



# Veterans Strengthening America

## Seward Post 5 Newsletter

November 2024  
Volume 21, Issue 11

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### COMMANDER'S COMMENTS

By Clare Sullivan



What a great Fall and we've dodged the snow everyone else is having! We're also half-way through the "ber" months now and the holidays are coming upon us! We've had a good month at the post with our membership supporting our events such as the Department Commander's Visitation, Director Verdie Bowen visit from the Office of Veterans Affairs, and of course Halloween and our nightly meals. I think having food (and Halloween Candy) at the post every night helps to "round out the edges" when funds get tight as the summer months and the tourism jobs are now done for the season.

We had fun and festive Halloween. and as "per SOP" the Post was decked out in all its Halloween finery. 🎃 🧛 🧛 🧛 🧛 🧛 Our crew really made it happen with welcoming our guests and members in Post 5 Family form - the food was exceptional! The homemade Halloween noshies were wickedly tasty and filling!

celebrate patriotic and historic days, and these November days are well worthy of remembering and celebrating, among many others, such as the Marine Corps. Birthday on November 10<sup>th</sup>. 😊

Okay, as I do every year, I've been collecting names and addresses for our service members for **Operation Apple Pie** so, get those addresses to me and we'll get a fun package to our Seward kids who are serving in our armed forces - in time for the holidays! We want to get some good stuff out to them as they continue to serve this great country!

As mentioned, we had a great Halloween where we invited the young trick or treaters to the Post where they got a taste of how we do Post 5 Halloween. We had plenty of witches, ghosts, goblins and of course candy! I'd also like to thank those who came to our scary and nightmarish and noisy locale. Seems no one complained when we didn't have Burgers, rather we had Halloween inspired treats for all and of course lots of candy too!!! 🍷 🧛 🧛 🧛 🧛 🧛

November is **Membership Retention Month**. We're at 65.60% and we have just passed the target of 65% by Veterans Day and have a goal of 75% by 11 December. Your 2024 membership card is good through December, and I understand and empathize with all as we are continuing to take a hit with this economy, and as the holidays loom in our direction renewals generally slow down. So, if you have renewed - thank you! I really appreciate it!! 🍷 If you haven't, please consider renewing and continue with your benefits of membership and help your Post reach our membership goals for the next few months. Remember too; to stop by the Post and say hello and grab a bite, we always have free food for our members and those in need!



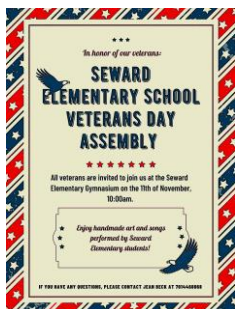
I especially want to thank all our volunteers that make the "social area" an enjoyable place to come and share a meal, and a refreshing beverage. Your help everyday behind the bar and in the kitchen make all the world of difference! The post is everyone's "post home," and I am happy many folks are taking advantage of what we have offer.

For planning purposes we're already looking toward Thanksgiving at the Post. We provide a full Thanksgiving Dinner on Thanksgiving Day beginning around 1:00 pm. All are welcome! We also deliver meals to those who cannot get out to the post, so if you or anyone you know are infirmed or disabled, please let us know so we can add them to our delivery list. We don't want anyone to go hungry or be forgotten.



Finally, as it is November, we have an important election on the 5<sup>th</sup>. If you haven't done early in-person voting or absentee voting, get out there and vote! It is important and a privilege as a citizen to be able to cast a vote for your desired candidate - whether local, state, or nation.

This month we have a few special events - a Veterans Day celebration at the Elementary School at 10:00 am on Veterans Day and at noon at the Senior Center, both on Monday the 11<sup>th</sup>. We'll also have our Thanksgiving Day Dinner on the 28th. As you know we go all out to promote and



## From the President's Desk

By Deb VanTassel

BRRR it is getting cold out there - Welcome to November! There will be lots of activities at the Post to help you make it through those long, cold November evenings.

Of course, we have Bingo every Monday night. Doors open at 6 PM and the games start at 6:30 PM. Come on down and bring some friends. **Bingo is open to the public.** It is a great way to spend a Monday night. Thank you to the volunteers who keep the games going. Also, the Post has members only Pool league on Saturday nights and Members only Texas Hold Em Poker on Sunday nights. These are great fun activities to help beat the winter blues.

