

The John Lyon Gazette

Volume 18, Number 5A

SPECIAL EDITION

November 2011



Veterans of Foreign Wars
John Lyon Post #3150
2116 North 19th Street
Arlington VA 22201
703-525-0108/fax 703-525-8055
<http://www.vfw3150.org>



John Lyon Post - 75 Years Volume Two - The Second 25 Years



The banner for the 1958 post newsletter. Note the lion / post.

1958 As covered in Volume One of this history, on 20 November 1958, John Lyon Post completed 25 years of service to veterans and the community, with George and Dottie Moran the presiding Post 3150 Commander and President. John Lyon celebrated and looked forward.

1959 The Post started the new year by joining other organizations in collecting from a booth set up

on Wilson Boulevard for the March of Dimes. State Senior Vice Commander Riner commended Post 3150 for being one of two posts in the state to reach 100% in membership by mid-January.

At the District meeting in March, George Plunkitt, State Safety Chairman and national vice-chairman was commended for his work and a resolution was passed for National to recognize the Tenth District safety group as a major VFW working unit rather than a minor agency

subcommittee and to make safety a major national project in the VFW. Miles Hubbard was elected Post Commander and Ruth Dewhirst 3150 Ladies Auxiliary President. George Dalby was the installing officer for the Post, and he installed officers of Groveton Post 9382 as well --- an act he repeated numerous times over the years for many posts.

Shirley Downs, Post Queen, presented a Buddy Poppy to Arlington County Manager. Miles Hubbard reminded the public that the poppy sale was the only time during the year that veterans groups ask them to donate to the care of sick and disabled veterans. The State Commander named George Dalby the State Chief of Staff and the 3150 Color Guard --- then called the "Guard of Honor" --- as State Color Guard. Dalby was one of several to inspect the first appearance of 3150 Color Guard acting as State Color Guard.

Post 3150 hosted the Tenth District meeting in August. Later that month the post held a chicken dinner for families. At the Fall Council meeting, State Chief of Staff George Dalby announced plans to strengthen state membership numbers, Safety Chairman George Plunkitt proposed community safety projects, and Past State Commander Austin Matthews announced rules and criteria for the annual George Dalby Award. The Tenth District Ladies Auxiliary dedicated a new district flag, with Virginia Dalby presiding over the ceremony; Dorothy Moran was a flag bearer, and Winifred Locke was District President. George Dalby and Miles Hubbard were named to co-chair the district's Loyalty Day program for next year. The Post 3150 Color Guard appeared in Arlington National Cemetery Veterans Day ceremonies, representing the State and District, along with other local units.

1960 An Arlington girl, Miss Mary Donovan, won the Ladies Auxiliary 1959-60 state essay contest and took home \$100. Ladies Auxiliary 3150 presented a flag to the new Henry Clay School Brownie Troop. June Gladmon was named "Miss Arlington VFW" for George Washington Birthday Celebration.

The two Georges, Dalby and Plunkitt, attended the VFW Conference of National Officers & Department Commanders in DC. The VFW's Washington Headquarters building was dedicated during the conference. Another highlight of the conference was the annual Congressional Dinner.

George Plunkitt and Post 3150 presented Safety Awards to Falls Church Police Department. Fred Grigsby and Viola Haislip were elected Commander and President for 1960-61. Winifred Locke installed the Ladies Auxiliary of Fairfax Post 8469 at the Army National Guard Nike Missile Site in Fairfax County, the first of two consecutive years. At the District Convention, US Congressman Joel Broyhill, a member of Post 3150, was honored, by the State and District for his work in obtaining a new VA Hospital for the area and other accomplishments supporting veterans.

Post 3150 also presented a resolution against a proposed Freedom Wall to be built near Arlington National Cemetery. It was felt that the memorial would restrict expansion of the cemetery, interfere with the view from the cemetery, and be incongruous with the Iwo Jima Memorial and the Netherlands Carillon. The resolution was adopted by the Tenth District and the department conventions.

Fred Grigsby was named to the committee preparing for the district's annual Potomac River Cruise. In November, 3150 participated with other district posts in a flagpole dedication at the Cranston Memorial Church in Lorton.



Post and Auxiliary members with President Vi Haislip and Commander Fred Grigsby in front, pose with food baskets, probably for Christmas. It is not known who the recipients were. This John Lyon tradition, believed begun in 1960, continued in various forms to the present day for both Thanksgiving and Christmas.

