

The John Lyon Gazette

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May 2002

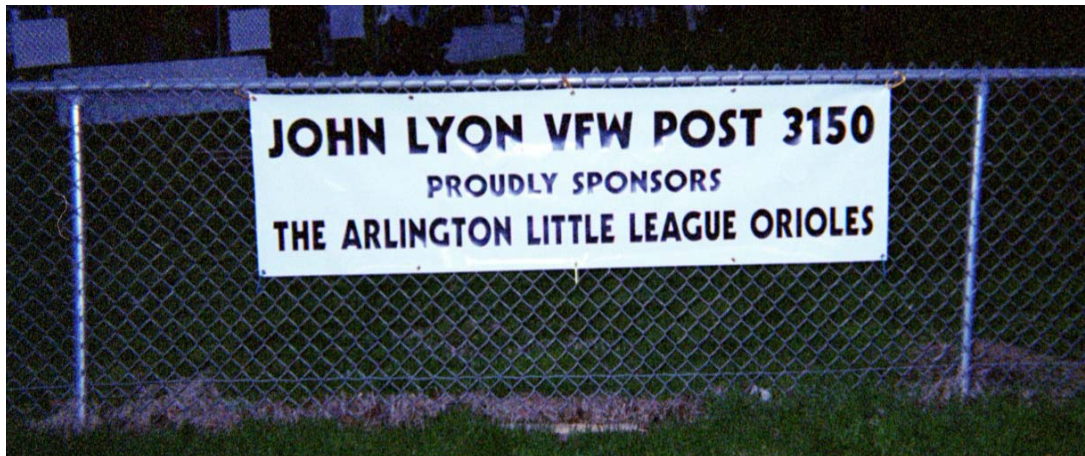


Veterans of Foreign Wars
John Lyon Post #3150
2116 North 19th Street
Arlington VA 22201
703-525-0108/fax 703-525-8055
<http://www.vfw3150.org>



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



The back fence of the Barcroft Field on opening night announces the fact that John Lyon Post is a sponsor of the Arlington Little League Orioles, a team selected because of its local appeal. Commander Connie Agresti, representing all veterans, was introduced mid-field along with other "Home Town Heroes" --- active duty parents of Little Leaguers, Arlington Police Officers, and Ft. Myer Firefighter Alan Wallace. Right, Commander Agresti presents a check to Dan van Ness of the Arlington Little League organization.

The Orioles are in the Majors 1 League (10 - 12 year olds). As we go to press, the Orioles are 4 - 3 for the season. Two Majors 1 All Star Teams compete in tournaments which ultimately lead to Williamsport and the Little League World Series. See schedule inside. More info at <http://www.vita.org/all/>



From the Commander:

Ladies Auxiliary President Cathy Kerns reminded me the other evening that the May meetings would be the last that we would preside over as Commander and President. Because the Department Convention was moved up this year, when we return, Richard and Gail Hoffman will lead John Lyon. I know that you'll support them as steadfastly as you supported Cathy and I.

I can only hope that they have the same success as did we this year, without the turmoil. And what a tumultuous year it has been. I don't think any of us ever dreamed of the Pearl Harbor-esque attacks that befell our nation in September. The resurgent patriotism is heartwarming but highlights the years of ignorance and complacency that preceded this event. The VFW has a continued mission to educate our fellow citizens.

I know that all of us are appreciative of the newfound respect for veterans and the sacrifices that they and their families endured (and continue to endure) in preserving the cherished freedoms that we enjoy. We received anonymous gifts of flowers, plants, Christmas trees, and other tidings throughout the year from citizens thanking us for our service. We received donations of taxi vouchers from Red Top Cab (not to mention their courtesy transportation of needy families to/from the Children's Christmas Party). Both the Post and Auxiliary were featured in their respective magazines and we were the lead mention on a 10-minute video shown to all attendees at the Washington Legislative Conference.

Memorial Day weekend is a natural finale for an incredible year and we expect to serve as a FOB (forward operating base) for veterans from across the nation again this year. The Arlington Neighborhood Day parade is two weeks before Memorial Day, however, on May 11. If any year since the end of the Vietnam War (the 27th anniversary of which occurs within days of the parade) called for a large showing of veterans to march in this parade, this is the year. I would really like to see as many Vietnam vets as possible march and receive their long overdue "Welcome Home". Please join us for this one-mile (downhill) event. (See related article elsewhere in this newsletter).

