



# THE DAMASCUS VETERAN

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

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**July – August 2017**

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## THE COMMANDER'S CORNER

### Fellow Comrades:

It is indeed an honor to be selected as your Post Commander for another year! With the support and assistance of Past Commanders, Post Officers, Executive Committee, the Auxiliary members, and the SAL, it is a challenge I readily accept, and I am willing to do my best to live up to your expectations.

I want to first, Congratulate Kevin Mook, PPC on his nomination as Montgomery County Commander for another year! I know he will continue to do an awesome job, as he has always done. Additionally, congratulations go out to Will Trotter for being the Department's next 3<sup>rd</sup> Vice. Will has always been a great resource to our post and I would like to wish him all the best as he moves up the chain.



We had a wonderful Memorial Day Service! The weather cooperated, Browningsville Band provided their fantastic music selection, the Rockville Firing Squad was most professional, the Montgomery County Police bagpipers played an emotional rendition of Amazing Grace, and Post 171 Color Guard displayed their professionalism. Special thanks to the Boy Scouts for chair set up and all who lent a helping hand to once again make this one of the Communities best programs!

Special thanks also go out to our 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Will Cole. Will worked on membership tirelessly all year and in the end, it showed. Post 171 ended the year membership at 103% or goal! Well done Will!!!

June 17<sup>th</sup>, we had yet another successful Blood Drive at the Post. 23 Units collected! Special thanks go to Jen Schaefer and David Hull.

Just as a reminder, the Post Bingo will be taking its summer break for the months of July and August after the special Baseball Bingo on July 13.

I know I may not make the right decisions on everything, but I trust, you all will step up with your suggestions. Please feel free in emailing me at [Commander@legionpost171.org](mailto:Commander@legionpost171.org) or calling me directly at 240-498-6771. After all, this is not my Post, it is our Post.

God Bless our Troops and God Bless America  
Commander Scott C Earhardt



## THE POST 171 COMBINED LEGION BASEBALL PROGRAM UPDATE

The Post 171 Patriots' (19U Seniors and 17U Juniors) seasons are well underway and there remains plenty of baseball on the schedule for the remainder of the summer. In May and June, we held two special program events, the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Bob Bellison Red, White, and Blue Baseball Game and Picnic (BBRWB), and the Ladies Auxiliary Night at the Park.

Our teams began the summer experience on May 20<sup>th</sup> with the BBRWB Game at the Damascus High School Baseball complex. Our own Post 171 Color Guard (Bill Green, Brownie Chichester, and Hank Hartley) presented the National Colors, and the event namesake, Bob Bellison, threw out the ceremonial first pitch. In a controlled scrimmage between the Seniors and Juniors, both teams donned their commemorative jerseys, and with the umpire calling PLAY BALL, the game began. In a well-matched contest, the Seniors slipped by the Juniors with a 1-0 victory. After the game, over 100 players, parents, boosters, and coaches enjoyed a potluck picnic in the Legion dining room. It was a great start to the season. We still have a limited quantity of BBRWB commemorative shirts for purchase (\$10) if you are interested. Just drop me a note at [rkmgm@verizon.net](mailto:rkmgm@verizon.net) and let me know what size that you may need.



With the Junior (red) and Senior (white) teams on the field, Bob Bellison throws the ceremonial first pitch at the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Bob Bellison Red, White, and Blue Baseball Game and Picnic on May 20<sup>th</sup>. The Seniors edged the Juniors 1 – 0. (Photograph courtesy of Dave Clemmer)

On June 2<sup>nd</sup>, it was the Post 171 Ladies Auxiliary Night at the baseball game with Post 171 facing rival Post 68 (Sandy Spring). Marianne DiSomma, President of the Post 171 Auxiliary, threw out the first pitch, a scorcher right down the middle. Unfortunately for Post 171, they struggled to do the same, and Post 68 got the best of them. Nonetheless, it was a great evening for baseball. Much thanks to Marianne and all the auxiliary members for their attendance and support.

As of this writing, the Seniors and Juniors are well into their league season schedules and both teams have played in one or more Legion and/or Showcase tournaments with more to follow in July and August. To check on game schedules, statistics, and player highlights, please visit the Post 171 baseball website at post171baseball.com or follow us on Twitter @post171baseball.