1961 In January, Fred Grigsby resigned as commander and moved from the area. Senior Vice Robert Bassford assumed command. Snows clobbered the area from Kennedy Inauguration to mid-February, likely postponing the District Meeting to be held at Post 3150; it was held in March. Kim Clark was named Post 3150 Queen for 1961. She would be a candidate for Queen of the George Washington Birthday Parade and other events at the post and community during the year. The newspaper article covering the selection was titled: "Why judges go crazy".

The Tenth District and its eight posts, including Post 3150, were praised as being one of two districts in the state where all posts were heavily involved in community service programs "of notable status". Post 3150 held a "telephone sale" of household products to benefit rehabilitation and assistance to veterans.

Robert and Peggy Bassford were elected and installed as Commander and President. Miles Hubbard was elected District Senior Vice Commander and George Plunkitt was named Chief of Staff. The Post 609 Guard of Honor, captained by George McCracken, was named Tenth District and State Guard of Honor after winning district competition. Post 3150 hosted the Tenth District Meeting in July.

The Georges Dalby and Plunkitt attended the National Convention in Miami Beach. Dalby was praised by State for a district program to enhance VFW ritual proficiency. George Plunkitt was named to the George Washington Birthday Celebration committee for the following year.

In November 1961, the Post and the District presented a commendation to the Parkington Hecht Co (Ballston department store) for aiding civic groups and charitable organizations through display signs in front of the store. The same month, John Lyon was saddened by the death of Virginia Dalby. The Tenth District cancelled its meetings for the following Sunday. She was buried in Arlington National Cemetery.

1962 Winifred Locke, Fifth National Council Member and Past Virginia State Auxiliary President, was chairman for the visit of National President Beulah Anderson's visit to the George Washington Birthday celebration. The Post marching unit took third place in the senior men's category in the parade. Post 3150 also had a float in the parade.

During installation ceremonies in April 1962 of Commander Charles McNier and President Lucille Martina, the new Senior Vice Commander, Dr. Raymond Markle, conducted the burning of the mortgage on the home, marking a recent drive by Markle to eliminate the remaining debt. Also on the program: Life membership certificates were presented to George C. Dalby, George E. Plunkitt, past district commander and national and state safety committee chairman, and retiring Commander Robert Bassford, who completed two years of post leadership.

Past Post Commander Emanuel J. Steger (1941-43) died in June. He was a native of Germany and served in the Spanish-American War. In 1950 he was appointed as a chairman of an Arlington County Board to investigate police division activities including selection of policemen.

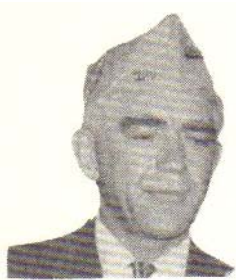
Post 3150 was among the eleven posts named to the first 'All-State Team of Post Commanders and Quartermasters' list, with each receiving a specially designed lapel button. The white hats would come later. An All-State post normally is one exceeding its membership goal and completing other requirements in community service, etc. Robert Bassford became the first Post 3150 Commander named an "All-State Commander". Bob and Peggy Bassford also accepted a Community Service Award at the State Convention.

Arlington County was identified as having the top Per Capita Income in nation. Jane McHale of Arlington was the local winner of the Ladies Auxiliary National High School Essay Contest. Miles Hubbard was elected Tenth District Commander. Congressman Joel Broyhill received a Tenth District certificate of appreciation for his "meritorious service on behalf of veterans". In October, the 3150 Color Guard earned second place "Best Color Guard" in the Annandale Parade. The Post held its annual Halloween Dance at the Post Home. The VFW participated in the Elks "Know Your America Week" at various local spots. George Plunkitt was named to National Committee on General Resolutions in August, and, for the seventh time, to the VFW National Safety Committee in November.

Past Post Commander, Daniel Dugan was published by Vantage Press: "And Night Comes Down, a story of the War Between the States in wartime verse". The book is available in the

Arlington County Library. His Memorial Day poem appeared in *The Northern Virginia Sun*. The Virginia General Assembly voted to repeal the charter of the American Nazi Party in 1962. Post 3150 had initiated such a resolution in 1961, endorsed by the district and state organizations before making it to the General Assembly and the governor's office and becoming law. The American Nazi Party had its headquarters in Arlington.

Austin Matthews, the first State Commander from Post 3150 (1942), died in December 1962. He was buried at National Memorial Cemetery in Falls Church.



