



THE DAMASCUS VETERAN

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

September – October 2017

THE COMMANDER'S CORNER

Fellow Comrades:

First of all, thanks to my fellow Legionaries for supporting me as your new Commander of Post 171. We have a history of great leadership from Past Post Commanders and their officers. My officers and I look forward to building on their great successes as we move forward into another year. Thank you for the dedication of our members who give their time and energy to support our many programs. We need a few more Committee Chairmen and Committee Members. We are still looking for someone to fill 2nd Vice Commander and Historian. You can contact me via cell phone at [\(240\)643-7022](tel:2406437022) or email at commander@legionpost171.org.



Jul 10-14 was the Department of Maryland Convention in Ocean City, MD. We received several awards for 2017 including 100% Membership, Department Yearbook Trophy, Best Report on Attendance in Southern Maryland District, and Best Memorial Program for Posts of 301-500 Members. Thanks to all of our delegates and Legion family for your tireless efforts.

The new Bingo season starts September 7th. Tell your friends and foes! Come win big money! Tell them to check out our Facebook page, our Web site, and our newsletter! Let's all work hard to get the word out as Bingo is our main fundraiser. Please join us for bingo set up on Wednesdays and help out at the post on Thursdays. I look forward to seeing you all there.

We have many ways to tell our amazing community about Post 171 activities. Ching-Yao Yu is our Facebook manager, Kevin Mook is our Webmaster and Newsletter editor, and George Bolling is our Public Affairs & Media Committee, Chairman. We need to utilize all of these resources. All their names and telephone numbers are listed under the "Committee" page on our web site and/or the Committee listing posted on the bulletin board at the Post.

Our Pancake Breakfast is at 07:30 on September 9th. Stop in and see us downstairs. This year we will have a pancake magic show and Ching will bring his Green Petting Dragon. Are you still reading this? No! Sadly, there will not be a magic show or Green Petting Dragon but you never know what surprises await you at the Pancake Breakfast. See you there!

September 11th is our Flag Retirement Ceremony. Please bring in any worn American flags and see they are retired properly. Baker MS has invited the Post to participate in their annual 9/11 Flag Raising Ceremony on Sept 18th. Due to the size of the student body, there will be two ceremonies, the first starting

at 8:45 AM. Please arrive by 8:20 AM to enjoy coffee, desserts and cold beverages. In addition Hallie Wells MS is having a Flag Raising ceremony on Sept 19th at 9:00 AM and 10:30 AM Unit and SAL family members are invited. Please spread the word and show your support.

I look forward to serving you as your Post Commander. It was a very proud moment to step up from 1st Vice Commander and now to serve as your Post Commander. I look forward to hearing from everyone and visiting with any of you who need us. Please remember when our comrades need assistance; let's help them find their way.

God Bless our Troops and God Bless America,
Will Cole, Commander

In Memoriam

Bert L. Thornley, 94, passed away on April 28, 2016. Bert served in WWII in the Army. He is survived by many friends and family. Bert was a member of the American Legion for 10 years.

George M. Barr, 82, passed away on July 23, 2017 and served in Korea. He is survived by Barbara Ann his loving wife of 58 years He is also survived by his sons Michael, Dennis, Daniel and Daughter Susan. In addition, he is survived by his eight adoring grandchildren and his brother Stephen and sisters Dorothy and Patricia. He was preceded in death by brothers Joseph, John, and Frederick, and sisters Mary, Ann, Margaret, Helen, and Alice. George was a member of the American Legion for 25 years.



Please join the Damascus American Legion Family for a special Flag retirement ceremony. We will adhere strictly to the prescribed process for disposing of worn and unusable American Flags with dignity and respect. This is an excellent opportunity for your children and grandchildren to learn about this aspect of being an American.

We have worked with the Washington Nationals and arranged to retire several of their Flags that have flown over Nationals Park. The Damascus Volunteer Fire Department, the American Legion Auxiliary Unit 171, and the Sons of the American Legion Squadron 171 will assist the Post, and refreshments will be available following the ceremony

The ceremony will be held at 6 pm on Monday, September 11, 2017 10201 Lewis Drive, Damascus, MD. 20872, (301) 253-0769

Flag drop off available August 24 through September 10, 2017

Open to the Public!

