



THE DAMASCUS VETERAN

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

May – June 2017

THE COMMANDER'S CORNER

Fellow Comrades:

Maria and I attended the National Commander's Banquet on March 18th at Post 109 in Arbutus, Maryland. It was great to hear from and meet the National Commander Charlie Schmidt. He was great speaker and very personable. Listening to his passion for veterans was truly inspiring.

The Unit held their "Basket, Bags, and Bucks" bingo was held on April 1st and it was a rousing success! Games included regular bingo, King Tut, raffles, and door prizes. Great food was available from the snack bar and we look forward to the next one.

Please be sure and mark your calendar for our Memorial Day program Sunday, May 28th. The Browningsville Band will start playing at 1:30pm and Opening ceremony is at 2pm. So far we have the band, a special guest speaker, bag pipes and a bugler. Not to mention all the help we will receive from our own Boy Scouts, Cub Scouts and Girl Scouts. Memorial Day is a special day of remembrance to honor those men and women who died while serving in the United States Armed Forces. A luncheon will follow the program.

On Saturday, April 15, 2017 the Post hosted its Blood Drive. 30 units of whole blood were collected. A special thank you goes out to Jennifer Shaffer and David Hull for making this blood drive a success!

We held our Spring Shrimp Feast on April 22nd and it appeared that everyone was having a good time. These events are always a great booster to the community.

Of major concern to everyone are the fraud, scammers, and identity theft criminals who prey on our senior citizens who, for whatever reasons, are the most vulnerable. These despicable persons use any means at their disposal; e.g. Nigerian lottery winners, a grandson who needs money sent to get out of jail, and many other scams. One of our members, Mike Conrad, working with the Montgomery County PD provides a free 45-minute presentation on how to recognize and avoid these scams. Mike and I will be working over the next month to develop and present this program to our membership. More information on this will be forthcoming.



We are still looking for someone to fill Historian. If you are interested in either of these positions for next year please contact Commander@legionpost171.org or call (240) 498-6771.

God Bless our Military and God Bless America
Scott C Earhardt, Commander

AMERICAN LEGION SCHOLARSHIPS

Scholarship Chairman: Kevin Mook

The Damascus American Legion Post 171 will be awarding four scholarships from the Post, with a fifth scholarship to be awarded by the SAL, and one more provided by Linda Richon in the memory of George Richon in the amounts of \$1,500 each for the scholastic year of 2016-2017. There were 41 applications submitted and the scholarship committee which consisted of Chairman Kevin Mook, Commander Scott Earhardt, Ernie Screen and Shawn Gill 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 were: Sherwood HS - Caitlin Deerin and Olivia Henderson
 Damascus HS - Alexia Roberts and Ross Ward
 Seneca Valley HS - Omolola Sanusi
 Magruder HS - Joyce Chung



Damascus Post 171, American Legion, Inc.

10201 Lewis Drive, P.O. Box 171, Damascus, MD 20872

Dear Comrades:

The Annual Membership Installation Dinner - June 24, 2017

Mark your calendars for Saturday June 24, 2017 for the annual Installation Dinner to be held at the Post home! This is a momentous event and everyone is encouraged to attend, especially new members! New members are to be our guests. Social hour / open bar starts at 5:00 P.M., buffet dinner at 6:00 P.M., Installation program at 7:00 P.M.

This is a wonderful time to catch up with friends, greet and welcome our new members, and Celebrate the American Legion and our outstanding Post!

Please send in the below reservation form to the Post with your check by June 19th. The cost is \$15 each per member, spouse (or first guest). Clip out and send to the Post as soon as possible but no later than June 17th, 2017.

