

The John Lyon Gazette

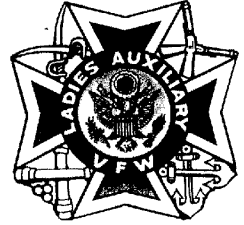
Volume 4, Number 12

June 1998



Veterans of Foreign Wars
John Lyon Post #3150
2116 North 19th Street
Arlington VA 22201
703-525-0108

<http://www.webspawner.com/users/vfw3150>



Flag Day, 14 June 1998



**“I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America,
and to the Republic for which it stands,
one Nation, under God, indivisible,
with liberty and justice for all.”**

The Pledge of Allegiance was originally published in Boston in the 8 September 1892 issue of *The Youth's Companion*. The author was thought to be either James B. Upham or Francis Bellamy, both on the magazine's staff. Finally, in 1939, the United States Flag Association credited the Pledge to Bellamy. On 14 June 1954, the phrase “Under God” was added to the original text. (Source: *The 1989 Information Please Almanac*)

From the Commander

June fifty-four years ago the names Utah, Omaha, Sword, Gold, and Juno were considered secret and very important. Their secrecy has faded but their importance never will. These were the beachhead names for the invasion of France at Normandy. It was the largest amphibious assault carried out in the history of warfare. It pitted men of bravery against a wall of fascist concrete and steel, and, as we all know, the bravery and perseverance of our American armed forces together with their gallant allies prevailed and opened the doors of freedom.

I look back on D-Day, 6 June 1944, with a great deal of thought. I think not only of all those who gave their lives in this tremendous challenge to will and fortitude, but also to something of a personal nature. I had an uncle, Sergeant Robert Crouch, who lost his life in the airborne assault phase conducted by the 82nd Airborne Division. I never knew my Uncle Bob, but as a child I could always remember the stories of his honorable and dedicated nature. It is very unfortunate that I never met this man and the comrades in arms with which he served. Many of us lost friends and relatives in this battle, and we can never forget what they faced and the sacrifices they made.

* * *

We are continuing to make progress in our physical plant. We expect that we will have ice-making capability shortly and we have had exhaust fans installed in the upper rest rooms. Electrical improvements continue to go forward, and hopefully we will be able to repair the back wall and finish the roof this summer. While a lot of this is being accomplished with kind donations of materials and labor, some of the larger projects will require funding.

I am also pleased to report that we now have our Virginia State Gaming License. This will enable us to fund some of our physical improvements and Community / Charitable activities. Kudos to Comrades Ken Jansen and Jim Griswold in helping bring this about.

I am also pleased to inform the membership that John Lyon Post is now participating more at the 10th District level. I was honored to be nominated and elected to the post of Advocate at the May meeting.

We have come a long way, but we have a way to go. With your support I have no doubt that John Lyon Post can only succeed.

Yours in Comradeship.

C.D. "Doc" Crouch

From the Senior Vice Commander:

Many thanks to those comrades and Ladies Auxiliary members who helped distribute Buddy Poppies over the Memorial Day weekends. I use the plural because we had the three day Memorial Day (Observed) weekend followed by the actual Memorial Day the following Saturday, May 30.

I want to take a moment to acknowledge our U. S. Air Force contingent as we commemorate the 50th Anniversary of the Berlin Airlift which began June 25, 1948.

A number of articles have been written lately about a proposed re-design of the World War II Memorial. Some of them are posting on the Post's bulletin board for all to read.

Lastly, an issue of considerable contention has taken place on our doorstep this past month with the disinterment of the remains of the Vietnam Unknown. I would like to close my note to you with Defense Secretary William Cohen's remarks delivered during that solemn ceremony. I believe that they go a long way towards bridging any rift in opinion over this action.

"To gather on this site always quickens our hearts and stirs our national pride. We disturb this hallowed ground with profound reluctance. And we take this step only because of our abiding commitment to account for every warrior who fought and died to preserve the freedoms that we cherish.

