



THE DAMASCUS VETERAN

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

November – December 2018

THE COMMANDER'S CORNER

Fellow Comrades:

It's been a very wet two months, wettest on record. But despite the rain Post 171 has been quite busy. Your executive committee has been busy with your business. Bingo is back with full steam ahead. Our opening night we had 111 players. We had a very successful Flag Retirement ceremony on September 11th and the annual flag raising event at Baker Middle school, but that was a bit on the rainy side to. Later that week Kevin Mook, Will Trotter and myself attended a memorable POW/MIA event at a Southern District venue near Marlboro, Maryland. The SAL held a memorable crab feast last month with great service from a new vendor.



Upcoming events at the Post is our annual Oyster Roast on November 17th starting at 5 PM. The entertainment for the evening will be "City Slicker", a combination of country and rock and roll. Please get your tickets now, \$35 in advance or \$40 at the door. Looking forward to seeing as many of you as possible for a good night out.

Membership is our highest priority, and as such request that you renew your membership as soon as possible. This can be done quickly and painlessly by going to www.Legion.org and click on the "Renew" tab. All you need is your membership number and credit card number. This is the most advantageous way to accomplish this, we get all our renewal information back on a weekly basis. Please look below for an article on recruiting new members. We have several new individual members but there is always room, and a warm welcome for all who come in the door.

We need help selling tickets for the Oyster Roast. You can pick them up in the office. Sign for as many as you want and leave a note in the logbook with the ticket numbers

Please note the article on Veterans Day Flag raisings events at local elementary and middle schools, your support is needed and will make these events successful for the Post.

For God and Country

David F. Clemmer
Post Commander



American Legion Auxiliary, Unit 171

Greetings to All!

What an exciting September we've had with the flag retirement ceremony, the flag raising ceremony at Baker Middle School, and a Pocket Flag Folding event at a local business, Aramark. Thanks to all the ladies who came out to support each of these events with special thanks to Amanda Baughman, Kelli Cole, and Rozanne Tedder for their support of the flat retirement ceremony, and Diane Capel, Rozanne Tedder, and Donna Sefcik for their support of the Pocket Flag Folding event. You ladies are amazing!

During the month of November, we will have an on-line fundraiser using Scentsy products. Scentsy sells wickless candles and scented fragrance wax for electric candle warmers and scented natural oils and diffusers. The Scentsy representative is donating 100% of her commission to us for each sale so this is a great opportunity for us to raise some money for our causes. Please keep your eyes open for an invitation to join the party but feel free to check out the Facebook page that was created on our behalf:

[https://www.facebook.com/search/top/?q=fundraiser-](https://www.facebook.com/search/top/?q=fundraiser-american%20legion%20ladies%20auxiliary%20unit%20171%20damascus)

[american%20legion%20ladies%20auxiliary%20unit%20171%20damascus](https://www.facebook.com/search/top/?q=fundraiser-american%20legion%20ladies%20auxiliary%20unit%20171%20damascus)

If you see something you would like to order and have difficulty putting the order through on line, please let me know.

As a reminder, we are now accepting membership dues for the 2019 calendar year:

1. Mail your dues to the membership chair- Amanda Baughman, PO Box 171 Damascus, MD 20872
2. Renew online at www.alaforveterans.org. Create a "Members Only" account and then click "Renew". Renewing online takes only a few minutes.

If you have any membership questions, please contact Amanda at axb5801@yahoo.com or 240-409-8226.

Here are the calendar events coming up – please note that our unit meeting is on Tuesday, 11/13 instead of Monday 11/12 in observance of Veteran's Day:

November

- 1 – Thursday, Bingo – Snack Bar
- 11 – Sunday, Veteran's Day, Auxiliary to host luncheon
- 13 – Tuesday, 7:30 Unit Meeting
- 15 – Thursday, Bingo – Snack Bar
- 17 – Saturday, Oyster Roast – 6:00 PM

December

- 6 – Thursday, Bingo – Snack Bar
- 10 – Monday, 6:00 PM Pot Luck Dinner and Dessert Auction /7:30 Unit Meeting
- 20 – Thursday, Bingo – Snack Bar
- 16 – Sunday, Baseball Awards Banquet – Fair Play Trophy

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

Marianne DiSomma



Donna Sefcik (seated in the blue) and Rozanne Tedder (standing in red) led a team of Aramark employees in folding pocket flags.

Sons of the American Legion, Squadron 171



Greetings from the SAL Squadron,

I hope everyone is enjoying this Fall crisp air. I would like to take this opportunity to remind everyone that membership cards are in, and our goal is to achieve 100% membership for the fourth year in a row, so please get your dues in. I would like to encourage any members with ideas for the upcoming Legion Year to bring them up at our next meeting, any input is greatly appreciated.

