

# The John Lyon Gazette

Volume 11, Number 4

October 2004



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, 2003, 2004 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, 2004;  
Best Newsletter in the Nation, 1999



Members of the John Lyon family gather outside the Post at the end of John Lyon Shirt and Cap Day. All 3150 members were urged to wear their John Lyon shirts and caps wherever they went in Arlington that day in an effort to show the people of Arlington that we are here in the community. Some of the participants were, from the left, are Virginia LePage, Bill King, Ruth Rodier, Tom Kane, Lola Kane, Eric Anderson, Catharine Graham, Irv Munroe, Art Merat, Ralph Huston, Mike Holtz, J.Gary Wagner, Richard Hoffman, and Greg Moscatier.

## *From the Commander:*

At the time of writing this newsletter, I am looking forward to our observance of Gold Star Mothers recognition day on September 26, 2004. My thoughts go out to Peggy Varney, auxiliary member and Gold Star Mother from our post. Peggy moved to North Carolina to be with her family. This will be our first Gold Star Mothers observance without her since she moved away. We will be thinking of you, Peggy.

We will celebrate the VFW's 105<sup>th</sup> birthday on September 29, 2004, (the night of our weekly movie). The next night, we are expecting a group of about 40 VFW members from Whitestone New York to visit us. We are looking forward to seeing them.

On Saturday, September 18, 2004, we had a busload of Ohio VFW members visit our post. Among the Ohio group, was Bill Seagraves, Ohio Department Jr. Vice Commander. Our very own Virginia Department Jr. Vice Commander, "Doc" Crouch, and member of John Lyon Post 3150 was also here to talk with Bill.

On October 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2004, 4 –7 pm, we will hold our Early Bird dinner with a menu of T-bone steak, salad, vegetable and potato. I can almost taste it now in anticipation. During the dinner we will hold the annual drawing for free VFW life memberships. All of our paid-up post 3150 members locally and across the country are eligible.

On October 16, Post 3150 members will man a booth on Clarendon Day to answer any questions the local citizens might have about the VFW and we might even sign up new members.

The night of October 16, 4 –8 pm, we will hold our annual (delicious) Spaghetti Dinner. The important point about this event is that the proceeds will go to Arlington Northern Virginia Hospice.



On October 23, we will hold another of our periodic "Adopt a Highway" highway cleanups. I believe that all who participate have a sense of pride in knowing "that's our part in the beautification of Arlington's highways". All are invited to attend Saturday morning. Coffee and donuts are served at 8:30 am, (carb. free), after which we get some calorie trimming exercise.

One last thing is a reminder of our Dinner and Halloween Party on Saturday night, October 30, 7:00 pm, with Gigi Cruz's chicken lasagna. Come in costume or, come as you are and surprise everyone.

Yours in comradeship,

Greg Moscatel  
Commander, John Lyon VFW Post 3150

## *From your President:*

Hope the weather from Ivan did not cause too many problems for people. The POW/MIA ceremony went off fine and we had a good turnout. Roanoke is next on the list and I will report in the November newsletter as this has to be turned in prior to the Fall Conference.

Fall is definitely here and with the weather turning colder, one thinks of the coming holiday season beginning with Halloween. The Post and Auxiliary is throwing a Halloween party on Saturday 30 October. Come with costumes and enjoy the fun. That is at the end of the month; we start the month with our Early Bird dinner on 2 October. Renew your membership and sign up by 1 October and enjoy a steak dinner courtesy of the post. To qualify for the Auxiliary's life member and annual member drawings, you must renew by 31 October. We will be drawing the winners at our November meeting. Remember our dues are \$25.

Ladies, we again have a quilt to raffle for Cancer Aid and Research. Tickets are \$1 each or 6 for \$5. See any officer to purchase tickets while you are at the post. The drawing for the quilt will be Thanksgiving Day. You do not need to be present to win and we will ship the quilt to you.



