

# The John Lyon Gazette

Volume 4, Number 11

May 1998



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



## Memorial Day 1998

### AN ABBREVIATED HISTORY OF THE BUDDY POPPY

The Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States was the first veteran organization to promote a nationally organized campaign for the annual distribution of poppies assembled by disabled and needy veterans.

The poppy movement was inspired by the poem "In Flanders Fields" written by Colonel John McCrae of the Canadian forces before the United States entered World War I. Selling replicas of the original Flanders' poppy originated in some of the allied countries immediately after the Armistice for the benefit of children in the devastated areas of France and Belgium.

Madam Guerin, who was recognized as "the poppy lady from France", sought and received the cooperation of the VFW in 1922, after the Franco-American Children's League was dissolved. The VFW conducted a poppy sale prior to Memorial Day, 1922, using only poppies that were made in France. In the 1923 poppy sale, due to the difficulty and delay in getting poppies from France, the VFW evolved the idea which resulted in the VFW Buddy Poppy - fashioned by disabled and needy veterans who were paid for their work as a practical means of providing assistance for these Comrades. All VFW Buddy Poppies for the 1924

sale were assembled by disabled veterans. The designation "Buddy Poppy" which originated with the men themselves, was adopted at that time and in February, 1924, the VFW registered the name "buddy poppy" with the United States Patent Office.

From the very beginning, the Buddy Poppy project of the VFW has received the endorsement and cooperation of the Director of the Veterans Administration, and the support of administrators and medical officers of government hospitals.

All Presidents since Warren G. Harding (1921-1923) have conveyed to the nation at large, endorsement and recognition of this VFW effort.

Today, VFW Buddy Poppies are assembled by disabled, needy, and aging veterans in VA Hospitals and domiciliaries across the country. The majority of proceeds derived from each sale conducted by VFW Posts and their Ladies Auxiliaries is retained locally to provide for veteran services and welfare. The minimal assessment (cost of Buddy Poppies) to VFW units provides compensation to the veterans who assembled the poppies, provides financial assistance in main-

Continued next page...



taining state and national veterans' rehabilitation and service programs, and partially supports the VFW National Home for orphans and widows of our nation's veterans. Buddy Poppy proceeds represent no profit to any VFW unit. One hundred percent of the money contributed by the public for Buddy Poppies is used in the cause of veterans welfare, or for the well-being of their needy dependents and the orphans of veterans.

As some of you are far from the Post Home and may not find a Buddy Poppy over Memorial Day holidays, we enclose one with this newsletter. If you should care to contribute to the relief fund, we also enclose an envelope for your use.

--- Adapted by M.C. Agresti from information on the VFW web page:  
<http://www.vfw.org/post/buddy/history.shtml>



**Post 3150  
Memorial Day Weekend Schedule  
23 – 25 May**

Sat: 0830: meet at Post for Arlington Cemetery graves decoration (plus other specified cemeteries).  
Sun: 1200 – 1700: Post cookout  
Mon: 0930: principals meet at Post  
1030: John Lyon Memorial, Cherrydale  
1300: Clarendon War Memorial  
Throughout: Buddy Poppy Distribution

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***In Flanders Fields***  
by John McCrae, 1872-1918

In Flanders fields the poppies blow  
Between the crosses row on row,  
That mark our place; and in the sky  
The larks, still bravely singing, fly  
Scarce heard amid the guns below.

We are the Dead. Short days ago  
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,  
Loved and were loved, and now we lie  
In Flanders fields.

Take up our quarrel with the foe:  
To you from failing hands we throw  
The torch; be yours to hold it high.  
If ye break faith with us who die  
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow  
In Flanders fields.

