



# For God and Country

## Seward Post 5 Newsletter

October 2020  
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### COMMANDER'S COMMENTS

By Clare Sullivan



Here we are already in the cooler weather! Wow! What a Summer or non-Summer we had with all the limitations of the pandemic. We hardly felt like it was the normal bustling and fun-filled season. We did have some folks come to town that braved heading out of their states and homes. We also had the opportunity to see more of our members who otherwise would be eyeball deep in the tourist season but had their businesses slow by the lack of visitors. We all feel badly for them for the loss of summer business but grateful they made it to the post to share time with others and have a good meal or two.

Our nightly free meals were a help for many who were having a tough time making ends meet. We're still offering a nightly meal in our "social area" and offer it as a "to go" meal for those who would prefer limited contact with others as well as for those who could use a warm dinner as we all continue to deal with the economic consequences of the pandemic.

I'm sure those of you in town have seen the "termination dust" dusting Mount Alice. A sure sign that we're heading headlong into the chillier weather!



I was a bit worried that autumn blew by us when we had all the termination dust creeping down the mountain. Fortunately, it isn't running down the mountain and we're able to still enjoy the Fall foliage. It really is spectacular here during this time of year!



With the cooler weather we also get back into our Winter projects and some of fundraising events. We also have our Early Bird Dinner on October 10<sup>th</sup>, Veterans' Day is right

around the corner, followed by Thanksgiving to get us going into the Holiday Spirit. The Auxiliary will also be working toward hosting Santa and Mrs. Claus in early December when they come to town and then give out gifts to all the kids who come and brave the elements to meet Santa, Mrs. Claus and an elf or two! 😊



The post will also be starting to get the packages organized for our yearly "Operation Apple Pie" where we send out gift and care packages to our young service men and women from Seward who are serving their country and who are away from home. We like to let them know we're thinking of them and want to send them a reminder that we appreciate what they are doing for this great country. And, of course send them some fun goodies that remind them of friends and family right here in Seward. If you know of any Seward men or women who are in the military and you think they could use a gift package, let us know, we'll get them something nice that will be comforting and remind them of home.

September was a busy month - as it seems most of our months are busy, and I'd be remiss if I didn't thank everyone who volunteered their time in helping around the post to make this a community center for veterans and their families, and a place not only to come and have fun but a place to turn to in times of need. We couldn't do any of these activities for our members or the community without your selfless dedication and hard work. With that in mind, I want to acknowledge the continued dedication of the folks who help around the post daily to include our nightly meals, and our regularly scheduled events including the Auxiliary's Bingo, as well as celebrations of our patriotic holidays throughout the year, and those impromptu and unscheduled events where we really need the help of members to get things going. I am thrilled that you all "rise to the occasion" and make it happen! Because of you, we continue to be a success Post!



Come on by the Post, we always have something going on and we always welcome folks coming in with ideas for functions, activities or just coming by and saying hi! We're a members' organization, and as such, the members provide the direction in our mission of support to our veterans and the community. I hope to see more people stopping by now that we're easing into Fall. And hopefully, we're on the downslide from the pandemic and we can slowly and safely resume a life that preceded the middle of March!

## From the President's Desk

By Debbie VanTassel

Fall is definitely in the air- and the fall rains have certainly been with us for a couple weeks now. When the clouds clear it is easy to see the termination dust on Mt. Alice and other peaks in the area. This all means one thing- winter is not far behind. As winter comes upon us, we need to all remember to watch out for our neighbors, friends and others in the community who might need some assistance. This has certainly been a tough year for many folks in the community in many ways- financially and emotionally.

In September the Unit applied for and received some of the CARES Act funding for non-profits. These monies will help the Unit continue to provide many of the services it does for the community.

Congratulations to Unit 5!  
We reached the 100% goal for membership for 2020!  
Now we are working on the 2021 membership year.  
National has sent out renewal notices so please renew early- especially since the



Early Bird Dinner will be held Oct 10 at the Post. It is always a great dinner and great way to Thank members for renewing their membership early.

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome all the new members we have added to our roster. Thank you for joining.

A Notice on membership- dues for the Auxiliary will increase to \$40.00 for the 2022 membership year for members over 18 and \$10.00 for Junior members. General membership meeting is held the second Wednesday of every month at 6 PM.

