
THE RISING STAR

DISNEY-BELL POST 66 NEWSLETTER

NOVEMBER 1, 2001

What's Going On At Post 66???

I was recently speaking with a member of our Post who was relaying to me that business at the Post was dead, that we didn't offer anything and there was never anything going on. At first, I tended to agree with this assessment and wondered what it was we were doing wrong and what can we do to get things going here at Disney-Bell Post 66. As I was preparing for our monthly meeting in October and checking the calendar, it hit me like a ton of bricks . . . there are many things going on at Post 66. For the month of November, you can take part in any or all of the following activities.

To begin with, the Veterans Administration Mobile Clinic is visiting our post on November 1, 2001 from 9:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.. As you know from our last newsletter, your registration aids and assists all Maryland veterans and would be greatly appreciated. Next, beginning on Friday, November 2 and continuing on the first Friday of every month, the Honor Guard will be hosting steak dinners. The proceeds from the sale of these dinners will go directly in support of the Honor Guard competing in national competition at the

Convention in Charlotte, N.C. in August 2002.

On every Sunday, we host turkey shoots in support of our veterans' programs. Don't shoot? No problem! You can purchase a scatter at the bar for various meats and still come up on Sunday mornings to enjoy breakfast (and lunch) prepared by the Auxiliary.

On November 10th at 10:00 a.m., Post 66 is hosting an Open House for Oratorical contest participants. If you wish to help in these and other Oratorical Contest events, please leave your name and telephone number at the Post.

Also on November 10th, all members of the American Legion, Auxiliary and Sons of the American Legion of Disney-Bell Post 66 are invited to join the Honor Guard in a parade to celebrate the opening of the new Bowie Town Center Mall. We will assemble at 6:00 p.m. by the Hecht's end of the mall. The parade will begin at 7:00 p.m. and conclude by 7:30 p.m.. We will be towing our float, passing out flags and/or poppies and have a great opportunity to show off our post to our neighbors and friends.

(OK. I'm getting tired now but there is still more!) Our annual Early Bird Dinner is set for Saturday, November 17th with a cocktail hour at 5:00 p.m. and dinner at six. You know by now that you need to have your 2002 dues paid by November 12th to join in the fun and we are awarding a "Paid-Up-For-Life" membership to one lucky member.

The Auxiliary will be hosting Friday night dinner on November 16th and the SAL will be hosting on November 23rd. While the menus have not yet been posted, you can be sure to get great value for your money and a good time as well.

Every month, the Post regular membership meets on the fourth Wednesday, the Auxiliary on the third Wednesday, and the SAL on the second Monday. Every member of each of these organizations is always welcome and encouraged to attend these meetings.

Don't forget, we also have Happy Hour every Friday from 5:00 to 7:00 pm where all drinks are reduced priced and there are always good snack food out.

Well, 30 days has November and there are, by my count, at least 13 activities in which all our members can get involved. Some are fun things, some are work things but there is a great deal to do. Later in this newsletter, you will be given an opportunity to share in even more things going on. I hope to see many of you at least one these we are not doing.

J. D. Larson
Commander

IN THIS ISSUE...

What's Happening at Post 66?
Veterans Day Ceremonies,
Organization Reports, Calendar of
Events, Articles on the Flag and
Much, Much More!!!

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

FIRST VICE COMMANDER REPORT

The deadline for eligibility to qualify as an Early Bird is just days away. In order to be an Early Bird your 2002 dues must be received no later than November 12, 2001. Why would you want to be an Early Bird? For starters, it helps the Post in that we will have one less reminder letter to mail out later in the month. Secondly, as an Early Bird, you and a guest are invited to attend the always terrific Early Bird dinner on Saturday, November 17. But wait, if you pay right now, you will be entitled to enter the drawing on the night of the dinner for a Paid Up For Life membership (PUFL). Only Early Birds will be eligible to win. The PUFL can be worth as much as \$628, depending on your age. The younger you are, the more a PUFL costs. Our Finance Officer is hoping some really old member wins.

The Post exists because of its members and increasing membership has always been a top priority for the Legion. There are literally millions of eligible veterans out there who have never joined the American Legion solely because no one has ever asked them to join.

I will try to remember to include in each month's newsletter one or more reasons to join and support the American Legion. This month's highlight is the American Legion's Family Emergency Network. As announced by the Commander in the October issue, This Network was activated by the National Commander for the first time since the Gulf War. The Emergency Network was created to offer assistance to family member

of armed forces members mobilized as a result of the September 11th attack. Also, in October, the National Commander announced a scholarship program for children of military personnel who die in the line of duty after September 11, 2001.

I am sure you are proud to be associated with the American Legion. Share the wealth and recruit a new member to America's largest and most respected wartime veteran's organization.

