



# THE DAMASCUS VETERAN

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

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**January – February 2019**

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## THE COMMANDER'S CORNER

I would like us to reflect on the passing of our comrades Mr. Don Milano and Mr. Philip Stadler. Let us remember them in our thoughts and prayers.

I would like to wish all of you a wonderful, prosperous and healthy New Year going into 2019. The Legion turns 100 years old this year. We will keep you informed of events surrounding this centennial celebration. Looking forward Post 171 will be celebrating its 75th anniversary in 2020.

November and December were busy months for the Post. We started off with Veterans day and the associated flag raising ceremonies at local schools. There were nine flag raisings total, busy day. Many thanks to all that assisted in carrying out these events. The student bodies at these schools were very glad to have our participation and their performances were heart felt. The Veterans Day celebration took place at the Post with Army helicopter pilot Doug Womack reflecting on his service in Vietnam and beyond. The Brownsville Coronet Band provided their usual offering of fine music for the occasion. November also brought to pass our annual Oyster Feast. This gave us reason to rejoice, everyone had a great time. The band was described by a long-term attendee as the best he has ever heard at Post 171.

December was a little smoother with the usual events taking place. The resignation and departure of our past Post Commander and Adjutant Kevin Mook was observed at our quarterly Pot Luck dinner. Kevin will be sorely missed by all. (see separate article) The Southern District meeting for January will be hosted at the Post on January 13th. Other upcoming big events is the Oratorical Contest this month on January 19th and the membership dinner on January 26th. We start the year off with a bang.



Thanks, everyone for your fine support and hard work.

For God and Country,

David F. Clemmer  
Post Commander

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## Annual Membership Dinner - January 26, 2019

Don't forget the Annual Membership Dinner on Saturday, January 26, 2019 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 18th. If you have questions you can call him at 301-401-6479.

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

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2019 Membership Dinner Party Reservation Form / Friday, January 26th.

Member name \_\_\_\_\_ @\$15

Spouse or 1st Guest \_\_\_\_\_ @\$15

Number of additional guests \_\_\_\_\_ @\$20 each

Total number attending \_\_\_\_\_

Table Request \_\_\_\_\_

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### THE POST 171 PATRIOTS BASEBALL PROGRAM UPDATE

With the Post 171 American Legion Baseball season concluded, our off-season efforts to prepare for a 2019 season are underway. Our most important effort is the identification of a new head coach to take over the reins of our program. We are casting a wide net and any and all recommendations are welcome. If anyone knows of someone that would be a good candidate, please forward their information to one of the committee members or send them our way.

My personal mission for this off season is to reach out to the baseball programs that have an impact on our program. From the youth programs that feed into our program, the high school programs that we supplement, and the local colleges that are recipients of Legion players, I hope to strengthen our ties and find ways for all of our programs to complement each other to the benefit of the young men that come through our program. There is a current state level effort to begin a 15U Legion League to capture players at a younger age before they become committed to other programs in the area. We are definitely fighting an uphill battle against the plethora of baseball programs in the area, but I believe that we can provide a program that allows young baseball players to thrive in a patriotic and competitive environment.

## 2018 Damascus American Legion Post 171 Baseball Awards Banquet



Front Row (L-R): Tyler Retherford, DHS; Matthew Martin, DHS; Aidan Rannals, DHS; and Jalen Toombs, SVHS. Back Row (L-R): Ethan Wentzlaff, DHS; Jared Eng, MHS; and Joey Lotier, SVHS. Not pictured: Bradley Jamison, DHS.

