



THE DAMASCUS VETERAN

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

JULY - AUGUST 2014

THE COMMANDER'S MESSAGE

What a wonderful Memorial Day Service we had! The weather cooperated, the Browningsville Band provided their usual outstanding music, the Rockville Honor Guard and Firing Squad was most professional, the Montgomery County Police bagpiper played an emotional rendition of Amazing Grace, and the Post 171 Color Guard displayed their usual professionalism. Special thanks to Lyn Mook for the flower arrangement, the Boy Scouts for chair set up and handing out water, Ed Williams for the sound system, and Unit 171 for an enjoyable lunch.



SAL Squadron 171 conducted a Flag Retirement Ceremony at the Post on Jun 14th, which was also Flag Day. The ceremony was well done, very professional, and was followed by a most welcome spaghetti dinner. Well Done SAL Commander John Wayne Duvall!

Two upcoming projects need to be mentioned here. First, we are working with Home Depot to expand and completely renovate the upstairs kitchen, replace needed ceiling tiles throughout the building, install flooring and cabinets in both kitchens, install new carpet in the downstairs office, upgrade some appliances, install networked smoke detectors, and completely repaint both upstairs and downstairs. We may not get Home Depot to donate everything we ask for, but we will certainly ask for everything! This will require what we Navy types call an "all hands evolution." Second, we are working with Comcast to bring cable to our building which will provide television, telephone and Wi-Fi services in one bundle. We do not currently have Wi-Fi, so this is a new service that we can offer to prospective renters. Welcome to the 21st century!

So where did the past year go? It seems like such a short time ago that you elected me as Post Commander, and after a thoroughly enjoyable year, it is time for new leadership. My wife Connie and I would like to thank every member of the Post, SAL Squadron, and Unit 171 for their support. We could not have asked for a better group of people to be associated with. Please join me in welcoming our new Post Commander Kevin Mook, and support him as you did me.

God Bless our Troops and God Bless America
Anthony M. (Tony) DeShiro, Past Commander

Fellow Comrades: There was quite a large opposition but my campaign efforts really must have paid off. As such, it is an honor to be selected as your next Post Commander. I'm up to the challenge and with the

support and assistance of Past Commanders, Post Officers, the Executive Committee, Committee Chairmen, and all of you, my fellow comrades, I will do whatever I can to live up to your expectations.

While I've only been involved in Post 171 for a little more than two years, I've found that it operates like a well-oiled machine. As a young Sailor I was always told not to fix something that isn't broken. I realize there are some pieces that may need mending, but overall the operations are pretty fluid. I plan to continue the excellent programs that the Post supports and I'd like to see us do more for the membership. I would like to conduct a couple of events to ensure the membership knows they are not forgotten.

We contribute monetarily to events and organizations, yet lack that man-on-the-street opportunity to recruit new members. For example, by simply having a booth at the Izaak Walton Veteran appreciation event in June, we made contact with individuals in the community. We even gained a new member even without a sales pitch. I would like us to get involved in activities where we are seen and not just heard from afar. If you have ideas that we can do to bolster our visibility, please let me know.

I know that volunteerism is difficult, but we seem to always rely on the same core group of people for our activities. While I'll agree they have a wealth of knowledge and history it really needs to be passed onto the rest of the membership. I call on all members to help out in activities, participate in a committee and maybe even step into a chairmanship. Help me, help us be successful.

I will always make decisions based on the best interest of the American Legion, and Post 171. While they may not always be the most popular, I ask for you to support me. I look forward to working with all of you during the coming year, and I'm always willing to hear your suggestions. You can always send me an email at Commander@legionpost171.org or call my cell phone (301) 204-9722.

For God and Country
Kevin M. Mook, Commander

2014 Membership - *Leaving* on a high note, goal reached - 101%!

It is with mixed emotion that I write my FINAL membership newsletter article. I am very pleased to announce that we reached our Department goal and ended the 2014 membership year with 406 members, 4 more than last year and staying a 400+ Post for the fifth year in a row! Considering that we had 15 members that did not renew and over a dozen members who transferred to Post Everlasting this is quite an accomplishment! Our all-time high to beat remains 411. Thanks to everyone that recruited at least one member and to the three amigos (Sam, Bill and Willie) that each recruited 3 or more new members!

