

# The John Lyon Gazette

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February 2007



Veterans of Foreign Wars  
John Lyon Post #3150  
2116 North 19<sup>th</sup> Street  
Arlington VA 22201  
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<http://www.vfw3150.org>



The John Lyon Gazette: Winner of 1999, 2003 and 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, and 2006; Best Newsletter in the Nation, 1999, Second Place 2006

## Happy 370<sup>th</sup> Birthday, National Guard!



The National Guard celebrated its beginning 370 years ago on Dec. 13. It started in 1636 when the General Court of the Massachusetts Bay Colony ordered existing militia companies from the towns surrounding Boston to form into three regiments. The need for a colonial militia was ratified in the Constitution, and since then, Congress has enacted several militia and defense acts to strengthen the National Guard.

The American colonies earlier adopted the English militia system and obligated all males to possess arms and participate in the defense of the community. The early militia enforced the local laws and battled Britain's enemies in America. One hundred and eleven years after the first act of Congress enabled the militia in the young nation, the Militia Act of 1903 created the modern National Guard and affirmed the National Guard as the nation's primary organized combat reserve force. The National Guard Act of 1947 established the Air National Guard as a separate reserve component at the same time it established a separate Air Force." While contributing to the nation's defense and health in most major wars and community disasters, the National Guard currently participates in operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom. It recently assisted with hurricane Katrina aftermath and rescued people and hauled hay to livestock in recent severe storms in Colorado and 7 other western states. The National Guard Bureau highlights its organization and history at its website (<http://www.ngb.army.mil/features/birthday/index.html>).

The National Guard Museum, which currently showcases its participation in operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom, is located on the corner of Massachusetts Avenue and North Capitol Street in Washington, D.C. It is open Mondays to Fridays from 10 am to 4 pm. For more information, call (888)-226-4287, or visit <http://www.ngef.org/>, click on Museum.

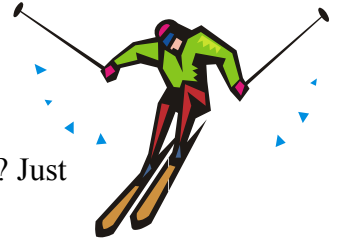
(Sources: *Military.Com*, week of December 25, 2006, *Military.Com / Air Force Insider*, 8 January 2007, and the National Guard websites.)

## *From The Commander:*

Greetings from your home away from home. It's been a couple of months since we last talked. First I'd like to say, I hope you all had a safe and very happy holiday season. Hope you're all rested up, as it's time to get back to work on future goals and requirements.

I do want to take a moment and say "Thank you". Thank you to all those who hung in there during the holidays and really stepped up to the plate and insured our holiday functions went on without skipping a beat. I'm not going to list names, you know who you are, besides, the list is too long. It didn't matter what the function was or what the requirements were, you did it. You did it because you wanted to. You were there for those who needed you to be there. You can feel extremely proud of yourselves. I know I'm proud of you. The Ladies Auxiliary... What can I say. You Did Good. Thank you so much for your continued and undying support.

As some may or may not realize, your Post officers are now on a down hill slide. Meaning, their tenure is getting shorter by the day. It is time you started to think about a new slate of officers. Think about if you would run for office, or who you would nominate for office if you didn't want to run. Would you volunteer or would you suggest someone for an appointed office? Just things to think about. Nominations will be held at our meeting on March 8<sup>th</sup>. Remember, you do have a voice in the running of your Post.



Membership, membership, membership. Thanks to all of you who have put in so much time into the recruiting effort. Yes, we've reached 100% but additional goals still need to be reached. So, my comrades, keep beating the bushes. If you haven't renewed, please send that in soon. Let us rise to the next plateau.

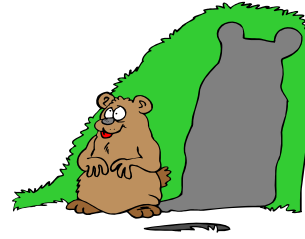
This is the time of year that the weather can turn bad at a moments notice. Drive safely and defensively.

