

THE RISING STAR

DISNEY-BELL POST 66 NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER 1, 2001

A Nation Mourns...and Prepares!

Since the tragedies that struck us on September 11, 2001, our emotions have run the gamut of shock and horror, to the disbelief that it ever happened at all. Regrettably; however, it did happen and our world will be forever changed. We feel sincere sympathy to those families who have suffered the loss of loved ones and we sense that the security we once had taken for granted, is now in jeopardy. In fact, one our very own Post members, Sheila Hines, sacrificed her life in the vicious attack on the Pentagon.

Yet, the American Legion is an organization of war time veterans who have witnessed war and its consequences all too often. We, along with our families in the Auxiliary and SAL, are supposed to be use to the hardships that war brings. We have all been through this before. While the nation is in a period of mourning and recovery, it is up to us, the war time veterans of America, to lead the way and aid our fellow countrymen. Disney-Bell Post 66 must be a leader in our community during this time of crisis and be an example of Americanism and patriotism that is so assuring to our friends and neighbors.

To that end, on the day after the attacks, the Executive Committee of Post 66 authorized the donation of \$1,000 to the American Red Cross to help them in their rescue efforts. Also, we have been in contact with them to initiate a blood donor program that had been absent from our Post for several years. Information will be forthcoming as soon as we are notified as to how we may be of assistance.

Further, Our National Commander, Ric Santos, activated the American Legion's Family Emergency Network to assistance those family members who need assistance while their spouses are mobilized. Dormant since the Gulf War, the Family Emergency Network was created to help in those areas where local Posts can assist in such areas as rides to doctor appointments or shopping, baby sitting services and other such items.

There is a great need for all types of assistance from a variety of social assistance oriented organizations like the Red Cross, USO, and others. To this end, I will be establishing a special committee to identify appropriate groups that may need our help. We will also be looking

into ways to generate funds in support of these groups. The time has come for all of us to become active in support of our community, state and nation. The American Legion has always been in the forefront of community support and Post 66 will continue this tradition.

It is by the selfless devotion of our U.S. veterans in general, and Legionnaires in particular, that we enjoy our precious freedom. I know all of you want to do something to help those who were touched by the attacks of September 11th. Everyone will be given an opportunity in the future but for now here is what you can do to help us. As of this date, 45% of our members have yet to renew their membership by paying 2002 dues. Believe me, but we need your help now. We are not able to aid the many groups seeking our assistance without your support. Please pay your dues now and as the Red Cross motto stated, "Help us, help others."

All of us have served our country in the past and we are still serving now. Join me in supporting our President, national leaders, and the service men and women who defend our nation and will soon go in harm's way. And if you have not yet done so, take a moment of silence and remember those who have died in these vicious attacks. Ask God for His peace on their families and His grace on our country.

God Bless America!

J. D. Larson
Commander

Post 66
Monthly Meeting
Wednesday, October 24 7:30
P.M.

First Vice Commander Report

The 2001-2002 Membership Drive is well underway. If you have already paid your 2002 dues, please skip down to paragraph 2. If you have not, there are two things you should do:

1. Please remit your 2002 dues payment as soon as possible. This helps our post in several ways. Among other things, I will have one less reminder letter to mail out later in the year. Also, if your dues are received by November 12, 2001, you will be entered in a drawing for a free paid-up-for-life (PUFL) with a value of as much as \$628 depending on your age. We are hoping that a really old member wins. You are also eligible for the free Early Bird dinner for you and a guest on November 17.

2. Recruit new members. All you need do is ASK.

With the recent tragic events in New York, southwestern Pennsylvania and the Pentagon, patriotic feelings are at incredible levels. How wonderful to see so many people flying flags from houses, cars, trucks, overpasses - everywhere. People are looking for ways to express their patriotism in any way they can. Last week I JUST ASKED a retired Coast Guardsman (oh no) if he is in the Legion. He practically knocked me over to get the application I carry in my wallet (we all should). He told me he had never joined because no one ever ASKED.

We will be seeing more uniforms as troops begin preparing for deployment. If you are in the drugstore or grocery checkout line next to a uniformed service person, and you have an application with you (of course you do) JUST ASK if they would like to join the American Legion. The Post pays the first year of dues for active duty military personnel. No kidding, it can be that easy.

As of this writing, the Post is at 55% of attaining our coveted 4 Star Status. We are ahead of last year, but have a long way to go. It would be so nice to not have to sweat it out until next summer. Please do whatever you can to sign up at least one new member. In the next newsletter we will announce the incentive program for this year's recruiting drive. If you sign up new members prior to our announcing the incentives, those will count toward your awards.

Did I mention that you should send in your dues soon? Remember, JUST ASK.

Clif Morvant
First Vice Commander

President's Report

This year has started out with a bang. With the tragedy of September 11th fresh in our minds we decided to march forward into the new year with new energy and strength. The title for this year's Americanism Essay Contest is "What Makes America Great?", if you know of any local schools that might like to participate please leave a message at the Post Home and we will contact you with details for eligibility.

