

# THE RISING STAR

DISNEY-BELL POST 66 NEWSLETTER

JULY 1, 2004

## Wow! Where Did the Year Go?

It is hard for me to believe that my year as Commander has passed so quickly. I would like to share with you some of the many happenings that have made the past 12 months so memorable for me. It also may give you some idea of what kept me busy this past year. It all started with the Installation



Dinner on July 23<sup>rd</sup> when the 2003-2004 Executive Committee took the reins of the Post. Prescilla Sprehe took the helm of the Auxiliary and Skip Powell became Commander of the SAL Squadron. My wife Cindy and I hosted a "Commander's Call" party at our home in early August to welcome the new Executive Committee. Shortly thereafter, I was pleased to learn that Jim Pritchett and the Color Guard took home the National Champion Trophy at the annual American Legion convention in St. Louis. They are the hardest work color guard in the state and have earned the recognition they have deserved for many years. Congratulations and good luck defending your title in Nashville.

September got us off to a running start with Friday night

dinners of steak, chicken, pork chops and spaghetti. The SAL car show was the highlight of the month, filling the parking lot and treating us to a great day of fun. Membership Chairman Tom Murphy announced that we were already at 64% of our goal for 2004. Later in the month, my wife and I were guests of the Commander of Greenbelt Post 136 for their Anniversary Gala.



Even with Thanksgiving, November was a great month for dining. Besides the regular Friday night dinners, we had the Early Bird Dinner and the SAL Shrimp and Oyster Roast. Both were sell outs and great successes. On November 16<sup>th</sup>, Cindy and I attended a city-wide prayer breakfast at the Knights of Columbus Hall where I had the opportunity to address the group

about the American Legion and Post 66. The Auxiliary sponsored a craft fair and bake sale on the 22<sup>nd</sup>, which was a great success. Of course we participated in the Veterans Day Ceremonies at Veterans Park in Bowie.

In early December I was a judge, representing Post 66 at the VFW District 1 Voice of Democracy Contest. Cindy and I attended the Awards Ceremony for the winners in Bel Alton, MD on the 13<sup>th</sup>.

In January we also held our Post Oratorical Contest and thanks to Brian Frye, it was a great experience for all.

In February, our Post also hosted the County Oratorical Contest on Valentine's Day. Post 66 sponsored contestant Joy Wentz won the county contest. Thanks to all who participated and helped. On the 28<sup>th</sup> a delegation of officers and wives attended the Southern Maryland District Oyster Bowl where we took home top honors.

(The Commander's remarks are continued on page 5).



## Unit 66 Report

**O**ur Flag Day Ceremony for the disposal of all old flags was very impressive and well attended with Legion, Auxiliary and SAL members. It was nice to see so many scouts participating also. We had a great turn out and the weather was perfect.

By the time you read this newsletter the Farther's Day breakfast will have already taken place. By the indication of the sign up sheet we will have had a great turn out. I hope all of you remembered the many Veterans on Father's Day who are in the hospital or Veteran's Homes.

July will be a busy month starting with the Post picnic on the 4th. It will be from 1-4 PM and you are asked to bring a side dish to share. Hamburgers, hot dogs and drinks will be furnished. Come and enjoy a fun day with games for the kids and social time for all adults.

July 12th the District Caucus will be held at Pasadena Post #277, at 7:00 p.m. The new District President will be elected. All officers should attend, and anyone else who would like to go is welcome.

Our annual Convention will be at Ocean City from July 17th - 24<sup>th</sup>. Juanita Thompson and I will serve as Pages this year.. We consider this an honor and are kept busy on the Convention floor.

Finally in July will be our Installation on July 28th. This is a joint ceremony with all participating. Cocktails will be at 6:00 p.m. dinner at 7:00 p.m. and installation to follow. The dinner menu will be: ham, potatoes, green beans, salad, rolls, and the traditional cake.

Have a great and safe summer.

Priscilla Sprehe  
President

### Editorial Staff Vacation

The Staff of *The Rising Star* will take a well deserved vacation, having never missed an issue for over six years. Accordingly, there will be no August issue. Check your calender closely, stop by the Post once in a while, and check out the home page at [www.alpost66.org](http://www.alpost66.org) for the latest information.

As the song goes,  
"See You in September."

## 1st Vice Report

**W**e had a great 2004 membership year. We increased our membership from 854 to 914, which is no small undertaking, and a lot of thanks go out to our members who helped bring in new 2004 members. Your rewards will be passed out at installation night when the post installs its new officers for the 2004-2005 Legion Year.

