

The John Lyon Gazette

Volume 7, Number 2

August 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, and runner-up (Honorable Mention) for 2000
Ladies Auxiliary Award: Best Newsletter in Virginia, 1999, Best Newsletter in the Nation, 1999

The Purple Heart

Monday, 7 August is Purple Heart Day. The Purple Heart signified a hero of the Revolutionary War and was created on August 7, 1782 by Gen. George Washington for enlisted men for "singularly meritorious action".

It was named the Badge of Military Merit and was a lace-edged heart in purple cloth or silk. It was sewn onto the jacket itself. Only three were presented.

Attempts to reinstate the decoration began in 1927. But it was not until Army Chief of Staff General Douglas MacArthur wanted a new medal issued on the 200th anniversary of the birth of George Washington that progress was made. On Washington's birthday in 1932, the new medal was announced and certain World War I veterans were made eligible. The conditions of the award required an injury received in action with an enemy and treated by a doctor. The Navy Department was authorized to award the medal during World War II --- and then retro-



actively to World War I. Subsequent amendments have broadened the scope. First: to include a civilian national of the U.S. serving under competent authority with the U.S. military who is wounded or killed in service to his/her country. To this was added those killed or wounded due to an international terrorist attack.

The Purple Heart is the first U.S. Military Award for Valor without consideration of rank.

VFW Post 3150 and the Ladies Auxiliary will honor recipients of the Purple Heart at a special barbecue on Sunday, 6 August from noon to 5pm.

(Compiled from various sources. Purple Heart complements of John P. Lorf, U.S. Marine Retired.)

FROM THE POST COMMANDER

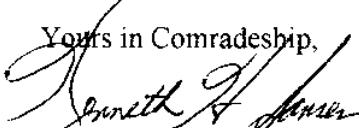
The new VFW year is now underway and once again it is time for all of us to join together with renewed determination to achieve and exceed the fine level of excellence that we have accomplished thus far. Membership, camaraderie, and teamwork will be critical elements if we are to move forward, so we must each do our part to make it happen. This year, the Post will undertake a new venture in our attempts to promote membership. For the first time this year, early renewal or new annual members will be eligible for a Life membership to be paid for by the Post. Details of this new incentive are noted in the Sr. Vice Commander's message in this month's newsletter but the point I want to make is to reemphasize what I said last month --- the very future of the VFW depends in large measure on the efforts we make today in maintaining our current members and recruiting new blood to continue to carry on for those who sacrificed for us. If we all work together, we can make it happen.

While our membership drive is an ongoing effort, we will also become more and more involved with our programs. The officers of the Post and the Ladies Auxiliary cannot do this alone. We need the support of all of the members of the John Lyon family so I am again asking each of you to pause and consider what you may be able to do to help. I have said this before but it is certainly worth repeating - volunteers are the backbone of this organization and it is only with your support and involvement that we can reach out to our veterans, their families, our community, and our youth and really make a difference. While many of our projects for this new year are still in their earliest planning stages, it is not too soon to think about what you may be able to do to help. As we approach late summer and early fall, the level of activity around the Post will increase, and we certainly will need to rely on camaraderie and teamwork. If you're not sure what you can do, give me a call and I promise we'll find something that will work for all of us.

The month of August has several dates worth noting. On Friday, August 4th, we will honor the United States Coast Guard with a cake cutting ceremony at 8:00pm. Monday, August 7th, is National Purple Heart Day, and this year, for the first time, we will pay special tribute to our members who, while in service to our country, were wounded, thus earning a Purple Heart. There will be a Sunday afternoon cookout on the 6th and any member who is a Purple Heart recipient is cordially invited to be our guest. Please join me in honoring these individuals. I would also want to remind you that it was on August 14th, 1945 that Japan surrendered, thus ending World War II.

On a lighter note, John Lyon will host the annual VFW Golf Tournament on Friday, August 18th. The tournament will again be held at Andrews Air Force Base. If you haven't yet signed up and you want to participate, be sure to contact the Post immediately. Also, don't forget that we will have a cookout on Sunday afternoon, August 20th, to honor members of both the Post and the Ladies Auxiliary who celebrate their birthdays this month. And of course, don't forget our Sunday brunches on the second and fourth Sundays of the month.

