

# Disney-Bell Family News

Volume 2011, Issue 6

December 2011 - January 2012

## *Of Special Interest:*

- Legion membership renewals are at 78 %.
- The Kids' Christmas Party and Karaoke Night are both on December 17.
- Don't Miss the Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve Parties Coming Up!
- Save the Date! The 2012 Cookie Café and Movie Night are both on January 21.

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## **Commander's Corner**



Hi again fellow Post members.

Another 2 months have passed by quickly and busy they were. By the time you read this, we will be in December 2011 and the year is almost over. We had our annual S.A.L. Crab Feast, Turkey Shoots and Breakfasts, our Halloween Karaoke night, Veteran's Day Ceremony at Veteran's Park, the Auxiliary Veteran's Day Dinner Dance and our Early Bird Dinner too. Woo, I'm tuckered out just recalling it all!

I hope that everyone had a happy Thanksgiving with friends and family. I also hope that by the end of December, everyone will have had a wonderful Christmas, Chanukah, Kwanzaa, and New Years. Hope I didn't leave anyone out!

My holiday wish would be for our 100 percent membership goal to be met this year and we are well on our way. But we have lost our edge along with the rest of the Country and our ranks are dwindling. For all of you that have already renewed their 2012 dues, I whole-heartedly thank you. For the rest, I plead don't forget us or leave it to the last minute and most importantly, don't forget yourself. The American Legion is

what stands between you and the erosion of your Veteran's benefits. Without our Legion membership, the money won't be there for our programs and the numbers won't be there to back our leaders when talking to our politicians about Veteran's legislation. 'Nuff said?

Along with all the good things that have happened to us this year, we have had great losses as well. Since I took office this year, I have had to attend 5 funerals (three within 2 weeks) including our Sergeant at Arms Felix Lamrouex and our own S.A.L. member and good friend to the Post, Skip Powell. We will miss them all. It is after times like this that we all ponder the meaning of life and realize our own morality. Life is fleeting and you only get one chance. Make the most of it. Don't put off 'til tomorrow because you never know when this will be your last. Love your family and hold them close. We are in the season of gift-giving, so give the biggest gift you can, the gift of yourself. What are you saving it for? Unlike money you only make interest on love if you spend it. In the end you will only be remembered for what you've given of yourself.

*(Continued on page 7)*

# Post Officers

2011 - 2012

Commander	Brian Goldman
1st Vice Commander	Phoebe Larned
2nd Vice Commander	Tom Murphy
Adjutant	Brian Frye
Finance Officer	Charlie Milstead
Chaplain	Toni King
Judge Advocate	Richard Beckwell
Historian	James Edwards
Service Officer	David Campbell
Sergeant-at-Arms	John McKay
Executive Committee	Ray Hart
	John Delinsky
	J.D. Larson
	Larry Bartman
	Mark Ryan

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If you need your copy mailed to you, please send a note to [newsletter@alpost66.org](mailto:newsletter@alpost66.org) or contact the Post at 301-464-9814.

We welcome your news, ideas, suggestions, comments, or questions for future issues of the Disney-Bell Family News.

E-mail us at: [newsletter@alpost66.org](mailto:newsletter@alpost66.org), or drop it off at the Post to the attention of the Newsletter Editor.

## COMMITTEES AND EVENTS

**Finance Committee**  
**Audit Committee**  
**House Committee**  
**Membership Committee**

### Patriotism and Youth Committees

Baseball Commissioner  
Flag Education  
Oratorical Contest  
Scholarships  
Scouts  
ROTC/JROTC  
Boys State

### Veterans Committees

Honor Guard Commander  
Veterans Support  
Blue Star Banner Delivery  
National Defense

