

The John Lyon Gazette

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December 2012 - January 2013



Veterans of Foreign Wars
John Lyon Post #3150
2116 North 19th Street
Arlington VA 22201
703-525-0108/fax 703-525-8055
<http://www.vfw3150.org>



The John Lyon Gazette: Winner of 1999, 2003, 2004, 2007, 2009, 2010, and 2011 Clair B. Poff Public Relations Award for Outstanding Newsletter, and Winner of National Awards for 2010, 2011



Veterans Day 2012

Mike McCartney and Scott Clendaniel, two of Post 3150's Iraqi Freedom Marines, present a wreath in memory of Arlington native Marine LCPL Niall Coti-Sears who was killed by an IED in the Helmand Province of Afghanistan in July 2012. The ceremony was part of the Veterans Day ceremonies at the Clarendon War Memorial. Coti-Sears' mother and several family and friends attended. Local Fox News 5 covered the event.



From the Senior Vice Commander:

It is that time of year that I believe everyone looks forward to. The Holidays! Where we pause and give thanks for the many benefits we have. Unfortunately, times are a little bit harder now more than ever with people out of work, etc. It is times like these that we need to be strong and give more than ever before. We need to do what we can to help not only our fellow post members, auxiliary members, and vets, but also our community. I encourage everyone to take some time and find a way to give back to those in area. It may be in a form of volunteering at the Post to serving/cleaning up brunches, stuffing holiday baskets, wrapping presents, serving local food banks/soup kitchens/shelters, visiting nursing homes, etc. etc. There are so many ways that you can make an impact on those in need. If you have ideas, in which the post can give back please let me know.

Speaking of the Holidays, there is a lot going on around us. The elves in the North Pole aren't the only busy ones this season. 3150 has several projects going on right now that could use your support and/or help. The Auxiliaries and the Post members got together for collection and judging of the Voice of Democracy and Patriot's Pen submitted by the local students. There is the packing and donation of the food baskets for young military families from the Fort Myer Henderson Hall Military Community. These baskets will help families celebrate the holidays for Thanksgiving and Christmas. There is the December 1st hospital visit to the VA Nursing home in D.C. All those interested should be at the Post about 1200 to arrive at the home by 1300. Everyone is invited to attend! Of course there are other events upcoming too like the First Texas Hold 'em Poker Night on the 28th of November, the Children's Christmas Party, Pig Roast Fundraiser, and the list just keeps going. Please come by the post and support our efforts and get the most up-to-date information for these and other events.

This past month, we had an overwhelming support of the community on Veteran's Day at the Clarendon War Memorial during wreath laying ceremonies. This year we honored with a wreath a fallen Marine, LCPL. Coti-Sears, an Arlington resident who was killed in action in support of

combat operations in Afghanistan. Ms. Coti was in attendance and expressed her gratitude to our post.

Please look to our new Facebook Page for this and other events that the Post is involved in at the link www.facebook.com/VFWPost3150.; In closing, I look forward as our post continues to do good things into the new year with your help!!

Respectfully,
Michael McCartney, Senior Vice-Commander

From the President of the Ladies Auxiliary:

Dear Comrades and Auxiliary Members:

Whenever I attend a VFW function and we salute the flag, I always notice the women who give the hand salute rather than the hand to heart salute that I do, because they are a Veteran. It gives me a certain pride, because they are part of over 2,000,000 female Veterans who have served with honor since the Revolutionary War. What I see is Women who have more than fulfilled their obligations to our country and then I wonder where are the rest, are they receiving support? Thanks to an organization known as Final Salute, Inc., whose mission is to provide homeless female Veterans with safe and suitable housing my question was answered.

The organization was founded by a female Veteran and Cancer Survivor who became aware of the large number of homeless female Veterans in the United States, over 13,000. Many factors contribute to homelessness, however that word should never be associated with any Veteran. The Ladies Auxiliary just made a monetary donation to the organization because it is our Department President, Cathy Graham's Special Project this year. To find out how you may help this worthwhile cause, visit www.finalsaluteinc.org/ I plan to have more fund raisers to assist this organization and sure could use your help and ideas.