So, as we get this month underway, please remember that while we enjoy one another's company and share the camaraderie of our social gatherings, we must not let up on our efforts to help one another by volunteering and we must work diligently to retain, renew, and recruit members who will be here with us to continue the fine traditions we have at John Lyon.

Yours in Comradeship,

Kenneth H. Jansen

FROM THE AUXILIARY PRESIDENT

The ever so slight respite from the flurry of activity that surrounds our many Auxiliary programs and projects is now over and although Summer 2000 has been more cool and comfortable than in previous years, it is now time to move forward with renewed determination and dedication as the new VFW year commences. You will be pleased to know that your Auxiliary has already taken the initial steps to get some of our projects underway. As I write this newsletter, your officers and local members are looking at the calendar and trying to set forth an agenda that will reach out with a renewed and stronger commitment to our veterans, our community, our youth, and of course, each other. Our focus will again be on continuing the success of the "team effort" we enjoyed this past year. The awards that your Auxiliary received at the Department Convention last June were a testament to all of the hard work that we did together. Clearly, it works!

In the spirit of "team effort" our Post Commander, Ken Jansen, and I have had several discussions regarding plans for this upcoming year, and with the help and support of the members of the Post we will again promote our traditional projects that include the annual Voice of Democracy and Youth Essay scholarship programs, Thanksgiving and Christmas food baskets, and the Children's Christmas party. Last year, the Post and the Auxiliary "adopted" Key Elementary School, located just around the corner from our Post Home. If you recall, we initiated that program by purchasing new classroom flags and an outdoor flag for the school's recently renovated facilities. Throughout the year, the Post and the Auxiliary continued to participate in various programs with our new friends. Just this past June, in recognition of our efforts, John Lyon Post and the Ladies Auxiliary were awarded a Certificate of Appreciation by the Arlington County School Board for being outstanding "Partners in Education" here in Arlington County. This year, in addition to our ongoing relationship with Key Elementary School, we are planning to do the same thing with the newly renovated Arlington Science Focus School, an elementary school here in Arlington that structures its curriculum with emphasis on the sciences and technology for our youngsters. Already, we have arranged with the Post to purchase 50 new classroom flags to present to the school as well as a new flag for the school's outdoor flag pole. This project, along with others that we will conduct throughout the school year with both schools will allow us to really make a difference among the youth in our community.

As you well know, one of the primary programs of our organization involves the constant struggle to find the cure for cancer. So much has been accomplished in recent years, yet we still need to do more. This past June, the Auxiliary donated \$1575.00 toward this effort and our comrades from the Post once again showed us how much they support what we are trying to do by donating \$1000.00 to our Department's Cancer Aid and Research Program. For 2000-2001, we will again direct our efforts to raise funds in this area, and with luck, the money we raise will prove to be just what is needed to find the elusive cure for the disease that seems to permeate each of our lives in one way or another. I encourage those of you who can to make an extra effort and send in a donation to this most worthwhile project. Maybe you can collect your pocket change for a specific period of time, perhaps thirty days, and then forward your savings to Joy, our Treasurer. Make your check out to "VFW Auxiliary #3150" and mark it "Cancer Project." If we each did something like that, we could accumulate a substantial amount of money to add to our special Cancer Aid and Research Fund. If any of you have any other ideas, please let me know. We are really taking a pro-active stance in fighting this dreaded killer.

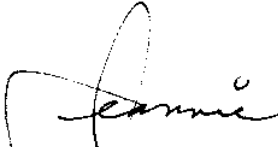
August is the month when we focus our first efforts on membership renewal for the new year. Last year we randomly selected three names from our list of continuous members who renewed before September 30th and these Ladies have had their dues for this new year paid for. This idea was so well received that we

