



THE DAMASCUS VETERAN

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

November – December 2017

THE COMMANDER'S CORNER

Fellow Comrades:

Bingo season started on Sept 5th and was a great success. It's always great to see many new faces as well as our players that have been with us for many years. Please spread the word on Facebook, the Web site, Newsletter, and other media. We welcome everyone and would like to keep seeing new players. We accept credit cards and look forward to seeing you on Thursdays



The Baker Middle School annual 9/11 Flag Raising Ceremony was held on Sept 18th. It was a very moving ceremony that continues to keep this event fresh in our minds and hearts so that we can continue to honor those whose lives were lost or forever changed

I am so pleased to announce that Home Depot has awarded Post 171 a grant for repairs at the Post Home. We would like to have some Legionnaires volunteer to come out on November 7th starting at 0900 to begin the repair work. Some of the repairs will be painting, mulching, Naval gun rust removal and painting and some pressure washing outside the post. Please contact me to volunteer.

The General membership voted for new window coverings that are being installed very soon. Thank you to Trish Busche and Marianne DiSomma from Unit 171 for all your efforts.

November 10, 2017 THE MARINE CORPS 242nd BIRTHDAY OOH RAH!

Please join us for our Annual Veterans Day Service on Saturday November 11th, at the Post Home. The service opens at 1030 with a concert by the Browningsville Cornet band followed at 1100 by ceremonies honoring all veterans who have served America in uniform. I am excited to welcome our guest speaker Dr. Billy Walker BGEN USAF (ret). Gen. Walker serves as the Director of Athletics and Recreation at American University. The Auxiliary will be serving a light lunch at the end of the service.

The Post 171 Annual Oyster Roast will be held on November 18th. Please contact our Post 171 Adjutant Kevin Mook and Unit President Marianne DiSomma for tickets.

As always thank you for your supporting The Legion Family and I look forward to seeing you at upcoming events.

Semper Fidelis,
Will Cole, Commander

In Memoriam

Loren L. Rademacher, 94, passed away on August 20, 2017 and served in the Navy in WWII. He is survived by Frances (Bixler) Rademacher his loving wife of 68 years. He is survived by his children Karen, Sandra, Thomas; a sister Margaret as well as six grandchildren and eight great grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his brothers Elvin, Leonard, Harry, and Harold. Loren was a member of the American Legion for 41 years.

John E. "Jack" Burdette, 85, passed away on October 17, 2017 and served in the Air Force in WWII. He is survived by Barbara Ann Burdette his loving wife of 66 years. He is also survived by his children Dianne, Jackie, Dale and Timmy as well as his son-in-law Bert. He was also the devoted grandfather of Cory, April, Steven, Karrie, Sandy, Lindsay, Robby, Nicole and Michelle. He was preceded in death by his daughter Brenda, son-in-law Steve, grandson T.J. and sister Margaret. Jack also had two great-grandchildren, Brady and Nathan. Jack was a member of the American Legion for 15 years.

Annual Membership Recognition Dinner - January 27, 2018

Mark your calendars for Saturday, January 27, 2018 for the annual Membership Recognition Dinner to be held at the Post home! This is a great event, and everyone is encouraged to attend. New members should especially plan to attend as it's free for you! Social hour with an open bar starts at 5 PM., dinner at 6 PM., and the program starts at 7 PM.

The Membership Recognition Dinner is for you, the members! There will be an update on our programs; recognizing deserving member service and previewing what's coming this spring. Our Post is an outstanding American Legion Post and we want all members to play an active part in supporting the varied programs benefitting veterans, our community and the country. This is a wonderful time to catch up with friends and welcome our new members. It is also a wonderful opportunity to recognize superior service by deserving Legionnaires and get energized for future Post service to veterans and our community.

Please send in the below reservation form to the Post with your check by January 14th. The cost is \$15 each per member and spouse (or first guest), and \$20 for each additional guest. Clip out and send the below form to the Post as soon as possible but no later than January 21, 2018.

