



THE DAMASCUS VETERAN

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

May/June 2021

Greetings Post 171 Family:

Can you believe it is spring already? I sincerely hope that this spring and summer will be better than last year and with the vaccine rollout, the worst of the pandemic is behind us. In the meantime, continue to look out for each other.

As Montgomery County starts to ease COVID restrictions, the Executive Committee is working to get the Post back to business. As you have been informed, for the past few months the Executive Committee has been meeting at the Post in person the first Monday of the Month. We are currently planning to have our next Membership meeting (May 10, 2021 at 7:30pm) in person as well. We may need to have it upstairs in the main dining area for social distancing purposes. At that meeting the Election Committee will be presenting the Slate of Officers for Legion Year 2021-22 to membership for approval with the vote coming at the June meeting. As a reminder, even though the Slate of Officers will be submitted for approval, other nominations can be made by members at the May membership meeting. I hope to see you there in a few weeks.

Again, in an attempt to get back into the swing of things, the Post is planning to have a Memorial Day program on Sunday 30 May 2021 starting at 1:30. On the Saturday before, we will be placing flags on the gravesites of veterans in area cemeteries. Past Unit President Sandy Seipp is heading up that endeavor. We will be meeting at the Post at 0900 for that event. Additionally, we are planning to have a flag retirement ceremony on Flag Day (June 14, 2021) prior to our membership meeting. We are also hoping to have the Post installation dinner the last Saturday in June (25th). Finally, the Department of Maryland is having their convention in Ocean City from July 14-16, 2021. Again, if you want to be a delegate, please let me know soonest as we are limited in number this year. All of the aforementioned events/information will be posted on the Post's website. Please keep your calendars marked for these events and understand that they could be cancelled if Montgomery County tightens its COVID restrictions.

Lastly, we do not have a timetable as to when we are going to start the pancake breakfasts or bingo. We will be discussing these matters at the membership on Monday, May 10, 2021.

For God and Country,

Fred Mitchell, Post Commander





Sons of the American Legion

Greetings from Squadron 171

Greetings from Squadron 171,

With the welcome change in weather there is also a welcome change in COVID restrictions. I urge everyone who feels comfortable doing so to attend upcoming Legion activities. Memorial Day is right around the corner and volunteering to place flags on our Veteran's graves and attending The Memorial Day celebration is a good place to start. Our next meeting is on May 10th @ 7: 00 PM at the Post and we will be going over a slate of officers. If you are interested in being an officer email me @ toddsal171@yahoo.com.

The Legion year is flying by and our membership goal deadlines fly by just as fast, so if you have not paid your dues now is the time. 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. The end of the legion year is approaching quickly, let's make 100%!

In closing I'd like to remind everyone to stay safe and due your part to help protect yourself and others!

For God and Country,

Todd Stockslager

SAL Commander





Happy Spring! I can't believe that it's has been over a year since we have seen one another. Our 2 weeks stay at home order has turned into a year. Who would have thought? Luckily, things are starting to reopen and going back to normal.

The Legion is starting to reopen and we have a few events coming up. The first event will be Saturday May 29th. Sandy Seipp is once again leading us in putting out the flags on our Post Everlasting Members graves. Please meet at the Post at 9:00am on Saturday morning to get your assignments. Flags will be picked up on Tuesday, June 1st.

On Sunday, May 30th the Post will be holding its Annual Memorial Day Ceremony. The Ceremony will start at the Post at 1:30pm. If you would like to carry a flag for those that we have lost please let me know. We have a lot of names this year since we are unfortunately covering 2 years' worth. After the Ceremony the Unit has been asked to make a light lunch for those who have attended. If you are interested in volunteering to help with that please email me at axb5801@yahoo.com or call or text me at 240-409-8226

We are in need of a Committee Chair for organizing the Slate of Officers for this coming year. If you are interested in heading up this committee, please contact me.

I hope everyone is staying safe and healthy, looking forward to seeing everyone soon!

