



## THE DAMASCUS VETERAN

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

**September/October 2021**

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

Well, I thought we were on our way to getting back to normal and now we are dealing with the "Delta Variant" of COVID 19. The good news is that the vaccine has slowed the death and hospitalization rates. I hope you are all staying safe and looking out for each other.

The Department of Maryland convention has come and gone the highlight of which was swearing in our own Will Trotter as the Department of Maryland Commander. Congrats to Will! Additionally, the Department of Maryland county/district reorganization became effective at the close of the convention. There are no more county commanders -- Post 171 now reports to Western Maryland Region-4, District 8. It really should be transparent to most legionnaires in the Post.

As I stated in the last newsletter, the Post is pretty much up and back to business. As such we are planning for bingo to start back on September 2, 2021, and the pancake breakfasts to start again on September 11<sup>th</sup>. Speaking of bingo, we will need your help on Thursday nights running bingo as there is a lot to do. Additionally, get the word out that bingo is back at Post 171!!!

Finally, the Post building is getting old, and we need to do some work on the building as it affects its rentability. Larry Matthews, the Post Rental Agent, indicated that a would-be renter came in to take a look at the place, saw the sagging ceiling and just walked out. The good news is that PPC Tony DeShiro reached out to Home Depot, and they gave us a \$6,500 gift card to purchase materials for replacing the ceiling. We are now in the process of getting bids from contractors to complete the work. When that happens the main dining hall upstairs will be closed to complete the repair/replacement. Many thanks to PPC DeShiro and to Home Depot for making this happen.

That is about it for now. Enjoy what is left of your summer, getting out and about again, and hopefully getting back to normalcy.

### **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 hope everyone had a safe and fun Summer. As the new legion year begins, so does the membership goals set by the Detachment of Maryland. Cards are now in so please renew your membership. Our next meeting will be on September 13<sup>th</sup> @ 7:00 P.M. at the post.

This will be our first SAL meeting of the new Legion year so I please ask as many that can make it to attend. We will be discussing fundraisers, membership and other important topics for this year. Please continue to stay safe and I'm looking forward to seeing you at the meeting.

For God and Country,

Todd Stocklager  
SAL Commander



Auxiliary Unit 171's Executive Committee invites you to our first general membership meeting since COVID began. The membership meeting will be on **Monday, September 13<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 PM** downstairs in the Post building. This meeting is especially important as we will be voting on a slate of officers for the 2021/2022 administrative year as nominated by

the executive committee. If you would prefer to submit a ballot electronically, please send an e-mail requesting a ballot to Marianne DiSomma at [marianne62@msn.com](mailto:marianne62@msn.com).

Also as a reminder, if you haven't paid your dues for 2021 or 2022 there's still time! Please contact Jane at [vieira63@aol.com](mailto:vieira63@aol.com) or mail your payment to her attention at American Legion Auxiliary/Unit 171, P.O. Box 171, Damascus, MD 20872 (ATTN: Jane St. Lewis) . Dues are \$25 for each year and once payment is submitted, Jane will forward your membership cards to your mailing address.

And lastly, we will be supporting the Posts Bingo snack bar on the first and third Thursdays of each month beginning on Thursday, September 2<sup>nd</sup>. We are in need of volunteers to help out in the snack bar so if you have a couple of hours to spare each month, we welcome your help!

Stay Safe,  
Your Unit 171 Executive Committee

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## **Damascus American Legionnaire William Trotter Installed as Department of Maryland Commander**

At the annual Department of Maryland convention in Ocean City in mid-July, Damascus Post 171 member William "Will" Trotter was installed as the Maryland Commander for the Legion year 2021-2022.

Trotter is the first Post 171 member to serve in that role since the Post was formed in 1945. Will served the Post for nine years as the Adjutant, and he was the Montgomery County Commander for several years, the Southern Maryland District Commander, and the State Senior Vice Commander for the past two years. He also served as the Chaplain and Oratorical Contest Chairman for the Department. Will's term as State Commander begins as the Department of Maryland implements an extensive reorganization into four regions, each of which has a Vice Commander.



