



THE DAMASCUS VETERAN

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

March – April 2018

THE COMMANDER'S CORNER

Fellow Comrades:

The **Post 171 Oratorical contest** was held on January 20th. The winner was Clarksburg Junior Arapan Barua. Arapan moved onto represent and win at Montgomery County and the Southern Maryland District and will now be going to the State Oratorical on Sunday March 4th. Mike Conrad was very appreciative of the help from all the volunteers and looks forward to next year. Great job Mike!

The **Post 171 Membership Dinner** was held on January 27nd, and was a great success. Congratulations to our newest 2018 Legion awardees. Great Job Sam Baughman!



March 10th **Pancake Breakfast**

March 11th **Chili Cook-off**

March 12th The Department Commander James Marchinke will attend our **Pot Luck Dinner and Unit Dessert Auction**. Dept. Commander will also sit in on our **Post meeting**.

March 16th **Denim and Diamonds Dance Party** from 7pm to 11pm. All proceeds and ticket sales will be donated. I teamed up with Unit President Marianne for two reasons; a fun night of dancing and to raise money for American Legion Baseball and Veterans Enhancement Project. I appreciate any support from my fellow legionnaires in this fundraiser. See you there!!!!

April 14th **Shrimp Feast**

Semper Fidelis,

Will Cole
Commander Post 171

In Memoriam

Mildred C. Winkler, 99, passed away on February 12, 2018 and served in the Army Nurse Corps during WWII. He was married to Thomas Sr her loving husband of 70 years until his passing in 2014. She is survived by her children, Thomas Jr., and Richard. She is also survived by Granddaughter Kelli and great grandson Paul. She is preceded in death by her parents, husband Thomas Sr, three brothers and two sisters. Mildred was a member of the American Legion for two years.

Spring Shrimp Feast - April 21, 2018

The Shrimp Feast is scheduled for **Saturday, April 21, 2018**. We serve fried and steamed shrimp, fried chicken, coleslaw, potato salad, baked beans, a cheese platter, veggie platter, and rolls and butter. This is one of the 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 to be provided by **The Colliders** from 7:30 pm to 11 pm.

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

SHRIMP FEAST
APRIL 21, 2018
DINNER @ 6 PM

_____ Advance Tickets @ \$30/ea.
_____ Tickets at the door @ \$35/ea.

Contact Kevin Mook or any Post 171 member for tickets

Tel. # for Kevin: (240) 668-4033
Email: Adjutant@legionpost171.org

For Tickets:

<https://springshrimpfeast.eventbrite.com>

Kevin Mook (240) 668-4033 or Adjutant@legionpost171.org
Marianne DiSomma (301) 606-4645 or Marianne62@msn.com
You can also leave a message at the Post (301) 253-0769

Damascus Legion Family Honors Five Members

The Damascus American Legion Family's annual Membership Dinner took place on January 27th. At the event, five members received very special recognition for their devoted service. Pictured left-to-right are Keith Midberry, the newest Post 171 Distinguished Member; Bill Raab, 2017 Legionnaire of the Year; Montgomery County Commander and Post Adjutant Kevin Mook, Honorary Life Member; Auxiliary Unit Secretary Amanda Baughman, 2017 Unit Member of the Year; and Sons of the American Legion Squadron First Vice Commander Todd Stockslager, 2017 Squadron Member of the Year. Receiving the Honorary Life Member award is the highest honor bestowed on a Legionnaire. Being selected as a Distinguished Member is the crowning achievement of years of outstanding service to Post 171.





THE POST 171 PATRIOTS BASEBALL PROGRAM UPDATE

In MLB, big league players have reported to their team's Spring training, and likewise in Damascus, our Legion players, despite the inclement weather, have been doing their own version of Spring training. Under the tutelage of Senior Legion Head Coach Tom Cassera and his staff (Kevin Flynn, Mike Coleman, Kevin Hernandez, and Chris Blackwood), new and returning Legion players have been taking advantage of indoor hitting clinics to prepare for the Summer 2018 schedule. In addition, the program staff have been busy with recruiting, attending state and local district meetings, finalizing season schedules, registering for tournaments, and uniform/equipment purchases. The fruits of these labors will be evident very soon as we will all be able to enjoy the return of Post 171 Legion Patriots baseball!

We have several activities forthcoming for your awareness. On March 16th, the Commanders for the Legion and Auxiliary are hosting a Denim and Diamonds dance fundraiser for members and their guests. A portion of the proceeds from the fundraiser will benefit the baseball program. Please plan to attend and remember to bring your dancing shoes.

Legion try-outs for interested players in Junior and Senior Legion baseball will begin on April 15th at Damascus High School and will continue on Sundays through April 29th. Registration can be completed online at our Post 171 Baseball website or onsite. Please share the word with everyone.

Our annual baseball kick-off event is the Bob Bellison Red, White, and Blue baseball intersquad game between our Junior and Senior Legion teams, and it will be held on Armed Forces Day, May 19th at the Damascus High School field. We will have the Legion Color Guard to present the colors, and after the scrimmage, a family-style picnic for everyone to enjoy. Bob has been given a warning order to be prepared to throw out the first pitch! Again, it should be a grand event so please mark your calendars. The inclement weather date is June 9th.

