



## THE DAMASCUS VETERAN

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

**May/June 2022**

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

It is hard to believe that over one-third of calendar year 2022 is behind us. It is a time for warmer temperatures, kids getting out of school for summer (yea, parents with school-age children!) and going on the family vacation. Now that mask mandates and other COVID protocols are being relaxed, people are traveling more and if you are, I wish you safe travels.

The next big event on the calendar and in my eyes the most important to the Post is our Memorial Day remembrance. Mark your calendars because on Saturday, May 28<sup>th</sup>, Sandy Seipp will be heading up our program where we place Flags on gravesites of Veteran's who have gone to Post Everlasting. Last year we visited 21 cemeteries and placed 705 flags on Veterans' gravesites. Then on Sunday, May 29<sup>th</sup> starting at 1:00, we will have our Post 171 Memorial Day remembrance with the incomparable Brownsville Cornet Band providing the music. We are going to need "all hands on deck" to make this event special as it should be. Hope to see you there.

Also, just a reminder that we will be voting for the slate of officers for Legion Year 2022-23 on May 9, 2022. Our editor-in-chief, Larry Matthews, has attached the proposed slate of officers to the newsletter. If there is a position for which you would like to be considered, we will be taking nominations from the floor at the May 9<sup>th</sup> meeting. If you do not wish to fill a position on the Executive Committee, we can always use help on the social committees, baseball committee, bingo committee, etc. There is much to do at the Post, and we could use your help.

Finally, as you may have heard, Tony DeShiro and his wife Connie are moving to New Hampshire to be closer to their grandkids and family up there. Tony has been a tremendous asset to this Post. During his 10+ years here he has served as Post Commander, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Commander, Finance Officer (at least 2-3 times), and Judge Advocate. I probably missed a few, but you get the gist – he served in a leadership position every year he was here! So, in order to give him and his wife a proper sendoff, we will be having a potluck in their honor prior to the Unit/Post meeting on June 13, 2022. Please come out to wish our shipmate and his wife fair winds and following seas!

Other than that, keep doing what you are doing – staying safe and looking out for each other.

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:



Greetings Everyone!

I am happy and proud to share that our Unit Bingo fundraiser held in March was very profitable and the second highest earning in the history of the Unit! This will go a long way toward supporting our projects and other commitments. I couldn't be more proud of the dedicated team of Unit members as well as Legionnaires who came out to support us that night. I believe a record was set that night for the most \$1000 Vegas games sold and it certainly had us all putting on aprons to sell tickets!

A big thank you to the Unit members and Legionnaires who helped support this event from the planning phase through the final count of the earnings. You are all amazing!

The month of June is right around the corner and we will install a new set of officers for the next year. If you are interested in joining the executive committee in any capacity, please feel free to reach out to me and ask any questions about any of the positions from Unit President to Historian – we need your involvement!

Our next in-person membership meeting will be May 9<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM and we hope you'll consider joining us. Looking to June, there will be a pot luck dinner followed by a dessert auction on the 13<sup>th</sup>. Our meeting that night will begin at 7:30 PM.

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,

We made it thru winter and are finally starting to get a taste of nice weather. Our next meeting is on May 9<sup>th</sup> @ 7:00 PM at the Post and we need a slate of officers and a lot of holes to fill. We need officers badly so if you are interested in answering the call of being an officer email me @ [toddsal171@yahoo.com](mailto:toddsal171@yahoo.com).

The Legion year is flying by and our membership goal deadlines flew past us, so if you have not paid your dues now is the time. The Southern Maryland District has issued goals for membership and we have not met like we have in years past! Let's finish strong 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 tuned to the Post 171 website for upcoming events!

For God and Country,

**Todd Stockslager**  
**SAL Commander**

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**Bingo! Every Thursday night. We need your help. Contact Bill Green for details. And bring your friends and neighbors.**



It's finally starting to feel like spring and baseball weather is finally with us. With the high school baseball season in full swing, and Legion season approaching, we hope you're going to join us in supporting the Post 171 baseball program. We will be posting a schedule of games soon and the young men always appreciate a friendly crowd and seeing friendly faces in the stands.

Many thanks to those of you who have already sent in checks to become an official Baseball Program Boosters. There's still time to show support, so 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 or rannals@gmail.com

Let's get ready to Play Ball,

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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## Legion 2022 Membership Renewal Time

We are currently at 92.2% with only two 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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### Two videos honor Post 171 members.

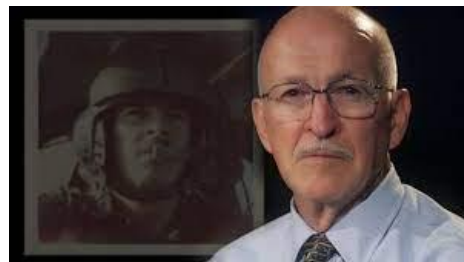
In March PPC George Bolling was laid to rest at Arlington on a rainy day. It was a moving ceremony with full military honors. Here is the link

<https://youtube.com/watch?v=jrl9b008GBo&feature=share>



Post 171 member Larry Earles, our Memorial Day speaker, is a highly decorated helicopter pilot and Vietnam War veteran. This video has been seen more than 700,000 times. It's an outstanding story.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SnribazlS4o&t=1128s>





## Post 171 Slate of Nominees 2022-2023



To be voted on during the May membership meeting on  
May 9

Position	Nominee
Commander	Steve Monteiro
1st Vice Commander	Charles Bradsher
2nd Vice Commander	Kevin O'Neill
Adjutant	Fred Mitchell
Finance Officer	Anita Trotter
Judge Advocate	Dean Elliott
Sgt At Arms	Bill Green
<i>Executive Committee</i>	Will Cole
<i>Executive Committee</i>	Paula Gill
<i>Executive Committee</i>	Steve O'Neil
<i>Executive Committee</i>	Ray Lewandowski

Post members are permitted to offer nominations from the floor.



May is the month of Memorial Day, a day when we remember those service members who gave their lives for the United States and the freedoms we hold dear.

It began during the Civil War when mourners placed flowers on the graves of the fallen. For many years it was observed only in the North. For decades it has been observed throughout America.

It was known as Decoration Day until Congress formally changed the name to Memorial Day in 1971.

As the Commander noted, we will place flags on the graves of Veterans during the Memorial Day weekend and hold our annual observance on Sunday, May 29.

***God on High and in our Hearts: Grant reassuring peace beneath the cover of Your Presence to all the men and women who gave their lives in defense of our country and the freedom of the world.***

*We remember you, we honor you, we love you and we humbly thank you for your service. A simple “thank you” is not enough for all that you’ve endured. We pray that you live on through the loving memories shared by your family and loved ones. We pray that the strife, battles and wounds of war be calmed for eternity in God’s loving grace. May you find rest at last and know that those left behind cherish your spirit, honor your commitment, send their love and will never forget your sacrifice.*

Damascus American Legion, Post 171 **May/June 2022**  
P.O. Box 171Damascus, MD 20872

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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	* 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>		

**Executive Committee**

Keith Martin  
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)**