Nine members of the Damascus Post represented the Post the convention. Pictured with Commander Trotter are, left to right, Past Post Commander Buzz Burroughs, Adjutant Steve Monteiro, Trotter, Will's wife and Finance Officer Anita Trotter, Post Commander Fred Mitchell, Past Post Commander and current First Vice Commander Tony DeShiro, Past Post Commander George Bolling, Past Post Commander and National Legion staff member Kevin Mook, and Keith Midberry, Service Officer.



Post officers were sworn in for the new Legion year at the annual Installation Dinner on June 26<sup>th</sup>. From Left, Sergeant at Arms Bill Green, Commander Fred Mitchell, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Tony DeShiro, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Kevin O'Neill, Finance Officer Anita Trotter, and Adjutant Steve Montiero.

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## Legion 2022 Membership Renewal Time

It's the start of the new Legion Membership Year, so it's time to renew your 2022 Membership. Have a computer and want to 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. 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.



Our boys of summer completed a successful summer baseball season and I'm happy to report a healthy one as well. We had teams compete at all three age groups and all three teams kept COVID at bay all season.

Our Senior Legion team, led by Head Coach Kevin Hernandez, captured the Montgomery County Championship. This victory secured the team a spot in the Maryland State tournament held in

Funkstown. The team played their hearts out and finished with a 2-2 record and being eliminated by eventual champions, St Mary's Post 255.

Our youngest players, the Sandlot Juniors division (U15), also qualified for the State Tournament. Led by head coach, Dave Retherford, they secured a State Championship title for our Post. We look forward to seeing these young men continue with the program and continue to represent Post 171.

We will be sponsoring a fall baseball team to continue offering the young men of our community the opportunity to play baseball and represent our Post.

Thanks for your support,

**2021 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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## From the Post Service Officer

It is a privilege to accept offer from the Post Commander to serve as the Post Service Officer for 2021-22 membership year. My primary role is to educate Post Members about state, federal and VA benefits and be a resource to the membership. I am not a certified veteran's claims specialist but know the folks that are the experts in this area and I can assist members in navigating the system, something I do on a regular basis in my regular job as Veteran Liaison for Hospice of Frederick County. Below is a list of the most common veteran benefit questions I encounter and links for further information. I hope to do a presentation at the Post in the fall, maybe following a pancake breakfast. Regardless, my contact info is [kmidberry@gmail.com](mailto:kmidberry@gmail.com) / C- (240) 472-5317. – Keith Midberry

### VETERAN RESOURCE LINKS

***How to enroll for VA Health benefits at VA Medical Center, Martinsburg WV -***  
Call (304)263-0881, #4 or extension 5230 or 5227/ FAX (304) 262-1331  
Online - Complete **VA Form 10-10EZ, Application for Health Benefits**  
In Person - Complete the "Application for Health Benefits" at your local VA facility.

VA Benefits Guide - [https://www.va.gov/opa/publications/benefits\\_book.asp](https://www.va.gov/opa/publications/benefits_book.asp)  
<https://www.va.gov/welcome-kit>

***How to obtain records and awards -***  
<https://www.archives.gov/veterans/military-service-records>

***Information about VA burial benefits and cemetery program –***  
[https://www.cem.va.gov/burial\\_benefits/](https://www.cem.va.gov/burial_benefits/)

<https://www.benefits.va.gov/BENEFITS/factsheets/burials/Burial.pdf>

***Information about Arlington National Cemetery -***  
<http://www.arlingtoncemetery.mil/#/>

***How to obtain a VA monument or marker -***  
<https://www.cem.va.gov/cem/hmm/index.asp>

***Information about Maryland Veteran Cemetery Program***  
***<https://veterans.maryland.gov/cemetery-and-memorial-program/>***

