



THE DAMASCUS VETERAN

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

NOVEMBER - DECEMBER 2012

THE COMMANDER'S MESSAGE

Commander Sam Baughman

Fellow Comrades:

Since the last Newsletter, two members have stepped up to do the audit for the Post, SAL and Baseball.. George Richon and Ching Yu will meet with Tony, John Wayne Duvall and Bobby Bellison in the near future.

On Tuesday, September 11, nine Post and three Unit members met at Baker Middle School for their flag raising ceremony. Baker Middle School has been having this program since 2001, when one of their former teachers, Bill Ruth, was killed at the Pentagon when one of the planes crashed into it. Being an election year, there were some Montgomery County politicians on hand for the first of the two programs. It was a perfect weather day for the event. The Middle School band and chorus did an outstanding job. Montgomery County's finest provided a motorcade, followed by an ambulance and fire truck from the Damascus Volunteer Fire Department. Seneca Valley NJROTC presented the colors. The students were attentive and seemed to enjoy the program.



After our visit to Atlantic Bingo in August, we replaced our 28 year old bingo machine and flash boards with a new computerized Bingo system. Four flat screen televisions have been placed around the bingo hall to show the called numbers. Calling back the numbers after a bingo has been called is much easier, as only the number in the card's free space is called and the computer tells the caller if it is a winner, and if it is, the pattern is displayed on the television screens, with the last number highlighted and flashing. If you haven't seen the new system, come on out on Thursday nights and have a chance to win some money and enjoy good food from the snack bar.

Ching Yu did a stellar job running the Shrimp Feast on September 29th. Ticket sales were down for past events, but Cindy Ray and her kitchen crew, along with Bob Ray and the fry room guys, provided plenty of shrimp, fried chicken, and all the side dishes to those who attended. Hopefully the next event, the Oyster Roast on November 17th will be more successful. Thanks to all those who prepare for and then help during the event. It seems like the same people always volunteer to do the work needed to put on these dinners. We can always use "new blood", so if you can work some of the tasks into your schedule, it would be appreciated.

The Damascus town flags will be put up in town the week before Veterans Day. Thanks to the "flag crew" for taking time to do this. We get thumbs up and horns beeped from town folks as we put them up. On the 10th, we will have three school flag raisings, and on the 12th, we will have four more school flag raisings. Details of where and when are inside this Newsletter.

On Veterans Day we will be having our Post Program starting at 1:30 with music by the Browningsville Cornet Band. Light refreshments will be provided by the Unit after the Program.

The Post has many Committees. If you are not on one, and would like to get more involved in the Post, join a Committee. Contact me at racecarman0711@comcast.net or call my cell, 301-401-6479 to get a copy of the Committees.

God Bless our Troops and God Bless America
Sam Baughman, Commander

IN MEMORIAM

Clinton Selby
Michael Mele

BASEBALL REPORT

By: Chairman Bob Bellison

When this issue comes out the 2012 World Series will be history. The Nationals and the Orioles both had good seasons, but not good enough to make the World Series. However, I know that one of our boosters and Post 171 Unit member, Linda Richon will be very happy if the Tigers win the series. Last issue was a recap of our 2012 Legion baseball season. It's a good time now to recognize the young men that we had representing Post 171 on our 2012 team. They were outstanding and very special on and off the field.



The following is a list of the players and where they are attending college:

Adam Abramson - U of Md, Chris Jimenez – WVU, Palmer Scalzi MC-G, TJ Brockway - Concord U, Nick Kennedy - Susquehanna U, Drew Knapp – WVU, Dondre Yon - Fla. A&M, Forrest Lewis - Anne Arundel CC, Colin McMahon - MC-G, Emery McMinn - U of Md, Tyler Rodriguez - St. Marys U, David Bloodgood - Lehigh U.

Bloodgood, Lewis, McMahon, McMinn and Rodriguez are eligible to return for the 2013 Season. As you can see we are losing some of our favorite and most dedicated players and parents. However, you can bet we haven't seen the last of them. This means that we will have 7 openings for those players waiting to join next year's team. Our thanks go out to our players, coaches, parents, boosters and our Post 171 family for their continued tremendous support of Post 171 Baseball. Our baseball program continues to be, consistently one the best in the State and we should be very proud.

