

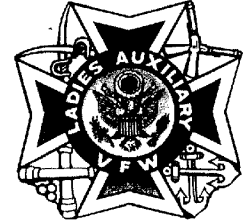
# The John Lyon Gazette

Volume 8, Number 6 -7

December 2001 - January 2002



Veterans of Foreign Wars  
John Lyon Post #3150  
2116 North 19<sup>th</sup> Street  
Arlington VA 22201  
703-525-0108 / fax 703-525-8055  
<http://www.vfw3150.org>



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



*Merry Christmas  
and  
a Happy New Year!*

From all the Comrades and Sisters of  
John Lyon VFW Post 3150 and the Ladies Auxiliary,  
our very best wishes for the Holidays.

This is a double end of the year issue. There will not be a separate issue for January as the newsletter preparation days fall right in the middle of the busiest of holiday seasons.

## *From the Commander:*

INSPIRATIONS IN OUR MIDST: Since September 11, virtually all Americans have pulled together and embraced a unity of purpose and cause. Our enemies have underestimated our mettle and defiant resolve. Even among ourselves, we are continually amazed and impressed at the quiet strength of this great nation – made great by individual peoples who live among us every day – often unnoticed.

As I write this, former Arlington County Board Member Ben Winslow is being laid to rest. Less than a week ago, I let him use a folding chair that I keep in my trunk during his attendance at our joint Veterans Day ceremonies in Clarendon. Although he faltered, he managed to climb the memorial's steps to lay a wreath in remembrance of veterans past and present. Such fortitude and constitution, virtually on one's death bed, are inspirational. Surely his life was complete. Placing the wreath would bring no more accolades to a public life filled with such honors. It was inner strength and a value to American ideals that brought this man to perform one last act of appreciation for his living in this great country that we call the United States of America.

A few days later, I had the honor of escorting Diana Anida, niece of our departed comrade George Mansfield, during his funeral at Arlington National Cemetery. George must have pawned his Eagle, Globe, and Anchor insignia to God in order to requisition such a marvelous Fall day. The mournful dirge of the Marine Corps band and crisp unison of purpose of the two platoons of riflemen, bayonets gleaming in the sun, as they marched majestically through those Gardens of Stone amid the scarlet and gold of autumn was moving beyond words. And Diana marched (yes, "marched" because I kidded her about changing step more than once) behind the caisson drawing George's remains the full distance from the Old Post Chapel to the Columbarium. We all knew George for his iron constitution – fully participating in life despite setback after setback until his last days. As the sole representative of his family, Diana showed that a strong will is just one of George's inspirational traits that he has passed on to his posterity.

In Afghanistan, our forces rescued eight captives of the Taliban in textbook style. While the war is not yet won, the success of our highly trained and superbly motivated uniformed personnel is itself inspirational. We wish them Godspeed.

With former Senator Bob Dole and Coach John Thompson, J. Gary Wagner and I welcomed runners who are crossing the country to earn money for the survivors of the fallen firefighters and police officers in New York City. These runners started in Astoria, Oregon and will end in Manhattan (close enough to Astoria, Queens, I suppose). They, too, are inspirational because they are taking action. So many Americans want to help but don't know how in tangible ways. These runners have shown us a way. Boy Scout troops have shown us another by flocking to the homes of military personnel serving overseas to help with chores such as leaf raking, recycling, and gutter cleaning – things that the uniformed homeowners have had to set aside for the greater good.

Each and every one of you is inspirational as well because you, too, have put aside your comforts and sacrificed for the greater good, donning your country's uniform and going in harm's way. As we thank the nation for such inspirational neighbors and enter into the season of sharing, let us always remember those who inspire us and thank them, be they in the military, public safety or law enforcement. Be they veterans, family members, plain Janes, or average Joes. They are what make this country the finest place to live on earth.

God bless you all and God bless America. I wish each and every one of you a wonderful Holiday season.

M. C. "Connie" Agresti  
Post Commander

**FROM THE AUXILIARY PRESIDENT**

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year

Around the world, more than 3 billion people celebrate Christmas! Our goal is to share the way we celebrate Christmas with people of all religions, cultures and backgrounds. Christmas is ultimately about the celebration of the birth of Jesus and together we can enhance the celebration of the holiday season for everyone.

