

The John Lyon Gazette

Volume 5, Number 9

March 1999



Veterans of Foreign Wars

John Lyon Post #3150

2116 North 19th Street

Arlington VA 22201

703-525-0108

<http://www.knight-hub.com/vfw3150>



Commander-in-Chief visits 3150



Commander-in-Chief Thomas A. Pouliot visited the John Lyon Post home on Wednesday, 17 February to meet with members of the Post and Ladies Auxiliary. Accompanying him on this visit were Department of Virginia Senior Vice Commander Paul T. Moore, Junior Vice Commander Early R. Chappell, and Department Adjutant / Quartermaster Robert J. Klausung. Also in attendance were Department Ladies Auxiliary Guard Ines Kerch, Tenth District Commander Bernard C. Marquardt, District Senior Vice Commander Tom Carrol, and Post 609 Commander Louis Kobus. Above, l – r, Commander Crouch, Commander in Chief Pouliot, and Tenth District Commander Marquardt. This was the first Commander-in-Chief visit to John Lyon in memory and was in combination with visits to several other local posts in addition to his scheduled Northern Virginia District Ten visit scheduled for the next day.

From The Commander:

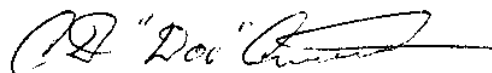
The month of March brings us closer to the end of tenure for the officers of our post and time to look to the future. Nominations for post officers will open at our next meeting, 11 March 1999, and will remain open until the April meeting. I would encourage all members who have the time to devote to officerial duties and responsibilities to come forward and take up the mantel of office so that this great post can continue to go forward. I have no doubt that all of the members have the desire to help out and assist, but sometimes the devotion of time required conflicts with personal business and family requirements. My point is this: If you feel that a comrade is eminently qualified for an officer position, please discuss it with them before offering their name in nomination. I have heard and seen many instances whereby members have been "put between a rock and a hard place", they appreciate the honor of being nominated, they do not wish to reject that honor and then if elected they are spread so thin by virtue of responsibilities and commitments that they endure an undue amount of pressure in order to perform adequately in all arenas. Let us be considerate in our deliberations and nominations, NOT only to the Post but to the individuals who while they desire to serve the Post may not be able to do so.

We recently held a memorial wreath laying ceremony at the Mast of the USS MAINE in Arlington Cemetery. This was done on the 101st Anniversary of it's sinking in Havana harbor. The ceremony was well attended by members of the Post and the Ladies Auxiliary, but was momentous from another standpoint. As we approached the memorial for the ceremony a group of approximately 20-25 young Navy Junior ROTC members from Orlando, Florida formed up to observe the ceremony. After the ceremony, I, Jim Bertine, and others basically held a fifteen to twenty minute discussion and question answering session with these young people relative to history and civics. This was a day of great importance to me. Not only did we honor our fallen comrades in arms but we were able to address the questions of our youth and bring about a greater understanding of American history and traditions. I don't know how the others felt, but as I walked from Arlington Cemetery back to Fort Myer, I felt as though I was walking on air. The pride I felt in our Post and Auxiliary and those young people is indescribable. I only wish that we could do something like this every day of the year.

As you may be aware, Thomas A. Pouliot, our Commander in Chief, was on board the Post for an unofficial visit on 17 February. He was very receptive in meeting with us and listening to our questions and concerns. I was fortunate enough to be able to accompany our Tenth District Commander, Barney Marquart, to Dale City VFW Post 1503 to see him again and reiterate those concerns. While no specific action has or can be taken in such a short period of time, I will try to keep you posted as I receive information. I will also bring you up to speed on the efforts we made on the "VFW Day on the Hill" in Richmond.

I look forward to continuing to support you as you have supported this great Post. Without your support and involvement we would not be where we are today.

Yours in comradeship,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Doc Bertine". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned below the typed name "Yours in comradeship,".

FROM THE AUXILIARY PRESIDENT

February, long known for the month when Washington receives its most bitter reminder that, yes, there is a winter, has passed us by with nothing more than a real preview that springtime is just around the corner. Nonetheless, your Auxiliary was busy this past month. One of the major highlights we were involved with was the awards ceremony and reception for our "Voice of Democracy" and "Youth Essay" student participants, their families, and school personnel, co-hosted by the Auxiliary and the Post on Saturday, February 6th. We had a terrific turnout for the ceremony, which was very nice and quite impressive. Chairman Jeannie Gibadlo served as "Mistress of Ceremonies" while the Commander and I had the privilege of awarding each of our VOD winners a check, a certificate, and a special medal, and our "Youth Essay participants, a certificate of merit. The Youth Essay winners will each be receiving a savings bond that will be sent directly to them by the U.S. Treasury. The reception following the ceremony was the perfect opportunity to mingle with all of our guests and to get a chance to talk with the students and their families. It was a great way to start off the month.

