

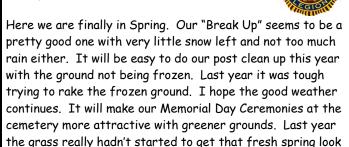
For God and Country Seward Post 5 Newsletter

May 2014 Volume 11, Issue 05

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COMMANDER'S COMMENTS By Clare Sullivan



As we head toward the better weather I reflect on our previous winter months and I want to thank all who came out to support our activities at the post this winter.

as it was still coming out of the winter dole-drums.



It was a tough winter for the club but we managed to keep things going and that was solely attributed to our "regulars" who came up nightly for a yummy meal and some good

camaraderie. You did great and it was nice to pass the cold winter days and nights with such good company!

April was busy with our celebration of Easter with our "breakfast crew" cooking up some really tasty eggs benedict and French toast. If anyone went away hungry it was their own fault!
We also had fun with our regular activities of poker, pool league and of course the Ladies' weekly Bingo. It was nice having something to pass the long winter nights, and thank you to the folks who consistently were there to make it happen. I know it is time out of your schedule but your efforts kept us going and provided good entertainment and activities for our members. Once again you guys help to define us as a reliable and service oriented organization.

We also had the good fortune of the return of the USCGC

Mustang. The crew and boat were down in Ketchikan for several weeks getting some needed work on the boat. It is great to have everyone back! Good timing guys, you're back in time for the



start of our return to the good weather.

The second big item in April was none other than the Department of Alaska 95th Convention at Post 20. It was a very informative and productive convention and I will have my report produced in the next week or so for members' review. During this convention all posts, units and squadrons are recognized for their achievements and Post #5 did exceptionally well. We walked away with quite a few awards and of particular note was our own Mike Calhoon getting the Recruiter of the Year Award, Joanne Frey received the Teacher of the Year Award and yours truly got the Commander of the Year Award! Collectively, we

received the Certificate of Distinguished
Service from the National Americanism
Commission for the Department of Alaska!
This is a particularly honorable award as it is the recognition of a singular post in the state that conducts the most outstanding
Americanism and Community Service
activities in the past year. Good going Post 5!



I also want to give a huge shout out to Post 16 for winning the Unity Award for the Department. It was tough competition for this one and they made the cut for excellence. It is a great award representing how all organizations at the post work together in service to veterans and the community. I know what we did this past year at the Post 5 and "we rock," so Post 16 must have accomplished miracles! Congrats Post 16 for all your efforts!

Now we're into May and it will be a busy month! We'll be prepping

and serving Mother's Day Breakfast on 11 May to honor our Moms. We will also be celebrating Armed Forces Day on 17 May down in the Harbor with the Chamber of Commerce. We'll cook up hot dogs, beans, potato salad, etc., so come on down for a free lunch and enjoy a little camaraderie. Toward the end of the

month we will be busy with the Armed Services YMCA Combat Fishing Tournament on 22 May. We will be partnering with the



Armed Services YMCA, the Fishing Charter Boat Association in Seward, and other local businesses to give a hero's welcome and good time fishing for those military members from JBER who have participated in recent conflicts

throughout the world, particularly in Iraq and more recently in Afghanistan. These young heroes will enjoy a fun day of fishing and some good eats at the cruise ship terminal after they have taken in their haul of fish and spent a great day on Resurrection Bay!

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Following all the earlier activities, we'll be rolling into the end of the month and we will be remembering those servicemen and women who have passed before us on **Memorial Day** at our traditional locations at

the American Legion Cemetery and at the Waterfront Monument at the end of town. We'll have the ceremonies beginning at 1100 hrs at the American Legion Cemetery followed by a smaller one at the waterfront monument. Once the ceremonies are over we will be having lunch at the post for all in attendance. It will be another day that we can honor our comrades who have answered the final call and still share a good meal with those who remain.



Other than participating in good camaraderie and having tasty meals at the convention, we benefitted by receiving information on programs and participating in a variety of committees that move the American Legion in Alaska forward. Of particular note was the information on Boys' and Girls' State and the Oratorical Contest Programs.

