

The John Lyon Gazette

Volume 23, Number 9

April 2017



Veterans of Foreign Wars

- John Lyon Post #3150
- 2116 North 19th Street
- Arlington VA 22201
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The John Lyon Gazette: Winner of 1999, 2003, 2004, 2007, 2009, 2010, 2011 and 2016 Clair B. Poff Public Relations Award for Outstanding Newsletter, and Winner of National Awards for 2010, 2011

VFW Post 3150 in 2017

Iraq - Afghanistan vets remain #1

This issue makes the sixteenth annual look at the makeup of John Lyon Post. This year's tally of Post 3150's membership shows that, overall, we are still well represented across the board. Iraqi Freedom / Afghanistan / GWOTEM vets remain the largest block if counted together, passing Vietnam vets five years ago, our largest group when this survey started in 2001. Persian Gulf / Desert Storm veterans make up our third largest block. Considering the relative size of the different branches of the services, we are fairly well represented there, too. To keep our tallies comparable from year to year, those were counted who were on the membership roster last July 1st plus new members who have joined since and completed all their paperwork. Some members were in more than one service or had multiple deployments and are counted for each, so the numbers don't add up exactly. And we still lack some data from an earlier disk crash which has not yet been recovered. Current memberships total 550. The results show that we were in ...

World War II	12		
Post War Occupation	15	Army	284
Korean War	22	Navy	118
Taiwan Straits	2	USAF (including AAF)	83
Grenada	1	USMC	113
Vietnam / Southeast Asia	184	USCG	4
Libya	2		
Lebanon / Beirut	10		
El Salvador / Panama	4		
Persian Gulf / Desert Storm	113	Includes 50 women:	
Haiti	5	Post War Occupation	3
Somalia / Horn of Africa / Chad	4	Korea Service	9
Bosnia / Kosovo	38	Persian Gulf / Desert Storm	12
Afghanistan / GWOTEM	162	Haiti / Cuba	2
Iraqi Freedom	180	Bosnia / Kosovo	8
SSBN	2	Iraq	21
Other Expeditionary	22	Afghanistan / GWOTEM	17

From the Commander:

Greetings John Lyon! I hope this message finds you and yours happy, healthy, and enjoying life! We're firing on all twelve cylinders at the Post these days – many activities and events are planned over the next few months! If you haven't been out to the Post in a while, come and see us – we miss having you around! Stay up to breast on our daily/weekly happenings by joining our Facebook page at <https://m.facebook.com/VFWPost3150/>.

This month's outstanding contributor is **Walter Sweeney**! On active duty, Walter served in the 2nd Battalion, 6th Marine Infantry Regiment, from 2007-11 and has had an immediate impact since joining our Post! He instantly got involved by joining the ranks of our volunteer bartenders and now takes shifts on a weekly basis to ensure our canteen stays open for our membership. Walter volunteered to lead the coordination of our very own Post Color Guard, who will make their debut at the opening ceremonies for the Arlington Little League! He also took point on organizing the Post's involvement in the GW Veterans Day of Service – a project aimed at making a difference in our communities through our local veterans! Walter, thank you for your leadership, getting involved, and embracing the true meaning of service before self – our Post and community are better places because of veterans like you!

As we usher in the spring, we've got a lot of outstanding activities planned at the Post! There's a few I wanted to point out specifically that I know you'll want to be aware of:

On **3 April**, we'll be hosting a contingent of U.S. and British service members from the **Blinded Veterans Association** and **Blind Veterans UK** for a night of camaraderie, dinner, and live music!

From the President of the Auxiliary:

April is the time to elect the slate of officers for the coming year. As I stated last month, if we do not elect a President, we will be forced to close by National. Although having the same people in position makes the running of the Auxiliary almost automatic, the presence of new faces in positions of

Dinner and dessert will be provided for all attendees, donations greatly appreciated. This special event will be open to **VFW members only**, and you must sign up in advance to ensure we have enough food! **Please RSVP to johnlyon3150@gmail.com**, event runs from 6-9PM! I promise you, it's going to be a very special night for all in attendance – don't miss out!

We're also continuing with our **Veteran Concert Series** on **8 Apr** featuring **Kevin Lowther**, a great musician who will be rocking out on his violin live at our Post! If you didn't get to see him last time, this is a must-see show! The Auxiliary will be serving dinner that night as well, join us for some great food and live music!