Our First Annual Crab Feast went without a hitch on October 13th. I would like to thank everyone who attended and supported the SAL. We had approximately 90 people who bought tickets and made donations. Looking forward to our next one. This was an amazing fundraiser and we had a lot of our community show up for great comradery. A special thanks to my better half Amanda Baughman, for her hard work and dedication. Without her this would have not have gone so smoothly.

Our next meeting will be held on Tuesday, November 13th at 7:00pm. Due to the holiday the meeting has been moved to Tuesday.

Todd Stockslager
SAL 171 Commander



THE POST 171 PATRIOTS BASEBALL PROGRAM UPDATE

With the Post 171 American Legion Baseball season concluded, our off-season efforts to prepare for a 2019 season are underway. Our most important effort is the identification of a new head coach to take over the reins of our program. We are casting a wide net and any and all recommendations are welcome. If anyone knows of someone that would be a good candidate, please forward their information to one of the committee members or send them our way.

My personal mission for this off season is to reach out to the baseball programs that have an impact on our program. From the youth programs that feed into our program, the high school programs that we supplement, and the local colleges that are recipients of Legion players, I hope to strengthen our ties and find ways for all of our programs to complement each other to the benefit of the young men that come through our program. There is a current state level effort to begin a 15U Legion League to capture players at a younger age before they become committed to other programs in the area. We are definitely fighting an uphill battle against the plethora of baseball programs in the area, but I believe that we can provide a program that allows young baseball players to thrive in a patriotic and competitive environment.

Of course, we still need to recognize our dedicated players, coaches, families, and our baseball boosters. The 2018 Baseball Banquet is scheduled for the evening of Sunday, December 16th. The event will begin at 5pm and should be a fun filled evening and a chance to recognize all the players, volunteers and boosters that make our program possible. We look forward to seeing everyone and hope that you can attend and support the program.

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

2018 POST 171 BASEBALL BOOSTERS: Grand Slam - George & Mary Bolling, Bill & Cindy McMinn, Bill Dunn, Bob & Ruby Bellison, Brownie & Ginny Chichester, Buzz Burroughs, Dee Dee Myers, Ernest Clifford, Gordon and Patricia Hinkle, John Walter, Ray Mullican, Roland & Judith Hockenbery; Home Run - Mark & Betty Jeffers, GK & PJ Johnson, George & Cathy Magas, Kevin Mook, Donald & Betty Nicholson, Patrick & Julie Murphy, Skip Duvall, William Hauptman, Ann B. Gray, Judy Moore, Pat Rice, Jim Serritella, Bob Mullinix & Mary Lou Leishear, and Tony DeShiro; and Double Hitter - Robert Gladhill, Madalean Darby, Jack & Mary Beth Talamo, Sam Baughman, and Harry & June Pearce

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: Alan Rannals, PO Box 171, Damascus, MD 20872. Any comments or questions should be directed to Alan Rannals at rannals@gmail.com.

Post 171 Oratorical Contest

If it's November that must mean it's also time for the annual American Legion Oratorical Contest!

The Post 171 contest is open to all area home-schooled students as well as students of Damascus, Clarksburg, and Sherwood High Schools. The winner of the Post 171 will be awarded a scholarship check of \$500 with \$250 for second-place and \$150 for a third-place finish.

The winner of the Post 171 contest will compete at additional American Legion contest levels, culminating at the National Contest in April with a chance to win a total of \$23,000 in scholarship money. Registration for the Post 171 contest needs to be completed by Friday, December 21st, 2018.

The Post 171 contest will be held at 10 AM on Saturday, January 19th, 2018 at Post 171.

It takes a lot of help to pull off one of these contests so members of the Post 171 family who have assisted in previous years are asked to help this year. Other members of the Post 171 family who are interested in possibly helping out in future years or who may want to support the students are very much welcome and encouraged to attend.

Please direct any questions to Post 171 Oratorical Contest Chairman Mike Conrad at 301-461-3154 or email at mikester66@yahoo.com



Veterans Day at Post 171

Veterans Day will find two members of Legion Post 171 being honored in a television special on WDVM TV in Hagerstown. Commander Dave Clemmer will reflect on his service in Vietnam as a helicopter pilot. Dave is a Purple Heart recipient who served during the most intense days of the war.

