



## THE DAMASCUS VETERAN

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

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**January February 2020**

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Greetings Post 171 Family:

And a happy new year to you all! I can harken back to my active duty days and how I loved the Christmas season as it was down time, and time to relax. Then all of a sudden, New Year's Day came and went, and we were back to grind! I hope everyone had enjoyable holidays with friends and family and are reenergized. With that said, it's time to get back to work and start afresh with the business of the Legion.

The last two months of the year were extremely productive and rewarding. PPC George Bolling continues to do great work at Lorient. Post 191 hosted a Nov 10, 2019 Veteran's Day event where the veterans from Lorient were honored and many members from our Post were invited and attended. It was very well done, and I know the Lorient veterans appreciated it. A shout out to George and the Post members who go to Lorient each month and help with that program. You talk about making a difference in veterans' lives – this does!



Speaking of Veteran's Day, I would like to thank PPC Dave Clemmer, 1stVice Commander, Department of Maryland, Will Trotter, and Post 171 1stVice Commander Paula Gill for speaking at the area schools during their Veteran's Day celebrations. Thanks also to folks that attended. I would also like to thank Larry Matthews for spearheading Post 171's Veteran's Day event which included an awesome speaker, LTC Grady Smith, USA (ret.). The Damascus High School Chorus was nothing short of outstanding – very talented young men and women. Special thanks to the Unit for putting on a scrumptious lunch, and Amanda Baughman (Unit President) and Todd Stockslayer (SAL Commander) for assisting in the program. Great things can happen when you work together.

This is the first newsletter for the calendar year, and I want to start the new year with new ideas vis-à-vis, how we can better serve our vets. We are capable of doing a lot more and we need to do a lot more. Your ideas are more than welcome.

For God and Country

Fred Mitchell  
Post Commander

**Taking care of veterans, and taking care of each other.**

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**AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY, UNIT 171**  
*A Newsletter for Members & Friends of Damascus Unit 171*

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Happy New Year to All Unit Members,

Hope this letter finds everyone enjoying their time with their families. As we close out 2019, we are looking forward to bringing in a brand-new decade (crazy how that sounds).

Sadly, we did lose our dear Unit member Mickey Day back in November. The Unit is working with the family to plan a Memorial Service to honor her. All will be welcome to attend. The event will be held at the Post. As we receive more information, we will be passing it on. If you are not on our email distribution list and are interested in attending please let contact me at 240-409-8226.

A quick reminder that the Annual Membership Dinner will be held on Saturday, January 25th. Happy Hour is at 5 and Dinner will be served at 6pm. The cost is \$15 per person. If interested in attending please let Sam Baughman know by January 13th, 301-401-6479 or [racecarman0711@comcast.net](mailto:racecarman0711@comcast.net).

Our next meeting is Monday, January 13th at 7:30pm. Hope to see everyone there.

For God and Country,

Amanda Baughman, Unit 171 President

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**SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION SQUADRON, 171**  
*A Newsletter for Members & Friends of Damascus Squadron 171*

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Greetings from the SAL Squadron,

I hope everyone is staying nice and warm and dry in this awful start to the winter. I would like to take this opportunity to remind everyone that membership cards are in, and our goal is to achieve 100% membership for the fifth year in a row, so please get your dues in. I would like to encourage any members with ideas for the upcoming Legion Year to bring them up at our next meeting, any input is greatly appreciated.

Reminder the Annual Membership dinner will be on Saturday, January 25th. Happy hour is at 5 and dinner will be at 6:00pm. The cost is \$15 per person. If you are a new member this year there is no charge for you to attend.

Our next meeting will be held on Monday, January 13th at 7pm.

I would like to wish everyone a Happy New Year. Looking forward to seeing everyone next year.

