

# The Rising Star

Volume 2007, Issue 6

November-December 2007

## Special points of interest:

- We are at 65% of our goal for 4-star membership status.
- We're still visiting our Veterans at Walter Reed - we need people to make the visits and donations for the troops.
- We are holding Post dinners on a regular basis throughout the month.
- There is a new bulletin board for photos of recent events in the Post lounge

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## Commander's Message



### My Fellow Legionnaires

Approximately 2 years ago, I was browsing through one of the large retail stores here in Bowie and I happened to be wearing one of my favorite caps, a black one with the words "U.S. ARMY VETERAN" on the front. A customer, a man about my own age, approached me and asked me if I had served in the Army. When I answered yes, he asked if I thought it necessary to advertise that on my hat, after a brief pause I responded to him "I don't think of it as advertising, but rather as an expression of the pride I have in the service I gave to my country, Did you?" With that, he turned and walked away. What a jerk!

As we all know, November 11 of each year is Veteran's Day, a National holiday set aside to honor all Veterans, living and dead. I don't plan to observe this holiday, instead I intend to CELEBRATE it, and I think you should too.

We 25 million living veterans are an exclusive group of Americans. Thanks to us, Americans are still able to speak English, not Russian, German, Japanese, or Chinese.

Thanks to us, we are free to go to the polls every 2 years to elect our leaders and not be ruled by a dictator, as so many around the world are.

Thanks to us, we are all free to worship as we choose and to hold whatever religious beliefs we choose.

I could go on and on, but you get the idea.

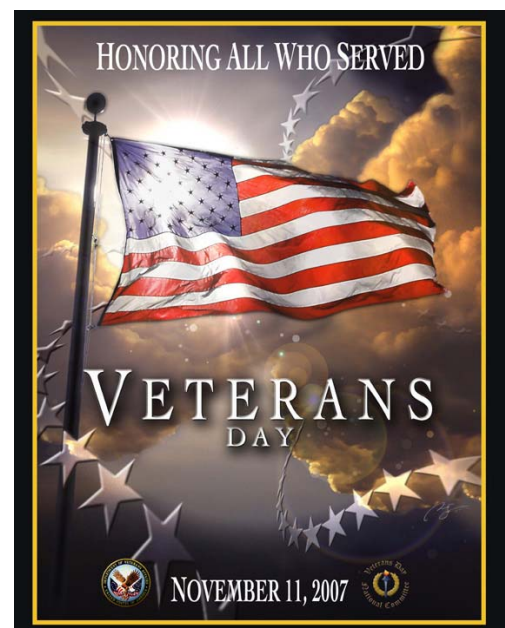
America is the land of the free,  
BECAUSE of the brave!

Whether or not you served in combat or remained Stateside, no matter what Branch you served in, the fact is you were ready, willing, and able to step into harm's way to keep America free. What greater service could anyone ask?

I salute each and every one of you!

God Bless all of our Veterans and God Bless America!

**Dick Lanham**  
Commander



## Post Officers

Commander	Dick Lanham
1st Vice Commander	Mark Ryan
2nd Vice Commander	Brian Goldman
Adjutant	<vacant>
Finance Officer	Charlie Milstead
Chaplain	Toni King
Judge Advocate	Richard Beckwell
Historian	Ray Hart
Service Officer	Eddie Thompson
Sergant-at-Arms	Sonny Frank
Executive Committee	Brian Frye
	Roger Goll
	Jr. Martin
	Clif Morvant
	Tom Murphy

American Legion  
Disney-Bell Post 66  
9605 Old Laurel-Bowie Road  
Bowie, Maryland 20720

Phone: 301-464-9814  
Fax: 301-805-6832  
Email: [alpost66@comcast.net](mailto:alpost66@comcast.net)  
Website: [www.alpost66.org](http://www.alpost66.org)

We welcome your news, ideas, suggestions, comments, questions, or thoughts for the next issue of The Rising Star.