***Information about VA spouse / survivor pension -***  
***<http://www.benefits.va.gov/pension/spousepen.asp>***  
***<http://benefits.va.gov/benefits/factsheets/survivors/Survivorspension.pdf>***  
***[https://www.benefits.va.gov/pension/aid\\_attendance\\_housebound.asp](https://www.benefits.va.gov/pension/aid_attendance_housebound.asp)***

***Presidential Memorial Certificate - <https://www.cem.va.gov/pmc.asp>***

***MD Veteran Benefit Specialist – Keri Keefer / [keri.keefer@maryland.gov](mailto:keri.keefer@maryland.gov) / 301-600-2155 (Frederick County)***

***MD Veteran Benefit Specialist – Joseph Thornton / located Gaithersburg DMV (Montgomery County) / (301) 897-8412 /8413***

***How to enter a veteran in the World War II Memorial - <http://wwiimemorial.com/>***

***How to enter a veteran in the Navy Memorial - <http://navylog.navymemorial.org/>***

***Vietnam War 50<sup>th</sup> Commemoration - <http://www.vietnamwar50th.com/>***

***How to order military items (hats, pins, medals)- <https://www.medalsofamerica.com/>***

***VA Community Based Outpatient Clinics (CBOCs):***

***Fort Detrick VA Clinic***  
***Frederick, MD · In Fort Detrick · (800) 817-3807***

***Glen Burnie VA Outpatient Clinic - VA Maryland Health Care System***  
***Glen Burnie, MD · In Quarterfield Center · (410) 590-4140***

***Montgomery County VA Center***  
***Gaithersburg, MD · (301) 591-5858***

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After a year and one half with no bingo we will once again be open to the public with our cash bingo. September the second at 5:00 P.M. the doors will open and we will greet our masked patrons for an enjoyable evening of Bingo, comradery, fun and sometimes profit. Bingo is Post 171's lifeline. The monies we raise we go to support Post programs, replenishing our depleted reserves, and taking care of the Post home. As we have started gearing back up we found that some of our ancient refrigerators, air conditioners, and drink coolers completely died. Our ceiling was in dire need of attention and that project is close to fruition. All these items are expensive and that's where bingo comes in. Join us on Thursday evenings and play or come out and help us succeed at keeping up a tradition of excellent customer service. Tell your friends and neighbors about our bingo and encourage them to come out and support an incredible organization.

## Privileged rentals at the Post

One of the many benefits of membership at Post 171 is the use of Post facilities at a fifty-per cent discount, greater than other Posts in the area. The discount rate is available to Post members, SAL and Auxiliary Unit members. Members who have been in good standing for at least one year can rent either the Main Room or the Party Room for family celebrations, birthdays or other events. As outlined in the current Privileged Rental Contract, the discount is only available for the member or the member's immediate family, defined as **“a member's spouse, children (including stepchildren), and parents of a member or spouse (to include stepmother/father).”** Abuse of this rule may result in cancellation of the contract or even loss of privileged rental rights in the future should the Executive Committee decide to take such action.

The renter assumes all responsibilities for the event and will act as host, ensuring that terms of the contract are enforced, such as cleanup, returning tables and chairs to their original positions, and exiting on time.

**If you have any questions contact the Post Rental Agent, Larry Matthews, at 301 370-4079**

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### [Ecclesiastes 3:11](#)

He has made everything beautiful in its time. Also, He has put eternity into man's heart, yet so that he cannot find out what God has done from the beginning to the end.

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

September/October 2021

Damascus, MD 20872



Non-Profit Org.  
U.S. Postage  
Damascus, MD  
Permit No. 4400

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Post Home Location: 10201 Lewis Drive, Damascus, MD 20872 – Phone: 301 253-0769

<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	

#### Executive Committee

Judge Advocate	Dean Elliott	(240) 793-6868	*Bernie Moxley, Sr		
			Charles Bradsher		
			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	

**Newsletter Editor: Larry Matthews, [Newsletter@legionpost171.org](mailto:Newsletter@legionpost171.org)**