

RAISE A STIR

DISNEY-BELL POST 66 NOISELETTER

APRIL 1, 2002

President to Visit Post 66

President George W. Bush has responded to our invitation and agreed to visit Disney-Bell Post 66 as part of his "Reach Out to Veterans" program. The actual date of the visit will remain Top Secret until the trip is completed. As a member of an American Legion Post in Texas, he will be entitled to all privileges of our Post, with the exception of being eligible to sign the daily quarter book. Commander J. D. Larson along with all the officers of the Post, are busily cleaning up and painting the building in order to present a beautiful appearance to our Commander-in-Chief.



While his exact schedule was not available at press time, it is hoped that the President and his entourage will tour the facilities, enjoy some deep fried pork rinds, and shoot a game of pool. We are currently in negotiations with the County to extend the Turkey Shoot license past February in hopes that the President can try his luck at winning a scatter shot. An advance party of Secret Service personnel has inspected the premises for possible security problems and has determined that as long as the smoke eaters in the lounge are working properly, they see no potential danger to the President.

Local political figures have naturally appeared "out of the woodwork" in an attempt to be invited to this history making event. In order to keep the number of public officials down, we have determined that all city and county council members who are members of the American Legion and pay their 2003 dues early, will be allowed to attend. Regrettably, due to the size of the Post and the numerous security and press that naturally follow Mr. Bush, no members of the Post will be allowed admittance. It is suggested; however, that members with an interest in being part of the waving crowd, submit a request for the required background investigation. Any employee

scheduled to work that day will be given a holiday, with pay.



FIRST VICE COMMANDER REPORT

Spring has arrived and with it thoughts of warm weather and outdoor activities and your membership committee has taken note. We will be working again this year at Bowiefest at Allen Pond Park. Together with the Auxiliary and the Sons of the America Legion, and with the visible presence of the Honor Guard, we will be manning the Department's trailer on June 1st. The committee is open to ideas to increase the effectiveness of this promotion. As of now, we are considering hourly drawings for prizes and Honor Guard demonstrations. If you haven't seen the Honor Guard doing their thing, this is a great time to show your support. You will certainly feel the pride of belonging to our Post when you see them in action. I watched them last year at the Department convention in Ocean City and can tell you that they do one mean Queen Anne Salute.

During the activities of Bowiefest we plan on focusing on identifying active duty military members. For some reason they are not too difficult to spot. As you know, the Post pays the first year's membership fee for active duty personnel, so these targets should be an easy sell. You don't have to be on the membership committee to participate in the recruiting. All Post 66, Auxiliary and SAL members are encouraged to join in on this fun event.

The committee is also exploring a Post 66 day with the Bowie Baysox. We will be working toward having the Honor Guard present the colors, wearing our hats and manning a sign-up table. To attract Baysox fans to our table, we are looking into some sort of give away. If possible, we will try to get an autographed game bat from the Baysox and announce the winner over the public address system.

Recently, the membership committee mailed about 150 letters to late-renewing members and have received a good response.

Accepting Paul Thompson's suggestion and a lot of groundwork on his behalf, the Executive Committee approved using Valpak mailers in an attempt to find new members. It is still early, but we have at least three new members from the first mailing and the second mailing is scheduled for the end of March. Good job, Paul.

I would like to use this space to again thank the membership committee and especially our Adjutant, Jim Pritchett, for all of their hard work and support.

With three months remaining in the recruiting year, we now stand at 90% of maintaining our coveted four star rating. We are at 745 down and 82 to go. Every new member helps, as well as renewals. Surely you know one eligible veteran whom you have neglected to "ask." If you do not have application forms, any officer or the bartenders can give you a supply.

Clif Morvant
1st Vice Commander

VA CLINIC VISITS POST

The VA Medical Center Mobile Health Clinic comes to Post 66 on Thursday, April 4, 2002 from 9:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. The Clinic provides check-ups as well as conducting preventative medical 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 this visit only, all former Marines will receive a free lollipop. If you have any question regarding this service, contact the Post Service Officer, Eddie Thompson, at 301-262-2263.

Commander's Message

Clif Morvant, our First Vice Commander, and the Membership Committee, has done an outstanding job in recruiting and maintaining Post 66 membership. They literally send hundreds of letters to members who, believe it or not, have yet to pay their dues. Recently, one of those letters was returned with the following note: "Mr. John Doe (name changed) no longer wants to be a member of the American Legion. He doesn't drink or smoke and has nothing in common with the people up there."

