



# THE DAMASCUS VETERAN

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

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July - August 2019

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## THE COMMANDER'S CORNER

Having served you for the last year as your Commander I must say what an honor it has been for me. We have continued to move forward serving each other, our Post and the community around us. The 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of D-Day program honored World War Two veterans. The reviews I have heard have all been quite positive. Mr. Delmas Wood Sr. was a remarkable reminder of how intense the world was during this period of history. I would like to congratulate Steve Monteiro whose idea sparked this entire program and his leadership and organizational talents throughout the process. One of the reviews stated "we have set a new bar" for future events.



I would also like to thank all of the officers and members of the executive committee for their guidance, vision and advice. Also of note is the leadership of the Auxiliary and the SAL who supported all of the Post programs in an outstanding manner.

My congratulations to the newly elected officers of all these elements within the Post 171 family. I can say wholeheartedly "we are in good hands" and I look forward to working to support the programs the new leadership has to keep us moving forward to new heights.

Dave F. Clemmer, Past Post Commander



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## From our new Commander

Greetings Post, Unit, and Squadron

I am sure I speak for all of the newly elected officers of the Post, Unit, and Squadron when I say that we are truly honored by the confidence you have shown in us by electing us to our respective positions. With the installation behind us it is now time to get on with the business of the Post.

Last year, PPC Dave Clemmer spoke of sustainability for the next 50 years and I concur that we should be ever forward-thinking in those terms. While sustainability in terms of membership is important, equally important are the programs associated with the Post. Actually, Post membership and Post programs are interdependent on each other – membership drives programs; good programs give the Post positive visibility in the community, which affects our ability to recruit new members. The Post has many programs geared toward the community such as the oratorical contest, college scholarships, Boys State, and social events in the spring and fall designed to interact with the community. This Post enjoys an extremely impressive reputation within Montgomery County and deservedly so.

While the aforementioned programs are important for the Post and community, so are our programs designed to help veterans and their families. That is an area in which we can and need to improve. We need to think of innovative ways to reach our veterans, determine the need, and assist where we can. Creating programs/events for vets will be my focus as the new commander. After all, isn't that what we are all about?

Finally, Post 171 needs to work with the Unit and SAL in creating and implementing these veteran programs. By working together on projects and programs we can be an awesome team. As we all have a common purpose and objective, our mantra should be "one team – one mission." I am sure we all can agree that we can accomplish more together than we can individually.

I would like to thank the 2018-19 Post Officers and Executive Committee as the Post is healthy and strong as ever. I am looking forward to the challenges ahead and will depend heavily on the prior post commanders and officers for guidance and mentorship. With that said, let's get to work!

In His service,

Fred Mitchell

Post Commander

**Taking care of veterans, and taking care of each  
other**

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## Damascus American Legion Honors WWII Veterans at a Dinner Celebrating the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of D-Day 1944

More than 150 members and friends of the Damascus American Legion Family enjoyed a special dinner at the Post Home on June 1<sup>st</sup>, where 15 members of the Greatest Generation were honored. The occasion was in celebration of the Normandy Invasion by United States and Allied Forces on June 6, 1944, leading to victory over the Nazis in World War II. Post 171 Commander David Clemer served as master of ceremonies. Following opening ceremonies, Past Post Commander George Bolling paid tributes to American comrades-in-arms who are Prisoners of War and Missing in Action and notable WWII Post members who have passed away.

The static displays at the event included these. Left to right, the Navy blue dress uniform, the garrison uniform of an Army Artillery Officer, and the flight jacket of an Army Aviator. Weapons used by WWII soldiers along with numerous memorabilia from the WWII era were also on display.



After dinner, Commander Clemmer introduced the guest speaker: Sandy Spring resident Delmas Wood, Junior, an accomplished impersonator of President Franklin Delano Roosevelt. With the pomp and circumstance that accompanies a President's appearance, Delmas recited FDR's famous Declaration of War speech to Congress on December 8<sup>th</sup>, 1944, the day after Japanese air forces bombed Pearl Harbor in Hawaii, triggering our nation's entry into WWII. Mr. Wood then explained the responding actions the United States took to defeat Japanese forces in the Pacific, and he paid tribute to the WWII veterans for their service and sacrifices.



