

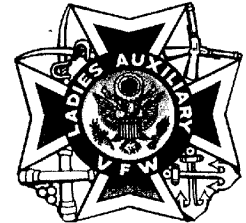
The John Lyon Gazette

Volume 7, Number 3

September 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

Gold Star Mothers Day - Sunday, 24 September

A Service Flag was once displayed from homes and business to show that members of the family or organization were serving in the Armed Forces. The flags had a dark blue star for each member in the service. When a death occurred, the blue star would be replaced by a gold star for each member who died. As World War One continued with combat deaths and those from injuries and illnesses, more and more gold stars began to appear and term "Gold Star Mother" was accepted to indicate a mother of a son or daughter who died in the war.

President Wilson approved a request from the Women's Committee of the Council of National Defenses that American women wear a black band on the left arm instead of wearing conventional mourning for relatives who have died in the service of their country. The black band would include a gold star for each member of the family who had given his or her life for the nation. The gold star was to indicate "honor and glory accorded the person for his supreme sacrifice in offering for his country, the last full measure of devotion and pride of the family in this sacrifice, rather than the sense of personal loss which would be represented by the mourning symbols."

Groups of Gold Star Mothers began to organize, probably in what we would call a "support group" today. Ten years later, a Washington, DC group of mothers began to organize a nondenominational, non-profitable and nonpolitical national organization and the American Gold Star Mothers, Inc. was born. The group later opened its doors to mothers who lost a son or daughter in World War Two, Korea, Vietnam, and other conflicts.

The organization's charter promotes concepts of other patriotic national service organizations, including assisting its members and families, promoting fellowship of military families, patriotism, sense of service and obligation to community and nation, and assistance to veterans and families in making claims to the Veterans' Administration. The last Sunday in September is Gold Star Mothers Day by Presidential Proclamation.



FROM THE POST COMMANDER

Now that September is upon us, the pace of things here at John Lyon will be steadily picking up as we all move forward in what I know will be another active, productive, and successful year for our VFW. I do want to take this opportunity to thank everyone who was involved in the planning and the ultimate success of our annual VFW Golf Tournament on August 18th. It was clearly evident that a lot of people worked together to make this event another John Lyon "success story." My thanks also to all of the local businesses and individuals who were so generous in their sponsorship of this year's tournament. Without the teamwork and the support of many, our Golf Tournament would not have been nearly as successful as it was. If this most recent effort is any indication, then I am confident that we will have much to be proud of in the upcoming months.

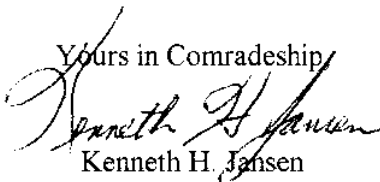
The Post, in partnership with our Ladies Auxiliary, now moves forward with a full schedule of projects and activities for this month. The Auxiliary will kick things off with their second annual Labor Day Cookout on September 4th. This event has always been a fun day for us here at John Lyon. The Ladies did a fine job on this event last year and I'd like to see all of us once again support their efforts. Traditionally, Labor Day has been recognized as the holiday that signals the end of the summer but for us here at John Lyon it is a prelude to the many programs that will involve not only our veterans but our youth and our community as well. Come by and join us in celebrating the camaraderie and the commitment that will earmark this new year we now embark upon together.

Our traditional Sunday Brunches continue on the second and fourth Sundays of each month and it is important for me to take this opportunity to express my thanks and appreciation not only to our patrons for making these breakfasts a continued success, but to the friends and members of the Post and the Auxiliary who have donated their time cooking, serving, and cleaning up. Once again, another indicator of how "teamwork" makes things happen!

In a more serious vein, September is the month that the VFW pays special tribute to our POWs and MIAs. It is also the month that we honor Gold Star Mothers. POW/MIA Remembrance Day is on the 15th and Gold Star Mother's Day is on the 24th. Please note these days on your calendar. The Post and the Auxiliary have also scheduled a hospital visit at the V.A. Nursing Home on Saturday, September 30th. As we pay tribute to our comrades and sisters who have yet to return home or who have lost loved ones, please let us not forget those who managed to make it back but because of their sacrifices are confined to the hospital. I urge you to make a special effort to make the time to show these men and women that you really care. Our hospital visits are important and mean a great deal to these patients. We must not shrug our moral obligations to these veterans!