Boys State is a program geared for boys between 11th and 12th grade. The purpose of this program is to develop leadership skills and citizenship interest. Boys State a long existing



American Legion Program beginning in 1937; it is held in June for a week in each state. Boys participate in and function as governmental entities. This helps them learn about government and its process. Participants are first divided up into subgroups referred to as cities. The citizens of each of these cities elect mock municipal officials and representatives to the mock state legislature. The participants also elect state officials, such as governor, lieutenant governor, and other state-level officials that their real state has. The legislature meets to organize, elect leaders, and to pass bills, in a way that is similar to how their actual legislature operates. Depending upon how it is organized some programs tend to have a more traditional education focus, providing speakers and training throughout the week and then concluding with mock political functions. Other programs take a more hands-on approach by running the mock government activities all week.

Boys State is staffed by Legion members and community leaders who volunteer their time and effort. Administrative costs are defrayed by the local post. So there is no fee to the student participant. Although recruitment procedures vary, Boys State participants are often selected with the help of high school principals or guidance counselors, however this is not necessary, an interested high school junior can directly contact the post and we can give them more information.

Of note, participants learn quite a bit of information on the government process which is class normally required for those in the pursuit of an undergraduate degree. Important to remember, those who participate generally are first considered for available scholarships. Think about it, this is a win-win program; the participant gets to involve himself in an opportunity that will benefit him in life and educational opportunities as well as positions him for financial support for further schooling.



The American Legion Auxiliary sponsors a separate but similar program for young women called Girls State.

Successful completion of Boys State and Girls State is recognized by employers, service academies and university admissions boards as an indicator of strong leadership and character traits. Many colleges and universities offer scholarships or admission preference to attendees of Boys or Girls State programs.

The Oratorical Contest is a "Constitutional Speech Contest."

The American Legion Oratorical Contest exists to develop deeper knowledge and appreciation for the U.S. Constitution among high school students. The program has presented participants with an academic speaking challenge that teaches important leadership qualities, the history of our nation's laws, the ability to think and speak clearly, and an understanding of the duties, responsibilities, rights and privileges of American citizenship. The program has featured numerous politicians and prominent contestants over the years, including former president candidate Alan Keyes and Fox Business Anchor Lou Dobbs.

The overall national contest winner gets an \$18,000 scholarship. Second place takes home \$16,000, and third gets \$14,000. Each state winner who is certified into and participates in the national contest's first round receives a \$1,500 scholarship. Those who advance past the first round receive an additional \$1,500 scholarship. The American Legion's National Organization awards the scholarships, which can be used at any college or university in the United States.

Speaking subjects must be on some aspect of the U.S. Constitution, with some emphasis on the duties and obligations of citizens to our government. Speeches are eight to 10 minutes long; three- to five-minute speeches on an assigned topic also are part of the contest.

The Oratorical Contest is normally held at the local post in January to compete at the state to move on to the national competition.

House and Vice Report.... By Mike Calhoon



Hello from the 2nd Vice/Club!

I would like to thank everyone who helped with Easter breakfast. It was very well attended and everyone raved about the food! Clare and John from the Post; Connie, Sharon, Kirsten and Debbie from the Auxiliary; Dirk and Ozzie from the SAL. You all did a great job!!

I want to thank Al Dykstra and Eric Nielsen for their work on the roof and flag deck. Hopefully we have solved some of water issues that were present. Also the fine work they did in fixing a leak in the drain from the main club sink. You guys are awesome!

I want to thank David Osborn for his assistance to Tammy Reeve's family with her burial at the legion cemetery. She was buried next to her father Phil Bruce. David Osborn helped the crew properly prepare the gravesite and insure it was taken care of after the burial was completed. Thank you for your continuing work at the cemetery.