2017 Installation Dinner Party Reservation Form / Saturday June 24th

Member name _____ @ \$15

Spouse or 1st guest _____ @ \$15

Number of additional guests _____ @ \$15 each

New Members/Active Duty Members – No Charge

Total number attending _____ Table Request _____

Total Amount enclosed \$ _____

UNIFORM CAP ETIQUETTE



- The left side (emblem side) of the cap is reserved only for the Legion emblem, city, county, district, or state lettering.
- If desired, the following items must be placed on the right side of the cap:
 - Additional lettering, restricted to either the name of a Post or to an officer title, such as Past Commander
 - Cap insignias or badges for past or present officers
 - Consecutive membership insignia, membership stars, and/or authorized Legion or military service decorations
- Names or nicknames of individual members cannot be used on caps.
- The Legion uniform cap should be worn by its members only when in attendance at official Legion meetings or ceremonies or as official guests at patriotic or other civil functions or by individuals when officially representing The American Legion on public occasions.
- A member is in uniform if wearing an official Legion uniform cap. Therefore, it is not proper to wear the cap while eating a meal at an official Legion or civic luncheon or dinner.
- The cap should be worn in a place of worship only by the Guard of Honor, Color Guard, and Commander of same while in marching order or standing guard. When returned to and seated in pews, the cap should be removed.
- Legion posts marching in formation into a place of worship should uncover at the door, hold the cap with the right hand over the heart until the arrival in the pews and commanded to take seats, remaining uncovered during the entire service. At the close of the service, upon command, the post shall arise, the members holding the cap with the right hand over the heart will march out of the place of worship and recover after marching through the door.
- Legion members not in formation will uncover upon entering the place of worship and remain uncovered during the entire service and will recover after leaving the place of worship.
- When at a funeral, the cap should be held over the heart as one approaches the casket and is not at any time worn in a place of worship (except by the Guard of Honor, Color Guard, or Commander of same while in marching order or standing guard.) At the graveside, the cap should be held in the right hand over the heart during the entire service. In cold and inclement weather, the cap should not be worn.
- In Legion meetings, the cap should be worn except during moments of the Pledge of Allegiance, prayer, and when standing in silent reverence in memory of departed comrades, when the cap should be held with the right hand over the heart.
- Female members of the Legion should wear their caps in the manner prescribed for female personnel of the armed services.



THE POST 171 COMBINED LEGION BASEBALL PROGRAM UPDATE

The Senior and Junior Legion team rosters are set, baseball uniforms have been ordered, and the season schedule for games and tournaments have been finalized and posted to our website (www.post171baseball.com). We are less than five weeks away from the beginning of another great American Legion Post 171 baseball experience.

Coach Bob O’Conor will once again take the helm of our Senior Legion team, and he will be ably joined by returning coaches Eric Berringer and Richard Blankenship. The Senior Legion player roster will include eight players from Damascus High School (HS), four from Clarksburg HS, three from Seneca Valley HS, and two from Sherwood HS. Thirteen Senior players have 3 or more years of Legion Post 171 baseball experience, an encouraging retention statistic that suggests that parents and players find that our program has great value. The Seniors will open their season on May 28th when they travel to Mt Airy to play local rival Post 191 in a double-header starting at 11 AM.

Junior Legion Head Coach Chris Blackwood and Assistant Coach Kevin Hernandez will lead a youthful but an enthusiastic team this year. After losing nine Juniors to the Seniors, Coach Blackwood will welcome a number of new faces to the program. Fourteen of the eighteen players will have their first Legion summer baseball experience with the team. The roster includes players from the following schools: Clarksburg HS (6), Damascus HS (4), Avalon HS (3), Poolesville HS (2), Good Counsel (1), and Magruder HS (1). The Juniors open their season on May 23rd at 6 PM against Post 191 in Mt Airy.

Finally, we are all looking forward to the second annual Bob Bellison Red, White and Blue Game and Picnic between the Senior and Junior Legion teams. The game will be played on May 20th at Damascus HS with a picnic at the Legion to follow immediately thereafter. The inclement weather date is June 3rd. Additional information will follow.

2017 POST 171 BASEBALL COMMITTEE: *Keith Martin (Chairman), Alan Rannals (Assistant Chairman), Sam Baughman, Bob Bellison, George Bolling, Buzz Burroughs, Frank Carpenter, Brownie Chichester, Will Cole, Skip Duvall, Bill Green, Bill Hauptman, and Ron Scott.*

2017 POST 171 BASEBALL COACHES – Senior Legion Coaches: *Bob O’Conor, Head Coach; Eric Berringer, Associate Head Coach; and Richard Blankenship, Assistant Coach* **Junior Legion Coaches –** *Chris Blackwood, Head Coach; Assistant Coach Kevin Hernandez*

2017 BOOSTERS: Grand Slam – Bob & Ruby Bellison; Dan & Jen Berringer; George & Mary Bolling; Bill Dunn; Dee Dee Myers; Rosser & Barbara Campbell; Liz Litvin; Eric Berringer; Ray Mullican; Keith & Mary Gene Martin; Buzz Burroughs; Roland & Judith Hockenbery; and Ernest C. Clifford, Jr **Home Run** – Brownie & Ginny Chichester; Kevin & Evelyn Hernandez; Mark & Betty Jeffers; GK & PJ Johnson; George & Cathy Magas; Bill & Cindy McMinn; Bob & Louise Mullinex; Donald & Betty Nicholson; Alan Rannals; Sandy Siepp; Skip Duvall; William Hauptman; Ann B. Gray; John Walter; Scott & Maria Earhardt; Eugene G. Hilty; Ernest & Helen Screen; Pat Rice; Jim Serritella; and Tony DeShiro **Double Hitter** - Robert Gladhill;

Bob Moxely; Danny Moxley; Debby Moxley; Pat Moxley; Paula Moxley; Mary Robinson; Madalean Darby; Judy Moore; Jack & Mary Beth Talamo; Hazel Hoyle; Sam Baughman; Leonard Senseney; and Harry & June Pearce

2017 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: Keith Martin, PO Box 171, Damascus, MD 20872. Any comments or questions should be directed to Keith Martin at rkmgm@verizon.net or Alan Rannals at rannals@gmail.com.



