



## **THE DAMASCUS VETERAN**

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

**January/February 2022**

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### **Greetings Post 171 Family:**

Wow, it is hard to believe that we are at the end of 2021. It is even harder, in some regards, to believe that we are still fighting through this pandemic –now with the omicron variant. Please continue to take precautions, stay safe, and do not hesitate to let us know if you need help.

Upon reflection, the Post has had much to be thankful for this past year. I, for one, am thankful for the Post Officers, Executive Committee, and other committee volunteers who worked hard to keep up with the business of the Post during this pandemic. I am additionally thankful for the Auxiliary as the Post could not carry out many of its programs but for their assistance. They are truly valued members of our Post Family.

The Post had many successes during this past year. With assistance from the Unit, we were able to host a Memorial Day celebration and Veteran's Day program (to include visiting some area elementary schools); we were able to have bingo again and thanks to Bill Green's leadership, we didn't skip a beat and picked up where we left off in 2019. Thanks to Kris Bradsher for heading up the Scholarship Committee; Sam Lehane (AKA Sam II) for keeping the Oratorical program going (in addition to being the Post Historian and Color Guard volunteer); Alan Rannals, the Baseball Committee Chairman, for his tireless efforts in putting together two championship baseball teams; and countless others too numerous to name. American Legion Post 171 is what it is because of people like you who give so much.

On a sad note, we had many members called to Post Everlasting this past year – all of whom, in their own way, had a tremendous impact on the Post and the American Legion. While we will miss our comrades, their memory shall be with us always and we can honor them by carrying on their work in the Post.

Let us pray for the health and safety of our Post 171 family and that this pandemic will be over soon. Let us also continue to look out for one another.

For God and Country

Fred Mitchell/Post Commander

**Taking care of veterans, and taking care of each other**





Hello Unit Members and Post 171 Family:

Winter Greetings to Everyone!

I hope this message finds you safe, warm and healthy. This has been an unusual year for the Unit in that we still feel the effects of the pandemic as we try to conduct 'business as usual'. Veteran's Day saw a much smaller crowd than we've had in the past, and I believe everyone was surprised at the smaller number of attendees at the pot luck dinner in December. BUT, I'm proud to say that we held a dessert auction with those in attendance which raised over \$500 for a very worthy cause, Toys-for-Tots. Thanks to all our dessert makers and the participants for their enthusiasm!

Provided the county doesn't change course, we are hopeful that we will be able to have a **regular bingo fundraising event on Saturday, March 19<sup>th</sup>** so please mark your calendars and stay tuned for more information.

At our last meeting, we voted to cancel our general membership meeting in February (the 14<sup>th</sup>) since the weather does not typically cooperate anyway. But, we will have a meeting in January on the 10<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM. During that meeting, we will fold pocket flags for troops deploying overseas. Please join us or if you know of an active service member being deployed, we would be pleased to have their information so we can pass along pocket flags to their Unit.

As always, I thank you for your support and positive comments – it's what keeps this Unit going! If you have any questions or just want to say hello, I can be reached at 301-606-4645.

For God and Country,  
Marianne DiSomma  
President, Unit 171 Damascus





Greetings from Squadron 171,

I hope everyone is having a Safe and Happy Holidays. Our next meeting will be at The Post @ 7:00 P.M. on 1/10/2022. Membership cards are in, and our membership goal deadlines set by The Detachment are approaching fast! So, please get those renewals in as soon as possible.

On December 4<sup>th</sup>, 2021, our Squadron hosted the Western Maryland Region Meeting. It was our great privilege to host this meeting and I appreciate all who did their part to set up and welcome our guests. Our Squadron will need members to fill many officers positions this upcoming year. If you would like to be an officer, please contact me at the email below.

On January 29<sup>th</sup> 2022 our membership dinner is being held at Post 171. For addition information and RSVP call or text Sam Baughman @ (301) 401-6479. I urge everyone to stay tuned to the Legion website for news and upcoming events. If anyone has any updates to make to their information we may have on file or an email to add please let me know at [toddsal171@yahoo.com](mailto:toddsal171@yahoo.com).

For God and Country,

Todd Stockslager/SAL Commander



### **THE POST 171 PATRIOTS BASEBALL PROGRAM UPDATE**

Happy Holidays from the Baseball Committee. We hope you and your families will enjoy the Holiday Season and the New Year and continue to stay healthy. The Baseball Program concluded their 2021 season with a festive banquet at the Legion Hall and a good time was had by all. Many thanks the coaches, players, parents and volunteers that helped out in planning and executing a festive gathering.

