

The John Lyon Gazette

Volume 10, Number 11

May 2004



Veterans of Foreign Wars
John Lyon Post #3150
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The John Lyon Gazette: Winner of 1999 and 2003 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, 2003; Best Newsletter in the Nation, 1999



World War II Memorial Dedication 29 May 2004

The finishing touches were being placed on the World War II Memorial on a sunny day late in April. The dedication of the memorial is scheduled for Memorial Day weekend.

“Together We Soar”

From the Commander:

The post has nearly 90 members who served in World War II. And twice that many are your sons who served in Vietnam. We turn and salute you, and send you our best wishes --- even our congratulations: To all members of “The Greatest Generation” as you or your representatives gather in Washington at the end of the month to dedicate the memorial erected in your name. We --- your sons and grandsons --- will join with you as you pause to remember those who did not return home with you, and those who longed to see this day but have gone on before you. We know they will be looking down over your shoulder and will be pleased to find this collection of stone and bronze and water a fitting remembrance of the sacrifices that they --- and you --- made as well as the victory you secured for the world some sixty years ago. We wish you a fitting weekend of remembrance, a little melancholy, and even greater joy. You clearly deserve it.

* * *

My sincerest thanks to all who recruited new and reinstated members this last year, all who helped get members renewed, and all those who renewed, or joined, and those who answered the call at the end of the membership year and got themselves renewed. Because of ALL of your efforts, the post again met its goal of 100% and a few more. This will place John Lyon in good stead for the following year and get the Post and our new commander, Greg Moscatel, off to a fine start. Again, alas, we lost eleven of our members to “Post in the Sky” and some others have moved away and transferred to posts near their new homes. As my old commander told me before I transferred into 3150 some years ago, “If it is better for the VFW, than do it.” We can hope these transfers will be better for the VFW. At any rate we will have to replace those members next year to reach our goal. We everyone’s help we can do it. Thanks, again, for “doing it” this year!

Finally, note that Saturday, 1 May is “Loyalty Day”. The VFW pointed out last year that “Loyalty Day originally began as ‘Americanization Day’ in 1921 as a counter to the Communists’ May 1 celebration of the Russian Revolution.” Over the years, it attracted attention of patriotic Americans and became “Loyalty Day” in 1949. Even though the Communist threat has mostly disappeared, threats to America have reappeared, most visibly since 11 September 2001. It remains appropriate for us to pause on 1 May and remember our freedom and the threats to it, and recommit ourselves to loyalty to America.

And congratulation to Greg Moscatel, Cathy Graham, and all the officers elected for 2004-2005!

J.Gary Wagner

A lighthearted tip of the hat to our “Greatest Generation”:





From the President

Greetings all! I hope this letter finds you all well and in good spirits. The end of this month heralds the traditional summer season, which I, for one, am looking forward to.

As Memorial Day approaches, we need to stop a moment and reflect on the sacrifices made on our behalf by so many dedicated people, both past and present, who have served this nation. This Memorial Day weekend will bring many of our usual out-of-town guests into the Post, so if possible, be sure to stop by and catch up with them. The sacrifices of the “Greatest Generation” will be recognized over the Memorial Day weekend, for this year will bring about the dedication of the World War II memorial. There will be many WWII veterans in town that weekend; some may also stop by the Post. For our part, we will keep our open-house tradition going strong with cookouts, a special buffet brunch, and numerous other activities. We will also lay wreaths at the John Lyon and Clarendon War Memorials on May 31st. Please see the calendar for all the details of the weekend’s activities.

May is a fairly busy month. In addition to all the Memorial Day weekend activities, May 8th is Arlington County Day. In past years Post and Auxiliary members have marched in the parade to the cheers and admiration of Arlingtonians lining the parade route. If you can, please try to attend or march in the parade! District convention will be on May 16th at Post 1503, in Dale City. This heralds the start of the wrap up of the 2003-2004 year and the ushering in of new leadership.

Speaking of new leadership, congratulations to the newly elected officers of the Post and Auxiliary! I have had a fantastic year as President...it has been memorable in so many ways. I know that Greg Moscatel and Cathy Graham will lead the Post and Auxiliary to new, auspicious heights in the upcoming year. The upcoming year’s Auxiliary corps is quite strong and dedicated, which I know will lead the Auxiliary to great success in the new Auxiliary year!

