

The John Lyon Gazette

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October 2001



Veterans of Foreign Wars
John Lyon Post #3150
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The John Lyon Gazette: Winner of 1999 Clair B. Poff Public Relations Award for Outstanding Newsletter,
and Winner of Second Place Award for 2000, 2001
Ladies Auxiliary Award: Best Newsletter in Virginia, 1999, 2001; Best Newsletter in the Nation, 1999



**In Memory
of those Lost and Injured
on
11 September 2001**

From the Commander:

How does one address the events of the September 11th without invoking some Biblical reference or jingoistic jargon? As Veterans of Foreign Wars, we know the uncertainty of combat and the capriciousness of death. We have borne witness to the fear of not knowing where or when the next bullet, bomb, plane, or missile would arrive. We have taken heart in our faith and in our extended family of brethren with whom we served.

So it is that America, every day America --- Mom and Pop general stores, apple pie, hot dogs, lemonade stands, and sandlot baseball --- came to know combat on a stunningly beautiful late summer's day. So it is, as VFW and Ladies Auxiliary members (and non-member volunteers) that you knew that the best way to defeat terrorism was to defiantly put your shoulders to the wheel and help in any way possible --- with faith and compassion to our brethren.

Because of the incredible public support, we were able to throttle back on our direct involvement in Pentagon relief efforts over the weekend, get needed rest, catch up on laundry and chores, read five days worth of mail, etc. That respite gave me the opportunity to try to add up the community service hours for the first two weeks of September. The total, over 1,000 hours, is not surprising.

Special praise and appreciation goes to our fire fighters, emergency medical technicians (EMTs), and law enforcement officers, especially those who are members of our Post, like Butch Hovermill who drove up from Patuxent River to assist. The horrible toll in New York of these guardians of our daily safety is simply overwhelming. It is sad that we don't appreciate them enough until they are gone.

Special appreciation is also appropriate for Richard Hoffman, Cathy Kerns, and Elsie Weeks who were able to literally drop everything and respond to the need to man Salvation Army mobile canteens within the perimeter of the rescue operation within an hour of my contacting them. Similarly, volunteers Maureen Fitzgerald and Brigid Agresti also donated scores of hours each. (At 15, Brigid was arguably the youngest direct participant in the relief effort). I am justifiably proud of all who assisted on-site and in other ways (e.g., giving blood, etc.) but I am especially proud of Brigid.

President Bush promises that the road ahead will not be painless. We wish all uniformed servicemen and women, active duty or reserve (50,000 of whom may be called up) Godspeed and a safe return home. But we also wish them the "terrible swift sword" to smite the enemy of freedom and of the American way of life.

As I wrote to our Commander-in-Chief - "our efforts, though exhaustive, are continuing. Our pride in America is absolute, our resolve is unbending, our faith has never faltered. We are persevering. God Bless America."

God bless you all as well.

M. C. "Connie" Agresti
Post Commander

FROM THE AUXILIARY PRESIDENT

GOD BLESS THE USA

It is with heavy heart that I write this newsletter this month. Our sympathy, thoughts, and prayers are with the families and friends of the brave Americans who were injured or lost their lives in the recent tragedies. We thank the many giving people involved in the rescue efforts undertaken to comfort and save as many lives as possible. The outpouring of love, support, understanding, and caring is what makes us so proud to be Americans.

On the 12th of September John Lyon Post and Auxiliary members assisted the Salvation Army in handing out food and water to the search and rescue teams working at the Pentagon. Volunteers included Commander Connie Agresti, his daughter Bridgett Agresti, Richard Hoffman, Elsie Weeks, and myself. It was one of the most rewarding volunteer efforts that we have done.


I would like to say Happy Birthday to the men and women of the United States Navy who celebrate their 207th on the 13th of October. Also a Happy 115th Birthday to the Statue of Liberty on the 28th of October.