After 15 years as Membership Chairman it is time to hand the membership baton over to someone else. The *best* part of the job was getting to meet new members and welcome them to the Post! The *worst* part was continually chasing down members to pay their dues – making calls, sending letters, stuffing envelopes and putting on stamps! However, it was all *worth it* and joining the American Legion and Post 171 is one of the *best* decisions of my life! I will continue to be an active member and remain on the membership committee while Ernie Screen, the incoming 1st Vice Commander, assumes the role of Membership Chairman. The 2015 membership year starts July 1st. Please help Ernie and the Post by sending in your 2015 dues (\$25) *as soon as renewal notice hits your mailbox* next month! If you don't want to send a check you can renew on-line at www.legion.org/renew. This site allows you print out a temporary membership card. You can also renew at the Department of MD website - <http://www.mdlegion.org>. Best wishes for the summer. It has been a good run!

For God and Country - Keith Midberry, Honorary Life Member
kmidberry@yahoo.com / (301) 916-7929

BASEBALL REPORT

By: Chairman Bob Bellison



The Post 171 Baseball Sr. Team got out of the box in outstanding fashion. Their record at this time is 9 & 2 overall and 8 & 1 in the league. Since Post 104 does not have a team this year the league is comprised of 6 teams. Each team will face the others four times with a double-elimination play-off at the end of the season. The winner advances to the State Tournament which again will be hosted by Post 13 in Cumberland.

Head Coach Jimmy Stone and his staff have done an outstanding job meshing players from 5 different high schools. In addition to our 3 county high schools we have players from Good Counsel and Landon. The offense is being led by previous players Danny Johnson, Zack Thompson, Tyler Pickrel, and new comers Cameron Frazier and Joe Locupone. Zack and newcomers Eric Janss and Casey Paholsky are handling most of the pitching chores and are doing very well.

The annual cook-out with the players, parents, coaches, boosters and legion members was held Sunday after the game with Post 295. Everyone enjoyed the food and the players, coaches and parents were very appreciative. Several of the players expressed their appreciation to the veterans for their service. A special thanks to "Grill Master" Bill Farrell for doing those delicious burgers & hot dogs. Bill celebrated his 90th birthday last week. Way to go Bill for another "Grand Slam." Thanks to everyone who pitched in to help out and to all those who attended.

We're very proud of former Post 171 player Nik Howard (2011), who is having a great College World Series with UVA. in Omaha. Last game he came in and threw 5 scoreless innings. Nik was drafted 19th in the 1st round of the Major League Draft by the Cincinnati Reds and has already been offered a lucrative contract.

Jr. Coach Frank Wodoslawsky reports that his team opened with a 8-7 win over Woodsboro. The game at Grove Stadium vs. Frederick Post 11 ended in a 6-6 tie. Then the team split a double header with Cecil by losing 0-1 the 1st game and then coming back to win the 2nd game 7-4. Since then it's been a rough road. However, he's pleased that the younger players (five 8th graders) are getting significant experience and should be great returning players for the team next year.

This has been another banner year for the Booster Club. Every year keeps topping the previous year. Thanks to everyone for your continued support of Post 171 Baseball.

*Mark Your Calendar: Thursday July 3rd 7:00 *BASEBALL BINGO*. All proceeds go to Post 171 Baseball.

Baseball Committee: Sam Baughman, Buzz Burroughs, Ron Scott, Bill Hauptman, George Bolling, Bill Green, Skip Duvall, Brownie Chichester, Bob Ray, Frank Carpenter, Keith Martin, and Chairman; Bob Bellison.

Keep up-to-date: **Sr. Team** www.leaguelineup.com/post171baseball
Jr. Team www.eteamz.com/potomacjrlegion

POST AND S.A.L. SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS FOR 2014

The Post 171 and S.A.L. 171 Scholarship awards for 2014 were announced at the Post's June membership meeting. Three of the six winners were present and introduced at the Unit's Pot Luck Dinner that preceded the meeting. A brief summary of the scholarship winner's accomplishments was read so all meeting attendees could appreciate how deserving our winners are.

The following are the winners of scholarships in 2014: Brigid Burroughs (Liberty HS, MO) won the George Richon Memorial Scholarship, Ian Doody (Damascus HS, MD) won the SAL scholarship, Caitlin Augerson (Damascus HS, MD), Julia Doody (twin sister of Ian, Damascus HS, MD), Sarah Moore (Midlothian HS, TX), and Kaelyn O'Neill (Clarksburg HS, MD) all won a Post scholarship.

