



For God and Country

Seward Post 5 Newsletter

September 2021
Volume 18, Issue 09

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COMMANDER'S COMMENTS

By Clare Sullivan



We're heading into the 'ber" months! These months are some of the more lovely months of our year. Soon, we should experience the peaceful transition out of the frenetic pace of Summer - and what a summer it has been! Our American Legion Family has been amazingly busy helping others this month, whether it was delivering fish, taking care of Post Everlasting, welcoming the USCG crews as they arrive in port or helping in the final farewell to cherished members, they have always stepped up to the plate and made things happen. A huge thank you goes out to the amazing volunteers to keep our Post Home and our events going. It couldn't happen without you!



So far it looks like we're approaching a regular Fall season weather-wise (I hope); it should be a nice transition; we've had a few wet days and we are seeing the beginning of the leaves turning golden down the highway. The daylight is getting shorter and we're starting to drive with headlights on at night now. 😊 It is a sure sign that the cooler 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 also want to thank our membership who do an amazing job in our town in their other volunteer activities. Not only do these folks have regular jobs but also love this community to take valuable free time to serve others. The folks at Seward Volunteer Ambulance Corps, the Seward Volunteer Fire Department, Bear Creek Fire Volunteer Fire Department, Lowell Point Volunteer Fire Department and Moose Pass Volunteer Fire Department all continue to serve our community in amazing ways when we most need it, and they haven't "skipped a beat" in volunteer support of our communities in times of need.

We also have an amazing Senior Center who maintained consistent operation in keeping up with our seniors all through the pandemic and as we slowly transition back to a near

normal way of life of life here in town. Not only did the Senior Center provide daily meals but good human contact with the seniors as we all had much less socializing outside as we worked to "stay healthy."



We are still optimistic for continued good improvement for our community and in our Seward Post 5 Family, and as such we have good things planned for September as we transition to the slower times in town. One of our September "fav's" is the yummy Early Bird Dinner 🍽️ and the Volunteer Appreciation Dinner, so stay tuned! 🥰

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 17th 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 Day** celebrates official chartering of the American Legion and celebrates what it has accomplished throughout the country with well over 12,000 posts and two million members representing the largest veterans support organization in the country. On September 16, 1919 The American Legion was granted their federal charter by Congress, and 100 years later this organization has kept its commitment to serve not only as a resource and a voice on behalf of veterans across America, but also as an organization dedicated to the betterment of America through community service. As stated by House Representative Deb Davidson (Illinois) in 2009 when American Legion Day resolution was brought to the floor and passed, she said - "Since their founding charter, The American Legion has not wavered from the guiding principles and vision that can be found in their Four Pillars of Service." This day honors veterans who continue to serve their fellow veterans and are committed to community support.

Seward Post 5 is one of 35 American Legion Posts in Alaska, and we have been in existence since 1919. We, as the rest of our Alaskan posts, remain committed to carrying on that tradition of service by supporting local veterans and the community, as well as our military service members.

We work to 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. And in recent days, this is all the more important that we remember and keep educating our ourselves and our youth about this great country that still makes us the "Shining City on the Hill."

We work to provide help to those in need and provide scholarships to our graduating seniors and others in post-secondary schools for their educational goals. We as an American Legion Family look to continue to contribute where we can and seek opportunities to employ much in our preamble - particularly our desire for "mutual helpfulness."

As you know we are in the new membership year and for those who have renewed - Thank You! I want to thank you for your membership at Seward Post 5. By being a member, you help us do all that we can for our veterans, our children and youth and ultimately this fabulous community of Seward we call home. Dues really are an investment in our future as they are an important source for funding for many programs that impact all of us, and not just in Seward. Our dues support the Legislative watchdogs at our National HQs who significantly influence the effort in protecting our earned benefits via our military service, as well as the Legion's efforts to support all The children and youth programs, particularly its focus on volunteerism and education about our amazing American History.

- [Baseball](#)
- [Boys State / Nation](#)
- [Legion Riders](#)
- [National Convention](#)
- [National Emergency Fund](#)
- [Operation Comfort Warriors](#)
- [Oratorical Contest](#)
- [Scholarships](#)

We work to remain good community stewards and a good service organization for all in our American Legion Family. We have an amazing group of people who continue to step up to help our neighbors and our community. Once again, thank you for your membership, investment and support of Seward Post 5. And, if you haven't renewed please consider renewing.

Thank you

Stay tuned for events and items of interest via Facebook and email. Stop by the post for some yummy chow and good times as we transition into our "ber" months and all the events we routinely and "not so" routinely do. 😊

From the President's Desk

By Debbie VanTassel



Sure seems like summer flew by this year- hope everyone has had a good summer.

In August, the Auxiliary lost a long-time member- **Joanne Hoogland**. Joanne had been a member for 49 years and throughout those years provided hundreds of hours of volunteer service. Joanne had served as an officer for multiple years and was a mentor to many of us. If we ever had a question about the history of the Post or the Auxiliary all we had to do was ask Joanne. Rest in Peace.