I would like to write a large list of "thank you's" one day to the many members who do things around our Post and outside of the Post and in other cities away from our Post. But it would take forever and I would hate to not mention someone or miss one of the many chores/work that are done. I would like to

thank those who attend almost all of the functions, not only attend, but work as well. I would like to thank those who have held the same or similar positions year after year in each of our organizations to make them function. You know who you are. Most people in our Post get taken for granted and get more criticism than the President of the United States. Some people never get recognized for any thing that they do only what others feel they don't do. My heartfelt salute to those of you who work tirelessly and what seems effortlessly to make our Post a home away from home for visitors and members. Thank you to those who year after year quietly accomplish those things that others don't know need to be done, or they wouldn't do anyway. I truly appreciate the person who corrected the mouse problem for me. There was a mouse problem, where was it, who fixed it? Just someone who happened to be around (like they always are). Yes, this is a volunteer organization, however, you need volunteers to get the job(s) done and for our Post to operate smoothly. And if you can't be part of the solution, please, don't become the problem.

I want to wish you and your family a Happy Thanksgiving, Merry Christmas and a joyous New Year. I found something that Adela Rogers St. Johns wrote: "Joy seems to me a step beyond happiness – happiness is a sort of atmosphere you can live in sometimes when you're lucky. Joy is a light that fills you with hope, faith and love." May you always have hope, never lose your faith, and always love.

Please keep our troops and their families in your prayers especially this holiday season. Treasure the moments you have with your family and friends. I will see you soon,

Lola D. Kane
President, Ladies Auxiliary 3150

From the President of the Men's Auxiliary:

The end of the year is upon us and it's time to spend quality time with friends, neighbors, and family over the Holiday Season. It is also a time when the John Lyon family remembers those veterans who need a helping hand. Our Christmas for Veterans' families is a very special time at the Post, so please make an effort to come and enjoy the festivities.

I want to thank all those Post and Auxiliary members who participated in the Marine Corps Birthday on November 10, 2012 at the Post and Veteran's Day ceremonies conducted at the Post and at memorials in Arlington, Virginia on November 11, 2012. Thank you Marines for your service to our country! Highlights of the Veteran's Day Observance in Arlington were televised and presented on Fox5 News that evening so congratulations to all who participated and attended. What better way to get our name out in the community than to be seen on television! While the memorial ceremonies were conducted, other John Lyon Post and Auxiliary members were preparing and serving Brunch to about 120 customers back at home base. Needless to say, it was a busy weekend but it all went off without a hitch. Thanks again for all who pitched in.

Veteran's Day 2012 was also a special day for the Men's Auxiliary as I conducted a brief ceremony wherein the Men's Auxiliary stood our banner next to the Post and Ladies Auxiliary banners. After 4-½ years, the Men's Auxiliary thought it was high time to display our colors at the Post and the presentation was all the better given that several other out-of-state Posts were also in attendance for the ceremony. Take a moment to look at our new flag when you have an opportunity. The Men's Auxiliary is very proud to have it displayed at the Post. We appreciate any and all opportunities to assist the Post in their mission to advance Veteran causes.

Finally, the Men's Auxiliary wishes all you a safe Holiday season. That said, we all will be spending more time in our cars in heavier than usual traffic and tempers can be hard to control. More importantly, it is very easy to be distracted while driving around our community with all the Holiday lights, traffic, and extra shopping activities. Remember to stay alert at all times to the road conditions and people around you (it's always the other guy that gets you in trouble) and stay calm no matter what that other crazy guy does. We all want to ring in 2013 safely and in one piece. That said – Happy Holidays to all of you!

Ho-Ho-Ho!

Mike "Red" Lowe
President, Men's Auxiliary
VFW John Lyon Post #3150

Welcome to Our New Members

Welcome to new Post members William Allanson (USMC – Korean War/Korea Service/Vietnam), Robert Brashears (Army – Vietnam)(transfer), William Jenkins (Army – Iraqx2/Afghanistan), and Joseph Spencer Scriber (USAF – Korea Service), all whose paperwork is complete and who were elected at the November meetings.

