

THE RISING STAR

DISNEY-BELL POST 66 NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 1, 2004



Happy Holidays!



November 7th was a memorable day at Post 66. Bowie resident Ben Czechanski was honored by veterans, family and friends at our Post. The 18 year old PFC was on leave from active duty with the U.S. Army stationed in Sadr City, Iraq. During his deployment, Ben has been awarded two Purple Hearts. Prince George's County Commander J.D. Larson and Southern Maryland District Commander Jim Pritchett joined our Post in recognizing Ben's brave devotion to duty.

Ben's stepfather, David Wayne Baust had composed a song to honor Ben and, along with his band, he serenaded Ben. David's composition, "Everyday Hero", included the lyrics, "He's an everyday hero, just doing what is right. We pray he comes home safe tonight." There were few dry eyes at the end of David's performance.

Ben is now a member of our Post and his parents are honored

to have been presented a Blue Star Banner to display in the front window of their home to indicate that they have a child serving overseas in a war zone. Also attending the ceremony was Bowie Mayor and Post 66 member, G. Fred Robinson, who praised Ben's sacrifices for his country. Ben was scheduled to return to Iraq the day after Veteran's Day.

Post 66
General Membership
No December Meeting

Veteran's Day brought an overflow crowd to services at Ascension Church in Old Bowie to pay homage to all veterans. Post member and Bowie Mayor presented Ben Czechanski with a key to the city and introduced Ben's stepfather who delighted the crowd with a solo performance of his ballad to his stepson. Ben's introduction and David's song brought the entire audience to its feet for a standing ovation.

As always, it was a pleasure to see so many young people on

hand to remember our veterans. At least one-fourth of those attending were under 18 years old. The Bowie community must be praised for the efforts of parents and youth leaders to keep the memory of the sacrifices of our veterans an important part in the lives of our area's future leaders.

Turkey Shoots are again going full bore at Post 66. Please remember to sign up early in the week to ensure that you get a chance to participate. The shoots always bring a big crowd to the Post and the breakfasts and soup prepared by the Auxiliary continue to be popular.

Also this month, the DAV/Post 66 Children's Christmas Party will be on December 18th.

Although details are still in the planning stages, the Post will hold a Holiday Party on December 24th. Please check the bulletin boards for details. The Post will be closed for Christmas Day.

Friday night dinners continue through December, except for New Year's Eve when we are planning a Party – details are in the works.

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Galore, Santa's Coming and
More!! >>

I want to wish all of our Post Family a Happy Holiday Season and a Healthy 2005.

Clif Morvant
Commander

American Legion High School Oratorical Contest

Each year thousands of high school students gain a deeper understanding of the U.S. Constitution and share that knowledge with a vast audience through the American Legion High School Oratorical Contest.

Hundreds of students win scholarship awards at the Post level for speeches that explore the substance and meaning of the Constitution. Other objectives of the contest include the development of leadership qualities, the ability to think and speak clearly and intelligently, and the preparation for acceptance of the duties and responsibilities, rights and privileges of American citizenship.

Disney-Bell Post 66 will be sponsoring the local level of the Contest on January 29, 2005. Initial registration and a briefing on the rules will be held at a later date at the Post. Interested



students can pre-register by phoning the Post 66 or Brian Frye, the Post Oratorical Committee Chairman, at (301) 860-1717.

The contest consists of a prepared oration between 8-10 ten minutes in length and a short oration on an assigned topic between 3-5 minutes in length. State and local contests run annually January through March, culminating at the national level in April. In Maryland, local Posts participating in the contest conduct the initial program and send their respective winners to the county level and then on to the state finals. The Maryland champion then competes at the regional and possibly national level. The three national finalists compete for scholarships ranging from \$14,000 to a top award of \$18,000 going to the winning oratorical.

A few Volunteers to be time keepers and escorts are needed and should see Brian Frye for details.

Everyone has a photographic memory. Some don't have any film

Post 66 Auxiliary
Monthly Meeting
Wednesday, December 15
7:30 P.M.



Unit 66 Report

Even though Halloween is long past and the November newsletter had gone to the printer, I did want to mention the children who won the costume prizes. Best costume five and under went to Dusty Clark. Best costume for six and up went to Riley Goddard and overall scariest went to Josh Planty and overall funniest as

Friday Night Dinner Menu December 2004

December 3rd (**Color Guard**)
Grilled Steak (Cooked to Order)
Baked Potato, Salad and Dessert
\$10.00

December 10th (**Auxiliary**)
Breakfast Made to Order
(eggs, bacon sausage, and more)
\$7.00

December 17th (**SAL**)
Pork Chops, Potatoes, Veggie and Dessert
\$8.00

December 24th
Post Christmas Party
4:00 to 7:00 p.m.

