



## THE DAMASCUS VETERAN

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

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

First and most importantly, I hope that you are all keeping safe during this COVID 19 pandemic. I also hope that if there is anyone out there in need, they will not hesitate to ask for assistance. While the programs we run at the Post are important to the American Legion and the community, taking care of each other should be and is our first concern.

With that said, I would like to give a shout out to Post member Tom Smith and the Difference Makers Church of Damascus who have been working to get food/supplies to people who are shut in or are in the highest "at risk" categories. Situations like this often show what a person/organization is all about and this Church is showing what they are all about. Kudos to Tom Smith and the Difference Makers Church of Damascus.



I would also like to give a shout out to Steve Monteiro who is heading up the Post's Buddy Check Program. I am sure I speak for all members involved in the program when I say it has been and continues to be a rewarding experience -- checking up on and talking with our members to make sure they are doing okay. Thank you, Steve for heading up this program.

With the COVID 19 pandemic, we have been forced to cancel events like the Shrimp Feast, weekly bingo, our monthly program at Lorien, etc. We (the Executive Committee) have shut down the building and Carol Hartley has been working diligently to clean and disinfect the place from top to bottom, so when we do open it back up for business/events/rentals, the risk of any viruses lingering in the building will be minimal. Thank you, Carol, – awesome job!

Finally, please watch the Post calendar for events that may have been canceled during this pandemic. The Executive Committee continues to meet (via conference calls) to make decisions on Post business and events. I will also be sending out "all hands" email with updated information as it comes available to me. Be safe; be strong; and be optimistic that this too will pass soon.

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**

Happy Spring. I hope this finds everyone safe and healthy. I know that this is a difficult time in everyone's lives, but please believe that we will get through this. We just have to be patient, wash our hands, and stay inside. If anyone needs any help from our Unit please do not hesitate to call, even if it's just for someone new to talk to.

I want to go ahead and let everyone know that the meeting for May has been canceled. I am hoping we can all be together soon. I miss each and everyone of you.

Until we can meet again, please stay safe and healthy, and let me know if there is anything, we can do for you.

For God and Country,

Amanda Baughman  
Unit President

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### **Sons of the American Legion Squadron, 171**

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Greetings from the SAL Squadron,

I hope this newsletter finds everyone safe and well during this COVID-19 Pandemic. I urge everyone to stay at home, only travel when necessary and practice social distancing. Due to the Coronavirus and the orders set in place to keep us safe, all meetings have been cancelled until further notice. For COVID-19 safety updates visit [redcross.org/coronavirus](https://www.redcross.org/coronavirus) and for more information visit the CDC website at [cdc.gov/covid19](https://www.cdc.gov/covid19).

In closing I would like to encourage everyone to continue to check on your loved ones and comrades, stay safe and please let us know if there is anything we can do to help.

Todd Stocklager

SAL 171 Commander

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## THE POST 171 PATRIOTS BASEBALL PROGRAM UPDATE

The Baseball Committee hopes that this email finds you and your loved ones safe and well! We hope you are all faring well in these difficult times and maintaining as much normalcy as possible with your families.

On April 7, 2020, National Leadership announced the decision to cancel the 2020 American Legion National and Regional tournaments, followed shortly by the Maryland State Committee decision to cancel the 2020 State Tournament and season. These very tough decisions were made due to the national and global Covid-19 pandemic, and to assure the safety of players, coaches and families.

While this decision was a logical choice on a national and state level, it does not mean that we can't continue to hope for a local season of baseball. We are continuing to monitor and follow all CDC, local and state restrictions. Should restrictions be lifted that allow groups and sport activities to resume, Post 171 leadership and coaches will decide if it is safe to play baseball. This decision will be made carefully, and **ONLY** the safety of our players, coaches and families will determine this decision.

Post 171 leadership and coaches are communicating frequently (although through tele-conference now) to work on season alternatives. Through the recruiting efforts of our expanded coaching staff, we had procured commitments from almost 50 young men to play Legion baseball this summer on three teams. While it looks increasingly likely that all of these players will lose their high school season, we continue to hope that conditions improve and Post 171 can provide some kind of baseball experience for these fine young men this summer.

Thanks, and please stay safe!

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

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## 2020 Membership Renewal

Thanks to everyone who has already renewed their membership. We are a little over 94%. We only need 17 renewals to make 100%. 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#, and method of payment. You can also mail a check for \$30.00 to the Post, and send to me: Sam Baughman, 11798 Sier Drive, Monrovia, MD 21770

Sam Baughman, Membership Chairman 301-401-6479

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## Officer of the Year

Damascus American Legion Post 171's nominee for the American Legion Law Officer of the Year — Montgomery County Police Officer II Andre Smith — received that honor March 7 at a meeting of all post commanders in Montgomery County at Post 86 in Rockville. Bill Green, Post 171's sergeant-at-arms and chairman of the selection committee, described Officer Smith as "a gentle giant", who is 6 1/2-feet tall and weighs 260 pounds. Green, himself a retired Montgomery County police officer, said, "Andre is a formidable figure when approaching suspects, but his voice and demeanor are calming."