Once again, we are so grateful for your support. If you are a booster and have not renewed your membership, there is no better time than the present to do so. If you are interested in becoming a booster, please take a moment and join us. Your support is essential.

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, Evelyn Hernandez, 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

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.

This is flag retirement box that is now located in a place of distinction below the Life Membership board above the stairs. It was made by Tyler Funk a Boy Scout of Troop 489 out of Germantown.

Tyler attends North-West High School, plans to attend Montgomery College in the fall and is interested in playing Legion baseball with us.

He made three of these beautiful boxes and gave one to for Post 86 in Rockville and Post 41 in Silver Spring. Tyler memorialized his Grandmother Lee and best friend Artem on the top of each box.

Tyler created these as his Eagle project and Adjutant Kevin Mook was his sponsor.





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

March - April 2018

Greetings American Legion Family:

I am proud to announce that Amanda Baughman was chosen as this year's Unit Member of the Year!

Amanda has been an auxiliary member since 2012 and has held various roles not only within the auxiliary but throughout the Post organization as well. She serves as the Unit Secretary, member of the Executive Committee, and as the Membership Chair. Through her efforts, our membership renewal is at 83%... more than any other chairperson has achieved within the past 10 years! She has the amazing ability to provide special attention to detail and handwrote over 100 thank you cards to members when delivering their membership cards.

She also took on the responsibility of arranging for and serving the food for our largest fundraiser last spring and managed it all professionally and without a hitch. Not a soul went hungry! She also manages the rentals for the Post facility and not only processes the contracts and interacts with potential clients, but she chaperones events as well which can require some very late nights.

What is also so special about this Unit member is that she anticipates a need and performs a task without being asked. She is one of the first to volunteer when I ask for help, and she offers advice and ideas that are thoughtful and with the best interest of the Unit and Post in mind.

She is the proud mother of two children, Tori, who is a college freshman and Tyler who is a 5th grader at Green Valley Elementary School. On top of being a proud, dedicated mom and a fantastic volunteer here at the Post, she is a full-time Penn State student earning a Bachelor of Science degree in Criminal Justice. She has a third child of sorts, who she's engaged to and we anxiously await news of a wedding date. And after managing all this, she is a loving, devoted daughter to Past Commander, Sam Baughman.

Our Unit is proud to award unit member of the year to our friend, sister, and patriot, Amanda Baughman. If you see Amanda, please take a moment to thank her for her service to the Unit and Post.



We have much to look forward in the coming months so please take a look at the calendar of events below and consider joining us for one or more. The Commander and I have put together an amazing social opportunity we're calling 'Denim and Diamonds Dance Party'. Please see the attached flyer for more information – this promises to be a very fun evening to raise money for the Post Baseball Program and the Veteran Enhancement Project (VEP).

We value you as a member and appreciate your attendance at our events in support of our Unit! As always, if you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at marianne62@msn.com or 301-606-4645.

For God and Country,
Marianne DiSomma
ALA Unit 171 President

March

1st – Thursday, Bingo – Snack Bar
10th – Saturday, Post Pancake Breakfast
12th – Monday, 6:00 PM Pot Luck Dinner **and Dessert Auction**/7:30 Unit Meeting
16th – **Commander and Unit President's Denim and Diamond Dance Party, 7:00 PM - 11:00 PM**
30th – Friday – Scholarship applications are due to Cathy Magas

April

5th – Thursday, Bingo – Snack Bar
7th – **Saturday, Basket Bingo Fundraiser**
9th – Monday, 7:30 Unit Meeting
14th – Saturday, Post Pancake Breakfast
15th – Sunday 2:00 PM, Americanism Essay Reading at the Post
21st – Saturday, Shrimp Feast

Americanism Essay Contest

It's that time again. We have collected all the essays and the judges will have the winners finalized this week. We will be having the winners read their essays at the post on April 15th, 2018 at 1pm. Come out and support these wonderful students who have worked so hard.

God Bless America,

Kelli Cole
Americanism Chairman
Unit Vice President

2018 American Legion Scholarships

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.

2018 Auxiliary Scholarships

The American Legion Auxiliary (Unit 171) is offering two scholarships-\$1,000 each- to any female meeting the requirements which are listed on the Legion website. The applications are also located on the website.

One is a general scholarship and the other is for any female planning on going into the medical field. Applications are due to Cathy Magas no later than April 2, 2018 and can be sent to the Post address—PO BOX 171 Damascus MD 20872.

Please pass this wonderful opportunity along.

For questions please contact Cathy Magas at cathy@magascpa.com.

Post Membership update

Membership is getting closer to 90%, so if you don't have a 2018 Membership Card, please think about renewing. You can renew on-line at: myLegion.org or mail dues to: Damascus American Legion, P.O. Box 171, Damascus, MD 20872.

