COMMANDER’S COMMENTS

By Clare Sullivan

Well we made it through another summer and what a summer it has been! 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 is always good to see these folks, and it is bitter sweet when they leave because we enjoy their company while they’re here but are a little sad when they have to go back to the Lower 48 to their families and their regular lives. We wish them well and look forward to their return next summer!

In this past month we’ve said farewell to one of our more active members - Justin Olson. Justin has been a huge part of this post in all we do from helping in many patriotic and memorial events to being a core member of the "Kitchen Crew" for our monthly breakfasts. Justin always had a kind word and warm handshake for all who came through our doors. Justin is moving to a new adventure down in the "Lower 48" in his career with the National Park Service and we look forward to his return visits and the stories he’ll have to share.

Speaking of the Kitchen Crew we also have said goodbye to two post members who have moved on to bigger and better things in service to our country. George and Jaimie Greendyke have moved onto their next “duty assignment”. Jaimie is the former commander of the USCGC Mustang and supported Post 5 and our functions in an amazing fashion with the crew when they were not patrolling the seas. And George, has now completed his "tour" for school as he was here in Seward completing his masters’ degree and is now back in uniform (and shaved… yes, the beard and mustache are gone! 😊). Both are continuing their service and are still in the great state of Alaska – they’re just around the corner in Kodiak! We wish both Jamie and George the best success as they continue to serve in the Coast Guard!

It looks like we’re cruising headlong into Fall; hopefully it will be a better transition than we had into Summer. The daylight will be getting much shorter and we’re starting to drive with headlights on at night now in town. 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 mention the great job that David Osborn (Ozzie) has done throughout the summer at our cemetery. It is a big piece of land with a lot of headstones memorializing the loved ones of many in Seward who have passed to “post everlasting.” It is of great comfort that Ozzie has done such an outstanding job in a place of dignity of our American Legion Family. Thanks Oz, your selfless and dedicated service truly helps our post, our veterans and their families, and the community of Seward.

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 21st 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. The American Legion has accomplished so much throughout the country with nearly 14,000 posts honoring veterans and providing community support. Seward Post 5 has been in existence since 1919 as one of the five original posts in the state and remains committed to carrying on that tradition of supporting local veterans and the community, as well as our future veterans who are currently serving in the military.

We assist our veterans in securing benefits, treatment, and compensation from the Veterans Administration commensurate with their military service. We work hard to keep patriotic holidays alive in the minds of our community, because we know our holidays are a celebration of our incredible history as a country, and if you lose your history you will lose your sense of who you are as a nation. We work to provide help to those in need when times get hard and provide scholarships to our graduating seniors and others in post- secondary schools for their educational goals.

As you can see, we have an incredibly dedicated group of people who work hard in our American Legion Family and we still manage to have fun in the service of our veterans and the community. Thank you for all you do and for your service to this community and this great nation.
When the United States entered World War I in 1917, George Vaughn Seibold, 23, volunteered, requesting assignment in aviation. He was sent to Canada where he learned to fly British planes, since the United States had neither an air force nor planes. Deployed to England, he was assigned to the British Royal Flying Corps, 148th Aero Squadron. With his squadron, he left for combat duty in France. He corresponded with his family regularly. His mother, Grace Darling Seibold, began to do community service by visiting returning servicemen in the hospitals.

The mail from George stopped. Since all aviators were under British control and authority, the United States could not help the Seibold family with any information about their son. Grace continued to visit hospitalized veterans in the Washington area, clinging to the hope that her son might have been injured and returned to the United States without any identification. While working through her sorrow, she helped ease the pain of the many servicemen who returned so war-damaged that they were incapable of ever reaching normalcy.