To start Cathy’s year off on a great note, I highly encourage all annual members to consider renewing early! I’d love to see Cathy march into Department Convention with fabulous early bird membership numbers!!! Remember, the cost is only \$25 to renew your annual membership. Or, you may want to consider a life membership. The cost varies depending on age; most Auxiliary officers can give you information on the cost, just call the Post and leave a message.

Jodie

Moscater & Graham Elected; Installation Scheduled

Gregory Moscater and Catherine Graham 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 Saturday, 1 May at 2:00 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: Gregory E. Moscater
Senior Vice Commander: Stephen H. Cobb
Junior Vice Commander: Thomas R. Kane
Quartermaster: TBA
Chaplain: Ralph Huston
Advocate: M. Conrad Agresti
Surgeon: Mark M. Pando
Three Year Trustee: C.D. "Doc" Crouch.
One Year Trustee: Eric D. Anderson
Three Year House Com.: John Lundquist

Ladies Auxiliary Officer Elections

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

President: Catherine Graham
Senior Vice President: Karen Stewart
Junior Vice President: Elsie Weeks
Treasurer: Gail Hoffman
Chaplain: Barbara Brickhill
Conductress: Ruth Rodier
Guard: Marian McIntyre
Three Year Trustee: Jodie LaFreniere-Dajc
Two Year Trustee: Giselle Cruz

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

Installation 1 May

Installation of new officers of the Post and the Ladies Auxiliary will be held at 2 pm on the afternoon of Saturday, 1 May. Please come by and offer your support for the team elected to lead our organizations through the next year. A buffet supper will follow the ceremonies.

Post Seeks Quartermaster

As two candidates for the position of Post Quartermaster had to decline due to job requirements, the Post continues to seek an individual for this important position. The Quartermaster is the Post financial officer and safeguards the post's funds. All members are urged to look at themselves to determine if they could devote a year to Post 3150 in this important position. Contact the J.Gary Wagner or Greg Moscater if you can serve John Lyon or you seek additional information.

Buddy Poppy Distribution

VFW and Ladies Auxiliary volunteers are desperately needed to distribute Buddy Poppies on Friday and Saturday, May 28/29, at the Fort Myer Commissary, Exchange, and Package Store. A photo ID is required for access to Fort Myer. (Anyone who would help out but doesn't want to go to Fort Myer, can distribute poppies at a local Arlington location.) Buddy Poppy collections are the primary source of funds for our depleted Relief Funds. Bags of 200 poppies and 2 cans will be available at the Post. Membership and Community Service literature will also be available. The bags will also contain a copy of the Garrison Commander's approval letter which must be retained while on Fort Myer. Please mark all cans with your name, location, and date; and return the cans to the Post no later than 11 June.

Remember we're distributing the poppies, not selling them. We only accept donations. Thank you to all volunteers.

From the John Lyon Past...

Three Arlington girls win State “Buddy Poppy Queen” Title

“The 1949-1950 sales of 186,840 Buddy Poppies had scored an increase of 46,320 poppies over their 1948-49 volume. Arlington Post 3150 was for the second successive year credited with the sales winner of the Department Contest, Miss Sue Calkins, who was crowned ‘Buddy Poppy Queen’ by Committee Chairman Woodell at the (state convention) Memorial Service.” (p. 262). For 1947-48, “In selling for Arlington Post 3150, Miss Patricia Kerns had led in sales volume and earned the distinction of Department ‘Buddy Poppy Queen.’” (p. 252). Earlier, in 1944-45, “Arlington Post 3150 placed third (in the state) with its distribution of 13,000 poppies. The champion sales girl, Miss Lois Dorsette, hailed from Arlington and won the honor of ‘Buddy Poppy Queen’ and companion prize of \$25.00.” (p. 191). The naming of a “Buddy Poppy Queen” --- or “King” --- was discontinued following the 1949-1950 year. (p. 263). (*The History of the Department of Virginia - Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States 1919 - 1969: A Half-Century of Veteran Service*, pages cited).

