



American Legion Harold Byrd Post 66

30 Covington Road
Avondale Estates, GA 30002
PH: 404-292-2352 F: 404-292-2496

December 2009

IMPORTANT DATES

Fourth District Meeting
Sat., Dec. 5
Lunch @ 12 noon
Meeting @ 1:00 p.m.

House Committee Mtg.
Wed., Dec. 9 @ 5:00 p.m.

Executive Committee Mtg.
Wed., Dec. 9 @ 6:00 p.m.

Christmas Party
Fri., Dec. 11, @ 6:00 p.m.

SAL Meeting
Tues., Dec. 15 @ 6:30 p.m.

General Meeting
(men only)
Wed., Dec. 16 @ 6:00 p.m.

Commander

David Ballacchino

Sr. Vice Commander

Jon Huddle

Jr. Vice Commander

Sam Guy

Finance Officer

Jim Bishop

Adjutant

Jim O'Brien

House Committee

Chairman

Jim O'Brien

Executive Committee

Chairman

Jim Bishop

COMMANDER'S CORNER

December is here; "A time of reflection is very much needed by all".

November was by far the busiest month of the year. The Early Bird Dinner was great! We had about 80 members attend. The food was delicious. Thank you to Kim and our staff.

The Decatur Cemetery workers and the Friends of the Decatur Cemetery provided much assistance with our annual Veterans Day ceremony held at the Post 66 memorial in the cemetery. Extra park benches were provided by the Decatur Cemetery workers. On Nov 7th, flags were placed on veteran's graves by the Friends of the Decatur Cemetery, Boy Scouts and Cub Scouts, their parents and friends, and Jan Chappell, Betty Bagwell and Sarah Zingarelli from the Post and Unit. Thank you! I wish to thank Jim Tony for all the work he did in sprucing up the memorial site. Thanks also goes to our Sr. Vice Commander for obtaining the three planters which grace our memorial grounds.

The Nov 11th ceremony was probably one of the best turnouts since the installation of the memorial which was dedicated in 1944, and as we have mentioned, we have the Friends of Decatur Cemetery to thank. They got the news out and definitely were responsible for the large turnout. We estimated about 80 people joined our ceremony commemorating all veterans. We invited all that attended to join us at lunch at our Post. Photos of the Veterans day ceremony are displayed on our bulletin board; you may see yourself there! After lunch at the Post, several members left the post and visited Chamblee High school and sharing their experiences with students and teachers. See Nick's article on the next page for more information. Thank you all. The flags from the cemetery were gathered up on Nov. 21 and are being stored at the Post.

We hosted the caravan Nov 21, for several posts. All quiet on the NSE and Western fronts.

The drawing for the turkeys was held on Nov 22. The winning ticket numbers are (673)-019; 055; 083; 101; 132; 178; and 229. The proceeds of \$204.00 will be going to the Wounded Warrior Project.

Celebrate the birth of Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ by attending the church of your choice. May God bless everyone. We wish all of our members and all of our friends a very Merry Christmas. May you all enjoy the spirit of Christmas and have a joyous and prosperous New Year.

Thank you, Commander David Ballacchino

MEET YOUR OFFICERS!

Gerald Clayton

Executive Committee

From:

Crescent City, FL

Military service: In

the Army - 101 Airborne Div. from Feb. 23, 1943 to Dec. 27, 1945. A rifleman 7745; served in Normandy, Ardennes, the Rhineland and Baston. Awarded the Bronze Star and Good Conduct Medal.

Why did you join the Legion? Because it is the organization that looks after the veterans, particularly the wounded vets.

What have you done? I have met many friends here; people who have the same interests as I have.

What do you aim to accomplish? I want to help the Legion become an even better veterans organization by further advancing the USO and helping disabled vets.

Interesting fact: One of the favorite events of my life was a three-week cruise in 1973 that started out of Venice and went to the Holy Land. Betty and I celebrated our 25th wedding anniversary in Athens.



BUDGET NEWS

“It shall be the duty of the finance committee to prepare and submit to the executive committee held in each fiscal year, a budget of estimated incomes and probable expenses for such fiscal year, itemized and analyzed with the fullest particularity.”

The finance committee did meet and will present proposed budget for the coming year to the Executive Committee.

LEST WE FORGET

It was 11-Nov-09. Veterans Day. Post 66 was invited by Lt. Col. Sitero to talk to the students at Chamblee High School, and that we did.

We visited and talked to two classes of ROTC students (approximately 90 students). We brought some items for display: several uniforms, books on wars, pictures and a 2'x4' map of the Pacific Theatre of WWII.

Our presentations covered, in brevity, our training and travels and experiences. Those who volunteered and served for this visit were N. Zingarelli, D. Ballacchino, J. Huddle, D. Peak, N. Hogg, J. Rowland, R. Pitts and J. McCabe.

The students enjoyed our visit and so did we. Lest we forget, “freedom is not free.”

