

VETERANS STRENGTHENING AMERICA

SEWARD POST 5 NEWSLETTER

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COMMANDER'S COMMENTS By Clare Sullivan



Wow! What a month! We hit the ground running with all our events. It was a super busy May with all our patriotic holidays and the events we conduct or support in service to our veterans and our community.

Just to recap for everyone all the great work by our volunteers this month... and have all "regular activities!"

- 1. Pool & Poker Leagues End of Season Dinners
- 2. Mothers' Day Breakfast and Dinner
- 3. ALR 2nd Saturday of the Month Breakfast
- 4. Armed Forces Day Hot Dog Feed in the Harbor
- 5. Bike Blessing (thanks Father Bill 😊)
- 6. 3rd Sunday of the Month Community Breakfast
- 7. Armed Forces YMCA Combat Fishing Tournament Captains Dinner and next night Awards Banquet
- 8. Cemetery Clean up, and the placement of crosses and flags on each grave
- 9. Memorial Day Ceremony and lunch at the Post Whew!!!!

A good time had by all!!

All this is in addition to our normal daily and weekly activities. So, I think we dispelled the belief that our post is just a quiet and sleepy locale for vets to hang out! 📀

Thanks for all your hard work, your efforts support so many in ways you don't even know! And it's all done by our amazing volunteers! You guys totally make it happen!!!!

I would like to list everyone who was involved in all our service-oriented projects and events, but I think I'd have a huge newsletter in order to get everyone listed. That might not be the best use of my space here, but if you get an opportunity, please take a look at our <u>Facebook</u> page. You'll get a good idea of what we do and what we've accomplished. We have a running accounting with info and photos on what we do! You'll see our American Legion Family "in action." We surely have some special people in our organization!

This month looks to be another good month, and for starters we will have a Flag Day Ceremony on Friday, June 14th at noon and will also celebrate the US Army's Birthday and of course have a Father's Day Breakfast on Sunday June 16th

for all the wonderful dads out there, which also is the 3^{rd} Sunday of the Month Breakfast – so it's a "twofer."

Flag Day, like our other important patriotic Holidays, is necessary to preserve our significant history and to educate and keep traditions alive. Observing Flag Day does not just honor a great flag, but it also reminds us of where we have been as a young country fighting for our freedom, and the incredible journey we have travelled to be the great nation that we are now. The road to where we are, has been paved with bravery and the blood of those who found it worthwhile to keep pursuing our ideals of freedom and justice for all. And, in these trying times right now, we must remember and work to preserve those principles, virtues and the heroic actions that made us what we are today.



As life's events compete for our attention, these patriotic holidays frequently get shelved or receive token attention and have become associated with many stores' holiday sales. Sometimes the overt demonstration to display our American Patriotism is met with a bit of resistance, condescension or hesitancy simply because the observances have taken the backseat to other unrelated activities surrounding the holiday.

With that said, we have the obligation as members of the American Legion Family to keep these traditions alive and inspire

others by our actions of Patriotism and Americanism. According to The American Legion, Americanism is an ideology, or belief in devotion, loyalty, or allegiance to the United States of America, or to its flag, traditions, customs, culture, symbols, institutions, or form of government. And, in the words of <u>Theodore Roosevelt</u>, our 26th President "Americanism is a question of spirit, conviction, and purpose, not of creed or birthplace."



Please consider reading up on our patriotic holidays, particularly <u>Flag Day</u> for this month and fly our US flag. We have a great country, and all our patriotic holidays are so very important to us to remember as a nation and to continue as a free people.

Seward, Post 5 Newsletter

Vice & Adjutant Report. By Mike Calhoon

Hello from the Second Vice and Adjutant,

Hope everyone is having a great spring. Visitors are all over town and summer is on the way. Busy times in Seward.

Last month was a crazy busy month and I want to thank all the great volunteers who pitched in on all the Post functions. I won't try to list everyone because I will undoubtedly forget a couple of you. As always, the volunteer club staff did an amazing job while I was on vacation and continue to do so on a daily basis. You are all awesome. Additionally, I want to thank Jim Gilmore, David Osborn, Connie Kullander, and Sharon Dillon for their help prepping the food for the Combat Fishing Tournament banquet and everyone else that helped with check-in, setup, serving and clean-up for the entire day. Great job!!!



This month is will be a bit less hectic. We will have the ALR breakfast on June 8th, Flag Day on June 14th, and Father's day breakfast on June 16th. We will also start planning for 4th of July activities.

Our members only Pool League and poker have ended. Bingo will continue through the summer on Monday nights @ 6:30pm, downstairs in the meeting room.