While both the National VFW and its Ladies Auxiliary celebrate anniversaries this month (101st and 86th, respectively) our Air Force personnel celebrate their 53rd anniversary on the 18th. Congratulations to all!

In closing, remember our ongoing commitment to membership. It is the key to our success and will be our most challenging undertaking.

Yours in Comradeship

Kenneth H. Jansen

FROM THE AUXILIARY PRESIDENT

Now that the month of September is here you can be sure that the level of activity will pick up dramatically as your Auxiliary, with the support of the Post, becomes more and more involved with our programs for this new VFW year. With the summer winding down we will kick off this month with our annual **Labor Day cookout on Monday, September 4th**. The Auxiliary sponsored this event for the first time last year and it was such a success that we asked the Commander if we could have the honors again this year. There will be plenty of hot dogs, burgers, and grilled chicken for everyone so please join us and bring your friends.

On **Sunday, September 10th**, in addition to our regularly scheduled Sunday Brunch, Cathy Kerns, Gail Hoffman, Joy Van Horn, Muriel Sue Kerr, Lois Cook, Cathy Graham and I will be attending the **10th District's first meeting of the 2000-2001 year** at the Springfield VFW. The meeting will begin at **2:00pm**. If any of you would like to join us, please come along. These District meetings are important for all of the Auxiliaries; they give us a unique opportunity to share ideas, discuss problems we may be experiencing, share potential solutions, and provide us with an excellent opportunity to gauge our progress throughout the VFW year. Several of us will then be leaving early on Friday morning, **September 15th, to attend the Department Fall Council/Conference Meeting, which is being held in Lynchburg, VA**. Past experience has proven that this particular meeting is most informative inasmuch as we are provided with valuable assistance and insight to the various programs that the Auxiliary is required to participate in in order to secure our coveted Banner. Each of the Department Program Chairmen are there to share with us guidelines and suggestions to facilitate the success of projects we may undertake in the course of the year. So you can see, your Auxiliary officers and members are indeed on the move! These meetings, early in the year, give us the necessary foundation that helps us to achieve the level of excellence we strive for in reaching out to better serve our veterans, our community, our youth, and each other.

There are a number of other important dates to remember this month. **Friday, September 15th, is POW/MIA Recognition Day**. As members of an organization dedicated to the needs and well being of veterans, their families, their widows, and orphans, it is a part of the fabric of our very existence to acknowledge and never forget the plight of our comrades who have not yet come home or are unaccounted for. The Auxiliary will again be distributing label stickers to pay tribute to those who have sacrificed so much and have not yet had the opportunity to see or hear our thanks. Because so many of us will be in Lynchburg on the 15th, the Post and the Auxiliary will join together on **Monday evening, September 18th at 7:30pm at our Post home to honor our POWs and MIAs with a special tribute**. Following the tribute, **there will be a ceremony to honor both the 86th Anniversary of the founding of the Ladies Auxiliary organization as well as the 53rd Anniversary of the United States Air Force**. Each of these observances represents an important element of what the VFW is all about, so as busy and as hectic as the days may seem, it is important that we pause and acknowledge these events.

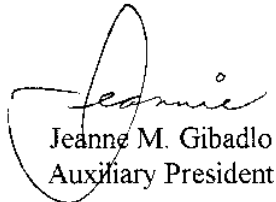
Yet another important date will be observed on **Sunday, September 24th**. Every year, the President of the United States proclaims the last Sunday in September as **Gold Star Mother's Day**, when the nation acknowledges the heartbreak and sacrifice of mothers who lost children in the battles of war. **On the 29th of the month, the Veterans of Foreign Wars celebrates 101 years of continued dedication, commitment, and service**. We have reached out to our veterans, their families, and the community, and we have taken a strong stand with our legislators to assure that those who have served our country are treated with care and concern. These traditions have made the VFW more than just a veterans organization. What a wonderful tradition. **Please join us at 8:00pm** in a cake-cutting ceremony to honor the fine traditions of our VFW organization. We will wrap up the month on **Saturday, the 30th**, with a

Hospital Visit to the V.A. Nursing Home in DC. The Commander and I are hoping that more of you will be able to join us. This year we want to again renew our commitment to remember those who served our country and sacrificed their health in the process. We can never do too much to show our gratitude to these veterans. Please make an extra effort to find the time to share with individuals who gave so much for us. You will feel better for making the effort.

