

The John Lyon Gazette

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October 2010



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



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



Lt John Lyon
2 April 1893 – 16 October 1918

John Lyon grew up in Arlington, living with his sister and their parents. After attending the University of Virginia, he was associate editor of Field and Stream and worked out of New York. When the war broke out in 1915, he went to Belgium and became a Red Cross ambulance driver. Several years later, when the U.S. entered the war, he returned home and rejoined his company, the Alexandria Light Infantry, which later became part of the Twenty-ninth division. Lyon saw considerable action when his regiment was sent to France and he was killed in October of 1918. General Orders, No.22. were issued by the War Department, April 20, 1920. According to The Washington Post, a citation read: "John Lyon, first lieutenant, Machine Gun Company, 116th Infantry, Twenty-ninth division. For extraordinary heroism in action near Damogneux, France, October 15, 1918. During the attack on the Bois De La Grande Monagne, Lieut. Lyon left a place of comparative safety to cross an open space, exposed to direct observation and fire from the enemy, to attempt the rescue of a wounded officer. He and the two men who accompanied him were killed in this attempt."

Lt. John Lyon was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross posthumously for his actions that day. He is buried in the Lyon family plot at Historic Blandford Church in Petersburg, VA. A memorial to John Lyon --- and several other others --- stands across the street from the Safeway on Lee Highway, on the grounds of the Cherrydale Nursing Home. Post #3150 holds a special ceremony there every Memorial Day and Veterans Day.

From The Commander:

Dear friends,

With so many goblins and ghouls just around the corner, it got me thinking... the VFW also wears many "masks and costumes". And it does so throughout the entire year, not just on Halloween Day.

What kinds of masks and costumes? Let's see...

There is the "Good Neighbor" set we use when out doing highway cleanups and when sprucing up the Post.

There is the "Good Friend" set we use when checking up on a sick comrade, when conducting hospital visits, and when tending to our wounded service members that come to our brunches.

There is the "Positive Role Model" set we use when we participate with the Boy Scouts, the Little Leagues, JR ROTC, and ROTC.

There is the "Helping Hand" set we use when preparing Thanksgiving and Christmas food baskets for needy families of our junior enlisted active duty personnel.

There is the "Good Buddy" set we use when we earnestly listen to a comrade that needs someone to talk to.

There is the "Santa's Helpers" set we use when getting toys and donations for the Toys-For-Tots project and for our yearly Children's Christmas Party.

As you can see, there are plenty of options available to pick from. What's more, you don't even have to wait for Halloween to dress up!

I'm sure that you can think of a costume or two that the VFW and our Post successfully continues to wear year after year.

Oh and yes, please be extra careful and on the lookout for those dear little goblins as they gleefully go about their trick-or-treating.

On a different note now - a very special thanks to comrades Gary Woods and Mark Wolfe for taking on the mission of touching up the Post's main room floor. Actually, they did way more than just a touchup job - they did an outstanding job! I've never seen the floor look "IG inspection" ready before. Well done!

Yours in comradeship,

Nelson Betancourt, Commander VFW Post 3150

"Never interrupt your enemy when he is making a mistake." - **Napoleon Bonaparte**

From the President of the Ladies Auxiliary:

Hail and Greetings:

The Ladies Auxiliary dedicated August 22 as Cancer Aid & Research Day. We held a raffle during brunch and at 1500 Service Officer Arnold Dixon had a Marine "Boot Camp Cut for Cancer"! Special thanks to Nita Binkley for her flag creation and much gratitude to Men's Auxiliary Jr. Vice President Mike "Red" Lowe who served as our barber. Mother Nature stopped the rain for a time and provided sunshine for the backyard haircut! Thanks to everyone who contributed and helped and I thank my husband, your Service Officer "Arnie" Dixon.

We love to see you at brunch when we are happy to see old friends and greet and serve hearty breakfasts to new ones. Remember every time you come by the Post you are helping to “honor the dead by helping the living”. Please also support by saving and giving us your Campbell’s labels for the VFW National Home. We have a box at the Post for continual collection.

This Fall’s Annual Quilt Raffle is underway! This year’s stunning creation, called a “Brown Bag” design, was lovingly handcrafted by Mrs. Peggy Stoll who has generously donated many quilts in the past. Drawing for the queen size quilt will be held on Thanksgiving Day. Need not be present to win.

Please come out on Friday 8 October for GWOT night when all are invited to enjoy a family friendly night of live music by the band AMuse. Thanks to the Grady, Fritz and the band.