RACE TO CURE CANCER: The green flag dropped on 3 September to start our race to cure cancer. Check out the display at the post. You will see the John Lyon Speedway: the race car is a bank; so please when you visit the post, drop your change or dollars for Cancer Aid and Research. The money we collect will be presented at the Department Convention 2002. The Ladies Auxiliary will be raffling chances on a hand made quilt along with a quilt stand starting in October.

MEMBERSHIP AT 80%: Ladies as of this writing the Ladies Auxiliary membership is at 80 percent. If you have not sent in your membership please do. (\$20.00) My goal is to be 100 percent at the end of October. Also life members are reminded to pay for their cancer insurance (that is \$9.90). You may send your dues and cancer insurance to our Treasurer, Cathy Graham, 9691 Lindenbrook Street, Fairfax, Virginia 22031. If you have any questions regarding membership you may call Cathy at 703-319-0845. Also if you know anyone who is interested in becoming a member of the Ladies Auxiliary, please let us know. Cathy will be available to collect dues during the breakfasts.

There are several activities at the Post this month: From 7-13 October is Fire Prevention Week. On 13 October is the early bird dinner at the post. October 23rd is National Red Ribbon Day. On 27 October is Make a Difference Day. On 28 October is the 115th birthday of the Statue of Liberty. On 14th and 28th of October is community breakfast. On 18 October is our monthly Auxiliary meeting at 7:30 pm. Just a reminder, if you can help out at any of the breakfasts please let me know, even if it is for a couple of hours.

Happy Birthday to those who are celebrating a birthday this month. For those that can't be with us due to distance or illness you are in our prayers and our thoughts are with you.


Cathy Kerns
Auxiliary President

Buddy Poppies

Due to increased security at Fort Myer and the Pentagon, we do not know at press time whether we'll be able to distribute poppies at some of our historically prime locations. Nevertheless, the surge in patriotism that we have seen from a defiant America who refuses to be bowed by the enemies of freedom promises that the public will be more attuned to buying a Poppy this Veterans Day. As with previous years, bags of 200 poppies and 2 collection cans will be available in the Post for volunteers to employ during the first two weeks of November. Expanded participation is encouraged.

Virginia War Memorial Oral Histories

Representatives from the Virginia War Memorial will be at the Post on Saturday, October 13, to video tape oral histories from veterans. Anyone interesting in participating should contact Sr. Vice Commander "Doc" Crouch at 703-319-0845.

Early Bird Dinner

The Early Bird Dinner is scheduled for Saturday, 13 October from 4 - 7 PM. Because more than 300 members are eligible for this event and the Post General Fund does not have a surplus, everyone planning to attend is asked to sign up in the canteen or call Barbara at the Post (703-525-0108) so that we may accurately order provisions.

Fly the Flag

The Post is obtaining a significant number of American Flags of various sizes. Some are earmarked for schools but others are available for members. The larger flags are being made available at cost (rounded to the next dollar) but the smaller flags are available for donation only. While many opt to fly the flag daily, or whenever U.S. forces are engaged with an enemy, U.S. Flag Code calls for flags to be flown on the following days in October: Columbus Day (Oct 8) and Navy Day (Oct 27).

Welcome to Our New Members

Welcome to new Post members, Norman Christ, Robert Ponzo, Donald Robertson, and Robert White, elected at the September meeting.

U.S. Navy Birthday

The Navy birthday will be observed on Saturday, October 13 with a cake cutting at 7:00 PM. All are encouraged to attend.

A John Lyon Hello...

To all our active duty and reserve forces scattered around the world; to our police, fire, and rescue workers, to those who assisted at the Pentagon or in New York, and to everyone who gave blood, donated supplies and money, and otherwise helped their countrymen in some way in the last weeks. And to Scott Cavanaugh, in treatment for a serious illness.

Marching off...

Ladies Auxiliary 3150's Past President Lucille M. Martina, on 26 August. She was president in 1962-1963. Lucille was buried in Arlington Cemetery. Her husband was the late Albert Martina, MSG, US Army.

