

The John Lyon Gazette

Volume 9, Number 5

November 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

Veterans Day 2002



20th Anniversary of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial

On March 26, 1982, 100 Vietnam veterans, at the same time, dug into the earth on the National Mall to break ground for the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, D.C. In the following months, the black granite memorial took form with the names of those who were killed or remain missing in action. It was dedicated on a cold November 13, 1982. In later years, two statues were added to the area, the first with three soldiers looking out over the wall, and the second, with three nurses with a wounded soldier waiting in anguish, possibly for a med-evac. With 4.4 million visitors each year, "The Wall" remains the most-visited memorial in the nation's capital. A number of ceremonies are planned this year over Veterans Day weekend to mark the twentieth anniversary of its dedication.

From The Commander...



The Month of November is a wonderful month. Fall is in full swing, all the colors of autumn are creating those wonderful photo opportunities. November gives us birthdays to celebrate, candidates to elect, remembering those we served with, and giving thanks.

The month begins with a hospital visit on the 2nd. We will be leaving the Post home at 12:30. Join us in spreading a little cheer with the veterans at the VA hospital.

Election day, this year is the 5th. It's that time again to exercise our constitutional right to choose those we would have represent us in our city halls, state assemblies and our US Congress. Be sure to Vote on November 5th.

November 10th we celebrate the 227th birthday of the United States Marine Corps. As most of you know, I am proud to claim the title as United States Marine. On this day I look forward to calling my Brothers throughout our great land to wish each of them a Happy Birthday. With some, it has become a challenge to see who calls whom first. So many times my phone rings shortly after midnight on the 10th. This day is also a great day for our John Lyon Post home and family. Each year we have many friends and members of the post return for this annual celebration. This year I expect to see all of our friends from the AOL chat room NamVets and Arlington Ridge Association to name a few.

Veterans Day, many think it is a day for parades and speech making. For me it is a solemn day of Remembrance, the day we forego our normal activities to honor and remember our brothers and sisters in arms. It is a day to remember those heroes for their ultimate sacrifice. A sacrifice most of us will never forget. We will never forget their smile during the happy times and their tears during the sad times. Please take a moment to remember those special people on Veterans Day. Tell someone about that special person, tell him or her why you cannot forget this person, share your buddy with someone. Remember your buddy.

Thanksgiving Day, our nation's day set aside to share with family and friends. To stuff not only the turkey but ourselves as well. It is the one day each of us can throw the diet out the window, gorge on all those pies. This year the Auxiliary President and myself will be opening the Post Home for those of you who wish to share this day with your Post and Auxiliary family. We would love to have you join us in this day of giving.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Richard Hoffman". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Richard Hoffman

From the Auxiliary President...



The month of November officially begins the holiday season. It is a very busy month for both the Post and Auxiliary as we gear up for our national holidays and community service activities.

November 5th is Election Day. This is your day to exercise your right to choose your candidate of choice. Do not think that your single vote cannot make a difference. Your voice deserves to be heard and this is the opportunity to prove it.

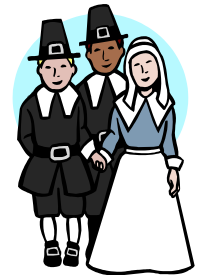
November 11th is Veterans Day and one of the most important of holidays to our organization. Pause to pay tribute to our veterans on this day. Check the calendar for the Post/Auxiliary events and times for this prestigious day.



Our membership early bird lottery ended with October. Hopefully, you are one of the lucky ones who renewed in time to be eligible for our free life membership at our November meeting. We will also have a drawing for free membership dues for the 2003 – 2004 year. I think it is important to let those continuous members who have not yet renewed or life members who have not paid your cancer insurance, that December 31st is the deadline in order to ensure that you have coverage under our cancer insurance program. After that date, you can still participate in the program, but due to the break in coverage, you will be required to wait a year before you can be eligible for the benefits offered by this program. Please do not let this happen to you --- renew or pay your cancer insurance now to ensure continuous coverage.

Regarding our membership, we only need 7 additional members in order to meet our 100% Banner requirement. Thanks to everyone who has come forward to bring us this far. I am excited to report that we are further along in our membership statistics than we were in previous years.