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 2024 membership year is coming to a close soon. The Post achieved its goal for 100% membership for 2024 but you can still renew if you have not done so.

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.



By Mike Calhoon, 1st Vice Cdr

Spring has been pretty good so far, if not a bit cool. Summer is just around the corner. Here we go!!

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

Squadron members David Osborn, Scott Wilde, and Randy Berry all volunteered their time to the Post 5 activities during the month of May. Thank You!!!

This month the Post will host the ALR breakfast on June 8th, Flag Day on June 14th, Father's Day breakfast on June 16th. Also, the Post will start planning for the 4th of July celebration in Seward. Please let us know if you are able to lend a hand with any of these activities.

We are closing in on the end of the end of the 2024 membership year so please consider renewing your membership. 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.

Seward, Post 5 Newsletter

From the President's Desk By Debbie VanTassel



As the whirlwind month of May comes to an end, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of our great volunteers for their hours and hours of work to make all the events in May a success. Our American Legion family would not be able to accomplish all that we do without these amazing volunteers.

May is the month for remembering those who made the ultimate sacrifice to fight for and preserve the freedoms

that we treasure today. On Memorial Day, the ceremony at the American Legion cemetery helped us to remember the military personnel who made the ultimate sacrifice to keep us free. Thank you to the volunteers that helped put



out the crosses and flags to help us remember and honor all of those who are no longer with us.



Congratulations

to Jim Hunt, the winner of the Auxiliary split the pot raffle! Thank you to everyone who purchased raffle tickets to help the Auxiliary raise money for the scholarship fund the Santa parade and other projects that the Auxiliary does throughout the year. The Auxiliary will decide at the next meeting whether to do another Raffle or not. Stayed tuned for more information

Reminder that every Monday night the Auxiliary hosts the ever popular **BINGO Night**. Come on down for a fun and relaxing evening. Thank you to Sharon, Michelle and Marilyn for the time they volunteer to keep Bingo going. And, Thank You to all the people who come down and play.

The Combat Fishing held on May 22nd was another big success. Although mother nature wasn't very nice that day, the military personnel that went out fishing for the day had a great time, caught some fish and enjoyed a great dinner and banquet. Again, thank you to the many volunteers that made this program such a success year after year.

As we move into June and hopefully summer weather, we have a several special days and events on the calendar.

D-Day is June 6th. This day commemorates the day in 1944 that Allied forces stormed the beaches of Normandy. Five landing beaches were selected for the assault: Utah, Omaha, Gold, Juno, and Sword. As the day began, the largest fleet assembled began its assault on the beaches of Normandy. By the end of the day, the Atlantic Wall, had fallen and the invasion was a success. The significance of the D-Day landings is that they represent a major turning point in World War II. Less than a year after the invasion, the Allies formally accepted Nazi Germany's surrender. D-Day is a day to remember those who made the ultimate sacrifice that day on the beaches of Normandy so that we can enjoy the freedoms we have today.

The Auxiliary Meeting will be held on June 12th at 6 PM. Please come join the meeting. We are always looking for new ideas and input to help the Auxiliary in its mission to help veterans, military personnel and the community. This is also Women Veterans Day. A day to remember and thank all the Women who have proudly served and continue to serve in our military forces.

June 14th is Flag Day. The Post does a nice ceremony to recognize and honor the American Flag. June 14^{th,}, commemorates the day in 1777 when the United States approved the first design for the American Flag. In 1916 Pres. Woodrow Wilson proclaimed June 14 as the official date for Flag Day, and in 1949 the U.S. Congress permanently established the date as National Flag Day. This is also the US Army Birthday-

June 16- Happy Father's Day! This also happens to be the 3rd Sunday of the Month and Father's Day so the Post will be serving up a great breakfast for everyone to enjoy. Come to the Post between 9 and 11 am.

June 20th - Happy Solstice. The longest day of the year and the official start of hopefully a great summer.

PTSD Awareness day on June 27. Post Traumatic Stress disorder was not widely recognized until about 1980 when it was finally recognized as a specific condition with identifiable symptoms. Previous to this it was often referred to as "shell shock" or "combat shock". June 27 designated as PTSD Awareness day encourages open communication and talk about the symptoms and effects of PTSD and suicide awareness. If you know someone who is suffering from PTSD or has the symptoms encourage them to seek assistance.

June will be another busy month and I hope everyone has a chance to get out and enjoy the summer.