Dr Robert A Bell State Surgeon

In 1955, Commander in Chief Tice announced the appointment of Post 3150 member Dr Robert A Bell, a newly retired U.S. Navy Captain, as National Medical

Consultant to the VFW National Rehabilitation Service. Having served as Post 3150 and the Tenth District Surgeon, Dr. Bell was elected Department Surgeon at the State Convention in 1963 and served three terms until June 1966. He was a candidate for National Surgeon General in 1964. That same year he served on the national VFW "Truth Squad" committee to study VA facilities on a closure list which resulted in saving nearly half of the VA facilities originally named to be closed. Dr. Bell died 26 June 1966, days after leaving office as State Surgeon. He had served in World War II in both European and Pacific Theatres

1963 Post 3150's George Plunkitt, named Department Safety Chairman, promoted safety programs for the district, state and national. He would become well-known for "Lite-a-Bike" and other programs in the succeeding years. He was named to the National Safety Committee and in 1964 was endorsed for Chairman of this committee.

Post 3150 voted to join the Arlington Chamber of Commerce and to enter the post queen in George Washington Birthday Celebration. The Post hosted the Tenth District meeting in March. A special Post meeting was held in March for

prospective members. It featured William Aud from the VFW Washington Office, and Past Post Commander Miles Hubbard who discussed the history, objectives, etc of the VFW. William Aud was a Post 3150 member.

In April, Dr Raymond Markle was elected Commander, and Margy Markle was elected President of the Auxiliary. Miles Hubbard turned over the Tenth District to new Commander George McCracken. Robert Bassford was elected Junior Vice Commander.

Over Memorial Day weekend, the VFW joined the American Legion, Catholic War Veterans, and the Marine Corps League in a community "Back to God" ceremony at the War Memorial Stadium at Washington-Lee High School. Veterans of all wars from the Revolutionary War to Vietnam were remembered.

In December, Post 3150 again collected food, clothing, toys, and other items to be distributed to needy families in the community.

1964 The Post meetings were held on the second Thursday at 8:30 pm. Norma Levin, a senior at Washington-Lee was named the winner of the John Lyon VOD --- Voice of Democracy --- contest. She was awarded a \$25 war bond and a citation. Second place went to Robert Conlin, a junior at Yorktown High who received a second place plaque.

Ned Allred and Madeline Phelps were to be installed as 3150 Commander and President. Phelps, however, resigned before installation and Martha Tingler was advanced to President. District Junior Vice Commander Robert Bassford was elected to succeed McCracken as Tenth District Commander. The District endorsed Dr Bell for National Surgeon and George Plunkitt for National Safety Chairman. Dr Bell was re-elected state surgeon. Arlington and others extended an invitation to hold the State Convention in 1966, but Richmond was selected. Miles Hubbard was named State Chief of Staff for new department commander Vernon Ross Long, but he resigned in October for business reasons. Bell, Plunkitt, George Dalby, and William Aud were delegates to the National Convention in Cleveland. In December, Bassford announced that a Tenth District Resolution was adopted by the Fall Council. It decried the "desecration" of Arlington National Cemetery by the many tourists visiting the gravesite of President

Kennedy. . As George Dalby and Robert Bassford spoke in favor of the resolution, it is suspected that it originated from Post 3150.

Posts would resume visits to Mt Alto, the old VA Hospital. Visits had been discontinued sometime earlier due to unsatisfactory limitations placed on the veterans by hospital welfare officials. Boy Scout Troop 109, named after John F Kennedy's Word War II patrol boat, was chartered in December. The troop was organized and supported by Post 3150,

1965 In April 1965, Post Commander Ned Allred explained the significance of Loyalty Day, which had been given official recognition by the United States Congress and the President in 1947. He explained that "The Veterans of Foreign War created Loyalty Day to counteract Communist demonstrations against our American way of life. The Reds were using May Day for special celebration of their revolutionary drive against all freedom principles. It was their number one day on which to shout hatred for our ideals and to wave their hammer and sickle flag under our noses." Later Allred presented the Post's Citizenship Award to a local Arlingtonian.



Nineteen Post commanders met at the Post in 1965. They are left to right, front row (seated center), Robert Bassford, Robert Dozier, John T Vance, second row, Buddy Speakman, Henry Haney, George Hoover, George Dalby, Charles Musselman, Carroll Wooge, back row, Ned Allred, Fred Grigsby, Harold Ebersole, George Moran, Bill Jackson, Miles Hubbard, John Hile, George Deck, Charles McNair, and Dr Raymond Markle.

W.Joe Bolen was elected Post Commander and Doris Mason President. Ned Allred was named "All-State Commander" and Robert Bassford was the state nominee for the "National All-American Team of District Commanders" but was apparently not selected at the highest level. The Post was ninth in the Community Services Awards.