As we were unable to host a gathering following the abbreviated 2020 season, we celebrated the accomplishments of our teams and players for both the 2020 and 2021 seasons. The following team awards were presented by Coach Kevin Hernandez and Coach Dave Retherford to Post 171 to add to our extensive trophy collection:

**2020 MCBA U18 Fall Season Champions**  
**2021 Senior Legion County Champions**  
**2021 Sandlot Legion State Champions**  
**2021 MCBA U18 Fall Season Champions**

The following is a list of the individual awards that were presented:

### **Sandlot 2021 Season:**

Hitter Award: **Anthony Gasbarre**  
Pitcher Award: **Connor Beal**  
Coaches Award: **Gabe Hernandez**  
MVP Award: **Cameron Wilberding**

### **Junior Legion**

2020 Hitter Award: **Ryan Domer**  
2020 Pitcher Award: **Evan McFarland**  
2020 Coaches Award: **Adam Ippolitto**  
2020 MVP Award: **Jake Garrett**

2021 Hitter Award: **Ryan Domer & Zach Torres**  
2021 Pitcher Award: **Aidan Butler**  
2021 Coaches Award: **Steele Lechner**  
2021 MVP Award: **Michael Guardado**



Left to right: Coach Kevin Hernandez, Commander Fred Mitchell, Coach Dave Retherford and Alan Rannals, Baseball Chairman

For more on Post 171<sup>st</sup> outstanding baseball program go to <http://www.legionpost171.org/index.php?id=22>

### **Senior Legion**

2020 Mark Smith Fair Play Award: **Aidan Rannals**  
2020 Charlie Senseney Memorial Offensive Award: **Nick Marley**  
2020 Post 171 Defensive Player Award: **Isiah Bell**  
2020 Ken Diggs Memorial Post 171 Dedication Award: **Tyler Retherford**  
2020 Ray Luhn Memorial Pitching Award: **Sean Carrier**  
2020 Bill Rice Memorial Coaches Award: **Isander Cruz**  
2020 Gerald Duvall Memorial MVP Award: **Ethan Wentlaff**

2021 Mark Smith Fair Play Award: **Ryan Domer**  
2021 Charlie Senseney Memorial Offensive Award: **Chase Aldous & Jackson Thomas**

2021 Post 171 Defensive Player Award: **Mason Eberle & Morgan Bragg**  
2021 Ken Diggs Memorial Post 171 Dedication Award: **Isiah Bell**  
2021 Ray Luhn Memorial Pitching Award: **Evan McFarland**  
2021 Bill Rice Memorial Coaches Award: **Isander Cruz**  
2021 Post 171 Baseball Scholarship Award: **Maverick Durant**  
2020 Gerald Duvall Memorial MVP Award: **Isiah Bell & Sam Batis**

A hearty congratulations to these fine young men and to all the young men participating in our baseball program. Their hard work, dedication and outstanding sportsmanship have represented the American Legion Baseball Program and Post 171 in a most positive and faithful manner.

We are already planning for the 2022 season and hope to continue our program's growth and success. A notice of tryouts for the 2022 summer season should be announced soon and as always, if anyone is interested in joining the Baseball Committee for the 2022 season, please contact me at [post171patriots@gmail.com](mailto:post171patriots@gmail.com) or [rannals@gmail.com](mailto:rannals@gmail.com).

Happy and Healthy wishes,

Alan T. Rannals

**2021 POST 171 BASEBALL COMMITTEE:** Alan Rannals (Chairman), Bob Bellison, and Evelyn Hernandez. **Civilian advisors:** Keith Hernandez, Sean Manion, and Dave Retherford.

