



# For God and Country

## Seward Post 5 Newsletter

October 2018  
Volume 15, Issue 10

American Legion Seward Post 5  
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### COMMANDER'S COMMENTS

By Clare Sullivan



Here we are already in the cooler weather! What a September we had. I don't remember any weather nearly this good in the state in all my years I've lived in Alaska.

With the cooler weather we also get back into our Winter projects and fundraising events. We have a few fun things planned for October and also we have Veterans' Day right around the corner as well as Thanksgiving. We also look forward to the Post's Fundraiser to help continue the our building improvements.

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 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 the-m of home.

We had a very busy September with quite a few events and the sad passing of a couple of our post members who moved onto "post everlasting." We lost Jerry Pickett, a retired Coast Guard Chief. The Coast Guard Honor Guard provided the military honors to honor his service to our great country and thanks to Past Post Commander John Moline he took the family out on his boat to allow them to spread Jerry's ashes at sea. We also lost another long time Seward resident - Keith Knighten who was a WWII, Korea and Vietnam veteran; we will be having his memorial and celebration of life on the 20<sup>th</sup> of October.

We were fortunate to be visited by the crew of the **USCGC Healy** who spent about a week in Seward after a long trip out at sea and we celebrated with several of the crew on their promotion with a "Wetting Down" party. The crew are now somewhere between Seward and the Arctic for missions up there and we wish them all the best and thank them for stopping by Post 5! It was fun meeting everyone and hosting them here. We look forward to their return.



With the onset of October, we'll be preparing ourselves for the **Department Commander's Visitation**. It sounds formal, but it really isn't at all. The purpose of the visit is for the commander to visit the post and to meet and greet the membership. **The date of the visitation is 27 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 but also an informative forum 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 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 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 weekly events of Poker, Pool League, the and the Auxiliary's Bingo. Huge kudos too goes out to all the kitchen help during our nightly tasty meals, monthly breakfasts and our big events that bring people to the post. I also want to thank everyone who continue to participate 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 "step up" and make it happen! Because of you, we are a successful organization and able to help our veterans, military and the community!



One area that I'd like to specifically give a shout out about is the ongoing work on the building itself and the financial donations and "sweat equity" from our organizations to move things along. We've had a quite a few lend a hand and put in some hard work but the planning, hard work, leadership direction from Tom Sears has been unmatched and honestly, I don't think we would be this close in any of the improvements or repairs had not Tom been there cracking the whip! 😊

We have a way to go, and the roof right now is the priority but just know anything you can do - even moral support goes a long way!

Come on by the post, we always have something going on and always welcome members 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 busy pace of summer is done and we can collectively "catch our breath" - that is those of you who aren't "snowbirds!" ☺

See You at the Post!

## From the President's Desk

By Deb VanTassel

Fall is officially here and termination dust has already been on the mountains so we all know what that means.



Thank you to everyone who volunteered and assisted with all the projects and events during the crazy busy summer months. It goes without saying that without our volunteers

contributing countless hours, we would not be able to accomplish near as much as we do in the Legion family. But with that said... there is always something going on at the Post and continuous opportunities to volunteer.

I know many people ask- why should I volunteer, or I don't have the time to volunteer.

We all have busy lives, so it can be hard to find time to volunteer. However, the benefits of volunteering can



be huge to you, your family, and the community. Finding the right volunteer opportunity can help you to reduce stress, make new friends, and reach out to the community. Research shows that volunteering and helping others can also help with your mental and physical health.

### BENEFITS OF VOLUNTEERING

#### FOR YOU

- Do something you care about
- Make a difference
- Build new relationships
- Gain knowledge and skills which will improve future career prospects
- The 'feel good' factor

#### FOR THE COMMUNITY

- Improve lives
- Connect to others in the community
- Make positive changes
- Others may be inspired by your work and volunteer themselves
- Strengthen relationships

Volunteering provides much needed help to people who need it, and the community, but you as the volunteer can receive many benefits also. Volunteering and helping others can help you reduce stress, combat depression, keep you mentally stimulated, and provide a sense of purpose., Volunteering doesn't have to involve a long-term commitment or take a huge amount of time out of your busy day, any amount will provide benefits to you and those you are volunteering for.

**October** will again be a busy month for Seward and the Post Family with lots of opportunities to volunteer. The Post will be cooking breakfast for the **Harbormaster's Convention** and helping with the **Marathon Wrestling Club** Fund Raising Auction. On October 27<sup>th</sup>, the Post 5 Family will host the Commanders Visitation Dinner. The Department Commander - Nate Carter, the Auxiliary Department President- Debbie Lowndes and the SAL Department Commander Dave Dieckgraeff will be visiting the Post for Dinner and an evening of visiting with our membership.