The Post/Auxiliary will be hosting dinner on Thanksgiving Day. All are welcome to stop by and have dinner with our Post and Auxiliary family. A sign-up sheet will be available at the Post Canteen for those wishing to participate. Additionally, we will be preparing our Thanksgiving Baskets for enlisted personnel families from Fort Myer. This is one of our most rewarding community service programs. Check the calendar for the date and time when we will be preparing our baskets and stop by to assist; you won't regret the time spent.



Don't forget our annual Quilt Raffle that is underway. All proceeds from this raffle are donated to Cancer Aid and Research. Please contact Cathy Kerns at 703-979-5268 if you are interesting in participating in this most worthwhile event. The drawing will be held Thanksgiving Day.

Our thoughts and prayers are extended to anyone who may be under the weather or who has suffered a personal loss. Also, we send warm wishes to all of those who will be celebrating another milestone in their annual trek through life.


Gail Hoffman

From the Senior Vice Commander:

Congratulations to the seven winners of the recent Life Membership drawings held during the Early Bird Dinner. (See story elsewhere in this issue.) Post 3150's Life Membership has grown from 283 to 307 since the first of July. Thanks to everyone who has jumped in. As a veteran of the "renewal wars" for a number of years, I can assure you this action is most welcome and will provide benefits to your post for a long time to come. And, of course, YOU the Life Member will benefit as well: No more notices in the mail, no more checks to write. You will probably save money in the long run. And you automatically qualify for the Early Bird Dinner every year. Additionally, I want to thank EVERYONE who qualified for the drawings. A record 87 members qualified for the drawings this year. This means that our membership for the year is now at 383 or about 92%. We are within reach of that 100% marker, which is the one absolutely essential requirement for the Post's attaining All-State status for the year. Thanks to all who have renewed already or joined this year.

If you have not sent in your dues for the year 2002-2003, please dig out your checkbook and send it in to the Quartermaster, Ken Jansen. If you have not received a renewal notice for 2002-2003, send a check to Post 3150 for \$23. Write "2002-2003 Dues" in the lower left corner. Send it to the Post mailing address on the front page of this newsletter.

Thanks again to all of you "Early Birds"!

J.Gary Wagner
Senior Vice Commander/Membership Chairman

Thanksgiving Baskets

Post and Ladies Auxiliary members will prepare Thanksgiving baskets including turkeys and all the trimmings necessary for a festive holiday dinner for junior enlisted personnel at nearby Fort Myer. The preparations will begin at 11:30 am on Saturday, 23 November. Delivery to Fort Myer will follow. Come join in with this spirit of Thanksgiving.

From the John Lyon Past...

From *The Alexandria Gazette*, 20 November 1934,
page 2:

"Foreign War Veterans To Install Officers

"CLARENDON, VA --- John Lyon Post, No. 3150, Veterans of Foreign Wars, recently organized in Arlington County, will be installed at a special meeting in Moose Hall in Clarendon at 8 o'clock tonight. The post is named for the late John Lyon, a native of Arlington County.

"The exercises will be conducted by O.W. Hallingsworth, past department commander of the District of Columbia. Among the guests will be Commander Millard Finnell, of Russell Mitchell Post, No. 609, of Alexandria, and Owen Creegan, department chief of staff of the Russell Mitchell Post. Permanent officers of the post will be elected at the December meeting."

Marching off...

Steven J. Facsko Jr, 50, in Jackson Hole, WY on 22 September 2002. Steve was Post Adjutant about 1990. He was a retired Navy Chief and Vietnam veteran. As press time, Steve was to be buried in Arlington National Cemetery on 25 October. We have also learned of the deaths of Life Member and Korean War veteran Robert Carella, in Houston. He was a Marine Corps Gunnery Sergeant. Social Security Death Index lists date of death as October 1987 in Houston, TX. His widow confirms his death. And Life Member Orval D. Goff, 88, World War II South Pacific veteran who died in September 2000 in Daytona Beach, FL, according to the Social Security Death Index.

Also recent 3150 Ladies Auxiliary member Frances Terlecky, on 14 October.