In addition, we are having a Craft and Bake Sale on Sunday 12 December during breakfast. Although it might be considered early for Christmas, mentioning it now will allow those who like to make arts and crafts items an opportunity to increase their inventory. The sale will raise funds to support our Christmas efforts for the troops and their families. Ladies, start your craft engines and we will have a successful sale.

Don't forget the Navy's birthday on 13 October. Speaking of birthdays, I was remiss last month, Happy belated Birthday to all those celebrating in September; now Happy Birthday to those in October.

For those not aware of it, the Post and Auxiliary have members who are meeting the flights arriving at Andrews Air Force base from Europe with the wounded troops on board. The troops are arriving with just the clothes on their backs. The Post has a box set aside for donations of t-shirts, underwear, socks, toiletries etc. Anything donated goes to the troops at Walter Reed Army Hospital or Bethesda Naval Hospital when a scheduled visit is set.

With the coming of Winter and the days' becoming shorter, watch the driving as the pedestrians and school kids are becoming hidden in the waning light. The possibility of motor vehicle and pedestrian accidents is greater with the changing light conditions and will become worse once daylight savings ends. Be more aware and alert.

Remember to vote. In Virginia, you can get an absentee ballot up to the day before the election if you cannot get to the polling place on 2 November. Check your jurisdiction for restrictions and applications.

Cathy Graham

## Early Bird Dinner Scheduled

The Early Bird Dinner is scheduled for 4 - 7 pm on Saturday, 2 October. This is a no-cost "thank you" for all renewed and Life members of the Post and Ladies Auxiliary. There will be a charge for non-Early Birds. Menu will include steak, potato, salad, vegetable. Call the Post for further information and to sign up. Also please call to cancel your reservation if you discover you cannot attend.



## Last Days to Qualify for VFW Life Membership Drawings

Annual members who wish to qualify for the Life Membership Drawings must join/renew at the Post by 1 October or National must have posted your Direct Dues renewals by 1 October. The Post will conduct the special drawing about 7 pm during the Early Bird Dinner. The drawing will include one from each age group and the winners will receive (or be reimbursed for) a Life membership in the VFW. For last minute qualifying, see below. On-line renewals are processed the same day.

## Charge Your Renewal On-Line Also Change Address, Replace Lost Card

Post members who would like to charge their annual renewals may do so on-line at [www.vfw.org](http://www.vfw.org). Once you reach the national VFW webpage, click on "Membership", then "Member Tools". You will then see a list of member options which will allow you to pay your annual dues or sign up for Life Membership. You can also obtain a duplicate life or annual membership card or change your address. You will need your membership number, found on your membership card for any of these transactions, plus the Post dues amount to renew (\$23). (If you need help finding your membership number, give the post a call.)

## Welcome to Our New Members

Welcome to new Post member, David B. Kayal (Life Transfer) elected at the September meeting.

## Early Bird Dinner Saturday, 2 October 4 - 7 pm

**Call Post for Reservations.  
Free for Early Birds  
\$7.00 for non-renewed  
and non-3150 members**

## Annual Dues \$30 on 1 January

At the Post meeting in September, the membership voted to increase annual dues to \$30 per year. The increase is the result of the Department of Virginia's raising our dues assessment by \$5 in January and is the first post increase in several years. The new rate will take affect in January and members are urged to renew NOW for the 2005 year to beat the increase.

## New Daytime Manager On Duty

Post 3150 has a new day time manager: Lisa McCoy. Lisa is opening the Post at 11 am Monday - Friday. Lunch is expected to resume on 27 October --- after some repair work is completed in the kitchen. Lisa has worked for two veterans clubs in the past, including a VFW post, and has submitted her application to join our Ladies Auxiliary. Stop by and give her a warm John Lyon welcome.