**Mark November 16 on your calendar.** The Auxiliary will be hosting an **Auction** to raise money for the Santa Parade and Toys for Tots. We will have lots of goodies so come down and get your Christmas shopping done early. Keep your eyes out for flyers and more information on all the goodies that will be available. We are planning to do the Santa Parade on December 14 so mark that on your calendars also.

**Veterans Day is November 11th.** The Seward Elementary School students always do a great program honoring our Veterans. If you get a chance, it is always inspiring to go watch the program and a great way to say thank you to our Veterans who have or are still serving in the military forces. Often, people confuse Memorial Day and Veterans Day. Memorial Day is a day for remembering and honoring military personnel who died in the service of their country. While those who died are also remembered, Veterans Day is the day set aside to thank and honor all those who served honorably in the military - in wartime or peacetime. In fact, Veterans Day is largely intended to thank living veterans for their service, to acknowledge that their contributions to our national security are appreciated, and to underscore the fact that all those who served - not only those who died - have sacrificed and done their duty.

November 11th is also known as Armistice Day. Armistice Day, later known as Veterans Day in the United States is celebrated every year on November 11 to mark the armistice signed between the Allies of World War I and Germany. The signing of the Armistice took place in Compiègne, France and called for the cessation of hostilities on the Western Front of World War I. The Armistice took effect at 11:00 AM- the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month of 1918. The armistice initially expired after 36 days and was extended several times. A formal peace agreement was reached when the Treaty of Versailles was signed in 1919. November is also recognized as Veterans and Military Family Month. Veterans and Military Families Month was established in 1996 by the Armed Services YMCA with the

US Government recognizing the occasion every year since. Each November, the President signs a proclamation declaring November National Veterans and Military Families Month to recognize the daily sacrifices made by active duty, Guard and Reserve military families. It is important to remember that the families of Military personnel suffer many hardships and make many sacrifices in support of their military family member.

And of course, **Thanksgiving Day will be November 28th.** The Post will again do the traditional Thanksgiving dinner with all the trimmings. Volunteers are always needed and welcome to come assist with the preparation and delivery of meals to those in the community.

Hope everyone has a warm and safe November.

## Veterans Day

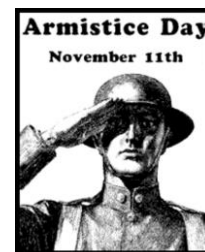
By multiple Internet excerpts

World War I - known at the time as "The Great War" - officially ended when the Treaty of Versailles was signed on June 28, 1919, in the Palace of Versailles outside the town of Versailles, France. However, fighting ceased seven months earlier when an armistice, or temporary cessation of hostilities, between the Allied nations and Germany went into effect on the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month. For that reason, November 11, 1918, is generally regarded as the end of "the war to end all wars."

On November 11<sup>th</sup> at 11:11, 1921 the U.S., France and England each buried an unknown soldier in honor of those who died in World War I. This began the annual Armistice Day holiday. The time and day was picked because fighting ceased in WWI in 1918 on November 11<sup>th</sup> at 11:11. In keeping with the tradition, work stops on this day and time each year for a moment of silence. Please remember to recognize and thank our Veterans on this day.

Veterans Day, this year is officially on Monday November 11, 2024, Veterans Day honors all members of the Armed Forces who served this country. They served and fought to protect us, to keep our country safe, and to preserve our way of life. Veterans gave their time and risked their lives for us all. In some cases, they made the ultimate sacrifice.

This holiday was originally called Armistice Day and was first celebrated in 1921. In 1954, President Eisenhower changed it to Veterans Day, in honor of American Veterans who served in all wars. The holiday now is intended to thank veterans for their service and to underscore that all those who served — both the living and the dead — have made sacrifices in performing their duty to the nation.



In November 1919, President Wilson proclaimed November 11 as the first commemoration of Armistice Day with the following words: *"To us in America, the reflections of Armistice Day will be filled with solemn pride in the heroism of those who died in the country's service and with gratitude for the victory, both because of the thing from which it has freed us and because of the opportunity it has given America to show her sympathy with peace and justice in the councils of the nations..."*

An Act (52 Stat. 351; 5 U. S. Code, Sec. 87a) approved May 13, 1938, made the 11th of November in each year a legal holiday—a day to be dedicated to the cause of world peace and to be thereafter celebrated and known as "Armistice Day." Armistice Day was primarily a day set aside to honor veterans of World War I, but in 1954, after World War II had required the greatest mobilization of soldiers, sailors, Marines and airmen in the Nation's history; after American forces had fought aggression in Korea, the 83rd Congress, at the urging of the veterans service organizations, amended the Act of 1938 by striking out the word "Armistice" and inserting in its place the word "Veterans." With the approval of this legislation (Public Law 380) on June 1, 1954, November 11th became a day to honor American veterans of all wars.