**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. All the money raised for the quilt will be given to Cancer Aid and Research at the State Convention in June 2002.

The Post members and Ladies Auxiliary will be making our annual Christmas visit to the VA Hospital on the 8th of December. Anyone interested in going be at the Post at 12:30.


**CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PARTY:** The annual Children's Christmas Party is scheduled for Saturday, December 15th from 11:00 A.M. to 1:00 P.M. We are in need of volunteers to prepare food for the event and others to host the Party. There is a rumor that a man in a red suit will be at the party.

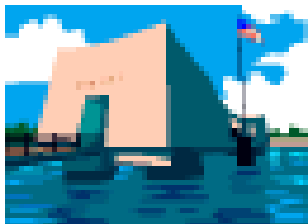
**MEMBERSHIP AT 90%:** Ladies as of this writing the Ladies Auxiliary membership is at 90 percent. If you have not sent in your membership please do. (\$20.00), we only need 13 members to renew to be 100 percent. The calendar year of the Auxiliary is from January 1 to December 31. A member who has paid her dues to December 31 is in good standing. She ceases to be in good standing on January 1 immediately following the year, in which her dues have been paid. She shall not again be in good standing until her dues have been paid for the current year. Please send in your dues before December 31, 2001, so you will remain a member in good standing. You may send your dues and cancer insurance to our Treasurer, Cathy Graham, 9691 Lindenbrook Street, Fairfax, Virginia 22031

On 9 December is our Community Breakfast. Ladies please note the change of date for the Auxiliary meeting. It will be on Tuesday the 18th of December at 7:30 PM.

In January our Community Breakfasts are on the 13th and 27th. Several of the Ladies from the Auxiliary will be making our annual trip to the Mid-Winter Conference in Williamsburg from 18-21 January 2002.

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. Again have a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

  
Cathy Kerns  
Auxiliary President



## **PEARL HARBOR DAY DECEMBER 7, 2001**

### **REMEMBERING DECEMBER 7, 1941**

By Jimmy Lee Wallace  
Commander, VFW Tenth District

On December 7, 1941, the United States Pacific Fleet was at rest in Pearl Harbor, Hawaii. Battleships, cruisers, destroyers, and numerous other craft were nestled in their berths. Nearly 400 aircraft were parked wing-tip to wing-tip on the tarmac.

At 7:55 a.m., that rest and that peace were shattered as the bombers of Imperial Japan launched a cowardly and devastating surprise attack. The attack destroyed or damaged the bulk of the military force defending the Pacific. That attack initiated a war in which hundreds of thousands of Americans died and many more were maimed. At a time when the price of failure was absolute, our soldiers, sailors, Marines and airmen met the challenge and triumphed.

We can be justly proud of America's response to the challenge of Pearl Harbor. The bravery, valor and heroism of the American men and women who donned our nation's uniform in the defense of liberty cannot be overstated. At the same time, we must ask if there are lessons to be learned from the path that led to that day of infamy.

Today, the world again is at war and under attack by terrorists. A world where over 5,000 people were killed at the World Trade Center and the Pentagon. Today, the young men and women of America's military are carrying the torch of freedom in a distant land. Our National Guard walk the halls of our airports. Our military Reserves have been called to active duty to preserve the freedoms we each enjoy. Hopefully, we have learned that the only way to prevent war is to be prepared to fight one. We must never forget Thomas Jefferson's immortal words, "Eternal Vigilance is the Price of Liberty"!

Pearl Harbor Day reminds us that freedom is not free, and that those who sacrificed their lives sixty years ago, did not die in vain. This country must ensure that their memory and heroism will be cherished and honored. We would do well to recall George Washington's wise counsel to his countrymen, "To be prepared for war is one of the most effectual ways of preserving peace." As members of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, we shall ensure that the lessons of that tragic Sunday morning sixty years ago in Hawaii, and again on September 11th not be forgotten. Not today, not tomorrow, not ever!



## Buddy Poppies

**Buddy Poppy Good News:** Buddy Poppy contributions from distribution events at the Pentagon and Fort Myer Commissary netted \$957.41 for the relief fund. Special thanks for Connie Agresti, Bill Schorndorf and J. Gary Wagner who contributed their time for these events.

