



# THE DAMASCUS VETERAN

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

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**MARCH – APRIL 2015**

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## THE COMMANDER'S CORNER

The Post 171 Membership Dinner was held on January 24<sup>th</sup>, and was enjoyed by all. Guests were Lewis Trott, Department of Maryland 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Commander; David Gillespie, MCPD 5<sup>th</sup> District – Germantown Commander and Jason Cokinos, MCPD 5<sup>th</sup> District – Germantown Sergeant.

At the Membership Dinner, the following special awards were presented in recognition of their significant contributions to our Post: Jim Peck-Honorary Life Member Award, Ernie Screen-Legionnaire of the Year Award, and Jack Talamo-Distinguished Member Award. Also recognized was Past Post Commander Tony DeShiro for his outstanding leadership in overseeing completion of the kitchen renovation. In addition, Jason Cokinos was awarded the Post 171 Law Enforcement Officer of Year.



Although we had inclement weather, the Oyster Roast on Feb 21<sup>st</sup> was still held. We had 100 people make it through the snow to enjoy some great food. Be sure to come out for the Shrimp Feast on April 18<sup>th</sup>.

The Unit will hold a “Basket, Bags, and Bucks” bingo on March 28<sup>th</sup> at the Post home. Please see the announcement later in this Newsletter for more information.

Boys State will be held June 21 - June 27 at McDaniel College in Westminster, Maryland. High school boys who will be completing their junior year and will be at least age 16 by June 2015 are eligible for the program. High school counselors can provide applications which are due back to them not later than March 21, 2015. Questions about Boys State may be directed to Roger Pisha, via email at Roger\_Pisha@mcpsmd.org, or telephone, (301) 253-4276.

Notable Awards: **Police Sergeant Jason Cokinos**, Montgomery County Police, District 5 has been selected as the Damascus Post 171 and Montgomery County Law Enforcement Officer of the Year. Awards will be presented on March 21<sup>st</sup> at the Montgomery County breakfast meeting at Rockville Post 86. You are invited to attend the meeting on March 21<sup>st</sup> to recognize this outstanding police officer.

God Bless our Military and God Bless America  
Kevin Mook, Commander

## In Memoriam

**John L. Seipp**, 90, passed away on January 5, 2015. John served in World War II in the U.S. Army. He is survived by his daughter Sandra and brother Paul. John was a Past Post Commander and a member of the American Legion for 36 years.

**Joe D. Frazier**, 86, passed away on January 8, 2015. Joe served in the Korean War. He is survived by his wife of 48 years Pauline M. Frazier; sons Alan and Jonathan and grandsons Jason and Ethan. Joe was a member of the American Legion for 15 years.

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## Veteran's Day Speaker

I was remiss in submitting the November 11, 2014 Veteran's Day guest speaker article in time for our Jan/Feb 2015 newsletter. My apologies. Our guest speaker is a man I greatly admire and respect. He was the Captain of the destroyer U.S.S. Elliot (DD-967), the last ship I served on prior to my retirement in May of 1982. Douglas M. Norton, Captain, U.S. Navy (Ret), graduate of the Naval Academy and of the University of Washington, Council on Foreign Relations International Affairs Fellow, and Head of International studies at the Naval Academy.

Captain Norton's service from 1965-1991 included the Vietnam era and most of the cold war. He served aboard five ships and was skipper of two of them. His master's degree in public administration led to a succession of assignments involving politics and diplomacy in Washington, Brussels, Geneva, and London. As a warship captain he held launch codes for nuclear weapons, both as objects of diplomacy and politics, and as objects under his command responsibility--antisubmarine missiles that he might have to launch under cataclysmic circumstances. He also participated in high-stakes international negotiations to reduce their numbers and the chance of nuclear war. In Geneva, Brussels, and Washington he experienced diplomacy and politics in tense meetings, glittering receptions, and deadline-driven all-nighters. Following naval service, Doug was an executive recruiter (a.k.a. "headhunter") for fifteen years, guiding American and European businesses in identifying, attracting, and hiring senior executives.

