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# THE RISING STAR

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DISNEY-BELL POST 66 NEWSLETTER

MAY 1, 2001

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## Always Something at Post 66

**S**pring is here and with the great weather comes great things at Disney-Bell Post 66. The First Vice Commander and Adjutant are keeping busy getting our current membership up to four star status for the 15<sup>th</sup> consecutive year and I am asking all members to please lend a hand in this effort. It takes a lot of work by many people to help us achieve this goal and anything you can do to help would be appreciated. Ask a neighbor, ask a friend and always carry an application with you to be prepared, you never know when you are in a position to enlist a new member.

This month, Post 66 will be nominating officers for next year. I ask all members who share an interest in our post and the American Legion to make a special effort to be with us and consider serving on the Executive Committee in some capacity. We are always looking for our members to take an active part in the leadership of our post.

There are also many other activities coming in the next few weeks. The Auxiliary will be hosting our final Friday night dinner of the year on May 4<sup>th</sup> and I hope many of you will try to attend. Memorial Day ceremonies will be conducted on Monday, May 28<sup>th</sup> at 11:00 a.m. at Bowie Veterans Park in Old Bowie. This annual event reminds us of the sacrifices made by those who gave their lives for our freedom. Please join me, our Honor Guard, and the friends and families of Bowie's other veterans service organizations on this special day.

Post 66  
Monthly Meeting  
Wednesday, May March 23  
7:30 P.M.  
Nomination of Officers

The SAL will be hosting their annual Mother's Day breakfast which is always a popular treat at the Post. Why not Get Mom and the family and join us for a great time. Also, it is not too early to plan on attending Flag Day ceremonies at Forestville Post 126 on June 14<sup>th</sup> and, of course, our 4<sup>th</sup> annual July Fourth family picnic.

Mark your calenders now for these activities and check the enclosed calender to make your plans at Post 66. I hope to see many of you soon.

Jr. Martin, Commander

### First Vice Commander's Report

**S**o close, yet so far. We are now down to the "stubborn few" who have yet to pay their 2001 dues. To date, these members have received three notices from National, three letters from the Post, and numerous articles in this newsletter. Somehow, there are still 50 people who have yet to "get the word". Please, if you are receiving this newsletter and have yet to pay your dues, we are asking you to do so now. Don't wait another minute. Before you know it, you will be getting a notice to pay your 2002 dues and if that is not taken care of, you will lose your membership in the largest American veterans organization in America. We need your membership to continue our efforts in supporting the many programs of our community and country.

But that is not all. Just because you paid your dues, there is still more you can do for your Post. I am asking every member to remember the name of just one friend, colleague or neighbor that is entitled to join but has not. Give them the opportunity. Invite them to the Post. Bring them to a meeting. How about dinner on the 4<sup>th</sup> of May? These activities are an excellent chance for us to

share the wonderful benefits of the American Legion in general and our Post in particular. Out of more than 800 members in our Post, only a small handful has actually signed someone up as a member. Are you one?

J. D. Larson  
First Vice Commander

VA MOBILE VAN  
THURSDAY, MAY 10  
9:00 AM TO 2:30 PM

## FRANCE TO HONOR WORLD WAR II VETS

**A**merican soldiers who took part in the Normandy landing during World War II are eligible for a certificate of gratitude from the French government. The certificate is being offered to both American and Allied soldiers who participated in the Normandy landing and the liberation of France on French territory and in the French territorial waters and airspace between June 6, 1944 and May 8, 1945. The 10 Consuls General of France in the United States will issue the certificate on behalf of the French government. Certificates will be issued in coordination with state veterans affairs offices, veterans service organizations, U.S. and state representatives and veteran's associations. An application form for eligible veterans is available on the French Embassy's web site at [www.info-france-usa.org/fhot.htm](http://www.info-france-usa.org/fhot.htm). Applications are also available through the Legion's Washington, D.C. office and department service officers. Eligible veterans will be identified and their certificate reviewed and certified. Ceremonies will be organized for the presentation of certificates. The certificate will not be issued posthumously.

## Adjutant's Report

**W**hile June 31, 2001 will officially mark the end of the American Legion 2000-2001, the cutoff date for membership is close of business on Monday, June 11, 2001. To count for this year's membership awards, all renewals, transfers, etc. must be turned into the Department of Maryland by 4:00 p.m. that Monday. So you see, we have just over a month to convince you to renew your dues with Disney-Bell Post 66. As Past Commander Blake Murphy was fond of saying, "It's almost time to get down on one knee and plead."

I cannot emphasize enough how important it is for you to remain a current member of the American Legion. As the largest of all the veterans service organizations, the American Legion needs to set the example with a strong membership. Our elected officials respect those organizations with large populations. Our Post has continually grown in membership the last 14 years. Now is not the time to stop that growth. Take a moment and renew your membership in the American Legion, Disney-Bell Post 66. We will all feel and certainly be better because of your renewal.

