

THE RISING STAR

DISNEY-BELL POST 66 NEWSLETTER

MARCH 1, 2001

MARCH ROARS IN TO POST 66

March comes in like a lion and out like a lamb but here at Disney-Bell Post 66 we are always roaring. March will be highlighted by our annual Birthday Dinner on March 10th. Festivities begin at 5:00 p.m. with dinner and program to follow. The program will consist of presenting awards to the Oratorical Contest participants, issuing longevity service pins to some of our members, and a brief initiation program. We will also be honored by the presence of many of our member veterans from Charlotte Hall.

Also, March brings an event that has become an annual tradition and that is Tom Murphy's world famous St. Patrick's Day Corned Beef and Cabbage Dinner. This year, with St. Patrick's Day on a Saturday, we hope that more members will take advantage of this holiday. Only \$5 gets you a great dinner and it all begins at 5:00 p.m.. Please be sure to call the Post no later than Wednesday, March 14th to make your reservation so we have plenty to go around.

I would also like to extend my thanks to J. D. Larson and all of the crew of the Turkey Shoot Committee, as well as those serving the Auxiliary, for another fine job in running the shoots this year.

The new pool table has arrived and the league is starting. All the bar furniture is in place and now the Post is really looking good. I wish to thank Dave Kershner for all his efforts in this renovation project.

Friday night dinners are continuing so make sure

you check the activities calender in this issue and make your plans to attend. Next month, Post 66 observes our annual Post Everlasting Ceremony and I hope that many members can attend this most solemn of ceremonies.

Jr. Martin
Commander

Post 66
Monthly Meeting
Wednesday, March 28
7:30 P.M.

First Vice Commander Report

We are slowly gaining on the magical number of 819 members in order to retain our status of being a four star post for 2001. This is not accomplished; however, without the help of our membership. What can you do? Simple. If you know of an eligible person to join, sign them up. The Post Adjutant has attached an application form to this newsletter for your convenience. Also, if you know of a Post member who has yet to pay their dues, a gentle reminder would be appreciated. For your help in this matter, a list of those who have not paid their dues will be included in the next issue.

Thanks for all those who have helped this year. Everyone who signs up a new member does a very special and vital job for us.

J. D. Larson
First Vice Commander

IN THIS ISSUE...

<< Membership Drive Continues, Birthday Dinner, St. Patrick's Day Dinner, Medal of Honor, Calender of Events and Lots of Other Good Stuff >>

VA MOBILE VAN
THURSDAY, MARCH 15
9:00 AM TO 2:30 PM

Adjutant's Call

The American Legion traces its beginning to the Paris Caucus of March 15-17, 1919, where representatives of the American Expeditionary Force (AEF) gathered to form a nationwide veterans organization. Today, Posts throughout our nation set aside a time to commemorate the birthday of The American Legion.

What better way to celebrate the 83rd birthday of the American Legion than by inviting an eligible friend or neighbor to join with us as members of the largest veterans group in America. Every eligible veteran has earned the right to be a member of the American Legion. Ask one now. For your convenience, an application form has been copied to the last page of this newsletter. Just have them complete the application, attach a copy of the DD-214 or Discharge Certificate, accompanied by \$20 (free for active duty personnel) and we'll do the rest.

As always, should you have any questions, do not hesitate to contact me either at the Post (301-464-9814) or my home (301-390-6436). The Post e-mail address is alpost66@bellatlantic.net and mine is jimabniam@aol.com.

James L. Pritchett, Jr.
Adjutant

Unit 66 President's Report

Iwish to thank all the Auxiliary members (and husbands) who helped put on the meals served during Turkey Shoots this year. A big "thank you"



is also going to all the participants who help us by purchasing the meals and scatter shots. Also, we appreciate all the assistance and donations made by the Post Turkey Shoot Committee and Chairman J.D. Larson. Turkey Shoots are by far the most lucrative events for fund-raising and we would not be able to help veterans programs without this Post sponsored event.

Another major fund-raising event is our Friday night dinners and we sincerely appreciate everyone who helps us in this regard.

Also, I want to thank all Auxiliary members who have paid their 2001 dues helping us meet, and surpass, our goal.

Until next month, I hope to see you all at the next meeting.

Sandy Dadurka
President

Post 66 Auxiliary
Monthly Meeting
Wednesday, March 21
8:00 P.M.

VA CLINIC VISITS POST

The VA Medical Center Mobile Health Clinic returns to Post 66 on Thursday, March 15, 2001 from 9:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.. The clinic provides checkups as well as conducting preventive medical screening examinations and patient education/counseling. The Clinic also offers enrollment into the VA Health System, as well as the issuance of veteran ID cards, checks on patient information and

schedules appointments. If you have any question regarding this service, contact the Post Service Officer, Eddie Thompson, at (301) 262-2263.

VA MOBILE VAN
THURSDAY, MARCH 15
9:00 AM TO 2:30 PM

Chaplain's Report

With the post Birthday this month, let us remember are departed veterans who will be with us in spirit. Also, be preparing for Post Everlasting in April and come to honor all of our veterans who have gone to the Great Commander during the past year.

Also, remember is you have a need please call me at home (301-262-0257), leave a message at the Post or e-mail me at rweik53164@aol.com.

Toni King
Chaplain

St. Patrick's Day Dinner



Saturday

March 17

5-7 PM

Corned Beef and
Cabbage
\$5.00

APPLICATIONS BEING ACCEPTED FOR MELVIN BUCK SCHOLARSHIP

This announces that nominations to receive the 2001 Melvin Buck Scholarship are now being solicited. The winner will receive financial assistance in the amount of \$1,500. Applicants must meet the following criteria:

- Be a graduating high school senior in 2001.
- Be a child, stepchild, or grandchild of a member in good standing of the American Legion, Disney-Bell Post 66.

