

Disney-Bell Family News

Volume 2008, Issue 2

March-April 2008

Special points of interest:

- We are at 86.7% of our goal for 4-star membership status.
- We are holding Post dinners on a regular basis each month.
- Sunday mornings at the Post feature inexpensive breakfasts and Turkey shoots.

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Commander's Message



My fellow Legionnaires:

All too often in the busy pace of life here at Post 66, we fail to properly recognize the many hard-working volunteers that make all of our social programs possible. I hope to rectify that with this column.

First I would like to recognize the extraordinary efforts of 1st Vice Commander Mark Ryan. Since last September, we have had a vacancy in the office of Adjutant. Mark voluntarily stepped in and has been covering the duties and responsibilities of Adjutant, in addition to his other responsibilities as Vice-Commander. We are very grateful to you Mark for all of your efforts and hard work. Well Done!!

Next I'd like to recognize the many volunteers who are helping to staff our various events.

Steak Night Dinners. Marie Pritchett, Darby McNeill, Nick Muller, Lois Van Sickle, Jr. Martin, Del Billings, Charlie Milstead, Brian Frye and finally the grillmeister, Mike Randolph. These folks deliver a delicious grilled-to-order steak dinner every month and it is among our most popular events. We are grateful for all of their hard work.

Shrimp Nights. For several years now, Marie Pritchett and Lois Van Sickle have turned out some of the

most delicious steamed shrimp we have ever had. We appreciate their continued efforts.

Sandwich Nights. This is a weekly event every Tuesday evening which has become perhaps our most popular social event, thanks to the efforts of Joe Clark, Skip Powell, Steve Stevens, Bill Pitcher, and Joe Weik. Each Tuesday evening, a very large crowd enjoys some delicious meals from a varied menu. Thank you guys for your special efforts.

Turkey Shoots. Each Sunday morning from October through March, some dedicated volunteers consistently show up in the rain, snow and freezing temperatures in order that we may continue to conduct our turkey shoot fundraising efforts. These people, Dan Healy, John O'Toole, John Marshall, John Delinsky, Bruce Settle, Blake Settle, and Richard Beckwell, are to be commended for their loyalty and attendance in all kinds of weather. We also appreciate the many ladies who work in the kitchen each Sunday to prepare tasty breakfasts. We appreciate all that they do.

There are many other individuals who consistently help out whenever needed. Perhaps too many to

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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
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Bowie, Maryland 20720

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Fax: 301-805-6832
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Website: www.alpost66.org

We welcome your news, ideas, suggestions, comments, questions, or thoughts for the next issue of the **Disney-Bell Family News**.

Email to: alpost66@comcast.net
or drop it at the Post attention: Ray Hart
by: April 15, 2008 (tax day).

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attempt to name here. But we are grateful for their spirit of always wanting to help. It is these people named above who make Disney-Bell Post 66 the best post in the State of Maryland. I am proud to serve with these volunteers. I am also proud of all that we do here.

You may have noticed that our newsletter bears a new masthead. We renamed our newsletter in order to demonstrate our inclusiveness. This new name incorporates the American Legion, American Legion Auxiliary, Sons of the American Legion, and American Legion Riders. All are under the same family umbrella. We are family.

Of interest to you non-smokers, be advised that as of February 1, 2008, our Post home is now 100 percent smoke free in compliance with State Law. If you have stayed away in the past because of the cigarette smoke, give us another try. The air is clean and fresh.

God Bless our Veterans and God Bless America

Dick Lanham
Commander

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.

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.

