



For God and Country

Seward Post Five Newsletter

American Legion Post 5

Email: americanlegionpost5@gci.net

Phone: (907) 224-5440

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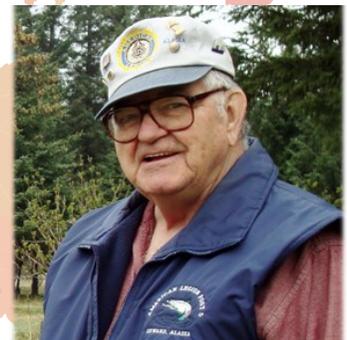
COMMANDERS COMMENTS

By: Clare Sullivan

Well, another summer down and it was a busy one for the Post 5 Family! For the most part we had some really great weather for all and we had the opportunity to visit with many of our membership who come to Seward in the summer to work and play. It always good to see these folks; but it is just as sad to see them go as we see them off with a feeling of bittersweet because we have enjoyed their company while they're here but we know they have to go back to the Lower 48 to their families and return to their regular lives. We wish them well and look forward to their return next summer!

We've had a lot of changes this summer particularly in the past couple of months. We said farewell to several members of the USCGC Mustang who have been a huge part in our American Legion Family. Over the few months we said a fond farewell to Lisa Motoi, Kevin Shepard, Ty Sword, Craig Mobius, Timothy Sperry, and Chris Murray, just to name a few. Thankfully, we have email and Facebook so we can keep up and get periodic updates on our members of our American Legion Family who go off to further their careers or for some lucky ones – retirement! We wish them all good fortune as they continue on wherever their travels may take them.

On a different and very sad note, I have to share the unfortunate news that long time legionnaire Jerry Blair recently passed to Post Everlasting. Jerry was an invaluable member of Post #5 for many, many years and a dedicated Legionnaire for over 57 years in the service of veterans and our communities. I want to extend on behalf of our American Legion Family our heartfelt condolences



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to Nancy and the rest of the Blair Family in this difficult time. We will have a memorial and celebration of life for Jerry on Saturday, Sept 6 at 1 pm at the post. Please bring a dish and story to share as we gather to remember and honor one exceptional man and outstanding legionnaire.

It's starting to look like we're heading right into Fall; hopefully it will be as nice a transition as we had into Summer. The daylight is getting much shorter and we're starting to drive with headlights on at night now that we're getting darkness back. It is a sure sign that the colder days are on their way. With this in mind, we need to think about getting our homes ready for the cold weather and for many we'll need to budget for the increased heating and utility charges with the cold and dark.



I'd like to thank both John Christensen and David Osborn (Ozzie) for all their work this summer at our Legion cemetery. It is a place of honor for those who have passed before us. We have the grounds and the headstones that need maintenance and some TLC – particularly with the older headstones. Our long and sunny days make the grass grow faster so keeping up with the growth at times can be amazing! It is of great comfort

that John and Ozzie have done such an outstanding job in a place of dignity of our American Legion Family for those who have gone to their final rest at Post Everlasting. Thanks John and Oz, your selfless service truly helps our post, our veterans and their families. It is a calming and settling feeling to know their loved one's final resting place is in such good hands.



Along with the TLC of the cemetery, we're starting to seriously look at our post home and the long overdue TLC that our building is in need of. As many of you may already know the original part of the post (downstairs bar) had its beginnings as a WWII Non-Commissioned Officers (NCO) club. The military "sold"

the building to the American Legion as the war wound down for we think \$1.00. Later, sometime in the 1980s the post members built the larger addition that we now enjoy upstairs with the incredible views. Fast forward to 2014 we are now looking at many years that all have benefited from this building and we now need to help it out.

Many of our Sons of the American Legion are already “on it” and looking at the areas that we need to prioritize for repair and upgrade. With that in mind, the Auxiliary has also surged forward in their efforts to fundraise for our efforts. They have already had one rummage sale with some real treasures and are planning more fundraising activities throughout the year to help out as we move forward in our repairs and upgrades.

