



For God and Country

Seward Post 5 Newsletter

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COMMANDER'S COMMENTS

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 isn't running down the mountain and we're able to still enjoy the Fall foliage. It really is spectacular here during this time of year!

With the cooler weather we also get back into our Winter projects and fundraising events. We also have Veterans' Day right around the corner, followed by Thanksgiving to get us going into the Holiday Spirit. The Auxiliary will also be hosting Santa and Mrs. Claus in early December when they come to town to ride in the Christmas parade and then 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 who 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, of course 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.

This past month we were fortunate to be visited by the both the Navy (USS Comstock) and the Coast Guard Special Security forces who were participating in an exercise over by Fourth of July Creek. These folks spent about a week in town and having fun when they weren't supporting the exercise. It was fun meeting everyone and hosting them here. We thoroughly enjoyed their visit and are happy they chose to spend time here in Seward.



During this same time, we had the opportunity to meet Navy Admiral Scott Gray who oversees the Naval forces on the West Coast. He came to the post and did a "meet and greet"

with many of our membership and gave a great talk about what the Navy intends to do in the future in Alaska. As the Navy reduced its presence here a few decades ago he wanted to "bring us up to speed" on how things are changing geopolitically and why it is important that the Navy is coming back and reestablishing itself here in the arctic. It was a very



informative meeting with lots of good questions from the assembled audience and of course we had good food and a cake in true Post 5 fashion! 😊



September was a busy month - as it seems most of our months are 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 for veterans and their families, and a 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 help around the post daily to include our nightly meals, guest chef nights and our regularly scheduled events including the Auxiliary's Bingo, as well as 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 continue to be a success Post!

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 stopping in 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 once again coming back.



From the President's Desk

By Debbie VanTassel

Well the frost is in the air and we have already seen the first termination dust on the mountains so that means fall is here and winter is not far behind. I hope everyone had a great summer and are ready for the winter months.

Again, September was a busy month for the Auxiliary and the Post with many great activities. First, a huge thank you to all the volunteers that helped with the annual Auxiliary Unit 5 fund raiser that was held on Sept 14. It was a different format this year but we were still able to raise funds to support our many programs throughout the year and everyone had a GREAT time.

We had an abbreviated auction, both live and silent with some great wine baskets and some creative mystery "bags". This was followed by an evening of



music and dancing with music provided by Seth Malone and the Mabrey Brothers. This was an awesome band and those that stayed enjoyed some really good music.



September 16 saw the arrival of the Navy ship - USS Comstock. There were a lot of community activities and events held in conjunction with the ship being in Port. It was a busy time for the Post with many of the Coast Guard and Navy service personnel visiting the Post.

In September, we also started our push for membership renewal. We have a great start on our membership for the 2020 year and many of the "early birds" were rewarded with an awesome early bird dinner held at the Post on Sept 27.



If you haven't renewed yet, please remember to do so. The membership dues help at the National, State and Local levels to support all the Auxiliary programs that are so valuable to help support our veterans, military families and community.

A Few Important Dates to Remember in October.

October 13 - Navy Birthday

Oct 26 - National Day of the Deployed - A day to recognize the sacrifices made by all of our service personnel who are deployed and the sacrifices made by their families.

Looking ahead- November is the month of the Military Family- A month to honor and celebrate the contributions and sacrifices the families of the U.S. Armed Forces make for this country Also in November a huge day for the American Legion Auxiliary- on November 10, 1919 the American Legion Auxiliary was officially formed so we will be celebrating our 100th Anniversary!

Again, a huge thank you to all our volunteers and members who contribute so much to our organization and work to fulfill our mission and objectives.

Our Centennial Year

This year Seward Post 5 and Auxiliary Unit 5 will celebrate their 100th Anniversaries. From the original application for the Post that was sent forward to the National HQ in November 1919, to our formal charter that we received and is hanging on the wall signed December 31st 1919, we have a story and we're getting it written down. The 100th anniversary of our post is not only an opportunity to look back on all the post has achieved over the years. It is also the perfect time to chart a course for the second century. New generations of veterans depend on the kind of vision shared and expressed by the World War I-era founders and the work that ensued based on their vision. That vision has proved to be timeless. We strive to extend the same vision and values to future generations of veterans and their families.