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

May – June 2017

Dear Unit Members:

We've had an exciting couple of months with several events that we've held, and I can't say enough how proud I am of this group of ladies that give their time and energy. You all are amazing!

For starters, we held our annual "Basket, Bags and Bucks Bingo Night" on April 1st and were thrilled that we hosted a sellout crowd! Led by Casey Koontz (thank you, Casey!), we were able to raise enough money from this fundraiser to support our projects and the scholarships we award during the year. We were pleased to have the Veterans Enhancement Project (VEP) team join us and donate a "Pallet Flag" for raffle. Thanks to Tom Busche for supporting our event and speaking to the group about VEP (<http://vepusa.org/>). Thank you to all the auxiliary members who devoted their energy and time – you are rock stars! And, a big thanks to the Legion members who helped sell Vegas and raffle tickets and to our bingo caller, Ching, who keeps the games running smoothly. We couldn't have done this without the support of our Post Members!

At our meeting on February 13th, our membership was introduced to members of the Warrior Canine Connection, courtesy of Jen Shaffer. The puppies were full of energy, and it was great to see how their foster families work with them to ready them for their forever home with a disabled veteran. Check them out at <http://warriorcanineconnection.org/>.

Kelli Cole led our Americanism Essay contest this year and received many outstanding essays from which to choose. You'll read in this newsletter issue about this year's contest, but it goes without saying that these young writers are patriots at heart. A big thanks to Americanism Chairperson Kelli Cole for orchestrating the program and to Mary Beth Talamo for her support and guidance!

On May 4th, three Damascus High School students received scholarship awards; 1 medical scholarship and two general scholarship. Scholarship Chairperson, Maria Baquero Earhardt, led this program in which we received 17 applications. The winners were as follows:

Alexia Roberts - \$1000.00 medical scholarship
Kaylynn Sefcik - \$1000.00 general scholarship
Emily Hale - \$1000.00 general scholarship

A big thanks to Maria and the judges, Pat Rice, Barbara Raab and Mary Beth Talamo, for their time and energy in making this such a success!

As a reminder, Early Bird membership renewal starts in June so stay tuned for news regarding discounted membership fees!

Please take a moment to look at our events calendar below and join us for any of our upcoming events. A new event we are hosting this year is “Auxiliary Night at the Baseball Game” to support our Post baseball team. Watch your e-mail for details of this upcoming event and please join us!

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: 301-482-2264

Auxiliary Calendar of Events

May

4 – Thursday, Bingo – Snack Bar

4 - Thursday, 7:00 PM Scholarship Presentation at DHS

8 – Monday, 7:30 Unit Meeting, Nominating Committee presents slate of officers for 2017/2018

18 – Thursday, Bingo – Snack Bar

28 – Sunday, Memorial Day Service at the Post, 1:30 Browningsville Band, 2:00 PM Service, 3:00 PM luncheon

29 – Monday, Memorial Day

June

1 – Thursday, Bingo – Snack Bar

2 – Friday, 5:30 Auxiliary Night at the Baseball Game – Post 171 Senior Baseball Game at Damascus High School

12 – Monday, 6:00 PM Pot Luck Dinner (Host: Trish, Maria) and Dessert Auction/7:30 Unit Meeting
(Need nominations for delegates and alternates to the department convention)

15 – Thursday, Bingo – Snack Bar

24 – Saturday, Installation Dinner, Cocktails 5:00 PM, Dinner 6:00 PM

July

10-14 – Department Convention, Ocean City

AMERICANISM ESSAY CONTEST

On Sunday, April 2, 2017, a reception was held at Post 171 to recognize and honor winners from our recent Americanism Essay contest. The program began with the Pledge of Allegiance, followed by a few words from the Americanism Chairperson, Kelli Cole. After each Essay was read, Certificates of Participation and cash awards were presented by Chairperson Kelli. The winners for each category and grade are as follows:

Group I (3rd and 4th grade)

1st place Abigail Cho from Wilson Wims Elementary
2nd place Lily Luther from Damascus Elementary
3rd place Eliana Pearson from Laytonsville Elementary

Group II (5th and 6th grades)

1st place Kyle Poudyal Woodfield Elementary
2nd place Brady Reese Woodfield Elementary
3rd place Nathan Furgeson Woodfield Elementary

Honorable mentions (group II):

Heather Anderson Woodfield Elementary
Timmy Tomlinson Woodfield Elementary

Abigail Cho and Kyle Poudyal won first place at the district level and were honored at the district meeting on April 23rd.

A special thanks Mary Beth Talamo for assistance in finding judges and her encouraging words and guidance!



