



# THE DAMASCUS VETERAN

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

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**JANUARY - FEBRUARY 2014**

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## THE COMMANDER'S MESSAGE

Welcome to 2014! Connie and I hope that everyone had a Merry Christmas, and a safe and happy New Year.

Nov 11<sup>th</sup> Veterans Day was an extremely busy day. Flag raising ceremonies started at 8 AM at Rocky Hill MS, followed by Clearspring ES and Damascus ES. We held our Veterans Day Ceremony at the Post at 10:30 AM and another flag ceremony at Windsor Knolls MS at 2 PM. Our Executive Committee met at 7 PM, and finally, our General Membership meeting at 7:30 PM completed a full and exhausting day. And oh yes, we had another flag ceremony at Lisbon ES the next day!



What a wonderful performance by the Damascus HS Chamber Singers at our Veterans Day Ceremony! Brian Isaac, DHS Director of Choirs, has ample reason to be proud. In 2011 the Chamber Singers performed at Riverside Church in New York City, earning a "Gold" rating and an invitation to perform at the National Choral Festival at Carnegie Hall in March 2014. This is a very expensive undertaking for students, parents and the school. To help defray the costs of this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity, please consider making a donation. Make checks payable to American Legion Post 171, and mail to P.O. Box 171, Damascus, MD 20872. In the memo section of the check enter "DHS Music Boosters". The Post will consolidate donations and send one check to Damascus HS with a list of donors (no dollar amounts will be listed).

Hero-Dogs ([www.hero-dogs.org](http://www.hero-dogs.org)), a non-profit organization that provides service dogs for injured or disabled military veterans hosted a graduation ceremony for their latest dog/veteran team on Nov 10<sup>th</sup> at the Post home. This was a very emotional and moving ceremony, and highlighted the importance of the work done by this organization. We welcome D. Jeanie Wade, Vice President of Hero-Dogs and former US Marine, as a new Post 171 member.

The Oyster Roast on Nov 23<sup>rd</sup> was a resounding success! We had a full house with plenty of food, beverages, and great music. The next Oyster Roast is Feb 22<sup>nd</sup>.

The Call Multiplier project has been cancelled. There was not enough interest in the program.

Gary Vogt-Dept Commander, Gary Gifford-SMD Commander, Gail Murdoch-Past Dept Commander, and our own Will Trotter-SMD Second Vice Commander, will attend our Membership Dinner on Jan 25<sup>th</sup>. At the dinner we will be presenting awards for Distinguished Post Member, Legionnaire of the Year, Honorary Life

Member and Law Officer of the Year. We will also recognize all new members within the last year, and our long time members (50+; 60+ years, etc.). In addition, Gary Vogt, Department Commander, will be presenting recruiting coins to those so qualified. We will have live music, so please plan on joining us for a great evening with good food and fellowship.

Sadly I report the transfer to Post Everlasting of the following Legionnaires: Richard Burrelli-Nov 8<sup>th</sup>, LeRoy Hansburger-Nov 19<sup>th</sup>, Ormie Rippeon-Nov 20<sup>th</sup>, Bob Murray-Nov 28<sup>th</sup>, and JD Morris-Dec 5<sup>th</sup>.

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

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## 2014 Membership – I still believe in Santa!

Every year I ask Santa to let the Post reach 100% membership *before* the end of the calendar year and *every* year he disappoints me! Am I going to be on his *bad* list forever? Oh well, I still believe in miracles, just not with membership!

Thanks to everyone who has *already* paid their 2014 dues! We currently have 320 paid members which is approximately 80% of our goal of 402. For those that haven't PLEASE renew your membership by sending a check for \$25 to the post, or pay 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>. My New Year's resolution is to not spend a lot of time and energy tracking down members with phone calls and letters in order to reach our goal. Please make my wish come true!  
- Keith Midberry, Membership Chairman, [membership@legionpost171.org](mailto:membership@legionpost171.org) or (301) 916-7929

One member of the Post and the son of a member are currently deployed to Afghanistan. Please consider dropping them a line or card to show your appreciation for their service!

Adam R. Alexander  
HHT, 3-71 CAV, 3/10 MTN  
AP Rushmore  
APO, AE 09364

Lucas Weeks (son of J.B. Weeks)  
A/2-4 IN 4/10 MTN  
FOB Tagab  
APO AE 09354

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## POST 171 MEMBERSHIP DINNER PARTY SATURDAY JANUARY 25, 2014!

