



THE DAMASCUS VETERAN

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

July – August 2018

THE COMMANDER'S CORNER

Fellow Comrades:

I hope that you are having a wonderful summer. Post 171 celebrated Memorial Day on May 27th and it was a great turn out. Unit 171 hosted a Pot Luck dinner on June 11th and invited all of the Post and Unit Scholarship winners and their families to attend. Several of the winners and their families were able to attend and were introduced to the Post and Unit members.

July 5th is our Post 171 Baseball Bingo please come out or donate to our Post 171 baseball program.

This year is the 100th Department Convention in Ocean City, Md from July 10th to July 13th. Quite a few of us will be attending as Delegates and see what the new Legion year has to offer.



On June 23rd we are having our Installation Dinner and my time as your Post 171 Commander will end. I am excited to announce a new group of Post 171 Officers will step up and lead the way. President Teddy Roosevelt was fond of observing that life's greatest gift is hard work worth doing. The American Legion family needs your continued support. Please become an active member at the Post and support our Veterans, help us with American Legion Bingo, Join Committees to support our fundraising efforts. Recruit some new Veterans to keep Post 171 around for our veterans and community's future. Please attend some American Legion Baseball games and show support to our future leaders. Thanks to everyone for your continued support of our Legion Family and many post activities.

I would be remiss if I didn't mention the amazing officers and committee chairs like 1st Vice Commander Tony DeShiro, 2nd Vice Commander Dave Clemmer, Judge Advocate Fred Mitchell, Adjutant Kevin Mook, Service Officer Jim Seritella, Finance Ching-Yao Yu, Chaplin Shawn Gill, Sgt At Arms Bill Green, Executive Committee Paula Gill, Bob Bellison, Bill Raab and Sam Baughman. Thank you all for your continued diligence and support.

Past Post Commanders thanks for always being there for me whenever I had questions. I know I had quite a few. Thanks to President Marianne DiSomma and Squadron Commander John Duvall. I am very proud of our work together. Strength in the Legion Family.

Dave Clemmer, I look forward to you having a great year as the Post 171 Commander. I know you will do a fantastic job.

In closing, I would like to say a very special thanks to my wife Kelli Cole has been my right hand. Kelli has helped me a great deal over the last two years serving Post 171 and I could not have done it without her love and support.

Semper Fidelis,
Will Cole
Past Post Commander

Good day to all of Post 171,

The election and installation are already behind us and the entire slate of officers stands ready to carry the mantle of responsibility and conduct the business of the Post.

The department convention is next on the agenda and taking place in July. Then in August we will have our first executive meeting followed a week later with our membership meeting. This Post is in better than good shape, thanks to fine leadership over many years and the enormous commitment of our members to serve the local community.

From my observations your past commanders never seem to stop working for you. And yet, our Post and The Legion nationally are in a period of declining membership. One of our top priorities will be recruitment and retention. Our country continues in the longest period of war this nation has ever endured. This brings forth a significant quantity of eligible patriotic veterans who have seen the ravages of war and come back home to Our Land of the Free and Home of the Brave. These are the men and women we must entice into our ranks.

So, as we go forth it will be with increasing importance for all of us to make decisions that are directed to the long game as opposed the present inning. (pun intended) So let's raise our vigilant sights to a deeper horizon than our own lifespan. Let's think in terms of the next 50 years! It is vital that we leave our Post as good or better than the strong and resilient one we now cherish. That will ensure our legacy and preserve the warmth and care of this terrific organization to continue to serve our membership, our wonderful community, our beautiful state and our beloved nation.

Join the conversation at any time – your voice is always welcome. Please don't hesitate to contact any member of your leadership team with your thoughts, ideas and suggestions. This Post is formidable because of our shared commitment. Let's use a serious measure of that commitment to write the next chapter of our American Legion Post 171 preparing for generations that follow. Here's looking toward the future – for we Legionnaires here today ready to dedicate tomorrow as our mission for those who are yet to “fall-in” our formation!