During this month we have a few days of remembrance and celebration. We have Patriot Day (Sept 11th) where we remember the tragic day of 9/11 and those lost in the terror attack in NY, the Pentagon, and Flight 93 in Pennsylvania . We also have POW/MIA Recognition Day on Sept 19th where we remember and honor the sacrifices made by this nation's prisoners of war and those who are still missing in action. We also have a day of celebration in the American Legion Day on Sept 16th. This day was dedicated in 2009 on the anniversary of the establishment of the American Legion in 1919. American Legion Day celebrates the 95 years of service that the American Legion has accomplished throughout the country with over 14,000 posts honoring veterans and providing community support. Seward Post 5 has been in existence since 1919 as well and remains committed to carrying on that tradition of supporting local veterans and the community, as well as our military service members.

Even with all the work we will be doing as the Summer winds down and our involvement in monthly special events and we get into Fall and Winter, we will still be having our regular events; look at the 2nd Vice’s Report and the calendar for the events, dates and times. As always, whatever it is - it will be fun and of course we’ll be having great food!

In closing, I’d like to thank you all for everything you do at Post 5! We really represent what the American Legion Family is - good people working for our veterans and our community!



HOUSE REPORT

Hello from the Second Vice/Club,

Summer seems to be trying to hang on a bit longer. Hope it is successful in that endeavor. Thanks to everyone who contributed their time and effort to assist the Post and the Club, August flew by with no major issues other than quite a few days of rain. We had the visit from the Jewish travel group out of New York and they really appreciated the use of our kitchen and meeting room and they left us a generous donation. We had our 3rd Sunday of the Month breakfast which went well and saw some old friends during the Salmon Derby.

On a much more somber note we lost a very dedicated Legionnaire when William G. (Jerry) Blair passed on August 22nd. Jerry was a friend and mentor to many of us and he truly believed in what the American Legion stands for and the work we do. He will truly be missed and our thoughts and prayers go out to Nancy and their family during the sad time.

The memorial service for Jerry will be held at Post 5 on September 6th at 1:00pm. It is a potluck and will go until around 4:00pm. If you have any questions or would like to help just give us a call.

We will be looking at an "Early Bird Dinner" in the near future so if you have not renewed your membership yet please consider doing so. You will not only be supporting the Post in serving our veterans and community but you will then be eligible for a great dinner at no cost to you. We will keep you all posted on that function.

We are continuing to raise money and look at the necessary building repairs here at the Post and as we get to the actual work stage on the big projects we will let everyone know so those that have the time can come and give a hand.

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

For God and Country

Mike Calhoon

VICE REPORT

Greetings from the SAL First Vice Commander,

First I would like to send our condolences to Nancy Blair and her family. We were all tremendously saddened by the loss of Jerry Blair on August 22nd. He was a true friend and mentor for the SAL and was the main driver in developing the Sons of American Legion not only in Seward but around the State of Alaska. He was an inspiration to many of us and we will continue the tradition he started with Squadron 5.

Squadron 5 continues to support the Post and contribute greatly to its success in serving the membership, veterans, and community. Squadron 5 is heavily involved in cemetery maintenance, building repair, and volunteering time during all the functions we have. Keep up the good work! This is how a good legion family cooperates.

Remember, it is membership renewal time so please consider renewing if you have not done so already. The Post will be scheduling an "Early Bird Dinner" soon and you do not want to miss out on that.

