



For God and Country

Seward Post 5 Newsletter

October 2021
Volume 18, Issue 10

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COMMANDER'S COMMENTS

By Clare Sullivan



We've rolled into a wonderful Fall and cooler weather! Wow! What a busy summer even with all the travel restrictions. We had a great time meeting other veterans from all over the country in our "social area!" We also had the opportunity to see more of our members who otherwise would be elsewhere in the summer. Fortunately, most of our members who survive on summer tourists did great, but I think they are very happy the season is over as it was extremely busy as soon as the weather turned good in the late spring.

We're continuing our nightly free meals for many who are still having a tough time making ends meet. And, offering the meals in our "social area" for our membership and those in need, and offer it as a "to go" meal for those who would still prefer limited contact with others.

I'm sure those of you in town have seen the "termination dust" dusting Mount Alice and Marathon. 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, but it looks like we're still going to have some good Fall before the snow hits. It really is spectacular here during this time of year!



With the cooler weather we also get back into our Winter projects and activities, and we'll continue our fundraising events for our programs. And, to get the Fall activities going we had a really tasty Early Bird Dinner on September 25th

which was yummy Chicken Fried Steaks and "Chicken Fried Chicken." 😊 Thanks for all the hard work Connie and Sharon, and huge kudos for the tasty and beautifully decorated Early Bird cake by Claire Glotfelty!!! We also remembered our POW MIA with an Empty Chair Ceremony (thanks to Post member Bennie Hunt for the black and white roses to add to the ceremony), the City of Seward also produced proclamations for American Legion Day, POW MIA Remembrance Day and Patriot Day.



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.

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!

Big thanks to all our volunteers who have done amazing work before and after this busy season. You are the heart and soul of this place and we so enjoy moving the "mission forward" with you to support our veterans, their families and our community.



From the President's Desk

By Debbie VanTassel



Jack Frost has definitely been in the air the last few days, but we have had some beautiful fall although brisk sunny days. Hope everyone had a good summer and ready for winter. This is a good time to remind everyone to keep an eye out for our neighbors and provide a helping hand where possible - the last 2 years have been rough for a lot of people- financially and emotionally.

September was a busy month for the Post families. Even though the China Post 1 meeting was canceled we still had several of their members visit Post 5 and really enjoyed their visit to Seward. September is always a busy time for membership renewal. National has sent out the renewal notices and we have already had many members renew- those that did enjoyed a delicious Early Bird Dinner on September 25th. If you have not renewed, please do so. Also, when you get your new membership card, please check that your date of service is correct. We have had several issues the last few years that the years of service were not correct. Please notify Debbie if the years of service need to be corrected. For the 2020 and 2021 membership years Unit 5 achieved 100% and would like to achieve that goal again for 2022.



Remember Bingo is every Monday night. Doors open at 6 PM and games start at 6:30 PM. Come on down and help support the Auxiliary. Thanks to all the volunteers that keep the games going! And thank you to the many players who have been coming out to support the Auxiliary and have some fun on Monday nights.



As we move into the winter months, we will be doing many of our usual projects such as the Holiday Food Baskets and the Santa Parade/gift delivery for the community youth. We will be asking for volunteers to help with these projects.

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!

November 10th is also the United States Marine Corp Birthday

November 11th is Veterans Day. Veterans Day annually falls on November 11th. This day is the anniversary of the signing of the armistice, which ended the World War 1 hostilities between the Allied Nations and Germany in 1918. Veterans are thanked for their services to the United States on Veterans Day.

Hope everyone can enjoy these last nice days of fall.

For God and Country

Sounding Off from the Sons.... By Mike Calhoon



Greetings from the SAL First Vice Commander.

Fall has taken hold in Seward and the termination dust is on the mountains; so, winter is knocking on the door. Let's not let it in just yet. I want to thank the Squadron members who continue to support the Post 5 Family and all the activities offered to the membership and the community.

This month the Post is holding a raffle for a Semi-Automatic 12 gauge shotgun with a 20 round drum magazine. This is a great prize for home defense.



Drawing will be on October 9th at the Post.

The Post will have the **Community Breakfast on October 17th** and will start decorating for Halloween soon.



The 2022 Membership year has begun and the new cards are available. Thank you to all those that have already renewed their memberships and please consider renewing soon if you have not already done so. Remember the dues are \$35.00 this year. Membership is foundation for all the SAL programs.

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 was a sad September for some of us Riders. Why was it sad? Because all Bobby's bikes were out of commission for one reason or another, leaving only Dave and Terry with operational equipment. Yea I was just a bit jealous! That being said the riding season in Alaska is rapidly coming to a close as we are already seeing snow accumulate in the Turnagain Pass, making a bike ride from the Peninsula a very cold and sketchy proposition.