Once again, the Post 5 American Legion Family received many awards and accolades at the Legion Convention in Kenai. This is truly a reflection of the great volunteer spirit and dedication of the Post, Auxiliary, SAL, and ALR members. Our accomplishments are always as a family and everyone should be very proud of what a small post in a small community can do on a large scale for our veterans, active duty personnel, and the community. Great job everyone!!

A big Thank You to everyone who has renewed their membership and to the new members this year. Post 5 has reached 100% of the membership goal assigned us by National. Yeah!!!!



This month is always the busiest month of the year for Post 5. We have Mother's Day breakfast, Armed Forces Day hot dog feed, 3rd Sunday breakfast, Combat Fishing tournament, and Memorial Day. We will need lots of volunteers to pull off all of these functions. Please check the calendar and let us know if you can support any of these functions.

Remember, the privilege of membership is not what you can get from the organization but what you can give to the veterans and the community we support.

Thanks to everyone for supporting the Post and the Club. If you have any questions please feel free to contact me at 224-5440/362-2029.

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



Greetings from the SAL First Vice Commander.

April was a relatively quiet month as far as special activities goes but I did want to thank Dirk Spencer and Ozzie Walters for their help with Easter Breakfast. We had a good turnout and the food was, as always, excellent!

I would also like to give a special thanks to Squadron Commander Al Dykstra for his work on the roof and the flag deck. Hopefully we have solved some water issues and we can move to repairs on the inside.

A big thanks goes to David Osborn for overseeing a burial at the Legion Cemetery. His assistance and insight helped the burial go very smoothly and helped the family have closure with the least amount of stress.

With summer approaching I also want to thank Dave Dieckgraeff and METCO for their fine work with keeping our parking lot safe for us this winter. This is always a great benefit to the Post and membership and we should all be thankful for that.

May is always the busiest month at the Post when it comes to special functions and activities. There is a real need for lots of volunteers so if you would like to help or find out more about what the Squadron is doing please feel free to contact me at 224-5440 or 362-2029.

Thank you again for your support and I look forward to seeing you at the post.

Memorial Day



Memorial Day was originally started as an event to honor Union soldiers, who had died during the American Civil War. It was inspired by the way people in the Southern States honored their dead. After World

War I, it was extended to include all men and women, who died in any war or military action.

Memorial Day was originally known as **Decoration Day**. The current name for this day did not come into use until after World War II. Decoration Day and then Memorial Day used to be held on May 30, regardless of the day of the week, on which it fell. In 1968, the Uniform Holidays Bill was passed as part of a move to use federal holidays to create three-day weekends. This meant that that, from 1971, the Memorial Day holiday has been officially observed on the last Monday in May. However, it took a longer period for all American states to recognize the new date. It is traditional to fly the flag of the United States at half- mast from dawn until noon.

Auxiliary Vice Notes....

By Connie Kullander, 2nd Vice

April has flown by us and May is starting off real busy. We have so many things to do and so many events to focus on. Thank you Sharon, Susan, and Kyrsten for representing us at

the convention in Kenai this year. Thanks Susan for the beautiful boot cake you made. We won third place in the poppy boot contest at convention!!! Yea us!! We also won an award for 100% membership and an award for recruiting 22 new members. Congratulations to



the Post, SAL and The Legion Riders for your accomplishments and awards you received.





First off, I would like to thank all our volunteers for their constant help. You all are awesome. Speaking of volunteers, we are going to need lots of help this month. We have a huge list of things that need your help. So if you are feeling in the mood to help, come to the post and see where you can lend a hand.

Yes May is very busy!!! Don't forget your Mom on the Sunday the 11th. We will be having breakfast at the post, so bring you mom, daughter sister, aunt or friend to breakfast. 9:00 - 11:30 am. Next we have on the 17th Armed Forces Day. Then once again we have breakfast at the post on the 20th. Combat Fishing is on the 22nd, which we will need lots of help all day. Then last but not least we have Memorial Day where we will need loads of help cleaning up the cemetery, helping put out the crosses, and making sure it is ready for the ceremony on Memorial Day.