If your membership is current, ask an eligible friend or neighbor to join with us as members of the American Legion. Every veteran has earned the right to be a Legionnaire.

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

In service to God and Country.

James L. Pritchett, Jr.  
Adjutant

Post 66 Auxiliary  
Monthly Meeting  
Wednesday, March 16  
8:00 P.M.  
Nomination of Officers  
Ocean City Delegates

**O**n May 4<sup>th</sup>, the Auxiliary will be hosting our last Friday night dinner for the season. The menu will include fresh (not frozen) oven fried chicken with potatoes, seasoned green beans, salad and, of course, desert. Please make your reservation by calling the Post no later than Wednesday, May 2<sup>nd</sup> so we can have plenty of time to purchase the food.

Since this will be our last dinner for the year, I want to make sure that I thank all the women (and sometimes husbands) who have helped with this effort. From setting the tables to shopping, cooking and serving, all of you who have assisted in this effort deserve a hearty "thank you" for a job well done. Thank you.

Our next meeting will be Wednesday, May 16<sup>th</sup>. While all meets are important, this one is especially so. We will be selecting our delegates to represent Unit 66 at the annual Department Convention in Ocean City. Also, we will be nominating officers for next year. I want everyone to make a special effort to attend and think about how you can help us next year. As a little extra incentive, there will be a party immediately following the meeting for all those who attend. Remember! To enjoy the party, you must attend the meeting.

Don't forget, Memorial Day observances will be held at Bowie Veterans Park on Monday, May 28<sup>th</sup> at 11:00 a.m.. Please make every effort to attend this annual remembrance of those who gave their lives for the freedom of our country.

I hope to see you all at our next meeting on Wednesday, May 16 at 8:00 p.m.

Sandy Dadurka  
President

**W**hen the May newsletter went to print, membership in Squadron 66 was at 92%. We need only five more members to be at 100% so please make sure that you have paid your 2001 dues.

We have a couple of events on the horizon so mark your calenders now. An annual event sponsored by our squadron is Mother's Day Breakfast. We always have a great crowd and plenty of food. All you can eat is only \$5.00, children 8 and under are free and, of course, Mom too. Please call the Post no later than Friday, May 11<sup>th</sup> to sign up so we have plenty of food for everyone. Plan on joining us this Mothers Day, May 13<sup>th</sup>, for a great time. We will be hosting a "Comedy Night" at the Post on Saturday, June 2<sup>nd</sup>. It will consist of a spaghetti dinner with all the trimmings plus a great night of fun. The specifics are not available at this time so check the Post for flyers and more information in the upcoming weeks.

This month's meeting we will be conducting nomination of officers for next year so we ask everyone to make a special effort to attend. Annual Flag Day observance and flag disposal ceremonies will be held June 14<sup>th</sup> at Forestville Post 126. Check the Post for details and try to find time to attend this function.

Tim McEwan  
Commander

SAL SQUADRON 66  
MONTHLY MEETING  
MONDAY, MAY 14  
7:30 PM

### CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

As Post Chaplain, I am always available to lend whatever support is necessary for Post 66 members who are in need of assistance. When a member is ill, in the hospital or has had a loved one pass away, we are here to lend our support and render any help we can. If you know of anyone who is in distress, please call me at 301-262-0257, send e-mail to me at rweik53164@aol.com, or leave a message at the Post. Thank you.

Toni King, Chaplain

## VA Mobile Clinic Visits Post

The VA Medical Center Mobile Health Clinic returns to Post 66 on Thursday, May 10, 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. This is a great opportunity to inform your veteran friends to not only take advantage of a benefit they earned, but also to join the American Legion. Details to qualify are posted in the Post or contact the Post Service Officer, Eddie Thompson, at (301) 262-2263.

## PRE-APPLICATION FOR INTERMENT

As a resident of Maryland and a U.S. veteran, you are entitled to burial in one of five state-run Maryland Veterans Cemeteries. They

are: Allegany County (Rocky Gap), Anne Arundel County (Crownsville), Baltimore County (Garrison Forest), Dorchester County (Eastern Shore) and Prince Georges County (Cheltenham). As a service to veterans and their families, you may pre-apply for internment and thereby easing potential problems for your family at a very difficult time. In order to take advantage of this program, contact our Post Service Officer, Eddie Thompson, to complete the necessary paperwork. Eddie's telephone number is 301-262-2263.

### BIRTHDAY GREETINGS FROM THE PREZ?

You can receive a greeting card from the White House anyone 80 or older, a 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary or more, or a young adult earning an Eagle Scout or Girl Scout Gold Award. You will need to send your request at least six weeks before the event. Be sure to include the complete name (or names), mailing address and the occasion is. Send your request to:

Greeting Office  
the White House  
Washington, D.C. 20500

### Fourth of July Family Picnic



Plan now to attend our Fourth Annual 4<sup>th</sup> of July Family Picnic from 1 to 5 pm, July 4<sup>th</sup>. We will be planning on lots of food and fun for everyone. Details will be in the June newsletter but mark your calendar now.