

# The John Lyon Gazette

Volume 8, Number 5

November 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



## Veterans Day 2001

On Veterans Day 2001, we gather again to honor the living, the missing, and the dead from America's wars and military actions. We remember John Lyon and our fathers, grandfathers, and great-grandfathers who served America in World War One. We honor those who defended America during World War Two, in Korea, the Cold War, Vietnam. Also Grenada, Panama, the Gulf War, Somalia, Bosnia and Kosovo, and all the others who simply answered the call and have stood vigilantly on guard on the far seas and shores around the world. And this year we remember those who died at the Pentagon and at the World Trade Center. And we our prayers will remember those currently involved in operations in Afghanistan.

**Thursday, 8 November**  
Post Meeting (8pm)

**Friday, 9 November**  
Buddy Poppies at the Pentagon (9 am - 3 pm)

**Saturday, 10 November**  
Buddy Poppies at the Fort Myer (9am - 3pm)  
Veterans Weekend Dinner Buffet (4 - 7pm)  
US Marine Corps Birthday (8 pm)

**Sunday, 11 November**  
Veterans Weekend Brunch Buffet (8 am - 12pm)  
Post/Auxiliary Ceremony at John Lyon / Cherrydale  
World War One Memorial (11:30am)  
Joint VFW/American Legion Ceremony  
Clarendon War Memorial (1pm)

**Monday, 12 November**  
No regular lunch

Some food service available throughout the weekend.

## *From the Commander:*

A month after the terrorist attacks upon our homeland, our armed forces are engaged with the enemy. Let us keep them in our prayers and support them in whatever ways we can.

A threat also remains at home. Be observant, be vigilant, and don't be afraid to call the authorities when you observe things out of the ordinary. Most of all, however, **DO NOT** let the perpetrators of these heinous crimes cause us fear or force us to change the ways we live.

One of the ways we live is through the enfranchisement of our citizenry. Among the precious liberties and freedoms that we enjoy, and that those misguided zealots tried to usurp, is a right of self-determination – the right to vote. If ever there was a time when a large voter turnout was warranted, it is now to show the world that our democracy is intact and fully functional. Election Day is Tuesday, November 6. Virginia is one of the states that will be electing a Governor. Get Out the Vote!

Recall that donations of foodstuffs and blood overwhelmed collection centers in the weeks following the September 11 attacks. Since the fervor has dissipated and the lines have shortened, now is an opportune time for healthy donors to schedule to give blood.

Arlington and John Lyon Post continue to serve as hosts to many individuals with reawakening patriotism who desire to see our monuments and pay homage to those killed at the Pentagon. Accordingly, we can expect large numbers of out-of-towners this month. A strong VFW presence in our community serves the communities from which these individuals hail as well. Keep up the great work/

Please note the changes for brunch times on November 11 (Veterans Day) and have a heartfelt and safe Thanksgiving – itself an original American holiday.

M. C. “Connie” Agresti  
Post Commander

## FROM THE AUXILIARY PRESIDENT

### Veterans Day

Veterans Day 2001: Today as we honor all the brave men and women in the Armed Forces of the United States let us thank them for the freedom they have given us, but also let us remember them not only on this Veterans Day, but on the other 364 days of the year, and if you meet a Veteran today walk up to them and say THANK YOU.

I would like to say Happy Birthday to the men and women of the United States Marine Corps who celebrate their 226<sup>th</sup> on the 10<sup>th</sup> of November. Semper Fidelis.


Quilt Raffle: The Ladies Auxiliary is raffling a home made quilt and quilt rack. If you are interested in any tickets they are \$1.00 each. Ask any auxiliary member for them. The drawing will be on 9 December. If any of the ladies outside the Washington D.C. area would like to purchase some tickets please give me a call at 703-979-5268, or drop me a line at 720 South Courthouse Road, Arlington, Virginia 22204. All the money raised for the quilt will be given to Cancer Aid and Research at the State Convention in June 2002.

Get Out to Vote: Elections in the State of Virginia on 6 November will be electing a new governor. If any member needs a ride to the polls, please give us a call at the post.

MEMBERSHIP AT 85%: Ladies as of this writing the Ladies Auxiliary membership is at 85 percent. If you have not sent in your membership please do. (\$20.00), we only need 19 members to renew to be 100 percent. Ladies it would be really nice to achieve this by the end of December. 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. The winners of the early bird membership lottery to have the 2003 dues paid are: Margaret E. Graham, Mary Carik and Elsie L. Jackson. Congratulations Ladies.