Both of those careers combine to suggest plots and characters for his present work as a novelist. Doug is the author of *Code Word: Paternity*, a presidential thriller, and is at work on a sequel, *Home of the Brave*. I can personally attest that *Code Word: Paternity* is a must read. Following his outstanding speech on "*What It Means To Be A Veteran*", interspersed with personal, humorous, and historical anecdotes, Doug and his lovely wife Janie, were invited to join us for lunch. (Doug had to make do with cake for lunch as there were more unexpected appetites than there was food!). Prior to lunch Doug offered signed copies of his novel, with all proceeds from the sales donated to the Fisher House on behalf of American Legion Post 171.

Doug and Janie, live in Annapolis where Doug volunteers in search and rescue with the Coast Guard Auxiliary and in the Emergency Department at Anne Arundel Medical Center.

Anthony M. DeShiro, PPC

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## 2015 MEMBERSHIP

If you have already paid your dues, and you have your 2015 member card, please ignore the Past Due notice sent out by the National American Legion. Otherwise, **PLEASE** send your renewal in as soon as possible with the \$25 renewal fee. We need approximately 50 renewals and new members or transfers to meet our goal for the 2015 membership year. You may also use the Legion web site, [www.mylegion.org](http://www.mylegion.org) or [www.mylegion.org/PUFL](http://www.mylegion.org/PUFL) and pay online if you prefer.

We need to keep alert to new members that have moved into our area, or unfortunately gone on to Post Everlasting. There are new member application cards in the Post 171 office. There are plenty of them and you could put some of the cards in your car, etc, for handy use when meeting a potential new member. The process of new membership or transfer needs a discharge DD-214 and signatures on the applications. New members are the best way to keep our Post active and healthy. Friends or neighbors that are Veterans, particularly of the recent wars, may be excellent candidates for membership in the American Legion. They and our Post can both benefit from their joining the Post.

Scott Earhardt's daughter Gabrielle has graduated from the Navy boot camp at Great Lakes. All of Post 171 are proud of her and extend congratulations. Her mother and father, Maria and Scott Earhardt are very proud of her progress in her successful start of a Navy career.

Buzz Burroughs Son-in-law is also deployed and Gary Hearne's Grandson is also on active duty and would greatly appreciate a card. Their mailing addresses:

Jon K. Enrenfried  
La Scotta Air Force  
380 EMDG/SGOY  
APO AE 09853

PVT. Brennan Hill  
323 TRS/FLT 296 DORM 4C2  
1320 Truemper St., Unit 369523  
Lackland AFB, TX 78236-6095

God Bless our Country and the men and women serving to protect our Freedom!  
Ernie Screen 1st Vice Cmdr Membership Chairman (301) 253-3560 1stvice@legionpost171.org

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### **James Peck becomes 65<sup>th</sup> Honorary Life Member!**

This award is the highest honor the Post can bestow on a fellow Legionnaire. Per the Post by-laws, every member is considered for this award although there is no requirement that a yearly selection be made. Selection qualifications can best be summed up as someone who best exemplifies and demonstrates consistent and exceptional devoted service to the Post and the American Legion above and beyond that of many other dedicated Post members. It is interesting to note that recipients of this honor routinely say how surprised they were to receive it, yet to the rest of the membership, it is rarely a surprise.

Our newest and 65<sup>th</sup> Life Member is a native Marylander. He has been a Legionnaire for 29 years, transferring to Post 171 from MD Post 86 in 2000. A WW II Army veteran, he served in the Pacific theatre of operations as an infantryman and engineer from March 1945 to December 1946. While on active duty, he received the Asiatic-Pacific theater ribbon, the Good Conduct Medal and the WWII Victory Medal.

Since joining Post 171 he has been a loyal and dedicated Legionnaire. A paid-up-for-life member, he has rarely if ever missed a monthly meeting or Post sponsored event. As a matter of fact, he is usually the first person to submit a reservation for this event and the installation dinner. He is a pillar of the Post bingo operation, religiously performing his assigned tasks while assisting others with theirs and being available to pinch hit wherever needed. Per Bill Green, the Post Bingo chairman – he is someone I can always depend on!

