

# The John Lyon Gazette

Volume 5, Number 9

April 1999



Veterans of Foreign Wars  
John Lyon Post #3150  
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## Centennial Kickoff at USS Maine

### John Lyon Joined by Navy JROTC

John Lyon Post began its VFW Centennial Observance recently by reviewing the history of the VFW --- and then with a wreath laying on a warm and sunny winter afternoon at the USS Maine Memorial in Arlington National Cemetery. About twenty Post and Ladies Auxiliary members participated in the observance. 3150 was joined at the site by various onlookers, including a group of Navy JROTC students from Florida who eagerly joined in the ceremony. Commander C.D. "Doc" Crouch used the opportunity to instruct the students on the role of the sinking of the USS Maine in the



Spanish American War and then place the origins of the VFW within this historical context. Jim Bertine and several others later talked to smaller groups of students about the military and history. The students left the ceremony enthused by the meeting and with the knowledge of the memorial they had visited and its relationship to their Junior ROTC training. History became alive for them and they learned that the nation also does not forget its past nor its fallen comrades.



## *From the Commander:*

The month of decision is now upon us. It will be time to elect a new commander and a slate of officers that will assist that commander in not only guiding John Lyon Post through the coming year, but also to provide counsel and aid in not only keeping John Lyon Post at its current level but to improve it. Our physical plant has greatly improved through the help of many members, most notably Carl Colon, Eric Anderson, J.Gary Wagner, and Eric Skrzypczak, to name a few. The fiscal plant is excellent as always under the hard working efforts of our Quartermaster, Ken Jansen, and the oversight of our trustees. Comrade Jansen has not had to rap anyone on the knuckles with his 18 inch steel ruler, but he keeps it close by, for which I am grateful.

While this is the month of elections, some nominations were made and accepted at the March meeting. Nominations will be reopened during the April meeting, 8 April 1999. For those of you who may not be able to attend the April meeting but desire to serve in an elected office, please submit your desires and willingness to run for office in writing to our Post Adjutant so that it can be brought before the membership. I would counsel all that seek office, that while the duties and responsibilities of each office vary in intensity and time required, each position is of great importance in leading our Post to a higher level. While nothing is ever perfect, we should use perfection as the target that we should lock onto. Please be ready to work hard in a spirit of cooperation.

There are a couple of events that will be coming this month that we did not observe last year or in my recent memory (please, no humorous asides about my memory). The first will be a ceremonial recognition of an outstanding law enforcement officer, Officer Matthew Heimberger of the Arlington County Police Department. This ceremony will occur approximately 1400 hours, 17 April, at the Post. The other is a remembrance of our brave allies from Australia and New Zealand on ANZAC Day, 25 April. All of the John Lyon family and friends are cordially invited to attend.

Yours in Comradeship,

C.D. "Doc" Crouch

## FROM THE AUXILIARY PRESIDENT

Each year, at this time, everyone extols the wonders of Spring and sighs with relief as we say goodbye to the bitter cold and grayness of Ol' Man Winter. With the arrival of daylight savings time, the sun shines longer each day, and we see the flowers starting to bud. The cherry blossoms around the Tidal Basin will be in full bloom by the time you read this. All of this is welcome, indeed, as we look forward to the months ahead. Before we move forward, I just want to take a quick moment to let each of you know that our **Crab Cake Supper was a wonderful success!** This fund raiser turned out to be **our best in many years.** I want to take this opportunity to express my sincere thanks to all of the Ladies that were able to assist in this effort, and I would be remiss if I didn't express a special "thank you" to the Post Commander, "Doc" Crouch, and Post Quartermaster, Ken Jansen, for their steady support of our efforts. Doc and Ken, along with members of the Post, do a great deal to help our Auxiliary throughout the year and our most recent success is proof that we couldn't do it without them all.

As we move into April, **one of the most important events coming up this month will be our annual election of officers for the 1999-2000 year.** Please, Ladies, think about the importance of this. The officers you elect are the Ladies you depend on to keep your Auxiliary viable and productive. Each office and chairmanship is vital to the continued success of our organization. Without a strong and dedicated corps of officers, we cannot continue to move forward with the programs that are essential in supporting our veterans and our community. So, once again, I am encouraging you to think about what you might be able to do to help us all in our efforts. Elections will be held on **Thursday evening, April 15<sup>th</sup>, at 8:00pm.** If you are interested in holding an office or chairing a committee, please let me know. You must either be present at the elections, or indicate in writing beforehand that you are willing to accept the nomination for a specific elected position. We all need each other and I speak from the experience of this current year, that **we cannot do it without you.** One additional note here: **April is also the month we elect delegates and alternates to represent our Auxiliary at the District level.** The District is our vital link to our Department representatives so we also want to put our best foot forward at this level. If any of you should have questions about any positions within our organization, please just give me a call and I'll be happy to answer any questions that you may have. I'll look forward to seeing as many of you as possible at our April meeting.