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

Mike Calhoon

SAL First Vice Commander

FROM THE DIRECTOR

Well the persistent rain of August has brought our riding season to a temporary standstill, and for those of us who enjoy being in the saddle and experiencing the road and the wind without a buffer you can join me in hoping for a really nice Indian Summer! But having said that it is time to think about storing our bikes for the winter (yea I hated typing it as much as you hated reading it.) But we will finally have the opportunity to fix the little things that have been bugging us over the Spring and Summer. For me this means a new clutch cable and flushing my brake systems and replacing the rear brake master cylinder cover on my Shadow and raking the front forks of the side car out another 6 degrees to improve the handling for my girl Debbie. I'm sure everyone has projects they want to address over the winter as we address all the unusual noises and rattles, soft brakes, slipping clutches, etc. Of course this is a great time to start dropping hints to our dearest about what we really want on our Christmas List. If you are curious about where to start or you just don't want to put forth effort thinking about the evils of storing your bike there is a checklist linked on the ALRA website at alaskalegionriders.org, or you can give me a holler and I will send ya a copy via e-mail.



Enough of the depressing stuff, guess who got a Bike? Yep Vernon Willet is about to become our newest member of the ALR. He bought the 1984 Goldwing in Moose Pass and I honestly do not know had the biggest grin me or him. But I will give the excitement edge to Vernon after all each of us remember hiking a leg over our favorite ride. I have a distinct feeling that there is many very enjoyable hours of fun and enjoyment (maybe a little frustration thrown in) going to happen with these two.

The Legacy Run is over for this year and Chapter 5 raised and donated another \$1500.00. I don't have a total for the donation raised across all the chapters of the ALR Alaska but the final tally for the entire Legacy Run was over a



\$\$\$Million\$\$\$ Nationwide bringing the total amount in the scholarship fund for the children of our fallen hero's too more than 5 million dollars. Too everyone who donated or will donate and those who baked and bought overpriced deserts at our desert auctions I Thank You. It is a wonderful thing to be part of and I am proud to play a small part in it also.



So while the days are getting shorter there is still riding to be done. So take advantage of the days we have left (especially the ones with no rain) and make a few more Ice Cream Runs. Because you know come next March while we are sitting up at the post waiting for the snow to start melting we will be wishing we had taken advantage so Get On Your Bike And Ride!

PATRIOT DAY



Patriot Day is an annual observance on September 11 to remember those who were injured or died during the terrorist attacks in the United States on September 11, 2001. Many Americans refer Patriot Day as 9/11 or September 11.

On the direction of the President, the flag of the United States of America should be displayed on the homes of Americans, the White House and all United States government buildings. The flag should be flown at half-staff as a mark of respect to those who died on September 11, 2001. Many people observe a moment of silence at 8:46 AM (Eastern Daylight Time). This marks the time that the first plane flew into the World Trade Center.

On September 11, 2001, four planes were hijacked. The hijackers then deliberately flew three of the planes into two important buildings, the Pentagon in Washington DC and the Twin Towers of the World Trade Center in New York. The fourth crashed into a field near



Shanksville, Pennsylvania.



The loss of life and damage that these hijackings caused form the biggest act of terrorism ever on United States soil. Nearly 3000 people died in the attacks and the economic impact was immense.

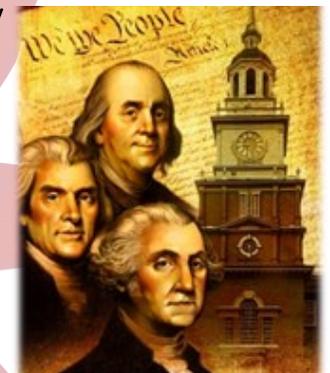
The attacks have greatly increased attention to national security in the United States. This has had huge implications for United States national and international politics. This is particularly true for the relationships between the United States and Islamic countries in the Middle East.



CONSTITUTION DAY AND CITIZENSHIP DAY

Contitution Day commemorates the formation and signing of the U.S. Constitution by thirty-nine brave citizens.

In 1952 Congress passed a law that September 17 was the official date to commemorate “the formation and signing of the Constitution of the United States” but the day was also designated “Citizenship Day” and retained its original purpose of recognizing all those who had attained the status of American citizenship.



