



# American Legion Harold Byrd Post 66

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

## March 2009

### IMPORTANT DATES

#### House Committee Meeting

Wed., Mar. 11 @ 5:00 p.m.

#### Executive Committee Meeting

Wed., Mar. 11 @ 6:00 p.m.

#### SAL Meeting

Tues., Mar. 17 @ 6:30 p.m.

#### General Meeting (men & women)

Wed., Mar. 18 @ 7:00 p.m.

#### Legion Birthday Dinner

Sat., Mar. 28 @ 6:00 p.m.

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#### Commander

David Ballacchino

#### Sr. Vice Commander

Sam Guy

#### Jr. Vice Commander

Harmon Grotsky

#### Finance Officer

Jim Bishop

#### Adjutant

David Ballacchino

#### House Committee

##### Chairman

Sam Guy

#### Executive Committee

##### Chairman

Bobby Wright

## COMMANDER'S CORNER

With the March winds fast approaching, there is much to do at the Post. We are still far short of our 100% membership drive. We are at 83% but need to be 100% by the Legion's birthday party. Seventeen members still need to pay their dues for 2009. Why this big push for membership, you may ask? The American Legion depends on your dues. Many benefit from Service Officers adjudicating and litigating on behalf of individual veterans and *en mass* (i.e., the Montgomery Bill). Alone, we do not have the clout, but an organization of 3,000,000 (plus wives, children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren of voting age) adds up to many more voices in our corner. So, send in your dues today!

The Legion's 90th Birthday Dinner on Saturday, March 28th will be cooked this year by Commander David and his wife Joann, along with the help of our capable employees and a few volunteers. This meal, in the not-so-distant past, was paid for by the Post and I propose to initiate that again. This is the Post's gift to all paid-up members. Do not confuse this post function with the Early Bird Supper, held in November, which was for those who have paid their 2010 dues. Members arriving at the party who have not paid their 2009 dues will be charged \$40 at the front desk; and, at that time, will receive their 2009 membership cards.

I would like to take this opportunity to ask for donations for the Department Commander's and National Commander's Special Fund the former helping hospitalized veterans and the latter purchasing sweat suits and other goods for recovering troops. There will be a jar at the entrance table for these worthy causes and the monies collected will be divided equally between the two.

The menu for the Birthday Dinner will be sirloin tip roast beef, thinly sliced and piled high on hard rolls with au jus, Buffalo chicken wings, baked chicken, a salad bar, veggies (corn, peas, carrots), and coffee, tea and soft drinks. There will be a cash bar. Dinner will be served from 4-6:00 p.m. and there will be music and dancing for your pleasure. If you would like to volunteer to help, please call the Commander.

We are still looking at the By-Laws and will be presenting the changes for the general membership's approval. We need a quorum at the general meetings, so please plan to attend!

We are sponsoring Boys State and are calling high schools in preparation for the medal and ROTC programs.

Check our website!! <http://www.americanlegionpost66.org>

Thank you all, David Ballacchino, Commander

# MEET YOUR OFFICERS!

## **Nick Zingarelli**

*Executive Committee, Past Commander*

### **From:**

Worcester, MA

### **Military service:**

Served in the U.S. Marine Corp from 1943 to 1946, with 20 months in the Pacific, participated in the recapture of Guam.

### **Why did he join the Legion?**

Nick was a member of the VFW post in Cranston, RI for 20 years and held several positions, mostly adjutant. He originally joined The American Legion in 1946, and rejoined in 1978 at Post 66 because they had a pool table.

**What has he accomplished?** As a member of this Post for 31 years, Nick has held various official positions for 28 years. He was Post Commander from 1990-1992 when we tore down the old building and constructed the present one. He was a member of the Legion team that negotiated the settlement with MARTA for the building and subway easement, and assisted Joel Prather in the two-year litigation process against MARTA resulting in a \$750,000 settlement. Nick participated in the group that purchased the 15-yr \$200,000 Treasury Bond investment that would yield \$600,000 in the year 2010. He was Finance Officer from 2003-2006.

Nick played a lead role in establishing the Bingo operation in 1984 and is still active on the Bingo committee. He has also worked Bingo on Thursday nights since the program started. For twenty years, Nick has actively participated in Legion programs, such as Boys State, the ROTC and medal programs; he volunteers for the VA Bingo, goes to the USO many times each year, and participates in the Thanksgiving meal for veterans and the Christmas Gift Shop. He won the District Boys State Trophy for five consecutive years.

Nick also wrote articles for the newsletter for over 20 years. Nick has been the recipient of the Post 66 Legionnaire of the Year Award in



1984 and 2007 and the recipient of the Fourth District Legionnaire of the Year Award in 2002 and 2006. In fact, he is the only member of Post 66 who has won these awards twice. He is currently serving as the Fourth District Judge Advocate, a position he has held for five years. On January 14, 1994, he was awarded the Gold Card Award from Post 66.

And he is *still* serving Post 66 and its' Commander.



**Interesting fact:** His latest hobby is taking flights in antique aircraft. (Top: a bi-plane flight with his daughter in July 2008, left: manning the machine gun on a B-17 Flying Fortress with his son last weekend.)

