

THE RISING STAR

DISNEY-BELL POST 66 NEWSLETTER

NOVEMBER 1, 2004

It's Thanksgiving Season!



I wish all our Post 66 family a joyous and happy Thanksgiving season.

Of course the idea behind Thanksgiving is to remind each of us to thank our personal God for the blessings bestowed upon us throughout the year. And I personally have many reasons to give thanks. Thanksgiving also provides a time for us to thank those in who have had a positive impact on our lives. The holiday also allows me to take time to thank the individual members of the Post 66 family who make the Commander's job a joy. Please understand that if I thanked everyone who contributed there would be no room for the other important columns in the newsletter. So, if you are not individually recognized here and believe you should be, please accept my apologies.

First Vice Commander Tom Murphy has been doing an outstanding job in trying to assure that our Post reaches 4 Star Status for the 17th consecutive year. Tom has come up with some unique marketing ideas and he isn't afraid to take chances and do the work necessary to reach our goals. Look for one of his Uncle Sam "I Want You" posters in a store near you.

Second Vice Commander Nick Muller has been a true workhorse in trying to get the Post home in tip-top shape. The kitchen area looks better than I can ever remember.

Of course Adjutant Jim Pritchett continues to process applications, handle the volumes of mail, and generally doing every thing he can to make sure the Commander looks good. Jim also continues the great work he has been doing with our highly esteemed Color Guard.

The Judge Advocate is a seldom-recognized position, but Charlie Milstead has been willing to take the responsibility of the post whenever called

upon. Rarely are these glamorous tasks, but Charlie continues to handle them professionally and always for the good of the Legion.

Dick Lanham, Finance Officer, has one of the more "taxing" jobs of all the Post officers. Dick has, besides handling the day-to-day financial activities of the Post, been very involved in instituting a new accounting system for the Post. During his spare time, Dick also honchoed the effort to revitalize the ceremonial cannon at Veterans Park. Pat Lamb volunteered to pressure wash the cannon and Dick and Pete Chambers repainted it to restore it to museum condition.

Eddie Thompson, Service Officer, continues to keep the membership informed of Department of Veterans Affairs activities and helping Veterans in need. Eddie also always seems to be around whenever there is work to get done.

Toni King, our chaplain, provides comfort to Veterans and their families in time of need. Toni somehow always finds a way to visit our sick comrades and makes sure that those who transfer to Post Everlasting are properly recognized.

Post 66
Monthly Meeting
Wednesday, November 24
7:30 P.M.

Past Commander Larson, as most of you know, is the editor of this newsletter. I am usually the last to submit my articles, but J.D. finds a way to squeeze in most of what I send him. J.D. also is the backbone of the Post 66 Turkey Shoots which started again last month. The amount of work

involved is truly amazing, and I have seldom heard J.D. complain. What a great job in both areas.

This article would not be complete without thanking our favorite "Legionnette" who is always around when there is work to be done. Lois Van Sickle is a true rose among the thorns helping with dinners, clean up activities and anything else that needs doing.

I could not end this Thanksgiving column without mentioning the contributions of our Post 66 employees. Gidget and her bartenders; Laura, Patrick, Mary, Dee, Kathy, June and Shannon all contribute towards making Post 66 a great place to visit.

Thanks to those mentioned above and to all of you who lend a hand when needed to make Post 66 the Greatest Little Post in the Country.

Clif Morvant
Commander

Membership Report

Veterans Day, November 11, is right around the corner and our program to give a Paid Up For Life (PUFL) membership to a 2005-paid member will take place at the Early Bird Dinner on November 20, 2004. To qualify, you must have paid your 2005 dues.

Renewals are coming in on schedule; however, a little slower than at this time last year. This year, we began a new program for recruiting members. You might have seen the Uncle Sam posters saying "Post 66 Wants You" in some of our local retail stores in Bowie. To date, we have posters in Magruders, Giant, Duron Paint, Hardware City, and Lanham Custom Painting. Membership applications and Disney-Bell Post 66 information are with the posters. If you want to sign up a new member and need this information, just visit one the areas where posters are and get the information you need.

Thanks go out to all who have renewed their dues for 2005. If everyone paid by November 11, then everyone would be eligible to win a PUFL.

Depending upon the age of the winner, it is a prize worth about \$500.

Thomas D. Murphy
First Vice Commander

FLU SHOTS!

VA Community Clinic
7525 Greenway Center Drive
Greenway East Professional Center
Suite T-4

After 1:00 p.m.
CALL BEFORE GOING
301-345-2463

YOU MUST BE "VA REGISTERED"
(If you came to the Mobile Clinic,
you are registered in the DC Office)

Adjutant's Call

I would like to share with you some of the many positive items that our Post does and hopefully it will persuade you to continue your membership in Disney-Bell Post 66. You just knew I would get membership somewhere in this message. There are four main programs of the American Legion: National Security, Foreign Relations and Homeland Security; Veterans Assistance and Rehabilitation; Americanism and Children and Youth.



Recently, the Executive Committee allocated \$20,000.00 for assistance to veterans. As the name implies, these funds are used to provide aid and comfort items to our service men and women and our fellow veterans in the VA Medical Centers. In addition, funds are provided to The Maryland Center for Veterans Education and Training (MCVET), the

center that helps our homeless veterans return to society. While these are just a few of the many ways our Post helps our fellow veterans, it does point out that this is a main priority in Post 66.

