



# THE DAMASCUS VETERAN

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

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**JULY – AUGUST 2013**

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## THE COMMANDER'S MESSAGE

### **Fellow Comrades:**

These past two years have flown by and now it is time for a change of command. I have enjoyed my time as the Commander of this great Post and look forward to serving as a member of the Executive Committee.

The Memorial Day Service was held on a near perfect day, sunny but not too hot, and just a little breezy. This was the first year we have had the Montgomery County Police Bagpipers; Brian and Kevin Stone did an excellent job playing *Amazing Grace*. The Browningsville Cornet Band did their usual great job providing music, even calling on Post member John Seipp to play the bass drum. Post 86

from Rockville provided their elite Honor Guard to render the gun salutes. Under the direction of Dean Elliott, George Bolling, Brownie Chichester, and Ching-Yao Yu, the Post 171 Honor Guard posted and retrieved the colors. Thanks also to Del. Tony O'Donnell for attending and being our guest speaker. Special thanks to the Boy Scouts for helping with the chairs, and to Lyn Mook for arranging the flowers in front of the Memorial.



Thanks to all the Post Officers and Committees for all their support. I am confident that you will provide the same support for the new Commander, Tony DeShiro, as we continue to support the community and youth programs.

God Bless our troops and God Bless America  
Sam Baughman, Past Commander

**Fellow Comrades:** It is indeed an honor to be selected as your Post Commander. It is a challenge I readily accept, and with the support and assistance of Past Commanders, Post Officers, the Executive Committee, Committee Chairpersons, and my fellow comrades I will do my utmost to live up to your expectations.

In addition to continuing the excellent programs that the Post supports, I have four primary goals for the coming year: First: it is critical to our survival as a Post that we increase our membership. Second: move our technology to the 21<sup>st</sup> century by developing our own Web Site, Facebook Page, and Internet Access. Third: develop a Sponsor Program. A current member who sponsors a new member will be responsible for ensuring that the new member is integrated into the Post, and is provided with all the information he/she needs to immediately become an active member of the Post. Information includes Constitution & By Laws, Post Officers, a List of Committees in which the new member may want to participate, etc. The Sponsor will be the

“go to” guy for the new member. Fourth: our senior committee members have a wealth of history and knowledge that must be passed down to new members. I call on new members to volunteer for committees such as Scholarship, Membership, Boys & Girls State, Bingo, etc. We cannot continue to rely on existing committee chairs to remain forever. In the past year we have lost 15 comrades to Post Everlasting, much of their history and knowledge was lost when they passed.

I look forward to working with all of you during the coming year, and hearing your suggestions. I know that I will not always make the right decisions, but I ask you to trust that my goals will always have the best interest of the American Legion, and Post 171 at heart.

God Bless our Troops and God Bless America  
Anthony M. “Tony” De Shiro, Commander

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Del. Anthony O'Donnell.

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## 2013 Membership Year – We Fell Short!

Unfortunately, we did not reach our goal of 408 but we did remain an **over 400** Post for the fourth consecutive year ending the year at **401**. A special thanks to several Legionnaires who stepped up and paid the dues of several long term members who had not paid their 2013 dues. Hopefully they will renew on their own for 2014.

July 1<sup>st</sup> starts the 2014 membership year and renewals will begin arriving via mail later in the month. For the twelfth year in a row I will say it again, PLEASE renew as soon as you receive your notice or better yet, contact me about a Paid Up for Life Membership (PUFL) membership (amount based on your age) and never have to worry about dues again! You can pay in full or over a 12 month period. Annual dues can also be paid on-line at [www.legion.org/renew](http://www.legion.org/renew). This site allows you print out a temporary membership card. You can also renew at the Department of MD website - <http://www.mdlegion.org>. Paying on-line saves us stamps, envelopes and *time*! Please don't send in dues for more than one year, amounts over \$25 will be returned.

With the loss of so many comrades to Post Everlasting during the 2013 membership year our 2014 roster lists only 399 members. Consequently, based on past history, we will need at least 25-30 new members and transfers to stay an over 400 Post. Best wishes for the summer!