Commander Clemmer introduced Brigadier General Warner Sumpter, U.S. Army (Retired), Chairman, Maryland Veterans Home Commission, who presented the Post a Proclamation with Rodney Azama from Governor Larry Hogan commemorating the event.



Mr. Scott Williams, son of Post member Edward Williams, and National Assistant Adjutant for the Sons of the American Legion, presented the Post a letter from the National SAL Commander commending the Post for honoring the WWII veterans on this occasion.

Past Auxiliary Unit 171 President Sandy Seipp draped American Legion Medals around the neck of each honoree.



Past Damascus American Legion Auxiliary Unit President Sandy Seipp presents the American Legion Commemorative Medallion to Harold "Dick" Bennett, 97, the sole surviving charter member of Damascus American Legion Post 171, which was founded in 1946. Dick was an Army Air Forces crew member on a B-24 aircraft in the European Theater

during World War II.

Charles McGee, 99, a veteran of three wars and a retired United States Air Force Colonel, began his distinguished career with the Tuskegee Airmen, flying one of the Red Tails' P-51 Mustangs during World War II. He transitioned into jet fighters during the Korean War, and then flew F-4 Phantom reconnaissance jets in the Vietnam War.



Then, Post Member Dean Elliott presented each of the WWII veterans a vial of sand from Omaha and Utah Beaches, where American forces landed on D-Day.



Chairman of the D-Day Dinner Steve Monteiro read the names of the 27 soldiers in the 115<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment, 29<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division, who perished on D-Day and are buried in the

Normandy American Cemetery and Memorial in France. Then, Post Member Mark Elrod played Taps and the colors were retired to close the service.

Story by: Post Past Commander George Bolling

Photos courtesy of: Legionnaire Meg Clemmer and Ross Simpson

## The Story Behind the Celebration Story

By Steve Monteiro

In November 2018, I had the opportunity to visit Normandy (the American Cemetery, the beaches of Omaha and Utah, Pointe du Hoc, and Ste. Mere Eglise). What made the trip more special was sharing the experience with about 70 of my West Point classmates and our wives. Standing on that hallowed ground on the bluff overlooking Omaha Beach, I was humbled by the sacrifices of those brave patriots. The cemetery contains the graves of 9,380 of our military dead. On the Walls of Missing garden on the east side of the memorial are inscribed 1,557 names.

### The Normandy American Cemetery and Memorial in Colleville-sur-Mer, France

At the next Legion members meeting I reflected on the section of the Preamble that states "... To preserve the memories and incidents of our association in the Great Wars ..." With the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the D-Day approaching, the challenge became how best to honor these fallen comrades who sacrificed all their tomorrows so we might enjoy the freedoms of today. The concept was formulated, and an action plan developed which was approved by the general membership.



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### Renewal Time is Here!

We reached the 100% goal early in June. Let's see if we can hit the goal much earlier this time. You can go online at: [legion.org/renew](http://legion.org/renew) and click "Click Here to Renew Membership". You can also mail check or money order to the Post at: PO Box 171, Damascus, MD 20872. Questions can come to me at: [racecarman0711@comcast.net](mailto:racecarman0711@comcast.net). **Sam Baughman, Membership Chairman.**

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# Damascus American Legion Honors Fallen Warriors

Following a long-standing tradition, on the day before Memorial Day, members and friends of the Damascus American Legion Family placed American Flags on the graves of 678 veterans in 21 local cemeteries.

Sandy Seipp, Past Auxiliary Unit President, led this meaningful event.

Memorial Day was celebrated in Damascus on Sunday, May 26th, in a service on the front lawn of the Post 171 Home, led by Post Commander David Clemmer. The Browningsville Cornet Band opened the service with a thirty-minute concert of patriotic music as attendees arrived and were seated. Boy Scouts from Troop 1397 raised the Post's set of flags to begin the service. Legion Family color guards presented the colors, and Ms. Betty Bass, a Daughters of the American Revolution Regent, led the Pledge of Allegiance. Ms. Edwina Flynn sang a beautiful rendition of



the National Anthem, and Post Chaplain Paula Gill offered the invocation. Members of the Damascus Legion Auxiliary Unit presented flags in memory of the eleven Post members who passed away since last Memorial Day. As shown in the photograph, the beautiful wreaths and other floral arrangements were laid at the Post's monument to all veterans by civic organizations in the greater Damascus community. Then, in tribute, a Montgomery County Police Piper played a stirring version of Amazing Grace. The guest speaker was incoming Post Commander Fred Mitchell, a retired Navy Captain, who spoke eloquently about the necessity to unify our nation in this critical period in history. The service was closed with the singing of God Bless America and Taps by Post Member Mark Elrod. Members of Boy Scout Troop 1397 and Girl Scout Troops 1084 and 3624 assisted in the preparation for the service, including providing shaded seating and bottled water for the more than 100 attendees. The Post's Auxiliary Unit served a tasty lunch following

the service.

