

The Rising Star

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Disney-Bell Post 66 Newsletter

May 1, 2002

Great Things are Happening at Post 66!

When the weather gets warmer, activity at the Post heats up too. Friday night dinners continue to be well attended. Last month, the Honor Guard sold 71 steak dinners. It is very important to make sure you call the Post no later than the Wednesday before a Friday dinner to make a reservation. I also ask, if you make a reservation . . . keep it. These are fund-raising activities for our groups and they depend on your support. Check the upcoming menus inside the newsletter.

Our First Vice Commander is busier than ever getting membership up to four star status for the 14th consecutive year and I am asking all members to please lend a hand in this effort. It takes a lot of work by many people to help us achieve this goal and anything you can do to help is appreciated. Ask a neighbor, ask a friend and always carry an application with you to be prepared. You never know when you are in a position to enlist a new member.

Besides the Friday night dinners, we also have other activities coming in the next few weeks. Memorial Day ceremonies will be conducted on Monday, May 27th at 11:00 a.m. at Bowie Veterans Park in Old Bowie. This annual event reminds us of the sacrifices made by those who gave their lives for our freedom. Please join me, our Honor Guard, and the friends and families of Bowie's other veterans service organizations on this special day.

The SAL will be hosting their annual Mother's Day breakfast which is always a popular treat at the Post. Why not get Mom and the family and join us for a great time. Also, plan on attending Flag Day ceremonies at Forestville Post 126 on June 14th and, of course, our 4th annual July Fourth family picnic.

May is also the month where our organizations nominate officers, for election in June and service in 2002-2003. Serving as an officer in any of these organizations is a great responsibility and should not be taken lightly. You are expected to support not only the functions of the organization to which you belong, but the rest of the Legion family as well. It is disappointing when functions hosted by one organization are not supported by officers of the other two. This does not reflect well on the individual, or the Post. You should also be prepared and willing to make a commitment to attend the patriotic ceremonies as well as the parties. I ask all of you to think about this before accepting a position in the leadership of our Post.

J. D. Larson

Words of Wisdom. . .

. . . recently received from an unknown internet source:

- < The sole purpose of a child's middle name is so he can tell when he's really in trouble.
- < If ignorance is bliss, why aren't more people happy?
- < Once over the hill, you pick up speed.
- < You don't stop laughing because you grow old. You grow old because you stop laughing.
- < If Wal-Mart is lowering prices every day, how come nothing is free yet?

First Vice Commander Report

Ten. 10. X. A sawbuck. A perfect score in gymnastics. Number of "Little Indians". Bo Derek.

I can't seem to shake that number from my mind. Our post is 10 (ten, count em') members short of reaching our coveted four star status for the fourteenth consecutive year. Last year, then First Vice Commander Larson announced that we had reached four star in the **June** Newsletter. How sweet it would have been to beat that mark by a month.

With the continued support of the Membership Committee, the Executive Committee and all Post 66 members, I have no doubt that we will surpass the 827 members needed for four star. I just wish we could have done it a month earlier.

We will be making phone calls and personal visits to some of our delinquent members in the weeks ahead. So if you are reading this newsletter and your membership card still shows 2001, and you don't want us to bug you, please send your dues in soon. We also have Bowiefest ahead on June 1st, which should bring us additional new members as well as some very good public relations for the post. Please mark your calendars and make a special effort to not only enjoy Bowiefest, but stop by our booth and say hello.

Next month in this space, look for the good news and on-going recognition of those who have worked to make it possible.

Clif Morvant
First Vice Commander

UNIT 66 REPORT

The month of May is upon us with the blossoming of the flowers, trees and bushes. Disney-Bell Unit 66 is blossoming in its own right too. Over the past year we have participated in many of the National, Department and District activities. We had a booth at the Charlotte Hall Summer Carnival, participated in the Toys for Tots drive at Christmas, donated food and gifts to a needy family during the holidays, ran the kitchen during the Turkey Shoots, held our Friday night dinners, collected coupons and old cell phones, made blankets and slippers, and the list can go on. As you can see we have been very busy but every project has an underlying goal: to help our veterans and their families. The 2001-2002 year of service is almost at an end but it has been a memorable year in many ways from the tragedy of 9-11, to the pride and joy of making 4-star in membership. All the ladies that volunteered, even in a small way, deserve a big Thanks! A big thanks is also deserved to the many members of the Post that gave their time and talents to make our programs even more successful, especially Commander J. D. Larson and Adjutant Jim (Santa) Pritchett.