Remember there are several regular activities going on at the Post. Every Monday is Bingo- this is a great fund raiser for the Auxiliary and provides a chance for community members to get out and have something to do on Monday nights. Also, Poker has started



up again for the winter- Sunday night is Texas Hold 'em and Monday night is Omaha. Don't know how to play? Come on down and learn. Also, the Saturday night

pool league will be starting again. These are good opportunities for Legion family members go get out and have something to do during the long winter months.



Don't forget to vote in the City election on Oct 2 and the General Election on November 5.

Hope everyone is enjoying this great fall weather! Have a **Great October and HAPPY HALLOWEEN!**



**For God and Country**



## News From the Road.....

By ALR Director Bobby Dunno

It seem that every year we reach the point where we look back and cannot believe that Summer is coming to a close, for those of us who enjoy feeling the wind rolling over our windscreens we ask the question "how can the riding season be ending already"! I suppose that the fact that I spent 6 weeks down south in our motorhome having too much fun is a reason I missed most of the riding season.

If you have not heard or read about it yet the ALR Alaska donated more than \$9,000.00 to the American Legion Legacy Scholarship Fund, while nationwide \$1,256,930.34 was raise to further the education of dependents of veterans killed or disabled since the attach on 9/11. Post 5 donated \$1,650.00 most thanks to the awesome baking skills and dedication of Pinky. Hopefully everyone will remember to thank her for her efforts, along with the enjoyment we had in eating all the wonderful desserts she provided ☺.

Dave and Terry came up with an idea and managed to get Chapter 5 riders together for a final Ice Cream run, we need to do that a lot more next summer!

On 16 September the riders of the ALRA escorted the remains of veteran Louis Strutz a Veteran and American Legion member from Homer to Anchorage for internment at the National Cemetery on JBER. Such missions are always a somber occasion and yet it is a great honor to participate paying respect to those who have given the last full measure or passed on to Post Everlasting.



All the Chapter 5 Riders need to remember to gather at the Post for our last meeting before we go "dark." We will be holding the meeting as usual the first Thursday of the month which falls on the 4<sup>th</sup> of October. It will be an important meeting as we have a few items to take care of and of course we will hold our first call for officers.

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 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. If you are like me you are already taking about what cool items for the bikes we are buying ourselves for Christmas! Get it done so when spring does get here we can "Get on Our Bikes and Ride!"

**For God and Country**



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Its always good to be prepared and have a safety net for unpleasant eventualities. Let's all stay safe out there!!!

Take care!



## House and Vice Report.....

By Mike Calhoon



Fall may be on the way but the weather is amazing for this time of year!!

I want to thank everyone who helped the Post with all the September activities and ask you to take a look at October's functions and see where you can help. Volunteers are our backbone and we truly have a great crew in the Post 5 Family.

David "Ozzie" Osborn has done a great job maintaining the Legion Cemetery, with some help at times, and will probably, with this weather, need to mow and trim once or twice more. If you can lend a hand with that please let us know and Ozzie will gladly put you to work.

This month we will have a lot going on at Post 5. We have breakfast for the **Harbormaster's Conference** on October 9-12, we have the **Marathon Wrestling Fundraiser** on October 13<sup>th</sup>, we have a memorial service on October 20<sup>th</sup> for Keith Knighten, the community breakfast is on October 21<sup>st</sup>, and the Department Commander's Visitation Dinner is on October 27<sup>th</sup>.

We are still planning to have a **Post 5 Fundraising Auction and Dinner on November 10<sup>th</sup>**. We are collecting some great stuff but are looking for more. Keep it in mind and let us know if you have items to donate for the auction.

We are in the **2019 membership year** and I want to thank all of you who have renewed your memberships already helping us to reach 50% of our membership goal. Let's keep the momentum going. If you have not renewed, please consider doing so. Membership is the cornerstone of the American Legion from the Post level all the way up to the National level. We are striving to turn a declining national membership around and it starts with us at the Post. If we could all bring in one new member this year it will truly strengthen our organization and we will be able to support our veterans and their families in amazing ways.



Bingo is going strong on Mondays at 6:30pm. Poker is back on Sundays and Mondays at 6:00pm and Pool League is on Saturday at 7:00pm. Come on in and enjoy some fun and good food.



Thanks to all of you who continue to support your Post and all the activities designed to support our membership, our veterans, and the community. 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.

What a great September we have had and a beautiful start to the Fall season.

Lots of stuff happening this month so there will be many opportunities to volunteer at the Post and continue our dedication to the mission on the Post 5 Family.

September was busy, but October will be even busier at Post 5. The Post will be hosting the Harbormasters Convention for breakfast on October 9-12, will host the Marathon Wrestling Fundraiser on October 13<sup>th</sup>, will hold a memorial service for Keith Knighten on October 20<sup>th</sup>, the community breakfast is on October 21<sup>st</sup>, and the Department Commander's Visitation will be on October 27<sup>th</sup>.

As you can see, the Post will need lots of help to take care of these functions so let us know when you can donate your time and effort for these activities.



