

The John Lyon Gazette

Volume 5, Number 2

August 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>



JROTC Awards



Commander Crouch recently presented the Veterans of Foreign Wars Awards, sponsored by Post 3150, to two members of the Virginia 821st Air Force Junior ROTC Corps of Cadets. The recipients are, on the left, Cadet Lieutenant Colonel Luis Maldonado, a rising senior at Wakefield High School in Arlington, and on the right, Cadet Senior Airman John Cooper, a rising senior at Washington-Lee High School in Arlington.

Cadet Maldonado was selected to be commander of the corps after excelling at the VA821st Summer Leadership Program at Fort A.P. Hill last summer. He is hoping to attend the U.S. Air Force Academy and is looking forward to an Air Force career. He has also received a number of other civic and scholarship awards.

Cadet Cooper has participated in the corps Drill Team, Color Guard, and Rocketry Club, and was selected to attend this year's Summer Leadership Program. He looks forward to filling a leadership role with the Corps of Cadets during the coming year.

From the Commander

How do you describe a member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States or someone eligible to join that organization?

- (A) Patriotic
- (B) Dedicated
- (C) Courageous
- (D) Compassionate and caring
- (E) All of the above

The answer is obviously (E) all of the above.

I would dwell on the compassionate and caring because 50 years ago American servicemen and women participated in a mercy mission that personified those qualities, the Berlin Airlift of "Operation Vittles". I watched a PBS special on this the other night. American service members working 24 hours a day seven days a week. Some in support roles and some going into harm's way, and, yes, some paying the supreme sacrifice. And what for? To bring food, clothing and other needed supplies to people who had been our mortal enemies three years before to help them survive. And don't forget the orphans. There were some lighter moments such as when pilot Gail S. Halvorson would waggle the wings of his aircraft and drop handkerchief parachutes of candy to the children below. That spirit remains with our armed forces today. It exists at John Lyon Post today with concern and care for our comrades and sisters in need. It existed in the past, it exists today and WILL exist in the future.

The District Planning session was held at VFW Post 9274, Falls Church last month. I volunteered John Lyon Post to host the December meeting, but that meeting was moved to November and became a joint session. With our smaller facilities I withdrew us from consideration. Our Tenth District Commander, Comrade Barney Marquart, indicated to me that he appreciated our offer and that he had no doubt John Lyon Post would be a valuable asset in carrying out the policies and the programs of Tenth District in the coming year.

Yours in Comradeship,


C.D. "Doc" Crouch


FROM THE AUXILIARY PRESIDENT

Ladies, I hope each of you and your loved ones are having a nice summer and avoiding the perils of the heat that most of us are having to cope with. Be patient, though, because at the rate time is flying by, the cooler days of Fall will be here before we know it. Of course, with the imminent arrival of Fall, the Auxiliary will once again move into high gear with lots of new projects for the 1998-1999 year. Right now, your officers and local members are looking at the calendar and trying to set forth an agenda that will reach out to our veterans, our community, and our membership. Like last year, the Auxiliary will again sponsor activities, such as a "Taco Night," special programs to honor veterans (military anniversaries), and of course, our annual Thanksgiving and Christmas projects. All of these ventures were a great success last year, thanks in great measure to your support, and we're eagerly looking forward to this year's events! Once again, I am soliciting your input. Share your ideas! Remember, all of our events are a team effort and as a member of the Auxiliary, you are an integral part of our team. We will be meeting with the Officers of the Post this month to brainstorm and actually set up some definite dates so get in touch with me. I, in turn, promise to keep you posted.

