



The Rising Star

Disney-Bell Post 66
Newsletter

January 2006

Commander's Message

It's Christmas Day and I am at the keyboard putting together my newsletter article. I sincerely hope all our members are having a Merry Christmas and will have a safe and prosperous New Year. Now it's time to beat the Dues Renewal Drum; please check your records to see if you have paid your 2006 dues.



Now I am going to tell you a true story that took place about 2-3 weeks ago. We have two members of our Post who attend Rockledge Elementary School: Fred Stevens, a member of the SAL, and his sister Samantha, a member of the Jr. Auxiliary.

As it happened, Fred was told by another youngster that he was going to run away from home. He didn't think much of it at that time, but later in the evening, he told his mother what this other youngster said and that he would like to over to the playground to see if there was any truth in what this classmate had said.

So, with his trusted companion Samantha by his side, flashlight in hand and under the watchful eyes of Mom (Kathy, a long-time employee of Post 66), they went to the Rockledge playground to look for his classmate. Fred found his classmate and his younger brother, cold, hungry, wet and scared, huddled together on some playground equipment. Fred and Samantha brought them home and Kathy gave them some hot chocolate and cookies, along with dry clothes to wear, while the police were summoned to assist Fred and Samantha to help get these two young boys home. It is also my understanding that an Amber Alert was forthcoming to find the missing brothers.

Fred is only 10 years old and a member of Cub Scout Pack 1688 and in March will join Boy Scout Troop 1688. Samantha is 8 years old and a member of the Girl Scouts. They took the time because they care about people and in so doing ended a situation that could have only gotten worse. If you don't think your dues are not important, now hear this. Both Cub Scout Troop 1688 and Boy Scout Troop 1688 are supported by Disney-Bell Post 66 AND YOUR DUES! So, if raising great little Americans who care about other people is a good idea, then you will make that possible by renewing your dues. God Bless America! God Bless our Veterans!

Thomas D. Murphy
Commander

Adjutant's Call

"Support Our Troops" These three simple words are seen on car magnets, bumper stickers, signs and on wrist bands. They are more than just a saying, they reflect the resolve of The American Legion to support those who fight the war on terrorism. As a Viet Nam Veteran, I fully understand the power of public opinion in times of battle. Col. Bui Tin of the North Vietnamese Army summed it up "It (the American antiwar movement) was essential to our strategy...Every day our leadership would listen to world news over the radio at 9 a.m. to follow the growth of the American antiwar movement... America lost because of its democracy; through dissent and protest it lost the ability to mobilize a will to win."

I do not know of any combat veterans who looks forward to waging war, but we understand General MacArthur's statement, "In war, there is no substitute for victory". Col. Brent Wyrick, a surgeon deployed in Iraq, hit the nail of the head when he wrote the following:

"I wish there was not a war, and I wish our young people did not have to fight and die. But I cannot wish away evil men like bin Laden and al-Zarqawi. These men are not wayward children who have gone astray; they are not great men who are simply misunderstood. They are cold-blooded killers, and they will kill you, me and everyone we love and hold dear if we do not kill them first.

"You cannot reason with these people. You cannot negotiate with them. And this war will not be over until they are dead. That is the ugly, awful and brutal truth. The last thing we need in Iraq is an exit strategy or some damn time table for withdrawal. Thank God there was no time table for withdrawal after the Battle of the Bulge or Iwo Jima. Thank God there was not an exit strategy at Valley Forge. Freedom is not easy, and it comes with a terrible price."

At the Eighty-seventh National Convention, in Honolulu Hawaii in August 2005, The American Legion passed a Resolution urging all Americans and freedom-loving people everywhere to stand united in their support of the global war on terrorism, and united in their support of the troops who are engaged in protecting our values and way of life.

James L. Pritchett, Jr.
Adjutant

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.

Melvin Buck Scholarship Award

Nominations to receive the 2006 Melvin Buck Scholarship are now being accepted. The winner will receive financial assistance in the amount of \$1,500. Applicants must meet the following criteria:

1. Be a graduating high school senior in 2006.
2. Be a child, stepchild or grandchild of a member in good standing of the American Legion, Disney-Bell Post 66.

This scholarship is awarded by a blind draw of all applications accepted. Applications must be in writing and contain the following information: The applicant's name, address, telephone number, relationship to the member, member's name and membership number, and the name and telephone number of the high school the applicant attends. The deadline is April 1, 2006.

Applications may be delivered or mailed to the American Legion, Disney-Bell Post 66, 9605 Old Laurel-Bowie Road, Bowie, Maryland 20720 and marked to the attention of Doug Peters, Chairman, Children and Youth Committee. Applications may also be sent via fax or e-mail.



TURKEY SHOOTS!
EVERY SUNDAY
BREAKFAST AT 8:00
SHOOT AT 9:00
20 SHOTS, \$55



Squadron 66 Report

Hello and Happy New Year. I hope everyone had a great holiday and is ready for 2006. We finished 2005 strong and were successful in raising monies for Fisher House (Walter Reed), Toys for Tots, Charlotte Hall Veterans Home, and United Cerebral Palsy. Thanks guys for all the hard work.

Back by popular demand, we will be starting up the Tuesday Sandwich Night on January 10th. Our up coming events will be the chili cook off scheduled for Saturday February 4th and the Sweetheart Dance scheduled for February 18th, featuring the David Wayne Band. In March we will be having the annual Bull & Oyster Roast.

Our membership goal for this date is 60% and we are at 78% - Keep up the good work! As always we gladly accept all new eligible members. We meet on the 2nd Monday of each month, hope to see you there.

Joe Weik
Commander Squadron #66

Chaplain's Corner

Happy New Year to my Fellow Veterans and their Families.

As we start a new year let us not forget those veterans in the hospitals, veterans home, nursing homes or in their own homes.

Winter can be a depressing time for those whom are ill or disabled. Send a note of 'Thinking of you' or call them to just say ' Hi ' . As always if you need me for anything you can leave a message at the Post Home or call me at 301-262-0257.

For God and Country And Blessings to All

Toni R. King, Chaplain

Sweetheart Dance

SATURDAY

February 18, 2006

8:00 - Midnight

**ALL LEGION FAMILY MEMBERS
WELCOME!**

\$10.00

Tickets on Sale at Post NOW!

Music By:

The David Wayne Band

What's to Eat at Post 66???

Friday, January 6
N. Y. Strip Dinner
Baked Potato, Vegetable, Salad, Dessert
\$10.00 (RSVP: NLT 1-4)

Tuesdays
Starting January 10
Sandwich Night at Post 66 Returns
Always something differ, Always something good.
\$5.00
5:00 until 8:00 pm

Friday, January 13
Lasagna
Garlic Bread, Salad, Dessert
\$8.00 (RSVP: NLT 1-11)

Saturday, January 14
Shrimp Nite (with hush puppies)
Baker's Dozen with drink
\$6.50
Walk Ins Welcome

Friday, January 20
½ Roasted Chicken
Parsley Potatoes, Vegetable, Salad, Dessert

Friday, January 27
Honor Guard Hosted Dinner
\$8.00 (RSVP: NLT 1-25)

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





**American Legion
Disney-Bell Post 66
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