As some of you may be aware we are an organization that has been in Seward for quite some time, but did you know that Seward Post 5 has been in existence since 1919?

It is something to be exceptionally proud of and well worth memorializing in a 100 year celebration, and that is what we are working toward! Nationally, there is a big effort toward documenting and celebrating all of our posts’ histories, and with close to 14,000 American Legion Posts throughout the organization that is a lot of history and some great work for nearly a century of helping veterans, their families and the communities where they live.

😊

As this celebration develops and our work to document our history continues we are working with the goal to bring attention to our organization’s legacy of service. This effort will allow us to continue to promote our vision once we hit the start of the next century. The 100th anniversary is not only an opportunity to look back on all our post has achieved. It is also the perfect time to chart a course for the second century of how we can continue to serve. New generations of veterans need to know the kind of vision that drove the World War I-era founders. That vision proved timeless as it formed the basis of this great organization. The World War I-era veterans were there to help their fellow veterans when no one else would, and their work set the path for the development of the multitude of programs that help so many throughout the country in countless communities.

Even though state and federal organizations have become much better in their treatment of veterans in the recent years, there is still a need for vigilance to ensure that veterans continue to be treated with respect, and continue to receive benefits and services that they have earned through their service as well as their families whose loved one paid the ultimate price in their service to our country.

The American Legion is performing that vigilance and will continue advocating for our veterans and their families, and will continue to serve in the next century via the multitude of programs that help so many throughout our communities.

With all that said, it is important to document and account for what has been done. We have accomplished quite a bit in Seward for a small Post and we want to share our successes with the new generations who will follow us in service. We are working on our own Seward Post 5 Centennial Page on the American Legion website and it has a good beginning thanks to Doug Capra and his excellent research on the early days of the Post but we’re looking for help for more of our history that people may remember from the early days, it could be an anecdotal memory item or just a fun fact from the past but it all helps.

When you get a chance take a look at the site or if you already know some information feel free to contact me or Mike at the post. We’d love to hear the stories and get them incorporated into our developing history.

Speaking of history, the first female American Legion National Commander Denise H. Rohan has announced her membership award pin with the “Family First” motto. Legionnaires will receive the national commander’s pin for bringing in three new members into the Legion.

A new member is any eligible person joining for the 2018 membership year who was not a member of The American Legion during the 2017 membership year.

Each member listed must be eligible for membership in The American Legion. Forward names of Sons of The American Legion or Auxiliary members to your detachment or unit for use in their respective incentive programs.

Good luck and "let’s make some HISTORY!!!"
1st Vice Update and Notable Notes
By Clare Sullivan

Here we are already in the cooler weather! I was a bit worried that autumn blew by us when we had all the termination dust creeping down the mountain. Fortunately, it didn’t stay on Marathon too long and we are seeing the beautiful colors of Fall, although it is a bit wet lately!

With the cooler weather we also get back into our Winter projects and fundraising events as we prepare for beautiful and brisk winter days. We have Veterans’ Day right around the corner, followed by Thanksgiving, and of course the Auxiliary has the ever fun and successful Toys for Tots Dinner and Auction this month to get us going into the Holiday Spirit. The Auxiliary’s event is a big affair that sets the groundwork for lots of gifts to be purchased for our Seward kids when Santa and Mrs. Claus come to town to ride in the Christmas parade (Thank you Seward FD!) and then Santa, Mrs. Claus and the elves give out gifts to all the kids who come and brave the elements to meet Santa, Mrs. Claus and an elf or two!

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 and send them some fun goodies that remind them of our wonderful little town and all their 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 from home, let us know and we’ll get them something nice that will be comforting and remind them of home.

With the onset of October we’ll be getting ourselves ready for the Department Commander’s Visitation and Dinner. It sounds formal, but it really isn’t at all and it is a good time with of course good food! 😊 The purpose of the visit is for the Department Commander, the Sons’ Detachment Commander and the Auxiliary’s Department President to visit the post and have the opportunity to meet and greet the membership. The date of the visitation is 28 October, and of course we’ll have a yummy dinner for all, and that is a bit of encouragement to bring folks in. It is designed not only for fun for all in attendance but also 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 people 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 learn something along the way. 😊

September was a busy month - as it seems most of our months are fairly busy, and I’d be remiss if I didn’t thank everyone who volunteered their time in helping around the post to make this a community center, and place not only 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 hard work. With that in mind, I want to acknowledge the continued dedication of the folks who run our nightly events of Texas and Omaha Poker, the Auxiliary’s Bingo, kitchen help during our nightly tasty meals, participating during the celebrations of our patriotic holidays throughout the year, and those impromptu and unscheduled events where we really need the help of members to get things going. I am thrilled that you all “rise to the occasion” and make it happen! Because of you, we are a success!

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 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 are returning.

See You at the Post! 😊
Hello from the Second Vice/Club,

Summer did not dilly dally on its way out! Fall and the rain have taken over with winter not far behind. Summer residents are starting to head south for the winter and we want to wish them all a safe journey and we look forward to seeing them next spring.

We had a great Early Bird Dinner last month. It was well attended, the food was very good, and we got some members to renew that evening that had not already done so. It was a successful function for the Legion family.

If you have not renewed your membership yet, please consider doing so. Your membership supports the local, state, and national programs of the Legion and helps us continue to provide for our veterans and the community of Seward.

This month we have the Marathon Wrestling Club fundraising dinner and auction on Oct 7th, the Auxiliary Unit 5 Toys for Tots fundraising auction and dinner on Oct 14th, our community breakfast on Oct 15th, and the Department of Alaska Commander’s Visitation Dinner on Oct 28th.

Lots of stuff going on and lots of volunteers will be needed so give us a call or stop by if you can donate your time and effort during any of these functions.

We will also start having some Guest Chef Nights this month with John Moline preparing some wild game meals on Oct 4th and Oct 11th. These nights will be used to raise money for the building projects we have in the works so come support the Post and enjoy some really good food.

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.

Wet, wet, wet. Guess fall is really here and seems winter is not far away.

As summer ends I want to thank all the great volunteers from Squadron 5 that continue to give their time and effort to help accomplish everything the Post 5 family does for the community of Seward.

The Early Bird Dinner was well attended and the squadron got a few more renewals for 2018. If you have not yet renewed your membership please consider doing so. Your membership helps the squadron to continue supporting the local and state Legion programs.

This month the Post will be hosting the Marathon Wrestling Club fundraiser on Oct 7th, the Auxiliary Unit 5 Toys for Tots Auction on Oct 14th, the community breakfast on Oct 15th, and the Department of Alaska Commander’s Visitation Dinner on Oct 28th. Lots of help will be needed for these functions so let us know if you have time to come and lend a hand.

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.

October Events

05 October ALR Meeting
07 October Marathon Wrestling Fundraiser
10 October Post Meeting
11 October Auxiliary Meeting
12 October SAL Meeting
14 October Toys for Tots Auction and Dinner
15 October 3rd Sunday of the Month Breakfast
28 October Department Commander’s Visitation
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.

**Operation Urgent Fury**

25 October 1983

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**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.
October 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 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.
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Happy Halloween
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**FOOD EVERY NIGHT!!!**