



THE DAMASCUS VETERAN

A Newsletter for Members & Friends of Damascus American Legion Post 171, Unit & Squadron

May – June 2018

THE COMMANDER'S CORNER

Fellow Comrades:

I attended the National Commander's Banquet on March 17 at Post 82 in LaPlata. Your Montgomery County Commander and Post 171 Adjutant Kevin Mook, Unit 171 Vice President Kelli Cole and I had a chance to meet National Commander Denise Rohan and she was very professional, kind, and pleasant. This was an opportunity to hear first-hand a concern of National Commander regarding the continuing attempt by Congress to balance the budget on the backs of the military. She calls for everyone at every level to contact their elected representatives, and then **GET OUT AND VOTE!**



Please be sure to put our Memorial Day program on your calendar. Although Memorial Day is celebrated on Monday, May 28th, the Post will hold its program on Sunday, May 27th. This is a special day of remembrance to honor those men and women who died while serving in the United States Armed Forces. A luncheon will follow the program.

Please send in your memberships if you are not up to date. Consider a Paid up for Life Membership. Personally, it is nice to not have to remember to pay it every year.

Bingo has been doing great this year. Congrats to Bill Green and the Bingo workers that show up every week and work their tails off.

Our Installation dinner will be held on June 23rd. Please be a part of our new officers taking Leadership roles.

Semper Fidelis,

Will Cole
Commander Post 171

In Memoriam

James “Jim” G. Peck, 91, passed away on March 12, 2018 and served in WWII. He is survived by Betty, his loving wife of 68 years. He is also survived by two daughters, Brenda, Nancy and son, Daniel; eight grandchildren, Rachel, Anna, Christopher, Katie, Sarah, Melissa, Peck and Julia; and seven great-grandchildren, Tyler, Kevin, Rebecca, Matthew, Christopher, Justin, and James. He is preceded in death by his sister Lucy. Jim was a member of the American Legion for 32 years.

Kevin J. Smith, 63, passed away on March 14, 2018 and served in the Army in Vietnam. He is survived by Karen, his loving wife of 43 years. He is also survived by his daughter Jewel, son Kevin, and two grandchildren. Kevin was a member of the American Legion for four (4) years.

Memorial Day Flags – Remembering Our Veterans

Once again, this year we will be placing flags on our Veterans graves. We have 21 cemeteries to service. The more volunteers the easier the task will be, and no one will have to visit their assigned cemeteries alone.

It is requested that everyone meet at the Post on Saturday, 26 May at 9:00 a.m. promptly for some instruction prior to going out to the cemeteries. It will be most helpful to go over the instructions only one time. These instructions are due to some complaints received by family members of Veterans that the flags were placed improperly.

Flags should be retrieved before sundown on 29 May and can be dropped off at the Post on Thursday, 31 May after 5 p.m.

Also, the Unit will be presenting a flag in memory of each deceased Post members who has passed on to Post Everlasting since last Memorial Day. This presentation will be during the Post Memorial Day Service, which is held on Sunday, 27 May. Any Unit member wishing to present a flag please let me know at our May Unit meeting.

Thanks to all volunteers in advance,
Sandy Seipp, Flag Chairman



THE POST 171 PATRIOTS BASEBALL PROGRAM UPDATE

Despite Mother Nature's absolute confusion about the seasons, American Legion Post 171 Patriots baseball has been braving the elements and preparing for an upcoming season of exciting Legion baseball.

During April, the Patriots held tryouts for this year's 2018 Senior and Junior Legion teams under the watchful eye of Coach Tom Cassera and his staff. Official roster invitations will be sent out and final administrative actions for team registration will be completed by May 2nd. Schedules for both teams have been posted to the program website and copies are available at the Legion. It will not be long before we are well underway.

On a program note, at the end of June, Alan Rannals will assume the Chairman's position in the program; I will remain involved in the program, just in a less visible role. The transition will be uneventful and entirely transparent. As the Assistant Program Chairman and the Team Manager for the Junior Legion team, Alan has been an enthusiastic supporter of the program, our coaches and players, and the Legion values. He will bring a fresh perspective and vision of the future to build upon and eclipse upon our current successes. I ask that you continue to provide him with the same excellent support and guidance that has been made available to me over the past four seasons.

Just a few reminders of upcoming May-June events:

Our annual baseball kick-off event, the Bob Bellison Red, White, and Blue baseball intersquad game between our Junior and Senior Legion teams, will be held on Armed Forces Day, May 19th at the Damascus High School field. We will have the Legion Color Guard to present the colors, and after the scrimmage, a family-style picnic for everyone to enjoy. Bob has been given a warning order to be prepared to throw out the first pitch! Again, it should be a grand event so please mark your calendars. The inclement weather date is June 9th.

On June 8th at the Damascus High School baseball field, we are hosting the 2nd Annual Auxiliary Night baseball game. The Auxiliary will provide baseball dining fare for purchase and the Senior Legion team will provide the excitement. Someone has to be prepared to throw the opening pitch, so ladies, start warming up. In the event of inclement weather, the date will move to June 22nd. If you are interested in hosting an event at the game, please contact Alan Rannals or me.

