



THE DAMASCUS VETERAN

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

SEPTEMBER - OCTOBER 2012

THE COMMANDER'S MESSAGE

Commander Sam Baughman

Fellow Comrades:

I hope everyone had a great summer. The Legion usually has a breather for the workers during July and August. The Baseball Bingo on the first Thursday in July was a success, with the biggest turnout of players this year. Chairman of the Baseball Committee, Bob Bellison and his Committee members did an outstanding job this year.

The 94th Department of Maryland American Legion Convention, the Southern Maryland District started Monday afternoon, July 9th, with a Fish Fry. This year the Post sent nine Delegates. Our Post and State Oratorical Contest winner, Logan Jackson, gave his presentation on the Convention floor on Thursday. One of the topics mentioned the most was Membership. Membership is one of the key elements that keep the Post active, so if you haven't renewed yours yet, try to do so ASAP. There will be more about the Convention later in the newsletter.



The Damascus Days Parade started out at the High School at 7:00 on the 13th, with Bill Green, George Richon and Dean Elliott representing the Post as our Honor Guard. Buzz and I followed in my '63 Falcon. There were not enough volunteers to help decorate and ride in the parade, so there was no float this year. The town's people really showed up in force this year. I don't know if they were there to see us Legionnaires or to catch the candy the other participants were throwing. After the parade ended at the Firemen's Activity Building, there was a large turnout in front of the Post to enjoy the fireworks put on by the Damascus Fire Department.

The Post needs someone to Chair the Distinguished Member Committee. The Committee recommends one or more nominees that have distinguished themselves at Post 171 for at least 10 years and have been nominated, in writing, by 2 or more members in good standing. If you are interested in Chairing this Committee, contact me.

The week of August 13th, the floors in the Main Hall were buffed and treated for the upcoming Bingo year that is right around the corner. Bingo starts the first Thursday in September. Volunteers are always welcome to come out on Thursday night to help. If you would like to help with Bingo, contact Bill Green. The Unit can always use help in the Snack Bar, so if you can help for a couple of hours, contact Linda Richon at lmorris4@verizon.net

On August 20th, Bingo Committee Chairman Bill Green, Tony Deshiro, Hank Hartley and I traveled to Odenton to see what Atlantic Bingo had new on the market. Our Bingo machine is so old there are no parts available to fix it if it breaks down.

Try to make it to Baker Middle School on Tuesday morning, September 11, for their Flag Raising Ceremony. Refreshments will be served at 8:00 and the first of two consecutive ceremonies will begin at 8:25. A good turnout shows the Legion commitment to the school and the community.

The Post is looking for two people to do an audit of the books, so if you like to work with numbers, and would like to help, contact me.

When the newsletter went to the printer, Buzz was scheduled for bypass surgery in the early morning of August 22nd. Let's hope all went well and he has a full and speedy recovery.

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

IN MEMORIAM

Donald Lee Barber, Sr. 82 passed away on July 4, 2012. Donald served in the Korean war. He is survived by his children: Donald Lee Barber, Jr. (Debbie Foote), Ellis Barber (Cindy), Gary Barber (Donna), Billy Barber and Stephen Barber (Tammi); 12 grandchildren and 11 great-grand-children, and four step-children, Charles Brunner, Robert Brunner, Elizabeth Lawson, & Deborah Cheseldine. Don was a member of the American Legion for 38 years.

Albert L. Watkins, 90, passed away on Sunday July 8, 2012. Albert served in the Pacific during World War II. He is survived by Loretta Watkins, his wife of 65 years, and son, Ronald Watkins and his wife Marie; daughter, Linda Brightwell and her husband Donald, two grandchildren and one great-grandchild. Albert was a member of the American Legion for 22 years.

BASEBALL REPORT

By: Chairman Bob Bellison



The 2012 season ended for Post 171 with a 4-1 loss in the play-offs to Sandy Spring (SS) Post 68. Eric Magas went the distance and held SS to 2 earned runs. Offensively, we had several chances to score but failed to come through with the clutch hit with runners in scoring position. Sandy Spring went on to win the League Play-offs and the State Tournament where they went undefeated to become the 2012 State Champions.

Our League continues to be one of the most competitive in the State. We are very proud of our Sr. Team who finished 3rd in the League with a 14 and 7 League record and 20 & 10 overall record. We did quite well in the Frederick Post 11 July 4th tournament by winning our bracket and losing 2-1 in the finals to Brooklawn, NJ. Brooklawn has been a power house for many years. They went on to be the NJ State Champions, Mid-Atlantic Champions and were in the 2012 American Legion World Series in Shelby, NC.

It's nice to know that Post 171 faced one of the 8 best teams in the country and gave them a game. We are very proud of the young men that are representing Post 171 on the baseball field. Not only are they outstanding players they are outstanding young men. Three are Eagle Scouts, and one, Emory McMinn, was awarded one of our Legion scholarships. Five of our players will be entering college as freshmen and five will be returning to college as sophomores.