On Sunday, December 16th, eight standout Post 171 Patriot baseball players received special recognition for their athletic performance during the 2018 baseball season at the Damascus American Legion Post 171 home in Damascus, MD, during the annual 2018 Awards Banquet. After a catered meal and an inspirational talk from Patrick Avon, the Post 171 Baseball Coaches, Baseball Committee, and the Post 171 Auxiliary presented awards to the following athletes:

Unit 171 Mark Smith Fair Play Award (Presented by Ms. Casey Koontz, Unit 171): Joey Lotier, Seneca Valley HS, Class 2020

Post 171 Baseball Scholarship Award (Presented by Senior Legion Coaches Kevin Hernandez & Dave Retherford): Ethan Wentzlaff, Damascus HS, Class 2018

Charlie Senseney Memorial Offensive Players Award (Presented by Mr. Bob Bellison on behalf of the Charlie Senseney Family); Jalen Toombs, Seneca Valley HS, Class 2019, & Ethan Wentzlaff, Damascus HS, Class 2018

Post 171 Defensive Player Award (Presented by Senior Legion Coaches Kevin Hernandez and Dave Retherford): Bradley Jamison, Damascus HS, Class 2018

Ken Diggs Memorial Post 171 Baseball Dedication Awards (Presented by Baseball Chairman Alan Rannals and Keith Martin): Matthew Martin, Damascus HS, Class 2018, & Tyler Retherford, Damascus HS, Class 2018

Ray Luhn Outstanding Pitcher Award (Presented by Ms. June Pearce representing the Ray Luhn family):  
Aidan Rannals, Damascus HS, Class 2020

Bill Rice Memorial Coaches Award (Presented by Senior Legion Coaches Kevin Hernandez and Dave  
Retherford): Jared Ng, Magruder HS, Class 2019

Gerald Duvall Memorial Most Valuable Plaeyer Award (Presented by the Gerald Duvall family): Matthew  
Martin, Damascus HS, Class 2018  
Congratulations to these deserving athletes and best wishes for next year!

2018 POST 171 BASEBALL COMMITTEE: Alan Rannals (Chairman), Sam Baughman, Bob Bellison, George  
Bolling, Buzz Burroughs, Frank Carpenter, Brownie Chichester, Will Cole, Skip Duvall, Bill Green, Bill  
Hauptman, Evelyn Hernandez, Keith Martin, Kevin Mook, and Ron Scott.

2018 POST 171 BASEBALL BOOSTERS: Grand Slam - George & Mary Bolling, Bill & Cindy McMinn, Bill Dunn,  
Bob & Ruby Bellison, Brownie & Ginny Chichester, Buzz Burroughs, Dee Dee Myers, Ernest Clifford, Gordon  
and Patricia Hinkle, John Walter, Ray Mullican, Roland & Judith Hockenbery; Home Run - Mark & Betty  
Jeffers, GK & PJ Johnson, George & Cathy Magas, Kevin Mook, Donald & Betty Nicholson, Patrick & Julie  
Murphy, Skip Duvall, William Hauptman, Ann B. Gray, Judy Moore, Pat Rice, Jim Serritella, Bob Mullinix &  
Mary Lou Leishear, and Tony DeShiro; and Double Hitter - Robert Gladhill, Madalean Darby, Jack & Mary  
Beth Talamo, Sam Baughman, and Harry & June Pearce

### 2019 POST 171 BASEBALL BOOSTER CLUB MEMBERSHIP FORM

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: Alan  
Rannals, PO Box 171, Damascus, MD 20872. Any comments or questions should be directed to Alan Rannals  
at rannals@gmail.com.



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

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**January - February 2019**

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**Greetings American Legion Family:**

We've had an exciting and busy couple of months! On November 11th, we provided lunch to veterans and their families in honor of Veteran's Day after the service held at the Post. There were many Unit volunteers who helped set-up, make sandwiches, make brownies, serve and clean-up and for your dedication, I'm grateful.

On November 17th, we patted oysters and served dinner in support of the Post's annual Oyster Roast. If you've never patted oysters, this isn't just about coating these slippery little molluscs with corn meal, it's about the fellowship shared with Unit and Post members as well as the laughs and the stories.