## **Junior Vice Commander to be Elected**

The Post Senior Vice Commander, Steve Cobb, has also been Commander of Purple Heart Unit 353 and was named to state and national positions as well, and he has been busily involved in such related things as meeting the flights at Andrews AFB. He expected his increasing activities would not allow proper performance of his duties as Post Senior Vice Commander and he extended his resignation. Post Junior Vice Commander, Tom Kane, automatically moves up and leaves a vacancy in this position. An election will be held at the next Post meeting on Thursday, 14 October at 8pm. Anyone interested in this position should attend the meeting or notify the Post Commander or one of the other officers.

## **Dutch Reade Funeral Scheduled**

Graveside services with military honors will be held for Lowell "Dutch" Reade at 3 p.m. Thursday, November 4, at Arlington National Cemetery. Those attending are invited to assemble at the Administration Building at 2:30 p.m. There is an on-line [guestbook](http://www.legacy.com/Link.asp?Id=LS02580799X) at <http://www.legacy.com/Link.asp?Id=LS02580799X>

## **Pentagon 9-11 Memorial Walk**

Post 3150 will again participate in a memorial walk remembering the victims of the 11 September terrorist attack on the Pentagon. The event will be held on Sunday, 3 October at 2 pm. Participants will meet at the Iwo Jima Memorial and walk to the Pentagon where a short memorial program will be held. Post 3150 will distribute small American flags to participants. All are invited to join us.

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

...to our members in Florida, Alabama, and other hurricane devastated areas. Our prayers have been with you and we hope you all came through in good shape.

## **Hospice Fundraiser Dinner Set for 16 Oct**

John Lyon Post will again be the setting of a fundraiser for the Northern Virginia Hospice Center. The benefit spaghetti dinner is scheduled for Saturday, 16 October from 4 to 8 pm. Karaoke music is expected to follow. Cost is \$5.00 per person. Additional donations to the hospice may also be made. The benefit is in honor of Ileita L. Marsden, mother of Jo Ann Jansen, and is co-sponsored by the Marsden Family.

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## **VA Summarizes Survivor Benefit**

"The Department of Veterans Affairs has published a summary of programs, under the Iraqi Freedom Icon of the VA web site, that assists survivors of service members who died on active duty. Included are burial benefits for the deceased member that include a gravesite in any VA national cemetery with available space; perpetual care of the grave at no cost to the family; a government headstone or marker; a Presidential Memorial Certificate; Dependency & Indemnity Compensation at a monthly rate of \$967 for a surviving spouse, or more if there are dependent children; and life insurance, which most military members carry at the highest level of \$250,000. Other benefits are burial flags, military funeral honors upon request (visit [www.militaryfuneralhonors.osd.mil](http://www.militaryfuneralhonors.osd.mil)), health care, educational assistance for survivors of members killed in action, home loans, and refund of the service member's unused GI Bill contribution. For specific individual information, call the VA at 800 827-1000 or TDD 800 829-4833 or go to [www.va.gov](http://www.va.gov)." (Source: MOAA's Benefits Information Update - September 2004)

## **Navy Birthday**

The Post will commemorate the U.S. Navy Birthday on Wednesday, 13 October, at 7:00 pm. As usual, members of all services are invited to attend this celebration.

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

The 15 November 1942 issue of *The Washington Post* (p. L6) contained the following article:

**“John Lyon Post** --- John Lyon Post 3150, Veterans of Foreign Wars, met Thursday at the American Legion Clubhouse, 3445 North Washington Boulevard, Arlington, Va.

“The Veterans of Foreign Wars are distributing service star cards to all families who have sons and daughters in the armed forces. (sic) and Emil J. Steger, commander of the post, will give them out while the supply lasts. Blue stars denote service in the Army, Navy or Marine Corps within the continental limits of the United States.

“Silver stars indicate service on the high seas, in enemy waters or on foreign soil or in American territories across the sea. Gold stars are reserved to honor those who make the supreme sacrifice.”

