



THE DAMASCUS VETERAN

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

March-April 2020

Greetings Post 171 Family:

I cannot believe that spring is almost here! For many, springtime means a rejuvenation – a renewed energy after a dreary winter. I hope you are truly reenergized as we have work to do before the end of the Legion Year. Legionnaires I would first like to congratulate the four who were honored at the Membership Dinner in January.

Steve Monteiro: Legionnaire of the Year; Brownie Chichester: Distinguished Legionnaire; and Edgar Williams and Dave Clemmer, were awarded the Post's Honorary Life Membership. Well done indeed, gentlemen!



Above: Steve Monteiro, Edgar Williams family and Dave Clemmer.

I would like to give a shout out to Sam Baughman for planning, coordinating and putting on the Membership Dinner. At the dinner we were honored to have in attendance Mr. Harold T. (Dick) Bennett who is a “plank owner” of American Legion Post 171 and has been a member for 75 years. Sam, thanks for a very enjoyable evening.

I will give another shout out to Sam Lehane for the Oratorical Contest. We were the only Post in the Southern Maryland District to have any oratorical contestants. Our winner, Srivatsaan Halpana Sreenivasan, will next be competing at the state level. The reason we had contestants and the other Posts did not is solely attributed to Sam's efforts. Well done, Sam.

There are a couple of events coming up soon where we are going to need “all hands on deck” to make them successes. First, on April 4, 2020 we are having a Shrimp Feast where the Post will be preparing the food and taking care

of everything. The entertainment will be provided by the Sandra Dean Band, so get the word out! Steve Monteiro is the point man for this event so please contact him if you are interested in helping out. Then on Sunday, May 24, 2020 we will be celebrating Memorial Day. Our guest speaker will be Mr. Ross Simpson, an Air Force Veteran and reporter who was embedded with the Marines in Iraq. We still have a lot to do to plan for this event and we owe it to our fallen comrades to make it special.

Finally, while we are still making a difference in the lives of the Veterans residing at Lorient, thanks to PPC George Bolling and the Post Legionnaires who participate in that program, we can do so much more. Please let us know your ideas of worthy Veteran's Programs where we can assist or take on ourselves, after all; isn't that why we are here? I hope to hear your ideas soonest.

For God and Country
Fred Mitchell
Post Commander

Taking care of veterans and taking care of each other.



Sons of the American Legion Squadron, 171

Greetings from the SAL Squadron,

I hope everyone had a happy holiday season and a great start to the New Year. It's hard to believe that March is here already, 2020 is flying by. If you haven't paid your dues yet please do so now, so we can achieve our goal of 100% membership. Speaking of membership, we had a great turn out at the Membership dinner. The program and meal were excellent and, I urge all to attend next year. I would like to congratulate Tom Kauffman on becoming the 2019/2020 SAL Member of the Year.

I want to remind everyone of our Annual SAL Crab Feast so you can mark your calendar. This year's Crab Feast will be Saturday, October 10th. Doors open at 4pm, food is from 5-8 and entertainment will be from 7:30-10:30pm. Tickets are \$50 and info on how to get tickets will follow closer to the time of the event. Thanks to those who attended last year.

It's time to start thinking about nominations for next year's officers. If you are interested in becoming an officer, please contact me at toddsal171@yahoo.com or come to our next meeting on 03/09/2020. Looking forward to seeing you there.

Our next meeting will be held on Monday, March 9th – Potluck at 6pm, Meeting at 7pm.

Todd Stockslager
SAL 171 Commander



American Legion Auxiliary, Unit 171

A Newsletter for Members & Friends of Damascus Unit 171

Welcome to Spring. We can not complain about the mild winter we had but hoping for much warmer weather soon. We were honored to have a Celebration of Life for our beloved Mickey Day on February 16th. It was a lovely turn out with family, friends, and Auxiliary, Post, and SAL members. Paintings by Mickey were displayed around the Post for all to view along with collages of Mickey. It was a beautiful service.

The Damascus, Maryland American Legion Auxiliary, Post 171 needs your help identifying members of our Damascus Community who are in the Uniformed Services of the United States of America and are presently deployed out of the United States.

Our Auxiliary would like to send to those members identified and their entire Unit – POCKET FLAGS – which have been prepared by our Auxiliary. The pocket flags represent a little piece of home that our deployed service members can carry with them to remind them that the folks back home appreciate their service and are praying for their safe return home.

