



THE DAMASCUS VETERAN

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

JANUARY – FEBRUARY 2015

THE COMMANDER'S MESSAGE

Our annual flag raising ceremonies started on Friday, November 7th at Rockwell ES and Monday, November 10th at Gibbs ES. November 11th was very busy, starting at 8 AM at Rocky Hill MS followed by Clearspring ES and Damascus ES. We held a wonderful Veterans Day Ceremony at the Post at 10:30 AM and concluded the day with another flag ceremony at Windsor Knolls MS at 2 PM. The next day, Wednesday, Nov 12, we participated in the inaugural flag ceremony at Wims ES in Clarksburg.



The Damascus HS Chamber Singers brought an even larger group this year to our Veterans Day Ceremony! Brian Isaac, DHS Director of Choirs, has ample reason to be proud. They sang quite a few arrangements and each of them were strong and impactful. Last March the Chamber Singers performed at the National Choral Festival at Carnegie Hall.

Hero-Dogs (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 teams on Nov 10th at the Post home. This was a very emotional and moving ceremony, and highlighted the importance of the work done by this organization.

The Oyster Roast on November 15th was a great success! We had a full house with plenty of food, beverages, and great music. The next Oyster Roast is February 21st.

I encourage you to come and support our Oratorical contestants at 10 AM on Saturday January 17th.

Our Membership Dinner will be on January 24th. Lewis Trott-Department 1st Commander, James Corkery-SMD Commander, Gail Murdoch-Past Dept Commander, and our own Will Trotter- Department Chaplain, will attend. 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, Lewis Trott will be presenting recruiting coins to those so qualified. We will have live music so please come and spend the evening with us. We're hoping for a good turnout.

God Bless our Military and God Bless America
Kevin Mook, Commander

Post 2015 Oratorical Contest

Mark your calendars for Saturday, January 17, 2015

I am very pleased to report that we have seven contestants for our upcoming High School Oratorical Contest—four from Damascus and three from Clarksburg. I hope many of you will join us to see and hear these very sharp students deliver the orations each created about the Constitution of the United States.

This year's Post 171 contestants are Damascus High School juniors Nanga Awasum and Erik Westervelt and sophomores Rahat Arefy and Gwendolyn Gutherie. Clarksburg High School contestants include Junior Emory Cole II, Junior Aditya Kaliappan, and Sophomore Anurudh Ganesan.

Each contestant speaks twice—first to deliver their original prepared oration for a maximum of ten minutes, and second to deliver another original oration for a maximum of five minutes about the assigned topic, which is drawn from the four provided in advance. Often, these speeches are very creative and inspiring, reassuring us veterans and our loved ones that at least some of our younger generation are committed to preserving, protecting, defending and perpetuating our American way of life.

The Oratorical Committee members include Jack Talamo, Ernie Screen, Paula Gill, ShaWn Gill, Mike Conrad, and Cindy and Bob Ray.

The Post winner moves on to compete in the Montgomery County contest on February 7, 2015, also at the Post Home.

The Post contest begins at 10:00 AM sharp. Afterwards, thanks to our great Unit, lunch will be served for all attendees. Please join us for this meaningful annual event.

PPC George Bolling, Chairman

2015 MEMBERSHIP YEAR

Membership renewals are coming in at a good pace, but the time to get them paid is getting short. The second notices have been sent out from National Headquarters. If you have already paid, and you have your 2015 member card, please ignore the second notice. Otherwise, **PLEASE** send your renewal in as soon as possible with the \$25 renewal fee.

We need 100 renewals and new/transfers to meet our Post 171 goal for the 2015 membership year. You may also use the Legion web site, www.mylegion.org or www.mylegion.org/PUFL and pay online if you prefer to.

We need to keep alert to getting new members for replacement and for membership growth. There are membership application cards in the Post 171 office. There are plenty of them and you could put some of the cards in your car, etc, for handy use when meeting a potential new member. New members are the best way to keep our Post active and healthy. Friends or neighbors that are Veterans, particularly of the recent wars, may be excellent candidates for membership in the American Legion. They and our Post 171 can both benefit from them joining.

Address changes continue to be a problem. We only use our mailing lists for the newsletter and other Post communications. When you move or change your address, please let us know as soon as possible. Not only

the Post171 records, but the National and Maryland Department must be notified to keep their records up to date as well.