are planning on doing it again. Joy Van Horn will soon be sending out the renewal notices for those of you who are continuous members. Your response last year was absolutely terrific and was the primary reason we achieved our coveted Banner. Your dues are what makes it possible for us to conduct our programs. Think about it for a moment...if everyone waited until December to renew their annual membership, we could not prepare Thanksgiving and Christmas baskets for needy military families, and we could not have our annual Children's Christmas party. It is your dues that support these efforts; your membership is the backbone of our organization. Without members, anything else we wish to accomplish becomes moot. So this year I would like to see if we can reach 100% by the end of October. We came close last year in accomplishing this feat and I would be so proud to be able to see our Auxiliary at full force for this year before the holiday season blankets us. It's not a requirement, but rather a desire. If we can achieve this then we free ourselves to direct all of our efforts back to our veterans, our community, and our youth, and that's really what we want to be doing! One other point, related to membership: this last year the members of the Post made an extraordinary effort in their membership drive, and as a result, not only was John Lyon Post #3150 given the ultimate honor of being named "All State," but the Post received a special award for their recruiting efforts and membership achievements for the 1999-2000 year. I would like the Ladies of the Auxiliary to show the members of the Post how much we applaud their efforts by having the Auxiliary members do whatever they can to assist the Post in its recruiting efforts for 2000-2001. It doesn't get any easier but I think if we help our comrades it will help us as well and I feel this is another way we can demonstrate "teamwork." If any of you know someone who may be eligible to join our VFW family, please encourage them to contact the Commander or any other member of the Post.

In a lighter vein, there are several activities on the calendar for this month. The United States Coast Guard will be celebrating their 210th Anniversary on Friday, August 4th. Please join me in saluting the men and women of the Coast Guard and join us in a cake-cutting ceremony at the Post home on Friday evening at 8:00pm. Monday, August 7th is National Purple Heart Day. If you have not read our cover article in this month's newsletter, please take a moment now and do so. The Purple Heart is the one award made by our Nation that poignantly acknowledges the valor of those men and women who suffered bodily harm in the defense of our freedom. This year on Sunday, August 6th, John Lyon Post and Auxiliary will honor this occasion and those recipients of the Purple Heart from among our own ranks. Please, if you can, come to the Post and salute these special people. The festivities will begin at noon.

If you haven't been down to the Post for one of our Sunday Brunches, you are missing out on one of the best deals in Arlington County. Not only will our VFW Chefs cook your breakfast to order, but you'll enjoy the camaraderie of your John Lyon family having a fun time. The Post has also initiated a monthly "Birthday Barbecue" for members of the Post and the Auxiliary. Barbecue chicken and/or barbecue ribs are the menu for this monthly celebration, not to mention a special birthday cake for our honored guests. This month, we'll be serving up ribs on Sunday, August 20th. I hope you will be able to join us.

As I wrap this up for this month, I want to wish those of you with birthdays this month a very happy day. Our prayers and thoughts go to those who have been under the weather or have suffered the loss of a loved one. If you are aware of any of our members, either of the Post or the Auxiliary, who are experiencing any type of hardship, please let us know so that we may offer whatever assistance may be appropriate.



Jeanne M. Gibadlo
Auxiliary President

From the Senior Vice Commander:

Membership! Membership! Membership! How mundanely repetitive yet how essential towards fulfilling our mission of “Honoring the dead by helping the living.” As you all know, one of the burdens of success is that you’re then expected to be more successful. That is the situation in which John Lyon finds itself this year. Having attained the lofty heights of 400 members, we need between 60 and 75 new members (in addition to 100% renewal of existing members) to sustain our status as an All-State Post this year.

One way to avoid this renewal repetition is to become a “Lifer.” Life membership in the VFW is one of the most economical undertakings that you can imagine. I signed up for “life” in 1988 following the first Persian Gulf War (didn’t stop me from being sent to the second Persian Gulf War though). That initial investment of \$185 has paid for itself many times over, not just in annual dues avoidance (at \$20/year, it would be \$260 by now) but in savings through the VFW’s many member consumer discount and insurance programs.

Life membership rates are as follows: 30 and younger: \$245; 31 – 40: \$235; 41 – 50: \$215; 51 – 60: \$195; 61 – 70: \$165; 71 – 80: \$125; 81 and older: \$85. (For those who are incapacitated, the Post will consider cost assistance on a case-by-case basis).

Under a newly approved John Lyon program, new members or renewed annual members who join or renew by 30 September become eligible for a life membership drawing. The Post will draw the name of one individual from each age group at the Early Bird Dinner in October for a free Life Membership. A winner who has “gone Life” during the renewal period will be reimbursed for the cost of the Life membership, so there is no penalty for doing that on your own.

