

The John Lyon Gazette

Volume 6, Number 11

May 2000



Veterans of Foreign Wars
John Lyon Post #3150
2116 North 19th Street
Arlington VA 22201
703-525-0108
<http://www.vfw3150.org>



The John Lyon Gazette: Winner of 1999 Clair B. Poff Public Relations Award for Outstanding Newsletter
Ladies Auxiliary Award: Best Newsletter in Virginia, 1999, Best Newsletter in the Nation, 1999

Person of 20th Century: American GI

The Text of House Concurrent Resolution 282

"Whereas the 20th century was a century of conflict between forces of totalitarianism and dictatorship and forces of democracy and freedom;

"Whereas American soldiers, sailors, airmen, and Marines (collectively referred to as "G.I.'s") fought, bled, and died in a number of conflicts during the 20th century, including two World Wars, to secure peace and freedom around the world;

"Whereas in large measure due to the heroic efforts of the American G.I., more people around the world enjoy the benefits of freedom at the end of the 20th century than at any other time in history;

"Whereas the American G.I., in fighting the forces of totalitarianism and dictatorship, had a strong personal sense of right and wrong and did not want to live in a world where wrong prevailed;

"Whereas it may truly be said that during the 20th century the American G.I. accomplished great things while doing good things, becoming recognized throughout the world as a representative of freedom and democracy and, fundamentally, as a force for good in the face of evil;

"Whereas at the end of the 20th century numerous organizations and publications sought to identify and designate a "Person of the Century" based upon achievements and contributions during that century; and

"Whereas in light of the accomplishments of the Armed Forces of the United States during that century both in defeating the forces of tyranny and dictatorship and in embodying a sense of honor, decency, and respect for mankind, it is appropriate that the American G.I. be recognized as the single most significant force affecting the course of the 20th century: Now, therefore, be it

"Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), That Congress hereby declares the "Person of the Century" for the 20th century to have been the American G.I."

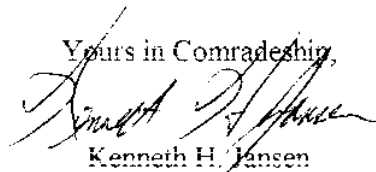
(From the Congressional Record, April 10, 2000)

FROM THE POST COMMANDER

Another month has passed and we are fast approaching the culmination of our VFW year. As we wind down and complete our programs and projects around the Post home, we have already taken the initial steps in preparing for the upcoming year. During this past month, the members of the Post held elections for officers for the 2000-2001 year, and I am honored to be given the opportunity to once again serve as your Post Commander. There is much yet ahead to accomplish here at John Lyon for our veterans, their families, and our community, and I want to be clear in saying that I, along with the other newly elected officers will need your continued support as together we move forward. Please remember that in order for us to continue to strive to fulfill the stated goals of the VFW, cooperation and teamwork are critical. I want to take this opportunity to extend a personal invitation and a challenge to each of you to join in with your officers and make a difference. It is only with your help that we will be able to move forward and maintain the standards and traditions that have made John Lyon the great Post that it truly is! Congratulations to re-elected Auxiliary President Jeannie Gibadlo. I am looking forward to another successful year working with Jeannie and the Ladies of the Auxiliary. I would also like to invite you to join your new officers of both the Post and the Ladies Auxiliary at the Installation of Officers for the 2000-2001 year, which will be held here at the Post home on Saturday, May 20th, at 2:00pm. Installation ceremonies will be followed by a reception and your presence would be an honor for each of us who will be installed.

