

# The John Lyon Gazette

Volume 17, Number 9

March 2011



**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, 2004, 2007, 2009 and 2010 Clair B. Poff Public Relations Award for Outstanding Newsletter, and Winner of National Second Place Award for 2010



## Post “Flag Box” Nearly Ready for Use

Members of a local Cub Scout troop, under the guidance of their leaders and John Lyon members, painted an old mailbox donated by the U.S. Postal Service for use in collecting old, unserviceable flags to be retired. The “flag box” will soon be permanently mounted and made available for Arlingtonians to deposit their old flags 24 hours a day. (In the meantime, flags can be brought into the Post.) Showing their paint stained fingers are some of the Scouts, a leader, and Post members Gary Woods and Mike McCartney. The Scouts will retire the flags with appropriate reverence and ceremony during their camping trips.

## **From The Commander:**

Dear Friends, believe it or not – Spring is just around the corner. It officially starts on the 20<sup>th</sup>. Hopefully the worst of the cold weather is behind us now. I for one am ready to bid Old Man Winter goodbye!

By the time you read this the Post will have reached, maybe even surpassed, its 100% membership objective of 521 new or renewed active members. Membership is the lifeblood of this organization and is what allows us year after year to successfully set up and execute our outreach programs and maintain a Post home that is truly welcoming and inviting. It is not uncommon to receive accolades from visitors about how our Post – John Lyon – is a home-away-from-home for them. Visitors and Comrades that come from near and far, either visiting the Capital or who are just passing through. Accolades that You make possible with your membership and help around the Post. So to You I say - thanks for keeping us number 1.

Still, there are some out there that have not sent in their renewals. The time is now – either go online, mail it in, or better yet come by the Post and renew. We want you back in the team. We're now also looking for some growth members, so if you know of an eligible veteran or active duty service member – invite them to the Post and ask them to join. Let's get the word out.

I wish to thank Jay Warren and George Jordan for helping out the Kitchen Wrecking Crew (cleanup crew) after this past brunch Sunday. The Kitchen Crew appreciated the extra set of hands.

The next event where we can use an extra set of hands will be with the upcoming Hospital Visit on 26 March. The Post Surgeon has set the visit up and can use some help transporting the fruits and sundry items, as well as with handing them out. Our comrades at the hospital look forward to the visit, which for some is the highlight of the day.

Finally, Congratulations to our Ladies Auxiliary on their 76<sup>th</sup> Anniversary! What started out as a dream with high hopes by 21 young ladies back in 1935 has taken deep roots and borne much fruit over the years. I'm certain that the charter members of the John Lyon Ladies Auxiliary would be proud of the present members- I know I am. May the next 76 years be as successful as the first 76 have been.

Yours in comradeship,  
Nelson Betancourt, Commander, John Lyon VFW Post 3150

*“We are born free by accident. We live and die free by choice.” Gen. Luis Gonzalez Vales – US Army*

## **From the President of the Ladies Auxiliary:**

Hail and Greetings: In February, I noted the theme of our National President, Cortina Barnes: “United by Love for our Veterans and Country”. It was a surprise of love, when Nancy Barone and 10 year old Elizabeth of the Church of the Nazarene came by and gave handmade Valentine's cards to our veterans after brunch on 13 February!

Thanks to all who helped and came out for the Ladies and Men's Auxiliaries' fish and shrimp dinner. It was great to see everyone for a nice evening. Special thanks to Eric Anderson and the Men's Auxiliary for preparing a delicious dinner. Our brothers baked two cakes, one of which Sister Gail Hoffman beautifully decorated for our Ladies Auxiliary's 76<sup>th</sup> Birthday. Commander Betancourt presented each of the Ladies with a rose and we were happy to see Sister Linda Bond, District 10 President, who came by for dinner. Sister Elsa Weeks was appreciated for her years of Buddy Poppy dedication. She has created ornaments, wreaths and award winning entries. We look forward to her help and guidance on future projects.