We are always seeking volunteers for helping at the post over Memorial Day weekend. Any and all help would be appreciated. Remember to fly your flag at half staff on May 15 (Peace Officer Memorial Day) and until noon on May 27 and 30 (Memorial Day (observed and traditional)).

M. C. "Connie" Agresti
Post Commander

Department Convention

The VFW and Ladies Auxiliary, Department of Virginia will hold its annual convention 6 - 9 June 2002 in Richmond. The host hotel for the meeting is the Sheraton, 6624 West Broad Street, Richmond, VA 23230; Phone: 1-804-285-2000.

FROM THE AUXILIARY PRESIDENT

REMEMBERING MEMORIAL DAY

Memorial Day, originally called Decoration Day, is a day of remembrance for those who have died in our nation's service.



John Lyon Post 3150 Auxiliary officers for the 2002-2003 year were nominated and elected at our April meeting. The following members were elected to the following positions: President Gail Hoffman, Senior Vice President Jodie LaFreniere-Dajc, Junior Vice President Marian MacIntyre, Treasure Cathy Graham, Chaplain Ginny LePage, Conductress Barbara Brickhill, Guard Juanita Diggs, One-Year Trustee Margaret Dozier, Three-year Trustee Cathy Kerns. The following Ladies were appointed by President-elect to service in the following positions: Secretary Jeannie Gibaldo, Patriotic Instructor Connie Conen, and Historian J.C. Hotter. Also on the 2002-2003 team is Two year Trustee Elsie Weeks. Installation of Officers will be held Friday Night, 17 May at 7 PM. Dress will be the normal white blouse with blue skirt or slacks.

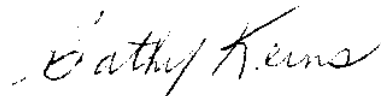
On 11 May John Lyon Post and Auxiliary will be participating in The Arlington County Neighborhood Day and Parade. We will be marching in the parade. Any Ladies who want to participate please be at the Post at Noon. We will be dressed in blue slacks and white blouses. We also will be handing out buddy poppies.

Memorial Weekend activities start with the Grave Decorations on Saturday 25 May at 9 am. On Sunday 26 May will be Sunday Brunch. On Monday 27 May we will observe Memorial Day with a Wreath Laying Ceremony at John Lyon Memorial and also a Wreath Laying Ceremony at Clarendon War Memorial, along with the American Legions posts in Arlington. Please look on the calendar for the times that they are scheduled to happen.

May activities at the Post this month: Wednesday 1 May is Loyalty Day. Sunday 12 May is Mother's Day Brunch. The post members will be serving this breakfast and 26 May we will have community breakfast from 0900-1:00 pm. On 16 May is our Auxiliary meeting at the Post at 7:30 pm. On 18 May is Armed Forces Day. If any member can help out at any of the breakfasts please let me know, even if it is for a couple of hours.

On 20 April the Ladies Auxiliary held an Estate Sale. I want to thank all the ladies that help out with setting up, pricing and selling for the sale. I would like to say a special thank you to Tommy Saunders and Winky Gordon for helping bringing down the items to the post for the sale. The sale was a great success.

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

Hoffman and Hoffman Elected; Installation Scheduled

Richard R. Hoffman and Gail Hoffman were elected as Post 3150 Commander and Ladies Auxiliary President, respectively, for the coming year during April elections. See below for complete election results. Installation of these officers and their staffs will be held at the Post home on Friday, 17 May at 7 pm. All members, family, and friends are invited to attend. A reception will follow the ceremonies.

Post Officer Elections

The April Post meeting saw the following elected for officer positions for the next year:

Commander: Richard R. Hoffman
Senior Vice Commander: J.Gary Wagner
Junior Vice Commander: Eric D. Anderson
Quartermaster: Kenneth H. Jansen
Chaplain: Gregory E. Moscatel
Advocate: Joseph V. McGrail
Surgeon: Mark M. Pando
Three Year Trustee: M.C. "Connie" Agresti

Ladies Auxiliary Officer Elections

The April Ladies Auxiliary meeting saw the following elected for officer positions for the next year:

President: Gail Hoffman
Senior Vice President: Jodie LaFreniere-Dajc
Junior Vice President: Marian MacIntyre
Treasurer: Cathy Graham
Chaplain: Virginia LePage
Conductress: Barbara Brickhill
Guard: Juanita Diggs
One Year Trustee: Margaret Dozier
Two Year Trustee: Elsie Weeks
Three Year Trustee: Catherine A. Kerns

Appointed Positions:

Secretary: Jeanne M. Gibadlo
Patriotic Instructor: Connie Conen
Historian: J.C. Hotter

The new officers assume their duties when the new state officers are installed at the end of the state convention in Richmond in June.