Finally, please do not forget that our annual baseball Bingo fundraiser is Thursday, July 13<sup>th</sup> at the Legion building on Lewis Drive in Damascus. All proceeds generated will be donated to our Legion baseball program. This is our only fundraising activity for the year for our baseball teams, and every penny is applied to making our program one of the best in Maryland. So, let's get prepared to play more ball and yell Bingo for a worthy cause!

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

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

**2017 BOOSTERS: Grand Slam –** Bob & Ruby Bellison; Dan & Jen Berringer; George & Mary Bolling; Bill Dunn; Dee Dee Myers; Rosser & Barbara Campbell; Liz Litvin; Eric Berringer; Ray Mullican; Keith & Mary Gene Martin; Buzz Burroughs; Roland & Judith Hockenbery; Ernest C. Clifford, Jr; Scott and Susan Carneal; and Tom Ng **Home Run –** Brownie & Ginny Chichester; Kevin & Evelyn Hernandez; Mark & Betty Jeffers; GK & PJ Johnson; George & Cathy Magas; Bill & Cindy McMinn; Bob & Louise Mullinex; Donald & Betty Nicholson; Alan Rannals; Sandy Siepp; Skip Duvall; William Hauptman; Ann B. Gray; John Walter; Scott & Maria Earhardt; Eugene G. Hilty; Ernest & Helen Screen; Pat Rice; Jim Serritella; and Tony DeShiro **Double Hitter -** Robert Gladhill; Bob Moxely; Danny Moxley; Debby Moxley; Pat Moxley; Paula Moxley; Mary Robinson; Madalean Darby; Judy Moore; Jack & Mary Beth Talamo; Hazel Hoyle; Sam Baughman; Leonard Senseney; and Harry & June Pearce

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### 2017 POST 171 BASEBALL BOOSTER CLUB

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

\_\_\_\_\_ **DOUBLE HITTER** (\$50 Donation)  
Cook-out – Banquet- Schedule & Game Results

\_\_\_\_\_ **HOMERUN** (\$100\* Donation)  
Cook-out – Banquet- Schedule & Game Results  
Select 1 Apparel Item From Below

\_\_\_\_\_ **GRANDSLAM** (\$200\*+ Donation)  
Cook-out – Banquet- Schedule & Game Results  
Select 2 Apparel Items From Below

**Apparel Items:**

\_\_\_\_\_ Shirt (Size \_\_\_\_\_)  
Circle Color –  
Red/Gray/Navy/White

\_\_\_\_\_ Sweat Shirt (Size \_\_\_\_\_)  
Circle Color –  
Red/Gray/Navy/White

\_\_\_\_\_ Hat

***\_\_\_\_\_ I DO NOT WANT ANY APPAREL ITEMS; PLEASE USE MY ENTIRE DONATION FOR THE POST 171 BASEBALL PROGRAM***

Make checks payable to **Post 171 Baseball** and return to American Legion Post 171 Baseball, ATTN: Keith Martin, PO Box 171, Damascus, MD 20872. Any comments or questions should be directed to Keith Martin at rkmgm@verizon.net or Alan Rannals at rannals@gmail.com.



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

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**July - August 2017**

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**Dear Unit Members:**

Our focus this year has been to build our “offering”, and what I mean by that is what we have to offer as a Unit to not only serve our mission as members of the world’s largest women’s patriotic organization, but to attract new members because of the projects we support.

This year we continued to support the Pocket Flag Project with two new co-leads, Donna Sefcik and Diane Capel, and they did an amazing job. We held a pocket flag folding event and opened it to the general public with much success. Not only do we have a new group of volunteers who know how to fold pocket flags, but we recruited four new members!

We also worked very hard to raise money to donate to the Veterans Enhancement Project (VEP). VEP was founded to take action against veteran suicide, which claims the lives of 22 veterans a day. The organization re-builds motorcycles and donates them to a needy veteran. The project has been very successful, and I’m proud to say that we have raised over \$800 to donate to VEP which has helped them purchase tools and parts for their most recent motorcycle build for a returning veteran, SGT Daniel Livingood, from an Iraq supported deployment. Way to go, Unit 171!