This is also the month that we elect new officers for the Post! Be sure to make it out to the **Post Meeting and Officer Elections** on **17 April at 7:30PM**. I don't have to tell you how critically important your voice is – be there to help shape the future officer corps of John Lyon!

What would spring be without a little spring cleaning? Join us on **29 April for Operation Beautification** as we give our Post home a makeover and participate in some highway clean up! We need all hands on deck to make it go quickly and we're providing lunch to sweeten the deal! Please come out and support, clean-up begins at **10AM!**

I look forward to seeing you at all of these upcoming events! Don't forget to join us on Facebook and...as always, get involved, stay engaged, and always lead from the front!

Dave Hanisch
Post 3150 Commander

authority will hopefully put new ideas and innovations into our effort to support Veterans and their families.

VFW Auxiliary National is making changes to the way membership is renewed at the local, department and national levels. Beginning July 1st the individual member can renew an annual

membership using their credit card on the National website. They can still renew through the local Auxiliary Treasurer by cash or check, but the new Membership Auxiliary Leadership Technology Access (MALTA) system at National gives them the option of paying by credit card. Another change is that all membership cards will be sent by National to the renewed and new members. The Auxiliary Treasurer will no longer handle the membership cards, and lost life member cards will be requested by the individual member themselves.

This month we will be serving brats with chips and a pickle for \$7 on April 8th. Help is always

appreciated. These dinners are the means we use to make money to support our programs.

As always look out for the elderly, the sick and those living alone; Happy Birthday and Anniversary to all those celebrating in April.

Loyally yours,
Cathy Graham
President, VFW Auxiliary 3150

Loyalty Day?

You will notice elsewhere in this newsletter that May 1st is Loyalty Day. “What is Loyalty Day?” some of our newer members may ask.

In April 1965, Post Commander Ned Allred explained in the *Northern Virginia Sun*: “The Veterans of Foreign War created Loyalty Day to counteract Communist demonstrations against our American way of life...The Reds were using May Day for special celebration of their revolutionary drive against all freedom principles. It was their number one day on which to shout hatred for our ideals and to wave their hammer and sickle flag under our noses.”

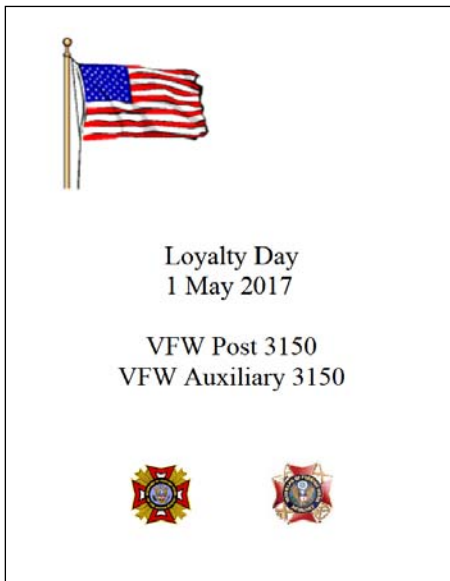
According to *History - Department of Virginia - Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States - 1919 – 1969* (page 219): “Designed to stimulate and promote nationwide expression of Americanism and Patriotism, May 1st was established by the National V.F.W. in 1947 as ‘Loyalty Day’; as an occasion for general observance and reaffirmation of our country’s basic

concepts of Freedom...Gaining in significance and recognition yearly, it has within two decades developed into the Nation’s most outstanding observance of its character, to become declared by Congress as ‘a special day for public reaffirmation and demonstration of strong loyalty to country by all true citizens.’” Recent events in the Ukraine, the Middle East and elsewhere around the world continue to make Loyalty Day as appropriate for the Twenty-first Century as for the previous one.