One of the precepts contained in the Preamble of the Constitution of The American Legion is "To foster and perpetuate a one hundred percent Americanism." To accomplish this we actively support Scouting, Boys State, American Legion Baseball, Oratorical Contest and the Reserve Officer Training Corps Program. Our Post maintains the flags at Veterans Park and disposes of unserviceable U. S. Flags with the respect and dignity they deserve. Our award winning Honor Guard continues to reflect great credit upon the Post as the County and District Color Guard and when rendering final honors to our deceased comrades. To accomplish this \$16,000.00 has been allocated for Americanism.

The Children and Youth program is the source of our three scholarships awarded each year. Generous donations are made to the Bowie Boys and Girls Club that provides healthy and well-supervised physical activities for our youth. When the public school system, for whatever reason, cannot fund certain athletic teams at Bowie High School, Post 66 steps in and provides that financial support. The \$11,000.00 allocated for Children and Youth is money well spent on the future of America.

Disney-Bell Post 66 does not need to hang its head when it comes to being a front runner in supporting programs of The American Legion. I hope you feel as proud as I do about belonging to a truly outstanding Post.

In service to God and Country, I am.

James L. Pritchett, Jr.
Adjutant



Unit 66 Report

Five Unit members attended Fall Conference, October 22-24, 2004. I will report on this fully in the December newsletter. We attended classes and were given a packet of information to be given to the different committee members which helps them in their duties.

On October 30th we held our annual Halloween Children's Party. As usual this was a success and this year we had a "haunted house" set up in the pool room which was enjoyed by all. Thanks to Tammy Planty for arranging this. Games were played and prizes given to the winners. Also a prize was given in two age groups (5 and under, 6 and over) for the overall funniest, scariest and most original costume. Refreshments were served and fun was had by all. The Planty's do a great job on the decoration each year. A special thank you goes to the DAV Auxiliary for joining us again this year and for all their help.

On November 6th we will be holding our Craft Bazaar from 9:00 a.m to 4:00 p.m.. Please come out and support this as the vendors would like to see a good turn out and this is our way of funding so that we can support our veterans and youth. We will have a bake sale table and all donations will be gladly accepted.

Our November 12th dinner will be chili dogs, vegetable, salad and dessert.

The Unit extends a very Happy Thanksgiving to all.

Priscilla Sprehe, President



Post 66 Auxiliary
Monthly Meeting
Wednesday, November 17
7:30 P.M.

Veterans Day Ceremonies

Hostilities in World War I, which began in late July 1914, were suspended at eleven o'clock in the morning of Monday, November 11, 1918, after the signing of the Armistice by the contending powers.

On November 11, 1919, the first Armistice anniversary, President Woodrow Wilson proclaimed this day as Armistice Day. On June 1, 1954, President Eisenhower signed Public Law 380 which changed Armistice Day to Veterans Day in honor of the veterans of all wars. Today, November 11, once a great patriotic holiday, is often ignored and forgotten. Many corporations do not include Veterans Day as a part of their holiday schedule.

Here in Bowie, thanks to our veterans service organizations, Veterans Day is observed as a day of respect commemorating the service of veterans of all wars. The American Legion, Disney-Bell Post 66; the Disabled American Veterans, Omaha Beach Chapter 7; the Marine Corps League, Free State Detachment and Veterans of Foreign Wars of the U.S., Bowie Memorial Post 8065 have united together each year at 11:00 a.m., November 11 to conduct Veterans Day services. They are joined by their fellow veterans of the Military Order of the Purple Heart, 7th Star and Seventh Stripe Chapter 2222 along with civic, fraternal and patriotic organizations to lay wreaths and pay respect to the memory of departed comrades.

The ceremony will begin at 11:00 a.m., Monday, November 11, 2004 at Ascension Church, Route 564, Lanham-Severn Road. A reception will follow at the DAV on Route 197. All Legion, Auxiliary, Squadron members and their spouses and guests are

requested to be present for Veterans Day ceremonies.



Squadron 66 Report

By the time you read this, the Crab Feast will be in the past. Thanks to everyone who came. I hope that you all enjoyed yourselves.

We will have a Spaghetti Dinner/Comedy Night on November 6 from 6:00 to 9:30 p.m. featuring the White Trash Comedy Tour. The cost is \$10 per person. Due to the nature of the show, we request that no children attend this event.

We will be raffling a train set and a music box train. Tickets are available at the bar for \$1, or 6 for \$5. The drawing will be December 17th.

The SAL will also be selling scatter shorts and raffles for two shot guns during the Turkey Shoots. If you are interested in making a purchase, see an SAL member or stop by the shoots on any Sunday.

Skip Powell, Commander

Note from the Adjutant: Thank you to everyone that have sent in their 2005 dues. I apologize that I have not been as timely as I wanted to be in getting your new cards out to you. If you have not received your new card, call me at 301-352-8027 and I will be more than happy to get things straightened out. Once again, we are doing well in membership but we would like to make four star and 100% of goal as soon as possible. Your help in doing so will be greatly appreciated. Steven R. Planty, Adjutant



American Legion
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POST OFFICERS

Commander: Clif Morvant, 1st Vice Commander: Tom Murphy, 2nd Vice Commander: Nick Muller, 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: Bill Carlson, Executive Committee: David Cooks, Brian Frye, Roger Goll, J. D. Larson, and A. H. Sprehe



Veterans Day Ceremony
Thursday
November 11, 2004
11:00 am
Ascension Church

Reception Follows
DAV
Route 197, Bowie