The "Emblem" was the Post newsletter. The newly formed Post-sponsored Majorettes participated in the July 4th parade in Vienna. VOD became a joint project with both the Post and Auxiliary having chairman. George Dalby donated new colors with 50 stars to the Post. In December, 19 past commanders were present for Past Commanders Night.

1966 The Ladies Auxiliary opened the new year with a pot luck supper at the Post. Daniel H. Kohlenburg was the new commander and Charlotte Clark was elected President of the Ladies Auxiliary. It was reported in June that Post 3150 led the district and state in safety. Lite a bike safety tape was placed on 17,000 area bicycles. Post 3150 was commended at the state level for its safety and youth activities programs.

In October, Past Commander George Hooven donated to the Post a scrapbook he had done 25 years ago. The cannon out front was considered a hazard and there were efforts to get rid it. Congressman Joel Broyhill won reelection by a landslide --- his largest margin to date. His father was M.T. Broyhill, a big builder in area having built 15,000 homes.

The Post collected Boy Scout and Cub Scout uniforms and equipment for needy boys. There were efforts to reactivate the 3150 Color Guard. George Dalby was appointed to a committee to find a recommend a new location for the State Headquarters.

1967 Ned Allred was named National Deputy Chief of Staff. In April, the Post, in connection with Arlington County school and police offices, sponsored "Lite-A-Bike-Week". George Plunkitt was shown in *The Northern Virginia Sun* applying a strip of reflecting tape to a local boy's bicycle. Plunkitt was identified by the Sun as the "safety officer of the VFW".

Daniel H. Kohlenburg was reelected Commander and Ruth Dewhirst was elected President. Post 3159 placed ninth 9th in community activity awards competition for 1966-1967.

During the summer, the cannon was repainted a combination of Army - USMC green. Work progressed on the "Lyons Den" the name of the basement room. A new flag and flag pole were installed in front of the Post. A \$10 donation was made to the Cherrydale Fire Department towards the purchase of a new ambulance. The Post held its Past Commander's Night in October with 17 of 31 past commanders present. Past Commander Henry M Haney (1946-47) had died in September.

The Post worked on getting an appraisal on the "property next door", probably to the east of the Post where the condos are today.

1968 Membership in January was 198, two over the goal. Again, the question of reactivating the color guard was introduced. Charter Member of the John Lyon Ladies Auxiliary and its third President (1936-37), Hattie Musselman died in January. Her husband and daughter were also Charter members and past and future post leaders. Her sister was Winifred Locke.

The Post started a standing committee to help Vietnam vets. Helen Plunkitt sent a notice for the St Patrick's Day dinner to Channel 5, which broadcast it.

A new corporation charter was presented in April and then approved by National. Bernard M. Hook was elected Post Commander and Helen Plunkitt was the new President. She had been Tenth District President in 1955-56 as a member of Ladies Auxiliary 9274. Admiral Arleigh Burke participated in the Eagle Scout ceremony for the Post's Scout Troop. The Scouts and Post members placed a wreath on President Kennedy's grave for Loyalty Day. When the Post hosted the Tenth District, the joint meeting was held at the Post, members then went to Post 85 for the VFW meeting, and then returned to 3150. The Post had 208 members --- 12 over the goal --- and won the Tenth District award for membership. Ned Allred was elected Tenth District Commander and Lucy Ebersole was the new Tenth District President. Post 3150 again placed ninth in community activity awards. Dan Kohlenburg was named an "All-State Commander".

New club rules were introduced after the Post received an ABC license. In August Jack Turner painted and mounted the post sign near the front door. He would update the sign yearly until his death in 2008. The Post attempted to buy the Ward property next door and established a building fund. Amended By-laws were approved. Commander Hook met with the Sun newspaper and was promised "free access to all notices" The Post held an International Night in September and a Halloween Dance in October.

The Post again collected Boy Scout and Cub Scout uniforms and equipment for needy boys. The profits from the Christmas Party were designated for the Northern Virginia Cerebral Palsy Development Center. At the end of the year the first VOD tapes were received.

1969 Vets from the current war were the focus of recruitment and a Vietnam Vets Night was scheduled in March 1969. The Post presented Citizenship Medals to the Chiefs of the Police and Fire Departments. Manuel Vieira was elected Commander and Anna Knight was the new President. During the preceding year, there was also a big drive to obtain 25 VFW Life Members and earn a Perpetual Charter. The goal was met and the charter was requested in May. It hangs in the Post today. Bernard Hook was named the Post's fourth "All-State Commander" in eight years. The newly reinvigorated Color Guard presented the colors at Memorial Day ceremonies.

