



# THE DAMASCUS VETERAN

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

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**JULY – AUGUST 2016**

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## THE COMMANDER'S CORNER

### Fellow Comrades:

These past two years have flown by and now it is time for a change of command. I have enjoyed my time as the Commander of this wonderful Post and look forward to serving as your Adjutant as well as the Montgomery County Commander.

The Memorial Day Service was held on a near perfect day, sunny but not too hot, and just a little breezy. The Browningsville Cornet Band did their usual great job providing music and we had the Montgomery County Police Bagpipers who did an excellent job playing *Amazing Grace*. This year we had two Eagle scouts Sean and Eric Grapin who played call to colors and echo taps and are sons of Mark Grapin a post member who lives in Virginia. Post 86 from Rockville provided their elite Honor Guard to render the gun salute. We also had a wonderful speaker post member Fred Carlini, a Vietnam veteran who served as a US Navy Second Class Petty Officer, who shared a wonderful story. Special thanks to the Boy Scouts for helping with the chairs and tents, Cub Scouts for handing out water, Girl Scouts for handing out the programs and to Lyn Mook for arranging the flowers in front of the Memorial.



Thanks to all the Post Officers and Committees for all their support. I am confident that you will provide the same support for the new Commander, Scott Earhardt, as we continue to support the community and youth programs.

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

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Comrades,

It is indeed an honor to be selected as your Post Commander. 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 all, Congratulate Commander Kevin Mook on his nomination as Montgomery County Commander! I know he will do an awesome job, as he has always done. Additionally, congratulations go out to Will Trotter for being the Department's next Sgt-at-Arms. Will has always been a great resource to our post and I wish him all the best as he moves up the chain.

In addition to continuing the excellent programs that the Post supports, I have three primary goals for the coming year:

First and foremost, we must increase our membership. With the help of my 1st Vice Will Cole and my fellow members, I plan on doing just that through open houses, direct mailings, and setting up booths at Community events. There are far too many area events for Post 171 not to be a part of.

Second, I want to carry on one of the main goals set forth by Past Post Commander, Tony DeShiro. Our senior members have a wealth of history and knowledge that must be passed down to the new members. I would like to call on new members, to step up and volunteer for committees such as the Scholarship, Membership, Baseball, and Bingo. We can't rely on existing committee chairs forever. In the past year alone, we have lost 11 comrades to Post Everlasting, much of their history and knowledge was lost when they passed.

Third, as a post, we need to rebuild the relationship we have within our own post with our Auxiliary and SAL. The Auxiliary and SAL needs to know what the post is doing and vice versa. When the Post sets up an event, we should have representation by all the Post that includes SAL and Auxiliary.

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

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### **In Memoriam**

**John W. Hartley**, 91, passed away on April 28, 2016. John served in WWII and served in the Pacific Theatre and was a 66 year veteran of the Bethesda Chevy-Chase Rescue Squad. He is survived by many nieces, nephews and many beloved friends. John was a member of the American Legion for 37 years.

**Albert C. Lawson**, 85, passed away on April 1, 2016 and served in Korea. He is survived by Mildred Lawson his loving wife of 52 years and brother Clyde Lawson. Albert was a member of the American Legion for 34 years.

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The first day of summer finds the Post 171 baseball season well underway as we approach the mid-point of the summer baseball experience.

Our Senior Legion team, under tutelage of Coach Bob O’Conor and his staff, is playing exceptionally well and at this point boasts an impressive 7 – 1 record; their only loss coming in the 7th inning at the hands of rival Laurel Post 60. Collectively, they have relied on solid defensive play and timely hitting enroute to winning 3 of their 7 wins by 10 or more runs. Over the June 24rd weekend, the team travels to Florence, SC, for the Palmetto Invitational Tournament and will follow-up with the Frederick Wood-Bat Tournament over the July 4th weekend. In both tournaments, the Senior players will face exceptionally strong competition.

A very pleasant surprise this season has been the improved performance of our Junior Legion team under the management of first-year Legion coach, Brett Daly. With 14 returning veterans, including 6 who have three years of Junior Legion experience, the Junior Legion team has posted an overall record of 7 – 4 (5 – 3 in Western District league play).