**HELP  
THE  
BUDDY POPPY  
TEAM!**

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**ANZAC Day**

Three years ago, we were joined by a group of visiting Australian Vietnam Veterans on Memorial Day. We were told of their Memorial Day called ANZAC Day, on 25 April. While it will have passed, you may wish to check their web page:  
<http://www.azmetro.com/nzanzac.html>

## FROM THE COMMANDER

May is here again and it is a time of reflection. Although in each month and day it is a time of reflection, the month of May brings us closer to one of the main purposes of the Veterans of Foreign Wars. It is a time of remembrance, when we think about those that have gone before us in the defense of our great nation, the ideals of this great nation, and the freedoms which we as citizens so enjoy.

While it is regrettable that so many citizens in the United States of America have not served in the Armed Forces much less to have served in combat, there is an unforgettable loss of the experience and camaraderie that we have achieved. We who have served and those who have lost comrades and loved ones to preserve our liberties feel this far more deeply than some columnist that has to write some obligatory memorial day story for their paper or the person who has a day off from work.

This is an especially trying time for a great many of us in that when thinking of comrades and loved ones about which we find it extremely difficult to express our feelings. We go to the "Wall", we decorate the graves, we visit memorials, but while the intense sense of pride is there for those that have served the thought of those that have passed cannot be expressed in a sentence or a paragraph. They are expressed in thoughts and tears; thoughts sometimes told to comrades and friends; tears most usually shed in private. However the remembering should not only be during this month on Memorial Day, but we should remember each and every day the gallantry, bravery, courage, and dedication of those that have preceded us. God did not create holidays, God created people and the comrades and sisters that we remember who are special not only to us but to our nation and our future. God bless them all.

Yours in Comradeship,

C.D. "Doc" Crouch

## **FROM THE AUXILIARY PRESIDENT**

Everyone has heard the saying “April showers bring May flowers” and as we move into the new month of May, we can see the blooms of a new season all around us. And true to form, April brought with it the requisite showers. But more importantly, April was a month of many important events within the Auxiliary. First, and most important, your Auxiliary elected officers for the upcoming 1998-1999 VFW year. I am honored and proud to be in the position to once again serve as your president. I promise each of you that I will continue to do my best to carry on the ideals and traditions that have made our Auxiliary what it is today. I have been very fortunate to have had the support of a wonderful corps of officers this past year and I’m looking forward to working with many of the same Ladies in 1998-1999. My experience this past year convinces me that you have placed your trust in a fine group of Ladies. Your officers for 1998-1999 are:

Sr. Vice: Ceil Wasserman	Guard: Juanita Diggs
Jr. Vice: Marian MacIntyre	Patriotic Instructor: Marcie Claussen
Secretary: Jeannie Gibadlo	Historian: Ruth Rodier
Treasurer: Joy Neher	1 Year Trustee: Cathy Graham
Chaplain: Ginny LePage	2 Year Trustee: Lois Cook
Conductress: Margaret Dozier	3 Year Trustee: Marcie Claussen

Related to the recent elections, I want to extend an invitation to each of you to join us in the Installation of Officers of both the Post and the Auxiliary. Installation will be held on Saturday afternoon, May 16<sup>th</sup>, at 2:00pm. The joint Installation ceremonies will start promptly at 2:00pm, with a reception immediately following. Please join us. It is a very lovely ceremony and underscores the real reason we are here.

Another big event that your Auxiliary sponsored in April was the annual “Sock Hop.” This year’s “Sock Hop,” on April 18<sup>th</sup>, proved to be the best ever. The decorations were fabulous and the food was delicious! We owe a special “thank you” to Post member Rich Hoffman, who provided great music, to include something for everyone. You will be pleased to note that due to the efforts of a lot of people, both from the Auxiliary and the Post (Thanks go to Eric Anderson for washing and polishing the floor on Friday!), your Auxiliary made a net profit of \$521.00! With several gift certificates, movie passes, free video rental cards, and a few free and delicious VFW breakfast coupons given out during the course of the evening, everyone found themselves having a fun night. Thanks to all for the support shown that made this our best “Sock Hop” ever!

