

# The John Lyon Gazette

Volume 5, Number 11

May 1999



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

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



## Memorial Day 1999

### Bury Me With Soldiers

by Father Charles Fink, 1983

So bury me with soldiers, please  
Though much maligned they be.  
Yes, bury me with soldiers  
For I miss their company.  
We'll not soon see their like again,  
We've had our fill of war.  
But bury me with men like them  
Til someone else does more.

Charles Fink was a sergeant in the 199th Light Infantry Brigade in Vietnam before becoming a priest. During his comments at a Veterans Day ceremony in 1983, he said "When I go to my grave, I can say that my service in Vietnam was the proudest thing I ever did in my life. It was the bravest thing just going there. I was scared every time I heard a shot." His poem originally appeared in Liguorian Magazine, November 1985.



### Post 3150 Memorial Day Weekend Schedule 29 - 31 May

- Sat: 8:30 am: Meet at Post for Arlington Cemetery (and other specified cemeteries) graves decoration.
- Sun: 11 am: Wedding at Post Home  
1 - 3 pm: Post Cookout
- Mon: 9:30 am: Principals meet at Post  
10:30 am: John Lyon Memorial, Cherrydale  
1 pm: Clarendon War Memorial

Throughout: Buddy Poppy Distribution

## From the Commander

It is with a great deal of pleasure that I am able to congratulate the incoming elected officers of John Lyon Post for the 1999-2000 term.

Commander - Ken Jansen  
Sr Vice Commander - Michael C. Agresti  
Jr Vice commander - Eric Skrypchik  
Quartermaster - Richard Hoffman  
Advocate - George Mansfield  
Surgeon - Mark Pando  
Chaplain - Jim Wilkinson

I have no fear your confidence in their dedication and abilities will be more than justified and that their efforts will lead this post into the last year of the millennium in such a way that shall bring about an even greater respect for John Lyon but also a post home that will be considered outstanding instead of just excellent. While I know that they and the appointed officers will work very hard, it is imperative to note that this is a post that needs all of its members to pull together in a spirit of mutual cooperation. Unity of purpose is the key to success. There is no I in the word team, and while some take on specific duties and responsibilities it is up to us the total membership to support their efforts on behalf of the post in those ways in which we are capable.

I would also like to note, with pleasure, the election of Ms. Jeanne M. Gibadlo as president of the Ladies Auxiliary at John Lyon Post. Knowing her ethic of hard work, persistence and understanding of our organizations, I am sure that the Auxiliary will shine even more brightly as the most coveted and respected jewel that provides so much to the actuality of John Lyon Post. President Cathy Kerns, who has been one of the hardest workers in support of the post, assures me that communication relative to the transition is going smoothly and that the level of understanding and support will be even better than ever. If anyone might improve upon President Kerns' efforts I feel that that person would be President-elect Gibadlo. Let us wish all Post and Auxiliary officers of the coming year the greatest of success. I know that by virtue of their duties and responsibilities that they will have to compress their own personal lives. Let us give them our understanding and assistance.

There are a number of days this month that are times set aside for reflection: Loyalty Day on 1 May, VE Day on 8 May, Armed Forces Day on 15 May, but more importantly Memorial Day on 31 May. I have asked Comrades Hoffman and Agresti to coordinate decoration of the graves of our departed comrades on 29 May, and there will be wreath laying ceremonies at John Lyon Memorial (1030) and at the Clarendon War Memorial (1300) on 31 May. All members of the Post and Auxiliary are encouraged to attend. When attending let us take a moment to reflect on our members of the Armed Forces presently in harm's way.

There will also be a VFW 10<sup>th</sup> District meeting at Chesty Puller Post VFW 1503 in Dale City at 1300, 16 May. There appears to be a misconception that general meetings at the District, Departmental, and National levels are for officers only. Let me assure you that this is not the case. These meetings are open to all Veteran of Foreign Wars members. The more participation the greater the broad based understanding of individual member concerns and understanding of how those concerns can be addressed.