The month of May is a busy one for all of us here at John Lyon. May 1st is Loyalty Day and I would encourage each of you to pause for a moment and recognize the privilege each of us share in being citizens of this great country. We will honor our mothers this month with a special "Mother's Day Sunday Brunch" on the 14th; we also recognize our servicemen throughout the world on Armed Forces Day, which is on May 20th; our Installation of Officers will be on May 20th at 2:00pm; the 10th District Convention will be held on Sunday, May 21st, at 1:00pm at the Dale City VFW; and as we move closer toward the end of the month, we will again take pause to remember the sacrifices of the men and women who have served our country as we participate in activities and ceremonies during the Memorial Day weekend. The members of the Post and the Ladies Auxiliary will again join together as we pay tribute to our deceased brothers and sisters when we decorate graves at Arlington Cemetery on Saturday, May 27th. If you would like to join us, we will meet at the Post at 8:30am and go together to the Cemetery. On Monday, the 29th, Post and Auxiliary members will participate in Memorial Day ceremonies at both the John Lyon Memorial in Cherrydale at 10:30am as well as joining with the American Legions 85 and 139 at joint ceremonies at the Clarendon War Memorial at 1:00pm. Of course, we will have our traditional holiday cookout, as well as acting as host for our many out of town guests throughout the weekend. Please mark these days on your calendar.

Again, thank you for giving me the privilege and opportunity to serve once again as your Post Commander. I will always try to do my best to uphold the trust you have placed in me and to maintain the wonderful traditions of our VFW here at Post #3150.

Yours in Comradeship,

Kenneth H. Jansen

FROM THE AUXILIARY PRESIDENT

April was a month of many important events within the Auxiliary. First, and most important, your Auxiliary elected officers for the upcoming 2000-2001 VFW year. I am honored and proud to be in the position to once again serve as your president. I promise each of you that I will continue to do my best to carry on the ideals and traditions that have made our Auxiliary what it is today. I have been very fortunate to have had the support of a wonderful corps of officers this past year and I'm looking forward to working with all of our Sisters in 2000-2001. My experience this past year convinces me that you have placed your trust in a fine group of Ladies. Your officers for the upcoming year are:

Sr. Vice: Cathy Kerns

Jr. Vice: Marian MacIntyre

Secretary: Gail Hoffman

Treasurer: Joy Neher

Chaplain: Ginny LePage

Conductress: Muriel Sue Kerr

Guard: Juanita Diggs

Patriotic Instructor: Connie Perry

Historian: J.C. Hotter

1 Year Trustee: Marcie Anderson

2 Year Trustee: Nina Wilkenson

3 Year Trustee: Jodie Lafreniere-Daje

Related to the recent elections, I want to extend an invitation to each of you to join us in the Installation of Officers of both the Post and the Auxiliary. Our Installation will be held on Saturday afternoon, May 20th, at 2:00pm. The joint Installation ceremonies will start promptly at 2:00pm, with a reception immediately following. Please join us. It is a very lovely ceremony and underscores the real reason we are here. Also I want to take this opportunity to congratulate Commander Ken Jansen on his re-election as Commander of John Lyon Post #3150. It has been an honor and a privilege to work with Ken and his officers this past year and I am delighted that we will have the opportunity to continue in this team effort to do all that we can to serve the best interests of our veterans, their families, our youth, and our community. I think all of us have accomplished much in the past year but there is still much we can do and I am looking forward to another year working in partnership with our Comrades.

Another big event that your Auxiliary sponsored in April was the second annual "Crab Cake Supper." This year's event, held on Saturday, April 15th, was another successful fund raiser for the Auxiliary. Special thanks must go to Cathy Kerns, who chaired this year's effort. I'd also like to extend a thank you to Debbie Lucas, who made up a delicious cole slaw, and to Cathy Graham, and Elsie Weeks, who helped out in the kitchen. Muriel Sue Kerr, Juanita Diggs, JoAnn Jansen, Connie Perry, and Margaret Dozier did a wonderful job keeping everything moving smoothly as we served the dinners, and Gail Hoffman coordinated our additional fundraising efforts during the course of the evening. Margaret even brought along her grandson, who did a great job helping us set up tables, and clear away dishes. Thank you to each of you as well to all those who came out to support the Auxiliary by joining us on this occasion.