A reserved man of few words but high integrity, he exemplifies the qualities of patriotism, volunteerism, and compassion to his country, family and fellow Legionnaires. By now, you all know who I am talking about to receive this highest honor – James Peck please come forward! I would also like to invite Jim's wife Betty to come forward and pin the Life Membership pin on Jim's hat.

Kieth Midberry, Chairman, Life Membership Committee

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# BASEBALL REPORT

By: Chairman Keith Martin



Hard to imagine with the recent spate of cold weather and snow, but Spring MLB camps are in session which also means that American Legion baseball planning is well underway. Along with dusting off the equipment, getting orders in place for new uniforms, and all the administrative issues associated with the start of the season, we have some notable changes in the coaching staffs for both the Senior Legion (U19) and the Junior Legion (U17) teams.

On the Senior team (U19), Coach Jimmy Stone's coaching staff will largely remain intact. Returning coaches include Coach Tim Nori, Coach Greg Blake, Coach Russell Rentfro and Coach Tyler Pickrel. A new addition to Coach Stone's staff this season will be Coach Scott Frye. Coach Frye is the current Damascus High School Junior Varsity Head Coach and is a physical education instructor at John T. Baker Middle School in Damascus. We welcome Coach Frye to Post 171's baseball program and look forward to his contributions to the program.

After being at the helm of the Junior Legion (U17) team for many years, Coach Frank Wodoslawsky has decided to relinquish the management of the team to his assistant, Coach Bob O'Conner. Coach W has been a fixture in our program for many years and his absence will be noted. On behalf of the baseball committee and the entire Post 171 membership, we thank Coach W for the years of dedicated service to the young people in our community. We know that he has spent innumerable hours over the years working with the players and the Post, and for that, we owe him a great deal more than a simple thank you. His investments of time and energy in the players and their development as players and citizens will pay dividends for years to come. That is a legacy that he should take great pride in.

Coach O'Conner is no stranger to our program and he already has begun assembling his coaching staff. Joining him this year are former American Legion Post 171 players: Eric Berringer, DHS (All-County C, MC/G), and University of Indiana-Pennsylvania; Michael Serafinas, DHS (All-County SS, All-Met), University of Delaware; Kevin Molesworth, DHS (OF); Brady O'Connor, DHS, (MC/R OF); and Justin Razmic, DHS (SS/C), University of New Hampshire. We wish Coach O'Conner and his staff the best and we will be there in full support.

Opening Day is not far off, and once more, it will be time again for some popcorn and Cracker Jacks! Keep the faith...Spring is coming.

2015 Baseball Committee: Keith Martin (Chairman), Bob Bellison (Chairman ex-officio), Sam Baughman, Bob Ray, George Bolling, Buzz Burroughs, Ron Scott, Bill Green, Brownie Chichester, Bill Hauptman, Skip Duvall, and Frank Carpenter.

**DOUBLE HITTER (\$50 Donation):** Hazel Hoyle, Pat Moxely, Paula Moxely, Danny Moxely, Debby Moxely, Steve Norwood, Liz & Lou Popowsky, and Judy Moore

**GRANDSLAM (\$100 \*+Donation):** \*June Gebicke, \*Keith & Mary Gene Martin, \*Bob & Ruby Bellison, \*Ray Mulligan, George & Mary Bolling, Kevin Mook, Brownie & Ginny Chichester, Bob Moxley, George Johnson, Tommy Thompson, Bill & Cindy McMinn, Dee Dee Myers, Pat Rice, Bill Hauptman, Bill Dunn, and Roland Hockenbery

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## POST BASEBALL BOOSTER CLUB 2015

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ DOUBLE HITTER (\$50 Donation)

Cook-out – Banquet- Schedule & Game

Results

Select 1 Item from Below

\_\_\_\_\_ GRANDSLAM (\$100\*+ Donation)

Cook-out – Banquet- Schedule & Game

Results

Select 2 Items From Below

\_\_\_\_\_ Shirt (Size \_\_\_\_\_)

\_\_\_\_\_ Sweat Shirt (Size \_\_\_\_\_ Hat

circle color –

Red/Gray/Navy/White)