Also being honored is Harold “Dick” Bennett, a combat veteran who served as a gunner on a B-24 in Europe in World War Two. Dick is the last surviving founding member of Post 171 and the last surviving member of his air crew. He is 97 and still recalls with vivid detail the bombing runs over Austria and France during the Nazi occupation of those countries.

WDVM reporter Ross Simpson arranged for Dick to be aboard the last flying B-24 in the world when it came to Frederick in October. He manned the gun position on a flight to Westminster. He had not been aboard in 73 years.



Dick Bennett stands in front of the last flying B-24 in the world before his flight to Westminster. At right, at the waist gun, where he fired at German warplanes that tried to shoot down his plane. His aircraft was called Three Feathers because three of the four engines once quit on a flight and the plane made it to a safe airbase on one engine, while the dead three were “feathered.”

WDVM TV’s Veterans Day special will be broadcast on Saturday, November 10th at a time yet to be set. The station can be found on most cable systems in the area. Check your channel listings for where to watch.

Veterans Day 2018 Flag Raising's

Below is the schedule for school flag raisings for Veterans Day at local Elementary and Middle Schools. Friday is easy because we only have two and they are close together. Monday is a different matter since we have six events at five different venue's, all of these take place within 1½ hours. Listed on the right in parentheses is the name of the speaker. If you can commit your attendance to one or more events please let me know by email to commander@legionpost171.org your service is greatly appreciated.

	<u>Time</u>	<u>Speaker</u>
Friday, November 9, 2018		
Wilson Wims Elementary School (Clarksburg) 12520 Blue Sky Dr, Clarksburg	9:45 AM	(Clemmer)
William B. Gibbs Elementary School (Germantown) 12615 Royal Crown Dr., Germantown	10:30 AM	(Clemmer)
Sunday, November 11, 2018		
Post 171 Veterans Day program	1:30 PM	Post Home
Monday, November 12, 2018		
Hallie Wells Middle School (Clarksburg) 11701 Little Seneca Pkwy, Clarksburg	8:30 AM (2 Events)	(Clemmer)
Rocky Hill Middle School (Clarksburg) 22401 Brick Haven Way, Clarksburg	9:00 AM	(Mitchell)
Rockwell Elementary School (Damascus) 24555 Cutsail Dr. Damascus	9:00 AM	(Trotter)
Clearspring Elementary School (Damascus) 9930 Moyer Rd., Damascus	9:30 AM	(Trotter)
Damascus Elementary School 10201 Bethesda Church Rd., Damascus	10:00 AM	(Trotter)

Note: Rockwell And Rocky Hill Both have Receptions at 8:00 with breakfast on Monday!

A Note from the Commander

Recruiting New Members

What can we do without members? Of course, the answer is “nothing”. One of the most difficult things we can do as members of Post 171, or any other organization, is to recruit new members. The continued success of the American Legion at all levels is membership. So, I appeal to you all to renew your efforts to speak to our qualified friends and associates about the Legion. To that end, the Post will provide an extra incentive to this task. Next year the Legion will celebrate 100 years of service to our many brothers, sister and descendants of this great country of ours that have served her so well. To recognize this the U.S. Mint has designed an American Legion commemorative one dollar “mint” coin. You can see how distinctive this coin is. Post 171 will order one of these coins and award it to the member that recruits the highest number of “new” members. We will only have one so in the case of a tie a drawing will be held to determine the winner. Good luck everyone and much success in our collective efforts in recruiting new members

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	Dave Clemmer	(240) 447-7542	Membership	Sam Baughman (PC) (301) 401-6479
1 st Vice Commander	Fred Mitchell	(301) 916-8395	Historian	Sam Lehane
2 nd Vice Commander	Larry Matthews	(301) 916-8395	Chaplain	Shawn Gill (661) 312-1113
Judge Advocate	Dean Elliott	(301) 916-8395	Sgt-at-Arms	Bill Green (301) 253-5420
Adjutant	Kevin Mook (PC)	(240) 668-4033	Executive Comm	Paula Gill
Finance Officer	Tony DeShiro (PC)	(843) 855-9353		Bob Bellison
Service Officer	Jim Serritella	(301) 253-3971		Bill Raab (PC)
				Keith Martin

(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		
Secretary	Amanda Baughman	(240) 409-8226	Executive Comm	CaseyKoontz (301) 831-6746
Treasurer	Patricia Busche	(301) 391-6752		Donna Sefcik (301) 792-6819
Chaplain	Pat Rice	(301) 253-2266		Barbara Raab (301) 330-5447
Historian	Diane Capel	(301) 253-0108		
Sgt-at-Arms	Virginia Myers	(301) 831-9188		

SAL Squadron, 171

Officers

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

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