New Officers to be Selected

Nominations for all Post officers for the Year 2017-2018 will continue during the 17 April meeting. Nominated at the March meeting were: Commander – Walter Sweeney, Senior Vice Commander - Brenna McVaney, Junior Vice Commander – Nick Hatfield, Quartermaster – Jim Bertine, Chaplain – Michael Beatty, 3 Year Trustee – Eric Grenlin, Two Year Trustee – Pat Murray, Three Year House Committee – Ryan Apperson, Two Year House Committee - Eric Ganser. All positions are still open for nominations. Additionally, the new commander will appoint positions such as adjutant (admin), advocate (parliamentarian), surgeon (welfare and hospital), officer of the day, guard, and publicity chairman. Holding office is a way to bring your ideas for the Post’s future! All members are urged to consider one of the positions. Contact the Commander or one of the other current officers for more information. The **Auxiliary** will nominate and elect at their meeting on **18 April**.

All new officers will be installed in early June but will not assume their duties until the new state officers are installed at the end of the state convention later that month.



**Post Elections &
Corporate Meeting
Mon, 17 Apr 17
7:30 pm**

**VFW Auxiliary Elections
Thurs, 18 Apr 17
7:30 pm**

Corporate Meeting

The annual meeting of the John Lyon Corporation will be held in connection with the Post meeting on Monday, 17 April. Corporation officers will be elected to match Post officers.

Marching Off...

William A Del Vecchio, per his family. He was a born in 1956 and was a Navy veteran who saw service in the Persian Gulf. He joined John Lyon Post in 2013. No other information is available.

**We are on Facebook: "Like" us at
"John Lyon VFW Post 3150".**

Welcome to Our New Members

Welcome to new Post members Joseph Blair (Army – Afghanistan), Chris Gaffney (USMC – Iraq), Cameron Kennedy (Iraq/Korea Service/GWOTE)(trans), Frederick Lickteig (USMC – Desert Storm/Korea Service), Leo Sabatino (Navy - Iraq), and Daniel Starling (USAF – Iraq/Korea Service), all whose paperwork is complete and who were elected at the March meetings.

Sat, April 8 - Veterans Concert Series & Dinner

Dinner will be served from 6 - 9pm Live Music from Kevin Lowther starting at 7. Make your plans to join us on April 8th for the next iteration of the Veteran Concert Series All the details can be found here: <https://www.facebook.com/events/1371606832911175/>

Moved? Newsletter in Color

To insure you receive the newsletter in color by email send an email to the Adjutant at adjpost3150@va.vfwwebmail.com Send address changes to the same email address.

State Convention

The Department of Virginia's state convention will be held 14 – 18 June 2017 at the Fort Magruder Hotel and Convention Center, 6945 Pocahontas Trail, Williamsburg VA 23185, telephone 757-220-2250. Room Rate: \$92.00. Reserve room by 17 May 2017 to insure group rates.

**Warmer Spring Days.
Watch out for
children playing
outdoors.**



National Convention

The National Convention will be held 22 – 26 July 2017 in New Orleans. The assigned hotel for Virginia is Marriot New Orleans. Special Room rates are available until 9 June. For info or to reserve, go to <http://www.vfw.org/convention/>

Tax Scams

It's income tax time again and the scammers are trying to get the rest of our money. The government does NOT do business via the phone or email. Do NOT respond to phone or email requests for your bank account, social security number and other similar info.

Trap Shoot

Tenth District will host a Trap Shooting Event, 22 April, starting at 9 am at Bull Run Shooting Center, Centreville. Contact Nelson Betancourt via the Adjutant at adjpost3150@va.vfwwebmail.com for info.

Desert Storm Cease Fire

The anniversary of the Persian Gulf Cease Fire at the end of Operation Desert Storm will be marked by a short ceremony on Tuesday, 11 April at 7:00 pm. All members, but especially those veterans of the 1990s Iraq war, are invited to attend.



John Lyon Color Guard to Open Arlington Little League Ceremonies

The John Lyon Color Guard will present the National Colors during the opening ceremonies of the Arlington Little League's 31st Anniversary season, on Sunday, 2 April. The opening ceremonies are scheduled for 2:00 pm at Field #1 on Barcroft Park, 4200 South Four Mile Run Drive in Arlington. The Post 3150 Honor Guard will present the colors. Members are invited attend the ceremonies and the regular season baseball games. The Post will sponsor two teams this year: AA Rays and T-Ball Rockies. Information at <http://arlingtonlittleleague.org/>

Post Cleanup Date 29Apr

Devote an hour or two to help with Post Cleanup at 10 am on Sat, 29 April. We will work both indoors and out weather permitting.