Yours in Comradeship,



C.D. "Doc" Crouch

## FROM THE AUXILIARY PRESIDENT

As we move forward into the month of May, we can see the blooms of a new season all around us. And as is always the case, April brought with it the requisite showers. As you know, April is also the month that your Auxiliary elected officers to continue to carry on the ideals and traditions that support the goals of the VFW as well as those of our own Auxiliary. For the past two years I have had the honor of serving our Auxiliary and our Post as President and I have had the good fortune to have been supported by a wonderful corps of officers and chairmen. During this time, we have all shared ideas, hard work, and the mutual satisfaction of seeing the benefits of our efforts. For me personally, it has been one of the most gratifying experiences I have had. However, I felt it was time to give someone else the opportunity to experience the privilege of serving you as President. We have so much talent and many fresh, new ideas to promote and it is with great pleasure that I will soon be turning over the gavel of the office of Auxiliary President to Jeannie Gibadio. Jeannie has been an integral part of the Auxiliary and has served as your Secretary since 1991. For those of you who are not able to attend meetings, you should know that it is largely the responsibility of the Secretary to see that all of the business of the Auxiliary is in good working order. If a president does not have a strong, dependable secretary then the work of the President is much more difficult to accomplish. In the past two years, Jeannie has been the chairman of our Voice of Democracy program, and it is due largely to her efforts that our Post and Auxiliary have achieved a new level of success in this program, with students placing in both the District as well as the Department winners' circles. There is no doubt in my mind that our Auxiliary will be in good hands when Jeannie assumes her responsibilities as President following the Installation of our State officers at the annual convention in June. Please continue to give Jeannie and the entire corps of officers the support that you so graciously showed me. I know they will appreciate it as I have. In addition to Jeannie, your officers for the 1999-2000 year are:

Sr. Vice: Cathy Kerns	Guard: Juanita Diggs
Jr. Vice: Marian MacIntyre	Patriotic Instructor: Marcie Claussen
Secretary: Gail Hoffman	Historian: J.C. Hotter
Treasurer: Joy Neher	1 Year Trustee: Lois Cook
Chaplain: Ginny LePage	2 Year Trustee: Marcie Claussen
Conductress: Margaret Dozier	3 Year Trustee: Nina Wilkerson

Related to the recent elections, I want to extend an invitation to each of you to join us in the Installation of Officers for both the Post and the Auxiliary. Installation will be held on Saturday afternoon, May 22<sup>nd</sup>, at 2:00pm. The joint Installation ceremonies will start promptly at 2:00pm, with a reception immediately following. It is a very lovely ceremony and underscores the real reason we are here.

There are a lot of activities coming up this month. May 1<sup>st</sup> is Loyalty Day. This is the perfect day to demonstrate your patriotism and fly your American flag, and it is an appropriate way to set the tone for the traditional events that come up later in the month!

We will have our traditional "Sunday Brunch" on the 9<sup>th</sup>, which is also Mother's Day (Happy Mother's Day to all of our mothers!). However, this will be a special breakfast Sunday, inasmuch

as the men of the Post are going to assume the roles of "hosts" and give the Ladies a day off from their usual duties serving our guests. I hope that as many of you as possible will be able to join us in showing the guys how much we appreciate their efforts.

Another important event on the calendar this month is the 10<sup>th</sup> District's annual Convention, which will be held on Sunday, May 16<sup>th</sup>, at 1:00pm at the Dale City VFW on Minneville Road. It is during this particular meeting that the District conducts a lovely memorial service to honor our recently deceased Sisters of the 10<sup>th</sup> District who have passed away this past year. This is also the time when the District will elect their officers for the upcoming VFW year. Several Ladies from our own Auxiliary will be candidates for positions at the District level and it would mean a great deal if you could be there to show your support. If you are interested in attending, please let me know. Several of us will be attending and we always have room for one more.

