

THE JOHN LYON GAZETTE

Volume 4, Number 6-7

VFW 3150

December 1997-January 1998



Veterans of Foreign Wars

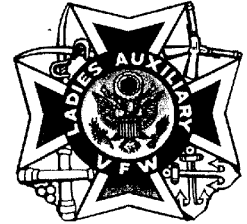
John Lyon Post #3150

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Merry Christmas
and
a Happy New Year!



From all the Comrades and Sisters of
John Lyon VFW Post 3150 and the Ladies Auxiliary,
our very best wishes for the Holidays.

This is a double end of the year issue. There will not be a separate issue for January as the newsletter preparation days fall right in the middle of the busiest of holiday seasons.

From the Commander:

December has come upon us and another year will be completed in our lives. There has been a great deal of change in our world, our nation, our state and, our post. A lot of what has happened has been for good and some has brought sadness. We have lost many comrades and sisters this year, and while we think back to them from time to time throughout the year, this period of the year brings about a period of more personal reflection.

I wish to thank ALL of the folks who have volunteered to assist in the work on the post home to bring it up to the level of appearance and respect that each and everyone of you would desire. The donations of time, money, and materials had been tremendous. Let's look to folks like Jack Nye who lets me paint a bit; about the same way as Ken and Vince let me into the kitchen to do grits for brunch and Eric Anderson who has almost bought a workshop full of tools to assist us. These are the names of only a few that have helped this post to go forward. While I have only mentioned a few there is a great deal of effort on the part of many others which I do appreciate and which will be appreciated by those who follow. At the end of my tenure I will recognize the efforts of all that have come forward to bring this post back to the level that all of us wish and desire. We all have our special abilities and our own professional qualities, but by virtue of the fact that we are JOHN LYON we seem to pull together like a family that has always been and always will be.

We have extended that family in the last month as we always do: the family's of our Armed Forces and the widows of veterans. I received a call from one widow who was the recipient of one of our Thanksgiving baskets and she thanked me. While I was appreciative of her thanks, I had to gently pass to her the fact that it was through efforts of a great many members of the Post and Auxiliary that we were able to assist. The Assistance was not by one, or two but by all.

In the coming year we have an opportunity to improve even more that we have in the past. As most of you know, I believe in the seven "P"s of leadership and responsibility and I don't sit on my hands. Let us ALL take OUR post, JOHN LYON POST, forward and make it a year that all of us will be proud of. This is your Post and it will always be YOUR Post.

Yours in Comradeship,



C.D. "DOC" CROUCH

From the Senior Vice Commander:

It was an honor to preside over the November Post meeting in Doc's absence. Believe me, the view is definitely different from the podium. We had a very successful meeting and have provided moneys for Voice of Democracy winners, Thanksgiving and Christmas baskets for the families of needy junior enlisted personnel and ditty bags for hospitalized vets. We also approved the temporary resurfacing of the parking area which should help alleviate sediment run-off.

One key item which was read into the minutes was a VFW News Release dated November 7, 1997 which announced that language directing DOD to award the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal (AFEM) to Bosnia veterans of Operations JOINT ENDEAVOR and JOINT GUARD has been incorporated into the FY1998 Defense Authorization Bill.

This Bill was signed by President Clinton on Tuesday, November 18, 1997, thereby making these worthy veterans eligible for veterans benefits in accordance with Title 38, U.S.C., as well as making them eligible for membership in the VFW. Let's get out there and seek new members while ensuring that we, ourselves, renew our membership. We're only at 75% of our membership goal for the year. Thanks.

I wish all of you the best for a safe and joyous Holiday season.

M. C. Agresti

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Remember Pearl Harbor! December 7, 1941

As you head off for church on Sunday, December 7th, remember another Sunday morning, 56 years ago, and pray the nation will never again experience such a morning.

From the Junior Vice Commander:

Kudos to all who have participated in giving our John Lyon post a much needed facelift! Although we still have a way to march, we've definitely come a long way. THANKS!

We are in the process of selecting our Voice of Democracy competition winner and have been fortunate to receive seven entries this year.

That is a far cry from the one entry we had last year. Special thanks to Jeanne Gibadlo for doing virtually all the "grunt" work in making this program a success for our Post. Bravo Zulu, Jeanne!

Please don't forget our 6 December visit to the VA Hospital/Medical Center. Any contributions you can offer, such as used books and baked goods, will be gladly accepted and forwarded with joy. We may also require an extra driver or two to get folks to the Hospital. Volunteers can reach me at (703) 525-3642.

Another annual highlight is our children's Christmas party to be held on 13 December. This event is one of our more worthy causes and it will benefit tremendously from a good post member turnout. Please join us

in bringing some holiday cheer to needy youngsters. They, and you, will appreciate it greatly!

With best wishes for a joyous holiday season and happy new year.

Yours in comradeship,

Mark M. Pando,

Junior Vice Commander

LAST CHANCE!

