



THE DAMASCUS VETERAN

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

MAY - JUNE 2014

THE COMMANDER'S MESSAGE

On March 8th Tracie Reaver, Maryland Relay Outreach Coordinator, delivered a presentation on the Maryland Accessible Telecommunications Service (MAT) which provides free assistive telephone equipment and services to Maryland residents who are deaf, hard-of-hearing, late-deafened, or speech disabled, or who use a TTY (Text Telephone). I urge those members who have hearing or speech difficulties to take advantage of this FREE program. Contact Tracie at 410-200-6250.



I attended the National Commander's Banquet on March 22nd at Post 11. This was an opportunity to hear first-hand a particular concern of National Commander Daniel Dellinger regarding the continuing attempt by congress to balance the budget on the backs of the military. He calls for everyone at every level to contact their elected representatives, and then **GET OUT AND VOTE!**

Mr. Brian Isaac, DHS Director of Choirs, and his lovely wife Megan, came to our general membership meeting on Apr 14th to thank us for our donation of \$1,550 in support of their trip to Carnegie Hall this past March. Brian stated that without our donation three students would not have been able to make the trip. It's always nice to hear first-hand how our efforts are supporting the community.

The Post "Basket, Bags, and Bucks" bingo was held on March 22nd, and was a rousing success! Games included regular bingo, King Tut, 50/50 raffle, and door prizes. Good food was available from our snack bar. We'll definitely do this again!

Please be sure to put our Memorial Day program on your calendar. Although Memorial Day is celebrated on Monday, May 26th, the Post will hold its program on Sunday, May 25th. This is a special day of remembrance to honor those men and women who died while serving in the United States Armed Forces. A luncheon will follow the program.

The Izaak Walton League in Mt. Airy (near Damascus) will hold their annual Veteran's Day recognition program on June 7th. There will be food, static displays of military equipment, and many other activities. Post 171 will set up a table with brochures, handouts, and enrollment applications, so get the word out to the community. This is a great way to increase our membership.

Of major concern to everyone are the fraud, scammers, and identity theft criminals who prey on our senior citizens who, for whatever reasons, are the most vulnerable. These despicable persons use any means at their

disposal; e.g. Nigerian lottery winners, a grandson who needs money send to get out of jail, and many other scams. One of our newest members, Mike Conrad, working with the Montgomery County PD provides a free 45-minute presentation on how to recognize and avoid these scams. Mike and I will be working over the next month to develop and present this program to our membership.

On May 10th at 6:30 PM the SAL will sponsor a Chili Cook-Off at the Post. Contestants have thrown down the gauntlet and serious challenges issued. Chop up those Jalapeno, Chile, Cayenne and Habanero peppers and let the cooking begin! Join us as contestant or a taster; should be lots of fun.

On Jun 16th at 6:00 PM the SAL will conduct a Flag Retirement Ceremony at the Post. Please plan to attend and participate in this moving ceremony. Free spaghetti dinner follows the ceremony.

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

POST 171 Legionnaires Honored

William "Will" Trotter of Damascus American Legion Post 171 was recently appointed Chaplain of the American Legion Department of Maryland. Before his appointment, Trotter served as the assistant chaplain and as the chaplain of the Maryland Legion's Southern Maryland District. He is also Post 171 Adjutant.

Law Officer of the Year and Legionnaire of the Year were recognized in a ceremony conducted by Montgomery County Legion Commander Colleen Mulrone. Montgomery County Police Officer 3 Jeremy Wojdan, 36, was honored as the Law Officer of the Year. Wojdan was selected by the Damascus Legion as the post's candidate for the 2013-2014 Law Officer of the Year. Wojdan was nominated by his captain, David Gillespie, who heads the Gaithersburg-Germantown District of the Montgomery County Police Department. Wojdan has received numerous commendations and awards for his exceptional performance in investigating and solving crimes over the past several years, particularly those with victims who are students in Montgomery County schools. His work led to several arrests of drug dealers and users and has had considerable success in solving crimes committed over the Internet. As a result of this initiative and his exceptional accomplishments in the Montgomery County Police Department, he was awarded the first National Hero Award for Patriotism at its 2010 convention in San Diego. His service has also been recognized with citations by Sen. Barbara Mikulski and the Maryland General Assembly as well as his superiors in the Montgomery County Police Department. Wojdan is currently the School Resource Officer at Northwest High School, supporting schools in the Gaithersburg-Germantown community. Wojdan was also selected as Law Officer of the Year for the Southern Maryland District and the Department of Maryland, and is the Maryland candidate for the American Legion's National Law Officer of the Year, to be announced in late May. Wojdan and his family will be recognized at the Dept. of Maryland's annual convention in Ocean City, MD during the week of July 13.