Sunday Brunch \$8.00

2nd and 4th Sundays

9 am - 12 noon

Kids under 10 eat free

No Brunch 23 December

Michigan Vet Wins Vietnam *Reflections* Print

The winner of the Post drawing for a numbered copy of Lee Teter's noted *Reflections* painting was Ron Liedel from Michigan who was in the Post for Veterans Day and who took the print home with him.. The framed print was donated to Post 3150 by Post member John Valloric to use as a fund raiser. The painting shows a veteran's sorrowfully touching the Vietnam Wall while his lost comrades return the gesture. Over \$400 was raised by the drawing for the Post funds.

Christmas Hospital Visit

The yearly Christmas visit to the VA Hospital Nursing Home in Washington, DC is scheduled for Saturday, 1 December. John Lyon members will meet at the Post Home about 12 noon and proceed to the hospital to distribute fresh fruit and other goodies for the residents. You are encouraged to join in this most rewarding event and help bring a smile to the faces of our veterans at the home.

Post 3150 Facebook Page

“Like” us on Facebook at the new “John Lyon VFW Post 3150”.

Children's Christmas Party

The annual Christmas Party for children of junior enlisted personnel at Fort Myer is scheduled for 11 am to 1 pm on Saturday, 15 December. Santa and Mrs Claus are expected as special guests. Come down and join in the fun! Santa's helpers are always needed. Anyone who would like Santa to give their child a toy, please bring one with you and place it under the Christmas tree for presentation. The Post will also prepare Christmas food baskets for these same families on Friday, 14 December at 7:30 pm.

Post Poker Night

The Post begins its first Post Poker Night on Wednesday, 28 November at 6:30 pm. There is a \$20 buy-in for the Texas Hold 'em Tournament. All proceeds go to the Post. The tournament winner receives a “Poker Bracelet” and bragging rights until the next tournament. A review following the first night will determine future nights and frequency. Check with the Post for more info.

Heard a Good Rumor Lately?

The gossip mill is alive and wreaking havoc again. You remember the old telephone game of passing info from one to another and how the ending story bears little resemblance to the one at the beginning? Don't pass along things which are likely changed from the truth and hurt someone / something else as well as making you a gossip. Before saying it, check with the Commander or the individual to see if it is true. Or just keep it to yourself!

Scout of the Year

Any Eagle Scout, Girl Scout Gold Award recipient, Venture Silver Award recipient, or Sea Scout Quartermaster may qualify. Deadline is March 1, 2013. Early submission / interest by end of December may provide opportunity for additional trip for Scout. Awards up to \$5,000. Information and forms may also be obtained at <http://www.vfwva.org/programs.htm>. Or call Post 3150 at 703-525-0108 for further information.

Public Service Nominations due 26 Dec

Nominations for Public Service Awards --- **Law Enforcement Officer, Firefighter, and EMT of the Year** --- are due at the Post by 26 December ---. Nominations include a letter of nomination and up to several pages of supporting documentation.

Help?

The busy brunch and dinner schedules mean the Post and Auxiliaries could often use some extra hands, whether cooking, serving, cleaning-up or washing dishes. If you've got some time, please consider offering a helping hand for one of these events.

Hours for Post Canteen

The Post Canteen is open as follows:

Sun (1 st , 3 rd , 5 th)	1 pm – 9pm
Sun (2 nd , 4 th , "Brunch")	9 am – 9 pm
Mon - Thurs	3 – 9 pm
Fri	3 – 9 pm
Sat	3 pm – 9 pm
Holidays	open by 3 pm

Electronic Newsletter, Address Changes Save Post \$\$

Because we use the third class rate for the Post newsletter, and the required "Address Service Requested" line above the address label, the Post Office charges us 70 cents (sometimes double due to overlapping dates) to forward your newsletter and send us your new address. **PLEASE let us know before you move!** You can email the Adjutant at adjpost3150@va.vfwwebmail.com. You can also request to receive the newsletter in color by email the same way.

Pearl Harbor Day Remembrance Ceremony Fri, 7 December, 7:00 pm

Toys for Tots

Since the US Marine Corps has cut back on its support for Toys for Tots, they are unable to accommodate smaller donor groups such as the Post. As a result, we will redirect our efforts. We will make the effort to forward any donations specifically earmarked for Toys for Tots to them.

Pig Roast 8 December

The yearly Pig Roast remains on the schedule and the proceeds will be used for Post projects and/or other charity to be determined at our December meeting. The Post will host the pig roast on Saturday, 8 December from 4 to 7 pm. The only cost will be a donation.