Post members: this is your last chance to take advantage of the lower prices for Life Membership. Prices will jump an average \$50 for each year group. If you already renewed, your renewal will go towards your Life Membership. Those who haven't renewed yet: jump at this offer and never worry about it again! See last month's newsletter for details or give one of the Post Officers or the Post Home a call. Costs jump 1 January 1998: paperwork must be to National by that date.

Veterans Day: *The Journal* puts 3150 on the front page!

A larger than usual number of comrades and sisters turned out at the John Lyon Memorial in Cherrydale on the morning of November 11 for a World War One commemoration which included a wreath laying, a short Lt John Lyon biographical sketch and a reading of the "In Flanders Field" poem by John McCrae. After a brief break, the group joined the two Arlington American Legion posts for ceremonies at the Clarendon War Memorial. The event was extensively photographed by Brig Cabe of *The Journal* and a photo of the American Legion-led benediction graced the cover of the next day's paper. The inside photo was of Post 3150's Ladies Auxiliary officers Cathy Kerns, Ceil Wasserman, Jeanne Gibadlo, and Lois Cook laying a wreath next to the Post's wreath.

The story in the November 12, 1997, issue of *The Arlington Journal* --- and also the editions of *The Alexandria Journal*, and those of at least Springfield, and Fairfax editions --- was written by Journal staff writer Hallie Pickhardt, who interviewed Post and Auxiliary members at John Lyon Post later in the afternoon.

Hallie Pickhardt wrote in her article "For Vets, taps tells it all":

"Peggy Varney, 77, never fought in any war, but war scarred her to her depths. A tear streamed down her face during a Veterans Day ceremony at the Clarendon Memorial yesterday as she remembered her son who died in Vietnam.

"It was six weeks before he turned 19,' Varney said as she was comforted by friends. 'It doesn't get any easier.'

"The ceremony at the intersection of Irving Street and Wilson Boulevard in Arlington honored Americans who have served the U.S. in war and those who died for their country. Members of area American Legion posts and the Veterans of Foreign Wars from the John Lyon Post in Arlington converged on the memorial yesterday afternoon to remember the dead and honor the living.

"As the sound of taps announced the end of the ceremony, drivers stopped at the intersection

and rolled down their windows to listen while passers-by stopped to salute or place their hands over their hearts.

"It brings forth an understanding to people who may not have served,' said C.D. 'Doc' Crouch, commander of the John Lyon Post, of the holiday and the celebration. 'It reaffirms the sacrifices people made to preserve our freedoms.'

"Crouch, 51, was 24 when he fought in Vietnam during 1969. Although he participates in Veterans and Memorial Day ceremonies every year, he hasn't mustered the will to visit the Vietnam War Memorial in Washington.

"I can't yet go to the wall,' he said. 'There's too many names and too many hard memories.'

"Victor Turrisi, 78, almost died during World War II when a hand grenade exploded, injuring his leg and leaving a gapping hole in his head. Turrisi, who stills bears the scars from his wounds, said Veterans Day means everything to him.

"There are things I'm proud of and things I'd like to forget,' he said. 'I lost a lot of friends. There were a lot with me who died there.'

"Michael C. Agresti, senior vice commander at the VFW John Lyon Post, said it is significant that many of the men and women who died have been gone longer than they were alive.

"Agresti served during the Persian Gulf War, but had to take the day off from work to attend Veterans Day ceremonies. His grandfather came to the United States as an immigrant, got his citizenship and fought in World War I.

"I'm third-generation VFW and only second-generation American,' Agresti said.

"Veterans Day was first known as Armistice Day after World War I came to an end Nov. 11, 1918. In 1954, following the Korean Conflict, the holiday was renamed Veterans Day.

"Although it reminds many veterans of what they endured, Veterans Day also gives them a chance to salute the fallen. Crouch said the holiday gives him a sense of history: 'Without parades and ceremonies, it would become just another day.'"

FROM THE AUXILIARY PRESIDENT

Where is the time going? Already, the month of November is but a memory. The Auxiliary had a busy month to be sure and we successfully completed all of the projects and events we had on the calendar. With the help of several of our Post members, the "Get Out the Vote" campaign was a positive endeavor with 950 lapel stickers distributed throughout the community. Veterans' Day Weekend was a wonderful experience, combining a Sunday Brunch, a Spaghetti Dinner, a cake-cutting ceremony to honor the 222nd anniversary of the United States Marine Corps, and memorial services on Veterans' Day to make for a busy yet most gratifying time for everyone. Our Post Home had many guests during the course of the weekend and even some of our own members from out of the area were able to spend some "special" time with us. Secretary Jeannie Gibadlo joined with me in representing the Ladies Auxiliary as we made two visits to the Vietnam Veterans Memorial and the Women's Vietnam Memorial to lay American Flags to honor those who sacrificed so much for us. Our visits brought into focus the real reason why the work we do in the VFW and the Ladies Auxiliary is so important!