Email info to: [alpost66@comcast.net](mailto:alpost66@comcast.net)

or drop it at the Post attention: Ray Hart

by: December 15, 2007.

## Wounded Warrior Visits

I am writing to you with an appeal as Executive Committee member in charge of visits to our injured troops in Walter Reed and Bethesda Medical Facilities. Our troops need our support and I am dismayed at the lack of support I am getting from the post members. Once a month, we organize a couple of hour trip to one of these two facilities to show our sons and daughters that we appreciate their sacrifice. The same one we made when it was our time.

Show your care by signing up for a visit. I know most of you all work weekdays but a couple hours of vacation or comp time won't break you and you will get great satisfaction talking with them. Just be there to hear them tell you how they were injured and how they are healing. Besides helping to cheer

them up (some of whom may not have any family here with them), it shows them that they have the support of a grateful Nation.

To help out we are also collecting reading material to take to the hospitals for them read to help past the time. Bring your gently used books to the Post and we will deliver them to some grateful readers at the hospitals. Lists of further useful items will be forthcoming and listed along with a sign up sheet for the monthly trips will be posted at the bar. If you don't come by the Post very often, then call the Post number at 301-464-9814 and ask for the date and time of the next visit and sign up. Remember, someone else might be doing this for someone in your family. Please help reciprocate.

Thank you all in advance,

**Roger Goll**

The next

### WOUNDED WARRIOR VISIT

to Walter Reed Army Medical Center will be on November 13. We will meet at the Post at 11:30 a.m. for a 1:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. visit.

Please sign up at the bar if you can attend.

*For information contact Roger Goll at 301-262-8589*

*Do you read? Donate your gently used books for our soldiers.  
Bring them to the Post and mark the bag "Walter Reed Visits."*

*All collected items will be donated to  
hospitalized service men and women.*

# POST 66 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Check the calendar on the Post website or contact the Post for

## NOVEMBER 2007

Friday	November 2nd	Steak/Shrimp Night - Honor Guard; 6:30-8:00 p.m
Tuesday	November 6th	Sandwich Night - S.A.L.; 5:00 - 7:00 p.m
Friday	November 9th	Friday Night Dinner - Auxiliary; 6:30 - 8:00 p.m
Saturday	November 10th	Shrimp Night; 6:30 - 8:00 p.m
Sunday	November 11th	Veterans Day Ceremonies; 2:00 p.m.
Monday	November 12th	S.A.L. Meeting; 7:30 p.m.
Tuesday	November 13th	Sandwich Night - S.A.L.; 5:00 - 7:00 p.m
Wednesday	November 14th	Executive Committee Meeting; 7:30 p.m.
Friday	November 16th	Friday Night Dinner - S.A.L.; 6:30 - 8:00 p.m.
Tuesday	November 20th	Sandwich Night - S.A.L.; 5:00 - 7:00 p.m.
Wednesday	November 21st	Auxiliary Meeting; 7:30 p.m.
Thursday	November 22nd	THANKSGIVING
Friday	November 23rd	Friday Night Dinner - Honor Guard; 6:30 - 8:00 p.m.
Tuesday	November 27th	Sandwich Night - S.A.L.; 5:00 - 7:00 p.m.
Wednesday	November 28th	General Membership Meeting; 7:30 p.m.
Thursday	November 29th	American Legion Riders Meeting; 7:30 p.m.
Friday	November 30th	Friday Night Dinner - Auxiliary; 6:30 - 8:00 p.m