Winter Council Meeting

The annual Winter Council Meeting will be held 11-13 January 2013, at the Crown Plaza Williamsburg at Ft Magruder, 6945 Pocahontas Trail, Williamsburg VA 23185, telephone 1-800-227-6963. Reserve by 19 December for VFW rates of \$68 per night. All members of the VFW and Auxiliaries are invited to attend and see their organizations at the state level. Saturday night banquet costs \$40 and features a duo plate of Chicken Picatta and Herb Crusted Salmon. See order form in November General Orders at www.vfwva.org under Department and order by 4 January.

VFW 'Legislative Day on the Hill' in Richmond

The VFW Department of Virginia will conduct its annual 'Legislative Day on the Hill' in Richmond on Thursday, 10 January 2013. Check the January General Orders at the VFW Virginia website (<http://www.vfwva.com/>) for additional information. The Legislative Day on the Hill is a time for VFW members to meet with state legislators on matters affecting veterans. Everyone is invited to join this effort to promote veterans' issues to the state legislators. See "Doc" Crouch for more information.

Post Offers Football Game Food

On **non-Brunch** Sundays during Football Season, the Post will open at 1 pm and will offer Steak and cheese subs w/ chips for \$7. On Brunch Sundays, the Post will offer Shrimp (\$8.00) and sliders (\$4.25) after 2 pm. Pitchers of draft beer will also be available for \$5.00 during the games.

Your Membership Expires 31 Dec

If you haven't renewed your membership for 2013, it expires 31 Dec --- for the Post and the Auxiliaries. Post members can renew their memberships or convert to Life with or without a renewal notice from National. There are three ways to renew. First, return the notice from National with check or charge information. Second, charge your dues on-line at www.vfw.org. Click on Login in the upper right corner, and login or create your account as necessary. Then click Member Services. You will need your membership number, found on your membership card or above your name on the mailing label of your VFW magazine. Third, mail or bring your dues to the Post. Annual dues are \$30.

Members of the Ladies and Men's Auxiliaries may renew their memberships by sending a check to their Treasurer at the Post address on the first page. Ladies Auxiliary (\$25 or Life membership), or Men's Auxiliary (\$30).

Tenth District Meeting

The Tenth District Meeting will be held on Sunday, 2 December, at Leesburg Post 1177, 401 Old Waterford Road, Leesburg, (Phone 703-297-6537). Meeting will begin at 1 pm, following lunch at 12 noon. All VFW members are urged to attend this meeting. The Ladies Auxiliary will NOT meet.

A John Lyon Hello ...

To the many members who helped out around the Post and made Veterans Day 2012 a memorable occasion for our many members and guests from across the country. And to Bill Kelly who conceived and coordinated the special remembrance for LCPL Niall Coti-Sears.

Post Christmas Party

The Post / Auxiliaries Christmas Party is scheduled for Saturday, 17 December, starting at 4 pm. Bring a small dish to share.

Auxiliaries Dinner

The Ladies and Men's Auxiliaries will hold a dinner on 19 January from 4 – 7 pm. Exact menu details are still to be worked out, so check with the Post early next month.



Take it easy when shoveling snow

January Spaghetti Dinner

The Post Canteen will sponsor a Spaghetti dinner on Saturday, 5 January from 4 – 7 pm. Cost is \$8.00 for spaghetti and meatballs, salad, and garlic bread. Please sign-up at the Post to give us an idea of how much to prepare.

Youth, Teacher and Emergency Responders Awards

While the winners will be announced after we go to press, the awards will be presented on Saturday, 19 January, starting with lunch at 12 noon at the Post Home. All members are invited and urged to attend and honor these special citizens. Snow date will be 26 January at 12 noon.

Greetings to the Troops

In lieu of Christmas cards sent to "Any soldier" (which will not be accepted), send as many cards as you like to Holiday Mail for Heroes, P.O. Box 5456, Capitol Heights, MD 20791-5456. Absolutely NO inserts of any kind. Must be received by 7 December. Cards (no glitter) must be signed but no email or snail mail addresses on cards.