The Post kicked off a series of year-long events on February 9th that will recognize and celebrate the 100 year anniversary of the VFW by showing a movie highlighting the history of the organization. In conjunction with this, the Auxiliary joined with members of the Post on President's Day to commemorate the 101st anniversary of the sinking of the *USS Maine*, attending a wreath laying ceremony at the *USS Maine* Memorial at Arlington Cemetery. We will continue, throughout the year, to participate in these kinds of events that underscore the true meaning of our involvement in the VFW family.

Hopefully you will be reading this just as we are preparing to host our annual Spaghetti Dinner, which we do every year in conjunction with the VFW National Mid-Winter Conference that is held in Washington, DC. This has always been an event where our John Lyon Post and the Auxiliary have had the opportunity to extend our hospitality to our Comrades and Sisters visiting the Nation's Capital. Despite the intensive planning, coordinating, and work involved the results are always worth the effort. It gives each of us the opportunity to meet and make new friends, renew friendships with old friends, and share ideas and perspectives with our Comrades and Sisters throughout the organization. Saturday, February 27th is the big day. We'd love to have you join us and enjoy the camaraderie of VFW family and friends.

During the month of March, the Ladies Auxiliary will be focusing on upcoming plans and events that will carry us through to the end of the VFW year in June. The Auxiliary has had an extremely successful year thus far, but we need to replenish our coffers somewhat. With this in mind, we are planning on several different things that we hope will appeal to the broadest range of people. On **Friday evening, March 12th**, our Auxiliary will have a "**Crab Cake Supper**" here at the Post home. You are invited to join us in a delicious hot crab cake sandwich or, for the heartier appetite, we will offer a full dinner. This is the first time the Auxiliary is trying this and if we are successful, we'll do this again so I'm encouraging all of you to plan on joining us. The Auxiliary will also have a "**Sunday Brunch Bake Sale.**" This is set for **Sunday, March 28th**, starting at 9:00am. The Ladies will offer all kinds of baked goods to our Sunday Brunch guests. Offerings will include cakes, pies, fudge, cookies, cupcakes, and banana breads, among other culinary delicacies. There will be something for everybody and everyone loves a bake sale. For our Ladies who are out of the immediate area, you may have a favorite recipe. Please think about

sending it to me and one of us will see if we can whip it up. After all, this is your Auxiliary too! The funds we raise from these events will go into the Auxiliary's General Fund and enable us to continue the worthwhile programs that we have planned for the rest of this year and will give us solid ground with which to start the 1999-2000 VFW year that commences in July. If our bake sale goes over well, we will have the option of making it a monthly event to coincide with a breakfast. I promise I'll keep you posted.

On Sunday, March 21st, at 1:00pm, several of us will attend the 10th District Meeting that will be held at VFW Post #8241 in McLean. As you are well aware, several of our members are officers at the District level, so you are well represented!

Lest I forget, this is the month of the Irish. With this in mind, the Post, with the help of the Auxiliary, will be sponsoring our annual **Corn Beef and Cabbage Dinner** on Saturday, **March 20th**, from 4:00pm until 7:00pm. If last year's dinner is any indication, then you can rightfully expect our VFW leprechauns to prepare a feast worthy of shamrocks and smiles. Be sure to circle this date on your calendar. You won't want to miss it.

As I wrap this up, I want to wish everyone who has a birthday this month a happy day. For those of you who are Irish (even if just on the 17th!), Happy St. Patrick's Day. Thoughts and prayers to those of you who have been under the weather, or have recently suffered hardship or the loss of a loved one.