Dan Kohlenburg announced plans to run for Tenth District Commander, but was not elected. George Dalby was named the Post Outstanding Member and presented with an appropriate plaque in June. Manuel Vieira was named National Aide-de-Camp. A Fall Bazaar was held at the Post in November.

The next two decades were marked by a dearth of newspaper articles, compared to the first 35 years. This appears to be at least partly due to a shift in emphasis in the local media, but also, we suspect, that the post did not submit as many stories. Additionally the Virginia VFW history only covered the years to 1969. On the other hand, more photos and local records, while not complete, have been preserved for us.



The Post Perpetual Charter indicating 25 or more Life Members.

1970 In April 1970, Post Commander Manuel Vieira presented a flag which had flown over the U.S. Capitol to the Stonewall Jackson school on the opening of a new wing at the school. Vieira was reelected Post Commander and Martha Tingler the new President.

The State Convention was held in June at the Twin Bridges Marriott Motor Hotel in Arlington. Among those attending were Past National Council Member Winifred Locke, State Historian Vi Haislip, and outgoing Auxiliary 3150 President Anna Knight. In 1970, according to Post records, Past Post and District Commander Ned J. Allred was to be nominated for Department Junior Vice Commander. He apparently did not win.

The Color Guard appeared in the Pimmit Hills parade in May. Past Commander Bernard Hook wrote the Post from Vietnam.

“George Plunkitt Night” was held at the Post in October. This was a likely outgrowth of the “Outstanding member” designation from a year earlier.

Post 3150 backed American Legion Post 139 in a controversy involving names on the now Clarendon War Memorial. Some of the names indicated race when the plaques were installed after

World War I and were located towards the bottom of the list. Students at one of the high schools wanted the list alphabetized and race designation removed. Besides being expensive to change, Commander Vieira said in a letter to the county board that the memorial and its plaque “are considered a place in memorium (sic) and another step-stone in our history. Neither time nor mankind can make changes...”

1971 The Post had 216 paid up members in January, 21 short of its goal. Conrad S. Bolen and Paula Miller were elected as John Lyon’s new leaders. Manuel Vieira was elected Tenth District Commander. After Post 3150 provided four district commanders in 10 years, he would be the last for early 40 years. Winifred Locke and Vi Haislip were among the Tenth District Ladies Auxiliary members attending the Winter Council Meeting in Petersburg in February. They also attended the State Convention in Bristol in June. Haislip was reported to be the Tenth District President in June 1970 but not all records agree.

1972 New Commander Andre’ A. “Andy” Receveur was elected for the first time and Paula Miller for the second time. Locke and Haislip attended the State Convention in Roanoke in June.



A detail raises the flag in front of the Post home in 1972-73. Gary Miller is clearly identified on the sign as the Senior Vice Commander and, it believed, Andre Receveur as the Commander.

1973 Gary C. Miller was elected Commander, joining his wife Paula Miller in her third term as President.

In May 1973, George Plunkitt, Past District Commander, and safety officer at post, district, state, and national levels, died, and was buried at Columbia Gardens in Arlington. Three months later, in August, Winifred Locke, arguably the highest achieving of John Lyon's members as 3150 Auxiliary President, Tenth District President, State President, Southern Conference President, and National Council member, died and was buried at National Memorial Cemetery in Falls Church.

1974 James G. Tingler and Martha Tingler were elected Commander and President, her third term as 3150 President.



The "Cherrydale Rock" or "marker" as it was then called, the memorial to John Lyon and four other Arlingtonians killed in World War I, had been established by the D.A.R. in 1926. It was rescued from possible destruction when the Cherrydale School (which John Lyon attended as a child) was demolished in 1973. VFW Post 3150 secured a new place for it at Lyon Park, land earlier donated by the Lyon family. The Post arranged its move, accomplished just before the 4th of July 1974. Memorial and Veterans Days ceremonies moved with it to its new home. In December 1974, the Arlington County Bicentennial Commission granted Post 3150 Bicentennial recognition for its annual Memorial Day wreath laying ceremony in Lyon Park. The Memorial Day ceremony from 1981 is seen above.

In June, D-Day veteran and Past Commander Ned Allred returned for a 30th anniversary visit to the

beaches of Normandy. *The Virginia Veteran*, the state VFW newspaper, included an article based on translations of French newspapers of his visit.

