

THE RISING STAR

DISNEY-BELL POST 66 NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 1, 2001

PEACE ON EARTH, GOODWILL TO MEN

The Christmas season is upon us and I hope everyone enjoyed a great Thanksgiving. Here at the Post, several members put together a turkey and ham dinner for those who had no family with which to celebrate and found themselves here at our Post home. In true "American Legion Family" tradition, people like Sissy Moore, Laura Martin, Walt Blanchette and Sandy Harkleroad, all working together under the guidance and direction of Tom Murphy, worked to on this meal. I want to thank you all for continuing this annual tradition.

There are many holiday activities planned for the next month so you want to be sure to check the calendar to keep up to date. More important, if you have internet access, please bookmark www.alpost66.org, our website. It literally changes almost every day with complete coverage of almost all of our activities. Also, the calendar section changes quite often. For instance, the Auxiliary and Honor Guard swapped Friday dinner assignments in December due to a commitment the Honor Guard had on the first Friday. This change was made immediately and, if you had been checking, you would have been the first to know. Not only that, but this newsletter was probably available "on line" before it was even delivered to the printer. Ray Hart continues to do anything we ask of him to make a great looking site.

Some activities coming up are: Children's Christmas Party on December 16th, Post Christmas Party December 24th, Auxiliary Meeting and Party December 19th, Post Friday night dinners on December 7th, 14th and 28th and, with a little bit of luck, a New Years Eve Party on, oh, let's say, New Years Eve.

The SAL is sponsoring a Toys for Tots drive at the Post and the Auxiliary is working hard on their Christmas plans. I wish to extend a special "thank you" to the Auxiliary members who donated their time and effort to decorate the Post for the Christmas season. I may not be too sure who did all the work but the members I saw were: Juanita Thompson, Betty, Priscilla, Marie and Sandy Harkleroad doing the tree in the Post, making sure every member who walked in put an ornament on it so it would

be a "Post project." Thank you all very much and I apologize if there was someone I forgot.

I have been Commander of Disney-Bell Post 66 for just more than four months and it has been a rewarding and great experience that will be treasured forever. Regrettably, during that time I have presided at two funerals of Post members and it is my sad duty to report that by the time you read this I will have presided over yet another. It is with personal sadness that I must announce that Past First Vice Commander Sandy Harkleroad was transferred to Post Everlasting on Sunday, November 25, 2001. Sandy died tragically in a car accident after leaving the Post doing what she so loved to do: working Turkey Shoots, decorating the Post Christmas tree, and watching the Redskins beat the Eagles. Sandy has been a hard-working member of our Post for many years and it won't seem right not to see her running targets on Sundays. Her presence will be missed by many of us. Farewell, my fellow Legionnaire.

J. D. Larson
Commander

DISNEY-BELL POST 66
NO MONTHLY MEETING
IN DECEMBER

First Vice Commander Report

The 2002 Early Bird dinner was a great event as always. The evening's highlight was the drawing for a Paid Up For Life membership. The winner was Clifford Cline, a WWII veteran and a 17 year member of our Post. Congratulations to Clifford on being the lucky Early Bird.

We are currently at 70% of retaining our 4 Star status in membership. The first 600 were easy. We now have to begin work on the hard core holdouts, the procrastinators and the forgetful. If you fall into this category, we hope you will consider sending your dues in now to make our efforts a little easier. No, don't keep reading, write that check now and mail it in. Thanks.

Now that you have mailed your dues, you have another year to go before you have to go through that exercise again.

If you haven't decided what you want for Christmas, maybe you would like a PUFL. Just leave this newsletter sitting out for your spouse and highlight this paragraph. The cost of a Paid Up For Life membership varies, depending upon your age. Your spouse can call the Post or our Adjutant, Jim Pritchett at the number in the following article for an application and information on PUFLs.

We need new members. Surely you have a friend, co-worker, neighbor or relative who is eligible to join the American Legion but has never been asked. As you may know, the American Legion is a great organization that does great good year after year. Last year, needy children and families received more than \$6 million in cash and goods. Deserving high school students were awarded \$3.8 million in college scholarships. Local charity campaigns received more than \$10 million in donations. Legion members donated more than two million hours of service to their communities. Legion Posts provided over \$2 million in emergency aid to veterans. More than \$30 million was spent by the Legion and its affiliated organizations for the benefit of children and youth. The impressive part of the above

statistics is that these achievements were accomplished by only half of the Legion's 15,000 chartered posts. "American Veterans still serving America" is truly descriptive of the American Legion.

Clif Morvant
First Vice Commander

Good judgement comes from experience.
Experience comes from bad judgement.

SHRIMP NIGHT COMING IN 2002!!