Clif Morvant
First Vice Commander

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

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 11, 2001 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 notice is November 12, 2001. That is your renewal must have reached National and been processed by them before November 12th to prevent a third notice from being sent. Also remember that November 12th, the day after Veterans Day, is the cutoff date to qualify as a Post 66 Early Bird and be eligible for the Early Bird dinner and PUFL drawing.

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). The Post e-mail address is alpost66@bellatlantic.net and mine is jimabniam@aol.com.

In service to God and Country, I am.

James L. Pritchett, Jr.
Adjutant

Amendments to Post By-Laws

In accordance with Article XII - Amendments, Section 1. Post By-Laws, two amendments to the said document were submitted in writing at the regular post meeting of October 24, 2001 and will be subject to vote at the next regular meeting of November 28, 2001. This serves as written notification of such action to all members of Disney-Bell Post 66. A copy of the amendment letter, Post Constitution and By-Laws are available for review at the Post social quarters 9605 Old Laurel Bowie Road, Bowie, Maryland.

Unit 66 Report

There is a chill in the air as we start our fall and holiday activities. This year as in the past we have many projects in the works. The Americanism Essay Contest is about to begin. The title this year is "What Makes America Great?" If you know of any schools in our area that might like to participate please contact Anna Thompson our Americanism Committee Chairwoman.

We elected to "adopt a family" for our community service project, thanks to that committee chairwoman Cindy Morvant for her research. Specific details will be posted as they become available, such as clothing sizes, etc.

We elected to award National Emblem Sales gift certificates to those members signing up new members; they will be awarded to those people sign up three or more members.

We are now selling gas raffle tickets! The drawing will be December 19th 2001; you do not need to be present to win. The tickets are \$1.00 each or six for \$5.00. For that you buy a chance to win \$100, \$50, or \$25 Shell gas card to use for yourself or to give over the holidays. Check with auxiliary members or with the bartender to purchase your chances.

We are selling chances of a meat scatter shot each week. The meats will vary between bacon and ham. Chances go for \$1.50 a piece, check at the bar or with an auxiliary member at the Post when you stop by. This way, you get all the benefits of the Turkey Shoot without having to shoot or get up early on Sunday morning.

Veterans Day ceremonies will be held at Bowie Veterans Park at 11:00 a.m. on Sunday, November 11, 2001. There will be no Turkey Shoot that day. Let us show our support of our nation and our troops by attending.

Friday, November 9th is our next dinner. It is going to be an "All You Can Eat" spaghetti dinner. The cost will be \$8.00 per person and we will start serving at 6:30 p.m.. Come and enjoy the company of fellow Legion family members and their friends. The December dinner main course will be Cornish hen. Mark it on your calendars.

We would like to thank Post members responsible for purchasing and installing the spray attachment in the kitchen . . . it makes clean up a lost easier.

We will be starting our "Toys for Tots" campaign on November 1st. Large collection boxes will be stationed at the Post for you to donate a new unwrapped toy for a needy child for Christmas.

A group of ladies will be going to Charlotte Hall early on December 1st for their annual Christmas Gift Shop. We will be helping the residents shop, wrap and ship their gift choices. If you would like to participate in this function please call the Post and leave a message by Thanksgiving.

As you see we are very busy and there are more happenings on the horizon. I feel that will all that is going on in our nation today it is important that the Auxiliary roll up our sleeves and give heart and soul to our service men and women and the cause for which we are fighting.

Juanita L. Thompson
President

<p>VA MOBILE VAN THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 1 9:00 AM TO 2:30 PM FLU/PNEUMONIA SHOTS</p>
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Chaplain's Corner

As we still recover from the atrocities of September 11, I ask each of you to take time with your families and pray for those victims of these attacks. While we begin to fight back and wage war on terrorism, please remember and support all those who have dedicated

their lives to help others. 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

Squadron 66 Report

While still stunned by the tragic events on September 11, 2001, the SAL is moving forward with our daily lives and continuing to plan functions within the American Legion.

Among our upcoming plans are Friday night dinners on the fourth Friday of each month with varying menus to be announced.

Also, our annual Christmas train and basket of cheer raffle is a great way to support the SAL and our programs.

SAL membership goals to date are above 41%, so please remember to pay your 2002 dues just as soon as you can.

God Bless America!

Timothy McEwan
Commander

Veteran's Day Ceremony

Hostilities in World War I, which began in late July 1914, were suspended at eleven o'clock in the morning of Monday, November 11, 1918, after the signing of the Armistice by the contending powers. News of the signing of the Armistice was received with great joy throughout the world.