In December, we hosted the holiday pot luck dinner and held a dessert auction. The dinner was held in honor of the Mook family who is moving to Indiana in pursuit of Kevin's new career at the American Legion National Headquarters. Kevin was presented with a framed picture of Post 171 which was signed by Post and Unit well-wishers. We thank Kevin, Lyn and DJ for their service and commitment to this Post and the Unit – May you have fair winds and following seas!

The dessert auction has proved very popular and this month's auction raised \$350 for Toys for Tots. Thanks to all who baked and bought!

On December 16th, Casey Koontz presented the Fair Play Award to Joey Lotier during the Post Baseball banquet. Congratulations, Joey, and a big thanks to Casey for representing the Unit!

Here's how the next couple of months will roll out... oh and don't forget to put the Unit's Bingo event on your calendar – Saturday, March 30th – and stay tuned for more details:

**January**

3 – Thursday, Bingo – Snack Bar (Volunteer Opportunity!)

12 – Saturday, Post Pancake Breakfast

13 – Saturday, SMD Meeting for the Legionnaires – Auxiliary to provide lunch (Volunteer Opportunity!)

14 – Monday, 7:30 Unit Meeting

17 – Thursday, Bingo – Snack Bar (Volunteer Opportunity!)

19 – Saturday, 10:00 AM – Oratorical Contest

26 – Saturday, 5:00 PM Social Hour – details not yet confirmed

**February**

7 – Thursday, Bingo – Snack Bar (Volunteer Opportunity!)

9 – Saturday, Post Pancake Breakfast

11 – Monday, 7:30 Unit Meeting

21 – Thursday, Bingo – Snack Bar (Volunteer Opportunity!)

Please take note of possible volunteer opportunities above and let me know if you're interested in helping. Also, our elections for new officers will be coming up quickly in the spring so please consider stepping into a leadership position to ensure the future of this Unit.

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, 301-606-4645

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## American Legion Scholarships 2019

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The Damascus American Legion Post 171 will be awarding four scholarships in the amounts of \$2,000 each for the scholastic year of 2019-2020. 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 March 29, 2019. For questions please contact Fred Mitchell at [Scholarship@legionpost171.org](mailto:Scholarship@legionpost171.org).

The Ladies Auxiliary will once again be offering two scholarships for females that meet the criteria. One is a general scholarship and the other is a medical, for those pursuing a degree in the medical field. The amount is at least \$1,000 for each.

Please spread the word to those that would qualify and live in the Damascus, Clarksburg, Urbana, and surrounding areas. If you have any questions, please contact Cathy Magas @ 301.370.7236 or [cathy@magascpa.com](mailto:cathy@magascpa.com)

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### Post Oratorical Contest

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

The contest will be held at 10 AM on Saturday, January 19th, 2018 at Post 171. All members of the Post 171 family are invited to attend.

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

In the case of inclement weather, the contest will be held one week later on Saturday, January 26th at 10 AM.

Additionally, after having the position for four years, Chairman Conrad is resigning from the Oratorical Committee effective 1 March 2019. This will allow him to pursue a new volunteer opportunity at Gettysburg National Military Park. Mike will still be remaining a member of Post 171.

Replacing Mike as Chairman for the Oratorical Committee will be Sam Lehane. Sam will be supported on the Committee with Barb Van Den Berg and, as always, George Bolling.

Please direct any questions regarding the contest to Post 171 Oratorical Contest Chairman Mike Conrad at 301-461-3154 or email at [mikester66@yahoo.com](mailto:mikester66@yahoo.com)



## Sons of the American Legion Squadron, 171

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

### January - February 2019

#### Greetings from the SAL Squadron

I hope everyone is staying nice and warm and dry in this awful start to the winter. I would like to take this opportunity to remind everyone that membership cards are in, and our goal is to achieve 100% membership for the fourth year in a row, so please get your dues in. I would like to encourage any members with ideas for the upcoming Legion Year to bring them up at our next meeting, any input is greatly appreciated.

