

# The John Lyon Gazette

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**Veterans of Foreign Wars  
John Lyon Post #3150  
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The John Lyon Gazette: Winner of 1999, 2003, 2004, 2007, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2016 2018 and 2019 Clair B. Poff Public Relations Award for Outstanding Newsletter, and Winner of National Awards for 2010, 2011

## First Virginian elected Commander in Chief in 121 Years!

### Hal Roesch II Elected VFW's New National Commander

‘Our VFW remains the resilient force it has always been’

July 24, 2020

**KANSAS CITY, Mo.** – Hal Roesch II, of Hampton, Virginia, was installed as the Veterans of Foreign Wars’ 112th national commander today during a change of command ceremony at the VFW National Headquarters.

Roesch assumes command of the oldest combat veterans service organization boasting approximately 1.5 million members, including its Auxiliary.



I stand before you, humbled, elated and ready to selflessly serve the 1.5 million members and its Auxiliary as we continue the tradition of serving America’s veterans, service members and families worldwide,” said Roesch.

Roesch is a 20-year U.S. Air Force retiree serving from 1982 to 2002. He earned his VFW eligibility during his combat service in Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm and overseas service as part of Southern Watch. Roesch is a recipient of three Meritorious Service Medals, two Air Force Commendation Medals, two Air Force Achievement Medals, the Air Force Outstanding Unit Award with valor, the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, the Southwest Asia Service Medal with three campaign stars, and numerous other awards and decorations.

Roesch joined the VFW in 1991 at VFW Post 3034 in Sumter, South Carolina, and became a Post commander at VFW Post 4542 in Spring Lake, North Carolina. He now maintains his Gold Legacy Life membership at VFW Post 3219 in Phoebus, Virginia.

Roesch has served in elected and appointed positions at the Post, District and Department levels, culminating with his election as VFW Department of Virginia commander from 2008-2009. On the national level, he has served on the Council of Administration from 2010-2012 and as the inspector general from 2016-2017.

Roesch said the VFW is preparing to build a 20/20 Vision For Veterans and it begins with re-educating and reintroducing the organization to its communities and local and national leaders.

“We are the pillars of our communities,” said Roesch. “We represent the strength of our nation. And we will lead the charge into 2021 and beyond in protecting the very benefits and entitlements that our service members, veterans and military families have earned through their sacrifice, commitment and selfless service in defense of freedom.”

Roesch said the VFW is more vital and instrumental today than it’s ever been because of the veterans serving at Posts around the globe.

“Our VFW remains the resilient force it has always been,” said Roesch. “We are stronger today because of you. Together, our voices will continue to be a dominant force in our communities, on the Hill and within the halls of the White House.”

He also reinforced the organization’s commitment to inclusivity stating, “Our doors are open to ALL eligible veterans, and today I stand here before you and personally invite all eligible veterans to join our organization.”

Roesch replaced William “Doc” Schmitz as national commander.

(VFW Press Release)

[Watch](#) or [read](#) his acceptance speech:

**<https://livestream.com/accounts/8386284/events/9225536/videos/209028335>**

## **From the Commander:**

Comrades and Auxiliary Members,

As our community continues to react and respond to the novel coronavirus pandemic, the leadership of John Lyon Post 3150 continues to function as best we can. While this has all been highly disruptive for our Post canteen, and our membership meetings, the business of helping veterans, and making decisions for the future of our Post will not wait. Since meetings have temporarily moved to a virtual format, I ask you to consider participating with us online. More participation makes for better decision-making.

I sincerely hope that you are all safe and secure during this trying time, but hope is not a strategy. In the coming weeks volunteers from among the Post and Post Auxiliary membership will be reaching out to each of you, to see how you are doing, and to identify unmet needs among our membership family. When you are called, please take some time to speak with our volunteer. Let him or her know how you and your family are doing. Advise us of unmet needs in the veteran community, tell us how to make the Post better, and let us know what you're willing and able to do, to support our mission. There's no judgement here. We won't use this information to spam you or ask for donations. We just want to listen. Given the current restrictions on large gatherings, this is the best way we've come up with.

I know, this is just another survey, and surveys are conducted all the time, but I see this as a way for the Post and Auxiliary leadership to gauge the sentiment of our members. The data we gather from these calls will be used to inform our decisions in the near term about what veterans' service projects we can take on, and also what to do about our deteriorating Post home. I want to thank you in advance for giving us 10-to-15 minutes of your time and for taking this effort seriously. The success of this effort will be measured in the percentage of Post and Auxiliary members who respond.

Lastly, if any of you are willing and able to help make the phone calls, please contact me directly at **[knickster9@aol.com](mailto:knickster9@aol.com)**. With over 600 Post members and over a hundred Auxiliary members, this will be a heavy lift. The more volunteers we have, the fewer calls each will have to make.