For God and Country,
Amanda Baughman
Unit President

Legion 2021 Membership Renewal Time

We are almost at the end the 2021 Legion Year, so if you have a 2020 Membership card, it's time to renew your 2021 Membership. 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. Or you can mail a check made out to A.L. Post 171 for \$30.00, to me at: Sam Baughman, 11798 Sier Drive, Monrovia, MD 21770.

The Membership Account has a "slush fund" that is used if a member has difficulty with finances to renew, especially with the virus we have been experiencing. This information will be kept confidential. Let me know if you have any questions. Thanks, and stay safe.



THE POST 171 PATRIOTS BASEBALL PROGRAM UPDATE

It's finally starting to feel like spring and baseball season is upon us. With a year's worth of experience in dealing with COVID-19, baseball programs at all levels are beginning to make a comeback. The American Legion Baseball program will hope to follow their lead and continue the baseball season later this summer. Our local high school baseball programs are now beginning their abbreviated seasons and we hope to continue throughout the summer.

Our schedule of games is still being developed and we will update our website as soon as we start confirming our season. We will continue to follow all CDC, State, and local guidelines concerning player and fan safety and update our fans as they develop.

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 2021 campaign!

If anyone is interested in joining the Baseball Committee for the 2021 season, please contact me at post171patriots@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.

Damascus American Legion Contestant Wins State Oratorical Title

Sponsored by Damascus Post 171 and the Legion Southern Maryland District, Clarksburg High School Junior Srivatsaan “Sri” Kalpana Sreenivasan won first place in the Department of Maryland’s High School Oratorical Contest on Sunday, March 7th. The contest was hosted by Towson Post 22 and included two other contestants from other Legion districts in Maryland.

Winner Sri, pictured center, is surrounded by his proud parents, Kalpana Ramasamy on his left, and Sreenivasan Shanmugam on his right. Pictured on the far left is Anthony DeShiro, First Vice Commander of Post 171, and, on the far right, is Sam LeHane, the Post’s Chairman of the Oratorical Contest. Sri’s oration was titled “The Importance of Voting, a very timely and relevant subject this year.



Since it’s inception in 1938, the theme of The American Legion Oratorical Contest has been The United States Constitution. The contest is designed to enhance understanding and appreciation of our Constitution among our young citizens. Contestants are required to create an original speech related to the Constitution which must be memorized and delivered in 8-10 minutes. In addition, they must be prepared to deliver an oration about one of four topics chosen randomly and delivered without notes in 3-5 minutes.

Sri was the very happy winner of \$8000 in scholarship money, \$5000 from the National American Legion and \$3000 from the Department of Maryland in addition to the amounts he won at the Post, Montgomery County, and District levels. He will be eligible to compete again in his senior year, 2021-2022.

Legion Family, take a look at our Brick Memorials on the front lawn. The one in front is for Veterans and the other one is for non-veterans.

You may purchase a brick for yourself or to memorialize a family member or friend.

The cost of each brick is \$75.00. You are allowed Three(3) lines on each brick and a MAXIMUM of fifteen(15) spaces on each line.

If you would like more information or to place an order, please contact **Bernie Moxley** at 301 873-2951 or leave a message at 301 253-4629.

Payment, cash or check, is due after you approve the lettering, prior to ordering the brick.

As Memorial Day approaches let us remember those who made the ultimate sacrifice. Hundreds of thousands have fallen in America's wars since 1776. On Memorial Day we remember and honor them.



It is also a time to



pause to remember our brothers and sisters from Post 171 who have gone to Post Everlasting since we all gathered together before the pandemic. Their service, their friendship, their smiles and contributions are remembered.

Chaplain's Corner

In Flanders Fields

BY JOHN MCCRAE

Canadian surgeon, World War One

In Flanders fields the poppies blow
Between the crosses, row on row,
That mark our place; and in the sky
The larks, still bravely singing, fly
Scarce heard amid the guns below.

We are the Dead. Short days ago
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,
Loved and were loved, and now we lie,
In Flanders fields.

Take up our quarrel with the foe:
To you from failing hands we throw
The torch; be yours to hold it high.
If ye break faith with us who die
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow
In Flanders fields.



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

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