Cathy Kerns
President

CRAB CAKE SUPPER AT THE POST

Mark Friday, March 12th, on your calendar and make your reservations early! We're going to try something tasty and different at John Lyon. Beginning at 6:00pm, the Ladies Auxiliary will be serving up delicious Maryland style crab cakes for all who savor the delicacy of lump crab meat combined with the delicious flavor of herbs and spices. For those of you with a small appetite, we will be offering a crab cake sandwich served on a roll, with chips and a pickle. If you have a heartier appetite, you can opt for a full dinner with the option of one or two crab cakes, served with two vegetables. We are asking that those of you who would like to join us for dinner please sign up on the special **reservation list** that will be at the bar at the Post or **give us a call at (703) 525-0108 no later than 10:00pm, Tuesday evening, March 9th**. This is necessary in order to facilitate our adequate preparation for everyone who will want to share in the festivities of our first crab cake supper. We will be posting flyers that will provide additional information. If you have any questions, please be sure to give us a call at the Post. You won't want to miss this. It will be a nice time for everyone. We'll look forward to seeing you on the 12th!

From the Senior Vice Commander:

Spring is upon us and as we begin our plans for the next VFW year, beginning in July, I still want to stress the need for continued and active membership. Opportunities to help our community will abound with the advent of milder weather and we can only achieve those through the willing participation of our members.

We are among the VFW leaders within the State on membership and community activity. I can only thank all of you who helped make it happen. This high achievement was evidenced by our Commander-in-Chief's visit to John Lyon Post on February 17th. An honor indeed.

Comrade Chris Dlugokenski agreed to help with membership recently and he had some great ideas for getting the word out. Actually, he had some great ideas and reminded me that I had forgotten many of those from past years. By press time, he will have received a complete Recruiting Kit. Please see him or myself if you'd like to assist.

Switching hats, I am also looking for Buddy Poppy volunteers for Memorial Day weekend distribution. All Ladies Auxiliary and VFW members are welcome.

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

Marching Off...

John Blandy, recently living in Colonial Beach, Virginia, and Ladies Auxiliary member Ouida Painter, of Vienna, Virginia.

Still February: Spaghetti Dinner

On Saturday , 27 February, John Lyon Post will again play host to VFW visitors from around the country at our annual Spaghetti Dinner during the National Mid-winter Conference. This may be your last opportunity for a while to meet national and state leaders in our Post Home. Volunteers and guests are invited and encouraged to attend.

Cold War Recognition Certificates

A matter of interest and pride for virtually all of our veterans and many Auxiliary members (because eligibility goes back to VJ Day and includes both military and federal civilian work force) is the Cold War Recognition Certificate. The following information has been posted on the John Lyon Web page.

In accordance with the Fiscal Year 1998 National Defense Authorization Act, the Secretary of Defense has approved awarding Cold War Recognition Certificates to all members of the armed forces and qualified federal government civilian personnel who faithfully served the United States during the Cold War era, from September 2, 1945 to December 26, 1991.

Beginning on April 5, 1999 you may request a Cold War Recognition Certificate, if you qualify. When made available by the Department of Defense, a sample request letter will be included with the newsletter. Acceptable proof of service documents are:

For Military Service:

1. DD Form 214 (Certificate of Release/Discharge from Active Duty)
2. WD AGO Form 53-55 (War Department Separation Document)
3. Oath of Office - Military Personnel or Letter of Appointment
4. Re-enlistment Contract (DD04) Form

For Federal Government Civilian Personnel Service:

1. Standard Form 50 (Notification of Personnel Action)
2. Standard Form 2809 (Health Benefit Registration Form)
3. Award certificate with employee's name, name of service or agency and dates.
4. Retirement forms with employee's name, service or agency and dates.

Remember, do not submit originals. Copies will suffice. Return originals to safekeeping.

Last Call for Grocery Register Receipts

Giant, Safeway, and Superfresh grocers end their cash register campaigns for computers, etc., for schools on 27 February. If you have been holding any receipts, now is the time to bring or mail them to the Post. We will complete our counting and presenting them to the schools the first week of March. And our thanks to those who have helped push the Post's collection effort to a new high this year. And to Rita Beatty for the time-consuming totaling of the all those receipts.

Arlington Blood Drive

Arlington's Blood Banks have diminished over the winter months. A blood drive has been scheduled for Sunday, 21 March at the Arlington Knights of Columbus, Edward Douglas White Council 2473, 5115 Little Falls Road. Donors are invited to build up their strength before hand at the regular brunch in the Knights hall, 9 am – noon and then donate from 11 am to 3 pm.

Welcome to Our New Members

Welcome to new Post members, Michael Kilgore, John Schley, Fredrick Weller elected at the February meeting. And to Vui T. Gembara elected to membership in the Ladies Auxiliary in February.