David Osborn has done another outstanding job of maintaining the cemetery, with some help, and will probably need some assistance, in the near future, to do one or two

more mowing and trimming jobs before the weather takes over. Let us know if you are available to help with that job.

We are now in the 2019 membership year and I thank those of you who have renewed your memberships. I ask those who have not to consider doing so as membership is the backbone of our organization and we need to continue to strive to be a strong and active part of the Post 5 Family.

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.

*Have a Great October and be sure to stop by the post during the month to see how we're getting the post Halloween'd up for the end of the month where we'll have goodies, treats, maybe some tricks... 😊 either way we wish you a Happy Halloween!!!!*



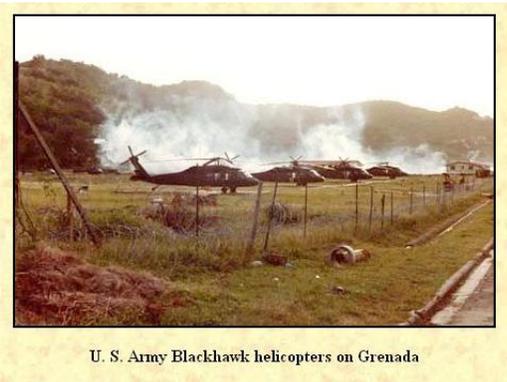
# Operation Urgent Fury

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 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 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.



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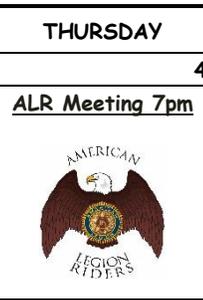
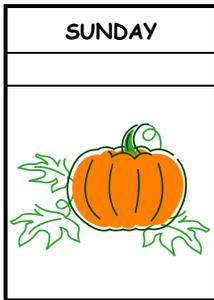
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**OCTOBER MEETINGS AND EVENTS**

|            |                       |     |
|------------|-----------------------|-----|
| 02 October | Building Committee    | 7pm |
| 03 October | ALR Meeting           | 7pm |
| 09 October | Post Meeting          | 7pm |
| 10 October | Auxiliary Meeting     | 6pm |
| 11 October | SAL Meeting           | 7pm |
| 13 October | Marathon Fundraiser   | 5pm |
| 27 October | Dept Cdr's Visitation | 6pm |

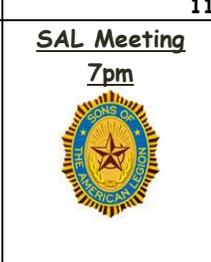
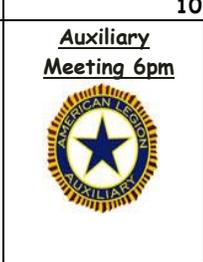
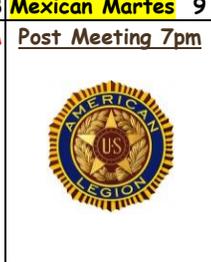

October 2018


| SUNDAY | MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY |
|--------|--------|---------|-----------|----------|--------|----------|
|        | 1      | 2       | 3         | 4        | 5      | 6        |
| 7      | 8      | 9       | 10        | 11       | 12     | 13       |
| 14     | 15     | 16      | 17        | 18       | 19     | 20       |
| 21     | 22     | 23      | 24        | 25       | 26     | 27       |
| 28     | 29     | 30      | 31        |          |        |          |



**"Texas Hold 'em"**  
6PM  
  
**Luscious Leftovers**

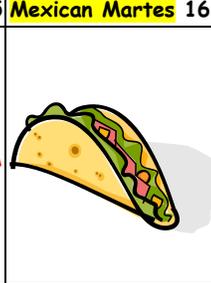
**OMAHA POKER 6PM**  
**Luscious Leftovers**  
  
**BINGO 6:30PM**  

**Marathon Wrestling Fundraiser**  
5pm  


**"Texas Hold 'em"**  
6PM  
  
**Luscious Leftovers**

**BINGO!!! 6:30PM**  
  
**OMAHA POKER 6PM**  
  
**Luscious Leftovers**



**Keith Knighen Memorial Pool League**  


**"Texas Hold 'em"**  
6PM  
**Luscious Leftovers**  
*3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of the Month Breakfast*

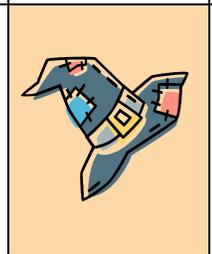
**OMAHA POKER 6PM**  
  
**Luscious Leftovers**  
  
**BINGO!!!! 6:30PM**



Department Commander's Visitation & Dinner 6pm  


**"Texas Hold 'em"**  
6PM  
**Luscious Leftovers**

**BINGO!!! 6:30PM**  
  
**Luscious Leftovers**  
**OMAHA POKER 6PM**  

Food Every Night at the Post!