MARCH AND APRIL 2008 POST 66 HAPPENINGS

POST 66 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Organizational Meetings

Monday	March 10th	S.A.L. Meeting; 7:30 p.m.
Wednesday	March 12th	Executive Committee Meeting; 7:30 p.m.
Wednesday	March 19th	Auxiliary Meeting; 7:30 p.m.
Wednesday	March 26th	General Membership Meeting; 7:30 p.m.
Thursday	March 27th	American Legion Riders Meeting; 7:30 p.m.
Wednesday	April 9th	Executive Committee Meeting; 7:30 p.m.
Monday	April 14th	S.A.L. Meeting; 7:30 p.m.
Wednesday	April 16th	Auxiliary Meeting; 7:30 p.m.
Wednesday	April 23rd	General Membership Meeting; 7:30 p.m.
Thursday	April 24th	American Legion Riders Meeting; 7:30 p.m.

Dinners and Such

Friday	March 7th	Steak/Shrimp Night - Honor Guard; 6:30-8:00 p.m.
Friday	March 14th	Friday Night Dinner - Auxiliary; 6:30 - 8:00 p.m.
Friday	March 21st	Friday Night Dinner - S.A.L.; 6:30 - 8:00 p.m.
Friday	March 28th	Friday Night Dinner - Honor Guard; 6:30 - 8:00 p.m.
Friday	April 4th	Steak/Shrimp Night - Honor Guard; 6:30-8:00 p.m.
Friday	April 11th	Friday Night Dinner - Auxiliary; 6:30 - 8:00 p.m.
Saturday	April 12th	Shrimp Night; 6:30 - 8:00 p.m.
Friday	April 18th	Friday Night Dinner - S.A.L.; 6:30 - 8:00 p.m.
Friday	April 25th	Friday Night Dinner - Honor Guard; 6:30 - 8:00 p.m.

Other Post Activities

Saturday	March 8th	Bull and Oyster Roast - S.A.L.; 6:30 - 8:00 p.m.; admission by ticket only (details TBA)
Friday	March 15th	Legion Birthday Dinner; 6:00 - 9:00 p.m., call for reservations before Wednesday March 12
Monday	March 17th	St. Patrick's Day Dinner (details TBA)
Saturday	April 19th	Post Cleanup Day starts at 9:00 a.m.
Saturday	April 26th	Post Everlasting starts at 2:00 p.m.
Tuesdays	Every Week thru April 29	Sandwich Night - S.A.L.; 5:00 - 7:00 p.m.
Sundays	Every Week thru March 30	Post Turkey Shoots and Auxiliary Breakfasts; orders for Breakfasts start being taken at 7:30 a.m., and the Turkey Shoots start at 9:00 a.m.
Holidays and Celebrations	March and April	Celebrations are St. Patrick's Day on March 17th and April Fool's Day on April 1.

Check the calendar on the Post web-site or contact the Post at 301-464-9814 for the most up-to-date information.

Auxiliary Unit 66



Only a few more weeks and we will be enjoying spring, shedding the heavy winter coats, and enjoying more outside activities. YEAAAAH!! !

The Auxiliary has been doing very well with the turkey shoot breakfasts. Our members have been up at the Post at 7:00 a.m. on Sunday mornings to ensure that everyone has a nice, piping hot breakfast to enjoy. If you are an early riser and would like a change of pace for your breakfast dining, I suggest the Sunday breakfast at the Post. I don't think you will be disappointed.

Our dinners have been doing well and will continue through June. For our March 14th dinner, we will be offering spaghetti with a

meatless sauce. If you do want to have meat, meatballs will be offered on the side, plus salad, rolls, and dessert. For the April 11th dinner, it will be "Seafood Surprise", coleslaw, hush puppies, and dessert. So come on out, take a night off from the kitchen and enjoy an Auxiliary dinner.

Our Southern Maryland President Anselma Obremski will be attending our March 19th meeting. This meeting will be an abbreviated meeting as Ms. Obremski will be doing a round table so that she can explain all that is involved in chairing and running each of the programs that the Auxiliary sponsors. If you think you might be interested in chairing one of these programs, please make an extra effort to

attend this meeting and learn more about your Auxiliary and the programs we have.

