



# THE DAMASCUS VETERAN

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

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MAY – JUNE 2013

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## THE COMMANDER'S MESSAGE

### **Fellow Comrades:**

March started out on a very sad note with the shocking news of past Legionnaire of the Year, George Richon, transferring to Post Everlasting. He was a member of the Honor Guard, a dedicated Bingo worker, Vice-Chairman of the Bingo Committee, Oyster Roast and Shrimp Feast worker, and was responsible for the Memorial Bricks that are in front and back of the Memorial Walk in front of the Post. He will be greatly missed by the entire Legion family. Linda has requested that all donations in George's memory be put into a Scholarship.



The Pancake Breakfast on April 13<sup>th</sup> was one of the best attended we have had in a long time. Bill Ferrell and his dedicated crew did a fantastic job of feeding 54 members and guests, a number of which were here for the County business meeting. These Breakfasts were intended to be just a time for the Legion family and their guests to get together for good food at a very reasonable price (donation), but this one turned into a fund raiser also. Thank you for all the generous donations.

On Monday night, April 15, I sat in as Roger Pisha (the committee chairperson) presented the Boys State orientation to our 7 participants for this year (who are all from Damascus High School). Boys State typically begins on Father's Day and runs through the following Saturday. It is held at Washington College in Chestertown, MD. The Legion sponsors boys who have completed their junior year in high school by the beginning of Boys State. Thanks Roger for chairing this program for over 13 years.

Boys State is among the most respected and selective educational programs of government instruction for high school students. It is a participatory program where each participant becomes a part of the operation of his local, county and state government. Participants are exposed to the rights and privileges, the duties and the responsibilities of a franchised citizen. The American Legion Auxiliary sponsors a similar program for young ladies called Girls State.

Our Memorial Day Program will be held on Sunday, May 26<sup>th</sup>, the Browningsville Cornet Band will provide the music starting at 1:30. The program will start at 2:00. The Guest speaker will be Del. Anthony O'Donnell. In case of inclement weather, the program will be held indoors. Refreshments will be provided by the Unit afterwards. We will also be participating in the Memorial Day Program at the Windsor Knolls Middle

School in Ijamsville on Thursday, May 23. There is a reception at 1:15, with the program beginning at 2:00. This, too, has become an annual event for Post 171.

Some good news: The Installation Dinner on June 29 will only cost \$15.00 per person. This reduction in cost is to give back a little of our hard earned money to the Post members who helped earn it, and to see if we can get more participation from the members. More details and a reservation form are later in the newsletter.

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

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## IN MEMORIAM

James Barnes  
George Richon  
Jack Collins

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## 2013 MEMBERSHIP YEAR A tough and close race to the finish!

Thanks to everyone who has already paid their 2013 dues! We currently have 375 paid members and need all 33 unpaid members to pay so we can make our goal of 408! PLEASE renew your membership by sending a check for \$25 to the post, or pay on-line at [www.legion.org/renew](http://www.legion.org/renew) or [www.mdlegion.org](http://www.mdlegion.org). The National site allows you print out a temporary membership card.

Delinquent letter notices will soon be sent! Realistically some unpaid members will not renew and we could fall short of our goal if we don't get some new members. So please consider signing up and even paying the first year's dues of a relative, neighbor or co-worker who is an eligible war-era veteran.

Several members have received erroneous delinquent notifications from National due to a lag time between your payment at the Post and the renewal transmittal. Disregard if you already have your 2013 membership card, you should not receive a second notification.

Three members of the Post are currently deployed. Ryan is in Afghanistan. Michael is in South Korea until late summer. Charles is in American Samoa. Please consider dropping them a line or card to show your appreciation for their service!