"If advances in technology can ease the lingering anguish of even one family, then our path is clear. And so we yield today to the promise of science with the hope that the heavy burden of doubt may be lifted from a family's heart.

"But we are not here simply as grateful beneficiaries of modern technology. Instead, our purpose is timeless. We gather to show our deep gratitude for the sacrifices of our warriors, including those who died unknown and unsung on distant battlefields. And that gratitude extends in particular to all of the families of our fallen heroes who have joined us here today.

"Of the millions of visitors to this spiritual place, only a small number actually come to visit a specific gravesite. To the great majority of sojourners, those who lie under these green hills are unknown. And yet thousands are drawn here each week in quiet reverence to honor the service and the sacrifice of our dead.

"As we live yet another day under the freedom for which their lives were given, we give thanks to them once again today. And far from diminishing the sanctity of this cemetery and this tomb, our actions today serve to recommit ourselves to the principles of freedom and democracy which this sacred ground represents.

"May God continue to embrace our nation and all who rest here."

M. C. Agresti

(h) 703-516-9784

(w) 703-418-4903

e-mail: connie.agresti@lmco.com or
mcaiii@aol.com

From the Quartermaster

The numbers have been calculated on April lunches at the Post canteen: 260 lunches served at a cost of \$1293.25 and total revenue of \$1697.65, providing a net profit of \$404.40 for the month from lunch time operations alone. The first two weeks of May are somewhat down on average from April. We need your help and participation. The Sunday brunches are doing quite well. We thank you for your support. The summer barbecues will be back on the fourth Sundays from 1-5. The SAME days we will continue to hold brunch from 9am – 12 Noon. (Note: we will finish breakfast at noon, an hour early, to prepare for the barbecue.

Pizza All-the-Time

The Post Canteen now has a special pizza oven and Tombstone pizza for your enjoyment during all operating hours. Pizzas come in two sizes and are priced at \$3.50 and \$5.00.

From the Junior Vice Commander:

Many thanks to the dedicated corps of "John Lyon" volunteers who participated in our Spring Highway Cleanup! The section of Lee highway between N. Veitch and N. Nash Streets is ours to patrol and the following folks made it happen: Eric Anderson, Connie Agresti, Jim Griswold, J.Gary Wagner, and John Lundquist. Well Done!

The essay of Bevin E. Moeller, the winner of our Youth Essay Contest, was forwarded to the District. As we go to press the results have not yet been announced but we will keep you posted. We are fortunate that Bishop O'Connell High School has taken a real interest in both the Youth Essay and Voice of Democracy programs. We are even more fortunate to have a very dedicated O'Connell English teacher on our side who is acting as a tremendous Public Relations person for this worthy VFW cause. My thanks also go to Jeanne Gibadlo, who has taken on the brunt of the work involved in this effort.

It is my hope that we will be able to conduct a VA Hospital visit no early this summer. I will keep you posted on specifics. I appreciate the plentiful supply of books and magazines that our membership has dropped off at the Post for this purpose. If you would to participate in one of our hospital visits, please give me a call.

June is the start of the summer season and I hope everyone has a safe and happy vacation. Please watch out for the children who are now out of school.

Mark M. Pando
Junior Vice Commander
418-3477
email: pando@erols.com



School's Out!
Watch out for Kids

From the Chairman of the House Committee

Membership: Comrades Eric Anderson/CHC, James Griswold/ACHC, and Paul Custred, Richard Hoffman, William Wolverton, and William Cowell.

During our meeting of 11 May, a wide range of topics were discussed, such as Post Home maintenance, Canteen issues, and projects, just to name a few.

One of the most important topics was "Projects". Projects that affect the entire Post Membership and Ladies Auxiliary. Some projects will enhance the general appearance and comfort of your "Post Home", some are just nice to do, while others will keep your "Post Home" structurally safe and sound.

We currently have a list of 30 plus projects that need to be accomplished. Some of these projects may require contractor assistance, but many projects can be accomplished in-house, by the multitude of talent and expertise within the membership.

