



## THE DAMASCUS VETERAN

*A Newsletter for Members & Friends of Damascus American Legion Post 171, Unit & Squadron*  
**July/August 2020**

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

I hope that all you are keeping safe during this pandemic and hopefully the worst is behind us. From all accounts (the Buddy Check Program), everyone is doing alright. I would also again like to give a shout out to Steve Monteiro who headed up the Post's Buddy Check Program. Speaking for myself, I can truly say that it was rewarding speaking to some members of the Post that I have never met or have not seen for a while. Everyone is doing okay.



I would like to give a shout out to Sandy Seipp who organized the Memorial Day event where we honored our fallen comrades by placing flags on their gravesites. It was very done and went smoothly, notwithstanding the COVID-19 pandemic. It seems to go smoother each year thanks to Sandy's organization and leadership. Thank you again, Sandy.

On Monday, 22 June 2020, the Executive Committee met via conference call to set the date for the Post to have elections. Given the fact the many of our members and some of their family members are in the at-risk category, we decided to conduct the election via email and written ballot. The deadline for submitting the ballot is 20 July 2020. This will be further explained in this newsletter.

Finally, please watch the Post calendar for events that may have been canceled during this pandemic. The Executive Committee continues to meet (via conference calls) to make decisions on Post business and events.

Stay safe!

For God and Country

Fred Mitchell  
Post Commander

**Special Election Notice for Post officers**

***Instructions: Do not vote in both email and mail-in ballots. Just one.***

**An email ballot will be sent separately.**

If you agree with the slate and wish to vote for all the candidates as presented below, then place an **X** in the box to the right:

If you desire to nominate another candidate, then place an **X** next to candidate's name and in the remark section indicate your nominee.

No	Position	Candidate
	Commander	Fred Mitchell
	First Vice Commander*	PPC Tony DeShiro
	Second Vice Commander	Kevin O'Neil
	Adjutant	Steve Monteiro
	Finance Officer	Anita Trotter
	Judge Advocate	Dean Elliott
	Sergeant-at-Arms	Bill Green
	Executive Committee	Paula Gill
	Member At-Large	Larry Matthews
	Member At-Large	PPC Bernie Moxley, Senior
	Member At-Large	Steve O'Neil

\* PPC Sam Baughman serves voluntarily as Membership Chair

Enter the Position and printed name of your nominee in the table below:

Position	Nominee

\_\_\_\_\_

Printed Name

\_\_\_\_\_

Signature

**Mail to: Adjutant, American Legion Post 171, P.O. Box 171, Damascus, Md. 20872. Deadline to arrive at the Post is July 20.**



## **Sons of the American Legion**



*John Wayne Duvall*

*April 20, 1981- April 29, 2020*

It is with a very heavy heart that I inform you that our Past Squadron Commander, and Charter Member **John Wayne Duvall** passed away suddenly on the evening of April 29<sup>th</sup>. John Wayne was a very active member of Post 171 since he was a young boy. Growing up in the legion John Wayne was active in many different activities of the Post. When he was just 15 years old, he began calling bingo for the Post and continued to do so up until his death. John Wayne was Squadron Commander for numerous years, and held other officer titles after. No matter what the weather was you could count on John Wayne to be at the Post the Saturday before Memorial Day to help Sandy Seipp and the crew to put flags in the cemeteries for Veterans we have lost. Never did I think that I would sitting here writing about losing John Wayne. John Wayne was a great son, a awesome friend, and one of our best SAL members. He was loved by many and will be greatly missed. As soon as we can there will be a Celebration of Life held at the post for John Wayne.

It is unclear at this time when we will resume meetings at the post but we will soon need to fill the slate of officers. We will have many spots to fill and need help to fill them. If you would like

to become an officer please email me at [toddsal171@yahoo.com](mailto:toddsal171@yahoo.com). As for the Crab Feast it is unknown at this time if we will be able to have it with the covid-19 restrictions any information about that will be forthcoming. In closing I urge everyone to stay safe, social distance, and follow all CDC guidelines and hope to see you all very soon!

Todd Stockslager  
SAL 171 Commander

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*American Legion Auxiliary, Unit 171*

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

I can't believe it's already summer. I hope this finds everyone safe and healthy. As life is getting back to somewhat normal, I hope everyone is doing well. If anyone needs any help from our Unit please do not hesitate to call, even if it's just for someone new to talk to.

I am sad to let you know that we lost our long-time member Mary Robinson. Mary passed away at her daughter's house peacefully on April 28<sup>th</sup>.

Early bird letters were mailed last week. Early bird memberships will run June 20<sup>th</sup>- August 1<sup>st</sup>. The early bird price is \$21. After August 1<sup>st</sup> membership will be \$25.

