



# The Rising Star

Disney-Bell Post 66 Newsletter

January 1, 2005

## Troops and Tots

Last year around this time, I read in the National Commander's column in the American Legion monthly magazine that an organization, the Fisher House Foundation, should be considered as a worthy charitable cause for Legion posts. Coincidentally, Judge Advocate Charlie Milstead and Finance Officer Dick Lanham began generating interest in increasing the contributions of Post 66 to veterans' causes. Some of our officers were aware of Fisher House including Eddie Thompson and Toni King our Service Officer and Chaplain, but for most of us, what we began discovering was all new. Fisher House primarily provides housing for families of hospitalized patients at military and VA hospitals throughout the world. Our relatively small Post, made a significant contribution of \$7,500 to Fisher House and we were honored that the Executive Director of The Fisher House Foundation, David Coker, attended our Post Birthday Party to personally receive and thank us for our donation. At that time we asked that our contribution be equally distributed among the three Fisher House facilities in the Washington Metropolitan Area: Andrews Air Force Base, Bethesda Medical Center and Walter Reed Army Hospital. Judging by the overwhelming responses we received, it was apparent that our contribution was significant to each facility. If you get a chance to visit the Post, there are some beautiful plaques on display that were presented to the Post at receptions for the "big givers" last year.



I hope that all of our members will join me in believing that our significant contribution last year helped generate increased awareness in Fisher House and all that they do. From relative obscurity, Fisher House Foundation has blossomed into one of the most prominent veterans' relief programs in our nation's war against terrorism. Fisher House has been featured for months in the nationally syndicated political comic strip "Doonesbury" and WMAL-AM, a local radio station, raised more than \$1,000,000 since Veterans Day. Additionally, our friend David Coker was recently featured on Fox News Channel nationally promoting Fisher House and receiving a challenge donation of \$10,000 from a church in New York. Fisher House has expanded their efforts to include paying for our troops to fly home for family funerals, flying family to be with injured troops and veterans, and doing whatever they can to provide for our fellow veterans in time of need.

The Executive Committee has approved a donation this year of \$2000.66 each to Andrews Air Force Base, Bethesda Medical Center and Walter Reed Hospital for a total donation of \$6,001.98 to this most worthy cause.

More locally, our Post was again a donation point for the Marine Corps Toys for Tots program. Our thanks go to Pat Lamb with the help of Betty Mullen for another successful event. I was

awestruck at the amount of gifts that we, through the Marine Corps, could send to children who would have had no Christmas gifts without our help. Programs like this take more effort than is readily



apparent. Without the help of corporate donors, this drive could not have been the success it was. I recognize the following donors and urge our members to remember them in making their purchasing and business decisions: K&B Toys of Bowie went well beyond the call to help make this drive a success; Academy Ford of Bowie – we couldn't have done it without you, and a special thanks to Bank of America of Bowie for their assistance.

My best wishes to all for a happy and prosperous year.

Clif Morvant  
Commander

Post 66  
General Membership  
Wednesday, January 26  
7:30 p.m.

## Adjutant's Call

**Y**our 2004 American Legion Membership card expired at midnight December 31, 2004. Despite the rumors, there is no grace period, if you have not paid your 2005 American Legion dues you are delinquent. Your first visit to the Post will cost you \$20.00, dues for 2005. Or as they say, "Your first beer at Post 66 for 2005 will cost you \$21.50". Send in your 2005 renewals and Continue to serve America.

Several months ago, I wrote on the four programs of The American Legion: Americanism, Children and Youth, Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation and National Security and Foreign Relations.

This month I would like to review the Americanism program here at Disney-Bell Post 66. The preamble to the Constitution of The American Legion contains the word, "To foster and perpetuate a 100 percent



Americanism". While not in order of importance, I would like to begin with the Scouting program. Since The American Legion was formed in 1919, it has made Scouting an intricate part of it's Americanism program. Post 66 charters Boy Scout Troop 1688 and Cub Scout Pack 1688. Additionally, we also make financial contributions to the Girl Scout program and recently assisted a young lady in earning her Gold Star Award which is the equivalent of the Boy Scout Eagle Award.

The Oratorical Contest is an excellent way for high school students to earn scholarship money and improve their public speaking skills. Scholastic money is awarded at Post, County, District and Department levels. Winners who go on to compete nationally have an opportunity to earn additional funds as they advance. Several years ago, a young lady from Maryland became the National Oratorical Champion and won over \$20,000.00. However, you must start at the Post level and our contest will be held on Saturday, January 29, 2005. Information may be obtained by contacting Oratorical Chairman, Brian Frye, Post phone number is 301-464-9814 (separate article in this newsletter).

The Post supports the Reserve Officer Training Corps (ROTC) both at Bowie High School and Bowie State University by awarding Military and Scholastic Excellence medals and certificates to deserving cadets. We also present an annual \$1,500 NJROTC Scholarship to a graduating senior at Bowie High School.

American Legion Baseball, for many years one of our country's best-known and most respected amateur athletic programs, has been the training ground for many of our major league stars. Each year, about 90,000 boys experience the benefits of good sportsmanship and team play. Our team is coached by a former major league player and scout. Spring is not too far away.