As you may recall, I mentioned in my July newsletter that we would be mailing a membership roster to each of you in August. Hopefully, by the time you read this you will have received your roster. Please double check your address and phone number to make sure that the information we have is correct. If there is an error, would you please let either Gail Hoffman or myself know and send us the correct data. We want to be sure that each of you receive any and all correspondence that the Auxiliary may send out. You are an integral part of our family and it's important that you be included in all the mailings, not only from your own Auxiliary, but from National Headquarters as well.

In closing, just a quick reminder: don't forget we're working on our membership renewals now. As this newsletter goes to print, Joy is in the process of sending out renewal notifications for all of the Continuous members. If you do not receive your renewal within the next two weeks, let us know. Please send in your 2000-2001 dues as soon as you can and become eligible for the drawing to have next year's dues paid for you by the Auxiliary. Our goal is to have everyone on board by Thanksgiving. Also, if you know someone who may be interested in joining us, please encourage her to contact us. And don't forget, we are going try to help the Post in their recruiting efforts this year. This is the year that membership will make the difference!

Our prayers and thoughts are with each of you, especially if you are currently under the weather or have recently experienced the loss of a loved one. And please remember the children are back in school now, so keep an eye open.


Jeanne M. Gibadlo
Auxiliary President



Ladies Auxiliary Looking to Raise Funds to Support the Fight Against Cancer

It is well known that one of the most important programs supported by the Ladies Auxiliary VFW 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. With that in mind, the Ladies of John Lyon are taking a pro-active stance in fighting this dreaded disease and will again offer a beautiful hand crafted quilt for the big Fall raffle. Tickets will be available starting on Labor Day at the holiday cookout and will continue to be available through the Veterans Day weekend in November, when the winner will be randomly selected after the Sunday Brunch on the 12th. Please help us to help others who have been so unfortunate as to have to fight this horrible disease. No one can escape the effects this sickness has on our society but each of us can do a little and it will add up. If you would like tickets, they will be available for \$1.00 apiece or 6 tickets for \$5.00. Buy your tickets early and take home a beautiful hand made quilt.

From the Senior Vice Commander:

I hope that by the time you read this, these 90 degree, 90% humidity dog days of summer are behind us and we're getting ready for our Fall events under more temperate skies.

One of the events that I am always proud to participate in is POW/MIA Recognition Day that the Post will observe on September 18. As of the date that I am writing this, 82 sets of MIA remains have been repatriated since our observance last year – 32 from Vietnam, 17 from Korea, and 33 from World War II. Six of the recovered Marines were from the Mayaguez Incident in 1975 and eighteen Marines were from the 2nd Raider Battalion assault on Makin Atoll in 1942.

Another nine MIAs were recently recovered but they were not lost in a foreign war. They were recovered within the hulk of their sunken Civil War submarine *Hunley* that was recovered this week outside Charleston, SC after 136 years underwater. Like all of us who went to war, all of these MIAs did so for noble causes but unlike we fortunate few, they paid a terrible price. Welcome Home to all.

What does this have to do with membership? Not only is membership necessary to ensure that we can conduct community events and memorial ceremonies, but VFW strength is essential towards ensuring that veterans – who but for the grace of God would be among those listed above – are remembered and supported in American society. Hard earned veterans entitlements must be funded and medical care guaranteed.

Let's give membership the full court press so that we may expand our community impact and camaraderie.

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

Marching off...

Cecil St. Clair King, on 7 August. Burial was at Arlington National Cemetery.

Welcome to Our New Members

Welcome to new Post members, A.J. Hoehn, Donald R. Ostrom, and Thomas Twomey, Jr, and to new Ladies Auxiliary member, Doris Burnett, elected at the respective August meetings.

Charter Son Joins Post 3150

New John Lyon Post member Thomas Twomey, Jr. is the son of Thomas Twomey, Post 3150 Charter Member. He is a retired CSM in the U.S. Army and currently lives in North Carolina. One of his early assignments was to Korea during the war and he is currently active in the Korean War 50th Anniversary commemorations. These have brought him to the Washington area and back to John Lyon Post for the first time since he was a teenager growing up on Veitch Street. During a visit to the Post, his name rang a bell with a 3150 member and then memories began to surface.