Take a look at our continuing post story on legion.org as we document our activities and recount our history. The Seward Post 5 American Legion Family has done some amazing things over the decades!

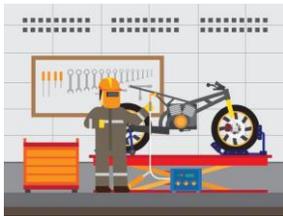


News From the Road.....

By ALR Director Bobby Dunno

Normally when I come to the October Newsletter you hear me lamenting the turning of the weather and the end of riding season. But with the weather we have enjoyed this summer I have a hard time feeling bad about the riding season ending other than it seemed to fly by pretty quickly! I got a slow start this year but still ended up with just over 4000 miles on my Victory and since the ROMP I must have had just had way too much fun 'cause you know what they say about good times and how time flies. How lucky could we get if we have a similar summer next year, of course luck would have to play a big role if we were to have a sunny warm and dry summer without the State trying to incinerate itself.

To that end the one thing you always hear me discuss at the end of riding season is the beginning of fixin' stuff season. After all you have to admit that working on our bikes is almost as much fun as riding them. And now that the leaves are turning the wind is a bit chillier it is time to consider those last few miles on the shorter sunny days and start make those list of items that needs attention and plans to fix those few bugs that have cause us aggravation while we were trying to enjoy the ride. So, I am hoping 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 plan, inspect our bikes find what wrong and get those brakes done, tires changed, cables lubed and leaks fixed. Once we have all the needed stuff completed it will be time for those extras we saw or read about. For me that means finally figuring out how to mount my American and POW/MIA Flags on my Victory! Of course, if you are like me you are already thinking about what cool items for the bikes we are planning to ask Santa for Christmas! So get a plan, then get it done so when Spring (let's hope it gets here quick☺) does get here we can Get On Our Bikes and Ride!



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**Post 5 Coins Are In!!!!**



Get yours today, each donation helps us in programs helping our veterans and our community!



## Emergency Assistance Plus

24-Hour Emergency & Medical Back-Up Plan

With our active lifestyles, it's critical for Legionnaires to set up a solid back-up plan ... to help you handle almost any crisis away from home.

That's why the American Legion set up Emergency Assistance Plus - a crucial safety net that helps you pay for emergencies your health insurance generally will NOT cover. Because of their history of working with Legionnaires, you can trust them to get the job done when it comes to protecting your health and personal safety.

***You'll have peace of mind knowing that if you are injured or fall ill and require hospitalization, or if you lose your medications, Emergency Assistance Plus will be standing by. That's is their guarantee to all Legionnaires.***

EA+ provides more than 20 emergency and medical assistance services so you can focus on your recovery and not on costs. Some of the key services include: ***Emergency Medical Evacuation, Transportation After Stabilization and Assistance for Companions.***



Contact the post for forms for enrollment or for detailed information call the Legionnaire Insurance Trust Program at 1-800-235-6943. If you want to research for yourself go to the site at <https://www.thelit.com/emergency-assistance-plus> for detailed descriptions that might work for you and your spouse.



Emergency Assistance Plus (EA+)  
 Get the 24-hour emergency protection you and your loved ones deserve.

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Notice: We're considering a change of the post meeting time to an earlier time on the 2nd Tuesday of the month. Right now we're meeting at 7pm, the proposed new time is 5:30pm. Please advise the post if you object to the change. If no objections and the post membership accepts the change, the new meeting time will be effective in November.

House and Vice Report.....

By Mike Calhoon



Hello from the Second Vice,

What a great beginning to the fall season. Good weather and fun activities going on in town. Nice end to a busy, albeit, warm and smoky summer.

Great big thank you to all the great volunteers that helped with the regular Post and Club activities last month in addition to the Auxiliary Unit 5 fundraiser, the visit from the USS Comstock, the Marines and the Coast Guard during the exercises held in Seward, the Early Bird Dinner, and the Celebration of Life for Luke Kuller. We also got to help say goodbye to Dave and Cindy Beardsley as they retire from Spring Creek Correctional Center and the Bear Creek Volunteer Fire Department as they move on to Florida.