There are a lot of activities coming up this month. May 1st 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!

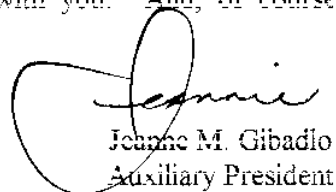
This month, Arlington County is going to again celebrate "Neighborhood Day" on Saturday, May 13th. The Post and the Auxiliary participated in this event when the County had a similar celebration and parade last October. The event was so successful in bringing together the residents and the local businesses and organizations of the community that the officials in charge of this event decided to move it to the Spring when the weather was more favorable to the outdoor activities that are scheduled. We are again planning to participate in the parade, carrying the Colors and the banners of the Post and the Auxiliary. If you would like to join us, please be sure to let me know by May 10th.

We will have our traditional "Sunday Brunch" on the 14th, which is also Mother's Day (Happy Mother's Day to all of our mothers!). We'll also have a Sunday Brunch on Memorial Day weekend so be sure to add that to your calendar!

The 10th District will be having their annual Convention on Sunday, May 21st, 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 10th District who have passed away this past year. As you may already know, Auxiliary #3150 is well represented in the District with five of our own Auxiliary members serving as District officers. Gail Hoffman has done a wonderful job as 10th District President and has brought credit to the fine reputation of the Ladies of John Lyon. If you would like to join us, please let me know. We will be sure you have transportation if you need it.

As you know, 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 1st, Armed Forces Day is on May 20th and Memorial Day this year will be observed on May 29th. 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 27th, 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 inasmuch as we will need to arrange for car passes with the administrative offices at Arlington Cemetery. We will all go together to Arlington Cemetery. The Post and Auxiliary 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 the American Legions 85 and 139 at the Clarendon War Memorial. Be with us and show the gratitude that we all feel for those who sacrificed to insure our continued freedom.

As I close this month's letter, I want to once again thank each of you for your continued trust and faith in me to serve again as your president. I am, indeed, honored. 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!



Jeanne M. Gibadio
Auxiliary President

From the Senior Vice Commander:

“Person of the Century.” You are all a “Person of the Century.” In accordance with a Joint Congressional Resolution, the “American GI” has been decried the “Person of the Century.” No other individual has done more for the freedom of the world than the “American GI.” You should all take a renewed sense of pride from this honor.

Also a matter of pride is John Lyon’s attainment of 400 members. This is a lofty achievement and one that bespeaks the respect and reputation that our Post enjoys in the community, as well as around the country. “Well done” to all of you who helped make this goal possible.

We continue to await Pentagon action on awarding the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal (AFEM) to veterans of Operation ALLIED FORCE and subsequent occupation duty in Kosovo. Until that time we cannot accept into membership those veterans. This is regrettable because it appears as if the VFW doesn’t want them as members (recall back in the early Vietnam days) when, in fact, our hands are tied by the Congressional Charter. VFW National is pressuring the Pentagon (which also means the President) to act on this. Because Bosnia veterans have been authorized the AFEM, they are eligible for membership.

I also think that it is time to revisit considering Cold War veterans for membership. This has been voted down at National Conventions in the past because such individuals as embassy guards in “garden spots” like the Bahamas or Australia would then become eligible. However, because of documents reaching their declassification time windows, the more I read about Cold War events, the more convinced I am that Cold War veterans of overseas and sea duty deserve membership in our organization. Nearly 16 years of my Navy career were during the Cold War but I learn new information every day of hostile actions, going in harm’s way, and the level of readiness and threat faced by those who kept the world safe all those years. Too many Cold War veterans are buried in Arlington, lie in unmarked graves around the world, or are MIA, to consider otherwise.

As this membership year moves towards its climax, let me thank you for your confidence to re-elect me as Senior Vice Commander for the 2000-2001 year. There are always many committee chairs and positions available for those who want to serve the community and make our Post even better. Only a few hours per month are required. You’ll feel better and everyone will benefit.