Yours in comradeship,

/s/

Eric Anderson  
Commander, VFW Post 3150

## *From the President:*



Happy Groundhog Day!!

Who knew that we would be 21 days into the New Year before the area experienced a true winter day? We have been spoiled by mild weather the last month or more. Don't forget to check on Punxsutawney Phil's weather prognostication on February 2<sup>nd</sup> --- that's the only day of the year my hometown makes international and national news. Enough of that!!

I want to thank all those who worked so hard to make our USO Children's Christmas Party a success! Lola Kane canvassed the families for their children's wish lists. Jodie LaFreniere-Dajc jumped in, surfing the net, finding great gifts and low prices at various stores. We shoppers had our lists and marching orders. I know my cousin and I enjoyed that part --- we kept saying they didn't have that when we were kids 50+ years ago. A special thanks to our elves who cheerfully wrapped the many oddly shaped gifts. Many thanks, too, to those Post and Auxiliary members who helped decorate the Post for the holiday. All of this came in under budget, thanks to everyone's hard work and generosity. This was my first year attending a 3150 Christmas, it was delightful to watch Santa. and Mrs. Claus's interaction with the children. We can't forget our photographers and State Commander Doc Crouch's photo printing skills. Nor, the shoppers and packers of the family food baskets. My sincere apologies for omitting of the many elves' names, but I do have limited space.

Our first brunch of the year was a door buster, both in the number of participants, servers, and generous tips. Thanks to all of you for supporting us and our many programs!! Great work, kitchen staff!!!!

Onto upcoming events! There will be a Super Bowl party on the 4th from 6-9 p.m. The Auxiliary is hosting a Taco Night on Friday, Feb. 9, from 5-8 p.m., the prices are 3 tacos for \$7, 2 for \$5, and 1 for \$3. There will be a 50/50 raffle. Be sure to sign up at the bar. The Auxiliary's 71st Birthday is Feb. 19th; however, it will be observed on the 15th at 7 p.m., prior to the Auxiliary meeting at 7:30 p.m. Please join us and stay for the meeting!!

Happy Birthday to those of you with birthday's in February, a little birdie tells me there are quite a few! Stay safe with the bad weather and roads.

/s/

Karen A. Stewart

## **Post & Aux Membership 100%**

As we go to press, Post 3150 has just gone over 100% of our membership goal for the year 2006 - 2007. Thanks to all who helped the post reach this important goal by joining or renewing this year. And congratulations to the 3150 Ladies Auxiliary who are also at 100% of their goal. They can always use a new member or two. Is your wife a member?

## **Haven't Renewed? Take Advantage of Glitch**

Your membership expired 31 December if you have not renewed for the year 2006 - 2007. Due to a misunderstanding the post has not ratified the \$3 increase in dues imposed by National. As a result, you can renew at last year's rate until the end of February. Send your check for \$30 to the Post and we will send it on for you. If you return your renewal slip from National or renew via the National website, you must submit \$33 as National's computers have already been re-programmed.

## **Welcome to Our New Members**

Welcome to new Post members Nicholas Grasselli (USCG - Desert Storm); Liv H. Martin (Army - Korea) (Life); Robert C. Martin Jr (Navy - Lebanon 84) (Life) (MAL Trans); Jeffrey Sullivan (USMC - Iraq), Robert Agnew, Richard Daley (Army - Vietnam) and Edward Drain (Army - Afghanistan) (Life), all elected at the December or January meetings. We also welcome back Roy Jobber who returned to Post 3150.

## **Tenth District Meeting**

The VFW Tenth District Meeting will be held on Sunday, 25 February, at McLean Post 8241, 1051 Springhill Road, McLean. Meeting will begin at 1 pm with awards to the district winners of Voice of Democracy, Patriots Pen, Teachers and Law Enforcement Officer of the Year. All VFW and Ladies Auxiliary members are invited to attend.

## **Post Awards Ceremony 24 February**

John Lyon Post will hold an awards ceremony honoring our Post participants and winners in VOD and Patriot's Pen essay, and Teacher and Police Officer of the Year competitions on Saturday, 24 February at 2 pm. Everyone is invited to join our congratulations and thanks to these outstanding individuals.

