



For God and Country

Seward Post 5 Newsletter

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American Legion Seward Post 5
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COMMANDER'S COMMENTS

By Bobby Dunno



So it seems that our fall has gotten here and with it a wet welcome to the coming winter. With all the rain you have to wonder when not if it is going to start flooding.



The termination dust has begun to accumulate on the mountain tops a sure bet that winter is closer than most of us want. With the amount of rain we had this summer you might wish that we could be in for a dryer winter, yea, I know wishful thinking 😊. But the good news is it is also time to start thinking about winter activities and you can bet the Post will be host to more than a few pool and cribbage tournaments, weekly poker games, and there is always an entertains sporting event on the TVs along with hearty meals prepared by Mike, Connie and our wonderful volunteers.



There are many things to look forward too as we will always have Steak Night, Taco Tuesday's, 3rd Sunday Breakfast's, Department Commanders Visitation, and my favorite our annual dinner for the crew and families of our own CGC Mustang.

Looking at the volunteers at our Post we need to pause to say thanks to all those who keep our Post productive. Especially those members of the Son of American Legion and our American Legion Auxiliary members what would our Post do without them. There would not be near the activities and services many of us take for granted if not for the efforts of our Legion Family members. So when the opportunity presents itself thank those people who show up on a regular basis and ensure that the inviting events at Post 5 continue.



complain about what is happening in our local, state and federal governments and do not vote to do anything about it. Besides the fact that many of us took the oath and served to protect the rights guaranteed in the Constitution which includes the right to assemble and vote. It should be the duty of every citizen at a minimum to exercise their right to vote.



As members of the American Legion encourage members of our community to get out and vote, we don't care which side of the issue you stand or who you vote for just stand up and be counted. The day that a true majority of the voting public show up and vote the officials who run the government will take notice. One of the problems today with voting is only a small segment of our population votes so we have small minorities of voters determining the direction our country is going. So get out the vote encourage family, co-workers and neighbors to join you at the polls. Together we will be heard.

Thanks again for all you do in support of our American Legion Family and our community! You guys "rock!"



On the subject of getting involved it is getting that time where we will be voting again. The election cycle there will be local, borough, state and national issues to decide on. Please take the time to vote. Way too many Americans like to



1st Vice Memo....

By Clare Sullivan

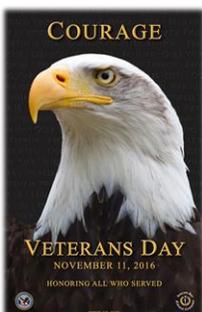
Well, here we are again in the beautiful Fall Season and thankfully heading into the much cooler days, so far we've had a bit of Termination Dust but nothing alarming - yet! ☺

Before I begin my update here I want to again thank everyone who has helped on the many, many projects we've accomplished this past Spring and Summer. You all have done some amazing work not only on the building but also all the support of the events we held here over the last year. It is phenomenal what has been done in this tiny post and all the incredibly capable people who have stepped up. You should be proud and we're still moving on and making things happen!

With the cooler weather arriving we will get back into our Winter activities and fundraising events. We're about to start our Winter Members Only Pool League, which is always a big hit as well as our Texas and Omaha Hold 'em weekly poker games. As it is October, we'll also be busily decorating the post for Halloween for those trick or treaters and those who just want to enjoy the season and possibly a candy bar or two as they stop by.



We are planning a several functions this month to include a dinner for **Marathon Wrestling** on the 8th and a few other activities throughout the month including the **Department Commander's Visitation Dinner** on the 29th month so keep checking your email for announcements or on our website at americanlegionpost5.com or our Facebook page too! I like getting the word out to the membership! ☺



As we look toward November we have Veterans' Day followed by Thanksgiving to get us going into the Holiday Season!

We 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.

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 and 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 and give the post a call, we'll get them something nice that will be comforting and remind them of home.

With the onset of October, we'll be preparing ourselves for the **Department Commander's Visitation**. It sounds formal, but it really isn't. The purpose of the visit is for the department commander to visit the post and have the opportunity to meet and greet the membership. The date of the visitation is **29 October**, and of course we'll have a yummy dinner. The visitation is designed not only for fun for all in attendance but also is informative for members who want to know more about who we are and what we do. We'll be having the Department Commander, the Department Auxiliary President, and the Son's Detachment Commander in attendance. These folks are good folks and have a wealth of experience in the American Legion. So mark your calendar for this event, you never know what might happen but for sure you'll get a good meal and you might just happen to learn something along the way. ☺



Come on by the post, we always have something going on and always welcome folks coming in with ideas for functions, activities or just coming by and saying hi! 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 to see more people coming by now that the frenetic pace of summer is just about done and we can collectively "catch our breath." We can spend some 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 is returning.