Damascus Legionnaire Ching-Yao Yu was recognized as both Post 171 and the Montgomery County Legionnaire of the Year. Ching has demonstrated extraordinary initiative and enthusiasm in his work at Post 171, and his selection for the county honor is well-deserved. Ching-Yao Yu is an Army veteran, serving for a year in Iraq. He is the Post Treasurer, a past 2nd Vice Commander, serves on the Bingo committee, and was the driving force behind our successful "Basket, Bags & Bucks Bingo". He is a whirl-wind of activity, and displays a "can-do" attitude. Ching described his surprise in receiving this recognition; "When Past Post Commander Buzz Burroughs was announcing the Legionnaire of the Year award at our Post membership banquet in Damascus, I was busy in the kitchen writing a check to our caterer. I had no idea that I was even in consideration. Receiving this recognition from the county Legion and from my post is most humbling and meaningful."

PPC George Bolling



Jeremy Wojdan



Ching-Yao Yu

2014 Membership – Going to be tough to meet goal!

Only a few memberships have trickled in since sending out delinquent letters to over 45 members in early March. Currently, we are at 92% of our goal with 370 paid. We need at least 33 more renewals (or new members) to reach our Department goal of 403. Sadly, I have never seen so many non-responses or requests to drop membership after many years with the American Legion. I personally can't think of a single reason *not* to want to belong to the premier Veterans Service Organization - The American Legion! If a member is having financial difficulties just let us know and another member will gladly pay your dues! Each year several members give me checks to pay for others. *Second notice* letters will soon be sent to delinquent members at 49 cents per stamp!

For those that haven't paid their 2014 dues PLEASE renew your membership by sending a check for \$25 to the post or pay on-line at 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>. Remember, the 2014 membership year ends June 30th and 2015 starts July 1. 2015 renewal forms will come out in early summer.

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

The following members of Post 171 Legion Family are deployed to Afghanistan. Please consider dropping them a note or card thanking them for their service.

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

Lucas Weeks
A/2-4 IN 4/10 MTN
APO AE 09354

Chris Midberry
HHC 2-504 PIR
82nd ABN DIV
Kandahar
APO AE 09355

Installation of Officers Dinner – Saturday June 28, 2014!

Send in your reservation form NOW for the Damascus American Legion - Annual Installation of Officers Dinner! Come out show your support for the Legion Family leadership and enjoy a great meal and evening of fellowship for only \$15 per person (Post, Unit and SAL members and spouse or first guest) / \$20 (for each additional guest)! Schedule is as follows:

Social Hour - Open bar / 5-6 pm
Buffet Dinner / 6-7 pm
Installation Program / 7-8 pm
Fellowship 8-9

PLEASE NOTE: Our caterer needs the exact number by June 21st so please don't delay in sending in your reservation form! Send it in NOW! If you have any questions contact Keith Midberry @ (301) 916-7929 or kmidberry@yahoo.com

Cut out and send to Post NOW or no later than Friday June 21, 2014

Installation Dinner Reservation Form – Saturday June 28, 2014

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

Additional Guest (s) @\$20 each: _____

Total Attending: _____ Total \$ Enclosed: _____

Table Preference: _____

Damascus Legion Memorial Day Service

The public is invited and encouraged to join our Legion Family at our annual Memorial Day Service on Sunday, May 25th, at the Post Home at 10201 Lewis Drive, Damascus MD 20872. The service honors those who have gone on to Post Everlasting, and it will be held on the front lawn, weather permitting. A patriotic concert by the Browningsville Band begins at 1:30 PM. The Memorial Day program begins at 2:00 PM, and Army Colonel Bernie Moxley, Junior, a Post member, will serve as the keynote speaker. Following the program, refreshments will be served by our Auxiliary unit. Please join us.