For God and Country



ALR Director's Notes By Bobby Dunno



Let's hope that the rest of you lovers of the wind breaking past your windscreen and handlebars have scratched that itch that was driving us nuts this past April. Me I have got plenty of riding in what I think we need to do next is ride together

With the arrival of June, we have business picking up with the Department of Alaska Legion Riders. First, we have the ROMP. Scheduled for 21-23 June, in Palmer at Post 15. We have the Registration forms available just give Bobby a call. The week after the ROMP our attention will turn to Homer and Chapter 16's Director Brad Phelps. If you



have not heard Brad has been invited to participate in the annual *Hoka Hey Motorcycle Challenge*. If you are wondering what the "Hoka Hey" is, it's a long-distance motorcycle challenge that takes place in August. The challenge is the rally from Key West Florida to the Homer Spit here at home. Brad has been fundraising to pay for the requirements of the trip, such as fuel, oil and tires. He is also seeking to use the event as a fundraiser for the Last Frontier Honor Flight with a goal of raising \$25,000 dollars to be donated to the LFHF. So, on the 29th he is hosting a Fish & Chips dinner at the Anchor Point VFW along with a Poker Run accompanied by other fun activities and rides as a means of furthering his fundraising goal. I intend to be at both events if y'all want to do some miles, come ride along. Going to pile up some miles in a saddle those two weeks.

On our local scope we have our meeting on the 6th of June (D-Day) at 5:30 pm. Followed by our **Second Saturday Breakfast will be 8th June this month**. For those out there asking what "our Second Saturday Breakfast" is. Our

American Legion Rider Chapter now prepares Pancakes, Biscuits and Gravy along with bacon or sausage from 9-11 am on the second Saturday of the month. We have been at it for a few



months and been having a good time doing it. We are also attempting to start a ride your bike to breakfast so we can all ride for ice cream or seek another dessert after breakfast is secure.

If you have a motorcycle and want to find out what the American Legion Riders are about show up on the second Saturday about 11 am. I need to talk about the 4^{th} of July

since our meeting in July has been rescheduled for the 11^{th} of July as no one wants to attend a meeting on the 4^{th} . Let's hope that this year's weather will be better, and we will have more than a single bike in the parade.



Also happening in July is the **Salute to Vets on the** schedule for 19-21 July. The ALRA favorite event is hosted by the Southern Peninsula ABATE (and members of Chapter 20) and well attended by many American Legion members. Saturday is always free for Veterans to attend and enjoy the festivities and events.



And, we still have not managed to get out there for a ride together. So, I suggest that the next sunny and warm day expect a phone call because we need to....

Get on Our Bikes and Ride!

How Do People Observe Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder Awareness Day?

Why are Coins Left on Veterans' Gravestones

After this Memorial Day as we were clearing the cemetery of the crosses, poppies and flags I recalled an old tradition that some may not know about. If you ever visit a veteran's grave you may see coins on the gravestone. A coin left on the headstone is a message to the deceased veteran's family that someone has visited their grave and paid their respects and to show that someone has visited the grave site to let them know that they are not forgotten and are still cared for. Each coin left on the top of the headstone for the veteran has its own meaning.

- A penny left on the gravestone means the gravesite was visited.
- A nickel left on the gravestone means that the person visiting the grave trained at boot camp with the deceased veteran.
- A dime left on the gravestone means the person served with them while in the military.
- A quarter left on the gravestone means the person who left the coin was with the veteran when they were killed.

The money placed on the gravestones is collected and put toward cemetery maintenance and for future burial costs.



June is PTSD Awareness Month

Info excerpts from militarybenefits.info

PTSD Awareness Day is observed every year on June 27^{th.} PTSD stands for Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder and is a condition that many veterans and non-veterans alike suffer. PTSD can occur when someone experiences or witnesses a traumatic event. This condition wasn't always understood properly by the medical or military community, and Department of Defense press releases often point to earlier attempts to identify PTSD symptoms in the wake of service in World War 2, Vietnam, and other conflicts.

Much of what is done to observe PTSD Awareness Day involves encouraging open talk about PTSD, its' causes, symptoms, and most important of all, getting help for the condition. PTSD is, even in modern times, often misunderstood by those with no firsthand experience with the condition or those who suffer from it. PTSD Awareness Day is designed to help change that.

"Shell shock" and "combat shock" were earlier attempts to define and understand the symptoms of PTSD. Post-traumatic Stress Disorder was often stigmatized in popular culture after the Vietnam



conflict, and many films and television shows featured antagonists or unsympathetic characters suffering from "Vietnam flashbacks" or other issues.

