events including Texas and Omaha Hold ‘em, the Auxiliary’s Bingo, all the kitchen help during our nightly tasty meals and special celebratory events, participation during the celebrations of our patriotic holidays throughout the year, and those impromptu and unscheduled events where we really need the help of members in fast order to get things going. Further, I want to thank all who accomplish the work in our American Legion Cemetery throughout the year in keeping up with final resting place of those who have gone to Post Everlasting. I am deeply indebted and humbled that you all take time out of your busy lives and “rise to the occasion,” and make the commitment and make it happen! Because of you, we are a success and a one of the most successful and active posts in Alaska!

Come on by the post, we always have something going on and our post home is always a place of welcome. We’re a members’ organization, and as such, the members provide the direction in our mission of support to our veterans and the community. I hope we will see more coming by now that the fast pace of summer is pretty much done and we can collectively “catch our breath.” We can spend some quality time now with our friends and neighbors since the tourist season is just about over. The pace has slowed, the town is returning to its residents, and the quiet and peacefulness of the cooler months are returning. Thanks again and I hope to “See you at the Post!”

House Report

Hello from the Second Vice/Club,

Fall is here and so far the transition from summer has been pretty smooth. Things are slowing at the Club as most of our out of town visitors have gone home for the winter but there is still a lot going on to keep us all busy.

As we start to prepare for winter and the Department Convention in April 2015, we will be asking for lots of help and volunteer donation of time and effort. We have a couple of major building issues to address and Al Dykstra will be spearheading those projects for us. He has already done a great job of stopping some of the roof leak issues we have had and we will wait for the next stretch of rain to test the work. Great job Al !!!!!
**Vice Report**

Greetings from the SAL First Vice Commander.

Summer is gone but fall has been pretty nice so far. We have been assisting the Post with lots of projects and looks like that trend will continue through the winter.

Squadron Commander Al Dykstra has been leading the way on projects important for the Post and will continue through the fall and into winter. Please let me know if you have time and can assist with the projects on hand.

The Post will be residing the south wall and replacing the windows there, repairing the water damage to and fixing up the lower men’s bathroom, and any other things necessary to prepare for the 2015 Department Convention.

Al has already done some repair work on the roof and we are waiting for the next bout of rain to test it out. He may even be a star on the Discovery Channel!!??

It is also membership renewal time so please consider renewing if you have not done so already.

Squadron 5 continues to set a great example for other SAL Squadrons to follow. Supporting the Post and our veterans is our main mission and Squadron 5 is going above and beyond what one would normally expect. Great job and a big thanks to all who have given their time and effort to our cause!

I thank all of the SAL Squadron 5 members for your support and I look forward to seeing you at the Post.

Mike Calhoon

SAL First Vice Commander

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**House Report cont...**

We will be replacing the windows and siding on the south side of the Post to hopefully solve water issues there. Once we are ready to start the work we will let everyone know and get the work done before winter takes a hold on us.

Inside, we will be repairing the men’s bathroom downstairs and looking at other fixit and renovation projects needed to keep the Post ship shape.

We will host a retirement dinner for Terry Quiring from Spring Creek CC on October 2nd and we will host the crew and families of the USCGC Mustang this month with the date TBA.

Our members only pool league will begin on October 4th at 6:30pm and of course we still have poker on Sunday and Monday, Bingo on Monday, and may be looking to add other game nights and/or tournaments in the near future.

Thank you for all the “Early Bird” membership renewals. We have surpassed each of the monthly goals for membership so far this year so keep up the good work and consider renewing your membership if you have not done so already.

Thanks to everyone for supporting the Post and the Club. If you have any questions please feel free to contact me at 224-5440/362-2029.

For God and Country

Mike Calhoon
FROM THE DIRECTOR

No way, how can summer be over already! I suppose that Bobby has just had way too much fun cause you know what they say about how time flies. The ALR was very busy this summer and took part in many events.

This summer started out very busy with our annual trip to Trapper Creek and Byers Lake for Memorial day weekend with the First Annual Ride for Respect following the first weekend of June and our own ROMP held here at Post 5 the second weekend of June. Yea we had our butts in the saddle for a while and if you remember it the way I did we were a little tired and very wet! As the weather improved we dropped in a couple Ice Cream Runs and we had the unfortunate opportunity and honor to provide a memorial service escort for Pvt. Wallace who had fallen in the service of our country. The last event that we participated in was the ALRA Promotional Pride Ride to promote the creation of a Chapter of the ALR in Anchorage and we were successful as during the ride members of Post 1 and 28 came together in the backyard at Post 29 and elected officers and it all came together and our newest ALR Charter now can be found at Jack Henry Post 1. A few Chapters and the ALRA in gave $8000.00 dollars total to the Legacy Run with $1500.00 of that total coming from Post 5 and this year Nationwide the ALR brought in a cool $1,000,000.00 in donations, bringing the Legacy Run scholarship fund to well over 4 million dollars.

