

THE RISING STAR

DISNEY-BELL POST 66 NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 11, 2002

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year

Another year is fast closing and regrettably this newsletter is a little late. For that we apologize but still hope you enjoy this issue. Hopefully, you have checked out the calendar section of last month's issue and are well aware of the activities coming up. Also, whenever you think your issue is late and you have access to a computer, just hop on www.alpost66.org and you will always have the latest information.



There are always Legion members who willingly donate much of their time and talents to help Post 66 and the American Legion. And while there are always a number of people who help, some special acts over the past month or so need to be recognized. In no particular order, stop and say "Thank You" to: Jan Mayer, for fixing and painting our sign out front; Joe Burger and Eddie Thompson, for running wire and connecting our closed circuit TV surveillance

Post for all to share; to Tom Murphy for heading up the kitchen crew cooking a turkey and ham Thanksgiving Day dinner and to the rest of his crew of J. D. Larson, Walt Blanchette, Diane Booth, Mary Van Sickler, Darrel Van Sicker and Kim and Katie Prendable.

Also, say "thank you" to the Auxiliary and other special helpers who decorated the Post last week; such as Pat Lamb who hung the lights outside, Charlie and Kathy Milstead who set up and decorated the Sandy tree, and to Juanita, Kim, Katie, Priscilla and others who "decked the halls."

At this writing, there are no "official" plans for a New Year's event; however, the rumor mill says that several members may be putting together an informal gathering. Check the post lounge for further details.

That's all for now . . . I hope to see many of you at one of our upcoming holiday events.

J. D. Larson
Commander

Sorry We're Late!

The Editors of *The Rising Star* wish to apologize for being late with this edition. First, Thanksgiving and all its activities caught us off guard. Then, work (the one we get paid for) has been hectic. Add to that a storm and missed days and the next thing you know...we're late. Again, our apologies.

The Staff

cameras; to Dick Lanham and his painting crew for doing the trim on the Turkey Shoot shed; to Kim Prendable and Joyce Stevens who bring snacks to

First Vice Commander Report

This is the last time that this Membership Committee Chairman will ask you to renew your membership EARLY. Why? Because when that big globe falls in Times Square, if you have not paid your dues for 2003, you will be LATE.

When Dick Clark says "Happy New Year," you will no longer be an active member in Post 66 if your membership card is not dated 2003. We really don't



want to lose you. You certainly do not want your continuous years of membership to be challenged.

Please check your membership card. It is easy to forget whether you have paid your dues each year, and you may think you have renewed but haven't. Please get your dues payment of \$20 to the Post before Christmas so that we can process your renewal before the new year begins and your membership terminates.

Has someone asked you what you want for Christmas and you have no idea? How about a PUFL, a paid up for life membership in the American Legion? PUFL memberships can make a wonderful gift and you won't have to worry about paying your dues every year. Depending on your age, PUFLs range in price from \$118 to \$628. The older you are, the cheaper (one of the very few benefits of old age). If you or someone who wants to give you a lifetime gift is interested, please contact Jim Pritchett, our Adjutant. His contact information is in the Adjutant's Call column in this newsletter. PUFLs can also be purchased on a time payment plan over a twelve-month period with no interest or finance charges.

I wish you all a safe and joyous holiday season and look forward to an exciting 2003 in Disney-Bell Post 66.

Clif Morvant
1st Vice Commander

DISNEY-BELL POST 66
NO MONTHLY MEETING
IN DECEMBER

Adjutant's Call

As you know from the First Vice Commander's report, your 2002 membership card will expire at midnight, December 31, 2002. There is not any grace period and if you have not renewed your membership by then you can and should be denied access to all Post

66 activities. To prevent an embarrassing moment, pay your 2003 dues now.

There is a 45-day turn around time for National to complete the processing of your renewal. So if you pay your 2003 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 that reads, "*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 2003 card, disregard the notice as they suggest. If it is a 2002 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



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.

Chaplain's Corner

ATTENTION ALL VETERANS: With the holidays approaching, let us remember the veterans that are housebound or at the VA hospital and Charlotte Hall. If you know of a veteran who is in need of help, or a family of a veteran who may need help, or has experienced an illness or a death of a family member, please notify me at 301-262-0257, e-mail rweik53164@aol.com or leave a message at the post home 301-464-9814.

Toni King
Chaplain

Pot o' Gold Contest

Throughout the 2002-2003 membership campaign, American Legion National Commander Ronald F. Conley encourages members to reach for the "pot o' gold." The membership contest rules are simple: one "Pot o' Gold" cam pin is awarded for every five new members recruited into the American Legion.

The program is open to all Legion family members, including the Auxiliary and SAL, provided the new members are enrolled as Legionnaires.



What is a Vet?

He is the cop on the beat who spent six months in Saudi Arabia sweating two gallons a day making sure the armored personnel carriers didn't run out of fuel.

He is the barroom loudmouth, dumber than five wooden planks, whose overgrown frat-boy behavior is outweighed a hundred times in the cosmic scales

by four hours of exquisite bravery near the 38th parallel.

She (or he) is the nurse who fought against futility and went to sleep sobbing every night for two solid years in Da Nang.

He is the POW who went away one person and came back another -- or didn't come back at all. He is the Parris Island drill instructor who has never seen combat -- but has saved countless lives by turning slouchy, no-account red necks and gang members into Marines, and teaching them to watch each other's backs.

He is the parade-riding Legionnaire who pins on his ribbons and medals with a prosthetic hand. He is the career quartermaster who watches the ribbons and medals pass him by, but keeps the supply lines full.

He is the three anonymous heroes in The Tomb of The Unknowns, whose presence at the Arlington National Cemetery must forever preserve the memory of all anonymous heroes whose valor dies unrecognized with them on the battlefield or in the ocean's sunless deep.

He is the old guy bagging groceries at the supermarket - palsied now and aggravatingly slow - who helped liberate a Nazi death camp and who wishes all day long that his wife were still alive to hold him when the nightmares come.

He is an ordinary and yet an extraordinary human being -- a person who offered some of his life's most vital years in the service of his country, and who sacrificed his ambitions so others would not have to sacrifice theirs.

He is a soldier and a savior and a sword against the darkness, and he is nothing more than the finest, greatest testimony on behalf of the finest, greatest nation ever known.

So remember, each time you see someone who has served our country, just



lean over and say "Thank You." That's all most people need, and in most cases it will mean more than any medal they were or could have been awarded.

It's the soldier, not the reporter, who gave us our freedom of the press. It's the soldier, not the poet, who gave us our freedom of speech. It's the soldier, not the campus organizer, who gave us our freedom to demonstrate. And it's the soldier, who salutes the flag, who serves others with respect for the flag, and whose coffin is draped by the flag, who allows the protester to burn the flag.

Two little words that mean a lot: "THANK YOU."



A Christmas Wish from the Commander

Today...I wish you a day of ordinary miracles: A fresh pot of coffee you didn't have to make yourself...an unexpected phone call from an old friend...green lights all the way to work.

I wish you a day of little things to rejoice in: the fastest line at the grocery store...a good sing along song on the radio...your keys right where you look the first time.

I wish you a day of peace, happiness and joy.

They say it takes a minute to find a special person, an hour to appreciate them, a day to love them, but then an entire life to forget them. I wish a day like that to you.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Thank a Service Member

Anyone with internet access can send a virtual thank you card to service members via the Defend American We site: www.defendamerica.mil. Personalized e-mails to service members may still be sent through www.operationdearabby.net.



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