A new addition to our program has been the inclusion of 17U and 16U Showcase Teams composed mostly of our in-house Post 171 Legion players. Both teams were in action at the Dynamic Showcase Tournaments at Virginia Tech and the University of Maryland. The 16U team will play in their final tournament at the University of Virginia over June 24th weekend. Both teams have faced the region’s best competition and have played very well in their inaugural seasons.

Although inclement weather twice prevented us from playing the Bob Bellison Red, White, and Blue Baseball Game, we held the picnic at the Legion Post on June 21st to honor Bob Bellison and to recognize our baseball boosters, coaches, and players and their families. We had a great evening together as we recognized Bob for his decades of service and support to our youth and our baseball program.

On July 7th, we will host a special bingo event at the Legion Post for our baseball program. This fundraiser helps us to provide a quality but yet affordable baseball experience for our players and their families. We encourage you to make plans to please come and enjoy a family friendly experience. All proceeds generated will benefit the Post 171 baseball program.

You can follow the progress of our teams on our web page at [post171baseball.com](http://post171baseball.com) or on Twitter at @Post171Baseball. If you are interested in becoming a baseball booster, you can find the booster form on our web page or hard copies are available at the Legion Post.

**2016 POST 171 BASEBALL COMMITTEE:** Keith Martin (Chairman), Bob Bellison, Sam Baughman, Bob Ray, George Bolling, Buzz Burroughs, Ron Scott, Bill Green, Brownie Chichester, Bill Hauptman, Skip Duvall, Alan Rannals, Will Cole, and Frank Carpenter.

**2016 BOOSTERS: Grand Slam** - Ray Mullican, Shawn & Paula Gill, Keith & Mary Gene Martin, Ernest C. Clifford, Tommy Thompson, Bob & Ruby Bellison, Buzz & Eileen Burroughs, and James & Karla Trythall.

**Home Run** – George & Mary Bolling, Brownie & Ginny Chichester, GK & PK Johnson, Bill & Cindy McMinn, Bob Moxley, Dee Dee Myers, Tony DeShiro, Aaron Danis, Tom & Chris Lansinger, Richard Bowers, Mark & Betty Jeffers, Bob & Louise Mullinix, William F. Hauptman, Bob & Cindy Ray, Bill Dunn, Hank & Carol Hartley, Alan Rannals, John E Walter, Roland & Judith Hockenbery, Patricia A. Rice, Skip Duvall, Donald and Betty Nicholson, Ronald and Peggy Scott, George & Cathy Magas, Hazel Hoyle, and Sandy Seipp.

**Double Hitter** - Robert Gladhill, Danny Moxley, Debby Moxley, Pat Moxley, Paula Moxley, Steve Norwood, June & Harry Pearce, Mary Robinson, Madalean Darby, Judy Moore, Reva Pearce, Jack & Mary Beth Talamo, Sam Baughman, Leonard Senseney, Anna Mae Senseney, Martha Luhn, and David & Dani Boyd.



2016 Junior (red) and Senior (blue) Legion Baseball Teams with Bob Bellison at the Red, White, and Blue Picnic at the American Legion Post 171 on June 21<sup>st</sup>.

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**2016 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 Result  
 Select 2 items from below

**Apparel Items:** \_\_\_ Shirt (Size \_\_\_)  
 \_\_\_ Sweat Shirt (Size \_\_\_), \_\_\_ Hat  
 circle color – Red/Gray/Navy

\_\_\_\_\_ ***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  
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Past Post Commander Tony DeShiro, Radioman Chief Petty Officer, U.S. Navy (Retired), salutes as members of Damascus American Legion Auxiliary Unit 171 present American flags for Post members who passed away since Memorial Day 2015. Pictured left-to-right are Liz Popowsky, Ruby Bellison, and Secretary-Treasurer Patricia Busche.

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

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This year our auxiliary has worked toward re-building the unit by strengthening the membership through positive outreach and more interactive meetings where goals are set and accomplished. We need to continue the positive face we've put on by being a kinder, gentler unit especially as we communicate with each other and work together toward accomplishing the mission and vision of the American Legion Auxiliary. This

summer break gives us an opportunity to reflect on this position of attitude and bring back enthusiasm and energy when we meet again in September.

