

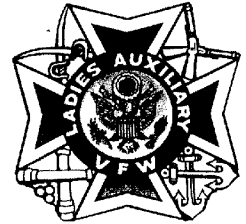
# The John Lyon Gazette

Volume 9, Number 10

April 2003



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

## VFW Post 3150 in 2003

The VFW celebrated its Centennial year several years ago: we can trace the evolution of our military personnel from the days of the Spanish-American War to today's modern soldier, sailor, airman, and Marine. A recent tally of Post 3150's membership shows that, on the whole, we are well represented across the board. We lost our last World War One member several years ago; about one quarter of our current members have qualified since Vietnam vets came home. Considering the relative size of the different branches of the services, we are fairly well represented there, too. With some members in more than one service or war, the count of the current membership, shows that we were in the...

Army	187	Korean Service	21
Navy	107	Libya	3
USAF (including AAC,AAF)	59	Grenada	2
USMC	70	Beirut / Lebanon	10
USCG	3	El Salvador	1
		Panama	2
		Persian Gulf / Desert Storm	55
		Haiti	1
World War II	90	Somalia	1
Post War Europe	17	Bosnia / Kosovo	5
Post War Asia	4	Afghanistan	1
Korean War	50	Other Navy Ops	5
Taiwan Straits	2		
Dominican Republic	2		
Cuba	3		
Vietnam / Southeast Asia	198	Above includes eight women:...	
Korean Expeditionary	4	World War II & Occupation	3
		Desert Storm / Persian Gulf	5

## *From The Commander . . . .*



I'm writing this on March 21<sup>st</sup> to meet my editors' deadline requirements. By the time this newsletter hits the press I'll be far away and will not return until March 30<sup>th</sup>. I made that point because of the current events occurring today. Our country's finest young men and women are in harm's way once again. Most of the membership has been there in one way or another and we all remember what it was like. I watched in profound amazement as our armed forces carried out their respective assignments. Each of us, regardless of our political affiliation or views on the war, has to be proud of the professionalism displayed by our troops. The awesome responsibilities placed on the shoulders of 19, 20, and 21 year old men and women is incomprehensible. I found the following poem, the author I do not know, but I thought you would like to read it.

I am a small and precious child,  
my dad's been sent to fight...  
The only place I'll see his face,  
is in my dreams at night.  
He will be gone too many days  
For my young mind to keep track.  
I may be sad, but I am proud.  
My daddy's got your back.

I am a caring mother.  
My son has gone to war...  
My mind is filled with worries  
that I have never known before  
Everyday I try to keep  
my thoughts from turning black.  
I may be scared, but I am proud.  
My son has got your back.

I am a strong and loving wife,  
with a husband soon to go.  
There are times I'm terrified  
in a way most never know.  
I bite my lip, and force a smile  
as I watch my husband pack...  
My heart may break, but I am proud.  
My husband's got your back...

I am a soldier... Serving proudly, standing tall.  
I fight for freedom, yours and mine by answering this call.  
I do my job while knowing, the thanks it sometimes lacks.  
Say a prayer that I'll come home. It's me who's got your back.

Please keep our troops in your prayers for their safekeeping and early return home.  
God bless our troops and God bless America!



Richard R. Hoffman

## *From the Auxiliary President.....*



As I write this newsletter we are at war and we have already incurred casualties. These are difficult times for our county and military personnel. Please remember our troops; but even more remember the families and loved ones left at home as “duty to country” is put before “duty to family”. They can certainly use our thoughts and prayers during these difficult times. May the cause be swift, and our troops safe, in their call to duty.

We are in the final stretch of our Auxiliary year. We have successfully completed all our programs and I would like to thank the Auxiliary members for all their assistance in making this happen. Due to your hard efforts, we have had a glorious year of which we can be proud.

There is one task remaining, which is my special project for this year. We are attempting to raise money for our annual donation to the Cancer Aid & Research program. We have had several fund raising activities throughout this year. We also have some upcoming events in support of this program. The Auxiliary will be hosting our annual “Crab Cake Dinner” on April 4<sup>th</sup>. Additionally, we will be hosting a bake sale at our April 13<sup>th</sup> Sunday Brunch. Proceeds from these two events will also go to Cancer Aid & Research. Please stop by and enjoy good company and good food while contributing to a worthwhile cause.

At our March meeting, we elected a new member to our Auxiliary family. I would like to welcome Dorothy Oxendine to our Auxiliary. Dorothy has been a member of the Gold Star Mothers for many years and decided to join the Ladies Auxiliary. I feel especially blessed that she has chosen our Auxiliary to call home.

