

William Robert (Bobby) Mullinix was born on January 10, 1928 in Damascus, MD, and remains a life-long resident. He has been married to Mary Louise for 68 years; they have one daughter, two grandsons, and two great grandsons. Prior to his military service, Bobby worked at the U.S. Post Office Department before registering for the draft. He was awarded the World War II Victory Medal.

Bobby was supposed to graduate from high school with the class of 1945, but at the end of his junior year in 1944 he was only two credits shy of the credits needed for graduation, so he went to summer school to obtain those two credits, and graduated in 1944, one year ahead of his peers. He did this so the Army would accept him right out of high school. But immediately after graduation there was a waiting period before he was called up. While he was waiting he went to work for the Post Office. The Army was not ready to induct him right away but they required him to physically go to the recruitment office and check in with them every day. If the Army was ready to take him, then he would have to go home and pack his bags. If they didn't want him to go that day then he was free to go his job at the Post Office. This went on until he was called up on March 21, 1946.

He was inducted at Ft Meade, MD, and three days later was sent to Ft McClellan, AL where he took his Basic Infantry Training. After training he got a 15-day furlough and came home and married Mary Louise on June 4, 1946. After his furlough he was sent to Ft Bragg, NC where he was assigned to the 416th Ordnance Company. "While in the Army, most of my free time was spent going to movies or the USO. I could come home regularly on a 3-day pass. I never had to eat k-rations or anything, always had good Army food."

Bobby said: "My first buddy in the service was Solomon Cohen who worked in the office at Headquarters Company at Ft. Bragg. He knew that had I worked for the Post Office, and said that a man retired who was a postal clerk, and wanted to know if I was interested in the job. I said, heck yes. So he put my name in and I got the job, and that's where I stayed until I was discharged."

"I never went overseas because I was a draftee, and the military was letting the draftees out early because the war was over. One day my buddy came to me and said that I could get out of the service because I was married and my wife was pregnant. He said all I had to do was come down to Headquarters Company and fill out the paperwork that I was a draftee and that my wife is pregnant, then go to a doctor and get a letter certifying that my wife was pregnant. So I did, and was discharged on January 27, 1947."

"After I was discharged I had to reapply for my old job at the Post Office. There were a lot of veterans applying for the jobs, so jobs were scarce. I had to take what work I could find and wait until the Post Office called me back. I had to wait awhile, but I finally got hired back, where I stayed until I retired."

Bobby joined the American Legion in the early 1950's, after which he subsequently got involved with the Fire Department and let his membership lapse. He rejoined the Legion

in 1966 and has been a member of Post 171 since 1966. He has been a long time Bingo caller, and member of the Bingo Committee and Life Member Committee.

Bob read about what some of the guys went through during combat, and appreciates their service. Even though he was never in combat, Bobby was proud to serve, and proud to be a member of the American Legion. On January 25, 2014, in honor of his support and many contributions to American Legion Post 181, Bobby Mullinix was presented the Distinguished Member Award, which is the highest honor our Post can award a member. At a minimum, eligibility requirements for the Distinguished Member Award include ten (10) consecutive years of attendance in good standing, dedication to the principles of outstanding citizenship, and untiring and consistent participation in the Post's activities. Known widely as "The Voice of Legion Bingo", Bobby is a true servant of the Damascus Community and Post 171.