Thanks for everyone's efforts in the Post to enable us to give out these awards. It's your hard work throughout the year that earns the money that the Post provides for these scholarships.

Lou Popowsky, Chairman

Damascus Legion Announces Boys State Selectees

By: Chairman Roger Pisha,

Damascus American Legion Post 171 announced recently that thirteen boys, all juniors from local high schools, have been selected to attend Maryland Boys State this summer at McDaniel College in Westminster. Pictured in the front row left to right are Eric Kaufmann, Good Counsel; Nelson Madera, Damascus; Connor Mattus, Damascus; Justin Nelson, Damascus; Matt Giroux, Damascus; Kevin Hansen, Damascus; and Jacob Migdall, Poolesville. In the back row are Ivan King, Damascus; Sam Arizman, Damascus; Jacob Mog, Damascus; Greg Parker, Northwest; Braxton Stone, Damascus; and Donnie Lynch, Damascus. The Boys State program has for many years provided education about how governments function from the local to the national level. About 300 boys across Maryland will attend, and the two elected will represent the State at Boys Nation in Washington, DC in August.



Post 171 Veterans - A Continuing Series

Glenn Toms

Glenn Toms was born on November 19, 1925 in Rouzerville, PA, grew up in Waynesboro, PA, where he



lived until he joined the Navy in 1943, then moved to Germantown, MD in 1953, where he has lived ever since. He has been a dedicated member of Damascus American Legion Post 171 since 1979, a member of VFW Post 9412 in Gaithersburg, MD, and a member of the Masonic Lodge in Smithsburg, MD.



Glenn served in the U. S. Navy, volunteering for service in 1943 at 17 years of age, serving a total of 9 years and 5 months. During WWII he served in the Asiatic Pacific, Russell Island, and Admiralty Islands (Kwajalein, Roi Namur Marshall Islands). After the war was over Glenn was stationed in Phoenix, AZ storing airplanes in the desert until he was discharged in April 1946 with the rank of Aviation Electric's Mate First Class. As he couldn't find work upon returning home, he reenlisted in the U.S. Navy, serving two more years on active duty, and in 1948 went into the reserves. He was recalled to active duty in 1951 for the Korean War, and was assigned to Norfolk, VA where he spent two years as an Electronics Inspector. Glenn's awards include the American Area Campaign Medal with 2 stars, World War II Victory Medal, Asiatic Pacific Area Campaign Medal, and the Good Conduct Medal.

Upon enlisting in 1943, Glenn was sent to boot camp at Great Lakes, IL. After boot camp he was assigned to a blimp squadron at Naval Air Station Moffet Field CA, where their mission was to fly up and down the California coast looking for Japanese submarines. Glenn's drill instructor was a big Indian Chief Petty Officer. He treated all the sailors just entering the service well. And the person Glenn most admired was Chief Gillis. He was in charge of the maintenance group. When the guys went to town "I had to drive because I was the only one who had a driver's license; so I couldn't do any drinking. I just had to sit and wait on them."

At this time the U.S. was building up for the invasion of the Philippine Islands, and Glenn was transferred to a Combat Air Squadron at Point Mugu, CA, where he trained with Marines for duty in the South Pacific. Glenn never got to the Philippines because the 7th Calvary invaded the Admiralty Islands. After pounding the island from Navy cruisers and destroyers, B24's and B25's, they went ashore, with the 7th Calvary clearing the way. During the battle 4,500 Japanese were killed, but only 3,552 were buried. Of the Japanese survivors, 450 fled into the jungle. With no food or supplies, they turned to cannibalism.

Glenn flew as a rear gunner on an SBD Dive Bomber many times. "If you want a thrill you should try this out!" Glenn said: "I always wondered why a pilot would come out to get into his plane and ask who worked on his plane. I quickly found out. I remember an Ensign came out to his plane one day and asked me if I was the one that worked on his plane. I said, yes it was me. He told me to check out a parachute, and said that I was going along on the in-flight check out. I guess that was one way to be sure that your plane was worked on properly. During the flight the pilot rolled the plane over and over, and you could hear loose nuts and bolts rattling around, because somebody dropped them and never picked them up. Then he went into his dive, and that is one scary thing because I'm sitting in the back with no controls; all I can do is hang on for dear life and bear with the G-forces."

