



Veterans Strengthening America

Seward Post 5 Newsletter

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American Legion Seward Post 5

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COMMANDER'S COMMENTS

By Clare Sullivan



time out of their busy lives to contribute in whatever capacity to our post and ultimately for our veterans and our community. Thank you for all you do!

Wow! What a Summer it has been so far, and it has been super sunny and warm! It took a bit to warm up but when it did, we all got out in the sun! Let's hope for a good day for the runners on the Mount Marathon Race on the 4th!

We had an excellent June with our Flag Day celebration, the Army Birthday and the busy Father's Day Breakfast, ❤️ 😊

We've been super busy, beyond what we have in the past with lots of military visitors and of course our standard busy times in both May and June. Even with people in town and great weather, our amazing volunteers have continued to step up. Thank You!!! We're even getting out of town friends offering to help as well. It sure is good to see our seasonal friends and family year after year and all their help. They definitely make it happen!



I also want to thank all our year-round folks who year after year contribute to make Seward Post 5 a welcoming place for our veterans, our membership and the community.

Many don't know that nearly all positions are volunteers who give back nearly every day. That means apart from the Club Manager, all services - cooking, bartending and kitchen, cleaning etc. are accomplished by volunteers; so, when you see them running stairs with food or hauling dishes to be washed let them know you appreciate what they do, and maybe throw a bit more in the tip jar! 😊 We couldn't provide what we do for everyone without them!



As we work to make our post home welcoming with good food and camaraderie, we also want to make it inviting on the outside. Year after year Bill and Joanne Casey donate the wonderful hanging baskets outside the post, Stephanie Makey donated the flowers in the pots at the entrance, and Scott and Jackie Wilde do the tedious work of weed whacking around the post to keep those fast growing and pesky weeds down. You guys are awesome!! The post looks great, thanks to you and the sun we've had lately!

With the onset of July, we are entering the **2025 membership year**. We hit our 100% goal for 2024, Yay!!! 😊 😊 😊 😊 Thank You for renewing!!! Be sure to check your mail for your membership renewal: renew online at legion.org or stop by the post and renew and please bring a friend, especially if you like what we do for our Post 5 Family members and our community. As you know we try to serve where we can, and we can only do what we do with a strong membership and participation.



THANK YOU

There have been so many who have done amazing work in contributing to our post home. Whether you're working at the cemetery, setting up or cooking for events or nightly meals, or simply patronizing our club for a meal or an "adult beverage," I am extremely grateful for all who have taken





Membership Eligibility



The American Legion believes that membership in the organization should be extended to all U.S. military personnel who served on active duty during all wars and hostile events that are not seen as a "period of war." What that means is if you've served in the military and have an honorable discharge anytime since December 7th 1941, (or are still serving on active duty) you are eligible for membership in the American Legion. Please renew for 2024 and invite others to join; we can only support our fellow veterans from a position of strength and membership is key to that strength!



Adjutant & Vice Report.....

By Mike Calhoon



Hello from the Second Vice and Adjutant,

Hope everyone is enjoying the great start to our summer season. So far, a great contrast to last year. Let's pray for continued good weather with just enough rain to keep the fire danger down.

June was a busy month for the Post 5 Family, and I appreciate all the great volunteers who stepped up to help out. There are so many volunteers that I will not try to name everyone. I just want to thank all of you who helped with bartending, nightly food prep, Friday nights, maintaining the grass around the post, Flag Day, Father's Day, and Lee Poleske's funeral. You are all amazing and I thank you.

This month, of course, the 4th of July is the big event. If you have time to help with that, please let us know. We will also be hosting the **ALR breakfast on July 13th** and the **community breakfast on July 21st**. If you can help with these activities, please let us know.

It is getting busier at the Post, so 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 begins on July 1st. You can still renew for 2024 to keep continuous years. To renew for 2025 you can go to mylegion.org to renew online, you can mail your renewal in 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. We have not received the 2025 cards for the Auxiliary, or the SAL so please be patient with that.

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.

Hello Summer!! Cool spring turned into a warm summer so far. Hope you are all enjoying the Seward summer season.

A big thank you to everyone who continues to support the Squadron and Post activities. June was busy this year for the Post and your attendance and participation helped the Post complete its mission.

Squadron members David Osborn, Scott Wilde, James Swartz, and Deklan Finley all volunteered their time to the Post 5 activities during the month of June. Thank You!!!



This month the Post will have its usually busy 4th of July, will host the ALR breakfast on July 13th, and the community breakfast on July 21st. Please let us know if you are able to lend a hand with any of these activities.

The 2025 membership year will begin soon. You can still renew your 2024 membership so please consider do so before the 2025 kicks in soon. Dues are \$35.00. I think the online issue has been resolved but if you try to renew online and it says the dues are only \$16.00, please let me know and come in 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.

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.

From the President's Desk...

By Deb VanTassel

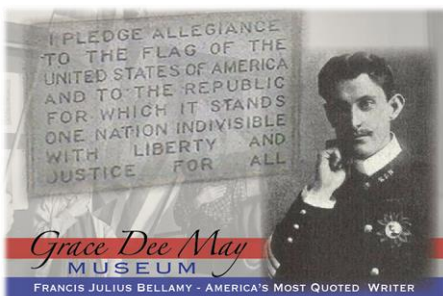


Happy Independence Day! And Happy July! It is so nice to have some nice summer weather this year as compared to the last two summers. So, I hope everyone is getting out and enjoying some of this great weather.

To help celebrate Independence Day and the Mt. Marathon race, the Post will be serving their traditional BBQ rib dinner with all the fixings. I might be a little biased, but I think they are the best ribs in town. Also, the Auxiliary will be selling water and soda to help raise funds for our scholarship program, Santa Parade and other programs we do throughout the year. So come on down to the Post have a great meal, support the Legion Family and watch the race and other activities going on in downtown.