Please complete the following Uniformed Services Member Identification Information below and send it to:

**Pocket Flag Project, Chairman
American Legion Auxiliary, Post 171
PO Box 171
Damascus, MD 20872-0171**

Name of Service Member: _____

Rank of Service Member: _____

Branch of Service (i.e. Army, Navy etc.): _____

Mailing Address pocket flags should be sent to: _____

Size of the Service Member's Unit (if known) _____

Name and contact information of person identifying Service Member:

Thank you for your support of our Pocket Flag Project.



THE POST 171 PATRIOTS BASEBALL PROGRAM UPDATE

As MLB players report to spring training, soon the MLB baseball season will begin...and shortly thereafter, it will be American Legion baseball season!

The Post 171 baseball program is excited about the upcoming 2020 summer Patriots baseball season. For the first time in our program history, we will field three Post 171 Legion baseball teams, one Senior (19U) team and two Junior (17U & 16U) teams. Schedules are being developed, uniforms orders are being prepared, and equipment readied. Meanwhile, the players are busy shaking off the rust and preparing for their High School seasons. Most of our coaches are helping with off season training programs and will help ensure a smooth transition from the High School Season to American Legion Baseball.

We are in the process of scheduling our annual baseball kick-off event, the Bob Bellison Red, White, and Blue baseball game. This will be held on Armed Forces Day, May 16th at the Damascus High School field. We will have the Legion Color Guard to present the colors, and after the game, a family-style picnic at the Legion Hall for everyone to enjoy. Bob has been given a warning order to be prepared to throw out the first pitch! It should be a grand event, so please stay tuned for more details and mark your calendars. An inclement weather date will be announced if necessary.

If you would like to help support the Post 171 Baseball Program, please consider becoming a booster and making a financial contribution to support our baseball program.

2020 POST 171 BASEBALL COMMITTEE: Alan Rannals (Chairman), Keith Martin (Secretary), Bob Bellison, and Evelyn Hernandez. **Civilian advisors:** Keith Hernandez, Sean Manion, and Dave Retherford.

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 Alan Rannals at rannals@gmail.com or Keith Martin at rkmgm@verizon.net.

2020 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



Shrimp Feast – April 4th



Location: Post 171, 10201 Lewis Drive, Damascus, MD 0872

Doors open at: 5:00

Dinner: 6:00 to 8:00, **Dancing:** 7:30 to 11:00

Music: Sandra Dean Band

Menu: Shrimp (steamed & fried), Fried Chicken, Baked Beans, Potato Salad, Cole Slaw & Drinks

Tickets: *Advanced sales - \$30, at the door - \$35*

Shrimp Feast Order Form – 4 April 2020	
Name:	Enter # of Tickets below
Address:	
City:	Enter Total Cost below
ST & Zip Code	\$
<p>Make checks payable to: Damascus Post 171 Check to hold tickets at the door <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Mail to the address above</p>	

2020 Membership Renewal

Thanks to everyone who has already renewed their membership. We are a little over 90%. It's easy to renew online. Go to Legion.org and click on Renew Your Membership. All you need is your ID#, and method of payment. You can also mail a check for \$30.00 to the Post at: PO Box 171, Damascus, MD 29872
Sam Baughman, Membership Chairman 301-401-6479

Post Rentals

Spring is a busy time for Post rentals. Most weekends are already booked. Each rental is hosted by a member of the Post, Unit or SAL. Hosts are needed. If you are interested contact Larry Matthews at 301 370-4079 or lawrence.matthews17@gmail.com. There is compensation.

ALL POST EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES ARE NOW LISTED ON THE POST 171 WEBSITE:

<http://www.legionpost171.org/>

Click on EVENTS CALENDAR

2020 DAMASCUS AMERICAN LEGION POST 171 ORATORICAL CONTEST

Damascus American Legion Post 171 hosted two local high school students for the annual Oratorical Contest on January 18th at the Post Home. Winning first place was Srivatsaan Kalpana Sreenivasan, a sophomore at Clarksburg High School, who was awarded \$1000. Srivatsaan's speech was titled "The Negligence of Americans and their constitutional duties." Noah Etienne, a senior at Damascus High School, won the second place \$500 prize. Srivatsaan is also the Montgomery County and Southern District winner, and he will represent the Damascus Post for the opportunity to become the State winner in the Department of Maryland competition on March 8th. The State winner will be competing for National honors in mid-April in Indianapolis.



