

The John Lyon Gazette

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July 2006



Veterans of Foreign Wars
John Lyon Post #3150
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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

Anderson, Stewart Assume 3150 Office
3150: 2nd in Community Activities,
1st in Americanism

“Doc” Elected State Commander



C.D. “Doc” Crouch was elected and installed as the 83rd Commander, VFW Department of Virginia on Sunday, 18 June 2006 during the Department Convention in Richmond, Virginia. He assumed his office about 10:20 am. Above, left, he receives the Commander’s pin from outgoing Commander, Daniel D. Boyer. Right, he addresses the convention following his election. Only two members of Post 3150 have previously served as State Commander: Austin J. Matthews in 1942-43 and George C. Dalby in 1954-55. The new Ladies Auxiliary Department President is Rebecca “Becky” Mason of LA 10387, Petersburg. (Photos by Jay Schrand, Post 8241)

From the Commander:

Out with the old and in with the new. Once again we're off and running, beginning a new year. It seems like just the other day that Past Commander Greg Moscatel had started his, what turned out to be, two year tenure. My personal congratulations to you Greg, for a job "well done" and for earning the Post yet another "ALL STATE" award.

A special thank you goes out to two comrades who did a superb job doing our installation: new State Commander, C.D. "Doc" Crouch as the installing officer and comrade Al Quaye as aide-de-camp. Well done.

I need to say thank you to the entire membership for the assistance, comradeship and counsel that I've received over the years, all of which has better prepared me for the steps I'll take in the future. Most importantly, thank you for the confidence you have placed in me to be your Commander this coming year.

I particularly want to thank the Ladies Auxiliary for the support they've given me over the years. Without our Ladies, we as a Post may very well not be where we are at today. They are the best. I'm looking forward to working alongside Madame President Karen Stewart and all the ladies this coming year and hopefully accomplishing our goals as equally well as we did this past year. Although, I'd like to think even better than the past year.

At this point it's probably time to list all my goals for the coming year. On second thought, I think I'll just keep it to one main goal that will most certainly cover everything. Some of you heard this at my installation, but for those who didn't it is simply, to follow in the footsteps of my predecessors and lead our Post on the continuing path of excellence.



On another note, for those who might be just a little bit concerned, I'll still be in the kitchen during brunch, manning my post along with Chef Ken. Been doing it too long to stop now.

Yours in comradeship,

/s/

Eric Anderson
Commander, VFW Post 3150

From the President:

It is with awe, a little trepidation, and honor that I begin the year as President of your Auxiliary. We in the Auxiliary look forward to working with Commander Eric Anderson in support of the Post programs. We have a busy year ahead of us. Thanks to all of you who participated in the Memorial Day activities--distributing wreaths at Arlington Cemetery, the Wreath Laying ceremonies at the John Lyon Memorial and at the Clarendon War Memorial, and the distribution of flags at Ballston Common in commemoration of Flag Day. Greg Moscatel, Gary Wagner and I were honored to attend the Key School volunteer and partnership appreciation ceremony on June 14.

I would like to thank Sisters Gail Hoffman and Catherine Kerns for presiding as installing officer and conductress (respectively) at the Installation Ceremonies on May 20. Best wishes and congratulations to outgoing President Catherine Graham as she assumes her new duties as the District Ladies Auxiliary Senior Vice President. I've enjoyed my past 2 years as Senior Vice President and have learned much from my fellow officers.

The Department convention was held in Richmond this past weekend ending on June 18th, both the Post and Auxiliary received numerous awards and citations. The Auxiliary received its banner for the year 2005-06 along with Certificates of Merit for Most Outstanding Newsletter combined with the Post, the Most Effective Use and Display of Buddy Poppy (3rd Place), and Recognition of Most Unique VFW National Home for Children Awareness Week Project. Certificates for Participation were received for Americanism, Operation Uplink, Patriot's Pen, the Hospitals and VAVS Program, and Young American Patriotic Art Award. I've just named a few so please stop by the Post to view the many certificates. Our Auxiliary membership for 2006 - 2007 is at 63.36% -- that is a great way to begin the new year. Thank you all.

Congratulations to "Doc" Crouch, our Department Commander; to J. Gary Wagner, District Commander; and to M.C. (Connie) Agresti, District Senior Vice Commander. They make a great team!!

Don't forget our Sunday brunches on the 2nd and 4th Sundays of the month from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Our next VA Hospital visit is July 1 at 12:30 p.m; please plan to come with us. Our Independence Day Cookout will be from 3 to 7:00 p.m. Check the calendar on the last page of the newsletter for other events. The next Auxiliary meeting will be on July 20. Try to attend--new faces are always welcome.