### Post Publications

Newsletter  
Website

### Annual Events (In Order by Legion Year)

Joint Installation of Officers  
Turkey Shoot Committee  
Army-Navy Game Event  
Children's Halloween Party  
Veteran's Day Services  
Early Bird Dinner  
Toys for Tots Campaign  
Children's Christmas Party  
Christmas Eve Party  
New Year's Eve Party  
Super Bowl Party  
Daytona 500 Party  
St. Patrick's Day Dinner  
Legion/Post Birthday Dinner  
Children's Easter Egg Hunt  
Post Everlasting  
Memorial Day Services  
Flag Day Event  
Fourth of July Picnic

## LEADER

Charlie Milstead  
Richard Beckwell  
Tom Murphy  
Phoebe Larned

Brian Frye  
**(Please volunteer!)**  
Brian Frye  
**(Please volunteer!)**  
Brian Frye  
Mark Ryan  
Brian Frye  
Brian Frye

Darby McNeill  
Brian Goldman  
Richard Beckwell  
Brian Goldman

Ray Hart  
Ray Hart

Outgoing Commander  
Dan Healy  
Brian Frye/Mark Ryan  
Auxiliary Unit 66  
Legion  
Auxiliary Unit 66  
Pat Lamb  
Auxiliary Unit 66  
**(Please volunteer!)**  
**(Please volunteer!)**  
Tom Murphy  
J.D. Larson  
Honor Guard  
**(Please volunteer!)**  
Auxiliary Unit 66  
Legion  
Legion  
Honor Guard  
J.D. Larson

### Committee/Event Volunteer Opportunities.

We are looking for a few good members to head up several committees and events this Legion year. We are also looking for folks to help with the routine work of the committees. If you don't have time to volunteer with the ongoing work of the committees, please come out to help at any of the one-time events that appeals to you.

You can contact the head of the event to help out. If there is not a person listed, you can contact us by sending us an e-mail at: [alpost66@comcast.net](mailto:alpost66@comcast.net) or by calling the Post at 301-464-9814.

**PLEASE VOLUNTEER!** Volunteers are the lifeblood of the organization, and you can have fun by becoming more involved in the activities at the Post.

<b>Organizational Meetings - 7:30 p.m. Sharp!</b>		
Thursday	December 8	American Legion Riders November/December Meeting
Monday	December 12	S.A.L. Meeting
Wednesday	December 14	Executive Committee Meeting
Wednesday	December 21	Auxiliary Meeting
Wednesday	December 28	General Membership Meeting
Monday	January 9	S.A.L. Meeting
Wednesday	January 11	Executive Committee Meeting
Wednesday	January 18	Auxiliary Meeting
Wednesday	January 25	General Membership Meeting
Thursday	January 26	American Legion Riders Meeting
<b>Post Special Events</b>		
Every Sunday	Until March (except Dec 25 and Jan 1)	Turkey Shoots in the backyard - 9:00 a.m. Cooked-to-order Breakfast - 8:00 a.m.
Saturday	December 17	Children's Christmas Party - 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
Saturday	December 17	Karaoke in the Lounge - 9:00 p.m.
Saturday	December 24	Christmas Eve get-together - 6:30 - 8:30 p.m.
Saturday	December 31	New Years Eve get-together - 6:00 p.m.
Saturday	January 21	Cookie Café "Bake-a-thon" - 8:00 a.m. to Noon
Saturday	January 21	Movie Night - 7:30 p.m.
Saturday	January 28	S.A.L. Chili Cook-off - Noon - 3:00 p.m.
<b>Post Meals</b>		
1st Friday of each month	December 2 January 6	Steak and/or Shrimp Dinner 6:30 p.m.
2nd Friday of each month	December 9 January 13	Auxiliary Taco Bar Dinner and Family Night - 6:30 p.m.
3rd Friday of each month	December 16 January 20	S.A.L. 1/2 Baked Chicken Dinner - 6:30 p.m.
every Tuesday	December January	Chef's Surprise- 5:00-7:00 p.m. Dinners and cheesesteak and coldcut subs. Call by the prior Sunday to check the menu and to sign up for the dinner or sandwiches.