If you need membership applications, VFW Benefit Program pamphlets, or are uncertain of membership criteria, simply contact the Post or myself. We’re accepting active duty personnel and veterans from all recent military operations in Kosovo, Bosnia, Iraq/Gulf Region, and Korea. There are still

millions of WWII, Korean War, Vietnam, Desert Storm, and other expeditionary campaign vets out there as well. Most people say that they never joined because “they were never asked.” Ask them!

Recent events concerning the World War II Memorial (see below) remind us that “Freedom is not Free.” This is just another reminder that one can not rest on one’s laurels because there’s always someone out there who wants something for nothing. It has little to do with vainglory or immodesty, it’s just the way of today’s world. And it’s a poignant lesson on why VFW membership, strength, and community involvement remain so important.

M. C. “Connie” Agresti
Sr. Vice Commander
(h) 703-516-9784 (w) 202-433-6442
e-mail: vfw3150svc@aol.com

World War II Memorial Update

Last year, the Post donated \$1,000 (matched at 50% by VFW National) to the World War II Memorial after being assured by the American Battle Monuments Commission that all was on track and all approvals were in hand. However, special interest groups led by Rep. Eleanor Holmes Norton (D-DC) continue to attempt to force its relocation from the site on the National Mall that was dedicated for it several years ago. These special interest groups fell to a unanimous defeat before the DC Fine Arts Commission this last week and are expected to face a similar defeat before the DC Planning Commission soon (possibly before this reaches print).

Marching off...

Theodore Peralta. We suspect that he died in 1995 but have been unable to verify. His death was reported by National Headquarters.

We have discovered that John H. Mackay, World War II veteran and Post 3150 member since 1961, died in November 1997 and is buried at National Memorial Gardens.

Welcome to Our New Members

Welcome to new Post members, Donald Inscoc, Charles Van Horn, and James R. Winslow, elected at the July meeting.

John Lyon Shirt and Cap Day

John Lyon Shirt and Cap Day will be repeated this summer on Saturday, 5 August. All 3150 members are urged to wear their John Lyon shirts and caps wherever they go in Arlington that day in an effort to show the people of Arlington that we are here. Last year's effort prompted towns folks to ask about the Post and Auxiliary. All participants are asked to stop by the Post for a group photo at 5pm. Be prepared by digging your tee-shirts and caps out of the closet or getting a new one at the post home if you need one.

New Renewal Procedures for Post Members

The Department of Virginia has adopted the National Dues Program. Annual members should have received renewal notices from VFW National. The membership dues payment should be returned directly to National which will, in turn, mail out the membership cards and allocate the financial portions to the Department, District, and Post levels. They promise this will be a speedy process. You can send your renewal to the Post, but we must then send it to National, who will send your membership card to you. And "think Life!"

Life Membership Program for Annual Members

Post 3150 has initiated a goal of attaining 100% Life Members over the next several years. As we begin this process, the Post will hold a special drawing from all annual members who have renewed, joined, or "Gone Life" by 30 September. The drawing will include one from each age group and the winners will receive a Life membership in the VFW. To qualify, ensure you have renewed early.

Fall Excursion to the Statue of Liberty Planned for October

Every year on October 28th, members of the VFW and the Ladies Auxiliary gather together in patriotic assembly to observe the birthday of the Statue of Liberty. Members of the Ladies Auxiliary from throughout the United States have for the past 63 years, participated in this annual tribute to Miss Liberty and the pageantry of seeing the National Officers and members carrying the Colors is both moving and inspirational. This year, for the first time, our Post and Auxiliary are hoping to charter a bus for interested members and friends to make this day trip to Liberty Park, NJ, Ellis Island, and the Statue of Liberty. However, before we can make final plans, we need to know how many of you would be interested in participating. If we can get between 40 and 50 persons to commit to this, then we may well be able to arrange the all-day excursion for approximately \$35.00 per person. If you are interested, please contact the Post home and let us know so that we can pursue this. We'll need to start working on this by the end of the month.



JROTC Awards

Senior Vice Commander Connie Agresti represented Post 3150 at recent ceremonies at the Arlington Career Center and presented VFW Awards to two Air Force Junior ROTC cadets. The recipients of the awards were Cadet Isaac O'Neill and Cadet Alejandro Penaloza.