Sisters, our next meeting is Thursday October 21 at 7:30. Please attend and provide your valuable input as a member. We are a strong team with wonderful talent.

On 25 October 1415, Henry V of England rallied his outnumbered army in France. In 1599, Shakespeare wrote Henry’s words before the battle of Agincourt of a “band of brothers” saying “for he today that sheds his blood with me shall be my brother”. This rousing conviction from a leader before battle encouraging his few, determined men to victory still resonates over 400 years later in our Veterans young and old.

Happy Birthday to the US Navy. We fortunate many are grateful to the “happy few” for their sacrifices.

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

From the President of the Men’s Auxiliary:

Greetings One and All,

I begin this month’s letter with thanks to the Ladies Auxiliary for the success of the Labor Day Cookout. I’ve heard nothing but good things from all corners. Thanks again for allowing us to participate. I hope this signifies the beginning of many more joint auxiliary events.

No new members this month. More members is a must for our health as an auxiliary. Let us all think how to boost our numbers. Please.

The next Men’s Auxiliary Fundraiser is set for Saturday 16 October at 4:30-7:30 p.m. The grub is a repeat of last fall’s Lasagna Dinner. Salad and dinner roll accompany your choice of traditional meat or alternative vegetarian lasagna. The dessert is strawberry short cake with whipped cream. Twelve dollars a plate makes it an affordable evening “must do.” Use the sign up sheet at the canteen or call the event coordinator, Mike Lowe, at 703-625-2174 to be sure you are counted. Come join us for another great evening at John Lyon.

Don’t forget that Sundays mean football for many of us. Wilbur Rawlings and I try to serve a little something at the Post for the non-brunch Redskin games. Make a point to give us a try. You won’t be disappointed.

See you at the Post.

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

Marching off...



David W Thompson, 91, on 31 July. His obit noted “during WWII, he piloted ‘The Duchess’ a B-24 Liberator bomber that was shot down by enemy ground fire on February 25, 1944. He then became a Prisoner of War at Luft-Stalag-1 until war’s end.” He was the recipient of Air Combat Medals, the Purple Heart, and the Distinguished Flying Cross among others. After joining Post 3150 he provided his prisoner photo (above) showing his POW number --- 3150! Funeral services will begin with visitation from 10 to 11 am and service at 11 am on Thursday, October 21, at the Demaine Funeral Home, 5308 Backlick Rd., Springfield, VA. Interment with military honors will be at Arlington National Cemetery at 2 pm.

Joseph McGrail, 76, on 2 September. Joe was an Army veteran, serving in Korea and Vietnam. He was Judge Advocate in 2002-03 and served a number of years as the registered agent for the Post corporation. He was buried in Alexandria National Cemetery.

Richard D Hill, 80, on 20 June 2008. He was an Army veteran from the Korean War and was buried in Arlington National Cemetery.

John W Robinson, 2005 (reported by National)

Peter McAdams, 69, on 15 August in Naples, FL. He was a Vietnam veteran.

Sister Doris Burnett, 83, on 9 August 2008, in California. She was born on the Fourth of July and was the widow of a US Navy World War II veteran. She was not related to 3150’s other Burnetts.

Welcome to Our New Members

Welcome to new Post members, Karen Komar (Army - Occupation / Kosovo) (Transfer) and William M Mousser (Army - Vietnam), whose paperwork is complete and who were elected at the September meeting.

Early Bird Dinner Deadline Near

The Early Bird Dinner is scheduled for 4 - 7 pm on Saturday, 2 October. This is a **no-cost** “thank you” for all new, renewed and Life members of the Post and Ladies and Men’s Auxiliaries. There will be a \$10 charge for non-Early Birds and non-members. Call the Post for further information and to signup. RSVP by 9 pm Wednesday, 29 September to ensure your spot or take your chance afterwards. The same GREAT steaks as last year are expected to headline the menu.

GWOT Night: 8 October: Live Band

Attention Global War on Terrorism veterans, including those who served in Iraq and Afghanistan, and other members 45 and under: The post is hosting a get acquainted evening on Friday, October 8th between 6:30 and 9:30 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 GWOT veterans and younger members. All members invited to stop by and meet our younger generation. Your RSVP to the Post at 703-525-0108 helps with food preparation.

Be sure to invite your GWOT friends.

