

THE RISING STAR

DISNEY-BELL POST 66 NEWSLETTER

MAY 1, 2004

Busy, Busy Month of May

May is here and we are approaching a very important point in our Legion calendar: The annual nomination of officers to serve for the next twelve months. Our post has benefitted from the services of a capable crew over the past year, and hopefully this will continue. If you are interested in running for an office, please understand that it takes dedication and sacrifice. Not only are officers expected to perform their individual duties, but they should be prepared to attend meetings, serve on committees, attend ceremonial events, Legion services for members who have passed on to Post



Everlasting, and other events as called upon. We need talented and dedicated people to step forward and grab the reins. Nominations will be open at the Post Membership Meeting on May 26.

We have our usual busy month ahead with Friday night dinners, NASCAR fundays (which will be on Saturday the 15th and 22nd due to night races), Shrimp Night on May 8th and Memorial Day services on Sunday, May 30th at Bowie Veterans Park. Also, this year the World War II Memorial will be dedicated on the Mall in Washington on May 29th. We are putting together the final plans for a breakfast to honor local World War II veterans followed by our participation in the Memorial Day Parade in Bowie. The parade is a lot of fun, and nice exercise. It would be nice to see many of you attend and it will make you feel good about being an American and a Legionnaire. I hope that officers and members of the Auxiliary and the SAL will also participate. Attendance at the Memorial Day ceremonies at Bowie Veteran's Park

by our members has been, in my opinion, very low. I would like to see more of you and your families take an hour of your time to remember those who have paid the ultimate price for our freedom.

Also in May, we celebrate Mother's Day at Post 66 with the SAL Mother's Day breakfast on May 9th from 9 to 11 a.m.. Moms are free and everyone else is \$5. If you don't have a Mom around, we have several available for adoption or just rentals for the day.

J.D. Larson, the ghost writer and editor of this newsletter, deserves a round of applause for once again catching so many with his annual April Fools Day issue last month. A lot of folks were really concerned about the plans for a retractable roof for the new pavilion. Thanks, J.D. That was a lot of fun.

Speaking of fun, the NASCAR race days at the post home are becoming more and more popular. Our Facilities Manager, Kim Prendable, really puts together a fun day with snacks (never can tell what is on tap) and new bar games each week of racing. You don't even have to watch the race to have a great day.

Clif Morvant
Commander

Post 66
Monthly Meeting
Wednesday, May 26
7:30 P.M.
Nomination of Officers



Squadron 66 Report

The Bull and Oyster Roast is over and once again all I can say is . . . Great job! I want to thank all those that helped to make this such a success. And thanks to all who came and supported us and we hope you enjoyed yourselves.

Steve Planty will do his famous stuffed port chops for the Friday night dinner on May 21st and those of you who have eaten them before know just how good they are. So don't miss this one. Last time had more than 40 people attend and we would love to break that mark. Remember, to be sure we have enough for everyone, please sign up at the Post no later than the Wednesday, May 19th.

SAL SQUADRON 66
MONTHLY MEETING
MONDAY, MAY 10
7:30 PM
NOMINATION OF OFFICERS

At the May monthly meeting we will hold nomination of officers for 2004-2005. If you are interested in running for an office make sure we know what office for which you wish to run and be sure to attend the meeting.

In June, the meeting will be held on Tuesday, June 15th so as not to conflict with the Flay Day Ceremonies. Please be sure to attend both the Flay Day Disposal Ceremony and the monthly membership meeting when we will hold our elections for next year.

Please be sure to make a special effort to attend the Annual Memorial Day Service at Bowie Veterans Park on Monday, May 31 at 11:00 a.m.. It would be great to see a large contingent of SAL members with their hats at this annual ceremony.

Skip Powell

Commander

Cinco de Mayo

(May 5th)

4:00 - 9:00 p.m.