Yours in comradeship,

Nick Knowles  
Post Commander

## **From the President of the Auxiliary:**

Since the National Organization held the National Convention via Zoom and restricted the number of members in physical attendance in Kansas City, I am able to write a column for August this year. Normally, I would be traveling to and from the host city. This enabled those whose presence was not required, but still needed to cast ballots for the three candidates for Guard. I attended via Zoom with the current Department President Maggie Myers. The first vote ended when one candidate conceded. The second ballot had all of those eligible to vote do so. The final tally was a difference of 9 votes. Congratulations to Lois Callahan of Arkansas on her election to National Guard. The Department did well this past year with taking 1<sup>st</sup> Place awards in Scholarships and Veterans & Family Support, and 2<sup>nd</sup> Place in Mentoring and Youth Activities. Virginia's Hospital Volunteer of the Year Ellie Smith of Manassas Auxiliary was the overall National Hospital Volunteer of the Year.

Our Department School of Instruction (SOI) is on August 1, too late for the membership to attend in person. It will be available on Zoom, check the VFW Auxiliary Department of Virginia website, [vfwauxva.org](http://vfwauxva.org). Our first District meeting will be on September 22 at 1 pm with the District 10 SOI that same day beginning at 10am at VFW Post 1503 Dale City. This is open to all members. The SOI covers the basics of how we are to function for the coming year and provides the means for anyone to ask questions about our organization. Additional information can be found at the National VFW Auxiliary website [vfwauxiliary.org](http://vfwauxiliary.org). The resources found there include all of the programs we support from Veteran specific to youth and family initiatives.

As I said last month all annual memberships expire on December 31<sup>st</sup> of this year. Renewing now will ensure your membership continues uninterrupted which maintains your ability to get a Cancer Grant which is worth \$550 with no restrictions on its use. Our meetings are on the third Tuesday at 7:30 pm at the Post home. All members are invited and encouraged to attend. The more members, the more ideas of ways to assist veterans and their families. Because of the Coronavirus we are currently meeting via Skype. If you want to participate, send an email to [cg12dc12@outlook.com](mailto:cg12dc12@outlook.com) with subject line Meeting. If you need to renew your annual membership, you can send your \$25 check made out to VFW Auxiliary 3150 to Treasurer VFW Auxiliary 3150 at 2116 N, 19<sup>th</sup> St. Arlington, VA 22209 or sign up at [vfwauxiliary.org/MALTA](http://vfwauxiliary.org/MALTA). There you can renew on line and update your contact information. This is one way to help your auxiliary and at the same time our programs.

The Post with the Auxiliary's assistance is conducting a phone survey to touch base with all of the membership of our organization. Initially it will start locally with volunteers asking how you and your family are doing and do you need any help. The 2<sup>nd</sup> purpose is to get your opinion on how the Post and Auxiliary are doing and how we can make it better. Eventually the phone calls will expand to those living elsewhere. All are encouraged to respond positively to these phone calls.

I look forward to working with the membership and as always check on the sick and elderly. Happy Anniversary and Birthday to those celebrating in August.

Cathy Graham  
President VFW Auxiliary 3150

### Seen on Facebook ...



Lynda Clegg It's Only A Joke

## Welcome to Our New Members

Welcome to new Post members Jake Bluttal (Army – Afghanistan), Michael Morella (Army – Afghanistan / Korea Service)(Life Transfer), James Page (Navy – Navy Exped Medal)(Life), Edward Basille (Life Transfer), and new Auxiliary member Emily Dajc, all elected at the July meetings. Happy Birthday, Emily!

## Purple Heart Day / U.S. Coast Guard Birthday, 7 Aug

The Post will commemorate Purple Heart Day and celebrate the U.S. Coast Guard's 230th Birthday, starting at 7 pm on Friday 7 August. Social distancing and masks enforced. All members are invited to participate in this as well as other service birthdays.

## New Officer Vacancies at the Post

New vacancies include positions of Junior Vice Commander, Three Year Trustee, and Service Officer (appointed). Elections will be held at the August meeting. If interested, contact the Commander at [knickster9@aol.com](mailto:knickster9@aol.com). Trustees audit the Post finances; The Service Officer helps veterans obtain their rightful entitlements for federal and state governments (including guide them to those who can). Junior Vice Commander is in charge of activities.

## Bring Your Membership Card

Members of the Post and the Auxiliaries are reminded to show their membership cards to the on-duty manager when entering the Post home.

