

The John Lyon Gazette

Volume 5, Number 6-7

December 1998-January 1999



Veterans of Foreign Wars

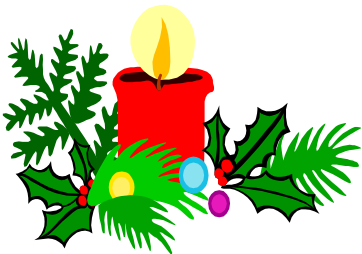
John Lyon Post #3150

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Merry Christmas,
Happy Hanukkah,
and
a Happy New Year!



From all the Comrades and Sisters of
John Lyon VFW Post 3150 and the Ladies Auxiliary,
our very best wishes for the Holidays.

This is a double end of the year issue. There will not be a separate issue for January as the newsletter preparation days fall right in the middle of the busiest of holiday seasons.

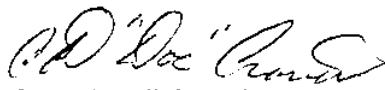
From The Commander:

I wish each and every comrade, sister and friend of John Lyon Post a happy and enjoyable holiday season. This is a time of year that we not only reflect on those that have gone before us and those that are still in our families, but also those that we can support with our donations and time. To look into the eyes of the recipients of our bounty carries a mixed emotion: gladness that those who can use and need our support are receiving it and the great understanding that this relief is being given to families and friends who have a great feeling of pride in their hearts. Their words reflect their thanks for our gifts, but their eyes reflect their thoughts that they like we would more rather give than receive. Let us all stand together, whether we give or receive.

These months also mark a turnaround in the last of our world wars. MGEN A.C. McAuliffe summed it up most appropriately when he replied to an enemy commander calling for his unit's surrender by saying "NUTS!" What started out with what President Franklin D. Roosevelt, described as a day which will live in infamy turned toward a victory over tyranny that was the most brutal that we have faced in this century. Hopefully we will never have to face such a scenario again.

In this season of Holiday thought by a wide variety of religious and ethnic beliefs, let us hope that war and combat actions leave us. Let us hope that the diplomats can use words while the military can stack arms; let us hope that the politicians can put aside personalities and petty jealousies, just as we do, in order to bring about a world that is at peace and productive. Those of us, past and present, that have seen shots fired in anger wish this more than anyone else. While we all enjoy the benefits of our wonderful nation, those that have served know full well the Price of Freedom. I wish to thank you all for your service and support: Comrades, Sisters and Friends.

Yours in Comradeship,



C. D. "Doc" Crouch

FROM THE 10TH DISTRICT COMMANDER

On Veterans Day 11 November 1998, I was invited to attend the wreath laying ceremonies with VFW Post 3150 Arlington. These ceremonies were conducted in a very professional manner by Post Commander "Doc" Crouch. My congratulations to "Doc" and to Auxiliary President Cathy Kerns for their professional performance. My personal thanks to "Doc" for the invitation. I enjoyed it thoroughly.

Barney Marquart
10th District Commander

FROM THE AUXILIARY PRESIDENT

Here we are at that time of year when the daylight hours are the shortest and the list of things to do certainly seem the longest. Where is the time going? The month of November always is the prelude to holiday bustle, cold jet streams, and thoughts, activities, and resolutions for the new year. The Auxiliary has been busy to be sure! During the month of November we were involved in lots of projects and activities here and about at John Lyon. Once again, the Post and the Auxiliary participated in Veterans' Day activities, combining a Sunday Brunch, a Spaghetti Dinner, a cake-cutting ceremony to honor the 223rd anniversary of the United States Marine Corps, and memorial services on Veterans' Day to make for a busy yet most gratifying time for everyone. Our Post Home had many guests during the course of the week and even some of our own members from out of the area were able to spend time with us. As we participated in ceremonies to honor our Veterans, we were once again reminded of the importance of what we do in the VFW.

As was the case last year, the Auxiliary, along with the Post, kicked off the holiday season on a very uplifting note with the distribution of our annual Thanksgiving baskets. We again prepared one dozen baskets of food for distribution to needy military families. This year we had the assistance of the Chaplain at Ft. Myer and are gratified to know that we have been able to help some of those who work so hard to protect us in times of need.

Our calendar for the month of December is brimming over with activities and projects. On December 5th, we will visit our veterans at the V.A. Nursing Home in Washington, D.C. and deliver 112 "Gift Bags" with White Socks and other goodies inside. The Post and the Auxiliary will also join forces on the 5th to "dress up" our Post Home for the holidays. Please come and join us. The more the merrier!