## **Highway Cleanup, Make a Difference Day 23 October 2004**

The Post will again participate in national Make a Difference Day on Saturday, 23 October, by doing our periodic Highway Cleanup along Lee Highway from Rosslyn to Veitch Street. Meet at the Post for coffee and doughnuts at 8:30 am. The event should take about two hours. In you don't want to hit the streets, a Post cleanup will start at the same time.

## **More on Schuchart Sachs**

Another Obituary for VFW 3150 Life member Martha Schuchart-Sachs was in the Sunday, 12 Sept, edition of the Washington Post. It covers five columns and includes three photos --- most of the top half of the page. (When did you last see an obit that large?) She climbed Mt Fuji in Japan, was injured driving in a demolition derby, and met Emperor Haile Selassie in Ethiopia. The obit can be read at <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A14775-2004Sep11.html> You may have to register, for free, to view it.

## **Clarendon Day October 16**

John Lyon will again have a booth at Clarendon Day on October 16<sup>th</sup>. The event is scheduled for noon till 6 pm and will feature a number of local civic and commercial groups, including restaurants who will be selling their food. Stop by and say “Hello!” We are currently scheduled to be located near the Clarendon War Memorial at the intersection of Wilson, Clarendon, and Washington Boulevards.

## **Dinner and Post Halloween Party**

The Post will hold a Halloween Party on Friday, 30 October starting at 7 pm. There will be music, special prices, door prizes, and snack foods. Dig out your favorite costume and join us as we mark this Fall Festival. Prior to the party, starting at 7pm, there will be a chicken lasagna dinner for \$5.00. There is a sign-up list in the Post, or call 703-525-0108 to get your name on the list.

## **Students, Teachers, and Scouts**

See the September issue of *The John Lyon Gazette* for information on Voice of Democracy high school essay contest, Patriot's Pen middle school essay contest, Teacher of the Year, Scout of the Year, Ladies Auxiliary's Young American Creative Patriotic Art for grades 9-12 (See <http://www.ladiesauxvfw.com>, then Scholarships), and Veterans' Tribute Scholarship (available to children and grandchildren, ages 16 to 18, of all U.S. military veterans, active duty, Reserves and National Guard.) Except as noted above, see [www.vfw.org](http://www.vfw.org), then Programs, then Youth Development or Citizenship Education. Or call Post 3150 at 703-525-0108 for further information. Essay and teacher contests have 1 November deadline.

## **Website of interest**

Global War on Terrorism:  
<http://www.defendamerica.mil/index.html>



<<< 3150 members Doc Crouch, Connie Agresti, J.Gary Wagner, Cathy Kerns, and Catharine Graham, paused before dinner aboard a cruise ship on the Ohio River. About 50 VFW and Ladies Auxiliary members from Virginia took a dinner cruise on a free night during the 105<sup>th</sup> National Convention in Cincinnati, Ohio. The Cincinnati skyline is in the background, with the Carew Tower at the far left.

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## 105<sup>th</sup> National Convention Report

John Lyon Post this year sent five members to the 105<sup>th</sup> National Convention in Cincinnati. We stayed in the Cincinnati Netherlands Plaza Hilton Hotel, whose 30-stories and its 45-story Carew Tower companion were the first high-rise buildings in the city. The buildings maintain their elegant art deco origins. The Virginia hospitality room was part of a two-story suite on the 25<sup>th</sup> floor and had a great view of the city. We were not alone as several other states had headquarters in the Hilton, about a block away from the convention center. Sunday morning began with the annual joint memorial service which is always a quite moving tribute to those no longer with us. The Southern Conference meeting (for the VFW) was introduced to two southern candidates for Junior Vice Commander in Chief to be elected in 2006 --- and, by extension, Commander in Chief in 2008. Mandatory committee meetings for some filled up the afternoon while others began to scout out the city's attractions. Monday was the Joint Opening Session and a warm welcome was given to President George W. Bush. Ohio Governor Bob Taft and Cincinnati Mayor Charlie Luken, and others also spoke to the group.