# S.A.L. Squadron 66



Here we are again – December. Where has the year gone? It seems only like yesterday that we were all celebrating Independence Day and swearing in our officers for the new Legion year. Now we are beginning to celebrate the Holiday Season for 2012. You still have time to help out our less fortunate neighbors. Our annual Toys for Tots drive is well underway, but we can always use more toys for our less fortunate children.

Over the past year, the S.A.L. has again excelled in its activities. We held another of our famous Crab Feast activities, our Annual Car Show was one of the best ever, the Tuesday Night Sandwich/Dinners continue to be a success, our Half-Baked Chicken Dinners continue to be a sell-out, and more. Of course all of these activities do not happen by themselves. Thanks to all who planned, coordinated, worked, and participated in all of our activities that support the S.A.L. and the Legion Family. Don't forget, we still have not finished this year yet. We will help sponsor the Post Christmas Eve get-together. Look for details at the Post.

Look for details for both of the following activities at the Post. In January, we will begin the New Year with our usual flair, starting with helping to sponsor the New Year's Eve party. Later in January, we will host our annual prize winning Chili Cook-Off. We will have winners in the "mild" and "hot" categories. The entry fee is still just \$5.00. Anyone not entering the contest can help by eating all of the delicious chili for just \$5.00 a ticket. Come out and support this great winter get-the-chill-off event.

The annual Bull and Oyster Dinner will be following in the March/April timeframe. Be sure to read the February/March newsletter for specific information about the event. We will again restart our Tuesday Night Dinners and our Half-Baked Chicken Dinners after the beginning of 2012.

One of our new endeavors will start shortly after all the Christmas raffles are completed. The S.A.L. will begin selling raffle tickets for just \$5.00 each. What do you get for this raffle, you may ask? The S.A.L. will put on a Spring Cook-Out for you and 20 of your friends. The proceeds from this event will go to help fund the S.A.L. State Commander's (and my adopted) project to purchase a bus for our Charlotte Hall Veterans. Please buy a lot of tickets, where can you get a cook-out for 20 people for just \$5.00?

Don't forget, it is also time to renew your membership for 2012. That really sounds strange, 2012! Come to the Post, pay your membership, and enjoy the activities and company with your Legion Family. Also, be aware that you will not be able to enjoy the pleasures of the Post if you have not paid your dues by January.

Again I want to thank everyone who has participated in our S.A.L. and Post activities in 2011 and look forward to a great 2012.

Merry Christmas, Happy Chanukah, and Happy New Year to all.

See you at the Post,

**Del Billings**  
Commander, Detachment 66



S.A.L. Crab Feast - October 1, 2011

# Auxiliary Unit 66



Thanks to everyone that has renewed their membership; we met the National Goal to reach 50 percent by Veterans Day. If have not received a renewal notice from National, please send your name, address, and dues (\$15.00 for Seniors and \$5.00 for Juniors) to: ALA Unit 66, PO Box 614, Bowie, MD 20718.

The Auxiliary pledged \$300.00 for the new audio/visual equipment in the Post Hall and, we held the Dinner and Dance Fundraiser and raised an additional \$244.00. I want to thank everyone for attending. Thanks go out to our great spaghetti sauce maker, and all of the Legion, Auxiliary, and S.A.L. members that helped out.

## Holiday Party Time

- The Auxiliary decorated the Post for the Holidays on Sunday November 27.
- The Children's Christmas Party will be Saturday December 17 from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. There will be food, drinks, sweets, crafts, fun and games. Rumor has it that Santa may just be in town that day. Please sign up your children and grandchildren to attend.
- The Auxiliary SMD District Meeting will be held at the Post on Sunday December 18. Lunch will be served at 1:00 p.m. and the Meeting/Christmas Party is at 2:00 p.m. In lieu of a gift exchange, the Auxiliary members will be donating food. Please drop off food items for the Bowie Interfaith Food Pantry.