Scott Earhardt's daughter is at Navy boot camp at Great Lakes. Please send her a card and keep her in your thoughts and prayers for her success in following her Dad's footsteps in the Navy. Buzz Burroughs Son-in-law is also deployed and Gary Hearne's Grandson would greatly appreciate a card. Their mailing addresses:

SR Earhardt, Gabrielle A
Ship 12 Div 060
3515 Sailor Drive
Great Lakes, IL 60088-3515

Jon K. Enrenfried
La Scotta Air Force
380 EMDG/SGOY
APO AE 09853

PVT. Brennan Hill
323 TRS/FLT 296 DORM 4C2
1320 Truemper St., Unit 369523
Lackland AFB, TX 78236-6095

God Bless our Country and the men and women serving to protect our Freedom!
Ernie Screen 1st Vice Cmdr Membership Chairman (301) 253-3560 1stvice@legionpost171.org

Annual Membership Dinner Party - January 24, 2015

Mark your calendars for Saturday January 24, 2015 for the annual Membership Dinner Party to be held at the Post home! This is a great event and everyone is encouraged to attend, especially new members! New members are to be our guests. Social hour / open bar starts at 6 p.m., buffet dinner at 7 p.m., program at 8 p.m. and dancing at 9 p.m.

This Membership Party is for you, the members! There will be an update on our programs, what has been done and what's coming this Spring. Our Post 171 is an outstanding American Legion Post and we want all members to be a part of the good times and the good programs for our community and the country. This is a great time to catch up with friends and to greet and welcome our new members.

Please send in the below reservation form to the Post with your check by January 16th. The cost is \$15 each per member, spouse (or first guest), and \$20 for each additional guest. Clip out and send to Post as soon as possible but no later than January 16th, 2015.

2015 Membership Dinner Party Reservation Form / Saturday January 24th

Member name _____ @\$15

Spouse or 1st Guest _____ @\$15

New Members/Active Duty Members – No Charge

Number of additional guests _____ @\$20 each

Total number attending _____ Table Request _____

Total Amount enclosed \$_____

BASEBALL REPORT

By: Chairman Keith Martin



The annual American Legion Post 171 Baseball Banquet was held on the evening of Sunday, December 28th at the American Legion Hall. In keeping with the longstanding tradition, coaches, players, and their families were invited to attend the banquet. The banquet was also well supported by the Post membership. As always we are grateful for their enthusiastic support of the program. 2014 was a great year for the Post 171 supported Baseball teams.

The evening began with a social hour and was followed by dinner. Again, a delightful meal was catered by Maggi's Pizza & Deli, Tom & Rays, Ledos Pizza, and our own Post 171 snack bar. After the meal was served, Coach Jimmy Stone (Head Coach, Senior Team), Coach Frank Wodoslawsky (Head Coach, Junior Team), and Coach Phil McLaughlin (Head Coach, MCLL Junior League Team) recapped their respective teams' season highlights and introduced their players. We are fortunate to have the participation of such outstanding coaches and young people; it gives us all great hope about the future. 2015 should be a great year for our teams.

Our guest speaker for the evening was Coach John Philbin, the head strength and conditioning coordinator for the Washington Nationals. Coach Philbin is an international authority on strength training, fitness, and conditioning, and among the many notable entries on his resume are his time with the Washington Redskins, and as the Head Coach for the 1992 US Winter Olympic Bobsled Team. Coach Philbin gave a presentation entitled, "An Inside Look of Washington Nationals Baseball Team & MLB." His presentation was very well received by all in attendance.

At the conclusion of Coach Philbin's presentation, special players' awards were announced by the American Legion Senior Team coaching staff. The following players received well-deserved recognition from their coaches and teammates: Cameron Frazier, MVP (Gerald Duvall Award); Dan Johnson, Offense Award (Charles Senseney); Eric Janss, Pitching Award; Joe Lozupone, Defense Award; and Lucas Kraft, Coaches Award. Two players, Cameron Frazier and Drew Whalen, received special recognition with the Ken Diggs Award from Post 171 Baseball and the Auxiliary Award, respectively. Congratulations to all for a great season.

We also took a moment to recognize Bob Bellison who is stepping down as the Chairman of the Post's baseball committee. Bob began his affiliation with the American Legion baseball program in 1982 when he coached the team to the State Tournament in Easton, MD. After a stint scouting for the Orioles from 1991 - 2000, Bob returned to the Legion baseball program, where he has served as the committee chairman for the last ten years. Through it all, Bob has been an advocate and stalwart supporter of the program. He will continue to serve on the baseball committee to ensure a smooth transition of leadership to Keith Martin, the incoming chairman of the baseball committee. Thanks, Bob, for all of your hard work on behalf of the coaches, players, and the Post 171 members.