Starting January 12th and continuing every second Saturday of the month, Post 66 will be hosting "Shrimp Night". Not a dinner, just a good sized bowl of shrimp and a draft beer or glass of wine for a low price. The details are yet to be worked out but mark your calendar now and we will have all the information you need in January edition of The Rising Star.

Adjutant's Call

Your 2001 membership card will expire at midnight, December 31, 2001. There is not any grace period, if you have not renewed your membership by then you can and should be denied access to all Post activities. To prevent an embarrassing moment, pay your 2002 dues now.

As was previously mentioned there is a 45-day turn around time for National to complete processing of your renewal. So if you pay your 2002 dues today, you will receive another renewal notice mailed to you on the 15th of December.

Despite the fact that there is a statement printed in red on the renewal notice "Please disregard if you have already paid your 2002 dues," several Legionnaires have mailed in a second payment. There is no benefit to paying your dues twice in one year.

The easiest way to prevent double payment, is to check your membership card. If it is a 2002 card, disregard the notice as they suggest. If it is a 2001 card, then it is time to write that check.

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

SAL SQUADRON 66
MONTHLY MEETING
MONDAY, DECEMBER 10
8:00 PM

Unit 66 Report

The Holiday season is upon us and as we focus our attention on the upcoming festivities of the occasion. Let us remember those who will not be with us and their families, due to the tragedies that have befallen us this year. Let us keep them in our hearts to remind us of our responsibility to the community, state and nation as Auxiliary members.

Anna Thompson, our Americanism Chairman reported that a WWII program is being revised by the American Legion this year. The Blue Star Banner that was given to mothers who had sons serving in WWII has been revised to those who have a family member serving in the armed forces today. If you know of a family who has someone serving in the armed forces let us know.

The Children's Christmas Party will be held Saturday, December 15th; between the hours of 4:00 and 6:00 p.m.. There will be games, a magician, refreshments, gifts and of course Santa!! Please make your Christmas list and come and give it to Santa in person!

Community Service Committee chairman, Cindy Morvant reported on our "adopted" family. A Thanksgiving feast was purchased and presented. She is in the process of getting clothing sizes and interests of the family members so that we may purchase Christmas gifts that are suitable. We will also be providing food for their Christmas. If you desire to help with this project please call the Post at 301-464-9814 and leave a message and we will contact you.

Our membership drive is moving on and we need less than 75 members in order to reach goal. If you still haven't paid your dues for 2002 please do so soon. We are offering gift certificates from the Emblem Sales catalog to those members that sign up three or more new members.

On December 1st at 8:00 a.m. we went to Charlotte Hall to participate in the Gift Shop for the Veterans to help them pick out, wrap and even send gifts to family and friends. It is a very rewarding experience for all who attend. Make plans to go with us next year.

Our next Friday night dinner is January 11th 2002. It will be an Italian Night. Our guest chefs will be Ron and Rose Corazzi. The menu will be stuffed shells, Italian chicken, sausage, rolls and butter, salad and dessert. The cost will be \$8.00, and dinner will be served at 6:30 p.m.. There will be a sign-up sheet behind the bar; you can ask the bartender to sign you up either in person or by phone. Please make plans to join us for a wonderful international treat!

We are contributing the profit from our February 8th Friday night dinner to the Sandi Dutton for National President Campaign Fund. Our menu will be oven fried chicken with all the trimmings. Please make plans to join us, and make Sandis' campaign a great success.

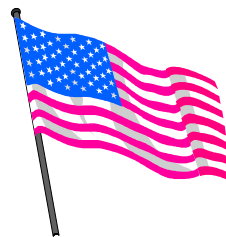
We have made available meat scatter shots during the Turkey Shoot season. They are \$1.50 a spot and several different prizes are offered; such as a large ham, 10 pounds of bacon or a combination turkey and shrimp package. The scatter shot sheets are behind the bar, just ask the bartender or an auxiliary member when you are at the Post and we'll sign you up for a chance to win!

I want to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and a safe and Happy New Year, and I hope to see you all during the coming year.

Juanita L. Thompson
Unit 66 President

UNIT 66
MONTHLY MEETING
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 19
8:00 PM

Advise is what you ask for when you already know the answer, but wish you didn't



I Am Your Flag

I was born on June 14th, 1777. I am more than just cloth shaped into design. I am the refuge of the World's oppressed people. I am the silent sentinel of Freedom. I am the emblem of the greatest sovereign nation on earth.

I am the inspiration for which American Patriots gave their lives and fortunes. I have led your sons into battle from Valley Forge to the bloody swamps of Vietnam. I walk in silence with each of your Honored Dead, to their final resting place beneath the silent White Crosses, row upon row. I have flown through Peace and War, Strife and Prosperity, and amidst it all I have been respected.

My Red Stripes . . . symbolize the blood spilled in defense of this glorious nation.

