



THE DAMASCUS VETERAN

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

September – October 2018

THE COMMANDER'S CORNER

Fellow Legionnaires:

It's been quite busy since the installation of your new officers. The Department Convention in Ocean City was quite an eye opener on where we are as a State Veterans Organization. Membership is everyone's top priority as well it should be, because without members we wouldn't have an organization. There were classes for new and longer-term members to learn the ways the Legion has developed, and how we operate today. The organization as a whole is in a very slow decline but in some Posts tremendous growth exists, we'd all like to see our Post in the growing category which will take the collective effort of all of us. Post 171 also received two awards during the Convention in Ocean City. These were earned under the leadership of Will Cole and will be on display soon. Next is financial fitness and security, which we will address further in the coming months. We have suffered the loss of another one of our comrades, Jim Hanger in who went to Post Everlasting in July.



The Executive Committee has been busy with financial issues. We have taken steps to increase revenue from our upcoming and future culinary featured events and are looking forward to the Oyster Feast in November. The band is "City Slicker" and plays country with rock & roll mixed in. The SAL is putting on their Crab Feast in October. Next month we will be assisting in the first round of Flag Raising events at Baker Middle School. We have also scheduled a Flag Retirement Ceremony on September 11th at the Post home, see the invitations below. Also, on the horizon will be a start toward visiting wounded veterans at Walter Reed Military Medical Center in Bethesda. This has been done in the past and will return soon.

Recruiting for "new members" is going to be an essential part of our "Think 50" effort. I'm happy to announce that we voted in three new members at the August membership meeting. Renewals for 2019 can be done by going to www.legion.org/renew, it's quick and painless. We are looking for a means to involve our children and/or our grandchildren in activities at the Post's home. Stay tuned as this comes out of the cobwebs of our collective minds. This will involve the Auxiliary as well as the SAL. We are also gearing up to resume Bingo for another year, this is our most important fund raiser that allows us to do so much in the local community. We will also be looking into the feasibility of establishing a "Legion Riders" group here at Post 171. So, we are off to a great start for another big year at Post 171. As always, your comments are welcome. Feel free to write to me or any member of your leadership team and let us know what you are thinking or what we can do for the benefit of all.

For God and Country

David F. Clemmer, Post Commander

Sons of the American Legion Squadron 171



Please join the SAL in their First Annual CRAB FEAST
Saturday, October 13, 2018
Doors open at 4:00 PM, Food Served from 5:00-8:00 PM
Entertainment from 7:30-11:00 PM

\$55 per person. No Refunds and No Tickets will be sold at the door.

All-You-Can-Eat Crabs, Hamburgers, Hot Dogs, Corn on the Cob, Macaroni Salad, Coleslaw, and Baked Beans.

Purchase tickets from

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

or

Todd Stockslager - ToddSAL171@yahoo.com or 240-793-6406
Or you can call and leave a message at the Post 301-253-0769



Blood Drive **American Legion Post 171**

Hall
10201 Lewis Drive
Damascus, MD 20872

Saturday, September 15, 2018
8:00 AM to 12:30 PM

Register online at www.redcrossblood.org and enter Sponsor ID: "ALP 171 Damascus" or call 1-800-733-2767 to schedule your life saving donation!

Membership update

Sam Baughman

Here we are, two months into the Legion Membership year and we are at 63.5%. Thanks to all of you who have renewed online and the ones who mailed the forms and dues back to the Post they received from National. For those who still haven't renewed, you can save a stamp by going online at: www.legion.org/renew.

We are always looking for new members, so if you have a co-worker, neighbor, or someone you think might have served during a wartime era, ask them. If they say yes, tell them "Thank you for your service, would you like to join the Damascus American Legion"?

Fall Oyster Roast - November 17, 2018

The Oyster Roast is scheduled for **Saturday, November 17, 2018**. We serve raw, fried and steamed oysters, fried chicken, coleslaw, potato salad, baked beans, a cheese platter, veggie platter, and rolls and butter. This is one of the Post's major fund-raisers, and we need the membership's help talking it up and selling tickets. We also need help before, during and after the dinner.

This is a great evening for food and dancing. Music to be provided by **City Slicker** from 7:30 pm to 11 pm.

Price for this fund event is **\$35 per person in advance and \$40 at the door**.