## DECEMBER 2007

Tuesday	December 4th	Sandwich Night - S.A.L.; 5:00 - 7:00 p.m.
Friday	December 7th	Steak/Shrimp Night - Honor Guard; 6:30-8:00 p.m.
Saturday	December 8th	Shrimp Night; 6:30 - 8:00 p.m.
Monday	December 10 <sup>th</sup>	S.A.L. Meeting; 7:30 p.m.
Tuesday	December 11th	Sandwich Night - S.A.L.; 5:00 - 7:00 p.m.
Wednesday	December 12 <sup>th</sup>	Executive Committee Meeting; 7:30 p.m.
Friday	December 14 <sup>th</sup>	Friday Night Dinner - Auxiliary.; 6:30 - 8:00 p.m.
Saturday	December 15th	Post Children's Christmas Party (details TBD)
Tuesday	December 18th	Sandwich Night - S.A.L.; 5:00 - 7:00 p.m.
Wednesday	December 19 <sup>th</sup>	Auxiliary Meeting; 7:30 p.m.
Friday	December 21 <sup>th</sup>	Friday Night Dinner - S.A.L.; 6:30 - 8:00 p.m.
Monday	December 24th	Post Christmas Party (details TBD)
Tuesday	December 25th	CHRISTMAS (No sandwiches tonight.)
Wednesday	December 26th	General Membership Meeting; 7:30 p.m.
Thursday	December 27th	American Legion Riders Meeting; 7:30 p.m.
Friday	December 28th	Friday Night Dinner - Auxiliary; 6:30 - 8:00 p.m
Tuesday	December 31st	NEW YEARS EVE (No sandwiches tonight.)
Tuesday	January 1, 2008	2008 membership card needed for Post access!!!

## S.A.L. Squadron 66



Hopefully everyone was able to make it to our annual car show in September and our crab feast in October. The car show was one of our biggest yet with over 60 cars entered. Despite rumors he wouldn't be entering in the unfinished class again this year, it should be noted that once again, Darby McNeill took home the award in the unfinished class. Like I always say, better to be unfinished than no class at all. As for our crab feast, the guys running trays of crabs to hungry attendees were getting worn out from the huge and heavy crustaceans. Also, a thank you is in order for Old Bowie Volunteer Fire Department Station 19 for purchasing

tickets for our guests from Walter Reed. If you missed these events, be sure to save time for the next go round.

A reminder that Friday Night Dinners (a.k.a. half-baked chicken) are underway the third Friday of every month through May. Also, if it's Tuesday night it's Sandwich Night! Sandwich Night (5:00 - 7:00 p.m.) will run through April 29; however, food will not be served on December 25 and January 1.

Winter is here, got your gear? When the first snow hits, wouldn't it be nice to have a quick and easy way to get rid of the unwanted white stuff? No, you can't call me to come over with a

shovel! However, you can purchase raffle tickets for a chance to win a snow blower/thrower at the Post. Tickets are on sale now for \$5.00. To see what has Frosty running for the hills, stop by the Post to take a look.

Finally, a reminder that S.A.L. meetings are the second Monday of each month at 7:30 p.m. There are a lot of events planned for next year and we can always use your help.

Don't forget to pay your 2008 membership dues. See you at the Post!

**James S. Clark III**  
**Commander**

## Auxiliary Unit 66



We are fast approaching the holiday season. Where has the year gone? We do have several things going on and coming up for our Unit.

When you come to the Post, you will notice "The Rainy Day Umbrella" hanging upside down by the stairs. This is to support the Auxiliary and our programs. Any and all donations in the umbrella would be greatly appreciated so we can continue our work and support all of our programs.

We have tickets being sold for a chance to win a Redskins Raffle Basket. You can purchase tickets from Marie Pritchett, from any of our Auxiliary members, or the bartenders. The drawing will be at the November 21st Auxiliary meeting. It is full of Redskin goodies and would make any Redskins fan

happy.

Starting November 22nd, the Auxiliary will be selling raffle tickets for a chance to win a "Wagon of Cheer". The winning ticket will be drawn at the December 19th Auxiliary meeting. Again, see any of your Auxiliary members or the bartenders to purchase tickets. Both raffles are one (1) ticket \$1.00 or six (6) for \$5.00

Our November and December Auxiliary Friday Night Dinners are ones that you won't want to miss. The November 9th dinner will be Shepard's Pie, salad, rolls, and dessert. The December 14th dinner will be pork chops, potatoes, veggies, applesauce, roll and dessert. So come on out, relax, enjoy a meal, and support the Auxiliary.