As we celebrate the birth of our great nation- I wanted to write about one of our nations' most valuable traditions - The Pledge of Allegiance. The Pledge of Allegiance was originally written in 1892 by an American Baptist minister and social activist, Francis Bellamy.



The Pledge of Allegiance is a promise or oath of loyalty to the Republic of the United States of America. It was first published in 1892, in an edition of the Boston-based children's magazine called "Youth's Companion". On October 12, 1892, it was first used during Columbus Day celebrations. The proclamation made by President Benjamin Harrison and over 12 million children recited the Pledge of Allegiance that day, thereby beginning a school day ritual.

By reciting the Pledge of Allegiance, every American promises to be true to the United States of America. The freedom available will not be taken for granted and each American will remember the countless men, women and children who have given their lives through the centuries, so that we can live peacefully today.



I hope everyone has a wonderful 4th of July and take just a few minutes to remember why it is a day of celebration and what we are celebrating- not just the parades and the picnics and the BBQ's but the true celebration- the birth of our great nation 248 years ago. And, also remember, all the sacrifices that have been made by our citizens, especially the military and veterans, some who have paid the ultimate sacrifice so that we have the freedoms we do today.

July officially starts our new membership year. Now is a good time to renew your membership. You can go online at <https://www.legion.org/auxiliary> and renew. You will be able to print your new membership card from the website.



Thank you to everyone who bought a Split the Pot raffle ticket when we held the raffle in May. Congratulations to Jim Hunt, the lucky winner. The Auxiliary is doing another split the Pot Raffle. There will be a maximum of 200 tickets sold at \$5.00 apiece. If all tickets are sold the lucky winner will receive half the pot which would be \$500. Raffle tickets are available at the Post and the drawing will be July 15th at 7 PM during Bingo. Buy your raffle ticket now and support the Auxiliary fundraising efforts.

FUNDRAISER RAFFLE

Speaking of Bingo- the fun begins at 6 PM everyone Monday night at the Post. Doors open at 6 PM and games begin at 6:30 PM. Thank you to all the volunteers that make Bingo happen every week especially Dan, Sharon, Marilyn and Joanne.

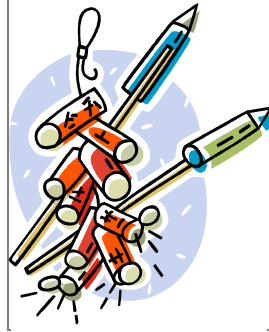


Fourth of July Facts

When the holiday was declared a holiday and 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. We use them for a fine celebration of the end the war of independence and end of Great Britain's control on the "colonies."



- **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.

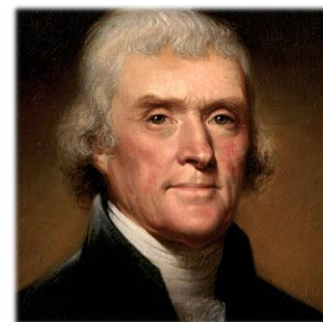
Despite these changes, colonial leaders hoped to reconcile with the British Government, and all but the most radical members of Congress were unwilling to declare independence. However, in late 1775, Benjamin Franklin, then a member of the Secret Committee of Correspondence, hinted to French agents and 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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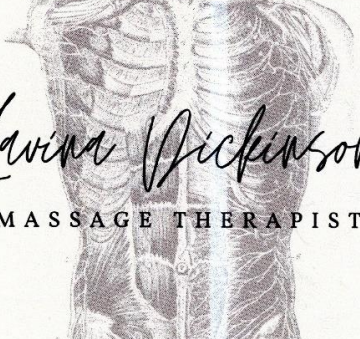


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July 2024

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1	Mexican Martes 2	3	Independence Day 4	Steak Night 5	6
	BINGO!!! 6:30PM  Chili Dogs 			Happy 4th of July BBQ Ribs Kid's Sawdust Pile Coin Hunt		
7	8	Mexican Martes 9	10	B.B, M&C 11	Steak Night 12	13
Luscious Leftovers 	BINGO!!! 6:30PM  Chili Dogs 	Post Meeting 5:30pm 	Auxiliary Meeting 6:00 pm 	ALR Mtg 5:30pm SAL Meeting 7:00pm 		ALR Breakfast 9-11am 
14	15	Mexican Martes 16	17	B.B, M&C 18	Steak Night 19	20
Luscious Leftovers MAKE USE OF LEFTOVER FOOD 	BINGO!!! 6:30PM  Chili Dogs 					
21	22	Mexican Martes 23	24	B.B, M&C 25	Steak Night 26	27
3rd Sunday of the Month Breakfast  Luscious Leftovers	Chili Dogs  BINGO!!!! 6:30PM 					
28	29	Mexican Martes 30	31			29
Luscious Leftovers 	BINGO!!! 6:30PM  Chili Dogs 					



HAPPY INDEPENDENCE DAY!

FOOD EVERY NIGHT AT THE POST!!!

WHAT IS FREEDOM?

Vickie L. Detert (6/24/24)

*What is freedom? Take your choice:
Your own thoughts with your own voice;
Rights to live, to grow, to learn;
Chance to win, to lose, to earn;
Loving, sharing, dreaming, and
trusting God who understands
freedom and forgiven sins.
He gave His Son, our souls to win.
He gave us hearts that long to be
serving and yet always free.
What is freedom? It is faith
in His mercy and His grace.
What is freedom? Peace beyond
what we alone have ever found.
What is freedom?*