After 22 years as a US Congressman, Post member Joel T Broyhill was defeated in the Post-Watergate Democratic sweep of 1974. He had been an Army Captain in Europe during World War II.

The Ladies Auxiliary held a yard sale in November to benefit needy veterans in the area. And they again collected items for Christmas food baskets.

That same month, Quartermaster Larry Bean wrote a letter to members urging them to attend meetings and to consider running for office during the next spring's elections. Post dues would go from \$10 - \$12 in January to meet a National increase.



Post 40 Years Old

Commander Jim Tingler and President Martha Tingler cut the cake for the Post's 40th Anniversary in 1974. In addition to the Past Commanders and Presidents, the Sixth National Council Member (Curtis ?) Smith, State Commander William T Allen, District Commander Ken Edwards, Past State Commanders Samuel De Vaughn and George Dalby were among those present.

1975 With 29 members unpaid and the offices of Senior and Junior Vice vacant, several past commanders attempted to rally the membership. In

March, four past commanders were elected at a special election to keep the Post in operation: Bob Bassford – Senior Vice Commander, Manuel Vieira – Junior Vice, Conrad Bolen and Harold Ebersole – Trustees.

St Patrick's Day dinner was held on 15 March 1975, with Manuel Vieira and Jim Niten in charge of the kitchen. In April, the Bassfords hosted a Casino Night.

Andre' A. Receveur was elected Commander, joining his wife, Margaret Receveur. It was the second time for both.

Martha Tingler was elected Tenth District President. Vi Haislip was the outgoing State Ladies Auxiliary Conductress. She moved up to State Chaplain. During the fall, she received a National safety award.

In July, the Post Color Guard led the Arlington 4th of July Parade. In another ceremony, they presented a U.S. flag to the Arlington Hospital. Past Post Commander Daniel A Dugan was awarded a \$1000 first prize for a patriotic poem submitted to Clover Press and printed in *The Northern Virginia Sun*.

1976 Carroll D Wooge, Post 3150 Commander in 1957 - 58 was elected to a second term in 1976 - 77. Martha Tingler returned for her fourth (and last) time as President. Manny Vieira was appointed Tenth District Inspector.



The Post Color Guard with its Sons of the VFW won the 1st Place Marching Unit Trophy in Arlington's 4th of July, 1976, Bicentennial Parade.

1977 Larry Bean and Gladys Kelley were elected Commander and President.

By 1982, the Post's "Buddy Poppy Direct Mail Campaign" was already five years old. It was developed as many members could not get out on the street corners and distribute poppies, but would give one to a neighbor or two and send a donation to the Post Relief Fund.

The Color Guard presented the colors during the dedication ceremonies for the new Rosslyn Metro station on 3 July 1977.

"Mr. VFW", George Dalby died in October and was buried with his wife at Arlington National Cemetery. He was post, district, state commander and National Council Member, and had a state award named in his honor. It has been awarded for nearly 50 years.

1978 Elwyn C. Moore was the new Commander and Virginia Musselman the new President. She was a World War II veteran, a Ladies Auxiliary Charter Member, and the daughter of founding members Charles and Hattie Musselman.

Past President and District President Eunice Matthews died in August. She was buried with her husband, 1942 State Commander Austin Matthews, in National Memorial Cemetery.

The Post continued to hold meetings on the second and fourth Thursdays of the month except for November and December. The scheduled start time was 8:30 pm.

1979 The Post continued making hospital visits to the VA Hospital in Washington.

John H. H. Turner, Jr and Eloise Thorpe were elected the leaders of John Lyon for the next year. Larry Bean was Tenth District Senior Vice Commander.

The Post Color Guard continued its high appearance level, marching in the Fairfax Independence Day Parade where it earned a third place trophy. The Post has numerous trophies awarded to the Color Guard over the years.

Some one broke in the back door of the Post but nothing was noted to be missing in July.

World War II veterans Gail and Walter Weller joined Post 3150. Gail was the first female member of John Lyon Post, and together, they were the first husband-wife team to join Post 3150. They went "life" a year later.

Among many dinners held throughout the year, the Post held an Oktoberfest dinner and the Ladies Auxiliary did a chili night in November. . There was also a yard sale. Lite-a-Bike was done during Police Department Bike Rodeos.



Past Commander Elwyn Moore and future commander Howard Ross man the Post booth at the Arlington County Fair in August 1979.

The Post Open House over three days at Veterans Day was mentioned by weatherman Willard Scott on his local TV show. The Post presented a Law Enforcement Award to an Arlington County Policeman.