Our taco night with margaritas is back and will be held on the following Fri-

days: November 30, 2007; February 29, 2008; and May 30, 2008.

Look for the fliers around the Post as the dates approach and, as always, there will be a sign-up sheet at the bar.

For any of our Auxiliary members that are also Veterans, Heather Hills Elementary School is having a "Take a Veterans to School" day on November 15th. If you are interested and would like more information you may contact Ms. Jessica Jones at 301-805-2730 or go to <http://www.history.com>. This would be great time to share our service history with our youth.

**Judy Williams**  
**Secretary, Unit 66**



# American Legion Riders

Another successful ride season is almost over, and it has been a busy year. I felt that you, the membership, should know what we, the American Legion Riders of Post 66, have been up to.

We have quite a good list, so I will only touch the high points listed below.

- Bowie Memorial Day Parade.
- Memorial Day Ceremonies at Bowie Veterans Park.
- Wreath Laying Ceremony at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier in which Steve Williams had the distinct honor to participate.
- Rolling Thunder XX.
- Ride to the Colors, an event originated by us that is designed to provide funds to help support the Baltimore United Volunteers (War of 1812-1814 re-enactors) and the Fisher House at Andrews Air Force Base.
- Concerns of Police Survivors, an organization dedicated to supporting the families of fallen police officers.
- Escort for 400 Maryland National Guardsmen being deployed to Iraq, from the USNA Stadium, to the Delaware State line.
- Purple Heart Ride, a fund raising effort sponsored by the Blue Knights M/C that provides monies to the National Naval Medical Center: Over \$15,000.00 in total was donated.
- Casey Cares, an organization that provides special care to critically-ill children and their families.
- Charlotte Hall Poker Run, event sponsored by the U.S. Military Vets M/C with the proceeds going to the efforts at Charlotte Hall.
- Salute to Veterans, an annual event that takes place in Cambridge, Maryland.
- Legacy Scholarship Run that originates out of the State Chapter, Edwin Adams Post 293. Over \$2,000.00 has been counted so far, and with our six riders, and one guest (soon to be a rider), our total donation came to \$1,175.00.

Remember, this is but a partial list of our accomplishments. To the date of this writing, we have distributed \$8,277.64 to these, and other, charities throughout Maryland. This money figure is a composite of donations contributed by Post 66, the American Legion Auxiliary Unit, the S.A.L. Squadron, and the American Legion Riders. To accomplish this feat, we have accumulated nearly 1,000 service hours, and have put thousands of miles on the road.

I wish to thank the American Legion family of Disney-Bell Post 66 for your continued support and trust in our efforts as we reach out to our community. And to think, the year isn't over yet! We have one official event left, the Veterans Day ceremonies at the Bowie Veterans Park on November 11th, at 2:00 p.m..

Then we start to plan for next year!

**Richard Beckwell**  
Assistant Director

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## Membership Due Date

When is your membership renewal due? The short answer is not later than December 31<sup>st</sup> of each year. We often hear rumors that the Legion has a 30-day grace period, but in fact the National By-Laws say nothing of the sort. Be an Early Bird!

### BY-LAWS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION

#### ARTICLE IV

#### DISCIPLINE OF POST AND POST MEMBERS

*"Section 4. A member whose dues for the current year have not been paid by January first shall be classed as delinquent. If his dues are paid on or before February first, he shall be automatically reinstated. If he is still delinquent after February first, he shall be suspended from all privileges....."*

## Veterans Day (November 11)

In 1918, on the eleventh hour of the eleventh day in the eleventh month, the world rejoiced and celebrated. After four years of bitter war, the Allied powers signed a cease-fire agreement (an armistice) with Germany at Rethondes, France on November 11, 1918, bringing World War I to a close. The "war to end all wars" was over.

November 11, 1919 was set aside as Armistice Day in the United States, to remember the sacrifices that men and women made during World War I in order to ensure a lasting peace. On Armistice Day, soldiers who survived the war marched in a parade through their home towns. Politicians and veteran officers gave speeches and held ceremonies of thanks for the peace they had won.