Be advised that we have changed the date of our April meeting. In order to allow our members to observe Holy Thursday, we will be holding our meeting on Wednesday, April 16<sup>th</sup> at 7:30. Our April meeting is very important in that it is our meeting where we elect officers for the new year. If you are interested in holding a position and will not be able to be present at the meeting, you need to submit a letter of acceptance prior to the meeting. Please attend this important meeting and help elect and support our 2003 -2004 officers.

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

## Post Officer Nominations

The 14 March meeting of the Post included the following nominations for officer positions for the next year.

Commander: J.Gary Wagner  
Senior Vice Commander Eric D. Anderson  
Junior Vice Commander:  
Gregory E. Moscater  
Quartermaster: William G. Wolverton  
Chaplain: Stephen H. Cobb  
Advocate: Eric A. Skrzypczak  
Joseph V. McGrail  
Surgeon: Mark M. Pando  
Three Year Trustee: Richard R. Hoffman  
Three Year House Committee:

Post nominations remain open. Further nominations may be made at the April meeting when elections will be held.

The Ladies Auxiliary will nominate and elect in April. All new officers assume their duties when the new state officers are installed at the end of the state convention in Richmond in June.

## Arlington Little League Eyes Season Opener

Post 3150 will again sponsor a Majors 2 team in the Arlington Little League, this year our team will be the Pirates. Opening Night is scheduled for 4 April at Barcroft Field No 1, on South Four Mile Run Drive, next to DMV. Ceremonies begin at 7 pm with the first game at 7:30

The schedule of games is not available as we go to press. It will be available in the Post and you can also check the Little League website at [www.arlingtonlittleleague.org/](http://www.arlingtonlittleleague.org/)

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**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, Donald Coleman, John Green, William Heavey, Charles McKenzie, John Kirsch, Richard Patton, and new Ladies Auxiliary member, Dorothy Oxendine, all elected at February and March meetings. Mrs Oxendine is the National President of the Gold Star Mothers.

## GI Bill Legislation Introduced

“House Veterans' Affairs Committee Chairman Chris Smith has introduced HR 1212, the Veterans' Education Affordability Act. Chairman Smith has drawn upon the enormous success of the original WWII GI Bill and its appeal in transitioning veterans into the workforce through additional education and training.

“Improving the GI Bill has long been a VFW priority goal. This legislation is a good step towards fulfilling VFW Resolution 625 which calls for a GI Bill for the 21st Century, one that will pay for the full costs of attendance at any college or university of a veterans' choosing.

“HR 1212 would: Increase the educational benefit from \$985 to \$1200; and Eliminate the \$1200 reduction in pay required for a service member to gain eligibility for the MGIB.

“Last year Congress enacted PL 107-103, which significantly increased the MGIB benefit, but according to recent data furnished by the College Board, the current benefit only provides about 60% of the costs of attending a public university.

“For more information about the bill, go to: <http://thomas.loc.gov/cgi-bin/bdquery/z?d108:h.r.01212>”

(From the 19 March 2003 edition of *VFW Washington Weekly*)

## Safety Reminder

Change smoke detector and fire alarm batteries on April 6, in conjunction with the change to Daylight Savings Time.

## ***From the John Lyon Past...***

The 13 April 1951 edition of *The Northern Virginia Sun*, included the following story:

### **“V.F.W. Will Sponsor A-Bomb Exhibit Here**

“An exhibit entitled ‘The Deadly A-Bomb’, being shown under the auspices of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, will be presented in Arlington Sunday, Monday, and Tuesday, April 15-17 by John Lyon Post, V.F.W.

“The mobile exhibit, mounted in a special custom-built trailer, is one of several units making a national education tour under the direction of the Veterans of Foreign Wars.

“On display are the British and Russian conceptions of the A-Bomb. The exhibit will be located in front of the Community Drug Store in Shirlington Sunday, April 15, and will be open 9:30 a.m. to 9:30 p.m.

Monday and Tuesday, April 16 and 17, the exhibit will be in front of Penney’s Store on Wilson Boulevard in Clarendon. No admission is charged. Donations will be accepted gratefully and will be use in the service and welfare work of the V.F.W.”

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

To Sister Linda (Neher) LaMarca and husband Tony, proud parents of a new baby; and to Ralph Gladmon, John Green, and Andy Receveur who have recently been in the hospital; to Moses McCray who was recently profiled in the *Arlington Sun Gazette* (13 March 2003) and Bill Mea, profiled in *The Washington Times* business section (17 February 2003); and last, but not least, to Rita Beatty who has departed the Arlington area for her family home in New York. Rita, we will miss you!

A Special “John Lyon Hello” to Mike Hoiness, State Junior Vice Commander, who suffered a stroke in Washington during the recent conferences. He remains in the hospital at press time. Please remember him, our failing members, and our troops in your prayers.