With that said, the HC welcomes anyone who wishes to assist us with the endeavors we face, through volunteering time and expertise and/or perhaps donations of materials. A "Projects" list is available from any member of the HC. Feel free to stop by, take a look and see if you can help your "Post Home". Also, please feel free to voice your suggestions for "Home Improvement".

As an added note, the "Lyon's Den" continues to remain dry. We will proceed with cosmetics, enhancing the appearance and comfort of an area that has become a favorite for many.

In closing, I'd like to thank all of those --- you know who you are --- who have volunteered their time and donated materials to make our "Post Home" what it is today.

Eric Anderson
Chairman of House Committee

FROM THE AUXILIARY PRESIDENT

Another year is fast coming to an end. With the month of June already upon us, we are now all in a position to look back and reflect on the activities and events of the 1997-1998 VFW year. It is truly gratifying to be able to reflect on such a productive and successful year for our Ladies Auxiliary but I would be remiss if I did not take this opportunity to thank all of you for the support and participation that was clearly evident from the very beginning. I must extend a sincere **"thank you"** to each of the Auxiliary Officers. They were always standing by my side, ready to help in any and every way. The Auxiliary set many goals for the 1997-1998 year and with the support of each and every one of you, we achieved all of them. For those of you who are not in the area, or who cannot be with us on a regular basis, please know that simply sending in your membership renewal early was a very real indication that you wanted your Auxiliary to do the best it could, and that single action, on your part, was the kind of support those of us here "on the scene" needed to keep us going when things seemed too hectic to handle. We were all in this together and we all should take a moment to congratulate ourselves on a job well done. Again, **thank you to each and every one of you for a wonderful and successful year.**

May was a busy month. As you know, we had the election of our 1998-1999 Officers at the April meeting. The Installation of both the Post and Auxiliary Officers was held on May 16th. The ceremony was beautiful and the reception that followed was a real tribute to the culinary talents of a lot of people that went the extra mile to make the day special. My personal thanks to each of you.

The Ladies kept up the pace, attending the 10th District annual convention that was held on May 17th in Dale City. I am proud and honored to have been elected as District Guard for the 1998-1999 year. More exciting for all of us, though, is that our Auxiliary has the extraordinary honor of having four of our members serving as District Officers for this new year. In addition to myself, Gail Hoffman will be Senior Vice President, Joy Neher will be serving as Chaplain, and Jeannie Gibadlo will fill the Office of Patriotic Instructor. This is a great honor for Auxiliary #3150, and truly demonstrates the commitment we all make for the cause of our veterans and servicemen. Our involvement in the District is important and I know I speak for Gail, Joy, and Jeannie when I say we will all do our best to represent each of you in a way that will make you proud. I would also want to share with you, and extend congratulations, on behalf of all of us, to our Post Commander, Doc Crouch, who will be representing the Post, as he was elected to serve as Judge Advocate in the District.

Memorial Day Weekend was memorable indeed. The ceremonies were beautiful and very well attended, and brought into focus the very reason we exist. It is good to pause now and again to realize why we are here. We must not ever forget what brought us together in the first place.

On a lighter note, the Post and Auxiliary hosted approximately 125 visiting veterans and their families and friends for the weekend. It was delightful to see our visitors enjoying the music, the camaraderie, and the Sunday afternoon barbecue here at the Post Home. We got to meet a lot of new friends, and it made for a great weekend.

This month several of us are planning on attending the annual Department Convention that will be held in Richmond, Virginia, from June 18th through June 21st. I am particularly excited as this is when I will have the honor to represent each of you as I receive our Banner for 1997-1998. I said this earlier but it is worth repeating again: It is really **your** Banner. We all did this together, and you can take pride in your efforts. I promise I will share with you all of the details of the Convention in next month's newsletter. **Because most of the Officers will be in Richmond on the 18th, the Auxiliary will be having their June regular meeting on Tuesday, June 16th, at 8:00pm.** Please try to come if you can.

