



# For God and Country

## Seward Post 5 Newsletter

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### COMMANDER'S COMMENTS

By Clare Sullivan



Well, I bet you thought once the holidays were over we'd have things slowing down, but not at Post 5! We've been at it with the Polar Bear Jumpoff Festival, a yummy Guest Chef night for our building fundraiser, and "yours truly" providing a presentation at the Library and Museum on "Post 5 at 100 Years!" 😊



Of course we were still busy with all Complementary nightly meals and weekly activities (Bingo and Pool League) all supported by our amazing volunteer bartenders who make a lively and welcoming place in our "Social Area!" Thank You for all you do for our American Legion Family!

Here we are in February and we have yummy treats planned for Valentine's Day and of course the SuperBowl. We will also be helping out with breakfasts and dinners for some very worthwhile folks including the Scouts Blue and Gold Banquet, The National Ocean Science Bowl, Future Farmers of America, and the HS Basketball team. The 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice will have more details on that in his section. Also make sure you take a look at the calendar for nightly activities and the yummy meals. 😊

February is **Americanism Month**. Many may wonder what that means and essentially it is the month that we focus on one of **"the Four Pillars"** that make up the American Legion. In 1919, The American Legion was founded on four pillars: Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation, National Security, Americanism, and Children & Youth. Each pillar encompasses a variety of programs that benefit our nation's veterans, its servicemembers, their families, the youth of America and ordinary citizens. These programs make a difference in hundreds of thousands of lives each year.



At the national level and at varying levels at the posts, Americanism encompasses many of the following programs:

- Flag Protection & the Pledge of Allegiance
- Immigration & Citizenship
- Voter Registration and Participation
- Scouting
- Scholarship Programs (Legacy, Oratorical, etc.)
- Boys State and Boys Nation
- American Legion Baseball
- Junior Shooting Programs

As you can see there is a lot to the American Legion, what it does and can do to be a vital part of a community; these programs are under only one pillar, there is so much more when you examine the other pillars.

February brings the "first call for officers" for the Post, and the Sons and the Auxiliary will have their second call. All positions



are up for consideration in all our organizations. If you like what we are doing (or not) and want to get involved, this is a great way to do that. As you may already know we help many in our community and throughout the state

by funding scholarships, supporting community events, helping those in need, honoring our patriotic holidays, and generally running an organization that positively impacts many in this community. You may think it takes a lot of time but not really.

The way posts are organized so the "division of labor" isn't overwhelming for one officer or position. We all pull together to make things successful. We are thrilled at whatever you can do to help. Our decisions about our activities are made at our Post meetings. You can help guide what we do by coming in and offering your input, your "2 cents", and ideas. With this in mind, in order to participate you need to be a current member, so drag out your card from your wallet and if it doesn't say 2020 - you need to renew (hint hint 😊).



Speaking of membership, every membership makes us a stronger organization locally through the national level. Our membership numbers are a very loud voice for veterans' rights and benefits. We have veterans throughout Seward from all conflicts and with the recently passed Legion Act, eligibility has broadened for more to become members. The local post for many veterans is the



starting point for them to learn what they are eligible for and can receive in terms of benefits and support from the **Veterans Administration**. By coming by the post, and speaking to one of our officers, a

veteran can learn what is out there for them - in terms of medical and educational benefits and assistance; as well as finding a familiar and welcoming community with many shared experiences. We often refer to our social area as the "alternate living room." It is a warm and friendly place and always with great food and wonderful camaraderie! We'll "see you at the Post!!!"

## The History of the Four Chaplains



On Feb. 3, 1943, the United States Army Transport Dorchester - a converted luxury liner - was crossing the North Atlantic, transporting more than 900 troops to an American base in Greenland. Aboard the ship were four chaplains of different faiths: Reverend George Fox (Methodist), Jewish Rabbi Alexander Goode, Reverend Clark Poling (Dutch Reformed) and Father John Washington (Roman Catholic).

Around 12:55 a.m., a German U-boat fired a torpedo that struck Dorchester's starboard side, below the water line and near the engine room. The explosion instantly killed 100 men and knocked out power and radio communication with Dorchester's three escort ships. Within 20 minutes, the transport sank and more than 670 men died.

As soldiers rushed to lifeboats, the four chaplains spread out, comforting the wounded and directing others to safety. One survivor, Private William Bednar, later said, "I could hear men crying, pleading, praying. I could also hear the chaplains' preaching courage. Their voices were the only thing that kept me going."