2018 Membership Dinner Party Reservation Form / Saturday January 27th

Member name _____ @\$15

Spouse or 1st Guest _____ @\$15

Number of additional guests _____ @\$20 each

Total number attending _____

Table Request _____

Total Amount enclosed \$ _____

Post 171 Veterans Day events

The public is welcome and encouraged to join members of the Damascus American Legion family –Post, Auxiliary Unit and Sons Detachment – for the annual Veterans Day Service on Saturday, November 11th, at the Post Home, 10201 Lewis Drive in Damascus. The service opens at 10:30 AM with a concert by the Browningsville Cornet Band followed at 11:00 AM by ceremonies honoring all veterans who have served America in uniform. The guest speaker will be Dr. Billy Walker, a retired United States Air Force Brigadier General now serving as the Director of Athletics and Recreation at American University. The Post's Auxiliary Unit will serve a light lunch at the end of the service. Please join us!

Flag raising ceremonies around town

Thursday, November 9

Windsor Knolls Middle School – Reception 1:15/Program 2:00

Friday, November 10

Rocky Hill Middle School – Reception 8:00/Program 9:00

Wilson Wims Elementary School – 9:45

William B. Gibbs Elementary School – 10:30

Post 171 Veterans Day Program – Saturday, November 11, 10:30

Monday, November 13

Lewis P. Rockwell Elementary School – Reception 8:00/Program 9:00

Clearspring Elementary School – 9:30

Damascus Elementary School – 10:00

Post Oratorical Contest

If it's fall that means, it's time for the annual Oratorical Contest!

Post 171 Chairman Mike Conrad has received confirmation from Damascus, Clarksburg, Watkins Mill and Sherwood High Schools that they will again be participating in the Post 171 contest. Mike has also met with each school and provided the teachers with contest materials as well as posters to advertise the contest with the students.

The Post has also received confirmation that the four professors from Montgomery College who have annually acted as our contest judges are available again this year!

Registration for the Post 171 contest needs to be completed by Monday, January 8th, 2018

The Post contest will be held at Post 171 at 10 AM on Saturday, January 20th, 2018.

At the end of the contest the post will award \$500 for the winner, \$250 for second-place and \$150 for a third-place finish.

Anybody who may have questions can contact Post 171 Oratorical Contest Chairman Mike Conrad at 301-461-3154 or email at mikester66@yahoo.com

DAMASCUS AMERICAN LEGION POST 171 OYSTER ROAST

The Oyster Roast is scheduled for **Saturday, November 18, 2017**. We serve raw, fried and steamed oysters, 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. Music is being provided by **The Colliders** from 7:30 p.m. to 11:30 p.m.

Price for this fun evening is **\$30 per person in advance and \$35 at the door.**

OYSTER ROAST
NOVEMBER 18, 2017
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,

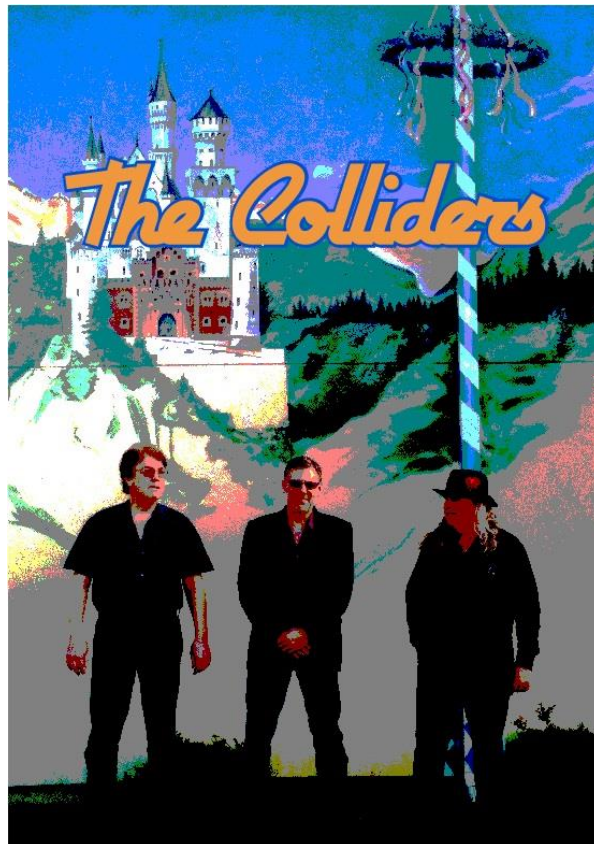
Tel. # for Kevin: (301) 204-9230

Email: Adjutant@legionpost171.org

For Tickets: <https://legionoysterroast2017.eventbrite.com>

Kevin Mook (301) 204-9230 or Marianne DiSomma (301) 482-2264 / Marianne62@msn.com

You can also leave a message on the phone at the Post (301) 253-0769





THE POST 171 PATRIOTS BASEBALL PROGRAM UPDATE

If the mornings are cool and crisp, the sky is a deep azure blue, and the leaves are brushed with golden hues, then we must be in autumn. And if it is autumn, then it is time for Major League Baseball’s Fall Classic...and the annual Post 171 Baseball Banquet.