Nominations and election of new officers for the year 2002-2003 term are to take place at our May 15 meeting. If you want to make a difference, please attend and vote.

We are currently looking for a recipient of our annual Children & Youth Project. Lois Van Sickle is doing some research and I'll report her findings in the next newsletter.

Our membership is still growing. If you know of someone wishing to join, make sure that their paperwork is in order. If you have any questions as to what is needed please call me or leave a message at the Post and we will return your call.

Post 66 Auxiliary
Monthly Meeting
Wednesday, May 15
7:30 P.M.
Nomination and Election of
Officers

We are proud and honored to send three deserving girls to Girls State. They are all juniors at Bowie High School and are very interested in attending. We hope to hear of their experiences at our Tribute to Youth Program in 2003.

May is Poppy Month throughout the nation. It was adopted as the official flower of the American Legion in 1921. The poppies are made by veterans and the donations received from their distribution go toward veterans programs. Please ask for a poppy from an Auxiliary member and make a donation to a great program. Our Poppy Dinner will be held on Friday, May

10 and the menu will be meatloaf, mashed potatoes and gravy, mixed vegetables, salad, rolls and butter and cake. Make your reservations early and come join us for some good old Legion fellowship.

Our June Friday night dinner will be baked ham, potato salad and broccoli. This will be our last dinner before the convention break so make plans to join us.

Juanita L. Thompson
President

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

VA CLINIC VISITS POST

The VA Medical Center Mobile Health Clinic returns to Post 66 on Thursday, May 9, 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. If you have any question regarding this service, contact the Post Service Officer, Eddie Thompson, at (301) 262-2263.

BLUE STAR BANNER PROGRAM



The American Legion, under National Commander Ric Santos of Maryland, has re-issued the Blue Star Banner program by stating, "I ask the American Legion family to . . . take the lead in a show of national pride and unity by providing a Blue Star Banner to every family in their area who has a relative serving in our war on terrorism. Let us provide this service to our military families by them hanging the banner in their windows, these families display their pride and patriotism."

The Blue Star Banner program was a common site in America's neighborhoods during World Wars I and II. Created in 1917, people hung it in their windows to denote that a member of the family was serving in the armed forces. Leaders of the nation's largest wartime veterans organization believe the program can play a vital role in America's war on terrorism.

Post 66 provides a Blue Star Banner to any member of our Legion family who has a family member(s) serving in the armed forces, to include Army National Guard and Reserve Component members who have been called to active duty. Requests for banners should include the service members name and military organization, along with the name and membership number of the American Legion family member. Requests should be mailed to the American Legion, Disney-Bell Post 66, ATTN: Blue Star Banner, 9705 Old Laurel-Bowie Road, Bowie, Maryland 20720. Banners are in stock and ready to go.

Anyone with questions should contact the Americanism Committee Chairman, Jim Pritchett, either at the Post, 301-464-9814 or residence, 301-390-6436. The Post e-mail address is alpost66@bellatlantic.net and his is jimabniam@aol.com

SAL SQUADRON 66
MONTHLY MEETING
MONDAY, MAY 13
7:30 PM
Nomination of Officers

Post 66
Monthly Meeting
Wednesday, May 22
7:30 P.M.
Nomination of Officers

The Prince Georges County Council will host the annual Flag Disposal Ceremony on Friday, June 14th at 7:00 p.m. at My Maryland Post 126 in Forestville. The Post Honor Guard will be participating in the



ceremony. If you have never been to one of these ceremonies, it is worth the trip. If you or anyone you know has a U.S. flag that has served well and is ready for retirement, drop it off at the Post. We will insure that is retired with proper respect. A box is provided at the Post for this purpose.