From the John Lyon Past...

The picture below has hung in the Post home off and on for a number of years. The Post Color Guard appears to pose near the amphitheater at Arlington National Cemetery. The caption reads "Color Guard Post 3150 * VFW November 11, 1946 G.Dalby J.Alexander W.Robinson E. Speakman W.Burnett".

The May 26, 1956 program (courtesy of Peggy Bassford) from a John Lyon Post dance contains the following story and a copy of the picture:

"History of Post Colors

"The colors of John Lyon Post No. 3150 were purchased by the Post during the administration of Commander Charles A. Musselman, and installed on the 10th day of January, 1936. They made their first public appearance at Mt. Vernon, February 22, 1936, at the George Washington Memorial exercises. The next appearance was at the Department Encampment at Newport News, Virginia, of the same year, and at each subsequent Department Encampment, and Three National Encampments. Since the day of installation, the history of these colors has been one of great pageantry and service at all affairs of the country, including Memorial, Armistice and Mother's Day exercises. The colors were retired with fitting ceremonies on September 19, 1946.



"The John Lyon Post Color Guard was formed early in 1947 by the Post Commander, George C. Dalby. Original members were Comrades George C. Dalby, Winthrop Robinson, Joseph Alexander, Edwin Speakman, and William Burnett.

"Thereafter, the guard participated in all Arlington County Parades, and all annual affairs at Arlington Cemetery, including Mother's Day, Memorial Day, and Armistice Day exercises.

"The color guard has expanded to eighteen members, including a marching unit, and their most recent appearance was in the Winchester Apple Blossom Festival."

A John Lyon Hello...

To Millie Wetterberg who routinely mails her Campbells Soup labels from Germany; to Pat Sivigny who heads to Hawaii for a three year "hardship" tour; to the crack newsletter assembly team who make it possible for you to receive this monthly newsletter; and to Peggy Bassford and Martha Tingle, Presidents of the 3150 Ladies Auxiliary during the 1960s.

Golf Tournament Set

The Annual John Lyon Golf Tournament will be held on 18 August at Andrews AFB. For further information, see the sign-up sheet included in this month's newsletter.

US Coast Guard Birthday

John Lyon Post will mark the US Coast Guard birthday on Friday, 4 August with birthday ceremonies beginning at 8 pm. As with all service birthdays, all John Lyon members are invited and urged to attend.

Thanks!

The editor wishes to thank all who contributed to the success of the *John Lyon Gazette* during 1999 - 2000 and helped obtain the recognition from the Department VFW organization.

Recent Activities Around the Post



The D.A.R.E. Awards, held in connection with the Arlington County Police Department, were recently presented at the John Lyon Post home. Detective Lisa Stewart and Corporal Ray Rios stand with First Place Chelsea Bajec and Second Place Lane Wollerton while Post Commander Ken Jansen, Senior Vice Commander M.C. Agresti, Chaplain James R. Wilkinson, and Mary E. Begley, Principal of Arlington Science Focus School look on. Third Place Dolores Huberts was unable to attend the ceremony. The D.A.R.E. program is a nationally-recognized program for Drug Abuse Resistance Education.



Independence Day at Post 3150

<<< With the large crowds passing through the east end of Arlington County for the District's fireworks, the Arlington County Police and Sheriff's Department usually work extra hours to ensure common safety. In the quieter hours of the early afternoon, the Post frequently plays host to some of Arlington's finest who drop by to take in some of the holiday barbecue. Some of their motorcycles form a neat row in the post parking lot during the recent 4th.

Happy Birthday to You!