OYSTER ROAST
NOVEMBER 17, 2018
DINNER @ 6 PM

_____ Advance Tickets @ \$35/ea.
_____ Tickets at the door @ \$40/ea.

Contact Larry Matthews or any Post 171 member for tickets

Tel. # for Larry: (301) 370-4079
Email: Adjutant@legionpost171.org

<https://post171oysterroast.eventbrite.com>

Larry Matthews (301) 370-4079 or 2ndVice@legionpost171.org

Kevin Mook (240) 668-4033 or Adjutant@legionpost171.org

You can also leave a message at the Post (301) 253-0769

The history of the American flag

Written by Jim Serritella

On June 14, 1777, the Continental Congress passed an act establishing an official flag for the new nation. The resolution stated: "Resolved, that the flag of the United States be thirteen stripes, alternate red and white; that the union be thirteen stars, white in a blue field, representing a new constellation."

Francis Hopkinson was a popular patriot, a lawyer, a Congressman from New Jersey, a signer of the Declaration of Independence, poet, artist, and distinguished civil servant. He almost certainly was the person who designed the first Stars and Stripes. He was appointed to the Continental Navy Board on November 6, 1776. It was while serving on the Continental Navy Board he turned his attention to designing the flag of the United States. The use of stars in that design is believed to have been the result of an experience in the war directly related to his property.

In a letter to the Board of Admiralty in 1780 Hopkinson asserted he had designed "the flag of the United States of America" as well as several ornaments, devices, and checks appearing on bills of exchange, ship papers, the seals of the boards of Admiralty and Treasury, and the Great Seal of the United States. Hopkinson had received nothing for this work, and now he submitted a bill and asked "whether a Quarter Cask of the public wine" would be a reasonable and proper reward for his labors.

The Board forwarded the letter to Congress, which referred it to the Board of Treasury. Apparently acting on a request from Congress, Hopkinson sent a detailed bill on June 6th 1780, and it was sent to the auditor general, James Milligan. He sent it to the commissioners of the Chamber of Accounts, who replied six days later on June 12th that they were of the opinion the charges were reasonable and ought to be paid. Milligan gave the report a favorable endorsement and passed it on to the Board of Treasury. The board now raised objections and returned the bill to the auditor general on the grounds that no vouchers were included with the bill. Hopkinson now submitted a new copy of his bill and itemized each charge and it was rejected once again, and the auditor asked once more for its favorable consideration. After another round of referral through the departments, the board filed the correspondence and did nothing for two and half months.

Fed up with the delay, Hopkinson wrote to Charles Lee, the secretary of the Board of Treasury, accusing him of lying about having received the amended bill and delaying the settlement of his claim. Lee failed to satisfy Hopkinson, and Hopkinson sent a list of charges to Congress against the board.

Just as in our modern times, Congress appointed a committee to investigate the matter. The various government officers concerned with the claim appeared before the committee at its request. Only the men of the Board of Treasury ignored the summons. In its report to Congress, the committee recommended the present board be dismissed.

Congress sent the report back to the committee for further consideration and another investigation and another report followed. In its second report the committee noted this time the members of the Board of Treasury answered the summons, but frequently tried to dictate the way in which the investigation should be made. The committee felt the Treasury should be directed by a **single individual responsible to** Congress, but made no recommendation in regard to Hopkinson's claim. The matter remained unsettled until August 23rd, 1781, when Congress passed a resolution asking the claim be acted on. Meanwhile, Hopkinson had grown weary of the controversy and on July 23rd, 1781, he resigned his office as Treasurer of Loans.

Between the first and second report of the committee the Board of Treasury gave its own report to Congress on the history of the Hopkinson claim. Aside from the lack of vouchers, the members of the board knew "Hopkinson was not the only person consulted" on the matter of designs and therefore could not rightly claim the whole amount, and in addition, the board felt the public was entitled to these extra services from men who drew high salaries. (At this point in the paper – it was not known the amount of any salary paid to Hopkinson [or other “high officials”]).

Though Hopkinson's political adversaries blocked all attempts to have him paid for his services, they never denied that he made the designs. The journals of the Continental Congress clearly show he designed the flag

The design of the first Stars and Stripes by Hopkinson had the thirteen stars arranged in a "staggered" pattern technically known as quincuncial because it is based on the repetition of a motif of five units. This arrangement inevitably results in a strongly diagonal effect. In a flag of thirteen stars, this placement produced the unmistakable outline of the crosses of St. George and of St. Andrew, as used together on the British flag. Whether this similarity was intentional or accidental, it may explain why the plainer fashion of placing the stars in three parallel rows was preferred by many Americans over the quincuncial style.