How sad. A World War II veteran who put his life on the line for his country, for our freedom, and he just doesn't "get it."

The American Legion is not a bar. As the nation's largest veteran's service organization, we have much more than a bar in which to be proud. We sponsor routine visits by the VA Mobile Clinic to our post which provides for health screening and registration to VA eligible veterans. We donate thousands of dollars worth of equipment annually to the Maryland State Veterans Home at Charlotte Hall. Further, we charter scout troops, give thousands of dollars to the Bowie Boys and Girls Club, \$1,500 to the Bowie Volunteer Fire Department, and thousands of dollars to organizations including, but not limited to, the Johns Hopkins Children Center, Maryland Special Olympics, the Epilepsy Foundation of Maryland and the Cerebral Palsy Association of Maryland. This year, we donated more than \$5,000 worth of toys to the Marine Corps "Toys for Tots" campaign. Further, we award three \$1,500 college scholarships to local youths and provide assistance to Junior ROTC programs. Sponsoring several teens to attend Boys and Girls State, as well as hosting the annual Oratorical Contest, are just two more ways we help local youth programs. You may have even followed the exploits of the Disney-Bell team playing American Legion baseball, an American tradition for many years. And these are but a few of the programs sponsored in whole or in part by this American Legion.

Personally, I am very proud to be a member of the American Legion as I know are most of you. Specifically, I am extremely proud of being a member of Disney-Bell Post 66 and the having the honor of serving as your Commander. However, providing an environment for the enjoyment of our members after all that hard work and dedication, requires no apology. Membership is our lifeblood and without our members, we could not support any of the programs mentioned. Your membership supports these programs, not a bar, and we can't do it without you. Whether you smoke or not, drink or not, or ever set a foot in our door, your membership to our Post is vital to our success. Please remember our programs, not our lounge, when asked to continue being a member of our Post. Thank you.

J. D. Larson
Commander

Post 66
Monthly Meeting
Wednesday, April 24
7:30 P.M.
Agenda: Discuss Cruise
Arrangements for Officers' Trip

Unit 66 Report

Happy Easter and a Joyous Spring to all Disney-Bell members! The time has passed so quickly since our last newsletter. Please take notice that we have changed our meeting time to 7:30 p.m. on the third Wednesday of the month. I hope that this will be more convenient for our members. As of the writing of this article the Unit has not held their March meeting, but so much has happened since our February meeting.

On Sunday, February 24, 2002, Anna, Priscilla and myself attended our monthly District meeting held at Harry White Wilmer Post #82 in La Plata, Maryland. It was there that I had the pleasure to inform the Southern Maryland District that Disney-Bell Unit 66 had met and even surpassed our membership goal, making us a four-star Unit! I was presented an award for this outstanding accomplishment. All of the Disney-Bell members should be proud of this achievement.

Following that momentous occasion a contingent of members traveled to Mayo Beach to Cummings-Belke Post #226 for the National Presidents visit. We qualified, due to our new March members, to have our name placed in a top hat and National President Sherry McLaughlin drew three lucky units to receive cash prizes of either \$100, \$75 or \$50. I am thrilled to say that we won the \$50 prize! This money will be used toward a project during the year.

We participated in the American Legion Birthday dinner on March 9, 2002 at the Post and there were 16 veterans from Charlotte Hall in attendance. The dinner was planned by Ron and Rose Corazzi and it was delicious. During the course of the evening there was a short program, I was presented a new gavel for the Unit. Thank you very much, it was a thoughtful gift and we will strive to use it wisely.

Remember our April Friday Night Dinner. The date will be April 12, 2002 at 6:30 p.m.. The menu will be lasagna, prepared by Betty Mullen, and the ladies will be working on the bread, salad and Italian Ice for desert. Please sign up on the sheet at the bar. You can call in or sign up personally. Have your reservation in by Wednesday, April 10, 2002 so that we can fix enough food.

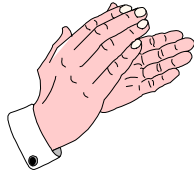
Mark your calendar for April 26, 2002, we having our Tribute to Youth program at 8:00 P.M. at the Post. The essay contest winners will read their entries and receive their awards, participants in Girls State will enlighten us about the program and its activities, and there just might be some surprises in the works. The program will be followed with light refreshments and you may get acquainted with the participants. All are welcome to attend.