Keith Midberry, Membership Chairman, [kmidberry@yahoo.com](mailto:kmidberry@yahoo.com) or (301) 916-7929

One member of the Post is currently deployed in South Korea until late summer. Please consider dropping him a line or card to show your appreciation for his service!

Michael J Cacace  
HHC 501st SBDE  
Unit 15467  
APO.AP 96260-5476  
United States

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### BASEBALL REPORT

By: Chairman Bob Bellison



Our Team is off to an outstanding start, after a come back extra inning win over Laurel, we are in 1<sup>st</sup> place in the league with a 9 & 0 record. Like the win over Laurel many of the wins have been comeback victories. The coaching staff has done an outstanding job meshing players from 4 different high schools into a very close knit team.

Leading the team are: All-Met P/1B Matt Chanin, OF Brady Adam, P Grant Dickey, P Tyler Rodriguez and INF Mike Serafa from SHS; OF Alex Salem, OF John Handley, and P Eric Magas from DHS; P Zack Thompson, OF and C Patrick Jimenez CHS; P Grant Pascoe, INF Casey Bulik and C Tyler Post from Good Counsel. Post high school graduates OF Emery McMinn DHS/U of MD and C Colon McMahon SHS/MCC continue to be leaders and are a very important part of our team. I hope you have a chance to see some of our games.

You'll be very proud of these young men that are representing Post 171 off the field as well as on the baseball diamond. It's still early in the Season, with 15 league games plus make-up games to play, the players & coaches have very few days off. Their dedication to Post 171 Baseball is greatly appreciated. Off the field, the

support that we have received is just as outstanding. The Booster Club is already above & beyond any previous years and the list continues to grow. Your continued support is greatly appreciated. The new members since last issue are listed below. The complete club list will appear in the next issue.

The Jr. Team is starting off slow, however like in the past, Coach Wodoslawsky and his staff will have them improved as the Season progresses. The important thing is the young players are learning to play the game the way it should be played. This team is very important to the continued success of Post 171 Baseball.

It's difficult for me to keep up-to-date on changes to the schedule and make-up games. The web sites are;

Jr.Team - <http://www.eteamz.com/potomacjrlegion/>

Sr. Team - <http://www.leaguelineup.com/welcome.asp?url=mclegion>

If you currently don't receive up-to-date reports from me and wish to do so send an e-mail to:

[bobnrubel@verizon.net](mailto:bobnrubel@verizon.net)

New members to the Booster Club since the last newsletter:

**GRANDSLAM**

\*John Wayne Duvall + *In memory of Debby*, \*Buzz & Eileen Burroughs, \*John & Sandy Walter, Ron & Peggy Scott, Mickey Day, Judy & Andy Knapp, Sandy Seipp, John Seipp, Tony Deshiro, Bob & Cindy Ray

**DOUBLEHITTER**

Willie Ruffin, Jim Serritella, Hank Hartley, Grace Burch, Ray Schwalm

POST 171 BASEBALL BOOSTER CLUB 2013

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE \_\_\_\_\_ E-MAIL \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ DOUBLE HITTER (\$50.00Donation) \_\_\_\_\_ GRAND SLAM (\$100.00 \*+Donation)

Cook-out, Banquet, receive Sched. & Game Results and select 1 item from below:      Cook-out, Banquet, receive Sched. & Game Results and select 2 items from below:

\_\_\_ Shirt Size \_\_\_ / \_\_\_ Sweat Shirt Size \_\_\_ (Circle Color: Navy, Gray, Red, White) \_\_\_ Hat

\_\_\_ I don't want an item from above please use my entire donation for the baseball program.