Todd Stockslager, SAL 171 Commander

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## Annual Membership Dinner - January 25, 2020

Don't forget the Annual Membership Dinner on Saturday, January 25, 2020, to be held at the Post. This is a great event, and everyone is encouraged to attend. New members should especially plan to attend as it's free for you! Social hour with an open bar starts at 5 PM., dinner at 6 PM., and the program starts at 7 PM. It is also a wonderful opportunity to recognize superior service by deserving Legionnaires and get energized for future Post service to veterans and our community. Please send in the below reservation form to the Post, or give it to Sam Baughman with your check or cash as If you have questions you can call or text him at 301-401-6479. New members, including Unit and SAL, can RSVP to Sam at [racecarman0711@comcast.net](mailto:racecarman0711@comcast.net)

### January 25th 2020 Membership Dinner Party Reservation Form

Member name \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$15 Spouse or 1st Guest

\_\_\_\_\_ @ \$15 Number of additional guests \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$20 each Total number attending  
\_\_\_\_\_ Table request \_\_\_\_\_ soon as possible, but no later than January 13th .

### 2020 Membership Renewal Time

Thanks to everyone who has already renewed their membership. We are close to 75%. You can renew online at: [legion.org/renew](http://legion.org/renew) and click "Click Here to Renew Membership". All you need is your ID# and method of payment. You can also mail check or money order for \$30.00 to the Post at PO Box 171, Damascus, MD 20872.

Sam Baughman, Membership Chairman

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### POST 171 VISITS THE VETERANS AT LORIEN

Our session with our Lorien veterans this month was better attended than any of our previous ones, including ten of us from our Post.. The program featured our own Second Vice Commander and Service Officer Steve Monteiro. In the wake of a loss to Navy in the recent, annual Army-Navy football classic, the proud West Point graduate in the Class of 1973 shared some highlights of his four years at the Army's U.S. Military Academy. His presentation centered on very creative graphics, and he spoke about some interesting aspects in the history of the Academy, the symbolism in some of its artifacts, and some of his own humorous experiences as a cadet. When finished, he was heartedly applauded. Afterwards, with Lorien's Cheryl Cave at the keyboard, we sang together three most memorable Christmas Carols, brightening the day of these lonely aging veterans.



We hold these sessions on the last Wednesday of each month, beginning about 9:30 AM and lasting about an hour. Our February speaker will be new member Larry Earles, who will talk about his experiences as a helicopter pilot during the Vietnam War. Come join us for doughnuts and coffee as we render meaningful support to our comrades who served in wars when most of us were children.

For more information, contact PPC George Bolling.

## VETERANS DAY AT POST 171

The Damascus American Legion Family celebrated Veterans Day on November 11th at the Post Home. The Damascus High School Chorus provided a top-notch concert of patriotic songs preceding the service.

At the 11th hour, Damascus American Legion Commander Fred Mitchell opened the annual Veterans Day Service, calling for a moment of silence to honor all who have served America in uniform. He then spoke eloquently about the enormous debt owed to those veterans and challenged his fellow Legionnaires to join in the Post's initiative to support them.

Post Chaplain Larry Matthews introduced Retired Army Lieutenant Colonel Grady Smith, the guest speaker. Colonel Smith spoke with meaningful emotion about the heroics of three veterans from past wars who had been missing in action until their remains were recovered, returned to their families, and buried with full military honors. He also told the

audience about two of his classmates in Officer Candidate School who were killed in action in the Vietnam War and were awarded the Medal of Honor posthumously. He described the devastation a soldier feels when he loses a comrade-in-arms in combat. His remarks were touching, especially to those in the audience who have lost loved ones.

In the photo: Commander Fred Mitchell, guest speaker Lt. Col. (retired) Grady Smith- USA, and Post Chaplain Larry Matthews



**In the photo: Commander Fred Mitchell, guest speaker Lt. Col. (retired) Grady Smith- USA, and Post Chaplain Larry Matthews**



## THE POST 171 PATRIOTS BASEBALL PROGRAM UPDATE

Happy holidays from Post 171 Patriots Baseball. During this holiday season, we hope that you have an opportunity to relax and to enjoy the warmth of family and friends. Our Post baseball program started off the holiday season by holding our annual banquet on December 15th. The banquet represents the program's end-of-year capstone event as we pause to recognize and thank those who were instrumental to the success of the program: boosters, coaches, players, volunteers, and families.