But on October 11, 1918, George’s wife in Chicago received a box marked “Effects of deceased Officer 1st Lt. George Vaughn Seibold”. The Seibold’s also received a confirmation of George’s death on November 4th through a family member in Paris. On Sunday, December 15, 1918, nine days before Christmas Eve, the following obituary appeared in the Washington Star newspaper:

Lieut. G. V. Seibold Killed in Action
Battle Aviator, Recently Cited For Bravery in France, is War Victim. Lieut. George Vaughn Seibold, battling aviator, cited for bravery in action some time ago, lost his life in a fight in the air August 26, last. His father, George G. Seibold... has been officially notified of his son’s death by the War Department.

Lieut. Seibold was a member of the 148th U. S. Aero Squadron. He was first reported missing in action, though a number of circumstances led to the fear that he had been killed. Hope was sustained until now, however, by the failure to receive definite word.

George’s body was never identified.

Grace, realizing that self-contained grief is self-destructive, devoted her time and efforts to not only working in the hospital but extending the hand of friendship to other mothers whose sons had lost their lives in military service.

She organized a group consisting solely of these special mothers, with the purpose of not only comforting each other, but giving loving care to hospitalized veterans confined in government hospitals far from home.

The organization was named after the Gold Star that families hung in their windows in honor of the deceased veteran.

After years of planning, June 4, 1928, twenty-five mothers met in Washington, DC to establish the national organization, American Gold Star Mothers, Inc.

The success of the organization continues because of the bond of mutual love, sympathy, and support of the many loyal, capable, and patriotic mothers who while sharing their grief and their pride, have channeled their time, efforts and gifts to lessening the pain of others.

The Gold Star Moms organization stands tall and proud by honoring their children, assisting veterans, supporting the nation, and healing with one another.

On May 28, 1918, President Wilson approved a suggestion made by the Women’s Committee of the Council of National Defenses that, instead of wearing conventional mourning for relatives who have died in the service of their country, American women should wear a black band on the left arm with a gilt star on the band for each member of the family who has given his life for the nation. After years of planning, June 4, 1928, twenty-five mothers met in Washington, DC to establish the national organization, American Gold Star Mothers, Inc.

The Service Flag

The Service Flag displayed from homes, places of business, churches, schools, etc., to indicate the number of members of the family or organizations who are serving in the Armed Forces or who have died from such service. Service flags have a deep Blue Star for each living member in the service and a Gold Star for each member who has died.” Thus, the Gold Star and the term Gold Star Mother, as applied to mothers whose sons or daughters died in World War I, were accepted; they have continued to be used in reference to all American military engagements since that time.
Joint Resolution Designating 30 September as Gold Star Mothers' Day

Whereas the preamble to Public Resolution 123, 74th Congress, approved June 23, 1936 (40 Stat. 1895), recites: "Whereas the service rendered the United States by the American mother is the greatest source of the Country's strength and inspiration; and

Whereas we honor ourselves and the mothers of America when we revere and give emphasis to the home as the fountainhead of the State; and

Whereas the American mother is doing so much for the home and for the moral and spiritual uplift of the people of the United States and hence so much for good government and humanity; and

Whereas the American Gold Star Mothers suffered the supreme sacrifice of motherhood in the loss of their sons and daughters in World Wars; and

Whereas the said Public Resolution 12 provides: "That the President of the United States is hereby authorized and requested to issue a proclamation calling upon the Government officials to display the United States flag on all Government buildings, and the people of the United States to display the flag and to hold appropriate meetings in their homes, churches or other suitable places, on the last Sunday in September, as public expression of the love, sorrow and reverence of the people of the United States for the American Gold Star Mothers."

"Sec. 2. That the last Sunday in September shall hereafter be designated and known as "Gold Star Mother's Day," and it shall be the duty of the President to request its observance as provided for in this resolution."

News From the Road......

By ALR Director Bobby Dunno

WOW where did the summer go I left the state for the summer break and it seems like a few days later here I am coming off vacation and back to work! While I was away the ALR was still riding and they held the Patriot Run and ROMP.