I am pleased to say that in June we installed several new officers on the executive committee who are new members to our unit within this last year. I'm excited about the ideas and enthusiasm they will bring to our leadership, and I am challenging the entire executive committee with developing a detailed plan to fulfill our biggest goal for next year – bring in new members. And, not just members who want the privilege of being part of this auxiliary team, but members who want to actively make a difference in the lives of our veterans and active military and share in the fellowship we have to offer. I look forward to writing to you again in the fall to share our ideas and ask for your support. Together we can build this unit and make it the premier service organization that the Auxiliary vision calls for.

And with that, I will leave you with the American Legion Auxiliary vision statement to contemplate:

The vision of the American Legion Auxiliary is to support The American Legion while becoming the premier service organization and foundation of every community providing support for our veterans, our military, and their families by shaping a positive future in an atmosphere of fellowship, patriotism, peace and security.

Please consider joining us on September 12th for our first meeting of the year. Our meetings are the second Monday of each month, start at 7:30 PM, and are typically a little more than an hour long. Enjoy the summer and may God bless our troops, veterans, and the citizens of this great nation.

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

Marianne DiSomma, Auxiliary President Post 171

E-mail address: [marianne62@msn.com](mailto:marianne62@msn.com) Phone: 301-482-2264

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## **Damascus American Legion Celebrates Memorial Day**

On Saturday, May 28<sup>th</sup>, Damascus American Legion members placed American Flags on the graves of 604 veterans in twenty cemeteries in the greater Damascus community. Organized and led by Sandy Seipp, daughter of Past Post #171 Commander John Seipp and Past President of Auxiliary Unit #171, this annual ceremonial activity serves to set the tone for the Memorial Day service held traditionally on the Sunday before Memorial Day.

Early in the afternoon on Sunday, May 29<sup>th</sup>, about 200 people gathered on the lawn of Post #171 in Damascus to honor fallen veterans at the Post's annual Memorial Day service. Boy Scout Troop #1397 had erected tents to shade the attendees, and they delivered bottles of water to help keep them cool. Following a long-standing tradition, the Browningsville Cornet Band provided a half-hour concert as a prelude to the service.

Post Commander Kevin Mook, a career Navy veteran, now retired, led the service. Color guards from the Post and Auxiliary Unit presented United States and organizational colors, and the Boy Scouts raised the United States flag under prescribed protocol. Following recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance, Captain Sherry Hohl of the Montgomery County Fire and Rescue Service sang The National Anthem beautifully, and Post Chaplain Shawn Gill delivered a meaningful invocation.

Eleven members of Auxiliary Unit #171 then presented individual American flags honoring each Post member who had transferred to Post Everlasting since Memorial Day 2015, and nineteen organizations from the greater Damascus community placed floral tributes at the veterans' memorial monument. Then, the Montgomery County Police Pipers played a stirring and memorable rendition of "Amazing Grace."

The guest speaker for the ceremony was veteran and Post member Fred Carlini, a US Navy corpsman who served for almost a year in the military hospital in DaNang during the Vietnam War. Fred's inspirational message included a tribute to those veterans who died in wartime and after serving our nation.

The service closed with the singing of "God Bless America," a moment of silence followed by a 21-gun salute by the firing squad from Rockville Legion Post #86, and the moving playing of "Echo Taps" by two Boy Scouts from a Northern Virginia Troop.

Following the service, Unit #171 served a tasty luncheon to those attending.

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## **Damascus Legion Honors Parents of Active Duty Service Men and Women**

Following a long-standing tradition, at its May meeting, the Damascus American Legion presented Blue Star Banners to the parents of five members of the United States armed forces.

Created in 1917, the Blue Star Banner is a symbol of recognition of families whose sons and daughters are currently serving with the Army, Marine Corps, Navy, Air Force and Coast Guard.

Blue star banners were presented to Fred and Patricia Busche, whose son Sam is an Army second lieutenant now in officers' training at Fort Benning, Georgia; J.B. Weeks, whose son Army Captain Lucas is a Ranger School instructor at Fort Benning; Scott and Maria Earnhardt, whose daughter Gabrielle is a Navy Seaman E3 serving on board the USS HUE CITY CG66 in May Port, Florida; and Traci and Bernie Moxley, Junior, whose daughters— Army First Lieutenant Kailey Moore and Army Second Lieutenant Morgan Moxley—serve, respectively, in the 391st Engineer Battalion in Greenville, South Carolina, and the 82nd Airborne Division at Fort Bragg, North Carolina. Kailey is an Army Reservist, who, when not serving, teaches high school biology in Saluda, North Carolina. Morgan is a platoon leader in Company E of the Apache Reconnaissance Battalion.