BASEBALL REPORT

By: Chairman Bob Bellison



IT WON'T BE LONG NOW. The Major League and the high school teams are well into their season and the American Legion teams will soon take the field. We welcome our new coaching staff : Head Coach Jimmy Stone, Pitching Coach Brad Dougherty, Asst. Coach Tim Nori, Asst. Coach Chris Baugher and Director of Baseball Operations Intern Russ Rentfro.

Post 171 Baseball Sr. Team (19 & under born on or after Jan 1st, 1995) will have try-

outs Sun. April 27th 2:00 p.m. at Sherwood High School. Please feel free to attend the try-outs & meet our coaches. Again this year, players living in the Damascus HS, Sherwood HS, and Clarksburg HS areas are eligible for our team.

Opening game is scheduled for Wed. May 21st 5:30 p.m. at Mt. Airy Legion. With 6 teams in the county, the league has decided that we will play each team 4 times. With 20 league games, non-league games, play-offs and tournament play our team will have a schedule of over 40 games. The non-league games include Mt. Airy, Frederick, and Sykesville.

Several of our former players are playing college varsity baseball and club baseball. Anthony Papio is a starting out fielder for U. of MD, and Nik Howard is an infielder and pitcher at UVA. Nik, a JR, is eligible for the MLB draft in June and is expected to be selected in the early rounds.

This year 6 of our games will be at the Damascus Regional Park. This makes it very convenient for our members, hopefully we'll have a good turn-out for these games. Again this year the State Tournament will be hosted by Ft. Cumberland.

Coach Frank Wodoslawsky is returning as Head Coach of our Jr. Team, and Mike Via and Nick Wodoslawsky return as assistants. We are very pleased to also have Bob O'Connor, one the coaches of our first Jr. Team, returning to assist.

Try-outs for the Jr. Team (17 & under born after 1/1/97) will be held Sun. May 4th 2:00 p.m. at DHS. All Jr. Team home games will be played at DHS. For the 1st time, this year there will be a Jr. Team State Tournament held at Sykesville. In addition to their league games the Jr. Team will play in the Sonny Blank Memorial Tournament (May 24-26) at Frederick and the July 4th Tournament held in Cumberland.

With your continued support this will be another outstanding year for Post 171 Baseball. *"Can't wait for the season to start"*

The Booster Club is out of the box with another excellent start. Your continued support is greatly appreciated. If you have contributed and are not listed please let me know.

BOOSTER CLUB 2014

GRANDSLAM

**June Gebicke, *Kathy & Roy Stanley, *Frank Carpenter, *Michael & Linda Papio, *Judy Moore, *Bob & Ruby Bellison, *Ernie Clifford, *Ray Mullican, *Bill McMinn, * Jay Abrahams, *Buzz & Eileen Burroughs, *ShaWn & Paula Gill, *Glenn Dickey, *Jack Johnson, *John & Sandy Walter, Keith & Mary Gene Martin, George & Mary Bolling, Bob Moxley, Dee Myers, Ron Bowers, Brownie & Ginny Chichester, Bill Hauptman, Mark & Betty Jeffers, Pat Rice, Bob & Louise Mullinix, Donald & Betty Nicholson, Reva Pearce, Fran Burlas, Rosalyn Bowman, Hazel Hoyle, Skip Duvall, Delores Neal, Bob & Cindy Ray, John & Diana Pascoe, Ching-Yao & Karen Yu, John Seipp, Sandy Seipp, Cliff & Mary Anne Davis, Tony & Connie DeShiro, Charley & Mo Appleby, Ross & Barbara Campbell, Jan Wesling, Bill Dunn, Ron & Peggy Scott, Marilyn Kinsey, Bill Green, Frank & Bessie Gladhill.*

DOUBLE HITTER

Sam Baughman, Pat & Paula Moxley, Dan & Deb Moxley, Steve Norwood, Kevin Mook, Betty & Jim Serritella, Mary Robinson, Madalean Darby, Jack & Mary Beth Talamo, Lloyd Young, Ernie & Lucille Screen, Hank Hartley, Liz & Lou Popowsky, June & Alvin Pearce, Martha & Ray Luhn, Anna Mae Senseney, Lenny Senseney.