\_\_\_\_\_ PLEASE USE MY ENTIRE DONATION FOR THE 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

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### Clarksburg Junior Wins Post and County Oratorical Contests & Places second at SMD

Aditya Kaliappan, a junior at Clarksburg High School, won first place at our Post's 2015 High School Oratorical Contest held Saturday, January 17<sup>th</sup>, at the Post Home. For his winning oration, titled "Sailing to Freedom," Aditya was awarded the American Legion Gold Medal for Oratory Excellence and a check for \$500. He then went on to win the Montgomery County contest on February 8<sup>th</sup> and placed second in the Southern Maryland District contest held in Clinton on February 21<sup>st</sup>. We're mighty proud of Aditya.

Post runner-up was Clarksburg High School Junior Emory Cole II who was awarded the Silver Medal and the \$250 second prize. Emory was also the runner-up in last year's contest. Damascus High School Sophomore Gwendolyn Guthrie placed third and received the Bronze Medal and \$150. The other contestant was Damascus High School Junior Nanga Awasum. All four contestants delivered excellent original orations about the United States Constitution.

This is the 79<sup>th</sup> year that The American Legion has sponsored this contest. The winner of the State contest will represent Maryland in the National finals in early April at The American Legion Headquarters in Indianapolis. Contestants placing first, second and third in the National contest receive cash awards and scholarships totaling more than \$20,000.

PPC George Bolling, Chairman

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### Post Honors Korean War Era Veterans

The Post honored twenty-four local veterans of the Korean War era on Presidents Day, February 16<sup>th</sup>, at the Post Home. Many of the honorees' wives and families and several members of the Post and Auxiliary Unit, about eighty total, attended. Nearly half the honorees were members of the Chapter 142 of the Korean War Veterans of America, headquartered in Frederick, and several were from Post 68 in Brookville.

Among the honorees were Post members Bill Garrett, Bob Ray, Glenn Toms, Chuck Stoffer, Ed Williams, Jack Talamo, Bob Bellison, Ernie Screen, Bill Raab, and Lou Johnson. Members Ray Luhn and Bill Ferrell, both of whom are veterans of both WWII and the Korean War, were unable to attend due to illness.

Past Post Commander Bernie Moxley, Senior, chaired the event and served as master-of-ceremonies. Following a delicious lunch prepared by the Moxley family, which was more like dinner, Post Chaplain ShaWn Gill gave the invocation. The attendees recited the Pledge of Allegiance and sang the National Anthem, and Post Commander Kevin Mook welcomed everyone. Bernie then introduced a local dancing artist Itsi Mitchell, who, wearing a beautiful costume, performed a lovely classical belly dance. Jim Lichtinger, a benefits specialist from the Maryland Veterans Administration, then spoke briefly, offering help and assistance to all the veterans attending.

The twenty-four honorees then took center stage in an oval seating arrangement. They were introduced one-by-one and provided an opportunity to talk about their experiences during the Korean War era that they felt like sharing. They described the general feeling of the American people about the Korean War, how they were perceived and received upon return, and some of their combat experiences. Some of their stories were entertaining, some were very serious, and some included descriptions of how much South Korea has changed since the War ended in 1954. I was privileged to join with Bernie Moxley, Junior, in facilitating this portion of the program.

At the end of the day, the honored veterans were treated to a standing ovation, and, to a man, they expressed their profound gratitude to the Post for sponsoring this memorable event in their lives.

PPC George Bolling

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## Membership Summit

On Saturday, April 11<sup>th</sup> Bernie Moxley Jr. will be hosting a membership summit. The summit will focus on how we can serve our current membership better and how we are preparing for the future.

Do you have a vision of how we could better serve our veterans or do you know of a need not being met? This informal meeting is open to all and will be a great time to discuss your suggestions for legion activities. We need everyone's participation and would like to have as many members as possible attend the Summit. Post 171, Sons of the American Legion and the Legion Auxiliary are all welcome. This will be a working meeting so please bring your thoughts on how to improve our membership base.

