

Ford, received a plaque for his 19 years of service. A joint Flag Day ceremony was held with Laurel Elks, \$500 was earmarked for VE Day, \$100 given to LHS/PHS Seniors, 430 flags were placed on Veterans graves and George "Buzzy" Parkman was awarded Legionnaire of the Year.

The Post received a special award for best reports submitted on all Legion programs from Department Headquarters, \$500 was given to the Post by Jack Kent Cooke (Washington Redskins owner) \$200 was given by Laurel Moose for use of Marr Field, \$500 from the Sportsmen, \$600 was given to FISH for Thanksgiving/Christmas baskets, and \$50 was donated to the 12th Special Forces for use in their deactivation ceremonies at Fort Meade.

Past Commanders Bill Gray and Bill Byrne were transferred to Post Everlasting, six bags of clothes were taken to Great Oaks, 1K given to LVRS/LVFD, \$300 for Pearl Harbor

Day, Martin Luther King day observed at the Post, three lads were sent to Boys State, Veterans Day was celebrated at Ivy Hill Cemetery where Circuit Judge C. Philip Nichols (Legionnaire) received an Americanism award, \$100 was donated for office equipment for the Department Service office while Prince George's Hospice, UCP and the VA Hospital rounded out the list of donors from the Post, Unit and Squadron.

George Schaab resumed the reins of Post Commander, he will hold this position for the remainder of this report. During 1995-1996 Post membership reached 3-Star status with 1,288 on board. The Allen Hall was extensively used by: AHA, Homecoming for Grand Chef Jim Tanabe (40 & 8), Senior Friendship Club, Cub Scout Packs 345 & 606, Laurel B & G Club, JROTC, Anne Arundel Girl Scouts Council, and for children's Halloween/Christmas parties. Commander Schaab and



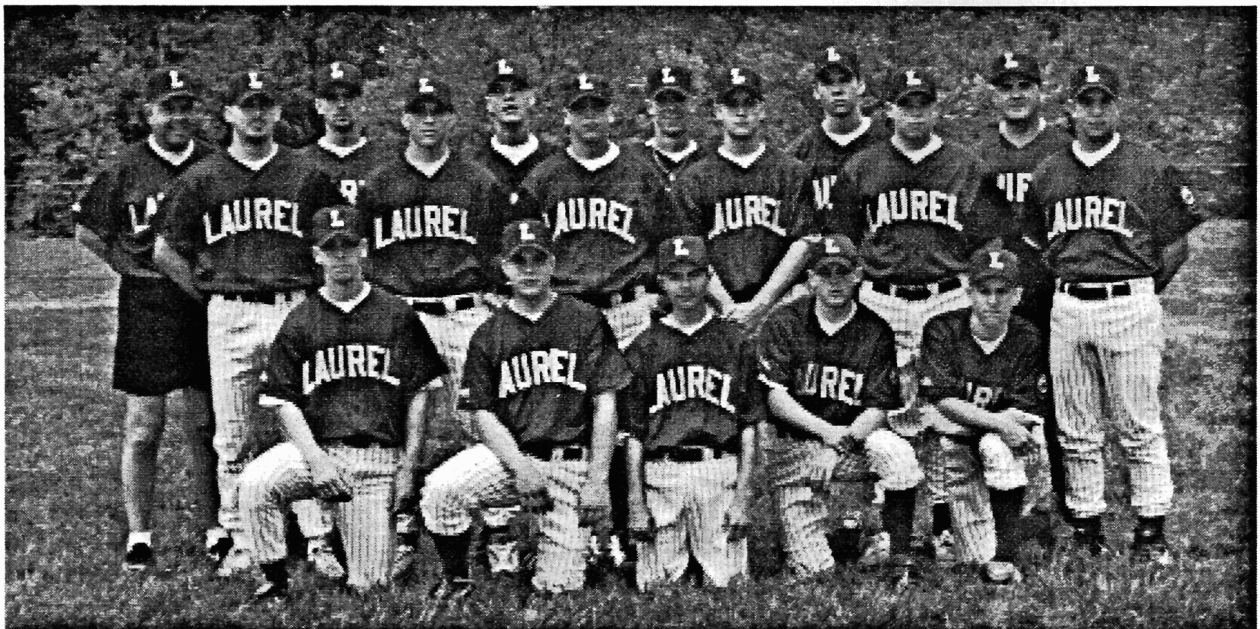
1998 Trophy Winners

Color Guard Captain Joe Longfellow attended the Laurel Museum dedication and a Children & Youth conference in Chestertown.

The computer in the Adjutant's office was upgraded (1K), \$125 was given to the city of Laurel for their 125th anniversary (full page ad), 1.5K earmarked for Labor Day, VJ Day and 50 year member affairs and office equipment was upgraded (Peachtree), \$100 was received from DARE to help with the Car Show which netted \$1,655 for the Youth camp (Dave Patterson, Chairman), \$200 received from Laurel Moose for use of MarrField, and \$400 was received from the Sportsman Club to purchase a flat-bed trailer which serves as a covered grandstand for turkey shoots and softball games, fifty year member Walter Fyffe was transferred to Post Everlasting and a

selectric typewriter was donated to the Youth camp.