The Moxleys received a two-star banner. On behalf of Post 171, the Blue Star Banners were presented by Past Post Commander George Bolling and Past First Vice Commander Keith Midberry, and they will hang in the front windows of the honorees' homes.



### **Sons of the American Legion Squadron, 171**

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

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**JUL – AUG 2016**

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Greetings from the Squadron,

Wishing everyone a safe and wonderful summer. Please take a moment on Independence Day to reflect what the holiday is all about. There will not be a lot of activity during the summer months, but we are hoping to become very active after that.

Please begin sending in membership renewals for SAL to P.O. box 171 Damascus MD 20872 attn: SAL. Membership renewals are still \$15 and \$10 for our dual members. We are excited to announce we made 3 star award for membership this past year, and can only hope to keep going up. If you know of anyone who is eligible to become an SAL member, please encourage them to sign up.

We will continue to meet the 2nd Monday of every month at 7pm, meetings generally last a half hour or so. We encourage all of our members who are able to attend and get involved as we are always looking for new ideas that will help not only our squadron but our legion family as a whole.

Bingo will come to a close for the summer but will also start fresh in September and the Post is always in need of extra help for this as well as all of their other functions. There will be a 70th anniversary party as well that is being planned, more details to come.

Have a safe and happy summer and see you in September,

Yours,  
John Wayne Duvall S.A.L. Commander

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**Post Commander's Note:** If you use email and are not on the 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 charges the Post \$.46 for each returned Newsletter to get them back and find out which addresses are no longer valid. The National and Department of Maryland should also be notified if possible.

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

**July 2016**

<b><u>Date</u></b>	<b><u>Event</u></b>	
4th	Independence Day	
7th	Baseball Bingo	7:00 PM
8th	Celebrate Damascus Days Parade	7:00 PM
	Fireworks after the Parade	
10th	Community Flea Market	10:00 AM – 4:00 PM
	Fire Dept. Activities Bldg. and Grounds	
11th - 15th	Maryland American Legion Convention in Ocean City	

**August 2016**

<b><u>Date</u></b>	<b><u>Event</u></b>	
1st	Post Ex. Board Meeting	7:00 PM
8th	SAL Member Meeting	7:00 PM
8th	Post and Unit Member Meetings	7:30 PM
26th – 31st	98 <sup>th</sup> National Convention in Cincinnati	

**Upcoming Events**

Sep 1st	98 <sup>th</sup> National Convention in Cincinnati	
Sep 1st	Bingo starts	7:00 PM
Sep 5th	Labor Day	
Sep 10th	Pancake Breakfast	7:30 AM



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## American Legion Post 171

### Officers

Commander	Scott Earhardt	(240) 498-6771	Historian	Ed Williams	(301) 865-3474
1 <sup>st</sup> Vice Commander	Will Cole	(240) 643-7022	Chaplain	Shawn Gill	(661) 312-1113
2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice Commander	Vacant		Sgt-at-Arms	Bill Green	(301) 253-5420
Judge Advocate	Anthony Deshiro	(843) 855-9353	Executive Comm	Paula Gill	(661) 618-7638
Adjutant	Kevin Mook	(301) 204-9230		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		Sam Baughman	(301)401-6479

## Auxiliary, Unit 171

### Officers

President	Marianne DiSomma	(301) 606-4645	Membership	Traci Moxley	(828) 455-6863
Vice President	Maria Earhardt	(301) 385-1940	Color Bearers	Terri Nuccio-Youngs	(301)-226-0221
Secretary	Amanda Baughman	(240) 409-8226		Carol Hartley	(920) 457-7754
Treasurer	Patricia Busche	(301) 391-6752			
Chaplain	Pat Rice	(301) 253-2266	Executive Comm	CaseyKoontz	(301) 831-6746
Historian	Diane Capel			Betty Nicholson	(301) 865-1638
Sgt-at-Arms	Virginia Myers	(301) 831-9188		Kelli Cole	(240) 832-7733

## SAL Squadron, 171

### Officers

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

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