Hoffmans: First 3150 Husband- Wife Team in 27 Years

Richard and Gail Hoffman bring back an early John Lyon tradition which has lain dormant for 27 years. The last time a husband-wife team served concurrent terms as Post Commander and Ladies Auxiliary President was 1975-76 when Andre and Margaret Receveur held the positions. Other husband and wife teams include Jim and Martha Tingler (1974-75), Gary and Paula Miller (1973-74), Dr Raymond and Margy Markle (1963-64), Robert and Peggy Bassford (1961-62), George and Dottie Moran (1958-59), Harold and Lucy Ebersole (1951-52) George and Virginia Dalby (1947-48), and William and Loretta Burnett (1934-35).

Trustee To Be Elected

With his election as Quartermaster, Ken Jansen has resigned his position as Two Year Trustee. This position will be filled by election at the next meeting. Joe Weeks was nominated at the April meeting. Additional nominations may be made at the May meeting when this election will be held.

Welcome to Our New Members

Welcome to new Post members, Richard L. Edwards (Life), Joseph S. Hollcroft (Life), Jesse F. Owens (Life), Frederick V. Reed (Life), Edward F. Youngs (Life transfer), Shawn M. Tart, and Bennie A. Vanhooose, elected at the April meeting.

And welcome to our new Military Initiative Program (MIP) members. A MIP is a qualifying person on active duty or active reserve/guard status which the VFW offers a free membership for a year. While officially assigned "at large" status, these members will be free to associate with John Lyon Post after that year. These new members are: Waymond Arnett, Matthew A. Bucholz, David P. Corso, Anthony S. Gallegos, Daniel P. Jenkins, Lemar Jones Jr, Denny Lawton, David J. Mackinnon, Cameron A. Manning, Dennis J. Murphy, Cartone D. Nelson, Jere P. Norman Jr, James J. Parent, Broderick J. Peters, George H. Semper Jr, Jeffrey L. Slisbee, Rudolph B. Smith, Douglas Tom, Joseph A. Whaley, James B. Whelan, Michael P. Witcher, Randolph Zollicoffer.

Neighborhood Day Parade

Saturday, May 11 is Neighborhood Day in Arlington County. John Lyon Post and Ladies Auxiliary will provide Light-a-Bike, Buddy Poppies, and Flag literature to our fellow citizens.

We will also be marching down Wilson Boulevard in the parade that begins at 2 pm. With 435 Post members (and 132 in the Ladies Auxiliary) we hope for a great turnout. Marchers may wear comfortable walking shoes (e.g., sneakers) for the parade. There will be no dress code for parade participants except that attire should be neat and respectful of the organization, your service, and yourself. If you want to wear a suit or sports cost – fine. If it's a hot day and you want to wear shorts – fine. If you want to wear a fatigue jacket/vest with your ribbons or medals – fine. Miniatures, large medals, ribbons – any and all are fine. If you want to wear your uniform (those of you who can still fit into it) – fine. VFW caps, or any VFW insignia, are always appropriate. Meet at the Post 12:00 - 12:30.

Please provide a rough count of participants by the May 9 Post meeting. You may phone the Post (703-525-0108) if you want to participate and can't attend the meeting. We will have a full color guard, to include the Post's rarely seen but newly cleaned Springfield rifles.

Beware of Scam Veteran Organizations

As with prior years, we expect con artists to utilize telemarketing to solicit donations around Memorial Day for official sounding but fictitious veterans organizations. The Better Business Bureau has recently identified some of these organizations that have refused to disclose this IRS required paperwork to qualify as a 501(c)19 non-profit veterans organization. Names such as American Veterans Coalition and American Veteran's Network solicit millions of dollars on behalf of veterans and refuse to disclose to whom they provide those funds. When in doubt, stick with the Big 3 – VFW, American Legion, and Disabled American Veterans (DAV).

PLEASE let us know when you move!