## **Karaoke on 4<sup>th</sup> Friday**

The “Infamous J.P.” brings his Karaoke machine to the Post on the fourth Friday of every month. He will play for your singing and listening pleasure from 7 - 11 pm. Come by and find “your song” in his vast collection and let out your inner Celine Dion or Elvis Presley. Next date is 25 April.

## **Highway Cleanup Scheduled**

Highway Cleanup is scheduled for Saturday, 26 April. Meet at the Post at 8:30 am for coffee and doughnuts. Wear long pants and hard-soled shoes. The Post has gloves, brand new safety vest, and levered pick-up sticks for those of us who find bending over a lot is a sure way to some stiff joints and a sore back. With a good turnout, we can be done in about 90 minutes. Come help us earn those “Adopt-a-Highway” signs on Lee Highway.

## **Crab Cake Dinner 4 April**

The 3150 Ladies Auxiliary will sponsor a crab cake dinner on Friday, 4 April from 5 – 8 pm. Proceeds will go towards Cancer Aid and Research. Reservations are required. Call 703-525-0108 or drop by the Post to sign up. See last month’s newsletter for more details.



*Happy Easter*

## President Authorizes Medals for War on Terrorism



### 27 April – 3 May National Volunteer Week

**Joins us for Highway  
Cleanup on Saturday,  
26 April**

A presidential executive order authorizes the Department of Defense to create two new military medals for service in the Global War on Terrorism (GWOT). The GWOT Expeditionary Medal will recognize servicemembers who participate in an expedition to combat terrorism on or after Sept. 11, 2001. This is limited to those who deploy as part of Operation Enduring Freedom. The GWOT Service Medal will recognize service in military operations to combat terrorism on or after Sept. 11, 2001. This is limited to Operation Noble Eagle and to those servicemembers who provide support to Operation Enduring Freedom from outside the area of eligibility designated for the GWOT Expeditionary Medal. Specific eligibility for these medals will be established by DoD award policy. For more information, see <http://www.defenselink.mil/news/Mar2003>

April 2003

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Lunch Specials

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 Meatloaf	2 BBQ Ribs	3 Pepper Steak	4 Seafood	5
6	7 Baked Chicken	8 Spaghetti	9 BBQ Ribs	10 Pepper Steak	11 Seafood	12
13	14 Pork Chops	15 Meatloaf	16 BBQ Ribs	17 Pepper Steak	18 Seafood	19
20	21 Baked Chicken	22 Spaghetti	23 BBQ Ribs	24 Pepper Steak	25 Seafood	26
27	28 Pork Chops	29 Meatloaf	30 BBQ Ribs			

Lunch Served 11 to 3 Monday - Friday  
Also available: various deli sandwiches, etc.

# Recent Events Around the Post



<<< Commander Richard Hoffman (right) presents one of the first VFW “Support Our Troops” posters to 3150 member Steve Cobb. Color posters are available in the post --- or you can download and print one from the Internet ([www.vfw3150.org](http://www.vfw3150.org) and [www.vfw.org](http://www.vfw.org)). A black and white one with a blank reverse side is available in this issue.

Eric Anderson and Ken Jansen prepare a plate >>> of corned beef and cabbage for the St Patrick’s Day dinner at the Post. About 60 Irish and Irish-for- a-day folks turned out for the annual mid-March holiday dinner.



<<< Commander Richard Hoffman (left) presents a check to Marc Baas of Key-Science Focus Lightning Soccer. The post has assisted the soccer club associated with the Key and Science Focus Elementary Schools for several years. The funds help the club with safety and sports equipment, team shirts, fees for disadvantaged students, and other costs in running the program.



# Washington Conference



<<< Post 3150's State VOD Winner, Lee S. Hagy, (center) is congratulated by (l to r) State of Virginia Commander Larry Mattera, Commander in Chief Ray Sisk, Ladies Auxiliary National President Betty Morris, and Ladies Auxiliary State of Virginia President Patricia Baldwin during the Parade of Winners at the recent Community Service / Legislative Conference held in Washington. Lee's essay came in 26<sup>th</sup> out of a field 54 department winners and he received a \$1500 scholarship award from National Headquarters for his efforts.

A number of the Department of Virginia >>> officers and committee chairman attended Sunday brunch at Post 3150 at the beginning of the recent Community Service / Legislative Conference. Enjoying their breakfast are (l to r) Hal Roesch, State Awards-and-Citations and Hospitality Committees, 3150's Connie Agresti, Military Assistance Program Chairman, Peter M. Snelling, State Senior Vice Commander, and Tom W. Hines, State Judge Advocate.



## VFW Commander-in-Chief Testifies

During the Community Service / Legislative Conference, "...VFW Commander-in-Chief Ray Sisk testified before the House and Senate Veterans' Affairs Committees. Calling on Congress to keep its promise and commitment to our nation's sick and disabled veterans, Sisk laid out the VFW's priority goals for VA as well as our unwavering support for our men and women in the military.