Apparently, the ROMP went well with the exception of the road from the Glen Highway to Valdez was rough. The Patriot Run went from Jack Henry Post 1 to Post 5 here to Post 35 in the Matsu Valley and was successful in raising money for the American Legion Legacy Run.

Speaking of the Legacy Run the American Legion Riders of Post 5 own Pinky and a few others a huge thank you for their efforts for our Dessert Auctions in support of the American Legion Legacy Run. The final tally on how much money we at Post 5 raised in the summer's dessert auctions exceeded $1,600.00; and for the most part these fabulous desserts were from Pinky's kitchen and were awesome in their variety and deliciousness. We also had some impromptu and delicious dessert donations by Becky and a few others… Thanks to all we couldn't have done all this without you!

Since I have been out of touch so to speak I don't have a lot of additional comments for this month's newsletter except to say that with luck we can hope for a few more days of sunshine or moderate weather so we can squeeze a few more days of riding in before the snows come again. So, to that end stop worrying about the coming rain if it is not raining now "Get On Your Bike and Ride!"

We've just returned from the 100th National Convention in Minneapolis where we learned so much and witnessed what other posts and departments are achieving in their states! It is amazing what this organization and all their dedicated members can do for this country for our veterans, their families and our country. The significance of this meeting is all 55 departments and territories have delegates who have the authority to approve changes to the Legion's constitution and bylaws which effects how we operate at the posts and they are also responsible for passing programs that determine the course of the Legion, setting membership dues for the upcoming year, and electing a national commander and five national vice commanders to serve until the next convention.
House and Vice Report

By Mike Calhoon

Hello from the Second Vice/Club

First, I would like to thank everyone who stepped up and took care of the Post and the Club while I attended the National Convention.

The convention was a great educational opportunity and I appreciate all the work you did in my absence. I don’t know everyone who may have stepped in to help but I would like to thank Melody Moline and Tom Sears from the Post. I would like to thank Connie Kullander, Lori Wolfe, and Michell Oliver from the Auxiliary. I would like to thank David Osborn from the SAL. I thank you all and apologize to anyone I missed.

This month we will have a lot going on at Post 5. We have a visit from the USCGC Healy, our community breakfast, Early Bird Dinner, work on the new roof, and work at the cemetery. Be sure to check out the calendar for dates and times of the activities and we will let you know when we firm up dates and times for the roof and cemetery.

Just to get your thoughts going, we are planning a Post 5 fundraising auction and dinner on Veterans Day. We are asking for donations of nice and new items for the live and silent auctions. Keep it on your radar and let us know if you can help with donated items or time.

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 will pick back up on Sunday the 23rd at 6:00pm and Pool League will begin on Saturday the 29th 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

Seems summer is trying to hang on a bit longer. Good for us!!

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.

There will be a visit from the USCGC Healy beginning on the 2nd, we will have our monthly meeting on the 13th, the community breakfast on the 16th, and the Early Bird Dinner on the 22nd.

We will also be looking to work on the new roof project and work at the cemetery before summer fades away. We will let you know when we have firm dates and times for the roof and cemetery.

I want to thank those of you who helped out at the Post while I attended the National Convention. Your volunteer spirit and willingness to step up when needed is one of the main factors in Seward Post 5 being a stable and active participant in the community.

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 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.
Patriot Day

Patriot Day is an annual observance on September 11th 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-mast 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

Constitution Day commemorates the formation and signing of the U.S. Constitution by thirty-nine brave men on September 17, 1787, recognizing all whom are born in the U.S. or by naturalization, have become citizens. Now Constitution Day is the time to carry on their legacy and develop habits of citizenship in a new generation of Americans.

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.
POW/MIA Empty Chair

Resolution 288, adopted at the 67th American Legion National Convention, calls for designating a POW/MIA Empty Chair at all official meetings of The American Legion.