Over the next year we will be offering different opportunities for the membership to meet and discuss how we can better serve our current membership and improve our outreach to new members. Each summit meeting will focus on one specific part of the American Legion Preamble - "*to consecrate and sanctify our comradeship by our devotion to mutual helpfulness*".

Start preparing your suggestions now and plan to attend the first membership summit. We will start promptly at 10am following the pancake breakfast.

For questions contact Bernie Moxley, Jr., [moxleyfamily@gmail.com](mailto:moxleyfamily@gmail.com) or 828-455-6545

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## Shrimp Feast

Come join us at our Shrimp Feast on Saturday, April 18<sup>th</sup>, one of our principal fund-raisers for the many activities we sponsor to benefit charities, veterans, youth and the community. All-you-can-eat; Shrimp, steamed and fried, and fried chicken with tasty sides and beverages. Doors open at 5 PM, dinner starts at 6 PM, and music by the Second Chance Band begins at 7:30 PM. Ticket prices are \$30 each when purchased in advance and \$35 each at the door. Most credit cards are now accepted. Call Paula at (661) 618-7638 to purchase advance tickets. The Post Home is located at 10201 Lewis Drive in Damascus.

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### American Legion Post 171 - High School Senior Scholarships

The Damascus American Legion Post 171 will be awarding five scholarships in the amounts of \$1,500 each for the scholastic year of 2015-2016. Applicants must be American Citizens and High School Seniors, and will be judged on scholastic achievement, leadership, character, work experience, their submitted essay, and school and community activities. Complete details are listed on the scholarship application, which are available for pick up at the career centers in Damascus HS, Clarksburg HS, Watkins Mill HS, the American Legion Post Home (10201 Lewis Dr. Damascus MD, tel. 301-253-0769), or from our website at: <http://www.legionpost171.org/>. Applications must be postmarked no later than April 1, 2015.

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

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### MARCH – APRIL 2015

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As I write this article I just heard the newscaster state there are thirty-one more days before spring. Then he said more snow is coming. Are you ready for spring?

Membership for Unit 171 is moving along but we are still in need of more member renewals. PLEASE check to see if your membership card reads 2015. If not, dues are \$20 made payable to Damascus Unit 171 and mailed to Cynthia D. Ray, 19421 Gardner Place, Germantown, MD 20876-1709. Telephone 1-301-972-1978 if you have any questions.

The Post spring oyster roast is now passed and Paula Gill, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Commander, and I want to thank all unit members who helped with the event. The oyster patters, salad makers did an outstanding job. You helped to make the event successful. Thank you so much.

Please remember the following members in your prayers each day: Ruth Duvall suffered a bad fall in early January and is at home, Rena Harrington is back at Lorien in Mt. Airy after a brief stay in Frederick Memorial Hospital, Martha and Ray Luhn as Ray recovers from being hospitalized at Montgomery General Hospital. I am happy to report that Pat Rice is once again out from being confined in her home.

Liz Popowsky continues with the Pocket Flag Project. If you are interested in folding flags contact Liz. She is always willing to teach new members how to fold the flags.

Saturday, March 28<sup>th</sup> the Unit will be sponsoring our fundraiser, "Baskets, Bags and Bucks" Bingo. The committee has been working hard to make this a successful event. There is still time to sponsor a basket or submit a donation or door prize. If you would like to donate a dessert for the evening please contact Delores Neal or Roz Bowman. Also, Liz Popowsky has tickets for the 32" Smart Samsung HD Television to be raffled the night of the event. Tickets are \$1 for one or \$5 for six.

On Tuesday, March 31<sup>st</sup> the Post will be hosting the Maryland Public Television to interview twenty Vietnam veterans about their experiences while serving in Vietnam. Commander Mook has asked the Unit to serve a light supper between 5:30-6:30 p.m. Once again, if any member is interested in donating cookies or brownies please contact Delores Neal (1-301-253-4015) or Roz Bowman (1-301-253-4473).

Unit scholarship applications are in Damascus and Clarksburg High Schools as well as at the Post home and on the Post website. If you have a student eligible to submit an application please encourage them to do so. I have copies that I will be glad to send them if they are home schooled or live out of the area and are a relative of a Unit or Post member. This year the scholarships are \$1,000 for general and medical.