Not Renewed Yet?

The few Post members who have not yet renewed their memberships for the Year 1999, can jump back in by sending a renewal check for \$20 to the Post at the address on the first page. Don't be left behind.

St Patrick's Day Dinner

The annual St. Patrick's Day corned beef and cabbage dinner will be held Saturday, 20 March between 4 and 7 pm and cost will be \$7.00. This is an extremely popular event and to guarantee your place is saved, call or visit the Post to sign up.

From the House Committee

Since I last addressed you, your "HOME" for those who don't know, has taken on a new look. A "facelift", as they would say. You now have new shingles on the entire roof, so leave your raincoats behind. The outside walls not only had all the bad wood or non-existent wood replaced but received new siding and gutters all around, making your Home a healthy "Good Looker". This will also assist in keeping the warm in and the cold out and the other way around come summer time. Another fringe benefit is that our utility bill will be reduced.

Inside has also been given the once over, The entire inside has had a complete scrub-down (dusting, wood paneling polished, the hall floor waxed, etc). This includes the "Lyon's Den". It is our intent to have this work accomplished on a bi-monthly schedule. Oh yes, the men's room also received a new paint job. We're trying our best to make things comfy for you.

There is still lots to do and we'll keep plugging away. After all, it's for you, the men and ladies of John Lyon 3150. So, if you haven't been by in awhile, it's a real good time to do so. See what's taken place. I think you'll like what you see. Besides, we'd love to see you.

Since "Doc" has said to "COMPRESS", I'm not going to go into what's in store for the future. You'll just have to come by, ask, or see things take place right before your eyes. 'Til next time, THANK YOU to all those who've made it happen, You're the best.

Eric Anderson, CHC
A1handiman@aol.com

Nominations Scheduled for 11 March Post Meeting

The Post will open nominations for officers for the Year 1999 – 2000 during the March meeting. Nominations will remain open until the April meeting when elections will be held. All elected positions are to be considered. The meeting will begin at 8 pm.



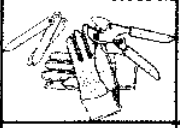
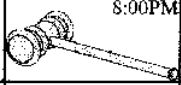


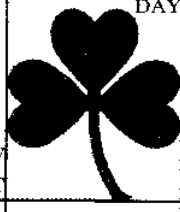
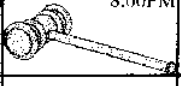


Recent Activities Around the Post

Above: Members of the John Lyon Ladies Auxiliary, including, from the left, Ginnie LePage, Margaret Dozier, Cathy Graham, and Ceil Wasserman, gather around Commander-in-Chief Thomas A. Pouliot. On the right are President Cathy Kerns, Imogene Robinson, and Jeanne Gibadlo. Marian McIntyre and Ruthie Rodier are partially hidden.

Below, left: Commander-in-Chief Thomas A. Pouliot, Post Quartermaster Ken Jansen, Post Commander "Doc" Crouch, Department Senior Vice Commander Paul T. Moore, and Tenth District Commander Bernie Marquart after Commander Crouch had been presented with a certificate noting John Lyon Post's attaining 100% of its membership goal for the VFW year 1998-1999. Right: Post members Jim Griswold and J.Gary Wagner listen as Jim Bertine describes the recent VFW Centennial wreath laying ceremony at the mast of the U.S.S. Maine to Commander-in-Chief Thomas Pouliot.



March 1999

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6
		VFW MOVIE NIGHT				
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
POST AND AUXILIARY OFFICERS PLANNING MTG. 2:00PM	HOUSE COMMITTEE MEETING 6:00PM 	VFW MOVIE NIGHT		POST MEETING 8:00PM 	LADIES AUX. CRAB CAKE SUPPER 6:00PM 	
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
SUNDAY BRUNCH 9:00AM-1:00PM 		VFW MOVIE NIGHT	ST. PATRICK'S DAY 	AUXILIARY MEETING 8:00PM 		CORN BEEF AND CABBAGE DINNER 4:00PM-7:00PM 
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
		VFW MOVIE NIGHT				
28	29	30	31	<p>Don't forget to make your reservations for the Crab Cake Supper on the 12th! Call the Post at (703) 525-0108 or sign up today.</p>		
SUNDAY BRUNCH 9:00AM-1:00PM AND LADIES AUX BAKE SALE 		VFW MOVIE NIGHT				