"Servicing the planes was very dangerous. We were all young and inexperienced. The chief came out with a head of lettuce and said: "I want to show you guys something to make sure you don't get too close to the plane when the engines are running." He threw the head of lettuce into the propeller and we had instant salad.

Lesson learned! Another serious danger was servicing torpedo planes because we had to crawl up inside the bomb bay doors to service the plane while the plane was running. I was always scared that someone would come along and close the doors while I was up inside. We were supposed to put tags on the planes that someone was working inside, but nobody bothered to use them. These maintenance guys were wild, they'd take the planes and taxi them all over the place. As I said, we were just a bunch of young kids." One good thing is that I drew flight pay, even though I didn't actually fly the plane. I rode in all kinds of planes, including Sea Planes and the Dauntless Dive Bomber.

On November 10, 1944, while stationed in the Admiralties on the island of Pityilu, Glenn was checking out an F4U Corsair plane, and had just turned off the engine when he heard a tremendously loud boom. In Glenn's words: "I thought my plane had blown up. I felt the ground tremble, and saw the smoke in the harbor. I later learned that the ammunition ship USS Hood had blown up. We didn't know if a Japanese submarine torpedoed it or the men handling ammunition were careless. We never did find out, although Tokyo Rose came on the air and claimed that a Japanese midget submarine destroyed the ship." The largest remaining piece of the hull found measured no bigger than 16 by 10 feet. No other remains of the ship were found except fragments of metal which had struck other ships in the harbor, and a few tattered pages of a signal notebook found floating in the water several hundred yards away. Of the 350 men aboard, and of those men in small boats alongside handling ammunition, no human remains were ever recovered. The only survivors from the ship's crew were a junior officer and five enlisted men who had left the ship a short time before the explosion. Two of the crew were being transferred to the base brig for trial by court martial, and the remainder of the party were picking up mail at the base post office. Glenn's personal opinion is that the explosion was caused by careless handling of the munitions. He was talking to some of the guys who had been over to the ship earlier to bring ammo to the other ships, and they said those guys on the Hood treated the ammo like you wouldn't believe. They let the ammo roll down the planking, and Glenn thinks that when some of the ammo rolled down the planking, it fell off and it created a spark.

Glenn did some island hopping; he was shipped off to the island of Eniwetok, and then to the Island of Kwajalein atoll. A lot of sailors got killed at Kwajalein because they went in with the Marines. The Marines needed more people so the sailors went with them. Of course, the See Bees went in ahead of everybody. Glenn was checking out an F6F Hellcat aircraft when a shipmate came out of the maintenance hut waving his hands and telling him to cut the engine. When he got out of the cockpit and hit the ground, he told Glenn that the war was over and they were going home. Glenn says: "I stayed there for two more months because the married men were the first to go home."

"We rode the merchant ship *Howell Lines* to Russell Island, and when we arrived there were so many guys sitting around with nothing to do that they assigned a bunch of us to go around the island picking up coconuts; that was our job! We only stayed there for a month, long enough to pick up a bunch of coconuts, then they brought in an old LST (troop landing ship) which took us to the Admiralty Islands."

The ride back to the states was on a converted Dutch liner. After two days the ship broke down, and they drifted around in the ocean until a tugboat showed up to tow them to Pearl Harbor. They stayed there for a week and got underway, only to break down again. So another tug showed up, and this time they got towed all the way to California. The conditions on the Dutch ship were terrible. They ran out of chow; lunch was a candy bar and a coke. They rationed toilet paper – 2 sheets per day! The sailors would gamble and fight all day long. It took thirty-three days to reach California.

For the two years prior to the start of the Korean War, Glenn was working at Fairchild aircraft in Hagerstown, MD. He was then called up from the reserves. His wife was pregnant at the time, so he got a deferment for 6 months. After the deferment he was called up right away.

"During the Korean War I was at Norfolk, VA and my job was to check out the F9F airplane which was the first jet they brought into combat. My job was to set the planes up and be sure they were in top flight

condition. After the Korean War I got out and came back to work for Fairchild in Hagerstown, but I got laid off shortly after so I got in the car and went down to DC to look for a job. I saw that Emerson Research was hiring, and got a job working on the control systems for the Hound Dog missile they were making. I was there for two years before I realized that there was no retirement plan available. I met up with some friends who said they could get me a job at David Taylor Model Basin in Bethesda, MD. The basin has a water tunnel about 1/3 mile long where they test submarine and ship models. I was hired to work on submarines. Imagine that, going from aircraft to submarines. Our job was to put strain gauges on ships to measure and record the stresses. I retired there, which worked out pretty good because working for the Navy Department, all my Navy time counted towards retirement.”