It is during the month of May that all of us pause to remember those who have paid the ultimate price in service and sacrifice to insure our freedom. Following Loyalty Day on the 1<sup>st</sup>, Armed Forces Day is on May 15<sup>th</sup> and Memorial Day this year will be observed on May 31<sup>st</sup>. To commemorate Memorial Day, the Post and Auxiliary will once again gather to decorate the grave sites of our Comrades and Sisters on Saturday, May 29<sup>th</sup>, between 9:00am and noon. Those of you who can join us should meet at the Post Home at 8:30am. Please contact either me or call the Post at (703)525-0108 to let us know if you will be participating in this event, as we will need to arrange for car passes with the administrative offices at Arlington Cemetery. We will all go together to Arlington Cemetery. We will also be participating in memorial services at 10:30am at the John Lyon Memorial in Cherrydale, and again at 1:00pm in joint services with American Legions 85 and 139 at the Clarendon War Memorial. Please be with us to show the gratitude that I know we all feel for those who sacrificed to insure our continued freedom.

In addition to all of our traditional events to commemorate the Memorial Day weekend, I do want to mention that our Post and the Auxiliary will be hosting a large number of visitors during the course of the weekend. Last year during Memorial Day weekend, our Post home opened its doors to a special group of veterans and their families and friends who are linked together through an internet connection on AOL. Our new friends were gathering for the first time to actually meet their on-line comrades and sisters. We were able to facilitate that first meeting, and in the process made many new friends. Our new friends had such a nice time at our Post home that they have asked if we would allow them to visit again this year. Please come and join us in making our visitors feel welcome for their visit to our Post home.

As I close this month's letter, I want to take a moment to congratulate Ken Jansen on his election as Commander of John Lyon Post #3150 for the upcoming year. I would also again wish each mother a very Happy Mother's Day. To those of you who have suffered an illness or a loss of a loved one, our prayers are with you. And, of course, Happy Birthday to all of our May celebrants!

  
Cathy Kerns  
President

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

Congratulations to Commander-elect Ken Jansen and his cadre of officers. Thank you all who voted for me to continue on as Senior Vice Commander. Also, congratulations to Jeanne Gibadlo, President-elect of the Ladies Auxiliary and all of her incoming officers.

We had a wonderful ceremony honoring the Arlington Police Officer Matthew Heimberger on Saturday, April 17. For those who attended, it was a rare opportunity to see comrade Jim Griswold in uniform. (Don't worry, Jim, it still fit OK).

Our membership achievements for 1998-1999 have been truly spectacular. Well done to all of you who signed up new or reinstated members and welcome to all who have joined our ranks. We cannot afford to rest on our laurels, however, because after a successful year, our "reward" is an even higher membership goal for the ensuing year. Remember, if every member gets one new member, the opportunities are endless. It is never too late in the year to sign up new members.

With Bosnia veterans now eligible for VFW membership, I expect that Kosovo veterans will not be far behind. Please talk this up with your friends and co-workers. Perhaps they have a son, brother, nephew (or daughter, sister, niece) currently overseas who would become a member if they were only asked.

Memorial Day will be upon us soon. Let us pray that we have no more U.S. service personnel to pray over this year. But in as much as our forces are engaged with the enemy (both in Yugoslavia and in Iraq), remembering the sacrifices of those who have left family, fortune and often life itself behind is never more poignant. Buddy Poppy Volunteer sign up sheets will appear in the Post shortly. Please consider contributing some time to distribute poppies over this year's lengthy Memorial Day weekend. Thank you.

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

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

Past Post Chaplain Joseph Delaney and longtime member Elmer Brandenburg, husband of Past President Jessie Brandenburg (1952 - 1953) and father of Ladies Auxiliary member Grace Quiroga.

### **Welcome to Our New Members**

Welcome to new Post members, Robert Jones, Donald Korman, Danny McAlwee, Gilberto Portillo, and Ronald Taylor, elected at the April meeting (pending receipt of DD Form 214, etc, as necessary).



## **HELP THE BUDDY POPPY TEAM!**

### **Golfers Prepare to Tee Off**

The John Lyon 1999 Annual Golf Tournament is scheduled for 13 August 1999 at Andrews AFB South Course. Check-in is at 0830 for a 0930 shotgun start. Cost is \$50 for all costs including green fees, cart, and food and prizes back at the Post home. Payment is requested at time of sign-up but must be made by 6 August 1999. Objective is FUN! so all golfers are invited to join in. See form in this newsletter.