Our guest speaker this year was a Post 171 alumnus, Kevin Molesworth. Mr. Molesworth spoke to the young men who represented our post and reflected upon his experiences playing baseball for Damascus High school and Post 171. It is a great credit to the Legion baseball program that we can provide the opportunities for these young men to play baseball and grow into responsible members of the community. In addition to returning as a guest speaker, we are proud to announce that Kevin will be returning to the Post 171 program as our new head coach for the new Sandlot division beginning in 2020.



The banquet was also an opportunity to recognize our players who have distinguished themselves on-and-off the field. This year's awardees included the following:

Legion Team	Award	Player
Junior	Coaches Award	Jake Garrett
Junior	Post 171 Frank Wodoslawsky MVP award	Levi Perez
Senior	Unit 171 Mark Smith Fair Play Awards	Isiah Bell
Senior	Charlie Senseney Memorial Offensive Award	Bryce Curry & Daniel Nasoff
Senior	Post 171 Defensive Player Award	Maverick Durant
Senior	Ken Diggs Memorial Post 171 Dedication Award	Connor Manion
Senior	Ray Luhn Memorial Pitching Award	Connor Manion
Senior	Bill Rice Memorial Coaches Award	Aidan Rannals
Senior	Gerald Duvall Memorial MVP Award	Mark Kline



Pictured (from left to right): Coach Sean Manion, Jason Garrett, Bryce Curry, Isiah Bell, Mark Kline, Daniel Nasoff, Aidan Rannals, Connor Manion, Coach Kevin Hernandez.

Speaking of the new year, if you happen to be one of those ambitious folks who annually make New Years' resolutions, why not make your first resolution to support the young men who represent Post 171 on the baseball diamond? You will begin the year with a good deed, and you can quickly check it off your list of resolutions. Your financial support allows us to provide a quality summer experience for our players at affordable prices.

So, become a booster and make supporting our baseball program one of your first resolutions. And from all of us involved in the baseball program, may 2020 bring you peace, prosperity, and happiness. Please see any member of the baseball committee for an official booster form.

2020 Post 171 Baseball Committee: Alan Rannals (Chairman), Keith Martin (Secretary), Bob Bellison, and Evelyn Hernandez. Civilian advisors: Kevin Hernandez, Sean Manion, and Dave Retherford.

## 2020 DAMASCUS AMERICAN LEGION POST 171 ORATORICAL CONTEST

The Damascus Post 171 American Legion Oratorical contest will be held on January 18th, 2020 at the Post Home. The contest provides an opportunity for high school students to win scholarship money (\$1,000 First Place, \$500 Second Place and \$300 for Third Place) based on their knowledge of the U.S. Constitution and to demonstrate that knowledge through a public speaking contest.

In addition to the scholarship money, all contestants would gain valuable insight and appreciation of the Constitution, a deeper appreciation of what it means to be an American citizen as well as experience in public speaking and in doing research.

The contestants are judged by professors from Montgomery County College, in accordance with rules outlined on the American Legion website. Damascus American Legion Post 171 staff will be on-hand to actually run the contest and provide logistical support during it.

The top-3 finishers will receive their check immediately after the contest and the winner will be eligible to participate in subsequent contests through the county, state and National levels to win additional scholarship money.