We love seeing our friends and welcoming new ones while we enjoy great meals, good times and help the VFW's Mission to "Honor the Dead by Helping the Living". Every time you visit the Post you are helping with that mission. Please invite someone to a dinner, tell others about our brunch, thank a Veteran and tell them about our Post. We are fortunate to be a part of a dynamic and dedicated John Lyon family and our outreach to others is important. Think about little Elizabeth as she handed out the Valentine's cards and talked to our veterans. We should all be inspired by her patriotism and loving appreciation and enthusiasm for our veterans.

Sisters, our next meeting is Thursday 17 March. Please attend and provide your valuable input. Let me know any suggestions or ideas you have and remember our dedication to one another and our duties as sisters.

VFW National Home Awareness Week is March 20-26. Please continue to give us "Campbell's and other labels. Our dedicated Sister Belle Woods, will put a "house" at the canteen for you to contribute to the 2011 Home's theme of "Strength in our Numbers".

The deadline for the Patriotic Arts Scholarship competition is 31 March. Sister Karen Stewart has done much work to promote this competition by contacting schools and students in grades 9-12. Please help by getting the word out to the teachers and parents of creative youth.

Post Service Officer Arnold Dixon will assist veterans, wives, caretakers, widows and orphans of veterans. The veteran does not have to be a member of the VFW. Call the Post if a veteran or their family needs assistance filing claims for benefits.

Happy 3<sup>rd</sup> birthday on March 25 to the Men's Auxiliary. I am thankful to our brothers for the dedication to our veterans and the great work they do on behalf of our Post.

We look forward to seeing you at the St Patrick's Day dinner on Saturday, 19 March, and do not forget to sign up for our Ladies Auxiliary Annual Crab Cake Dinner on April 2nd.

In Fortitude and Loyalty,  
Mary Anne McCormick, President, Ladies Auxiliary 3150

### **From the President of the Men's Auxiliary:**

Greetings One and All. I begin with good news. John Moffitt has joined the Men's Auxiliary with unanimous approval. Congratulations and welcome aboard, John.

Many thanks to everyone in attendance at the joint auxiliaries' Fish/Shrimp Dinner. The continued support of these events means both auxiliaries are able to give funds to Cancer Aid and Research, the USO, and other charities of choice. Thanks again.

On a personal note, I hope the Ladies Auxiliary enjoyed the first joint dinner as much as I did. I look forward to our continued success and co-operation.

The next special dinner event planned is the Annual Corned Beef & Cabbage St. Pat's Day observance— Always a big hit, attended by many. See the Post calendar and put that date on your calendar as a must.

See you next month. Sincerely,

William .L. Binkley, President, Men's Auxiliary 3150



## **VFW Home for Children turns 86; Awareness Week is 20-26 March**

Established in January 1925, the VFW National Home for Children was created as a home for widows and orphans of deceased World War I veterans, but now includes other families in crisis. The National Home is a private, non-profit, licensed residential child care agency created to care for the developmental, social and spiritual needs of military and veteran families. The facility is not an orphanage, but a neighborhood of custom homes, service buildings and recreational land administered by a highly devoted staff and fully integrated into its surrounding community. More than 2,000 people have lived at the National Home during its 86 years of service. For more information, see [www.vfwnationalhome.org](http://www.vfwnationalhome.org).

The National Home Helpline (800-313-4200) is often a family's first contact with the National Home. Whether families come to reside on the National Home's campus or get the help they need closer to home, National Home Helpline staff take the time to listen and understand callers' concerns so they can get to the root of the problem and help them find lasting solutions. The National Home Helpline provides military and veteran families with connections and resources that many people are not aware of – even when they are right in their own backyard.

As well as the Post's making donations in memory of our deceased Post members, John Lyon continues to collect Campbell's and other "Labels for Education" labels and send them to the National Home. A drop-off box is in the Post. The labels are used for such things as obtaining mini-buses and other things for the National Home. See separate story on one of the following pages.