From Your Post Service Officer:

U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs Health Care Benefits

Part 2 of 14

Priority Groups

During enrollment, each veteran is assigned to a priority group. VA uses priority groups to balance demand for VA health care enrollment with resources. Changes in available resources may reduce the number of priority groups VA can enroll. If this occurs, VA will publicize the changes and notify affected enrollees. A description of priority groups follows:

Group 1: Veterans with service-connected disabilities rated 50 percent or more and/or veterans determined by VA to be unemployable due to service-connected conditions.

Group 2: Veterans with service-connected disabilities rated 30 or 40 percent.

Group 3: Veterans with service-connected disabilities rated 10 and 20 percent; veterans who are former Prisoners of War (POW) or were awarded a Purple Heart medal; veterans awarded the Medal of Honor (MOH); veterans awarded special eligibility for disabilities incurred in treatment or participation in a VA Vocational Rehabilitation program; and veterans whose discharge was for a disability incurred or aggravated in the line of duty.

Group 4: Veterans receiving aid and attendance or housebound benefits and/or veterans determined by VA to be catastrophically disabled.

Group 5: Veterans receiving VA pension benefits or eligible for Medicaid programs, and non service-connected veterans and non-compensable, zero percent service-connected veterans whose gross annual household income and/or net worth are below the VA national income threshold and geographically-adjusted income threshold for their resident area.

Group 6: Veterans of World War I; veterans seeking care solely for certain conditions associated with exposure to ionizing radiation during atmospheric testing or during the occupation of Hiroshima and Nagasaki; for any illness associated with participation in tests conducted by the Department of Defense (DoD) as

part of Project 112/Project SHAD; veterans with zero percent service-connected disabilities who are receiving disability compensation benefits; veterans who served in the republic of Vietnam between 1962 and 1975; veterans of the Persian Gulf War that served between August 2, 1990 and November 11, 1998 and veterans who served in a theater of combat operations after Nov. 11, 1998 as follows:

Veterans discharged from active duty on or after Jan. 28, 2003, who were enrolled as of Jan. 28, 2008 and veterans who apply for enrollment after Jan. 28, 2008, for 5 years post discharge

Veterans discharged from active duty before Jan. 28, 2003, who apply for enrollment after Jan. 28, 2008, until Jan. 27, 2011

Group 7: Veterans with gross household income below the geographically-adjusted income threshold (GMT) for their resident location and who agree to pay copays.

Group 8: Veterans, enrolled as of January 16, 2003, with gross household income and/or net worth above the VA national income threshold and the geographically-adjusted income threshold for their resident location and who agree to pay copays.

Note: Due to income relaxation rules implemented on June 15, 2009 Veterans with household income above the VA national threshold or the GMT income threshold for their resident location by 10 percent or less, who agree to pay copays, are eligible for enrollment in Priority Group 8.

VA's income thresholds can be located at:

<http://www4.va.gov/healtheligibility/Library/AnnualThresholds.asp>

Marching Off...

Walter Landry, 81, on 24 October 2012. He was a USMC veteran of the Korean War. He earned degrees in mechanical engineering and law before joining the Foreign Service in 1962 and later earned a PhD in political science.. Among his many other political and civic activities, he founded a think tank promoting national self-determination for ethnic minorities. He was buried at Quantico National Cemetery.

Dear Members of VFW Post 3150, We very much appreciate the many kindnesses and expressions of condolences upon Walter's passing. It has been a difficult time and knowing he had such good friends was a comfort. The Walter Landry family

Recent Events at the Post

U.S. Marine Corps Birthday

As Guest of Honor, LtCol Paul Bloom >>> (left) cuts the cake while Acting Post Commander Michael McCartney (center) and the oldest and youngest Marines, Joe Weeks and Justin Kobus, look on. The occasion was the 237th birthday of the U.S. Marine Corps on 10 November. All except Bloom are Post 3150 members.



<<< Past President William “Tennessee” Binkley (l to r), Secretary Dennis Gerrity, and President Michael “Red: Lowe, unveil the new Men’s Auxiliary 3150 flag which they “stood up” during a short ceremony on Veteran’s Day. The flag now takes it place with the Post and Ladies Auxiliary flags in the Post home.