MEMORIAL DAY SERVICES

Freedom is not free. The freedom we enjoy in this country has been paid for with the blood of hundreds of thousands of men and women since our nation's birth over 225 years ago. From Lexington and Concord to the mountains of Afghanistan, our soldiers, sailors and airmen have fought and died to insure that the ideals of our country live on. These brave defenders of liberty have paid the ultimate price. The Lord tells us: "No greater love is this; that a man should lay down his life for his friends."

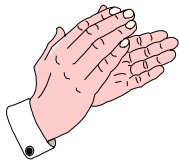
On Monday, May 27, 2002, we will celebrate the lives of those who have fallen in



combat. The atrocities that occurred on 9-11 only heighten our awareness of the sacrifices made for us, and those that are yet to come. We will salute those who have given their lives and to whom we owe so much. All members of the American Legion family are encouraged to demonstrate our heartfelt appreciation for their valor and courage, by attending the Memorial Day Ceremony. The service will be held at Bowie Veterans Memorial Park in Old Bowie at 11:00. A reception will be held immediately following at the DAV on Route 197.

CONGRATULATIONS!!

In the Bravo column this month is our Adjutant Jim Pritchett and the Honor Guard for the fantastic Post Everlasting ceremony conduct on April 13. I have attend many such programs over the years and this one was, simply put, the best. The



program was well conducted with the reverence it deserves.

It was well-attended by over 30 friends and relatives of past members transferred to Post Everlasting and many positive comments were received. The

Honor Guard of Darby McNeil, Nick Muller, Steve Planty, Sr., Steve Planty, Jr., Lois Van Sickle, and Jr. Martin, performed flawlessly and professionally. Behind the scenes and contributing to the activities, was the help of Girl Scout Troop 2208 who assisted Jim in the planting of our living memorial tree.

FRIDAY NITE MENU

May 3 -- Honor Guard
Steak (cooked to order), Baked Potato, Sauteed Mushrooms/Onions, Salad, Dessert
\$8.00

May 10 -- Auxiliary
Meatloaf, mashed potatoes and gravy, mixed vegetables, salad, rolls/butter and cake
\$8.00

May 17 -- SAL
Fish Fry, Orange Roughie, Crab Cake, Cole Slaw, Dessert
\$10.00

MISSING LINKS?



From time to time, members recommend interesting web sites for us to pass on. This month, Roger Layman has provided some information about two such sites.

One is from the State of West Virginia. In 1866, the state authorized the minting of over 26,000 medals to honor its Union Civil War soldiers. Today, over 4,000 medals remain unclaimed. For information, log onto www.wvculture.org/history/medals.

Also, in August, there will be a ceremony at Solomons, Md commemorating the 60th anniversary of the Amphibian School that was established there. For information, log onto www.calvertmuseum.com/special_events/coi/#america.

I would like to start by congratulating all of the SAL members, the Post for their generosity, and guest for a great turnout for our inaugural bull and oyster roast. A fine time was had by all.

An annual event sponsored by our squadron is Mother's Day Breakfast. We always have a great crowd and plenty of food. Also keep an eye on the board for our upcoming Friday night dinners. Sign-ups available.

Nominations of SAL officers will take place at the May SAL meeting and voting at our June meeting the second Monday. Come out and support the SAL.



Tim McEwan
Commander

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



Mother's Day Brunch

When: Sunday, May 12
Time: Same as Last Year
Menu: Same as Last Year
Cost: Same as Last Year

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.

Disney-Bell Post 66

American Legion Disney-Bell Post 66
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Fax: (301) 805-6832
Web Page: www.alpost66.org

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Inside *The Rising Star*: Memorial and Flag Day Ceremonies, Organization Reports, Blue Star Banner Program, Calender and More!!!

POST OFFICERS

Commander: J. D. Larson, 1st 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.



Memorial Day Ceremony

Monday

May 27

11:00 am

Bowie Veterans Memorial Park