



# THE DAMASCUS VETERAN

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

**January – February 2018**

## THE COMMANDER’S CORNER

**Fellow Comrades:**

Welcome to 2018 Legionnaires! Merry Christmas and Happy New Year! Let’s tell you what we have been up to. On November 7th in partnership with Home Depot we completed some repairs around the Post in the cold, pouring rain. Special thanks to William Raab and Tony DeShiro for all the help. A big thanks to our Home Depot team for helping us out with the grant.



Our annual flag raising ceremonies started on Thursday, November 9th at Windsor Knolls. Following Windsor Knolls was Friday November 10th Rocky Hill Middle School, Wilson Whims and William Gibbs. Our Veterans Program at the Post Home on November 11th was a great success and I am very proud of our Post 171 participation. A special thanks to Past Post Commander George Bolling, Unit President Marianne DiSomma and Adjutant Kevin Mook for all the help in organizing our event.

The Oyster Roast on November 18th was also great success! We had a great turn out with plenty of food, beverages, and great music. The Shrimp Feast is April 21st. More details to follow.

I encourage you to come and support our Oratorical contestants at 10 AM on Saturday January 20th.

Our Membership Dinner will be on January 27th. James Marchinke-Department Commander, and other Department officials will be in attendance, and our own Montgomery County Commander Kevin Mook. At the dinner we will be presenting awards for Distinguished Post Member, Legionnaire of the

Year, Honorary Life Member as well as Auxiliary and Squadron Members of the Year. We will also recognize all new members within the last year, and our long-time members (50+; 60+ years, etc.).

Semper Fidelis,  
God Bless our Military and God Bless America!  
Will Cole, Commander Post 171

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### **In Memoriam**

**Oscar “Ray” Mullican**, 89, passed away on October 29, 2017 and served in the Korean War. He is survived by Olive (Rice) Mullican his loving wife of 63 years. He is survived by his sons, Danny, David and Dennis and four grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his brother Robert. Ray was a member of the American Legion for 38 years.

**Sherry “Bill” Ferrell**, 93, passed away on November 23, 2017 and served in WWII and the Korean War. He is survived by Joyce “Joy” his loving wife. He is survived by his daughter Yolanda and son Mike, daughter-in-law Dottie Ferrell, a step-daughter, two step-sons, numerous grandchildren and great grandchildren. He is preceded in death by first wife Bernice and three sons, Tommy, Bobby and Terry. Bill was a member of the American Legion for 39 years.

**Robert “Bobby” Ray Moxley**, 88, passed away on November 30, 2017 and served in the Korean War. He was married to Agnes his loving wife of 57 years until her passing in 2008. He is survived by his children, Patrick and Daniel. He is also survived by sisters Carole, Diane, Sharon and brother Timmy as well as five grandchildren, Richard, Angie, Brent, Shaun and Katie, nine great grandchildren and one great-great grandchild. He is preceded in death by his daughter Lynn, sister Betty and brother Bunny. Bobby was a member of the American Legion for 63 years.

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### **Annual Membership Dinner - January 27, 2018**

Don’t forget the Annual Membership Dinner on Saturday, January 27, 2018 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. 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, or give it to Sam Baughman, to the Post with your check as soon as possible, **but no later than January 21st.**

New 2018 members, including Unit and SAL, can RSVP with Sam at [racecarman0711@comcast.net](mailto:racecarman0711@comcast.net)

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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 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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## THE POST 171 PATRIOTS BASEBALL PROGRAM UPDATE

Happy Holidays from Patriots Baseball. During this holiday season, we hope that you have an opportunity to relax and to enjoy the warmth of family and friends. As we look forward to baseball in the New Year, we are excited about our 2018 prospects and ultimately returning to the state tournament under Coach Tom Cassera.

Speaking of the New Year, if you happen to be one of those ambitious folks who annually make New Years' resolutions, why not make your first resolution to support the young men who represent our Post on the baseball diamond? You will begin the year with a good deed, and you can quickly check it off your list of resolutions. Your financial support allows us to provide a quality summer experience for our players at affordable prices.

So, become a booster and make supporting our baseball program one of your first resolutions. And from all of us involved in the baseball program, May 2018 bring you peace, prosperity, and happiness.

**2018 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, Kevin Mook, Skip Duvall, Bill Green, Bill Hauptman, and Ron Scott.

### 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](mailto:rkmgm@verizon.net) or Alan Rannals at [rannals@gmail.com](mailto:rannals@gmail.com).



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

**January - February 2018**

**Greetings American Legion Family:**

November was a very busy month with activities supporting the Veteran's Day Service at the Post as well as a Pocket Flag folding event to support a deployment in January. The Pocket Flag Project is one of the great ways we support our active military by providing a small symbol of our appreciation in the form of a small flag that they can carry with them as they travel from home to protect our country. We plan to have another flag folding event in the spring so stay tuned for more information. A big thanks to Donna Sefcik and Diane Capel for their time and energy in making this a successful project. Here are a few pictures from the flag folding event:



And, now for upcoming events:

**January**

- 4 – Thursday, Bingo – Snack Bar
- 8 – Monday, 7:30 Unit Meeting
- 13 – Saturday, Post Pancake Breakfast
- 18 – Thursday, Bingo – Snack Bar
- 20 – Saturday, 10:00 AM – Oratorical Contest
- 27 – Saturday, Membership Recognition Dinner

**February**

- 1 – Thursday, Bingo – Snack Bar
- 10 – Saturday, Post Pancake Breakfast
- 12 – Monday, 7:30 Unit Meeting
- 15 – Thursday, Bingo – Snack Bar

Also, mark your calendars for Saturday, April 7th for our Basket, Bags and Bucks Bingo fundraiser!