November activities at the Post this month: On the 10<sup>th</sup> of November we will be celebrating the Marine Corps Birthday and also the post will be having a buffet dinner. Sunday November 11<sup>th</sup> we will have community breakfast from 0800-1200. On 17 November we will be distributing Thanksgiving basket. On 15 November 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. Happy Thanksgiving.

  
Cathy Kerns  
Auxiliary President

## **Buddy Poppies**

The surge in patriotism that we have seen from a defiant America which refuses to be bowed by the enemies of freedom promises that the public will be more attuned to obtaining a Buddy Poppy this Veterans Day. We have been granted permission to distribute poppies at the Pentagon on Friday, 9 November, and at the Fort Myer Commissary on Saturday, 10 November. We also hope to hit such places as Giant and the Metro stop at Arlington Cemetery. 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.

## **Welcome to Our New Members**

Welcome to new Post members, David Plaza and Terry Slack, and new Ladies Auxiliary members, Glenda Harborth, Linda Slekitis Harborth, Judy Holcomb-Chavez, and June E Husband, elected at the October meetings.

## **U.S. Marine Corps Birthday**

The U.S. Marine Corps birthday will be observed on Saturday, November 10 with a cake cutting at 8:00 PM. All are encouraged to attend.

## ***A John Lyon Hello...***

To chefs Barbara Brickhill and Ken Jansen and all the kitchen and dining room helpers. This group put together two great meals within the space of about 18 hours for the Early Bird Dinner and Sunday Brunch. About 170 meals were served. And both got rave reviews. To no one's surprise, of course. And to Thomas Waskow on his upcoming promotion in the Air Force.

## ***Marching off...***

Michael N. Zirkle, Col U.S. Army (ret.), on 10 September 2001 Buried at Arlington Cemetery. And George S. Mansfield.

## **Past Commander George Mansfield**

George S. Mansfield, Major USMC, retired, was born 22 December 1919 in New Zealand. He was in Hawaii as a student during the bombing of Pearl Harbor and returned to the mainland where he joined the U.S. Marine Corps. He saw service from October 1942 in the Pacific and China in World War II and later was in the Korean War. He retired from the Marine Corps in May 1964. As a member of VFW Post 3150, he was Post Commander for two years from 1981 to 1983. He held a number of Post positions over the years, including that of Post Trustee for three years. For the last several years, he was the Post Advocate. George died on Friday, 19 October. Services are currently scheduled for Thursday, 15 November at 1230 at Arlington Cemetery.

## **Life Membership Drawings**

During the Early Bird Dinner, drawings for Life Memberships were conducted. Fifty-eight comrades qualified for the drawing by renewing their memberships or joining Post 3150 by the Early Bird deadline. Any member who "went Life" and was drawn would be reimbursed for the cost of his Life Membership. There were seven groups, coinciding with VFW National Life Membership age groupings.

The winners are:

Group A (81+): Daniel Roberts, Burke, VA  
Group B (71-80): Edward Birbeck, Arlington, VA  
Group C (61-70): Richard Bosse, Vero Beach, FL  
Group D (51- 60): Terry Slack, Alexandria, VA  
Group E (41-50): Thomas Jones Jr, Birch Run, MI  
Group F (31-40): Donald Campbell, Fort Myer VA  
Group G (<30): Michael Mirilovich, Arlington, VA

Congratulations to the winners. And thanks to all those who participated with their speedy renewals. Another drawing is expected for next year. Renew early to qualify!

## **Vote**

## **Tuesday 6 November**

## November Events

The front page has an abbreviated schedule. More details are available below.

November is a month of tradition and always one of our busiest. Many activities fall within one long weekend. Arlington County has issued a Proclamation announcing Buddy Poppy Week. We can use volunteers to distribute poppies to a populous swelled with patriotic pride.

Tuesday, November 6 is Election Day. Virginia will be electing a governor. Other jurisdictions will have elections as well. Get out the vote!

Thursday, November 8 is our Post meeting (8 pm).

Friday, November 9 will include day-long Buddy Poppy distribution and membership drive at the Pentagon. We will also be hosting a group of Marines from 3<sup>rd</sup> Recon Battalion, who will adjourn to our Post home after burying four of their MIA comrades from Vietnam who were recently returned and identified. We can also expect to see members of the NAMVETS Chat Room from American Online showing up as well as members of Arlington Ridge – a group made up predominantly of Marines dedicated to preserving Arlington Ridge. And a reunion group from the USS Annapolis will also be at the Post from time to time.

Saturday, November 10, the Marine Corps will observe its 226<sup>th</sup> Birthday. A buffet dinner will be conducted from 4 – 7 and the cake will be cut at 8 pm. Expect a crowd. Buddy Poppy distribution will be done throughout Arlington, including the Ft. Myer commissary.

