



THE DAMASCUS VETERAN

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

March/April 2022

Greetings Post 171 Family:

It is hard to believe that it is almost springtime already. Time to get outside and enjoy the milder temperatures that accompany springtime. I hope everyone is staying safe and that we are almost over this COVID pandemic.

I want to give a special shoutout to Sam Baughman and Kevin O’Neill for putting on the Membership Dinner in January. We had about 60 attendees including the commanders of Western Maryland Region 4, District 8, Keith Clevenger; Western Maryland Region 4, Alex Whitney; as well as our own Will Trotter, the Department of Maryland Commander. At the Western Maryland Region 4 meeting on February 12, 2022, Alex mentioned the dinner and encouraged other posts to host similar events. Nice job Sam and Kevin.



I would like to give special congratulations to Sam Lehane who was selected as the Legionnaire of the Year for 2021; Shawn Gill and Will Trotter for their selections as Distinguished Members of the Post; and to Steve Monteiro who was presented with the Honorary Life Award. Congrats to each of you – well deserved!

As we slowly but surely get back to normal and spring is right around the corner, just a reminder that in May we will be having our Post elections for officers (7 positions) and the Executive Committee (4 additional positions from membership at large). So, if you don’t have the time to fill a position as an elected member of the Executive Committee, there are plenty of other ways to help out – for example assisting with baseball and serving on that committee; helping out on Thursdays at bingo; as well as helping to plan Post events like our Memorial Day and Veteran’s Day programs; and our Shrimp Fest coming up on April 9, 2022. There is a lot to do and a lot going on, and we can use your help.

Other than that, bingo is back in full swing and hopefully we can be all the way back to normal soon. Keep safe and take care of each other.

For God and Country
Fred Mitchell, Post Commander

Taking care of veterans, and taking care of each other

Taking care of veterans, and taking care of each other



Hello Unit Members and Post 171 Family:

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I hope this note finds you hopeful that Spring is right around the corner and with that, new opportunities for outside activities and time to be with friends and family.

The Unit Bingo Committee has been working very hard to put together a successful **bingo event**, and I hope everyone will support us by either volunteering or purchasing a ticket to the event through Eventbrite. This will be a cash bingo extravaganza to include 20 games of bingo, raffles, 50/50 drawing and King Tutts for cash. The raffles will include wine baskets, a 'pot of gold' variety basket and a plant basket. Information is provided below to purchase tickets and get more information. We will also collect canned food for Damascus HELP so if you bring a can or three you will be a bingo card for a Special Game. Mark your calendars for **Saturday, March 19<sup>th</sup>** and plan to join us. Doors open at 5:30 PM.

Also, we will have an in-person general membership meeting on March 14<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM at our Post home and we hope you will join us. We have a lot of activities to cover including scholarships and the Post shrimp feast on April 9, 2022.

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

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I hope everyone is doing well and staying safe as finally mandates are starting to lift! Our next meeting will be at The Post @ 7:00 P.M. on 3/14/2022. Membership cards are in, and our membership goal deadlines set by The Detachment are flying by and we are way behind! So, please get those renewals in as soon as possible and 2023 dues start in 4 months.

On March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2022 our Squadron is responsible for the 5<sup>th</sup> week bingo concessions and we need volunteers to help out with this! The presence of SAL volunteers is consistently low for this and puts a strain on the dedicated few that show up! Let's buck this trend and have a good showing of volunteers! Our Squadron will also need volunteers for the 5<sup>th</sup> week bingo concessions on June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2022 so please make every effort to help out! Our Squadron is in desperate need of 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 April 9<sup>th</sup>, 2022 the Post is planning a Shrimp Feast details TBD. So please try to attend this event. I urge everyone to stay tuned to the Legion website ([legionpost171.org](http://legionpost171.org)) 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 StockslagerSAL Commander



### THE POST 171 PATRIOTS BASEBALL PROGRAM UPDATE

With the Baseball Major Leagues continued in their lockout and unproductive negotiations, American Legion baseball will be looking to provide an entertaining outlet for baseball lovers. Post 171 Baseball hopes to continue our winning ways and continue to provide competitive and fun opportunities for the young men in our community. We wish them all success in their upcoming High School baseball seasons and hope to hit the ground running after the school year is over.

If you would like to provide even more support, please consider becoming a financial booster. From all of us involved in the baseball program, warm wishes to the players and coaches for a successful 2022 campaign!

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

**2022 POST 171 BASEBALL COMMITTEE:** Alan Rannals (Chairman), Bob Bellison, and Evelyn Hernandez. **Civilian advisors:** Keith Hernandez, Sean Manion, and Dave Retherford.