The Boys State program is a week long citizenship learning experience for male students who have completed their Junior year of high school. The American Legion Auxiliary has a Girls State program for female students. Citizens of



Boys State are required to organize themselves in their respective cities, elect city, state and national representatives and conduct a political simulation quite similar to what occurs in Annapolis. As a member of the Boys State Staff and a Counselor, I feel this is one of the most important and far reaching Legion activities I do.

Last but not least is the Honor Guard of Post 66, National Champions 2003 and Department of Maryland Champions 2004. This award winning guard continues to set the example by providing Color Guard details for both the Prince George's County Council and the Southern Maryland District. They are an intricate part of services provided for our fellow Legionnaires who have transferred to Post Everlasting. Always in demand, The Guard represents Post 66 in a truly outstanding manner.



From flag etiquette to proper disposal of unserviceable US Flags and other community services, Disney-Bell Post 66 continues to lead the way in Americanism.

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

## 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Commander Report

I hope all our members had a Merry Christmas and a safe holiday season. This year I asked Santa to have all our members renew their dues before December 31<sup>st</sup>. He said he would send all those members a renewal notice and that they would receive it in time to send in their dues to make my Christmas wish come true.

Do you recall the article in the Bowie Blade on December 9<sup>th</sup> about the father who wrote a song for his stepson who came home for a brief visit with two Purple Hearts . . . TWO PURPLE HEARTS! Well, that young soldier is a member of your Post and he received his second Purple Heart because he let a buddy rotate home in his place so that he could take care of some urgent family business.

Your Post supports a great foundation called the Fisher House. The Fisher House supports the families who come to our area to be with their seriously wounded sons and daughters or our Armed Forces. Your continued support of this Post gives us the ability to give very large donations to the Fisher House Foundation and you can help by renewing your dues. Your 2004 card expires December 31<sup>st</sup>. Please don't let that happen.

God Bless American and all our Veterans!

Thomas D. Murphy  
First Vice Commander

## Unit 66 Report



We had a great day at Charlotte Hall wrapping gifts for the Veterans. Those who went from the Unit were Betty Mullen, Toni King, Anna Thompson, Juanita Thompson and I. We delivered three hundred Christmas cards with a money gift in each signed from the Post, Auxiliary and Squadron. These will be given to each resident and a party will be set up for those who are unable to put this money to use and we will be invited to attend. Thanks to the Post for making this possible. Several Unit members attended the Department Christmas Party at Dundalk Post #34 and we received a nice ornament.

The District Christmas Party was held at Stallings-Williams 206 and those attending received a "crazy crab" from Janie. We held our Unit Christmas Party on the 15th and were well attended with fifteen ladies. Great refreshments and gift exchange with Santa making an appearance to give out the gifts. Our annual Christmas party for the children will take place after this letter goes to the printer. However as usual it will be a fun time for all and a clown will entertain them until Santa arrives on the fire truck. Each child gets to visit with Santa, has their picture taken and then can pick a gift to take home. Refreshments are served and before they leave they get a bag with fruit and candy. These children's functions are shared with the DAV and DAVA so a thank you goes to them for all their help and contribution.

Our January dinner on the 14th will be meat loaf, mashed potato, vegetable medley, salad, rolls and dessert. These dinners are important to the Post, Auxiliary and Squadron. The sign up sheets at the bar are important as they help those who do the shopping know just how much and how many they need to buy for so please try to remember to sign up.

Next Unit meeting will be on January 19th and all are invited to attend. Happy New Year to all and may you enjoy good health.

Priscilla Sprehe President

## Squadron 66 Report



I hope everyone had a wonderful Christmas and wish everyone a wonderful New Year's as well. As the New Year starts, we are busy getting things in motion. We will continue to sell scatter shots throughout the Turkey Shoot season. In February, we will have a Sweetheart Dance with a live band. Watch for further information. I am sure you will have a great time.

In March will hold our Bull and Oyster Roast. As always, it will be limited so watch for ticket information shortly and buy your tickets early. This event always sells out. There will be no walk-ins.

Membership is going well and we are close to being 100%. Of course, if you did not renew your membership yet, your name is no longer in the bar book and will be until your membership is paid.

Skip Powell  
Commander

SAL SQUADRON 66  
MONTHLY MEETING  
MONDAY, JAN 10  
7:30 PM

### Friday Night Dinner Menu January 2005

January 7th (**Color Guard**)  
Grilled Steak (Cooked to Order)  
Baked Potato, Salad and Dessert  
\$10.00

January 14<sup>th</sup> (**Auxiliary**)  
Meatloaf  
\$8.00

January 21st (**SAL**)  
Roasted Chicken  
Veggie and Dessert  
\$8.00

January 28<sup>th</sup> (**Color Guard**)  
Tacos  
\$8.00

All dinners are served from 6:30 to 8:00 pm. Take out orders welcome. Call Post for reservation Wednesday before dinner.



American Legion  
Disney-Bell Post 66  
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Bowie, MD 20720  
Tel: (301) 464-9814  
Fax: (301) 805-6832  
Website: [www.alpost66.org](http://www.alpost66.org)

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#### POST OFFICERS

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



*18 SHOTS  
\$50.00*

*Pre-Sign Up  
at Post  
During the Week*

**TURKEY SHOTS  
EVERY SUNDAY  
SIGN-UP BEGINS 7:00 AM  
SHOTS BEGIN 9:00 AM  
BREAKFAST SERVED 8:00 AM  
(NO SHOOT JANUARY 23<sup>RD</sup>)**