



For God and Country

Seward Post 5 Newsletter

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American Legion Seward Post 5
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COMMANDER'S COMMENTS

By Bobby Dunno



I know that you have heard this before but it has to be said, where does the time go when it is summer in Seward, Alaska? Seems to me as the weather warms up and the sun shines longer our Post 5 just gets busier and life moves faster. And why can't we have this much activity when it's dark, cold in November when we are bored and ready for winter to end! Yea I know why but you have to appreciate the irony.



As our summer progresses and our new fiscal year begins I have to tip my hat to all those who have spent their valuable time working toward the betterment of our American Legion Post 5. To say that our Post could not function without those who dedicate some time to provide services is a gross understatement because without our **wonderful volunteer group** especially those from the Auxiliary and SAL there would be no 3rd Sunday Breakfast, Steak Night or the many wonderful annual functions that we support for the betterment of our troops and our community.

Many of you know by now but Connie will be leaving us at the end of the month. I for one will miss her culinary expertise and unselfish dedication to the many Post events that she seemed to be a constant fixture at.



As we get ready for another 4th of July Weekend in Seward, AK! We all know what we have happening in and around town and our Post. Independence Day is falling on a Tuesday this year and we can expect more than a few people extending the weekend into the first days of the week. So, we will need every hand that can be mustered to grill and dish up some of

our awesome Post 5 ribs, and baked beans. Mike has laid in a supply laid in a supply of hundreds of pounds of ribs and as you know they are going to be tasty. The big wildcard to a successful weekend as always will be the weather so if anyone has a surefire weather dance or special routine that seems to bring out some sunny weather get with it 'cause I am thinking we need all the help we can get in that arena.

Along with the start of the fiscal year we start the beginning of a **new membership year**. So, everyone should be getting your renewal notice so you will have another excuse to stop by the Post some evening and renew your membership. The American Legion, American Legion Auxiliary, Sons of the American Legion. Everything the American Legion accomplishes is due to and starts with a strong membership, so please renew your membership and do it earlier than later.



Last year the Post fell short of our membership goal, so we should shoot to get more people into membership allowing our American Legion Family fulfill what we see as our obligation to our Community, State and Nation. If you need to know what it takes to sign up or supply information to someone who might be thinking about it ask at the Post. We have literature that you can take to assist in explaining the simple process of becoming a proud member of the American Legion.



1st Vice Notes....

By Clare Sullivan



We're in it now! Summer is here and we've been enjoying the warmer weather lately although just a tad wetter than I remember over the last couple of years at this time. Our pre-summer activities kept us busy particularly all the hard work conducted by our outstanding volunteers leading up to Memorial Day. These dedicated folks were out in the really soggy weather to put the final resting place of many of our fellow Legionnaires, Auxiliary and Sons in such great shape for a day of remembrance. I am extremely grateful for all the TLC our volunteers consistently do to keep our cemetery looking great in honor of those who have gone before us to Post Everlasting.



You all have done wonderfully in contributing to our post home. Whether you're working in the kitchen helping put together one of our many events, or simply patronizing our club for a meal or an "adult beverage," I am extremely grateful and exceptionally humbled by all who have taken time out of your busy lives to contribute in whatever capacity to our post home. All you do helps us help our veterans, their families and our community. Thank you for all you do!



Well here we are poised for another big event in Seward - the 4th of July! As you know we will be participating in the town's parade with members from the Post, Sons, Auxiliary, Riders, and the crew of the Mustang leading the parade - and looking impressive in our town's celebration of our Nation's independence.

We, as a post, are fortunate to have the Mustang crew and their families as a part of our American Legion Family. It is good to have these young folks involved and we're able to show the "new" veterans what we are all about and how we continue to serve our community and Nation.



Now that we're in the prep mode for the celebration of the birth of our nation, we are of course under the careful direction of Connie in readying our famous Seward Post 5 BBQ ribs and baked beans. This preparation is no small undertaking; I hear there are a few hundred pounds of food to prepare for fun and festivities of the 4th!