Free Mexican Buffet

Plus:

- **\$1.00 Margaritas**
- **\$1.00 Sangria**
- **\$1.50 Corona Beer**

**We are going to have a
Mexican Pinata full of
prizes, 50/50 and more!**

Adjutant's Report

The American Legion membership year for 2003-2004 is quickly drawing to a close with a cut off date of June 31, 2004. While the Post is having an excellent year membership-wise, with a current membership of 105% of goal, there are those members who have not yet responded to the four renewal notices mailed by National Headquarters. Being the persistent people they are, you will receive another renewal notice on or about May 1, 2004. Do not be as some of our fellow members, who chose to procrastinate tomorrow, now is the time to renew for 2004. Lets get that check in the mail, TODAY.

As always, if you have any questions on your membership contact me either at the Post 301-464-9814 or my home 301-390-6436, cell 240-355-6809. Post E-mail address is alpost66@bellatlantic.net and mine is Jimabniam@aol.com. Suggest you try my E-mail or cell first.

Looking forward to mailing your 2004 membership card, I am yours in service to God and Country.

Jim Pritchett
Adjutant

The Editorial Staff of *The Rising Star* would like to thank all of you who participated in our "Name the Post" Contest held in last month's edition. While all of the submissions were good, the Executive Committee decided *not* to change the name of the Post after all. Oh well . . . maybe next year.

Unit 66 Report

The Auxiliary sets aside a special fund each year for a worthy project. For several years we have supported Chapel Forge Early Childhood Center and again this year I had the pleasure of delivering a check to them to be used for materials to help young children with language delays. Mrs. Castagnola the Principal gave me a nice tour of the school and I was impressed with what I saw. They provide many teachers and aides working one on one with the students.

We have been selling the Children's Miracle Network Flag Circles and you will notice that they are on display in the bar area. If you have not already purchased one, please see the bartender or a member and we would be happy to add your name.

Several of us traveled to College Park Post #217 for breakfast on April 4th honoring Katherine Morris, The National President and what a gracious lady. She toured different posts and units by bus and was probably glad to return to Texas for a much needed rest. The World War 11 Veterans were also honored that day and each received a certificate along with a Poppy Memorial Wreath.

By the time you read this our Tribute to Youth Program will have taken place. One of the students from Samuel Ogle Elementary School was also a first place winner in the District. These young people do a fine job. I will report more on this in the next newsletter and name the winning students.

Our next Auxiliary dinner will be on May 14th and will be lasagna, salad, garlic bread and spumoni (Italian ice cream). This will be our last dinner until the fall. Also, coming up is the Children's Miracle Network American Legion Family Walk-a-Thon on May 22, 2004 at Fort McHenry. This will start at 10:00 a.m.. If anyone is interested in walking or supporting a walker we have pledge cards. (Due to circumstances beyond our control, the "Trash and Treasure" scheduled for this day has been canceled.)

For all that renewed their dues and brought in new members a big thank you because we finally made FOUR STAR. Happy Mothers Day!

Priscilla Sprehe
President

Post 66 Auxiliary
Monthly Meeting
Wednesday, May 19
7:30 P.M.
Nomination of Officers
Ocean City Delegates

60th Anniversary of D-Day

The American Legion, Department of Maryland, has passed the following information for the benefit of all veterans. Please pass this information to anyone you know who may be interested in attending or who is a veteran of the D-Day invasion of Normandy.

"The Maryland Department of Veterans Affairs will be hosting the 60th Anniversary commemoration of the D-Day landing in Normandy, France at 3:00 p.m., June 6, 2004 at the World War II Memorial located on Route 450, adjacent to the Governor Ritchie Overlook, in Annapolis, Maryland. We feel it is appropriate to honor those service members who participated and supported the invasion on June 6, 1944. We ask everyone to contact as many D-Day veterans as possible and encourage their attendance at this event. Additionally, we are looking for D-Day veterans to attend a Governor's D-Day Proclamation ceremony on June 1, 2004 at 4:30 p.m. in the Governor's Reception Room in Annapolis. Those persons interested in attending the June 1st event, please contact our office at toll free: 866-793-1577 or local 410-216-6027. For up to date information, press 13 for Bob Finn, or press 10 for Cathy Watts."