## **Iraq/Afghanistan/GWOT Vets and 45 and Under Vets**

Attention Iraq, Afghanistan and GWOT veterans and other members 41 and under: The post is hosting a get acquainted evening on Thursday, February 22nd between 6 and 8 pm. The first two beverages and a light food buffet is our way of welcoming you home and to Post 3150. This evening will provide you with the opportunity to meet other Afghanistan, Iraq, and GWOT veterans and other 45 and under members. All members are invited to stop by and meet our younger members. Please RSVP to the Post at 703-525-0108.

## **VFW National Winter Conferences in Washington, D.C.**

VFW's national winter conference will be held in Washington, D.C. in March: The National Community Service and Legislative Conference will meet March 4-7, at the Omni-Shoreham Hotel in Washington, DC. VFW and Ladies Auxiliary members are invited to attend these conferences. For further information, contact the Post or see "**Washington Conference**" under **News & Info** at [www.vfw.org](http://www.vfw.org). The Agenda is in the upper right corner.

## ***Marching off...***

Life Member Terry Lee Carter, 60, on 27 November, in Phoenix, AZ. He was an Army veteran, assigned to the 1stCAV in Vietnam. He was father of past Post 3150 Senior Vice Commander George Carter and husband of Ladies Auxiliary 3150 member, Mery Carter. His funeral is scheduled for 11am, 20 February at Arlington National Cemetery.

Roy Story, 85, on Sunday, 17 December. His obituary in the Washington Post states, in part, he “was held prisoner by Chinese communist forces during the Korean War ... Mr. Story was born in Garber, Tenn., and joined the Civilian Conservation Corps in the late 1930s. Enlisting in the Army in 1941, he fought in the European and Pacific theaters. During the Korean War, he was held captive for 33 months. He fellow prisoners nicknamed him Ma because he cooked for them whenever he could find something to fix and also cared for them when they were sick. He was awarded the Bronze Star and a Purple Heart.” Roy was a VFW Life Member since 1980 and held a number of positions in Post 3150. Burial was in Keplinger Cemetery, Jonesborough, TN.

Post member William G. Paulson, 80, on 7 January. He was a PFC with the US Army Air Force in Europe from June 1944 to June 1946 during World War II. He was assigned to the 42<sup>nd</sup> Air Depot. Burial was in Wisconsin.

Ladies Auxiliary 3150 Member, Dorothea “Dottie” Ahrons, 82, on Monday, 15 January, in Arlington. Burial was at Columbia Gardens Cemetery in Arlington.

## **Taco Night**

The 3150 Ladies Auxiliary will again host a Valentines Day Taco Night on Friday, 9 February from 5 to 8 pm. One can order three large tacos for \$7, or two for \$5, or one for \$3. Chips, salsa, and con queso will also be available. And the DJ will play throughout the evening for your enjoyment. A signup list is available in the Post or you can call 703-525-0108 to add your name to list.



## **Happy Birthday, John Lyon Ladies Auxiliary**

The Year 2007 marks the 72<sup>nd</sup> Anniversary of the founding of John Lyon VFW Post 3150 Ladies Auxiliary. The Ladies have been instrumental in 3150's successes throughout the years. While Monday, February 19<sup>th</sup> marks the actual date, the ceremony marking this event will be held on Thursday, 15 February at 7 pm, prior to the Ladies Auxiliary Meeting. All Post and Ladies Auxiliary members are invited to attend and celebrate their many contributions.

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

From the archives of The Northern Virginia Sun, 27 February 1936:

## **“Lyon Post Auxiliary Observes Birthday**

“More than 100 persons attended the recent banquet at Lee Tavern, Glebe Road and Lee Boulevard, in celebration of the first anniversary of the founding of the Ladies Auxiliary of the John Lyon Post, Veterans of Foreign Wars.

“The banquet program included speeches by members of the post and the auxiliary. Post Commander C.A. Musselman announced the appointment of Howard C. Duckson as Post employment officer. A resolution was adopted urging the County Civic Federation to take steps to prevent overloading of busses in the county.”