As a last comment, with the onset of July we are entering a **new membership year**. Be sure to check your mail for your membership renewal which is sent by "National" so open it up as it isn't just advertising! 😊 To simplify the process and to save a stamp, stop by the post and renew and bring a friend. As you know we do a lot in town and we can only do what we do to help veterans and the community with a strong membership and participation.

If you ever need to know the criteria for membership here it is for reference. A veteran simply needed to have served honorably during one of these time periods:

- April 6, 1917 to Nov. 11, 1918 (World War I)
- Dec. 7, 1941 to Dec. 31, 1946 (World War II)
- June 25, 1950 to Jan. 31, 1955 (Korean War)
- Feb. 28, 1961 to May 7, 1975 (Vietnam War)
- Aug. 24, 1982 to July 31, 1984 (Lebanon / Grenada)
- Dec. 20, 1989 to Jan. 31, 1990 (Panama)
- Aug. 2, 1990 to today (Gulf War / War On Terrorism)

Again, I want to thank all who have helped us in our events and our day to day operations. Your dedication has allowed us to continue to serve our community and our veterans.



House and Vice Report.....

By Mike Calhoon



Hard to believe June is already gone and the 4th of July is upon us.

We should all take a minute to stop and consider what the birth of this nation has meant to the rest of the world. This Representative Republic remains today the one true beacon of freedom during this difficult time in history.



I would like to thank everyone who donated their time and effort to the Post and Club activities in June. As you know, volunteers are what make this organization a viable asset to our veterans and the community of Seward. Without all of you we would not be able to accomplish everything we do.

This month we start with a bang! The 4th of July is here and lots of help is needed. We need a few folks willing to come in early on the 4th, around 7:00am, to assist with set up for the day. After that we need help all day long from 10:00am through the afternoon. If you can spare an hour or 12, please let me know and we will gladly put you to work.



Later this month we will have our community breakfast on July 16th and a visit from the USCG Icebreaker Healy on July 17-21. Just let us know if you can help with any of the activities.

We have come to the end of the 2017 membership year. **2018 membership year started on July 1st.** You can still renew your 2017 membership to keep your continual years moving forward and I encourage all members to consider renewing their membership if they have not already done so. 2018 membership cards have arrived so you can start to renew for 2018 at any time. Consider going to myLegion.org and setting up your member account so you can renew online and change other information such as address, email, etc.

Thanks to all of you who continue to support your Post and Club. I 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



Wow, did June blow through fast or what! Here we are on the brink of the 4th of July already.

Thanks goes to all the Squadron members who did a great job assisting the Post with Flag Day and Father's Day last month, not to mention the weekly Steak Nights and other functions that may arise. As always you all did tremendous work for the Post and the Community.



David "Ozzie" Ozborn still needs consistent help maintaining the Legion Cemetery. He received some great help from Post members Tom Sears and George Greendyk this month but could really use more than that. Please let me know, or talk to Ozzie if you have a couple of hours and he will gladly put you to work.

This month the big function will be 4th of July. The Post will need lots of help on the 4th. Some help will be needed early, around 7:00am, to set up for the day's activities. The bulk of the help will be needed from 10:00am into the afternoon. Please contact the Post and let them know when you are available.



There is also the community breakfast on July 16th and a visit from the USCG Icebreaker Healy from July 17-21. Again, if you have time to give during these activities just let the Post know and they will put you to work.

The 2018 membership year is coming but you can still renew for 2017 if you have not done so already. We will let you know when the 2018 cards are here.

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.

The American Legion Auxiliary

Excerpt from the [ALA Website](#)

Mission Statement

In the spirit of Service, Not Self, the mission of the American Legion Auxiliary is to support The American Legion and to honor the sacrifice of those who serve by enhancing the lives of our veterans, military, and their families, both at home and abroad. For God and Country, we advocate for veterans, educate our citizens, mentor youth, and promote patriotism, good citizenship, peace and security.

Vision Statement

The vision of the American Legion Auxiliary is to support The American Legion while becoming the premier service organization and foundation of every community providing support for our veterans, our military, and their families by shaping a positive future in an atmosphere of fellowship, patriotism, peace and security.