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# Bingo!!

Most of you know that our Thursday night Bingo is our Legion lifeline. The funds we generate support many of the programs and the maintenance of our post home. Each year I am surprised by the success and funds coming from bingo profits. Our bingo program is a family affair. All of our Legion family contribute to the operation; making it smooth sailing most of the time. That being said; our bingo family includes about sixty five regular players and a host of others who come because they hear about us through this family. Some of them have only missed one or two bingos since we first started. We strive to be fair and honest and our family appreciates that. Our success depends on membership help and their sharing about bingo at Post 171. Here is some information you can share!

Bingo starts at seven sharp, our doors open at five, and we have a snack bar with soup, chili, sandwiches and desserts all reasonably priced. Each night we have 14 regular games that pay an average of \$80, five specials that pay \$ 10 more than regular bingo, a little jackpot that pays \$350 or a consolation of \$100, and a \$500 big jackpot! There are also many diversified Vegas games with cash prizes ranging from \$110 -\$1,000.

Now that you know, spread the news, come and play, or volunteer to help.



**We had our best year ever this year** with one more bingo to go. Thursday July the 11th. See you there!

Bingo Chairman - Bill Green





## The Post 171 Patriots Baseball program Update

Summer is finally upon us and the Legion Baseball season is underway. The crack of the bat sending balls flying into the outfield and the resounding pop of a fastball in the catcher's glove are echoing around local ballfields. The young men representing Post 171 are enjoying the warm weather and the thrills of competitive baseball. The Post 171 Patriots currently have an overall record of 6-3 and are 2-2 in the Montgomery County Senior league.

I'd like to highlight two recent games that showcase some of the excellent ballplayers that represent our post. During a recent Senior Legion game against Post 41 Cisel Saxon, returning Legion player Connor Mannion (DHS – Class of 2018) pitched a 1-hit shutout complete game, and drove in a run at the plate to lead our Patriots to a thrilling 2-0 win. In an exhibition Junior game against Post 11 Frederick for our younger player players, Jackson Thomas (DHS – Class of 2021) hit a Grand Slam (his first home run at the DHS field) to lead his team to an exciting, come from behind 14-13 win.

The Bob Bellison Red, White, and Blue baseball game and picnic were a resounding success and enjoyed by all who attended. The players, coaches, Post members, and fans were all proud to kick off the season with a tribute to our favorite Baseball Booster. The Auxiliary unit hosted a night out at a recent home game held at Damascus High School. If you'd like to come see a game, we'd love to have you come out and support these fine young men.



Our remaining schedule can be found online at:

<https://m.leaguelineup.com/welcome.asp?url=post171baseball> or you can always Google “Damascus Post 171 Baseball.”

If you want to provide even more support, it’s never too late to become a financial booster. We will also be holding a special Baseball night at the last Bingo event of the summer on the evening of July 11th. Many of the young men from our team will be helping out and all funds raised from the Bingo event will go to support the Baseball program. Help us spread the word to neighbors, family and friends for a fun and exciting night. From all of us involved in the baseball program, warm wishes to the players and coaches for continued success in the 2019 campaign!

2019 POST 171 Baseball Committee: Alan Rannals (Chairman), Keith Martin (Secretary), Sam Baughman, Bob Bellison, George Bolling, Buzz Burroughs, Frank Carpenter, Brownie Chichester, Will Cole, Skip Duvall, Bill Green, Bill Hauptman, Evelyn Hernandez and Ron Scott.

2019 Post 171 Baseball Booster Club membership form

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 ENITRE 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 Alan Rannals at [rannals@gmail.com](mailto:rannals@gmail.com) or Keith Martin at [rkmgm@verizon.net](mailto:rkmgm@verizon.net).