We need help cleaning up around the club and also in the club. We will be wiping down all the tables and chairs, washing windows and just a little general cleaning up. So if you can find time, we could sure use a hand any time this month.

Ladies, it's late but we need to get the poppies out and fluffed, so get ahold of Sharon or Connie so we can get this task done.

We also have a list of events to recognize this month:

Motorcycle Safety Awareness, National Military

Appreciation Month, Asthma Awareness, and May Day.

Don't forget the second Wednesday of the month is our meeting. It is very important that we have our meetings, as we have a lot of business that should not be ignored. So ladies mark your calendars and don't forget.



Thank you to all that helped for Easter Breakfast and all those who keep coming in and enjoying the food provided.

For God and County



Memorial Day Poem: Flanders' Field

Lieutenant Colonel John McCrae's "In Flanders Fields" remains to this day one of the most memorable war poems ever written. It is a lasting legacy of the terrible battle in the Ypres Salient in the spring of 1915.

As a surgeon attached to the 1st Field Artillery Brigade, Major McCrae, who had joined the McGill faculty in 1900 after graduating from the University of Toronto, had spent seventeen days treating injured men -- Canadians, British, Indians, French, and Germans -- in the Ypres Salient.

One death particularly affected McCrae. A young friend and former student, Lieutenant Alexis Helmer of Ottawa, had been killed by a shell burst on 2 May 1915. Lieutenant Helmer was buried later that day in the little cemetery outside McCrae's dressing station, and McCrae had performed the funeral ceremony in the absence of the chaplain.

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The next day, sitting on the back of an ambulance parked near the dressing station beside the Canal de l'Yser, just a few hundred yards north of Ypres, McCrae vented his anguish by composing a poem. The major was no stranger to writing, having authored several medical texts besides dabbling in poetry.

In the nearby cemetery, McCrae could see the wild poppies that sprang up in the ditches in that part of Europe, and he spent twenty minutes of precious rest time scribbling fifteen lines of verse in a notebook.

In Flanders fields the poppies blow Between the crosses, row on row, That mark our place; and in the sky The larks, still bravely singing, fly Scarce heard amid the guns below.

We are the Dead. Short days ago We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow, Loved and were loved, and now we lie, In Flanders fields.

Take up our quarrel with the foe:
To you from failing hands we throw
The torch; be yours to hold it high.
If ye break faith with us who die
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow
In Flanders fields.



Poppies are worn on Memorial Day to honor America's War Dead.

"Taps"

Composed By Major General Daniel Butterfield
Army of the Potomac, Civil War

Of all the military bugle calls, none is so easily recognized or more apt to render emotion than the call Taps. The melody is both eloquent and haunting and the history of its origin is interesting and somewhat clouded in controversy. In the British Army, a similar call known as Last Post has been sounded over soldiers' graves since 1885, but the use of Taps is unique with the United States military, since the call is sounded at funerals, wreath-laying and memorial services. Taps began as a revision to the signal for Extinguish Lights (Lights Out) at the end of the day. Up until the Civil War, the infantry call for Extinguish Lights was the one set down in Silas Casey's (1801-1882) Tactics, which had been

borrowed from the French. The music for Taps was adapted by Union General Daniel Butterfield for his brigade (Third Brigade, First Division, Fifth Army Corps, Army of the Potomac) in July, 1862.

Daniel Adams Butterfield (31 October 1831-17 July 1901) was born in Utica, New York and graduated from Union College at Schenectady. Despite his lack of military experience as the superintendent of the American Express Company when the Civil War broke out, he rose quickly in rank.

A Colonel in the 12th Regiment of the New York State Militia, he was promoted to Brigadier General and given command of a brigade of the V Corps of the Army of the

Potomac. The 12th served in the Shenandoah Valley during the the Bull Run Campaign. During the Peninsular Campaign Butterfield served prominently when during the Battle of Gaines Mill, despite an injury, he seized the colors of the 83rd Pennsylvania and rallied the regiment at a critical time in the battle. Years later, he was awarded the Medal of Honor for that act of heroism.