Purposes

In fulfillment of the Mission, the American Legion Auxiliary adheres to the following purposes:

- To support and advocate for veterans, active military and their families
- To support the initiatives and programs of The American Legion
- To foster patriotism and responsible citizenship
- To award scholarships and promote quality education and literacy
- To provide educational and leadership opportunities that uphold the ideals of freedom and democracy and encourage good citizenship and patriotism in government
- To increase our capacity to deliver our Mission by providing meaningful volunteer opportunities within our communities
- To empower our membership to achieve personal fulfillment through Service Not Self

Values

Our statement of values is predicated on the founding purposes:

- Commitment to the four founding principles: Justice, Freedom, Democracy, Loyalty
- Service to God, our country, its veterans and their families
- Tradition of patriotism and citizenship
- Personal integrity and family values
- Respect for the uniqueness of individual members
- Truthful open communication in dealing with the public and our members
- Adherence to the adopted policies and rules

Korean War End 27 July 1953

Excerpt from History.com



The Korean War began on June 25, 1950, when communist North Korea invaded South Korea. Almost immediately, the United States secured a resolution from the United Nations calling for the military defense of South Korea against the North Korean aggression. In a matter of days, U.S. land, air, and sea forces had joined the battle. The U.S. intervention turned the tide of the war, and soon the U.S. and South Korean forces were pushing into North Korea and toward that nation's border with China. In November and December 1951, hundreds of thousands of troops from the People's Republic of China began heavy assaults against the American and South Korea forces. The war eventually bogged down into a battle of attrition. In the U.S. presidential election of 1952, Republican candidate **Dwight D. Eisenhower** strongly criticized President Harry S. Truman's handling of the war. After his victory, Eisenhower adhered to his promise to "go to Korea." His trip convinced him that something new was needed to break the diplomatic logjam at the peace talks that had begun in July 1951. Eisenhower began to publicly hint that the United States might make use of its nuclear arsenal to break the military stalemate in Korea. He allowed the Nationalist Chinese government on Taiwan to begin harassing air raids on mainland China. The president also put pressure on his South Korean ally to drop some of its demands in order to speed the peace process.

Whether or not Eisenhower's threats of nuclear attacks helped, by July 1953 all sides involved in the conflict were ready to sign an agreement ending the bloodshed. **The armistice, signed on July 27, established a committee of representatives from neutral countries to decide the fate of the thousands of prisoners of war on both sides.** It was eventually decided that the POWs could choose their own fate—stay where they were or return to their homelands. A new border between North and South Korea was drawn, which gave South Korea some additional territory and demilitarized the zone between the two nations.

Before the armistice, talks had gone on for nearly 2 years. Eisenhower had promised that if he was elected in the election of 1952, he would go to Korea and end the war. There was no simple way to end the conflict. Talks had collapsed in October 1952. In 1953, the US threatened to bomb China, but eventually a ceasefire was declared between UN forces and Korean/Chinese forces.

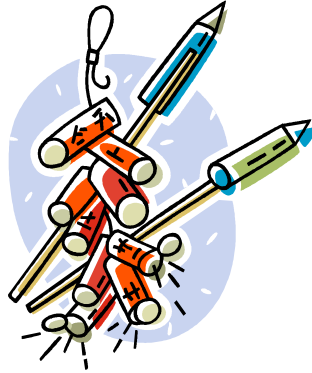
The "De-Militarized Zone" which designates the border between North and South Korea has remained one of the most heavily-armed stretches of land on Earth. The stability of the region is threatened by the ongoing development of nuclear weapons by North Korea.

Fourth of July Facts

When the holiday was declared a holiday. Although Independence Day is a legal holiday, it was not declared so until 1941. This was the date that signified the formal adoption of the Declaration of Independence on July 4, 1776.

- The introduction of fireworks.