HM2 Ryan Canozza  
MWSS-373 DET A (HQ)  
UNIT 4117  
FPO AP 96427-1117  
United States

Michael J Cacace  
HHC 501st SBDE  
Unit 15467  
APO.AP 96260-5476  
United States

Charles J. Scheck  
B Company 100  
BN 440 Second INF  
P.O. Box 2508  
Pago Pago, American Samoa 96799

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

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## POST 171 INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS DINNER SATURDAY JUNE 29, 2013!

Send in your reservation form NOW for one of the Damascus Legion Family's premier social events - the annual Installation of Officers Dinner! Come out and enjoy a great evening and show your support of the new Post, Unit and SAL leaders for only \$15 per person (Legion family members and spouse or first guest); \$20 (for additional non-Legion family guest)! Schedule is as follows:

Social Hour - Open bar; 5- 6 pm  
Buffet Dinner; 6-7 pm  
Installation Program; 7-8 pm  
Fellowship; 8-9

PLEASE NOTE: Our caterer needs exact number attending at least one week in advance, so please don't delay in sending in the below reservation form! Send it in NOW or no later than Friday June 21, 2012

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### Installation of Officers Dinner Reservation Form – Saturday June 29, 2013

Legion Family Name (s) @ \$15 each: \_\_\_\_\_

Additional Guest (s) @\$20 each: \_\_\_\_\_

Total Attending: \_\_\_\_\_ Total \$ Enclosed: \_\_\_\_\_

Table Preference: \_\_\_\_\_

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### BASEBALL REPORT

By: Chairman Bob Bellison



“It won't be long now”. With the Major League and the high school teams well into their season, the American Legion teams will soon take to the field. We have an outstanding nucleus returning from last year's team & several promising young players from the Jr. Team are ready to move up. This year the State Tournament will be hosted by Ft. Cumberland. ***“I can't wait for the season to start”***

There are 7 senior teams in the county and the league decided that we will play each team 4 times. That means we will have 24 league games, the play-offs, non-league games & tournament play, resulting in a team schedule of over 40 games. The non-league games include Mt. Airy, Frederick, Woodsboro, and Sykesville. Again this year, we are in the Frederick Post 11 July 4<sup>th</sup> Tournament with some of the top teams in the Mid-Atlantic area, including Brooklawn, NJ, the runner-up in the 2012 American Legion National Tournament. This year 6 of our games will be at the Damascus Regional Park. This makes it very convenient for our members. Hopefully we'll have a good turn-out for these games. Also, this year we're scheduled to play Post 11 at Grove Stadium (the home of the Frederick Keys) Tues. July 9<sup>th</sup> 5:30 pm. This is a great opportunity for our players to have the chance to play on a professional field. The opening game for the SR. Team is a non-league game vs. Mt. Airy Thurs. May 23<sup>rd</sup> 5:30 pm. at Sherwood HS.

The opening game for the Jr.s will be vs. Ft Cumberland Post 13 at McCurdy Field, Frederick Sat. May 25<sup>th</sup> 10:30 am. The first chance to see the Jr.s at home will be Sat. June 8<sup>th</sup> 5:30 vs. Ft Cumberland Post 13. All Jr. league games will be played at DHS. In addition to their league games the Jr. Team will play in the Memorial



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## SERVICE OFFICER REPORT

Since the last newsletter I have sent sympathy cards to the families of James Raymond Hamilton Barnes, Jack O. Collins and George Richon. As you know George was very active in Post 171 and will be greatly missed as we try to fill in the many areas he helped the Post. Please remember these families as well as our other comrades who passed on to Post Everlasting this year.

Again, if you know of anyone who is hospitalized, ill at home, or who needs help in any way please let Commander Sam or me know as soon as possible.

Yours in service,  
*Bob Ray,*

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## AMERICAN LEGION SCHOLARSHIPS 2013

The Damascus American Legion Post 171 will be awarding four scholarships in the amounts of \$1,500 each for the scholastic year of 2013-2014. A fifth \$1500 scholarship has been added this year in honor of George Richon by his wife Linda. At Newsletter press time we have over 20 applicants. We will be judging and making our decisions and awards in early May. Our committee this year consists of; Bob Bellison, Ernie Screen, Shawn Gill, Kevin Mook and myself. Additional questions may be directed to Lou Popowsky (301-37106648 or popowsk@yahoo.com).