In case of illness or death, please notify the Post Commander or Adjutant or Ladies Auxiliary President or Secretary. The Post address / phone number are shown on the front page.

Welcome to Our New Members

Welcome to new Post members, Michael "Mickey" Pessagno, Joseph Pfau, John Kinczel. And to new Ladies Auxiliary members, Tatyana Cobb, Lola Kane, Bernadette Pessagno, Cecilia Pfau, and Michelle Van Horn, all elected during the respective October meetings.

A John Lyon Hello ...

...and congratulations to Thomas C. Wasko, recently promoted to Lieutenant General in the U.S. Air Force, and named Commander, U.S. Forces Japan, and Commander, 5th Air Force; to James Conen, recently promoted to Captain in the U.S. Navy; and to Billy Lowder. And a cheery hello to ill Billy Bierlein; to Ruthie Rodier, down with a fractured hip; and to Audrey Sartain, also currently under the weather.

Lowder Inducted in Hall of Fame

Post 3150's Billy Lowder was one of ten inducted persons into the Greater Washington Fast-pitch Softball Hall of Fame. The banquet, which he attended with a number of his friends, was held at the Bolling AFB NCO Club on 19 October. Bill was recognized as an excellent pitcher with dozens of no-hitters in his earlier years, and for being a manager for a very successful team thereafter. The teams played in Northern Virginia, Wheaton, and at Guy Mason over 25 years. He also pitched in two Central Atlantic Major Regional Tournaments. Following his playing and coaching days, Bill continued his support with his sponsorship of local teams. Congratulations, Billy!

Reminder to Members

Members of both the Post and the Ladies Auxiliary are reminded to show their membership cards to the on-duty manager when entering the Post home. Membership remains a privilege to be guarded. **And** ABC Rules require it!

VFW Life Membership Drawings

A record 87 members qualified for the Post 3150 Life Membership drawings by joining or renewing their memberships for the year 2002 - 2003 by the annual Early Bird Dinner. There were at least two members in each age group. From oldest to youngest, those members whose names were drawn during the Early Bird Dinner, and who will be receiving a free VFW Life Membership, are:

Group A: James J Flannery, Arlington VA

Group B: George D Clark, Nichols SC

Group C: Michael J Scotti Jr, Arlington VA

Group D: Donald H Kingsford, Arlington VA

Group E: James "Rock" Higgins, Glassboro NJ

Group F: Clifton "Pete" Diegel, Alexandria VA

Group G: Donald K Gordon, Arlington VA

Donald Gordon "went Life" this summer. He was reimbursed his payment.

A Tattered Old Flag?

If your flag, or one of your neighbor's, is getting a bit ragged and torn after flying for a year or so, and you don't know what how to dispose of it properly, bring it by the Post home. We are currently collecting old flags for proper retirement.

VFW Membership Qualifications Modified by Congress

"On October 16, 2002, President Bush signed HR 3838 into law (Public Law 107-242) which amends the charter of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States organization to make members of the Armed Forces who receive special pay for duty subject to hostile fire or imminent danger eligible for membership in the organization."

For further information, see the Department of Virginia webpage at <http://www.vfw-virginia.com>.

Post Birthday, 20 Nov

VFW Post 3150 will mark 68 years of service to the community and veterans, as well as camaraderie for its members, on Wednesday, 20 November. A cake cutting at 7:30 pm will highlight this special day. All members of the Post and Ladies Auxiliary are invited to join in.

Joe Pollicino Honored by VFW

Joseph G. Pollicino, a Post 3150 life Member currently living in Loudonville, NY, was one of the veterans selected by the VFW to attend the 20th anniversary ceremonies for Vietnam Veterans Memorial. The VFW, through the Kahle Fund, will bring over fifty Vietnam veterans who received a Purple Heart to the anniversary activities in Washington, DC, November 9-12, 2002. Joe will represent the state New York at the ceremonies.

Friday Night DJ

Friday nights will continue to feature "DJ Rich" and his new music machine.

Post Benefit Dinner Raises \$2000

A special dinner to raise funds for the Northern Virginia Hospice in Arlington raised about \$2000 for the hospice. The dinner was the idea of the family of Ileata Marsden, late mother of 3150 Ladies Auxiliary member Jo Ann Jansen. The Post and the family made donations in addition to donations and receipts from the dinner, adding up to the \$2000 total.