We are now in the new 2022 membership year so please remember to renew early so that you can participate in the Early Bird Dinner! But not only to get dinner but membership is the root of our organization - Our members are our most important asset!



Thank you to all members who have renewed and continue to support our Mission of helping Veterans, Active Military, Community and Children and Youth.

As always, I need to send out a big thank you to our volunteers which continue to be the moving force behind the organization.



Thank you to Joanne, Sharon, Marilyn and Michelle for keeping Bingo going every week. And as a reminder, we do have Bingo every Monday night at the Post - Doors open at 6 PM- games start at 6:30 PM. This is our main fund raiser to support all the programs we provide throughout the year.

With the current situation in Afghanistan, please keep our active military members in your thoughts and prayers.

Last there are a couple days in September we cannot forget:

September 16 is American Legion Day. On this date in 1919, the American Legion received the Charter from Congress.

And, **September 11 is 911 Remembrance Day** or also called **Patriot Day**. I doubt anyone will ever forget where they were on the morning of September 11, 2001, when they heard of the attacks on the twin World Trade Towers in NYC and the Pentagon in Washington. This horrible and tragic day is etched forever in our memories.



News From the Road.....

By Chapter 5 Director Bobby Dunno



It has been a fairly nice August even if the rains have been happening more frequently. But as always if you are reading my article you are not doing it for the weather, at least not the bad weather. This month we have had reason to celebrate and reason to view August a somber one.

First, I want to brag about our Riders, Terry Moon and Larry Gentry. During the Salute to Vets in Sterling last month. A WWII veteran who was about to turn 100 years of age was honored and during his recognition he requested 100 motorcycles to ride by his home on his birthday. The bald tire on my bike said I wasn't getting to go but Terry and Larry did attend and were part of the 179 motorcycles to take part. It was the motorcycle happening of the year and could arguably be the largest motorcycle event in Alaska's history. And as Larry like to tease me, Bobby missed it.



We were also excited to help celebrate Seward's Gold medal winner in the Tokyo Olympics Lydia Jacoby. If you ever have



to wonder how fast Facebook can work. My wife Debbie asked the organizers in a post, while we awaited a response I get a call from Mike, 20 minutes later asking if we were riding in it. Gotta love life in these times. But the parade was a unique event attend by the much of our community and once again in a world moving under a shadow of COVID it was refreshing to see everyone out for a great day in

Seward. If there was anything I would like to see different is next time have a proper set of National Colors at the front of the parade. But overall, it was an event I was proud to be part of.

The hardest thing we did this month was saying goodbye to Don Sutherland; I, for one, hate good-byes and it seems to



be getting harder. So proud of Marilyn, April and Rick and how well they supported each other through the ceremony. Ya have to love those who rode through a pelting rain to see Don off, especially Dan Cole and Don Ridl as they were American Legion Riders for as long

as Don and Marilyn have been. Clare and Mike did an awesome job organizing and putting all the pieces for the service and celebration of life together as they arrived, which they did all come together. I was much comforted when bikes from Post 1, 16 and 20 came rumbling down Jefferson to join us in remembering and saying good-bye.



As our community continues to deal with what is threatening to become "covid" season we need to include those who this affliction is a threat too. One of those is our own Mike Mooter who was in the hospital, and we will include him and his family in our thoughts and prayers. But for me, my money is on Mike! So, as we move forward expect us to sing our freedoms when we can, but not as often as we should, and I remind everyone Motorcycles are social distancing at its best so Get On Your Bike and Ride!

Gold Star Mothers' Day

Excerpt from: www.militarybenefits.info/gold-star-mothers-day

Gold Star Mother's Day is observed on the last Sunday in September which will be **Sunday, September 26, 2021**. Gold Star Mother's Day is intended to recognize and honor those mothers who have lost a son or daughter in the service of the U.S. Armed Forces.



Each year there are events and meetings to publicly express love, sorrow and reverence toward Gold Star Mothers and their families. Flags are also mandated to be displayed on government buildings on this day. Army.mil says Gold Star Mother's Day is intended "to recognize and honor those who have lost a son or daughter in the service of the U.S. Armed Forces".

House and Vice Report.....

By Mike Calhoon



Hello from the Second Vice!

We've had a good summer and as it winds down a bit, I think there is a good amount of summer left to get out and enjoy. Be safe out there.

I want to thank all our members for supporting the Post and Club through this busy time. You are all awesome and many visiting members and guests have commented on how they have enjoyed their visit to Post 5 and how friendly everyone has been to them. Thank You All!!!

I would like to thank all the great volunteers that continue to support the Post 5 family in its mission of service to the veterans and the community of Seward. Without those volunteers Post 5 would not be able to provide everything we do for our members and the community. You are truly the backbone of the organization. The Club and Kitchen volunteers have been amazing and continue to provide good food and service for our membership.