The misunderstanding of PTSD slowly began to change in 1980 when it was recognized as a specific condition with identifiable symptoms. As a result, since that time, Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder is listed in the American Psychiatric Association's Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (DSM). This manual is a diagnostic tool for mental health professionals and paraprofessional workers in the healthcare field and is considered a definitive reference. The addition of PTSD to the DSM was a highly significant development.



JUNE IS PTSD AWARENESS MONTH

The Department of Defense publishes circulars, articles, and other materials to help educate and inform military members and their families about the condition. The VA official site has several pages dedicated to PTSD, and when military members retiring or separating from the service fill out VA claim forms for serviceconnected injuries, illnesses, or disabilities, there is an option to be evaluated for PTSD as a part of the VA claims process.

Today, the symptoms of Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder are better understood, treatable, and recognized by the VA as a service-connected condition. PTSD is not exclusive to veterans or currently serving members of the United States military, but a portion of those who serve are definitely at risk for PTSD.

Seward Post 5 Newsletter

United States Army Birthday

By John R. Maass, Historian US Army Center of Military History

America's Revolutionary War began on 19 April 1775 with exchanges of musketry between British regulars and Massachusetts militiamen at Lexington and Concord. As their fellow citizen soldiers from New Hampshire,



Connecticut and Rhode Island responded to the alarm, a state of war existed between the four colonies and the British government. Called the Army of Observation, a force of New Englanders surrounded Boston and had the British troops who occupied it under siege, but they needed help. They appealed to delegates who represented all thirteen colonies to join them in the struggle for American liberty.



When the delegates to the Second Continental Congress convened in Philadelphia on 10 May, they soon learned that armed men commanded by Ethan Allen and Benedict Arnold had captured the British forts at Ticonderoga and Crown Point on Lake Champlain in New York. The constitutional crisis, in which Americans

sought a redress of grievances from the British King and Parliament, had become open hostilities. The delegates realized that even though many desired reconciliation, they would now have to address the new military situation. The Congress took the next step that eventually transformed a local rebellion into a war for independence when it established the Continental Army: the force we know today as the U.S. Army.

On 14 June 1775, Congress "Resolved, That six companies of expert riflemen, be immediately raised in Pennsylvania, two in Maryland, and two in Virginia... [and] as soon as completed, shall march and join the army near Boston, to be there employed as light infantry, under the command of the chief Officer in that army."



The delegates then prescribed an oath of enlistment that required the soldiers to swear:

"I have, this day, voluntarily enlisted myself, as a soldier, in the American Continental Army, for one year, unless sooner discharged: And I do bind myself to conform, in all instances, to such rules and regulations, as are, or shall be, established for the government of the said. Army."

The next day Congress voted to appoint George Washington "to command all the Continental Forces" and began laying the foundation for "the American Army."



With words that sound hauntingly familiar two hundred forty-five years later, "The delegates of the United Colonies ... reposing special trust and confidence in the patriotism, valor, conduct, and fidelity" of George Washington, issued its first commission by appointing him "General and Commander in chief of the Army of the United Colonies, and of all the forces now raised, or to be raised by them, and of all others who shall voluntarily offer their services, and join the Defense of American liberty, and for repelling every hostile invasion..."



Flag Day Celebrated June 14, 1777

Flag Day! On May 30, 1916, President Woodrow Wilson issued a presidential proclamation establishing a national Flag Day on June 14th. Many Americans celebrate Flag Day by displaying the Red, White and Blue in front of homes and businesses. The day commemorates the adoption of the Stars and Stripes as the official flag of the United States.

According to American legend, in June 1776, George Washington commissioned Betsy Ross, a Philadelphia seamstress, to create a flag for the new nation in anticipation of a declaration of its independence.





On June 14, 1777, John Adams spoke about the flag at a meeting of the Continental Congress in Philadelphia. He said, "Resolved, that the flag of the thirteen United States shall be thirteen stripes, alternate red and white; that the Union be thirteen stars, white on a blue field, representing a new

constellation." There have been twenty-seven official versions of the flag so far; stars have been added to it as states have entered the Union. The current version dates to July 4, 1960, when Hawaii became the 50th state.

Many Americans sing, pledge, and pay respect to the flag, "Old Glory," as a symbol of the country's democracy and independence. Saluting the flag is a way to celebrate and honor the United States of America.



The History of Flag Day

The Fourth of July was traditionally celebrated as America's birthday, but the idea of an annual day specifically celebrating the Flag is believed to have first originated in 1885. BJ Cigrand, a schoolteacher, arranged



for the pupils in the Fredonia, Wisconsin Public School, District 6, to observe June 14 (the 108th anniversary of the official adoption of The Stars and Stripes) as 'Flag Birthday'. In numerous magazines and newspaper articles and public

addresses over the following years, Cigrand continued to enthusiastically advocate the observance of June 14th as 'Flag Birthday', or 'Flag Day'.



