



# American Legion Harold Byrd Post 66

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

**October 2009**

## **IMPORTANT DATES**

**House Committee Mtg.**  
Wed., Oct. 14 @ 5:00 p.m.

**Executive Committee Mtg.**  
Wed., Oct. 14 @ 6:00 p.m.

**Big Band Orchestra!**  
Fri., Oct. 17 @ 6:00 p.m.

**SAL Meeting**  
Tues., Oct. 20 @ 6:30 p.m.

**General Meeting**  
(men & women)  
Wed., Oct. 21 @ 6:00 p.m.

Supper provided for members  
attending General meeting.

**Halloween Party**  
Fri., Oct. 30 @ 6:00 p.m.

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**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**

We are very please to announce that our Labor Day BBQ on Sept. 7th was a huge success. We had gross receipts of \$4,000. We paid our expenses for the food and 1 casual laborer, paid out 10 \$100 prizes and donated \$1,198.95 to the Wounded Warriors Project. The free Bingo was a big success as usual. The food was great and so were all the people who came and participated.

I would like to thank the following who helped in the kitchen on Sat., Sun. and Mon.: Legionnaire Aaron (last name) and Auxiliary members Denise White, Jean Carson, Doreen Henricks and Liz Hodgeman. Legionnaires Jon Huddle (who prepared his famous Baked Beans), Gary McGunigale, John Ford, Sam Guy, Gerald Burns and Gerald Clayton helped in the kitchen and Alvin Clifton was in charge of the drinks. I would also like to thank Lynn Kirkpatrick and her family (Cassidy, Denise, Nick and Gregory) who volunteered to help in the kitchen, serving the food, working the take-out window and helped in cleaning and straightening the dining area. To all the ladies and men working the Bingo, taking care of the tables and helping clean-up, thank you all for making this a success.

A special thank you to Nick Zingarelli and Liz Hodgeman for handling the ticket sales at the front table during the entire event. Last, but not least, I want to thank my beautiful wife Joann; she worked tirelessly Sat., Sun. and Mon. and even helped me clean the kitchen pots and pans and mopped the floor. Thank you, Joann, I could not have done it without you. You are the love of my life. Happy 46th!

At our General Meeting on Sept. 16th we did not have a quorum. We are getting better as there were 23 members present. Please make the extra effort to attend meetings so we can achieve a quorum. Remember, we the members each have a vote in what is happening in our post.

Adjutant Jim O'Brien has hit the ground running and is bringing Big Band entertainment to our Post. Fantastic! We needed something to happen and Jim is doing it! Please see the article on the next page.

The Early Bird Dinner will be on Fri., Nov. 6th for all members who have paid their 2009-10 dues. We are having prime rib, baked potatoes, and green bean casserole. The cost is \$10 for all guests and members who have not paid their dues. So, send your dues in or pay them at the door.

Thank you, Commander David Ballacchino

## MEET YOUR OFFICERS!

### **Craig Murchland**

*Executive Committee*

**From:**  
SW Michigan

#### **Military service:**

Served in the Marine Corps, active duty 1954-57. Assigned to Electronics and sent to San Diego to Marine Corps Base at 29 Palms (Mojave Desert). After two years, transferred to Camp Pendleton.

**Why did you join the Legion?** The primary reason, at the time, was simply an interest in associating with others who had had military experience and the maturity one gains through that experience. In my civilian job, I had enough exposure to, well, let just say "others".

**What have you done?** Managed our investment program. We have been very fortunate, through difficult times, to have maintained a profitable level in this account.

**What do you aim to accomplish?** It concerns me that our direct contributions to military aid and comfort, while admirable, have been minimal. This is due to very limited funds being available for more intensive activity in this ambition. Much of our expenses can be managed more diligently and we can return to more of a true volunteer organization, than we are presently, if we are so motivated.

**Interesting facts:** In 1960, recognized as Outstanding Chapter President (out of 180 chapters) of the Michigan Jaycees. Board member for several years and President of Snapfinger Woods Men's Golf Association.



## HOUSE COMMITTEE NEWS

### **Let's Dance!**

Put a big circle on Sat., Oct. 17th on your calendar and highlight it! We have the Big Band *Sentimental Journey Orchestra* coming to our Ballroom. They will perform from 7-10:00 p.m. and the cost is \$10.00 per person. And, as a special treat for our members, we will be providing hors d'oeuvres from 6-7:00 p.m. in the Lounge.

*Sentimental Journey Orchestra* is a "class act". 17 tuxedo-clad instrumentalists and two sparkling vocalists have been doing this for three decades. Get a preview on the web at [www.thesjo.com](http://www.thesjo.com) and we'll see you there!



Also, this month we will have our annual Halloween Party, which is always a good time; the date will be Oct. 30<sup>th</sup>.

Due to a lack of interest, Café 66 is going out of business. We will no longer serve food except for special occasions, bookings and, of course, meetings and Bingo.

If you have any questions, please call Jim O'Brien at 678-862-8222.

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## KUDOS — MISC — ETC.

- Lest we forget. The coveted Gold Card is awarded to Legionnaires or Ladies Auxiliary member who have donated many hours on volunteer programs for the good of the Legion in an extraordinary manner for several years. The Post now pays their dues annually (usually \$20). What an investment! Those receiving this award in the past twenty years are Joel Prather, Nick Zingarelli, JR Lusk, Jon Huddle, David Balacchino, Margaret Lusk, Tillie Davis and Ruth Zingarelli
- Legionnaire Bill Wandell had knee replacement surgery and is now in rehab at Manor Care on N. Decatur Rd. and is waiting to get well for still another surgery on his right leg. Give him a call at 404-297-1588.