There are a lot of activities coming up this month. May 1<sup>st</sup> is Loyalty Day. This is the perfect day to demonstrate your patriotism and fly your American flag, and it is an appropriate way to set the tone for the traditional events that come up later in the month!

We will have our traditional “Sunday Brunch” on the 10<sup>th</sup>, which is also Mother’s Day (Happy Mother’s Day to all of our mothers!) but on the fourth Sunday this month, we’ll start our summertime barbecues. These usually get underway around noon time, so please come down.

The 10<sup>th</sup> District will be having their annual Convention on Sunday, May 17<sup>th</sup>, at 1:00pm at the Dale City VFW on Minneville Road. It is during this particular meeting that the District conducts a lovely memorial service to honor our recently deceased Sisters of the 10<sup>th</sup> District who have passed away this past year. If you are interested in attending, please let me know. Several of us will be attending and we always have room for one more.

As you know, it is during the month of May that all of us pause to remember those who have paid the ultimate price in service and sacrifice to insure our freedom. Following Loyalty Day on the 1<sup>st</sup>, Armed Forces Day is on May 16<sup>th</sup> and Memorial Day this year will be observed on May 25<sup>th</sup>. To commemorate Memorial Day, the Post and Auxiliary will once again gather to decorate the grave sites of our Comrades and Sisters on Saturday, May

23<sup>rd</sup>, between 9:00am and noon. Those of you who can join us should meet at the Post Home at 8:30am. Please contact either me or call the Post at (703)525-0108 to let us know if you will be participating in this event inasmuch as we will need to arrange for car passes with the administrative offices at Arlington Cemetery. We will all go together to Arlington Cemetery. The Post and Auxiliary will also be participating in memorial services at 10:30am at the John Lyon Memorial in Cherrydale, and again at 1:00pm in joint services with the American Legions 85 and 139 at the Clarendon War Memorial. Be with us and show the gratitude that we all feel for those who sacrificed to insure our continued freedom.

As I close this month's letter, I want to once again thank each of you for your continued trust and faith in me to serve again as your president. I am, indeed, honored. I would also again wish each mother a very Happy Mother's Day. To those of you who have suffered an illness or a loss of a loved one, our prayers are with you. And, of course, Happy Birthday to all of our May celebrants!

Cathy Kerns  
President

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### **POST and AUXILIARY SELECT YOUTH ESSAY WINNERS**

John Lyon Post #3150 and its Ladies Auxiliary are pleased to announce the winners of the 1997-1998 Youth Essay Contest. This is an essay contest conducted nationwide by VFW Posts and their Ladies Auxiliaries. The contest gives students in the 7<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, and 9<sup>th</sup> grades the opportunity to express their opinions on an announced theme. This year's theme was "What Patriotism Means to Me." This was the first year that #3150 participated in this program and we were overwhelmed with fine entries from forty-six students attending school here in Arlington. Our First Place winner is Ms. Bevin Elizabeth Moeller, of Arlington, who is currently a freshman attending Bishop Denis J. O'Connell High School. Second place and third place winners are Ms. Kimberly C. Rieck and Ms. Emily E. Dean. Honorable Mentions are cited for Mr. Gregory J. Burek, Ms. Jennifer C. Buenzle, and Ms. Caroline-Yhanh Luong-Tran. Congratulations to these young patriots. These students represent the best qualities that we seek in today's youth and give us reason to maintain our optimism in America's future.

*From the Senior Vice Commander:*

I want to begin by thanking all of the Post members for their vote of confidence in re-electing me as your Senior Vice Commander. I will endeavor to improve my service to you in this, the VFW Centennial Year.

Membership continues to climb and while we are above our tally for last year, remain about 50 members short of our All State goal, needed before the State Convention a scant six weeks away. A recent article in the newsletter of a local military command yielded only two inquiries, and both sought Posts nearer to their residence. We just have to keep trying.