On a different topic, it is also that time of year when we must focus on membership. Joy Neher will soon be sending out the renewal notices for those of you who are continuous members. Your response last year was absolutely terrific and was the primary reason we achieved our coveted Banner. I promise I will try not to harass you about this but I need to remind you that the Department really puts the pressure on us during the Fall months. Once again, we are going to set November 30th as our date to achieve our 100% membership status. This is an Auxiliary project that each of you can participate in, even if you can't be here in Arlington! And remember, you get automatic cancer insurance with your renewal. If you have any questions, please contact either myself or Joy. One other point, related to membership: This year the Auxiliary is going to make a concerted effort to assist the Post in its recruiting efforts. The Post has done so much to support the Ladies Auxiliary that we have decided that we are going to do what we can to help the Post achieve 100% as well. If any of you know someone who may be eligible to join our VFW family, please encourage them to contact the Commander or any other member of the Post.

This year, the Auxiliary is undertaking a new and very special project. As some of you may already know, the Ladies Auxiliary to the VFW has, as one of its primary national programs, Cancer Aid and Research. Auxiliary #3150 has decided to take a pro-active stance in fighting this dreaded killer. At each monthly meeting we are going to take the proceeds from our "penny march" and deposit the money in a special account. Throughout the year, we will have other special projects as well, and earmark the profits for our "Cancer Project." The plan is to have our Auxiliary present a check to the Department Cancer Aid and Research Chairman at the State Convention next June. If any of you would like to participate you can make a donation to this worthwhile cause. If you should want to send a check then you should make it payable to "VFW Auxiliary #3150" and mark it "Cancer Project." Send it directly to Joy Neher and she will provide you with a receipt for your records. This is one project that reaches out to every one of our members and I hope each of you will feel you can really be involved in making a difference.

As I close, I want to extend a Happy Birthday to members and families of the U.S. Coast Guard celebrating their 208th anniversary and to members who have their special day in August. Prayers and thoughts to those who have been under the weather or have recently suffered the loss of a loved one.


Cathy Kerns
President

From the Senior Vice Commander:

Those of you who have grown accustomed to reading lengthy articles from me will either get a break or a disappointment this month. My address will be short and my topic one that you have heard before - Membership. We are now into a new membership year and those annual members of the Post should have received their renewal notices already. Please be expeditious about returning them to the Post.

And while on the subject of membership - John Lyon finished the 1997 - 98 year among the bottom 20 of the 1,200 Posts in the State with only about 86% membership. That's both good and bad.

Obviously, we didn't make All State last year. But on the positive side --- those who renewed their membership did so because they believe in the VFW, its mission and our accomplishment of that mission. So, while our quota is fewer this year, we still need and seek increased numbers of quality members. If every member would solicit membership from a friend or acquaintance whom they know to be a veteran, we'll have a very successful year supporting John Lyon Post and our surrounding community. Any questions on eligibility? Please contact me.

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

From the Junior Vice Commander:

The summer season is in full gear and we are moving ahead with many activities. Remember that no organization can survive without its members' participation; therefore, I'm asking for volunteers to step forward and assist in making the following happen:

Arlington County will host its annual county fair between 20 and 23 August. It has been a long time since our post has had a booth at the fair. Unfortunately, due to increased interest and lack of space, the application deadline was moved up to 1 July--causing us to miss the boat, so to speak. Nonetheless, it's never too early to start planning for

next year. In that spirit, I'm looking for someone who is willing to act as liaison with the county public affairs office and who can keep us apprised of upcoming events in Arlington. All that is needed is an occasional phone call or a visit to the county public affairs office/web site for activities around the corner. Any takers out there?

The county's 2nd annual Neighborhood Day will be held on 3 October. The theme of this year's event is "Celebrating our youth and our future." As you may recall, our 1997 participation was a tremendous success thanks to our highway cleanup effort. Any thoughts on how we can best address this year's theme and our Post's involvement in the community?

Saturday, 24 October, marks the seventh "Make a Difference Day" sponsored by USA Weekend magazine. This day is dedicated as a national day of community service throughout the country and, since 1992, participation in this event has grown from 68,000 to over 1.3 million! Various awards and \$130,000 wait to be distributed to those whose actions are judged to be most meritorious in helping the community. Any thoughts on how our Post might make a difference? Let me know.