All of this would not be possible if it were not for the continued contributions of our many baseball boosters and post members. To all, we say a big THANK YOU and we look forward to your continued support in the New Year.

Keep your eye on the high ground - that's where we will be!

2015 BASEBALL COMMITTEE: Keith Martin (Chairman), Bob Bellison (Chairman ex-officio), Sam Baughman, Bob Ray, George Bolling, Buzz Burroughs, Ron Scott, Bill Green, Brownie Chichester, Bill Hauptman, Skip Duvall, and Frank Carpenter.

POST BASEBALL BOOSTER CLUB 2015

Name _____ Phone _____ Email _____
Address _____

_____ DOUBLE HITTER (\$50 Donation)
Cook-out – Banquet- Schedule & Game
Results
Select 1 Item from Below

_____ GRANDSLAM (\$100*+ Donation)
Cook-out – Banquet- Schedule & Game
Results
Select 2 Items From Below

_____ Shirt (Size _____)

_____ Sweat Shirt (Size _____) _____ Hat
circle color –
Red/Gray/Navy/White)

_____ *PLEASE USE MY ENTIRE DONATION FOR THE 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

Patriotic Poster Contest

The contest was held during the Damascus Community Fair, the first weekend in September. The contest was judged by June Toms, Mickey Day, Mary Beth Talamo, and Chairman Jack Talamo. There were 13 entries this year and winners in each of the 4 age categories.

I would like to thank all of the entrants and applicants for their efforts in promoting patriotism in our community and our country.

Jack Talamo, Chairman

**Post 171 - "Korean War Veterans Recognition Day"
February 16, 2015**

A luncheon beginning at 11:30 AM will be followed by some entertainment, a short program, and special recognition of our special honorees.

All Korean War Veterans are invited. Need not be a member of Post 171 or the American Legion.

There is no cost for the Korean War Veteran and spouse, but please RSVP. All others the cost is \$10.00 each.

We plan to have VA representatives available for your assistance.

Please RSVP as soon as possible to Bernie Moxley, Sr. at telephone: 301 253-5649 or e-mail berniemoxly@verizon.net, or by mail to Post 171, PO Box 171, Damascus, MD 20872

Damascus American Legion Oyster Roast

Come join us at our Oyster Roast on Saturday, February 21st, one of our principal fund-raisers for the many activities we sponsor to benefit charities, veterans, youth and the community. All-you-can-eat; oyster stew, oysters--raw, fried and steamed, and fried chicken with tasty sides and beverages. Doors open at 5 PM, dinner starts at 6 PM, and music by the Second Chance Band begins at 7:30 PM. Ticket prices are \$30 each when purchased in advance and \$35 each at the door. Most credit cards are now accepted. Call Paula at (661) 618-7638 or Sam at (301) 831-3216 to purchase advance tickets. The Post Home is located at 10201 Lewis Drive in Damascus.



Photo by: Lou Popowsky

Damascus HS Chamber Singers on Veteran's Day

American Legion Post 171 - High School Senior Scholarships

The Damascus American Legion Post 171 will be awarding four scholarships in the amounts of \$1,500 each for the scholastic year of 2015-2016. Applicants must be American Citizens and High School Seniors, and 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 in February for pick up 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, 2015.



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

JANUARY – FEBRUARY 2015

Happy New Year! I hope everyone had a nice holiday and now ready to promote the Unit programs. March 28th we will once again sponsor a Basket Bingo fundraiser. It is essential that all Unit members assist with this project. Casey Koontz will chair the committee with Marianne DiSomma providing the publicity. Delores Neal and Roz Bowman will co-chair the kitchen and will need help the night of the event. Please let any one of these ladies know if you can help.

Membership dues are due now. Dues are \$20 per year for seniors and \$4.25 for juniors. Check your membership card to see if it is 2015. Please send your payment made payable to ALA Unit 171 and mail to Cynthia D. Ray, 19421 Gardner Place, Germantown, MD 20876-1709. We are 82.52% from reaching goal.

Saturday, January 17th at 10:00 AM the Post will host the Oratorical Contest. There will be eight contestants. A light lunch will be served by the Unit. I would appreciate if some of you could make cookies to serve with the lunch. We will also be escorting the contestants between downstairs and upstairs as they give their orations.

February 21st we will be assisting the Post with their Spring Oyster Roast and your help is needed in the kitchen. Oyster patters, salad mixers, evening servers and stew dippers. Check your calendar to see if you will be available to help. Many hands make light work!