At the beginning of every American Legion meeting, we remember the incredible cost paid by those who gave their all to help preserve the freedoms we enjoy, those gallant individuals who fought and died for our country. Yet, it is in remembering our fallen comrades that we are reminded of those whose fate is still unknown, those still listed as Missing In Action and Prisoners Of War. More than 78,000 Americans are still unaccounted for from World War II: 8,100 from Korea; 120 from the Cold War; 1,810 from Vietnam; and 3 from the Gulf War. These courageous Americans, who dedicated their lives to preserving and protecting our freedom, will never be forgotten.

To honor these men and women, we perform the POW/MIA Empty Chair Ceremony. It symbolizes the fact that members of our armed forces are missing from our ranks. They are referred to as POWs and MIAs...we call them comrades.

They are unable to be with their loved ones and families, so we join together to pay our humble tribute to them, and to bear witness to their continued absence.

The table set for one is small... it symbolizes the frailty of one prisoner against his oppressors.

The table cloth is white... it symbolizes the purity of their intentions to respond to their country's call to arms. The single rose displayed in a vase reminds us of the families and loved ones of our comrades in arms who keep faith awaiting their return.

The red ribbon tied so prominently on the vase is reminiscent of the red ribbon worn on the lapel and breasts of thousands who bear witness to their unyielding determination to demand a proper accounting for our missing.

A slice of lemon is on the bread plate... to remind us of their bitter fate.

There is salt upon the bread plate... symbolic of the family's tears as they wait.

The glass is inverted... they cannot toast with us tonight. The chair is empty... they are not here.

Remember... all of you who served with them and called them comrades, who depended on their might and aid, and relied on them... for surely... they have not forsaken you.

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 for those who have not returned.
From the President's Desk  
By Debbie VanTassel

Well summer is winding down and there is definitely a feeling of fall in the air.

August was a busy month again for the Auxiliary. We held our Annual fundraising event on the 11th and it was hugely successful. The event was well attended and everyone had a good time trying to outbid their friends and neighbors for many of the great items that were available. At this time we don’t have a final total but it looks like over $8000 was raised to support the Toys for Tots program, Food Basket/Voucher program, scholarships and many of the other programs the Auxiliary supports throughout the year.

The event would not have been a success without the support of our wonderful and dedicated volunteers who once again gave countless hours of their time to make this a success. Thank you to all of you who helped make it a success. A Special thank you to Angela, Lori and Michelle for their efforts in collecting the items that were donated for the auction. Thank you to Joanne Frey for being the auctioneer and keeping it a very lively evening. Also thank you to Marilyn, Julianne, LaNne, Lori, Michelle, Angel, Suzi, Ozzie and Tom for helping make the evening a success.

The new membership year is in full swing, please renew your memberships early. You can either renew at the Post or you can create an account at www.alaforveterans.org. Please renew early so you can participate in the Early Bird Dinner to be held later in Sept.

Sept 21, 2018 is POW/MIA Recognition Day

You Are Not Forgotten- that is the central phrase behind POW/MIA Recognition Day, a day to honor the sacrifices made by America’s prisoners of war, those who are still missing in action and their families.

Many of our military service members suffered as prisoners of war throughout years of conflict. Some of them made it home others did not and some are still not accounted for.

According to the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA) 82,478 Americans who fought in those wars are still missing.

• 73,014 from World War II (an approximate number due to limited or conflicting data)
• 7,729 from the Korean War
• 1,603 from Vietnam
• 126 from the Cold War
• 6 from conflicts since 1991

As members of the American Legion Family it is important for us remember the POW/MIA’s by observing the POW/MIA recognition day and the POW/MIA ceremony done at each official Legion function. We need to continue to recognize our POW/MIA’s until everyone is accounted for and they are either brought home or their remains are repatriated on American soil.

Hope everyone has a safe Labor Day weekend.

For God and Country
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<td><strong>Gold Star Mother's Day</strong>&lt;br&gt;Texas Hold ‘em 6pm</td>
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