Damascus Legion Family Wins Awards

At the American Legion annual convention last month in Ocean City, both the Post and the Auxiliary Unit received noteworthy awards.

The Post was awarded the Special Membership Award for achieving 100% in the 20016-17 Legion Year, an achievement led by First Vice Commander Will Cole. The Post was also recognized with awards for the best Memorial program, the best scrapbook, and the best attendance and renewals, all among posts state-wide with membership between 301 and 500.

The Unit was awarded the Past Presidents Parley Award for training and encouragement of future Auxiliary leaders and providing scholarships to student nurses in the interest of improving the quality of health care. The other Unit award was the Gold Star Award for the support of Gold Star mothers, sisters, and step-mothers who have lost sons and daughters during their military service.



Damascus American Legion Post 171 delegates include, left to right, Past Post Commander Tony DeShiro, Bill Dunn, Maryland Third Vice Commander Will Trotter, Past Post Commander Bernie Moxley, Sr., and Past Post Commander and Montgomery County Commander Kevin Mook.



Damascus Auxiliary Unit 171 delegates are, left to right, Secretary and Membership Chairwoman Amanda Baughman, President Marianne DiSomma, Past Unit President Sandy Seipp, and Treasurer Patricia "Trish" Busche.



American Legion License Tags - How To....

The Department of Maryland, in conjunction with the Motor Vehicle Administration, offers all paid up members in good standing the opportunity to obtain The American Legion organizational license tag for their vehicle. Any Department of Maryland American Legion member, who has a vehicle (cars, trucks or SUV's, not including trailers) registered in their name may qualify for the tag, (subject to MVA regulations). The procedure for obtaining a license tag is:

1. Send Department Headquarters a letter along with a copy of the registration of the vehicle to be tagged, a copy of your membership card and \$2.00 for processing. Either the owner or co/owner must be a member in good standing (current dues paid) with their post. If in doubt, contact your Post Adjutant for specific information and instructions.
2. Upon receipt of the letter with a copy of the registration and membership card, plus \$2.00 Department Headquarters will complete the application, assign a tag number, and return the application to the member.
3. Once the member receives the application paperwork back from Department, fill it out and they can get their tags in one of three ways:

The Motor Vehicle Administration onetime fee charge of \$25.00 must be accompanied with the application when taken or mailed to The Department of Motor Vehicles.

METHOD 1 - Completed applications taken directly to the DMV in Glen Burnie (2nd Floor, Window 104, Organizational Tags) will receive their tags at that time. This is the quickest way. Once at the MVA it takes only a few minutes for the tags to be issued.

METHOD 2 - Completed applications taken to a MVA satellite office will have the tags mailed to them by the MVA.

METHOD 3 - Completed applications mailed to the MVA will also have their tags mailed to them by the MVA.



THE POST 171 PATRIOTS BASEBALL PROGRAM UPDATE

Well, the Legion Summer Baseball season has finally come to a close, but what a busy and an exciting season it has been. From the opening event on May 20th, the Bob Bellison Red, White, and Blue Baseball Game, to an exciting season-ending Showcase tournament in Delaware, there was no shortage of exciting, competitive baseball. A brief synopsis of the season is provided below.

Our Senior Patriots team, young by most comparisons, competed very well, especially during the latter half of the baseball season, finishing 10 - 13 in Legion league play and 16 - 25 - 2 overall. Playing in four tournaments (Frostburg, MD; Florence, SC; Frederick, MD; and Rehoboth, DE) and in the Montgomery County Legion League, our Senior Patriots team requited themselves quite well, playing in 43 games in 10 weeks. Only two players age out of our program, which portends very well for the Senior Patriot team over the next two years. Jason Moyer, a 2017 Damascus HS graduate and a four-year Legion player, and Sean Carneal, a 2017 Clarksburg HS graduate and a two-year Legion player, will graduate from the program, and we wish them the very best in their collegiate pursuits.