As we approach the spring holidays season please keep in your thoughts and prayers those serving in the military to give us the freedom we have today.

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

*Cindy Ray*

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## **POCKET FLAG PROJECT**

Liz Popowsky, Chairman

Unit support of the Pocket Flag Project continues. On January 23, 2015, a package of 45 pocket flags was mailed to the Unit of Jon Enrenfreid, son-in-law of Post member, Buzz Burroughs. Unit members will return to BWI in March 2015 to present pocket flags to soldiers as they deploy. Please remember to contact me when you learn of deployment information for any soldier(s). They do not have to be family or Post members (rayliz53@yahoo.com, 301-371-6648). God Bless our Troops.

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## **Americanism Essay Program**

On Friday, Feb. 6, 2015, I retrieved a total of 75 essays from the 7 local schools participating in the Unit's annual Americanism Essay Program. Grade/Applicant totals: 3<sup>rd</sup> - 10; 4<sup>th</sup> - 7; 5<sup>th</sup> - 58; 6<sup>th</sup> - 0; 7<sup>th</sup> - 0; 8<sup>th</sup> - 1.

Winners in Gr. 3/4 are: 1<sup>st</sup> place, from Clearspring Elem. Vida Sulureh; 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> place, from Gibbs Elem. are Leymah Pham, and Albert Allen III, respectively. Winners in Gr. 5/6 are: 1<sup>st</sup> place, from Gibbs Elem., Dallin Woodson, 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> place from Woodfield Elem, are Ryan Cooper and Grace Huffman, four essays earned Honorable Mention!

This year's topic: "What Does Freedom mean to My Family" presented problems for many writers. Freedoms in general were widely noted, but not necessarily relating to the family. 50 points out of 100 possible, were given for originality and adherence to the topic. .

Judges were Sandra Finerty, retired schoolteacher; Carolyn Francis, recreational assistant at Damascus Senior Center, and Susan Morris, from the local F C Extension Office. A BIG THANK YOU to them for the almost 4 hour session needed to complete their task!

A major Thank You to ALL essayists who entered our contest. We look forward to seeing some of you in next year's competition, including some home-schooled entrants.

All the winners, their teachers, and our Judges, will be honored at Post 171 in the annual Awards Ceremony in the Spring. We look forward to seeing you then!

For God & Country  
Mary Beth Talamo, Americanism Chairman

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### **Unit 171 – Television Raffle**

Thank you to Unit members who have embraced selling tickets for the fundraising raffle for the prize of a 32" Samsung SMART HDTV. Tickets have been sold at several Thursday night Post bingos and the Post's Oyster Roast February 21<sup>st</sup>, as well as independently by Unit members. If you are interested in supporting the fundraiser raffle either by ticket sales or purchase, please contact Liz Popowsky (rayliz53@yahoo.com, 301-371-6648). Tickets are \$1/ticket or \$5/6 tickets. The winning ticket will be drawn the night of the Unit's Basket Bingo, March 28. The winner does not need to be present. Proceeds from the raffle will help the Unit support its Veterans' programs and scholarships. Good luck to all and thanks for your support!

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### **Memorial Service for George L. Richon**

On May 1, 2015, @ 2:30pm, George will be laid to rest at Great Lakes National Cemetery, 4200 Belford Rd, Holly, MI 48442 with full military honors. All are welcome to attend. The cemetery is approximately 12 miles from Bishop International Airport, Flint, MI. For more information, please contact Linda Richon at (586) 646-5560 or e-mail her at: lrrichon@gmail.com.

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### **“Basket, Bags & Bucks” Bingo Saturday, March 28, 2014 Doors open at 5:30, Bingo at 7:00 PM Casey Koontz, Chairperson**

This year's fundraising event will consist of regular bingo games, raffles, specials, and King Tut games.