Happy Mother’s Day to all mothers, remember to fly your flag on Memorial Day (half mast until noon), and join us if you can for the commemorative ceremonies.

M. C. "Connie" Agresti
Sr. Vice Commander
(h) 703-516-9784
e-mail: vfw3150svc@aol.com



HELP THE BUDDY POPPY TEAM!

John Lyon members will be distributing Buddy Poppies over Memorial Day weekend plus the week leading up to the holiday. There will be some assembled kits available in the Post Home. If you are able to help out for several hours, sign-up and pick up a kit in the Post home or contact Senior Vice Commander Agresti for additional information.

Jansen and Gibadlo Re-Elected Installation Scheduled

Kenneth H. Jansen and Jeanne M. Gibadlo were re-elected as Post 3150 Commander and Ladies Auxiliary President, respectively, for the coming year during April elections. See below and the President's columns for complete elections results. Installation of these officers and their staffs will be held on Saturday, 20 May at 2 pm.. All members, family, and friends are invited to attend. A reception will follow the ceremonies.

Post Officer Elections

The Post held elections for the coming year during the April meeting. Congratulations to the following:

Commander: Kenneth H. Jansen
Senior V. Commander: M.C. "Connie" Agresti
Junior V. Commander: Eric Skrzypczak
Quartermaster: Richard Hoffman
Chaplain: James R. Wilkinson
Advocate: George Mansfield
Surgeon: Mark Pando
Three Year Trustee: James S. Kerr

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.

District Convention

The Tenth District Convention will be held at 1 pm on 21 May at Dale City Post 1503 (14631 Minnieville Road, Dale City VA 22193, 703-670-4124). All Post and Ladies Auxiliary members are invited to attend. Various awards are expected to be presented and / or announced and District elections and installations will be held. John Lyon members are running for office on both sides of the house.

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, 14 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.

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.

Welcome to Our New Members

Welcome to new Post members, Scott Cavanaugh, Raymond Hill, Jeffrey Hoffman, and Edward Sieber, elected at the April meeting.

Lost Post Members

If you have contact with any of the following, please send --- or ask them to send --- us their address:

Steven G. Boston – Persian Gulf
Charles H. Hardy - WW2
Richard D. Hill – Korean War
Norman Hutchens Sr - WW2
William E. North – Korean 1987
Thomas D. Pearson – **found in OK**
Theodore Peralta – Berlin Occupation
Edward Raia – WW2
David G. Scott – Persian Gulf
Donald Skinder -

PLEASE let us know when YOU move!

From the John Lyon Past...



W.W. Burnett



Charles A. Musselman

The following appeared in the Dance Program for the John Lyon Spring Dance, 26 May 1956 (compliments of Peggy Bassford):

“Brief History of John Lyon Post No. 3150”

“In the year 1934, Comrades W.W. Burnett and Charles A. Musselman, along with their wives, Mrs. Loretta Burnett and Mrs. Hattie Musselman, were returning home from a post meeting at National Capital Post in Washington, D.C. During the course of their conversation along the way, it was decided to try and organize a Post here in Arlington County. Through their efforts and leadership, the Post was chartered in November 1934, and Comrade Burnett became the first Post Commander.

“In choosing a name for the Post, it was decided not just to select a name, but to select one that was truly a symbol of the Veterans of Foreign Wars. After much comparison and checking of veterans, the name John Lyon was chosen, since he had been an overseas veteran and actually gave his life for our country’s cause. Permission was secured from his family and the Post became known as John Lyon Post No. 3150.

“Shortly thereafter, the Ladies Auxiliary was organized, and Sister Burnett became the first president.

“The Post is well known in Arlington because of its sincere efforts in fostering good citizenship, patriotism, and the true ideals of our great Democracy. Many veterans, including those who are not members, have benefited from the Post Relief Fund.