Purchase of a coin-operated pool table was authorized (\$2,962 after personal donations), USO was given \$200 as was the Alzheimers Foundation; Commander Schaab, Color Guard Longfellow, Adjutant and wife all walked the seven kilometer course to fulfill pledges. The Post sponsored a Teacher of the Year dinner (Chuck Lavin). Teachers Robert Giuliiani (Laurel) and Philip Webb (Pallotti) were awarded plaques. A proclamation for twenty-five years service to Great Oaks Center was presented to the Post from Governor Glendening. A bequest from Past Commander Bill Gray (deceased) was placed in the Scholarship fund which was renamed "The Payton-Gray Scholarship fund. Frank



AMERICAN LEGION BASEBALL, LAUREL POST 60, 1997

*Front Row (left to right): Ryan Schulz, Mark Minzak, Mark Davis, Kevin Sutton, Mike Cousins.
Middle Row: Chris Madiou, Cory Cannell, Austin Smith, Nic Peter, Steven Arnold, Mike Souder
Back Row: Jeff Price (Coach), Dave Patterson, Kenny Beck, Shane Price, Mike Harrington, Ken Smith (Asst. Coach) Not Pictured: Chris Barkley, Mike Dunnington, Jimmy McDonnell*

Lagana's crew placed over 500 flags on local Veterans graves with assistance of local Boy Scouts and a joint Flag Day ceremony was held with Laurel Elks.

SAL Squadron 60 donated \$200 to the VA Hospital, the Post donated the same amount to the Epilepsy Foundation, \$600 donated to UCP, \$100 to graduating Seniors from PHS & LHS, 1K to LVRS, \$200 to WW II Memorial Fund, two 1K scholarships were awarded, fourteen school awards were presented and a Grand Promenade was held at the Post in honor of Jim Tanabe, Grand Chef of the 40 & 8. Wayne Souder was selected as Legionnaire of the Year.

A Post Baseball team was formed with Wayne Souder as advisor, \$400 was received from Pipeline Products Inc. to resod areas damaged by their repair work, \$500 was received from DAV Unit 27 for a sound system, \$50 from Sons of Italy for Color Guard performance (Chuck Lavin), \$600 received for baseball program (Buick Motor Division) as a result of a member purchasing a new Buick; \$200 donated to Laurel Police Department for bicycle rodeo, \$320 to sponsor a four man team for Heart Association golf tournament and funds were provided to FISH to purchase Thanksgiving/Christmas turkeys.

Margaret Sheehan (Unit 60) was honored by her selection as a color-bearer to carry the Olympic torch on its journey through Maryland and member C. Philip Nichols (Circuit Court Judge) was honored by promotion to Captain in the US Naval Reserve



Young Marines graduate at Post 60, 1997

and designation as SENIOR RESERVE MILITARY JUDGE, U.S. NAVY!

Commander Schaab's next year (1996-1997) proved to be as busy as the previous year with 1,291 members again attaining 3-Star status. The Allen Hall continued as a focal point for Community activities with use by: Maryland City Recreation Council, Young Marines weekly drill sessions, 4th of July Committee, Senior Friendship club, 40 & 8, Heart Association, Troops 345 and 606 and the Post hosted a Department Executive Committee with over 450 in attendance. Department Commander Bill Proctor expressed his deep appreciation for our involvement. The Post also hosted a fundraiser Karaoke/dinner for the baseball team. Donations included: \$200 to Epilepsy, \$550 to softball league and United Way, \$250 to WIMSA (Women in Military Service, Mary Liesch), \$200 to Charlotte Hall Veterans Home, \$250 to Homeless Veterans including books

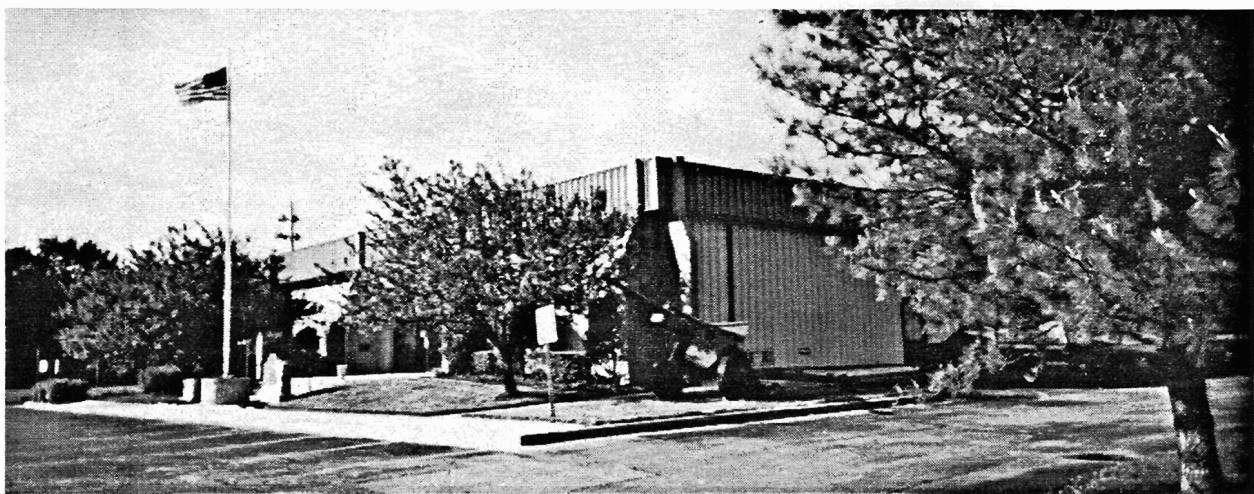
and clothes, sponsored a Pee-Wee team in Laurel B & G, \$250 to Alzheimers Foundation (same walkers as last year), \$100 sponsor for one youth to attend National Youth Leadership Council, one large flag to Pallotti High School, two softball leagues and \$600 to UCP. Veterans were honored at Ivy Hill Cemetery and 50 year members were given proper recognition. Thanksgiving/Christmas turkeys were donated to FISH (Bob Bowman), a Teacher of the Year banquet was again held with seventeen teachers and State Representatives Madden and Morgan in attendance. Two softball leagues were formed, \$200 donated to Pearl Harbor remembrance with assistance from Unit 60 , Squadron 60 and 1K from the Past Commanders Club.