HELP THE BUDDY POPPY TEAM!

John Lyon members will be distributing Buddy Poppies over Memorial Day weekend plus the week leading up to the holiday. There will be some assembled kits available in the Post Home. If you are able to help out for several hours, sign-up and pick up a kit in the Post home or contact Commander Agresti for additional information.

Happy Mother's Day

Happy Mother's Day to all of our Mothers and wives! Wherever you are, you are close to our hearts.

Sunday brunch will be served on Mother's Day, 12 May, from 0900 - 1300. Members of the Post will take over as waiters to give some of our favorite ladies a well-deserved break from their normal routines. Bring your favorite lady and join us.

District Convention

The Tenth District Convention will be held at 1 pm on 19 May at Dale City Post 1503 (14631 Minnieville Road, Dale City VA 22193, 703-670-4124). All Post and Ladies Auxiliary members are invited to attend. Various awards are expected to be presented and / or announced and District elections and installations will be held. Several John Lyon Post and Auxiliary members are running for office.

Cancer Aid and Research

Donations for Cancer Aid and Research are being accepted by the Ladies Auxiliary during May and early June for presentation during the Department Convention in June. If you care to donate, send your check to Treasurer Cathy Graham at the Post address.

Fire Destroys Members' Home; Fuse Box Blamed

Fire mostly destroyed the home of John Lyon members Jim and Muriel Sue Kerr recently. The fire began in the fuse box just before the couple was about to leave the house to run errands. Several of the screw-in fuses seemed to explode and sent flaming missiles through the basement. The flames quickly spread through the house and what did not burn was severely affected with either heat or smoke damage. They are currently staying with her parents while the house is being rebuilt. Post 3150 donated \$1000 and the 3150 Ladies Auxiliary \$500 to help the Kerrs with the rebuilding and rehabilitation expenses. Jim is the Department Diversity Chairman and the Department of Virginia and several District Ten posts have also donated funds. Any members who would like to help out might send a contribution to the Kerrs at 8311 Riverside Road, Alexandria VA 22308. The Post Office is holding their mail for daily pickup.

The Kerrs suggest that anyone who lives in a 20 year-old or older home which has screw-in fuses should have the fuse box checked by an electrician. Jim reminds us that this would also be a good time to check and update your insurance coverage.

Arlington Littler League Orioles Schedule

| | |
|--------------|----------------------|
| 4 May 3:00 | 30 May 5:30 |
| 6 May 7:30 | 1 Jun 7:30 |
| 11 May 11:00 | 3 Jun 7:30 |
| 13 May 7:30 | 6 Jun 5:30 |
| 15 May 5:30 | 8 Jun 7:30 |
| 21 May 5:30 | 10 18 Jun Tournament |

Games are at Barcroft Field No 1, on South Four Mile Run Drive, next to DMV.

Canteen Tidbits...

Some food service will be available every afternoon or evening throughout the Memorial Day Weekend. Volunteers needed.

Marching off...

William Lee Cowell, on 1 April 2002; husband of Ladies Auxiliary member Deborah L. Cowell. Bill retired from the Arlington County Police Department several years ago. He was buried in Queen City, Missouri.

Buddy Poppy

Enclosed you will find a Buddy Poppy with the compliments of John Lyon Post and Ladies Auxiliary. Wear it proudly over Memorial Day weekend. If you care to donate to the Relief Fund, an envelope is enclosed for your convenience. All such funds go to support veterans, their widows and orphans.

Armed Forces Day, 18 May

Andrews AFB will host the Armed Forces Day Open House again this year. The date is 18 May for the general public. Parking will be at Fed Ex Field where security screening will be done prior to allowing visitors to board buses to Andrews.



Kindergarten Thank You

Kindergarten students at Lincolnia Private Day School, where Karina Maddox is a teacher, expressed their thanks to the Post for the donation of 12 classroom flags. The cards, which feature American flags, soldiers, eagles, etc., have been on display in the Post home (above) where they have garnered an appreciative response.

Recent Events Around the Post



<< Among the visitors to Post 3150 during the VFW National Community Activities Conference were our “old friends” from the Department of Connecticut: left to right: Ron Christopher, Department Historian; Bob Stevens, Past Department Commander; Carol Johnson; Bob Cornell, Department Homeless Chairman; JoAnn Cyr; Richard “Bird” Cyr, National POW/MIA Vice Chairman; and Woody Woodbury, Past Department Commander.