In keeping with past practice, the banquet represents the program’s end-of-year capstone event as we pause to recognize and to thank those who were instrumental to the success of the program: boosters, coaches, players, volunteer, and families. This year, we also took a moment to honor two Patriot coaches who are departing us after the banquet, Senior Legion Coaches Bob O’Conor and Eric Berringer.

Coach O’Conor, who was our featured speaker, recounted his experiences with our program and what it has meant to him through the years. Bob has been involved in Legion baseball for more than eight years, and more recently, was the head coach for our Junior (2015) and Senior Legion (2016-2017) teams. His 2016 Senior Legion team won the MoCo regular season title. Coach Berringer, a former Post 171 player who played for Coach O’Conor, served as the associate head coach for the Senior Legion for the last two years. Both men will be greatly missed for their leadership and their mentorship of our young men; as they leave us, we wish them well in their future endeavors.

The banquet also was an opportunity to recognize our players who distinguished themselves on-and-off the field. This year’s awardees included the following:

Legion Team	Award	Player	School
Junior	Coaches Award	Hunter Powell	Clarksburg HS
Junior	Frank Wodoslasky MVP Award	Byron Clack	Damascus HS (formerly)
Senior	Unit 171 Mark Smith Fair Play Awards	Jalen Toombs Matt Martin	Seneca Valley HS Damascus HS
Senior	Charlie Senseney Memorial Offensive Award	Bradley Jamison	Damascus HS
Senior	Post 171 Defensive Player Award	Marcus Toombs	Seneca Valley HS
Senior	Ken Diggs Memorial Post 171 Dedication Award	Jason Moyer	Damascus HS/Alderson Broaddus Univ
Senior	Ray Luhn Memorial Pitching Award	Jason Moyer	Damascus HS/Alderson Broaddus Univ
Senior	Bill Rice Memorial Coaches Award	Brendon Moses	Seneca Valley HS
Senior	Gerald Duvall Memorial MVP Award	Tyler Retherford	Damascus HS

Congratulations to these young men and their families on their achievements.

Finally, we welcomed Coach Tom Cassera back to the Post 171 baseball family as head coach for the Senior Legion team. Coach Cassera brings a wealth of Legion and collegiate baseball experience, and he has a long history with Post 171. We are excited to have some of his caliber involved with our program.

Finally, a special thanks to the baseball committee members who supported this event and all the special program events during the season. They often labored behind the scenes without fanfare and the spotlight but without them our program would have been diminished. Thanks, fellows.

Of course, it is not too early to start thinking about renewing your booster membership or showing your support by becoming a booster for the 2018 baseball campaign. It will be Spring before you know it.

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 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

2018 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.



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

November - December 2017

Dear Unit Members:

September and October were busy months for us to show our patriotism through the 9/11 Memorial Service at the Post as well as attending the flag raising ceremony at John T. Baker Middle School. At the October pot luck dinner, we dedicated a plaque in memory of our past president, Cindy Ray. The words on the plaque read:

“In the spirit of service, not self, Cynthia Ray served this Post for 35 years as an Auxiliary Member, Legion Baseball Team Mom, Friend and Sister. She was an Honorary Life Member and served as President of the Auxiliary for over 15 years. This plaque is dedicated to her memory and the many hours she spent enhancing the lives of our veterans.”



It was a wonderful evening to share with Cindy’s family and share memories of our friend.

We have many events coming up in the next couple of months that you can be a part of:

November

2 – Thursday, Bingo – Snack Bar

11 – Saturday, Veteran’s Day, Auxiliary to host luncheon

12 – Sunday, 1:00 PM, Pocket Flag Folding Event

13 – Monday, 7:30 Unit Meeting

16 – Thursday, Bingo – Snack Bar

18 – Saturday, Oyster Roast

23 – Thursday, Thanksgiving

December

7 – Thursday, Bingo – Snack Bar

9 – Saturday, Post Pancake Breakfast

11 – Monday, 6:00 PM Pot Luck Dinner (Holiday themed)/7:30 Unit Meeting

21 – Thursday, Bingo – Snack Bar

We can always use extra hands at the Veteran's Day Celebration so please contact me if you can help. We are having another Pocket Flag Folding event on Sunday 11/12. This is a great way to show your support of our active military and to meet others who share the same interest.