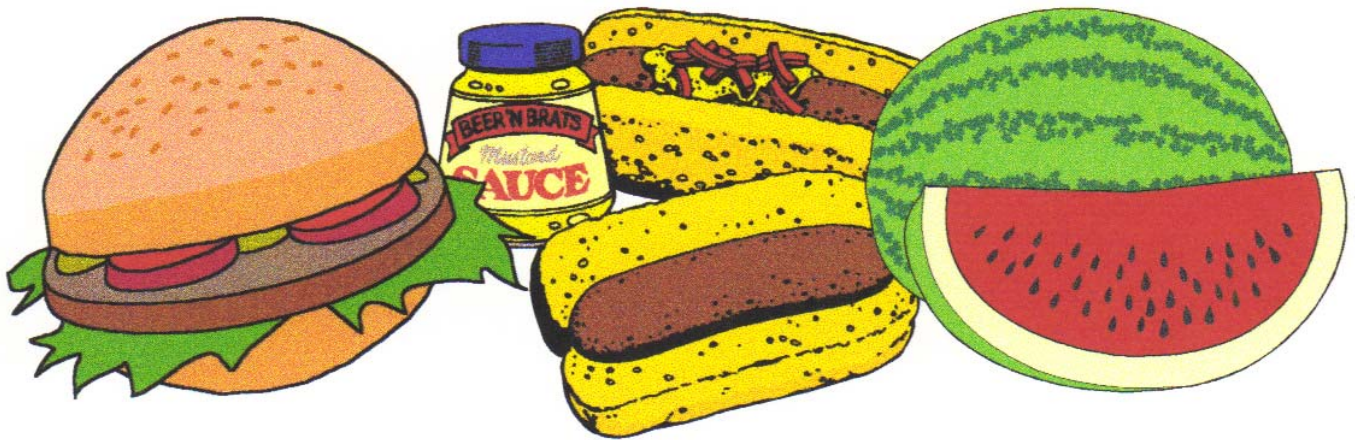
At the July John Lyon Post birthday party, >>>> Suzanne and Bill Draeger, both of whose birthdays are in July, visit the buffet line filled with barbecued chicken, corn on the cob, baked beans and other picnic fare. The monthly birthday party honors 3150 Post and Ladies Auxiliary members on the third Sunday of the month. You get in free during your birthday month. The party runs from 1 - 6 pm and will alternate between chicken and ribs. Ribs will be featured on 20 August for the August celebrants.



**LADIES AUXILIARY
LABOR DAY COOKOUT
SEPTEMBER 4, 2000
1:00PM TO 5:00PM**

**Grilled Chicken Breasts
Hamburgers
Hot Dogs
Pasta Salad
Cole Slaw
Deviled Eggs
Corn on the Cob
Desserts**

**CHECK THIS PRICE OUT!!!
ONLY \$6.00**





JOHN LYON VFW POST 3150 ANNUAL GOLF TOURNAMENT

August 18, 2000



Prizes

Door Prizes for Everyone

1st Place

2nd Place

3rd Place Prizes

For Scratch

Handicap & Calloway

Food and Refreshments






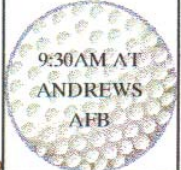
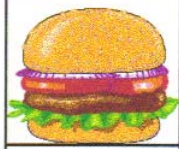

Join us for our Annual Golf Tournament at the Courses of Andrews Air Force Base in Maryland. This years event includes 18 holes of Golf and a cart, prizes for everyone, food and drink for everyone and awards to the best of the best.

SCHEDULE	
Time	Event
0800	Shotgun Start
1330	BBQ at Post Home
1530	Prizes and Awards
Prices:	
\$200.00	Hole Sponsor Plus Two Players
\$100.00	Hole Sponsor Only
\$ 50.00	Per Golfer

Phone: 703-525-0108 Fax: 703-525-8055

Sign Up Today!

August 2000

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5 JOHN LYON DAY 
6 PURPLE HEART DAY BARBECUE 1:00PM-5:00PM	7 NATIONAL PURPLE HEART DAY 	8	9	10 POST MEETING 8:00PM 	11	12
13 SUNDAY BRUNCH 9:00AM-1:00PM 	14 JAPAN SURRENDERS ENDING WWII (1945)	15	16	17 AUXILIARY MEETING 7:30PM 	18 VFW GOLF TOURNAMENT 9:30AM AT ANDREWS AFB 	19
20 AUGUST BIRTHDAY COOKOUT 12:00PM-5:00PM 	21	22	23	24	25	26
27 SUNDAY BRUNCH 9:00AM-1:00PM 	28	29	30	31		



JOHN LYON POST # 3150
“All American Post”
Veterans of Foreign Wars
2116 North 19th Street
Arlington, Virginia 22201-3514

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Who Wants

to be a

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VFW Life Member?