Our annual Children's Christmas Party will be held on Saturday, December 12th, starting at 11:00am. We will serve lunch to the children and their parents while we wait for Santa and Mrs. Claus to arrive! If you'd like to be one of "Santa's Helpers" or if you have a special knack making those Christmas cookies, please contact me. This is a very special event where we enjoy the privilege of seeing the joy and happiness when the children receive their gifts. If you can join us you will see firsthand what I'm talking about..

On Saturday, the 19th, we will again prepare and distribute our "Christmas baskets." Because our Thanksgiving baskets were so well received, we will again coordinate with Ft. Myer to insure that our efforts reach needy military personnel that may not otherwise be able to enjoy a special Christmas dinner.

The Post is hosting a holiday get together on Sunday, December 20th, from 2:00pm to 6:00pm. I would like to take this opportunity to extend a personal invitation to each of you to take some time from your busy schedule to join us in celebrating the pleasures and joys of the holiday season. All of us work very hard throughout the year so it seems only right that we take a few moments to truly enjoy the friendships we share with each other. I hope you can stop by.

As was the case last year, because of the holiday schedule, we are again combining our December and January newsletters. There are a couple of things happening in January that I would like to bring to your attention. For those of you who live in the area, you need to note on your calendars that the Post will be having its **Sunday brunches in January** on the **first and third Sundays**. This is being done to accommodate those of us who normally work at the brunches, including the members of the Post who are behind the scene in the kitchen. Several of the Ladies are planning on attending the Mid-Winter Council Meeting in Williamsburg, VA from January 22nd through January 24th. This is when the Department gives an assessment of the progress made by each of the Auxiliaries throughout the State. I am delighted and proud to let you know that our Auxiliary has, as of this date, completed all of our banner requirements in the programs and we only need **eight more renewals to be 100% in membership**. All of you have worked very hard, each in your own special way and I can't begin to express to you my gratitude for your continued support. For those of you who have not yet renewed, please know that we want you to continue to be a part of our family, but most important you should realize that as of December 31st of this year, your cancer insurance coverage will expire. Please think, do you really want to let that slip away? You still have time.

May God bless you and yours during the Holiday Season and may 1999 bring you happiness and good health Thank you to each of you for making this year a very special year for me.


Cathy Kerns
President



VOICE OF DEMOCRACY WINNERS ANNOUNCED

John Lyon Post and the Ladies Auxiliary are pleased to announce the 1998-1999 "Voice of Democracy" Winners. This year we have two first place winners, Ms. Alicia Sponholz, a senior from Thomas Jefferson High School, and Ms. Christine T. Klippen, also a senior, from Bishop Denis J. O'Connell High School. Our second place winner is Ms. M. Laura Powar, a junior at Bishop O'Connell High School; third place goes to Mr. Albert A. Gembara, a senior at Bishop O'Connell High School; and honorable mention goes to Ms. La'Tasha M. Gunter, a senior at Bishop O'Connell High School. Both Christine and Albert were participants in our "Voice of Democracy" program last year and we are pleased that they made the effort to again be involved with this worthwhile endeavor.

Congratulations to all of our winners and a sincere thank you to the schools who took the time to support our efforts to reach out to the students. Thanks also to the parents who helped by supporting their childrens' participation and to our own members who assisted in the judging process. The applications and entries that we received this year indicate that our youth today are thoughtful indeed when thinking about "My Service to America," this year's theme.

From the Senior Vice Commander:

Congratulations and thank you to all comrades who have recruited new or reinstated members. As I write this, John Lyon Post stands on the brink of “**100 in 100**” – 100% membership in VFW’s 100th year. Keep up the good work. True to form, our hospitality and home-away-from-home ambiance to “**Welcome Home**” veterans has led to a number of life member transfers, as well. Bravo Zulu – Well Done.

I hope that everyone has a happy and safe Holiday season.

Eye Care Plan of America

I have received a number questions about the Eye Care Plan of America, which I addressed in last month’s newsletter. I humbly have to print a retraction to that note. The Plan, in which the VFW participated at least since I joined in 1988, ceased to be part of our Membership package in July. This was unannounced and since National does not forward new Membership Benefit Handbooks – as they used to up until two years ago, I was unaware of the change until I went on-line to the VFW homepage and pulled up a list of benefits for a prospective member.