## New Officers to be Selected

Post officers for the Year 2007-2008 will be nominated during the March meeting and elected in April. All members are urged to consider one of the positions. Contact the Commander or one of the other current officers for more information on the positions. All positions are open to be filled. The elected positions and some of their areas of prime interest are commander, senior vice commander (membership), junior vice commander (activities), quartermaster (finances), chaplain, advocate (parliamentarian), surgeon (welfare and hospital), three year trustee (oversight), and three year house committee member (post home). Additionally, there are appointed positions such as adjutant (admin), officer of the day, and publicity chairman to be filled.

The Ladies Auxiliary will both nominate and elect new officers during their April meeting. Contact the President or one of the other officers for further information.

## Highway Cleanup 17 February

The Post has scheduled a winter Highway Cleanup along Lee Highway from Rosslyn to Veitch Street for Saturday 17 February. Meet at the Post for coffee and doughnuts at 8:30 am. The post has pick-up sticks and gloves. Long pants and hard shoes are recommended. The event should take less two hours. In case of bad weather, the event will be postponed.



**Never use Cruise Control on icy or wet pavement.** If the cruise control is on and your car begins to hydro-plane, when your tires lose contact with the pavement, your car will accelerate to a higher rate of speed, and you will take off like an airplane.

## A John Lyon Hello ...

...to Ryan Kresan, promoted to Sergeant, U.S. Marine Corps, while in Iraq in November 2006; also to Davin Ernsberger, now in Iraq, and to all our members overseas; and Tommy Rieman who sat in the First Lady's box at the State of the Union Address and was introduced by President Bush.

## Scout of the Year

The VFW has been involved with the Boy Scouts since 1915 and yearly sponsors a Scout of the Year Program. Awards are made at the post, district, and state levels. The deadline to submit the entry to VFW Post 3150 is 1 March 2007. Information, including forms to be completed can be found at [www.vfwva.org](http://www.vfwva.org), then click on Forms or Programs on the top line, and then Scouting Program. A PDF file can be downloaded including the entry form, directions and judging criteria. You can also call the post at 703-525-0108 for additional information.

The criteria include being a registered, active member of a Boy Scout Troop, Venturing Crew, or Sea Scout Ship AND having received the Eagle Scout Award, Venture Silver Award or Quartermaster Award, and having demonstrated practical citizenship in school, Scouting and community. Applicant must have reached his/her 15th birthday and is enrolled in high school at the time of selection.

Submit entries to VFW Post 3150, 2116 North 19th Street, Arlington VA 22201. Any candidate living outside the VFW 3150 area can submit an entry to a VFW post in the area he/she lives

## Hours for Post Canteen

The Post Canteen is open as follows:

Sun (1 <sup>st</sup> , 3 <sup>rd</sup> , 5 <sup>th</sup> )	12 noon – 9pm
Sun (2 <sup>nd</sup> , 4 <sup>th</sup> , "Brunch")	9 am – 9 pm
Mon - Thurs	3 – 9 pm
Fri	3 – 10 pm
Sat	12 noon–10 pm

## Taco Night

The 3150 Ladies Auxiliary will again host a Valentines Day Taco Night on Friday, 9 February from 5 to 8 pm. One can order three large tacos for \$7, or two for \$5, or one for \$3. Chips, salsa, and con queso will also be available. And the DJ will play throughout the evening for your enjoyment. A signup list is available in the Post or you can call 703-525-0108 to add your name to list.

## Trip to Angkor Wat and Vietnam

The Veterans of Foreign Wars, Department of Virginia and Collette Vacations have organized a Treasures of Angkor Wat and Vietnam trip. Some of the highlights of the trip are Bangkok, Angkor Wat, Ho Chi Minh City, Mekong Delta, Hue, Marble Mountain, Perfume River, Hanoi, and Hong Kong. If you would like more information please contact State Headquarters (1-800-888-3521 in Virginia, or 540-886-8112) and a brochure will be sent to you.