Glenn’s happiest moment was when he saw the Golden Gate Bridge in California; and he knew he was home free. Although he was treated well after the war, coming home was a difficult adjustment because there was no work to be found. His most vivid memory of the war is “wondering how we did the things we did at seventeen, and here we are today. The good Lord had to be with me”. I guess we all have to ask ourselves how these men and women of the Greatest Generation did the things they did at seventeen, or eighteen, or whatever age they were during the war. We can only say “Thank You” that they did what they had to do.

Anthony (Tony) M. De Shiro

BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA TROOP 1397

Boy Scouts of America Troop 1397, chartered by the Damascus American Legion Post 171, started meeting in the fall of 1997 with five scouts. As of April 2014, the troop has fifty scouts. Over the years, Troop 1397 has produced 23 Eagle Scouts. Four scouts from Troop 1397 have gone on to serve in the U.S. Military:

- Captain Peter Estridge, US Marine Corps, Commissioned May 2009 (Two tours in Afghanistan-Kandahar Province with 3rd Battalion/4th Marines and Helmand Province with 7th Regiment. Currently stationed in San Diego, CA)
- Kenny Baker, US Navy, Medic Corpsman HN-3, 2013 (Currently stationed at Jacksonville Naval Hospital)
- Sam Weaver, US Naval Academy, Midshipman (Ocean Engineering) – Commission date 2017
- Greg Dennie, US Air Force, Planning to enter boot camp Jan 2015

Other Troop 1397 Scouts have gone on to study in fields such as engineering (mechanical, aerospace, and nuclear), anthropology, computer science, business, wildlife management, criminology, and environmental studies.

Scouts from Troop 1397 and their families support the American Legion’s Memorial Day Service each year by raising the American flag, setting up chairs, providing canopies for shade and distributing water to the audience as needed, They provide services for flag retirement ceremonies, Wounded Warrior recognition at the American Legion, and repainted the ceremonial World War II guns displayed in front of the American Legion building.

Examples of Eagle Scout projects performed by Troop 1397 include supporting the Damascus Recreational Center by building tent pads, an outdoor stage, and landscaping their parking lot, building permanent wooden carnival games for Mother Seton Church, building multiple trails and a bridge at Little Bennett Regional Park, providing landscaping and parking lot improvements at Damascus United Methodist Church, building a rainwater catchment system for the American Chestnut Foundation, repairing the American Legion parking lot fence, building a zoo trail, planting food sources for endangered wildlife, protecting orchids, and planting trees to decrease soil erosion.

The troop supports flag ceremonies for community events such as the Public Safety Awards Breakfast, American Cancer Society, Relay for Life, and the Montgomery Country Agricultural Fair. Over the years, the troop has provided thousands of hours in support of community service projects such as Damascus clean-up days, Pumpkin Carving with the residents at Asbury Methodist House, Montgomery County week Warrior program, Damascus Days, food collection and sorting for Damascus Help and Manna Food Center, the Father's Day Remembrance ceremony at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Wall.

Bill Raab

Thank You from the Cemetery Chairman –

Once again, the Damascus American Legion paid their respects to our fellow veterans who have left our ranks. I would like to thank all the members of the Post, SAL, Unit and volunteers who assisted this year in placing flags on 579 graves of our veterans in 20 local cemeteries for Memorial Day. Your assistance makes this program possible each year. I would especially, like to thank two special families – the Duvall and Moxley families – who have taken on two of these 20 cemeteries as a family project. Thanks again for all your help and support.

John Seipp



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

JULY - AUGUST 2014

This newsletter finds Unit 171's year 2013-2014 finally reaching goal. Thank you to all who so diligently sent me your dues to make this happen. Now we are starting all over for the 2014-2015 year. The senior dues remain \$20 per member but the junior dues have increased to \$4.25 per junior member. Please make your check payable to Damascus Unit 171 and mail to me at 19421 Gardner Place, Germantown, MD 20876-1709. It would be great to take a large quantity of dues renewals to the convention at Ocean City, Maryland in July. I will be leaving for Ocean City on July 12th, hurry, don't delay, send your check today. I will receive the new cards at convention for those who have sent their checks in

The Unit, SAL and Post presented this year's scholarship recipients at the June Pot-Luck dinner. The Unit General Scholarships went to Kaelyn O'Neill (Clarksburg High School) and Brigid Burroughs (Liberty High School), the Catherine Pearce General Scholarship was received by Timothy Spencer (Damascus High School) and the recipient of the Past President's Medical Scholarship was Danielle Kaufman (Frederick Com. College). Danielle just completed her first year at FCC School of Nursing. To clarify the medical scholarship; a student is eligible to apply/win for up to four years as long as the student continues academically in study. The student must reapply each year.