Armistice Day officially received its name in the United States in 1926 through a Congressional resolution. It became a national holiday 12 years later. Congress voted Armistice Day a federal holiday in 1938, 20 years after the war ended. But Americans realized that the previous war would not be the last one. World War II began the following year and nations great and small again participated in a bloody struggle. After the Second World War, Armistice Day continued to be observed on November 11.

In 1953 townspeople in Emporia, Kansas called the holiday Veterans' Day in gratitude to the veterans in their town. Soon after, Congress passed a bill introduced by a Kansas congressman renaming the federal holiday to Veterans' Day. Beginning in 1954, the United States designated November 11 as Veterans Day to honor veterans of all U.S. wars. 1971 President Nixon declared it a federal holiday on the second Monday in November.

Americans still give thanks for peace on Veterans' Day. There are ceremonies and speeches and at 11:00 in the morning, most Americans observe a moment of silence, remembering those who fought for peace.

After the United States' involvement in the Vietnam War, the emphasis on holiday activities has shifted. There are fewer military parades and ceremonies. Veterans gather at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, D.C. to place gifts and stand quiet vigil at the names of their friends and relatives who fell in the Vietnam War. Families who have lost sons and daughters in wars turn their thoughts more toward peace and the avoidance of future wars.

Veterans of military service have organized support groups such as the American Legion and Veterans of Foreign Wars. On Veterans' Day and Memorial Day, these groups raise funds for their charitable activities by selling paper poppies made by disabled veterans. This bright red wildflower became a symbol of World War I after a bloody battle in a field of poppies called Flanders Field in Belgium.

**Shamelessly reproduced from:**  
<http://stockholm.usembassy.gov/holidays>  
**In Flanders Fields**



### In Flanders Fields

In Flanders fields the poppies blow  
 Between the crosses, row on row,  
 That mark our place; and in the sky  
 The larks, still bravely singing, fly  
 Scarce heard amidst the guns below.

We are the Dead. Short days ago  
 We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,  
 Loved, and were loved, and now we lie  
 In Flanders fields.

Take up our quarrel with the foe:  
 To you from failing hands we throw  
 The torch; be yours to hold it high.  
 If ye break faith with us who die  
 We shall not sleep, though poppies grow  
 In Flanders fields.



*Maj. John McCrae of the Canadian Army is best known for his famous war poem "In Flanders Fields," written following the 1915 battle in the Ypres salient. McCrae composed the poem while sitting in the back of an ambulance, looking out on a nearby cemetery filled with wild poppies.*

# Help Needed!

## The Post supports many GREAT causes. Your help is needed and appreciated.

**Oratorical Contest:** 2 - 3 individuals are needed to help set the dates and judge the presentations.

**Baseball Committee:** 3 -5 individuals are needed to start working the 2008 Legion baseball season. They will order equipment, recruit assistant coaches, and attend county and department organizational meetings. Additionally the Post needs to support the team throughout the season.

**Scholarship Committee:** 3 - 4 individuals are needed to validate the application procedures, set the submission dates, and grade the applications. They will follow up on presentation of certificates and checks to the individual winners.

Individuals interested in helping with these important tasks should contact **Brian Frye, Executive Committee, Patriotism & Youth Committee.**

**TOYS for TOTS.** The annual Toys for Tots drive will begin at the Post on November 1. This is a joint effort by The American Legion Family, The American Legion Riders, The D.A.V. Omaha Beach Chapter #7 (Bowie), and the Marine Corps League (Bowie). Last year, through everyone's efforts and donations, the Toys for Tots drive netted about \$9,000.00 in toys for needy children. There will be a collection box for toys and donations at the Post. Contact Pat Lamb.