Baseball Committee: *Chrm. Bob Bellison, Cmdr. Sam Baughman, Bob Ray, Bill Rice, George Bolling, Buzz Burroughs, Frank Carpenter, Ron Scott, Bill Green, Brownie Chichester, Bill Hauptman, Jim Heisser, Skip Duvall*

BASEBALL BOOSTER CLUB 2012

GRANDSLAM (\$100 Donation *+\$100)

**June Grebicke *Michael & Lynda Papio *Buzz & Eileen Burroughs *Bob & Ruby Bellison *Ray Mullican *Ernie Clifford *Mickey Day *Shawn & Paula Gill *J.D. Morris *Patti Cross *Ed Rodriguez John Walter, George & Mary Bolling, Jim & Judy Moore, Ron & Peggy Scott, Bob & Cindy Ray, Madalean Darby, Mark & Betty Jeffers, Woody Rupp, Ken Diggs, Bob Moxley, Brownie & Ginny Chichester, Marvin & Dee Myers, Donald & Betty Nicholson,*

Bill Hauptman, Willie Ruffin, George & Linda Richon, Richard Bowers, Sandy Seipp, John Seipp, Orville Martin, Bob & Louise Mullinix, Roscoe & Reva Pearce, Delores Neal, Rosalyn Bowman, Pat, Rice, Harold Meicklejohn, Daniel & Wendy Abramson, Andy & Judy Knapp, Marilyn Kinsey, Bill Plunkett

DOUBLEHITTER (\$50 Donation)

Danny & Debby Moxley, Lynn & Steve Norwood, Fran Burlas, Pat & Paula Moxley, Jack Talamo, Harry & June Pearce, Ray & Martha Luhn, Lenny Senseney, Mae Senseney, Bill Green, Mary Robinson, Lloyd Young, Grace Burch, Ernie Screen, Sam Baughman, George Johnson, Anita Nearhoof

HONORARY MEMBER - Bill Rice

IN MEMORY - Gene Hoyle, Ken Diggs, Marvin Myers, Roscoe Pearce

SERVICE OFFICER REPORT

Dear Fellow Comrades,

It is with great sadness that I report the death of **Roscoe Pearce** on October 21, 2012. Roscoe served in the Army during WW2 and was 94 years old. He was a member for 68 years, Post 171 Commander in 1956 and 1957, and an honorary life member. He is survived by Reva his wife of 66 years, his son Greg (living in Damascus) and daughter Gail and her husband John (living in Chicago).

It is a pleasure to report that Jim Moore is now home and would love to hear from you. Jim's telephone number is (301) 829-1944. In speaking with Pat Rice, Bill is holding his own but would like to hear from you.

I have delivered fruit baskets to Cliff Burroughs and Kevin Mook.

Please let the Commander, Lou Popowsky or me know of anyone who is in need of a card or fruit basket.

God Bless America, God bless you, and God bless our troops.

Bob Ray,

Service Officer

2013 Membership Year Update: Same – O, Same - O!

First, I want to apologize for missing the deadline of last newsletter and not having a Membership article in the newsletter for the first time in 12 years! Regardless, there has not been much movement since the last newsletter. After an initial flurry of renewals and what seemed to be more on-line renewals, we are actually *behind* this time last year. Renewals are now at a trickle with 280 paid (70%), meaning we still need 128 to meet our Department goal of 408. The Post goal is to break our all time high of 411! Unfortunately, there are less than 110 members who have not renewed which means we still need EVERYONE to renew AND recruit at least another 20 new members to replace those that have passed on to Post Everlasting or failed to renew last year.

PLEASE send in your renewal immediately with a check for \$25 to the Post or renew on-line at www.legion.org/renew where you can print out a temporary membership card, or renew at the MD website <http://www.mdlegion.org>. I will send your Post card when notified by Department of your renewal.

