



The Rising Star

Disney-Bell Post 66
Newsletter

December 2005

Commander's Message

Welcome to the Holiday Season 2005. On behalf of all the Officers and executive committee members I want to wish all our members in our Legion Family a Merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

We are still having problems with our Pavilion Permit. Seems as though one particular person at Park & Planning is sitting on our request, and by the way, he is also sitting on two other organizations permits applications for the same alike structures. Here's hoping Santa puts a lump of coal in his Christmas stocking.

Veterans Day in the Park went very well. The VFW was the host organization.

If you have seen the front page of the Bowie Blade, November 17th, you'll know that our Post presented Suzanne and David Baust with a Gold Star Banner for their son Ben who lost his life while on active duty. Let us all pray that we do not have to repeat this ceremony again. The American Legion will host Memorial Day and Veterans Day in the coming year and unless the weather is really foul, they will be at Veterans Park.

As always, Jim Pritchett put together a great program for Veterans Day and it went off without a hitch. Brian Frye (our sound system roadie) did a perfect job and I am sure future programs will be as successful.

Congratulations go to the Bowie Blade for getting names and photo's correct, their current standings are one for one, and of course 50% won't get them in the play off's.
Happy Holidays, God Bless America and God Bless our Veterans

Thomas D. Murphy

Unit 66 Report

Time does fly when you are having fun, and it's December already. The Auxiliary Ladies have been very busy;. I think all of the children that attended the Halloween Party had a howling good time, thanks to the decorating talents of Tammi Planty and her helper goblins.

We had planned to have a Christmas Craft Bazaar but due to medical reasons and scheduling conflicts it had to be postponed until sometime in the spring. Sorry.

The October Gas Raffle was won by Larry Bradley of Silver Spring, Maryland; the last two months have been a little difficult for him so winning the gas card brightened up his day. The November Gas Raffle tickets are available now! They are \$1 apiece or 6 for \$5. This months \$100 gas card is for Shell Gas, and the drawing will be at our December 9th Friday Night Dinner. All profits from the raffle go towards Auxiliary sponsored programs for veterans and their families, and our children & youth programs to mention a few. So please take a chance you never know when you might win.



Our December Friday Night Dinner menu will be Chicken Parmesan, spaghetti, salad, bread sticks and dessert all for \$8 per person. There is a sign-up sheet at the bar, and if you are planning on coming please sign up before Wednesday so that we will know how much food to buy and fix. The menu for our January 13th Friday Night Dinner will be Lasagna, (Yay no Turkey!!).

The Auxiliary does not have a regular meeting in December, we use that day to have our Annual Christmas Party. This year the party will be held Wednesday December 21st at the Disney-Bell Post Home. All members are invited to attend and bring a gift valued no less than \$10, and also a dessert or other food that you would like to share with the others. We might even receive a visit from the "Jolly Old Elf" himself, one can only hope.

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Adjutant's Report



Your 2005 membership card will expire at midnight, December 31, 2005. There is no grace period and if you have not renewed your membership by then you can and should be denied access to all Post 66 activities. To prevent an embarrassing moment, pay your 2003 dues now.

There is a 45-day turn around time for National to complete the processing of your renewal. So if you pay your 2005 dues today, you will receive another renewal notice mailed to you on the 15th of December.

Despite the fact that there is a statement printed in red on the renewal notice "*Please disregard if you have already paid your 2002 dues,*" several Legionnaires will mail a second payment. There is no benefit to paying your dues twice in one year.

The easiest way to prevent double payment, is to check your membership card. If it is a 2005 card, disregard the notice as they suggest. If it is a 2004 card, then it is time to write that check.

As always, if you have any questions on your membership, do not hesitate to give me a call either at the Post (301-464-9814) or at home (301-390-6436). Post e-mail address is alpost66@bellatlantic.net and mine is jimabniam@aol.com.

James L. Pritchett, Jr.
Adjutant

MEMBERS CHRISTMAS PARTY



SATURDAY

DECEMBER 24

4:00 PM TIL 7:00 PM

ALL LEGION FAMILY MEMBERS
WELCOME!

SNACKS, COCKTAILS, MUSIC AND
AND GOOD HOLIDAY CHEER!

**Merry
Christmas**

The Commissary Roadblock

It was just another harried Wednesday afternoon trip to the commissary. My husband was off teaching young men to fly. My daughters went about their daily activities knowing I would return to them at the appointed time, bearing, among other things, their favorite fruit snacks, frozen pizza and all the little extras that never had to be written down on a grocery list. My grocery list, by the way, was in my sixteen-month-old daughter's mouth, and I was lamenting the fact that the next four aisles of needed items would have to come from memory.

I was turning onto the hygiene/baby aisle while extracting the last of my list out of my daughter's mouth when I nearly ran over an old man. He clearly had no appreciation for the fact that I had forty-five minutes left to finish the grocery shopping, pick up my four-year-old from tumbling class and get to school. Where my twelve-year-old and her car pool mates would be waiting.

The man was standing in front of the soap selection, staring blankly as if he's never had to choose a bar of soap in his life. I was ready to bark an order at him when I realized there was a tear on his face. Instantly, this grocery aisle roadblock transformed into a human.

"Can I help you find something?" I asked. He hesitated, and then told me he was looking for soap. "Any one in particular?" I continued. "Well, I'm trying to find my wife's brand of soap." I was about to lend him my cell phone so he could call her when he said, "She died a year ago, and I just want to smell her again."

Chills ran down my spine. I don't think the twenty-two-thousand pound mother of all bombs could have had the same impact. As tears welled up in my eyes, my half-eaten grocery list didn't seem so important. Neither did fruit snacks or frozen pizza. I spent the remainder of my time in the commissary that day listening to a man tell the story of how important his wife was to him -- and how she took care of their children while he fought for our country.