October should be a bit on the quiet side but we still have all the normal activities along with our Community breakfast on October 20th and, of course, Halloween on Thursday the 31st. If you have time to volunteer just give us a call or stop by and we will put you to work. Without our great volunteers we would not be able to do everything we do for our veterans and the community.



The 2020 membership year is here. I want to thank everyone who has already renewed their memberships. Membership is the backbone of our organization and we need to keep that backbone strong to continue to carry the load we do for our veterans and the community of Seward. You can renew at the Post, mail in your renewals, or go online to MyLegion.org and renew.

Bingo is going strong on Mondays at 6:30 and we have food every night.

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.

"For God and Country"



Sounding Off from the Sons....

By Mike Calhoon



Greetings from the SAL First Vice Commander.

We have had a great end to the summer and transition to fall. Let's get ready for winter.

This last month Squadron 5 members supported the Post 5 family with the normal Friday night activities, our community breakfast and even a bit of calling BINGO. Additionally, Squadron members helped during the visit from the Coast Guard from Seattle and San Francisco in conjunction with the USS Comstock and Naval exercises. Ozzie helped the Auxiliary with dinner for their fundraiser, the Early Bird Dinner, and AL and Ozzie helped with various food prep duties and with the Celebration of Life for Luke Kuller who was a longtime Squadron 5 member. Ozzie also continues to maintain the cemetery and prep it for the winter. Great Job everyone!



This month there is not much out of the ordinary planned at the Post, mostly the normal activities to include the community breakfast on October 20th and Halloween on October 31st. Other things will most likely come up so keep in touch and if you have time to volunteer, we will gladly put you to work.

The new membership year for 2020 is here so think about renewing your membership if you have not already done so. Membership is the cornerstone 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.

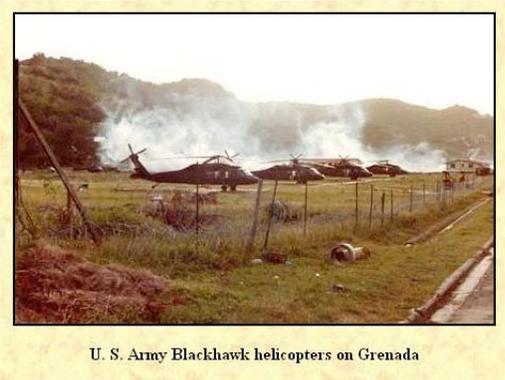
Operation Urgent Fury

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

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. 7th will mark 18 years since the Global War on Terrorism began in this region. Over 1.9 million American military members have served in the war, and 2,351 have given their lives.



Beirut Barracks Bombing

October 23, 2013 marks the 37th 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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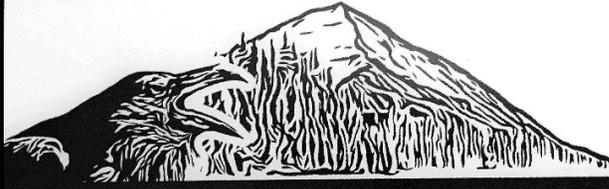
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Ranting Raven

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BRASS BONES

Sam Clemons Jewelry Artist/Owner



ADVENTURE SIXTY NORTH

Outdoor Adventure Center
Seward, Alaska



October 2019

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		Mexican Martes 1	2	3	Steak Night 4	5
				ALR Meeting 7pm 		Halloween Decorating at the Post 12pm
6	7	Mexican Martes 8	9	10	Steak Night 11	12
Luscious Leftovers	BINGO 6:30PM Chili Dogs	Post Meeting 7pm 	Auxiliary Meeting 6pm 	SAL Meeting 7pm 		Halloween Decorating at the Post 12pm
13	14	Mexican Martes 15	16	17	Steak Night 18	19
Luscious Leftovers	BINGO!!! 6:30PM Chili Dogs					
20	21	Mexican Martes 22	23	24	Steak Night 25	26
Luscious Leftovers 3rd Sunday of the Month Breakfast	BINGO!!!! 6:30PM Chili Dogs					
27	28	Mexican Martes 29	30	31		
Luscious Leftovers	BINGO!!! 6:30PM Chili Dogs			 HALLOWEEN		



Food Served Every Night at the Post!!!