Our Junior Team (17& under) kept getting better as the season went on and ended up being very competitive. They did very well in the July 4th tournament at Cumberland going 3 & 2. This is a great opportunity for these young players to face some of the top competition in the MD/WV area. A thank you note from one of our Junior players says it better than I can: "I am proud to say that I played for the Junior American Legion Post 171 team this year. Playing in the league at an early age and seeing how good the competition is has given me a lot to work for."

My hat goes off to Sr. Coach Tommy Davis and Jr. Coach Frank Wodoslawsky and their staffs for their dedication and the contributions they make to American Legion Baseball. We're so fortunate to have such qualified people working with our young men.

Our Fund Raisers were very successful: 50/50 handled by Commander Baughman & Brownie Chichester, Baseball Bingo and the Booster Club which continues to be our best fund raiser and gets better each year. A big thank you goes out to the 105 players and their parents, the booster members, and our regular bingo players. *Special thanks to Linda Richon & the Unit Members for stepping up on short notice to run the snack bar and to Bill Green and his Bingo workers.*

Thanks to all. Baseball Committee: Chrm. Bob Bellison, Cmdr. Sam Baughman. PC Bob Ray, PC Bill Rice, PC George Bolling, PC Buzz Burroughs, PC Frank Carpenter, P1stV Ron Scott, SAA Bill Green, Brownie Chichester, Bill Hauptman, Jim Heisser.

I don't have space to list everyone that is responsible for making Post 171 Baseball what it is. A complete Booster list will be in the next newsletter.

SERVICE OFFICER REPORT

Dear Fellow Comrades,

A fruit basket was delivered to John Seipp upon his return from the hospital and Bill Rice was sent a Get Well card with a brief note. Additionally, Jim Moore, is on the mend, in Frederick Memorial Hospital. Several members of the Post attended the wake and funeral for Debbie Duvall.

Please notify Commander Baughman, Lou Popowsky, Newsletter Editor, or me if you know of someone who is ill, has a death in the family, or needing help in anyway. My telephone number is (301) 872-1978.

Bob Ray,
Service Officer

Convention Time "Downy Ocean"

By Will Trotter, Post Adjutant

The 94th Annual Department of Maryland Convention was held in Ocean City (where else?) the week of July 9. This year's delegation from Post 171 consisted of Commander Sam Baughman; Past Commanders George Bolling, Buzz Burroughs, John Seipp, Bob Ray, and Jack Talamo; First Vice Ron "Scotty" Scott, Treasurer Tony DeShiro, and your humble Adjutant Will Trotter. In addition, Past Unit 171 Presidents Cindy Ray, Sandy Seipp and Mary Beth Talamo attended the concurrent Auxiliary Convention. The fun and frivolity began with the Southern Maryland District Fish Fry on Monday afternoon. For who knows how many years, this has been the official opening event of the OC Convention. At this event, Pat McCoy of Post 206 became the SMD Commander for the coming year as Bob Ouellette of Post 295 relinquished the Commander's hat. "Yours truly" was blessed for an unprecedented sixth term as Montgomery County Commander!

Business convened on Tuesday with the usual litany of speeches, awards, speeches, presentations, speeches, elections, speeches, and the swearing in of new officers. Wednesday evening was the much anticipated Post Everlasting Service for our members who reported to same in the last year. On Friday, we welcomed the new Department Commander, J.D. Larson, to his office. J.D. has visited us a number of times over the years as he rose first through the Southern Maryland District, then through the Department of Maryland.

Post 171 was presented the following awards: The Ensign C. Markland Kelly, Jr. Memorial Trophy (For the Post in each District with the highest average meeting attendance and membership renewals); Robert E. Grieshamer Memorial Trophy (For the Post with the State Oratorical Winner); Department of Maryland 100% Membership; The William Randolph Hearst Americanism Trophy (our premier area of accomplishment!); Boy Scout Trophy; and finally our Post Historian Ed Williams, received the Department History Trophy in our membership category for his 2011-2012 Post 171 Scrapbook! We were also recognized for our contribution to "Heroes to Hometowns" and "The Legacy Scholarship."

We were proud to have our Oratorical contestant, Logan Jackson, to once again deliver his prepared oration. Those in attendance who had not yet heard his "Keeping the Wolf at Bay" speech were duly impressed.

The 2013 "Hawaiian Shirt" Department Convention will be the week of July 15. The 2015 National American Legion Convention will be in Baltimore!!



American Legion Auxiliary, Unit 171
A Newsletter for Members & Friends of Damascus Unit 171
SEPTEMBER – OCTOBER 2012

Dear Members: It is truly an honor to have been given the opportunity to serve you again as President of Unit 171. I thank each and every one of you for your continued support.

I want to take this time for us to spend a few moments in silence as we remember our dear departed member, Debra Sue Duvall, who joined the Lord on August 3. Debbie, as she was affectionately known to us, was devoted to the Auxiliary in all of its projects and endeavors. She did a wonderful job serving our organization for a number of years as secretary. She will be sorely missed and never forgotten. Please pray for the repose of her soul and keep her family in your thoughts and prayers.