This month, members of the Auxiliary will have a unique opportunity to visit with the National President of the Ladies Auxiliary to the VFW. **National President Jane Bingham will be visiting the state of Virginia from April 19<sup>th</sup> through April 21<sup>st</sup>.** The Ladies of Auxiliary #1503, Dale City, are hosting a luncheon on Tuesday, April 20<sup>th</sup>, from 1:00pm to 2:30pm. If you would like to have lunch with our National President and show her how Auxiliary #3150 supports our Organization, please contact me no later than Thursday, April 15<sup>th</sup> so that I may notify Betty Gimble, President of Dale City's Auxiliary, how many of us will attend. Several of us, including members of the Post are planning on being there. We would love to see as many Ladies from our Auxiliary as possible join us in making President Jane Bingham feel welcome in the 10<sup>th</sup> District.

With the warmer weather upon us, the Post is planning a Highway Cleanup for Saturday, April 10<sup>th</sup>. If you're in the area, why don't you consider joining us, beginning at 9:00am. After all, it's good exercise! Coffee and donuts will be served at 8:30am before we get started.

Happy Birthday to all of our April birthday celebrants and special thoughts and prayers to those of you who are not feeling well or have suffered a recent loss of a loved one. May Easter bring sunshine, chocolate bunnies, and renewed happiness to all! God bless.

  
Cathy Kerns  
President

### **From the Senior Vice Commander:**

The results are in --- John Lyon is one of the best in the state at this point in time! Thanks to each and every one of you, we have the highest percentage of membership in the State of Virginia for posts with greater than 175 members (we have 374).

Coupled with that achievement, according to the District Inspector's report at the last district meeting, we have completed all of our programs, to be one of the leading posts in the Tenth District.

The old adage seems appropriate: "Membership mean Programs and Programs mean Membership." By being visible in the community, we dispel the stereotype of an old drinking man's club. By recruiting vibrant and young (includes young at heart) members, we are able to expand our involvement in the community. Gone are the days when only one or two of us would show up for the highway clean-up (scheduled for April 10 by the way --- 0830 - 1130). Gone are the days of lackadaisical or cursory youth programs.

Through the involvement of the Post membership and Ladies Auxiliary, John Lyon is becoming a shining star in the VFW organization. Well done.

One last note: please be sure to vote for your choice as the best individuals to represent you as leaders of our Post in the 1999-2000 VFW Year. Elections will be conducted at the Post meeting on April 8.

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### **Marching Off...**

Ninety-two year old Past Post Commander (1951-1952) Harold J. Ebersole, recently of Falls Church, Virginia, John P. Thompson, of Warrenton, Virginia, and Ladies Auxiliary member, 102 year old Kathryn Weber, of Merritt Island, Florida. All three were Life members of their organizations.

### **From the Junior Vice Commander:**

Many thanks to Nina and Jimmy Wilkinson as well as Ginny Lepage for accompanying me to visit our Vets at the VA Medical Center/Nursing Home this past Saturday, 20 March. Nina, Jim, and Ginny contributed generously to this effort and I salute them for their dedication in making this worthwhile program a success for our Post. We will continue to conduct at least one hospital visit per quarter.

Several of us were able to attend Senior Chief Jim Bertine's retirement ceremony this past Friday, 19 March, at the Navy Memorial downtown. It was an outstanding finale for a very decent person, and four flag officers, including retired former CNO, ADM Carlisle Trost, were there to wish Jim all the best for his future. It was obvious by the many "brass" and fellow shipmates in attendance that Jim was and is a very respected individual, both for his professionalism and demonstrated caring for others. Jim served his country for 27 years and we all extend a hearty well done to him. Congratulations, Jim!

A quick reminder that we will be conducting our highway cleanup (Lee Highway between Veitch and Nash) on Saturday, 10 April. Muster at the Post by 0830 AM and share some donuts and coffee with us before we move out the troops!

Kudos to our Quartermaster Ken Jansen and his loyal helpers for throwing a superb St. Paddy's Day dinner celebration on Saturday, 20 March. The chow and company was great as usual!

Mark M. Pando, JVC

### **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 of the newsletter. Don't be left behind. This is an exciting time at John Lyon. You will want to be a part of all the new and worthwhile activities and events in 1999 - 2000, including all the VFW Centennial events.

## From the House Committee

I think it's fair to say that winter is just about over and the Post is ready for the warmer spring/summer months. As of last week your "Home" now has central air conditioning upstairs and down. Did you ever think you'd see the day? Well, some of us did and we can only thank all of you for making this improvement, and so many other improvements, possible. Each one of you has contributed in making our home what it is today. Whether it be from lending a hand to get a job done, donating your time to functions, or just plain stopping in to say Hi, you've all done your part and then some. Pat yourselves on the back, you've done good.

What's next you ask? Well, for right now, I think we're going to pick away at several cosmetic items that need to be attended to before summer gets here. Then we'll set our sights on the next project.

The back yard is shaping up. The porch area has been cleaned up to include the installation of a small storage closet to hide those unsightly things like brooms and mops etc. Our next door neighbors are re-landscaping the area just behind the charcoal pit and we're going to be putting up a small privacy fence at the same time.

Stop by for lunch when you get a chance. Probably the best buy in town and it tastes good too.