The 4th of July is synonymous with firework displays and are a staple in the celebration. How did they become so popular? Have they always been used? History shows that they were originally made in China and as early as the 11th century. This was during the time when the Chinese people used pyrotechnic mixtures for war rockets and explosives.



- **Uncle Sam.** The 4th of July facts surrounding the term "Uncle Sam" was finally clarified and popularized during the War of 1812. This is when the term originally appeared on supply containers that held war materials. The "Uncle Sam" symbol became synonymous with servitude and devotion, as in Uncle Sam wants YOU. Although there was heavy recruitment taking place, Congress did not adopt Uncle Sam as a national symbol until 1961.

- **Two Facts.** Two very important but little known 4th of July facts show that 1) full support of the Declaration of Independence was not supported by all members of the Continental Congress and 2) a representative of Congress rode horseback 80 miles to reach Philadelphia and break a tie in support of independence.

- **The Liberty Bell.** Like the historical flag, the Liberty Bell was a very symbolic monument for Americans. However, the Liberty Bell has some 4th of July facts that many do not know about. Originally, there were two versions of the Liberty Bell. At the time of their manufacturing, one was found to be defective and had to be



melted and recast. The second bell was subsequently also found to be defective. It too had to be melted down and recast, therefore requiring a third version. Without any defective places, the third version of the Liberty Bell rang every Fourth of July from 1778 to 1835. According to history and tradition, as it rang, it cracked as it was being tolled for the death of Chief Justice John Marshall, the longest serving Chief Justice in the Supreme Court.

- **Our national poem.** A Wellesley College professor, Katharine Lee Bates, was the author of the patriotic poem "America the Beautiful" which was published on July 4, 1895.

O beautiful for spacious skies,
For amber waves of grain,
For purple mountain majesties
Above the fruited plain!
America! America!
God shed His grace on thee
And crown thy good with brotherhood
From sea to shining sea!

O beautiful for pilgrim feet,
Whose stern, impassioned stress
A thoroughfare for freedom beat
Across the wilderness!
America! America!
God mend thine every flaw,
Confirm thy soul in self-control,
Thy liberty in law!

O beautiful for heroes proved
In liberating strife,
Who more than self their country loved,
And mercy more than life!
America! America!
May God thy gold refine,
Till all success be nobleness,
And every gain divine!

O beautiful for patriot dream
That sees beyond the years
Thine alabaster cities gleam
Undimmed by human tears!
America! America!
God shed His grace on thee
And crown thy good with brotherhood
From sea to shining sea!

- **Firsts.** Our country's first father, George Washington, held his first public office at the age of 17 and continued in public service until his death in 1799.



Facts such as these help to make our celebrating more meaningful and help to deepen our commitment to our country and in our service. As we celebrate Independence Day, we can find more reasons to be grateful for the country that we live in.

Declaration of Independence 1776

US Dept of State, Office of the Historian

By issuing the Declaration of Independence, adopted by the Continental Congress on **July 4, 1776**, the **13 American colonies severed their political connections to Great Britain**. The Declaration summarized the colonists' motivations for seeking their independence. By declaring themselves an independent nation, the American colonists were able to conclude an official alliance with the government of France and obtain French assistance in the war against Great Britain.



The Declaration of Independence

Throughout the 1760s and early 1770s, the North American colonists found themselves increasingly at odds with British imperial policies regarding taxation and frontier policy. When repeated protests failed to influence British policies, and instead resulted in the closing of the port of Boston and the declaration of martial law in Massachusetts, the colonial governments sent delegates to a Continental Congress to coordinate a colonial boycott of British goods. When fighting broke out between American colonists and British forces in Massachusetts, Continental Congress worked with local groups, originally intended to enforce the boycott, to coordinate resistance against the British. British officials throughout the colonies increasingly found their authority challenged by informal local governments, although loyalist sentiment remained strong in some areas.

Despite these changes, colonial leaders hoped to reconcile with the British Government, and all but the most radical members of Congress were unwilling to declare independence. However, in late 1775, Benjamin Franklin, then a member of the Secret Committee of Correspondence, hinted to French agents and other European sympathizers that the colonies were increasingly leaning towards seeking independence. While perhaps true, Franklin also hoped to convince the French to supply the colonists with aid. Independence would be necessary, however, before French officials would consider the possibility of an alliance.