Please make checks to: Post 171 Baseball. Please return to: American Legion Post 171 Baseball. PO Box 171 Damascus, MD 20872

THE NATIONAL MUSEUM OF THE UNITED STATES ARMY  
Registry of the American Soldier

The Registry of the American Soldier provides a unique opportunity to recognize and honor Soldiers who are currently serving, and those who have served, in the U.S. Army, Army Reserve, or Army National Guard. The Registry will be prominently displayed at The National Museum of the United States Army. Any Soldier who has ever worn the Army uniform throughout our nation's history is eligible to have a special registry page on the Museum website. To enroll yourself, or to honor a friend or family member, log on to [www.usarmyregistry.org](http://www.usarmyregistry.org) . You can also contact them at 800-506-2672 or visit the website at [WWW.ARMYHISTORY.ORG](http://WWW.ARMYHISTORY.ORG) .

## AMERICAN LEGION SCHOLARSHIPS 2013

Lou Popowsky, Chairman

For the scholastic year of 2013-2014, Post 171 has awarded five scholarships in the amount of \$1,500 each and one scholarship in the amount of \$2000. The fifth scholarship was added this year with a donation from the SAL Squadron 171. The \$2000 scholarship was added this year in honor of George Richon by his wife Linda using donations given to the Post in George's honor and supplemented by Linda.

This year there were a total of 43 applicants from six high schools. All of the applicants were well rounded, intelligent, hard working and very impressive students. Our \$1500 winners were Eric Burroughs (Stone Bridge HS, Ashburn VA), Thomas Donoghue (Poolesville HS), Maria Hitchcock (Damascus HS), Cassandra Lowell (Urbana HS), Sydni Reinhold (Damascus HS). Our \$2000 winner was Ryland Talamo (Tri-City Christian HS, Vista CA). I was able to personally present the awards to all recipients except Ryland.

Our committee this year was; Bob Bellison, Ernie Screen, Shawn Gill, Kevin Mook and myself. I would like to thank our committee members for doing such a great job in a short amount of time. It was a lot of work. Questions on the scholarship program may be directed to me at 301-371-6648 or popowsk@yahoo.com.

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*American Legion Auxiliary, Unit 171*

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

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Dear Members: It is hard to believe that we are starting the 2013-2014 new year. The time has really flown by this past year and now we must prepare for our new programs. One specific program is membership. I was so hoping that we would reach our goal for Pat but it did not happen. Unfortunately, we closed our books with the Unit at only 137 members. Our goal for 2013-2014 will be to get those renewals back again.

There will be four pot-luck dinners this coming year. I am requesting that members pair-off to take one of the dinners and set the theme each time. Also, once again the Unit will have the first and third Thursday for Bingo Snack Bar. Again, I request that members pair-off to run the Bingo Snack Bar.

We will hold our Executive Committee meeting on Monday, August 12<sup>th</sup>, 7:30 p.m., at the Post home. Those members on the committee mark your calendars now. As I write this message I still have not confirmed either of the color bearers. Let's not wait too long.

Have a good summer and be ready for an exciting new year in the Auxiliary.

Yours in service,

*Cindy Ray*

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## **POCKET FLAG PROJECT**

Liz Popowsky, Chairman

The Unit continues to have unanimous support for the Pocket Flag Project and special thanks to all those passionately involved. With the latest shipment of 100 flags to the soldiers serving with Post member Charles Scheck, a total of 855 pocket flags have been distributed to troops overseas since November 2012. As a result of contact with the USO's Air Mobile Command at BWI, Unit members Linda Richon, Sandy Seipp and Liz Popowsky will personally present flags to the troops deploying from BWI on the evening of June 24 (possibly 250-300). The Unit is honored to have this privilege and to be able to put a face with a pocket flag. Additionally, Unit member Jen Shaffer has "adopted" a soldier and will personally fold 10 flags to send to his unit. Please contact Liz Popowsky at 301-371-6648 or [rayliz53@yahoo.com](mailto:rayliz53@yahoo.com) if you have information on deployed troops or questions about the project.

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

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

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Greetings Legion Family,

This legion year has been a slow year on the SAL front and that has been the fault of myself and I apologize for this and will strive to improve in the new year.

I am proud to say that with the help of our great members and help from other Legion family members the kitchen Bingos have been very effective for us and are producing positive things for the SAL.

