

# THE RISING STAR

DISNEY-BELL POST 66 NEWSLETTER

MARCH 1, 2002

## Marching Into March

March is upon us and there are so many things going on that I literally don't know where to begin. Of course, by the time you receive this (unless you hopped on line as urged last month), it is probably too late to attend either the Friday night steak dinner hosted by the Honor Guard, or their Shrimp Night on Saturday. Oh well. It is not too late to go the Birthday Dinner and hopefully you have signed up and will attend. We are looking forward to a great meal by the Corazzi's and a wonderful program as well.

But there is a lot more happening this month, too. The Honor Guard is hosting shrimp night at least one Saturday per month. They serve a baker's dozen of spiced steamed shrimp and your choice of draft wine or beer for \$6.50. As with their Steak Dinners, the proceeds from these events are going to offset the cost of their participation in the national honor guard competition being held in Charlotte, North Carolina during the National Convention in August.

The Auxiliary continues their Friday night dinner with a great meal planned for Friday, March 8th. This night is "Taco" Night to be prepared by guest chef Laura Martin. Be sure to call the Post no later than Wednesday, March 6th to make your reservation.

An annual event in March is our world famous St. Patrick's Day Corned Beef and Cabbage Dinner, prepared by our own Irishman Tom Murphy. Dinner will be served from 5:00 to 6:30 (or thereabouts) and the cost is only \$6.00. Be sure to call the Post and sign-up by Wednesday, March 13 to ensure we have enough food on hand.

On March 23rd, the SAL will be hosting a Bull and Oyster Roast, a party they hope to make an annual event. From all the posters and menu, it looks to be a great party with tons of food and, of course, oysters.

We've started to sell shrimp on Monday's as well, too. Drop by anytime between 5:30 and 7:00 on a Monday night and enjoy some shrimp while the supplies last. There is no need to make a reservation; however, it is first come — first served. I wish to thank Dick Lanham for volunteering his services to help the activities and participation of our members at the Post. Thanks Dick.

Next month will be our Post Everlasting Service, our most solemn service of the year. The service is scheduled for 3:00 pm on Saturday, April 13. Family members of those members of Post 66 who have passed away since last year will be invited to attend this beautiful and touching service. If you have never attended one of these memorials, please make a special effort to honor those members who not only served our Post, but our country as well.

Okay, I have probably forgotten some things but that's why we have a calendar and a web site. I hope to see many of you at one or more of the upcoming events in March.

J. D. Larson  
Commander

Post 66  
Monthly Meeting  
Wednesday, March 27  
7:30 pm

### 1st Vice Commander Report

I can't believe how fast the past eight months have gone by. It seems only yesterday that I wondered how in the world we were going to make four star again in 2002. Unfortunately, we tend to lose too many members each year to Post Everlasting. There is only one way to

make up for those losses, and that is by recruiting new members or transfers.

The membership committee has recommended and the Executive Committee has approved the following incentives for new members or transfers during the 2002 recruiting cycle:

One: Drink chip  
 Three: Recruiter's cap  
 Five: T Shirt  
 Ten: Golf Shirt  
 Twenty: Windbreaker

So far the following have qualified for these awards by recruiting a new member or transfer: One member: Ray Chatary, Francis McDonough, Ray Hart, Charlie Milstead, Dick Lanham, Nick Muller, Roger Layman, Major Sprehe, Junior Martin, and Paul Thompson. Two members: Walt Blanchette. Four members: Tim Kluchinsky, Steve Planty, and J. D. Larson. Twenty or more members: Clif Morvant and Jim Pritchett. I want to personally thank every member who has taken the time to help our Post and the American Legion in recruiting members. Without your help, we would not be able to do all the things to help veterans and our community that we accomplish. Thanks to all of you.

We recently sent out two mailings. The first went to 18 members who have moved into our area recently and have paid their 2002 dues to national. These won't help us for this year, but those that transfer will be "in the bank" for 2003. The second mailing went to 114 members from 2001 who have not yet paid for 2002. I hope this gentle reminder will help get them off the dime and send in their dues.

We will also be manning a booth at the Bowie Fest on June 1 at Allen Pond Park. The Department is providing a recruiting trailer, stocked with pamphlets and the like. I understand it is very nice. We will be inviting the Auxiliary and SAL to join us in this recruiting effort.

Clif Morvant  
 First Vice Commander

VA Mobile Health Clinic  
 Thursday, April 4, 2002  
 9:00 am - 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 Service Organization. Today, thousands of Posts worldwide, set aside a time to commemorate the birthday of the American Legion.

What better way to celebrate the 84<sup>th</sup> 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 him NOW.

For those of you who still have not paid your 2002 dues, National will send you another dues renewal notice on the 15<sup>th</sup> of March. Those who have just paid their dues will probably receive another notice since the cutoff date was February 13, 2002. If you have paid your dues and have a 2002 card, disregard the renewal notice. If you have not renewed, what are you waiting for?

