



## THE DAMASCUS VETERAN

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

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### Greetings Post 171 Family:

I hope everyone is staying safe and exercising good judgment when going out and about in the midst of this COVID 19 pandemic.

Nothing much has changed since my last letter to you except that the Executive Committee has been meeting in person the last two months. Everyone in the meeting has on a face covering and we practice social distancing -- it seems to be working well.

On October 22, 2020 via zoom, the Executive Committee met to decide what if anything we should do for Veteran's Day this year. While we will miss going to the school flag raisings and observances, the Executive Committee voted to have a Veteran's Day observance at the Post. It will be an outside ceremony with a flag-raising, moment of silence, POW/MIA observance, etc. It should last between 30-40 mins. **Please check the website for updates.** Given the state of reopening in Montgomery County, this event will only be held outdoors. In the event of inclement weather, the event will be cancelled. Again, please check the website for updates.

Finally, the Department of Maryland had its abbreviated convention on September 19, 2020. It was all business as there was limited time. One of the resolutions that passed that affects the Post is that this year will be the last year of the Post-County-District construct and starting in Legion Year 2021, each post will belong to a Region. It should not affect how the Post does business – its just a change in the chain of command.

Wish I had more to tell you about bingo, the pancake breakfasts, etc. I can only say keep going to the website for updated information. That is about it. Stay safe and I hope to see you 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**

I would like to thank those who attended or responded to our meeting on 10/12/2020. All input and encouragement was greatly appreciated! 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](mailto:toddsal171@yahoo.com) to be added to the list.

With four 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 35% by November 12<sup>th</sup>, let's make it happen!

Veteran's Day is right around the corner! I encourage Squadron Member's and the Legion Family to take the time to not only remember those who died serving our country but also those who still serve and continue to fulfill a patriotic duty to protect our freedoms!

For God and Country,

Todd Stockslager

SAL Commander

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## Greetings from the Auxiliary

Happy Fall! What a crazy year this has been. Hopefully, 2021 will be a much better year. I hope everyone is staying healthy and safe.

At the end of September at the convention, a resolution was passed to keep all officers the same as last year. This is the first time anything like this has happened in Auxiliary history. I am sorry for any delay in getting the information out but I was awaiting for the Resolution from the department to pass. This has been passed at the Department, and National levels.

Membership cards have been received and have started to be distributed. Thank you to all who participated in the Early-Bird Special. For those that didn't get a chance to take advantage of early-birds please try and get your memberships paid.

I want to wish everyone a very Happy Holiday. And as always, if anyone needs anything please do not hesitate to reach out to me.

For God and Country,

Amanda Baughman

Unit President

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## Legion 2021 Membership Renewal Time

We are four months 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](http://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.

After a successful and most importantly, healthy, summer of baseball, Post 171 continued our baseball season into the fall. Thanks to the hard work and dedication of our baseball coaching staff, we provided continued baseball playing opportunities to over 50 young men of our community. Our continued adherence to all the CDC, state and local health guidelines have kept all of our players and coaching staff healthy through the season. A great deal of gratitude is owed to our coaching staff of Dave Retherford, Sean Manion and Tyler Retherford for their extraordinary efforts during this challenging season.

Our Senior team competed in the Fall MCBA AAA 18U season and successfully fought their way to an undefeated season. With a final record of 13 wins, 0 losses and 1 tie, our team won the season championship with a thrilling 7<sup>th</sup> inning walk off base hit to win the championship game by a score of 4-3. With many of these same young men coming back to next year's Senior team, we hope that 2021 brings many more great things.

Our Junior team continues to play in the Tri-State league in the 16U division and has so far compiled a record of 19 wins, 11 losses and 4 ties. Their playoff season will be coming in the next week and we wish them the best of luck. As we look forward to the 2021 season and beyond, these young men will be representing Post 171 for many years.

We continue to monitor the health status of all of our players, coaches, families and opponents. To date, there still has not been a single incidence of COVID-19 or a documented contact with an infected person. We will continue to abide by all health directives from the County, State and CDC authorities to ensure the continued good health and safety of all those involved with our program.

We hope you and your families are doing well,

Alan T. Rannals

Thanks, and please stay safe!

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

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# 2021 American Legion Oratorical Contest

As stated in the last newsletter, the 2021 Oratorical Contest season has been affected by the continuing pandemic closures and delays throughout the state. The Post 171 Executive Committee has explored all options for how the Post will react this year and selected the following option. Rather than recruiting contestants, Post 171 would find a suitable candidate to sponsor for the County, District and State Contests. Posts are not required to have a “contest” to present a candidate. Only State Finals must follow the rules to the letter. So, rather than have a full-up contest at the post, we will mentor and have practice sessions with just a single candidate.

To that end, our previous years winning contestant Srivatsaan (Sri) Kalpana Sreenivasan’s name was placed before the Oratorical Committee for consideration, and receiving no negative feedback or competing names, Sri was contacted and accepted our invitation to represent Post 171.

The National Championship Oratorical Contest is currently planned and scheduled for April 9 – 11, 2021 in Indianapolis as usual. The Department of Maryland Contest is currently scheduled for Sunday, March 7, 2021, at Stevenson University in Owings Mills.

At this time, it is not known if the County or District will be holding any contests in 2021



**Post 171 at night in a timed photo by Dave Clemmer. Note the spinning stars.**

# Veterans Day 2020

See Commander's message



This Veterans Day may require all of us to modify our commemoration of the day but there is one event Army vets can celebrate. The long-awaited National Museum of the United States Army is finally going to open its doors on November 11<sup>th</sup>. The museum's website says,:

“The National Museum of the U.S. Army, located on a publicly accessible area of Fort Belvoir, Virginia, will be the first and only museum to tell the entire history of the U.S. Army since its establishment in 1775.”



“The U.S. Army and the American Soldier forged the birth of our nation,” said Secretary of the Army, Ryan D. McCarthy. “The National Army Museum will be a place for members of the total Army family to gather and share their stories, while also creating an opportunity for visitors to connect with our nation’s history through the eyes and voices of individual Soldiers.”

The museum will open with enhanced health and safety measures for visitors. Free, timed-entry tickets are required to manage visitor capacity and provide an optimal experience to visitors.

We will plan a Post visit to the museum at a later date.



## Chaplain's Corner

These are challenging days and as we approach the holiday season we know we have much to be thankful for. Let us remember our brothers and sisters who are in harms way.

**Psalm 100:4-5**

**Enter his gates with thanksgiving**

**and his courts with praise;**

**give thanks to him and praise his name.**

**For the Lord is good and his love endures forever;**

**his faithfulness continues through all generations.**



**The pandemic will pass and we will still be among our comrades here and those who have transferred to Post Everlasting.**

**Philippians 4:6-7**

**Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.**

Damascus American Legion, Post 171  
P.O. Box 171

2020

Damascus, 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	<b>Executive Committee</b>		
Judge Advocate	Dean Elliott	(240) 793-6868	*Bernie Moxley, Sr		

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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