**High School Oratorical Scholarship Program.** Raffle tickets are for sale to benefit the Prince Georges County Council of the American Legion's High School Oratorical Scholarship Program. The tickets are \$7.50 for two. The numbered tickets are based on the three digit evening drawing of the Maryland State Lottery for the month of January 2008. Last year there were five winners from the Post. See Brian Frye for tickets not later than the last week in December!

**Youth Shooting Program.** We are still looking for someone interested in organizing a youth shooting program (.177 Air Rifle). Crossman and the NRA have support initiatives for these programs which helps to lower initial overhead. Contact Mark Ryan or Brian Frye.

**Books.** Your gently read books are wanted to redistribute to our wounded veterans. Contact Roger Goll. (see the article on page 2.)

**Bowie Interfaith Food Pantry.** The Post has been a longtime collection point for items for the Bowie Interfaith Food Pantry. The collection box always has some extra space in it for your donations. Please bring non-perishable boxed or canned goods. Look for the white Rubbermaid container in the lounge area.

*Call the Post and leave a message to contact any of the above people.*

### Monthly Meeting Schedule

- SAL Squadron 66 2nd Monday
- Post 66 Executive Committee 2nd Wednesday
- Auxiliary Unit 66 3rd Wednesday
- Post 66 - Membership 4th Wednesday
- American Legion Riders 4th Thursday

**All Meetings Begin Promptly at 7:30 p.m.**

## Second Vice Commander (Facility News)

"... for the community, state and nation" also applies to our Post facilities.

We all enjoy use of but not the maintenance of our Post facilities. We have all become complacent, except for a select few, that are willing to volunteer time and effort to keep our Post safe and in running order. We spend too much money on upkeep and repairs that could be done at nominal costs if we all pitched in to help. The new pavilion is a good example of what can be done using sweat equity and members with contacts that are willing to supply materials at or below costs for the good of our brother and sisterhood. In the future, there is going to be a listing of jobs (in the newsletter and on our web page), big and small, that need doing around the Post asking for volunteers to help such as G.I. parties and spring Post cleanups.

The first project that we would like to get help for, on or before next spring, is an overflow erosion control area past the turkey shoot line. We don't use the "P.." word. When we have large events, such as the crab feast or the 4th of July picnic, having enough parking spaces has become a major problem. The addition of pavilion events will make this worse. We are expecting that these events will overtax our already crowded lot. The estimated cost will almost equal the cost of building the pavilion. This is great expense on our already over-taxed financial resources. We are asking for those of you in the construction trades with contacts and equipment that could help us out locating reduced cost CR6 or RCR and the equipment and personnel to dig out an area, fill and compact the material. Remember guys, the Legion runs on volunteer labor. Don't be a bystander; be a doer. Join in and make our Post a better place in which to come and maybe more of our silent membership will want to come and join in with us. Our Commander using his company personally donated the manpower to do some outside painting recently on the

Post and turkey shoot buildings and we thank him for setting such a fine example.

A final note on another subject, the bar. Those of you who don't know me, this is my first year as facilities manager and it is a daunting challenge. The last 2 years as Sergeant at Arms did not prepare me for this. Now I'm in the deep end of the pool. I know you can't satisfy everyone, but folks help me out here. Gidget and I try our best at finding a happy medium between desires and cost. Please don't bug Gidget with desires or complaints unless you see something wrong or against Post policy. The bar is our Post's primary source of income and it is a business and that isn't the business of giving away free drinks. Our drinks are already cheaper than at any bar you can go. Costs are up and profits down and we are trying to hold the line without additional price increases. We eliminated canned drinks, because they were not cost effective, refrigerator space is limited, and some of you wanted mixed drinks with canned soda at the same cost. But, this penalized the soda drinkers that like the taste and consistency of canned soda. We are considering bringing back non-refrigerated canned soda with the condition that all mixed drinks be made with the fountain soda gun. There will be no exceptions. Gidget, being the bar manager, gets the final say on this, so I will keep you posted. If we change the policy, it will be announced and posted at the bar when available. Other cost-saving measures may be coming in the future.