As we move into winter, keep in mind if you are looking for some fun exciting way to get out of the house-we have BINGO every Monday night! Doors open at 6 PM and games start at 6:30. Thank you to Sharon, Michelle and Joanne for helping keep the games going.



**Third Sunday Breakfast will be on Oct 18**, come on down for a hearty breakfast and a chance to visit with other members.

## A Few Important Dates to Remember in October

**October 13** - Navy Birthday

**Oct 26** - National Day of the Deployed - A day to recognize the sacrifices made by all of our service personnel who are deployed and the sacrifices made by their families.

**Looking ahead- November is the month of the Military Family-** A month to honor and celebrate the contributions and sacrifices the families of the U.S. Armed Forces make for this country.

Also, in November a huge day for the American Legion Auxiliary- on November 10, 1919 the American Legion Auxiliary was officially formed so we will be celebrating our 101st Anniversary! Again, a huge thank you to all our volunteers and members who contribute so much to our organization and work to fulfill our mission and objectives.

## *Sounding Off from the Sons....*

By Mike Calhoon



Greetings from the SAL First Vice Commander.

Thanks and appreciation goes out to all Squadron 5 members for their support of the Post 5 Family. You continue to show the mission of the SAL is alive and well at Post 5. Whether supporting the Post functions and activities, visiting the Social Area, helping at the cemetery or around the Post, you help our Post 5 family support our veterans and the community of Seward. Thank You!!



This month the Post will have the Pioneers of Alaska Igloo #9 monthly meeting on Oct 3<sup>rd</sup>, the Early Bird Dinner on Oct 10<sup>th</sup>, the community breakfast on Oct 18<sup>th</sup>, and Halloween on the 31<sup>st</sup>. Volunteers are always welcome to help out so let us know if you would like to lend a hand.

The new membership year is here, and the new SAL cards are in. Remember the dues are \$35.00 this year. Membership is foundation for all the SAL programs so please consider renewing your dues if you have not done so.



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 when possible.

## News from the Road...

By Chapter 5 Director Bobby Dunno

It seems that every year we reach the point where we look back and cannot believe that summer is coming to a close, for those of us who enjoy feeling the wind brushing past our legs and pushing against our chest as it rolls off the handlebars we will be trying to squeeze a few more miles in on our bikes before October and winter shuts us down again till Spring. I for one am a little depressed at the prospect of putting the ride up for the next few months.

I suppose the fact that we were operating in the "summer of COVID" has something to do with poor attitude and the itch that seemingly never went away regardless of how much I rode this summer. And I did ride this summer making several rode trips usually alone or with my wonderful wife and had a great time. But again, the ALR as a whole did not do near as much as we usually do since most of the events we normally ride in were canceled or limited in scope. We did have the ROMP and attended the Salute to Vets hosted by the Southern Peninsula ABATE in what turned out to be one of the highlights of my summer. I believe what I am most proud of was the turn out from not just those ALR members of Post 5 but in the ALRA as a whole when we mustered more than 20 bikes to proudly show Our Nations Flag in a ride around Seward on the 4<sup>th</sup> of July, with all the usual events in Seward canceled due to the virus.



The fact that so many showed up to help present the Flag in a manner that showed respect and no fear of the surrounding environment still fills my heart with pride and hope for our country and communities in it. Chapter 5 got together again and showed The Flag again on Patriots day on September 11 which I believe will need to become another regular scheduled event on post 5's calendar!

I know we did not accumulate the normal amount of miles we would normally. But I hope the upcoming winter season finds everyone involved on the maintenance projects they need to get done on their bikes making them dependable and safe for next summer. Make a list of stuff that needs to be addressed, buy the parts and get those brakes done, tires changed, throw in that new set of plugs, clutch and brake cables get lubed and leaks fixed. Include all the other things that bugged you about your bike's ride over the last few weeks. If you are like me, you are already talking about

what cool items for the bikes we are buying ourselves or asking the spouse to get us for Christmas! Get that list taken care of, because next year if our prayers are answered we will not have to deal with COVID. Events will be planned and scheduled and we will all get together and Get On Our Bikes and Ride!

## Seward Post 5 Coins Are Back In!!!!



With Emblem Sales closed during the Pandemic we ran out of coins and were unable to order more, and we've got them back now!

Get yours today, each donation helps us in programs helping our veterans and our community!