I'm also looking for someone to chair the hospital visit program. Our goal should be to make a quarterly visit to the VA Hospital/nursing home in the district. This is one of the best ways to make a meaningful contribution to the life of our Post--it would take less than four hours of time once during each season. Visiting a hospital is not high on some folks' list, but think about, wouldn't you like to have someone visit you if you were confined to a bed or wheelchair? It doesn't take much to bring a smile to a vet's face--your presence could do the trick.

Everyone have a safe summer and please give me your thoughts on the aforementioned items. Together we can make it happen!

Mark M. Pando, JVC
703-418-3477
email: pando@erols.com

Life Members, if you haven't communicated with us lately, please send us a note to verify your address and help keep the address files up to date.

From the Adjutant:

One renewing member recently asked for an explanation of the membership year, e.g., when does our membership expire, why do we start to renew in July, etc. We shall try to cover some of those questions here.

The VFW installs its new officers at the end of June and the "activities year" roughly coincides with the officers' year. But your VFW membership goes from January to December. Look at your membership card: it says "1998" or "1999". What adds confusion is that the national VFW sends out renewal notices in July for next year, in order to get everyone back in the fold by the end of December. It is quite an effort some years to keep everyone current. Part of this can be attributed to the above confusion, another part is a group which never renews until the year is about up in December. Another part waits until the "anniversary month" every year. Still another group have told me they have not received a renewal notice. Be assured: no matter when you joined, your membership is good until December of the year printed on the card, but you should receive a renewal notice in July. With 400 members and a staff of only volunteers, we can't wait until December to start. We need your renewals early to keep things in order and avoid errors

Another minor problem: Duplicate payments (Thanks for your enthusiasm!). National sent out renewal notices this month --- and will every several months thereafter. Inevitably, they send out a new batch just as we have sent the renewals forward to state enroute to national. As a result you may renew and then get another renewal notice. (The fabled checks crossing bills in the mail!) If you received your new card from us, then you can relax and toss the new renewal notice. No need to respond to us again unless you get two or three more renewal notices. If you send in your check and don't receive your card in, say, two weeks, give us a call.

We pledge to react quickly to your renewal. Last year we got most --- probably 95% --- of renewed membership cards mailed in three days or less --- and spent 32 cents in getting them back out to you quickly. We intend to improve that record this year.

I hope this answers some of your questions. If you have not yet renewed for these or other reasons, do so today. If you haven't received a renewal notice, write out a check for \$20.00, add "1999 dues" in the lower corner, and mail to address on the front page of the newsletter.

J.Gary Wagner
103636.1543@compuserve.com

From the House Committee:

The Post Home continues to receive improvements. From the "Top of the Hot List", the stairs leading to the "Lyon's Den" have been widened and leveled making for safer trips down and up. New electrical outlets have been installed in the canteen and a new thermostat in the cooler. Also a security light has been placed on the pole by the entranceway. It literally lights up 50 -75% of the parking area. We are continuing in our efforts to get bids on the east wall, so if anyone has the expertise or knows a reputable contractor, give us a call. We'd like to get this major project done before the cold sets in.

The Monday through Friday lunches have continued to steadily grow and thanks to Bill Wolverton, Rita Beatty, and others, we occasionally have a home-made lunch special in addition to the regular menu. Stop by, I think you'll be pleased and you won't go away hungry.

In closing, I want to announce that in September there will be corporate meeting in conjunction with the regular Post meeting.

Eric Anderson
Chairman of House Committee

What Would You Do?

At the end of the newsletter is a list of activities, some of which we do and some of which we *could* do. Take a look and see if there is something you would like to help with. If every local member of the Post and Auxiliary were to help with *just one* activity for the year, there is no limit to what we could accomplish. If your special interest is not on the list, write it in. Bring survey to the Post and place in the box or send to Junior Vice of the Post or Ladies Auxiliary at the address on the front page.