I inquired about this with National and received a letter from a Kristine Keller, Manager, Member Benefits. She informs me that a “health care package” including dental, prescription, vision and hearing will be available soon and that it will be announced in the pages of VFW Magazine.

Again, I am sorry for promulgating out of date information.

Phone Numbers for Korean and Cold War MIA Families and Next of Kin

As recovery of remains of U.S. servicemen missing in the Korean and Cold Wars continues, Department of Defense officials have establish toll free telephone lines for long lost relatives to use.

The need to contact relatives and NOK of these missing servicemen is three fold: (a) First, family

member reference blood samples are needed to compare to mitochondrial DNA sequences from recovered skeletal remains. (b) Second, family members often possess personal or wartime documents that may aid in identifying an unaccounted-for serviceman. (c) Finally, the military Services are seeking to keep family members updated on specific recovery operations and if remains are recovered and identified, families will be asked to make decisions regarding the burial of the serviceman.

If the missing serviceman was in the Army, the number is (800) 892-2490. The Navy number is (800) 443-9298. The Air Force number is (800) 531-5501 and the Marine Corps number is (800) 847-1597. Families of civilians missing from these conflicts may contact the State Department at (202) 647-6769.

M. C. Agresti

(h) 703-516-9784

(w) 703-418-4903

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

Welcome to Our New Members

Welcome to new Post members Peter McLeod,, Charles Michaels, James Money, Irene Van Houten Munster, Jose Soto, and Richard Uram, elected at the November meeting. And to Linda Scalice elected to membership in the Ladies Auxiliary.

A special John Lyon “Hello” to...

Post 3150 and Ladies Auxiliary members Ralph and Audrey Gladmon who recently celebrated their 65th Wedding Anniversary! And to longtime lost Post Life member William E. York who was recently reassigned to the Washington area and knew right where “home” was; and to all our local and out-of-town members and friends who visited the Post during Veterans Day Week or otherwise helped make the various events a success.

Marching Off...

Life Member George V. Shorb, in early October.

White Socks Brigade Christmas Baskets

Like to participate, but can't in the normal way? Consider donating (mailing) some new pair of white socks for the Christmas White Socks Brigade. The socks will be combined with toiletries and sundry items in a bag of goodies for the residents of the VA Nursing Home.

Or drop off some non-perishable food items suitable for Christmas dinner in our food baskets for young military families needing some holiday help for Thanksgiving.

There's a box in the Post for both socks and food items.

And THANKS to those who have already donated white socks to the brigade. The veterans will appreciate your thoughtfulness.

Online Change of Address

Web surfer? You may change your address to National Headquarters and Post 3150 via the Internet. Go to www.vfw.com and click on the change of address link then fill in the blanks. This will save you and the VFW time and effort as it's easy to do and you don't have to look for an envelope and a stamp. And it may even more likely get done.

Superbowl Sunday

Bad News! The Redskins won't be in the Superbowl. Good News! Free venison barbeque for all members and guests who join us for the game. Barbequed venison, baked beans, potatoes, dessert. The Works. Be Here!

Monday Night Football

Take time out from your holiday shopping for Monday night football. The Post remains open --- and some tasty food specials are featured every week.

Ideal Gift

Stumped for the ideal gift for your spouse? Think about a VFW or Ladies Auxiliary Life Membership for him or her! Contact one of the Post or Ladies Auxiliary Officers at the Post at the phone number on the first page.

Go Life?

Post members who have renewed their membership and want to "go Life" and can count their renewal fee towards their Life membership until 15 December.

Remember Pearl Harbor! December 7, 1941

Holiday Shopping Reminder

When you do your holiday grocery shopping, remember to save your Giant, Safeway, and Superfresh cash register receipts to help our local schools. And save those Campbells, Swansons, Mrs. Pauls, Pepperridge Farms labels for the VFW National Home. The National Home is a residential complex in Michigan for orphans of veterans.

Upcoming Events Update

The Post Christmas Party will be held Sunday, 20 December from 2 – 6 in the afternoon. There will be NO Sunday Brunch on the fourth Sunday, 27 December because of the holidays. Due to schedule conflicts, January Brunches will be on the FIRST and THIRD Sundays, this month only.

