

# The John Lyon Gazette

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May 2016



**Veterans of Foreign Wars**  
**John Lyon Post #3150**  
**2116 North 19<sup>th</sup> 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**



Post Commander Cliff Clevenger presents the Scout of the Year Award to Eagle Scout Timothy O Bova of Troop 162, at the Westover Baptist Church home to Troop 162. Bova's nomination was forwarded to compete for the District Scout of the Year Award.

Then followed the presentaion of two large boxes of old flags to Troop 162 for retirement at an upcoming campout. The entire troop gathered to accept the extra large flag which had been deposited in the Post's Flag Box.

## **From The Commander:**

Greetings comrades, auxiliary, and friends of VFW 3150. We have made it through April almost and will soon begin ramping things up for a face paced summer full of fun and exciting events.

Before we talk about the summer though let's look at all we accomplished in April. To start April off we participated in an event that has become a staple of community outreach for VFW 3150. Standing just behind the pitcher's mound with my fellow veterans and presenting the colors for opening day of Arlington Little League has been one of my favorite activities the last 2 years. To me that day represents everything that we as veterans have fought so hard for. We continue our outreach to the community by distributing Buddy Poppies and talking to folks on Ft. Myer about the VFW. Our days on Ft. Myer not only help us collect much needed funds to assist veterans and their families but also give us a wonderful opportunity to stand in front of our fellow veterans to teach them about all we do. As usual we did not slack in getting together in camaraderie at the post though. I would like to give a shout out to IAVA and Orange Line Living for the open mic night they assisted us with putting on. This was once again a superb night filled with amazing music and some great new friends. Lastly we held out spring kick off BBQ just recently. I cannot begin to tell you how good it was to see not only our new generation of veterans attend this event but some our long time members and auxiliary members who we have not seen in a while.

We will kick off May with some great times as well. If you have not heard May 7<sup>th</sup> we will have an 80's prom night. Whether you were born in the 80's, were a kid in the 80's, or already had kids, come on out and dance the night away. The music will be awesome and the costumes should be even better. On May 13<sup>th</sup> we will be honored to have a group of students and teacher volunteers from HB Woodlawn high school come to the post to help with a community day clean up. If you are available to come help out we would welcome you. Installation of next year's officers will be at noon on May 21. Lastly of course the one event in May we can never forget is Memorial Day.

As I write this I struggle with the proper words to express with regards to Memorial Day. Most everyone reading this understands the true meaning of this day. There are many stories I could share both from my own personal losses to any of so many stories of others who have lost friends and love ones. From those of us who served and laid friends to rest to our gold star families who gave their loved ones in service, so many of us know of loss. What I choose to focus on this month however is not loss but rather life. I ask myself if I had not returned what would I want my friends and family to do.

So as we enter into this May and come close to Memorial Day and your thoughts dwell on those that cannot be here with us think not on what you have lost. Instead reflect on who they were and how you can live for them. What can you do that will honor their memory and their sacrifice? If we do that, if we pursue our lives to fullest using their memory then we will have truly honored their sacrifice and all they have given in both life and death.

Yours in Service  
Clifton F Clevenger  
Commander VFW Post 3150

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

Well, I'm not sure if this will make the newsletter this month or not. I wasn't prepared to write it having been gone. I just plain forgot.

Gary Wagner did indeed welcome my Mom and I home from our extended vacation across the country and reminded me it was due. However being the strong, self-sufficient person that I am, I have been trying to recuperate from the trip,

and had neglected to read my e-mails until this morning! I feel as though a "Mac" truck has suddenly decided to run over me. Does this mean I'm Old? You know you're in trouble when you take a trip driving across the country with your elderly mother and EVERYONE asks if she's your sister because "you look so much alike!" This did not happen just once or twice either. It happened multiple times every day! We were gone over three weeks, and logged well over 6000 miles. It was pretty funny when people would ask where we were from, and were astonished we were traveling alone. I guess that was their polite way of saying we are old. My sister Debbie began calling us Thelma and Louise because everywhere we vacationed, when we left, bad weather would arrive. As she put it, we left chaos and destruction everywhere in our path. We visited family in AK, left and the state was hit with tornados, MO, OK, which were hit by extremely bad storms, and NM (visiting Dad's God Daughter, her son, and Mother) hit by terrible wind storms. The last stop of our adventure was Houston to visit my friends. We stayed there longer then we stayed elsewhere. We had a blast visiting NASA Space Center, Galveston, and riding the ferry over to the Boliver Peninsula before heading east. The day we left light rain began to fall which I drove

out of and all the way home I managed to stay ahead of the real rain. We got a sprinkle here, a sprinkle there. Then suddenly Houston was flooded. They didn't get just get a normal flood either. Friends were telling me officials were asking they stay in their home because you couldn't go anywhere without running into bad flood waters. It was the worst flooding Houston has had in decades! So I'm guessing here that no one wants my mother and me to come visit them anymore! To borrow a phrase from Dorothy, "there's no place like home"! It's sure is good to be back.