Patriots' pitcher, Jason Moyer, in action on the mound at the Bronx Cheer Bash Showcase Tournament on August 11th at Rehoboth Beach, DE

After finishing second in the state tournament in 2016 and seeing their entire roster advance to the Senior Legion team, the Junior Legion Patriots experienced their share of growing pains this year. That is not to say that they were not competitive; on the contrary, many of their wins and losses were decided by fewer than three runs. With a completely new roster of coaches and players, many of them 15-16 years old, the Junior Patriots found themselves competing against decidedly older teams in the very competitive Western District. Nonetheless, they like the Seniors played their best baseball near the end of the season and nearly a dozen players are eligible to return for next season.

The Post hosted the annual baseball bingo fundraiser on July 13th raising nearly \$2,400 for the baseball program. With Junior and Senior Legion players in attendance to assist during the evening, nearly 110 folks attended the bingo event to help defray the costs of the baseball operational expenses. Thank you to all who attended and a special thanks to Bill Green and his bingo team for making it a great success.

Our final event for the 2017 baseball season will be the annual baseball banquet on Sunday evening, October 29th at the Legion Post facility. We will recognize our coaches, players, players' families, and boosters for their many contributions during the 2017 season. More information on the event will be coming shortly.

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

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

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

2017 POST 171 BASEBALL BOOSTER CLUB

Name _____ Phone _____ Email _____
Address _____

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

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

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

Apparel Items:

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

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

_____ Hat

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

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

2018 membership card honors women in service

The Women in Military Service for American Memorial is the watermark on the 2018 membership card for The American Legion and Sons of The American Legion. Located in Washington, D.C., at the entrance to Arlington National Cemetery, the memorial is celebrating 20 years and is the only major national memorial honoring all women who have defended America throughout history.





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

September - October 2017

Dear Unit Members:

Welcome back from what I hope was a fantastic summer!

We're off to a great start this year with eight new members which gives us a strong membership total of 137!

Are you interested in volunteering to help out at the bingo snack bar? We can always use help making soups, snack bar prep, and of course helping on the 1st and 3rd Thursdays of each month at bingo. Please contact me if you're interested – this is one of our main sources of income and we need it to be well staffed to be successful.

We have many events coming up in the next few months so I would like to share them with you:

September

4 – Monday, Labor Day

7 – Thursday, Bingo – Snack Bar

9 – Saturday, Post Pancake Breakfast

11 – Monday, 9/11 Memorial Service at the Post, 6:00 PM – sandwiches will be served after –

There will not be a general membership meeting this month.

12 – 6:30 PM, Unit Executive Committee Meeting (Location TBD)

18 – Monday, Flag Raising Ceremony at Baker M.S. (Refreshments at 8:20 AM, 1st ceremony at 8:45 AM; second ceremony at 9:40 AM)

19 – Tuesday, Flag Raising Ceremony at Hallie Wells M.S., 9:00 to 10:30 AM

21 – Thursday, Bingo – Snack Bar

22-24 (Friday – Sunday) – Dept Fall Conference, Clopper-Michael Post 10, Boonsboro, MD

October

5 – Thursday, Bingo – Snack Bar

9 – Monday, Columbus Day

9 – Monday, 7:30 Unit Meeting/Pot Luck Dinner – Dedication of plaque in memory of Cindy Ray will be held during the Pot Luck – more information to follow!

14 – Saturday, Post Pancake Breakfast

19 – Thursday, Bingo – Snack Bar

21 – Saturday, Rally in the Valley, Frederick, MD - <http://22rallyinthevalley.com/>

TBD – 27 - Friday, 7:00 to 10:00 PM, Paint Nite Fundraiser

You'll note that our first general membership meeting will not be until Monday, October 9th at which time we'll also have our pot luck dinner and a dedication ceremony of a plaque in memory of our dear friend, Cindy Ray. Mark your calendars for this special evening.

Throughout the year, our meetings are held on the second Monday of each month at 7:30 PM, and are typically about an hour long. Come check out our meetings – they’re actually fun and a great way of learning about what we’re up to in support of our veterans and active military!

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

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

County Commander of the Year

At the last Southern Maryland District meeting at Post 227 in Brandywine, our own Past Post Commander and current Montgomery County Commander Kevin Mook was awarded the Southern Maryland District (SMD), County Commander of the Year for legion year 2016-2017. There were five other County Commanders eligible. The district represents well over 40,000 veterans, 47 posts and consists of the six counties of Montgomery, Anne Arundel, Prince Georges, Calvert, Charles and St Mary’s. SMD is the only district that presents this award to its County Commanders.