DO NOT send payment for multiple years. I strongly recommend that anyone who wants to not worry about paying future dues consider a Paid-Up-For-Life (PUFL) membership. Cost is based on your age and can be paid over time for no additional cost. Contact me and I will send you an application form with dues info.

On a personal note, my son Major Chris Midberry returned in late August from his 6 month tour in Afghanistan with the 82nd Airborne Division.

Keith Midberry, Membership Chairman (kmidberry@yahoo.com) or (301) 916-7929

The Distinguished Member Award

A few years ago, Bernie Moxley led the Post's creation of the Distinguished Member Award. The names of the twenty members who have received this meaningful honor are displayed in the hallway of the main entrance to the Post. Of these twenty, nine have transferred to Post Everlasting. The Distinguished Member plaque was funded by donations made to the Post in honor of Charter Member and Past Commander Luther Burke.

The qualifications are: (1) the nominee must have at least ten years of sustained outstanding service to Post 171, and (2) be nominated by two Post members.

More members of our Post, including some of those deceased, deserve to be recognized as Distinguished Members for their contributions to the many successes our Post has achieved.

You have the opportunity to nominate candidates to receive this recognition. To do this, three actions are recommended:

- Obtain a nomination form from the office or one of the committee members listed below.
- Complete the form, including writing a narrative explaining why your nominee deserves this award.
- Sign the form, obtain the signature of another Post member, and submit it to a committee member.

The Distinguished Member Committee includes Ray Luhn, Ernie Screen, Bill Green, Bernie Moxley and me, serving as Chairman.

We need your nominations not later than January 5, 2013. Those selected for this honor will be recommended for ratification at the membership meeting on January 14, 2013. The formal recognition of our new Distinguished Members will take place at the annual Membership Dinner on January 25, 2013.

Please feel free to contact me or any committee member with your questions. I look forward to receiving your nominations.

--PPC George Bolling

PATRIOTIC POSTER CONTEST

Again this year, AL Post 171 sponsored its Patriotic Poster Contest at the Damascus Community Fair held Sept. 7, 8, and 9, in the Fireman's Activity Building.

In all 17 entries were received from local students from Kdg. to 8th grade, all of whom were awarded Participation Ribbons.

In addition to First Place Blue Ribbons, Post 171 gave the following monetary awards to winners in each division: Group I : K-1 -\$10.00, Group II : 2 - 3 -\$15.00, Group IV : 4 - 5 -\$25.00, and Group VI : 6-8- -\$50.00.

The panel of judges included Contest Chairman PPC Jack Talamo, Unit 171 members PP MaryBeth Talamo, Liz Popowsky and June Toms. Thanks, ladies, for your capable assistance.

Thanks also to Fair Staff member Randy Conlan, for the attractive display complementing all the colorful posters, located at the Main Entrance. Looking forward to participating in years to come.

Jack Talamo, Contest Chairman

Post 2013 Oratorical Contest

Members of our Legion family, mark your calendars to be with us on Saturday, January 12, 2013, to hear the outstanding students from local high schools compete to be our Post's winner in the 2013 Oratorical Contest. We start at 10:00 AM upstairs, and you can enjoy a good breakfast at the Post's monthly pancake-plus breakfast downstairs before the contest gets underway.

We are expecting students from Damascus, Clarksburg, Seneca Valley and Poolesville High Schools, and, most likely, one or more accredited home-schooled students to participate. The winner gets a \$500 check, and we award \$250 and \$150 to the second and third place finishers, respectively. The contest is conducted in two phases. First, the contestants deliver an original oration about the United States Constitution without using notes for eight to ten minutes. Then, each contestant speaks without notes for three to five minutes about one of four pre-assigned topics selected at random. Our judges are Montgomery College professors, whom Cindy Ray arranges to participate each year.

Last year, our Post winner was Logan Jackonis from Poolesville High School. Logan went on to win the Montgomery County, Southern Maryland District, and State contests, and represented Maryland at the National Contest. Logan received about \$4,000 in scholarship money for this achievement.

If you are interested in helping us with the Post contest, please contact Jack Talamo or me. Thanks.

