

# *The John Lyon Gazette*

Volume 28 Number 2

August 2022



**Veterans of Foreign Wars  
John Lyon Post #3150  
2116 North 19<sup>th</sup> Street  
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<http://www.vfw3150.org>**



The John Lyon Gazette: Winner of 1999, 2003, 2004, 2007, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2016 2018, 2019, 2020 and 2021 Clair B. Poff Public Relations Award for Outstanding Newsletter, and Winner of National Awards for 2010, 2011



## **Independence Day**

Commander Sam Wong (second from right) gave the Independence Day readings for the National Bell Ringing ceremony while (third from right) Jim Bertine rings the bell 13 times during the Independence Day ceremonies held at the Post before 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. U.S. flags line the sidewalks and planters in front of the Post to honor the day.

## *From the Commander...*

Korean War No Longer the Forgotten War, but the Forgotten Veteran when the monument overshadows

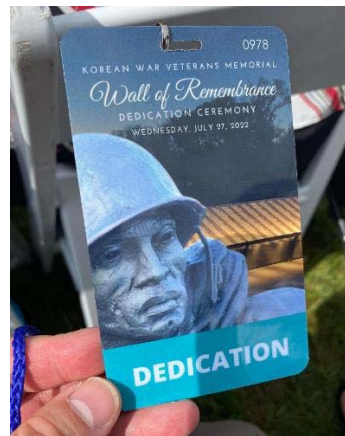
On 27 July 2022, the 69<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Korean War Armistice took place at the National Mall with a new wall commemorating the US and Korean Soldiers who were killed in action. It was a momentous event with over 2,000 people in attendance. Over 70 years have passed since the start of the Korean War and our Korean War Veterans who are still living are in their late 80's to 90 plus years old. It was an honor to sit next to the Korean War vets and their families. The 2 ID Vet sitting next to me reached out and felt my "Pinks and Green" Service Uniform to feel the material once again of the uniform he once wore. However, the guests of honor were not the remaining handful of Korean War Veterans in audience. As the ceremony continued passed into the second hour, the Washington DC heat began to be very uncomfortable for our older vets let alone the rest of the crowd. To my disappointment, the ceremony turned into a tribute not to the remaining Korean War Vets, but to the delegation of government officials as they received a personal tour of the new wall now surrounding the lost platoon monument. As I reflect, the remaining Korean War Vets should have been the VIPs sitting up front and be the first to see the new monument to honor their service and fallen comrades.

LTC Gene Hill, when the monument is the Soldier

Immediately after the Korean War ceremony, I attended the funeral for LTC Gene Smith. Upon the request of the family, a group of vets and active duty members also paid tribute to the Korean and Vietnam War veteran. Many in attendance were not acquainted with LTC Hill, but were honored to pay tribute to him. In contrast, the small and low key service at the Ft Meyer Chapel was bigger in meaning for his service in the Korean War and Vietnam as an enlisted and later officer. He was celebrated for his bravery, ingenuity, and especially his compassion and love for Soldiers. Gene fought in the Korean War arriving there on D+1. In Korea,

he and his unit captured an enemy tank and drove it back to friendly and asked if he could keep it. In 1967, he was sent to the Vietnam War where he earned many medals and distinguished himself in several battles with the 1/5 Bobcats – 25Th Infantry Division. According to his daughter when Gene was the commander of his unit, he went over to one of his Soldiers who was always sitting in a corner by himself and constantly being punished with KP duty. Gene asked the young Soldier why he was always getting into trouble and fighting? Gene learned that the Soldier had a speech impediment and was being made fun by the fellow Soldiers. Gene recognized his disability, but saw his potential and made the Soldier a Tunnel Rat because he was quiet, but tenacious. The Soldier was later recognized the best Tunnel Rat in the unit. In addition, LTC Hill was a paratrooper, Green Beret and earned the Silver Star, Bronze Star, the Legion of Merit, Combat Infantrymen's Badge 2<sup>nd</sup> Award. I went over to pay my respects and condolences to his daughter who had a sad face and was looking down. I said to her as I held her hand, "I didn't know your father, but I think he was a real Bad Ass"! She looked up at me with a big smile and happily replied, "He really was a Bad Ass"! Funerals are not my favorite ceremony to attend. However, when it honors the person and hearing the stories of their amazing courage makes it more endearing and memorable than a ceremony that forgets the brave men and women themselves.