## Tango Alpha Lima features Texas Boys

### State documentary

From [legion.org](http://legion.org)

One of the filmmakers and a lead subject from The American Legion Texas Boys State documentary share their experiences in this week's [Tango Alpha Lima podcast](#). (←please click for podcast)



Jesse Moss was one of the producers of the film, which won the Grand Jury Prize at January's Sundance Film Festival, and is now available for viewing on Apple TV+. It was filmed during the 2018 Texas Boys State session.

Con't next page

## House and Vice Report.....

By Mike Calhoon



Hello from the Second Vice,

I want to thank all the members of the Legion Post 5 family who have continued to support our Post and Club activities through these somewhat trying times. Some have contributed through visiting the Post for dinner and beverages and some have contributed through generous donations. You have all been equally important in helping us continue to serve our veterans and the community. Thank you for your dedication and generosity!!

This month the Pioneers of Alaska Igloo #9 will be holding its monthly meeting at the Post on Oct 3<sup>rd</sup>, we will have the members Early Bird Dinner on Oct 10<sup>th</sup>, We will start decorating for Halloween on Oct 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup>, we will have our community breakfast on Oct 18<sup>th</sup>, and of course, Halloween night is on Saturday the 31<sup>st</sup>. Candy will be coming soon!!



As always, our great volunteers make all these things possible. If you have time to help out, let us know and we will put you to work.

The 2021 membership year is in full swing so you can renew online at [mylegion.org](http://mylegion.org), by mail, or in person at the post. Membership is the backbone of our organization and we need to keep that backbone strong to continue to carry the load we do for our veterans and the community of Seward.



We are still serving food every night for dine in or take out. We also have some masks available if anyone needs them.

Thanks to all of you who continue to support your Post and all the activities designed to support our membership, our veterans, and the community. We look forward to seeing you all and please feel free to call if you have any questions or concerns.

**"For God and Country"**

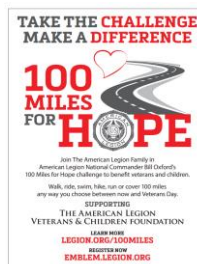
### Con't: Texas Boys State Documentary Podcast

The documentary follows four "statesmen" — including Steven Garza who also appears on the Tango Alpha Lima podcast — through their week-long experience learning about state government.

Host Mark Seavey, who has volunteered during numerous Boys States as a counselor, leads the conversation about how the documentary came together, Garza's experience in front of the camera and how the overall week influenced him. Co-hosts Jeff Daly and Ashley Gorbulja-Maldonado also add to the conversation in this informative podcast highlighting one of The American Legion's longest-running and most prestigious programs. Its alumni include former President Bill Clinton, former Vice President Dick Cheney, former Indiana governor and current Purdue University President Mitch Daniels, basketball legend Michael Jordan and countless other successful Americans.

Download and listen to the new episode of Tango Alpha Lima, or watch the YouTube version, at [www.legion.org/tangoalphalima](http://www.legion.org/tangoalphalima)

To learn more about the Texas Boys State documentary, visit [www.legion.org/boysnation/249605/boys-state-looks-american-politics-thro...](http://www.legion.org/boysnation/249605/boys-state-looks-american-politics-thro...)



We're still "on it" for the 100 Miles for Hope. For those who don't know, this is a virtual 100-mile walk/run/ride challenge which began on Aug 3 and goes through Veterans Day in 2020. It's a way to invigorate donations for the Veterans & Children Foundation (V&CF), as well

as encourage American Legion Family members to be active in this time of social distancing.

The V&CF serves two primary functions. It provides critical grants for military and veteran parents in unexpected financial crises, and support for service officers in their tireless efforts to obtain care, benefits and opportunities for disabled veterans and families.

After completing the 100 miles, each participant in our American Legion Family will receive a Certificate of Accomplishment for his/her efforts! We'll even send a spiffy photo up to National to show what we've been up to! 😊 We even have a few hard charging folks who have already finished their 100! Way to go!

# Operation Urgent Fury

25 October 1983

In 1983 the United States invaded the island of Grenada and overthrew the communist government in favor of a pro-Western one in a span of less than two months. Problems between the US and the Caribbean nation began in 1979 (while the Cold War was still in effect) when a bloodless coup placed the pro-Marxist Maurice Bishop as the Prime Minister, which led to strengthened ties between Grenada and communist nations like Cuba and the Soviet Union.