Until next month please remember to check on our elderly, make sure they are cool enough and have everything they need. Bring a smile to them, and yourself. Happy Anniversary and/or Birthday to those celebrate them this month. Remember to drink plenty of fluids when outdoors doing yard work or anything to prevent heat exhaustion or heat stroke. It's that time a year when it will begin to really affect people! Take care!

Respectfully Submitted,  
Nancy Weeks  
President, VFW Auxiliary 3150

## 80s Prom Night



Ladies and Gentlemen,

Post 3150 will take a totally awesome trip back to the 80's. Tease your hair, pop your collar and be ready for an 80's dance party! Guests are encouraged to wear their best 80's Prom attire. An 80's Prom King and Queen will be crowned - so bring your best 80's A Game! DJ Da Machine will be providing us with the raddest 80's jams. It's going to be totally bangin' night! All 18+ are welcome to attend. The more the merrier, so spread the word!

## Hanisch, Graham Elected; Installation Scheduled

David Hanisch and Cathy Graham were elected as Post 3150 Commander and Auxiliary President, respectively, for the coming year during April elections. See below for complete election results. Installation of these officers and their staffs will be held at the Post home on Saturday, 21 May at 12:00 noon. All members, family, and friends are invited to attend. A reception will follow the ceremonies.

## Post Officer Elections

The April Post meeting saw the following elected for officer positions for the next year:

Commander: David Hanisch  
Senior Vice Commander: Mike Rau  
Junior Vice Commander: Brenna McVaney  
Quartermaster: James R Bertine  
Chaplain: Michael Ross  
3 Year Trustee: Brendan Gehrke  
2 Year Trustee: Chris William  
3-Year House Committee: Alex Nobles  
2-Year House Committee: Desi Gurule

Positions appointed by Commander Elect:

Adjutant: J.Gary Wagner  
Service Officer: TBD  
Advocate: TBD  
Surgeon: TBD

All new officers assume their duties when the new state officers are installed at the end of the state convention in Williamsburg in June.

## Hours for Post Canteen

The Post Canteen is open as follows:

Monday - Tuesday: Closed (Open Memorial Day)

Wednesdays: 5pm - 8pm

Thursdays: 5pm - 8pm

Fridays: 3pm - 10pm

Saturdays: 3pm - 10pm

Sundays: 1pm - 6pm

Post may stay open later depending on people there, and if not three or more there may close early. Memorial Weekend hours may vary.

## Ladies Auxiliary Officer Elections

The April Ladies Auxiliary meeting saw the following elected or appointed for officer positions for the next year:

President: Cathy Graham  
Senior Vice Pres.: Nancy Weeks  
Junior Vice Pres: Jodie LaFreniere Dajc  
Treasurer: Gail Hoffman  
Secretary: Gail Hoffman  
Chaplain: TBD  
Conductress: Wauleah Ellison  
Guard: Elsa Weeks  
3 Year Trustee: Nancy Weeks  
2 Year Trustee: Jodie LaFreniere-Dajc  
1 Year Trustee: Elsa Weeks  
Patriotic Instructor: Wauleah Ellison

## Memorial Day

Post 3150 and the Auxiliary will conduct a ceremony at "John Lyon Memorial", at 11 am on Memorial Day. Also known as the Cherrydale War Memorial, it stands on the 29<sup>th</sup> Division Highway, i.e., Lee Highway / Route 29, as it passes through Cherrydale. It is across the street from the Safeway at 3713 Lee Highway and on the grounds of the Cherrydale Healthcare Center, about a half a mile west of I-66. John Lyon Post will also join American Legion posts in ceremonies at the Clarendon War Memorial, just west of the Clarendon Metro Station at 1 pm. A complete weekend schedule can be found on the back page.

## Welcome to Our New Members

Welcome to new Post members, Matthew R Loew (Army – Kosovo) and Christopher Marquez (USMC – Iraq/Afghanistan/GWOTE/Korea Service)(trans) whose paperwork is complete and who were elected at the April meeting.

## Marching Off...

**Bernard W. Dodson**, Men's Auxiliary member, on 11 Apr 16, service was 16 April. No further details available.



Happy Mother's Day to all of our Mothers and wives! Wherever you are, you are close to our hearts.

## *It's Convention Time...*

### **District Convention**

The Tenth District Convention will be held at 1 pm on 15 May at Dale City Post 1503 (14631 Minnieville Road, Dale City VA 22193, 703-670-4124). All Post and Auxiliary members are invited to attend. Lunch will be served starting at 12 noon.