After more workshops and committee meetings in the afternoon, we went to the annual banquet and somehow sat at the back of the monstrous hall again (do they do this alphabetically by state?). The meal was worthy of the occasion, however. Secretary of State Colin Powell, spoke afterwards. Tuesday

featured more general meetings with speakers V.A. Secretary Anthony Principi, and Jan Scruggs, founder of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund, among others. Robley Rex, a 103 year old veteran of World War I, and frequent volunteer at his local VA hospital, received a special medallion. The By-Laws changes, resolutions, etc., brought from our earlier committee meetings were voted on by the general meeting. More workshops followed. In late afternoon was the annual Patriotic Rally which featured the "Parade of States". Two of 3150's delegation, Doc Crouch marched in with the Virginia VFW state officers, and Cathy Kerns, as part of the Virginia Ladies Auxiliary Honor Guard, marched with the state Ladies Auxiliary. There were also various entertainment acts such as Johnny Lee, the National Home's youth Chorus, and a rousing closing section by Tony Orlando. His singing his fairly new "God's Country" stopped the show and gave the VFW a new song similar to "God Bless the USA", a VFW favorite. On Wednesday there were general meetings, several workshops, and Senator John Kerry, who received luke-warm applause after being a half-hour late from his nearby hotel. And the Southern Conference Party in the evening. On Thursday, nominations for the new officers --- and time for Virginians to enjoy a dinner cruise on the on the Ohio River. On Friday the elections and installation of 2004-2005 National Officers for both the VFW and Ladies Auxiliary. The final event was a reception for our new leaders, Commander in Chief John Furgess and National President JoAnne Ott. More convention information is available at the national websites at [www.vfw.org](http://www.vfw.org) and <http://www.ladiesauxvfw.com/>



## Watch out for little spooks and goblins on Halloween!

### To Contact Your National Legislators

The VFW's National Legislative Service webpage can be accessed by going to the VFW National webpage and clicking on "VFW Capital Hill" then on "National Legislative Service". Click on "Congressional Directory" to send an email to your representative and Senators. You can also determine if your legislator is a veteran at "Veterans in Congress" at the "National Legislative Service" site, as well as finding a variety of other information.

### Injured Returning Soldiers Need Clothing Items

The need for some clothing items for patients being treated at the Walter Reed Army Medical Center and Bethesda Navy Hospital continues from last year. Many of those injured during Operations Iraqi Freedom, Enduring Freedom and Noble Eagle are being treated at the local hospitals. The most-needed clothing items are new men's and women's clothing in M, L, and XL sizes, particularly colored and white T-shirts and boxer shorts, flip-flops, athletic socks, and outdoor shorts. These articles are being taken to Andrews AFB and to the hospitals as needed. A box has been set up in the Post for any donations you would like to make. Cash donations (made to VFW 3150 and noted for returning soldiers) are also welcome for needed items.

### Parking Lot Bonds

Any members of the John Lyon family who may still have of bonds issued to help pay for the parking lot on post property about ten years ago are asked to submit them to the Post Quartermaster for redemption.

## Burial Benefits

“VA BURIAL BENEFITS (ACTIVE DUTY): Regardless of whether the in-service death is due to combat, accident or disease, the following benefits apply:

- “Burial in a VA National Cemetery: Members of the armed forces and veterans, their spouses and dependent children may be buried in any of VA's national cemeteries with available space. There currently are 120 national cemeteries across the nation and 83 have available grave space. More information is available at [www.cem.va.gov](http://www.cem.va.gov) <<http://www.cem.va.gov/>>

- “Burial in a Non-VA Cemetery: Deaths of active-duty members are not covered by VA's financial burial allowance benefits, since the military services assist survivors with funeral expenses and the cost of burial in private cemeteries. If a family wishes to arrange burial in a non-VA cemetery, VA will provide a headstone or marker for the grave.

- “Burial in a State Veterans Cemetery: Although not a benefit provided by VA, burial in a state veterans cemetery is an option available in many states for those who die on active duty. Some states have residency requirements and may impose additional limitations.