The tickets will be sold in **advance only and seating is limited so purchase your tickets early!** Tickets are \$18.00 and may be purchased by completing the form below and mailing the form with your check to Post 171 at the address below. The price of admission will give you 20 regular bingo games and qualifies you for a chance to win a door prize. Additional bingo packets, cards for special games, and raffle tickets will be available for purchase on the night of the event. Dinner platters and light fare will be available.

We are looking for sponsors to cover the cost of our prizes. Sponsorships will be accepted at the following levels: Platinum - \$100+ donation, Gold - \$75+ donation, Silver - \$50+ donation and Bronze - under \$50 donation. All sponsors will be acknowledged in the Program and announced at the bingo. If you can't attend our event, being a sponsor is a great way to show your support of the Auxiliary.

This is our biggest fundraiser of the year so we need your participation to make it a success. The proceeds from this event go directly toward charitable donations and scholarships that the auxiliary funds each year. I hope we can count on YOU to support this worthy fundraising event.

If you are interested in being a sponsor or supporting our event by working as a volunteer please contact Casey at (301) 831-6746 or [liontonyjames@comcast.net](mailto:liontonyjames@comcast.net).

Thank you for supporting the Auxiliary of Post 171!

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Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Tickets \_\_\_\_\_ Total Amount \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Make Checks payable to: ALA Damascus Unit 171 (earmarked – Basket Bingo)

Mail to: Marianne DiSomma, ATTN: Basket Bingo, 11507 Mountain View Road,  
Damascus, MD 20872



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## Sons of the American Legion Squadron, 171

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

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### MARCH – APRIL 2015

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Let's always remember our service men and women in our daily thoughts and prayers  
Hope everyone enjoyed the holidays with family and friends.

We will be hosting another spaghetti dinner in the near future so watch for emails with information.

Everyone is welcome to attend our monthly meetings, so please join us.

Tony Koontz, Squadron 171 Commander

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**Post Commander's Note:** If you have email capability and are not on the Legion electronic distribution list, please send your **telephone number and email address to me at [commander@legionpost171.org](mailto:commander@legionpost171.org)** 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 \$.46 for each returned Newsletter to get them back and find out which addresses are no longer valid.

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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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**March 2015**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Event</b>	
1 <sup>st</sup>	Oratorical State Finals Towson University	1:00 PM
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Post Executive Committee Meeting	7:00 PM
5 <sup>th</sup>	Post Bingo	7:00 PM
7 <sup>th</sup>	National Commander's Banquet (Post 278, Stevensville)	5:30 PM
9 <sup>th</sup>	Pot Luck Dinner	6:00 PM
9 <sup>th</sup>	SAL Member Meeting	7:00 PM
9 <sup>th</sup>	Post and Unit Member Meetings	7:30 PM
12 <sup>th</sup>	Post Bingo	7:00 PM
14 <sup>th</sup>	Pancake Breakfast	7:30 AM
19 <sup>th</sup>	Post Bingo	7:00 PM
21 <sup>st</sup>	Montgomery County Breakfast (Post 86 Rockville)	7:30 AM
21 <sup>st</sup>	Montgomery Cnty. Meeting, Annual Awards (Post 86)	9:00 AM
27 <sup>th</sup>	Post Bingo	7:00 PM
28 <sup>th</sup>	Basket, Bags, and Bucks Bingo	7:00 PM
31 <sup>st</sup>	Maryland Public TV interview with Vietnam Veterans	5:30 PM

**April 2015**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Event</b>	
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Post Bingo	7:00 PM
6 <sup>th</sup>	Post Executive Committee Meeting	7:00 PM
9 <sup>th</sup>	Post Bingo	7:00 PM
10 <sup>th</sup> – 12 <sup>th</sup>	National Oratorical Finals - Indianapolis	
11 <sup>th</sup>	Pancake Breakfast	7:30 AM
12 <sup>th</sup>	SMD Lunch/Meeting (Post 275 Glenarden)	12:00 PM
13 <sup>th</sup>	SAL Member Meeting	7:00 PM
13 <sup>th</sup>	Post and Unit Member Meetings	7:30 PM
16 <sup>th</sup>	Post Bingo	7:00 PM
18 <sup>th</sup>	Shrimp Feast	6:00 PM
23 <sup>th</sup>	Post Bingo	7:00 PM
30 <sup>th</sup>	Post Bingo	7:00 PM