- The Auxiliary Christmas Party will be Wednesday December 21 at 7:00 p.m. We will be having a pot luck dinner, \$20.00 gift exchange, and enjoying a relaxing evening at the Post. All Auxiliary members are welcome.

The Taco Dinner is going strong. Sign up and see why it is so popular. The food is great, homemade, and plentiful. Yes, we DO mean all you can eat. Hope to see you next month for the taco bar. It is \$10.00 for adults and \$5.00 for children.

The Turkey Shoot breakfasts are every Sunday from 8:00 to 9:00 a.m. The Auxiliary serves a full cooked to order breakfast. Menu items include breakfast sandwiches, sausage gravy and biscuits, bacon, sausage, scrapple, eggs cooked to order, and toast. You don't have to be a shooter to come out and enjoy a hot breakfast. The Auxiliary also has the scatter shot, with prizes of 10 pounds of bacon or cash. The scatter shot is hanging up at the Bar.

As the year winds down, I want to thank all of the Legion, Auxiliary, and S.A.L. members of Post 66 that have supported the Auxiliary activities and programs. We've had fun together, raised some money for the four pillars, and energized the membership. I also want to thank all of the Auxiliary members for their help. We are always in need of more volunteers. Contact me at 301-464-9177 or [smbeckwell@verizon.net](mailto:smbeckwell@verizon.net)

Have a wonderful Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year. God bless the US. God bless our Troops.

**Susan M Beckwell**  
President, Unit 66



Early Bird Dinner - November 19, 2011

# 1st Vice Commander

Happy Holidays Legionnaires!

Our Disney Bell Post 66 is known for its warmth to new members, which we would like to maintain. Join us in welcoming all members as we foster a social and friendly atmosphere. And let us not allow our fellow Legionnaires to sit alone; please invite them to your tables and conversations. Many of us struggle through the holidays with the loss of our loved ones and our military members that are stationed away from family and friends. Please do not forget the time of year and remember our Post as the extended family many of us look toward for comfort and acceptance. We look forward to strengthening our Post family through increasing our membership with transfers, renewals, and new members. We will not be successful without your support. Spread the word to join our Family and share in the various Post activities throughout the year.

As your 1st Vice Commander, I'd like to remind our members of all of your membership benefits. They truly give you and your family practical, money-saving discounts that can easily save you many times the cost of your annual membership dues. Below I have captured the websites and companies that proudly sponsor member discount programs to American Legion members. Please take advantage of all your benefits to which you are entitled.

**Automobile Rental** [legion.org/benefits/auto](http://legion.org/benefits/auto)  
Alamo, Avis, Hertz, National Car Rental

**Home Services** [legion.org/benefits/home](http://legion.org/benefits/home) Apple products, Dell, DISH network, Sears, Wireless phones

**Financial Insurance** [legion.org/benefits/financial](http://legion.org/benefits/financial)  
Mutual of Omaha, Sirva Mortgage, USAA

**Medical** [legion.org/benefits/medical](http://legion.org/benefits/medical) CVS CareMark discount prescription drugs, eye med vision care, life line screening

**Moving Relocation** [legion.org/benefits/moving](http://legion.org/benefits/moving)  
Allied, Atlas, Budget, North America, Sirva

**Travel and Lodging** [legion.org/benefits/travel](http://legion.org/benefits/travel)  
American Legion members save 20 percent off the "Best Available Rate" at these participating hotels: • Baymont • Days Inn • Hawthorn Suites by Wyndham • Howard Johnson • Knights Inn • Microtel Inn & Suites • Ramada • Super 8 • Travelodge • Wingate by Wyndham • Wyndham Hotels & Resorts • Wyndham Garden • Wyndham Grand Additional discounts and accommodations are also at, Legion Family Travel and Veterans Holidays

**Miscellaneous** [legion.org/benefits/misc](http://legion.org/benefits/misc)  
1800Flowers.com, Legion auto club ada Nationwide roadside assistance, Military.com

Warm wishes for the coming holidays, may your heart and home be filled with the companionship of family and friends and bring you joy and blessings.