As always, should you have any questions on your membership, do not hesitate to contact me either at the Post, 301-464-9814 or at my residence 301-490-6436. Post e-mail address is [alpost66@bellatlantic.net](mailto:alpost66@bellatlantic.net) and [jimabniam@aol.com](mailto:jimabniam@aol.com). In Service to God and Country, I am

James L. Pritchett, Jr.  
 Adjutant

### Chaplain's Corner

With the Post Birthday and Post Everlasting fast approaching, let us remember those comrades who have answered the final roll call. Also remember those who are ill or in the hospital. As always, if you know of any veteran or their family who needs our help, please leave a message for me at our Post Home, or call me at 301-262-0257, or send an e-mail message to [rweik53164@aol.com](mailto:rweik53164@aol.com).

Toni King  
 Chaplain



### Melvin Buck Scholarship Applications Now Being Accepted

**N**ominations to receive the 2002 Melvin Buck Scholarship are now being accepted. The winner will receive financial assistance in the amount of \$1,500. Applicants must meet the following criteria:

1. Be a graduating high school senior in 2002.
2. Be a child, stepchild or grandchild of a member in good standing of 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: The applicant's name, address, telephone number, relationship to the member, member's name and membership number, and the name and telephone number of the high school the applicant attends. The deadline is April 1, 2002.

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

## S.A.L. SQUADRON 66 REPORT

**T**he Sons of the American Legion (SAL) is always looking to increase our membership and participation. If you have an eligible son or grandson, please have them apply for membership in a great organization.

This month the SAL will be hosting our inaugural Bull and Oyster Roast to held at the Post on Saturday, March 23, 2002. Plans are ahead of schedule and we anticipate a great event. Posters have been distributed to all the Legion posts in the county so we are expecting a great crowd.

The menu will include roast beef, fried and raw oysters, oyster stew, steamed shrimp, hot dogs, cole slaw, potato salad, baked beans, soda and beer. Food will be served from 6:00 to 8:00 pm. Live music and dancing will follow. The cost is on \$20.00 per person, children five and under are free.

Tickets are on sale now at the Post on a limited basis. A great time is expected, as well as a sell out, so don't be left out in the cold...buy your tickets now!

Tim McEwan  
Commander

### AMERICAN LEGION UNIFORM CAP

Recent price increases by Emblem Sales necessitates a change to the previously provided information on purchasing a uniform service cap. The basic cost for an American Legion Uniform Cap is \$28.95 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 \$6.00 and the optional "For God and Country" patch for the left side of your cap is \$1.95 and an Armed Forces Tack of your branch of service is an additional \$3.95. It is recommended that you purchase a plastic hart cover for \$1.50. Total cost to you is \$42.35 (if you order through the Post) as we will pay the shipping and handling fee of \$6.95. If you wish to order a cap, please contact the Post Adjutant at the Post (301-464-9814) or his home (301-390-6436), or e-mail at either.

## Delegates Elected to Department Convention

**D**elegates to the Annual Department of Maryland American Legion Convention were elected at the regular meeting of Post 66 held on Wednesday, January 23<sup>rd</sup>. They are (in no particular order): John Marshall, Jr. Martin, Jim Pritchett, J. D. Larson, Dave Kershner, Eddie Thompson, Herman Peterson, Myron James, Paul Thompson, Charlie Milstead, Clif Morvant, Nick Muller, Tom Murphy, Alwin "Major" Sprehe, Doug Peters, Toni King, Dan Healy, and Les Wicklein. The convention will be held July 9-12, 2002 in Ocean City, Md. where a "good time is had by all."

## Unit 66 Report

**A**s of our last meeting on February 20<sup>th</sup>, 2002 we made a very important change to our schedule. Our meeting time has been changed from 8:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. on the third Wednesday of the month. Please mark your calendars so that you will not arrive late and miss something important!!

So much has happened since our last newsletter. The first is the changing of the meeting time. This was done in order for us to take care of business and still have time at the end of the meeting to socialize. Maybe this time will be more convenient for you to attend our meetings. If so, please do.

Second, our Unit has made over four-star! With the members voted in at our last meeting we are 13 over four star!! I am very proud of the ladies in our Unit for their hard work on membership, and you should be too. Without these hard-working ladies we would not be able to participate in as many Auxiliary programs as we do.

Our Americanism chairman, Anna Thompson, has picked up the essays for the essay contest. They have been judged on the Unit level and turned into District to be judged at that level. Good luck to all of those who entered. Winners will read their compositions at our Children and Youth Program in April. Please make plans to attend and hear the winners' essays.

We are collecting grocery coupons to send to our servicemen and women. They can be used by these people at the PX. Do not use specific store coupons or restaurant coupons. Regular product coupons are welcome by our people in service to their country.

Auxiliary Monthly Meeting  
Wednesday, March 20  
7:30 pm  
Note New Time!

If you can knit or crochet, our "Toastie Toes" project might be for you. I have knitting and crochet patterns if you would like them. Just contact me or another Auxiliary member or just drop them off at the Post, and we will send them to our men and women in service.