Hopkinson designed the first American flag – Betsy Ross sewed it – not quite the way the designer laid it out. After all, Hopkinson was never paid for his work!



On June 14, 1777, the Continental Congress created the standard for the American flag as consisting of thirteen stripes, alternating between red and white. In addition, there would be thirteen stars, one for each of the original colonies, on a field of blue. Over the years, the flag has changed. As new states were added to the union, additional stars were added on the field of blue.

Official Acts Relating to the American Flag

- June 14, 1777 - The Continental Congress passed the first Flag Act stating, "Resolved, That the flag of the United States be made of thirteen stripes, alternate red and white; that the union be thirteen stars, white in a blue field, representing a new Constellation."
In 1949, President Harry S Truman officially named June 14th Flag Day in commemoration of this event.
- January 13, 1794 - Act which stated that after May 1795, there would be 15 stripes and 15 stars.
- April 4, 1818 - Act signed by President James Monroe stated that there would be 13 stripes and one star for each state. New states' stars would be added on July 4th after their admission to the Union.
- June 24, 1912 - For the first time, flags became standardized with specific proportions and the arrangement of the stars into six rows of eight each according to an Executive Order from President Taft.
- January 3, 1959 - An Executive Order from President Dwight Eisenhower stated the stars would be arranged in seven rows of seven stars each.
- August 21, 1959 - An Executive Order from President Eisenhower resulted in the stars being arranged in nine rows staggered horizontally and 11 rows staggered vertically.

Did you know? Robert G. Heft designed the current flag as a school project when Hawaii and Alaska were being discussed as possible states. He received a B minus for the assignment because his teacher said it lacked creativity. His teacher told him he would receive a higher grade if it was adopted by Congress, so he sent it on to his representative, where it eventually became the nation's flag.

Flag Retirement Ceremony



Please join the Damascus American Legion Family for a special Flag retirement ceremony. We will adhere strictly to the prescribed process for disposing of worn and unusable American Flags with dignity and respect. This is an excellent opportunity for your children and grandchildren to learn about this aspect of being an American.

The Damascus Volunteer Fire Department, the American Legion Auxiliary Unit 171, and the Sons of the American Legion Squadron 171 will assist the Post, and refreshments will be available following the ceremony

The ceremony will be held at 6 pm on Tuesday, September 11, 2018 10201 Lewis Drive, Damascus, MD. 20872, (301) 253-0769

Flag drop off is available at the Flag drop box at the back of the Post home through September 10, 2017

Open to the Public!



THE POST 171 PATRIOTS BASEBALL PROGRAM UPDATE

The Post 171 American Legion Baseball season finally came to a conclusion on a long, rainy July night on the MC Rockville baseball field. With Post 171 holding the advantage in the Montgomery County Championship game, Cissel Saxon Post 41 was able to defeat our Patriots in 2 games to secure the Montgomery County title. The Post 171 Patriots played exceptionally well in the tournament, securing two early wins behind strong pitching from Aidan Rannals (Damascus HS) and Joey Lotier (Seneca Valley HS) and strong performances at the plate from Jalen Toombs (Seneca Valley HS), Ethan Wentzlaff (Damascus HS) and Tyler Retherford (Damascus HS).

The persistence and resiliency of the Post 171 players is to be commended for playing through a trying season. An unplanned coaching change midway through the season brought a set of challenges to the players and new coaching staff alike. I would like to thank the interim Head Coach Kevin Hernandez and assistant coaches Dave Retherford and Scott Carneal for stepping up to provide our young men with their baseball experience and coaching. They were forced into unexpected roles and served with distinction and led our team to a strong regular season finish and a very exciting performance in the County Championship tournament.

We face a lot of work in continuing to improve our Legion Baseball program. Our first, and biggest challenge, will be the search for a permanent new Head Coach in the coming weeks. I plan on reaching out to the Baseball Head Coaches for all of the High Schools in our region, as part of the coaching search and to also continue to build our relationships with the local baseball community. Our Legion Baseball program is a valuable tool to showcase the Legion commitment to our community service and serve as an outreach to the younger generation. Any and all input in how to further these efforts is greatly appreciated.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the outgoing Chairman, Keith Martin, for all of the hard work that he has put into this program. His years of hard work and determined efforts have greatly contributed to the success of the program. I hope to continue his legacy with the program and will continue to seek his advice, along with all the other members of the baseball committee and any members of the Post willing to assist. It is truly a team effort that is needed to ensure continued success of the baseball program.