The evening will also feature live music from the local band AMuse. Join us for a family-friendly night to listen and dance to music from 6:30-9:30 and stay 'til closing as we appreciate Global War on Terrorism veterans. We thank the members of AMuse for their dedication to veterans and a special thanks to guitarist and VFW Life member Bob Grady for his service.

New Member has deep 3150 Roots

New Post member Gerald Render (whose name was inadvertently misspelled last month) has a “royal” John Lyon pedigree. His maternal grandparents were Charles and Hattie Musselman. They along with the Burnetts were instrumental in founding John Lyon Post and the Ladies Auxiliary and were charter members. Charles was the second commander of Post 3150 and Hattie was the third president of the auxiliary as well as district president. Winifred Locke, Hattie’s sister, was during the 1950s and 60s, post, district, state, and Southern Conference president and a member of the National Council for the Ladies Auxiliary. The Musclemans’ daughter, Virginia, was also a 3150 LA charter member and after retiring from the Army (Render says “Aunt Gina was one of the first 1,000 women to join the Women's Army Corps (WACs)”), she was two time 3150 LA president in the 1970s and 1980s. Jessie Brandenburg, Render’s mother’s cousin, was president in the 1950s.

Render adds “I’m very proud to be a member of VFW Post 3150, it holds a lot of great memories for me. When I was a child my father was in the Army and we traveled quite a bit, but always returned to see my grandparents who lived...just outside the front gate of Fort Myer. When we returned to the US for the summer or Christmas we would always end up going to the VFW for cook-outs, events, Sunday afternoons, etc., of course this was all at the old building, but the artillery piece was there and we kids played with it a lot.”



**Watch out for
little spooks
and goblins
on Halloween!**

Post Halloween Party

The Post will hold a Halloween Party on Saturday, 30 October starting at 7 pm. There will be music, fun, and light food. Dig out your favorite costume (optional) and join us as we mark this Fall Festival.

Students, Teachers, and Scouts

The following is an overview of VFW programs and contests for students, teachers, and scouts:

Voice of Democracy: audio essay contest for grades 9 through 12. The 2010-2011 theme is “*Does My Generation Have a Role in America’s Future?*” Deadline is November 1, 2010. Awards up to \$30,000.

Patriot’s Pen: essay contest for grades 6, 7 and 8. The 2010-2011 theme is “*Does Patriotism Still Matter?*” The deadline is November 1, 2010. Awards up to \$16,000.

Teacher of the Year: top elementary, junior high and high school teachers who teach citizenship education topics regularly and promote America's history and tradition. Fellow teachers, supervisors or other interested individuals can submit nominations by November 1, 2010. Go to www.vfw.org, then Programs, then Citizenship, then Teacher of the Year Award.

Scout of the Year: Any Eagle Scout, Venture Silver Award recipient, or Sea Scout Quartermaster may qualify. Deadline is March 1, 2011. Early submission / interest may provide opportunity for additional trip for Scout.

Ladies Auxiliary’s Young American Creative Patriotic Art: grades 9, 10, 11 or 12. Deadline is March 31, 2011. See <http://www.ladiesauxvfw.org>, then Programs, then Scholarships, then Young American Creative Patriotic Art Brochure.

Awards are presented at post, district, state, and national levels and can add up to thousands of dollars. Deadlines are to local post.

Further information, including entry forms, brochures, and back ground, are available, except as noted above, at www.vfw.org, then Programs, then VFW Scholarship Programs, then on program of interest (The website is to be revamped so there may be variations in above.). Forms may also be obtained at <http://www.vfwva.org/reports.htm>, then Programs or Forms. Or call Post 3150 after 3 pm at 703-525-0108 for further information.

Ladies Self Defense Class, 17 Oct

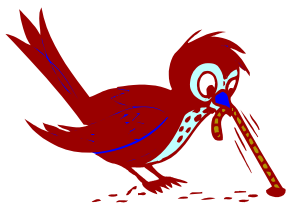
Post Member Nelson Betancourt will present a Self Defense Class on Sunday morning, 17 October from 9 am - 12 noon. There will be no hand to hand combat, but this will teach you how to defend yourself. The class is open to Ladies Auxiliary and female Post members only. Please call the Post at 703-525-0108 to sign-up to assist with the planning

Ways to Renew Post Membership

Post members can renew their memberships or convert to Life with or without a renewal notice from National. There are three ways to renew. First, return the notice from National with check or charge information. Second, charge your dues on-line at www.vfw.org. Click on Membership, then Current Members, then Renew Your Membership. 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.