Nov 1 Taco Night

The 3150 Ladies Auxiliary will again host a Taco Night on Friday, 1 November from 5:30 to 6:30 pm. Members may also wear their Halloween costumes and dance to DJ Richard who will feature Latin Music for your dancing pleasure. A signup list is available in the Post or you can call 703-525-0108 to add your name to list.



Senior Vice Commander J.Gary Wagner and Commander Richard Hoffman recently presented 650 special safety-oriented trick or treat bags to our neighboring Key Elementary School. In the center, principal Marjorie L. Myers and two of the students accept the silver reflectorized bags with Halloween pictures and a safety message from John Lyon post. The trick or treat bags were also available in the post to families of 3150 members and neighbors.

U.S. MARINE CORPS BIRTHDAY 10 November 2002 8 pm

Legislative Update

Concurrent Receipt is still a matter under consideration. You are urged to contact your Congressmen and Senators. The Gunnery Sergeant John Basilone postage stamp is making progress, according to Project Coordinator Jordan Jaffe. She writes "History is in the making... a Resolution sponsored by NJ Senator Jon Corzine honoring Gunnery Sergeant John Basilone has finally gone to the floor. This means that it is now in the Congressional Record and there is a Resolution Number. Please email or write your US Senator and ask them to support S CON. RES. 154. Email and snail mail addresses for your Senator can be found at <http://thomas.loc.gov>."

House Committee

Nominations for the House Committee were made at the Post meeting in October. They are as follows:

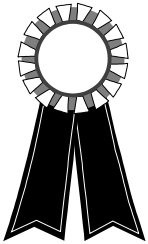
Three year member: Carl Colon
George O'Connell
Two year member: Jim Bertine
One year member: Jim Griswold
John Walls



Happy Thanksgiving

The Post will be serving Thanksgiving Dinner from 12 - 5 on Thursday, 28 November. Call the Post for reservations.

Nominations remain open until the November meeting when elections will be held.



Be a Winner

Vote!
Tuesday, 5 Nov

Hospital Visit Scheduled

John Lyon plans to visit the Washington VA Hospital Nursing Home on Saturday, 2 November. Meet at the Post at 12 noon to carpool.

November 2002

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Lunch Specials

Sunday Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday Friday Saturday

					1 Seafood	2
3	4 Baked Chicken	5 Spaghetti	6 BBQ Ribs	7 Pepper Steak	8 Seafood	9
10	11 VETERANS DAY	12 Meatloaf	13 BBQ Ribs	14 Chili Mac	15 Seafood	16
17	18 Baked Chicken	19 Spaghetti	20 BBQ Ribs	21 Pepper Steak	22 Seafood	23
24	25 Pork Chops	26 Meatloaf	27 BBQ Ribs	28 THANKS- GIVING DAY	29 Seafood	30

Lunch Served 11 to 3 Monday - Friday

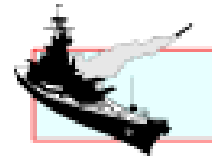
Also available: various deli sandwiches, etc.

Veterans Day 2002

VFW Post 3150 Veterans Day Weekend Schedule

Fri 8 Nov Cold Platter, DJ Music
Sat 9 Nov Finger Food, DJ Music
Sun 10 Nov 9 - 1 Sunday Brunch
4 - 7 Cookout
8pm USMC Birthday Cake Cutting
DJ Music
Mon 11 Nov 11am John Lyon Wreath Laying,
Cherrydale War Memorial
1pm Clarendon War Memorial,
Clarendon War Memorial
3 - 6pm Cookout
DJ Music

**The Travel Channel Presents:
“The Vietnam Veterans Memorial:
Wall of Courage”
Monday, November 4 at 9pm ET/PT**



20th Anniversary of The Wall Veterans Day Events

November 6 1 p.m. - 11 p.m.
Musical Tribute to Vietnam Veterans

November 7 3:30 p.m.
Opening Ceremony - Reading of the Names

November 7 4 p.m. - midnight
Reading of the Names

November 8 5 a.m. - midnight
Reading of the Names

November 9 5 a.m. - midnight
Reading of the Names

November 10 5 a.m. - midnight
Reading of the Names

November 11 1 p.m.
Annual Veterans Day Observance at The Wall

(from Official schedule of events)