“The Post home is located at 19th and North Uhle Streets, in Arlington. Any person interested in joining may contact one of our members.”

Postscript

Charles Musselman became Post Commander the following year, Hattie Musselman was the third Ladies Auxiliary President --- and their daughter, Virginia, was President in 1978-79, 1985-88. All five are charter members.

Audie Murphy Stamp due 3 May 2000

The Audie Murphy postage stamp, as part of the Distinguished Soldiers series, reportedly will be released by the U.S. Postal Service on 3 May. Other soldiers in the series include Alvin C. York and John L. Hines from World War I and Omar N. Bradley from World War II.

John Lyon to March in Arlington Parade

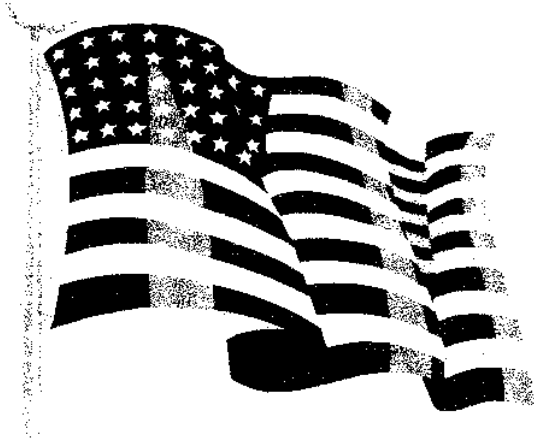
Members of Post 3150 and the Ladies Auxiliary will again march in the Arlington County “Neighborhood Day” Parade on Saturday 13 May. Those who marched in last October’s parade had a great time and the route was as easy walk, extending from Clarendon to Court House. Come and join us as we shows our colors to our home town. Call the Post for last minute details.

Canteen Tidbits...

Some food service will be available every afternoon or evening throughout the Memorial Day Weekend... A DJ will provide music every Friday evening beginning 5 May... A Lunch Special is served every weekday from 11 am to 3 pm.



**Longer Days = More Kids on Streets
Watch Out for Kids!**



Loyalty Day
1 May 2000

VFW Post 3150
and
Ladies Auxiliary 3150



May 2000

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1  LOYALTY DAY	2	3	4	5	6
7	8 HOUSE COMMITTEE MTG. 6:00PM 	9	10	11 POST MEETING 8:00PM 	12	13 ARLINGTON NEIGHBOR- HOOD DAY
14 MOTHER'S DAY SUNDAY BRUNCH 9:00AM-1:00PM 	15	16	17	18 AUXILIARY MEETING 7:30PM 	19	20 VFW JOHN LYON POST/AUX INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS 2:00PM ARMED FORCES DAY
21 10TH DISTRICT CONVENTION 1:00PM AT DALE CITY VFW	22	23	24	25	26	27 GRAVE DECORATIONS 8:30AM-NOON 
28 MEMORIAL DAY BRUNCH 9:00AM-1:00PM 	29 MEMORIAL DAY JOHN LYON CEREMONIES 10:30AM CLARENDON CEREMONIES 1:00PM	30	31	 <i>Please Pause To Salute And Honor The Memory Of Those Who Paid The Ultimate Price</i>		

Memorial Day 2000



Above, the sun finds a break in the foliage to shine on Audie Murphy's gravesite in Arlington National Cemetery. The tombstone is surrounded by red roses, American flags and a John Lyon wreath on a recent Memorial Day. Left: last year, Cathy Kerns and M.C. Agresti place wreaths on the grave of John Lyon members in Arlington National Cemetery.



Post 3150 Memorial Day Weekend Schedule 26 - 29 May

- Fri: 12:30 pm: Meet at Post for Columbia Gardens and National Memorial Cemetery graves decoration.
- Sat: 8:30 am: Meet at Post for Arlington Cemetery graves decoration.
- Sun: 9 am - 1 pm: Special Buffet Brunch
4 - 7 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