My White Stripes . . . signify the burning tears shed by Americans who lost their sons.

My Blue Field . . . is indicative of God's heaven under which I fly.

My Stars . . . clustered together, unify 50 states as one, for God and Country. "Old Glory" is my nickname, and proudly I wave on high.

Honor me, respect me, defend me with your lives and fortunes. Never let my enemies tear down from my

lofty position, lest I never return. Keep alight the fires of patriotism, strive earnestly for the spirit of democracy. Worship Eternal God and keep His Commandments, and I shall remain the bulwark of peace and freedom for all mankind.

I am your Flag.

Written by Marine Msgt. Percy Webb

VA MOBILE CLINIC
THURSDAY, JANUARY 3, 2002
9:00 AM TO 2:30 PM
FLU/PNEUMONIA SHOTS

Chaplain's Corner

As this Christmas season comes to us, let us remember all of our comrades that are on the job here and abroad. As you gather with your family remember the families that this Christmas will be hard to them. Do not let a day go by that you don't tell your family that you love them, as we do not know how the day will end.

I hear on the news and read in the paper about things that would scare you, but we cannot and will not let someone control our lives. We have fought for the freedom our comrades have died for this freedom and others are serving today to maintain this freedom.

As your Chaplain, I ask each and every one of you to support and pray for our leaders and their decisions.

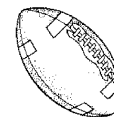
As always, if there is a need or a problem please call me at 301-262-0257, e-mail me at rweik53164@aol.com or leave a message at the Post.

Toni King
Chaplain

SHRIMP NIGHT COMING IN 2002!!



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SUPER BOWL SPOTS STILL AVAILABLE

DON'T MISS OUT ON AN AMERICAN TRADITION. SUPER BOWL SUNDAY AT THE AMERICAN LEGION. SPOTS ARE STILL AVAILABLE. COST IS \$55 PER PERSON (SQUARE) AND ENTITLES YOU TO A GREAT PARTY, DRINKS, SNACKS AND PAYOFFS ON THE BIG BOARD (\$1K/QTR AND \$125 FOR REVERSE NUMBER). STOP BY THE POST TO SIGN-UP. FIRST COME, FIRST SERVED.



Squadron 66 Report

The Holiday Season is upon us again, and the SAL members would like to wish all Post 66 patrons a safe and happy holiday . . . and a reminder.

Toys for Tots donations of a new unwrapped gift for the Marine Corps drive is a way to show your support of those less fortunate.

The SAL annual raffles of a Christmas train and Basket of Cheer are an excellent ways to show your support of the Squadron.

Also, a reminder to pay your dues and warm welcome to our new bartender Gidget to the Post.

Timothy E. McEwan
SAL Commander

Oratorical Contest

On January 19, 2002, our Post will host the post level of the American Legion National High School Oratorical Contest.

Each year thousands of high school students gain a deeper understanding of the U.S. Constitution and share that knowledge with a vast audience through the American Legion High School Oratorical Contest. Hundreds of students win scholarship awards at the Post level for speeches that explore the substance and meaning of the Constitution. Other objectives of the contest include the development of leadership qualities, the ability to think and speak clearly and intelligently, and the preparation for acceptance of the duties and

responsibilities, the rights and privileges of American citizenship.

The contest consists of a "Prepared Oration" and an "Assigned Topic": with specific time constraints. State and local contests run annually January through March, culminating at the national level in April. The three national finalists compete for prizes ranging from \$14,000 to the first place prize of \$18,000.

We have had three contestants sign up so far, and one of those has discovered a schedule conflict that may preclude her competing. Our Post has approved prizes of \$500, \$300 and \$200 for first, second and third places. If you know of a high school student who could use a little extra money, maybe you could do them a big favor by getting them involved in the contest. Clif Morvant is this year's Oratorical Contest Chairman. If you know a student who is interested, have them give Clif a call (301-352-8080) for an application to participate and copies of all the rules. The rules are available on-line at www.legion.org, then click on Americanism and Youth.

VA Mobile Clinic Visits Post

The VA Medical Center Mobile Health Clinic returns to Post 66 on Thursday, January 3, 2002 from 9:00 am to 2:00 pm. The Clinic provides checkups, preventative 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.

Friday Night Dinner
Schedule and Menu
December 2001

December 7th (**Auxiliary**)

Cornish Game Hens

Veggie, Salad and Dessert

December 14th (**Honor Guard**)

Grilled Steak (Cooked to Order) Baked

Potato, Salad and Dessert

December 28th (**SAL**)

Steak and Turkey Rolls

Parsley Potatoes, Veggie and Dessert

All dinners cost \$8.00 and are served from
6:30 to 8:00 pm. Take out orders welcome.
Call Post for reservation Wednesday before
dinner.