I hope the upcoming winter season finds everyone involved on the maintenance projects they need to get done on their bikes making them dependable and safe for next summer. Now is the time for planning to get those brakes done, tires changed, cables lubed and leaks fixed. Include all the other things that bugged you about your bike’s ride and performance last summer. Get it done so when spring does get here we can Get On Our Bikes and Ride!
Well, the Auxiliary has finally made the newsletter. First off I would like to thank all those who helped on our garage sale in August. We were able to make some money to donate to the roof/siding fund for the post. We were also able to make a large donation of leftover items to the new thrift store across the street.

Speaking of donations, any and all help is greatly needed for the roof and siding of our family home “Post 5”. You have noticed the cups along the windows those are there to catch the drips when raining. The siding, that’s another story, it’s like Pandora’s Box. You don’t know what you are getting into. So if you are so inclined to get rid of some extra cash, we sure could use the funds to help fix up our American Legion home.

We have a lot on the agenda for this month and the months to come. We are starting with the Toy for Tots auction. We will be looking for donations for this fund raiser so we can provide toys for the kids and food vouchers for the families. The auction/dinner will be on November 8th, with dinner starting at 6:30. We will be putting out flyers as reminders so you don’t forget this event. You can give Connie a call @the post or 32-1685 if you have any questions.

Once again our Sharon Kay is taking off on an Honor Flight. This time her travel partner will be Joanne Frey. Yes we have our two very own auxiliary ladies helping those honored veterans to go to Washington DC. This is Sharon’s 2nd trip and we honored her and Joanne is helping the veterans do what they may have never got to do. You go ladies!!!

This next year (April) is Post convention. We have already had a meeting with the post to get committees together and help where we can. Any help on this would be greatly appreciated.

The next meeting will be October 15th @ 6:30 at the post.

October is also Breast Cancer Awareness month, so ladies be sure to get your mammograms and do yourself breast checks.

Bingo is every Monday night at 6:30 doors open at 6:00. Come down to the American legion and bring someone with you. You could win!!! You do not need to be a member to come to bingo, so let the folks know so they can come have some fun.

For God and Country

The bill began when U.S. Marine Corps Lance Cpl. Andrew Koenig of Wyoming contacted Enzi, saying he wanted that day to honor the men and women still serving in Afghanistan.

"A grateful nation thanks the heroes of Operation Enduring Freedom for their bravery, service, and sacrifice and that of their families," said Blumenthal in a press release. "This resolution honors the brave men and women who served in Operation Enduring Freedom for stepping forward when their country needed them and achieving the mighty task that is the namesake of their mission."

"We can't forget that our men and women in uniform are still fighting for our freedom," said Enzi in the statement. "This day recognizes the sacrifices of our Afghanistan veterans and their loved ones. It is a thank you from America for all of their service."

"This resolution affirms our deep gratitude to the thousands of American service members who have served in Afghanistan. They have carried out their missions with courage, perseverance, and skill," said Ayotte, a member of the Senate Armed Services Committee, in the release. "We must never forget their sacrifices - nor the sacrifices of their loved ones - in answering the call of duty. I join Americans in thanking our military men and women for their brave service and dedication to advancing the cause of freedom."

"October 7, 2001 marked the beginning of the end for insurgent forces in Afghanistan intent on terrorist activities both there and abroad," said Begich in the release. "This resolution honors those dedicated men and women who have fought and sacrificed so that others may realize a life of freedom and democracy."

Oct. 7 will mark 13 years since the war started. Over 500,000 American military members have served in the war, and around 2,000 have given their lives.
Beirut Barracks Bombing

October 23, 2014 marks the 31st anniversary of the Beirut bombing. The Marines in this bombing were sent by President Ronald Reagan in 1982 to Lebanon on a peacekeeping mission in the region.

On October 23, 1983, at 6:22 am, a truck carrying 2000 pounds of explosives drives into the Marine compound in Beirut, Lebanon and crashes into the 1st Battalion, 8th Marine Regimental Battalion Landing Team barracks.