Little League Opening Day Color Guard
(Left-To-Right: Ching-Yao Yu, Willie Ruffin, Brownie Chichester, Bill Green)

Post 171 Veterans - A Continuing Series

Raymond (Ray) Luhn

Ray Luhn was born on June 5, 1926 in Dickerson, MD. His family moved to Damascus, MD when he was one year old, where Ray has lived ever since. He has been a dedicated member of Damascus American Legion Post 171 for over 50 years participating in many activities. He still works as a bingo volunteer. He is an active member of the Distinguished Member Committee and Life Membership Committee; two extremely important committees that select American Legion members honored to receive two of our highest honors. Ray is also a charter member of VFW Post 10076 in Mt. Airy MD, which was formed in November 1967.

Ray was drafted into the U.S. Army at the young age of 18. He served during WWII, and saw combat infantry action at the Battle of the Bulge with the 42nd Rainbow Division. He was discharged on July 9, 1946, with the rank of Sergeant (E6), stayed in the Army reserve, and returned home, with the hope of resuming his life. This was not to be as he was called back to active duty in Aug 1950 when the so-called Korean Conflict broke out. Upon recall he was reduced in rank to Buck Sergeant (E5). He served in the combat infantry in Korea until his second discharge in November 1952, obtaining the rank of Sergeant First Class (E7). Ray has two Combat Infantry Badges, one each from WWII and Korea, and four (4) Bronze Star medals, two each from WWII and Korea. His other decorations include the American Theatre Campaign Medal, European–African–Middle Eastern Campaign Medal with Battle Star, WWII Victory Medal, Army Occupation Medal, Good conduct Medal, Rifle Marksmanship Medal, and the Korean War Service Medal.

Ray reported to the draft at Baltimore, MD, then reported to Fort Blanding, FL for 17 weeks of basic training. Troops were needed in Europe so training was cut to 14 weeks, upon which his company was sent directly to Germany from Ft. Blanding. Ray had not yet reached his 19th birthday. In fact, he was still 18 years old when the war ended! An interesting coincidence is that Ray went over to Germany on the troop ship George Washington, and when he came back home from Germany he came back on the troop ship Martha Washington. Those ships were modified “vacation” ships.

Upon arrival in Europe, the ship unloaded the troops in Marseilles, France. He then spent the next two days on a train, arriving in Belgium where he was immediately put on the front lines at the Battle of the Bulge. He was assigned to a company that usually had complement of 31 men, but when he arrived the company had only 8 men left. They immediately set out to dig foxholes on the front lines. Ray says that

he has dug foxholes in six different countries. He trained digging foxholes in the US, then dug more foxholes in France, Belgium, Germany, South Korea and North Korea. (I think by now Ray should have been certified as an honorary mole!).

Ray's thoughts on the Battle of the Bulge (in the Black Forest): "It was a complete surprise to us, the Germans caught us flatfooted. The battle started with a surprise attack on Dec 16th, 1944, and lasted about a month. The Germans had over 500 tanks in the battle, and my platoon took many casualties. I was very lucky because we had a platoon Sergeant First Class named Sanchez. Sergeant Sanchez is the reason I'm living today, because he taught us everything we needed to know to stay alive. Sanchez was a pre-Pearl Harbor soldier who knew all the right things to do. He told us: "You do everything I tell you to do, and do it when I tell you, and you'll be all right." "He was the best soldier I ever served with."

His company stayed in the Black Forest about a month, and then were moved off the front lines to make the final push into Germany. Ray took part in the liberation of Augsburg, Frankfurt, Munich, and Offenburg. Ray said: "I was also with the second or third group to arrive at Dachau, where I saw the barracks, gas chambers, and ovens, and where the Nazis had killed and buried so many people. I was at Dachau to open the gates, liberate the prisoners, and help feed them. I saw firsthand many of the prisoners who were half starved to death. It was an awful sight. After the war, but before I was sent back to the states I met one German lady who told me: "I was a Nazi and I'll be a Nazi until the day I die." "She had no regrets. But surprisingly she treated us soldiers first-class."