Welcome to Our New Members

Welcome to new Post members, Carroll “Randy” Estep (Army - Vietnam), Ray Himelright - (Army - WW II), Sandra Himelright (Army - Desert Storm), Von Himelright (Army - Desert Storm), Jacob Purvis (Navy - Vietnam). We also welcome new MIP members: Michael Holtz (Army - Iraq), Carl Simons (USMC - Panama), and Chris Yung (USMC - Iraq).

It is worth noting that we have new father-son Post members in Ray and Von Himelright, and, we believe, only the third set of husband-wife Post members in Von and Sandra Himelright.



**Watch out for kids
playing in the
warmer weather!**

World War II Memorial / 27 - 30 May 2004

Four-Day “Tribute to a Generation”

Celebration: Thursday to Sunday, 27 - 30 May

Dedication Ceremony WW2 Memorial

Saturday 1200: two hours of pre-ceremony entertainment

Saturday afternoon, May 29, at 2 p.m.

National World War II Reunion: The Mall (tents, exhibits, entertainment, etc.)

Thursday through Sunday, May 27-30, from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Salute to World War II Veterans: The MCI Center

Friday, May 28, at 2 p.m. and 7 p.m.,

Saturday, May 29 from 10 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Saturday, May 29, at 7 p.m.,

A Service of Celebration: Washington National Cathedral

Saturday, May 29, at 10 a.m.

Visiting the Memorial open throughout except during dedication

For more information, see
<http://www.wwiimemorial.com/>

Website of Interest

Just in time for Memorial Day, the V.A.'s Nationwide Gravesite Locator --- <http://www.cem.va.gov> --- contains a lookup for 3.2 million records for veterans buried since the Civil War at 120 national cemeteries. This includes many records increasingly available of burials at Arlington National Cemetery, currently mostly since 1999. The information displayed includes name, dates of birth, death, and military service, service branch and rank if known. Also included is cemetery information and location of the grave. The Post has already successfully used this to locate several former members at Arlington National. The search seems to work better with at least an initial in the first name field.

Post Membership 100%

Post membership has edged over 100%. Many thanks to those who responded in the last weeks and sent in their renewals or applications for membership for 2004. The Post greatly appreciates your support.

A John Lyon Hello ...

To all of our World War II veterans who see a dream realized this month with the dedication of their memorial on the Washington Mall; to Elsie and Bill Jackson who recently moved into new quarters, to Jack Turner, for his typically great sign work, and to Lola Kane for transforming the Ladies Room at the Post

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, 9 May, from 9 am - 1 pm. 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 16 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.

Arlington Neighborhood Day Parade

Saturday, May 8 is Neighborhood Day in Arlington County. The annual parade will be one of the highlights. John Lyon Post and Ladies Auxiliary will march down Wilson Boulevard in the parade that begins at 2 pm. With about 420 Post members (and 130 in the Ladies Auxiliary) we hope for a great turnout. Commander Wagner suggests the "VFW uniform" of shirt and tie, grey slacks, and blue jacket for the men and similar style for the ladies, but any attire which is neat and respectful of the organization, your service, and yourself will be acceptable. VFW caps, or any VFW insignia, are always appropriate. Meet at the Post 12:00 - 12:30.

Department Convention

June 17-20, 2004 State Convention, Sheraton Richmond West, 6624 West Broad Street, Richmond, Virginia, 23230. Telephone 804-285-2000.

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.

Marching off...

Sister Margaret H. Graham, mother of sisters Catherine and Margaret E. Graham, Theresa Kuch Patricia Longhitano, and Elizabeth Metz, on 11 April, in New York.

We have also been informed of the 11 March 2004 death of former 3150 member Alan J. Waiss. A Vietnam Vet, he was buried at Quantico National Cemetery.

Arlington Little League



Following the Opening Night ceremonies of the Arlington Little League, members of the post met with the Majors 2 Rangers coaches and team which Post 3150 sponsors. Behind the players are Rangers Coach Don Eiss, Bill Wolverton, Greg Moscatel, Earl "Butch" Hovermill, J. Gary Wagner, and Coach Tim Peel.