Bishop was eventually murdered in October of 1983 during a power struggle with hard-liners in his own movement, creating a breakdown in civil order that threatened the lives of American medical students who were living on the island. In response, and at the request of allied Caribbean nations, the US launched "Operation Urgent Fury," sending the Marines to the north of the island and Army Rangers to the south.



U. S. Army Blackhawk helicopters on Grenada

During the fighting, the US suffered from lack of sufficient intelligence data, which made it difficult to find the medical students who needed to be rescued. The Grenadian Army and its Cuban allies also offered greater resistance than the Americans expected.

## CAUSES OF CONFLICT:

The U.S. invasion of Grenada and the toppling of its Marxist government can be seen as part of a greater regional conflict. This conflict involved the U.S. and its Central American and Caribbean allies on one side and Fidel Castro's Cuba, the Sandinista government of Nicaragua and various Marxist guerrilla armies on the other. President Reagan and his administration were concerned that the Marxist government of Prime Minister Maurice Bishop was allowing Cuba to gain undue influence in Grenada, specifically by constructing a military grade airport with Cuban military engineers.

On October 13, 1983, the Grenadian Army, controlled by former Deputy Prime Minister Bernard Coard, seized power in a bloody coup. The severity of the violence, coupled with Coard's hard-line Marxism, caused deep concern among neighboring Caribbean nations, as well as in Washington, D.C. Also, the presence of nearly 1,000 American medical students in Grenada caused added concern.

However, along with concern came opportunity. With President Reagan's worldwide efforts to confront what he viewed as the threat by the Soviet Union and other Communist countries (such as Cuba), the turmoil in the Caribbean provided a timely excuse to eliminate a Marxist government and give Fidel Castro a black eye.

It should also be noted just a few days earlier on **October 23, 1983, American foreign policy and pride suffered a terrible shock when a Muslim suicide bomber destroyed the Marine barracks in Beirut, killing 240 U.S. Marines.** A successful campaign in Grenada would prove helpful in alleviating the pain of that setback.



Despite the difficulties, the Americans were able to take the island by mid-December. An Interim Advisory Council was established and it governed Grenada until December 1984, when Herbert A. Blaize, the head of the New National Party, was made Prime Minister through parliamentary elections.

## CONSEQUENCES OF CONFLICT:

The Marxist, pro-Cuban governments of Bishop and Coard were eliminated and a regime friendly to American interests took over.

The Reagan Administration proved willing to use force to combat what it considered hostile governments in the area.

America's European allies expressed disapproval of the unilateral invasion of Grenada.

The invasion sent a message to Cuba and Nicaragua that they could only go so far in exporting revolution in Central America and the Caribbean without provoking an American military response.

As a result of the Cuban defeat in Grenada, Colonel Pedro Tortolo, who was the commander of Cuban military personnel on Grenada when the U.S. forces invaded, was court-martialed and sent to Angola as a private, along with most of his Grenada command.

## Operation Enduring Freedom

Oct. 7, 2012 was designated as **Operation Enduring Freedom Veterans Day** by the US Senate. The bill was introduced by Connecticut Senator Richard Blumenthal, Wyoming Senator Mike Enzi, New Hampshire Senator Kelly Ayotte, and Alaska Senator Mark Begich.

The bill began when U.S. Marine Corps Lance Cpl. Andrew Koenig of Wyoming contacted Enzi, saying he wanted that day to honor the men and women still serving in Afghanistan.

"A grateful nation thanks the heroes of Operation Enduring Freedom for their bravery, service, and sacrifice and that of their families," said Blumenthal in a press release. "This resolution honors the brave men and women who served in Operation Enduring Freedom for stepping forward when their country needed them and achieving the mighty task that is the namesake of their mission."

"We can't forget that our men and women in uniform are still fighting for our freedom," said Enzi in the statement. "This day recognizes the sacrifices of our Afghanistan veterans and their loved ones. It is a thank you from America for all of their service."

"This resolution affirms our deep gratitude to the thousands of American service members who have served in Afghanistan. They have carried out their missions with courage, perseverance, and skill," said Ayotte, a member of the Senate Armed Services Committee, in the release. "We must never forget their sacrifices - nor the sacrifices of their loved ones - in answering the call of duty. I join Americans in thanking our military men and women for their brave service and dedication to advancing the cause of freedom."

"October 7, 2001 marked the beginning of the end for insurgent forces in Afghanistan intent on terrorist activities both there and abroad," said Begich in the release. "This resolution honors those dedicated men and women who have fought and sacrificed so that others may realize a life of freedom and democracy."