# Arlington Police Honored

Sometimes we get so caught up in the day to day responsibilities of tending to our family, or trying to meet the demands of a stressful job, or just coping with the anxieties of trying to get everything done, that we rarely stop to think of or appreciate the luxury of the safety and security that we enjoy in our community here in Arlington. It is, in large measure, thanks to the men and women who have dedicated themselves to serve the community through the Arlington County Police Department that we can feel safe and know that if we are ever in need, there will be someone there to assist us. It is with this in mind that the members of John Lyon Post #3150 and the Ladies Auxiliary took time out to say "thank you" to our Law Enforcement personnel here in Arlington and to give special recognition to Officer Matthew Heimberger of Arlington County's Third District.

On Saturday, April 17th, members of the Post and the Auxiliary hosted an awards ceremony where Officer Heimberger was presented with a plaque recognizing his outstanding performance on the job, his knowledge of the community, his dedication to the well being of the citizens of Arlington, his leadership qualities, and his loyalty to his fellow officers. These qualities, exemplified by Officer Heimberger, have won for him the respect and

admiration of not only his fellow officers, but his superiors as well, and has earned for him the recognition as Arlington County's "Officer of the Year." Post Commander "Doc" Crouch presented the award, on behalf of the members of the Post, to Officer Heimberger, along with a check in the amount of \$200.00 to be given to Officer Heimberger's favorite charity in his name (above left). Cathy Kerns, President of the Ladies Auxiliary, presented Officer Heimberger with a gold medallion and chain of St. Michael, the patron saint of police officers, on behalf of the Auxiliary (above right). Officer Heimberger was joined by members of his family, friends, and many fellow officers, who took the time from other responsibilities to join with all of us to honor Officer Heimberger and say "thank you" for a job well done. A reception immediately followed the ceremony. Our guests had the opportunity to mingle with members of the Post and the Auxiliary, relax and enjoy an afternoon buffet of light fare highlighted with a specially designed cake that mysteriously "disappeared" and happily found its way to the Third District "Roll Call" room.

Congratulations, Matthew Heimberger, and "Thank You" to all of our Law Enforcement Officers of Arlington County. (See additional photo next page.)

## **Jansen and Gibadlo Elected**

Ken Jansen and Jeanne Gibadlo were elected as Post 3150 Commander and Ladies Auxiliary President, respectively, for the coming year during April elections. Comrade Jansen has been the Post Quartermaster for the last year and a half. Sister Gibadlo has been the Ladies Auxiliary Secretary since 1991. Installation of these officers and their staffs (See the Commander's and President's columns for complete elections results.) will be held on 22 May at 2 pm.. All members, family and friends are invited to attend.

## **Newsletter Mailing**

The newsletter is mailed during the week prior to the first of the month so that Northern Virginia members will receive theirs on / about the first of the month. The April issue was mailed on the Monday the 29th. Apologies to those who inexplicably did not receive theirs until the 15th of the month.

## **District Convention**

The Tenth District Convention will be held at 1300 on 16 May at Dale City Post 1503. District elections will be held. John Lyon members are running for office on both sides of the house.



Members of Arlington County Police were honored at recent ceremonies at the Post Home. See story on previous page.

## **Happy Mother's Day**

Happy Mother's Day to all of our Mothers and wives! Wherever you are, you are close to our hearts.

Sunday brunch will be served on Mother's Day, 9 May, from 0900 - 1300. Members of the Post will take over as waiters to give some of our favorite ladies a well-deserved break from their normal routines. Bring your favorite lady and join us.

## **Cancer Aid and Research**

Donations for Cancer Aid and Research are being accepted by the Ladies Auxiliary during May and early June for presentation during the Department Convention in June. If you care to donate, send your check to Treasurer Joy Neher at the Post address.