Once again, we are so grateful for your support. If you are a booster and have not renewed your membership, there is no better time than the present to do so. If you are interested in becoming a booster, please take a moment and join us. Your support is essential.

2018 POST 171 BASEBALL COMMITTEE: Keith Martin (Chairman), Alan Rannals (Assistant Chairman), Sam Baughman, Bob Bellison, George Bolling, Buzz Burroughs, Frank Carpenter, Brownie Chichester, Will Cole, Kevin Mook, Evelyn Hernandez, Skip Duvall, Bill Green, Bill Hauptman, and Ron Scott.

2018 POST 171 BASEBALL BOOSTER CLUB

Name _____ Phone _____ Email _____
Address _____

_____ **DOUBLE HITTER** (\$50 Donation)
Cook-out – Banquet – Schedule & Game Results

_____ **HOMERUN** (\$100* Donation)
Cook-out – Banquet – Schedule & Game Results
Select 1 Apparel Item From Below

_____ **GRANDSLAM** (\$200*+ Donation)
Cook-out – Banquet – Schedule & Game Results
Select 2 Apparel Items From Below

Apparel Items:

_____ Shirt (Size _____)
Circle Color –
Red/Gray/Navy/White

_____ Sweat Shirt (Size _____)
Circle Color –
Red/Gray/Navy/White

_____ Hat

_____ ***I DO NOT WANT ANY APPAREL ITEMS; PLEASE USE MY ENTIRE DONATION FOR THE POST 171 BASEBALL PROGRAM***

Make checks payable to **Post 171 Baseball** and return to American Legion Post 171 Baseball, ATTN: Keith Martin, PO Box 171, Damascus, MD 20872. Any comments or questions should be directed to Keith Martin at rkmgm@verizon.net or Alan Rannals at rannals@gmail.com.

Americanism Essay Contest

We had our Americanism Essay Contest Winner's Reception on Sunday April 15th. It was wonderful to see all the students read their essays and receive their certificates. Congratulations to our winners! I want to thank our Judges Todd Reiner, Christinia Thomas and Davinity Reiner. This year was a tough competition! Thank you all for continuous support of the Americanism Essay Contest.

God Bless America,

Kelli Cole
Americanism Chairman
Unit Vice President





American Legion Auxiliary, Unit 171
A Newsletter for Members & Friends of Damascus Unit 171

May - June 2018

Greetings American Legion Family:

These past couple of months have been somewhat difficult with a couple of our long-time members, Mildred Gettings and Fran Burlas, passing on to the high command. But, we've still accomplished so much and have so much to look forward to. For starters, Kelli Cole led our Americanism Essay contest this year and received many outstanding essays from which to choose. You'll read in this newsletter issue about this year's contest, but it goes without saying that these young writers are patriots at heart. A big thanks to Americanism Chairperson Kelli Cole for orchestrating the program!

Our Basket Bingo was postponed because of 'fake' snow, and so I will report on that in the next newsletter as well as the scholarship winners for this year. Thank you to Casey Koontz for her efforts with Basket Bingo! And, a big thanks to Cathy Magas for stepping up to take over the scholarship program! You ladies are a big part of what makes this organization so great.

We have several events coming up which you are more than welcome to participate in:

On Sunday, May 27th, the Post will have the annual **Memorial Day Service** beginning at 2:00 PM at the Post and the Auxiliary will serve lunch immediately following.

On Friday, June 8th, we will have '**Auxiliary Night at the Baseball Game**'. This event is in support of our own Post home baseball team. The seniors will play that night at Damascus High School. The game begins at 5:30 PM and we will have dinner combos for sale that evening. We hope to see you there!

On Saturday, June 9th, we will participate in the **Damascus Flea Market** so PLEASE consider donating items for the sale. Please contact Amanda Baughman for more information (240-409-8226 or Axb5801@yahoo.com) and to donate items.

On Saturday, June 23rd, the Post and Auxiliary will have the annual **Installation Dinner** to ring in a new year of leadership – details will follow, but I hope you will join us.

As always, I can never stop saying how proud I am of this group of ladies that give so much of their time and energy. You all are amazing, and I appreciate all that you do for this organization!

May God bless our troops, veterans, and the citizens of this great nation!

Marianne DiSomma

Auxiliary President, Unit 171

E-mail address: marianne62@msn.com

Phone: 301-606-4645



Sons of the American Legion Squadron, 171

A Newsletter for Members & Friends of Damascus Squadron 171

May - June 2018

Greetings from the S.A.L. Squadron,

As the Legion year may be winding down, we certainly are not. We have a lot left to accomplish that will help to carry on our traditions and continue to work to strengthen our squadron as well as our legion family. It will be an exciting next couple of months and we are hoping to see all members be a part of it in some way.

We plan on having two more monthly dinners to finish out the year, one in both May and June. The first dinner in May will be a spaghetti dinner with a special dessert bake-off contest. It will be held on Sunday May 20, 2018 with social hour at 2 PM dinner at 3 PM, and cost is \$8 per person unless you bake a dessert. If you bake a dessert it will only cost \$5 and you will be entered in our dessert contest. In June our dinner will be a cookout. More details will be announced at our May dinner.