Lou Popowsky, Scholarship Committee Chairman

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

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MAY – JUNE 2013

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Dear Members:

I can hardly believe that we are now moving toward the end of our administrative year. Time goes by too quickly; all of a sudden we are running out of time and haven't accomplished everything we wanted to.

We have established our Nominating Committee for next year's Unit officers. The Chairman is Mary Beth Talamo and members are Judy Moore and Virginia (DeeDee) Myers. This committee is putting together a slate of officers, for presentation at the May meeting. Please step forward when you are called by the

Nominating Committee. Please remember that the services our Unit provides cannot continue without everyone's participation and leadership.

Just for review, these are the offices involved:

President	Historian
Vice President	Sergeant-at-Arms
Treasurer	Executive Committee (3 members)
Chaplain	

The incoming President will appoint her Secretary and the two Color Bearers.

Our next potluck dinner will be held on June 10. Following dinner, we will have our monthly meeting, and election of officers and delegates to the Convention. Also, at this meeting (and all meetings, events, and gatherings), we are still asking for assistance for the Damascus HELP Association Pantry. Please bring nonperishable foods for donating to this very worthwhile community project. Other items you may include are diapers, tissues, baby foods, and canned milk. Please continue your generosity for those who are less fortunate.

Please mark your calendars for June 29 for our joint Installation Dinner at the Post. I promise a fun-filled and informative evening

Thanks to Cindy Ray for working so diligently in getting our Unit back on track with membership. Our Unit is strong, but it can only be as strong as you make it. Membership is very important to the life of our Unit. When you find a potential member, please ask her to join our special family at Damascus Unit 171.

Casey Koontz, Chairman of the Basket Bingo, gave a report April meeting regarding the results of the Bingo fundraiser held on March 23. We happily and sincerely give Casey and her committee special kudos for doing an outstanding and awesome job of getting that fundraiser to be such a huge success. Over 190 people attended and they all had a great time.

On Sunday, April 14, Americanism Chairman Mary Beth Talamo along with several Unit members held a reception for the Americanism essay contest winners. This year's theme was "What Freedom Do I Enjoy The Most." The essays the youngsters read were really amazing. We got to hear first hand their feelings, thoughts and ideas on the freedom that meant the most to them. We are really excited to announce that two students have been chosen as winners at the Southern Maryland District level. Please read Mary Beth's detailed article later in this newsletter.

I want to take this opportunity to thank everyone who worked so long and hard for this Unit. Everyone who served this Unit in any capacity needs to be commended. Those who work the Bingo Snack Bar; decorate the hall for all special; food preparation and serving at all the events; the Unit officers; the committee Chairmen and all of our beautiful volunteers who respond to any and all requests. All of these wonderful ladies contribute to running a very smooth and efficient Unit. We are complimented over and over again by our guests who enjoy visiting our Post and receiving the hospitality you unselfishly give of your precious time.

God bless you, our troops and the United States of America.

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

## UNIT 171 MEMBERSHIP REPORT

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As of Monday, April 15<sup>th</sup> we are still behind in making our goal for this year by thirteen members. Unfortunately this will place us in a lower bracket in the yearly reports category with only 134 members. Again, I ask that you check your card to see if it is 2013 and if not, send a check in the amount of \$20 payable to Damascus American Legion Auxiliary Unit 171 to me at 19421 Gardner Place, Germantown, MD 20876-1709.

Welcome new member Elizabeth Serratella. Thank you to Mary Beth for submitting her application.

Happy Mother's Day to all of our mothers and grandmothers. May you enjoy a wonderful day with your family and friends.