And thanks to those who, unsolicited, mailed in a contribution to the Buddy Poppy Relief Fund.

**Buddy Poppy Bad News:** Regrettably, a paucity of Buddy Poppy volunteers precluded wide coverage to the community in general. Unless non-officers (i.e., those without conflicting responsibilities) volunteer for Buddy Poppy distribution on Memorial Day - our Relief Fund revenues may suffer from our inability to capitalize on the populous' current desire to support veterans issues.

## Welcome to Our New Members

Welcome to new Post members, Scott Fitzsimmons and John Mayo Jones, elected at the November meeting.

## Buddy Poppy Goes to School

“Dear Ms. Kerns,

Thank you SO much for the poppies. The children were fascinated with them, wore them proudly all day and took them home to share with their families. Even at the young age of six, most of the children genuinely appeared to understand this upcoming holiday. It makes comprehension much more meaningful when the children have something tangible. Also, attached are a few pictures we took during our discussion and a group picture of the children wearing their poppies. Thank you again.

Sincerely,

First Grade Team  
Barcroft Elementary  
11-08-01”

## Ladies Auxiliary Meeting on Tuesday

Ladies Auxiliary 3150 will move their December meeting, as usual in most years, to Tuesday, this year on 18 December at 7:30pm.

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

Ladies Auxiliary 3150 Charter Member Eleanor Twomey Brooks, age 92, widow of Post 3150 Charter Member Thomas Twomey, and mother of 3150 Life Member Thomas Twomey, Jr., on 10 November, buried at Arlington National Cemetery. And Peggy Bassford.

## **Past President Peggy Bassford**

Hazel "Peggy" Bassford, age 82, President of the John Lyon Ladies Auxiliary in 1960-61, died on 11 November after a long illness. She was buried at National Memorial Park in Falls Church, alongside her husband Robert, Past Commander of Post 3150. Peggy held all the chairs in the 3150 Ladies Auxiliary --- and often several times to keep her auxiliary strong --- as well as the Tenth District Ladies Auxiliary where she worked her way from Guard to Senior Vice President. She was also active in American Legion 85 Ladies Auxiliary and was Chaplain for a number of years. Peggy was dedicated to veterans, firemen and policemen. One of her recent efforts, upon hearing of the need for flashlights for the Pentagon rescue efforts in September, was to search her house for flashlights to donate and to pay for batteries to fill them all. (Thanks to Patricia Jurgensen for much of this information.)

## **Christmas Hospital Visit**

The yearly Christmas visit to the VA Hospital Nursing Home in Washington, DC is scheduled for Saturday 8 December. John Lyon members will meet at the Post Home 12:30 pm and proceed to the hospital with small presents and other goodies for the residents. Still looking for something to do after 11 September? You are encouraged to join in this most rewarding event and help bring a smile to the face of our veterans at the home.

## **Sunday Brunch**

Sunday Brunch will be served at the Post Home from 9 am to 1 pm on both the 9<sup>th</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> of December this year.

## **Post By-Laws to Be Revised**

Post Members should have received a letter and copy of the proposed Post By-Laws --- only three or four have returned by the Post Office. The By-Laws will be voted on at the December Post meeting, 13 December, 8pm. All Post members are urged to attend the meeting and vote on the By-Laws and any last minute changes. One of the articles covers annual Post dues and will set them at \$25 per year to reflect a change in dues made the National Convention in August. Post dues have been \$20 for a number of years.

## **Post Dues Expected to Climb to \$25**

Reflecting a change in dues Post 3150 is charged by National for each annual member, Post dues are expected to climb to \$25 early next year if the proposed Post By-Laws pass and are approved by National. If you have not renewed yet, beat the change and renew now! Post annual members should have received a renewal notice from National Headquarters. If you did not receive a renewal form or no longer have it, you can renew by sending a \$20 check to the Post Home. Mark check "2002 dues".

## **Tenth District Meeting**

The VFW Tenth District Meeting will be held on Sunday, 9 December, at Woodbridge Post 7916 in downtown Occoquan. Meeting will begin at 2 pm. All VFW members are invited to attend. The District Ladies Auxiliary does not meet in December.