**2022 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 [post171patriots@gmail.com](mailto:post171patriots@gmail.com) or [rannals@gmail.com](mailto:rannals@gmail.com)

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## 2022 Damascus American Legion Post 171 Oratorical Contest

**Sai Divvela**, a Junior at Damascus High School and first place winner in the Damascus American Legion Post 171 Oratorical Contest came in a very close second place in the District 8 Contest. The District competition was held at Woodsboro American Legion Post 282 on Saturday, February 19th. Sai went six seconds over on his Prepared Oration, and that six second penalty may have been the difference between first and second place.



Left to right: Keith Clevenger, District 8 Commander, Sai Divvela, Wayne Kaikko, District 8 Oratorical Chair.

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## Membership Dinner

### Honorary Lifetime Member



**Steve Monteiro** was honored as Post 171's 72<sup>nd</sup> Honorary Life Member. Steve was honored for his untiring devotion to the Post.

Here he is accepting the Post's highest award.



Left to right: Keith Midberry, presenter; 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Commander (and PPC) Tony DeShiro, Post Commander Fred Mitchell, Steve Monteiro and his wife Nanci.

Steve was the driving force behind the very successful dinner commemorating the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of D Day, he is leading Project Phoenix to address the Legion's shrinking membership, he is Post Adjutant and is a weekly volunteer at bingo, among other contributions to the Post.



## Legionnaire of the Year

**Sam Lehane** accepting the award as Post 171's Legionnaire of the Year for his outstanding work as Post Historian, Oratorical Contest chair, bingo volunteer and other contributions to the Post during 2021.

## Distinguished Members



Two Distinguished Member awards were presented this year. Department of Maryland Commander **Will Trotter** and **Shawn Gill** were honored for their long time commitment to the Post.

Here Will Trotter receives his award from PPC Tony DeShiro. Shawn Gill was unable to attend.

## Legion 2022 Membership Renewal Time

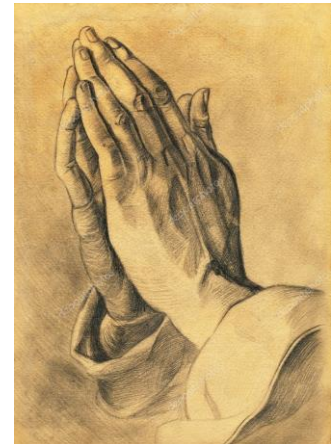
We are currently at 90.5% with only four months until the 2023 Legion Membership Year starts, so check your card, and if it is still a 2021, it's time to renew and get paid up for 2022. You can send payment to me at: 11798 Sier Drive, Monrovia, MD 21770, or if you have a computer and want to save a stamp, 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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### Chaplain's Corner

Take into Your most gracious protection our service members currently deployed. May You be their comfort and their guide as they live and walk in a foreign land. Give them reassurance that You are a shield around them, an ever-present help in time of need. Grant our service members courage so that in all things. .



As they serve around the world, we ask that You guard their families and loved ones back home. Provide them with peace and surround them with love as they mourn the absence of their loved one and long for their return. May they find hope and strength in You for the trials of each new day. Be with military children who endure the difficult burden of knowing their father or mother is in harm's way for months on end. Guard these children's hearts and minds despite the loneliness and uncertainty of having a parent deployed.

Damascus American Legion, Post 171 **March/April 2022**  
P.O. Box 171Damascus, MD 20872

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<http://www.legionpost171.org> and <https://www.facebook.com/DamascusPost171>



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|------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------|----------------|-----------------------------------------|
| <b>American Legion Post 171</b>                                        |                  |                |                                         |
| <b>Officers</b>                                                        |                  |                |                                         |
| 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 | <b>Executive Committee</b>              |
|                                                                        |                  |                | Open seat                               |
|                                                                        |                  |                | Charles Bradsher                        |
|                                                                        |                  |                | Steve O’Neil                            |
|                                                                        |                  |                | Paula Gil                               |
| *denotes Past Post Commander                                           |                  |                |                                         |
| <b>Auxiliary, Unit 171</b>                                             |                  |                |                                         |
| <b>Officers</b>                                                        |                  |                |                                         |
| 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                   |
| <b>SAL Squadron, 171</b>                                               |                  |                |                                         |
| <b>Officers</b>                                                        |                  |                |                                         |
| 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                 |
| <b>Newsletter Editor: Larry Matthews, Newsletter@legionpost171.org</b> |                  |                |                                         |