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

Yours in Service,  
*Cindy Ray*

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### AMERICANISM ESSAY WINNERS HONORED

Each year, the National American Legion Auxiliary (ALA) sponsors an Americanism Essay Contest for students in grades 3 - 12. The ALA Department of Maryland and Unit 171 participate in the Essay Contest only for grades 3 – 8. Unit 171 invites local Elementary & Middle Schools to participate in the essays subject matter discussions and essay writing. The students are divided into three age groups: Group I: gr. 3&4 (150-250 word essay); Group II: gr. 5&6 (250-300 words); Group III: gr.7&8 (350-400 words). This year's title, (chosen by National), asked the question: "What freedom do I enjoy the most?"

On Feb. 25, 2013, our panel of judges, Diane Kavanagh, Susan Morris, and Anita Trotter, were kept busy until midnight, reading all 124 entries that were received. (Thank you, ladies!!)

To honor the 8 winners of our contest, Unit 171 hosted a reception on April 14, from 2:00-4:00 PM. with over 60 people in attendance. After opening with the Pledge of Allegiance, we proceeded with the reading of the essays and presentation of Certificates of Participation (calligraphy by Cheryl Minekime), and gift cards.

In Group I: tied for 3rd place were Julia Brustad (Woodfield Elem.) (whose essay was read in her absence,) and third grader Aaron Tian (Wm R. Gibbs Elem.); 2nd place went to Clare McDarby, and 1st place to Brooke Boone, both fourth graders (Woodfield Elem.).

In Group II: 5th graders: 3rd place, Sara Sellers (Woodfield), 2nd place, Kristina Benson (Damascus Elem.), and 1st place, Ben Solis, (Woodfield)

In Group III: 2nd place, Uma Vishnubhotla, and 1st place, Theresa Dollar, both seventh graders (John T. Baker Middle).

We are proud to announce that Brooke Boone and Theresa Dollar will receive awards from Southern Maryland District on April 28<sup>th</sup>. Congratulations, Girls!

Judges Diane and Susan both gave glowing comments to the students on the originality and presentation of their well-written essays, most of which centered on the Freedoms of Speech and Religion, and all parents were thanked for their valuable support.

Girls' State Chairman, Sandi Seipp then introduced Victoria Donnelly, who gave an enlightening talk on her experience at Girls' State.

At the end of the program, photos were taken, and everyone adjourned for sandwiches (by Barbara Raab), cake cookies and punch.

SPECIAL thanks to all my helpers: Linda Richon, DeeDee Myers, Liz Popowsky, Sandi Seipp, Betty Nicholson, Delores Neal, Cindy Ray, Jeannette Talamo-Hogan, and our beloved President, Pat Rice. You ALL helped make it a very successful event.

GOD BLESS YOU ALL.....and GOD BLESS AMERICA!!!! Mary Beth Talamo

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### AMERICANISM CONTEST WINNERS

**From Left to right: Uma Vishnubhotla, Theresa Dollar, Ben Solis, Kristina Benson, Sara Sellers, Brooke Boone, Clare McDarby, and Aaron Tian.**

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## POCKET FLAG PROJECT

Liz Popowsky, Chairman

The Unit remains dedicated to the Pocket Flag Project, we're now folding our fourth order of Pocket Flags. Since the last Newsletter, Pocket Flags were presented to Post 171 members Paula Gill and Ryan Canozza for their troops. A total of 755 flags have been presented since the start of the project late last year. A heartfelt thank you to the ladies who continue to fold flags. Two additional Post 171 members have been identified to us and we are communicating with their families to obtain the number of troops in their Units so we can send a flag for each of their pockets. The Unit is honored to support our Post members with this small token of our appreciation for their service.

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### **Sons of the American Legion Squadron, 171**

*A Newsletter for Members & Friends of Damascus Squadron 171*

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**MAY – JUNE 2013**

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Greetings from SAL Squadron 171

We are coming up on the end of the legion year and the S.A.L. is preparing for our first ever Flag retirement ceremony on June 14<sup>th</sup> at the post and are planning on having a dinner afterward for all of our Legion family and their guests at this event.