## **The Cop Shop**

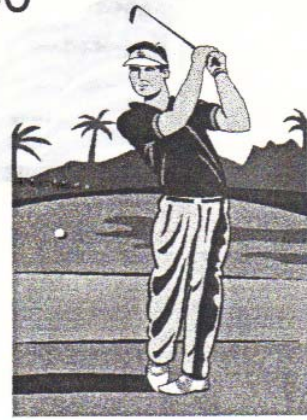
The members of the Post and the Auxiliary would like to say "thank you" to Ms. Sharlotte Denny and her staff at The Cop Shop at 3259 Columbia Pike, in Arlington. When Sharlotte found out that our VFW was having a special award ceremony to honor Law Enforcement personnel here in Arlington, she cheerfully helped us out. Thanks, Sharlotte! We all applaud you on your community spirit.

## **Buddy Poppy**

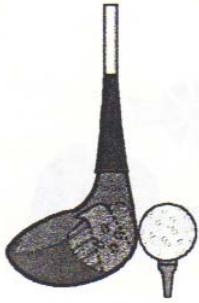
Enclosed you will find a Buddy Poppy with the compliments of John Lyon Post and Ladies Auxiliary. Wear it proudly over Memorial Day weekend. If you care to donate to the Relief Fund, an envelope is enclosed for your convenience. All such funds go to support veterans, their widows and orphans.

## **May 1st is Loyalty Day!**

VFW John Lyon Post 3150  
2116 N 19th Street  
Arlington, VA 22201  
703-525-0108



1999 Annual Golf Tournament  
Shotgun Start --- 0930  
Check-in --- 0830



Friday 13 August 1999  
Andrews Air Force Base  
South Course

\$50.00 per golfer payable at sign-up covers  
green fees, cart, food and prizes given away at the  
Post.

Sign-up before 9 August 1999

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Player 1 \_\_\_\_\_ Hcp \_\_\_\_\_/Calloway \_\_\_\_\_

Player 2 \_\_\_\_\_ Hcp \_\_\_\_\_/Calloway \_\_\_\_\_

Player 3 \_\_\_\_\_ Hcp \_\_\_\_\_/Calloway \_\_\_\_\_

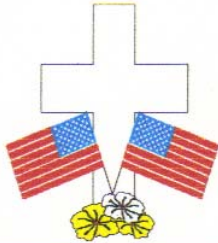
Player 4 \_\_\_\_\_ Hcp \_\_\_\_\_/Calloway \_\_\_\_\_

Check one Military Active/Retired \_\_\_\_\_ Civilian \_\_\_\_\_



# May 1999

Sun      Mon      Tue      Wed      Thu      Fri      Sat



*Please Remember That It Is During The Month Of May That We Pause To Salute And Honor The Memory Of Those Who Paid The Ultimate Price*



LOYALTY DAY

2	3	4	5	6	7	8
		VFW MOVIE NIGHT				
9 MOTHER'S DAY SUNDAY BRUNCH 9:00AM-1:00PM 	10 HOUSE COMMITTEE MTG. 6:00PM 	11 VFW MOVIE NIGHT	12	13 POST MEETING 8:00PM 	14	15 ARMED FORCES DAY 
16 10TH DISTRICT CONVENTION 1:00PM AT DALE CITY VFW	17	18 VFW MOVIE NIGHT	19	20 AUXILIARY MEETING 8:00PM 	21	22 VFW JOHN LYON POST/AUXILIARY INSTALLATION OF 1999-2000 OFFICERS 2:00PM
23 SUNDAY BRUNCH 9:00AM-1:00PM 	24	25 VFW MOVIE NIGHT	26	27	28	29  GRAVE DECORATIONS 8:30-NOON
30 MEMORIAL DAY BARBECUE 1:00PM - 5:00PM 	31 MEMORIAL DAY JOHN LYON CEREMONIES 10:30AM CLARENDON CEREMONIES 1:00PM	<p><b>Commander-Elect Ken Jansen and President-Elect Jeannie Gibadlo along with the Officers of the Post and the Ladies Auxiliary cordially invite all of you to join us in the Installation of your Officers for the 1999-2000 VFW Year on Saturday afternoon, May 22, 1999 at 2:00pm</b></p>				