The SAL will be hosting a Spaghetti Dinner fundraiser on Sunday February 17th. Social hour will be from 4-5pm and dinner will be served at 5pm. The cost is \$8 per person. We are asking you to please bring in a non-perishable food item that will be donated to Damascus HELP food pantry. If you bring a canned food item the cost for the dinner will be \$6. The menu will consist of Spaghetti, Salad, Garlic Bread and dessert. Please join us in supporting our SAL.

Our next meeting will be held on Monday, January 14th at 7pm.

I would like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Looking forward to seeing everyone next year.

Todd Stockslager  
SAL 171 Commander



#### COMING EVENTS

### Post, Unit & Squadron 171 Calendar

#### January 2019

<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Time</u>
Jan 7 <sup>th</sup>	Post Executive Committee Meeting	7:00 PM
Jan 12 <sup>th</sup>	Pancake Breakfast	7:30AM-9:30AM
Jan 13 <sup>th</sup>	SMD Meeting	1:00 PM
Jan 14 <sup>th</sup>	SAL Membership Meeting	7:00 PM
	Post and Aux Membership Meeting	7:30 PM
Jan 19 <sup>th</sup>	Post Oratorical contest	10:00 AM
Jan 26 <sup>th</sup>	Membership Dinner	5:00 PM
	<b>Bingo every Thursday</b>	7:00PM

See inserts from Post units for specific events information

## Officer Changes at Post 171

We have some changes in your leadership to report. As some of you know Kevin Mook has tendered his resignation from all the various leadership positions he holds in the Post, County, District and Department. Last month Kevin attended the American Legion College in Indianapolis. During his stay there he was offered, and he has subsequently accepted, a position on the staff of the American Legion National Headquarters. Consequently, he was required to resign all Legion leadership positions he holds. Kevin's departure creates a vacancy at Post 171 for the position of Adjutant. This position is still vacant and the Executive Committee is seeking a replacement.

Our gratitude runs deep for the leadership that Kevin has provided at Post 171, starting as the 2nd Vice, then Commander and most recently as Adjutant. We all send Kevin and his family on to their new responsibilities with our very best wishes and heartfelt thanks for his service to the Post. It is Kevin's intension to remain a member of Post 171.

One other change is a result of ShaWn Gill reluctantly foregoing his continued service as the Post Chaplain. His service to all of us was from the heart and he will be missed. At his request and the Executive Committee's concurrence Paula Gill was elected to that position by membership vote on December 10th, 2018. Paula is currently serving as a member of the Executive Committee and she will continue to serve as such.

Jim Serritella has served as our Service Officer for the last 8 years in a superb and dedicated manner. He has decided to step aside for a newer member of the Post to pick up these responsibilities. Jim's presence at Executive Committee meetings will be missed. Thanks Jim for your long term of committed service. Our new Service Officer will be Mr. Steve Monteiro. He has been elected to that position and is ready to start immediately serving our membership. Thanks for standing up Steve.

One other change involves the Oratorical Committee. Mike Conrad has served as the Chairman of that committee for the last four years. I have been involved for the last two years and can give testament to the superb job done on his watch. Mike, thanks so much. Mike has agreed to continue until the contest scheduled for January is complete. As his replacement, Sam LeHane has agreed to take over as Chairman and conduct future events. He will also be working with Mike to complete the currently scheduled contest. Sam comes to this position with a great desire to serve and we thank him for supporting this important Legion activity.

I ask the membership to support our new leaders and wish them all much success as we pull together to tackle the challenges ahead. **If anyone desires further information on the Adjutant position, or any other leadership role at our Post, please let me know.**

David F. Clemmer  
Commander



## December Membership Meeting

The December membership meeting proved to be something quite special. At the quarterly “Pot Luck Dinner” we had a little fun saying goodbye to one of our past post commander’s Kevin Mook. The auxiliary provided a good-bye gift in the form of a photograph of the post with an extra-large margin so people could sign and provide their best wishes to Kevin and his family. We were also privileged to have the Department Sergeant-at-Arms, Ruth Higgins, she was there to address us and ask for our support for her becoming the 3rd Vice for next year. Our whole evening at the membership meeting centered around officer vacancies and election of replacement officer’s. After the election, the Department Sergeant-at-Arms conducted the installation of these new officers. (See separate article) Here are a few pictures from that night’s activities. Many thanks to the auxiliary for a great pot luck dinner and the present for Kevin. The auxiliary desert auction raised \$380 that was donated to Toys for Tots.