## Skype Meetings

Because of the Coronavirus we are currently meeting via Skype. If you are not attending meetings, yet would like to, send an email to one of the following to get access. Post members: to [johnlyon3150.org@gmail.com](mailto:johnlyon3150.org@gmail.com). Auxiliary members to [cg12dc12@outlook.com](mailto:cg12dc12@outlook.com) with subject line "Meeting".

## Moved? New Email?

Please notify us when you move or change your email! Send an email with your new address or email to [johnlyon3150@gmail.com](mailto:johnlyon3150@gmail.com).

## Hours for Post Canteen

The Post Canteen is currently reopening. Hours are expected to be as follows:

Every Friday from 6-10 pm

Every Saturday from 6-10 pm

Every Sunday from 1-6 pm

## Schedule Updates

For the frequently updated openings, hours, and events, go to [www.vfw3150.org](http://www.vfw3150.org) and click on Calendar. Event updates can also be found on our Facebook page at JohnLyonVFWPost3150, the Post webpage, or in the weekly email. For info on activities, email to [johnlyon3150@gmail.com](mailto:johnlyon3150@gmail.com).

## Locker Fee Due on 1 August

Members who have a locker at the Post are reminded that the \$40 rental fee is due on 1 August and must be paid by 1 September. You can also rent a locker for six months for \$20. Those not renewing their rental should empty the locker and return the key to the Post. Pay in person at the Post during open hours, by check through the mail, or online at [https://www.vfw3150.org/checkout/donate?donate\\_PageId=5a95ddc29140b7ff7a3e1aa6](https://www.vfw3150.org/checkout/donate?donate_PageId=5a95ddc29140b7ff7a3e1aa6). Type "locker rental" where it says "fees" under additional information.



Continue to ...

**Wash your hands;**

**Stay 6 feet apart;**

**Wear a mask when out with others.**



## Voice of Democracy and Patriot's Pen Themes.

The 2020–21 themes have been chosen by Commander-in-Chief Harold J. “Hal” Roesch, II. The Voice of Democracy theme (High School (9-12) will be “Is This the Country the Founders Envisioned?” and the Patriot’s Pen theme (Middle School (6 – 8) will be “What is Patriotism to Me?” Deadline is 31 October to the Post. For more info: Voice of Democracy: go to [vfw.org/VOD/](https://vfw.org/VOD/) Patriot’s Pen: [vfw.org/PatriotsPen/](https://vfw.org/PatriotsPen/) (below VoD)

## Sunday Zoom Yoga

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81258844896>

Meeting ID: 812 5884 4896

No experience necessary. No expectations.

**Comedy Open Mic Night**  
**Sat, 1 August, 7 – 11 pm**

**Tutubi Band**  
**Fri, 14 August, 7 – 11 pm**

Both events: masks and social distancing

## Newsletter via email and Weekly Email

If you are one of the few who still receive a printed newsletter and would like to receive it earlier and in color via an email notice to our website, please send an email to [johnlyon3150@gmail.com](mailto:johnlyon3150@gmail.com). You can also receive our weekly email by requesting it at the same John Lyon email.

## Recent Events Around the Post



## A COVID-19 Independence Day

(l to r, background) Senior Vice Commander Darrell Smith and Commander Nick Knowles do readings for the National Bell Ringing ceremony while Chris Brock prepares to ring the bell 13 times during the Independence Day ceremonies held at the Post after a traditional cookout. The bell ringing, one peal for each of the 13 original colonies, recalls the bell ringing at Independence Hall in Philadelphia following the signing of the Declaration of Independence.

# VFW 3150

## August 2020



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 Comedy Open Mic Night, 7 - 11 pm
2  Zoom Yoga 11 am	3	4	5  GRIST mtg, 7:00 p	6	7  Purple Heart Day  US Coast Guard 230th Birthday (observed)  Ceremonies at 7 pm	8
9  Zoom Yoga 11 am	10  Skype House Committee / Post O Call 7:00 pm	11	12	13	14  Lyon Live: Tutubi Band, 7 – 11 pm	15
16  Zoom Yoga 11 am	17  Post Skype Meeting 7:30 pm	18  Auxiliary Skype Meeting 7:30 pm	19	20	21	22
23  Zoom Yoga 11 am	24	25	26	27	28	29
30  Zoom Yoga 11 am	31					

**More August Events to be scheduled. Check weekly email or Post Facebook for Updates: John Lyon VFW Post 3150.**



**JOHN LYON POST # 3150**  
**“All American Post”**  
**Veterans of Foreign Wars**  
**2116 North 19<sup>th</sup> Street**  
**Arlington, Virginia 22201-3514**

**Dated Material Please Do Not Delay**  
August 2020



**US Coast Guard**

**230<sup>th</sup> Birthday**

**4 August 2020**



**Purple Heart Day**

**7 August 2020**

**Joint ceremonies at 7 pm on Friday, 7 August**