Later that same year, on October 8th, President Dwight D. Eisenhower issued the first "Veterans Day Proclamation" which stated: "In order to insure proper and widespread observance of this anniversary, all veterans, all veterans' organizations, and the entire citizenry will wish to join hands in the common purpose. Toward this end, I am designating the Administrator of Veterans' Affairs as Chairman of a Veterans Day National Committee, which shall include such other persons as the Chairman may select, and which will coordinate at the national level necessary planning for the observance. I am also requesting the heads of all departments and agencies of the Executive branch of the Government to assist the National Committee in every way possible."



President Eisenhower signing HR7786, changing Armistice Day to Veterans Day. From left: Alvin J. King, Wayne Richards, Arthur J. Connell, John T. Nation, Edward Rees, Richard L. Trombla, Howard W. Watts

On that same day, President Eisenhower sent a letter to the Honorable Harvey V. Higley, Administrator of Veterans' Affairs (VA), designating him as Chairman of the Veterans Day National Committee.

In 1958, the White House advised VA's General Counsel that the 1954 designation of the VA Administrator as Chairman of the Veterans Day National Committee applied to all subsequent VA Administrators. Since March 1989 when the VA was elevated to a cabinet level department, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs has served as the committee's chairman.



The first Veterans Day under the new law was observed with much confusion on October 25, 1971. It was quite apparent that the commemoration of this day was a matter of historic and patriotic significance to a great number of our citizens, and so on September 20th, 1975, President Gerald R. Ford signed Public Law 94-97 (89 Stat. 479), which returned the annual observance of Veterans Day to its original date of November 11, beginning in 1978. This action supported the desires of the overwhelming majority of state legislatures, all major veterans service organizations and the American people.

Veterans Day continues to be observed on November 11, regardless of what day of the week on which it falls. The restoration of the observance of Veterans Day to November 11 not only preserves the historical significance of the date, but helps focus attention on the important purpose of Veterans Day: A celebration to honor America's veterans for their patriotism, love of country, and willingness to serve and sacrifice for the common good.

## Veterans Day Traditions

In the United States, an official wreath-laying ceremony is held each Veterans Day at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier in Arlington National Cemetery, while parades and other celebrations are held in states around the country.

Veterans Day is not to be confused with Memorial Day—a common misunderstanding, according to the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. Memorial Day (the fourth Monday in May) honors American service members who died in service to their country or as a result of injuries incurred during battle; while Veterans Day pays tribute to all American veterans—living or dead—but especially gives thanks to living veterans who served their country honorably during war or peacetime.

# House and Vice Report.....

By Mike Calhoon



Hello from the Second Vice and Adjutant!

Winter is creeping up on us. Get ready for the fun activities and holidays coming soon.

October was a good transition between the busy summer to the upcoming holiday season. We had the ALR and Community breakfasts, the Department Commander visitation dinner, and Halloween. We also supported dinner for one of our members, Wally Corrigan. We prepared prime rib for his 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary as a Deacon for Sacred Heart Parish.

**This month, we will be hosting the ALR breakfast on November 9<sup>th</sup>, Veterans Day on November 11<sup>th</sup>, the Community Breakfast on November 17<sup>th</sup>, and, of course, Thanksgiving Dinner on November 28<sup>th</sup>.** Let us know if you can come and lend a hand for any of these activities.

Although it is quieting at the Post, I would like to ask everyone to be considerate of others when you come to enjoy the food here. We provide these meals as a benefit to our membership and would like to see as many members have had the opportunity to eat as possible. Please limit yourselves to one helping until it is apparent that most folks who want to have eaten. Thank you for your consideration.



The 2025 membership year is underway. To renew for 2025, you can go to [mylegion.org](http://mylegion.org) to renew online, you can mail your renewal when you receive it in the mail, or you can stop by the post, and we will get to see your smiling face. 😊 The dues have remained \$60.00 for Post members, \$40.00 for Auxiliary members, and \$35.00 for SAL members.