The new membership year starts July 1 for 2005 membership. Now we begin the process all over again. July also starts our drive for Post 297 (the administrative post given to those without a post home) and I will be making "Join the American Legion" posters for any one who wants to place one in their *second* favorite establishment.

Would you like to join The American Legion?, Gee!!!! Nobody ever asked me before.

Carry your Legion Applications in your wallet.

Lets Have another Great Year,

Thomas D. Murphy  
Membership Chairman





## Squadron 66 Report

**W**ith the activities of summer and the annual Convention fast approaching, there will be no membership meeting in July. Meetings will resume on the second Monday of August.

At the June meeting, the following members were elected as the 2004-2005 offices for the SAL: Commander: Skip Powell, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Commander: Joe Weik, Adjutant: Steven R. Planty, Finance Officer: Darby McNeill, Chaplain: Del Billings, Sergeant-at-Arms: James Clark, III, and Historian: Steven E. Planty. Congratulations to all and thank you for accepting the many challenges that go with the positions. I am looking forward to another great year for Squadron 66.

Installation of officers will be held Wednesday, July 28 at the Post. While this event is free to all members there is limited space and you are encouraged to sign up early and support your new officers.

Squadron 66 recently purchased a three wheel bicycle for use by the veterans at Charlotte Hall. An official

presentation date will be announced soon.

I have had a great year as your Commander and truly look forward to serving you in the coming year. I encourage all of you to come out and support the Squadron as strongly in the future as you have in the past.

Skip Powell  
Commander

### **SAL Car Show**

**Saturday, September 18**  
(Raid Date: September 25)

**Pre-Registration: \$12.00**  
(Free Coke and Hot Dog)

**Gate Registration:**  
**\$15.00**

**Registration: 10 a.m.**  
**until Noon**

**Judging Starts at**  
**Noon**

## Life Lesson

**A** Cherokee elder was teaching his grandchildren about life. He said to them, "A fight is going on inside me... it is a terrible fight between two wolves. One wolf represents fear, anger, envy, sorrow, regret, greed, arrogance,

self-pity, guilt, resentment, inferiority, lies, false pride, superiority and ego. The other stands for joy, peace, love, hope, sharing, serenity, humility, kindness, benevolence, friendship, empathy, generosity, truth, compassion and faith. This same fight is going on inside you and inside every other person, too."

They thought about it for a minute and then one child asked his grandfather, "Which wolf will win, grandfather?" The old Cherokee simply replied, "The one you feed."

## Adjutant's Report

**T**he Department of Maryland 2003-2004 membership year ended at 4:00 p.m., Monday, June 21, 2004. Disney-Bell Post 66 finished at 106% of goal with 914 members for the year, a gain of 61 members. In short, it was a very successful membership year, with 23 Legionnaires recruiting new members to our Post. We won the Oyster Bowl in our category for the second year in a row, reached Four Star status again, made goal and earned "An Outstanding Commander's" award for our Commander. A special "You Done Good" to all Post 66 Recruiters.

On or about July 1, 2004, National will mail out the first of five 2005 dues renewal notices. Those who renew before

Veterans Day will be "Early Birds" and will be eligible for a Paid-Up-For-Life (PUFL) drawing at the Early Bird Dinner. A huge part of our membership success last year was due to the many members who renewed early. I certainly hope you continue to do the same this year.

To all members who transferred to Post 66 this year, please be alert when you receive your renewal notice. It is conceivable that you may receive a renewal notice from your old Post. **DO NOT RENEW WITH THEM.** If you do, you will be automatically transferred back to your old Post and we must do the process over again. Only this time Post 66 will not receive credit for your membership. If you have any doubts, contact me. My home phone is 301-390-6436, cell 240-355-6809 and my E-mail address is Jimabniam@aol.com. Suggest you try my E-mail or cell phone first.

In service to God and Country, I am.

James L. Pritchett, Jr.  
Adjutant

## Legion Baseball Begins

One of the most rewarding programs we are able to support at the Post is American Legion baseball.



There is a long history of the American Legion with this program and many of the great players of all time enshrined in the Baseball Hall of Fame have experienced this program. The schedule for the Disney-Bell Post 66 American Legion Baseball Team is printed on the bulletin board at the Post and will be on line at [www.alpost66.org](http://www.alpost66.org) soon. Please make a visit to the Post, check out the dates and try to make a game or two and support these fine young athletes from our community.