Eric Anderson, CHC  
A1handiman@netzero.net

## **Welcome to Our New Members**

Welcome to new Post members, Andrew Gembara, Thomas Kane, David Macedonia, Javier Salazar, and Eugene Toni elected at the March meeting.

## **Law Enforcement Honors**

John Lyon will honor Arlington Law Enforcement personnel with a special presentation and reception at 1400 hrs on Saturday, 17 April, at the Post Home. Come and meet "Arlington's Finest" and join in honoring those who make our community a safe and pleasant place to live.

## **Post and Ladies Auxiliary Elections April Meetings, 8pm Second and Third Thursdays**

### **Highway Cleanup**

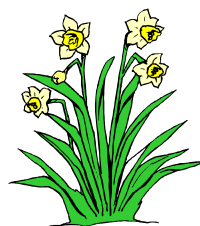
Our next Highway Cleanup is scheduled for Saturday, 10 April. We will meet at the Post starting at 0830 for coffee and doughnuts and plan to begin on the streets at 00900. Bring a pair of gloves and we long pants and heavy shoes or boots. Those of you who have not noticed our John Lyon signs can find them at on Lee Highway and Veitch Street (inbound) and Nash Street (outbound).

### **Arlington Election**

Arlington County will hold a special election for the Arlington County Board on Tuesday, 13 April. Check the candidates, and VOTE!

### **Bosnia vets awarded VFW-qualifying Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal**

Veterans of Operation Joint Endeavor or Operation Joint Guard in the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina, 20 November 1995 – 19 December 1996 and 20 December 1996 - 20 June 1998, respectively, are to be awarded the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, according to a DOD press release of 23 March 1999. An unusual exception of policy allows the AFEM to be awarded to recipients who have earlier been awarded to Armed Forces Service Medal for the participation in these operations. Secretary of Defense William S. Cohen approved the exception of policy on the recommendation of Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Henry H. Shelton. Additional criteria concerning length of time in the theater, etc., can be found online at <http://www.defenselink.mil/news/>



Happy Easter  
and  
Best Wishes for your  
Observance of Passover



## Grocery Register Receipts Top \$37K

John Lyon Post and Ladies Auxiliary members and friends more than doubled last year's previous high of grocery cash register receipts in the campaign for computers and other equipment for local schools. The John Lyon community turned in \$37,158.88 in Giant (\$28,320.84), Safeway \$7339.31) and Superfresh (&1498.73) cash register receipts, compared to last year's total of \$16,000. The receipts were recently presented to Key Elementary School Assistant Principal Hernandez by Commander C.D. Crouch.

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## Selective Service Briefing

The U.S. Selective Service Administration recently presented a briefing to members of John Lyon Post and Ladies Auxiliary members. The delegation was greeted by Post Commander C.D. Crouch, center, and included (l-r) Col Justo "Gus" Gonzales, National Director the Honorable Gil Coronado, Executive Director Willie Blanding, and LtCol Rogelio "Rod" Rodriguez. The presentation was followed by a lively round of questions and discussion on the future of the draft and related topics.



## Recent Activities Around the Post




Auxiliary President Cathy Kerns cuts the cake while members look on during their birthday celebration recently observed at the Post Home. The Ladies Auxiliary #3150 marked its 64th Anniversary on 19 February.



Delegates to the National Mid-Winter Conference take a break to enjoy John Lyon's hospitality and spaghetti dinner during the yearly event. About 170 dinners were served to our guests by members of Post 3150 and the Ladies Auxiliary.

# April 1999

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p><i>The Officers of the Post</i> and <i>The Ladies Auxiliary</i> Wish All of our Members and Friends A Happy Easter</p>				1	2	3
				APRIL FOOL'S DAY	GOOD FRIDAY	
				PASSOVER		
DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME 4 EASTER SUNDAY 	5 HOUSE COMMITTEE MTG. 6:00PM 	6 TARTAN DAY VFW MOVIE NIGHT 7:00PM	7	8 POST MEETING AND ELECTIONS 8:00PM 	9	10 HIGHWAY CLEANUP 8:30AM 
11 SUNDAY BRUNCH 9:00AM-1:00PM 	12	13 VFW MOVIE NIGHT 7:00PM	14	15 AUXILIARY MEETING AND ELECTIONS 8:00PM 	16	17 LAW ENFORCEMENT AWARD CEREMONY 2:00PM 
18	19 LADIES AUXILIARY NATIONAL PRESIDENT'S VISIT TO VIRGINIA	20 LUNCH WITH THE NATIONAL PRESIDENT 1:00PM AT DALE CITY VFW VFW MOVIE NIGHT - 7:00PM	21 LADIES AUXILIARY NATIONAL PRESIDENT'S VISIT TO VIRGINIA SECRETARIES DAY	22 EARTH DAY 	23	24 LITE-A-BIKE PROGRAM 12:00NOON TO 3:00PM (TO BE CONFIRMED)
AUSTRALIA NEW ZEALAND ANZAC DAY SUNDAY BRUNCH 9:00AM-1:00PM 	26	27 VFW MOVIE NIGHT 7:00PM	28	29	30 ARBOR DAY 	<p><b>Don't Forget Elections this Month!</b></p>