Inside Post 171, we’ve been busy supporting our Post members through the Veteran’s and Memorial Day celebrations, the oyster and shrimp feasts, bingo snack bar, as well as taking time to visit with, and send best wishes to, Unit and Post members in need of our support.

And finally, we took on two new events – Patriotic Paint Nite and Auxiliary Night at the Post 171 baseball game. Both events were great fun and we even managed to raise a little extra money to donate to VEP and the Post 171 baseball program.

Our Executive Committee has reviewed all of the projects and activities we supported last year and we plan to continue to support those that were successful in an effort to continue to provide a good ‘offering’ to the community. We will have renewed focus on membership next year and my hope is we’ll see some new faces with the same energy and enthusiasm that I’ve seen from so many of our members this last year.

I’m truly proud of Unit 171 and I look forward to serving as your president this coming year!

Enjoy the summer and please keep our military in your thoughts and prayers.

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

Marianne DiSomma  
Auxiliary President, Unit 171  
E-mail address: [marianne62@msn.com](mailto:marianne62@msn.com)  
Phone: 301-482-2264

**REMINDER! Early Bird membership renewal ends on July 15<sup>th</sup>! Early bird dues are \$21 and after the 15<sup>th</sup> they will be \$25. Please send your dues to: ALA Unit 171, P.O. Box 171, Damascus, MD 20872**

**Questions? Please contact Amanda Baughman at 240-409-8226 or [girtoribaby@yahoo.com](mailto:girtoribaby@yahoo.com)**

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## **MEMORIAL DAY FLAGS**

Post , Unit, Sons and Volunteers,

I would like to extend my heartfelt thanks to all who participated in placing the 659 flags in our local cemeteries this Memorial Day. I have received many compliments from the community as to what a nice tribute it is to our Veterans. Your help in making this event is greatly appreciated.

Sandy Seipp

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## **VETERANS SHOPPING AT MILITARY EXCHANGES**

All honorably discharged veterans interested in shopping online at the military exchanges can begin their verification process immediately, exchange officials said, and some may be able to shop prior to the program's full launch.

Some veterans who register at [VetVerify.org](http://VetVerify.org) will be invited to be beta testers, with the ability to shop online earlier than the planned Nov. 11 launch date. Officials said the sooner veterans register on the site, the better their chances of being chosen as a beta tester.

The exchange websites offer tax-free shopping, as well as discounted pricing. Actual online pricing can be seen only by those who are authorized to shop at the websites: [shopmyexchange.com](http://shopmyexchange.com); [shopcgx.com](http://shopcgx.com); [mymcx.com](http://mymcx.com); and [mynavyexchange.com](http://mynavyexchange.com).

VetVerify.org uses information from the Defense Department's Defense Manpower Data Center to verify a veteran's status; veterans will receive notification of their acceptance as online shoppers or, if their records are incomplete, will receive guidance on the steps they can take to update those records.

Doing this process ahead of time will allow veterans to start shopping Nov. 11, or earlier if they are among the "beta testers" chosen to try out the system in advance of the launch.

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

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**July - August 2017**

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Greetings from SAL 171,

We have reached the summer months where we can rest and re-group from the previous legion year and prepare for a new and hopefully even brighter year ahead. The squadron had a hugely successful year this year and looks to continue to build on that for the new year ahead and we will need all your continued help and support to do that. We have elected the same officers from the previous year to give it another shot this year, however if you are interested in becoming an officer please let us know and we can work you in. Always ready for members to step up!

This year the squadron achieved membership success being recognized throughout the state with over 100% membership and achieving 3-star status. We also began an almost monthly dinner events to get the legion family together, bringing back favorites such as a chili cook-off and creating a dessert contest. We continued to support our legion family with helping in their events, the shrimp and oyster feeds, bingo, and the unit basket bingo, as well as participating in all legion family events. Our continued success is that we were once again able to award a scholarship to a deserving student who was chosen by our post scholarship committee.