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### SCHOLARSHIPS FOR HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS

This year Post 171 will award five scholarships, four in the amount of \$2,000 each and two in the amount of \$1,500, to high school seniors who will be beginning college or other institution of higher learning, full time for the scholastic year of 2020-2021. Applicants will be judged on scholastic achievement, leadership, character, work experience, their submitted essay, and school and community activities. Complete details are listed on the scholarship application, which is available for pick up at the career centers in Damascus HS, Clarksburg HS, Watkins Mill HS, Gaithersburg HS, Sherwood HS, Seneca Valley HS, Linganore HS, Oakdale HS and the American Legion Post Home at 10201 Lewis Dr. Damascus MD, tel. (301) 253-0769, or by clicking on the link below. Applications must be postmarked no later than March 28, 2020.

For more information contact Kris Bradsher at [scholarship@legionpost171.org](mailto:scholarship@legionpost171.org)

[Download Scholarship Application for Post 171](#)

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### WEBSITE UPDATE - VOICES FROM THE PAST

Mickey Day had conducted 27 interviews with veterans. Those interviews were captured on 53 cassette tapes. As a lasting tribute to Mickey and those veterans, the tapes are being digitally restored, and will be made available in the *Special Events* page in January. The names of those veterans are available now.

In addition, Past Commander Tony DeShiro has also contributed eleven interviews he conducted as well as the rescue of Vietnamese boat people.

**SAVE THE DATES:**

**April 4<sup>th</sup> – Shrimp Feast**

**June 27<sup>th</sup> – Post 171's 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary/Inauguration Dinner**

Both events are in the planning stages and more information will be made available as it becomes available. Check our website for updates: [www.legionpost171.org](http://www.legionpost171.org) or contact: Steve Monteiro at [2ndvice@legionpost171.org](mailto:2ndvice@legionpost171.org)

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR POST, SQUADRON AND UNIT RELATED ACTIVITIES:**

January	February
2 – Thursday, Bingo & Snack Bar (Unit)	3 – Monday, Executive Meeting, 7:00
6 – Monday, Executive Meeting, 7:00	6 – Thursday, Bingo & Snack Bar (Unit)
11 – Saturday, Post Pancake Breakfast 7:30-9:30am	8 – Saturday, Post Pancake Breakfast 7:30-9:30am
13 – Monday, Squadron Meeting, 7:00 Post & Unit Meeting 7:30	10 – Monday, Squadron Meeting, 7:00 Post & Unit Meeting 7:30
16 – Thursday, Bingo & Snack Bar (Unit)	14 – Thursday, Valentine's Day
18 – Saturday, 10:00 AM – Oratorical Contest	17 – Monday, President's Day
20 – Monday, MLK Day	20 – Thursday, Bingo – Snack Bar
25 – Saturday, 10:00 AM – Oratorical Contest 5:00 PM Social Hour/6:00 Dinner/7:00 Program ~ Membership Recognition Dinner	
<i>Bingo every Thursday night. Help is welcome. See Bill Green</i>	

**ALL POST EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES ARE NOW LISTED ON THE POST 171 WEBSITE**

<http://www.legionpost171.org/> --- Click EVENTS CALENDAR.

Thanks to Steve Monteiro for bring us into the modern world.  
The Post website is up to date and easy to use.

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

November/December 2019

Damascus, MD 20872



Non-Profit Org.  
U.S. Postage

**PAID**

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	Paula Gill	(661) 618-7638	Historian	Sam Lehane	(407) 230-3117
2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice Commander	Steve Monteiro	(240) 401-0370	Chaplain	Larry Matthews	(301) 370-4079
Adjutant	Kevin O'Neil	(301) 525-2071	Sgt.-at-Arms	Bill Green	(301) 253-5420
Finance Officer	* Tony DeShiro	(843) 855-9353	Service Officer	Steve Monteiro	(240) 401-0370
Judge Advocate	Dean Elliott	(240) 793-6868	Executive Committee		
			*Bernie Moxley, Sr		
			*Bill Raab		
			Larry Matthews		
			Steve O'Neil		

\*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	John Duvall		Finance Officer	Adam Young	
Adjutant	Adam Young		Post Liaison	Paula Gill	

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