Our Unit Chaplain continues reaching out to those on the sick call list. Judy has done a wonderful job keeping up with sending cards, remembrances, visiting and calling our members who are not feeling well. Lynn Burdette is now at Homewood after a recent fall and Rena Harrington has been moved to Lorian. Mary Robinson spent a few days at Montgomery General but is now home and was able to attend the last pancake breakfast as well as the flag retirement on Saturday evening. A contribution was sent to St. Peter's building

fund in memory of Anthony Branzell, husband of our Gold Star Mother, Dorothy Branzell. Please remember these families in prayer.

We are starting a new administrative year and with that we need to work together in order to complete our individual programs and those required by the department. We need to have more members help with the Pocket Flag Project. We also need to have a fundraiser this year. This will be discussed at the executive meeting in August. Unit 171 will work the Bingo Snack Bar the first, third and fifth Thursday's of the month, and more interest is needed in holding committee chairman duties. These are just a few issues that need to be handled in order for the Unit to succeed. Many thanks to all who have worked these tasks for several years.

I look forward to working with everyone this coming year and I am always open for suggestions.

Best wishes for a happy summer vacation and above all enjoy a fun day on July 4, 2014.

God Bless America, God bless you, and God bless our troops and their families wherever they may be.

Yours in service,
Cindy Ray

POCKET FLAG PROJECT
Liz Popowsky, Chairman

During April/May we mailed 780 pocket flags to Post member Chris Midberry's paratrooper battalion in Afghanistan. My heartfelt thanks go to one very special, dedicated flag folder who helped make this happen. On Flag Day, June 14, the Frederick News-Post published an article about the Unit's Pocket Flag Project activities. As a result, we have received new interest from both within and outside the Unit membership about getting involved in the project. Additional flags have been ordered, with the aim of returning to a BWI deployment in late July. The Unit remains available to send pocket flags to deployed troops made known to us. Please contact me with any information at rayliz53@yahoo.com.

Remember to thank every Veteran you see for their service.



Sons of the American Legion Squadron, 171

A Newsletter for Members & Friends of Damascus Squadron 171

JULY – AUGUST 2013

Greetings Legion Family,

The legion year has come to an end with a new year upon us. I would like to take this opportunity to reflect on this past year, and even though we had a few down spots I would like to focus on the positives and the bright future that awaits all of us.

This past year we had one member transfer to squadron everlasting, and we also unfortunately had to give up our biggest money fundraiser, the monthly kitchen bingos as we did not have enough help to keep it running every other week. Hopefully as we continue to grow in membership and once again take on that challenge. We also need to work on supporting all of the many legion events, especially programs such as Memorial Day which was not attended very well by our squadron and did not show the true reflection of our love and support for our Legion family.

We have many positive things to build on, and can be proud of what we accomplished this year. For the second year in a row we awarded a \$1,500.00 college scholarship. We also sponsored our first ever Boys State student. We also performed our second annual flag retirement program, and hopefully in future years we will be continuing this event. This year we also brought in 9 new members, due in large part to the recruiting efforts of Past Post Commander Sam Baughman who has been one of our most loyal supporters. Thanks Sam, we couldn't do this without you!!!

In closing, I would like to thank all of our Post, Unit and Squadron members who have been supportive of us during this past year, and would like to thank all of my officers, 1st Vice Tony Koontz (incoming commander), 2nd Vice Josh Shaffer, Sgt-at-Arms George Shaffer, Chaplain Drew Shaffer, Adjutant/Finance Adam Young, and Historian Donald J. Mook (D.J.). A special thanks to D.J. who exemplified what an SAL member is all about. D.J. attended every meeting this year, contributed to the kitchen help and still continues to contribute to it as well as has attended every function that we had and represented our squadron at the Post's Memorial Day program.