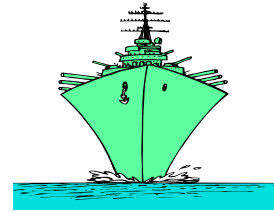
Renew Auxiliary Membership

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).



**Be an Early Bird!
Renew Now**

**Early Bird Dinner
Saturday, 2 October
4 - 7 pm
RSVP by 29 September
Free for Early Birds
\$10.00 for non-renewed
and non-3150 members**



U.S. Navy Birthday

Wednesday, 13 October is the U.S. Navy Birthday, and the Post will commemorate the event with a cake cutting ceremony that evening at 7:00 pm. As usual, members of all services are invited to attend this celebration.

Highway Cleanup, Make a Difference Day 23 October

The Post will again participate in national Make a Difference Day on Saturday, 23 October, by doing our periodic Highway Cleanup along Lee Highway from Rosslyn to Veitch Street. 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 than two hours. For those not wanting to walk the distance, Post Cleanup will also occur on the same day.

Ladies Auxiliary Quilt Raffle

The raffle is underway for this year's stunning creation of a queen-size hand-made quilt. This "Brown Bag" design in fall colors was crafted by Mrs. Peggy Stoll for the annual Cancer Aid and Research Quilt Raffle. It features bold boxes with random patterned material and a tan patterned backing. Drawing is on Thanksgiving Day; need not be present. Tickets are \$2 each or six tickets for \$10. They are available during Sunday Brunch and many other occasions. If you can't come to the Post, you can write to the Ladies Auxiliary or call the Post Home. The address and phone are on the front page of this newsletter.

Hours for Post Canteen

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
Holidays	open 12 noon

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.

Wed, 10 Nov: USMC Birthday, 8 pm

Cookout 4 - 7 pm

Thur, 11 Nov: Vet Day: Ceremonies 11am & 1 pm

Sun, 14 Nov: Vet Day Weekend Brunch, 9am-12n

Sat, 20 Nov: Thanksgiving Basket prep, 11:30 am

Sat, 20 Nov: Post 3150 76th Birthday, 2 pm

Thur, 25 Nov: Thanksgiving Dinner, 1 - 4 pm

Want to Communicate with your NoVA Congressman, Senators?

You can contact them through their websites:

Warner.senate.gov

Webb.senate.gov, and

Moran.house.gov

Tenth District Meeting

The VFW and Ladies Auxiliary Tenth District will hold their quarterly meetings at 1 pm on Sunday, 3 October, at Dale City Post 1503, 14631 Minnieville Road, Dale City. Lunch will precede the meeting at 12 noon. Men's Auxiliary members will meet for lunch and the Joint Meeting at 1 pm. All members are invited to attend this and other district meetings.

Bring Your Membership Card

Members of both the Post and the Auxiliaries 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.



High Schoolers: Art Contest

The Ladies Auxiliary yearly holds the Young American Creative Patriotic Art contest for grades 9, 10, 11 or 12. Deadline is March 31, 2011. See <http://www.ladiesauxvfw.org>, then Programs, then Youth Activities. Or call the Post for information.

Lasagna Dinner, 16 Oct

The Men's Auxiliary will host a Lasagna Dinner on Saturday, 16 October from 4:30-7:30 p.m. Included will be salad and dinner roll as well as your choice of traditional meat or alternative vegetarian lasagna. The dessert is strawberry short cake with whipped cream. \$12 Sign up sheet at the canteen or call Post at 703-525-0108 after 3 pm.

State to hold Drawing for Harley Davidson Motorcycle

The VFW Department of Virginia will hold a drawing for a new Harley Davidson 2010 Street Glide motorcycle at the Winter Council Meeting in January in Williamsburg. Tickets are only \$20 each or 6 for \$100. Several Post 3150 members have tickets or contact the Adjutant at AdjPost3150@va.vfwwebmail.com.

Recent Events Around the Post

Post Service Officer Arnold Dixon, >>> right, waits to have his hair cut to boot camp standards by Men's Auxiliary Junior Vice President and former barber, Mike Lowe, Others watching, clockwise from lower right, are Wauleah Ellison, Men's Auxiliary President W.L. "Tennessee" Binkley, Post Commander Nelson Betancourt, Ladies Auxiliary President Annie McCormick, and Post Senior Vice Commander Mark Wolfe. The haircut was a fund raiser for the Ladies Auxiliary Cancer Aid and Research project, and raised \$466 for the project.