Please contact me with any complaints, comments, compliments, or if you would like to volunteer to help. You can leave me a note at the bar, email me at [2vcpost66@comcast.net](mailto:2vcpost66@comcast.net), or call me in the evenings at home (when it's important) at 301-262-1361.

**Brian Goldman**  
**Second Vice Commander**

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### Definition of a Veteran

A veteran - whether active duty, retired, National Guard or reserve is someone who, at one point in his life, wrote a blank check made payable to "The United States of America," for an amount of "up to and including my life."

That is Honor, and there are way too many people in this country who no longer understand it.

-- Author Unknown

## Every Veteran Needs Discharge Documents

Only your discharge documents certifies that you served and the character of that service. You should register your discharge with the V.A. and/or the County Court House. Make several copies and send them to family and friends. If you have made pre-funeral arrangements, give a copy to the funeral director. Should you require hospitalization at a V.A. Medical Center, you need your discharge papers.

If you served in World War II, and you entered the service from Maryland and returned to Maryland, your DD-214, separation or discharge papers, may be on file with the War Memorial, 101 North Gay Street, Baltimore, MD 21202, phone: 410-396-8013.

Unfortunately, there is no record of DD-214's for Korea or Vietnam prior to November 1979, in any of the Maryland State Archives.

If you left the military after November 1979, and told the separating authority to send a copy of your DD-214 to Maryland, your home of record, or your discharge address was Maryland, there is a chance your DD-214 is on file with the Maryland Veterans Commission. (phone 1-800-446-4962). You may also go online at [www.nara.com](http://www.nara.com) to access the Archives in St. Louis.

The Service Officer also has forms (Standard Form 180) to apply by mail. You should have as much of the following information available as possible: full name, rank, service number, social security number, V.A. claim number, date of birth, branch of service, and dates of service.

Save your loved ones some anguish and stress at the time when they already have more than they can handle. **GET YOUR DISCHARGE, SEPARATION PAPERS, DD-214 NOW!**

**Eddie Thompson**  
**Service Officer**  
**301-262-2263**

## Information to Collect Before a Veteran Passes

This is a quick check of the things you need to get from your Veteran before anything can go wrong. Post Everlasting can not receive mail or answer the telephone, so everyone who has a veteran in the family should know the answer to the following details. You will need these answers to file for any benefits. By the way, it would not be a bad idea to have this kind of information for the whole family.

- Full name
- Date of birth
- Birth certificate location
- Social security number
- Military service number
- Branch of service
- Place of service entry
- Dates of service
- Type of discharge
- Discharge certificate DD-214
- Names and addresses of service buddies
- Duty stations
- VA claim number
- Power of attorney
- Copy of medical records
- Court where DD-214 is recorded
- Spouse's full name
- Date/place of marriage
- Children's full names
- Birth certificates location
- Location of wills
- Insurance company and amount
- Bank accounts
- Financial accounts
- Mortgage
- Anything else important!

## 50th Eagle Scout for Troop 1688

On Tuesday evening, October 16th, Sammy Branham became the 50th young man to earn the rank of Eagle Scout in our troop. The first Eagle Scout of the troop, Les Scheiner, November 1977, 7 years after the troop was formed, was the beginning of a long lineage of Eagles for Troop 1688. 30 years later, the 50th name will be added to our Eagle Nest plaque in the main hall.