## Virginia VFW License Plates

The Virginia General Assembly has authorized the issuance of a VFW license plate. The first 350 applicants will receive the plate without the \$10 application fee the first year. The form may be obtained from the Department of Virginia website ([www.vfwva.org](http://www.vfwva.org)), then click on Forms, then License Plate Application) --- or from Post 3150. Complete the left side of the form and mail it to the State Headquarters. No money required for the special plate, however, normal licensing fees will apply when due. About half the quota is still available.

## Superbowl Party

Football fans of all jersey colors will gather at the Post at 6 pm on Sunday, 4 February to cheer on or boo the Indianapolis Colts or Chicago Bears in the Superbowl --- or to just enjoy the camaraderie. Although the menu has not been set as we go to press, some food will be available from 6 - 9 pm.

## Aid and Attendance Pension

Secretary of Veterans Affairs, Jim Nicholson recently reminded veterans of the existing Aid and Attendance Pension which many may not be aware of program. The pension is available to wartime veterans and surviving spouses who have in-home care or who live in nursing-homes or assisted-living facilities. Those whose incomes are above the congressionally mandated legal limit for a VA pension may still be eligible if they have large medical expenses, including nursing home expenses, for which they do not receive reimbursement. To qualify, claimants must be incapable of self support and in need of regular personal assistance, being unable to feed oneself, to dress and undress without assistance, or to take care of one's own bodily needs. People who are bedridden or need help to adjust special prosthetic or orthopedic devices may also be eligible, as well as those who have a physical or mental injury or illness that requires regular assistance to protect them from hazards or dangers in their daily environment. Certain minimum service and income thresholds apply. For additional information and assistance in applying for the Aid and Attendance, call 1-800-827-1000 or go to [www.va.gov](http://www.va.gov) (Source: *Navy News*, January 04, 2007)

## Reminder to Members

Members of both the Post and the Ladies Auxiliary are reminded to show their membership cards to the on-duty manager when entering the Post home. ABC Rules require it! Remember: Membership remains a privilege to be guarded.



**Winter's Here  
Be Smart  
Be Safe**

## USS *Maine* (September 1895-15 February 1898)

USS *Maine* was a 6682-ton second-class battleship, built at the New York Navy Yard. It was commissioned in September 1895 and later operated along the U.S. east coast and in the Caribbean area. In January 1898, *Maine* arrived in Havana, Cuba, to protect U.S. interests amid local insurrections and civil disturbances. The ship was sunk, three weeks later on 15 February 1898, by a massive explosion killing the great majority of her crew. The sinking fueled national calls to “Remember the Maine!” and led to the Spanish-American War (21 April to 13 August 1898). This has become a turning point in the history of the United States, and signaled the country's emergence as a world power. (Source: <http://www.history.navy.mil/photos/sh-usn/usnsh-m/maine.htm>)

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### VFW Life Membership Fee Schedule

Effective January 1, 2007

Attained Age on 12/31	One time payment	Life 12 month payment plan	Life 24 month payment plan
Through Age 30	\$425.00	\$40.39	\$20.23
31-40	\$410.00	\$39.02	\$19.58
41-50	\$375.00	\$35.84	\$18.05
51-60	\$335.00	\$32.20	\$16.32
61-70	\$290.00	\$28.11	\$14.36
71-80	\$225.00	\$22.20	\$11.53
81 and over	\$170.00	\$17.20	\$ 9.14

Life (one time payment): Pay one time fee via Cash, Check or Charge.

Life (12 month plan): Initial installment of \$35 due at application, then pay 11 monthly installments (see chart above). Monthly fee includes a \$1.75 per month administration fee.

Life (24 month plan): Initial installment of \$35 due at application, then pay 23 monthly installments (see chart above). Monthly fee includes a \$1.75 per month administration fee.

