

The Rising Star

Disney-Bell Post 66 Newsletter

June 1, 2002



Post 66 Earns Four Star...Again!

Of course the hot news of the month is that Disney-Bell Post 66 continued our tradition of increasing membership by making four-star for the 14th consecutive year. I want to express our appreciation to First Vice Commander Morvant for his work in this accomplishment. Thanks, Clif. You did a great job. Also, many thanks go out to our Adjutant, Jim Pritchett, who has a knack for picking up members from the places others overlook. Particularly, I want to thank every member of Post 66 who took the time and energy to sign up a new member. This is often overlooked but in actuality, we cannot survive as a post without this help from individual members. Certainly many others contributed to this team effort and everyone on the Membership Committee gets this month's "Bravo" award. You should all be very proud of this accomplishment.

At the May monthly meeting of the American Legion, a slate of officers for the 2002-2003 year at Post 66 was nominated. The nominees and the office for which they are running are as follows: Commander: J. D. Larson, First Vice Commander: Clif Morvant, Second Vice Commander: Les Wicklein, Dave Kershner, Judge Advocate: Charlie Milstead, Service Officer: Les Wicklein, Finance Officer: Herman Peterson Historian: Myron James, Chaplain: Toni King, Sergeant-at-Arms: Nick Muller, Paul Thompson, Executive Committee: Dan Healy, Jr. Martin, Tom Murphy, Ed Thompson, Paul Thompson, Dick Lanham, Alwin "Major" Sprehe, Les Wicklein, Nick Muller and Ron Corazzi.



I wish to personally thank those members who have volunteered to run for office next year. By doing so, these members have decided to dedicate their time and energy to helping not only our Post, but veterans and veterans programs in our community. Serving as an officer of the Post is a demanding job that requires a strong commitment which should not be taken lightly. These members have agreed to make Post 66 a priority.

The decisions we make to select our officers should not be taken lightly. The work done by the Executive Committee is vital to the continued success of our Post and we place a great deal of responsibility on those members. I ask all members to make a special effort to attend our June meeting where elections will be held. Don't forget, you must have your **current (2002) membership** card with you in order to vote. Elections will be held at our next regular monthly meeting on Wednesday, June 26th at 7:30 p.m..

Even though summer is fast approaching, there are still plenty of things to do at the Post. Fridays are Happy Hour Days from 5:00 - 7:00 p.m. with reduced drink prices.

The 2002-2003 American Legion Baseball schedule will be out shortly (hopefully ready for next month's newsletter). Check it out and support our team for a game or two.

June 14th is Flag Day and if you want to experience a great ceremony, plan to attend the Flag Disposal Ceremony held by the Forestville (My Maryland Post) American Legion Post 126. Our Honor Guard will be participating in this annual event and if you can attend, please do so. I know we have a dinner at the Post this day, but some scheduling problems just can't be resolved. Take your pick or try both (if you eat early and fast, you can make it!).

Plans are moving forward for our 5th Annual 4th of July Family Picnic and they just keep getting better and better. There is plenty of time to enjoy the day under our big tent, eat some burgers and barkers, enjoy the clown (face painting, balloon sculpting, etc.) and meet some old friends before going to the fireworks display. Cost is free and all we ask is to bring a little salad or dessert to share. Call the Post to sign up.

Ocean City. Yeah, we are going and most, if not all, Post officers will be out of town July 6-12. Post operating hours will be reduced so check the next newsletter or call the Post to be sure we are open. If you happen to be in OC during those dates, why not plan on stopping by the Hospitality Suite at Bradley on the Bay and say hello. We're not hard to miss!

First Vice Commander Report

Congratulations. You belong to a four-star post. We got to this point with the work of many who stuffed envelopes, made phone calls and recruited at every opportunity.

Eight members have recruited at least three new members each and will be presented with special four-star baseball caps at the June membership meeting. There are ten others credited with two members each and could well qualify for the caps by the June 10, 2002 deadline. The caps really look good and their red color will match well with the convention shirts. That's 18 members with at least two new members to their credit. Great work by everybody who contributed to this effort.

We don't feel that our job for the year is quite completed. Last year, at Convention time, my wife (bless her) and I spent our first day at the beach stuffing envelopes. I don't think I can get away with that trick again this year. We need to get our 297 mailing out before people pay their 2003 dues. I think we missed some potential transfers because we waited until after the Post elections to get started. I am hoping to get a 297 printout soon, so that we can beat the 297 dues solicitation letter. I will be asking the membership committee to help with this mailing. The committee has been absolutely amazing.


These people pitch in with such enthusiasm. My thanks to you all. Hopefully, by getting a jump on the 297 crowd, the incoming administration will be able to reach four-star even quicker than we did this year.