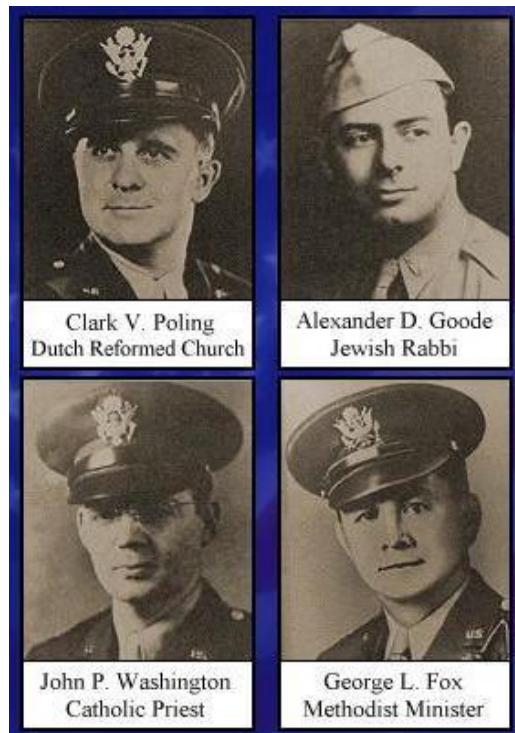
Another survivor, John Ladd, watched the chaplains distribute life jackets, and when they ran out, they removed theirs and gave them to four young men. "It was the finest thing I have seen, or hope to see, this side of heaven," he recalled. As Dorchester sank, the chaplains were seen linked arm in arm, praying.

Fox, Goode, Poling and Washington were posthumously awarded the **Distinguished Service Cross** and the **Purple Heart**, and in 1948, Congress declared Feb. 3 to be **Four Chaplains Day**.



Because of the Medal of Honor's strict requirements of heroism under fire, Congress authorized a one-time **Chaplain's Medal for Heroism** on July 14, 1960. The award was presented to the chaplains' next of kin Jan. 18, 1961. On Feb. 3, 1951, President Truman dedicated a chapel in the chaplains' honor at Grace Baptist Church in Philadelphia. When the building was sold, the chapel fell into disrepair, and the foundation overseeing the chapel moved it to the Philadelphia Naval Shipyard in 2001. The chapel was repaired in 2004 and given the name Chapel of the Four Chaplains.

In 2006, at The American Legion's 88th National Convention in Salt Lake City, the National Executive Committee passed a resolution that supported awarding the Chaplain Medal of Honor to Fox, Goode, Poling and Washington.



The Chaplain's Medal for Heroism is a decoration of the United States Congress which was authorized by an act of Congress on July 14, 1960. Known as the Chaplain's Medal of Honor and the Four Chaplains' Medal, the decoration commemorates the actions of the Four Chaplains who gave their lives in the line of duty on February 3, 1943. The medal was designed by Thomas Hudson Jones (1892-1969) of the United States Army Institute of Heraldry. It was presented posthumously to their next of kin by Secretary of the Army Wilber M. Brucker at Ft. Myer, Virginia on January 18, 1961.



## House and Vice Report.....

By Mike Calhoon



Hello from the Second Vice/Club,

January was a very busy month and has flown by. February is lining up to be just as busy with lots of community support activities coming our way. All the Post 5 family volunteers were great last month helping out with all the activities and I hope you still have your helping hands at the ready. The importance of our volunteers cannot be overstated. Without all of you, none of the service and activities we provide would come to fruition. Thank You!!



This month the Post is continues to host the Senior Center during lunchtime. We are providing meals for the Kenai Peninsula region meetings of the FFA on Jan 31-Feb 1. We are providing breakfast for the BB tournament on Feb 1<sup>st</sup>. We are hosting a Super Bowl party on Feb 2<sup>nd</sup>. We are providing dinner for the Cub Scouts Blue and Gold banquet on Feb 8<sup>th</sup>. We are providing breakfast and snacks for the Tsunami Bowl on Feb 14-16. We are having our community breakfast on Feb 16<sup>th</sup>. We don't know what else will come along after that but if history tells us anything, the last two weeks of the month will not be boring.

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 to [MyLegion.org](http://MyLegion.org) and renew.



Bingo is going strong on Mondays at 6:30 and we have food every night. Pool league is on Saturday night at 7:00pm when no other function is scheduled.

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



Hard to believe January is gone. It was a busy month and things don't slow down this month.

Squadron 5 members volunteered for and supported all the Post 5 family events during January and February will provide more opportunities for us to show our support to the mission of the Post.

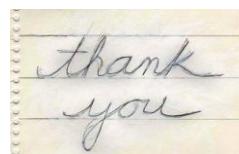
In February we will help the Post provide breakfast and lunch on the 1<sup>st</sup> for the regional FFA meetings and provide breakfast for the Seahawks BB tournament, host a Super Bowl Party on the 2<sup>nd</sup>, prepare dinner for the Cub Scouts Blue and Gold banquet on the 8<sup>th</sup>, host the Tsunami Bowl participants for breakfast on the 14<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup>, and 16<sup>th</sup>, community breakfast on the 16<sup>th</sup>, and whatever else we are asked to do.