I hope we can continue to get the support of all of our members this coming year for our new Commander, Tony Koontz who will once again lead us to a stronger tradition of excellence. Please send all of your contact info to Tony, so he will be able to pass on any Legion information.

Please continue to pray for our veterans, past present and future.
John Wayne Duvall, Past Commander

I would like to take this opportunity to thank John Wayne for his outstanding leadership and the great job he did this year. This coming year I know I have some very big shoes to fill, but will do my very best. I have a great group of officers and squadron members. Together with the Legion and Auxiliary members working as one we will work hard to make this year as successful as last year. If memory serves me correctly it was on June 21, 2004 that we held the installation of offices and the signing of the charter for Damascus Sons of the American Legion. Hard to believe it's been 9 years.

Thanks
Tony Koontz, Commander

Post Commander's Note: If you have email capability and are not on my Legion electronic distribution list, please send your **telephone number and email address to me at commander@legionpost171.org** If you have moved and changed your address, please call the Post, 301-253-0769, and leave a message with your new address. The Post Office will not forward bulk mail, and we have to pay \$.46 for each returned Newsletter to get them back and find out which addresses are no longer valid.



COMING EVENTS
Post, Unit & Squadron 171 Calendar

Post Meetings

2nd Monday of the month, 7:30pm

Unit Meetings

2nd Monday of the month, 7:30pm

Squadron Meetings

2nd Monday of the month, 7:00pm

July 2014

<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>	
3 rd	Baseball Bingo	7:00 PM
4 th	Independence Day	
11 th	Celebrate Damascus Days Parade	7:00 PM
	Fireworks after the Parade	
12 th	Community Flea Market	10:00 AM – 4:00 PM
	Fire Dept. Activities Bldg. and Grounds	
14 th - 18 th	Maryland American Legion Convention in Ocean City	

August 2014

<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>	
4 th	Post Ex. Board Mtg.	7:00 PM
11 th	SAL Member Meeting	7:00 PM
11 th	Post Member, Unit Ex. Board Meeting	7:30 PM

Looking Ahead

Sept 1 st	Labor Day	
Sept 4 th	Bingo starts	7:00 PM
Sept 13 th	Pancake Breakfast	7:30 AM



Unit Scholarship Winners
Danielle Kaufman, Timmy Spencer



Post Scholarship Winners
Ian Doody, Caitlin Augerson, Julia Doody



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Memorial Day Honor Guard

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

American Legion Post 171

2013– 2014 Officers

Commander	Kevin Mook	301-204-9722	Historian	Ed Williams	301 865-3474
1 st V. Cmdr.	Ernie Screen	301 253-3560	Chaplain	Shawn Gill	301 253-6239
2 nd V. Cmdr.	Paula Gill	661-618-7638	Sgt-at-Arms	Bill Green	301 253-5420
Judge Advocate	Dean Elliott	240 793-6868	Ex. Comm.:	Sam Baughman	301 831-3216
Adjutant	Bernie Moxley	301 253-6323		Bob Bellison	301 253-2728
Treasurer	Ching-Yao Yu	240 668-4080		Ronald Scott	301 831-7974
Serv. Officer	Jim Serritella	301 253-3971		Scott Earhardt	240 498-6771

Auxiliary, Unit 171

2012 – 2013 Officers

President	Cynthia Ray	301 972-1978	Color Bearers:	Betty Nicholson	301 865-6138
V. President	Mary Beth Talamo	301-253-4457		Delores Neal	301 253-4015
Secretary	Rosalyn Bowman	301-253-4473	Exec. Comm.:	Mary Bolling	301 898-7119
Treasurer	Patricia Busche	301 467-1321		Jennifer Shaffer	301 829-8487
Chaplain	Judy Moore	301 829-1944		Betty Peck	301 865-1911
Historian	Marianne DiSomma	301 606-4645			
Sgt-at-Arms	June Toms	301 540-5829			

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2012 – 2013 Officers

Commander	Tony Koontz	240 439-9501	Chaplain	Brosh Boshier	240 439-9501
1 st V. Cmdr.	George Shaffer	240-439-9501	Sgt-at-Arms	DJ Mook	301 204-9722
2 nd V. Cmdr.	Josh Shaffer	301 412-3443	Historian	DJ Mook	301 204-9722
Adjutant	Adam Young	240 422-1765	Post Liaison	George Bolling	301 980-8917
Finance	John Duvall	301 787-4480			

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