



THE DAMASCUS VETERAN

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

JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2021

Greetings Post 171 Family:

I would like to wish you all a happy New Year with the hope and prayer that 2021 will not be as challenging as 2020. I, for one, was glad to see 2020 come to an end as the country, Post, and people individually experienced unprecedented difficulties due to the COVID 19 pandemic. But hopefully, the new year represents a new beginning, and we will see an end to the pandemic.

While the building has been shut down for months to keep the costs down due to lack of generated revenue (bingo and rentals), members have been working to keep the Post's business current. I would like to thank the Executive Committee for keeping the Post's business matters current and taking care of business. I would also like to thank Bill Raab for keeping an eye on the building and Carol Hartley for keeping the building disinfected these past months; Steve Monteiro for keeping the website current and spearheading the Post's Buddy Check Program; Larry Matthews for keeping us all informed via the Post Newsletter; Sam Baughman for keeping on top of membership; and, Sam Lehane for staying current with the ever-changing Oratorical Contest while continuing to serve as Historian and putting together the Post's yearbook. Finally, I would like to thank the Post Audit Committee (Trish Busche, Keith Midberry, and Ernie Screen) for completing our yearly audit. Excellent job as always!

Speaking of people doing good things in the Post during the pandemic, the Chairmen of the Post's Honorarium Committees (Legionaire of the Year, Distinguished Member, and Honorary Life) have met and reported to me the decisions of their respective committees. While hope springs eternal that we just might be able to have a membership dinner at the end of January to announce the decisions, if we do not, the decisions of the Honorarium Committees will be announced in the next newsletter.

Finally, on a more positive note, the Post had a great haul this year in our Toys for Tots program. Bill Green spearheaded the endeavor. See Bill Green's comments below.

Thank you, Bill Green, and thank you Safeway leadership for your hospitality.

Well, that is about it for now. Here is wishing and praying for a better year in 2021 and hopefully, with the vaccine being distributed, we will be seeing each other soon.

For God and Country

Fred Mitchell, Post Commander



Taking care of veterans, and taking care of each other



Sons of the American Legion

Greetings from Squadron 171

Greetings from Squadron 171,

First I'd like to wish everyone a Happy Holiday and a safe and healthy New Year! Since nothing is for certain with this Pandemic, an email will be sent out with our next meeting date and time. Thank you for your understanding with all the uncertainty and irregularly scheduled meetings. If you are not receiving emails about our meetings please reach out to me at toddsal171@yahoo.com to be added to the list.

With six months behind us in the new Legion year if you have not paid your dues now is a great time to start! The Southern Maryland District has issued goals for membership and we would like to meet them! You can help us meet these goals by turning in your dues as soon as possible. To speed this process up you can send your dues directly to me @ 11798 Sier Dr. Monrovia, MD 21770 Attn. Todd Stockslager. Our goal to reach is 60% by January 20th. We need at least 7 more to make it happen! We barely met our goal last month so don't delay.

In closing, I'd like to remind everyone to stay safe and follow CDC and state guidelines to help protect yourself and others.

For God and Country,

Todd Stockslager
SAL Commander





Happy New Year Unit 171. I hope all had a wonderful Holiday. Hopefully, everyone remained healthy and safe during these trying times.

We had a remarkable response on our Early-Bird's for membership this year. We are less than 20 away from having 100% membership. This is amazing since it's only January.

Just a reminder we are doing a recipe fundraiser. So please if you could please send any of your favorite recipes to me at axb5801@yahoo.com. If you don't have email that's not a problem, you can mail them to 11798 Sier Dr. Monrovia, MD 21770.

I want everyone to have a wonderful New Year! Wishing everyone a very Happy and Safe 2021!

Amanda Baughman

Unit President

Legion 2021 Membership Renewal Time

We are halfway into the Legion New Year, so it's time to renew your 2021 Membership. Wanna 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.

You can also mail a check for \$30.00 to me at: Sam Baughman, 11798 Sier Drive, Monrovia, MD 21770. Let me know if you have any questions. Thanks, and stay safe.



THE POST 171 PATRIOTS BASEBALL PROGRAM UPDATE

The Baseball Committee continues to hope that you and your loved ones are safe during the continued COVID-19 pandemic affecting our country.

Due to the continued restrictions on large gatherings, there will not be a Baseball Banquet for the 2020 season. We hope with the recent approval of vaccines and our medical advances, that 2021 will bring a return to a more normal baseball season. Until then, enjoy the holiday season with your families and continue to stay safe. Let's put 2020 in the history books and look forward to the future.

If anyone is interested in joining the Baseball Committee for the 2021 season, please contact me.