## FRIDAY NIGHT DINNERS

Mar. 6 Fried catfish, French fries, cole slaw OR Baked salmon, yellow rice, Caesar salad (\$10) Trivia! Please specify choice.

Mar. 20 Fried chicken, mashed potatoes w/gravy, turnip greens, salad, cornbread (\$10)

***Please R.S.V.P. by each Wednesday night!***

## ST. PADDY'S DAY SPECIAL

Mar. 17th - on St. Patrick's Day, we will be serving Reubens and corned beef and cabbage from 12 - 4:00 p.m. The CB&C will also be served at the Pool and Potluck from 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. One dollar Beer specials from 12 - 5:00 p.m.

## « « USO Report « «

In February, we helped celebrate the USO's birthday. Jon Huddle, Henry Lightfoot, James McCullough, David Ballacchino, Nick and Ruth Zingarelli, Martha Mihalek, and Susan Proctor served hundreds of service members going through the airport. Publix and WalMart both donated cakes.

Rita Clifton gives an American Flag to the only veteran at the Personal Care Home and she's a Marine!



Audrey Hogg directs the Sing-A-Long with the musical accompaniment of Betty Sharp.

## AUXILIARY NEWS

This newsletter is filled with gratitude for our faithful members.

Bea Orman, Susan Proctor, and Pam Dertz made wreaths for Margaret Lusk's memorial service. These were a beautiful tribute to Margaret, who served Unit 66 with such devotion.

Thank you SO MUCH to all who participated in the Four Chaplains Service on Feb. 1. Tillie led the Parade of Colors, in which several posts participated. The service was a meaningful remembrance of the four chaplains of the U.S.A.T. *Dorchester*. We had great refreshments afterward.

Tillie helped host the Salute to Hospitalized Veterans at the VA on Feb. 13 along with the help of Ruth and Nick Zingarelli.

A big thanks to Rita Clifton for organizing the Valentine's Party at Mountain View Personal Care Home on Feb. 13. Pianist Betty Sharp helped with the Sing-A-Long. Audrey Hogg and Sarah Zingarelli helped distribute the cookies and many gifts that Auxiliary members donated.

The VA Bingo served about 27 veterans. Arlene Bishop, Celestia Wright, Harmon Grotsky, Nick and Ruth Zingarelli, and Mike Henderson joined in the fun.

The February USO visit was another success. See Jean's report for more information.

Once again, we mourn the loss of one of our members. Suzie Alley passed away in January. Her husband Bob died shortly after. Our condolences to their family in their grief.

We also continue to remember Jean Carson, who has been ill for some time. Get well soon, Jean, we miss you! We also express our concern for Helen Adams' husband Bob, who has struggled with a serious illness.

Coming in March, the Post celebrates the Legion birthday on Saturday, March 28th. If you can be of any assistance with food preparation, serving, or clean-up, please call David or Doreen and sign up. This should be a great celebration.

- President Doreen Henricks

**2009****MARCH****2009**

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<b>BINGO JACKPOT (LAST GAME) IS MAXIMUM \$900</b>	<b>CLUB HOURS</b> <b>LUNCH</b> <b>BINGO</b>	Monday through Friday, 12 – 9, closed Sat. and Sun. Tuesday and Thursday 12 – 2:00 p.m. at Café 66 Every Thursday Night at 7:00 p.m. and every Sunday at 7:00 p.m. \$1,500 in prizes with a last game jackpot maximum \$900				
1 CLOSED BINGO 7:00 p.m.	2 <i>No planned</i>	3 Potluck & Pool Playing 6:00 p.m.	4	5 BINGO 7:00 p.m.	6 Friday Night Dinner Catfish or Salmon \$10.00 – Trivia! 6:00 p.m.	7 CLOSED
8 CLOSED BINGO 7:00 p.m.	9 <i>activities on</i>	10 Potluck & Pool Playing 6:00 p.m.	11 HOUSE COMM. 5:00 p.m. EXEC. COMM. 6:00 p.m.	12 BINGO 7:00 p.m.	13	14 CLOSED
15 CLOSED BINGO 7:00 p.m.	16 <i>Mondays, but the</i>	17 Potluck & Pool Playing 6:00 p.m. S.A.L. MEETING 6:30 p.m.	18 GENERAL & AUXILIARY MTGS. 7:00 p.m.	19 BINGO 7:00 p.m.	20 Friday Night Dinner Fried Chicken \$10.00 6:00 p.m.	21 CLOSED
22 CLOSED BINGO 7:00 p.m.	23 <i>club is open,</i>	24 Potluck & Pool Playing 6:00 p.m.	25 V.A. Bingo 1:30 p.m.	26 BINGO 7:00 p.m.	27	28 <b>Legion Birthday</b> Homemade Dinner 4:00to 6:00 p.m. Music & dancing!
29 CLOSED BINGO 7:00 p.m.	30 <i>so stop by!</i>	31 Potluck & Pool Playing 6:00 p.m.	<b>Please CALL THE POST AND MAKE YOU RESERVATIONS by MAR. 20 FOR THE LEGIONS BIRTHDAY PARTY. MUSIC AND DANCING AFTER DINNER</b>			

**Celebrate the Legion's birthday by attending the dinner on March 28<sup>th</sup>!**



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