Members of the Post and the Auxiliaries >>> arrive at nearby Fort Myer with Thanksgiving food “baskets” for ten junior enlisted families identified by the USO before the holiday. The baskets included a turkey and other food items for a complete Thanksgiving dinner for active duty families which may be having a difficult time in the Washington area in the current economy. Most of the food items were donated by BJ’s Wholesale Club. A group of Post, Auxiliaries, and family members assembled the boxes, with all the food items at the Post earlier in day before they were delivered to the selected families.



Veterans Day at Post 3150



(left) Seated in the veterans section at Arlington's Patrick Henry Elementary School Veterans Day Salute are John Lyon members (l to r) J.Gary Wagner, Lola Kane, Karen Stewart, Nelson Betancourt, and Laura Diaz. The yearly event, which instills patriotism and appreciation for veterans in its young students, salutes veteran parents and school friends. Post 3150 has attended for several years on the day before Veterans Day weekend.

(right) John Lyon members and friends attend the Veterans Day wreath laying ceremonies at the Cherrydale War Memorial (aka the "John Lyon Memorial"). The "John Lyon Memorial" has been so named as John Lyon's is the first of several names on the memorial of Arlingtonians killed in World War I.



Acting Commander Michael McCartney and Junior Vice Commander Alexander Nobles present the Post wreath at Clarendon War Memorial on Veterans Day. The Ladies Auxiliary wreath was presented by President Lola Kane and Past President Karen Stewart. Past Commander Nelson Betancourt assists Secretary Dennis Gerrity to present the Men's Auxiliary wreath during the ceremonies which included three American Legion posts, as well as the special wreath for LCPL Niall Coti-Sears. See front page.

Other Veterans Day week activities included Buddy Poppy distribution, and Post 3150's hosting members, veterans and their families who visited the Washington area from around the country.

VFW 3150

December 2012



Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 Christmas VA Hospital Visit Meet at Post 12 noon
2 VFW 10 th Dist Meeting Post 1177 Leesburg 1 pm	3	4	5	6	7 Pearl Harbor Day, 7 pm	8 Benefit Pig Roast 4 - 7 pm
9 Sunday Brunch 9 am - 12 n	10 House Committee / Post O Call 7:30 p	11 Men's Auxiliary Meeting 7:30 p	12	13 Post Meeting 7:30 pm	14 Christmas Basket Prep 7:30 pm	15 Children's Christmas Party 11 - 1 Post/Auxiliary Christmas Party 4 pm
16	17	18	19	20 Ladies Auxiliary Meeting 7:30 p	21	22
23 NO BRUNCH	24 CHRISTMAS EVE	25 CHRISTMAS DAY	26 Deadline to Post for Gold Medal Awards	27	28	29
30	31 NEW YEAR'S EVE					5 Post Spaghetti Dinner, 4 - 7 pm

VFW 3150

January 2013



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 NEW YEAR'S DAY	2	3	4	5 Post Spaghetti Dinner, 4 – 7 pm
6	7 House Committee / Post O Call 7:30 pm	8 Men's Auxiliary Meeting 7:30 pm	9	10 Virginia Day on the Hill Richmond Post Meeting 7:30 pm	11 Winter Council Meeting Williamsburg	12 Winter Council Meeting Williamsburg
13 Sunday Brunch 9 am - 12 n Officers Planning Mtg 1:30 pm : Win. Council Mtg, W'burg	14	15	16	17 Ladies Auxiliary Meeting 7:30 pm	18	19 Post Awards Ceremonies 12 noon Auxiliaries Dinner, 4 – 7 pm
20	21 MARTIN LUTHER KING JR DAY INAUGURATION DAY	22	23	24	25	26 Post Awards Ceremonies 12 noon (snow date)
27 Sunday Brunch 9 am - 12 n Anniversary Signing of Vietnam Peace Accords, 1:30 p	28	29	30	31		3 Feb ----->> (Sunday) Superbowl Party 6 - 9 pm

703-525-0108 for info or reservations



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

NON-PROFIT ORG
U.S. POSTAGE
P A I D
Merrifield, VA
Permit No. 9209

Dated Material Please Do Not Delay
December 2012

Address Service Requested



***Merry Christmas,
Happy Hanukkah,
and a Happy New
Year!***

**From all the Members of
John Lyon VFW Post 3150 and the Auxiliaries,
our very best wishes for the Holidays**