On November 11, 1919, the first Armistice anniversary, President Woodrow Wilson proclaimed this day as Armistice Day with the following words: "To us in America the reflections of Armistice Day will be filled with solemn pride in the heroism of those who died in the country's service and with gratitude for the victory."

On June 1, 1954, President Eisenhower signed Public Law 380 which changed Armistice Day to Veterans Day in honor of the veterans of all wars. Today, November 11, once a great patriotic holiday, is often ignored and forgotten. Many corporations do not include Veterans Day as a part of their holiday schedule.

Here in Bowie, thanks to our veterans service organizations, Veterans Day is observed as a day of respect commemorating the service of veterans of all wars. The American Legion, Disney-Bell Post 66; the Disabled American Veterans, Omaha Beach Chapter 7; the Marine Corps League, Free State Detachment and Veterans of Foreign Wars of the U.S., Bowie Memorial Post 8065 have united together each year at 11:00 a.m., November 11 to conduct Veterans Day services. They are joined by their fellow veterans of the Military Order of the Purple Heart, 7th Star and Seventh Stripe Chapter 2222

along with civic, fraternal and patriotic organizations to lay wreaths and pay respect to the memory of departed comrades.

This year Bowie Memorial Post 8065, Veterans of Foreign Wars of the U.S. will be the host veterans service organization. The ceremony will begin at 11:00 a.m., Sunday, November 11, 2001 at Bowie Veterans Park, Route 564, Lanham-Severn Road. A reception will follow at the DAV Chapter home on Route 197. All Legion, Auxiliary, Squadron members and their spouses and guests are requested to be present for Veterans Day ceremonies.

From a speech made by Capt. John S. McCain, US, (Ret) who represents Arizona in the U.S. Senate:

As you may know, I spent five and one half years as a prisoner of war during the Vietnam War. In the early years of our imprisonment, the NVA kept us in solitary confinement or two or three to a cell. In 1971 the NVA moved us from these conditions of isolation into large rooms with as many as 30 to 40 men to a room. This was, as you can imagine, a wonderful change and was a direct result of the efforts of millions of Americans on behalf of a few hundred POWs 10,000 miles from home.

One of the men who moved into my room was a young man named Mike Christian. Mike came from a small town near Selma, Alabama. He didn't wear a pair of shoes until he was 13 years old. At 17, he enlisted in the US Navy. He later earned a commission by going to Officer Training School. Then he became a Naval Flight Officer and was shot down and captured in 1967. Mike had a keen and deep appreciation of the opportunities this country and our military provide for people who want to work and want to succeed. As part of the change in treatment, the Vietnamese allowed some prisoners to receive packages from home. In some of these packages were handkerchiefs, scarves and other

New Web Address

Disney-Bell Post 66 is now at:

www.alpost66.org

This change allows us to give you more information quicker and easier. Check it out. The calendar is updated every couple of days and we are always adding new pictures of events and activities at our Post. A special thanks goes out to Ray Hart for developing and continuing to make our web page one of the best in Maryland. Thanks Ray!

items of clothing. Mike got himself a bamboo needle. Over a period of a couple of months, he created an American flag and sewed on the inside of his shirt.

Every afternoon, before we had a bowl of soup, we would hang Mike's shirt on the wall of the cell and say the Pledge of Allegiance. I know the Pledge of Allegiance may not seem the most important part of our day now, but I can assure you that in that stark cell it was indeed the most important and meaningful event.

One day the Vietnamese searched our cell, as they did periodically, and discovered Mike's shirt with the flag sewn inside, and removed it. That evening they returned, opened the door of the cell, and for the benefit of all us, beat Mike Christian severely for the next couple of hours. Then, they opened the door of the cell and threw him in. We cleaned him up as well as we could.

The cell in which we lived had a concrete slab in the middle on which we slept. Four naked light bulbs hung in each corner of the room. As said, we tried to clean up Mike as well as we could. After the excitement died down, I looked in the corner of the room, and sitting there beneath that dim light bulb with a piece of red cloth, another shirt and his bamboo needle, was my friend, Mike Christian. He was sitting there with his eyes almost shut from the beating he had received, making another American flag.

He was not making the flag because it made Mike Christian feel better. He was making that flag because he knew how important it was to us to be able to pledge allegiance to our flag and our country. So the next time you say the Pledge of Allegiance, you must never forget

the sacrifice and courage that thousands of Americans have made to build our nation and promote freedom around the world. You must remember our duty, our honor, and our country.

"I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America and to the republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all."

Family Support Network

The American Legion's Family Support Network, born during the early days of Desert Shield and the Persian Gulf War and recently activated as a result of the terrorist attacks made against our country, was created to assist the families of our service men and women on active duty. Specifically, the relatively fast call up of reserves and National Guard components often puts a burden on those family members left behind, including doing a variety of normal everyday chores. These chores include grocery shopping, child care, mowing the lawn, fixing the family car, car pooling and many others.