Commander Connie Agresti >>> and Richard Hoffman sign-up a soldier in the VFW’s Military Initiative Program (MIP) for qualifying active duty and reserve personnel at the recent Corporate Gray Job Fair. The effort produced 17 MIP members for the VFW and 2 new Life members for Post 3150.



<<< Ladies Auxiliary members Wauleah Ellison, Muriel Sue Kerr, Elsie Weeks, and Joannie Repasch check out a tea pot and cup while pricing items offered at the yard sale of items donated from the estate of Past President Peggy Bassford.

WYOMING May 2002

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|-----|-----------------|----------------|----------------|-----------------|---------------|-----|
| | | | 1 BBQ RIBS | 2 CHILI MAC | 3 SEAFOOD | 4 |
| 5 | 6 PORKCHOPS | 7 MEATLOAF | 8 BBQ RIBS | 9 CHILI MAC | 10 SEAFOOD | 11 |
| 12 | 13 PORKCHOPS | 14 MEATLOAF | 15 BBQ RIBS | 16 CHILI MAC | 17 SEAFOOD | 18 |
| 19 | 20 PORKCHOPS | 21 MEATLOAF | 22 BBQ RIBS | 23 CHILI MAC | 24 SEAFOOD | 25 |
| 26 | 27 | 28 MEATLOAF | 29 BBQ RIBS | 30 CHILI MAC | 31 SEAFOOD | |

April

| | | | | | | |
|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| S | M | T | W | T | F | S |
| | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
| 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 |
| 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 |
| 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 |
| 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 | | | |

May

| | | | | | | |
|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| S | M | T | W | T | F | S |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 |
| 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 |
| 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 |
| 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 |
| 29 | 30 | 31 | | | | |








SANDWICHES ALSO AVAILABLE
LUNCH AT POST 3:50 11AM - 3PM



May 2002



| | | | | | | |
|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|

| | | | | | | |
|---|--|----|---|--|--|---|
| | | |  1 LOYALTY DAY | 2 | 3 | 4 VFW LADIES AUXILIARY NATIONAL PRESIDENT'S VISIT AT DALE CITY 6:00PM |
| 5 | 6 NURSES' DAY | 7 | 8 |  9 POST MEETING 8:00PM | 10 | 11 ARLINGTON COUNTY NEIGHBORHOOD DAY AND PARADE MEET AT POST AT 12:30PM |
|  12 MOTHER'S DAY SUNDAY BRUNCH 9:00AM - 1:00PM | 13 | 14 | 15 |  16 AUXILIARY MEETING 7:30PM | 17 | 18 INSTALLATION OF 2002 - 2003 POST & AUXILIARY OFFICERS 7:00PM |
| 19 10th DISTRICT CONVENTION AT VFW 1503 DALE CITY 1:00PM | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 |  24 GRAVE DECORATIONS 12:30PM |  25 GRAVE DECORATIONS 8:30AM |
| 26 MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND SUNDAY BUFFET BRUNCH 9:00AM - 1:00PM |  27 MEMORIAL DAY CEREMONIES AT CHERRYDALE AT 11:00AM CLARENDON AT 1:00PM | 28 | 29 "PARTNERS IN EDUCATION" AWARDS AT ARLINGTON CAREER CENTER AT 5:30PM | 30 | 31 | |

Memorial Day 2002



Left, the grave of a Post 3150 comrade and his wife on Memorial Day weekend. The tombstone is marked by the American flag and a pair of John Lyon wreaths during last year's holiday weekend. Post 3150 and Ladies Auxiliary members place a John Lyon wreath on the graves of members and their families in Arlington National Cemetery, Columbia Gardens, and National Memorial Cemetery during Memorial Day weekend.

Post 3150 Memorial Day Weekend Schedule 24 - 27 May

Fri: 12:30 pm: Meet at Post for Columbia Gardens and National Memorial Cemetery graves decoration.

Sat: 8:30 am: Meet at Post for Arlington Cemetery graves decoration.

Sun: 9 am - 1 pm: Special Buffet Brunch
4 - 7 pm: Post Cookout (tentative: volunteers needed)

Mon: 10 am: Principals meet at Post
11 am: "John Lyon Memorial", Cherrydale
1 pm: Clarendon War Memorial

Throughout: Buddy Poppy Distribution