Happy Birthday to those of you with birthdays in July!! Enjoy your Independence Day holiday, drive safely if traveling and let the experts put off the fireworks!

/s/

Karen A. Stewart

State Convention Highlights Agresti Receives Dalby Award

At the Department Convention in Richmond, John Lyon Post 3150 received high level awards in recent statewide competitions. At the top of the list were the All-State designation and the Ladies Auxiliary Banner. #3150 also received the overall second place Community Activities award, and the first place Richard Guager Americanism Award. The post also received an Operation Up-link Plaque (bronze level). M.C. "Connie" Agresti received the prestigious George C Dalby "Mr VFW" Award, presented "to the individual who has made outstanding contributions in all VFW Programs." The Ladies Auxiliary also received citations for "Most Outstanding Newsletter Combined with the Post", "Most Unique VFW National Home Week Project", "Best Participation / Promotion of Patriotic Art Escrow Fund", and third place for "Most Effective Use & Display of Buddy Poppy" The Auxiliary also received other Department awards and certificates. Additional awards for the post are expected to be distributed at upcoming Tenth District meetings. VFW National citations were presented to M.C. "Connie" Agresti and J.Gary Wagner for their work at the Department level as Outreach and Americanism Chairmen, respectively. Also see the photo section of this issue.

A John Lyon Hello to...

Jim and Martha Tingler, who recently celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary. They are past post commander and Ladies Auxiliary 3150 president, respectively.

VFW Life Membership Fees

My birth date is _____
Through age 30 = \$245
Age 31 - 40 = \$235
Age 41 - 50 = \$215
Age 51 - 60 = \$195
Age 61 - 70 = \$165
Age 71 - 80 = \$125
81 and over = \$85

(Any applicant whose 31st, 41st, 51st, 61st, 71st or 81st birthday will occur after the date of application and on or before December 31st of the current calendar year shall pay only the fee that would be required on his/her next birthday.)

5 Reasons to Renew VFW Membership Now

Yes, it's that time of year again. Even though your annual membership card is good until December 2006, the VFW will begin sending out renewal notices soon. As it takes a while to get everyone renewed, the process begins early. Why do it now?

1. Post and Ladies Auxiliary members who renew early will qualify for the post's free Early Bird Dinner in October.
2. Post members will also qualify for the Life Membership drawing done at the Early Bird Dinner. There will be six drawings, one for each of the five youngest year categories, plus one for the two oldest year categories (The post will continue its program to purchase a Life Membership for those annual members who will be 71 years old by 30 June of each year and who have been members of Post 3150 continuously for the previous five years.). (Ladies Auxiliary 3150 also has a drawing for memberships for those who renew early.)
3. The cost of VFW annual membership is expected to be raised at the national convention in August, so beat the increase. Also...
4. Consider VFW Life Membership. The VFW national convention is expected to raise the cost of Life Membership *considerably*. The proposal was nearly defeated last year and the objectionable features have been removed from this year's proposals. Those who "go Life" and whose names are drawn will receive a refund for the Life membership payment, so you are not penalized for "going Life" when you renew.
5. Avoid all those renewal reminders, letters, and phone calls.

Respond to your renewal notice or send a check to the Post Quartermaster (\$30 or Life membership; see table at left) or Ladies Auxiliary Treasurer (\$25)

LifeLine Screening

LifeLine Screening is expected to return to Post 3150 in August, probably on the 19th. See next month's newsletter for more details. The tests to be offered are expected to check your vulnerability for stroke, abdominal aneurysm, and peripheral arterial disease, and osteoporosis. Advance scheduling is a must.

From the John Lyon Past...

The 21 February 1958 edition of *The Northern Virginia Sun*, p. 13, included the following caption to a photo of two men holding a trophy:

“FOR ‘MR. VFW’ --- The George C. Dalby trophy, a permanent award that will be presented to ‘Mr. VFW,’ the Virginia member of the overseas veterans organization judged to have made the greatest contribution of the year to Veterans of Foreign Wars aims and projects in Virginia, was displayed for the first time this week. The trophy, (is) held here by George C. Dalby, the ‘Mr. VFW’ in whose honor its award was established, and Department of Virginia Vice Commander Robert H. Riner ... Its presentation on behalf of Tenth district contributors to the fund that established it took place at the home of Mr Dalby’s post, John Lyons No. 3150, in Arlington at a meeting of the Tenth district VFW organization.”