This month the Post will have our community breakfast on September 19th and will host the Early Bird dinner towards the last of the month with the date to be determined. Cemetery maintenance continues on a regular basis. Thanks goes out to David Osborn, Clare Sullivan, Ron Cain, David Squires and Lorin Vandervegt for their help out there. If you would like to assist with any of these events, please contact us and we will put you to work.

The next gun raffle is underway. It is for a Henry Arms Golden Boy Silver American Eagle edition 22LR. Tickets are \$20.00 with 200 to be sold and the drawing will be held on September 11th at 7:00pm.



The 2022 Membership year has begun and you can renew online at mylegion.org, by mail, or in person at the post. Membership is the backbone of your 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.

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



As summer starts to wind down and things begin to quiet down a bit in town there is still lots going on at your post 5 home. I want to thank the Squadron members who continue to support the Post 5 Family and all the activities offered to the membership and the community.

Big shout out and thanks to all the volunteers who continue to support the Post 5 family and the community of Seward.



This month the Post will have a raffle for a Henry Arms Golden Boy Silver American Eagle edition 22LR. This is a great prize from an American Company. Drawing will be on September 11 at the Post.

The Post will have the community breakfast on Sept 19th and is looking to hold the Early Bird Dinner later in September with an exact date to be determined. We will let you know.

The 2022 Membership year has begun and the new cards are available. Thank you to all those that have already renewed their memberships and please consider renewing soon if you have not already done so. Remember the dues are \$35.00 this year. Membership is foundation for all the SAL programs.



it's time to
**RENEW YOUR
MEMBERSHIP**

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 when possible.



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-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.



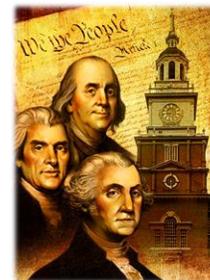
Constitution Day and Citizenship Day

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 72,000 Americans are still unaccounted for from World War II; 7,555 from Korea; 120 from the Cold War; 1,584 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 tablecloth 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 17 September 2021

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.



As of August 3rd, 2021 the number of Vietnam missing and unaccounted for per the National League of Families:

**TOTAL VIETNAM MISSING AND UNACCOUNTED:
1,584**

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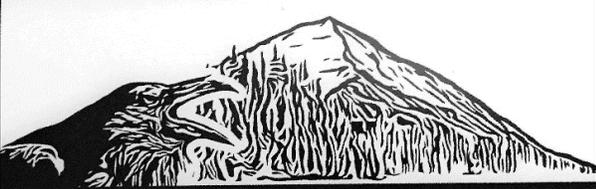
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"If it has a key, we have a policy to fit it!"

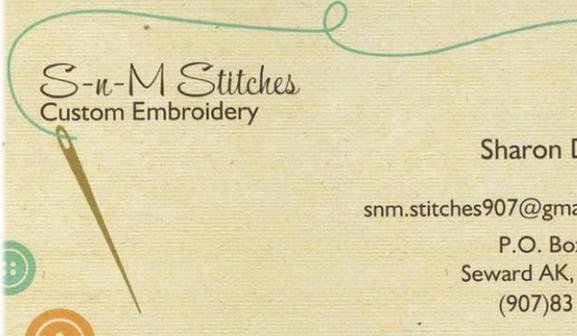
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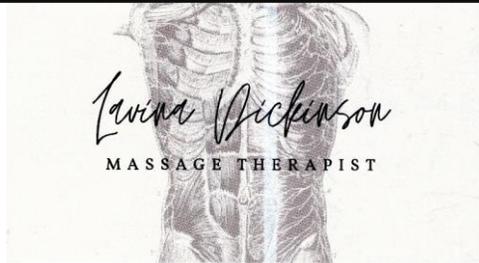


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September 2021



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	
			1	2	3	4	
			Guest Chef Night Charlie Jackson's famous Post Fav! Salisbury Steak 	ALR Meeting 5:30pm B, B, M&C	Steak Night 		
			5	Labor Day BINGO!!! 6:30PM Chili Dogs	Mexican Martes 7 	Auxiliary Meeting 6pm 	SAL Meeting 7pm B, B, M&C
12	Luscious Leftovers I'm thankful for... leftovers!	BINGO!!! 6:30PM Chili Dogs	Mexican Martes 14 Post Meeting 5:30pm 	15	American Legion Day B, B, M&C	Steak Night 17 POW/MIA Day 	18
19	3rd Sunday of the Month Breakfast Luscious Leftovers	BINGO!!!! 6:30PM Chili Dogs	Mexican Martes 21 	22	 B, B, M&C	Steak Night 24 	25
26	Gold Star Mother's Day Luscious Leftovers	BINGO!!! 6:30PM Chili Dogs	Mexican Martes 28 	29	 B, B, M&C	30	



Food Every Night at the Post