Sons of the American Legion Squadron, 171
A Newsletter for Members & Friends of Damascus Squadron 171

May – June 2017

Greetings from SAL 171,

As we wind down the Legion year for the summer, we can reflect on a very positive year for the squadron. We have obtained over 100% membership, have had several of our own fundraisers that have brought the legion family together more, continue to support various programs, and continue to build toward a successful future. Of course, we are nowhere close to being done this year yet with many things still left to do and accomplish.

We will have two final family dinners coming up in May and June. On Sunday May 21 at 4pm we will have a cookout at the post. All are invited to attend and the cost will be \$8 a person. On Sunday June 11, 2017, we will have our final dinner, another cookout but this will have a patriotic theme that will be announced at our May dinner. We feel a Sunday afternoon is best to give all a chance to attend.

We will be looking to elect new officers at our meeting in May and will be looking for anyone interested in becoming an officer next year to please attend this meeting or let us know what you are interested in. The installation dinner will be held Saturday June 24, 2017 at the Post, and is always a wonderful event, which all can attend, even if you are not being installed.

We are pleased to announce we are once again continuing to support our legion family and the community as much as we can. We were able to once again sponsor a basket for our auxiliary's basket bingo, and many SAL members were attending and helping to work the event as well. We also are even more excited to announce that we are once again sponsoring a college scholarship for the winner being chosen by the Post scholarship committee.

A quick reminder that the SAL is always welcome to attend any function that the legion family puts on and are always welcome to volunteer for help that may be needed anywhere. Bingo on Thursday nights can always use more volunteers and the Memorial Day events need volunteers starting with the Flags on graves on Saturday May 27, and the Memorial Day program on May 28.

Wishing everyone a wonderful spring, and look forward to finishing this year as strong as we can,

In your service,
John Wayne Duvall SAL 171 Commander



COMING EVENTS
Post, Unit & Squadron 171 Calendar

May 2017

<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Time</u>
1st	Post Executive Committee Meeting	7:00 PM
4th	Post Bingo	7:00 PM
6th	SMD Department reception	12:00 PM
8th	SAL, Post & Unit Member Meetings	7:00 & 7:30 PM
11th	Post Bingo	7:00 PM
13th	Pancake Breakfast	7:30 AM
18th	Post Bingo	7:00 PM
20th	Post 171 Baseball Picnic	5:30 PM
25th	Post Bingo	7:00 PM
28th	Post 171 Memorial Day Observation	1:30 PM

June 2017

<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Time</u>
5th	Post Executive Committee Meeting	7:00 PM
8th	Post Bingo	7:00 PM
10th	Pancake Breakfast	7:30 AM
12th	Potluck Dinner	6:00 PM
12th	SAL, Post & Unit Member Meetings	7:00 & 7:30 PM
15th	Post Bingo	7:00 PM
17th	American Legion Extension Institute Post 191	1:00 PM
22nd	Post Bingo	7:00 PM
24th	Installation dinner	5:00 P<
29th	Post Bingo	7:00 PM

Looking Ahead

July 10-14, 2017 – American Legion Convention – Ocean City



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Post Home Location: 10201 Lewis Drive, Damascus, MD 20872 – Phone: 301 253-0769
<http://www.legionpost171.org> and <https://www.facebook.com/DamascusPost171>

American Legion Post 171 Officers

Commander	Scott Earhardt	(240) 498-6771	Historian	Ed Williams	(301) 882-7912
1st Vice Commander	Will Cole	(240) 643-7022	Chaplain	Shawn Gill	(661) 312-1113
2nd Vice Commander	Vacant		Sgt-at-Arms	Bill Green	(301) 253-5420
Judge Advocate	Anthony DeShiro	(843) 855-9353	Executive Comm	Paula Gill	(661) 618-7638
Adjutant	Kevin Mook	(301) 204-9230		Bob Bellison	(301) 253-2728
Finance Officer	Ching-Yao Yu	(240) 668-4080		Ronald Scott	(301) 831-7974
Service Officer	Jim Serritella	(301) 253-3971		Sam Baughman	(301)401-6479

Auxiliary, Unit 171 Officers

President	Marianne DiSomma	(301) 606-4645	Membership	Traci Moxley
Vice President	Maria Earhardt	(301) 385-1940	Color Bearers	Terri Nuccio-Youngs
Secretary	Amanda Baughman	(240) 409-8226		Carol Hartley
Treasurer	Patricia Busche	(301) 391-6752		
Chaplain	Pat Rice	(301) 253-2266	Executive Comm	CaseyKoontz
Historian	Diane Capel			Rita Galovic
Sgt-at-Arms	Virginia Myers			Kelli Cole

SAL Squadron, 171 Officers

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

Newsletter Editor: Kevin Mook, (301) 204-9230 or Newsletter@legionpost171.org