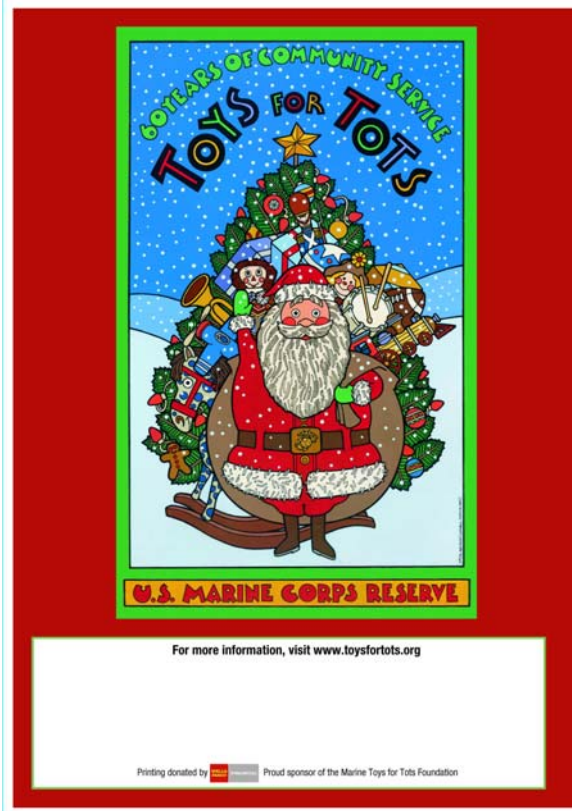
That is an average of 1.66 Eagle Scouts per year over the last 3 decades. Many years, no one achieves this honor, some years are a windfall. With two more young men approaching the final stages of the process, our troop may have a total of six Eagle Scouts for 2007. So next time someone needs a reason to join or renew their Legion membership, tell them we have a great scouting program at the Post growing the next generation of leaders.



Pictured left to right: Mike Mitchell, Legionnaire (Eagle Scout); Mark Ryan, Charter Org Rep; Jim Yon, 1688 Committee Chair; Sammy Branham, Eagle Scout; Len Luchi, Enterprise District Rep; and Jimmy Marcos, Bowie District 1 Councilman.

*Remember: Everyone seems normal  
until you get to know them.*

*You only need two tools in life:  
WD-40 and duct tape. If it  
doesn't move and should, use  
the WD-40. If it moves and  
shouldn't, use the duct tape.*



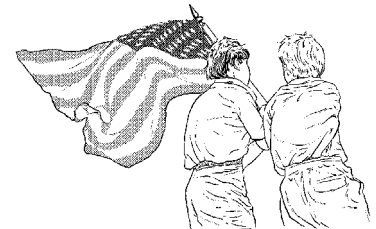
## TOYS for TOTS

As noted on Page 7, the annual Toys for Tots drive will begin at the Post on November 1. This is a joint effort by The American Legion Family, The American Legion Riders, The D.A.V. Omaha Beach Chapter #7 (Bowie), and the Marine Corps League (Bowie).

Last year, through everyone's efforts and donations, the Toys for Tots drive netted about \$9,000.00 in toys for needy children. There will be a collection box for toys and donations at the Post.

Contact Pat Lamb.

## Veterans and military in civilian clothes may now salute the flag vs. hand over heart ...



WASHINGTON, D.C. - U.S. Senator Jim Inhofe (R-Okla..) today praised the passage by unanimous consent of his bill (S.1877) clarifying U.S. law to allow veterans and servicemen not in uniform to salute the flag. Current law (US Code Title 4, Chapter 1) states that veterans and servicemen not in uniform should place their hand over their heart without clarifying whether they can or should salute the flag.

"The salute is a form of honor and respect, representing pride in one's military service," Senator Inhofe said.

"Veterans and service members continue representing the military services even when not in uniform.

"Unfortunately, current U.S. law leaves confusion as to whether veterans and service members out of uniform can or should salute the flag. My legislation will clarify this regulation, allowing veterans and servicemen alike to salute the flag, whether they are in uniform or not. "I look forward to seeing those who have served saluting proudly at baseball games, parades, and formal events. I believe this is an appropriate way to honor and recognize the 25 million veterans in the United States who have served in the military and remain as role models to others citizens. Those who are currently serving or have served in the military have earned this right, and their recognition will be an inspiration to others."

This Bill was passed July 25, 2007. Let your Veteran friends know about the passage of this Bill.

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## Outdoor Pavilion is Finished !



The new outdoor pavilion is finally finished! A dedication and ribbon cutting by past commanders to commemorate the opening of the pavilion was held on September 28, 2007.