Every September 17th (unless it falls on a weekend or other holiday) Constitution Day, also called Citizenship Day, is celebrated to mark the anniversary of the ratification of the U.S. Constitution. This is one of the newest federal holidays to be established by Congress, as it was

passed in just 2004. Citizenship Day was the name given to the holiday prior to its official designation.

However the roots of Citizenship Day stretch much farther back beginning in 1940 when *I am an American Day* was initiated by Congress for the third Sunday in May. The day of September 17th was reached by citizens themselves. In 1952 Olga T. Weber of Ohio successfully convinced her municipality to name the date Constitution Day. The next year she went a step further and petitioned the Ohio government to celebrate the holiday statewide as Constitution Week from September 17-23 and the movement was soon passed.

Today we consider Constitution Day as a birthday for our country and it serves as a means for American citizens to express their pride in their citizenship. Constitution Day also designates a time to honor the Constitution of America and learn more about the famous piece of legislation. The Act that passed the holiday also states that federally funded schools are required to provide lessons on the U.S. Constitution during the holiday.

NATIONAL POW/MIA RECOGNITION DAY

For years, The American Legion supported a National POW/MIA Recognition Day, it is now recognized annually on the third Friday of September. This commemoration is set aside to honor the commitment and sacrifices made by this nation's prisoners of war and those who are still missing in action, as well as their families.



Until July 18, 1979, no commemoration was held to honor POW/MIAs. In the first year, Congress passed resolutions and the national ceremony was held at the National Cathedral in Washington. The 1st Tactical Squadron from Langley Air Force Base in Virginia flew the Missing Man formation.

A poster was published by the VA which contained only the letters POW/MIA. That continued until 1982, when a black and white drawing of a POW in captivity was used to show urgency of the situation.

The National League of Families Proposed the third Friday of September as a commemoration date. Most of the National POW/MIA Recognition Day ceremonies have taken place at the Pentagon. Now, They're held throughout the nation and around the world on military installations, ships, schools, churches, etc. The focus is to ensure that America remembers its responsibility to stand behind those who serve it and to make sure that we do all that is possible to account or those who have not returned.



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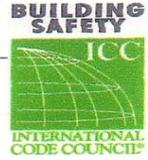
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September 2014

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

	<p>1 <i>Labor Day</i></p>	<p>2 <i>Mexican Martes</i></p>	<p>3</p>	<p>4 <i>ALR Meeting 7:00pm</i></p>	<p>5 <i>Steak Night</i></p>	<p>6 <i>Jerry Blair Memorial 1pm-4pm</i></p>
<p>7 <i>Texas Hold'em 6:00pm</i></p>	<p>8 <i>Bingo at 6:30pm Omaha</i></p>	<p>9 <i>Mexican Martes Post Meet-</i></p>	<p>10 <i>Auxiliary Meeting 7:00pm</i></p>	<p>11 <i>Patriot Day SAL Meeting 7:00pm</i></p>	<p>12 <i>Steak Night</i></p>	<p>13</p>
<p>14 <i>Texas Hold'em 6:00pm</i></p>	<p>15 <i>Bingo at 6:30pm Omaha</i></p>	<p>16 <i>Mexican Martes</i></p>	<p>17 <i>Constitution Day and Citizenship Day</i></p>	<p>18 <i>US Air Force 67th Official Birthday</i></p>	<p>19 <i>National POW/MIA Day Steak Night</i></p>	<p>20</p>
<p>21 <i>Community Breakfast Texas Hold'em</i></p>	<p>22 <i>Bingo at 6:30pm Omaha</i></p>	<p>23 <i>Mexican Martes</i></p>	<p>24</p>	<p>25</p>	<p>26 <i>Steak Night</i></p>	<p>27</p>
<p>28 <i>Texas Hold'em 6:00pm</i></p>	<p>29 <i>Bingo at 6:30pm Omaha</i></p>	<p>30 <i>Mexican Martes</i></p>				