Smith's selection was based on his 2019 record in the Germantown District, including a felony arrest, four misdemeanor arrests, two criminal citations and an alcohol citation. In total in 2019, he made 548 traffic stops and wrote 195 citations and 378 warnings, and he wrote nine accident reports and 76 incident reports. In addition, he was credited with de-escalating a volatile situation involving a veteran suffering with PTSD, accompanying the veteran to receive treatment and receiving the gratitude of the veteran's family. Officer Smith was also cited for his masterful handling of a serious domestic situation resulting in the arrest of a suspect threatening to kill an entire family he was holding hostage. A graduate of Seneca Valley High School, he has also often been observed shooting hoops with the young people he encounters on his beat. Officer Smith is an extraordinary policeman who serves as an example worthy of emulation by his peers.

Between now and July, Officer Smith will be considered for the same award at the Southern Maryland District, and, if he is selected at that level, he will compete for the American Legion Department of Maryland Law Officer of the Year. If he succeeds at the state level, he will be recognized at the national level of the American Legion later this year.



Montgomery County Police Officer II Andre Smith is the Damascus American Legion Post 171's nominee for the American Legion Officer of the Year. From the left: Damascus Legion Sergeant-at-Arms Bill Green, Officer Smith, and Montgomery County Legion Commander Cliff Bergstresser.

## Post 171 at Lorien

In the spirit of the Buddy Check we did recently, I am very pleased to report that, as of the Easter weekend, all of our aging veterans at Lorien are doing as well as can be expected. And, so far, Lorien has ZERO cases of the coronavirus! Our buddies are wondering why they can't have visitors and where we are! All this from Cheryl Cave, our hostess at our monthly visits with these WWII and Korean War veterans. Sadly, Past Post Commander Jack Talamo, a former Lorien resident, went on to Post Everlasting last month, so Bob Ray, another Past Post Commander, is now the only Lorien veteran from our Post. When life gets back to normal, we look forward to resuming our visits on the last Wednesday of each month, beginning about 9:30 AM. At the first of these upcoming sessions, Larry Matthews will talk about the interesting roles and sometimes intriguing operations of the Army Security Agency in wartime. And waiting in the wings for a second presentation is our own Steve Monteiro, who'll be talking about the remarkable history and successes of the National Guard. We now have about 15 members who participate in these programs. I hope more of you can join us. For more information, contact me at (301) 980-8917. PLEASE stay well and safe.

—Past Post Commander George Bolling

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## Candidates for Post Officers and Executive Committee Members

The Nominations Committee has submitted the final slate of proposed candidates for the 2020-2021 Post Officers and At-Large Executive Committee members.

The Committee was comprised of PPC Buzz Burroughs, Brownie Chichester, Keith Midberry, and myself—PPC George Bolling, Chairman. After settling on a final slate, one of us contacted each proposed candidate, and each of them agreed to serve.

<b>Position</b>	<b>Candidate</b>
Commander	Fred Mitchell
First Vice Commander*	PPC Tony DeShiro
Second Vice Commander	Kevin O'Neill
Adjutant	Steve Monteiro
Finance Officer	Anita Trotter
Judge Advocate	Dean Elliott
Sergeant-at-Arms.	Bill Green
Executive Committee	Paula Gill

Members At-Large

Larry Matthews

PPC Bernie Moxley, Senior

Steve O'Neil

\*PPC Sam Baughman serves voluntarily as Membership Chairman

The election will take place at the next Membership Meeting, once the restrictions imposed due to the Coronavirus Pandemic are lifted. Membership may offer nominations from the floor at that time.

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## **Operation Buddy List**

### **Post 171**

It began as a discussion during an Executive Committee Meeting. How could we best offer our support to our community in the midst of this Coronavirus pandemic? It quickly turned into an action plan, and gathered a few volunteers along the way. The Buddy List began with the MyLegion's Post 171 and a Constant Contact email mailing list. Next, the two lists were merged. After this exercise there was still critical missing data (e.g., email address, phone number, or both). Then that master member list was divided amongst the Buddy List Team to contact those members with phone numbers listed. An email was sent to those members with no phone numbers. And lastly some letters were sent to members with no point of contact information.

This outreach consisted of two basic questions: 1) how are you? and 2) do you need anything? While Post 171 certainly does not have the resources to fulfil everyone's needs, the committee felt confident we could identify support sources. We are happy to report that of the 280 members we were able to contact and from whom we received responses – none suffered a significant illness, and no one identified a need for assistance. However, we were not able to contact 70 of our members due to no Point of Contact information, or phone not in service/wrong number. Efforts continue to reach out to those members.

If you were not contacted by a member of the Team, or know of someone who was not contacted – please call the Post at (301) 253-0769 or email: [2ndVice@legionpost171.org](mailto:2ndVice@legionpost171.org)

## **Veterans helping veterans**

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### **Post Everlasting**

With heavy hearts Post 171 announces the passing of Richard "Dick" Winkler on April 2, 2020. He was a Vietnam Veteran and a member of the Post for 41 years. He is survived by his wife Maggie, his daughter Kelli Cole (Auxiliary Vice President), her husband PPC Will Cole and other family members. A celebration of life will be held at the Post at a later date.

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**We're 75!**



**American Legion  
Damascus Post 171**



*For God and Country*

**We will be celebrating in the fall. Our anniversary event is scheduled for  
November 7<sup>th</sup>. Mark your calendars**

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

May June 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	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’Neill	(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 Southerland	
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)