I know the colder weather tends to keep us bundled up inside our warm homes, but I hope you'll venture out to at least one of our events or meetings. As always, if you have any ideas or thoughts about how we can better serve our veterans and troops, please let me know!

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

Marianne DiSomma  
President, Unit 171  
[Marianne62@msn.com](mailto:Marianne62@msn.com)  
301-606-4645

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## **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](mailto:Scholarship@legionpost171.org).

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### **Post Oratorical Contest**

Final arrangements are being made for the Post 171 Oratorical Contest.

The contest is open to students from Damascus, Clarksburg, Watkins Mill and Sherwood High Schools as well as students in qualified home-school programs.

Final student registration is on Monday, January 8th, 2018 and the contest itself will be held on Saturday, January 20th at 10 AM.

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!

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.

All Legion staff members, as well as family and friends of the students are welcome to attend the contest. Anybody who may have questions can contact Post 171 Oratorical Contest Chairman Mike Conrad at 301-461-3154 or email at [mikester66@yahoo.com](mailto:mikester66@yahoo.com)

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

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

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### **January - February 2018**

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Greetings from the SAL,

Hope everyone had a wonderful holiday and wishing each one of you a very happy, healthy, and safe new year full of lots of great things. The SAL will be looking forward to many new and exciting things on the horizon as well as doing some returning favorite activities. Things will be kicked off strong at the membership dinner and we will only try to keep things rolling from there.

**Membership:** We are proud to say we have reached new heights in membership and are being recognized throughout the entire Southern Maryland District. However, we are not done but are just beginning. We are always looking for new members and are also looking and hoping to see more members become more active. The Legion family is always looking for help with all programs, such as bingo, dinners, and any other things they are having. Bingo help can come on a Wednesday evening at 5:30 p.m. for setup or Thursday evenings with bingo itself.

We are also looking to do more activities ourselves, the popular monthly dinners will return beginning February 11, 2018 (Sunday) with a spaghetti dinner with social hour at 2pm and dinner at 3pm. This should hopefully draw more of our legion family to this event, as our main focus is on having fun and bringing our legion family even closer together. We are planning on returning the popular chili cook-off dinner in March, specific date to follow. We are also looking into planning a possible "car-show" sometime in June. More details will be following on this as we figure things out. Future discussions on this will take place at our monthly meetings which are on the 2nd Monday of every month at 7pm and generally last around a half hour and we encourage all members to attend these meetings, they are generally fun and informative.

Wishing everyone a joyous and wonderful new year!

Yours,  
John Wayne Duvall SAL 171 Commander

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

**January 2018**

<b><u>Date</u></b>	<b><u>Event</u></b>	<b><u>Time</u></b>
2nd	Post Executive Committee Meeting	7:00 PM
4th	Post Bingo	7:00 PM
8th	SAL Member Meeting	7:00 PM
8th	Post & Unit Member Meetings	7:30 PM
11th	Post Bingo	7:00 PM
13th	Pancake Breakfast	7:30 AM
13th	MoCo Meeting @ Silver Springs Post 41	9:00 AM
18th	Post Bingo	7:00 PM
20th	Post Oratorical Contest	10:00 AM
21st	SMD Meeting @ Lusby Post 274	1:00 PM
25th	Post Bingo	7:00 PM
27th	Post Membership Dinner	5:00 PM
28th	Post Bingo	7:00 PM

**February 2018**

<b><u>Date</u></b>	<b><u>Event</u></b>	<b><u>Time</u></b>
3rd	MoCo Oratorical Contest	10:00 AM
5th	Post Executive Committee Meeting	7:00 PM
8th	Post Bingo	7:00 PM
10th	Pancake Breakfast	7:30 AM
11th	Spaghetti Dinner (Sponsored by the SAL)	2:00 PM
12th	SAL Member Meeting	7:00 PM
12th	Post & Unit Member Meetings	7:30 PM
14th	Valentine's Day	
15th	Post Bingo	7:00 PM
17th	SMD Oratorical @ Clinton Post 259	10:00 AM
18th	DEC Meeting @ Laurel Post 60	1:00 PM
19th	Presidents Day	
22nd	Post Bingo	7:00 PM
25th	Post Bingo	7:00 PM

**Looking Ahead**

5th March	Post Executive Committee Meeting	7:00 PM
12th March	Pot Luck Dinner	6:00 PM
12th March	SAL Member Meeting	7:00 PM
12th March	Post & Unit Member Meetings	7:30 PM
17th March	National Commanders Banquet	5:00 PM

Damascus American Legion, Post 171  
P.O. Box 171  
Damascus, MD 20872

JAN-FEB 2018



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	Will Cole	(240) 643-7022	Membership	Sam Baughman (PC)	(301) 401-6479
1 <sup>st</sup> Vice Commander	Tony DeShiro (PC)	(843) 855-9353	Historian	Vacant	
2 <sup>nd</sup> 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	
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	Paula Gill	
Finance Officer	Adam Young				

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