Send in your reservation form NOW for the Damascus Legion Family's *premier* social event - the annual *Membership Dinner Party*! Come out and enjoy a great evening of food and fellowship with Post, Unit and SAL members and live music by the "4 Of A Kind Plus" band for only **\$15** per person (Legion family members and spouse or first guest) / \$20 (additional non-Legion family guest)!

**There is no charge for new members (and their spouse or guest) who joined or transferred into the Post during calendar year 2013!**

Schedule is as follows:

Social Hour - Open bar	----	5- 6 pm
Buffet Dinner	----	6-7 pm
Program	----	7-8 pm
Dance Music	----	8-11pm

PLEASE NOTE: Our caterer needs exact number attending at least one week in advance, so please don't delay in sending in the below reservation form! Send it in **NOW** or no later than Friday January 17, 2014

**Membership Dinner Reservation Form – Saturday January 25, 2014**

**New Member & Spouse or Guest names (no charge)** \_\_\_\_\_

**Legion Family member name(s) @ \$15 each:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Additional Guest (s) @\$20 each:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Total Attending:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Total \$ Enclosed:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Table Preference:** \_\_\_\_\_

Keith Midberry – Membership Chairman (301) 916-7929 /[membership@legionpost171.org](mailto:membership@legionpost171.org)

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**BASEBALL REPORT**

By: Chairman Bob Bellison



The Baseball Banquet was held Monday, Dec.30<sup>th</sup> this year. This date was convenient for the players in college and home for the Winter break. Again this year the food court was set up stadium style with specialties from Pasquales, Tom & Rays, Ledos and Post 171 Snack Bar with special Hot Dogs & beverages. Everyone seemed to appreciate the variety of the different food options. The program began with the *REMEMBRANCE OF BOOSTER CLUB MEMBERS WHO PASSED TO POST EVERLASTING* this past year. Special guests included Dept. Baseball Chairman Mike

Riston, former Sherwood baseball coach Billy Goodman and Shawn Davis SHS varsity baseball coach. Several other coaches, former players and friends also were present to honor our players and coaches.

The coaches reflected on their 2013 season: Sr. Team Coach Davis, Jr. Team Coach Wodoslawsky and MCLL Coach Martin.

The following awards were presented: Selected by and presented by the Coaches. MVP (Gerald Duvall Award) to *Emory McMinn*, HITTING (Charles Senseney Award) to *John Hanley*, PITCHING to *Grant Pascoe and Grant Dickey*, DEFENSIVE to *Casey Bulik*, COACHES AWARD to *Alex Salem and Anthony Congelosi*, Fireman Relief Award to *Bryan Reich*. Selected by and presented by Post 171 Baseball the Ken Diggs Memorial Award (for dedication to Post 171 Baseball) to *Colin McMahon*. Selected by Unit 171 and presented by Cindy Ray (Mark Smith Award) to *Emory McMinn*.

In addition to recognizing the teams & players the Sr. Team Coaching Staff were also acknowledged for their contributions and dedication to Post 171 Baseball for the past 6 years. Head Coach Tommy Davis, Asst. Coach Gordon Hinkle and Pitching Coach Daryl Keys all retiring this year were honored. Thanks to them, Damascus American Legion Post 171 Baseball is highly respected on and off the field; considered one of the best programs in the State.

The program included the National Anthem and opening pitches by John Seipp & Ray Luhn, both WWII Vets & former semi-pro pitchers. Also included was “Take Me Out To The Ballgame” sung by Bill Green during the 7<sup>th</sup> inning stretch and “God Bless America” sung by Judy Moore at the end of the program Thanks to John & Ray for throwing those perfect strikes and thanks to Bill and Judy, both songs were “Grand Slammers”.

My appreciation goes out to members of the Booster Club. Your continued support is greatly appreciated. You have been very faithful, many are 2006 Charter Members and have been members every year since. *Thanks to all for your tremendous support on and off the field.*

**BASEBALL COMMITTEE:** Chrm. Bob Bellison, Sam Baughman, Bob Ray, George Bolling, Buzz Burroughs, Ron Scott, Bill Green, Brownie Chichester, Bill Hauptman, Skip Duvall Frank Carpenter

## POST 171 BASEBALL BOOSTER CLUB 2014

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

Address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ DOUBLE HITTER (\$50.00 Donation) \_\_\_\_\_ 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

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### 2014 Oratorical Contest

We hope you will join us upstairs at 10 AM on Saturday, January 11, 2014, for our annual Post Oratorical Contest. This year we have four contestants: Caitlin Augerson, a senior at Damascus High School and three young men from Clarksburg High School: Sophomore Emory Cole II, Sophomore Aditya Kaliappan, and Freshmen Anurudh Ganesan. All are bright, articulate young people with ambitious plans for the future.

