

# THE RISING STAR

DISNEY-BELL POST 66 NEWSLETTER

JANUARY 1, 2004



## 2004 Is Off With A Roar

As I write this item for The Rising Star, our post is approximately at 95% of the Department's goal and again becoming a four star post. First Vice Commander Tom Murphy is working very hard at trying to make our goal before the end of the year. I look forward to writing to you next month that we hit 100% by December 31.

Judge Advocate Charlie Milstead has been working very diligently on trying to get our computer system and bookkeeping software to produce more user-friendly financial reports. This is a major undertaking and I thank Charlie for all of the hours he has devoted to this effort. Finance Officer Dick Lanham has been helping Charlie sort through all of the arcane requirements of the old system and I want to thank Dick for the work he has done in trying to make do with an antique system. Hopefully we will have the new system running in January.

DISNEY-BELL POST 66  
HOME OF  
2003  
NATIONAL CHAMPION COLOR GUARD

January should be another great month of activities at Post 66. Friday night dinners will continue, but the final menus were not available at press time. I do know that Steak Night is on January 2<sup>nd</sup>. And don't forget Shrimp Night on Saturday, January 10<sup>th</sup>.

Turkey Shoots are going better than anyone can ever remember. So far there has been only one really cold and sloppy day, but, even then, a good time was had by all. J.D. Larson is doing a great job, as always, not only in running the shoots, but in making them so popular. Even after expanding the number of shooters this year, if you don't sign up early in the week, you will be left out as the shoots are selling out as early as the Tuesday before.

The several U.S. Marines came to the post to pick up a truck load of toys and cash donations on December 15<sup>th</sup>. Pat Lamb of the SAL put in many hours publicizing, begging, shopping and organizing this program that brings toys to needy children. What a great cause. Thanks, Pat. By the way, two of the Marines are now new members of Post 66.

I am looking forward to 2004 being another great year for the post and wish all of you a healthy and happy new year.

Clif Morvant  
Commander



Post 66 Membership Meeting  
Wednesday, January 28, 2004  
7:30 pm

### Don't Mess with Kids

The children had all been photographed, and the teacher was trying to persuade them each to buy a copy of the group picture. "Just think how nice it will be to look at it when you are all grown up and say, 'There's Jennifer, she's a lawyer,' or 'That's Michael, He's a doctor.' A small voice at the back of the room rang out, "And there's the teacher, she's dead now."

### Adjutant's Call

**F**or those Legionnaires who chose to procrastinate on paying your 2004 dues, you have been successful. At midnight, December 31, your 2003 membership card expired. Unlike National, which grants you a 30 day grace period before canceling the subscription to The American Legion Magazine, Post 66 strictly enforces the "No 2004 card, no service" rule. So you can see that your first beer at Post 66 for 2004 will cost you \$21.50.

More important, the Post is way ahead of last year in membership and has a good chance of receiving certain membership awards. As of Christmas, we were only 29 members short of Four Star status. This is an excellent opportunity for Disney-Bell to become a membership leader in the Department of Maryland. So look at your card and if it is 2003, send your dues renewal check of \$20.00 to the Post and join our membership team.

For those Legionnaires who have already paid their 2004 dues, thank you very much for contributing to our membership success.

As always, if you have questions on your membership contact me either at the Post 301-464-9814 or my residence 301-390-6436, or my cell phone 240-355-6809. Post E-mail address is [alpost66@bellatlantic.net](mailto:alpost66@bellatlantic.net) and mine is [jimabniam@aol.com](mailto:jimabniam@aol.com). Please try my e-mail or cell phone first.

James L. Pritchett, Jr.  
Adjutant



### Unit 66 Report

**W**ith the Christmas rush over I hope everyone had a Blessed Holiday. Our Craft Fair on November 22, 2003 was a great success. I want to thank all the Unit members who contributed to make this happen. To Cindy Morvant who made the very nice flyers which we were able to distribute to various places to announce our Craft Fair. To my Co-Chairperson; Kim Prendable and daughter Kaitlin and Laura Martin who made the signs and saw that they got put out. To Juanita Thompson and Lois Van Sickle who did the kitchen shopping and served the food all day. To Toni King who took care of the bake sale table and managed not to eat it all. To Linda Healy who sat all day taking orders for the Rada Knives and to Marilyn Mayer who worked the fabric table. I also want to thank all the vendors who filled up our tables. A very special thank you goes to Post member Charlie Milstead who donated the fabric which was a big hit with all the ladies and gave us a nice profit. And of course to all the Legion members who helped with the hall set up.



Auxiliary Monthly Meeting  
Wednesday, January 21  
7:30 pm

Our trip to Charlotte Hall on December 6, 2003 had to be canceled due to the snow storm. It seems

that bad weather keeps us away. We were able to have our Friday night dinner and our next one will be January 9, 2004, at 6:30 p.m..