Two Life memberships presented to Scouts, three youths sponsored for Boys State, two 1.5K scholarships were awarded, \$50 for a full page ad in the 40 & 8 convention book in honor of Jim Tanabe, \$800 to the Commanders Emergency Relief fund, \$50 to the Laurel Tree Fund and a similar amount to Dorothy Collins,

Department Executive Secretary, on her retirement after many years of devoted service. Memorial services were held at Ivy Hill Cemetery, a chili cook-off was held at the Post with all proceeds going to Homeless Veterans (Phil Jorgenson), Squadron 60 hosted Veterans from area hospitals at monthly Bingo sessions, a bus trip to the Orioles, a flag burning ceremony, our annual donation to Perry Point Veterans hospital (Joe Leschinsky fund), a month long window display at Citizens Bank and selection of Jack Coker as Legionnaire of the Year rounded out a busy, varied schedule of activities.

Commander George Schaab and Post Adjutant Ray Jacquez announced their intentions of stepping down after the next Legion Year; time for infusion of new blood!

The final year of this History saw Commander Schaab again attain 3-Star status with 1,292 members on board. The Allan Hall was, in addition to normal Post activities (childrens parties, Korean reminder), host to: Maryland City Recreation council, Senior



Laurel Post 60

Friendship Club, Scout Packs 606 and 345, and 4th of July Committee. The Post hosted over 200 volunteers who gathered to clean up Main Street (coffee, doughnuts and bagels), donated \$100 to Heart Association golf tournament, hosted a JROTC ball and a bus to an Oriole game. Frank Laganas crew decorated over 500 Veterans graves, he was honored as Legionnaire of the Year for his sterling performance over the years in this capacity. The Alzheimers Foundation received its annual donation (with the same walkers participating), \$381 was donated to WIMSA as proceeds from a dinner dance, new horseshoe pits were constructed and named for George "Buzzy" Parkman who was instrumental in their construction.

Several bags of clothes and boxes of books were delivered to Charlotte Hall Veterans Home (Adj & wife), turkeys were presented to FISH of Laurel for both holidays (Bob Bowman), the Color Guard performed at Montpelier and St. Marys schools and presented a flag to Boy Scout Troop 1021. Unit 60 donated \$200 to the Post from their craft show and the Post hosted a prime rib dinner which featured a smashing performance by the "Scottish Folk-Lore Troop". Squadron 60 continued their fine tradition of hosting Veterans from area hospitals at Bingo sessions at the Post, as well as contributing their annual donation to the VA Hospital in Washington.



"Taps"
U.S. Army Bugler

Final donations for this Legion Year were: \$100 to each of four outstanding Seniors from LHS and PHS, three 1.5K scholarships were awarded, 500 small metal flags were obtained for giveaway at the Main Street Festival, and \$1,698 was earmarked for eventual return to Clyde Martin to reimburse his personal funds used to keep the softball team in League play. Sunday

Bar Bingo (with a local raffle and food) proved to be very popular with members; however, Wednesday and Friday Bingo under the supervision of Dave Patterson and co-chairman Jack Coker continued to be a major fund raiser for the Post. Despite a \$445 settlement from American Legion Baseball, Post 60 continued to show a decline in revenue.

Finally, at the Post Installation on June 20, 1998, George Collins was installed as Post Commander; he immediately appointed Wayne Souder as Adjutant.

In closing, we are hopeful that future Legionnaires will continue to document activities over the years in order to effect a continual History of our fine Post and its members. In the words of Past Department Commander Charles St. Clair: "After all, The American Legion is only a group of dedicated Veterans who work like hell to raise money and, then, argue like hell to decide where to donate it."

With this I wish all the best of luck in Service to God and Country...

Ray Jacquez, Life Member