I am sure you will be pleased to know that the Auxiliary, with unwavering support from the Post, has kicked off the holiday season on a very uplifting note with the distribution of our annual Thanksgiving baskets. We prepared one dozen baskets this year, and with the help of the Command Sergeant Major from Ft. Myer, here in Arlington, you can be assured that there will be twelve needy military families that will enjoy a very happy and hearty Turkey Day!

Now that December is here, we have a full plate of activities revolving around the holidays. On December 6th, we will visit our veterans at the V.A. Nursing Home in Washington, D.C. and deliver 100 "Gift Bags" with White Socks and other goodies inside. The Post and the Auxiliary will also join forces on the 6th to "dress up" our Post Home for the holidays. Please come and join us. The more the merrier!

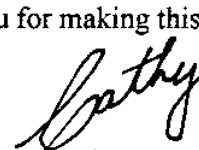
The big event for this month is our annual Children's Christmas Party which will be held on Saturday, December 13th, starting at 11:00am. We will serve lunch to the children and their parents while we wait for Santa to arrive! If you'd like to be one of "Santa's Helpers" or if you have a special knack making those Christmas cookies, please contact me. Christmas is a time of giving and sharing and my own past experience indicates that seeing the joy and happiness when the children receive their gifts from Santa makes it worth the effort.

I heard that Rita Beatty has a little something planned for Friday, the 19th at the Post to toast in the holidays. The festivities should start at 6:00pm and Rita refers to it as a "Christmas Buffet." If you can take the time from the bustle of shopping, baking, and everything else that typically goes on the week before Christmas stop by.

On Saturday, the 20th, we will again prepare and distribute our "Christmas baskets." Because our Thanksgiving baskets were so well received, we will again coordinate with Ft. Myer to insure that our efforts reach needy military personnel that may not otherwise be able to enjoy a special Christmas dinner.

Because we are combining the December and the January newsletters, due to the holiday schedule, I want to remind each of you that several of the Ladies are planning on attending the Mid-Winter Council Meeting in Williamsburg, VA from January 23rd through January 25th. This is when the Department gives an assessment of the progress made by each of the Auxiliaries throughout the State. I have spent the last several months vigorously promoting our membership drive. If you recall, I set November 30th as our Auxiliary's deadline to achieve our 100% goal. This newsletter is being sent to print on November 23, 1997 and I am pleased to announce that as of this date we are only two short of our goal! **We are almost there!** I cannot express enough my gratitude to each and every one of you for your continued support! You must know how proud I will be at the Council meeting in January when they announce that Auxiliary #3150, Arlington has made their 100%. If you have accidently forgotten to send in your renewal, please do it today. It's not too late and I will consider it a personal Christmas card and be grateful for your effort.

May God bless you and yours during this Holiday Season and may 1998 bring you happiness and good health. Thank you to each of you for making this year a very special year for me.



Cathy Kerns
President

Parking Lot Update

A backhoe, graders, and a dump truck or two were recently seen near John Lyon as work progressed on the parking lot. The lot has so far been leveled off and a first layer of rock put down to protect the area from winter's ravages. And protect shoes, floors, and carpeting throughout the area from heavy red mud!

Post 3150's internet site moves

After a test of several months, the Post web page has a new address and will be indexed for various search engines. Update your bookmarks: replace JohnLyon with VFW3150. The complete address, which also appears on the newsletter banner on page 1, is <http://www.webspawner.com/users/vfw3150>

Ideal Gift

Stumped for the ideal gift for your spouse? Think about a VFW or Ladies Auxiliary Life Membership for them! See "Last Chance" earlier in this issue.

Bosnia Vets

Know someone who is or has served in Bosnia? They may be eligible for membership in the VFW. Congress passed and the President signed a bill authorizing the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal for veterans of Operations JOINT ENDEAVOR and JOINT GUARD. This eligibility can, of course, also qualify someone for the Ladies Auxiliary. See the Senior Vice Commander's column above.





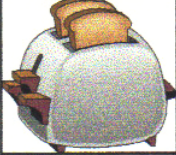
Thanks!

Thanks to those who either in person or through the mails have recently donated to the building fund or one of the other post or auxiliary programs.

Corrections

Post 3150 did not move into the current building when chartered as reported in the last issue. It was not until after World War II that the Post moved to 2116 North 19th Street. The date when John T. Vance was commander slipped out of the last issue. It was reported to have been 1948.

January 1998

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 NEW YEAR'S DAY 	2	3
4	5	6	7	8 POST MEETING 8:00PM 	9	10
11 SUNDAY BRUNCH 9:00AM-1:00PM 	12	13 VFW MOVIE NIGHT	14	15 AUXILIARY MEETING 8:00PM 	16	17
18 SUNDAY BRUNCH 9:00AM-1:00PM 	19 MARTIN LUTHER KING DAY	20 VFW MOVIE NIGHT	21	22	23 MID-WINTER COUNCIL MTG. IN WILLIAMSBURG	24 MID-WINTER COUNCIL MTG. IN WILLIAMSBURG
25 MID-WINTER COUNCIL MTG. IN WILLIAMSBURG	26	27 VFW MOVIE NIGHT	28	29	30	31