The Oratorical Contest Committee, Jack Talamo, Bob Ray, ShaWn Gill and myself, met with the contestants and their parents on December 16<sup>th</sup> to orient and focus them on the details as to how the contest is conducted and to answer their questions. Unit President Cindy Ray, who provides support and recruits the judges from among the faculty at Montgomery College, joined us for this session. Rachel Clemens, a Clarksburg English teacher also attended.

This is the 78<sup>th</sup> year that The American Legion has sponsored this nation-wide contest for high school students. The contestants create and deliver an original 8-10 minute oration about any aspect of the United States Constitution. Then, each speaks 3-5 minutes about one of four assigned Constitutional topics selected at random. The winner receives a \$500 check and represents the Post in the County contest on January 25<sup>th</sup>. The second-place winner receives \$250, and the third-place winner \$150. National-level top three winners are awarded scholarships totaling close to \$20,000. Two years ago, our Post winner, Logan Jackson of Poolesville HS, won the state contest and represented the Department of Maryland at the national finals.

You'll have the chance to meet the contestants and their families at the January Post Pancake Breakfast beginning at 7:30 AM downstairs the morning of the contest. By about 11:30 that morning, we'll be celebrating with the winners with some light refreshments provided by the Unit. Contact any Committee member for additional information. We appreciate your support.

PPC George Bolling, Chairman

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## Post 171 Veterans - a Continuing Series

**James Lee "Jim" Moore**

April 4, 1924 - October 29, 2013

By Jennifer Moore Shaffer

Jim, my Dad, was born in Broadford, Virginia. He was drafted by the U.S. Army at age 19 and served in World War II from 8 February 1943 to 27 October 1945. He served as PFC in the 88th Division (Blue Devils) 349th Anti-Tank Company. His awards include the European, African and Middle Eastern Theatre Ribbon with three Bronze Battle Stars, the Good Conduct Medal and the prestigious Combat Infantry Badge, which he earned for his expert marksmanship and rifle skills. He was most proud of the Bronze Star Medal which he was awarded in 2000 along with Ormie Rippeon, and Ray Luhn. These three guys received this honor many years later, although General Eisenhower had directed the award for all CIB winners. Thanks to the dedication and tenacity of Past Post Commander George Bolling they received this much deserved very high award. Dad was also a very proud Honorary Life Member of American Legion Post 171 and received the Distinguished Member Award posthumously. I could never begin to express all that he saw, experienced and endured during his service, but here is a bit of it.

It's well-known that WWII veterans don't typically talk about their experiences very much or very often. That was true about my Dad. He would tell us some of the funny things that happened or mischievous tales but he kept most of the bad stuff to himself. I know he shared some of it with my Mom but there is a lot we will never know. He protected us from the horrific details. I do know that he was always very empathetic to anyone who was injured or sick.

One of our favorite stories was the time they were re-locating in the dark of night. The Captain called and Dad happened to be on the radio that night. The Captain asked over the radio where the men were. Dad said "Man, it's two o'clock in the morning, pitch black, I'm leading a mule and have one by the tail, how the hell should I know where we are?" to which the Captain yelled "who is this?" and the radio went dead. Dad also served as driver for Lieutenant Andrews of their unit. In the midst of other soldiers he was "Lieutenant", but when it was just the two of them he was "Andy". That's where lots of his mischievous stories came from. It seems the Lieutenant enjoyed wine and women.

Dad would talk about driving trucks and jeeps through snow, mud and all kinds of rough terrain. He talked about moving supplies by mule train over mountains. He talked about taking shelter in barns or farmhouses, one time sleeping in the straw amongst the cows to try to keep warm. The thing I remember most is him talking about those mountains in Italy.

In October, I had the amazing opportunity to go to Italy with some friends. I was so excited because I was hoping to visit some of the places and see some monuments or memorials relating to WWII and maybe see where Dad had been in the war. I was pretty nervous about the flight over the Atlantic, but I kept thinking about how my Dad must have felt when he was off to Italy after his mountain training in Africa. They started from Naples on the southern coast of Italy and fought their way north all the way to Austria. He was only 19 and probably had never been anywhere but Virginia, Maryland, Camp Howes for Basic Training and Ft. Sam Houston for Extended Training. Upon arrival in Naples, the 88th became the first draftee division to enter a combat zone in World War II.