Our goal now is working to the future. We will be off for most things in July and August, except for bingo the first two weeks in July and watching the parade and fireworks at our legion home to “Celebrate Damascus”. During the summer months make sure you mail in your renewal dues to the squadron at PO BOX 171 attn: Todd Stockslager. The renewal is still the same \$15 a person or \$10 dual members of post and squadron. Also, please be thinking of any ideas you would like to see happen in the new legion year ahead and submit them to me at [johnboy42081@yahoo.com](mailto:johnboy42081@yahoo.com). We will return in September and will plan on our first monthly dinner sometime in October with more information to follow.

We wish everyone a safe and happy and healthy summer and See you in September. Please continue to keep all troops in our prayers as well as our legion family.

Truly,

John Wayne Duvall SAL 171 Commander

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

**July 2017**

<b><u>Date</u></b>	<b><u>Event</u></b>	<b><u>Time</u></b>
4th	Independence Day	
6th	Post Bingo	7:00 PM
7th	Celebrate Damascus Days Parade	7:00 PM
	Fireworks after the Parade	
8th	Community Flea Market	10:00 AM – 4:00 PM
	Fire Dept. Activities Bldg. and Grounds	
13th	Baseball Bingo	7:00 PM
10th - 14th	Maryland American Legion Convention in Ocean City	

**August 2017**

<b><u>Date</u></b>	<b><u>Event</u></b>	<b><u>Time</u></b>
7th	Post Ex. Board Meeting	7:00 PM
14th	SAL Member Meeting	7:00 PM
14th	Post and Unit Member Meetings	7:30 PM
18th – 24th	99th National Convention in Reno NV	

**Looking Ahead**

Sep 4th	Labor Day	
Sep 5th	Post Ex. Board Meeting	7:00 PM
Sep 7th	Bingo starts	7:00 PM
Sep 9th	Pancake Breakfast	7:30 AM
Sep 9th	Montgomery County Council Meeting	9:00 AM
Sep 11th	9/11 Remembrance and Flag Retirement	6:00PM

**(Due to the 9/11 Remembrance and Flag retirement, the normally scheduled Membership meeting along with SAL and AUX meeting will be suspended to allow members to attend this special event)**

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

<b>Commander</b>	<b>Scott Earhardt</b>	<b>(240) 498-6771</b>	<b>Membership</b>	<b>Sam Baughman (301) 401-6470</b>
<b>1<sup>st</sup> Vice Commander</b>	<b>Will Cole</b>	<b>(240) 643-7022</b>	<b>Historian</b>	<b>Vacant</b>
<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Commander</b>	<b>Vacant</b>		<b>Chaplain</b>	<b>Shawn Gill (661) 312-1113</b>
<b>Judge Advocate</b>	<b>Anthony DeShiro</b>	<b>(843) 855-9353</b>	<b>Sgt-at-Arms</b>	<b>Bill Green (301) 253-5420</b>
<b>Adjutant</b>	<b>Kevin Mook</b>	<b>(301) 204-9230</b>	<b>Executive Comm</b>	<b>Paula Gill</b>
<b>Finance Officer</b>	<b>Ching-Yao Yu</b>	<b>(240) 668-4080</b>		<b>Bob Bellison</b>
<b>Service Officer</b>	<b>Jim Serritella</b>	<b>(301) 253-3971</b>		<b>Bill Raab</b>
				<b>Sam Baughman</b>

### Auxiliary, Unit 171 Officers

<b>President</b>	<b>Marianne DiSomma</b>	<b>(301) 606-4645</b>	<b>Membership</b>	<b>Amanda Baughman (240) 409-8226</b>
<b>Vice President</b>	<b>Kelli Cole</b>	<b>(240) 832-7733</b>		
<b>Secretary</b>	<b>Amanda Baughman</b>	<b>(240) 409-8226</b>	<b>Executive Comm</b>	<b>CaseyKoontz</b>
<b>Treasurer</b>	<b>Patricia Busche</b>	<b>(301) 391-6752</b>		<b>Donna Sefcik</b>
<b>Chaplain</b>	<b>Pat Rice</b>	<b>(301) 253-2266</b>		<b>Barbara Raab</b>
<b>Historian</b>	<b>Diane Capel</b>			
<b>Sgt-at-Arms</b>	<b>Virginia Myers</b>			

### SAL Squadron, 171 Officers

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

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