February's Squadron meeting on the 13<sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm will include the 2<sup>nd</sup> call for officer nominations for the 2020 -2021



year. We encourage all members to attend these meetings and take a look at becoming a bit more involved in the organization and the decisions made. We are always looking for fresh ideas and different perspectives.

Remember that membership is the key to all the success. The 2020 membership year 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.



# Presidents' Day

Excerpt from [Timeanddate.com](http://Timeanddate.com)

Washington's Birthday, also known as Presidents' Day, is a federal holiday held on the third Monday of February. The day honors presidents of the United States, including George Washington, the USA's first president.



Washington's Birthday officially honors the life and work of George Washington, the first president of the United States. The day commemorates past presidents of the USA. Washington's Birthday is sometimes known as Presidents' Day. This is because while most states

have adopted Washington's Birthday, some states officially celebrate Presidents' Day.

Some states pay particular attention to Abraham Lincoln, as his birthday was also in mid-February. In the weeks or days leading up to the holiday, schools often organize events and lessons for students about the presidents of the United States and George Washington in particular.



The federal holiday is on the third Monday of February each year, but records show that George Washington's birthday is on February 22.

George Washington was the first president of the United States of America. His first term as president was from 1789 to 1793 and his second term from 1793 to 1797.



Before he became president, he played important roles in the military, leading the **American Continental Army** to victory over the British in 1783. Washington is often seen

as the father of the United States and is probably the best known American politician ever.

Washington's Birthday was first celebrated as a holiday in the District of Columbia in 1880. It was made a federal holiday in 1885. The holiday was originally held on the anniversary of George Washington's birth, on February 22. In 1971, this holiday was moved to the third Monday in February.

## Why do we have Leap Year?

And, yes this is one!!!! 😊

[Excerpt from History.com](http://Excerpt from History.com)



Nearly every four years, we add an extra day to the calendar in the form of February 29, also known as Leap Day. Put simply, these additional 24 hours are built into the calendar to ensure that it stays in line with the Earth's movement around the Sun. While the modern calendar contains 365 days, the actual time it takes for Earth to orbit its star is slightly longer—roughly 365.2421 days. The difference might seem negligible, but over decades and centuries that missing quarter of a day per year can add up. To ensure consistency with the true astronomical year, it is necessary to periodically add in an extra day to make up the lost time and get the calendar back in sync with the heavens.

The Egyptians were among the first to calculate the need for a leap year, but the practice didn't arrive in Europe until the reign of the Roman dictator Julius Caesar. Before then, the Roman calendar had operated on a muddled lunar model that regularly required adding an extra month to maintain celestial consistency. Finally, in 46 B.C., Caesar and the astronomer Sosigenes revamped the Roman calendar to include 12 months and 365 days. This "Julian Calendar" also accounted for the slightly longer solar year by adding a leap day every four years.

Caesar's model helped realign the Roman calendar, but it had one small problem. Since the solar year is only .242 days longer than the calendar year and not an even .25, adding a leap year every four years actually leaves an annual surplus of roughly 11 minutes. This minute discrepancy meant that the Julian Calendar drifted off course by one day every 128 years, and by the 14th century it had strayed 10 days off the solar year. To fix the glitch, Pope Gregory XIII instituted a revised "Gregorian Calendar" in 1582. In this model, leap years occur every four years except for years evenly divisible by 100 and not by 400. For example, the year 1900 was not a leap year because it was divisible by 100, but not 400. The Pope's updated calendar remains in use to this day, but it's still not perfect—experts note that the remaining discrepancies will need to be addressed in around 10,000 years.



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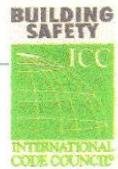
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# February 2020



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1
						<b>Pool League</b> 
Four Chaplains Sunday 2	Chili Dogs 3	Mexican Martes 4		5 Burgers M&C 6	Steak Night 7	8
Super Bowl Party Post opens at 12:30 pm 	BINGO!!!! 6:30PM 					<b>Pool League</b>  Cub Scouts Blue and Gold Banquet
9 <b>Luscious Leftovers</b>	Chili Dogs 10	Mexican Martes 11		12 Burgers M&C 13	Steak Night 14	15
	BINGO!!!! 6:30PM 	Post Meeting 5:30pm 	Auxiliary Meeting 6pm 	SAL Meeting 7pm 	 Happy Valentine's day	<b>Pool League</b> 
16 Community Breakfast  <b>Luscious Leftovers</b> Tsunami Bowl	BINGO!!!! 6:30PM 	Mexican Martes 18		19 Burgers M&C 20	Steak Night 21	22
	Presidents' Day 					
23 <b>Luscious Leftovers</b>	Chili Dogs 24	Mexican Martes 25		26 Burgers M&C 27	Steak Night 28	29
	BINGO!!!! 6:30PM 		ASH WEDNESDAY			<b>Pool League</b> 



Food Served Every Night at the Post!