Letter to the Editor

“(I) was just re-reading last month’s newsletter and was delighted to see the article on Mr. VFW George Dalby. I joined 3150 in the early 70’s and knew Mr Dalby quite well. He was a great guy. He always encouraged new members to get involved and led by example. Thanks for printing that article. Mike Zieman, Jacksonville, FL”

VA Hospital Visit

A Hospital Visit to the Washington VA Hospital Nursing Home is scheduled for Saturday 1 July. Meet at the Post at 1230 and car pool to the hospital. Come help us bring a bit of holiday cheer to our veterans.

July 4th Cookout

John Lyon Post will mark Independence Day on Tues, 4 Jul, by participating in the National Bell Ringing at 2 pm, and hosting an old fashioned cookout from 3 - 7 pm.

Welcome to Our New Members

Welcome to new Post members, Charles Gant (Army - Vietnam) (reinstatement), Christopher Hillesland (Army - Iraqi Freedom), Nelson Korbs (USMC - Vietnam), Zalika “Z” Muslim (Army - Iraqi Freedom), Jeffery Thomas Rieman (Army - Iraqi Freedom), and recruited by the state: James T Edwards, Brian W Hall, and Richard D Kiggins; and to new Ladies Auxiliary member, Lynda Gibson, all elected at June meetings.

Marching Off...

Carl Colon, 63, on 12 June 2006. Carl was a Captain in the US Marine Corps, and served in the Dominican Republic and Vietnam. He will be buried in Arlington National Cemetery on Wednesday, 19 July at 10 am. Meet at the Admin Building at 9:30.

Update: Veterans’ Stolen Records

VFW Commander-in-Chief JAMES R. MUELLER, has urged “veterans and service members to contact one of the three largest national consumer credit bureaus below and place a free three-month fraud alert on their files and, if married, their spouse’s files. The other two companies will be automatically informed of the fraud alert.

Equifax: 1-800-525-6285, www.equifax.com
Experian: 1-888-397-3742, www.experian.com
TransUnion: 1-800-680-7289,
www.transunion.com”

He added that “We understand the VA is working with the national credit bureaus to develop a program that will extend credit protection at no cost.”

For continuing information, check the VFW website at www.vfw.org for updates. You may also call toll-free 1-800-FED-INFO (333-4636) or logon to www.firstgov.gov for additional information. (Source: News at www.vfw.org)

National VFW Convention

The 107th National VFW Convention will be held in Reno, Nevada, from August 26- 31, 2006. Information can be obtained from the national VFW website (www.vfw.org, then 107th Convention), the state of Virginia's General Orders (www.vfwva.org), from the Post, and recent issues of the VFW magazine.

You must book by July 26, 2006 for group rate. The Reno Hilton is full; the over flow hotel is the Atlantis Hotel. Please call 1-800-723-6500 and let them know that you are with the VFW National Convention and with the State of Virginia and they will take care of your reservation.

Anyone planning to attend should let the post know so that we can coordinate several items with you.

VFW National Home to Receive \$3.5 Million from GM

Those who receive the Post weekly email update, as well as TV viewers nationwide, heard of General Motors' pledge to donate to VFW National Home for Children \$100 for each Pontiac, Buick, and GMC vehicle sold over a ten day period at the end of May.

The results were recently announced and the National Home will soon receive \$3.5 million from the sale of nearly 35,000 Buick, Pontiac and GMC vehicles. Not only did the campaign draw the attention of car buyers but non buyers as well. The National Home said that many Americans learned of the Home for the first time and sent a donation. Paul G. from Florida wrote, 'I really don't need a new car, but I want to help as if I had purchased one.' He included a check for \$100 dollars."

Since 1925 the VFW National Home for Children has been providing for the children and families of our nation's veterans, while at the same time serving as a living memorial to our nation's heroes. For more information on the National Home, please call (517) 663-1521, toll-free at (800) 424-8360 or visit www.vfwnationalhome.org. (Source: VFW National website at www.vfw.org)

Hours for Post Canteen

Opening hours for the Post canteen are 3 pm, Monday through Friday.

The Post Canteen is open as follows:

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

Need a Scholarship?

Military.Com has scholarship finder for military families. About 1000 scholarships are available. Go to www.military.com and click on Education or go directly to <http://aid.military.com/scholarship/search-for-scholarships.do>

Korean War Veterans Armistice Day

John Lyon Post will mark Korean War Veterans Armistice Day with a short ceremony on Thursday 27 Jul 27 at 7 pm. All veterans are encouraged to attend.