Thank You,

**Phoebe Larned,  
1st Vice Commander**

**Reach for Your Wallet - NOW!**

**...and pull out your Membership Card.**

**What is the year printed in red in the middle of the card?**

**Is it 2012 ? If so, you're current!**

**If it is 2011, your membership will expire on December 31.**

**(If it is earlier than 2011, you are VERY bad!)**

**Renew your membership NOW!!!**

*(Commander's Call continued from page 1)*

OK, enough preaching. What's coming up? In December, we have the Auxiliary Children's Christmas party, another Karaoke Night, the Christmas Eve social, and the New Year's Eve party. Come ready to sing and dance. In January, there is the S.A.L. Chili Cook-Off. Come join us to enter or just to eat.

As with all this year, in this season, I would like to thank our members that selflessly give their time and skills in helping out at the Post from cooking and cleaning up at our Legion functions or just in taking a trash bag out to the dumpster or even doing building repairs. I appreciate what you do without regard to reward. I especially want to thank **Pat Lamb** and **Carlton Gillard** for the wonderful work you are doing for our U.S. Marine Corps Reserves annual Toys for Tots program again this year. A labor of love I'm sure. Also a big thanks to Carlton's boss Pietro, at **Diageo**, for the huge liquor donation of our barrel and baskets of cheer raffle to pay for our toy donations. If you haven't bought one yet, please buy a ticket or two and support Toys for Tots. There are a lot of

deserving kids out there that won't get a Christmas present without our support. Also don't forget to drop off an unwrapped new gift in our Toys for Tots box at the Post. (No stuffed animals please.) Cash donations are also welcomed. One final thanks to my Honor and Color Guard folks under Captain **Darby McNeill** for always being there for me this year from the Veteran's Day salute to posting the colors at a member's funeral. You guys rock.

One final note. We have much cold weather and snow ahead this winter so dress warmly, drive safety and with all holiday parties, don't drink and drive, especially at our Post. There is always someone willing to give you a lift home. That's what friends do and I hope we are all friends at Post 66 for many more years to come.

Happy Holidays to all,

**Brian Goldman,**  
**Commander**

## U.S. Merchant Marine Academy - Kings Point "Cookie Café"

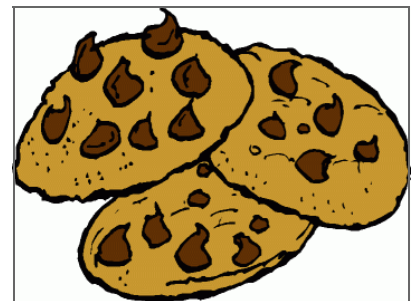
In January 2011, Disney-Bell Post 66 and the Bowie High School NJROTC pledged 250 dozen cookies for one session of the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy - Kings Point "Cookie Café". We teamed up and we baked, collected, and packaged 370 dozen cookies!

This year, Post 66 and the Bowie High School NJROTC have again pledged 250+ dozen cookies for the February 2, 2012, "Cookie Café."

We will be doing our part towards this goal at the Post on Saturday January 21, 2012, from 8:00 a.m. until Noon. Bring your home-baked cookies to the Post (please, no store-bought or Girl Scout cookies). Or you can come up to help out in the Post kitchen with the "Bake-a-Thon". We will then do our "Pack-a-Thon" in the Post Hall to prepare all of the cookies for shipping.

Watch for additional information as the dates get closer. We will need assistance from Post Family members to pull this off. For information about the "Cookie Café", follow the following links

[www.kpcookiecafe.com/news.html](http://www.kpcookiecafe.com/news.html) and [www.kpcookiecafe.com/schedule.html](http://www.kpcookiecafe.com/schedule.html)





**The American Legion**  
Disney-Bell Post 66 - Bowie, Maryland

Presents

**Ken's**  
**KARAOKE!**




**Saturday**  
**December 17, 2011**  
**9:00 p.m. - 12:00 a.m.**



Come out and sing, watch, cheer,  
or just enjoy the "show!"