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

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

American Legion Scholarships

2018

The Damascus American Legion Post 171 will be awarding five scholarships in the amounts of \$1,500 each for the scholastic year of 2018-2019. Applicants will be judged on scholastic achievement, leadership, character, work experience, and school and community activities. Complete details are listed on the scholarship application, which may be picked up at the career centers in Damascus High School, Clarksburg High School, Seneca Valley High School, Sherwood High School, Watkins Mill High School, Linganore High School, Oakdale High School or the American Legion Post Home at 10201 Lewis Dr. Damascus MD, tel. (301) 253-0769). Applications must be postmarked no later than April 1, 2018. For questions please contact Kevin Mook at Scholarship@legionpost171.org.



Sons of the American Legion Squadron, 171

A Newsletter for Members & Friends of Damascus Squadron 171

November - December 2017

Greetings from SAL 171,

I would like to start off by wishing everyone a safe a joyous holiday season ahead. The SAL is getting ready to get our year truly started with a spaghetti dinner on Friday November 3, 2017 with social hour at 6pm followed by dinner at 7pm. \$8 a person, come out and have a great time with our legion family.

In December we will be on display big time within the Southern Maryland District as we host the district meeting on Sunday December 3, 2017. We will have to provide a lunch for the district officers and are also looking for all members to attend to promote the strength of our squadron. The time for this is at 1pm. We our currently number 1 in our district and number 3 in the state with membership and are hoping to show why we are just that! Also, if you know anyone who can become part of the legion family try to talk to them into joining our wonderful legion family.

As always, we continue to look to strengthen our support of our legion family through all events, such as bingo, the upcoming oyster roast and we recently voted to donate to help the unit with the new curtains project to help make our legion family home look as outstanding as it truly is! If you can help with any of these please contact me at johnboy42081@yahoo.com

Please continue to keep all veterans, past and present as well as their families in thoughts in prayers always.

May God always bless the U.S.A.

Yours,

John Wayne Duvall SAL 171 Commander



COMING EVENTS
Post, Unit & Squadron 171 Calendar

November 2017

<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Time</u>
3rd	Spaghetti Dinner (Coordinated by the SAL)	7:00 PM
5th	Daylight Savings Time Ends (back 1 hr)	2:00 AM
6th	Executive Committee Meeting	7:00 PM
9th	Post Bingo	7:00 PM
10th	Marine Corps Birthday – OORAH!	
11th	Veterans Day Program @ Post 171	10:30 AM
13th	SAL Member Meeting	7:00 PM
13th	Post & Unit Member Meetings	7:30 PM
16th	Post Bingo	7:00 PM
18th	Oyster Roast	6:00 PM
23rd	Thanksgiving – No Bingo	
30th	Post Bingo	7:00 PM

December 2017

<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Time</u>
3rd	Post Bingo	7:00 PM
4th	Executive Committee Meeting	7:00 PM
7th	Post Bingo	7:00 PM
9th	Pancake Breakfast	7:30 AM
11th	Pot Luck Dinner	6:00 PM
11th	SAL Member Meeting	7:00 PM
11th	Post & Unit Member Meetings	7:30 PM
14th	Post Bingo	7:00 PM
16th	Blood Drive	8:00 AM
21st	Post Bingo	7:00 PM
28th	Post Bingo	7:00 PM

Looking Ahead

Jan 2nd	Executive Committee Meeting	7:00 PM
Jan 8th	SAL Member Meeting	7:00 PM
Jan 8th	Post & Unit Member Meetings	7:30 PM
Jan 20th	Post 171 Oratorical Contest	10:00 AM
Jan 27th	Post 171 Membership Dinner	7:00 PM

P.O. Box 171
 Damascus, MD 20872



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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	Will Cole	(240) 643-7022	Membership	Sam Baughman (PC) (301) 401-6479
1st Vice Commander	Tony DeShiro (PC)	(843) 855-9353	Historian	Vacant
2nd Vice Commander	Vacant		Chaplain	Shawn Gill (661) 312-1113
Judge Advocate	Fred Mitchell	(301) 916-8395	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