To address these issues, the American Legion implemented a toll-free telephone number where service members or a member of their family

may call for assistance. The call is then directed to the American Legion Department (state headquarters) from which the call emanated. They, in turn, call upon a local post to contact the individual to see if help can be provided locally.

To this end, Post 66 is seeking volunteers to serve on our own Family Support Network Committee. This group will field any calls our Post receives and then determine if we have the resources available to help. You don't need to dedicate your life to the Post, but a little time and help to our active duty members and their families would be appreciated. If you can give a portion of your day for this committee, please call the Post and leave your name, telephone number, and any special talent or ability you can offer if called upon. Once the Family Support Network Committee is established, the Chairman will be in touch with its members regarding a planning meeting.

Now is not the time to sit by and let someone else do the job. We need the help of all members. Please do not hesitate to lend a hand in this endeavor. Thank you.

(Editor's Note: From time to time we receive various interesting pieces via the internet. We have found this one particularly interesting and provide it below.

Someone else wrote this, but I personally watched and listened as the commentator on C-Span explained why they don't wear American Flags on their lapels or show American Flags. They said the same thing. They didn't want anyone to think they were prejudiced or showing favoritism. Have you ever heard anything like this in your life.

Broken Arrow, Oklahoma School officials remove "God Bless America" signs from schools in fear that someone might be offended.

Channel 12 News in Long Island, New York, orders flags removed from the newsroom and red, white, and blue ribbons removed from the lapels of reporters. Why? Management did not want to appear biased and felt that our nations flag might give the appearance that "they lean one way or another".

Berkeley, California bans U.S. Flags from being displayed on city fire trucks because they didn't want to offend anyone in the community.

In an "act of tolerance" the head of the public library at Florida Gulf Coast University ordered all "Proud to be an American" signs removed so as to not offend international students.

I, for one, am quite disturbed by these actions of so-called American citizens; and I am tired of this nation worrying about whether or not we are offending some individual or their culture. Since the terrorist attacks on September 11, we have experienced a surge in patriotism by the majority of Americans. However, the dust from the attacks had barely settled in New York and Washington D.C. when the "politically correct" crowd began complaining about the possibility that our patriotism was offending others.

I am not against immigration, nor do I hold a grudge against anyone who is seeking a better life by coming to

America. In fact, our country's population is almost entirely comprised of descendants of immigrants; however, there are a few things that those who have recently come to our country, and apparently some native Americans, need to understand.

First of all, it is not our responsibility to continually try not to offend you in any way. This idea of America being a multi-cultural community has served only to dilute our sovereignty and our national identity. As Americans, we have our own culture, our own society, our own language, and our own lifestyle. This culture, called the "American Way", has been developed over centuries of struggles, trials, and victories by millions of men and women who have sought freedom. Our forefathers fought, bled, and died at places such as Bunker Hill, Antietam, San Juan, Iwo Jima, Normandy, Korea, Vietnam, and the Persian Gulf, for our way of life.

"In God We Trust" is our national motto. This is not some off-the-wall, Christian, Right Wing, political slogan - it is our national motto. It is engraved in stone in the House of Representatives in our Capitol and it is printed on our currency. We adopted this motto because Christian men and women, on Christian principles, founded this nation; and this is clearly documented throughout our history. If it is appropriate for our motto to be inscribed in the halls of our highest level of Government, then it is certainly appropriate to display it on the walls of our schools.

God is in our pledge, our National Anthem, nearly every patriotic song, and in our founding documents. We honor His birth, death, and resurrection as holidays, and we turn to Him in prayer in times of crisis. If God offends you, then I suggest you consider another part of the world as your new home, because God is part of our culture and we are proud to have Him.

We are proud of our heritage and those who have so honorably defended our freedoms. We celebrate Independence Day, Memorial Day, Veterans Day, and Flag Day. We have parades, picnics, and barbecues where we proudly wave our flag. As an American, I have the right to wave my flag, sing my national anthem, quote my national motto, and cite my pledge whenever and wherever I choose. If the Stars and Stripes offend you, or you don't like Uncle Sam, then you should seriously consider a move to another part of this planet.

The American culture is our way of life, our heritage, and we are proud of it. We are happy with our culture and have no desire to change, and we really don't care how you did things where you came from. We are Americans, like it or not, this is our country, our land, and our lifestyle.

Our First Amendment gives every citizen the right to express his opinion about our government, culture, or society, and we will allow you every opportunity to do so. But once you are done complaining, whining, and griping about our flag, our pledge, our national motto, or our way of life, I highly encourage you take advantage of one other great American freedom, the right to leave.

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