Rangers Schedule

17 Apr	9:00 am	Won 4-3
24 Apr	3:30 pm	Kenmore 1
28 Apr	6:00 pm	High View
1 May	11:00 am	Kenmore 1
5 May	6:00 pm	High View
8 May	11:00 am	Kenmore 1
13 May	6:00 pm	High View
15 May	3:30 pm	Kenmore 1
22 May	9:00 am	Kenmore 1
26 May	6:00 pm	High View
2 Jun	6:00 pm	High View
5 Jun	1:30 pm	Kenmore 1
10 - 19 Jun	Tournament	TBA

Games are easier to get to and to park at than last year. Games are at Kenmore (Middle School) #1, Arlington Blvd and Carlin Springs Road (Turn south from Arlington Blvd onto Manchester Street, then east onto the frontage road, turn south on 2nd) and High View Park (between North Cameron and North Dinwiddie street, just south of Lee Highway). As of 22 Apr, the Rangers have won one and lost none. For more information, see <http://www.arlingtonlittleleague.org/data/2004/2sche d2004.htm>

Andrews AFB / Armed Forces Day

The Joint Service Open House is again scheduled for Andrews AFB, MD on 14 - 16 May. The shows will be held for the general public on Saturday and Sunday, May 15 and 16, 2004 from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Those with Department of Defense Identification Cards and their invited guests *only* may attend the Joint Service Open House on Friday, May 14 from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. All three days will feature the Canadian Forces Snowbirds (precision flying team) and the 82nd Airborne Mass Jump during the 12: 00 noon hour and the U.S. Navy Blue Angels at 3 pm. The gates will open at 8am, flying starts at 9 am, and the air show ends at 4pm. As usual, vendors will sell food, drinks and souvenirs. Check local outlets for additional information including parking.

D-Day 60th Anniversary

There will be a 60th Anniversary Commemoration of D-Day at Naval Amphibious Base Little Creek, near Norfolk, VA, on 6 June 2004 from 9am - 3:30 pm. Open to military, veterans, and their families. They are especially interested in any D-Day veterans who might like to attend. For additional information, call 757-462-7923 or go to www.nablc.navy.mil

Canteen Tidbits...

Lunch is served Monday - Friday at the Post from 11 am to 4 pm. Have you tried our new menu?

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

Long Term Care Briefing

David Backus, of the Pinnacle Group, with whom the VFW has a number of insurance programs, will present an OVERVIEW of Long Term Care considerations at the Post on Thursday, 13 May at 7 pm. This will not a sales pitch for any particular program.

Recent Events Around the Post



<<< St Thomas More School teacher Barbara Wilson (second from right) received the Post 3150 Middle School Teacher of the Year Award from Commander J.Gary Wagner and Ladies Auxiliary President Jodie-LaFreniere-Dajc; they are joined by her husband, Kennon Wilson, and Principal Kathleen Swinehart. Mrs Wilson was unable to attend ceremonies held earlier at the Post and a special session was arranged at the school with a number of the classes assembled. Mrs Wilson also was winner of the Tenth District Award and was believed to have come in third in the state of Virginia.

Preparing to leave for a hospital visit at >>> the V.A. Hospital in Washington are J.Gary Wagner, Greg Moscatel, and Mark Pando. The group, also including Ralph Huston, distributed fresh fruit and magazines to residents of the nursing home at the V.A. Center.



<<< With the Little League teams formed up in the background, a Post 3150 Color Guard, comprised of (left to right) J.Gary Wagner, Earl Hovermill, Greg Moscatel, and Bill Wolverton, present the colors during the National Anthem as part of the Opening Night Ceremonies of the Arlington Little League. The opening ceremonies were followed by the second annual John Lyon Memorial Game.