Sunday, November 11, is Veterans Day as well as Sunday Brunch. In an effort to cater to guests desiring to eat prior to going to the Wall or Arlington Cemetery, and to free up officers and other participants for commemoration ceremonies, brunch will commence at 8 am and conclude at noon (an hour earlier on both ends). Ceremonies at John Lyon stone will be held at 11:30 and at the Clarendon War Memorial at 1:00 pm

Monday, November 12 is Veterans Day (observed). Buddy Poppy distribution continues.

Saturday, November - Thanksgiving Baskets, 11:30am.

Saturday-Sunday, November 17-18 - Judging for VOD high school essay contest.

Tuesday, November 20 - 67th Birthday of VFW Post 3150. Cake cutting at 7pm.

Thursday, November 22 – Thanksgiving. Despite the threats to our nation, there's still much to be thankful for.

Sunday, November 25 – Brunch at normal times (9am – 1pm).

### Chesty Puller Photo

Among the events of Veterans Day/Marine Corps Birthday weekend will be the raffle of a framed photograph of Lt. Gen. Lewis B. “Chesty” Puller with the sentiment “Old breed, new breed, the only breed is the Marine Breed”. Tickets are a dollar apiece, 6 for \$5.00, and 15 for \$10. The winning ticket will be pulled at the cake cutting on November 10. (If you can't make it to the Post and desire a chance to win the photo, just send a check or money order to the Post marked for “Chesty photo.”)

### Post 3150 Birthday

The Post's 67<sup>th</sup> Birthday will be celebrated during ceremonies on Tuesday, 20 November at 7pm.

### Grocery Receipts

It's time to collect grocery receipts again. Only this year you don't have to remember to save those bits of paper. Both Giant and Safeway have issued customer cards and when you use yours, your purchase is automatically credited towards the school you specify. Our neighborhood Francis Scott Key Elementary is the official school for Post 3150. You can apply for a card at your local grocery and fill out a form, specifying the school from a list provided. You must redesignate your school for the current year.

## Editorial

The recent attacks on the Pentagon and the World Trade Center have stirred the souls of the American people and have inspired all of us to ask what we might do to show our support for the families and the communities that were affected by the events of September 11<sup>th</sup>. Many have donated time, blood, and/or funds to various relief agencies assisting the victims. There are several other immediate things one can do to show support and help America. Your VFW Post and Ladies Auxiliary are engaged in various activities to promote patriotism in schools and the community, and to assist veterans and our soldiers, sailors, airmen, Marines, and Coast Guardsmen around the world. One very important and easy way you can assist is to renew your dues if you have not yet done so. By doing this now, you help to keep your organizations strong and functioning, having the resources to be able to reach out with assistance when and where it is needed most. You can also participate by helping to distribute Buddy Poppies. All proceeds from any Buddy Poppy drives, by VFW By-law mandate, are deposited in our Relief Fund, and designated exclusively to assist veterans and their families, active military forces, commemorate our dead, and educate our youth. When you help increase those funds you're helping the relief workers at the Pentagon and the children of the victims, and other veterans and servicemen in need. Many Americans were eager to help and proud of their activities, including flying the flag, burning candles of remembrance, singing "God Bless America", etc, in recent weeks, but your VFW and Ladies Auxiliary do this throughout the year, every year! Consider attending our ceremonies, such as the events we have scheduled for Veterans Day on November 11<sup>th</sup>, and join with us in promoting patriotism and remembrance. Look at the calendar and watch for other similar events. Come down and help your VFW Post and Ladies Auxiliary. Reward yourself by doing something for your country, your fellow veterans, your fellow citizens, and yourself.

## Coming Up in Early December

Christmas Hospital Visit at the Washington V.A. Hospital, Saturday, 8 December. Come join us as we bring some Christmas joy to those who gave their best to our country.

## Caveat Emptor

Ever hear of "American Veterans Coalition?" Or perhaps "American War Veterans?" Neither have we. Except, of course, from tele-marketers soliciting funds. While the events of September 11 brought out the best in so many Americans, they also brought out the worst in a select minority of parasites preying on the goodwill and desire of the populace to support troops, firemen, victims, etc. If you receive a solicitation for funds for one of these official sounding veteran's organizations, politely tell the caller that you contribute through the VFW. By National By-law, 100% of our Relief Fund goes to benefit veterans, their widows and orphans, to commemorate their sacrifices, or to educate the young on their sacrifices.

## 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. Ladies Auxiliary members may do the same.

## Operation Dear Abby

Operation Dear Abby, which urges Americans to send letters and cards to U.S. servicemen overseas during the Christmas holidays, has been cancelled this year due to the current Anthrax problem.