Department of Maryland Sergeant-at-Arms Ruth Higgins installs Paula Gill as Chaplain and Steve Monteiro as service Officer”

Kevin Mook, Paula Gill and Dave Clemmer pose with the photo gift for Kevin provided by the auxiliary.



Post officers gather to say farewell to Kevin Mook.  
Left to Right - Ruth Higgins, Larry Matthews, Steve Monteiro, Dave Clemmer, Fred Mitchell, Tony DeShiro, Kevin Mook

## Help Wanted

The departure of our Adjutant mid-term has created an urgent need for technical assistance with our Web-site administration and our Constant-Contact communications network. The web-site duties may include a different software package that would have to be set-up almost from scratch. Constant Contact could also require some major revisions. If you are interested in helping out in this area your desire and efforts would be most appreciated. More than one person would also reduce the workload considerably. You may contact the Commander, 1st Vice or a member of the Executive committee to make your interests known. If we have sufficient interest it's possible we could create a committee for these purposes. Kevin has indicated his willingness to assist anyone interested in taking this on.

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The Post has recently restocked with a fresh batch of Post 171 Challenge Coins. These coins are available to the entire Post family for \$5.00 each. They can be purchased from the Commander, 1st Vice or the Finance Officer. If you would like to order by mail send a check in the appropriate amount to Post 171, P.O. Box 171, Damascus, MD 20872 and include an additional \$2.50 for postage.



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

JAN-FEB 2019



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

<b>Commander</b>	<b>Dave Clemmer</b>	<b>(240) 447-7542</b>	<b>Membership</b>	<b>Sam Baughman (PC)</b>	<b>(301) 401-6479</b>
<b>1<sup>st</sup> Vice Commander</b>	<b>Fred Mitchell</b>	<b>(301) 916-8395</b>	<b>Historian</b>	<b>Sam Lehane</b>	<b>(407) 230-3117</b>
<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Commander</b>	<b>Larry Matthews</b>	<b>(301) 370-4079</b>	<b>Chaplain</b>	<b>Paula Gill</b>	<b>(661) 618-7638</b>
<b>Judge Advocate</b>	<b>Dean Elliott</b>	<b>(240) 783-0982</b>	<b>Sgt-at-Arms</b>	<b>Bill Green</b>	<b>(301) 253-5420</b>
<b>Adjutant</b>	<b>Will Cole (PC) Act</b>	<b>(240) 643-7022</b>	<b>Executive Comm</b>	<b>Paula Gill</b>	
<b>Finance Officer</b>	<b>Tony DeShiro</b>	<b>(843) 855-9353</b>		<b>Keith Martin</b>	
<b>Service Officer</b>	<b>Steve Monteiro</b>	<b>(240) 401-0370</b>		<b>Bill Raab (PC)</b>	
				<b>Buzz Burroughs (PC)</b>	

## Auxiliary, Unit 171 Officers

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

## SAL Squadron, 171 Officers

<b>Commander</b>	<b>Todd Stockslager</b>	<b>Chaplain</b>	
<b>1<sup>st</sup> Vice Commander</b>	<b>Tom Kaufman</b>	<b>Sgt-at-Arms</b>	
<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Commander</b>	<b>John Duvall</b>	<b>Historian</b>	<b>Tyler Baughman</b>
<b>Adjutant</b>	<b>Adam Young</b>	<b>Post Liaison</b>	<b>Paula Gill</b>
<b>Finance Officer</b>	<b>Adam Young</b>		

**Newsletter Editor: Larry Matthews Lawrence.,matthews17@gmail.comm**