## Installation of Officers

The Annual Installation of Officers for Disney-Bell Post 66, Auxiliary Unit 66 and Sons of the American Legion Squadron 66, will be held on Wednesday, July 28, 2004. A joint ceremony for the entire Legion family, we will be serving guests from the Department of Maryland in all three branches of our Legion. Cocktails will be at 6:00 p.m. with dinner at 7:00 p.m. and the installation immediately following. The menu for the evening will be ham, potatoes, green beans, salad, rolls, and the traditional cake.

This event is free to all members in good standing of the Legion; however, space is limited and you are asked to sign-up early by calling the Post and reserving a space for you. As in the past, with the amount of guests participating in the ceremony, it may be necessary to have a cut-off. Don't be shut out. Call the Post early for your reservation.

### WE'RE AT THE BEACH!

The Department of Maryland of the American Legion will hold its annual department convention in Ocean City, Maryland from the week of July 17-23. During that time, the Post will operate a



Hospitality 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.

In the meantime, anyone requiring to reach us for Legion business may do so by leaving a message at the Post.

(Commander's Comments  
Continued from Page 1)

March was a good month if you weren't watching calories. Besides the usual Friday night and Shrimp Nite events, we had a St. Patrick's Day Party, the Post Birthday Dinner and the SAL sponsored their Bull and Oyster Roast. At the Birthday Dinner, on behalf of the Post, I presented a check for \$7,500.66 to Dave Coker, Executive Director of The Fisher House Foundation. The Fisher House program provides housing to families of service members and veterans being treated at several hospitals in the country. Our donation was split between Walter Reed, Andrews AFB and Bethesda Naval Medical Center. We also presented \$1,500.66 to the Bowie Volunteer Fire Department.

On the 24<sup>th</sup>, we held Post Everlasting Ceremonies at the Post. This is the last thing we do for our departed comrades and their families and it was a beautiful event. April 3<sup>rd</sup> found us at Beltway Post 172 attending their Shrimp and Bar-b-Que Feast. It was held in their beautiful pavilion, which sadly burned to the ground a few weeks later. On April 16<sup>th</sup> several of us attended an Open House Gala at the Andrew's AFB Fisher House. Someone told me that the Redskin Cheerleaders were also there, but I didn't notice. It was a very nice affair and Post 66 was presented a plaque recognizing our donation, which is hanging in the bar area at the Post. On the

17<sup>th</sup> I was out planting trees as part of the City of Bowie Arbor Day Celebration. On April 23<sup>rd</sup> I spoke briefly at the Auxiliary Tribute to Youth ceremony.

The Color Guard, Legion, Auxiliary and SAL all participated in the annual Bowie Memorial Day Parade. The next day was Memorial Day services at Veteran's Park and our Color Guard made us all proud. May 5<sup>th</sup>, I represented the Post at the NJROTC Change of Command Ceremony at Bowie High School. On the 18<sup>th</sup> I attended the Youth Leadership Bowie Awards Dinner at the Bowie Elks Lodge where Post 66 was recognized for our contributions to the program.

In June we held our second annual Flag Disposal Ceremony. So many people pitched in on that effort and the hot dog and hamburger dinner after. Thanks to all.

Unfortunately, I also represented the Post at 2 memorial services and the with the Color Guard, Chaplain and Post members conducted Legion Services for four of our members who transferred to Post Everlasting and whose families requested we be there.

Upcoming is the 4<sup>th</sup> of July Picnic, chaired by J.D. Larson and then it's off to Ocean City.

It has truly been a busy year and there are so many people to thank. I had the benefit of a great team of officers and I owe them

my gratitude for a successful year.

I couldn't close out the year without a heartfelt thanks to my wife, Cindy for her continuing support of my Legion activities. It means the world to me and I couldn't have gotten through it without your being there.

Clif Morvant  
Commander

#### 2004-2005 Officers Elected

At the June meeting of Disney-Bell Post 66, the following members were elected Post officers:

Commander: Clif Morvant  
1<sup>st</sup> Vice: Tom Murphy  
2<sup>nd</sup> Vice: Nick Muller  
Judge Advocate: Charlie Milstead  
Finance Officer: Dick Lanham  
Historian: Myron James  
Chaplain: Toni King  
Service Officer: Eddie Thompson  
Sergeant-at-Arms: Bill Carlson  
Executive Committee:  
J. D. Larson  
Brian Frye  
Roger Goll  
David Cooks  
Major Sprehe



**American Legion**  
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#### **POST OFFICERS**

Commander: Clif Morvant, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Commander: Tom Murphy, 2<sup>nd</sup> 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

# **Joint Installation of Officers!**



**Wednesday**  
**July 28, 2004**  
**Cocktails: 6:00 pm**  
**Dinner: 7:00 pm**

**RSVP: NLT 7-16-03**