As you can see we are a very busy unit and every member volunteer is greatly appreciated. We would love to see you at our monthly meetings. However, if you wish to participate yet cannot make the meetings, feel free to call and let me know if there is something you would like to do. I look forward to seeing some new faces and even some long missed faces at our future meetings.

Juanita L. Thompson, President

BRAVO! BRAVO!

Two events last month merit special attention On Saturday, March 9th, Post 66 hosted our 80 Birthday Dinner. It was a huge success thanks to the hard work of a few special people. First off, Adjutant Jim Pritchett put together a great program. His efforts included inviting special guests, ensuring the pins and members years of service are prepared, coordinating those be initiated, acting as emcee and arranging for the Honor Guard, to name but a few. Thanks, Jim! Your hard work and dedication helps me more than you know. Secondly, the meal was planned, prepared and served by Rose and Ron Corazzi and their crew. I wish to thank the Corazzi's and all those that helped in setting up and cleaning up for this special event.



The other event was a fantastic St. Patrick's Day Dinner on March 17th. This event has been hosted by Tom Murphy for several years and this one was by far one of the best. Tom put together a great crew who worked hard to make this meal perfect. Over 65 people took advantage of the corned beef and cabbage meal and good crowd enjoyed a wonderful feast. Thanks, Tom! You did a great job.



WARNING

The consumption of alcohol may lead you to believe **YOU CAN SING!!**

DANGER

In the Market for a New Car??? Check this out First!

A few weeks ago, CNN Headline News did a short news story about Ford and GM's contributions to the relief and recovery efforts in New York and Washington, D.C. The findings are as follow...Ford: 1 million to the Red Cross (matching employee contributions), 10 Excursion suv's to FDNY, ER response team services and office

space to displaced government employees. GM: 1 million to Red Cross (matching employee contributions) and 10 vans, suv's and trucks. Daimler Chrysler: 10 million to support



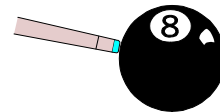
the children and victims of September 11th. Harley-Davidson: 1 million and 30 new motorcycles to NYPD. Volkswagen: Employees and management created September 11th Foundation, raising 2 million for assistance to victims and children of victims. Hyundai: \$300,000 to Red Cross.

Audi, Mitsubishi, BMW, Nissan, Daewoo, Porsche, Fiat, Subaru, Isuzu, Suzuki, Toyota and Honda: NOTHING!

Whenever the time may come for you to purchase or lease a new vehicle, you might want to keep this information in mind. You might want to give some more consideration to a car manufactured by American-owned or based company. Don't forget things like this and say "thank you" in a way that will get their attention.

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Post 66 Auxiliary
Monthly Meeting
Wednesday, April 17
7:30 P.M.
Agenda: Knitting Booties for
Homeless Afghanistan Cats



A Pool Tournament is scheduled to being on Thursday, April 18th at 7:00 pm at Post 66. Participants are limited to current members of Post 66, the Auxiliary and Sons of the American Legion. Those interested should attend meeting on the date and time indicated above. Details will be provided at this meeting and play will being the following the meeting.

CONVENTION SHIRTS

The Department of Maryland will once again be offering Convention shirts. They are red with the Maryland crest on the left hand side and "Maryland" printed below it in gold. The words "American Legion" are imprinted on the left sleeve. Cost of shirts is \$18.00 regardless of size. Shirts may be personalized with The American Legion emblem on the right hand side with Disney-Bell Post 66 above the emblem and your first name below. Cost of personalization is \$9.00 for a total cost of \$27.00.



Payment for shirts must be included with an order form available at the Post. Make all checks payable to The American Legion, Post 66 and write "shirts" on the note section of your check. All orders must be into the Post no later than May 8, 2002. Shirts can be picked up at the Post June 13, 2002.

Questions contact Post Adjutant, Jim Pritchett, either at the Post 301-464-9814, or home 301-390-6436. The Post e-mail address is alpost66@bellatlantic.net or Jim's is jimabniam@aol.com.

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

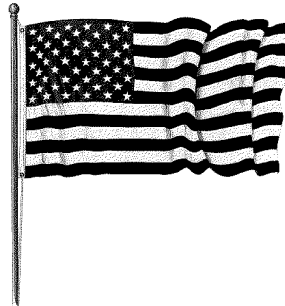
AGENDA: Discuss Plans for Taking Over the World!