### Meeting Hall & Pavilion Rental

The Post 66 meeting hall and outdoors pavilion are available for you or your friends to rent.

Consider the hall or pavilion for your life celebrations, such as wedding rehearsals, receptions, family reunions, birthday parties, and picnics.

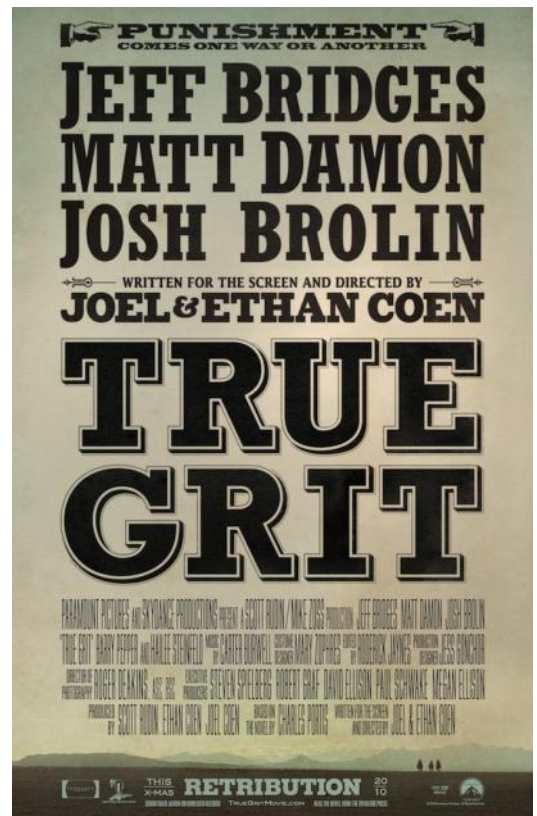
For more information contact Gidget at 301-464-9814 or by e-mail at: [businessMgr@alpost66.org](mailto:businessMgr@alpost66.org)




**MOVIE NIGHT!**  
@YoungLife

Movies will be held inside in the Meeting Hall on the REALLY BIG screen. Bring your own chairs or use ours. Free sodas and light refreshments.

**Saturday January 21 at 7:30 p.m.**



**PUNISHMENT**  
COMES ONE WAY OR ANOTHER

**JEFF BRIDGES**  
**MATT DAMON**  
**JOSH BROLIN**

WRITTEN FOR THE SCREEN AND DIRECTED BY  
**JOEL & ETHAN COEN**

**TRUE GRIT**

PARAMOUNT PICTURES AND SYLVANCE PRODUCTIONS PRESENT A SCOTT RUDIN / M&A PRODUCTION A JEFF BRIDGES MATT DAMON JOSH BROLIN TRUE GRIT BARRY PEPPER AND TRALEE STEWELL MUSIC BY DANIEL BISHOPWELL COSTUME DESIGNER MARY ZUPPES EDITOR ROBERTSK JAMES PRODUCTION DESIGNER JESS BEMINGTON DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY ROGER DEAKINS, A.C.S. EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS STEVEN SODERBERG ROBERT DRAY DAVID ELLISON PAUL SCHWARTZ MEGAN ELLISON PRODUCED BY SCOTT RUDIN ETHAN COEN JOEL COEN WRITTEN BY CHARLES PORTIS AND DIRECTED BY JOEL & ETHAN COEN

THIS X-MAS **RETRIBUTION** 20 TO

## Post 66 Turkey Shoots

The “world famous” Disney-Bell Turkey Shoots are returning to the Post again on Sundays this fall.

What are turkey shoots anyway? The Post operates turkey shoots to make a little money to help with expenses. There are various prizes that can be won by the participants, including meats like hams and five pounds of bacon, and cash prizes.