Jim Pritchett has been on top of processing and submitting our membership applications and renewals all year long, and I would be remiss in not using this last column before elections to thank him for his hard work. J.D. Larson has been a wonderful source of information and inspiration for this rookie First Vice Commander and I want him to know I appreciated all of his help, too.

The editor is pushing for the early submission of articles for the June newsletter, so hopefully that means that it will get out early. If that is the case, it is not too late to remind you that we will have the Department's mobile recruiting trailer at Bowiefest on June 1st at Allen Pond Park. We are still looking for more people to pass out leaflets and help with the activities surrounding our display. Also, even if you can't help, please drop by anyway and say hello to those that will be on hand representing the Post, Auxiliary and the SAL as well as to watch our honor guard in action.

Clif Morvant

Chaplain's Corner

This past year, we transferred 18 comrades to Post Everlasting. It sometimes seems that not a week goes by that we don't lose another veteran. Many times, we do not find out about this loss until weeks afterwards. The only way the Chaplain can assist the family during these hard times is if I am notified. Why not cut this information out and post it near your telephone or computer so it is always handy. That way, we can  not only help out family members, but pay the proper respect due one who served their country.

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.

Toni King
Chaplain

National Defense Medal Authorized



National Defense Service Medal: DOD has authorized all service members (including Coast Guard members) who were on active duty on or after Sept. 11, 2001, to wear the National Defense Service Medal. Members of the National Guard and Reserve may also be awarded the medal if they were on Federal active duty on or after Sept.

11. Exceptions to this new policy are: active duty for training, short tours of active duty to serve on boards, courts, or commissions, or active duty solely for a physical exam. Eligible members can receive and wear the award immediately. Those awarded the medal for an earlier period will receive a bronze service star device to attach to the ribbon. Established by President Eisenhower on April 22, 1953, the National Defense Service Medal indicates military service

Unit 66 Report

The 2001-2002 year is coming to an end. We of the Auxiliary have many accomplishments under our belts, with a few projects yet to complete before the year ends. The following are but a few of the things we have done: crocheted slippers for the soldiers in service, collected coupons and sent them overseas to our servicemen and women and their families, sponsored three girls to Girls State in June, sponsored and held the Americanism Essay Contest for children in grades 3-8 (hopefully we will have participants in high school level next year), made monetary donations to community services, participated in a walk-a-thon for the Children's Miracle Network, had several members volunteer their time to work with the elderly and the homeless, and sent holiday greetings to our service people overseas to let them know they are in our thoughts always.



As you can see from this list, we contribute to the veterans and our community in very many ways. Along with these activities we also have our monthly Friday night dinners and Sunday morning breakfasts during Turkey

Shoots. If you see something that you might like to participate in or that you might have questions about, please feel free to call me or leave a message at the Post and we will respond.

The weeks before convention are always filled with activity and excitement. We have donated homemade blankets to the Linus project, a District project to provide blankets for sick children. We have also collected cell phones to be reprogrammed and distributed by the Sheriffs' Office to be used as 911 emergency phones by the elderly. Our Post is hosting the Southern Maryland District Caucus on July 1, 2002 to elect a new District President. I know that we are all looking forward to the Post's Fifth Annual Fourth of July Picnic. Also, look for members of the Auxiliary along with other members of the Disney-Bell Legion family at Bowiefest on June 1 at Allen's Pond.

Our Friday Night Dinners have been very successful this year and our last one before convention will be on Friday, June 14, 2002. The menu will be baked ham, potato salad, cole slaw, baked beans and a flag cake in

honor of Flag Day. Please make your reservations before Wednesday, June 12 so that we can shop and prepare enough food. This will be our last Friday night dinner until September, so come and let us close out our season with a big success.

And, something new this year so the dads will not be left out. We are hosting a Fathers' Day Brunch on Fathers Day, June 16, 2002 from 9:00 a.m. until noon. All fathers eat free! For all other family members the cost will be \$5.00. There will be a sign-up sheet at the bar and we are asking everyone to please sign up so we know how many for which to prepare. This is our Inaugural Fathers Day Brunch so please help us make it a successful annual affair.

Finally but very importantly, we held our Unit election at our May 15, 2002 meeting and the results are as follows: President: Juanita Thompson, Vice President: Barbara Goshin, Secretary: Cindy Queen, Treasurer: Anna Thompson, Chaplain: Priscilla Sprehe, Historian: Linda Healy, Sergeant at Arms: Lois Van Sickle

Delegates to Department Convention were also elected. As you can see we are a very busy group but it's for a great cause and it's fun.

Juanita L. Thompson
President

VA Mobile Health Clinic
Thursday, June 6, 2002
9:00 am - 2:30 pm

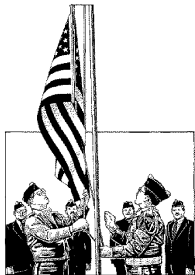
Convention Hours

During the Annual Department of Maryland Convention in Ocean City, the Post Lounge Hours will be 2:00 pm to 10:00 pm daily from Saturday, July 6 through Friday, July 12. We regret any inconvenience this may cause. Thank You.