**Terms and Conditions:** The VFW Life Membership installment plan allows any VFW member/applicant to purchase a Life Membership by making either 11 or 23 monthly installments after an initial payment of \$35. The member will be issued a “Provisional Life” membership card and can elect, upon receipt of first monthly invoice, to pay via check, credit card or ACH Debit. The monthly fee (shown in the payment schedule) includes a \$1.75 monthly service fee. The applicable Life Membership fee is to be determined from the schedule using the applicant’s age on Dec. 31 of the installment plan year in which the application is submitted, regardless of actual date of birth. A permanent Life Membership card will be issued upon completion of this agreement. No refund of any portion of current year annual dues will be made

A “payoff amount” will be printed on each monthly invoice, allowing the member the option to pay in full, thereby avoiding additional service fees. If the member pays off early, no additional monthly fees will be collected.

Delinquencies will be handled as follows:

Up to 30 days – continue to bill

31 to 120 days – delinquency can be corrected through make up payment or plan end date pushed forward.

More than 120 days – member is dropped from the installment plan, all payments made to date, excluding service fees, are applied to future years dues. Any excess amount will remain on the member’s account.



# Christmas at John Lyon



<<< Members of John Lyon, the Fraternal Order of the Police, and members of the Diplomatic Security Service arrived at the VA Hospital nursing home in Washington, DC, for the Post's annual Christmas visit. The delegation visited the 120 residents of the nursing home and presented each with several pieces of fresh fruit and a Christmas ornament made from Buddy Poppies. From 3150: (l to r) Eric Anderson, J.Gary Wagner, Alice Beavers, Greg Moscatel, Gene Miller, Santa, and Karen Stewart. Behind Miller is Jim Hensley of the FOP. Also attending from 3150 was Mark Pando. The group returned to the Post where the FOP hosted a Christmas party for Easter Seal children.

Santa and Mrs Claus present a set of >>> twins with gifts from the North Pole during the Christmas party for children of junior enlisted personnel from Fort Myer. Thirty-one children were guests of John Lyon during the party which included lunch, coloring book and crayons, a stocking and specially earmarked gifts. The eleven families also received food baskets for the holidays.



<<< Commander Eric Anderson (right) receives thanks from USMCR Sergeant Matt Hill for John Lyon Post's collection of funds for Toys for Tots, while Ladies Auxiliary President Karen Stewart and Post Senior Vice Commander Thomas Kane watch from the left. John Lyon collected several toys and over \$1160 for Toys for Tots from 3150 members as well as the Post and Ladies Auxiliary.

# Recent Events Around the Post



<<< Commander Eric Anderson (left) and Past Commander Ken Jansen assist a wheelchair riding Walter Reed soldier into the new bus which Post 8208 uses to transport soldiers between Walter Reed Army Medical Center and Post 3150 for Sunday brunches.

Charles Reddoor reads a bit of history >>> surrounding the attack on Hawaii, while World War II veteran Ralph Huston (left), Karen Stewart and J.Gary Wagner wait their turns during the ceremonies marking Pearl Harbor Day held at Post 3150. The event remembered the attack on Pearl Harbor 64 years ago which speeded the U.S. entry into World War II.



<<< The kitchen crew is busily at work during a recent Sunday brunch. Ernie Deal dishes up some grits while Myra Pressley waits to complete a plate and Ken Jansen supervises.

# VFW 3150 February 2007



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3
4 Superbowl Party 6 - 9 pm	5 House Committee 7:30 pm Post O Call 8 pm	6	7 Movie Night	8 Post Meeting 8 pm	9 Taco Night by the Ladies Auxiliary 5 - 8 pm DJ Music	10
11 Sunday Brunch 9 am - 1 pm	12	13	14 Valentines Day Movie Night	15 72 <sup>nd</sup> Birthday LA 3150 7 pm Ladies Aux Meeting 7:30 pm	16 <---- Sinking of the USS Maine 1898	17 Highway Cleanup 8:30 am
18	19 Presidents' Day	20	21 Movie Night	22 Afghanistan / Iraq / GWOT Vets and 45 and Under Members 6 - 8 pm	23	24 Post Awards Ceremonies 2 pm
25 Sunday Brunch 9 am - 1 pm VFW Tenth District Meeting Mclean VFW Post 1 pm	26	27	28 Movie Night			

**Welcome Afghanistan / Iraq / GWOT Vets  
and 45 & Under Members - 22 Feb**



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

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**Presidents Day**  
**19 February 2007**