The senior Thomas Twomey was a thirty year veteran of the Army. Born in County Cork, Ireland, he came to the US in 1902. He was assigned to the Philippine Islands early in his career and was later First Sergeant of the Third Cavalry Machine Gun Troop at Ft Myer. He retired in 1937 but was recalled for World War II and served in the office of Secretary of War Henry L. Stimson. He died in 1956 and is buried in Arlington National Cemetery.

Deadline Nears for Life Membership Drawings

If you are an annual VFW member, the deadline for the Life Membership drawing is 30 September. Post 3150 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. Renew now.

Lunch at the Post

After a short break, lunch returns to the Post Monday through Friday. There is a daily "Soup of the Day" and a selection of deli sandwiches from ham and cheese to roast beef, tuna, and others. Most days there will be a daily special. Lunch is served from 11 am to 3pm. Come by and welcome our new daytime manager, Debbie Sisk.

The 101st National Convention
Reported for Post 3150
by
Jim and Muriel Sue Kerr

Everywhere you looked, the signs were up welcoming 18,000 visitors to Milwaukee, Wisconsin, home of the 101st National Convention of the VFW and its Ladies Auxiliary.

The news media, TV, radio and print ran continuous coverage of this important event. You know you are part of something historical when CNN keeps repeating, *“the road to the White House starts in Milwaukee at the VFW Convention.”*

Jim Kerr, Past 6th District Commander of Minnesota, now Post 3150 Trustee; Cathy Kerns, Past Auxiliary 3150 President, now Senior Vice President; and 3150 Conductress Muriel Sue Kerr, were Delegates representing our Post and Auxiliary.

The convention gave attendees the opportunity to see and hear from the presidential candidates, Vice President Al Gore and Texas Governor George W. Bush, who expressed their views on everything from the morale in the military to the Social Security Administration’s role in the next 20 years as the baby boomers all retire.

Secretary of Defense William Cohen addressed the status of our military readiness and the quality of life of our men and women in uniform. We were privileged to have Secretary of State Madeleine Albright, recipient of the Dwight David Eisenhower Distinguished Service Award for her efforts to promote world peace, as the keynote speaker addressing more than 2,700 at our banquet.

Other VIPs continued to entertain, speak, and delight, including Acting Secretary of Veterans Affairs Hershel Gober; Wisconsin Governor Tommy Thompson; and the 2000 Chairman of the Salute to Hospitalized Veterans, movie and television actor Richard Crenna, who was presented with the VFW’s Hall of Fame Award for service to America’s veterans. Representative G. V. “Sonny” Montgomery was on hand to show support for the Veteran community.

Meetings, workshops, V.A. Health Fair, conferences, the Patriotic Rally, Color Guard competitions, installation of officers, and exhibits added to the busy schedules for the Comrades and Sisters. Two hundred and forty commanders, including our own 1999-2000 Virginia Department Commander Paul Moore, were presented with their All American Commander’s hat during the Joint Opening Session.

But with the parade of key dignitaries and honorees, by far THE most memorable and touching event was the attendance and multiple appearances of Miss America 2000 Heather French. The daughter of a disabled Vietnam veteran, she visited her first VA Hospital at the age of four. Her focus on the homeless veterans has taken her around the world spreading the word of awareness to a little discussed issue. Thirty-three percent of all the homeless are veterans and 10,000 female veterans are classified as homeless. Her beauty, extraordinary singing voice, articulate and engaging speaking manner captured the hearts of all 18,000 in attendance. A Life Member of the Ladies Auxiliary, Heather has vowed that once she passes on the crown in October, she will continue to work to bring attention to the plight of the homeless until they all have a place to call “home.”

What a thrill it was to spend time with our Comrades and Sisters from all across this great nation. We were proud to have been able to represent the membership of Post 3150 and hope more of our members will be able to attend the National Convention when it is once again held in Milwaukee in August of 2001. It is through attendance at events such as the National Convention that we are allowed to have a voice in our National Organization.

From the John Lyon Past...



From the National Convention...59 years ago!

One of the artifacts discovered last year at the Post Home was this delegate's badge to the "42nd V of F W National Encampment" at "Philadelphia August 24th to 29th 1941". A VFW ribbon connects two brass pieces. It is not known which delegate the badge belonged to.

A John Lyon Hello...

To Sister Peggy Varney who graciously obtained the new Veterans Rose and donated a bush to the Post. After a temporary stay in a pot while the parking lot area was being worked on, the rose has begun to flourish in its new home on the parking lot side of the planter near the front door. The rose has blossomed above the surrounding plants and is easily seen from the street.