1980 The Post held an aluminum collection drive. In addition to the normal pie tins and aluminum cans, someone dropped off an old aircraft engine. The question of Korea veterans' eligibility for the VFW was being investigated but would have to wait for Congress to change the charter in the 1990s.

In March, an old picture of a War Bond Parade with post members was placed in an Arlington County time capsule. A corned beef and cabbage dinner was again held for St Patrick's Day. A Mexican dinner and a fish fry were also scheduled. A yard sale netted the Post \$515. A letter to members appealing for money for the building fund was "a tremendous success". Past Commander Dan Dugan's book was available for purchase at the canteen.

Post membership was 100% in January. In April, the number of members was 171. Commander Turner announced the Post would go to summer uniforms on 15 April. Beer after the meeting was 25 cents and pizza was for sale. A drawing was also

suggested to increase attendance at the meeting. If name drawn was not in attendance, amount would increase for next meeting. Curtis D. Drake was elected new Commander and Marcie Olson, the daughter of the Jim and Martha Tingler, the new President. Larry Bean announced his candidacy and, later, withdrawal for Tenth District Commander. He had been District Senior Vice Commander.

The Post resurrected its newsletter. It also invited several local news reporters to its meeting, probably in an effort to increase news coverage of events. It seems to have worked as at least one story appeared in the local media during the next week.

The Post again held an Oktoberfest dinner and the Ladies Auxiliary did a chili night in November. There was a Ham & Yam dinner, and Halloween and Christmas parties. In November, due to "shortages" it was decided to issue keys to the Post to only officers and the Ladies Auxiliary President. Jack Turner was authorized to investigate the possibility of reviving the Arlington County Parade. Six baskets of fruit were presented at Christmas to Dewitt Hospital.



The Post 3150 Color Guard and Drum Corps opened the Arlington County Fair in August 1980. From the left are Sean Miller and Tim Tingler, thought to be members of the Post 3150's then Sons of the VFW, Walter Beers, B. Forsyth, Joseph Delaney, Jack Turner, and J. LaChappelle. The group performed widely during the 1970s and 1980s and succeeded the earlier Post Color Guard. Arlington County Fair is a fixture on the August community calendar.

1981 The Post reached 100% in membership in April. Post maintenance was apparently a problem: a member asked someone in authority to request a work party to clean the outside of the Post and the basement. Howard Ross would petition for an Arlington County proclamation for Buddy Poppies. George S. Mansfield and Helen Bohensky were elected to the leadership positions at John Lyon, and Marcie Olson was elected Tenth District President, the last from 3150 for nearly 20 years.

Outgoing Commander Drake would be reassigned to Fort Richardson, Alaska in July. That month, the Post reported that it had a new kitchen and a new furnace, and was financially sound. The Buddy Poppy report showed 1981 to be the best year since 1947.

The John Lyon Ladies Auxiliary joined seven others in the Tenth District with a newspaper ad supporting the National Veteran's Wheelchair Games to be held at the VA Hospital in Richmond in August.

In 1981, the Post proposed the Arlington County Parade be resurrected and ended up being the sponsor. Throughout the 1980s, Post 3150 and Auxiliary members devoted a lot of time to the Arlington community, mainly as organizers, leaders and workers for the Arlington County Parade. A number of news clippings show that such members as Andre and Margaret Receveur, Jack Turner, Bill Lewis, Howard Ross, Walter Beers, Manny Vieira, Joy Neher, Helen Bohensky, Joe Delaney, and Gene Miller were chairman, secretary, workers, and committee members over the following years. Some years show mostly 3150 members on the committee.

1982 Ned Allred and Imogene Robinson, 3150's VOD chairmen, announced that Bodan Matther won first place in the Post VOD contest, and again in the Tenth District. Roy Story and Jim Niten were chairmen for the annual St Patrick's Day Dinner. George S. Mansfield was reelected Commander and Imogene Robinson was the new Ladies Auxiliary President.

The Ladies Auxiliary made a \$25 donation to the Arlington County Fire Department for the Rescue Squad Equipment Fund.

The Buddy Poppy Direct Mail campaign, already several years old, was continued as some members were unable to "take to the streets" to

distribute the poppies to benefit the Relief Fund. Several poppies were sent to each member so they could pass them to neighbors and friends and obtain a donation.

The developer of Chelsea Landing condos to the east of the Post planted pine trees in the separation zone and placed a curb and sidewalk in front of the Post. They even painted the Post!