This scholarship is awarded by a blind draw of all applications accepted. Applications must be in writing and contain the following information: Applicant's name, address, telephone number, relationship to Member, Members name and membership ID number, and the name and telephone number of the high school the applicant attends. The deadline is April 1, 2001.

Applications may be delivered or mailed to the American Legion, Disney-Bell Post 66, 9605 Old Laurel-Bowie Road, Bowie, MD 20720 the attention of Doug Peters, Children and Committee.



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of Doug
Chairman,
Y o u t h

SAL SQUADRON 66
MONTHLY MEETING
MONDAY, MARCH 12
7:30 PM

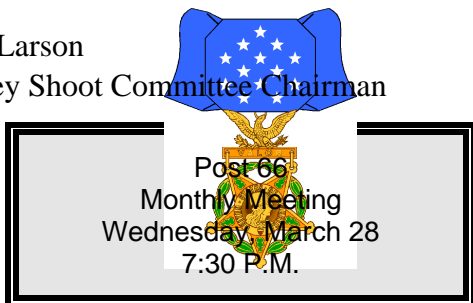
Turkey Shoot Season Over

Our annual Turkey Shoots have come and gone for another year. As Chairman of the Turkey Shoot Committee, I wish to thank all those who work so hard to ensure its success and at the risk of omitting someone important, I wish to publicly name them here. Eddie Thompson and Jr. Martin make sure the wood for target arms is cut and ready to go and Jim Pritchett, Dan Healy and Charlie Milstead all have judged and determined winners of the shoots. Announcers Tommy Andree and Tom Murphy make sure everyone is on the assigned target for the right shoot. John Marshall, Bud Shipe, Les Wicklein, John O'Toole, Doug Peters and Steve Stevens dole out shells to the shooters and Toni King, Myron James, Major Sprehe and Paul Thompson make sure targets are ready and delivered to the judges. Sandy Harkleroad is in

charge of a great team of hard working mud sloshing target runners that include Juanita Thompson, Michele Larson, Sammy Clark, and Bruce Setter. From time to time we also received gotten additional assistance from Ryan and Katy Andree, Joe Clark, and Jesse Depriest. The Auxiliary, under the guidance of the Turkey Shoot Activities Chairwoman Priscilla Sprehe, cooked breakfast and lunch every Sunday as well as selling scatter shots as a part of their fund-raising efforts. And lastly, there are the shooters who participate in a fun morning at the Post. As you can see, a lot of people give of their time to contribute to the success of our shoots.

Post 66 turkey shoots are a cornerstone of our social activities for the year and, despite lower activity recently, remains the largest single fund-raising event we sponsor. It has been a post tradition longer than most of us have been members that will continue to be a viable part of our Post for many years yet to come. Personally, it has been an enjoyable "labor of love" to act as Chairman that I look forward to continuing this tradition in the future.

J. D. Larson
Turkey Shoot Committee Chairman



I would also like to add my thanks to all the ladies and their husbands who worked the kitchen each Sunday morning. Also, to the ladies who braved the weather to do the scatter shots. Of course, a special thank you to all the men and women who shot and supported our kitchen. Many thanks and see you next year.

Priscilla Sprehe

Medal of Honor: A Brief History

The Medal of Honor is presented personally by the President of the United States for "individual gallantry at the risk of live, above and beyond the call of duty." "Recipients" are just that and should not be referred to as "winners" since there is no competition or contest to obtain this award. All recipients are saluted by anyone in uniform including the Commander in Chief, the President of the United States.

Early in the Civil War, a deal for individual valor was proposed to General-in-Chief of the Army, Winfield Scott. But Scott felt medals followed the fashion of European affectation and killed the idea. The medal found support in the Navy, however, where it was felt recognition of courage in strife was needed. Public Resolution 82, containing a provision for a Navy medal of valor, was signed into law by President Abraham Lincoln on December 21, 1861. The medal was "to be bestowed upon such petty officers, seamen, landsmen and marines who shall most distinguish themselves by their gallantry and other seamanlike qualities during the present war."

Shortly after this, a resolution similar in wording, was introduced on behalf of the Army. Signed into law July 12, 1862, the measure provided for warding a Medal of Honor "to such noncommissioned officers and privates who shall most distinguish themselves by their gallantry in action, and other soldier-like qualities, during the present insurrection."

Although it was created for the Civil War, Congress made the Medal of Honor a permanent decoration in 1863.

Almost 3,400 men and one woman have received the award for heroic actions in the nation's battles since that time. They have been honored above all others because of their acts of heroism which were performed in the face of mortal danger, often when surrounded by enemies, and always without expecting any reward.

Those who have Super Hero Medals of Honor have worn the uniform of all the branches of the service. Specifically, Commander and Laura Martin, Past Commander, Charlie Milstead and wife Kathy, Sandy Harkeroad, Darby and Elaine Monem, and anybody I failed to remember.

Stolen without permission from Post 217 March-April 2001 Newsletter
Thanks again!

Tom Murphy
Facilities Manager

AMERICAN LEGION UNIFORM CAP

The basic cost for an American Legion Uniform Cap is \$24.95 for the lined, style 2 Post Cap with Bowie, Md. On the left side and the number 66 on the right. The mandatory state insignia Maryland shield is an extra \$5.00 and the optional "For God and Country" patch for the left side of your cap is \$1.95. It is recommended that you purchase a plastic hat cover for \$1.50. Total cost to you is \$33.40 (if you order through the Post) as we will pay the shipping and handling fee of \$4.95. If you wish to order a cap, please contact the Post Adjutant at the Post (301-464-9814) or his home (301-390-6436).