**Upcoming Events**

3 <sup>rd</sup> May	SMD Lunch Glen Burnie Post 40	12:00 PM
3 <sup>rd</sup> May	SMD Meeting Glen Burnie Post 40	1:00 PM
9 <sup>th</sup> May	SMD Reception Honoring Department Officers – LaPlata Post 82	3:00 PM
25 <sup>th</sup> May	Post 171 Memorial Day Observation	1:30 PM



Non-Profit Org.  
U.S. Postage

**PAID**

Damascus, MD  
Permit No. 4400

Return Service Requested

**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

<b>Commander</b>	<b>Kevin Mook</b>	<b>301 204-9722</b>	<b>Historian</b>	<b>Ed Williams</b>	<b>301 865-3474</b>
<b>1<sup>st</sup> Vice Commander</b>	<b>Ernie Screen</b>	<b>301 253-3560</b>	<b>Chaplain</b>	<b>Shawn Gill</b>	<b>661 312-1113</b>
<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Commander</b>	<b>Paula Gill</b>	<b>661 618-7638</b>	<b>Sgt-at-Arms</b>	<b>Bill Green</b>	<b>301 253-5420</b>
<b>Judge Advocate</b>	<b>Dean Elliott</b>	<b>240 793-6868</b>	<b>Executive Comm</b>	<b>Sam Baughman</b>	<b>301 831-3216</b>
<b>Adjutant</b>	<b>Scott Earhardt</b>	<b>240 498-6771</b>		<b>Bob Bellison</b>	<b>301 253-2728</b>
<b>Finance Officer</b>	<b>Ching-Yao Yu</b>	<b>240 668-4080</b>		<b>Ronald Scott</b>	<b>301 831-7974</b>
<b>Service Officer</b>	<b>Jim Serritella</b>	<b>301 253-3971</b>		<b>Jack Talamo</b>	<b>301 253-4457</b>

## Auxiliary, Unit 171

### Officers

<b>President</b>	<b>Cynthia Ray</b>	<b>301 972-1978</b>	<b>Color Bearers</b>	<b>Betty Nicholson</b>	<b>301 865-6138</b>
<b>Vice President</b>	<b>Mary Beth Talamo</b>	<b>301-253-4457</b>		<b>Delores Neal</b>	<b>301 253-4015</b>
<b>Secretary</b>	<b>Rosalyn Bowman</b>	<b>301-253-4473</b>	<b>Executive Comm</b>	<b>Mary Bolling</b>	<b>301 898-7119</b>
<b>Treasurer</b>	<b>Patricia Busche</b>	<b>301 467-1321</b>		<b>Jennifer Shaffer</b>	<b>301 829-8487</b>
<b>Chaplain</b>	<b>Judy Moore</b>	<b>301 829-1944</b>		<b>Betty Peck</b>	<b>301 865-1911</b>
<b>Historian</b>	<b>Marianne DiSomma</b>	<b>301 606-4645</b>			
<b>Sgt-at-Arms</b>	<b>June Toms</b>	<b>301 540-5829</b>			

## SAL Squadron, 171

### Officers

<b>Commander</b>	<b>Tony Koontz</b>	<b>240 439-9501</b>	<b>Chaplain</b>	<b>Brosh Boshier</b>	<b>240 439-9501</b>
<b>1<sup>st</sup> Vice Commander</b>	<b>George Shaffer</b>	<b>240 439-9501</b>	<b>Sgt-at-Arms</b>	<b>DJ Mook</b>	<b>301 204-9722</b>
<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Commander</b>	<b>Josh Shaffer</b>	<b>301 412-3443</b>	<b>Historian</b>	<b>DJ Mook</b>	<b>301 204-9722</b>
<b>Adjutant</b>	<b>Adam Young</b>	<b>240 422-1765</b>	<b>Post Liaison</b>	<b>Shawn Gill</b>	<b>661 312-1113</b>
<b>Finance Officer</b>	<b>John Duvall</b>	<b>301 787-4480</b>			

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