Turkey shoots are held beginning October 16, 2010, and last throughout the winter until March. You will need a 12 gauge shotgun to participate and some warm clothes (during the winter). The Post will provide the ammunition, targets, and all of the scoring and prizes.

You can spend a few hours outdoors and enjoy the sweet sound of gunfire and hopefully “bring home the bacon” for a nominal fee.



Not a shooter? You are still welcome! An inexpensive made-to-order breakfast is cooked each Sunday morning before the Turkey shoots, starting at 8:00 a.m.

Visit the Post website for additional details

The Turkey Shoots are looking for some additional help this season. If you are interested, call and leave a message at the Post.



Pictures from a recent Sunday Turkey Shoot at the Post.

## Talk About Town

A number of our Comrades transferred to Post Everlasting during the past several months. We express our deepest sympathy to their family and friends on their loss.

42-year member Vance W. Burgess

36-year member Forrest W. "Bill" Carson, October 21

44-year member Preston E. Campbell

10-year member William J. Danser

26-year member Joseph W. Dustin

16-year member France F. Jordan

19-year member Richard F. "Felix" Lamrouex, October 30

19-year member Joseph G. Washington, Jr.

14-year member Henry D. Wright

The S.A.L. lost one of their own on October 23, George "Skip" Powell.

Wayne Thomas has flown the coop to Florida for the winter and will return in May. He became a snow-bird a couple years ago with his "annual migration" to Florida.

Linda Ryan came back home for her first visit from her year-long training in Kansas City. She was here for Thanksgiving and to help celebrate her grandson's first birthday. You'll probably see Linda around the Post again during the Christmas and New Year holidays.

Congratulations to Susan Beckwell, who just got a brand new job.

Post 66 will be host to the Southern Maryland District Auxiliary meeting on December 18.

### Paid Up For Life (PUFL)

Become a **Paid Up For Life (PUFL)** member of the American Legion, the Auxiliary, or the Sons of the American Legion.

Contact the Officers of your group at the Post for additional information or help.

Avoid inflation by never paying a dues increase!

### Service Officer

The **Post Service Officer** is available to help with a variety of different Veterans programs. Some of the items they can help with includes: providing the proper claims forms for VA benefit claims; assisting with VA claim applications; assisting with State and Federal Burial benefits registration; and assisting with VA medical benefits registration.

You can contact the Post 66 Service Officer by e-mail at: [ServiceOfficer@alpost66.org](mailto:ServiceOfficer@alpost66.org).

### Post 66 E-news

Do you have an e-mail account? If you would like to receive occasional e-mail messages about Post events and activities, then you should sign up for the Post list-serv program: "66news."

Our list-serv is an announcement-only e-mail group. Messages can only be sent by designated persons. Your e-mail address is completely confidential and is not shared with anyone.

If you want to add (or remove) your e-mail address, log on to the Post website and click on the e-mail sign-up link on the home page and follow the instructions. It will only take you a couple of seconds and you will begin receiving occasional e-mail updates about The American Legion and our Post and its programs.

If you don't feel comfortable signing yourself up, send a note to [webmaster@alpost66.org](mailto:webmaster@alpost66.org) and request that your name and e-mail be added.

## A SOLDIER'S CHRISTMAS

by *Michael Marks*

The embers glowed softly, and in their dim light,  
I gazed round the room and I cherished the sight.  
My wife was asleep, her head on my chest,  
My daughter beside me, angelic in rest.

Outside the snow fell, a blanket of white,  
Transforming the yard to a winter delight.  
The sparkling lights in the tree I believe,  
Completed the magic that was Christmas Eve.

My eyelids were heavy, my breathing was deep,  
Secure and surrounded by love I would sleep.  
In perfect contentment, or so it would seem,  
So I slumbered, perhaps I started to dream.

The sound wasn't loud, and it wasn't too near,  
But I opened my eyes when it tickled my ear.  
Perhaps just a cough, I didn't quite know,  
Then the sure sound of footsteps outside in the snow.