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 or leave a message at the Post. Thank you.

**Toni King
Chaplain**

Convention Shirt Orders Now Being Taken

The Department of Maryland will once again be offering Convention shirts. They are white 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 \$20.00 regardless of size. Shirts may be personalized, and include either the emblem of either the American Legion, Auxiliary or SAL 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 \$29.00.



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 19, 2004. Shirts can be picked up at the Post prior to the Convention.

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 Mother's Day Brunch

When: Sunday, May 9
Time: 9:00 a.m.
Menu: Brunch Stuff
Cost: Mothers: Free
All Others \$5

Memorial Day Ceremony

On Monday, May 31, 2004, we will celebrate the lives of those who have fallen in combat. The recent sacrifices made by those who did not return from Iraq and Afghanistan only serves to heighten our awareness and appreciation for all of those who have given their lives in defense of freedom. We will salute those who have given their lives and to whom we owe so much. All members of the American Legion, Auxiliary and Sons of the American Legion, 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. There will be a small reception at DAV, Omaha Beach Chapter 7 on Route 198 immediately following the ceremony.

World War II National Memorial Dedication

The National World War II Memorial will be dedicated on May 29, 2004. This is the first national memorial dedicated to all who served during WWII and will honor all military veterans of the war, citizens on the home front, the nation at large, and the high moral purpose and idealism that motivated the nation's call to arms. The memorial is currently open to the public. Although tickets to the ceremony are no longer available, the History Channel and C-SPAN plan to carry the two-hour dedication ceremony starting at 2:00 p.m. on Saturday, May 29. More information can be obtained at www.wwiimemorial.com

Honor Guard T's and Hats Still Available

The Post has a limited supply of "Honor Guard Blue" baseball caps and T-shirts with The American Legion Emblem and Disney-Bell Post 66 logo. Ball caps are \$13.00 and the T-shirts are \$10.00 each. Warm weather is here so it is an ideal

time to show your colors as our National Champion Color Guard and our award winning float march in the second annual City of Bowie Memorial Day Parade May 29, 2004. Those interested in purchasing either a cap or shirt contact Adjutant Jim Pritchett, telephone 301-390-6436, cell 240-355-6809 and e-mail address is Jimabniam@aol.com.

Manager's Specials

Kim has put together some great deals for patrons of the lounge. Check out the schedule below...there is something for everybody's taste.

Margarita Monday

Margarita's on the Rocks \$2.00 and
Corona Long Necks \$1.50

Twofer Tuesday

Two domestic beers for \$2.00

Wacky Wednesday

Smirnoff Twisted V and Mike's Hard
Lemonade \$1.50

Thirsty Thursday

\$.50 Draft Mugs

Freaky Friday

Noon to 5:30: Bartender's Drink Special
\$1.50 (whatever she makes up?!)
2:00 to 4:00 p.m.: Bar Trivia Use your
knowledge to win a free drink)

Sorry! Due to the cheap prices, drinks are served "as is" (no red cups, no large drafts) and no chips!



American Legion
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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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POST OFFICERS

Commander: Clif Morvant, 1st Vice Commander: Tom Murphy, 2nd Vice Commander: Jr. Martin, Adjutant: James I. Pritchett, Jr., Judge Advocate: Charlie Milstead, Finance Officer: Dick Lanham, Service Officer: Eddie Thompson, Historian: Myron James, Chaplain, Toni King, Sergeant-at-Arms: Nick Muller, Executive Committee: David Cooks, Dan Healy, J. D. Larson, Bruce Settle, and A. H. Sprehe

Memorial Day Ceremony



Monday
May 31, 2004
11:00 a.m.
Bowie Veterans Memorial Park