Highway Cleanup Scheduled

Highway Cleanup is scheduled for Saturday, 29 July. Meet at the Post at 8:30 am for coffee and doughnuts. Come help us earn those "Adopt-a-Highway" signs on Lee Highway. Wear long pants and hard-soled shoes. The Post has gloves, safety vests, and levered pick-up sticks.

Last Newsletter?

If you failed to renew your membership dues for the year 2006, you are about to be dropped from the mailing list for the newsletter. To stay on the list, send your dues for 2007 **NOW**. To the Post Quartermaster (\$30) or Ladies Auxiliary Treasurer (\$25) at the address on the front page.

GOVERNOR KAINE SIGNS LEGISLATION GRANTING IN-STATE TUITION TO MILITARY FAMILIES

~Signs bills establishing family support fund, "Support Our Troops" License Plate~

RICHMOND – Governor Timothy M. Kaine today ceremonially signed several General Assembly bills providing support and assistance to families of military men and women, demonstrating Virginia's bipartisan support for active duty military, National Guard, and Reserve families.

The legislation signed today includes measures that provide in-state college tuition rates for children of military personnel stationed in Virginia, create a Virginia Military Family Relief Fund, authorizes a "Support Our Troops" Virginia license plate, and shift administrative responsibility for the Virginia Department of Veterans Services from the Secretary of Administration to the Secretary of Public Safety.

"Virginia is honored to be the home of 122,000 active-duty military personnel, and almost three-quarters of a million veterans and their families," Governor Kaine said. "These are our family, friends, neighbors, customers, and co-workers. We salute their service, and look for opportunities like today to thank them for their service -- and to tangibly demonstrate that we are sensitive to the challenges that their military service can present for their families."

The Governor was joined at today's ceremonial bill-signing by several active-duty, Guard and Reserve personnel and their families, the bipartisan General Assembly sponsors of the legislation, and by U.S. Deputy Under Secretary of Defense Leslye Arshet.

The following legislation was signed today:

House Bill 695 (Suit) and Senate Bill 121 (O'Brien) – In-State Tuition – provides in-state tuition rates for dependents of military personnel stationed in the Commonwealth. These bills, which were recommended by the Virginia Military Advisory Council, could potentially benefit an estimated 3,500 students.

House Bill 240 (Suit) – Relocated K-12 Students Stay Tuition Free – allows the children of active-duty military members who are ordered to relocate to a new school district to continue attending the school they attended immediately prior to the relocation, tuition-free.

House Bill 628 (Johnson) and Senate Bill 139 (O'Brien) – Virginia Military Family Relief Fund – creates the Virginia Military Family Relief Fund, which will provide financial assistance to the families of Guard and Reserve members who are deployed. At present, 22 other states have established similar funds to provide financial assistance to the families of Guard and Reserve members. These bills were recommendations of the Virginia Citizen-Soldier Support Council. In addition, all Virginians will soon have the opportunity to contribute to the Fund through a check off on their income tax forms.

House Bill 1413 (Hargrove) – Veterans Move to Public Safety – codifies the movement of the Department of Veterans Services to the Public Safety secretariat.

Senate Bill 359 (Edwards) and House Bill 1465 (Dudley) – Southwest Virginia Veterans Cemetery – allows the Commonwealth to accept property donated for the purpose of constructing a new veterans cemetery in Southwest Virginia in the Dublin area.

Senate Bill 617 (Mims) – "Support Our Troops" license plate – establishes the "Support Our Troops" license plate. Support Our Troops, Inc. expects to have these license plates available in at least 30 states by the end of this summer.

Support Our Troops, Inc. is a national non-profit organization which raises funds to provide financial assistance to soldiers' survivors and families to meet medical or household expenses.

Memorial Day



<<< One team salutes at an Arlington National Cemetery gravesite after placing a small wreath on the grave during Memorial Day weekend. With some post weekend visitors joining in, John Lyon members Gene Miller, Catherine Kerns Deal, Marcia Anderson, John Lundquist, Karen Stewart, and Bonnie Britten render the honors. Four teams placed about 200 wreaths on graves of John Lyon members or their families in National Memorial and Columbia Gardens (Friday afternoon) and Arlington National (Saturday morning). If we missed the grave of your loved one, please contact the Post with gravesite information.

Commander Greg Moscatel (left) >>> stands with a group of students and parents from the Key-Science Focus Lightning Soccer Clubs following the Memorial Day ceremonies at the John Lyon Memorial in Cherrydale. The post has been a long time sponsor of the soccer clubs and the parents usually use our ceremonies to teach their children the meaning of Memorial Day. Many also attend the Clarendon War Memorial ceremonies. Each child was also given a Buddy Poppy and a short lesson in its significance at both ceremonies.