Our Children and Youth Chairman, Priscilla Sprehe has Childrens' Miracle Network flag circles. If you make a donation you can put your name on one and have it hung at the Post home for everyone to see how generous you are. Please help us out with this project. All monies go to a worthwhile cause.

Project Linus involves making blankets for sick children. They can be knitted, crocheted or sewn, and they can be from crib size to full size. The finished blankets will be donated to children's hospital wards in the Southern Maryland District. If you would like to donate a homemade blanket please contact me or leave a message at the Post and we will be in contact with you.

The Auxiliary members are collecting cell phones that are of no use to the owners but can be put to good use by the Office of the Sheriff of P.G. County. They will have them reprogrammed as 911 emergency phones to be used by the elderly for emergency purposes. If you have an unused cell phone please bring it up to the post. There is a donation box behind the bar to collect the phones.

Our February Friday Night dinner was very successful and we were able to donate \$320 to the Sandi Dutton for National President Campaign. Everyone enjoyed the meal and it was for a great cause.

Our March 8<sup>th</sup> Friday Night dinner will be hosted by "guest chef" Laura Martin. It will be a Taco night with a real Hispanic flavor. The cost as usual will be \$8.00 per person and the meal will be served from 6:30 p.m. until 8:00 p.m.. There is a sign-up sheet behind the bar and you can make your reservations in person or by phone. Please sign up by Wednesday, March 6<sup>th</sup> so that we can make sure we have plenty of food for everyone.

April's Friday Night dinner will be on the April 12<sup>th</sup> and the menu will be homemade lasagna with all the trimmings, even Italian ice for desert! Pencil this date in on your calendar for a great dinner with family and friends.

Please join us at our March 20<sup>th</sup> meeting at 7:30 p.m. and find our first hand what is going on in our Unit and maybe you just might find a niche for yourself!!!!

Juanita L. Thompson  
President

SAL Squadron 66  
Monthly Meeting  
Monday, March 1  
7:30 pm

## VA Mobile Clinic Visits Post 66

The VA Medical Center Mobile Health Clinic returns to Post 66 on Thursday, February 7, 2002 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. For questions, contact the Post Service Officer, Eddie Thompson, at (301) 262-2263.

## NASCAR Enters American Legion 'Winner's Circle'

WASHINGTON (Feb. 8, 2002) - Prior to the September 11 attacks, which gave rise to public displays of patriotism, NASCAR aired on each of its telecasts, the playing of "The Star-Spangled Banner" and a salute to the men and women of the U.S. armed forces. The practice earned NASCAR "The 2002 American Legion National Commander's Public Relations Award."

NASCAR President Mike Helton will accept the award on March 13, 2002, during a luncheon culminating The American Legion's annual Washington Conference at the Hyatt Regency Capitol Hill.

American Legion National Commander Richard J. Santos, who will present the award, said: "NASCAR paid tribute to America and to the hallowed tradition of the citizen-soldier. The tributes were long before the tragic events of September 11; events that reminded our nation not to take such things for granted. NASCAR earned a place in The American Legion's winner circle -- not only for commemorating part of the unique heritage that binds us, as Americans, together, but for doing so free of commercial interruption."

### Can You Find Your DD-214?

Do you know where a copy of your DD-214 is? More importantly, does your family know where to find it when you are not here? All too often, the Post Service Officer is called to intervene on behalf of a family member to assist in obtaining this all important document. Regrettably, there is not too much he can do. If your family cannot produce a copy, there will be no flag on your casket. Funeral arrangements, including internment, can be delayed causing untold heartache and problems at a time when your loved ones are mourning. **DO NOT DELAY!** Make sure your family knows where to find your DD-214 for these and other veterans benefits to which you are entitled. If you cannot locate your DD-214, contact the Post Service Officer NOW!

# Disney-Bell Post 66

**American Legion Disney-Bell Post 66**  
**9605 Old Laurel-Bowie Road**  
**Bowie, MD 20720**  
**Tel: (301) 464-9814**  
**Fax: (301) 805-6832**  
**Web Page: [www.alpost66.org](http://www.alpost66.org)**

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Inside *The Rising Star*: March Activities,  
Melvin Buck Scholarships Applications  
Due, Important Info on DD-214,  
Organizational Reports and More!!!

## POST OFFICERS

Commander: J. D. Larson, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Commander: Clif Morvant, 2nd Vice Commander: Dave Kershner, Adjutant: Jim Pritchett, Judge Advocate: Charlie Milstead, Service Officer: Ed Thompson, Finance Officer: Herman Peterson, Historian: Myron James, Chaplain: Toni King, Sergeant-at-Arms: Les Wicklein. Executive Committee: Dan Healy, Jr. Martin, Tom Murphy, A. H. Sprehe, and Paul Thompson.

St. Patrick's Day Dinner  
Sunday, March 17<sup>th</sup>  
Corned Beef and Cabbage  
Green Beer  
5:00 to 6:30 PM  
\$6 per person  
rsvp: 3-13-02

# SAL

## Bull and Oyster Roast

March 23  
6:00 pm  
\$20.00