Sons of the American Legion Squadron, 171

A Newsletter for Members & Friends of Damascus Squadron 171

September - October 2017

Greetings from SAL 171,

Hopefully everyone has had a wonderful summer and are ready to return to action and help us reach new heights for both the squadron and the legion family overall. We have been pretty inactive these past two months as is our normal to give the legion family some time off as well as take care of any maintenance within the building. Our first meeting night is September 11, but there may be something special that night in its place, however we will continue to meet every 2nd Monday of each month at 7pm.

Now is the time to get in those membership renewals. The cost is still the same \$15 a person or \$10 for dual members (Post & SAL) We are also encouraging all members to sign up new members as we are trying to continue to strengthen our squadron and once again be near the top in the state. There will be a membership drive this year to recruit possible new members and we hope to be able to work with our entire legion family on making this possible.

We will look to continue with monthly dinners beginning in November as we look to continue working to strengthen our legion family closeness and have a lot of fun and making new memories in the process. Please look for information in the next newsletter and at our upcoming meetings. If anyone has any idea please send them to me at johnboy42081@yahoo.com. We also will continue to support our legion family with all upcoming events including bingo every Thursday night, setups on Wednesday night, upcoming dinners, pancake breakfasts, Veteran's day, Memorial Day and any other programs that can always use assistance.

Hoping we can make this upcoming legion year our best yet!

Truly,

John Wayne Duvall SAL 171 Commander



COMING EVENTS
Post, Unit & Squadron 171 Calendar

September 2017

<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Time</u>
4th	Labor Day	
5th	Executive Committee Meeting	7:00 PM
7th	Post Bingo – New Season!!	7:00 PM
9th	Pancake Breakfast	7:30 AM
9th	Montgomery County Council Meeting @ Post 171	9:00 AM
11th	Flag Retirement Ceremony	6:00 PM
12th	Post Member Meeting (Rescheduled)	7:30 PM
14th	Post Bingo	7:00 PM
21st	Post Bingo	7:00 PM
18th	Baker MS 9/11 Flag Ceremony	8:45 and 9:40 AM
19th	Hallie Wells MS Flag Raising Ceremony	9:00 and 10:30 AM
28th	Post Bingo	7:00 PM

October 2017

<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Time</u>
2nd	Executive Committee Meeting	7:00 PM
5th	Post Bingo	7:00 PM
9th	Pot Luck Dinner	6:00 PM
9th	SAL Member Meeting	7:00 PM
9th	Post and Unit Member Meetings	7:30 PM
12th	Post Bingo	7:00 PM
14th	Pancake Breakfast	7:30 AM
11th	SMD Meeting @ Post 276 in Severn MD	1:00 PM
19th	Post Bingo	7:00 PM
26th	Post Bingo	7:00 PM
31st	Happy Halloween!	

Looking Ahead

Nov 10th	Marine Corps Birthday – OOHRAH!
Nov 10th	Veterans Day Program at Post 171
Nov 18th	Fall Oyster Roast
Nov 23rd	Thanksgiving Day

P.O. Box 171
 Damascus, MD 20872



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<http://www.legionpost171.org> and <https://www.facebook.com/DamascusPost171>

American Legion Post 171 Officers

Commander	Will Cole	(240) 643-7022	Membership	Sam Baughman (PC) (301) 401-6479
1st Vice Commander	Vacant		Historian	Vacant
2nd Vice Commander	Vacant		Chaplain	Shawn Gill (661) 312-1113
Judge Advocate	Tony DeShiro (PC)	(843) 855-9353	Sgt-at-Arms	Bill Green (301) 253-5420
Adjutant	Kevin Mook (PC)	(301) 204-9230	Executive Comm	Paula Gill
Finance Officer	Ching-Yao Yu	(240) 668-4080		Bob Bellison
Service Officer	Jim Serritella	(301) 253-3971		Bill Raab (PC)
				Sam Baughman (PC)

Auxiliary, Unit 171 Officers

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

SAL Squadron, 171 Officers

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

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