My trip began in Bologna then headed south to Tuscany. Our home base for the week was Montecatini, in the heart of Tuscany. Along the way we drove through the Apennines Mountains. I know my Dad crossed over those mountains. They were the biggest mountains I've ever seen. The views were spectacular and I found myself in awe of him and his comrades for having done what they did there.

It's ironic but also amazing that I happened to stay in Montecatini. We have photos of my Dad and his Army buddies standing and smiling in the streets of Montecatini. We guess they were on a rest break since they had the chance to take photos and SMILE. I stayed where he once stayed. I'm sure the town is a lot different now than when Dad was there but somehow I felt safe there.

On a day trip to Florence, we got to see the Arno River. My Dad had to cross the Arno during the war but I'm not sure exactly where. I wondered how deep it was and what it must have been like for them. Wherever we traveled through Tuscany we would see those very steep, high and big mountains. I couldn't imagine how they ever climbed them, let alone battled on them. How did they manage this difficult terrain? It is so amazing what they endured.

We also drove past the Florence American Cemetery, but unfortunately there was no time to stop because we were with a group tour. Rest assured, through the trees I could see the American flag flying high over the graves of our soldiers who paid the ultimate price for our freedom.

The last two days of our trip were in Rome. On the way we saw lots of old country farm houses that were dilapidated or had big holes in the roof and I wondered "was he here?" His Division (the 88th Blue Devils) was the first to enter the city of Rome in June 1944. The Italians presently highlight the ancient history of Rome, the Coliseum, Pantheon and such. The most significant thing I saw in Rome was the Tiber River, which the 88th Division also traversed.

Many years after the War ended, Dad and Mom attended several annual 88th Division reunions. He always looked forward to seeing all his Army comrades and enjoyed many good times with them through the years. They would tell stories about each other and a few of them spoke about how Dad saved them back in Italy. He had extraordinary hearing and often heard the Germans when no one else could. He would say "Come on boys, we gotta move."

I'm sure we must have crossed the Gustav Line or the Gothic Line somewhere, but things like that aren't marked on the Italian road signs. As found on [www.armyhistory.org](http://www.armyhistory.org), "In 344 days of combat, the 88th Infantry Division lost 2,298 men killed in action and 9,225 men wounded. The Blue Devils proved that with rigorous training, teamwork, competent leadership, and fierce determination, an all-draftee division was more than capable of fighting well against a well-trained, well-equipped, and battle-hardened enemy. Even under the worst circumstances, the men of the 88th gave their all and wound up playing an integral part in the defeat of the German Army in Italy."

I searched and hoped to find something tangible to connect to my Dad's time in Italy, but now I know that it was more important for me to feel a speck of what he must have felt; overwhelmed, lost, tired, scared, hungry, but most of all wanting to go home. I could not be more proud or thankful to my Dad and all those who served with him in World War II and the sacrifices they all made to preserve the freedoms we take for granted most of the time. I hope everyone who reads this will, from now on, show the greatest respect, admiration and appreciation to all our Veterans. They are nothing short of heroes.

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**American Legion Scholarships**  
Scholarship Chairman: Lou Popowsky

The Damascus American Legion Post 171 will be awarding four scholarships in the amounts of \$1,500 each for the scholastic year of 2014-2015. Applicants 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 will be available for pickup in February at the career centers in Damascus High School, Clarksburg High School, Seneca Valley High School, 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, 2014.

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## **DAMASCUS AMERICAN LEGION POST 171 OYSTER ROAST**

The Oyster dinner is scheduled for **Saturday, February 22, 2014**. We serve oysters fried, steamed, raw, and oyster stew. There's also fried chicken, cole slaw, potato salad, and pork and beans. This is one of our 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. Yes-- we have the Second Chance Band to play dance music from 7:30 p.m. to 11:00 p.m. Price for this fun evening is **\$35 per person in advance and \$40 at the door**.

Please contact me about questions or tickets.  
Dinner Chairman, Kevin Mook, 301-204-9722

**OYSTER ROAST**  
**FEBRUARY 22, 2014**  
**DINNER 6 PM**

**Advance Tickets at \$35/ea. \_\_\_\_\_, \$ \_\_\_\_\_**  
**Tickets at the door are \$40/ea.**  
**Contact Kevin Mook or any Post 171**  
**Member for tickets,**  
**Tel. # for Kevin: 301-204-9722**  
**Email: 2ndvice@legionpost171.org**

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## **BINGO**

Bingo is every Thursday evening with the doors opening at 5:00. Cash bingo is our primary fund raiser and enables the post to sponsor scholarships, provide funds for maintenance, and supports our endeavors working with youth and the community. At one time we were averaging about 80 players a night, but in the past two months those numbers have been down to the 50s and 60s.