At our next meeting in May we will be having elections of officers for the new upcoming year and we would love to see new members, or older members become more active in taking leadership roles and becoming officers. We will also be voting on sponsoring a scholarship again and continuing with this awesome tradition! Please try to attend the May meeting on Monday May 14, 2018 at 7 PM for all these important decisions! Meetings do not last longer than 30 minutes and are a good way to socialize with our membership as well.

We are still trying to finalize details on a possible car show coming up this summer and will be looking to lock down the dates at our next meeting as well.

The last thing I would like to remind and encourage all of our members is to continue helping our Legion family with all of the upcoming events that they are having as well, so that we can strengthen our Legion family. Bingo is every Thursday night until the first week in July and help is always welcome and needed. Also, in May we will need help with the Memorial Day activities beginning with Saturday May 26, 2018 flag placement on veteran's graves at 9 AM, then Sunday May 27, setup around 10 AM for the Memorial Day program. Attending the Memorial Day program is always a moving tribute to those we have lost within the year!

Looking forward to seeing everyone soon,

John Wayne Duvall
S.A.L. 171 Commander



COMING EVENTS
Post, Unit & Squadron 171 Calendar

May 2018

<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Time</u>
3rd	Post Bingo	7:00 PM
7th	Post Executive Committee Meeting	7:00 PM
10th	Post Bingo	7:00 PM
12th	Pancake Breakfast	7:30 AM
13th	Mother's Day	
14th	SAL Member Meeting	7:00 PM
14th	Post & Unit Member Meetings	7:30 PM
17th	Post Bingo	7:00 PM
20th	SAL Spaghetti Dinner	2:00 PM – 4:00 PM
20th	DEC Meeting @ Post 71 in Oakland	1:00 PM
24th	Post Bingo	7:00 PM
27th	Post 171 Memorial Day Program	1:30 PM
28th	Memorial Day	
31st	Post Bingo	7:00 PM

June 2018

<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Time</u>
2nd	Izaak Walton Veterans Day	9:00 AM
2nd	SMD Reception @ SMD Youth Camp	5:00 PM
4th	Post Executive Committee Meeting	7:00 PM
7th	Post Bingo	7:00 PM
9th	Pancake Breakfast	7:30 AM
11th	Pot Luck Dinner	6:00 PM
11th	SAL Member Meeting	7:00 PM
11th	Post & Unit Member Meetings	7:30 PM
14th	Post Bingo	7:00 PM
17th	Father's Day	
18th – 22nd	Boys State-McDaniel College	
20th	MoCo Council Caucus @ Post 171	7:00 PM
21st	Post Bingo	7:00 PM
23rd	Post 171 Installation of Officers	5:00 PM
24th	SMD Caucus @ Post 60 in Laurel	1:00 PM
28th	Post Bingo	7:00 PM

Looking Ahead

Jul 5th Post Baseball Bingo
 10th – 13th Jul 100th Department Convention at Ocean City

P.O. Box 171
Damascus, MD 20872



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<http://www.legionpost171.org> and <https://www.facebook.com/DamascusPost171>

American Legion Post 171 Officers

Commander	Will Cole	(240) 643-7022	Membership	Sam Baughman (PC) (301) 401-6479
1 st Vice Commander	Tony DeShiro (PC)	(843) 855-9353	Historian	Vacant
2 nd Vice Commander	Dave Clemmer	(240) 447-7542	Chaplain	Shawn Gill (661) 312-1113
Judge Advocate	Fred Mitchell	(301) 916-8395	Sgt-at-Arms	Bill Green (301) 253-5420
Adjutant	Kevin Mook (PC)	(240) 668-4033	Executive Comm	Paula Gill
Finance Officer	Ching-Yao Yu	(240) 668-4080		Bob Bellison
Service Officer	Jim Serritella	(301) 253-3971		Bill Raab (PC)
				Sam Baughman (PC)

(PC) => Past Post Commander

Auxiliary, Unit 171 Officers

President	Marianne DiSomma	(301) 606-4645	Membership	Amanda Baughman (240) 409-8226
Vice President	Kelli Cole	(240) 832-7733	Executive Comm	CaseyKoontz
Secretary	Amanda Baughman	(240) 409-8226		Donna Sefcik
Treasurer	Patricia Busche	(301) 391-6752		Barbara Raab
Chaplain	Pat Rice	(301) 253-2266		
Historian	Diane Capel			
Sgt-at-Arms	Virginia Myers			

SAL Squadron, 171 Officers

Commander	John Duvall	Chaplain	D.J. Mook
1 st Vice Commander	Todd Stockslager	Sgt-at-Arms	Tyler Baughman
2 nd Vice Commander	Brosh Boshier	Historian	D.J. Mook
Adjutant	Adam Young	Post Liaison	Paula Gill
Finance Officer	Adam Young		

Newsletter Editor: Kevin Mook, (240) 668-4033 or Newsletter@legionpost171.org