*American Legion Auxiliary, Unit 171*

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

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**July - August 2019**

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**Greetings Legion Family Members:**

Happy Summer!

I am looking forward to our upcoming year! It is an honor to be the Unit's new President. If anybody has any questions or suggestions for this upcoming year please do not hesitate to contact me. Just a reminder that early birds are currently running until July 15th. The price for early birds is \$21 after July 15th the price is \$25.

I will be attending the convention in Ocean City, MD July 16-19th. I cannot wait until we meet in September to update everyone on what the Auxiliary is planning this year.

Reminder that our Drag Queen Bingo will be on Saturday, September 21st. Tickets are \$40 per person and that will include a dinner. If you would like to purchase a ticket or have any questions you can contact me at 240-409-8226 or Kelli Cole at 240-832-7733. Doors will open at 4:30 and bingo will start at 6:30. We are very excited about this event and are hoping for it to be a big success.

I hope everyone enjoys their summer, looking forward to seeing everyone at the first meeting in September. Our next meeting is September 9th at 7:30.

For God and Country,  
Amanda Baughman  
Unit President

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

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

Greetings,

I am looking forward to another exciting year and will do my best in serving our Legion family.

The SAL will be having our Second Annual Crab Feast on Saturday, October 12th at the Post. Doors will open at 4:00pm and food will be served from 5-8pm. The price is \$50 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.

Our next meeting will be Monday, September 9th 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

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### **Calendar**

American Legion Post 171 is on a summer schedule. The convention in Ocean City is July 16-19. There will be an Executive Committee meeting on August 5 and a Post meeting on August 12.

Norman activities begin again in September. Have a great summer!

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

July-August 2019

Damascus, MD 20872



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### American Legion Post 171

#### Officers

<b>Commander</b>	<b>Fred Mitchell (301) 916-8395</b>	<b>Membership</b>	<b>*Sam Baughman (301) 401-6479</b>
<b>1<sup>st</sup> Vice Commander</b>	<b>Paula Gill (661) 618-7638</b>	<b>Historian</b>	<b>Sam Lehane (407) 230-3117</b>
<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Commander</b>	<b>Steve Monteiro (240) 401-0370</b>	<b>Chaplain</b>	<b>Larry Matthews (301) 370-4079</b>
<b>Adjutant</b>	<b>Kevin O'Neil (301) 525-2071</b>	<b>Sgt.-at-Arms</b>	<b>Bill Green (301) 253-5420</b>
<b>Finance Officer</b>	<b>* Tony DeShiro (843) 855-9353</b>	<b>Service Officer</b>	<b>Steve Monteiro (240) 401-0370</b>
<b>Judge Advocate</b>	<b>Dean Elliott (240) 783-0982</b>	<b>Executive Committee</b>	

**\*Sam Baughman**  
**\*Berman Moxley, Sr**  
**\*Bill Raab**

**Larry Matthews**

**\*denotes Past Post Commander**

### Auxiliary, Unit 171

#### Officers

<b>President</b>	<b>Amanda Baughman (240) 409-8226</b>	<b>Membership</b>	<b>Jane St. Louis</b>
<b>Vice President</b>	<b>Kelli Cole (240) 832-7733</b>	<b>Secretary</b>	<b>Nancy Southerland</b>
<b>Sgt-at-Arms</b>	<b>Virginia Myers</b>	<b>Chaplain</b>	<b>Patricia Rice (301) 253-2266</b>
<b>Treasurer</b>	<b>Patricia Busche (301) 391-6752</b>	<b>Historian</b>	<b>Diane Capel</b>

### SAL Squadron, 171

#### Officers

<b>Commander</b>	<b>Todd Stockslager</b>	<b>Sgt-at-Arms</b>	<b>Tyler Baughman</b>
<b>1st Vice Commander</b>	<b>Tom Kaufman</b>	<b>Historian</b>	<b>Brosh Brosher</b>
<b>2nd Vice Commander</b>	<b>John Duvall</b>	<b>Finance Officer</b>	<b>Adam Young</b>
<b>Adjutant</b>	<b>Adam Young</b>	<b>Post Liaison</b>	<b>Paula Gill</b>

**Newsletter Editor: Larry Matthews, [Newsletter@legionpost171.org](mailto:Newsletter@legionpost171.org)**