The Legion and Post Birthday Dinner, to be held Saturday March 15th, is fast approaching. Be sure to mark your calendar for this date and don't forget to sign up at the bar to ensure your dinner to celebrate our Post and Post family.

At the May 21st meeting, it will be time to elect new officers for our Unit. You are encouraged to attend this meeting either to step up for an officer position or to support someone you may know who would like to hold a position. This is a great time to become more active and help take the

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S.A.L. Squadron 66



Since the last installment of the newsletter, we've started off the year with our annual Chili Cook-off and Sweethearts Dance. I am proud to say that I tried each and every chili entry and I'm still here to write about it. You know, judging a chili cook-off sounds like a pretty good deal at first, but once I got through sampling the hot category, I have a greater respect for our judges. Thanks Dick, J.D., and Lois for lending us your ironclad taste buds for judging. Also, thanks for all those that came to our Sweetheart Dance. I saw some folks on the dance floor that had more moves

than a bowl of Jell-O in an earthquake.

Our annual Bull & Oyster Roast will be on March 8th from 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. The menu includes: pit beef, oysters (raw, fried, and stewed), steamed shrimp, hot dogs, baked beans, potato salad, draft beer, and soda. See an S.A.L. member to purchase tickets. Our Friday night dinners (half-baked chicken) continue through May and are on the third Friday of each month. Dinners run from 6:30 – 8:00 p.m. Also, sandwich night is scheduled from 5:00 – 7:00 p.m. every Tuesday through April 29th. With lots of

choices on the menu, you're sure to find something to satisfy your appetite.

A final reminder that S.A.L. meetings are scheduled for the second Monday of every month and begin at 7:30 p.m. Topics for our next meeting will include Paid Up For Life (PUFL) membership, Mother's Day Breakfast, and other upcoming event planning. All members are invited and encouraged to attend. Still need more reasons to get to a meeting? We recently received a certificate of appreciation from the Prince

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American Legion Riders



While the weather hasn't been cooperating for us to go riding as a group, the American Legion Riders has still been busy. Since the last newsletter, we have contributed \$100.66 towards the Toys for Tots campaign and held our annual Holiday party in January. We have been busy conducting a 50-50 during the turkey shoots so that we may increase our treasury in order to contribute more monies to the many and valued activities that we support.

With the passage of National Resolution 35, we have been busy

revising and updating our Bylaws to conform to the National and State requirements for American Legion Riders.

We have assumed the duties for the Post for delivering Blue Star Banners for those families and individuals who have requested them. We have delivered a two star banner and are making arrangements to deliver a one star banner for a family living in Bowie.

We have also been putting together our ride schedule for the upcoming year. It is a living

document and subject to change based on the recommendations and wishes of our members. So far, we have scheduled rides to support the following activities, charities and events: Rolling Thunder; Fisher House; Concerns of Police Survivors; Casey Cares Foundation; American Legion Scholarship Fund; Charlotte Hall; Memorial and Veterans Day Ceremonies; and the Armed Forces Foundation.

Tom Atkins, Director
American Legion Riders

The 50-50-90 Rule

*Anytime you have a 50-50 chance of getting something right,
there is a 90% probability you'll get it wrong.*

Auxiliary (Continued from page 4)

lead in keeping our Auxiliary as active and involved as it has been in the past.

The next and final Auxiliary Taco Nite this season is Friday May 30th. This is a fun meal and you can even top it off with a margarita.

Judy Williams, Secretary
Unit 66

S.A.L. (Continued from page 4)

George's County Public Safety Assistance Program for our contributions which went towards providing over 2,700 Christmas food baskets for needy residents. This is one of the reasons we're here, to help out our local community and our veterans. Well done!

In closing, it's 2008, are you late? If you haven't paid your 2008 membership dues, please get them in! See you at the Post.

James S. Clark III, Commander
S.A.L.