Sam Wong,  
Commander, VFW Post 3150  
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As this is an abbreviated issue due to travel and the National Convention, some features may be missing from this issue and some lines aren't aligned due to software changes. Normal issue will resume for September issue:

## Welcome to Our New Members

Welcome to new Post members Yolanda Clarke (Army / USAF - Afghanistan / CAB), Sienna E Echon (Navy – GWOTEM), Cheyenne Stoker Izaguirre (Army – Afghanistan / CAB), Zachary Jones (Army – Afghanistan / GWOTEM), Austin Keeton (Army – Korea), Nicholas A Morton (Army - Iraq / Afghanistan)(Life), Michael Rhoads (USMC – Afghanistan / CAR)(Life), and Edward Pitts (Army – Afghanistan), plus some several more needing to send documentation. Membership cards for those with completed applications should be in the mail.

## In-Person or Skype Meetings

The Post has resumed in-house post meetings; however, the Skype options will continue for members desiring to do so. If you are not attending meetings, but would like to via Skype, Post members email to [johnlyon3150.org@gmail.com](mailto:johnlyon3150.org@gmail.com). Auxiliary members: email to [cgl2dc12@outlook.com](mailto:cgl2dc12@outlook.com) with subject line “Meeting”. New VFW Post members since February 2020 who have not received their VFW lapel pin are encouraged to attend in person to receive one.

## Post Member Honored

On Tuesday, July 12, 2022, Volunteer Arlington celebrated the 2022 Community Volunteer Award winners along with people who have spent 100 hours or more volunteering for an individual organization between July 1, 2021, and June 30, 2022. Post member Julius D. Spain, Sr., of the NAACP, Arlington Branch was awarded the Racial Equity Civic Engagement Award:

## VFW Elects First Iraq War Veteran to Lead Organization



**KANSAS CITY, Mo.** — When it comes to recruiting and retention, ‘Every Veteran Counts!’  
July 21, 2022

Timothy M. Borland, of Benson, Arizona, was elected today as the new national commander of the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW),

“My slogan this year is ‘Every Veteran Counts,’” said Borland. “It’s our service to country, and courage to defend that country that makes us veterans. Every veteran from every war and conflict is important.” Borland’s remarks struck a balance between embracing younger members taking leadership roles in the organization and honoring service and faithfulness of long-standing members of the VFW.

“It’s time for a new generation, but not forgetting the old. It’s time to pass the torch, but at the same time, remember and appreciate the torch being passed, and by whom,” said Borland. “You see comrades, brothers and sisters, every veteran in this room counts and so do the ones we still need to seek.”

“We will continue to recruit and mentor others to recruit,” said Borland. “Draw upon each other for ideas to help develop new strategies, new tactics, and unique ways of doing membership and programs. So, put your recruiting and retention plans to work!” exclaimed Borland.

Watch or read Borland’s acceptance speech. Excerpted from VFW Release

## When Open: Hours for Post Canteen

The Post Canteen scheduled hours as follows  
Friday from 6-10 pm  
Saturday from 6-10 pm  
Sunday from 3-6 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](https://www.facebook.com/JohnLyonVFWPost3150), the Post webpage, or in the weekly email. For info on activities, email to [johnlyon3150@gmail.com](mailto:johnlyon3150@gmail.com).

## Weekly Email

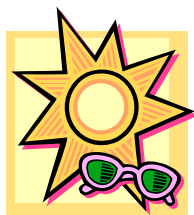
If you are one of the few who still receive a printed newsletter and would like to receive it earlier and in color via an email notice for our website, please send an email to [johnlyon3150@gmail.com](mailto:johnlyon3150@gmail.com). You can also receive our weekly email by requesting it at the same John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

## Sunday Zoom Yoga

Join Zoom Meeting  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84794722157>  
Meeting ID: 847 9472 2157  
Passcode: 024802

## Purple Heart Day

Purple Heart Day will be commemorated on Saturday, 7 August at 4 pm.



Use caution in the sun.

Use sun block for sun exposure.

Drink plenty of water.

Rest. Don't Overheat.

## New Vietnam POW Book

Post member Darrell Smith has taken lead on a historical Vietnam POW book project and is looking for donations. Smith, as you might know, is retired from the Air Force and served tours in Iraq, Bahrain, Afghanistan, and Korea to include a USAF Fellowship at the US Embassy Hanoi in 2009 (and helped lead the CODEL for Sen John McCain and escorted him to his prison cell at Hanoi Hilton). He is working with the 90-yr-old author Barbara Powers Wyatt to update her original 1977 Vietnam POW book "We Came Home". This 50th Anniversary edition (800-pgs) will be published by Christmas 2022. All US troops came home in March 1973. Original forwards by Bob Hope (her neighbor) and Gov Ronald Reagan will be included. Barbara would later join the Reagan Administration. "Never give up the fight," she says. Many stories of the 500+ POWs that returned honorably are included in their first-hand accounts.