Ray was discharged on July 9, 1946. He actually arrived in NY on July 5th but they wouldn't let them off the ship because they thought "we were going to celebrate too much". "They were right!" After discharge Ray came back to Damascus where he joined the reserves, and went to work for his father who owned a trucking company delivering materials and supplies to farmers. He worked there until he was called up for Korea in August 1950. His company was sent to Ft. Campbell, KY, where in one day he received 13 injections. Training consisted of firing one clip of bullets from an M-1 rifle. They then took a troop train to Camp Stoneman, CA where they stayed for 3 days, and in Oct of 1950 they were put on a troop ship for Japan. After arriving in Japan, they went through Hiroshima and Sasebo, and crossed the channel to Pusan, Korea. Ray went into a rifle company with the 7th division, where it was just like the Battle of the Bulge - they dug foxholes, and slept in the snow and mud. Ray said: "At the time we got there Gen. MacArthur had received orders not to cross the 38th parallel. Well we knew that he disobeyed orders and went up as far as the Chosin Reservoir. Truman was a very strong president who had no choice but to fire MacArthur."

"Combat in Korea was a lot different from Germany. A lot of "first things" happened in Korea. The first thing was helicopters transporting wounded soldiers, the second thing was jet aircraft, and the third thing was the American soldiers standing side by side with the Korean soldiers. The American soldiers didn't like that, but it worked out. The fourth thing was that about the time they got that worked out the reserves who were called up arrived. These reserves were WWII veterans and they didn't want to fight at all, which caused a lot of friction. The fifth thing is that about this time the US military integrated and both white and black soldiers fought side by side in combat on the front lines. We then went up north into Manchuria. Our reconnaissance up there said there were no enemy combat troops in sight. Well, within 3 days thousands and thousands of Chinese were attacking us, and I was right in the front lines. The fighting was awful. The Chinese soldiers in the front lines had weapons, but the lines behind them had only sticks and stones. Evidently there weren't enough weapons to go around so the idea was that the second lines would pick up the weapons of those in the front lines who were killed or wounded. And was it ever cold! Someone took a thermometer out of an old truck and said it was 28 degrees below zero."

After discharge from Korea in Nov 1952, Ray came home and became a brick mason for 9 years. In Dec 1960 he partnered with Tommy Bellison to open Tom & Ray's restaurant in Damascus, which is still there today. He remained a partner for 18 years, but after 18 years it was either invest more heavily in the

business or get out, so he chose to sell his share of the business. It was good partnership but he had enough of the business. "I've been very lucky in that I've survived two wars, had a successful life, and raised a good family. I recall an incident in Korea that came to mind when I read about the big landslide in Oso, WA. In Korea a huge landslide came down on an ambulance and a big tent. Well the mudslide came down and rolled the ambulance and large tent up into a giant mud ball, nothing was left. Luckily everyone had gone to chow, and nobody got hurt."

"What I think most about is the Battle of the Bulge and fighting the Germans. The Germans were good soldiers, as were the South Koreans. But the North Koreans were barbarians. They were worse than the Chinese. I had more bad dreams about Korea than I did Germany. WWII was such a good bunch of guys who stuck together, and as much as you can during war, we had some good times. But I had a lot of memories of Korea, and one thing I'd like to say is this: "After I came home from Korea I had dreams about it. But as I think about the Vietnam War and every soldier who ever put his foot down, I say thank you and God bless you, because they didn't get treated well by the country. They deserved better"

When we got discharged in Ft. Meade someone asked the CO what the Army was going to do for us. The CO said: "The Army don't owe you a dam thing. You stood up for your country, that's what you were supposed to do." Ray feels that everyone thinks the country owes them something, and they don't want to stand up for themselves, everyone's looking for a handout. "During WWII if an officer came up and said, I need seven men, he got seven men. In Korea, if an officer said that, everyone would try to back out by going to sick call, or coming up with some other excuse."

Ray's final thoughts are: "I have had a wonderful life, with a wonderful wife and lovely daughters, and great friends. I am blessed, and have no regrets. Life has been good to me, and I want to thank everyone along the way."