“Think 50”

For God, For Country, For Liberty,

David F. Clemmer
Post Commander

In Memoriam

Roland L. Hockenbery, 84, passed away on March 8, 2018 and served in Korea. He is survived by Judith his loving wife. He is also survived by his three children; Kimberly, Pamela, and Roland Jr.; eight grandchildren; four great-grandchildren; one brother, Paul and numerous nieces and nephews. Roland is also remembered by Judith's children, Jeffrey and James. He is preceded in death by his first wife Delores, brother Warren and sister Linda. Roland was a member of the American Legion for 34 years.

Everest M. Moxley, Jr., 73, passed away on June 20, 2018 and served in Vietnam. He is survived by his son Brandon, sister Shirley and brothers Bernard and Allen "Mack". He is preceded in death by his brothers Donald and Larry. JR was a member of the American Legion for Nine (9) years.

AMERICAN LEGION SCHOLARSHIPS **Scholarship Chairman: Kevin Mook(PC)**

The Damascus American Legion Post 171 will be awarding four scholarships from the Pos in the amount of \$2,000 each, with a fifth scholarship to be awarded by the SAL for \$1,500, and one more provided by Linda Richon in the memory of George Richon in the amount of \$1,500. Each of these were awarded for the scholastic year of 2018-2019. There were 40 outstanding applications submitted and the scholarship committee consisted of Chairman Kevin Mook, Commander Will Cole, Dave Clemmer, Fred Mitchell, Paula Gill and Shawn Gill who reviewed and graded all of them. While all the applicants were impressive, six students stood out among the rest for their community service, work ethic at school and on the job and achievements in school.

The winners in the order of points received were:

Cailyn Barthlow – Linganore HS
Matthew Martin – Damascus HS
Christina Lowell – Urbana HS
Clayton Yingling – Linganore HS
Thomas Moyer – Linganore HS
Kathryn Amar – Covenant Life HS

Damascus American Legion Family Awards Scholarships

Written by George Bolling, (PC)

Each year, the Damascus American Legion Family—Post 171, Auxiliary Unit 171, and Sons of the American Legion (SAL) Squadron 171—recognizes achievements of young people as a part of numerous youth programs, including scholarships to seniors bound for college.

Two Damascus High School students were awarded scholarships from the Post and the Unit at a ceremony at the school earlier this month. Matthew Martin received the Post scholarship, and Kimberly Nardi was awarded the Unit's medical scholarship.

Other Post and SAL scholarship winners recognized at their schools' similar ceremonies included Cailyn Barthlow, Clayton Yingling, and Thomas Moyer at Lingnaore High School; Christina Lowell at Urbana High School, and Kathryn Amar at Covenant Life High School. The Unit also awarded a general scholarship to Christina Shea Lowell at Urbana High School.



Damascus American Legion memorializes fallen veterans

Written by George Bolling, (PC)



Pictured are the memorials to fallen veterans at American Legion Post 171 in Damascus, presented at the Post's annual Memorial Day service on May 27. The small American flags were carried and placed by members of the Damascus Legion Auxiliary Unit 171 in memory of each of the 13 Post members who transferred to Post Everlasting since Memorial Day 2017.

In the middle is the POW/MIA empty chair and table honoring the thousands of American veterans who are prisoners of war and missing in action around the globe. On the right are the flower arrangements presented by local civic and service organizations in the greater Damascus community.

The Browningsville Cornet Band provided a prelude of patriotic music to open the service. First Vice Commander Tony DeShiro served as the master of ceremonies.

The keynote speaker was Montgomery County business owner and chief election judge Kathleen "Kat" O'Connor, who spoke about American values defended by fallen veterans.

Other highlights of the service included the playing of "Amazing Grace" by the Montgomery County Police Pipers, the audience singing "God Bless America," the rendering of a gun salute by the Rockville Legion Post 86 Honor Guard Firing Squad, and the playing of taps by Carl Rosey, a trumpeter in the Browningsville Band.