1983 The Ladies Auxiliary presented a new American flag to the Powhatan Nursing Home in February and Imogene Robinson was reelected Auxiliary President. When no one would run for Commander during the two April meetings, two term incumbent George Mansfield agreed to accept the position for an additional three month term. Six months later, Senior Vice Commander Walter Beers moved up. In May 1983, the Post received a verbal offer from a developer next door. Vi Haislip and Helen Bohensky attended the State convention. The Post's last two (until about 1997) World War One veterans died in October and December. The Ladies Auxiliary delivered a Christmas basket of food, clothing, and toys to a "very deserving family".

1984 Vi Haislip was the Ladies Auxiliary Virginia Cancer Chairman. Walter A. Beers and Imogene Robinson were reelected for another year to lead John Lyon Post.

On February 1984, the post's Voice of Democracy awards were telecast on Arlington County Cable TV. The post had 54 Life members and 48 renewed for 102 of its goal of 160.

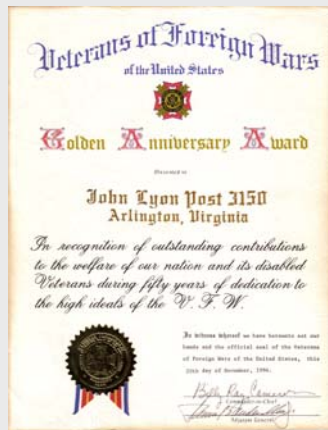
The Post's Memorial Day ceremonies, in connection with the DAR, the Civil Air Patrol, and the Wakefield High School Band received detailed coverage in the *Northern Virginia Sun*. In June Post member and two-time Arlington County Board member, Walter Frankland wrote an article on special patriotic occasions for the Sun newspapers.

The Post began renovations to the restrooms and the chimney in August, and donated \$25 to the VFW fundraising for the upcoming Statue of Liberty renovation. The Arlington Firefighters Association and the Colonial Village Civic Association continued or began to hold their meetings at the Post.

Post 50th Birthday

Below left is the front page of the post newsletter from November 1984 when the Post celebrated its 50th birthday. Walter Beers was Post Commander at this time and Imogene Robinson was Ladies Auxiliary President. Below right is the VFW Commander in Chief's Citation marking the Post's 50th Birthday.

Commander Beers' second paragraph in the newsletter reads: "This month marks the 50th year since our Post Charter was issued in 1934. Plans are being made to celebrate this occasion (sic) on Saturday, 8 December 1984, with Department officers, past post commanders, past auxiliary presidents and others in attendance. More information in the next Newsletter. Set aside that date now - mark it on your calendar."



Below, State Commander James E. Higgins (right) presented the Commander in Chief's Citation to Post Commander Walter Beers at the birthday celebration. A state citation was also presented.



A number of books and magazines were collected for the VA hospital in DC. Yard sale items were collected for thrift store sale to bolster Post funds. The Post distributed "Get Out the Vote" posters to local businesses for display in their stores.

In December 1984, the Ladies Auxiliary presented certificates of commendation to a paramedic and a firefighter in a ceremony at the post. An effort to change Post meeting time from 8:30 to 8 pm was defeated.

1985 Eight members of the Post served on the Arlington County Parade Committee. The Post completed renovations to the restrooms, including putting a men's room on the main floor. AF JROTC and VOD awards were presented during the Spring. Walter Beers was elected to a third term as Commander and Virginia Musselman to a second term as President of John Lyon Post. A local realtor approached residents on the street about selling their property. The Post considered selling. The Post reached its 100% membership goal for the second year in a row. The roster stood at 158. In December, the Post collected canned goods for flood victims in Virginia and West Virginia.

- 30 -

The original intent was to present the entire 75 year history in this one volume. It quickly became apparent that that would not do justice to Post 3150's past. This issue covers the second 25 year period. Some events occurred year after year and are not repeated. In some cases, whole years are missing from libraries, or were never submitted or published, and other records were not saved or were lost. Thus some omissions are unavoidable. We will continue researching these as possible. This history has been based on stories in *The Washington Post and Times Herald*, *The Alexandria Gazette*, *The Sun*, *The Northern Virginia Sun*, *The Arlington Journal*, *The Arlington News*, *The Evening Star*, *The Potomac News*, *The Virginia Veteran*, *Arlington Historical Magazine*, surviving post newsletters, minutes, and other documents, various state documents, and *History of the Department of Virginia - Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States 1919 - 1969: A Half-Century of Veteran Service*. Sources available upon request. J.Gary Wagner, researcher and editor. Copyright, VFW Post 3150, 2011.