The children's Halloween party is scheduled for Saturday, October 27th, between the hours of 3:00 p.m. and 5:00 p.m.. There will be contests, raffles, games and refreshments. The ladies of the Omaha Beach Chapter 7 of the DAVA are working with us to make this a party to remember. Please sign up on the sheet at the bar before Wednesday, October 24th.

Cindy Morvant has suggested that we adopt a family for our Community Service Project. We think this is a great idea! I will be posting needed items in the newsletter as the project progresses. If there are any members out there willing to donate to this worthwhile cause we will be glad to accept, especially during the upcoming holiday season.

If there are any members that have not paid their dues for 2002 please try to do so very soon. We are striving to reach 4-star status before May 2002. Southern Maryland District is striving to make 1st place in membership this year and to make our Department President Miriam Duvall proud of her home district.

On a more solemn note we elected to donate \$200 to the American Red Cross to go toward the relief efforts for the victims of the September 11th tragedy. Our thoughts and prayers go out to them and the nation in this time of trial and grief.

On September 15th a small contingent of Ladies made their way to Charlotte Hall for their Summer Carnival. The theme this year was "The Circus," the midway was filled with many clowns in full dress along with acrobats and a Ringmaster. The veterans participated in games of chance and everyone walked away with a bag loaded with prizes. It was very rewarding for all who participated, as a Unit our booth took 3rd place! Thanks to Anna Thompson, Toni King and Brenda Graham for taking the time to entertain the troops!

The menu for our next Friday Night Dinner will be pork and sauerkraut, mash potatoes, vegetables, roll and butter and dessert. If you want to start your weekend off with a little free time away from the kitchen come on up on October 12th at 6:30 p.m. and join us for dinner. It's only \$8.00 per person for a full meal and plenty of fellowship with other people. There is a sign-up sheet behind the bar, please sign up when you visit the post or call and make a reservation; the cut off date for reservations will be October 10th, so make sure you are signed up. .

Fall Conference was September 28th through the 30th, and our delegation was excited and anxious to go. I will be reporting what's new and any changes that pertain to our membership in the next newsletter.

Turkey Shoots will be starting up on Sunday, October 21st at 8:00 a.m.. The Ladies will be serving breakfasts to the shooters and anyone else that would enjoy a great tasting breakfast on a chilly fall morning. If you would like to volunteer to help to prepare and serve breakfasts please call the post home and leave a message and our Turkey Shoot Chairman Rose Corazzi will return your call. We look forward to seeing you there.

Juanita L. Thompson
President

Adjutant's Call

On October 1, 2001, National began sending the second 2002 dues renewal notice to all members of the Department of Maryland whose dues have not been received and processed by their August 2000 cutoff date. If you have paid your dues and have your 2002 membership card, you should ignore the renewal notice. If you have not renewed, now is the time to do it.

The cutoff date for the third mandatory mailing is November 10, 2001. That is, your renewal must have reached National and been processed by them before November 10th to prevent a third notice from being sent. Also remember that November 11th, Veterans Day, is the cutoff to qualify as a Post 66 "Early Bird" and be eligible to attend the Early Bird dinner.

As always, if you have any questions on your membership, do not hesitate to give me a call either at the Post (301-464-9814) or at home (301-390-6436). Post e-mail address is alpost66@bellatlantic.net and mine is jimabniam@aol.com.

James L. Pritchett, Jr.
Adjutant

Post 66 Auxiliary
Monthly Meeting
Wednesday, October 17
8:00 P.M.

IS THIS A GREAT COUNTRY, OR WHAT??

Sergei Khrushchev, 65, a senior fellow at the Thomas Watson Institute at Brown University and American Citizen, took the oath of allegiance to the U.S. on July 12, 1999. Sergei was 24 years of age when he accompanied his father Nikita, then Soviet Premier, on a 13 day trip across American in 1959. "I like to take care of my home. It's the same with my country. I could have just stayed here with a green card, but my wife and I decided to be responsible — to live here, to vote, not just to consume. People ask my why I became a citizen. It's not ideological. It's not political. It's personal. I feel very proud to be in this country."

**Michael Ryan
Parade Magazine
Washington Post**

Chaplain's Corner

Washington and the plane downed in Pennsylvania, we are in shock, disbelief and anger. I ask each of us to take time with our families and pray for the families and victims of these

attacks. Cherish every day you have with your loved ones. With war on the horizon, we never know what tomorrow will bring. Please pray for our nation and all our troops here and abroad.

If you need to contact me, please call my home at 301-262-0257, or e-mail me at rweik53164@aol.com or you may leave a message for me at the Post.

Toni King
Chaplain

VA Van Visits Post

The VA Medical Center Mobile Health Clinic returns to Post 66 on Thursday, November 1, 2001 from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.. The Clinic provides checkups, preventive medical screening examinations and patient education and counseling. The Clinic will also offer enrollment into the VA Health System, issue veteran ID cards, check on patient information and schedule appointments. Flu and pneumonia shots may also be available.