Following the service, the Auxiliary Unit served lunch to the more than 100 attendees.





THE POST 171 PATRIOTS BASEBALL PROGRAM UPDATE

Like the unpredictability of the weather, so too has been our baseball program as it has experienced some of its own uncertainty. During our announced Spring tryouts, we had one of the lowest player turnouts in the last four years. As always, our first priority is to field the most competitive Senior Legion team possible and then to build a strong age-appropriate Junior Legion team. Given the low numbers, we regrettably were unable to field a Junior Legion team. At the conclusion of this season, we will be making a concerted effort to rebuild that team for the 2019 season and to increase our numbers of interested players.

On a positive note, our very young Senior Legion team finds itself surprisingly ensconced in second place in the Montgomery County Senior Legion League with a 4 - 2 record as of June 20th. On our 2018 roster, we have 10 underclassmen, including six sophomores and one freshman with players from Damascus HS, Magruder HS, Seneca Valley HS and Poolesville HS. Thanks to the presence of our returning seven Senior Legion veterans who bring critical leadership and experience, and some 2017 Junior Legion players who have stepped up to fill in some gaps and provide depth, our boys have been competitive against league opponents. Within the next few weeks, the Seniors will compete in the Frederick Wood Bat Tournament and will begin winding the regular league season down and preparing for the county playoffs. We hope that with the return of some critical players who have been absent over the last few weeks due to injury and travel that we will be in a strong position entering the Montgomery County playoffs in mid-July.

This will be my last posting to the Post 171 newsletter as the Chairman of the baseball program. Serving as Chairman has been a very rewarding personal experience and a true labor of love. I will be relinquishing the Chair to Alan Rannals, and he already is bringing new energy and a fresh perspective to the program. By way of introduction, Alan is originally from the San Francisco Bay area, and he served in the US Marines. He has been a member of Post 171 for many years, and he has been serving on the baseball committee for two years as the Assistant Chairman. He has been deeply invested in youth sports programs for many years, but freely admits that baseball is his real sports passion. He looks forward to the challenges of trying to grow our program and provide a rewarding and competitive team for the young men willing to represent our Post. Alan and his family (Lisa and their three sons) have made Damascus their home since 2001. Please join me in welcoming Alan to his new role and thanking him for volunteering his time to our baseball program.

Finally, please do not forget that we are having our annual Baseball Bingo fundraiser on Thursday, July 5th. This is our only fundraising activity and the proceeds generated will go directly into the program to provide our young men an affordable baseball experience. Doors open at 5 PM and cash bingo begins at 7 PM. Please spread the word and come have some family fun for a great cause.

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.



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

July - August 2018

Dear Unit Members:

Our continued focus this year has been to build our “offering”, and what I mean by that is what we have to offer as a Unit to not only serve our mission as members of the world’s largest women’s patriotic organization, but to attract new members because of the projects we support.

It has become increasingly difficult to support some of the projects sponsor because we do not have enough volunteers. And so, I am posting this in an effort to reach out to the **over 120 members of this Unit:**

HELP WANTED!

Beginning in September, we will need volunteers to help support the bingo snack bar on the first and third Thursdays of the month. There are two shifts – 4:00 to 7:00 PM and 7:00 to 9:00 PM. Contact Marianne if you can help.

HELP WANTED!

We need volunteers to help with various committees: Americanism, membership, fundraising and the Pocket Flag Project to name a few. Contact Marianne if you can help.

HELP WANTED!

We need volunteers to step up and shadow some of the current Unit leaders who have held the same positions for more than a few years. President, Treasurer, Secretary to name a few. Fresh ideas and spirits are needed to keep this organization operating for the benefit of our veterans and military. Contact Marianne if you have any questions.