One update is from the wife of MAJ Hansen (KIA). His silhouette was used for the official POW/MIA flag. The original book and artifacts will be dedicated at the Virginia War memorial in Spring 2023 hosted by Virginia's Commission of Veteran Affairs. In June, Barbara and I signed with Ballast Books but do not have the funds yet to complete publication, editing, graphic design, and marketing. This anthology costs \$19,634 to publish.

Please help get this amazing piece of American history to print! All proceeds are being donated to veterans and veteran organizations like the VFW and American Legion.

Send donations to GoFundMe at <https://gofund.me/eb52f933> or send tax-deductible donations to the VFW 3150 Relief Fund (Arlington) <https://www.vfw3150.org/donate> and specify that it's for the Vietnam POW Book.

## Many Members Set to Expire

We started a new membership year on 1 July. Many memberships are set to expire during the next months. Check your membership card for your expiration date and renew if necessary. Go to [www.vfw3150.org](http://www.vfw3150.org), then click on BECOME A MEMBER, then RENEW or go to [www.vfw.org](http://www.vfw.org) and click Renew in upper right corner for VFW members For Auxiliary, go to (<https://vfwauxiliary.org/>, then Malta for Auxiliary). Or send check for \$40 (\$25 for Auxiliary) to Post address on page 1.

## Marching Off...



**Andrew Martin Johnson**, 86, on 22 May 2022, in Arlington. Colonel Johnson was a Life member of Post 3150 who served two years in the Vietnam war with the US Army and four years with NATO forces in Germany. Following retirement, Colonel Johnson continued activities in various veterans and

hereditary organizations serving in 1999 as Commander in Chief of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, the successor organization to the Civil War Grand Army of the Republic (GAR). Burial was at Springfield Township Cemetery near Windom, Minnesota.

## Locker Fee Due

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.



Quartermaster Jim Bertine pins the Past Commander pin on the collar of Past Post Commander Nancy Springer recently at the Post.

## Bring Your Membership Card

Members of the Post and Auxiliary are reminded to show their membership cards to the on-duty manager when entering the Post home. Digital cards work as well.

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

The 2022-2023 themes have been chosen by the VFW Commander in Chief. The Voice of Democracy theme (High School 9-12) will be "Why is the Veteran Important?" and the Patriot's Pen theme (Middle School 6 – 8) will be "My Pledge to Our Veterans". Prizes are awarded at post, district, state and national levels and can go as high as \$30,000. For more info: Voice of Democracy: go to [vfw.org/VOD/](http://vfw.org/VOD/). Patriot's Pen: [vfw.org/PatriotsPen/](http://vfw.org/PatriotsPen/) (below VoD).



**Drive safe: Summer means longer days and more kids outside!**



# Recent Events Around the Post



## Girl Scouts Honor Fallen Airmen

<<< Auxiliary member Emilie Dajc (left) reads a roll call of lost WWII Army Air Corps from Arlington in a ceremony at the USAF Memorial.

Afterwards Emilie and sister Aimee participated in a remembrance of the 38 lost Women Airforce Service Pilots.

## Desert Storm Memorial Groundbreaking Ceremony

John McCarthy (right foreground) attended the >>> ground breaking ceremony for Desert Shield / Desert Storm Memorial in Washington. He said “Boy it was hot!!”

(Below) Emceed by Post member Michael Cantwell (standing), members and guests play Trivia Night at the Post in July. Trivia Night continues on the second Friday of the month, 12 August, at 7:30 pm at Post 3150.



# VFW 3150

## August 2022



Sunday      Monday      Tuesday      Wednesday      Thursday      Friday      Saturday

	1	2	3	4	5	6
						Guitars 4 Vets, 11 am
7 Zoom Yoga 11 am  USCgG Purple Hear Day 4 pm	8  Skype House Committee / Post O Call 7 pm	9	10  GRIST mtg, 7 pm	11	12  Trivia Night, 7:30 pm	13  Post work Day, TBD
14  Zoom Yoga 11 am	15  Post Meeting 7:30 pm	16  Auxiliary Meeting 7:30 pm	17	18	19	20  Guitars 4 Vets, 11 am
21  Zoom Yoga 11 a	22	23	24	25	26	27
28  Zoom Yoga 11 a	29	30	31	2  End of Operation Iraqi Freedom & VJ Day Commemo- ration 7:30 p		



**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 2022



**US Coast Guard**

**232<sup>nd</sup> Birthday**

**7 August 2022**



**Purple Heart Day**

**7 August 2022**

**Ceremonies scheduled for 4 pm Sunday if post open**