## Websites of interest:

1. Not one picture of the World Trade Center or the Pentagon, but possibly the best, most awesome photos to come out of the recent tragedy:  
[http://www.good4asmile.com/united\\_with\\_america.htm](http://www.good4asmile.com/united_with_america.htm)
2. To check on all those email warnings and hoaxes:  
<http://www.snopes.com/>
3. Anthrax: <http://www.anthrax.osd.mil>
4. DOD doings: <http://www.defendamerica.mil>

# 11 September 2001

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Left, a group of the John Lyon family gathered outside the Post home at 7pm on Friday, 14 September to light a candle during the national remembrance. Before it was over, they were joined by friends and neighbors --- and even a couple driving down the street joined in.



Above, October 7<sup>th</sup> was 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 was held at 6 pm at Washington-Lee High School stadium. Above, left to right, Ladies Auxiliary President Cathy Kerns, David Dajc, Jodie Lafreniere-Dajc, J.Gary Wagner, Junior Vice Commander Carl Colon. Not shown is Greg Moscatel. Above, right: the main stage.

In addition to the volunteer actions mentioned in the last newsletter, John Lyon Post has contributed to relief efforts by making a large donation to the Salvation Army in Arlington to assist in their relief efforts at the Pentagon in the hours after the attack. The Post and Ladies Auxiliary also donated to the education fund of a child of a Navy sailor killed at the Pentagon (and who was a member of Post 1503 in Dale City). And the Post donated a number of phone cards to Pentagon and relief workers. The Ladies Auxiliary also sent greeting cards to the Fire Departments of New York City and Arlington County.

# Recent Activities Around the Post



Barbara Brickhill brings a steak dinner to President Cathy Kerns at the end of a busy evening during the recent Early Bird Dinner, honoring those who had joined or renewed their memberships by early October. Commander Connie Agresti and Senior Vice President Jeannie Gibadlo have started working on theirs.

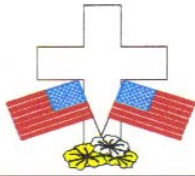


Joe Weynraugh, Jim Kerr, Eric Naderson, and Connie Agresti watch as Jim Gibadlo makes the first cut into the cake during ceremonies marking the U.S. Navy's birthday.



**Happy Thanksgiving**










# November 2001



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
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*As we celebrate Thanksgiving 2001, let us not forget the courageous efforts of not only our veterans and servicemen, but also the firefighters, police officers, emergency medical technicians, and the many volunteers of all of the organizations who have banded together to demonstrate the true meaning of bravery, patriotism, and the American Spirit.*

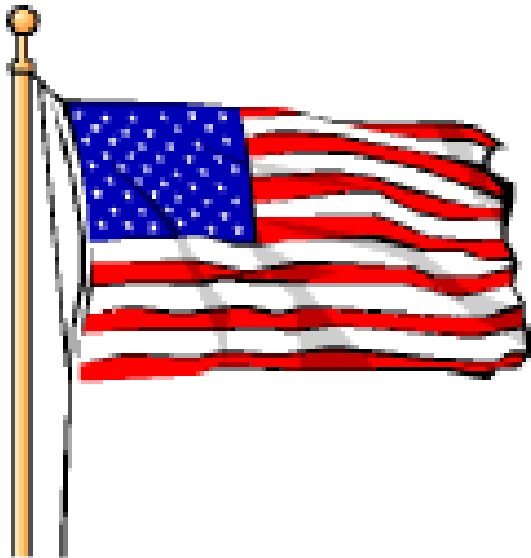
				 1 VOICE OF DEMOCRACY DEADLINE FOR POST ENTRIES	2	3
4	5	6 ELECTION DAY GET OUT AND VOTE!!! 	7	8 POST MEETING 8:00PM 	9  BUDDY POPPY DRIVE AT THE PENTAGON 9:00AM-3:00PM	10  226th ANNIVERSARY OF THE USMC BUFFET DINNER 4:00PM-7:00PM CAKE CUTTING 8:00PM
11 VETERANS DAY CEREMONIES AT 11:00AM & 1:00PM  BUFFET BREAKFAST 8:00AM-12 NOON	12	13	14	15 AUXILIARY MEETING 7:30PM 	16	17 THANKSGIVING BASKETS PREPARED AND DISTRIBUTED 11:30AM 
18	19	20 HAPPY BIRTHDAY VFW JOHN LYON POST #3150  CAKE CUTTING 7:00PM	21	22 HAPPY THANKSGIVING DAY 	23	24
25 SUNDAY BRUNCH 9:00AM-1:00PM 	26	27	28	29	30  <i>God Bless            America</i>	



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

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United We Stand  
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