Left to right Contest Chairman Sam Lehane, 1st place winner Srivatsaan Kalpana Sreenivasan, 2nd place winner Noah Etienne, and Post Commander Fred Mitchell

Montgomery College professors Jennifer Haydel and Joan Naake, along with Past Post Commander Tony DeShiro, served as the judges for the contest.

The American Legion Oratorical Contest dates back to 1938, when it originated primarily to instill improved understanding and appreciation of the Constitution of the United States among high school students. Students from every state and American schools overseas compete each year for more than \$188,000 in scholarship money. The Damascus Post Oratorical Contest is open to all students from Damascus, Clarksburg and other local Montgomery County high schools as well as to home-schooled students in the greater Damascus area.

Scholarships for High School Seniors

This year Post 171 will award five scholarships, in the amount of \$1,500 each, to high school seniors who will be beginning college or other institution of higher learning, full time for the scholastic year of 2020 – 2021. Applicants will be judged on scholastic achievement, leadership, character, work experience, their submitted essay, and school and community activities. Complete details are listed on the scholarship application, which is available for pick up at the career centers in Damascus HS, Clarksburg HS, Watkins Mill HS, Gaithersburg HS, Sherwood HS, Seneca Valley HS, Linganore HS, Oakdale HS and the American Legion Post Home at 10201 Lewis Dr. Damascus MD, tel. (301) 253-0769, or by clicking on the link below. Applications must be postmarked no later than March 28, 2020.

For more information contact Kris Bradsher at scholarship@legionpost171.org

[Download Scholarship Application for Post 171](#)

Post 171 at Lorien

January Presentation

Join your fellow Legionnaires on the last Wednesday of every month at Lorien Assisted Living in Mt. Airy for an hour fellowship and information with fellow veterans. Our own Larry Earles presented in January and gave a riveting account of his time as a Loach helicopter pilot in Vietnam. Larry brought along former Air Force pilot Floyd Massey who described how Larry rescued him after he was shot down during a bombing run. This action earned Larry one of two Distinguished Flying Crosses he earned during his service. Larry named his Loach "Nora" whom he later married. Here he is with "Nora."



February Presentation

February's presenter was past Post Commander Tony DeShiro, who described the rescue of Vietnamese refugees, known as "boat people," in the Gulf of Thailand in 1981. The boat people fled communism in Vietnam following the war and left in whatever craft would float. Some perished and others were rescued.



Above: The boat people rescued.

Right: Tony DeShiro aboard ship.



To join your fellow Legionnaires at Lorien contact
George Bolling - gbolling@comcast.net

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

March/April 2020



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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	Fred Mitchell	(301) 916-8395	Membership	*Sam Baughman	(301) 401-6479
1 st Vice Commander	Paula Gill	(661) 618-7638	Historian	Sam Lehane	(407) 230-3117
2 nd Vice Commander	Steve Monteiro	(240) 401-0370	Chaplain	Larry Matthews	(301) 370-4079
Adjutant	Kevin O’Neill	(301) 525-2071	Sgt.-at-Arms	Bill Green	(301) 253-5420
Finance Officer	* Tony DeShiro	(843) 855-9353	Service Officer	Steve Monteiro	(240) 401-0370
Judge Advocate	Dean Elliott	(240) 793-6868	Executive Committee		

*Bernie Moxley, Sr
*Bill Raab
Larry Matthews
Steve O’Neil

*denotes Past Post Commander

Auxiliary, Unit 171 Officers

President	Amanda Baughman	(240) 409-8226	Membership	Jane St. Louis	
Vice President	Kelli Cole	(240) 832-7733	Secretary	Nancy Sutherland	
Sgt-at-Arms	Virginia Myers		Chaplain	Patricia Rice	(301) 253-2266
Treasurer	Patricia Busche	(301) 391-6752	Historian	Diane Capel	

SAL Squadron, 171 Officers

Commander	Todd Stockslager		Sgt-at-Arms	Tyler Baughman
1st Vice Commander	Tom Kaufman		Historian	Brosh Brosher
2nd Vice Commander	John Duvall		Finance Officer	Adam Young
Adjutant	Adam Young		Post Liaison	Paula Gill

Newsletter Editor: Larry Matthews, Newsletter@legionpost171.org