January 31st
New Year's Eve

Sponge Bob was Robbie Van Sickle and most original was won by Samantha Stevens. Judging as usual was not easy as all the children looked cute in their costumes.

Our craft bazaar was a success again this year and all of our tables were rented out. A thank you to all the ladies who worked the bazaar and to those who baked for our bake table. Toni King did a great job selling all the goodies. Juanita Thompson and Lois Van Sickle were in the kitchen serving up the food and Linda Healy was again selling the Rada knives. A big thank you to Charlie Milstead who donated all the nice fabric again this year and to Marilyn Mayer who managed to get a lot of it sold. And of course I want to thank all the vendors who called me to rent the tables and had very interesting items to sell.

We again are collecting Toys for Tots and a box is in the bar area for a donation of a unwrapped toy. Please stop by and add a toy to make some boy or girl happy this Christmas. In early December we will be going to Charlotte Hall as an American Legion Family to distribute a Christmas card to each veteran which will include a money gift. These cards will be signed by the Post, Auxiliary and Squadron. This idea originated with Darby and Elaine McNeil to show our appreciation to our veterans.

Our December 10th dinner will be a breakfast menu and may seem strange to some but the last

time we did this we had a good turn out so decided to have one again. The menu will be eggs, sausage, bacon, pancakes, hash browns, juice, coffee, toast or muffins and the cost will be \$5.00 for anyone bringing a non-perishable food item and \$7.00 without a food item. The food will then be donated to the Bowie Food Pantry.

Our regular meeting night on the 15th will be the Unit Christmas Party and we will exchange gifts in the amount of \$10.00 and each member is asked to bring a covered dish. Santa may even make an appearance.

The children's Christmas Party will be held on December 18th from 3 to 5 p.m. and will be co-hosted with the DAV. A clown will entertain and games played while awaiting the arrival of Santa. Refreshments will be served and each child will get a gift to take home.

On behalf of the Unit I want to wish everyone a Happy Hanukkah, a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. And for those who will be traveling a safe journey.

Priscilla Sprehe
President

He who laughs last,
thinks slowest.



Squadron 66 Report

Merry Christmas to all our Legion family and friends and I wish you a happy new year. I would like to thank everyone that paid their dues early and I hope you were able to attend the Early Bird Dinner and enjoyed it.

Membership is still going strong but don't forget you only have until December 31st to pay up your dues to be registered in the bar book. Let's try to be 100% by the 31st.

**SAL SQUADRON 66
MONTHLY MEETING
MONDAY, DEC 13
7:30 PM**

I could use some help selling the scatter shots and raffle tickets for the shotguns. And don't forget the train raffles. Perhaps you know someone who could put them to good use. Tell them about the raffle and sell them some tickets. They are behind the bar and sell for the usual buck for one, six for five.

At our next meeting, everyone who presents a 2005 membership card will draw two names each to win five pounds of Kunzler slice bacon. So I hope to see you at the next meeting on December 13th at 7:30 p.m..

Skip Powell
Commander

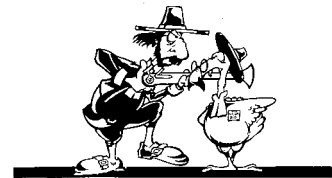
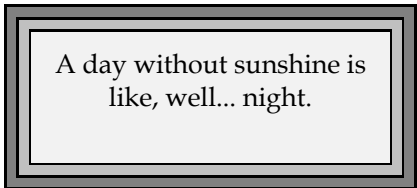
1st Vice Commander Report

The Early bird Dinner was held last month and we drew a lucky winner from eligible members who have paid their 2005 Dues. The winner won a Paid Up For Life membership, known as a PUFL. The Post 66 gives this PUFL away every year to a lucky member as an incentive for renewing dues before Veterans Day. The first name drawn was James Morrissey, however he had not yet paid this 2005 dues as of this date and therefore he lost out on free dues for life. Sorry Jim. The winner of the PUFL was Ira D. Hanawalt who receives this PUFL will be notified by Adjutant Jim Pritchett.

Not only does our Post have this incentive, but there are others as well from the Department of Maryland and the Southern Maryland District. One such award is the Oyster Bowl Trophy, given to the Post with the highest numbers of renewals by a certain date each year. Our

Post has won this award for the past two years and we had a good time eating all types of prepared oysters. If you would like to attend this fine event and help your Post win a three-peat, please renew your dues now. The date, time and place for the Oyster Bowl Dinner will be announced for this membership year soon.

GOD Bless AMERICA and all her VETERANS
Thomas D. Murphy
1st Vice Commander



Post 66 Weekly Turkey Shoot!

Sundays
9:00 a.m. to
Noon-ish

18 Shots STILL
Only \$50
Scatter Shots
50/50 Raffles
Breakfast at 8:00





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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



POST 66 CHRISTMAS PARTY
FRIDAY
DECEMBER 24, 2004
4:00 - 7:00 PM