Happy Holidays,

Alan T. Rannals

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

American Legion Scholarships

2021-22

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 2021-22. 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 Home (10201 Lewis Dr. Damascus MD, tel. (301) 253-0769). Applications must be postmarked no later than March 31, 2021. For questions or issues obtaining documents and signatures from your school counselors, please contact Kris Bradsher at 240-447-0013 or krisbradsher@aol.com.



Post 171 remote "Toys For Tots"

From Bill Green

Each year Post 171 supports the Marine Corps Reserve program "Toys For Tots". We usually fill about six boxes with toys donated by members and our Bingo players. This year presented a problem with the Covid 19 shutting down the Bingo since early March and the building closed to all events we had to think outside the box. We started by getting Volunteers to man the boxes at the Post home with no success since the Legion is a little off the beaten path no one came by. We decided to reach out to Safeway and after approval from their main offices, we were able to place boxes at Safeway in Damascus and Gaithersburg. Our good friend, Auxiliary member, bingo player, strong Legion supporter, and Safeway employee helped us get the word out. We also advertised on Social media groups and people responded in kind. Legionnaires also canvased their neighbors for donations and we were able to fill twelve and one-half boxes with great toys. It took two trips in my truck on the final days to get the Toys to Toys For Tots Montgomery County in Gaithersburg.

I wish to express gratitude for the assistance of Jane St Louis and Larry Matthews. Another huge shout out to the Social Media Groups on Facebook for allowing me to push for donations. "Damascus Friends and Neighbors", "Damascus Friends and Neighbors Uncensored", "Montgomery County Police Alumni Association", "You Know You're From Damascus", and "Damascus Old Schoolers" God bless everyone for making this the most successful drive ever. We will build on this and make next year even greater.

Thank You Letters to Veterans

"Thank you for protecting our country and our flag. Thank you for being brave when others couldn't..."
Annabelle Diep

Our Post received "thank you" letters from members of the Clarksburg High School Veteran Support Club. Members include Edward Kim, Annabelle Diep, Saaketh Vemunuri, Abhinon Thummala. Their heartfelt letters can be found on our website at:

http://legionpost171.org/files/CHS_Veterans_Spt_Grp.pdf

Lorien

PPC George Bolling reports he has been staying in touch with the activity ladies at Lorien, including sending them a video of Christmas music by the Voices of Veterans band. Unfortunately, the vets had to watch it alone in their rooms because of COVID restrictions. The Post is looking ahead to spring and we are planning for the days when the restrictions are lifted and we can return to our monthly visits with our fellow warriors. Until then, keep them in your prayers.



In Memorium

On November 10, 2020, Past National Commander Clarence Bacon, age 95, transferred to Post Everlasting. Clarence was a 68 year member of the American Legion that spent most of his adult life-supporting and making the American Legion the great organization that it is today.

Clarence will soon be recognized and memorialized for his effort and great work at the National and Department level. What you will not see or hear then is how great a friend he was to our Post 171 and how much he supported us over many years. He hardly ever missed attending our functions, such as anniversary, membership, and installation events.

He believed that socializing was a key to maintaining member's interests.

For 10 consecutive years following his term as National Cmdr., Clarence organized a 4-day golf outing at Alpine Lake in West Virginia for our Post and other Posts in the Southern Maryland District.

To support our Post when we had our Wounded Warrior Program the first time, in 2006, Clarence attended and brought with him an assistant editor of the Legion magazine which allowed us to get a very nice "write-up" of our program in the publication.

Clarence's legacy will live on for years to come and he will be sorely missed by all who knew him. His passing is a tremendous loss to the American Legion. May he rest in peace!

Chaplain's Corner



Clarence Bacon was only one of many of our fellow Legionnaires who went to Post Everlasting in 2020, some from COVID and others through other causes. We miss them all.

John 16:22

Now is your time of grief, but I will see you again and you will rejoice, and no one will take away your joy.

We are all weary of this pandemic and we look forward in the new year to better days and, let's face it, to getting out of the house. We can take comfort in

Matthew 11:28-30

Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. 29 Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. 30 For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.

God bless you every one



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<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	* Tony DeShiro	(843) 855-9353	Historian	Sam Lehane	(407) 230-3117
2 nd 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	Executive Committee		
Judge Advocate	Dean Elliott	(240) 793-6868	*Bernie Moxley, Sr		

Executive Committee

Larry Matthews
Steve O’Neil
Paula Gil

*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	Tony Koontz	Finance Officer	Adam Young
Adjutant	Adam Young	Chaplain	Tyler Baughman

Newsletter Editor: Larry Matthews, Newsletter@legionpost171.org