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**Visit our website for the newsletter at:**  
**[www.americanlegionpost66.org](http://www.americanlegionpost66.org)**  
**See photos from the Labor Day BBQ!**

N.L.Z.

## **A WALK DOWN MEMORY LANE**

### **Army basic training, Ft Dix, NJ, March 1963.**

Knowing that there were few electrical outlets on trees while in bivouac, I left my electric shaver at home. My intentions to "practice" with the safety razor did not happen, now it was time for the real thing. Those first couple of mornings resulted in at least 20 little tabs of TP to plug the leaks on my face.

I chose a top bunk in the bay of the old "temporary" WWII barracks. Problem was the naked light bulb was directly over my head. When the platoon SGT did the wake up, the lights were switched on. That evening, I removed the bulb and proceeded to the adjacent barracks. I was asked what I was doing there as I was not recognized as "one of them", I stated the SGT asked me to replace a burned out bulb. Inevitably I would find one and replace it with the bulb formerly over my bunk. Days later, someone would replace my bulb while we were out in the field. That required an almost three times weekly hunt for those burned out bulbs in adjacent buildings.

While marching to training sites, the company would march as a column of four of the four platoons, about 200 "trainees". The Field First SGT would call out for all men "out of step" to report to him on the double. Surprisingly, 15 to 20 guys would report to do double time laps around the marching formation. You would think that after a couple of weeks, guys would realize that there was no way they were seen as out of step!

The morning I was in the group of the last 20 guys into the mess hall line we met with a challenge. Just as the scoop of scrambled eggs was slapped on my tray, the whistle blows along with "Breakfast is over! Pick up your trays and move out! While proceeding to the dirty tray window, I made a sandwich out of the toast, scrambled eggs and bacon which I was then eating on the way out. Outside, those with tears streaming who did not eat, asked where I got the sandwich!

Gerry Burns, US Army

## **AUXILIARY NEWS**

A shout-out to Liz Hodgeman, Joann Ballacchino, Denise White, Doreen Henricks, Jean Carson, Fran Plunk, Susan Proctor, Rita Clifton, Pam Dertz, Jinna Clark, Ann Yelk, Yvonne Green, Arlene Bishop, Vera Wells, Audrey Hogg, Beverly Grotsky and Ruth Zingarelli for helping at the Labor Day Bingo. Everyone either worked in the kitchen, helped with the Bingo or brought baked goods. (Please let me know if I left anyone out) Thanks to Legionnaire Marty Grotsky who also helped with the Bingo. Great things like this happen when we all work together!

The VA Stand Down will be held on Sat., Oct 3. Stand Downs offer homeless veterans food, shelter, clothing, health screenings, counseling and referrals. The first one was organized in 1988 by a group of Vietnam veterans in San Diego. Ruth, Doreen and Sarah will be representing Unit 66.

In October, Rita is organizing Mama's Meatball Luncheon on Sat., Oct. 17 at the Mountain View Personal Care Home, featuring Jean's meatballs and spaghetti sauce. It looks to be a fun event for the residents and for those volunteering. Wear something Italian-looking or in red, white and green and join the fun! Call Rita for more details.

Sat., Oct. 24th is going to be a busy day!

- The Department Fall Conference is that day in Marietta.
- It is also Make a Difference Day (check it out online at <http://www.usaweekend.com/diffday/aboutmadd.html>). **Please bring a dozen homemade cookies to the general meeting** on Oct. 21st (or drop them off by Thursday). We need a couple of volunteers to deliver them to the Avondale Estates police and fire departments.
- It is also the date for electronics recycling at the Decatur High School parking lot from 9-1. See their website for information: [http://www.decaturga.com/cgs\\_citysvcs\\_sfm\\_electronics.aspx](http://www.decaturga.com/cgs_citysvcs_sfm_electronics.aspx)

Sarah Zingarelli, Unit 66 President  
[sarahzunit66@gmail.com](mailto:sarahzunit66@gmail.com)

2009		OCTOBER					2009
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	
<b>BINGO JACKPOT (LAST GAME) IS MAXIMUM \$900</b>	<b>CLUB HOURS BINGO</b>	Monday through Friday, 12 – 9, 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 BINGO 7:00 p.m.	2	3 VA Stand Down CLOSED	
46 CLOSED BINGO 7:00 p.m.	5 <i>No planned</i>	6 Potluck & Pool Playing 6:00 p.m.	7	8 BINGO 7:00 p.m.	9	10 CLOSED	
11 CLOSED BINGO 7:00 p.m.	12 <i>activities on Mondays</i>	13 Potluck & Pool Playing 6:00 p.m.	14 HOUSE COMM. 5:00 p.m. EXEC. COMM. 6:00 p.m.	15 BINGO 7:00 p.m.	16	17 Sentimental Journey Orchestra 6-10:00 p.m. \$10.00	
18 CLOSED BINGO 7:00 p.m.	19 <i>but the club</i>	20 Potluck & Pool Playing 6:00 p.m. S.A.L. MEETING 6:30 p.m.	21 GENERAL MEETING (Men & women) 6:00 p.m.	22 BINGO 7:00 p.m.	23	24 Department Fall Conference & Make a Difference Day CLOSED	
25 CLOSED BINGO 7:00 p.m.	26 <i>is open, so stop by!</i>	27 Potluck & Pool Playing 6:00 p.m.	28 V.A. Bingo 1:30 p.m.	29 BINGO 7:00 p.m.	30	31	
<b>Make A Difference in your life by volunteering!</b>							



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