

DAMASCUS POST 171



Veterans Day

Monday, November 11, 2019

11AM

10:30 AM

Music

Damascus High School Chorus

10:55

Welcome

Post Commander Fred Mitchell

11:00

One Minute of Silence and Remembrance

Invocation

Post Chaplain Larry Matthews

Call to colors

Presentation of Colors

Pledge of Allegiance

Amanda Baughman, Unit 171 President

National Anthem

POW/MIA Remembrance

George H. Bolling, Past Post Commander

Introduction of Speaker

Larry Matthews

Speaker

Grady Smith, Lt. Colonel U. S. Army (retired)

Service Songs – all sing

(In order: **Army, Marine, Navy, Coast Guard, Air Force**)

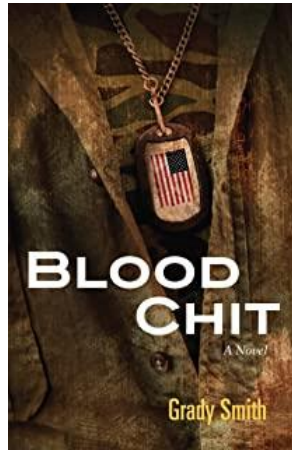
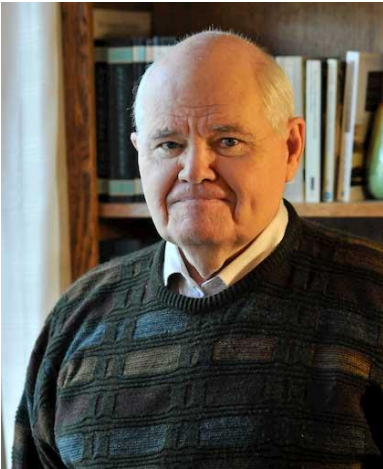
God Bless America – all sing

Benediction

Larry Matthews, Post 171 Chaplain

Taps

Closing remarks from Todd Stockslager Commander, SAL
squadron 171



Yes, it's brutal, yes, it's chilling, but "Blood Chit" with its perfect ending makes the trip not only worthwhile but unforgettable. I had always put Fitzgerald's "Great Gatsby" at the top of the list of novels with perfect endings, but now I have to make it a tie. Move over, Fitzgerald, and make room for Grady Smith and the heartbreaking, "Blood Chit." Amazon review.

Army Lt. Col. Grady Smith (retired) is a career officer who served in the 82nd Airborne Division as a platoon leader in the Dominican Republic, then as a company commander in the 31st Infantry in the Mekong Delta during the Vietnam War, where he served with distinction. Combat actions resulted in severe hearing loss. He then served in Germany and the U.S. in staff officer assignments. After retirement he earned his PhD. He edited and co-wrote a history of the 31st Infantry Regiment. His novel, Blood Chit, earned rave reviews from Vietnam Veterans.

Thank you to the Damascus High School Chorus for their participation in today's Veterans Day program.

Special thanks to the Post 171 Auxiliary for today's lunch.

**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**

Written by Lieutenant Colonel John McCrae,

Canadian Army surgeon, World War One