We need your help. Please talk to your friends and neighbors and let them know about our bingo and bring them to bingo. It's great fun and you have a chance to win cash. Our games pay out on average \$60 -\$80. Every week we give away a \$500 Big Jackpot when we have over 50 players. We have only slipped below the 50 player mark once this year and that was due to the weather. There is food available and lots of good people to interact with. So please grab a friend or two and join us for an evening of fun at the Post Home.

**Special Basket and Pampered Chef Bingo** - We are putting together a special Bingo for the 22nd of March. There will be twenty-four games with Longaberger Baskets filled with Pampered Chef goodies. Details will be in the next Newsletter. In the meantime we will be looking for sponsors to cover the costs of the baskets. If you or someone you know would like to support us in this event please give me a call at 301-253-5420 or e-mail me at old1.5marine@gmail.com. This special Bingo is to help fill some voids in a budget that is running slightly behind projected income.

Thanks in advance to the volunteers who give relentlessly of their time and efforts to keep the Post in the green. By the way, we are always looking for help so feel free to join us on Thursday Evenings.

Bingo Chairman - Bill Green

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## Memorial Bricks

This is our 5th year of the Memorial Brick Campaign. To date, families and friends have honored 159 veterans and 70 non-veterans. The campaign continues, and we are still accepting applications. There are only 12 spaces remaining on the veteran side before we will have to break ground again to accommodate more bricks. One of these 12 spaces is respectfully reserved for my wonderful husband George, who along with Tony Koontz, worked together to head up this outstanding memorial. This will be my last year as a part of this campaign. I will be turning over the reins to Bernie Moxley and his committee but until that time, I will be happy to continue to receive any applications and submit them to the brick company before Memorial Day 2014. If you are interested in a brick, please call me at (301) 253-5466 or e-mail me at: lrmorris4@verizon.net.

Linda Richon

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## Medallion for Placement in a Private Cemetery

Most of you know that the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) will provide a veteran with a headstone if he or she is buried in a National Cemetery. Many do not know that for those buried in other than a National Cemetery, the VA will provide a medallion that can be affixed to an existing privately-purchased headstone or marker; however, death must have been after November 1, 1990. The medallion is made of bronze and available in 3 sizes. The medallions were on display at this year's Veterans Day program at the Post. If you would like to see a picture of the medallion, go to: [www.cem.va.gov/docs/factsheets/medallion.pdf](http://www.cem.va.gov/docs/factsheets/medallion.pdf) You may obtain an application by going to: [www.cem.va.gov](http://www.cem.va.gov) and click on VA forms. The form number is VA Form 40-1330M. If you cannot obtain a form electronically, please call me at (301) 253-5466 or e-mail me at: lrmorris4@verizon.net.

Linda Richon

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**Veteran's Day Guests**





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

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**JANUARY - FEBRUARY 2014**

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Thank you to those of you who have sent in your dues. We are now 100 seniors and 1 junior member to date. There are still 36 kittens lurking somewhere in the area. That being said please send your dues payable to Damascus ALA 171 in the amount of \$20 and mail to Cynthia D. Ray, 19421 Gardner Place, Germantown, MD 20876-1709. DON'T DELAY – MAIL TODAY.

Pat Rice lost her father, Thomas DeCarlo, on October 29<sup>th</sup> after a long illness. Please keep Pat and her family in your thoughts and prayers during this time of mourning.

Congratulations to Liz Popowsky on her article regarding the pocket flag project in the November National Auxiliary News. For those of you who have not read the article it is on page 16, left column. This is an excellent way to let everyone know what our Unit is doing to work with the servicemen and women deploying overseas.