FLAG DAY, JUNE 14

In a one-room schoolhouse near Fredonia, Wisconsin, a miniature American Flag standing in a bottle had a place of honor on teacher Bernard Cigrand's desk.

It might have been the sight of that flag -- always before him -- that convinced Cigrand a day should be set aside to observe the American Flag. Or, it could have been the still-fresh wounds of the Civil War, which 20 years earlier divided the nation and under which the United States united once more. It may have even been that Cigrand's parents, who had emigrated from Luxembourg, taught their son that the American flag symbolized opportunity and a freedom unlike any the world had ever seen.



Whatever it was that inspired him to lead his class in observing "Flag Birthday" on June 14, 1885 -- the 108th anniversary of the official adoption of the Stars and Stripes -- Cigrand managed to put something incredible in motion that day. He began a quest to give the American flag a place of honor in the national ethos, a quest that ended for Cigrand when President Woodrow Wilson established Flag Day by proclamation May 30, 1916. And, it's a quest that continues today in the form of the flag-protection amendment.

Cigrand recognized what many Americans simply did not understand their nation's flag as a symbolic power. Unity of country, sacrifice by those who lived and died protecting it, celebration of personal and political liberty, these things are written in the stars and between stripes of red and white, and make the American flag precious and worth honoring by giving it a day of its own. That was the message he took to the nation's streets. It didn't take but a few years for his crusade to bear fruit.

In 1889, a New York kindergarten teacher introduced Flag Day ceremonies at his school, prompting the State Board of Education of New York to adopt the idea of observing Flag Day. Next were the schools of Philadelphia, which conducted Flag Day exercises June 14, 1893 in Independence Square where schoolchildren carried small flags and assembled for a day of patriotic singing and uplifting addresses. In 1890, Cigrand and Leroy Van Horn organized the American Flag Day Association for the purpose of promoting a massive Flag Day celebration in Chicago. More than 300,000 schoolchildren gathered in Douglas, Garfield, Humboldt, Lincoln and Washington parks to honor the flag.

President Woodrow Wilson -- whose own love for the Stars and Stripes ran deep -- thought three decades of state and local celebrations warranted a proclamation. However; it wasn't until 1949, that President Harry S. Truman took the final step in inscribing Flag Day on the nation's collective conscience, when he signed an act of Congress making June 14th the one day every year when the American Flag would receive its due.

Cigrand's work lives on. The same spirit that put Flag Day on the national calendar drives the flag-protection amendment. Just as America is no ordinary nation, our flag is no ordinary piece of cloth. When an object has been deemed precious -- an event that for the American Flag came when that first Flag Day was celebrated in Cigrand's schoolhouse in 1885 -- it must then be considered worth protecting.

No better option exists to protect the Stars and Stripes than under America's Constitution, allowing respect for the flag to take its rightful

place alongside the cherished rights of freedom of speech and religion. Much like the flag-protection amendment, Flag Day was born in

the hearts and minds of hard-working, proud-serving Americans. They made the decision to willfully and passionately celebrate



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.

and respect the flag every June 14th. That decision has been made year upon year for more than a century now. It left elected officials no other choice than to endorse it. History indicates that must be the fate of the flag-protection amendment.

As President Wilson declared June 14, 1917, "This flag, which we honor and under which we serve, is the emblem of our unity, our power, our thought and purpose as a nation. It has no other character than that which we give it from generation to generation."



FATHER'S DAY BRUNCH

**SUNDAY, JUNE 16
9:00 AM TIL NOON
COST: \$5 PER PERSON
DADS EAT FREE
RSVP: AT POST**

Squadron 66 Report

The Mother's Day breakfast was a great success, just as last year. Thanks for all in attendance and the members who helped make it a successful event.

Once again, the SAL made four-star for the year 2001-2002. Thank you for all who joined and promoted membership to our squadron.

Our Friday night dinners will continue through June and, after taking a vacation for the summer, will restart in September. Thank you for all who supported our functions and watch the board for menus and prices.

Nominations for officers for the 2002-2003 year are: Commander: Joe Clark, First Vice Commander: David Maxwell, Steve E. Planty, Finance Officer: Darby McNeill, Adjutant: James Clark, III, Chaplain: Sam Clark, Jr., Historian: Joe Weik, Sergeant-at-Arms: Skip Powell, Sam Clark.

Thank you for your support and think membership.

Timothy McEwan
Commander

Auxiliary Monthly Meeting
Wednesday, June 19
7:30 pm
Note New Time!