Our baseball banquet is being planned for December and will be a great chance to reunite all of our baseball players for a well-deserved night of fun, awards, and celebration. We will welcome back our players that are heading off to college this year and start getting our returning players excited for the 2019 season. It is our hope that many of the Legion Boosters will be able to join us as well.

2018 POST 171 BASEBALL COMMITTEE: Alan Rannals (Chairman), Sam Baughman, Bob Bellison, George Bolling, Buzz Burroughs, Frank Carpenter, Brownie Chichester, Will Cole, Skip Duvall, Bill Green, Bill Hauptman, Evelyn Hernandez, Keith Martin, Kevin Mook, and Ron Scott.

2018 POST 171 BASEBALL BOOSTERS: Grand Slam - George & Mary Bolling, Bill & Cindy McMinn, Bill Dunn, Bob & Ruby Bellison, Brownie & Ginny Chichester, Buzz Burroughs, Dee Dee Myers, Ernest Clifford, Gordon and Patricia Hinkle, John Walter, Ray Mullican, Roland & Judith Hockenbery, Dave and Meg Clemmer; **Home Run** - Mark & Betty Jeffers, GK & PJ Johnson, George & Cathy Magas, Kevin Mook, Donald & Betty Nicholson, Patrick & Julie Murphy, Skip Duvall, William Hauptman, Ann B. Gray, Judy Moore, Pat Rice, Jim Serritella, Bob Mullinix & Mary Lou Leishear, and Tony DeShiro; and **Double Hitter** - Robert Gladhill, Madalean Darby, Jack & Mary Beth Talamo, Sam Baughman, and Harry & June Pearce

2018 POST 171 BASEBALL BOOSTER CLUB 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 ENTIRE DONATION FOR THE POST 171 BASEBALL PROGRAM**

Make checks payable to **Post 171 Baseball** and return to American Legion Post 171 Baseball, ATTN: Alan Rannals, PO Box 171, Damascus, MD 20872.

Any comments or questions should be directed to Alan Rannals rannals@gmail.com.



American Legion Auxiliary, Unit 171

September - October 2018

Welcome Back Everyone!

The Auxiliary has had a busy summer which included the Installation Dinner held in June; participating in the Department Convention in July; and, we had our first executive committee planning session in August.

A big thanks to Kelli Cole, Sandy Seipp, Amanda Baughman, and Trish Busche for attending the convention in July. And a special thanks to Sandy Seipp who organized this year's auxiliary department of Maryland convention and did a fabulous job doing so. There are so many planning details that go into a large event like that and Sandy pulled it all off without a hitch! GREAT job, Sandy!

We also said good-bye to a dear friend and dedicated member, Mary Bolling, who passed away on July 11, 2018. There were many beautiful tributes to Mary at her celebration of life service, and I know we will all miss her beautiful smile and caring nature. We will continue to support her husband and legionnaire, George Bolling, who I know misses her terribly.

As we move forward, I'm happy to inform you that we will continue several of our keynote projects this year including the Pocket Flag Project, Americanism Essay contest, scholarship contest, Girl's State and we will continue to support the members of Post 171. If you feel the calling to help in any way with these projects or the many other things we participate in (bingo snack bar the first and third Thursday's of the month), we would love to hear from you. As I've said many times before, 'Volunteers don't have time, but they do have heart', so please consider giving even one hour of your week to our organization. Let me know how you would like to help.

As a reminder, we are now accepting membership dues for the 2019 calendar year:

1. Mail your dues to the membership chair- Amanda Baughman, PO Box 171 Damascus, MD 20872
2. Renew online at www.alaforveterans.org. Create a "Members Only" account and then click "Renew". Renewing online takes only a few minutes.

Dues are \$25 and if you prefer to pay by check, the check should be made out to the ALA Post 171. The Department of Maryland Auxiliary will be sending renewal notices in September to ALL Auxiliary Members. For membership questions, please contact Amanda at axb5801@yahoo.com or 240-409-8226.

Our first regular meeting of the year will be September 10th at 7:30 pm in our meeting location downstairs in the party room next to the post members meeting area. Regular monthly meetings will be on the second Monday of each month. At the first meeting we'll go through the events for the coming year as well as discuss the special projects we'll support this year.

Whether you can come to a meeting or not, I am anxious to hear your ideas and encourage you to e-mail or call me. Thank you for your continued support of our auxiliary.