I'd like to invite you to come to our membership meetings. As we generally like to plan out events and decide the direction of the organization we meet once a month to see what we can do and where we can help. It is an informal get together and generally the meetings don't go much past an hour and we always are looking for new voices and new ideas. If this looks like something you might want to check out here is our meeting schedule - we'd love to have you attend!

OCTOBER MEETINGS

06 October	ALR Meeting
11 October	Post Meeting
12 October	Auxiliary Meeting
13 October	SAL Meeting



House and Vice Report.....

By Mike Calhoon



Hello from the Second Vice/Club,

Termination Dust is showing up and fall colors are everywhere. Had a great summer and now looking forward to an extended fall before old man winter hits.

September was a busy month as we transitioned from summer to autumn. I want to thank all the great volunteers who stepped up to help with our community breakfast and the Early Bird Dinner. Also, thanks to everyone who helped Connie while I was on vacation. Your efforts highlight one of the most important things about the American Legion; volunteerism. Makes it all work!

This month we will have the **Marathon Wrestling Club's Taco Feed and Auction Fundraiser on Oct 8th**, our breakfast on Oct 16th, and the **Department Commander's Visitation on Oct 29th**. Halloween, of course, is on Oct 31st and we will have lots of candy and good food. We will have Halloween decorating on Oct 15th.



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 300 to be sold. Drawing will be held on Halloween night.



Pool League will start on Oct 2nd, **Bingo** is still going on Monday nights, and **Poker** has started again on Sunday and Monday nights.

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

For God and Country

Sounding Off from the Sons....

By Mike Calhoon



Greetings from the SAL First Vice Commander.

Fall is here and we can see the new snow in the mountain tops. Summer was great and now time to transition towards the winter season.

Once again our great volunteers in Squadron 5 supported all the Post 5 family functions and activities this past month. You all continue to demonstrate the spirit of the SAL with your support of the veterans and community of Seward. Great job!!!



In October the Post will be hosting the Marathon Wrestling Club's Taco Feed/Auction fundraiser on Oct 8th. It was a great success last year and we look forward to a better event this year. The community breakfast will be on Oct 16th, and the Department Commander's Visitation will be on Oct 29th. Lots of help will be needed so mark your calendars and let's continue our volunteerism and support of the Post functions.



The new membership year has started. The SAL Dues for 2017 have increased to \$30.00. I thank all of you who renewed early and were able to enjoy a great Early Bird Dinner on Sep 24th. 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.



Operation Urgent Fury

25 October 1983

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.



U. S. Army Blackhawk helicopters on Grenada

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

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.

Operation Enduring Freedom Beirut Barracks Bombing

Oct. 7, 2012 was designated as **Operation Enduring Freedom Veterans Day** by the US Senate. The bill was introduced by Connecticut Senator Richard Blumenthal, Wyoming Senator Mike Enzi, New Hampshire Senator Kelly Ayotte, and Alaska Senator Mark Begich.

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 12 years since the war started. Over 500,000 American military members have served in the war, and around 2,000 have given their lives.



October 23, 2013 marks the 30th 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 were 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 defensible.

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.



From the Director...

By Larry Gentry

Well it was a wet summer for riding but ride we did and made several rides most of them in the rain. We had the Ride for Pie in May meeting the riders from Anchorage in Hope for pie.

The ROMP at Post 1, the Poker Run with the Combat Vets when we visited the Veterans Home in Palmer. We had the honor of performing duties with the Patriot Guard at funeral services in Kenai and Anchorage. And last but not least we had the Wounded Heroes escort to Soldotna's Centennial Park from the Base Pro Shop in Anchorage. It was all fun although very wet and hopefully we will have just as much fun next year.



Our last meeting for the year will be October 6th where we will "go dark" for the winter but not before we have our first call for officers. Please plan on attending there is a lot to discuss and we need everyone's input.



Next year the **ROMP** is planning to be a **Roaming Romp** where we will start in the Valley and "Do the Loop" stopping to visit the Rides and Post in the Fairbanks area. Bobby has been selected as the Chairman to organize the ROMP and he is getting a member from each chapter in the ALRA. Of course there will likely be pie and ice cream runs, and the Legion Riders. We have also brought forward an idea of creating and hosting a "Peninsula Patriot Run" which will be a Poker Run from Post 16 in Homer ending at our own Post 5, the funds will go towards the Legacy Run. So you can see there is lots to talk about so be at the meeting and put your 2 cents in.

With the arrival of Winter, it is time for us to put up the bikes again. The [ALRA website](#) has a checklist in the directors link on peeping your bike for winter storage. Proper

winter storage makes it easier to get them out and into running shape come spring. So while the riding maybe coming to end with the winter setting the work on our motorcycles is just beginning, how much fun is that! See you next year.



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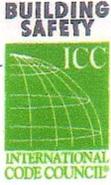
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