**VA Mobile Clinic
Visits 66**

The VA Medical Center Mobile Health Clinic returns to Post 66 on Thursday, June 6, 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.

The VA determines funding to the states based upon how many veterans in that state are registered with the VA. Regardless of whether you intend to use their services or not, if you have never registered, please consider doing so. Your registration is important to those veterans that rely heavily upon the VA for their medical needs. If you have any question regarding this service,

contact the Post Service Officer, Eddie Thompson, at (301) 262-2263.

**American Legion
Membership Benefit**



So what do you get for being a member of the American Legion? How about a free sundae? That's right. On Sunday, July 6th, go to any participating Dairy Queen, show your membership card and receive, absolutely free, a 5-oz. Sundae. This program is part of Dairy Queens commitment to the Children's Miracle Network (www.dairyqueen.com).

RADA KNIVES ARE BACK!



I know you remember these. We sold them for years and now they are back. Members of the Auxiliary are once again selling RADA knives. Reasonably priced and good quality knives, they are available by contacting Cindy Queen or any Auxiliary member at the Post. Catalogs will be available so you can look at and they can place their orders with any Auxiliary member or call Cindy Queen.

VA Van In Trouble?

The Veterans Administration (VA) is determining if the establishment of local VA clinics warrants the continued use or redeployment of the Mobile Health Van. Their assertion is that new clinics have opened making them accessible to more veterans who live within a certain radius and that parking, which had been a problem in the past, has been corrected. In fact, they are claiming the new clinics, such as in Washington, Virginia and Greenbelt, not only have ample parking, but valet parking for the disabled. Further, they feel that the clinics can handle 20 patients at a time while the mobile van can only see seven. Unfortunately, that has not been our experience here in Bowie. The VA mobile clinic continues to be a more popular avenue for our local veterans to seek registration and treatment.

In May, as in the past few months, more than 20 veterans were seen during their visit to our post. Coincidentally, it appears as if this visit may have even saved a life. One of our members received a routine blood check, a problem was diagnosed and off to the emergency room he went.

In order to prevent the loss of this valuable asset, we must act and act now. Please contact Mr. Earl Newsome of the Veterans Administration Medical Center, who is heading up this study. He may be reached by calling him direct at 202-745-8212, or by sending a fax to 202-745-8530, or an e-mail to earl.newsome@med.va.gov. Let Mr. Newsome know that this is a valuable service to the veterans in our community.



WE'RE AT THE BEACH!

The Department of Maryland of the American Legion will hold its annual department convention in Ocean City, Maryland and from the week of July 6-12. During that time, the Post will operate a Hospitality Suite at the Bradley on the Bay. Hours of operation for the Hospitality Suite will be from noon to 8:00 p.m. daily. If you are in Ocean City during convention week, please stop by and visit. Bradley on the Bay is located just to the left of the Convention Center in Ocean City with plenty of free parking in the Municipal lot.



July 4th Family Picnic

The Disney-Bell Post 66 Fifth Annual 4th of July Picnic will be held on Thursday, July 4th, from 1:00 - 5:00 p.m.. This year looks like it will be even better than ever. The food is on order (all the hot dogs, hamburgers, sausage and fried chicken you can eat), the soda and beer are being iced down, the "big tent" is on the way and soon we will be all set. This year, as an added attraction to entertain the kids, a clown (or two) will be on hand to do face painting, balloon sculpting and other activities. So don't hesitate and mark your calendars now. If you've been to one of these before, you know what great fun we have. The picnic is free to all members of the Post, Auxiliary, SAL and their families.

We are asking for volunteers to bring a side dish (small salad, chips, snacks, etc.) or dessert to share with everyone. A sign-up sheet will be placed in the Post so please call and let us know how many will be coming and what you can bring. You do not have to bring something to attend so don't let that be a problem, but in order for us to have enough food, we would still like you to call and let us know how many will be attending. RSVP no later than July 2, 2002.



Disney-Bell Post 66

American Legion Disney-Bell Post 66
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Web Page: www.alpost66.org

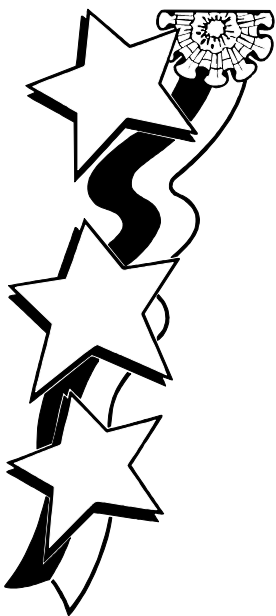
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Day Ceremonies, Organization Reports,
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POST OFFICERS

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.



July 4th
Family Picnic
1:00 - 5:00 pm

Burgers, Barkers, Sausage
Chicken, Salads and More!

RSVP: NLT July 2