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## **Annual Membership Recognition Dinner - January 29, 2022**

Mark your calendars for Saturday, January 29, 2022 for the Membership Recognition Dinner to be held at the Post home! This is a great event, and everyone is encouraged to attend. New members (2021 and 2022) 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, 2020.**

2022 Membership Dinner Party Reservation Form / Saturday January 29th Member name \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$15 Spouse or 1st Guest \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$15. Number of additional guests \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$20 each Total number attending \_\_\_\_\_ Table Request \_\_\_\_\_ Total Amount enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_

## Membership update

We are halfway into the Legion Membership Year and we are at 82%% of reaching our 100% goal. You have probably received a Renewal Notice from National to send payment to the Post PO Box, or if you have a computer and want to save a stamp, it's easy to renew online. Go to Legion.org and click on "Renew Your Membership". All you need is your ID# (if you don't know it, or can't find it, **call or text me: 301-401-6479, and method of payment. Sam Baughman, Membership Chairman**

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## American Legion Scholarships

### 2022-23

The Damascus American Legion Post 171 will be awarding four scholarships in the amounts of \$2,000.00 each and two in the amount of \$1,500.00 each for the scholastic year 2022-23. 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 accessed through the college and career centers in Damascus High School, Clarksburg High School, Seneca Valley High School, Gaithersburg High School, Watkins Mill High School, Sherwood High School, or the American Legion Post webpage.

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

Applications must be postmarked no later than March 31, 2022. **For questions please contact Kris Bradsher at 240-447-0013 or krisbradsher@aol.com.**

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## 2022 Damascus American Legion Post 171 Oratorical Contest

The Damascus Post 171 American Legion Oratorical contest will be held on Saturday, January 15<sup>th</sup>, 2022, at the Post Home. Inclement weather date will be January 22<sup>nd</sup>. Contest will begin at 10:00am and Post doors will be secured at that time. We would like to see as many Legionnaires in attendance as possible, so please come out and show these fine contestants the honor they so richly deserve.

The contest provides an opportunity for high school students to win scholarship money (\$1,000 First Place, \$500 Second Place and \$300 for Third Place) based on their knowledge of the U.S. Constitution and to demonstrate that knowledge through a public speaking contest.

The contestants are judged by professors from Montgomery County College, in accordance with rules outlined on the American Legion website. Damascus American Legion Post 171 staff will be on-hand to actually run the contest and provide logistical support during it.

The top-3 finishers will receive their check immediately after the contest and the winner will be eligible to participate in subsequent contests through the District, state and National levels to win additional scholarship money.



### **Project Phoenix**

Project Phoenix is Post 171's Recruitment and Retention plan. Thanks in large part to the efforts of Sam Baughman our Post stands at 239 members (80.7% of our goal 296). Project Phoenix is a comprehensive initiative to reengage existing members and attract new members. Please call (301) 253-0769 or email ([info@legionpost171.org](mailto:info@legionpost171.org)) with your thoughts on how to improve our Legion family. We need everyone's help to achieve our goals. Plan details will be distributed at a later date.

### **Humanitarian Award**

Our fellow Legionnaire, William Harvey Ziegler was awarded the Montgomery County Humanitarian Award by Marc Elrich, Montgomery County Executive. The award ceremony was held on Friday, December 17<sup>th</sup> at the Executive Office Building. After serving in the Army in World War II, Harvey devoted a lifetime of service to promote civil rights at the local, state and national levels.

Legionnaire Ziegler will be 102 in the spring.

He represents the best of us.



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 Damascus, MD  
 Permit No.400

Damascus American Legion, Post 171 **January/February 2022**  
 P.O. Box 171Damascus, MD 20872



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	Fred Mitchell	(301) 916-8395	Membership	*Sam Baughman	(301) 401-6479
1 <sup>st</sup> Vice Commander	* Tony DeShiro	(843) 855-9353	Historian	Sam Lehane	(407) 230-3117
2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice Commander	Kevin O’Neill	(301) 525-2071	Chaplain	Larry Matthews	(301) 370-4079
Adjutant	Steve Monteiro	(240) 401-0370	Sgt.-at-Arms	Bill Green	(301) 253-5420
Finance Officer	Anita Trotter	(301) 661-6904	Service Officer	Keith Midberry	
Judge Advocate	Dean Elliott	(240) 793-6868			

**Executive Committee**

\*Bernie Moxley, Sr  
 Charles Bradsher  
 Steve O’Neil  
 Paula Gil

\*denotes Past Post Commander

**Auxiliary, Unit 171**

**Officers**

President	Marianne DeSomma		Membership	Jane St. Louis
Vice President	Open		Secretary	Diane Capel
Sgt-at-Arms	Virginia Myers		Chaplain	Sandy Seip
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	Tony Koontz		Finance Officer	Adam Young
Adjutant	Adam Young		Chaplain	Tyler Baughman

**Newsletter Editor: Larry Matthews, [Newsletter@legionpost171.org](mailto:Newsletter@legionpost171.org)**