## **St Patrick's Day Dinner**

John Lyon will be going green again this year on Saturday, 19 March 2011, with 3150's renowned corned beef and cabbage dinner. Salad, potatoes, and dessert will complete the meal, which will be served from 4 pm to 7 pm. Price is \$12.00. Reservations are a must for this popular event: call the Post Home at 703-525-0108 or sign up in Canteen by Wednesday, 17 March to get your name on the list.

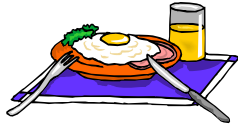
## **Welcome to Our New Members**

Welcome to new Post members: Christopher Hager (USAF - GWOTEM), William T Kelly (Army – Desert Storm) (Life), and Alexander Wojcicki (Army - Vietnam) (Trans / Life), new Ladies Auxiliary members Diana Sheridan and Margo Sheridan (trans), and Jas Stevenson, and new Men's Auxiliary member, Robert John Moffitt, all elected at February meetings and whose paperwork is complete..

## **New Officers to be Nominated**

Post officers for the Year 2011-2012 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, guard, and publicity chairman to be filled.

The Ladies and Men's Auxiliaries will both nominate and elect new officers during their April meetings. Contact the appropriate President or one of the other officers for further information.



**Sunday Brunch \$7.00**  
**9 am - 12 noon**  
**Kids under 10 years eat free**

**Ricky Lee**  
**Benefit Concert 5 March 2011**

Several Posts from the 10<sup>th</sup> District are sponsoring a fundraising concert at Post 1503 on 5 March 2011 from 7 - 11 pm. Performing will be Nashville recording artist, Ricky Lee. All profits will go to the Military Assistance Program for Virginia VFW. The *VFW Military Assistance Program* (MAP) is the outstretched hand between the VFW and the local military. Conducted through local VFW channels, MAP assists in sponsoring morale boosting events, such as homecoming celebrations and unit picnics. In the last 5 years, MAP has sponsored events supporting over 1 million service members and their families!

Ricky Lee has partnered with National VFW to perform and raise funds for veterans and their families. He played at the National Convention this past year and has performed for the troops at Walter Reed and many other places benefiting the troops. Contact Post 1503 at 703 670-4124 for information. Information will also be available at Post 3150 at 703-525-0108. For more on Ricky Lee, go to <http://rickyleemusic.com/>

VFW Post 1503 is located at 14631 Minnieville Road, Dale City VA 22193

**Motorcycle Winner**

The winner of the Department of Virginia Harley Davidson Motorcycle raffle was Terry Davis of the Tidewater area with ticket number 904. Thanks to all who helped and participated in the raffle.

**Men's Auxiliary 3150 3rd Birthday**

Men's Auxiliary 3150 will mark their third anniversary with a cake cutting at 7:30 pm on Friday, 25 March 2010. Their charter was signed in 2008 on 25 March, establishing their official birthday. All John Lyon members are invited to this celebration.



**High School Artists**

Young American Creative Patriotic Art contest: gives students in grades 9 - 12 an opportunity to express their patriotism through art. The deadline is March 31, 2011 to Ladies Auxiliary 3150. Awards are presented at post, district, state, and national levels and can add up to thousands of dollars. For application and further information, go to <http://www.ladiesauxvfw.org>, then Programs, then Scholarships.

**You Are Expired!**

If your membership card says "2010" on it and you have not renewed for 2011, your membership has expired. To get reinstated, send in your renewal now! Continue reading...

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](http://www.vfw.org). Click on Login --- and create a login ID, if necessary at this time. 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).

## From the Post Service Officer:

### **Combat Related Special Compensation**

In 2008, Congress changed the requirements for Combat Related Special Compensation (CRSC) to allow those who were wounded in combat and due to those wounds are eligible for military retired pay with less than 20 years of service.

If you can answer yes to any of the following questions, contact me at 703-525-0108 and I will help you submit your application for CRSC.