- “Military Funeral Honors: Upon request, the Department of Defense will provide military funeral honors. This arrangement typically is made by the funeral director. At least two uniformed service members fold and present the flag and play "Taps" by a recording or a bugler. Additional information about funeral honors is available at [www.militaryfuneralhonors.osd.mil](http://www.militaryfuneralhonors.osd.mil).

- “Military Burial Flags: In the case of in-service deaths, the Defense Department provides a U.S. flag to drape the casket or to be presented at a memorial service. After the service, the flag is given to the next of kin.

- “Presidential Memorial Certificate Program: The service member's next of kin receives a Presidential Memorial Certificate. Additional certificates are available for other loved ones upon request to VA. The gold embossed parchment-style paper is inscribed with the service member's name and bears the president's signature. It expresses the nation's gratitude for the deceased person's military service. [Source: VANEWS-L 17 Aug 04]” (From RAO Bulletin Update 15 September 2004)



# Recent Events Around the Post

John Lyon members gathered at the flag >>> pole for a ceremony marking the third anniversary of the 9-11 attacks on the United States. Left to right are Joe Weeks, Ken Jansen, Virginia LePage, Greg Moscat, and Catharine Graham, Connie Agresti, Elsa Weeks, and J.Gary Wagner.

Missing from the photo is photographer, Doc Crouch.



<<< The POW / MIA table stands at the ready inside the Post home for a guest who will not attend.

Commander Gregory Moscat and >>> President Catharine Graham lead John Lyon members in ceremonies for POW / MIA Remembrance Day.



# Recent Events Around the Post



<<< The 3150 Ladies gathered to celebrate the 90th anniversary of the Ladies Auxiliary. Ladies Auxiliary Tenth District President Betty Gimble (left) and 3150 President Catharine Graham make the first cut in the cake. The organization was formed to assist the VFW in promoting ideals of Americanism, aid to veterans and service to the community.

During recent ceremonies, two Air >>> Force Post 3150 Commanders, J.Gary Wagner (2003-2004) and Gregory Moscatel (2004-2005) cut the cake marking the U.S. Air Force's 57<sup>th</sup> Birthday and honoring air veterans from the earlier Army Air Corps and Army Air Force of World War II and earlier.



<<< 3150 Ladies Auxiliary Past President Jodie Lafreniere-Dajc poses with new daughter Emilie during a recent visit to the Post Home. Emily was born on 7 July. David Dajc is the proud papa.



# VFW 3150

## October 2004



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2 Early Bird Dinner 4 - 7 pm
3 Pentagon 9-11 Walk 2 pm	4	5	6 Movie Night	7	8	9
10 Sunday Brunch 9 am - 1 pm	11 Columbus Day	12 Post O Call 7:30 pm House Committee 8 pm	13 Navy Birthday 7pm Movie Night	14 Post Meeting 8 pm	15	16 Clarendon Day 12 - 6 pm Hospice Spaghetti Dinner 4 - 8 pm
17	18	19	20 Movie Night	21 Ladies Aux Meeting 7:30 pm	22	23 Make a Difference Day - Highway Cleanup 8:30am
24 Sunday Brunch 9 am - 1 pm	25 23 -31 Oct Anti-Drug Red Ribbon Week	26	27 Movie Night	28 Statue of Liberty Birthday	29	30 Dinner and Halloween Party 7 pm
31 Daylight Savings Ends		2 Nov  Vote!				

**Are you registered to Vote in November?**



**JOHN LYON POST # 3150**  
**"All American Post"**  
**Veterans of Foreign Wars**  
**2116 North 19<sup>th</sup> Street**  
**Arlington, Virginia 22201-3514**

**NON-PROFIT ORG**  
**U.S. POSTAGE**  
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**Merrifield, VA**  
**Permit No. 9209**

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**Happy Birthday,**  
**Miss Liberty**  
**28 October**  
**1886-2004**