On December 17, 2003 the Unit held their Christmas Party with a gift exchange and refreshments brought by everyone. Santa even made an appearance as busy as he is.

The children's Christmas Party on December 20, 2003, hosted by the DAV Chapter 7 and held at Post 66 saw many children greet Santa as he arrived on the fire truck. A clown entertained all the children and refreshments were served to all.

I want to wish everyone a very Happy New Year.

Priscilla Sprehe  
Unit 66 President

#### Don't Mess with Kids II

A little girl was talking to her teacher about whales. The teacher said it was physically impossible for a whale to swallow a human because even though it was a very large mammal its throat was very small. The little girl stated that Jonah was swallowed by a whale. Irritated, the teacher reiterated that a whale could not swallow a human; it was physically impossible. The little girl said, "When I get to heaven I will ask Jonah". The teacher asked, "What if Jonah went to hell?" The little girl replied, "Then you ask him".

### Squadron 66 Report

I want to wish everyone a happy and prosperous New Year and thank all of you that have supported our dinners and raffles during 2003. The SAL truly hopes you have enjoyed them all.

This month, we will do a Shrimp and Oyster Dinner on the third Friday. The cost will be \$9.00 and will be limited to 40 people. Please sign up as soon as you can and there will be no sales at the door. Thank you.

Skip Powell  
SAL Commander

From the Adjutant:

Thank you to all the members that have paid their dues early and the 26 new members that helped us to make four star and 100% membership. As you read this, if you have not paid your dues, you are no longer in the Post book. If you want to continue your membership — just drop your dues off at the Post and get a receipt and I will mail your card to you as soon as I can. Thank you.

Steve R. Planty  
Adjutant



SAL Squadron 66  
Monthly Meeting  
Monday, January 12  
7:30 pm

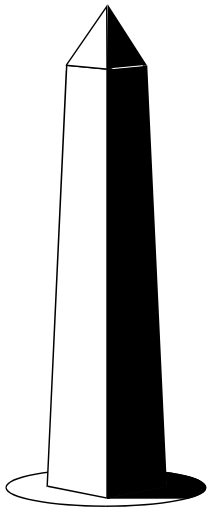


## Laus Deo

**O**n the aluminum cap atop the Washington Monument in Washington, D.C. are two words: Laus Deo. No one can see these words. In fact, most visitors to the monument have no idea they are there nor could care less. But there they are, 555 feet, 5.125 inches high, perched atop the monument to the father of our nation, overlooking the 69 square miles which comprise the District of Columbia, capitol of the United States of America. Laus Deo! Two seemingly insignificant, unnoticed words, out of sight and out of mind, but very meaningfully placed at the highest point over what is the most powerful city in the world.

And what might those two words mean? Very simply . . . "Praise be to God!"

Though construction of this giant obelisk began in 1848 when James Polk was President, it was not until 1888 that the monument was inaugurated and opened to the public. It took 25 years to finally cap the memorial with the tribute Laus Deo! Praise be to God!



Within the monument itself are 898 steps and 50 landings. As one climbs the steps and pauses at the landings, the memorial stones share a message. On the 12th Landing is a prayer offered by the City of Baltimore; on the 20th is a

memorial presented by some Chinese Christians; on the 24th a presentation made by Sunday School children from New York and Philadelphia quoting Proverbs 10:7, Luke 18:16 and Proverbs 22:6. Praise be to God!

When the cornerstone of the Washington Monument was laid on July 4th, 1848 deposited within it were many items including the Holy Bible presented by the Bible Society. Praise be to God! Such was the discipline, the moral direction, the spiritual mood given by the founder and first President of our unique democracy . . . "one nation, under God."

I am awed by George Washington's prayer for America. Have you ever read it? Well now is your opportunity. "Almighty God; We make our earnest prayer that Thou wilt keep the United States in Thy holy protection; that Thou wilt incline the hearts of the citizens to cultivate a spirit of subordination and obedience to government; and entertain a brotherly affection and love for one another and for their fellow citizens of the United states at large. And finally, that Thou wilt most graciously be pleased to dispose us all to do justice, to love mercy, and to demean ourselves with that charity, humility, and pacific temper of mind which were the characteristics of the Divine Author of our blessed religion, and without a humble imitation of whose example in these things we can never hope to be a happy nation. Grant our supplication, we beseech Thee, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen."

Laus Deo! It is clear when one studies the history of our great nation that Washington's America was established under the guidance, direction and banner of Almighty God, to whom was given all praise, honor and worship by the great men who formed and fashioned her pivotal foundations. And, if you stop to observe the inscriptions found in public places in our nation's Capitol, you will easily find the signature of God. We are indeed a nation under God! Laus Deo! Praise be to God!

"Unless the Lord builds the house, its builders labor in vain. Unless the Lord watches over the city, the watchmen stand guard in vain." (Psalm 127: 1)