<<< Following the Memorial Day ceremonies at the Clarendon War Memorial, many of the John Lyon contingent gather behind the memorial. From the left, front, J.Gary Wagner, Greg Moscatel, Thomas Kane, and Walter Frankland; standing, front, Vivien Parker, Geraldine Ryan, Juanita Diggs, Lola Kane, Karen Stewart, John Lundquist, Bill Guise, Ralph Huston, and rear, Eric Anderson, Ruth Rodier, and Floyd Johnson.

State Convention



<<< Post 3150 nominee Lt Brian Berke, Arlington County Police Department (center) and Post Commander Greg Moscatel (right) listen while state chairman Conrad Yetter reads the certificate awarded to Lt Berke as the VFW State of Virginia Law Enforcement Officer for 2006-2007. Other awards presented at the Awards Night ceremonies included All-State Honors for the Post and “the Banner” for Ladies Auxiliary 3150.

2005-2006 State Ladies Auxiliary >>> President Debbie Martin addresses the VFW convention wearing a pillbox hat from the 1960s. She had admired the hat during a visit to Post 3150 and “Doc” Crouch had kidded her about that being a hat for the current ladies. She borrowed the hat, which once belonged to past **3150 President Peggy Bassford**, for the visit to the VFW side of the convention. She added that “This one is for you, Doc!” Behind her are National Secretary-Treasurer of the Ladies Auxiliary Celia Davis, who was Ladies Auxiliary National Representative to the convention, and 2005-2006 State Commander Daniel D Boyer. *(Photo by Jay Schrand, Post 8241)*



<<< The John Lyon delegation pauses outside a Richmond restaurant after the Post 3150 dinner at the Department Convention. From the left (rear) are Walter and Carolyn Landry, Catherine Graham, David Dajc with daughter Emilie, M.C. “Connie” Agresti, Ernie Deal, Catherine Kerns Deal, and Greg Moscatel; and (front) Jodie LaFreniere-Dajc, J.Gary Wagner and Ralph Huston. Also attending the convention was Doc Crouch who had a prior engagement.

Recent Events Around the Post

Key Elementary School Assistant >>> Principal Evelyn Fernandez greeted John Lyon members Greg Moscater, Catherine Graham, and J.Gary Wagner at the Partners in Education celebration recently held in Arlington. The evening honored those organizations, companies, and individuals which volunteer or provide support to Arlington Public Schools.



<<< Gerry Peterson (now a member of Post 3150), Lola Kane, Thomas Kane, and Richard Hoffman prepare to distribute small flags and other flag information to mall patrons during "A Glory*ous Celebration" Flag Day event at Ballston Commons mall in Arlington. Also participating over three days were John Lyon members Michael Holtz, Felipe Mendoza, Greg Moscater, Karen Stewart, and J. Gary Wagner. The group obtained 668 pledges to display Old Glory on Flag Day, and distributed about the same number of U.S. flags

Michael Holtz, 2006-2007 Junior Vice >>> Commander and Iraqi Freedom veteran (second from the right), reads the Army Chief of Staff's greetings during the U.S. Army Birthday celebration recently held at the Post. Other Army veterans or family members include (from the left) Ralph Turpin, 2006-2007 Ladies Auxiliary President Karen Stewart, Tommy Saunders, and Joe McGrail. The Army birthday followed the post's annual Flag Day celebration of Old Glory.



VFW 3150

July 2006



Sunday Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday Friday Saturday

						1 VA Hospital Visit 12:30 pm
2	3	4 Independence Day Bell Ringing 2 pm Cookout 3-7p	5 Movie Night	6	7	8
9 Sunday Brunch 9 am - 1 pm	10 House Committee 7:30 pm Post O Call 8 pm	11	12 Movie Night	13 Post Meeting 8 pm	14 VFW School of Instruction, Lynchburg	15 VFW School of Instruction, Lynchburg
16 VFW School of Instruction, Lynchburg	17	18	19 Movie Night	20 Ladies Aux Meeting 7:30 pm	21	22
23 Sunday Brunch 9 am - 1 pm	24	25	26 Movie Night	27 Korean War Veterans Armistice Day Ceremony 7 pm	28	29 Highway Cleanup 8:30 am
30	31					

4th of July: bell-ringing 2 pm, cookout 3 - 7 pm



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



Happy Birthday,
America
230 Years!
4 July 2006