I think it is we who should thank Ray for his friendship and his service to our country. It's amazing how virtually every veteran I interview has these same qualities and outlook on life. They are indeed the Greatest Generation and a breed apart.

Anthony (Tony) M. De Shiro

DAMASCUS AMERICAN LEGION POST 171 SHRIMP FEAST

The Shrimp dinner is scheduled for **Saturday, May 17, 2014**. We serve fried and steamed shrimp, fried chicken, coleslaw, potato salad, baked beans, a cheese platter, a veggie platter, and rolls and butter. 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 Dry Town Band to play dance music from 7:30 p.m. to 11:00 p.m. Price for this fun evening is **\$30 per person in advance and \$35 at the door**.

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

SHRIMP FEAST
May 17, 2014
DINNER 6 PM

Advance Tickets at \$30/ea. _____, \$_____

Tickets at the door are \$35/ea.

**Contact Kevin Mook or any Post 171
Member for tickets,**

Tel. # for Kevin: 301-204-9722

Email: 2ndvice@legionpost171.org



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

MAY - JUNE 2014

As I am writing this article for the May/June Newsletter the temperature has dropped about ten degrees from the early morning hours and it is pouring rain along with the wind. It appears ole man winter just doesn't want to go away. But cheer up, May is just around the corner and with it are warm days and cool nights.

Our membership is slowly getting towards goal, just one away and seven to make goal plus. We are currently standing at 97.31% in membership ratings. Come on ladies, please help find the stray cats hiding in the bushes. Remember the Department President's theme is "MEOW" (Members Embracing Our Warriors). Please send your dues in the amount of \$20 made payable to ALA, Unit 171 and mail to Cynthia Ray, 19421 Gardner Place, Germantown, MD 20876-1709.

On March 25th the Unit lost one of its most dedicated members, Martha Catherine Pearce. Catherine was a Charter Member as well as one of the first Honorary Life Members of the Unit. Catherine worked for many years in the Bingo snack bar, patted oysters, served at many Post events and was always ready to volunteer. Condolences to Catherine's family and her many friends in the community.

On April 10th we lost Jaclyn Martin. Jacki was the daughter of Casey and Tony Koontz and granddaughter of Dee Dee Myers. A memorial service was held on Tuesday, April 15th at the Molesworth-Williams Funeral Home. Our condolences to Jacki's family and friends.

Prayers are asked for the healing of those on our "under the weather list". Lyn Burdette remains at Country Meadows Nursing Home, Rena Harrington is at Homewood Rehabilitation Center, and Pat Rice is at home.

The Unit pot luck dinner will be held on Monday, June 9th. We need a hostess for the dinner. If you are interested please let me know.

Don't forget the Joint Installation Dinner on Saturday, June 28. Information for reservations is listed in the Post section.

Happy Mother's Day to all our mothers on Sunday, May 11th. I hope each of you have a wonderful day.

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

Yours in service,
Cindy Ray

POCKET FLAG PROJECT

Liz Popowsky, Chairman

It was a very long, hard winter for everyone, including the Pocket Flag Project. The frequent bad weather prevented Unit members from winter visits to BWI deployments. However, on April 28, Unit members returned to BWI to personally present pocket flags to deploying troops. Deploying numbers are down (a good thing), but it is still important to let those troops know they are supported and to put a flag in those pockets as they board the plane. Dedicated folding is currently underway to send 780 pocket flags to all the paratroopers serving in Afghanistan with Post 171 member Chris Midberry.

God Bless our troops everywhere

Americanism Essay Award Reception

On Sunday, April 6, 2014, Damascus ALA Unit 171 hosted a reception to recognize the 9 essay winners in our recent Americanism Essay Contest. Sponsored annually between Nov. and Feb., students from grades 3 - 8 were invited to participate by writing essays adhering to a patriotic theme chosen by the National Auxiliary Organization. This year's subject was the question: "How can I show my pride in being an American?"