The Beirut mission started out as an effort to stabilize a fragile peace in a war-torn country. Lebanon had been in turmoil since the Palestine Liberation Organization, having been expelled from Jordan, took refuge there in the 1970s. In 1975, a panoply of Christian and Muslim militias, some backed by neighboring powers such as Iran, Syria and Israel, turned what had been a Middle East oasis into a no-man’s land of urban warfare.

Israel invaded in 1982, hoping to crush the PLO. In exchange for an Israeli withdrawal, the U.N. sent in a peacekeeping force made up of troops from Great Britain, France, Italy and the United States.

U.S. Peacekeeping forces set up camp at Beirut International Airport, a spot difficult to defend because the airport remained open for business and because warring factions controlled strategic hillsides nearby. It was generally believed the location was set for political and diplomatic reasons, not necessarily tactically defendable.

The situation fell apart quickly. Militia leaders began to view the United States and its allies as favoring the Christian-led forces of the Lebanese government. Tensions increased as evidenced by a car-bomb attack at the U.S. Embassy in April 1983 that killed 63 people emphasizing the point.

The Marines’ departure brought Beirut no peace. The civil war raged for seven more years until a settlement left Syria firmly in control of the country for many years. Yet the peace in this region is never guaranteed with the continual religious and political factions seeking influence and control.
In 1983 the United States invaded the island of Grenada and overthrew the communist government in favor of a pro-Western one in a span of less than two months. Problems between the US and the Caribbean nation began in 1979 (while the Cold War was still in effect) when a bloodless coup placed the pro-Marxist Maurice Bishop as the Prime Minister, which led to strengthened ties between Grenada and communist nations like Cuba and the Soviet Union.

Bishop was eventually murdered in October of 1983 during a power struggle with hard-liners in his own movement, creating a breakdown in civil order that threatened the lives of American medical students who were living on the island. In response, and at the request of allied Caribbean nations, the US launched "Operation Urgent Fury," sending the Marines to the north of the island and Army Rangers to the south.

During the fighting, the US suffered from lack of sufficient intelligence data, which made it difficult to find the medical students who needed to be rescued. The Grenadian Army and its Cuban allies also offered greater resistance than the Americans expected.

CAUSES OF CONFLICT:

The U.S. invasion of Grenada and the toppling of its Marxist government can be seen as part of a greater regional conflict. This conflict involved the U.S. and its Central American and Caribbean allies on one side and Fidel Castro's Cuba, the Sandinista government of Nicaragua and various Marxist guerrilla armies on the other. President Reagan and his administration were concerned that the Marxist government of Prime Minister Maurice Bishop was allowing Cuba to gain undue influence in Grenada, specifically by constructing a military grade airport with Cuban military engineers.

On October 13, 1983, the Grenadian Army, controlled by former Deputy Prime Minister Bernard Coard, seized power in a bloody coup. The severity of the violence, coupled with Coard's hard-line Marxism, caused deep concern among neighboring Caribbean nations, as well as in Washington, D.C. Also, the presence of nearly 1,000 American medical students in Grenada caused added concern.

However, along with concern came opportunity. With President Reagan's worldwide efforts to confront what he viewed as the threat by the Soviet Union and other Communist countries (such as Cuba), the turmoil in the Caribbean provided a timely excuse to eliminate a Marxist government and give Fidel Castro a black eye.
It should also be noted just a few days earlier on October 23, 1983, American foreign policy and pride suffered a terrible shock when a Muslim suicide bomber destroyed the Marine barracks in Beirut, killing 240 U.S. Marines.

A successful campaign in Grenada would prove helpful in alleviating the pain of that setback. Despite the difficulties, the Americans were able to take the island by mid-December. An Interim Advisory Council was established and it governed Grenada until December 1984, when Herbert A. Blaize, the head of the New National Party, was made Prime Minister through parliamentary elections.

CONSEQUENCES OF CONFLICT:

The Marxist, pro-Cuban governments of Bishop and Coard were eliminated and a regime friendly to American interests took over.

The Reagan Administration proved willing to use force to combat what it considered hostile governments in the area.

America's European allies expressed disapproval of the unilateral invasion of Grenada.

The invasion sent a message to Cuba and Nicaragua that they could only go so far in exporting revolution in Central America and the Caribbean without provoking an American military response.

As a result of the Cuban defeat in Grenada, Colonel Pedro Tortolo, who was the commander of Cuban military personnel on Grenada when the U.S. forces invaded, was court-martialed and sent to Angola as a private, along with most of his Grenada command.
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Food Every Night!

October 2014

Happy Halloween