If you have questions concerning membership, you can call or text Sam: (301) 401-6479 or email: racecarman0711@comcast.net. If you already have a 2018 card and receive a Past Due Notice from National, disregard it.

Sam Baughman,
Post 171 Membership Chairman

2018 Oratorical Contest

On Saturday, January 20th, Damascus American Legion Post 171 held its annual Oratorical Contest and the winner was Clarksburg High School junior Arpan Barua with a speech focused on inequality and racial prejudices as compared to promises and ideals in the Constitution. For his win, Arpan received a scholarship award of \$500. This was Arpan's second consecutive win at the Post level.

Finishing in second place was Damascus High School sophomore Noah Etienne who won \$250. Finishing in 3rd place was Damascus High School freshman Teryn Mitchell who won \$150. Also competing were Damascus High School freshman Shyler Clark and Damascus High School sophomore Taylor Gerrety.

The judges were Montgomery College professors Sharon Anthony, Jennifer Haydel and Joan Naake.

Thanks to the judges as well as all the members of the Post 171 family that helped in putting on the contest. It absolutely could not have happened without your help! Thanks again!

<Editor update> Since submission of this article our Post and Montgomery County contest winner also won the Southern Maryland District contest. He will be competing again on March 4th at Towson University.





Sons of the American Legion Squadron, 171

A Newsletter for Members & Friends of Damascus Squadron 171

March - April 2018

Greetings from the S.A.L. Squadron,

It has been a busy couple of months in the new year and hope everyone is doing well and surviving the ups and downs of the MD weather. The squadron is getting things going and ready for a busy rest of the year.

On January 27th we celebrated our annual membership dinner with our legion family. This was an important event for us as we were able to announce that we currently sit 3rd in the state and 1st in the district at 110%. This is a tribute to all of us within the squadron. Great job on getting in your membership renewals. If you know of anyone eligible to join, please sign them up. We can only continue to strive up from here. We were also pleased to have presented our first ever Squadron member of the year award and it went to our first Vice Commander Todd Stockslager. If you see Todd congratulate him on a job well done, as he has attended almost every meeting, and hasn't missed a fundraising event as well as his hard work around the post when needed to fix something.

On Sunday February 11th we started off our monthly dinners again with a spaghetti dinner. We were blessed to have help from a couple unit members for this who were absolutely wonderful. This is what helps to make our legion family so successful. The event was well attended and all who were there had a wonderful time with our legion family. March 11th we will host our next dinner, a chili cookoff. Time will be the same 2pm for social hour and 3pm for dinner. Cost will be the same \$8 a person but anyone who will be making chili is free, and if you would like to enter let me know asap (johnboy42081@yahoo.com). Come have a blast with us.

Finally, as we are part of our legion family I'd like to remind everyone that the rest of our family needs support in all of their upcoming events which is the denims and diamonds dance 3/16, the Basket/bags & bucks bingo 4/7 and every Thursday night for bingo.

Hope to see everyone out at the post for all these wonderful events!

Yours,
John Wayne Duvall SAL 171 Commander



COMING EVENTS
Post, Unit & Squadron 171 Calendar

March 2018

<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Time</u>
1st	Post Bingo	7:00 PM
5th	Post Executive Committee Meeting	7:00 PM
8th	Post Bingo	7:00 PM
10th	Pancake Breakfast	7:30 AM
10th	MoCo Council Meeting @ Rockville Post 86	9:00 AM
11th	Daylight Savings Time – Spring Ahead	2:00 AM
11th	Chili Cookoff – Sponsored by the SAL	2:00 PM
12th	Pot Luck Dinner	6:00 PM
12th	SAL Member Meeting	7:00 PM
12th	Post and Unit Member Meetings	7:30 PM
15th	Post Bingo	7:00 PM
16th	Denim and Diamond Dance Party	6:00 PM
22nd	Post Bingo	7:00 PM
25th	Easter Sunday	
29th	Post Bingo	7:00 PM

April 2018

<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Time</u>
2nd	Post Executive Committee Meeting	7:00 PM
5th	Post Bingo	7:00 PM
7th	Basket, Bags, and Bucks Bingo	7:00 PM
8th	SMD – Public Safety Award Meeting @ Post 136 – Greenbelt	1:00 PM
9th	SAL Member Meeting	7:00 PM
9th	Post Member Meeting	7:30 PM
12th	Post Bingo	7:00 PM
14th	Pancake Breakfast	7:30 AM
19th	Post Bingo	7:00 PM
21st	Shrimp Feast	6:00 PM
26th	Post Bingo	7:00 PM
28th	SMD – Dept Officers Banquet	7:00 PM

Looking Ahead

7th May	Post Executive Committee Meeting	7:00 PM
14th May	Post and Unit Member Meetings	7:30 PM
27th May	Post 171 Memorial Day Observation	1:30 PM



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	Dave Clemmer	(240) 447-7542	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)	(240) 668-4033	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	Casey Koontz
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, (240) 668-4033 or Newsletter@legionpost171.org