My soul gave a tremble, I struggled to hear,  
And I crept to the door just to see who was near.  
Standing out in the cold and the dark of the night,  
A lone figure stood, his face weary and tight.

A soldier, I puzzled, some twenty years old,  
Perhaps a Marine, huddled here in the cold.  
Alone in the dark, he looked up and smiled,  
Standing watch over me, and my wife and my child.

"What are you doing?" I asked without fear,  
"Come in this moment, it's freezing out here!  
Put down your pack, brush the snow from your sleeve,  
You should be at home on a cold Christmas Eve!"

For barely a moment I saw his eyes shift,  
Away from the cold and the snow blown in drifts.  
To the window that danced with a warm fire's light  
Then he sighed and he said "It's really all right,  
I'm out here by choice. I'm here every night. "

"It's my duty to stand at the front of the line,  
That separates you from the darkest of times.  
No one had to ask or beg or implore me,  
I'm proud to stand here like my fathers before me.

My Gramps died at "Pearl on a day in December,"  
Then he sighed, "That's a Christmas Gram always re-  
members."

My dad stood his watch in the jungles of Nam"  
And now it is my turn and so, here I am.

I've not seen my own son in more than a while,  
But my wife sends me pictures, he's sure got her smile.  
Then he bent and he carefully pulled from his bag,  
The red, white, and blue... an American flag.

I can live through the cold and the being alone,  
Away from my family, my house and my home.  
I can stand at my post through the rain and the sleet,  
I can sleep in a foxhole with little to eat.

I can carry the weight of killing another,  
Or lay down my life with my sister and brother.  
Who stand at the front against any and all,  
To ensure for all time that this flag will not fall."

"So go back inside," he said, "harbor no fright,  
Your family is waiting and I'll be all right."

"But isn't there something I can do, at the least,  
"Give you money," I asked, "or prepare you a feast?  
It seems all too little for all that you've done,  
For being away from your wife and your son."

Then his eye welled a tear that held no regret,  
"Just tell us you love us, and never forget.  
To fight for our rights back at home while we're gone,  
To stand your own watch, no matter how long.

For when we come home, either standing or dead,  
To know you remember we fought and we bled.  
Is payment enough, and with that we will trust,  
That we mattered to you as you mattered to us."

*Michael Marks*  
*December 7, 2000*



"Peace is that brief glorious moment in  
history when everybody stands  
around reloading."

*unknown*

"Leadership is an opportunity to serve.  
It is not a trumpet-call to self importance."

*J. Donald Walters*

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



**We're on the web at  
[www.alpost66.org](http://www.alpost66.org)**



## Post 66 Toys for Tots Campaign

Our Post's 2011 Toys for Tots Campaign started November 1 and will end December 9, 2011. The Post collects and purchases toys for children in need who live in our area.

Please consider purchasing and donating new toys only (no used ones). Drop them off in the box in the lounge area at the Post.

If you can't get out to shop, cash donations are always welcomed! We will use all cash donations to purchase additional items that may not have been donated. Please make checks payable to American Legion Post 66.

Toys or cash donations must be delivered by December 9 before the volunteers do their shopping trip in mid-December.



Please consider this worthy cause for those children in our area who are not as fortunate as our own children and grandchildren. Help to support the Children's Christmas Campaign, and make these children's Christmas a merry one!

**Pat Lamb, Toys for Tots Coordinator**



## Barrel and Baskets of Cheer Raffle

One of the big fundraisers for this annual event is our Christmas Raffle.

The Post is raffling a barrel of cheer (contents are valued at about \$550.00) and two baskets of cheer (valued at about \$350.00 each). Each "cheer" includes a case of beer. (Barrel contents may vary slightly from the picture.)

Tickets are \$5.00 each. Drawings for the three winners will be held on December 3, 2011, at 5:00 p.m. Come to the Post to purchase your tickets.

Please note that ALL proceeds from the sale of tickets will go directly towards the purchase of items for the Children's Christmas Campaign.