Until we can meet again, please stay safe and healthy, and let me know if there is anything we can do for you.

For God and Country,

Amanda Baughman  
Unit President

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## 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.

While the National and State Legion seasons have been cancelled, the coaches of Post 171 Baseball continue to hold out hope that we can provide a baseball experience this summer for the young men of the Damascus community. With the recently relaxed restrictions and more refined guidelines for safety, our hopes have not yet been dashed. We have been in contact with multiple Legion Posts and other baseball leagues to coordinate an abbreviated schedule of games and scrimmages for the late summer/early fall timeline.

Our number one goal for this summer is to find a SAFE way to play baseball and provide an instructive and healthy outlet for the baseball players in our community. We know that most of you are craving some sporting action of any kind and if we can safely resume games, expect a lot of publicity and a desire to get as many fans as possible (social distancing will still apply!) out to cheer on our players.

Thanks, and please stay safe!

**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

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## One of our own Post 171 members is deployed. Please keep this fine young soldier in your prayers.

On June 10, in support of Operation Inherent Resolve, **1<sup>st</sup> Lieutenant Alan Patrick Rannals**, along with the rest of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Brigade Combat Team of the 82<sup>nd</sup> Airborne Division, deployed to the Middle East. 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Rannals will serve as an infantry platoon leader in combat operations against ISIS in the Iraq/Syria theater of



operations. Damascus High School in 2014. Completing his degree in Environmental Science and ROTC at the University of Maryland,

he received his commission in the US Army and became a member of Damascus Post 171 in May, 2018. His family continues to reside in Damascus and his father is also a member of Post 171. If anyone would like to send supplies, cards, or letters of encouragement, please contact the Post for a full mailing address

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### Lorien Veterans Program Update

Nell Beall, Life Enrichment Director at Lorien, says our aging buddies are doing well despite the strict limitations imposed because of the coronavirus pandemic. Sadly, Bob Ray, one of our Past Post Commanders, joined Past Post Commander Jack Talamo in Post Everlasting on May 15th. Another veteran—J.D. Iden—passed away very recently.

Nell says we “made Ed Solek’s day” when, on May 13th, several of us and some members of Mt. Airy Post 191 formed up outside his window to salute him on his 100th birthday. Ed, a retired Army Colonel, and his son and family send their gratitude for honoring him on that most significant occasion. Ed’s son told us that Ed looks forward to our visit every month and excitedly tells him about it.

We’ll be most pleased when we can resume our programs at Lorien, but, unfortunately, that may well be much later in 2020 and could even be next year.

Thanks to all of you who participate!

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Post 171 had a Post beatification work day on June 6, 2020. One item of concern was the sign in the front of the post. The picture shows 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Steve Monteiro, PPC Bill Rabb painting the white structure and past Auxiliary President Marianne DeSomma working on the vegetation in the planter. Also present for the event was Post Commander Fred Mitchell, Jane St. Louis, Anita Trotter, PPC Dave Clemmer.



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## Website and newsletter

Steve Monteiro has done an outstanding job with the Post website <http://www.legionpost171.org/>. You are urged to check the website for all Post activities and announcements. These announcements are up on a timely manner and offer up-to-date information about events, rentals and anything associated with Post activities.

The latest newsletter is posted along with past issues. We are in the process of assessing how many members read the newsletter online and how many prefer the print edition. Over time we will be shifting more newsletter attention to the website because it allows us to have a more dynamic newsletter using video and real-time feedback from members. The September/October issue will contain a form for members to let us know if you prefer the print edition. Right now we have no idea how many members read the print edition. In the future we will be adjust our print numbers to reflect demand.

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## Post Everlasting

Let us take a moment to honor our fellow Legionaires from Post 171 who went to Post Everlasting since Memorial Day 2019

**Thomas Krafchick**  
**Richard Fox**  
**Gaither W. Phifer, Jr**  
**Eugene Thomas Stone**  
**Ira King**  
**Norman Edward Menekime**  
**Timothy Wright**  
**Ernest Charles Clifford, Jr.**  
**Edward Cleland Grapski**

**Bruce Tucker**  
**Terrance Murphy**  
**Donald Swan**  
**Jack J. Talamo**  
**Richard “Dick” Winkler**  
**Ricky Dean Ward**  
**Nicholas Franklin Boxwell**  
**Robert “Bob” Ray**

**God rest them all**





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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 <sup>st</sup> Vice Commander	Paula Gill	(661) 618-7638	Historian	Sam Lehane	(407) 230-3117
2 <sup>nd</sup> 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		Finance Officer	Adam Young
Adjutant	Adam Young	Post Liaison	Paula Gill

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