I read a sign recently that said, “**Volunteers don’t have time; they have heart.**” I ask that you please consider spending time with this unit to help even with the smallest task. Our next meeting is September 10th and as I’ve always done, I will send an agenda with the calendar of events. Even if you can’t make the meeting, please send me comments or questions OR ask about how you can join in on some of the upcoming events. Let’s continue to make this Unit one which successfully supports our active military and veterans.

Enjoy the summer and please keep our military in your thoughts and prayers.

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

Marianne DiSomma
Auxiliary President, Unit 171
E-mail address: marianne62@msn.com
Phone: 301-606-4645

REMINDER! Early Bird membership renewal ends on July 15th! Early bird dues are \$21 and after the 15th they will be \$25. Please send your dues to: ALA Unit 171, P.O. Box 171, Damascus, MD 20872

Questions? Please contact Amanda Baughman at 240-409-8226 or axb5801@yahoo.com.



Sons of the American Legion Squadron, 171

A Newsletter for Members & Friends of Damascus Squadron 171

July - August 2018

Greetings from the S.A.L. Squadron,

First, I would like to take a minute to introduce myself. My name is Todd Stockslager and I am honored to be your newly elected SAL Squadron Commander. I have been a member of the SAL for 4 years and have served as the 1st Vice Commander for the past 2 years. I am looking forward to another exciting year and will do my best in serving our Legion family.

The SAL will be having our First Annual Crab Feast on Saturday, October 13th at the Post. Doors will open at 4:00pm and food will be served from 5-8pm. The price is \$55 per person and includes all you can eat Crabs, Hamburgers and Hot Dogs, Macaroni Salad, Coleslaw, Corn on the Cob, and drinks. There will be entertainment from 7:30-11pm. There are only 200 tickets being sold so don't wait purchase yours now. You can purchase through the link below or you can contact me at (240) 793-6406 or ToddSAL171@yahoo.com or you can contact Amanda at (240) 409-8226 or axb5801@yahoo.com. There will be NO tickets sold at the door and also no refunds. With your help we can make this event a success and will hopefully be able to do it again in the future.

<https://www.eventbrite.com/o/american-legion-sons-of-the-american-legion-squadron-171-17484510790>

Our next meeting will be Monday, September 10th at 7:00pm.

In closing, I would like to remind and encourage all our members to continue helping our Legion Family with all of the upcoming events. It's a great way that we can strengthen our Legion Family.

Looking forward to seeing everyone soon. Enjoy your summer and see everyone in the fall.

Todd Stockslager
SAL 171 Commander



COMING EVENTS
Post, Unit & Squadron 171 Calendar

July 2018

<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Time</u>
4th	Independence Day	
5th	Baseball Bingo	7:00 PM
10th - 13th	Maryland American Legion Convention in Ocean City	
13th	Celebrate Damascus Days Parade Fireworks after the Parade	7:00 PM
14th	Community Flea Market Fire Dept. Activities Bldg. and Grounds	10:00 AM – 4:00 PM

August 2018

<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Time</u>
6th	Post Ex. Board Meeting	7:00 PM
13th	SAL Member Meeting	7:00 PM
13th	Post and Unit Member Meetings	7:30 PM
24th – 30th	100th National Convention in Minneapolis	

Looking Ahead

Sep 3rd	Labor Day	
Sep 4th	Post Ex. Board Meeting	7:00 PM
Sep 6th	Bingo starts	7:00 PM
Sep 10th	SAL Member Meeting	7:00 PM
Sep 10th	Post and Unit Member Meetings	7:30 PM
Sep 15th	Pancake Breakfast	7:30 AM

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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
1st Vice Commander	Fred Mitchell	(301) 916-8395	Historian	Sam Lehane
2nd 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
1st Vice Commander	Tom Kaufman	Historian	D.J. Mook
2nd Vice Commander	John Duvall	Sgt-at-Arms	Tyler Baughman
Adjutant	Adam Young	Post Liaison	Paula Gill
Finance Officer	Adam Young		

Newsletter Editor: Kevin Mook (PC), (240) 668-4033 or Newsletter@legionpost171.org