May is a big month for veterans culminating with Memorial Day. Honoring our fallen comrades and those who have come before us is the prime reason I originally joined this organization. To help fulfill the VFW motto of "Honor the dead but helping the living," we need to build the coffers of our Relief Fund. The primary source of Relief Fund revenues is **Buddy Poppy** sales which surround Memorial Day. Even if it's just a can and a few dozen poppies distributed at work (with your employer's permission), please consider helping distribute poppies this year.

Anyone interested in being a **Buddy Poppy** volunteer, please contact me or leave note at the Post for me. Thank you.

M. C. Agresti  
(h) 703-516-9784  
(w) 703-418-4903  
E-mail: connie.agresti@lmco.com or  
mcaiii@aol.com

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*From the Quartermaster:*

After first two weeks of lunch operation, "Our Post" has realized an additional income of \$866.60. Of this, our share or profit was \$356.60. For the brunch on Easter, we served 90 breakfasts that put approximately another \$356.50 in our coffers... Nice two weeks. Thanks to all who are supporting our activities and hope to see all at our next function.

*From the Junior Vice Commander:*

I appreciate the confidence of our membership in electing me to serve another term as your Junior Vice Commander. We have a solid leadership team in place whose dedication to improving our Post has been superb during the past year. I salute our Post Commander, Doc Crouch, who has been able to unite diverse interests and unique talents in furthering the well being of "John Lyon."

As Junior Vice Commander, I am responsible for overseeing various community activities that put our Post in the "spotlight," so to speak. Efforts like participation in "Arlington County Neighborhood Day" events, our Voice of Democracy and Student Youth Essay campaigns, Lee Highway cleanups, etc. are established and running strong.

In order to maintain a viable VA hospital visit program we will need more help from our membership. As many of you probably recall, I was able to resurrect our hospital visit effort three years ago with the gracious help of several members of our Ladies Auxiliary. These Ladies alone have made it happen. It would be nice to see more of our Post membership devote some time and effort to this worthy cause, a cause that I consider to be our premier outreach community event. It gets tough to transport three ladies to the VA hospital in my '84 Camaro, a noble vehicle not meant for more than two sane souls! Therefore, please, GUYS, step up to the plate and make it happen. If we can't muster two to three hours every calendar quarter to say "hi" to a fellow Vet and deliver some cheer, something is not quite right. Please give this some thought and let me know if I can count on you as a volunteer!

Mark M. Pando, JVC  
703-418-3477 (W)  
703-525-3642 (H)

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**Greetings from...**

Bernard Hook, of Diamond Bar, CA, who recently left the following message on the Post 3150 web page: "I am a past post commander from 1968-69. Greetings to all my old comrades." His email address is: berniehook@aol.com

## Crouch and Kerns Re-elected

C.D. "Doc" Crouch was re-elected as Post Commander and Cathy Kerns as Ladies Auxiliary president during April elections. It will be the second term for both. (See the President's column for complete Ladies Auxiliary results.) Comrade Jim Griswold declined to run for Three Year Trustee and nominated C.Mason Ebhardt for the position. Since Comrade Ebhardt was not present and could not accept the nomination, the election was deferred to the May meeting. Nominations remain open. The Post officers elected at the April meeting are:

Commander	C.D. Crouch
Senior Vice Commander	Michael C. Agresti
Junior Vice Commander	Mark M. Pando
Quartermaster	Kenneth Jansen
Chaplain	James R. Wilkinson
Surgeon	Herman Cruz
Advocate	George C. Mansfield
Three Year Trustee	open

The following trustees move up as indicated:

Two Year Trustee	Eugene D Miller III
One Year Trustee	Robert M. Wasserman

Positions not listed are appointed and will be filled by the Commander.

### Installation of New Officers

Installation of new Post and Ladies Auxiliary officers will be held Saturday, 16 May, the ceremony beginning at 1400. The ceremony will be followed by a reception. Members, family and friends are invited and urged to attend.