---PPC George Bolling

DAMASCUS AMERICAN LEGION POST 171 OYSTER ROAST

The oyster dinner is scheduled for **Saturday, November 17, 2012**. We serve oysters fried, steamed, raw, and oyster stew. There's also fried chicken, cole slaw, potato salad, and pork and beans. This is one of our post's fund-raisers, and we need the membership's help. We need help before, during, and after the dinner.

The Post really needs the membership to help support this fund-raiser. This is a great evening for food and dancing. Yes--we have a great band that plays music for dancing from 7:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m. Price for this fun evening is **\$30 per person in advance and \$35 if ticket is obtained at the door**. Please contact me about questions or tickets. Dinner Chairman, Ching Yu, 240-668-4080

OYSTER ROAST
November 17, 2012
DINNER 6 PM

Advance Tickets at \$30/ea. _____, \$ _____
Tickets at the door are \$35/ea.
Contact Ching Yu for tickets,
or any Post 171 Member.
Tel. # for Ching: 240-668-4080

VETERANS DAY 2012 FLAG RAISING CEREMONIES

As has become our custom, Post 171 will be conducting a number of flag ceremonies again this year for Veterans Day. On Monday, it will be necessary for members *to be in several places at once*. There will be three on Friday (9th) and 4 on Monday (12th). All members (Unit and Squadron, too!) are encouraged to attend and participate in these important community outreach programs. The Schedule is as follows:

Friday 9 Nov 2012, 0900 Lisbon Elementary School (Howard County)

Friday 9 Nov 2012, 1100 Rocky Hill Middle School, Clarksburg

Friday 9 Nov 2012, 1330 Windsor Knolls Middle School, Ijamsville (Refreshments provided at 1:30. Program is at 2:00)

Sunday 11 Nov 2012, 1330 Post 171 Veterans Day Program

(Light Lunch to follow)

Monday 12 Nov 2012, 0900 Rockwell Elementary School, Damascus

Monday 12 Nov 2012, 0900 Clearspring Elementary School, Damascus

Monday 12 Nov 2012, 0945 Damascus Elementary School

Monday 12 Nov 2012, 0945 Gibbs Elementary School, Milestone
(Germantown)

We will designate 2 "Squads." Squad One will go to Clearspring and Damascus. Squad Two will go to Rockwell and Gibbs. Assignments will be done on Friday and Sunday.

Please plan to arrive at the all venues at least 15 minutes before the scheduled time.

Questions: Will Trotter [301-661-6902 or 240-207-3416] adjutant171@comcast.net

Thanks from George Richon

To the American Legion 171 Family, I want to thank everyone for your prayers and condolences on the passing of my Mother. A life event like this is never easy, but knowing all of you have my back, does make it easier. I especially want to thank everyone for the donations to Tidewell Hospice, a wonderful organization where my Mother worked and volunteered.

Respectfully, George and Linda Richon



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

NOVEMBER – DECEMBER 2012

Dear Members, The following is information regarding some of the programs and projects that are taking place this administrative year:

Our Community Service program will be jointly chaired by Mary Robinson and Barbara Raab. Their big project this year will be coordinating donations for the Damascus Help Kitchen. Since Damascus Help offers assistance to those in need all year long, we need to make a concerted effort to help restock their shelves as much as possible. The holiday season is quickly approaching and since we would like to make sure our friends in the community have a very special holiday we are asking each of you to please donate as many non-perishables as you can. As you know there are designated boxes downstairs off of the dining room and/or tables in the main hall. We urge you to bring your donations (one or two items) with you on our meeting dates, the pancake breakfasts, oyster roast, and other events that are taking place. I want to extend my sincere thanks to our Legion family for your kind generosity. As of today, there have been several filled boxes of donations that were taken to the Help kitchen. We are off to a tremendous start of helping those less fortunate than ourselves.

I want to remind you that keeping records is crucial to our year-end reports, not only in Community Service but **all of our programs**. Please keep a list of your activities including the date, type of activity and the number of hours worked. Please don't forget to estimate the price of your donation(s). Please submit your paperwork to Cindy Ray or myself no later than April 15, 2013.