## **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 danger. However, an individual has created a website for this purpose if you're in the mood to write to "any service member". It is: <http://www.anyservicemember.org/>

## VFW National Home Report

So far this year, the John Lyon Post and Auxiliary have sent in approximately 330 Campbell's labels to the National Home for Children, almost as many as we sent in all of last year. This is great work, however, I want us to go even further --- let's DOUBLE our label contribution! These labels are used to purchase educational and recreational material for the children. Please continue to save all your Campbell's, Swansons, Pepperidge Farms, etc., labels/UPC/lids and drop them off in the drop box at the Post home the next time you come by the Post. If you can't make it to the Post, you can send them to me at the Post address: 2116 North 19<sup>th</sup> Street, Arlington VA 22201. Let's keep these labels coming!!!

Jodie LaFreniere-Dajc  
Chairman

## Community Disaster Recovery Project

Rob Wheeler and Luke Roan, of *Project Resilience: Community Disaster Recovery*, recently addressed members of the Post and Ladies Auxiliary. "Many people were directly or indirectly affected by the September 11th tragedy. Every resident and employee in Arlington County is responding in various ways to this ongoing terrorist crisis. Most reactions to the attacks are normal responses to an extremely abnormal situation. The goal of **Project Resilience** is to provide outreach services at no charge to the people of Arlington County in the wake of the events on and after September 11, 2001. *Project Resilience* is operated by the Arlington County Community Services under a grant from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)." Since it was the Pentagon, in our own backyard, that was one of the targets on 11 September, we --- our families, friends, and co-workers --- may be especially susceptible to this after event stress, essentially a PTSD. ANYONE who would like some help dealing with this disaster is urged to call 703-228-4788. Wheeler and Roan also left some pamphlets at the Post. Stop by and pick one up.

## A John Lyon Hello...

To Jim Beem and Marie Gibadlo, both currently ailing, and to those of the John Lyon family currently taking CIPRO treatments.

## Toys for Tots

The annual Post Toys for Tots party will be held in the late afternoon of Sunday 16 December. Members are invited to bring unwrapped toys to the Post for this annual event for underprivileged children. The US Marine Corps Reserve organization will also accept checks made out to them. With their purchasing power, this is often a better way to contribute as they can obtain more toys per dollar donated.

## Children's Christmas Party

The annual Christmas Party for children of low ranking enlisted personnel at Fort Myer is scheduled for 11 am to 1 pm on Saturday, 15 December. Santa promises a visit while the children and their parents have lunch and play games. Santa's helpers are always needed. Come down and join in the fun!

## VFW in Virginia: Legislative "Day on the Hill"

The VFW Department of Virginia will hold its annual "Legislative Day on the Hill" in Richmond on Thursday, 17 January 2002. All members are encouraged to attend this important event and address issues of importance to the Veteran community with the Commonwealth's legislators. Check the VFW Virginia website for additional information. Anyone who would like to become involved in legislative matters, at the Department and/or National level, John P. McAnaw, Fairfax VFW Post, E-Mail: JPMTOG29@AOL.COM, Telephone (703) 978-3371.

## Pearl Harbor Day Ceremony Friday, 7 December, 7pm

# Recent Activities Around the Post



Richard Baxter and Kevin Pappas, the Oldest and Youngest Marines present, make the first cut into the cake during ceremonies celebrating the U.S. Marine Corp's 226<sup>th</sup> Birthday. Baxter is father of 3150 Ladies Auxiliary member Joni Repasch. Pappas is a policeman from Virginia Beach and was one of the visitors to the Post over Veterans Day weekend.



John Lyon Ladies Auxiliary members recently placed a Buddy Poppy wreath at the memorial site near the Pentagon in memory of the victims of the 11 September attack on the five-sided building. Above, Cathy Graham, Cathy Kerns, and Elsie Weeks place the wreath amid the many flags and other items left by well-wishers.



Post 3150's Jim Kerr, again the National Representative of Veterans of World War I, addressed the fourteen Allied Nations from World War One during the Military Order of the World Wars ceremonies at the Arlington National Cemetery graveside of General John J. "Black Jack" Pershing on Veterans Day.



Cathy Kerns, Barbara Brickhill, Eric Skrzypczak, and Joe Weeks are among the John Lyon members who helped prepare and deliver the Thanksgiving baskets for young enlisted personnel at Fort Myer. The baskets included a turkey and all the fixings for a Thanksgiving dinner.