The Facilities Corner



Two more months have passed and there have been a lot of changes. Winter is almost over, the smoking ban has come, and spring will soon be upon us. This is a time when a young man's fancy turns to facilities maintenance. ;-)

The facility is now smoke-free, and we have a few wrinkles to work out. Please do not congregate around the doorways of the building when smoking outside. Please make sure you use the receptacles that have been provided to dispose of cigarette butts. Please don't leave beer bottles and other trash outside, and police the area after yourself. We placed a temporary smoking shelter outside the back doors for smokers to use in inclement weather, but it blew down in the high winds. As a result, we have purchased a permanent wooden gazebo for the smokers that will go outside the back doors, which should be delivered by the end of February.

We are running out of time for getting our overflow parking area graveled before the good weather

raises the prices out of sight. We need help! We need access to earth moving and heavy compacting machines. We are planning on having 220 tons of CR-6 delivered as soon as we can get the area top soil scratched off. Please contact me if you have access to equipment we can borrow or rent reasonably. We would need them for about a week. Nick Muller will be doing the work, but his little bucket will take him weeks to move and grade that much gravel.

On a more immediate item, we need plumbing expertise as soon as possible. We need a water pipe rerouted to the toilet in the men's room. The underground line is leaking and it is causing a lot of water to be going into the ground. We could use a plumber to step up and help us out at minimal cost.

We have been doing some cost saving changes to the Post such as installing low energy lights and are working on other maintenance items to keep us from having to make expensive repairs in the future. We will be telling you about those in the months to

come.

We are trying to keep our operating and liquor costs down so we can keep the Post a nice place to come and spend time, but yet keep our programs running. Every dollar we spend on repairs is another dollar not spent on our charity and youth programs. When we pledge our service to the community, state, and Nation, these are not just words. So please help out if you can.

We have some people who are always willing help us out on Post repairs, but we can't be imposing on the same volunteers time after time. Anyone who is willing to assist in repairs that we need now or are willing to help in the future, please contact me between 9:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. at 301-286-0967 and after hours on my cell at 301-466-9973. I will not abuse your generosity (not much!).

Thanks for your attention!

Brian Goldman
2nd Vice Commander

Quote of note.

A conclusion is the place where you got tired of thinking.

Light travels faster than sound.

This is why some people appear bright until you hear them speak.

Post Membership Report

A large number of our Legionaries have not renewed their membership for 2008. Our goal to earn the Department of Maryland 4 Star Membership Award for the 20th year is losing momentum. As of this article, we are 86.7% (837 current members of our 964 member goal) and need 127 Legionaries to send in their \$25.00 for 2008 membership. The fourth reminder from National Headquarters was mailed in late January 2008.

The Post supports scouting programs, Legion baseball, scholarships, and various activities in our community that can not be done without your membership support. Please send in your 2008 renewal as soon as possible.

Mark Ryan
1st Vice Commander
Membership Chair

Auxiliary Membership Report

If you paid me your dues and have not received your 2008 membership card, contact me by mail to the Post or e-mail me at smbaux66@verizon.net.

And it is not too late to renew. Mail your dues or drop off your dues at the Post (\$12.00 Seniors, \$2.00 Juniors) along with your name and address. I'll get your card out asap. Thanks.

Susan M. Beckwell, Treasurer and Membership
Unit 66

Help Needed!

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.

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.

Individuals interested in helping with these important tasks should contact Brian Frye, Executive Committee, Patriotism & Youth Committee. Call the Post at 301-464-9814 and leave a message to contact Brian.

Legion Birthday

The Legion and Post Birthday dinner will be Saturday March 15th. Social hour begins at 6:00 p.m. followed by dinner at 7:00 p.m. and cake ceremony at 8:00 p.m. Advance reservations are required. Please sign up at the bar.

Wounded Warrior Visits

The next monthly wounded warrior visit to Walter Reed Army Medical Center, will be scheduled during March 2008. Please sign up at the bar if you can attend.