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

Turkey Shoots Return

Fall began on September 22nd and if fall is here the Annual Disney-Bell Post 66 Turkey Shoot season cannot be far behind. That's right! Turkey Shoots begin Sunday, October 21st at 9:00 a.m. and we are all set for another exciting year. Super Shoots, Winner-Take-All Pots, Scatter Shots and, of course, turkeys, hams, bacon and much more are planned for the upcoming year. Cost for a shoot package is \$50 and you may preregister at the bar. The Auxiliary will be serving breakfast (starting at 8:00 a.m.) and lunch with their now famous homemade soups. So clean your shotguns and break out your long Johns and join us for a great time. In case of inclement weather, call the Post at 301-464-5425 for cancellation information.

SAL SQUADRON 66
MONTHLY MEETING
MONDAY, OCT 8
7:30 PM

Accidental Insurance for Legionnaires

As a member of the American Legion, you are entitled to an accidental death insurance benefit of \$1,000 -- **at no cost to you!** This official benefit entitlement is exclusively offered by the Department of Maryland of the American Legion. It is the only plan of its kind available to you today that has the full approval and endorsement of the Department and the nonprofit Legionnaire Insurance Trust. Coverage; however, is not automatic and you must be **registered** to be receiving coverage. Mailings are made to members by the insurance company which often contain information regarding many types of coverage available to members. This can create confusion and many times the required form is not completed and return. In this event, an individual would not be covered.

To make sure you are registered with the insurance company and that your family will receive the \$1,000 accidental death benefit, you need to call the insurance company. The toll-free telephone number is 1-800-236-6943. They can answer your question and give you any assistance you may require. You will need to have your American Legion membership card and membership number available when you call.

Eddie Thompson
Service Officer

VA MOBILE VAN
THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 1
9:00 AM TO 2:30 PM
FLU/PNEUMONIA SHOTS



Support from Our Friends and Neighbors

The following is from a Canadian television commentator, the late Gordon Sinclair, and has been making the rounds via the Internet lately. While written several years ago, it is still poignant today.

This Canadian thinks it is time to speak up for the Americans as being the most generous and possibly the least appreciated people on all the earth.

Germany and Japan, and to a lesser extent, Britain and Italy, were lifted out of the debris of WWI by the American who poured in billions of dollars for reconstruction and rebuilding and forgave billions in debts. None of these countries is today paying even the interest on its remaining debt to the US.

When France was in danger of collapsing in 1956, it was the American who propped them up, and their reward was to be insulted and swindled on the streets of Paris, I was there. I saw it happen, and I was appalled.

When the earthquakes hit distant cities, it was the US that hurried to help. Last spring, 59 American communities were flattened by tornadoes. Nobody helped.

The Marshall Plan and the Truman Policy pumped billions of dollars into discouraged countries. Now newspapers in those countries are writing about the decadent, war-mongering people of the US.

I'd like to see just one of those countries that is gloating over the erosion of the US dollar build its own airplane. Does any other country in the world have a plane equal to the Boeing Jumbo jet, the Lockheed Tri-Star, or the Douglas DC10? If so, why don't they fly them? Why do all of the international airlines, except Russia, fly American planes?

Why does no other land on earth even consider putting a man or woman on the moon? When you talk about Japanese technology, and you get stereos. When you talk about German technology, and you get automobiles. When you talk about American technology, and you find men on the moon — not once, but many times and then being brought safely home again.

You talk about scandals, and the Americans put theirs right in the store window for everybody to look at. Even their draft-dodgers are not pursued and hounded here in Canada. They are here, in our streets, and many of them are breaking Canadian laws while getting money from mom and dad in America.

When the railroads of France, Germany and India were breaking down, it was the Americans who rebuilt them. When the Pennsylvania Railroad and the New York Central went broke, nobody helped them with even as much as an old caboose, and both are still broke.

There are almost 5,000 times when Americans raced to help other people in trouble. Can you name even one time when someone raced to Americans in trouble? Our neighbors the Americans have faced it alone, and I'm one Canadian who is damn tired of hearing them get kicked around. They will come out of this think with their flag held high. And when they do, they are entitled to thumb their nose at the lands that are gloating over their present troubles. And I hope that Canada is not one of those.

Stand proud America!

Did You Know...?

That for every resident of Maryland registered with the Veterans Administration, the VA sends \$4,000 a year to the state for veterans support?

Well neither did we. For years now we have published the visits of the VA Mobile Clinic to our Post as a service to veterans. We asked you to register and maybe even get your blood pressure checked. Unfortunately, we never understood just how important is for all veterans to register with the VA. It is not just to receive health care as many of you (and us, quite frankly) believe. Many of us receive health care from other sources (work, military, etc.) and never saw any benefit or reason to register with the VA. This is a mistake.

The Veterans Administration uses the number of registered veterans from that state to determine the allocation of funds. Get it? For every veteran registered with the VA, they allocate \$4,000 to the State of Maryland. This money helps veterans' services as well as support to our comrades in Charlotte Hall.

The VA van returns to our Post on November 1. If you are not registered, please make every effort to stop by that day and do so. Thank you.