<<< Shirley McAlhaney, Grant Vaught, Michael McCartney, and George Jordan listen while Charles Reddoor (second from right) explains a point following the ceremonies marking the 65th anniversary of the end of the World War II (VJ Day). Commander Nelson Betancourt led the ceremony while Vaught and McCartney read several reminiscent passages on World War II. Post 3150 has about 50 WW2 veterans as members.

9-11 Remembered

Members of the John Lyon family >>> gather to remember the events of 11 September 2001 during ceremonies at the post flagpole. From the left (rear) are Joe Weeks, Charlene Spollen, Elsa Weeks, Karen Stewart Bernard Dodson, Carol Rawlings, Harold Conklin, and Todd Bruner. Commander Nelson Betancourt, left foreground leads the ceremony.



Recent Events Around the Post

Air Forces Birthday

Mark Wolfe, Alexander Walan, and >>> J.Gary Wagner, prepare to cut the cake for the US Air Force's 63rd birthday. The event also honored, as usual, members of the Army Air Service, Army Air Corps, and the Army Air Force. Wolfe served in both the Air Force and the Army.



<<< Several years ago, Post 3150 purchased a paver brick for a courtyard outside the National Headquarters building in Kansas City. Post member Jim Bertine was recently in Kansas City and got this photo for us. (Thanks, Jim!) The brick is near the memorial garden on the north side of the headquarters.

From the John Lyon Past...

Unknown members enjoy the holiday at >>> the Post home during the John Lyon Halloween Party in 1955. Post 3150 bought the Park Lane Nazarene Church in November 1945 and made it their home in the following months.

Note: Photos of the POW / MIA Remembrance Day and the Ladies Auxiliary birthday are not available as we go to press.



111th VFW National Convention

Pausing in front of the >>> Virginia table in the Southern Conference tent area during the All-Conference Reception is the Post 3150 delegation to the VFW 111th National Convention in Indianapolis: M.C. “Connie” Agresti, Catherine Graham, C.D. “Doc” Crouch, and J.Gary Wagner.



(Counterclockwise from left) C.D. “Doc” Crouch spent much of his time taking pictures as the official photographer for the Department of Virginia. Here in a VFW business session.

J.Gary Wagner and M.C. “Connie” Agresti at one of the business sessions.

Catherine Graham, State Junior Vice President (right) and Laine Beckwith, State Chaplain, prepare to escort Betty Gimble, Virginia State President, into a business session.



VFW 3150 October 2010



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday 29 Sept	Thursday 30 Sept	Friday	Saturday
					1	2 Early Bird Dinner 4 - 7 pm
			RSVP Deadline Early Bird Dinner 9 pm	Deadline: Renewal for Post Life Member drawings		Post Life Membership Drawings 7pm
3 Tenth District Mtg, Dale City Post 1503, 1 pm	4	5	6 Movie Night	7	8 GWOT Night 6:30 - 9:30 pm	9
10 Sunday Brunch 9 am - 12n	11 COLUMBUS DAY House Committee 7:30 pm Post O Call 8 pm	12 Register to Vote deadline in Virginia Men's Aux Meeting 7:30 pm	13 Navy Birthday 7 pm Movie Night	14 Post Meeting 7:30 pm	15	16 Men's Aux Lasagna Dinner, 4:30 - 7:30 pm
17 Women's Self Defense Course 9 am - 12n	18	19	20 Movie Night	21 Ladies Aux Meeting 7:30 pm	22 Make a Difference Day ----->	23 Highway Cleanup 8:30 am
24 Sunday Brunch 9 am - 12n	25 23 -31 Oct Anti-Drug Red Ribbon Week	26	27	28 Statue of Liberty Birthday	29	30 Halloween Party 7 pm
31 HALLOWEEN USMC Marathon						

Call 703-525-0108 for Info or to RSVP



Happy Birthday, Miss Liberty 28 October 1886-2010



2010 - 2011 Virginia Ladies Auxiliary State President Betty Gimble (LA 1503), Tenth District President Linda Bond (LA 7327), and State Junior Vice President Catherine Graham (LA 3150) arrive at the Statue of Liberty complex last October for the National VFW Ladies Auxiliary's celebration of the Statue of Liberty's birthday. Every year, many VFW Ladies Auxiliary members (accompanied by many VFW members) travel to New York City to celebrate Miss Liberty in one of the Auxiliary's main patriotic events.