Our Americanism Chairman, Mary Beth Talamo, is gearing up for the essay contest. It is never too early to contact our schools about our participation in the contest. As most of you know, the contest runs from November 1, 2012 to February 1, 2013. The contest title is: “**What Freedom Do I Enjoy The Most?**” It will be so interesting to hear what the youngsters have to say about this subject.

We have been in “full” swing with the Bingo snack bar and will continue to be busy throughout the year until the last Thursday in June. Please remember that we need you to help by volunteering your time; **any Thursday night** we would appreciate you donating soup, chili or baking some goodies to sell. If you have questions, please contact Linda Richon at 301-253-5466.

A reminder: COMMUNITY SERVICE DAY is scheduled for Saturday, October 27. We need to support this day by offering a “serve our neighbor day” helping those of our community especially our elderly shut-ins, and disabled with help around their homes.

The Legion's Veterans Day service will be held on Sunday, November 11, at 1:30 in the afternoon in the Post Home. At the end of the service, the Unit will serve refreshments.

November 22 is Thanksgiving Day. This country grew out of the dreams, work and sacrifices of men and women over two centuries ago who staked their lives, their property, and their sacred honor on the hope of freedom for themselves and future generations. We are a part of those future generations who can breathe

free and build for the years ahead on the foundation we have inherited. Thank God for His many blessings and let us never forget to give thanks for the love of family, friends, and for all the many freedoms we enjoy. Consider inviting a friend who is alone for dinner or take dinner to a shut-in. You will be blessed.

Our first Pot Luck dinner was very successful. It was wonderful to have so many members of the Legion Family attend. The Unit will continue having our Pot Luck dinners and the next one is scheduled for December 10 starting at 6 p.m. After our regular meeting, we will be entertained by Sandy Seipp with our annual auction. We are extending an invitation to the Legion and SAL to participate. The Unit has agreed to bring in homemade desserts (with recipes) to be auctioned and hope that everyone will bring in an item or two that they would like to see included. Get ready for a fun filled and exciting evening – don't forget your wallets!!!

The holidays are rapidly approaching and I wish each and everyone a blessed, peaceful, and joyful holiday season. Please remember to take the time to stop by and visit our precious Veterans. Take them a Christmas card, gift, covered dish or a smile which, for many, will go a long way. God bless you, our troops and the U.S.A.

In Friendship and Service,
Patricia A. Rice. President
ALA Damascus Unit 171

UNIT 171 MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Welcome to fall – or should I say early winter! Ladies we are slowly getting our membership in but we are still behind reaching our goal. Since our last meeting I have received five more renewals which places us at 96. Are you one of the fifty-three angels who need to renew her dues? If so, please make your check payable to Damascus ALA Unit 171 in the amount of \$20 and mail to me at 19421 Gardner Place, Germantown, MD 20876-1709.

The Post 171 Oyster Roast and Chicken Feed will be held on Saturday, November 17, 2012 at 6:00 p.m. I am in need of volunteers for the event. Several ladies signed up at the October business meeting but there is always a job to be filled. If you are interested in patting oysters in the morning please contact me at (301) 972-1978.

To you and yours I wish you a Very Happy Thanksgiving and the Christmas holidays with family and friends. May your New Year be most prosperous.

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

Cindy Ray,

Membership Chairman

"The Unit is initiating the **Pocket Flag Project** under it's Americanism Program. The Project's objective is to put a little piece of home (a flag and note card) in the pocket of troops deployed overseas. Volunteers are needed to help assemble the Pocket Flags. In addition, if anyone knows of a Unit deployed overseas or about to be deployed, please contact Liz Popowsky so we can try to direct our Flags into those pockets.

Liz Popowsky, Chairman, Pocket Flag Project



Sons of the American Legion Squadron, 171

A Newsletter for Members & Friends of Damascus Squadron 171

NOVEMBER – DECEMBER 2012

Greetings from the desk of the S.A.L Commander.,

Just looking to remind everyone to get their dues sent in if you have not done so. Also if you have anyone interested in joining now is the time.