My life was forever changed that day.

Sometimes the monotony of laundry, housecleaning, grocery shopping and taxi driving leaves military wives feeling empty -- the kind of emptiness that is rarely fulfilled when our husbands don't want to or can't talk about work. We need to be reminded, at times, of the important role we fill for our family and for our country. Every time my husband comes home too late or leaves before the crack of dawn, I try to remember the sense of importance I felt in the commissary.

Even a retired, decorated World War II pilot who served in missions to protect Americans needed the protection of the woman who served him at home.

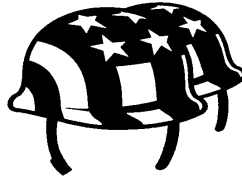
Legion Riders to Form Post Chapter

The American Legion Riders have been nationally recognized for 12 years. There are over 400 Posts that sponsor Legion Riders Chapters and with more than 16,000 members. Our is to participate in parades and other ceremonies which are in keeping with the aims and goals The American Legion, promote motorcycle safety programs, provide a social atmosphere for Legionnaires who share the same interests, and use our Association to promote and support programs of The American Legion. ~~Members~~ of Post 66 who ride motorcycles are interested in forming our own chapter of the American Legion Riders. If you are a member of the Legion family and own a 600cc motorcycle (or spouse of a Legion Rider member), you are eligible to become a Legion Rider.

If this sounds like something that you might want to participate in, then come out to Post 66 on the Thursday, January 12 at 7:30 p.m. If you have questions feel free to contact either Steve "Big Bird" Williams at (301) 805-0175; (bigbirdwilliams@aol.com) or Richard Beckwell at (301) 464-9177 (rsbeckwell@verizon.net).

Yours in Service,
Steve "Bir Bird" Williams

Support The Troops!



There is a great website where anyone can log on and send a message to our troops serving in Iraq and Afghanistan. Not only is this a great morale builder, but there are links to literally hundreds of pages that help our military men and women. The site address is: www.americasupportsyou.mil.

Once on site, click on the upper left-hand corner to see how you can help. There are countless ideas for sharing your Christmas with those who are defending our freedom away from home.

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PARTY



See Santa!!!

SATURDAY
DECEMBER 17
3:00 TIL 5:00 PM

REFRESHMENTS, DRINKS, CLOWN

COST: ZIP, ZILCH, NADA

National Legion Oratorical Contest

Disney-Bell Post 66 will be sponsoring the local level of the National High School Oratorical Contest on February 4, 2005. Interested students should pre-register no later than January 1, 2006 by phoning Post 66 at (301) 464-9814 or Brian Frye, the Post Oratorical Committee Chairman, at (301) 860-1717.

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.

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.

The local contest in Bowie offers \$250, \$175, and \$50 for the top three competitors. The American Legion encourages parents and school administrators to support this annual competition which instills Americanism in our high school students across the country.

A few Volunteers are needed to be time keepers and escorts. Please see Brian Frye for detail. Thank you.

(Auxiliary article continued)

Our Community Service Chairman Betty Mullen has found a needy family in our area and we have collected non-perishable food items to donate for their Thanksgiving. They have volunteered at the Elks Club and participate in area churches. A nice big box of non-perishable food was collected and I would like to thank everyone for helping in this project.

Any members that would like to attend a meeting to see what we do or would like to help in any way are very welcome. Our next regular meeting will be January 18th, 2006 at 7:30 PM at the Post Home. We would love to hear any new ideas and get acquainted with some new faces.

I hope everyone has a blessed and Merry Christmas and a healthy and Happy New Year and let's all take the time to remember those who will spend their holiday away from their home and loved ones so that they may protect the freedom that we cherish so dearly

Juanita L. Thompson
Unit President

SAL Annual Toy Train Raffle



Tickets on Sale at the Post
Only \$1.00
6 for \$5.00

Drawing: December 16

What's to Eat at Post 66???

Friday, December 2

N. Y. Strip Dinner
Baked Potato, Vegetable, Salad, Dessert
\$10.00 (RSVP: NLT 11-30)

Friday, December 9

Chicken Parmesan
\$8.00 (RSVP: NLT 12-7)

Saturday, December 10

Shrimp Nite (with hush puppies)
Baker's Dozen with drink
\$6.50
Walk Ins Welcome

Friday, December 16

½ Roasted Chicken
Parsley Potatoes, Vegetable, Salad, Dessert
\$8.00 (RSVP: NLT 12-14)

Friday, December 23

No Dinner Tonight

Saturday, December 24

Annual Post Christmas Party
4:00 - 7:00 p.m.

Friday, December 30

Roast Beef
Potatoes, Vegetable, Dessert
\$8.00 (RSVP: NLT 12-28)

Disney-Bell Post 66 Officers

Commander Thoms D. Murphy
First Vice Commander Nick Muller
Second Vice Commander Dan Healy
Adjutant James L. Pritchett, Jr.
Judge Advocate J. D. Larson
Finance Officer Dick Lanham
Service Officer Eddie Thompson
Historian Myron James
Chaplain Toni King
Sergeant-at-Arms Brian Goldman
Executive Committee:
David Cooks, Brian Fry,
Roger Goll, Clif Morvant, Mark Ryan

Unit 66 Officers

President Juanita Thompson
Vice President Valerie Hayes
Secretary Tammy Planty
Treasurer Anna Thompson
Chaplain Lois Van Sickle
Historian Linda Healy
Sergeant-at-Arms Anna Planty

Squadron 66

Commander Joe Weik
First Vice Commander Stephen E. Planty
Second Vice Commander Skip Powell
Finance Officer Darby McNeill
Chaplain Del Billings
Sergeant-at Arms Jimmy Clark
Historian J. Holman
Adjutant Stephen R. Planty