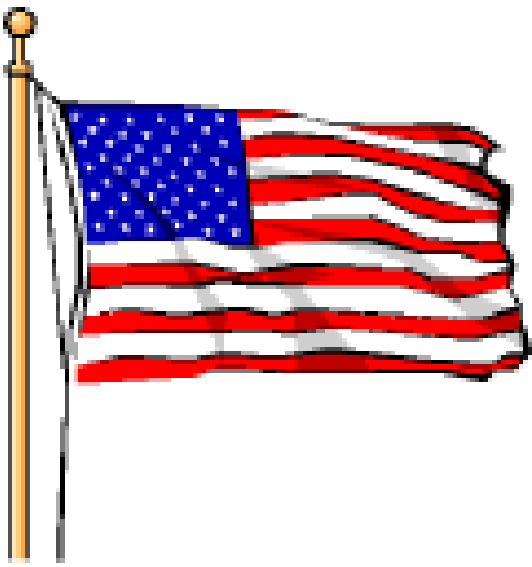
Recent Events Around the Post



<<< Frank Cruz, son of 3150 members Herman and Gigi Cruz, recently celebrated his becoming a U.S. citizen with a party held at Post 3150 with a number of John Lyon members cheering him on. Gigi celebrated her naturalization just last summer. All the Cruzes are natives of Costa Rica.

Cathy Kerns and Cathy Graham manned >>> the stoves during the recent 3150 Ladies Auxiliary Crab Cake Dinner. The annual dinner was held to raise funds for the Ladies Auxiliary's programs. The evening was well attended and netted a nice return on their efforts.





Loyalty Day
1 May 2004

VFW Post 3150
and
Ladies Auxiliary 3150

















May 2004

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
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*On Memorial Day, let us pause and remember
the service and sacrifices of all Veterans
and Active Duty Personnel
who have fought to defend Freedom!*

INSTALLATION OF
POST & AUXILIARY
2004-2005 OFFICERS
2:00PM

LOYALTY DAY

2	3	4	5  MOVIE NIGHT AT THE POST 7:00PM	6	7	8 ARLINGTON COUNTY NEIGHBORHOOD DAY AND PARADE MEET AT POST AT 12:30PM
9  MOTHER'S DAY SUNDAY BRUNCH 9:00AM - 1:00PM 	10 POST OFFICERS' CALL AT 7:30PM HOUSE COMMITTEE MEETING AT 8:00PM V-E DAY	11	12  MOVIE NIGHT AT THE POST 7:00PM	13  POST MEETING 8:00PM	14	15 MOPH MEETING 12:00 NOON  ARMED FORCES DAY
16 10TH DISTRICT CONVENTION AT VFW POST 1503 DALE CITY 1:00PM	17	18	19  MOVIE NIGHT AT THE POST 7:00PM	20  AUXILIARY MEETING 7:30PM	21	22
23  SUNDAY BRUNCH 9:00AM - 1:00PM	24	25	26  MOVIE NIGHT AT THE POST 7:00PM	27	28 GRAVE DECORATIONS COLUMBIA GARDENS/NATL MEMORIAL 12:30PM OPEN HOUSE 5:00PM	29  GRAVE DECORATIONS AT ARLINGTON CEMETERY AT 8:30AM COOKOUT 3:00PM - 7:00PM
30  MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND BUFFET BRUNCH 9:00AM - 1:00PM COOKOUT 4:00PM - 7:00PM	31  MEMORIAL DAY CEREMONIES CHERRYDALE AT 11:00AM CLARENDON AT 1:00PM	<p><i>Please join us on Memorial Day at the Post, at our Open House at 2:00pm, as we pay Special Tribute to our World War II Veterans, on the occasion of the Dedication of the World War II Memorial.</i></p>				

Memorial Day 2004



On Memorial Day Weekend 2003, then Commander and President Richard and Gail Hoffman place memorial wreaths on the graves of 3150 members, George and Virginia Dalby, in Arlington National Cemetery. 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 28 - 31 May

Fri: 12:30 pm: Meet at Post for Columbia Gardens and National Memorial Cemetery graves decoration.
5 pm: Platters/Finger Foods

Sat: 8:30 am: Meet at Post for Arlington Cemetery graves decoration.
3:00 pm – 7:00 pm: Cookout

Sun: 9 am - 1 pm: Special Sunday Brunch
4 - 7 pm: Post Cookout

Mon: 10 am: Principals meet at Post
11 am: "John Lyon Memorial", Cherrydale
1 pm: Clarendon War Memorial
2:00 pm: Open House

Throughout: Buddy Poppy Distribution
Music most / all evenings.