For the most part looking back on the summer riding season we did have some great times. With the ROMP to Fairbanks and "Salute to Vets" in Sterling being the highlight of our year. Parades we participated in had the people of Seward gather together and enjoying themselves despite the COVID issues we all have to deal with. We also said goodbye to a few Legion Riders most notable for those of us at Post 5 was the



passing of Don Sutherland. A bright spot in that Rick and April now own that beautiful red sidecar so we will still see it cruising around Seward and sometimes displaying our Nation's Flag for parades and other patriotic events.

I for one am looking forward to the upcoming winter season, because I have lots of work to do repairing bikes in preparation for next spring. The only thing better than riding bikes is getting to work on them ☺. So, I hope the off-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! 😊 I will be setting a goal of getting my trike complete it has been a long time coming so wish me luck! So, get that list taken care of, because next spring will get here, and it will once more be time to *Get On Our Bikes and Ride!*

For God and Country

House and Vice Report.....

By Mike Calhoon



Summer has faded and Fall has truly taken hold. As everyone begins to prepare for winter remember to be safe enjoy the end of a busy summer season.

I want to thank all our members for supporting the Post and Club through this busy time. You are all awesome and many visiting members and guests have commented on how they have enjoyed their visit to Post 5 and how friendly everyone has been to them. Thank You All!!!

All our volunteers have really stepped up and shown what the Legion family is all about by donating their time and effort in furthering the mission of Post 5. Would like to than Scott and Jackie Wilde for mowing and weed whacking around the Post. Also, big thanks to Debbie VanTassel and Scott Wilde for helping with the last mowing at the Cemetery. Thanks also to Sharon, Michelle, James, and Connie for tending the bar and prepping dinners. Connie also spearheaded a great job of cleaning the kitchen and bar area.



This month the Post will start our "For Members Only" Pool League on October 2nd and will have our community breakfast on October 17th. Halloween decorating will start soon and we will let you know when that happens.

The next gun raffle is underway. It is for a Semi-Auto 12ga shotgun with a 20 round drum magazine. Tickets are \$20.00 with 120 to be sold and the drawing will be held on October 9th at 7:00pm.

The 2022 Membership year has begun, and you can renew online at mylegion.org, by mail, or in person at the post. Membership is the backbone of your 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.

**JOIN OR
RENEW
TODAY**

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



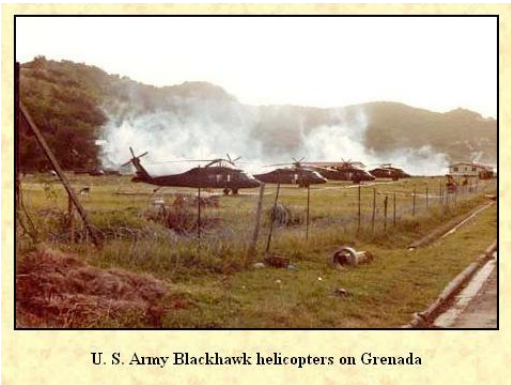
Operation Urgent Fury

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. 7th 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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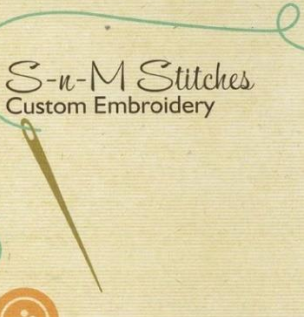
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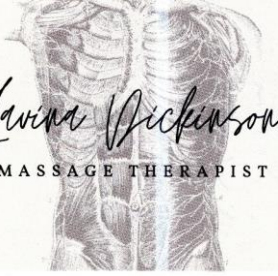
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October 2021

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					Steak Night 1	2
						Pool League 7:00 pm
3	4	Mexican Martes 5	6	7	Steak Night 8	9
Luscious Leftovers 	BINGO 6:30PM BINGO! Chili Dogs			 ALR Meeting 5:30pm B, B, M&C		Halloween Decorating at the Post 12pm Pool League 7:00 pm
10	11	Mexican Martes 12	13	14	Steak Night 15	16
Luscious Leftovers 	BINGO!!! 6:30PM Bingo! Chili Dogs	Post Meeting 5:30 pm 	Auxiliary Meeting 6pm 	SAL Meeting 7pm 		Halloween Decorating at the Post 12pm Pool League 7:00 pm
17	18	Mexican Martes 19	20	21	Steak Night 22	23
Luscious Leftovers 3 rd Sunday of the Month Breakfast	BINGO!!!! 6:30PM Chili Dogs			 B, B, M&C		Halloween Decorating at the Post 12pm Pool League 7:00 pm
24	25	Mexican Martes 26	27	28	Steak Night 29	30
Luscious Leftovers 	BINGO!!! 6:30PM BINGO! Chili Dogs			 B, B, M&C		Pool League 7:00 pm
Halloween 31 						

Food Served Every Night at the Post