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



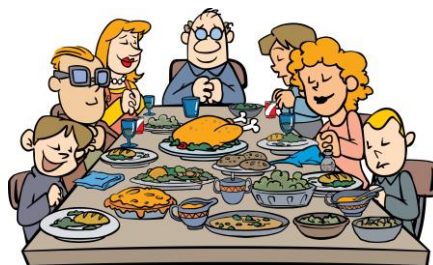
Greetings from the SAL First Vice Commander.

Hope you all had an enjoyable Halloween. Get ready for the Winter season. It is at the door.

I want to thank everyone for your continued support of our Legion Family here at Post 5. The support you provide is very important in helping the Leion family carry out its mission for the veterans and community.

October was a busy month at the Post. We had the ALR and community breakfasts, the Department Commander visitation dinner and Halloween.

This month the Post will host the ALR breakfast on November 9<sup>th</sup>, Veterans Day on November 11<sup>th</sup>, the community breakfast on November 17<sup>th</sup>, and, of course, Thanksgiving on November 28<sup>th</sup>. Please let us know if you can lend a hand with any of these activities.



The 2025 membership year has kicked off and the rollout of the new cards is here. Dues are \$35.00. You can renew online at [mySAL.org](http://mySAL.org), come to the Post to renew or mail in your \$35.00 to PO Box 3091. Remember, your membership helps us support the mission and goals of the Sons of American Legion and the Post 5 family.

Our monthly meeting is held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of the month and all Squadron 5 members are invited to attend.



If you have any questions or concerns, feel free to contact me at 907-224-5440. Thanks again for all your support of the Post 5 family and I look forward to seeing you all around the Post when possible.




Members Business Page



**BRASS BONES**

Sam Clemons Jewelry Artist/Owner

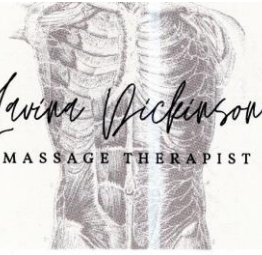


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# November

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					<b>Steak Night 1</b>	<b>2</b>
					<b>All Saints Day</b> 	<b>Dia De Los Muertos</b> <b>All Souls Day</b> 
<b>Daylight Savings Time 3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>Mexican Martes 5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>B,B,M&amp;C 7</b>	<b>Steak Night 8</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>Luscious Leftovers</b>  <b>Members Poker</b> <b>5:00 pm</b>	<b>Chili Dogs</b> <b>BINGO 6:30PM</b> 		<b>Jewelry Class</b> <b>With Carol Souza</b> <b>6:00pm</b> 	<b>Pioneers of AK Meeting 6:30pm</b> 		<b>Pool League 7pm</b>  <b>ALR Breakfast</b>
<b>Marine Corps Birthday 10</b>	<b>Veterans Day 11</b>	<b>Mexican Martes 12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>B,B,M&amp;C 14</b>	<b>Steak Night 15</b>	<b>16</b>
 <b>Luscious Leftovers</b> <b>Members Poker</b> <b>5:00 pm</b>	<b>BINGO!!! 6:30PM</b> 	<b>Post Meeting</b> <b>5:30pm</b> 	<b>Auxiliary Meeting 6pm</b>  <b>Jewelry Class</b> <b>With Carol Souza</b> <b>6:00pm</b>	<b>Sons Meeting</b> <b>7pm</b> 		<b>Pool League 7pm</b> 
<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>Mexican Martes 19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>B,B,M&amp;C 21</b>	<b>Steak Night 22</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>Luscious Leftovers</b> <b>Community Breakfast</b>  <b>Members Poker</b> <b>5:00 pm</b>	<b>Chili Dogs</b> <b>BINGO!!!! 6:30PM</b> 		<b>Jewelry Class</b> <b>With Carol Souza</b> <b>6:00pm</b> 			<b>Pool League 7pm</b> 
<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>Mexican Martes 26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>Thanksgiving 28</b>	<b>Steak Night 29</b>	<b>30</b>
<b>Luscious Leftovers</b> <b>Members Poker</b> <b>5:00 pm</b>	<b>Chili Dogs</b> <b>BINGO!!!! 6:30PM</b> 		<b>Jewelry Class</b> <b>With Carol Souza</b> <b>6:00pm</b> 	<b>Dinner at the Post!</b> <b>2:00-5:00pm</b>  <b>Happy Thanksgiving</b>		



**Food Every Night at the Post!!!!**