Highway Cleanup 29 April

Highway Cleanup is scheduled for Saturday, 29 April. Meet at the Post at 10 am. Wear long pants and hard-soled shoes. The Post has gloves, safety vests, and levered pick-up sticks. With a good turnout, we can be done in about 90 minutes.

Wine Tasting Night, 20 Apr

Thursday, 20 April from 7-9 we will be hosting a Wine Tasting. Advance ticket purchase required; details to follow on our Facebook page.

Upcoming Next Month

Not counting the normal meetings, the following are the highlights of next month's calendar. See next month's newsletter for more details.

Mon, 1 May: Loyalty Day

Sun, 7 May: District Convention, Post 1503, 1 pm

Fri, 26 May: Grave Decoration, National Memorial & Columbia Gardens, 12:30 pm at Post

Sat, 27 May: Grave Decoration, Arlington National Cemetery, 9 am at Post

Mon, 29 May: Memorial Day Ceremonies:

Cherrydale "John Lyon" Memorial, 11 am

Clarendon War Memorial, 1 pm

Two WWI Ceremonies

The 100th Anniversary of the US entry into World War One will be noted: at the Clarendon War Memorial on Thurs, 6 April at 5 pm. And on Sun, 30 April at 12 noon at Pershing Park (15th and Pennsylvania Ave in DC) to commemorate LtCol John McCrae's poem "In Flanders Fields".

Event updates can be found on our Facebook page. "Like" us at

"John Lyon VFW Post 3150".

Hours for Post Canteen

The Post Canteen is open as follows:

Sunday	1 pm – 6 pm
Monday – Tuesday	Closed
Wednesday - Thursday	5 pm – 8 pm
Friday	5 pm – 10 pm
Saturday	3 pm – 10 pm

Post may extend hours for various events.

Membership Card 2016?

Check your membership card. Is it time for you to renew? Go to www.vfw.org and click RENEW.

Recent Events Around the Post



<<< Dave Hanisxh (center) and Ryan Apperson (right) present a flag flown over the USS Alabama to Virgil E Johnson, a local WWII and Korean War vet who served in the Navy and the Army and who recently celebrated his 90th birthday. The family asked Post members including an active duty Army soldier to come and present the flag to him (in uniform) in honor of his service,

Local band Shut It Down recently >>> performed for John Lyon members and guests. Post member Nick Hatfield (front left) is a member of the band which also plays in local venues in the area. It was a great night for fans of hard rock from the 60s, 70s, and 80s.



<<< VFW Post 3150 members participated in the GW Veterans Day of Service. They spent the day helping at A Wider Circle in Silver Spring, MD which provides basic need items to individuals and families transitioning out of homelessness, fleeing domestic abuse, or otherwise living without the essentials of life. From the left: Desi Gurule, Dave Hanisch, Jolly Bittick, Walter Sweeney, Stephanie Benally, Mike Beatty, and Alyssa Buckley.

VFW 3150

April 2017



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 Lt John Lyon born 2 Apr 1893
2 3150 Color Guard at Arlington Little League Opening 2 pm	3 Blinded Veterans Association Dinner (VFW Only), 7 pm	4	5	6 WWI 100 th Anniversary, Clarendon War Mem., 5 pm	7	8 Vet Concert Series, 7 pm Dinner 6 – 9 pm
9	10 House Committee / Post O Call 7 pm	11 Persian Gulf Cease Fire 7 pm	12	13	14	15
16 HAPPY EASTER Post Closed	17 Post Meeting 7:30 pm ELECTIONS	18 INCOME TAX DAY Auxiliary Meeting 7:30 pm ELECTIONS	19	20 Wine Tastng, 7 pm RSVP	21	22 Tenth District Trap Shoot, 9 am Bull Run
23	24	25	26	27	28	29 Post and Highway Cleanup 10 am)
30 WWI 100 th Anniversary, 12 n, DC						



JOHN LYON POST # 3150
“All American Post”
Veterans of Foreign Wars
2116 North 19th Street
Arlington, Virginia 22201-3514

Dated Material: Please Do Not Delay
March 2017



Lt John Lyon

2 April 1893 – 16 October 1918
Killed in action, World War I