Just in case you didn't know, our Post Quartermaster, Ken Jansen, is Post #3150's "Chief Chef." Since Ken has taken over the primary kitchen duty of cooking our Sunday breakfasts, things have been hopping. And because Ken is having such a good time of it, the decision has been made to continue with Sunday brunches on the fourth Sunday of the month throughout the summer months. The game plan will be to have brunch on the fourth Sunday until noon time, then at 1:00pm we'll switch gears and fire up the barbecue. Be sure and stop by. I'm sure there will be something for everyone. If anyone would like to pitch in and help, that would be appreciated too!

Before I close this month's letter, I want remind each of you that June 14th is Flag Day. Please be sure to honor "Old Glory." Fly our Flag with pride! June 14th is also the 223rd anniversary of the U.S. Army. Happy Birthday to all of our Army comrades and sisters. And Happy Birthday to all of our June birthday celebrants as well! A special salute goes out to all the Fathers on Father's Day on June 21st, and our prayers and thoughts go to those of you who are not feeling well or who have lost a loved one.



Cathy Kerns
President

SOMETHING SPECIAL FOR THE POST

During the past year, there have been many changes here at John Lyon. Many people have donated their time and money to help make John Lyon Post #3150 truly a "home." These efforts have not gone unnoticed by the Ladies of John Lyon. The Ladies Auxiliary to VFW John Lyon Post #3150 want to take a moment to thank the members of the Post for continuously demonstrating their support for the Ladies Auxiliary throughout this past year. We can't even begin to express our appreciation for everything you have done for us - from the newly renovated Ladies room to the mopping of the floors for our "Taco Night" and "Sock Hop." Your constant support of our programs throughout the year were integral in helping us achieve our coveted Banner for 1997-1998. Your gracious inclusion of our input in day-to-day operations made us feel like we were really valued members of the "team." The sense of appreciation that the members of the Post showed the Ladies made 1997-1998 a year that we feel was a success not only for the Auxiliary but for all of us at John Lyon. It is with a great deal of warmth and affection that the Ladies Auxiliary extends a heartfelt thank you.

Tenth District and Post 3150

At the recent Tenth District Convention, Post 3150 was honored by Doc Crouch's election to District Judge Advocate position and Gail Hoffman's election as District Senior Vice President. Joy Neher, Cathy Kerns, and Jeannie Gibadlo also hold District positions for the coming year. (See the President's column.). Richard Hoffman was the most recent member to hold a position on the Post side. The Tenth District roughly covers the 12 posts in the Virginia suburbs of Washington, D.C. to Dale City to the south and to Washington Dulles Airport to the west.

Welcome to Our New Members

Welcome to new Post members elected at the May meeting: Robert Penny and Paul Polansky. The Auxiliary welcomed back former member --- and former 3150 Auxiliary President --- Elsie Jackson.

Marching Off

Recently deceased: Comrade Raymond Leketsky, who had been living in Arlington., Virginia.

Von Pawel New Post Trustee

H. Peter von Pawel was elected Three Year Trustee at the May meeting to complete the slate of officers for the coming year.

Army Birthday

The U.S. Army will mark its birthday on Sunday, 14 June and John Lyon Post will join its Army veterans and families in the celebration. A cake cutting ceremony will take place at about 4pm.

Navy and Marine Corp Veterans!

Do you know where your old ship is? You may be interested that the Naval Vessel Registry is now online at web site <http://www.nvr.navy.mil> All currently active ships and a number of earlier ones can be located at this Internet site.

State Convention

Eleven Post and Ladies Auxiliary members will represent Post 3150 --- and you --- at the annual Department ("State") Convention in Richmond, Virginia, 18 - 21 June 1998. Five Post members will be led by Commander "Doc" Crouch and include Senior Vice Commander Agresti, Adjutant Wagner, Trustee Wasserman, and House Committee Chairman Anderson.