Life Membership Drawings During Early Bird

VFW 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. Drawing will be done during the Early Bird dinner on 13 October.

Halloween Wed 31 Oct

**Watch out for little
Ghosts and Goblins!**



11 September 2001
11 September 2001



Elsie Weeks, one of John Lyon volunteers at the Pentagon, took the above picture of the uncurling of the giant flag from the roof of the Pentagon on 12 September. Other John Lyon members who helped man Salvation Army mobile canteens at the Pentagon site were Connie Agresti, Richard Hoffman, and Cathy Kerns. Brigid Agresti and Maureen Fitzgerald also helped for a number of hours. And Earl Hovermill was a volunteer with the rescue teams.

Arlington's Day of Remembrance

October 7th will be Arlington's Day of Remembrance and Appreciation to acknowledge those lost and unaccounted for in the attacks on 11 September, and to show appreciation to all those individuals and organizations that responded to the community's call for help. The community-wide gathering will be held at 6 pm at Washington-Lee High School stadium. Check with the Post for latest details.

From Noble Park to Arlington

Post 3150 received the following message on 13 September from our comrades in Australia:

"The Vietnam Veterans at Noble Park wish to express their outrage at the cowardly act of terrorism committed against the AMERICAN people. We offer our sympathies, prayers and support to all families and their friends affected by this dastardly act.

"God bless you all

"President, committee and members
Vietnam Veterans Association of Australia
Noble Park Sub-Branch

"VIETNAM VETERANS'
'TOGETHER FOREVER'"

There were no known casualties or injuries to the John Lyon family. Our condolences, however, go to the members of Dale City Post 1503 who lost a member of their VFW at the Pentagon.

Late Breaking News

Commander Agresti reports, "I have been approached by Annandale H.S. to have John Lyon VFW and Ladies Auxiliary present at their Homecoming Day ceremony on Friday, October 12. More on that as I learn it." Call the Post for an update on this event.

Recent Activities Around the Post



President Cathy Kerns and Commander Connie Agresti charge up car "John Lyon 3150" in the race for Cancer Research. The sign behind the car tells it all: "Green Flag Drops for the race to cure cancer. Drop change and dollars into the car." The "inaugural race" was featured during the Ladies Auxiliary-sponsored Labor Day cookout at John Lyon Post.



Air Forces members from World War II to the present gather around the cake commemorating the Army Air Corps, the Army Air Force, and the USAF. Shown above are (l to r) J.Gary Wagner, Bert L. Sweigart, Terrie Holder, Frank Ryan, Joe Repasch, Jim Proels, Greg Moscatel, and Mike Conine.

Post Renewal Procedures

VFW annual members should have received a renewal notice from National Headquarters by now. If you did not receive a renewal form, you can renew by sending a \$20 check to the Post Home. Mark check "2002 dues". Join with the VFW as we support the nation in this time of trial.

V.A. Hospital Visit

The next hospital visit is scheduled for Saturday, 20 October 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, Commander Connie Agresti, or Ladies Auxiliary President Cathy Kerns.

membership

Reprinted with permission from the September 2001 issue of VFW magazine.

These Operations Make Veterans Eligible for VFW

Comprehending the chart below is essential to effectively recruiting younger members.

Since the 1980s alone, 25 military operations have been conducted that make overseas veterans eligible for VFW. It is important to become familiar with these missions—some of them rather obscure—so you don't miss recruiting opportunities.

Tales abound about how potential members have been turned away at Post doors because VFW members insisted they were not eligible. Keep in mind that besides actual campaign medals; eligibility in several instances is based on other criterion.

A Combat Action Ribbon and Combat Infantryman Badge in rare cases will solely qualify someone for membership. More-

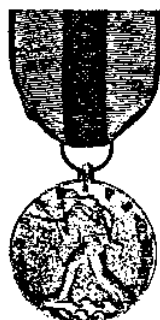
over, duty in Korea at any time since the end of WWII is a qualifier, if documentation (travel orders, etc.) is provided.