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

Marianne DiSomma



Sons of the American Legion Squadron, 171

September - October 2018

Greetings from the S.A.L. Squadron,

I hope everyone is having a wonderful summer and ready for the Fall. Our first meeting is approaching quickly and I'm looking forward to seeing everyone and getting back into the swing of things. I would like to take this opportunity to remind everyone that membership cards are in, and our goal is to achieve 100% membership for the fourth year in a row, so please get your dues in. I would like to encourage any members with ideas for the upcoming Legion Year to bring them up at our next meeting, any input is greatly appreciated.

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

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

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

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

Todd Stockslager
SAL 171 Commander



COMING EVENTS
Post, Unit & Squadron 171 Calendar

September 2018

<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Time</u>
3rd	Labor Day	
4th	Post Executive Committee Meeting	7:00 PM
6th	Bingo Starts – New Season!!	7:00 PM
8th	Pancake Breakfast	7:30 AM – 9:30 AM
8th	Montgomery County Council Meeting @ Post 171	9:00 AM
10th	Potluck Dinner	6:00 PM
10th	SAL Member Meeting	7:00 PM
10th	Post and Unit Member Meetings	7:30 PM
11th	Flag Retirement Ceremony	6:00 PM
13th	Post Bingo	7:00 PM
15th	American Red Cross – Blood Drive	8:00 AM – 12:30 PM
17th	Baker Middle School 9/11 Flag Ceremony	8:00 AM
20th	Post Bingo	7:00 PM
27th	Post Bingo	7:00 PM

October 2018

<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Time</u>
1st	Post Executive Committee Meeting	7:00 PM
4th	Post Bingo	7:00 PM
8th	Columbus Day	
8th	SAL Member Meeting	7:00 PM
8th	Post and Member Meetings	7:30 PM
11th	Post Bingo	7:00 PM
13th	Pancake Breakfast	7:30 AM – 9:30 AM
13th	SAL Crab Feast	5:00 PM
18th	Post Bingo	7:00 PM
25th	Post Bingo	7:00 PM
31st	Happy Halloween	

Looking Ahead

Nov 4th	Daylight Savings Time (Fall Back)	2:00 AM
Nov 5th	Post Ex. Board Meeting	7:00 PM
Nov 10th	Marine Corps Birthday OORAH!	
Nov 11th	Veterans Day	
Nov 12th	Post Veterans Day Program	11:00 AM
Nov 12th	Post and Unit Member Meetings	7:30 PM
Nov 17th	Oyster Roast	6:00 PM
Nov 22nd	Thanksgiving Day	

P.O. Box 171
Damascus, MD 20872



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<http://www.legionpost171.org> and <https://www.facebook.com/DamascusPost171>

American Legion Post 171

Officers

Commander	Dave Clemmer	(240) 447-7542	Membership	Sam Baughman (PC) (301) 401-6479
1st Vice Commander	Fred Mitchell	(301) 916-8395	Historian	Sam Lehane (407) 230-3117
2nd Vice Commander	Larry Matthews	(301) 370-4079	Chaplain	Shawn Gill (661) 312-1113
Judge Advocate	Dean Elliott	(301) 482-0982	Sgt-at-Arms	Bill Green (301) 253-5420
Adjutant	Kevin Mook (PC)	(240) 668-4033	Executive Comm	Paula Gill
Finance Officer	Tony DeShiro (PC)	(843) 855-9353		Bob Bellison
Service Officer	Jim Serritella	(301) 253-3971		Bill Raab (PC)
				Keith Martin

(PC) => Past Post Commander

Auxiliary, Unit 171

Officers

President	Marianne DiSomma	(301) 606-4645	Membership	Amanda Baughman (240) 409-8226
Vice President	Kelli Cole	(240) 832-7733	Executive Comm	CaseyKoontz (301) 831-6746
Secretary	Amanda Baughman	(240) 409-8226		Donna Sefcik (301) 792-6819
Treasurer	Patricia Busche	(301) 391-6752		Barbara Raab (301) 330-5447
Chaplain	Pat Rice	(301) 253-2266		
Historian	Diane Capel	(301) 253-0108		
Sgt-at-Arms	Virginia Myers	(301) 831-9188		

SAL Squadron, 171

Officers

Commander	Todd Stockslager	Chaplain	Donald Mook
1st Vice Commander	Tom Kaufman	Historian	Donald Mook
2nd Vice Commander	John Duvall	Sgt-at-Arms	Tyler Baughman
Adjutant	Adam Young	Post Liaison	Paula Gill
Finance Officer	Adam Young		

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