We meet at the Post at 11:30 a.m. for a 1:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. visit.

Please donate your gently used books for our soldiers. Bring them to the Post and mark the bag "Walter Reed Visits." We have received enough books that we are now starting to donate some to the Charlotte Hall Veterans Home. We also are collecting toiletries for the families of wounded veterans staying at Malone House.

Thanks to our Legion family members, to the Honors Club (which honors active and retired service persons) from River Hill High School in Clarksville, Maryland, and Artistry Nail Salon in Bowie for collecting and donating books for these causes.

Contact Roger Goll at 301-262-8589 for additional information.

Turkey Shoot Fun and Food



Convention Shirts

The Department of Maryland will once again be offering Convention shirts. This year the shirts are orange. They have the Maryland crest on the left hand side and "Maryland" printed below it in gold. The words "American Legion" are imprinted on the left sleeve. Cost of shirts is \$25.00, regardless of size. Shirts may be personalized, and include either the emblems of the American Legion, Auxiliary, or S.A.L. on the right hand side with Disney-Bell Post 66 above the emblem and your first name below. Cost of personalization is \$9.00 for a total cost of \$34.00.



Payment for shirts must be included with your order. Order forms are available at the Post. Make checks payable to "The American Legion, Post 66" and write "shirts" on the note section of your check. **All orders must be turned in to the Post no later than April 21, 2008.** Shirts can be picked up at the Post prior to the Convention.

Contact the Post with any questions at 301-464-9814.

Scholarships

Disney-Bell Post 66 sponsors four scholarship opportunities for the children of Legion members and Bowie High School. Application requirements are available from Mark Ryan at 1vcpost66@comcast.net or Brian Frye at pypost66@comcast.net. Or you can call the Post for information at 301-464-9814.

All applications must be turned in by April 1, 2008.

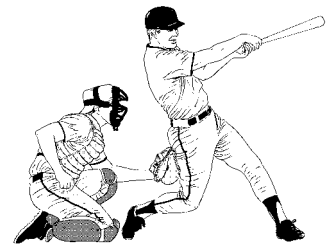
- Melvin Buck, blind drawing for any child, step child, or grandchild of a Legion member (active or Post Everlasting).
- Woody Sears, open to Bowie High School Seniors.
- James St. Aubin, Bowie High School NJROTC leadership.
- James L. Pritchett, Jr., Eagle Scout.



Patriotism and Youth Committee

Legion Baseball Update

Head Coach Chuck Ford will return for a second season with the Post 66 baseball team. We look forward to another successful season under Coach Ford's leadership. The Post needs your assistance to successfully run the team. Positions as team manager, assistant coach, concession stand workers, and cheering fans are needed. Contact Brian Frye, pypost66@comcast.net or call the Post at 301-464-9814 to sign up.



Patriotism and Youth Committee

St. Patrick's Day (March 17th)

Many people who immigrated to the United States have come from Ireland. More than one-half of the soldiers who fought in the Revolutionary War had Irish ancestors. Today, it is said, Irish descendants in the United States put on a noisier and bigger St. Patrick's Day celebration than the people in Ireland. Every year on March 17 or the preceding Saturday, cities with a large population of Irish Americans have parades. Green is one of the national colors of Ireland and also one of the signs of spring. Green stripes are painted on the streets where the parade will travel. People wear green shirts, ties, hair ribbons and hats. Many American bars even serve green beer on that day!

Just like many other holidays in the United States, St. Patrick's Day has its origins in ancient times. A young boy named Patrick lived in the British Isles, a land that had been invaded and conquered first by the Romans and then by Germanic tribes. Patrick was captured and taken as a slave from the British Isles to what is now Ireland. He lived there for several years herding sheep. He was a religious boy and he prayed that he would someday return to his homeland.