### **State Convention**

The State Convention will be held at the Ramada in Williamsburg, 500 Merrimac Trail, Williamsburg VA 23185-5319, phone 757 585-7100. The change is due to the Fort Magruder Hotel's being renovated. If you made reservations at Fort Magruder Hotel, your reservation has been transferred to the new hotel. All you need to do is call the Ramada and give them your CC info. The Ramada will take reservations up to June 13<sup>th</sup>. The VFW cost is the same: \$87.00 plus tax. The Convention will be the same dates June 16 - 19.

### **National Convention**

The National Convention will be held 23 – 27 July 2016 in Charlotte NC. The assigned hotel for Virginia is Le Meridien Special Room rates are available until 13 June. For info or to reserve, go to <http://www.vfw.org/convention/>

### **Iraq/Afghanistan/GWOTE Vets Happy Hour**

The Post will host a welcome happy hour for Iraq, Afghanistan and GWOTE veterans Thursday, 12 May from 5 – 8 pm. All members invited. Your vet friends are welcome to join you.

## **John Lyon Member of the Month**



Alex Nobles is our Member of the Month. Alex, who lives way too close to the Post, is frequently called upon when something is needed quickly. He also responds to more routine needs such a tracking a dead comm line, fixing a leaky toilet, some other maintenance need, etc., etc., etc., Alex is a member of the House Committee but would be doing these things anyway Alex is our John Lyon Member of the Month. Thanks, Alex, for all you continue to do!

## **Movie Night is Back**

The Post has Movie Night at 6:30 pm on all except the second Wednesday evenings of the month.



**Drive safe:  
Spring means  
longer days and  
more kids  
outside.**

## **You Are Expired!**

If your membership card says “2015” on it and you have not renewed for 2016, your membership has expired. To get reinstated, send in your renewal now! Send or bring to the Post address.

## **Newsletter, Weekly Email**

To receive the newsletter by email or to change your address, send an email to the Adjutant at [adjpost3150@va.vfwwebmail.com](mailto:adjpost3150@va.vfwwebmail.com)

**We are on Facebook: “Like” us at  
“John Lyon VFW Post 3150”.**

# HELP THE BUDDY POPPY TEAM!



## Buddy Poppy

The Memorial Day Buddy Poppy Campaign kicks off in late May. We are seeking volunteers to distribute poppies around the Arlington community --- local stores, etc. --- check with the store manager for permission --- during the week leading up to Memorial Day, but especially 22 – 28 M ay.

As usual, bags of 200 poppies and two cans will be available behind the podium for those seeking to distribute poppies in Arlington. All cans and money should be turned into the Post no later than 4 June. Funds should be turned in at the Post – attention Quartermaster.

The Relief Fund has taken some big hits lately and could really use replenishment. Any assistance will be appreciated and recognized.

## Brief History of the Buddy Poppy

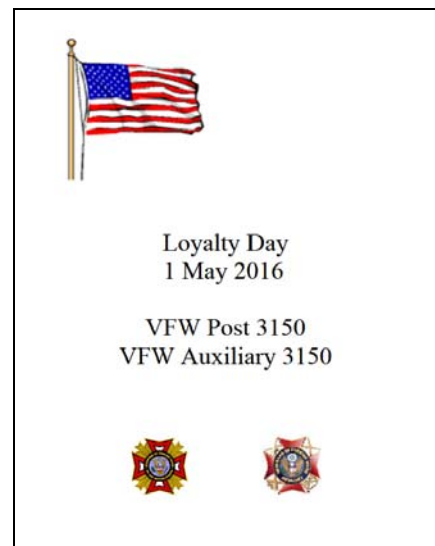
Among all the flowers that evoke the memories and emotions of war is the red poppy, which became associated with war after the publication of a poem written by Col. John McCrae of Canada. The poem, "In Flander's Field," describes blowing red flowers among the battleground of the fallen.

For over 90 years, the VFW's Buddy Poppy program has raised millions of dollars in support of veterans' welfare and the wellbeing of their dependents. The VFW conducted its first poppy distribution before Memorial Day in 1922. The poppy soon was adopted as the official memorial flower of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States.

The VFW decided in 1923 that Buddy Poppies should be assembled by disabled and needy veterans who would be paid for their work to provide them with some form of financial assistance. The designation "Buddy Poppy" was

adopted at that time and the name "Buddy Poppy" was registered with the U.S. Patent Office.

Today, VFW Buddy Poppies are still assembled by disabled and needy veterans in VA Hospitals. The minimal assessment (cost of Buddy Poppies) to VFW units provides compensation to the veterans who assemble the poppies, provides financial assistance in maintaining state and national veterans' rehabilitation and service programs, and partially supports the VFW National Home for orphans and widows of our nation's veterans. One hundred percent of donations collected from Buddy Poppy distribution go to veterans' assistance, commemoration, and education programs in the local community.