Throughout the winter of 1775-1776, the members of Continental Congress increasingly viewed reconciliation with Britain as unlikely, and independence the only course of action available to them. When on December 22, 1775, the British Parliament prohibited trade with the colonies, Congress responded in April of 1776 by opening colonial ports—this was a major step towards severing ties with Britain. The colonists

were aided by the January publication of Thomas Paine's pamphlet *Common Sense*, which advocated the colonies' independence and was widely distributed throughout the colonies. By February of 1776, colonial leaders were discussing the possibility of forming foreign alliances and began to draft the Model Treaty that would serve as a basis for the 1778 alliance with France. Leaders for the cause of independence wanted to make certain that they had sufficient congressional support before they would bring the issue to the vote. On June 7, 1776, Richard Henry Lee introduced a motion in Congress to declare independence. Other members of Congress were amenable but thought some colonies not quite ready. However, Congress did form a committee to draft a declaration of independence and assigned this duty to Thomas Jefferson.



Thomas Paine



Thomas Jefferson

Benjamin Franklin and John Adams reviewed Jefferson's draft. They preserved its original form, but struck passages likely to meet with controversy or skepticism, most notably passages blaming King George III for the transatlantic slave trade and those blaming the British people rather than their government. The committee presented the final draft before Congress on June 28, and Congress adopted the final text of the Declaration of Independence on July 4.


The British Government did its best to dismiss the Declaration as a trivial document issued by disgruntled colonists. British officials commissioned propagandists to highlight the declaration's flaws and rebut the colonists' complaints. The Declaration divided British domestic opposition, as some American sympathizers thought the Declaration had gone too far, although in British-ruled Ireland it had many supporters. The Declaration's most important diplomatic effect was to allow for recognition of the United States by friendly foreign governments. The Sultan of Morocco mentioned American ships in a consular document in 1777, but Congress had to wait until the 1778 Treaty of Alliance with France for a formal recognition of U.S. independence. The Netherlands acknowledged U.S. independence in 1782. Although Spain joined the war against Great Britain in 1779, it did not recognize U.S. independence until the 1783 Treaty of Paris. Under the terms of the treaty, which ended the War of the American Revolution, Great Britain officially acknowledged the United States as a sovereign and independent nation.



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July 2017

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<p>Bring on the Summer!!!</p>  						1
2	3	Mexican Martes 4	5	6	Steak Night 7	8
<u>Luscious Leftovers</u>	<p>BINGO 6:30PM</p>  <p>Luscious Leftovers</p>	<p>Yummy</p>  <p>BBQ Ribs!!!</p> <p>Happy 4th of July</p>		<p>ALR Meeting 7pm</p> 	<p>KARAOKE 7PM</p> 	
9	10	Mexican Martes 11	12	13	Steak Night 14	15
<u>Luscious Leftovers</u>	<p>BINGO!!! 6:30PM</p>  <p>Luscious Leftovers</p>	<p>Post Meeting 7pm</p> 	<p>Auxiliary Meeting 7pm</p> 	<p>SAL Meeting 7pm</p> 	<p>KARAOKE 7PM</p> 	
16	17	Mexican Martes 18	19	20	Steak Night 21	22
<p>Community Breakfast! 09:00am</p> <p>Luscious Leftovers</p>	<p>BINGO!!! 6:30PM</p>  <p>Luscious Leftovers</p>	  <p>USCGC Healy in Port - Retirement & Crew Dinner 19 July</p>			<p>KARAOKE 7PM</p> 	
23	24	Mexican Martes 25	26	27	Steak Night 28	29
<u>Luscious Leftovers</u>	<p>BINGO!!! 6:30PM</p>  <p>Luscious Leftovers</p>			<p>Korean War Ends 1953</p>	<p>KARAOKE 7PM</p> 	
30	31	<p>Food at the Post Every Night</p> 				