Legend has it that one night while he was praying, a voice told him to escape from the farm, and find a ship that was waiting for him two hundred miles away. Patrick got to the ship, sailed to Europe, and disembarked in what is now probably France. He led several of the ship's crew through a dangerous forest, praying all the time. Neither Patrick nor any member of his crew was captured. When some of the men were about to die of starvation, wild animals appeared for them to eat. Events such as these appeared to be miracles and gave rise to later legends surrounding Patrick.

At home, Patrick felt that he was called by God to perform an important mission. He believed it was his duty to go back to Ireland and convert the Celtic people to the Christian religion.

Patrick arrived in Ireland and became a missionary, travelling from village to village and talking about his faith. Once, several members of a tribe approached Patrick and told him that they found it

difficult to understand and believe in the Holy Trinity. Patrick thought a moment, then stooped down and picked one of the plentiful shamrocks growing wild around Ireland. "Here are three leaves," he said, "yet it is one plant. Imagine the Father, Son and the Holy Spirit as each of these leaves. Here they are, yet they are one plant." The tribesmen understood, because Patrick had used a familiar object to explain. From that time on, the shamrock has been a revered symbol of Ireland.

Stories of Saint Patrick, for by then he was a saint, reached far and wide. His most famous feat is forcing the snakes out of the entire country of Ireland. Even though there are many different stories about how he accomplished such a task, it is probably not true.

St. Patrick died on March 17 and the Irish people set aside the day to mourn. He became the patron saint of Ireland. Mourning turned to commemorating him and celebrating his life. Americans have inherited this custom. On St. Patrick's Day in the United States, millions of people celebrate whether they are Irish or not!

Shamelessly reproduced from: <http://stockholm.usembassy.gov/holidays/celebrate/>



April Fool's Day (April 1st)

In sixteenth-century France, the start of the new year was observed on April first. It was celebrated in much the same way as it is today with parties and dancing into the late hours of the night. Then in 1562, Pope Gregory introduced a new calendar for the Christian world, and the new year fell on January first. There were some people, however, who hadn't heard or didn't believe the change in the date, so they continued to celebrate New Year's Day on April first. Others played tricks on them and called them "April fools." They sent them on a "fool's errand" or tried to make them believe that something false was true. In France today, April first is called "Poisson d'Avril." French children fool their friends by taping a paper fish to their friends' backs. When the "young fool" discovers this trick, the prankster yells "Poisson d'Avril!" (April Fish!)

Today Americans play small tricks on friends and strangers alike on the first of April. One common trick on April Fool's Day, or All Fool's Day, is pointing down to a friend's shoe and saying, "Your shoelace is untied." Teachers in the nineteenth century used to say to pupils, "Look! A flock of geese!" and point up. School children might tell a classmate that school has been canceled. Whatever the trick, if the innocent victim falls for the joke the prankster yells, "April Fool! "

The "fools' errands" we play on people are practical jokes. Putting salt in the sugar bowl for the next person is not a nice trick to play on a stranger. College students set their clocks an hour behind, so their roommates show up to the wrong class - or not

at all. Some practical jokes are kept up the whole day before the victim realizes what day it is. Most April Fool jokes are in good fun and not meant to harm anyone. The most clever April Fool joke is the one where everyone laughs, especially the person upon whom the joke is played.

"The first of April is the day we remember what we are the other 364 days of the year." - *American humorist Mark Twain*

Shamelessly reproduced from: <http://stockholm.usembassy.gov/holidays/celebrate/>



Daily Bar Specials

Margarita Mondays	Two for Tuesday	Whiney Wino Wednesday	Thirsty Thursday	T.G.I.F.
Margaritas \$1.50	2 beers for \$2	2 wines for \$3	.50 cent drafts	.25 cents off all drinks from 5 - 7
				

American Legion
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www.alpost66.org**



May the road rise up to meet you,
May the wind be always at your back,
May the sun shine warm upon your face,
and the rain fall soft upon your fields,
and until we meet again,
May God hold you in the palm of His hand.

An Irish Blessing