### Welcome to Our New Members

Welcome to new Post members elected at the April meeting (pending receipt of their forms DD214): Patrick Johnston and Rupert "Bobby" Lyles.

### Marching Off

Recently deceased: Comrade Robert J. Jenner who had been living in Arlington and Stevens City, Virginia.

## New Post Canteen Hours

Post canteen hours have been expanded to serve soup and sandwiches 1130 - 1500 Monday - Friday.

Monday - Friday	1100 - 2100
Saturday - Sunday	1200 - 1800
2 <sup>nd</sup> & 4 <sup>th</sup> Sundays	0900 - 1800
Open 0900 for Brunch	

### Keep this Newsletter









If you haven't renewed your membership for 1997 - 98, you'd better keep this newsletter. When you stop receiving the newsletter next month and want the Post address, you will find it at the top of page 1. You can re-instate your membership, at any time, with a \$20 check made out and sent to the Post or Auxiliary.

### Post & National Web Pages

See the **Post web page** (<http://www.webspawner.com/user/vfw3150>) for messages from our web page visitors and to send email messages to our officers, including your change of address. You can also send change of address from National's home page at <http://www.vfw.org>. National also has a special history quiz which you may take and possibly win a special CD ROM.

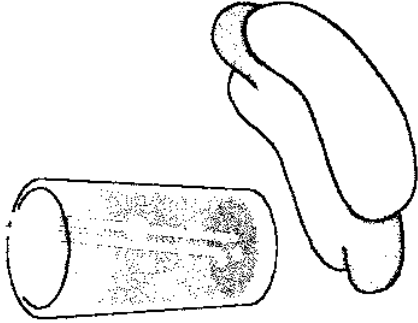


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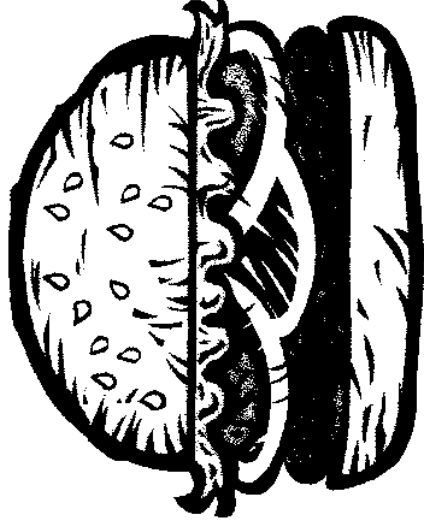
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1  LOYALTY DAY	2
3 V.A.C. BENEFIT BARBEQUE 1:00PM-5:00PM 	4	5 VFW MOVIE NIGHT	6	7	8	9
10 MOTHER'S DAY SUNDAY BRUNCH 9:00AM-1:00PM 	11	12 VFW MOVIE NIGHT	13	14 POST MEETING 8:00PM 	15	16 VFW JOHN LYON POST/AUXILIARY INSTAFLATION 2:00PM ARMED FORCES DAY
17 10TH DISTRICT CONVENTION 1:00PM AT DALE CITY VFW	18	19 VFW MOVIE NIGHT	20	21 AUXILIARY MEETING 8:00PM 	22	23  GRAVE DECORATIONS 8:30-NOON
24 MEMORIAL DAY BARBEQUE 12:00 NOON-5:00PM 	25 MEMORIAL DAY JOHN LYON CEREMONIES - 10:30AM CLARENDON CEREMONIES - 1:00PM	26 VFW MOVIE NIGHT	27	28	29	30 MEMORIAL DAY 
31						



V.A.C. is sponsoring a BBQ  
at VFW Post 3150  
SUNDAY, 3 MAY 1998  
1-5 P.M. rain or shine



Hotdogs, hamburgers,  
pork ribs



Donations to Post  
Building Fund  
appreciated.