# Veterans Day at John Lyon



Post Commander Connie Agresti and Ladies Auxiliary President Cathy Kerns prepare to lay a wreath at the “John Lyon” Memorial in Cherrydale on Veterans Day while other 3150 members look on.



Some of the John Lyon members pause after wreath laying ceremonies on Veterans Day at the Clarendon War Memorial. Left to right are Jack Turner, J.Gary Wagner, Joe Weyraugh, Gail Hoffman, Joy Van Horn, Connie Agresti, Vivien Parker, Jodie LaFreniere-Dajc, Cathy Kerns, Marci Anderson, Dolly Lyles, Ruth Rodier, Bobby Lyles, and Juanita Diggs.



As in recent years, Post 3150 was again host to a number of visiting veterans during Veterans Day weekend. Above, Charlie Swensen and Joe Panzardi from Queens, New York, dig in to the Sunday Brunch buffet. In addition to the individual visitors were folks from the groups Operation Arlington Ridge and AOL Vets --- and the 3<sup>rd</sup> Marine Recon Battalion who buried, in Arlington Cemetery, the repatriated remains of three Marines and a Navy Corpsman killed in Vietnam.



Among the visitors to the Post were Nikki Mendicino, a student whom Pennsylvania Governor Tom Ridge honored last spring with a Medal of Commendation and who entranced the group one evening; USMC General Davis; the mother of Thomas P. Noonan, a Medal of Honor recipient in Vietnam; and two lady Marines from World War II!



# December 2001








Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
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						1
2 POST HOME CHRISTMAS DECORATING 	3	4	5	6	7 PEARL HARBOR DAY 	8 CHRISTMAS HOSPITAL VISIT AT 12:30PM
9 VFW DISTRICT MEETING - 2:00PM AT WOODBRIDGE  SUNDAY BRUNCH 9:00AM 1:00PM 	10	11	12	13  POST MEETING 8:00PM 	14	15 BASKETS AND CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PARTY 11:00AM - 1:00PM 
16 TOYS FOR TOTS 	17	18 AUXILIARY MEETING 7:30PM 	19	20	21  FIRST DAY OF WINTER!!	22
23 SUNDAY BRUNCH 9:00AM-1:00PM 	24	25  CHRISTMAS DAY	26	27	28	29
30	31  NEW YEAR'S EVE					

# January 2002

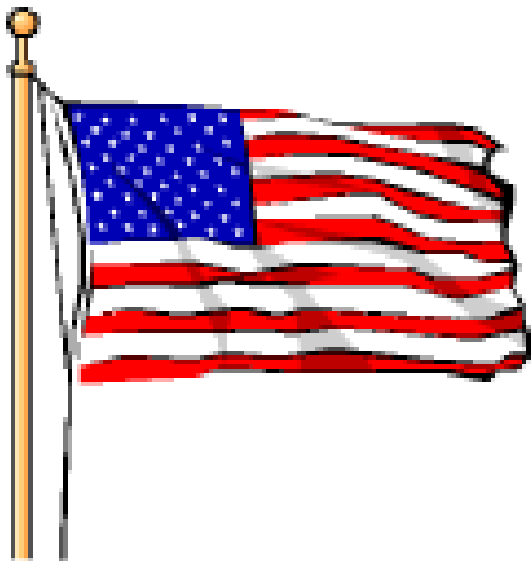
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		<p>1</p> <p>NEW YEAR'S DAY HAPPY NEW YEAR!</p> 	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	<p>10</p> <p>POST MEETING 8:00PM</p> 	11	12
<p>13</p> <p>POST-AUX PLANNING SESSION 2:00PM SUNDAY BRUNCH 9:00AM - 1:00PM</p> 	14	15	16	<p>17</p> <p>VFW DAY IN THE HILL IN RICHMOND</p>  <p>AUXILIARY MEETING 7:30PM</p>	18	19
<p>20</p> <p>WINTER COUNCIL AND CONFERENCE MEETING IN WILLIAMSBURG</p>	<p>21</p> <p>MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. HOLIDAY</p>	22	23	24	25	26
<p>27</p> <p>SUNDAY BRUNCH 9:00AM - 1:00PM</p> 	28	29	30	31		



**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