The S.A.L. is also on the lookout for officers for the upcoming Legion year and are still working on membership, finding ways to bring in new members as well as getting current members to take an active role.

The S.A.L. is still working the bingo snack bar every 2nd and 4th Thursday of the month and we are always in need of help for this undertaking. This is our main fundraiser. We would be lost without the help that we receive from the Unit and Post members each week.

The S.A.L. is proud to be a part of this great American Legion Family and we continue to support the Post and Auxillary whenever and wherever we can, and can help at any Post function.

Wishing everyone a safe and wonderful summer,  
John Wayne

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**COMING EVENTS**  
**Post, Unit & Squadron 171 Calendar**

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<i>Post Meetings</i>	<i>Unit Meetings</i>	<i>Squadron Meetings</i>
2 <sup>nd</sup> Monday of the month, 7:30pm	2 <sup>nd</sup> Monday of the month, 7:30pm	2 <sup>nd</sup> Monday of the month, 7:00pm

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**May 2013**

<b><u>Date</u></b>	<b><u>Event</u></b>	
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Post Bingo	7:00 pm
6 <sup>th</sup>	Post Executive Board Mtg.	7:00 pm
9 <sup>th</sup>	Post Bingo	7:00 pm
11 <sup>th</sup>	Post Pancake Breakfast	7:30 – 9:30 am
<b>12<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Mother's Day</b>	
13 <sup>th</sup>	SAL Membership Mtg.	7:00 pm
13 <sup>th</sup>	Post and Unit Membership Mtgs.	7:30 pm
16 <sup>th</sup>	Post Bingo	7:00 pm
23 <sup>rd</sup>	Windsor Knolls Middle School	1:15 pm
23 <sup>rd</sup>	Post Bingo	7:00 pm
<b>26<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Memorial Day Program</b>	<b>1:30 pm – Music, 2:00 pm – Program</b>
<b>27<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Memorial Day</b>	
30 <sup>th</sup>	Post Bingo	7:00 pm

**June 2013**

<b><u>Date</u></b>	<b><u>Event</u></b>	
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Post Ex. Board Mtg.	7:00 pm
6 <sup>th</sup>	Post Bingo	7:00 pm
8 <sup>th</sup>	Last Post Pancake Breakfast till Fall	7:30 – 9:30 am
10 <sup>th</sup>	Last Pot Luck Dinner till Fall	6:00 pm
10 <sup>th</sup>	SAL Membership Mtg.	7:00 pm
10 <sup>th</sup>	Post and Unit Membership Mtgs.	7:30 pm
10 <sup>th</sup>	Post Members Election of Officers	7:30 pm
13 <sup>th</sup>	Post Bingo	7:00 pm
<b>14<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Flag Day</b>	
20 <sup>th</sup>	Post Bingo	7:00 pm
27 <sup>th</sup>	Post Bingo	7:00 pm
<b>29<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Installation Dinner</b>	<b>5:00 pm Social Hr., 6:00 pm Dinner</b>

**Looking Ahead**

Fourth of July  
 July 15-19 MD State Legion Convention

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



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U.S. Postage

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Damascus, MD  
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## American Legion Post 171

2012 – 2013 Officers

Commander	Sam Baughman	301 831-3216	Historian	Ed Williams	301 865-4250
1 <sup>st</sup> V. Cmdr.	Willie Ruffin	301 972-5798	Chaplain	Shawn Gill	301 253-6239
2 <sup>nd</sup> 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	301 661-6902		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 <sup>st</sup> V. Cmdr.	OPEN		Sgt-at-Arms	Drew Shaffer	301 831-535
2 <sup>nd</sup> V. Cmdr.	OPEN		Historian	OPEN	
Adjutant	OPEN		Post liaison	George Boling	301 980-8917
Finance	Tony Koontz	240 439-9501			

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