A MUSICAL TRIBUTE TO VIETNAM VETERANS

A Musical Tribute to Vietnam Veterans will be held on November 6, 2002 from 8 a.m.-12 a.m. near The Wall (on the Reflecting Pool steps at the Lincoln Memorial). The 16-hour event is slated to include performances by several professionals including rock & roll band Paul Revere and the Raiders, Irish tenor John McDermott, Washington, D.C. singer/songwriter Bill Danoff (Take Me Home, Country Roads) and Massachusetts boy-band Vohx.

VETERANS DAY AT THE WALL

More than 20,000 Vietnam veterans and their families are expected to attend the Annual Veterans Day Observance at The Wall on Monday, November 11 at 1 p.m. The event is co-hosted by the Memorial Fund and the National Park Service.

This year's special guests include Lt. General Claudia Kennedy, USA (Ret.) and The Wall's architect Maya Lin. President of the United States George W. Bush has been invited to give the keynote address. Memorial Fund President Jan Scruggs will serve as the event's Master of Ceremonies.

Recent Service Birthdays at John Lyon



U.S. Army Birthday

<<< Peggy Varney and Herman Cruz prepare to make the first cut in the cake during the celebration marking the U.S. Army's birthday. From the right, Commander Richard Hoffman and President Gail Hoffman look on.

Air Forces Birthday

Part of the Air Force membership presents Commander Richard Hoffman with a new framed print featuring Army Air Force B-17s, during Air Forces Birthday. To the right of Hoffman are Jim Proels, J.Gary Wagner, Greg Moscatel, and Sam Lane. The print now hangs in the Post home. The Air Forces Birthday traditionally remembers those from the Army Air Corps and Army Air Force as well as U.S. Air Force.



U.S. Navy Birthday

<<< John Lyon members of the Navy gathered near the cake to celebrate the U.S. Navy Birthday. From the left are "Doc" Crouch, Eric Anderson, George O'Connell, Shirley McAlhaney, "Dutch" Reade, Cathy Graham, Joe Weyraugh, and Post 9274's Jay R Schrand.



You earned it.

Now...

Exercise your Right to Vote

On Tuesday, 5 November






November 2002

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
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*As we Celebrate the Season of Thanksgiving,
let us pause and remember
the Service and Sacrifice
of all Veterans and active duty personnel
who have fought to defend our Freedom!*

 TACO NIGHT 5:30PM-8:30PM  "MUSIC BY RICHARD"	1	 HOSPITAL VISIT 12NOON -12:30PM	2
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3	4	5  ELECTION DAY	6	7	8 VETERANS DAY WEEKEND OPEN HOUSE   "MUSIC BY RICHARD"	9 VETERANS DAY WEEKEND OPEN HOUSE   "MUSIC BY RICHARD"
 10 U.S.M.C. BIRTHDAY BUFFET BRUNCH 9:00AM-1:00PM BUFFET DINNER 4:00PM-7:00PM	 11 VETERANS DAY SERVICES AT 11:00AM & 1:00PM COOKOUT FROM 3:00PM-6:00PM	12	13	 14 POST MEETING 8:00PM	 15 "MUSIC BY RICHARD"	 16 VOICE OF DEMOCRACY CONTEST JUDGING 2:00PM
17	18	19	20	 21 AUXILIARY MEETING 7:30PM	 22 "MUSIC BY RICHARD"	23 THANKSGIVING BASKETS PREPARATION AND DISTRIBUTION 11:30AM
 24 SUNDAY BRUNCH 9:00AM-1:00PM	25	26	27	 28 THANKSGIVING DINNER NOON-5:00PM	 29 "MUSIC BY RICHARD"	30



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

Dated Material Please Do Not Delay



Lt John Lyon
2 April 1893 – 16 October 1918

Happy 68th
Birthday

John Lyon Post
3150

20 November 1934