1. Were you entitled to retired pay for regular service, having completed at least 20 years of service prior to January 1, 2008?
2. Were you entitled to retired pay for reserve service, having completed at least 20 years of combined active and reserve service and having reached age 60 prior to January 1, 2008?
3. Were you entitled to retired pay for reserve service under the Reserve TERA program having completed at least 15 but less than 20 years of combined active and reserve service and having reached age 60 prior to January 1, 2008?

**NOTE:** You must provide proof of the retirement authority by attaching a copy of your Retirement Orders and/or a copy of your 15 year letter.

Evidence must clearly state that you were a reservist and you retired under Section 12731a of Title 10, United States Code.

4. Are you currently entitled to military retired pay for any reason, other than early reserve retirement for physical disabilities not incurred in line of duty (i.e., other than section 12731b of title 10, United States Code)?



**Take it easy when shoveling snow**

## **Post Newsletter in Your Email?**

The post is considering distributing the monthly newsletter electronically and saving printing and mailing costs. If you would like to receive the monthly newsletter electronically, please send an email to the Adjutant at [adjpost3150@va.vfwwebmail.com](mailto:adjpost3150@va.vfwwebmail.com). We will then remove you from the snail mail list and send you an email notification to download it from the Post webpage. And it's in color! (Go to [www.vfw3150.org](http://www.vfw3150.org) to check it out.) As with your regular mail, the Post protects your email address and will not release it to others. All others will continue to receive the newsletter in their home mailbox as usual.

### **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
Holidays	open 12 noon

### **Email Post News**

The post sends out periodic updates and reminders of upcoming events and other information of note to members via blind email. If you do not presently receive these and would like to be added to our email list, send an email to the Adjutant at [adjpost3150@va.vfwwebmail.com](mailto:adjpost3150@va.vfwwebmail.com).

### **Upcoming Next Month**

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

Sat, 2 Apr: Ladies Auxiliary Crab Cake Dinner

Sun, 3 Apr: Opening Day Ceremony, Arlington

Little League, with Post Color Guard, 2:20 p

Sat, 9 Apr: Highway Cleanup, 8:30 am

Mon, 11 Apr: Desert Storm Cease Fire, 7:15 pm

## National VFW Convention

The 112th National VFW Convention will be held in San Antonio, Texas, 27 August - 1 September, 2011. Information can be obtained from the national VFW ([www.vfw.org](http://www.vfw.org), then News & Info, 112th Convention), the state of Virginia's General Orders ([www.vfwva.org](http://www.vfwva.org)), from the Post, and current issues of the VFW magazine. You must book after 1 March and by early July for group rate, and via mail, fax, or the Internet. Virginia's hotel is the Marriott Rivercenter. Anyone planning to attend should let the post know so that we can coordinate several items with you.

## Labels for the VFW National Home

The Labels for Education program has recently expanded and now includes most labels from Campbell's Soup, Swanson, V-8, Franco-American Pepperidge Farms, Post cereals, BIC pens and pencils, Spaghetti-Os, Wolfgang Puck, and other products. Look for the "Labels for Education" logo or save the bar code. For more information on products, go to <http://www.labelsforeducation.com/> There is a drop box in the Post or you can mail them to the Post. The labels are gathered and sent to the VFW National Home in Michigan for mini-busses and other equipment.

## Tax Scams

It's income tax time again and already the scammers are trying to get the rest of our money. Remember the government does NOT do such business over the phone or email. Do NOT respond to phone or email requests for your bank account, social security number and other similar info. No matter what the webpage looks like or the voice sounds like, THOSE are the bad guys!

## VA Hospital Visit, 26 March

John Lyon Post will do a hospital visit on Saturday, 26 March to the VA Hospital in Washington. Meet at the Post 12 - 12:30 pm.