Cards of cheer continue to be sent to members who are recuperating from hospitalizations or other issues. Please remember Pat Rice as she recovers from cellulitis and Rena Harrington who is residing at Lorien in Mount Airy. Please contact Judy Moore, Unit Chaplain, if you know of anyone else who is ill, a death in the family, or any other issue in which she could assist them.

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

Unit support of the Pocket Flag Project continues, with the folding of the last shipment of flags almost complete. On November 2, 2014, Unit members Trish Bushe, Sandy Seipp and Liz Popowsky presented 179 pocket flags to troops deploying from BWI airport. On December 4, 2014, 15 pocket flags were mailed to a Unit in Afghanistan made known to us through Commander Mook's contact with deployed Post member Kirby Johnson. Keep our troops in your thoughts and prayers wherever they may be and please contact me when you learn of troop deployment information (rayliz53@yahoo.com, 301-371-6648).

God Bless our Troops wherever they may be.

Americanism Essay Program

As part of the National Americanism Program, again this year Unit 171 is sponsoring the Annual Americanism Essay Contest, held between November 1 and February 1, 2015. Ten local schools have been invited to participate in writing essays on this year's topic: "WHAT FREEDOM MEANS TO MY FAMILY". Open to Grades 3 through 8, judged in three categories: Grades 3-4; 5-6; and 7-8; with specific word count for each level. Contest details are available in each school's Main Office. Home schoolers are also eligible & encouraged to enter the contest.

Judging will take place after February 1st and all winners will be recognized at a reception at Post 171 in the spring. For more information, you may call Mary Beth at 301-253-4457 or cell: 301-919-8140. Please encourage your youngsters to participate. Thank you.

For God & Country
Mary Beth Talamo, Americanism Chairman

Unit 171 – Television Raffle

The Unit will begin the year with a fundraising raffle in support of its Veterans and scholarship programs. Tickets will be sold to win a 32" Samsung SMART HDTV to be awarded on March 28, 2015 during the Basket Bingo. If you are interested in supporting the fundraiser raffle either by purchasing or selling tickets, please contact Liz Popowsky (rayliz53@yahoo.com, 301-371-6648). Tickets are \$1 for 1 ticket or \$5 for 6 tickets. Tickets will be available for purchase at several Post Thursday night bingo games during January, February and March.

American Legion Post 171 - Blood Drive

Saturday, February 14, 2015

8:00 am - 1:30 pm

10201 Lewis Drive, Damascus

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

Eligibility concerns, please call the Red Cross at 1-866-236-3276. Double red cell donations will be accepted!

Contact Jennifer Shaffer at 301-412-3443 or ajmtairy@yahoo.com or David.Hull@redcross.org for additional information.

Please remember to bring your photo ID or Red Cross donor card, eat iron-rich foods and drink plenty of water before your donation.

**American Legion Post 171 Auxiliary
Presents
“Basket, Bags & Bucks” Bingo
Saturday, March 28, 2014
Doors open at 5:30, Bingo at 7:00 PM
Casey Koontz, Chairperson**

Mark your calendars for the Auxiliary’s Basket, Bags & Bucks Bingo fundraiser! This year’s fundraising event will consist of regular bingo games, raffles, specials, and King Tutts games.

The tickets will be sold in **advance only and seating is limited so purchase your tickets early!** Tickets are \$18.00 and may be purchased by completing the form below and mailing the form with your check to Post 171 at the address below. The price of admission will give you 20 regular bingo games and qualifies you for a chance to win a door prize. Additional bingo packets, cards for special games, and raffle tickets will be available for purchase on the night of the event.

Additional prize and food information will be provided in the next newsletter.

We are looking for sponsors to cover the cost of our prizes. Sponsorships will be accepted at the following levels: Platinum - \$100+ donation, Gold - \$75+ donation, Silver - \$50+ donation and Bronze - under \$50 donation. All sponsors will be acknowledged in the Program and announced at the bingo. If you can’t attend our event, being a sponsor is a great way to show your support of the Auxiliary.

This is our biggest fundraiser of the year so we need your participation to make it a success. The proceeds from this event go directly toward charitable donations and scholarships that the auxiliary funds each year. I hope we can count on YOU to support this worthy fundraising event.

If you are interested in being a sponsor or supporting our event by working as a volunteer please contact Casey at (301) 831-6746 or liontonyjames@comcast.net .

Thank you for supporting the Auxiliary of Post 171!