Oct. 7<sup>th</sup> will mark 18 years since the Global War on Terrorism began in this region. Over 1.9 million American military members have served in the war, and 2,351 have given their lives.



## Beirut Barracks Bombing

October 23, 2013 marks the 37th anniversary of the **Beirut bombing**. The Marines in this bombing were sent by President Ronald Reagan in 1982 to Lebanon on a peacekeeping mission in the region.

On October 23, 1983, at 6:22 am, a truck carrying 2000 pounds of explosives drives into the Marine compound in Beirut, Lebanon and crashes into the 1st Battalion, 8th Marine Regimental Battalion Landing Team barracks.

The Beirut mission started out as an effort to stabilize a fragile peace in a war-torn country. Lebanon had been in turmoil since the Palestine Liberation Organization, having been expelled from Jordan, took refuge there in the 1970s. In 1975, a panoply of Christian and Muslim militias, some backed by neighboring powers such as Iran, Syria and Israel, turned what had been a Middle East oasis into a no-man's land of urban warfare.

Israel invaded in 1982, hoping to crush the PLO. In exchange for an Israeli withdrawal, the U.N. sent in a peacekeeping force made up of troops from Great Britain, France, Italy and the United States.



U.S. Peacekeeping forces set up camp at Beirut International Airport, a spot difficult to defend because the airport remained open for business and because warring factions controlled strategic hillsides nearby. It was

generally believed the location was set for political and diplomatic reasons, not necessarily tactically defensible.

The situation fell apart quickly. Militia leaders began to view the United States and its allies as favoring the Christian-led forces of the Lebanese government. Tensions increased as evidenced by a car-bomb attack at the U.S. Embassy in April 1983 that killed 63 people emphasizing the point.


The Marines' departure brought Beirut no peace. The civil war raged for seven more years until a settlement left Syria firmly in control of the country for many years. Yet the peace in this region is never guaranteed with the continual religious and political factions seeking influence and control.



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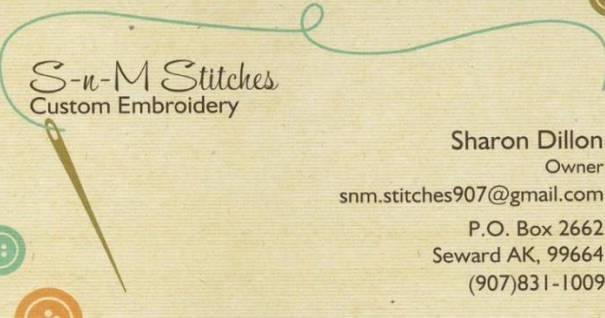
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October 2020

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1 <b>Steak Night</b> 2	3
				<b>ALR Meeting</b> 5:30pm  B, B, M&C		<b>Pioneers of Alaska Meeting</b> 
4	5	<b>Mexican Martes</b> 6	7	8	<b>Steak Night</b> 9	10
<b>Luscious Leftovers</b> 	<b>BINGO 6:30PM</b>  <b>Chili Dogs</b>			<b>SAL Meeting</b> 7pm  B, B, M&C		<b>Early Bird Dinner</b>  Halloween Decorating at the Post 12pm
11	12	<b>Mexican Martes</b> 13	14	15	<b>Steak Night</b> 16	17
<b>Luscious Leftovers</b> 	<b>BINGO!!! 6:30PM</b>  <b>Chili Dogs</b>	<b>Post Meeting</b> 5:30 pm 	<b>Auxiliary Meeting</b> 6pm 	  B, B, M&C		<b>Halloween Decorating at the Post 12pm</b> 
18	19	<b>Mexican Martes</b> 20	21	22	<b>Steak Night</b> 23	24
<b>Luscious Leftovers</b>  <b>3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of the Month Breakfast</b>	<b>BINGO!!!! 6:30PM</b>  <b>Chili Dogs</b>			 B, B, M&C		<b>Halloween Decorating at the Post 12pm</b> 
25	26	<b>Mexican Martes</b> 27	28	29	<b>Steak Night</b> 30	31
<b>Luscious Leftovers</b> 	<b>BINGO!!! 6:30PM</b>  <b>Chili Dogs</b>			 B, B, M&C		<b>HALLOWEEN</b> 



Food Served Every Night at the Post!!!