Study the chart below (and please retain it) so you will be on top of eligibility. Otherwise, you are likely to overlook that veteran of Rwanda or Liberia. While you are at it, quiz your fellow recruiters to see how knowledgeable they are.

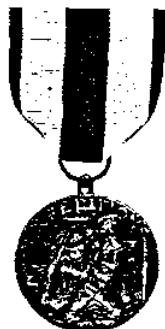
VFW Eligibility: Recent Campaigns



Kosovo Campaign Medal



Marine Corps Expeditionary Medal



Navy Expeditionary Medal

Kosovo Campaign Medal	March 24, 1999—Open
Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal¹	
Iraq (<i>Operation Desert Fox</i>)	Dec. 16-22, 1998
Iraq (<i>Operation Desert Thunder</i>)	Nov. 11-Dec. 22, 1998
Iraq (<i>Operation Northern Watch</i>)	Jan. 1, 1997—Open
Middle East (<i>Operation Vigilant Sentinel</i>)	Dec. 1, 1995—Sept. 1, 1997
Persian Gulf (intercept operations)	Dec. 1, 1995—Open
Iraq (<i>Operation Southern Watch</i>)	Dec. 1, 1995—Open
Bosnia	Nov. 20, 1995—Open
Haiti (<i>Operation Uphold Democracy</i>)	Sept. 16, 1994—March 31, 1995
Somalia (<i>Operation Restore Hope</i>)	Dec. 5, 1992—March 31, 1995
Panama (<i>Operation Just Cause</i>)	Dec. 20, 1989—Jan. 31, 1990
Persian Gulf (<i>Operation Earnest Will</i>)	July 24, 1987—Aug. 2, 1990
Libya (<i>Operation El Dorado Canyon</i>)	April 12-17, 1986
Grenada (<i>Operation Urgent Fury</i>)	Oct. 23—Nov. 21, 1983
Lebanon	June 1, 1983—Dec. 1, 1987
El Salvador	Jan. 1, 1981—Feb. 1, 1992

¹Authorized for 15 previous actions dating back to July 1, 1958.

Navy and Marine Corps Expeditionary Medal²	
Rwanda (<i>Operation Distant Runner</i>)	April 7-18, 1994
Liberia (<i>Operation Sharp Edge</i>)	Aug. 5, 1990—Feb. 21, 1991
Panama (pre- and post-invasion)**	April 1, 1988—Dec. 19, 1989 / Feb. 1—June 13, 1990
Persian Gulf (<i>USS Stark, etc.</i>)	Feb. 1—July 23, 1987
Libya (<i>Operation Prairie Fire, etc.</i>)	Jan. 20—June 27, 1986
Lebanon	Aug. 20, 1982—May 31, 1983

²Actually dates back to Feb. 12, 1874, and covers 52 landings before WWII. ** Marines only.

Southwest Asia Service Medal	Aug. 2, 1990—Nov. 30, 1995
<i>(Operation Desert Shield/Desert Storm: Combat areas of operation only.)</i>	
Personnel assigned to support units serving in Israel, Egypt, Turkey, Syria, and Jordan	
	Jan. 17—April 11, 1991

Combat Action Ribbon³	
Navy/Marine Corps/Coast Guard	March 1, 1961—Open
³ Only two actions occurred when a campaign medal was not also authorized: USS Liberty (June 8-9, 1967) and Operation Assured Response (Monrovia, Liberia, April 30—May 6, 1996)	

Combat Infantryman Badge (Army)⁴	Dec. 6, 1941—Open
⁴ Only known documented case where a campaign medal was not already authorized: Nov. 23, 1984, in the Korea DMZ for 1st & 4th Platoons, Joint Security Force Company, or approximately 30 men	

Korea Duty⁵	
Service on the Korean Peninsula, or in territorial waters for 30 consecutive or 60 non-consecutive days	June 30, 1949—June 26, 1950
	July 28, 1954—Sept. 30, 1966 / July 1, 1974—Open

⁵Periods not already covered by a campaign medal.