Post Meeting 8pm Second Thursday of the Month

Some Recent Events

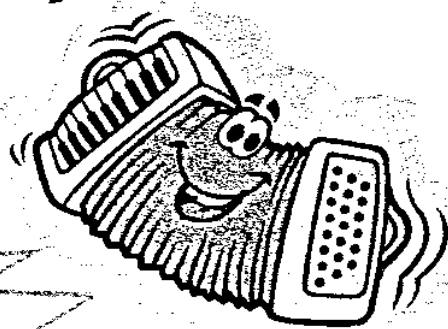


Post and Ladies Auxiliary members gather at the flag pole outside of Post 3150 for ceremonies on POW / MIA Day. Comrade Roy Story donated a new POW / MIA flag which was raised during the ceremony. Tenth District Commander Barney Marquart was a featured speaker. Above right: (l – r) Comrade Story, Senior Vice Commander Connie Agresti, Commander “Doc” Crouch, Ladies Auxiliary President Cathy Kerns, Chaplain Jim Wilkinson, and Commander Marquart.



Some members of the Post and Ladies Auxiliary linger after Veterans Day ceremonies at the “John Lyon Memorial” in Cherry Dale: (l – r) Walter Frankland, Commander Crouch, Chaplain Wilkinson, Jack Nye, Commander Marquart, Trustee Bob Wasserman, Adjutant J.Gary Wagner. Bracketing the memorial are Juanita Diggs, Secretary Jeannie Gibadlo, President Kerns, Senior Vice President Ceil Wasserman, and Treasurer Joy Neher.

The Jim Beem Show



*Featuring Tom Saputo on
the keys!*



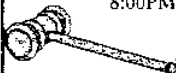

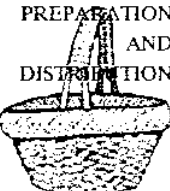
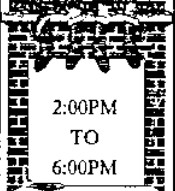



*Bringing Sandy back.
Other guest artists
appearing also.*

VFW 3150
John Lyon Post
on Saturday
12 December 1998
7:00 PM - ?

Donations accepted

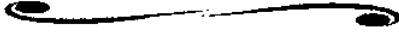



December 1998







Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
 <p>MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR DECEMBER 12TH 7:00PM JIM BEEM'S MUSICAL EVENING AT THE POST ALL ARE INVITED</p>		1	2	3	4	5 CHRISTMAS HOSPITAL VISIT 12:30PM POST HOME CHRISTMAS DECORATING
6 HOUSE COMMITTEE MTG.- 6:00PM FOOTBALL  PEARL HARBOR MEMORIAL CEREMONIES 7:55PM	7	8 VFW MOVIE NIGHT 6:45PM	9	10 POST MEETING 8:00PM 	11	12 CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PARTY  11:00AM - 1:00PM
13 SUNDAY BRUNCH 9:00AM - 1:00PM 	14 MONDAY NIGHT FOOTBALL	15	16	17 AUXILIARY MEETING 8:00PM 	18	19 CHRISTMAS BASKETS PREPARATION AND DISTRIBUTION 
20 POST /AUX CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION  2:00PM TO 6:00PM	21 FIRST DAY OF WINTER MONDAY NIGHT FOOTBALL	22	23	24	25  CHRISTMAS DAY	26
27 NO SUNDAY BRUNCH TODAY 	28	29	30	31  NEW YEAR'S EVE		

January 1999

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
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The 1998-1999 Post and Auxiliary Officers
of
John Lyon VFW Post #3150
wish each of you a happy, healthy and prosperous New Year!

NEW YEARS DAY 1	2
HAPPY NEW YEAR 	

SUNDAY BRUNCH 9:00AM - 1:00PM 	3	4	5	6	7	8	9				
10	HOUSE COMMITTEE MEETING 5:00PM - ??? 	11	12	13	POST MEETING 8:00PM 	14	15	16			
SUNDAY BRUNCH 9:00AM - 1:00PM 	17	MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. DAY	18	VFW MOVIE NIGHT 6:45PM	19	20	21	22	23		
WINTER COUNCIL CONFERENCE MEETING IN WILLIAMSBURG	24	25	26	VFW MOVIE NIGHT	27	AUXILIARY MEETING 8:00PM 	WINTER COUNCIL CONFERENCE MEETING IN WILLIAMSBURG	WINTER COUNCIL CONFERENCE MEETING IN WILLIAMSBURG	28	29	30
SUPER BOWL SUNDAY 	31	<i>Notes and Important Dates to Remember:</i>									