As the story goes, General Butterfield was not pleased with the call for Extinguish Lights feeling that the call was too formal to signal the days end and with the help of the brigade bugler, Oliver Willcox Norton, wrote Taps to honor his men while in camp at Harrison's Landing, Virginia, following the Seven Day's battle. These battles took

place during the Peninsular Campaign of 1862. The call, sounded that night in July, 1862, soon spread to other units of the Union Army and was even used by the Confederates. Taps was made an official bugle call after the war. As the years went on many more versions were created. There are no official words to the music but here are some of the more popular verses:

"Fading light dims the sight,
And a star gems the sky, gleaming bright.
From afar drawing nigh -- Falls the night.
"Day is done, gone the sun,
From the lake, from the hills, from the sky.
All is well, safely rest, God is nigh.
"Then good night, peaceful night,
Till the light of the dawn shineth bright,
God is near, do not fear -- Friend, good night."

"TAPS" is customarily played at funerals at Arlington National Cemetery as well as at ceremonies at the Tomb of the Unknowns.

Its composer is buried in the Post Cemetery at the United States Military Academy at West Point (even though he did not graduate from the Academy).

Directors Notes...

By Bobby Dunno



OK so we are having a pretty decent start to our ever so short riding season. The sunny days have been offset by a few rainy ones but I for one have yet to get seriously wet....at least not yet! So if you are not aware we have had our ALR Convention Meeting and the 2nd meeting where the ALR was at the convention alongside all the other Post, Auxiliary and SAL members. The great news was that this time they seemed to be better prepared for the ALR attending so there wasn't any adjusting the schedules or chaos that the ALR caused the last convention. The ALR elected a complete slate of officers and I will remain as Director for the ALR Alaska for the next year. The list of ALRA officers are as follows:

Bobby Dunno	Director	Post 5
Don Ridl	Asst. Director	Post 16
Rachel Waters	Secretary	Post 35
Marilyn Sutherland	Treasurer	Post 5
Linda Travis	Sargent At Arms	Post 35
Loren Estrada Sr.	Asst. SAA	Post 35
Darrel Williamson	Membership	Post 30
Bobby Dunno	Historian	Post 5
Lisa Williamson	Webmaster	Post 30

I also want to congratulate other Post 5 members who were elected and garnered recognition during the convention. Clare Sullivan was awarded Commander of the Year and elected as Alaska Department Historian. Mike Calhoon was awarded Recruiter of the Year, while Sharon Dillon was elected as Alaska Auxiliary Department Historian and our ever helpful Kirsten was voted to be Alaska Junior Auxiliary Department Historian. Needless to say we got a lot of Historian stuff going to be happening from Post 5 this next year!



On May 2 the ALR will be holding our first dessert auction and there will be a few tasty dishes brought to the Post for Steak Night as we begin to raise money to contribute to the Legacy Run Scholarship Program. If you have not been made aware the Legacy Run is to be used to provide scholarships to the children of our servicemen who have paid the ultimate price since 9/11/2001. It is a wonderful charity so please come out to support and educate those whose have lost a parent defending our freedom.





Also on our calendar for this month is the ride to Trapper Creek and the Memorial Day Ceremonies at Byers Lake and the Alaska War Memorial. This year should be a good time as we are planning on visiting Post 1 and Post 35 to pick up extra riders as we head north. Also on the horizon on June 7th is the 1st annual Ride for Respect and the early registration is due on the 15 of May so if you want to ride in a great event starting at the Anchorage House of Harley and ending at the Breeze Inn here in Seward you can contact Dawn at (907)362-1511 or email her at dvsa_coordinator@seaviewseward.org. Come on out wear are going to have a good time.







On a somber note my Shadow 1100 is in the shop. New oil, front and rear brakes, clutch and passenger backrest wasn't enough to get her ready it seems in the first couple of weeks of ride I lost the rear seal to the differential so she is down for a few days, But it won't be long before she will be fixed and I will be able to join everyone and Get On Your Bikes and Ride!

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