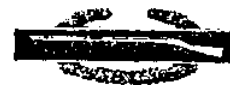
Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal



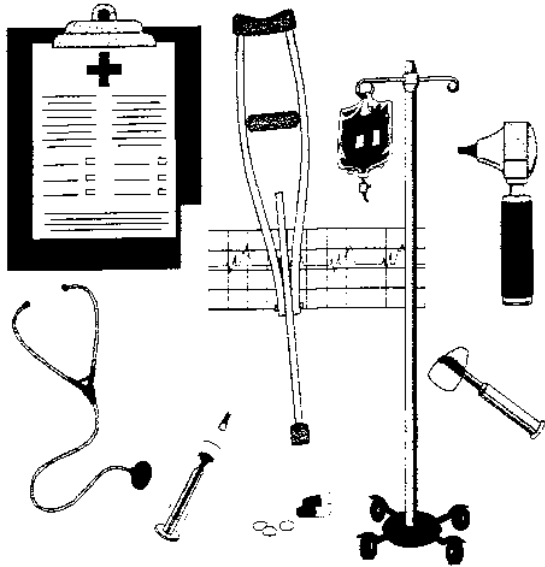
Southwest Asia Service Medal



Combat Action Ribbon



Combat Infantryman Badge



HOSPITAL VISIT TO THE V.A. MEDICAL CENTER NURSING HOME

**Members of the Post and
the Ladies Auxiliary invite
you to join us on**

**Saturday
October 20th
Time: 12:30pm
(We will meet at the Post)**

**Please come with us. It's
important to remember our
veterans!!**

GOD BLESS AMERICA! TODAY AND EVERYDAY.



October 2001



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p><i>Happy 115th Birthday Miss Liberty, October 28th.</i></p>  <p><i>God Bless America!</i></p>	1	2	3	4	5	6
 <p>ARLINGTON DAY OF REMEMBRANCE AND APPRECIATION 6:00PM-7:00PM W&L STADIUM</p>	 <p>COLUMBUS DAY OBSERVED</p>	<p>ANNIVESARY OF THE INVASION OF NORTH KOREA (1950)</p>	<p>10</p>	<p>11</p>  <p>POST MEETING 8:00PM</p>	<p>12</p>	<p>13</p>  <p>EARLY BIRD DINNER 4:00PM-7:00PM</p>  <p>NAVY BIRTHDAY CAKE CUTTING AT 7:30PM</p>
<p>14</p> <p>SUNDAY BRUNCH 9:00AM-1:00PM</p> 	15	16	17	18	19	20
		<p>NATIONAL BOSS DAY!</p>		<p>18</p>  <p>AUXILIARY MEETING AND ANNUAL INSPECTION 7:30PM</p>		 <p>HOSPITAL VISIT 12:30PM</p>
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
		<p>FIRST DAY OF NATIONAL RED RIBBON WEEK</p>	<p>UNITED NATIONS DAY</p>			 <p>"MAKE A DIFFERENCE DAY" HWY. CLEANUP</p>
<p>SUNDAY BRUNCH 9:00AM-1:00PM MS. LIBERTY 115th B-DAY</p> <p>END OF DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME</p> 	29	30	<p>31</p> <p>HAPPY HALLOWEEN</p> 	<p>OCTOBER 7th THROUGH THE 13th IS <u>FIRE SAFETY WEEK!</u> DONT FORGET TO CHANGE THE BATTERIES IN YOUR SMOKE DETECTORS WHEN DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME ENDS ON OCTOBER 28th! SET CLOCKS BACK ONE HOUR!</p>		



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

NON-PROFIT ORG
U.S. POSTAGE
P A I D
Merrifield, VA
Permit No. 9209

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Address Service Requested

EARLY BIRD DINNER

NAVY BIRTHDAY
Saturday, 13 October 2001