A Buddy Poppy Thank You!

The annual Memorial Day Buddy Poppy drive received nearly \$400 in donations which members mailed to the Post. Half of the money was passed to the Ladies Auxiliary Relief Fund. Our many and most sincere thanks to those who have sent in donations. Remember: Buddy Poppy donations go to the Relief Fund which is used *only* for relief of veterans, their widows and their orphans.

Thanks to Distribution Staff

The Editor's undying thanks go to the Newsletter distribution staff for its unheralded efforts without which the newsletter would remain mostly in boxes coming from the printer. Ruthie Rodier has long been the unofficial captain of the team which monthly risks paper cuts and burns while folding the newsletter and stamping, stuffing, sealing and bundling envelopes. She is assisted by Bette Davis, Margaret Dozier, Jeanne Gibadlo, Cathy Kerns, Virginia Lepage, Marianne MacIntyre, Imogene Robinson, and Martha Tingler. Others who help frequently are Tommy Saunders and Bob Lyles, and various draftees from the canteen.

Renew Now: Good till Year 2000!

The 1999 membership cards have been received from National. We return your new card within *three* days of receiving your renewal!

Thanks to Peter von Pawel, the first member to renew, following the July Post meeting, to John Gibson, the first to simply send in a check, to Floyd Johnson, the first to renew at Sunday Brunch, to Albert Lynch, the first to walk in carrying the renewal form, and John Lindecamp, the first to mail in a renewal form. And all the others who have renewed so far. We are off to a good start.

John Lyon Web Page

The John Lyon web page is expected to move in the near future to provide better depth of coverage and greater variety. A link will direct you the new location when the move occurs so you can keep checking the current location. Your patience is appreciated your and comments are welcome.

Coast Guard Birthday Celebration

The U.S. Coast Guard will celebrate its 208th Anniversary on 4 August, marking the date in 1790 when Congress, at request of Treasury Secretary Alexander Hamilton, authorized construction of first 10 Revenue Cutters. John Lyon has scheduled a ceremony on Sunday, 2 August, at 1600 hours. The event will feature the traditional birthday cake and all members of the Post and Ladies Auxiliary are invited to attend. The recent Army birthday was well attended by all services and hopes are high that a similar turnout will honor the Coast Guard on Sunday. Aug 4.

Welcome to Our New Members

Welcome to new Post members elected at the July meeting: Kenneth Kuch, Eliseo Pilco Jr, and Joseph J. Repasch.

Audie Murphy

There is a movement afoot to have Audie Murphy honored on a U.S. postage stamp on his 75th birthday in 1999. The effort has not been greeted enthusiastically by the U.S. Postal Service. If you would like to add your opinion, drop a note to the Postal Service or go to the World Wide Web at www.audiemurphy.com to express your views. This is the location of the Audie Murphy Research Foundation and offers much on the life and times of an authentic American hero and is worth your visit whether you support the idea of a stamp or not.

Agresti, Wagner Honored

M.Conrad Agresti and J.Gary Wagner were honored during the July Post meeting when Commander Crouch presented each with a "Thousand Poppies Pin". The pin is presented to those who have distributed one thousand Buddy Poppies. The two Post members each distributed approximately 400 Buddy Poppies during the recent Memorial Day weekend at several Arlington locations and have done similarly going back several years. They have an estimated count of over 2000 poppies each. The pins come only for 1000 poppies.