It is my pleasure to announce the following officers/appointees for this Administrative year:

President	Patricia "Pat" Rice	Sergeant-at-Arms	Casey Koontz
Vice President	Cynthia "Cindy" Ray	Color Bearers	Liz Popowsky
Secretary	Rosalyn "Roz" Bowman		Terri Nucio-Youngs
Treasurer	Linda Richon	Executive Committee	Betty Nicholson
Chaplain	Jennifer Shaffer		Barbara Raab
Historian	Virginia Myers		Judy Moore

It is with a great deal of pleasure to announce that Cindy Ray is graciously continuing as the Membership Chairman. As she announced in the last newsletter our Unit made goal in 2012. In order to keep up our perfect record, we must now begin to gather in Membership for this Administrative year. For your information, our National organization increased the dues in early spring to \$20.00 per year. Please submit your check made payable to Damascus ALA Unit #171 and mail it to Cindy at 19321 Gardner Place, Germantown, MD 20876-1709 as soon as possible. Please remember that we need your support to help the Unit fulfill its obligation to the community, state and nation.

Membership is the key to every organization and should always be our top priority. Remember the more members we have, the stronger the Unit. Membership is the "backbone" of our organization, and your membership keeps Unit 171 solvent and able to administer to our Veterans, Community Service, Children and Youth and Education programs. If you know of someone who is eligible to be a member of the Auxiliary please encourage them to join and to contact any one of the officers or Cindy for an application.

I wish to extend my thanks to those members who gave tirelessly of themselves this past year and volunteered their time to help when called upon. It is through your efforts that the Unit maintains its high standard of volunteerism and service. I want you to know how much it is appreciated.

Please mark your calendars with these friendly reminders:

1. Bingo 1st and 3rd Thursday nights September through June .
2. Pancake breakfasts the 2nd Saturday every month.
3. The Unit's meetings are the 2nd Monday of the month, beginning September 10, 2012 at 7:30p.m.
4. The pot luck dinners are held in October, December, March and June beginning at 6:00 p.m.

Let us never forget the Veterans who made it possible for us to enjoy all of the freedoms we so easily take for granted.

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

Thank You –

We would like to thank all the Unit, Post and SAL members who provided their support to the Duvall and Maddox families during their time of loss. The outpouring of food and offers of help in serving the luncheon was greatly appreciated by us and the families. Debbie will be greatly missed in our ranks.

Linda Richon & Sandy Seipp

UNIT 171 MEMBERSHIP REPORT

PLEASE LADIES check your membership card to see if it is 2013. If not, please send your dues in the amount of \$20 made payable to the Damascus American Legion Auxiliary Unit 171 and mail to Cynthia Ray, 19421 Gardner Place, Germantown, MD 20876-1709. Our first goal date is September 25th and I would like to send in as many renewals as possible.

During our business meeting on Monday, September 10th we will be voting on our new President, Pat Rice. We will also be discussing our Standing Rules for the year. Please make an effort to attend this meeting.

The first pot luck dinner will be October 8th at 6:00 p.m. The theme for dinner will be Halloween.

God Bless America, God bless our troops and their families, and God bless you

Yours in service,
Cindy Ray
Membership Chairman



Sons of the American Legion Squadron, 171

A Newsletter for Members & Friends of Damascus Squadron 171

SEPTEMBER – OCTOBER 2012

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

As we prepare for a new Legion year, we hope to build on what we have accomplished. Our main goal for this year is to increase membership and create more active participation in all Legion family functions. Please begin sending in your membership dues and please send your email addresses to johnboy42081@yahoo.com.

We will continue to work the snack bar on the second and fourth Thursdays of the month, and will plan on another golf tournament in the spring.

I look forward to a successful year working to strengthen the Legion Family.

On a personal note, I would like to thank everyone for the love and support with my mom's passing.

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

Yours in Service,
John Wayne-



COMING EVENTS
Post, Unit & Squadron 171 Calendar

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

September 2012

<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Time</u>
3rd	Labor Day	
4th	Post Ex. Board Mtg.	7:00 pm
6th	Post Bingo Starts	7:00 pm
8th	Post Pancake Breakfast	7:30 – 9:30 am
8th	Montgomery County Mtg.	9:00 am – after breakfast
10th	SAL Mtg.	7:00 pm
10th	Post and Unit Mtgs.	7:30 pm
11th	Baker Middle School Flag Raising	8:00 am
13th	Post Bingo	7:00 pm
20th	Post Bingo	7:00 pm
27th	Post Bingo	7:00 pm

October 2012

<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Time</u>
1st	Post Ex. Board Mtg.	7:00 pm
4th	Post Bingo	7:00 pm
8th	Pot Luck Dinner	6:00 pm
8th	SAL Membership Mtg.	7:00 pm
8th	Post and Unit Mtgs.	7:30 pm
11th	Post Bingo	7:00 pm
13th	Shrimp Feast	6:00 pm
18th	Post Bingo	7:00 pm
20th	SAL Pancake Breakfast	7:30 – 9:30 am
25th	Post Bingo	7:00 pm

Looking Ahead

November 11 – Veterans Day
November 17 – Oyster Roast
 November 22 – Thanksgiving Day

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.

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	301 253-3912	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