Name _____ Phone # _____

Number of Tickets _____ Total Amount \$ _____

Make Checks payable to: ALA Damascus Unit 171 (earmarked – Basket Bingo)

Mail to: ALA Unit 171
ATTN: Basket Bingo
P.O. Box 171
Damascus, MD 20872



Photo by: Jeff Thorne

Windsor Knolls MS Flag Raising Ceremony



Sons of the American Legion Squadron, 171

A Newsletter for Members & Friends of Damascus Squadron 171

JANUARY – FEBRUARY 2015

Let's always remember our service men and women in our daily thoughts and prayers
Hope everyone enjoyed the holidays with family and friends.

We will be hosting another spaghetti dinner in the near future so watch for emails with information.

Everyone is welcome to attend our monthly meetings, so please join us.

Tony Koontz
Squadron 171 Commander

Post Commander's Note: If you have email capability and are not on the Legion electronic distribution list, please send your **telephone number and email address to me at 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.



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

January 2015

Date	Event	
5 th	Post Executive Committee Meeting	7:00 PM
8 th	Post Bingo	7:00 PM
10 th	Pancake Breakfast	7:30 AM
12 th	SAL Member Meeting	7:00 PM
12 th	Post & Unit Member Meetings	7:30 PM
15 th	Post Bingo	7:00 PM
17 th	Post Oratorical Contest	10:00 AM
17 th	Montgomery County Meeting at Silver Spring Post 41 (Breakfast 8:00 AM)	9:00 AM
18 th	SMD Meeting at Wheaton Post 268 (Lunch at 12:00 PM)	1:00 PM
22 nd	Post Bingo	7:00 PM
24 th	Post Oratorical Contest (Back up Date)	10:00 AM
24 th	Post Membership Dinner	5:00 PM
29 th	Post Bingo	7:00 PM

February 2015

Date	Event	
2 nd	Post Executive Committee Meeting	7:00 PM
5 th	Post Bingo	7:00 PM
7 th	County Oratorical Contest at Post 171	10:00 AM
9 th	SAL Member Meeting	7:00 PM
9 th	Post & Unit Member Meetings	7:30 PM
12 th	Post Bingo	7:00 PM
14 th	Valentine's Day	
14 th	Pancake Breakfast	7:30 AM
14 th	Unit Blood Drive	9:00 AM
15 th	DEC Meeting Greenbelt Post 136	1:00 PM
16 th	Presidents Day	
16 th	Korean War Veterans Dinner	11:30 AM
19 th	Post Bingo	7:00 PM
21 th	SMD Oratorical at Clinton Post 259	10:00 AM
21 st	Oyster Roast	6:00 PM
26 th	Post Bingo	7:00 PM



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

Officers

Commander	Kevin Mook	301-204-9722	Historian	Ed Williams	301 865-3474
1 st Vice Commander	Ernie Screen	301 253-3560	Chaplain	Shawn Gill	661-312-1113
2 nd Vice Commander	Paula Gill	661-618-7638	Sgt-at-Arms	Bill Green	301 253-5420
Judge Advocate	Dean Elliott	240 793-6868	Executive Comm	Sam Baughman	301 831-3216
Adjutant	Bernie Moxley	301 253-6323		Bob Bellison	301 253-2728
Finance Officer	Ching-Yao Yu	240 668-4080		Ronald Scott	301 831-7974
Service Officer	Jim Serritella	301 253-3971		Scott Earhardt	240 498-6771

Auxiliary, Unit 171

Officers

President	Cynthia Ray	301 972-1978	Color Bearers	Betty Nicholson	301 865-6138
Vice President	Mary Beth Talamo	301-253-4457		Delores Neal	301 253-4015
Secretary	Rosalyn Bowman	301-253-4473	Executive Comm	Mary Bolling	301 898-7119
Treasurer	Patricia Busche	301 467-1321		Jennifer Shaffer	301 829-8487
Chaplain	Judy Moore	301 829-1944		Betty Peck	301 865-1911
Historian	Marianne DiSomma	301 606-4645			
Sgt-at-Arms	June Toms	301 540-5829			

SAL Squadron, 171

Officers

Commander	Tony Koontz	240 439-9501	Chaplain	Brosh Boshier	240 439-9501
1 st Vice Commander	George Shaffer	240-439-9501	Sgt-at-Arms	DJ Mook	301 204-9722
2 nd Vice Commander	Josh Shaffer	301 412-3443	Historian	DJ Mook	301 204-9722
Adjutant	Adam Young	240 422-1765	Post Liaison	Shawn Gill	661-312-1113
Finance Officer	John Duvall	301 787-4480			

Newsletter Editor: Lou Popowsky tel: 301-371-6648 email: Newsletter@legionpost171.org