Judges Diane Kavanagh, Elaine DeStefano and Diane Burrelli from the Damascus Senior Center, read the 116 essays that had been received from; Cedar Grove, Clearspring, Wm R. Gibbs, Laytonsville and Woodfield Elementaries, and John T. Baker Middle School. Criteria included:

Beginning with Group I (gr.3/4) one honorable mention, and 3rd, 2nd & 1st place winners were introduced. Group II (gr.5/6) consisted of three 5th graders (no 6th) and Group III (gr. 7/8) two 8th graders from Baker MS.

After each essay was read, certificates and monetary awards were presented, with assistance from Unit President Cindy Ray. A "Congratulatory" red velvet cake and assorted cookies & soda were enjoyed by the 40+ guests in attendance.

Many thanks to Unit members Jeannette T. Hogan, June Thoms, Liz Popowsky, Betty Nicholson and Cindy Ray for all their help. Kudos to calligrapher Cheryl Minekime, Linda Richon for procuring the Gift cards, Legionnaires Sam Baughman & crew for setting up chairs and photographer, Lou Popowsky.

Promoting Americanism is an on-going program of The American Legion & its Auxiliary, and we appreciate the support of our local schools and community members.

For God and Country,
MaryBeth Talamo,
Americanism Chairman, Unit 171





COMING EVENTS
Post, Unit & Squadron 171 Calendar

<i>Post Meetings</i>	<i>Unit Meetings</i>	<i>Squadron Meetings</i>
2 nd Monday of the month, 7:30pm	2 nd Monday of the month, 7:30pm	2 nd Monday of the month, 7:00pm

May 2014

<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>	
1 st	Post Bingo	7:00 PM
4 th	SMD Meeting Hughesville Post 238	12:00 PM
5 th	Post Executive Committee Meeting	7:00 PM
8 th	Post Bingo	7:00 PM
10 th	Veterans Event at Glen Echo Park	10:00 AM
10 th	Pancake Breakfast	7:30 AM
10 th	SMD Reception for Dept Officers	5:00 PM
10 th	SAL Chili Cook-Off	6:30 PM
12 th	SAL, Post, Unit Member Meetings	7:00, 7:30 PM
15 th	Post Bingo	7:00 PM
17 th	Shrimp Feast	6:00 PM
18 th	Dept Exec Comm – Oakland Post 71	12:00 PM
22 nd	Post Bingo	7:00 PM
25 th	Post 171 Memorial Day Service	1:30 PM
29 th	Post Bingo	7:00 PM

Jun 2014

<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>	
2 nd	Post Executive Committee Meeting	7:00 PM
4 th – 6 th	National Oratorical Finals – Indianapolis	
5 th	Post Bingo	7:00 PM
7 th	Izaak Walton Veterans Day	9:00 AM
9 th	Pot Luck Dinner	6:00 PM
9 th	SAL, Post, Unit Member Meetings	7:00, 7:30 PM
12 th	Post Bingo	7:00 PM
14 th	Pancake Breakfast	7:30 AM
14 th	SAL Flag Retirement Ceremony	6:00 PM
15 th – 21 st	Boys State-McDaniel College	
19 th	Post Bingo	7:00 PM
19 th	MC Caucus-Rockville Post 86	7:00 PM
20 th – 22 nd	SAL Convention, Hunt Valley Inn	
26 th	Post Bingo	7:00 PM
28 th	Post 171 Installation of Officers	5:00 PM
29 th	SMD Caucus – Clinton Post 259	12:00 PM

Upcoming Events

15th – 18th Jul Department Convention at Ocean City

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 2013– 2014 Officers

Commander	Tony DeShiro	843 855-9353	Historian	Ed Williams	301 865-3474
1 st V. Cmdr.	Willie Ruffin	301 972-5798	Chaplain	Shawn Gill	301 253-6239
2 nd 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		Ronald Scott	301 831-7974
Serv. Officer	Jim Serritella	301 253-3971		Paula Gill	661-618-7638

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 st V. Cmdr.	Tony Koontz	240 439-9501	Sgt-at-Arms	George Shaffer	301 831-535
2 nd V. Cmdr.	Josh Shaffer	301 412-3443	Historian	DJ Mook	301-204-9722
Adjutant	Adam Young	240 422-1765	Post Liaison	George Bolling	301 980-8917
Finance	Tony Koontz	240 439-9501			

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