## From the John Lyon Past...



Thanks to Robert "Fuzzy" Collier for identifying the location on Wilson Boulevard where the above photo was taken of the Post 3150 Color Guard and a company of other members during a War Bond parade in 1945. "Fuzzy" says the photo looks west towards Randolph Street and where Al's Motors and a local school were located. The photo identifies only George Dalby as Color Guard Captain (left) and Roy Wood, rifleman, on the right. The Post Color Guard appeared often during the war years and became the District and State Color Guard during the 1950s. A later edition performed widely during the 1970s and 1980s.



## Daylight Savings: 13 March

Daylight Savings is scheduled to begin on Sunday, 13 March. This is an ideal time to check your smoke detectors.

## State Convention

The Department of Virginia's state convention will be held 9-12 June 2011 at the Ramada Plaza Richmond West Hotel. Group room rates at the hotel are \$89.00 per night. For hotel reservations, call 804-285-2000. Reservations must be made by 8-May for the group rate.

# Recent Events Around the Post



<<< Ready to pick up trash from the Post's designated section of nearby Lee Highway are members of the Post and, for the first time, both Auxiliaries. From left to right (front row): John Godsey, Tommy Saunders, Shirley McIlhaney, J.Gary Wagner, and (rear) Dennis Gerrity, Stephen Carfora, Robert "Fuzzy" Collier, and Bob Ponzio.

Junior Vice Commander Dewey Carter >>> and Commander Nelson Betancourt display a certificate of appreciation presented to Post 3150 for a donation made to assist soldiers and families of the 1/10th Special Forces Group. A fire destroyed many of their household possessions while they were enroute to a new duty station in Germany



<<< Elsa Weeks (right) was presented a certificate of appreciation for her many years of Buddy Poppy work. She has created ornaments for the VA Hospital and award winning contest entries over past decade. President Mary Anne McCormick also presented her with a bouquet of flowers during the Ladies and Men's Auxiliary Dinner held in connection with the Ladies Auxiliary's 76<sup>th</sup> Birthday.





# VFW 3150 March 2011



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1  Deadline for Scout of the Year nominations	2  Movie Night	3	4	5 ←-----VFW  Ricky Lee's Military Assistance Program Benefit at Dale City Post 1503, 7 - 11 pm
6 National	7 Legislative  House Committee 7:30 pm Post O Call 8 pm	8 Meeting  Men's Auxiliary Meeting 7:30 pm	9 Wash, DC--→  ASH WEDNESDAY Movie Night	10  Post Meeting 7:30 pm Officer Nominations	11	12
13  Daylight Savings Begins  Sunday Brunch 9 am - 12	14	15	16  Movie Night	17  Ladies Aux Meeting 7:30 pm	18	19  St Patrick's Day Dinner 4 - 7 pm
20 ←-----VFW	21 National	22 Home	23 Awareness  Movie Night	24 Week,	25 20 -26 March  Men's Aux 3150 3rd Birthday. 7:30 pm	26 -----→  VA Hospital Visit 12 noon at the Post
27  Sunday Brunch 9 am - 12 n	28	29	30	31  Deadline for Patriotic Art Contest		2 April  Ladies Aux Crab cake Dinner

**St Patrick's Day Dinner  
RSVP at 703-525-0108**



## **Ladies Auxiliary 3150 Celebrates its 76<sup>th</sup> Birthday**

Gathering to cut the cake for their 76<sup>th</sup> Birthday are members of Ladies Auxiliary 3150 and the Tenth District President Linda Bond. From the left, Wauleah Ellison, Shirley McAlhaney, President Mary Anne McCormick, Belle Woods, Past President Gail Hoffman, Past President Catherine Graham, Linda Bond, Past President Elsa Weeks (seated), Marci Anderson, and Past President Karen Stewart. Ladies Auxiliary 3150 was chartered on 19 February 1935, three months after Post 3150 was received its charter.



**St. Patrick's Day  
Dinner  
Saturday  
19 March 2011  
4 - 7pm**

**Reservations  
Required**