What Have They Done?

Several years ago, Marcia Guilford Illig, a member of our Post wrote a poem entitled "What Have They Done to the Red, White, and Blue?" which received praise and commendation, including a letter from President George H. W. Bush. Since September 11, she revised it and it has been read at a meetings and events in Indiana. She passed it along to us and it is printed here for your enjoyment.

First, the ORIGINAL:

What have we done to the Red, White, and Blue,
The symbol of freedom, Our Flag?
It's made into clothing, like trousers and shirts;
It's walked on and burned, even torn into rags!



They still play the "Anthem" at
games and parades,
But many believe that's for
fools.
"The Pledge of Allegiance,"
"The Star Spangled Banner,"
I hear some folks say should
be banned from our schools.

Around the whole world the
Red, White, and Blue,
Made those who have served her stand tall.
Yes, thousands have fought and died for the Flag.
Because she meant Freedom, they answered her call.

Let's bring back respect for "Old Glory", the Flag.
For her country, let's all do our part.
Let's show her allegiance and give her our love.
Stand up and salute! Put your hand on your heart!

Copyright Marcia Guilford Illig, 1990

"HAVE YOU SEEN WHAT THEY'VE DONE WITH THE
RED, WHITE AND BLUE?"

Have you seen what they've done with the Red, White
and Blue,
The symbol of freedom, Our Flag?
It's flying, as always, above buildings, on poles;
It's on windows, and doors, and car bumper tags.

Have you seen how it's waving from porches and trees;
On T-shirts with "United We Stand"?
Have you seen our proud Flag, the Red, White and Blue
On antennas of cars 'cross the land?

To make us appreciate all that we have
Terror destroyed New York City's Trade Center;
Americans and others died heroes that day
To make freedom what we must remember.

I'm glad that respect for the Red, White, and Blue
Is back as it was at the start.
The freedoms she stands for we'll fight to preserve.
Stand up and salute! Put your hand on your heart!

Marcia Guilford Illig, Revised December 2001.

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



DANGER

WARNING

The consumption of alcohol may lead you to believe you people are laughing *WITH* you!!



Post Everlasting

Every April, Disney-Bell Post 66 conducts our most solemn ceremony of our organization when we transfer members to Post Everlasting. This year, our ceremony will be held at 2:00 p.m., Saturday, April 13. At that time, the following members will be officially transferred to Post Everlasting: John W. Badaczewski, Claude W. Fulp, Martin M. Spolarich, Stanley J. Mardeusz, John F. Stafurik, James W. DeVinney, Thomas M. Green, Gary B. Leapley, Sheila M. Hein, Clarence Kreitzer, Robert H. Rupprecht, Sandra S. Harkleroad, Abraham Pearl, John H. Bain, Jr., Ida M. Dungey, Frank J. Weber, Roy A. Fisher, Jr., and William C. "Billy" Woods.

Friends and relatives, as well as all Post members, are invited and encouraged to attend. As in years past, a tree will be planted on the Post grounds to honor their memory. A small reception will immediately follow the service.

VA MOBILE VAN
THURSDAY, APRIL 4
9:00 AM TO 2:30 PM



Post Calendar Goes Here

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

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Inside This Issue: Recipes for Spring, New Post Construction Plans, Recall of WWII Vets to Active Duty, and More!!!

POST OFFICERS

CO: J. D. Larson, XO: Clif Morvant, LDO: Dave Kershner, SLJO: Jim Pritchett, ITO: Charlie Milstead, SOSO: Ed Thompson, SO: Herman Peterson, AGO: Myron James, O: Toni King, ONO: Les Wicklein. FIVE AND OH: Dan Healy, Jr. Martin, Tom Murphy, A. H. Sprehe, and Paul Thompson.



POST EVERLASTING
SATURDAY
APRIL 13, 2002
2:00 PM

Editor's Note

An annual tradition, this month's issue is in keeping with the spirit of the season. We attempt to instill a little humor but have no intention of taking away from the serious pieces. While one or two items are meant to be humorous, hopefully you will find the difference between the real and the not so real. Comments in this issue are those of the Newsletter staff and are not the policy of Disney-Bell Post 66, Inc. its officers, or anyone else with any sense.

Thank you.