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2116 North 19th Street
Arlington, VA 22201
703-525-0108

ACTIVITIES OF POST and/or LADIES AUXILIARY

YEARLY EVENTS

Arlington Cnty Fair (VFW Booth) (Aug)
Mini "Flying Squadron" (Aug)
Labor Day
Arl Cnty Neighborhood Day (Sep/Oct)
Golf Tournament
AF Birthday (18 Sept)
Voice of Democracy (Autumn)
Safety/Hunter Safety Programs
"Light a Bike/Tyke" (Bicycle/Kid Safety)
Early Bird Dinner/Dance (Oct)
Make a Difference Day (Oct)
Navy Birthday (13 Oct)
Halloween Dance
Youth Essay Contest (Winter-Spring)
Voting: Election Day
Marine Corps Birthday (10 Nov)
Veteran's Day (11 Nov)
Vet. Day: Lyon/Clarendon Memorials
Buddy Poppy Sales: Veteran's Day
Post 3150 Birthday (20 Nov)
Thanksgiving Food Baskets for needy
Pearl Harbor Anniversay (7 Dec)
Post Christmas Decorations
Post Christmas Party
Children's Christmas Party
Nursing Home Christmas Party
White Sox Brigade (Dec)
Christmas Food Baskets for the needy
New Years' Eve Party
Super Bowl Party
Valentine's Day
Midwinter Conf. Spaghetti Dinner (Mar)
Saint Patrick's Day
Easter Egg Hunt
Loyalty Day (1 May)
Post Installation (May)
Mother's Day Brunch
Neighboring Post Installations
Buddy Poppy Sales: Memorial Day
Memorial Day Graves Decoration
Mem. Day: John Lyon/Clarendon Memorials
Army Birthday (14 June)
Flag Day (14 June)
Father's Day Brunch
Independence Day
Coast Guard Birthday
Adopt-a-Highway (2-3 times / year)
Department (state) Convention (Jun)

Your suggestion for other activities: _____

ON-GOING OR TO BE DETERMINED

Americanism
Post Color Guard
Ladies Auxiliary Color Guard
VA Hospital Visits
Historical Remembrance:
WW II D-Day VE Day
Korean Armistice
WW I
Vietnam
Desert Storm
Other _____
Past Commander/President Night
Auxiliary Cancer Programs
National POW/MIA Day
Post Newsletter
Recycling Programs
Police /Firefighter Recognition Night
VFW National Home
Membership: Assist Snr Vice Post/Aux
("Membership Round-up", etc)
Life Memberships
Post Bowling Team
Post Softball Team
Post Darts Team
Youth Soccer Team
Youth Bowling Team
Other Youth _____
Lawn and Garden
Summer Cookouts (4th Sundays)
Sunday Brunches (2nd & 4th Sundays)
Assistant Officer positions _____
Publicity/Public Affairs
Safety programs:
Drive to Survive
Home Protection/Security
AARP 55 Alive/Mature Driving Program
Drugs
Service Officer
Legislative Team
Congressional Writing Team
Junior ROTC
Sock Hop
Activities Scrap Book
Tenth District Meetings / Activities
Post cleanup
Post repairs/fix-up
"Official Photographer"
Department (State) Meetings (quarterly)
House Committee

Name (if you would like to help out): _____
(circle activity interested in)

Phone : _____

August 1998

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 U.S. COAST GUARD CAKE-CUTTING CERIMONY 4:00PM	3	4 U.S.COAST GUARD EST. 1790 VFW MOVIE NIGHT 6:45PM	5	6	7	8
9 SUNDAY BRUNCH 9:00AM-1:00PM	10 HOUSE COMMITTEE MEETING 6:00PM - 2:30PM	11 VFW MOVIE NIGHT 6:45PM	12	13 POST MEETING 8:00PM	14 JAPAN SURRENDERS ENDING WWII (1945)	15
16	17	18 VFW MOVIE NIGHT 6:45PM	19	20 AUXILIARY MEETING 8:00PM	21	22
23 SUNDAY BRUNCH 9:00AM-NOON BARBECUE 1:00PM-5:00PM	24	25 VFW MOVIE NIGHT 6:45PM	26	27	28	29
30	31	<p><i>Don't forget our Lunches every Monday through Friday served from 11:30am to 3:00pm!!</i></p>				