## Upcoming Next Month

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

Mon, 6 Jun: D-Day Ceremony, 7 pm

Thur, 9 Jun: GWOTEM Happy Hour, 5 – 8 pm

Tue, 14 Jun: Flag Day and

U.S. Army 241<sup>st</sup> Birthday, 7 pm

Thur - Sun 16-19 Jun: Dept Conv Wmsburg

TBD: Ice Cream Social

# Recent Events Around the Post



<<< (l to r) Mike Rau (third from left) reads the VFW message on the anniversary of the Persian Gulf Cease Fire at the end of Operation Desert Storm, while Jim Bertine, M.C. “Connie” Agresti, Cliff Clevenger, Nelson Betancourt, J.Gary Wagner, and Cathy Graham look on. Agresti is a Desert Storm veteran.

A Post 3150 Color Guard, consisting >>> of (l to r) Joe Lee, Jolly Bittick, and Cliff Clevenger, presents the colors while the National Anthem is sung during opening day ceremonies of the Arlington Little League. Bill Kelly manned the Post information table and Nelson Betancourt was the photographer.



<<< Members of Guitars 4 Vets entertain John Lyon members and friends during a recent special evening. The 501C3 organization provides guitar instruction to vets suffering from physical injuries, PTSD, etc., a free acoustic guitar, and then opportunities to play. It is run by volunteers in association with the VA and other similar organizations. The evening was co-sponsored by Post 3150, IAVA which provided food and Orange Line living which provided some of the drinks.

# Recent Events Around the Post



<<< Commander Cliff Clevenger represented VFW Post 3150 and IAVA at the White House kickoff for the Wounded Warrior Ride. The event attempts to raise awareness for service members suffering from physical and psychological effects of combat.



On a visit to O'Connell High School in Arlington, Adjutant J. Gary Wagner presented the awards for first place in our Voice of Democracy essay contest to Frank Lucchetti (left) and to third place Tatum Andres. They were unable to attend our awards ceremony in February and received their awards later.

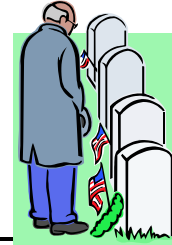
The Tenth District Trap Shoot >>> was recently held with several teams participating. From the second right is Post 3150's team: Alex Nobles, M.C. "Connie" Agresti, Nelson Betancourt, and Don Kingsford (three left from Betancourt, behind two other shooters). Rumor is the Post 3150 team won for the third year in a row.





# VFW 3150

## May 2016



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1  LOYALTY DAY	2	3	4	5	6	7 Kentucky Derby, 5 pm  80's Prom Night Dance Party, 8pm.
8 VE DAY  MOTHERS DAY	9  House Committee / Post O Call 7:00 pm	10	11  GRIST mtg, 7 pm	12  OIF/OEF/ GWOTE Happy Hour 5 – 8 pm.	13	14
15  10 <sup>th</sup> District Convention Post 1503 12 noon  Taste of Arl 10 a – 6 p	16  ←- NAT'L- PEACE OFFCRS MEMORIAL DAY  Post Mtg 7:30 pm	17  Auxiliary Mtg 7:30 pm  AF JROTC Awards Night, 6:30p Arl Car Cent	18	19	20  Aux Dinner and Game Night, 7:30 pm	21  ARMED FORCES DAY  Post & Aux Installation of Officers 12 noon
22	23	24	25	26	27  Columbia Gardens & Natl Meml Cemetery Graves Dec 12:30 pm	28  Arlington Natl Cemetery Graves Dec 8:30 am
29  Weekend Food Service TBD	30  John Lyon Mem - 11 am Clarendon -1 p Open house 2p Mmt of Remb 3 pm	31  ←---- MEMORIAL DAY	<p><b>Information:</b>  <b>703-525 0108</b>  <b>during open hours</b></p>			



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

**Dated Material Please Do Not Delay**  
May 2016

**Address Service Requested**

## **Post 3150**

### **Memorial Day Weekend Schedule 22 - 25 May**

Fri: 12:30 pm: Meet at Post for Columbia Gardens and National Memorial Cemetery graves decoration.

Sat: 8:30 am: Meet at Post for Arlington National Cemetery graves decoration.

Mon: 10 am: Principals meet at Post  
11 am: “John Lyon Memorial”, Cherrydale  
1 pm: Clarendon War Memorial  
2 pm: Open House - donation  
3 pm: National Moment of Remembrance

Food Service and menu to be determined.  
Check us on Facebook: “John Lyon VFW Post 3150”  
Or [www.vfw3150.org](http://www.vfw3150.org)

Throughout: Buddy Poppy Distribution  
Music every evening