A huge thank you to those who helped with the Oyster Roast on Saturday, November 23<sup>rd</sup>. Kevin Mook really had everything under control. Those working were Roz Bowman, Margaret Nicholson, Delores Neal, Mickey Day, Ray Mullican, Maureen Appleby, Betty Nicholson, Ruby Bellison, Jen Shaffer, Mary Bolling, Dee Myers, June Toms, Mary Robinson, Maryann Disoma, and Peggy Scott. These folks helped make this a very successful dinner. Again, thank you. Kevin Mook is a great guy to work with and I thank him, too,

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

Yours in service,  
*Cindy Ray*

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**POCKET FLAG PROJECT**  
Liz Popowsky, Chairman

Outreach for distribution of pocket flags continues to be successful: 362 flags have been presented since the last Newsletter, including to deploying troops at BWI, to Post member Adam Alexander and to troops at Camp Marmal in Afghanistan. The Unit received a request for additional flags at Camp Marmal, which were mailed December 16; fingers crossed they arrived for Christmas. Note that Camp Marmal is a base of 3,000. Plans are being made to determine a date to return to a BWI deployment in January. In late June, the Unit submitted an article to the Auxiliary Magazine about its pocket flags activities and we are humbled to report it was published in the November edition. Please contact Liz Popowsky, 301-371-6648/ rayliz53@yahoo.com with information about deployed troops.

God Bless our Troops and Their Families



## Sons of the American Legion Squadron, 171

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

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**JANUARY - FEBRUARY 2014**

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Greetings and Happy New Year from the SAL

I hope everyone had a wonderful holiday as we look forward to a bright, exciting new year. The Squadron will be more active in this New Year with a return of the chili cook off (more details to come) and our second flag retirement ceremony, as well as lots of activity within the post functions; to include the Oyster Roast and Shrimp Feast, Bingo, and the special basket bingo that the post is working on.

We are still in need of many renewals and are looking for a huge membership drive to bring in new members. We are very excited that we have already brought in 7 new members to the squadron, a big thanks to Past Post Commander Sam Baughman on that!

Any renewals can be sent in to the Legion Post Home: Attention SAL. Membership cost is \$15 and \$10 for dual members. Any ideas or suggestions may be sent to [johnboy42081@yahoo.com](mailto:johnboy42081@yahoo.com) and I will get back to you.

God Bless,  
John W. Duvall, SAL Commander.

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**Post Commander's Note:** If you have email capability and are not on my 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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**Damascus HS Chamber Singers at Post 171 Veteran's Day**



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

*Post Meetings*

2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of the month, 7:30pm

*Unit Meetings*

2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of the month, 7:30pm

*Squadron Meetings*

2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of the month, 7:00pm

**January 2014**

<b><u>Date</u></b>	<b><u>Event</u></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
11 <sup>th</sup>	Pancake Breakfast	7:30 AM
11 <sup>th</sup>	Post Oratorical Contest	10:00 AM
13 <sup>th</sup>	Post, Unit, and SAL Member Meeting	7:00 PM
16 <sup>th</sup>	Post Bingo	7:00 PM
18 <sup>th</sup>	Mont. County at Wheaton Post 268 (Breakfast 8:00 AM)	9:00 AM
18 <sup>th</sup>	Post Oratorical Contest (Back up Date)	10:00 AM
19 <sup>th</sup>	South, MD Dist. at Silver Spring Post 41 (Lunch at Noon)	1:00 PM
23 <sup>rd</sup>	Post Bingo	7:00 PM
25 <sup>th</sup>	County Oratorical Contest at Post 171	10:00 AM
25 <sup>th</sup>	Post Membership Dinner	5:00 PM
30 <sup>th</sup>	Post Bingo	7:00 PM

**February 2014**

<b><u>Date</u></b>	<b><u>Event</u></b>	
1 <sup>st</sup>	County Oratorical Contest (Back up Date)	10:00 AM
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Post Executive Committee Meeting	7:00 PM
6 <sup>th</sup>	Post Bingo	7:00 PM
8 <sup>th</sup>	Pancake Breakfast	7:30 AM
8 <sup>th</sup>	South. MD Dist. Oratorical at Clinton Post 259	10:00 AM
10 <sup>th</sup>	Post, Unit and SAL Member Meeting	7:00 PM
13 <sup>th</sup>	Post Bingo	7:00 PM
16 <sup>th</sup>	Dep. Exec. Committee Sykesville Post 223	1:00 PM
20 <sup>th</sup>	Post Bingo	7:00 PM
22 <sup>nd</sup>	Oyster Roast	6:00 PM
27 <sup>th</sup>	Post Bingo	7:00 PM

**Upcoming Events**

2 <sup>nd</sup> March	Department Oratorical at Towson University Student Union	1:00 PM
3 <sup>rd</sup> March	Post Executive Committee Meeting	7:00 PM
10 <sup>th</sup> March	Pot Luck Dinner	6:00 PM
10 <sup>th</sup> March	SAL Member Meeting	7:00 PM
10 <sup>th</sup> March	Post Member Meeting	7:30 PM

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



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 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			

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