President Cathy Kerns will lead her delegation of six Ladies Auxiliary members, including Senior Vice President Wasserman, Secretary Gibadlo, Treasurer Neher, and Trustees Graham and Claussen. The Ladies Auxiliary members look forward to receiving their banner for the year. A number of other awards are possible for the Post and Auxiliary.

The Post Home will be open, of course, during this time but no special events are planned. As usual, the Ladies Auxiliary will shift the night of their meeting to Tuesday 16 June.. See the calendar for details of the week.

The Berlin Airlift: 50 Years Ago

The Berlin Airlift began 50 years ago on 25 June 1948 and lasted for about a year, providing sustenance for the residents of Berlin cut off from western supply lines. U.S. Air Force, Army, and Navy were joined by other allies in this joint success.

Poppies Poop-Out

If you thought that Buddy Poppy promised in last issue month's issue rolled under your desk *a bit too quickly*, it was not your imagination. The poppies ran out before the envelopes did and the new supply had not arrived before the folding and sealing of envelopes was completed. Apologies to those who wanted one for your Memorial Day lapels. For those who did not catch one of our teams on the streets, a Poppy is included with this month's newsletter.

Incidentally, while a final count is not yet available, it appears that over a 1000 Buddy Poppies were distributed by Post 3150 over the Memorial Day weekend.

VFW 3150 John Lyon Post



Normandy D-Day Celebration

Saturday 6 June 1998

8:00 PM - 11:00 PM (?)

With GUEST VOCALISTS

TOM SAPUTO ON
KEYBOARD

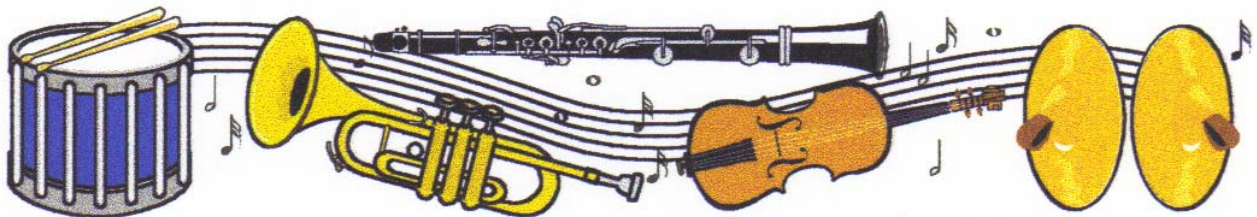
VFW 3150'S OWN JIM BEEM MUSICAL SHOWCASE

Live Performance


\$10.00 Donation will be taken
at the door.

The Lyons Den will be open
for those that do not desire
live performances.

Live Performance



June 1998

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6 D-DAY (1944) JIM BEEM'S "NIGHT OF MUSIC" 8:00PM-11:00PM 
7	8 HOUSE COMMITTEE MEETING 6:00PM - ??? 	9 VFW MOVIE NIGHT	10	11 POST MEETING 8:00PM 	12	13
14 SUNDAY BRUNCH 9:00AM-1:00PM 	15	16 AUXILIARY MEETING 8:00PM 	17	18 VFW DEPARTMENT OF VIRGINIA CONVENTION IN RICHMOND	19 VFW DEPARTMENT OF VIRGINIA CONVENTION IN RICHMOND	20 VFW DEPARTMENT OF VIRGINIA CONVENTION IN RICHMOND
21 FATHER'S DAY VFW DEPARTMENT OF VIRGINIA CONVENTION IN RICHMOND	22	23 VFW MOVIE NIGHT	24	25 50TH ANNIVERSARY BERLIN AIRLIFT 	26	27
28 SUNDAY BRUNCH 9:00AM-NOON AFTERNOON BARBECUE 1:00PM-5:00PM	29	30 VFW MOVIE NIGHT	<p>REMEMBER:</p> <p><i>"I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America and to the Republic for which it stands - one Nation - under God - indivisible - with Liberty and Justice for all."</i></p>			