On June 14, 1889, George Balch, a kindergarten teacher in New York City, planned appropriate ceremonies for the children of his school, and his idea of observing Flag Day was later adopted by the State Board of Education of New York. On June 14, 1891, the Betsy Ross House in Philadelphia held a Flag Day celebration, and on June 14th of the following year, the New York Society of the Sons of the Revolution, celebrated Flag Day.

Following the suggestion of Colonel J Granville Leach (at the time historian of the Pennsylvania Society of the Sons of the Revolution), the Pennsylvania Society of Colonial Dames of America on April 25, 1893 adopted a resolution requesting the mayor of Philadelphia and all others in authority and all private citizens to display the Flag on June 14th. Leach went on to recommend that thereafter the day be known as 'Flag Day', and on that day, school children be assembled for appropriate exercises, with each child being given a small Flag.



Two weeks later on May 8th, the Board of Managers of the Pennsylvania Society of Sons of the Revolution unanimously endorsed the action of the Pennsylvania Society of Colonial Dames. As a result of the resolution, Dr. Edward Brooks, then Superintendent of Public Schools of Philadelphia, directed that Flag Day exercises be held on June 14, 1893 in Independence Square. School children were assembled, each carrying a small Flag, and patriotic songs were sung and addresses delivered.

In 1894, the governor of New York directed that on June 14 the Flag be displayed on all public buildings. With BJ Cigrand and Leroy Van Horn as the moving

spirits, the Illinois organization, known as the American Flag Day Association, was organized for the purpose of promoting the holding of Flag Day exercises. On June 14th,

American Flag Day Association

1894, under the auspices of this association, the first general public school children's celebration of Flag Day in Chicago was held in Douglas, Garfield, Humboldt, Lincoln, and Washington Parks, with more than 300,000 children participating.

Inspired by these three decades of state and local celebrations, Flag Day - the anniversary of the Flag Resolution of 1777 - was officially *established* by the Proclamation of

President Woodrow Wilson on May 30th, 1916. While Flag Day was celebrated in various communities for years after Wilson's proclamation, it was not until August 3rd, 1949,



that President Truman signed an Act of Congress designating June 14th of each year as National Flag Day.

On June 14, 2004, 108th U.S. Congress unanimously voted on H.R. 662 declaring Flag Day originated in Waubeka, Ozaukee County, Wisconsin.



Now, Stony Hill School is a historical site and is located in Waubeka, WI, and the National Flag Day Foundation (of which Cigrand was once president) is still actively pursuing Cigrand's mission. A yearly

celebration of Flag Day occurs on the second Sunday in June, and patriots of not only Waubeka, WI but from across the Union gather to celebrate where Flag Day was founded.



Seward, Post 5 Newsletter

Since not everyone can get to Facebook, I thought I would add a few select photos of the events and our great volunteers for the past month's activities. We have some great volunteers in our Seward Post 5 American Legion Family...

Thanks to all who attended and participated in all our May events!

Bike Blessing, Harbor Opening, Armed Forces Day & Cemetery Prep



Combat Fishing





Memorial Day





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June 2024						
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	,					1
		Flag Day!				
2	Chili Dogs	<mark>Mexican Martes</mark> 4	5	B,B,M&C 6 ALR Meeting	<mark>Steak Night</mark> 7	8 ALR
Luscious Leftovers	BINGOIIII 6:30PM			5:30 pm		Breakfast 9-11am
9		Mexican Martes 11	12		Steak Night 14	15
LEFTOVERS Luscious Leftovers	Chili Dogs BINGOIII 6:30PM	Post Meeting 5:30pm	Auxiliary Meeting 6:00pm	SAL Meeting 7:00pm	Flag Retirement Ceremony 12:00pm US Army Birthday	
16		<mark>Mexican Martes</mark> 18	19		<mark>Steak Night</mark> 21	22
Father's Day Breakfast 9-11 HAPPY FATHER'S DAY Luscious Leftovers				Summer Solstice "Summer" Begins		
23/30 Luscious Leftovers	24 Chili Dogs	Mexican Martes 25	26	<mark>B,B,M&C</mark> 27 PTSD	<mark>Steak Night</mark> 28	29
LEFTOVERS	BINGOIII 6:30PM			Awareness Day		
Hgppy Flag Day	Food d	Served Ev	ery Nigh	ht at the F	∕ost‼!	Hgppy Hgg Dgy