VFW 101st Birthday

The VFW will mark its 101st birthday on Friday, 29 September with a cake cutting at 8pm.

Tenth District Meeting

The next meeting of the Virginia's VFW Tenth District will be on Sunday, 10 September at 2pm at Springfield Post 7327. Both the VFW and Ladies Auxiliary will meet at the Post, located at 7905 Kincannon Place, near the Fort Belvoir exit from Interstate 95. Post 3150's Doc Crouch is the current Tenth District Commander. A number of John Lyon members also hold positions in both organizations. All Post and Ladies Auxiliary members are invited to attend.

V.A. Hospital Visit

The next hospital visit is scheduled for Saturday, 30 September at the V.A. Hospital Nursing Home in Washington, DC. Participants will assemble at the Post at 1230 and depart for the hospital shortly thereafter. This is one of the most rewarding of John Lyon's activities. Additional participants are always welcome. Meet at the Post or contact the Surgeon, Mark Pando, the Commander, Ken Jansen, or Ladies Auxiliary President, Jeanne Gibadlo.

Fall Excursion to the Statue of Liberty Still Being Planned for October 28th

In the August newsletter we reported that 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. This year, for the first time, our Post and Auxiliary are hoping to charter a bus for members and friends to make this day trip to Liberty Park, NJ, Ellis Island, and the Statue of Liberty, but before we can make final plans, we have to know how many of you would be interested in participating. We must have between 40 and 50 persons to commit to this before we can proceed with arrangements to hire the tour bus. **If you are interested, please contact the Post as soon as possible.** We must make a commitment no later than the 20th of September. Based on the information currently available, total expenses, including the cost of the ferry to and from Ellis Island and the Statue of Liberty should not be more than \$35. Should we pursue this??? Please let us know today. Call the Post.

Recent Activities Around the Post



Winky Gordon, Billy Bierlein, Pouchi Negri, and Tommy Berra prepare to tee up during the Annual Post 3150 Golf Tournament.



Some of the John Lyon members gathered at the Post Home at the conclusion of this year's John Lyon T-Shirt and Cap Day.



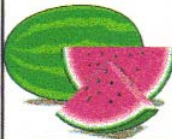





John Lyon recipients of The Purple Heart were honored on 6 August in connection with Purple Heart Day.



Commander Ken Jansen grills up burgers and hot dogs in the back yard during a recent cookout at the Post Home.

Register to Vote - Deadline in Virginia: 6 Oct

September 2000

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	
<p>School is back in session! Stay alert and watch out for our children's safety!</p>					1	2	
						VJ DAY (1945)	
3	<p>LADIES AUX. LABOR DAY COOKOUT 1:00PM-5:00PM</p> 	4	<p>SCHOOL IS OPEN. DRIVE WITH CAUTION</p>  <p>SCHOOL IS IN SESSION</p>	5	6	7	
<p>10TH DISTRICT MEETING AT SPRINGFIELD VFW AT 2:00PM</p> <p>SUNDAY BRUNCH 9:00AM-1:00PM</p>	11	12	13	<p>POST MEETING 8:00PM</p> 	<p>15 POW/MIA RECOGNITION DAY</p> <p>VFW FALL COUNCIL MTG. IN LYNCHBURG</p>	16	
17	<p>POW/MIA RECOGNITION, LADIES AUX. ANNIVERSARY, AND AIR FORCE 53RD BIRTHDAY CAKE-CUTTING AT 7:30PM</p>	18	19	20	<p>21 LADIES AUXILIARY MEETING 7:30PM</p> 	22	23
<p>24 GOLD STAR MOTHER'S DAY</p>  <p>SUNDAY BRUNCH 9:00AM-1:00PM</p>	25	26	27	28	<p>29 VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS</p>  <p>101ST ANNIVERSARY</p>	30	
						HOSPITAL VISIT 12:30PM	



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

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POW / MIA Recognition Day
15 September 2000
Ceremonies at 7:30
Monday, 18 September 2000

Army Air Corps
Army Air Force
USAF
Birthday
Celebration

Monday

18 September 2000

Cake cutting at 7:30pm

VFW Post 3150, Arlington VA
2116 No. 19th St., 525-0181

ACTIVE DUTY, RESERVES, RETIREES
VETERANS. SPOUSES, TOO!

Bring your AF friends.