We are currently scheduled to do the November and December breakfasts and we are still working the bingo snack bar and in need of volunteers. We have no major fundraisers planned at this time but are looking for ideas as well as helping with all Legion family functions.

If you are available to help with anything or just have questions you can call anytime.

Wishing everyone a safe and happy holiday season!

God bless everyone in service, God bless you all, and God bless America.

Yours in Service,
John Wayne-

Post Commander's Note: If you have email capability and are not on my Legion electronic distribution list, send your email address to me at racecarman0711@comcast.net. 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 \$.45 each to get them back and find out which newsletters were not delivered.

Baker Middle School Flag Raising





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

November 2012

<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>	
1 st	Post Bingo	7:00 pm
5 th	Post Ex. Board Mtg.	7:00 pm
8 th	Post Bingo	7:00 pm
10 th	Pancake Breakfast	7:30 – 9:30 am
11th	Veterans Day Post 171	1:30 pm
12 th	SAL Membership Mtg.	7:00 pm
12 th	Post and Unit Mtgs.	7:30 pm
15 th	Post Bingo	7:00 pm
17th	Post Oyster Roast	6:00 pm
22 nd	Thanksgiving Day	
22 nd	No Post Bingo this week	
29 th	Post Bingo	7:00 pm

December 2012

<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>	
3 rd	Post Ex. Board Mtg.	7:00 pm
6 th	Post Bingo	7:00 pm
8 th	Pancake Breakfast	7:30 – 9:30 am
10 th	Pot Luck Dinner	6:00 pm
10 th	SAL Membership Mtg.	7:00 pm
10 th	Post and Unit Mtgs.	7:30 pm
13 th	Post Bingo	7:00 pm
20 th	Post Bingo	7:00 pm
27 th	Post Bingo	7:00 pm
25 th	Christmas	

Looking Ahead

- January 1 – New Year’s Day
- January 12 – Post Oratorical Contest in the morning
- January 19 – Snow date for Oratorical Contest
- January 26 – County Oratorical Contest at Post
- January 26 – Post Membership Dinner in the evening

Damascus American Legion, Post 171
P.O. Box 171
Damascus, MD 20872



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American Legion Post 171

2012 – 2013 Officers

Commander	Sam Baughman	301 831-3216	Historian	Ed Williams	301 865-4250
1 st V. Cmdr.	Willie Ruffin	301 972-5798	Chaplain	Shawn Gill	301 253-6239
2 nd V. Cmdr.	Ching Yu	240 668-4080	Sgt-at-Arms	Bill Green	301 253-5420
Judge Advocate	Dean Elliott	240 793-6868	Ex. Comm.:	Bill Ferrell	301 253-6389
Adjutant	Will Trotter	301 570-4780		Ernie Screen	301 253-3560
Treasurer	Tony De Shiro	843 855-9353		Buzz Burroughs	301 253-2741
Serv. Officer	Bob Ray	301 972-1978		Ronald Scott	301 831-7974

Auxiliary, Unit 171

2012 – 2013 Officers

President	Pat Rice	301-253-2266	Color Bearers:	Liz Popowsky	301 371-6648
V. President	Cindy Ray	301 972-1978		Terri Nucio-Youngs	301 216-0221
Secretary	Rosalyn Bowman	301-253-4473	Exec. Comm.:	Judy Moore	301 829-1941
Treasurer	Linda Richon	301 253-5466		Betty Nicholson	301 865-1638
Chaplain	Jennifer Shaffer	301 829-8487		Barbara Raab	301 330-5447
Historian	Virginia Myers	301 831-9188			
Sgt-at-Arms	Casey Koontz	301 831-6746			

SAL Squadron, 171

2012 – 2013 Officers

Commander	John Duvall	301 787-4480	Chaplain	OPEN	
1 st V. Cmdr.	OPEN		Sgt-at-Arms	Drew Shaffer	301 831-535
2 nd V. Cmdr.	OPEN		Historian	OPEN	
Adjutant	OPEN		Post liaison	George Boling	301 980-8917
Finance	Tony Koontz	240 439-9501			

Newsletter Editor: Lou Popowsky tel. 301-371-6648 email popowsk@yahoo.com