- N.L. Zingarelli

VETERANS SERVING VETERANS

We invited the wheelchair and mental health patients from the Atlanta V.A. Medical Center to partake in a turkey dinner at our Post. Yup, forty patients plus five staff came on the 18th of November.

We served them a full-course meal. The meal was so good that most had seconds! Our staff—Lynn and Kim—did a superb job. We had four 20 lb. turkeys. Two were cooked by Lynn, one by Jim O'Brien and one by Rick Mason.

The meal was concluded with a Sing-a-long led by Mr. Chambless, the Choir Director for the Shallowford Presbyterian Church.

Volunteers who did the serving were: Legionnaires N. Hogg, J. Rowland, D. Ballacchino, N. Zingarelli, A. Hailes and Auxiliary members P. Rowland, A. Hogg, R. Zingarelli.

- N.L. Zingarelli

IN MEMORIAM

Legionnaire William (Bill) Wandell passed away on 9-Nov-09. His family has apprised us that they are planning to hold a memorial service in the Spring.

VETERANS DAY



Jan Chappell and a group of Boy Scouts put flags on veterans graves at the Decatur Cemetery.



Denise White, Arlene Bishop, Sarah Zingarelli, Doreen Henricks, Ruth and Nick Zingarelli, Joe McCabe and David Ballacchino at the Veterans Day Memorial Service at Decatur Cemetery.



Good eats at the Post after the Veterans Day Memorial Service.

Visit our website:

www.americanlegionpost66.org

CHRISTMAS PARTY

Join the fun at the Christmas Party on Friday, December 11th with hors d'oeuvres and a cash bar. We are asking for a \$10 (minimum) donation. The proceeds will go towards Christmas gifts for a family of a deployed veteran

AUXILIARY NEWS

Thank you to everyone who participated in the Veterans Day projects this year: Betty Bagwell for placing flags at the cemetery; Audrey Hogg, Peggy Rowland and Ruth Zingarelli for distributing poppies at the Early Bird Dinner; everyone in the photo to the left who were part of the Memorial Service; and those who brought food to the lunch.

The eight Thanksgiving baskets that we assembled were overflowing with the generous donations of the Legionnaires, SAL and Auxiliary members. Four baskets were taken to Avondale Elementary School and four were given to members of our own Legion family. Thank you Doreen!

Unit 66 is sponsoring the Department Third Place National Security trophy in honor of Jean Carson for her dedication to the Auxiliary.

Speaking of Jean, she has agreed to take the office of Chaplain, as Bea Orman has resigned her position. Get well Bea; we hope to see you soon.

We would like to thank Mr. Lamar Wilson for his generous donations to the USO and to the Thanksgiving food drive.

Things to do in December:

- Attend the Fourth District meeting on Saturday, Dec. 5th.
- Help out at the VA Gift Shop the week of Dec. 7-10 and make Christmas special for our hospitalized veterans.

Postcards have been mailed out to remind those who have not paid their 2010 dues. Remember, there will be no Auxiliary meeting in December!

Keep Liz Hodgman and Patti Davis in your thoughts and prayers as they are having surgery.

Sarah Zingarelli, Unit 66 President
sarahzunit66@gmail.com

2009		DECEMBER					2009
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	
BINGO JACKPOT (LAST GAME) IS MAXIMUM \$900	CLUB HOURS BINGO	Mon. & Wed.: 12 – 8, Tues, Thurs. & Fri.: 12 – 9; lunch served 12-2; closed Sat. and Sun. Every Thursday Night at 7:00 p.m. and every Sunday Night at 7:00 p.m. \$1,500 in prizes with a last game jackpot maximum \$900					
		1 Potluck & Pool Playing 6:00 p.m.	2	3 BINGO 7:00 p.m.	4	5 Fourth District Mtg. Noon CLOSED	
6 CLOSED BINGO 7:00 p.m.	7 <i>No planned activities</i>	8 Potluck & Pool Playing 6:00 p.m.	9 HOUSE COMM. 5:00 p.m. EXEC. COMM. 6:00 p.m.	10 BINGO 7:00 p.m.	11 CHRISTMAS PARTY 6:00 p.m.	12 CLOSED	
13 CLOSED BINGO 7:00 p.m.	14 <i>on Mondays but the</i>	15 Potluck & Pool Playing 6:00 p.m. S.A.L. MEETING 6:30 p.m.	16 GENERAL MEETING (Men only) 6:00 p.m.	17 BINGO 7:00 p.m.	18	19 CLOSED	
20 CLOSED BINGO 7:00 p.m.	21 <i>club is open,</i>	22 Potluck & Pool Playing 6:00 p.m.	23 V.A. Bingo 1:30 p.m.	24 CLOSED Christmas Eve	25 CLOSED Christmas Day	26 CLOSED	
27 CLOSED BINGO 7:00 p.m.	28 <i>so stop by!</i>	29 Potluck & Pool Playing 6:00 p.m.	30	31 New Year's Eve			
Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!							



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