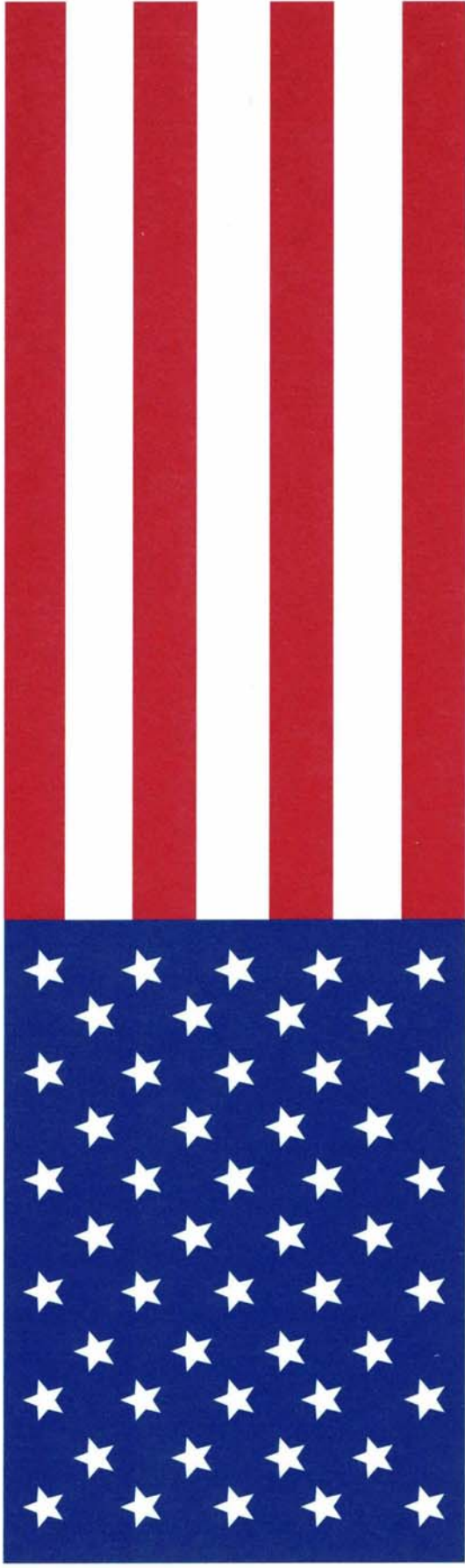
"In his strong statement, the Commander-in-Chief reiterated the VFW's voice in ensuring only the highest quality health care for all veterans. "No veteran should be left behind due to the breakdown in the budget/appropriations process. Clearly the

efforts to meet the demand have failed, leading VA to suppress demand by some veterans in order to ensure access for others." Another VFW top priority is funding increases for military quality of life programs - pay, housing, health care and education. Sisk also mentioned the growing concern for members of our Guard and Reserve as they face increasing demands with back-to-back activations and frequent deployments.

To read the Commander-In-Chief's testimony go to: <http://www.vfwdc.org/nls/Testimony/2003/sisk.htm>

(From the 19 March 2003 edition of  
*VFW Washington Weekly*)












**SUPPORT OUR TROOPS**

Flag courtesy of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States

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# April 2003

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	
		1	2	3	 LADIES AUXILIARY CRAB CAKE SUPPER 5:30PM - 8:00PM	5	
 DAY LIGHT SAVING TIME BEGINS	7	POST OFFICERS' CALL 7:30PM  HOUSE COMMITTEE MEETING 8:00PM	9	 POST MEETING AND ELECTIONS 8:00PM	11	12	
SUNDAY 13 BRUNCH AND AUXILIARY BAKE SALE 9:00AM - 1:00PM  PALM SUNDAY	14	 TAX DAY	 AUXILIARY MEETING AND ELECTIONS 7:30PM	17	 GOOD FRIDAY	19	
 EASTER SUNDAY	21	22	ADMIN PROFESSIONAL'S DAY 	24	 ANZAC DAY AUSTRALIAN VETERANS DAY	 HIGHWAY CLEAN UP 8:30AM	26
SUNDAY 27 BRUNCH 9:00AM - 1:00PM  NATIONAL VOLUNTEER WEEK	28	29	30	<p><i>Don't Forget</i>  <b>National Volunteer Week</b>  <i>April 27th - May 3rd.</i>  <b>Please Volunteer!</b></p>			

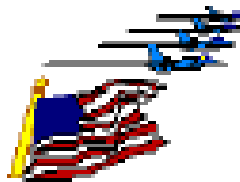


**JOHN LYON POST # 3150**  
**'All American Post'**  
**Veterans of Foreign Wars**  
**2116 North 19<sup>th</sup> Street**  
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