I proudly can say that the SAL has taken the start of two great strides for the future. Our first ever annual \$1500 college scholarship sponsorship, and our first ever annual Flag retirement ceremony. For the Flag retirement ceremony we had approximately 50 Post, Unit and Squadron members and guests present. The weather was perfect with full sun, moderate temperatures and a relatively low breeze. The dinner afterwards was also well appreciated by all participants. A big thank you, to all who helped out with the preparations and to all who participated, and made our first Flag Retirement ceremony such a success.

I hope and wish everyone a great and safe summer.

Yours in service,

John Wayne Duvall

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**COMING EVENTS**  
**Post, Unit & Squadron 171 Calendar**

<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

**July 2013**

<b><u>Date</u></b>	<b><u>Event</u></b>	
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Baseball Bingo	7:00 pm
4 <sup>th</sup>	Independence Day	PLEASE FLY THE FLAG
12 <sup>th</sup>	Celebrate Damascus Days Parade	7:00 pm
	Fireworks after the Parade	
13 <sup>th</sup>	Community Flea Market	9:00 am – 4 pm
	Inova Blood Mobile	
15 <sup>th</sup> to the 19 <sup>th</sup>	Maryland American Legion Convention in Ocean City	

**August 2013**

<b><u>Date</u></b>	<b><u>Event</u></b>	
5 <sup>th</sup>	Post Ex. Board Mtg.	7:00 pm
12 <sup>th</sup>	S.A.L. Meeting	7:00 pm
12 <sup>th</sup>	Post Member Meeting	7:30 pm
12 <sup>th</sup>	Unit Ex. Board Mtg.	7:30 pm

**Looking Ahead**

September 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Labor Day
September 5 <sup>th</sup>	Bingo starts

Damascus American Legion, Post 171  
P.O. Box 171  
Damascus, MD 20872



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<https://www.facebook.com/DamascusPost171>

## American Legion Post 171

2012 – 2013 Officers

Commander	Tony DeShiro	843 855-9353	Historian	Ed Williams	301 865-4250
1 <sup>st</sup> V. Cmdr.	Willie Ruffin	301 972-5798	Chaplain	Shawn Gill	301 253-6239
2 <sup>nd</sup> V. Cmdr.	Kevin Mook	301-204-9722	Sgt-at-Arms	Bill Green	301 253-5420
Judge Advocate	Dean Elliott	240 793-6868	Ex. Comm.:	Sam Baughman	301 831-3216
Adjutant	Will Trotter	301 661-6902		Ernie Screen	301 253-3560
Treasurer	Ching-Yao Yu	240 668-4080		Buzz Burroughs	301 253-2741
Serv. Officer	Jim Serritella	301 253-3971		Ronald Scott	301 831-7974

## Auxiliary, Unit 171

2012 – 2013 Officers

President	Cynthia Ray	301 972-1978	Color Bearers:	Open	
V. President	Open			Open	
Secretary	Rosalyn Bowman	301-253-4473	Exec. Comm.:	Mary Bolling	301 898-7119
Treasurer	Linda Richon	301 253-5466		Betty Nicholson	301 865-1638
Chaplain	Jennifer Shaffer	301 829-8487		Barbara Raab	301 330-5447
Historian	Mary Beth Talamo	301 253-4457			
Sgt-at-Arms	Virginia Myers	301 831-9188			

## SAL Squadron, 171

2012 – 2013 Officers

Commander	John Duvall	301 787-4480	Chaplain	Drew Shaffer	301 412-3443
1 <sup>st</sup> V. Cmdr.	Tony Koontz	240 439-9501	Sgt-at-Arms	George Shaffer	301 831-535
2 <sup>nd</sup> V. Cmdr.	Josh Shaffer	301 412-3443	Historian	OPEN	
Adjutant	Adam Young	240 422-1765	Post Liaison	George Bolling	301 980-8917
Finance	Tony Koontz	240 439-9501			

Newsletter Editor: Lou Popowsky tel. 301-371-6648 email [popowsk@yahoo.com](mailto:popowsk@yahoo.com)