

# The John Lyon Gazette

Volume 24, Number 3

October 2018



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



**The John Lyon Gazette: Winner of 1999, 2003, 2004, 2007, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2016 and 2018 Clair B. Poff Public Relations Award for Outstanding Newsletter, and Winner of National Awards for 2010, 2011**



## Missing WW2 airman recovered; ties to Post 3150

The Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency announced the identified remains of a WWII airman on September 5, 2018. Army Air Forces Staff Sgt. Herbert W. Harms was 28 when his B-17, in which he was a tailgunner, was shot down on Aug. 16, 1944 just outside of Cauerwitz, Germany. Harms was declared non-recoverable in 1950. Over 73 years passed until unidentified remains were disinterred from U.S. Military Cemetery at Neuville-en-Condroz, Belgium. Using modern DNA analysis and forensic techniques, Harms was positively identified

September 4, 2018. Harms is the uncle of Auxiliary member Shirley LaFreniere and great-uncle of Past Auxiliary President Jodie LaFreniere-Dajc. Harms will be interred in Rutland Cemetery in Rutland, Illinois later this year.



The MIA Update section the VFW Action Corps Weekly, September 7, 2018 included the following:

“-- **Army Air Forces Staff Sgt. Herbert W. Harms** served as a B-17 tail gunner with the 569th Bombardment Squadron, 390th Bombardment Group, 13th Combat Bombardment Wing. On Aug. 16, 1944, Harms’ aircraft was struck by anti-aircraft artillery during a bombardment mission to Zeitz, Germany, and subsequently crashed. Eight of the nine crewmembers safely bailed out of the aircraft and were captured by German forces, but Harms could not be located. Interment services are pending. [Read about Harms.](#)”



Two deceased members of Post 3150 were known POWs: Army Sgt Roy Story was a POW in the Korean War, and Army Air Force 1 LT David Thompson was a B-24 pilot shot down and captured in Germany in WW2. His Luft-Stalag-1 prisoner number was ironically 3150.

## **From the Commander: (Resignation)**

Greetings Comrades,

This will be the last time I write to you as your Post Commander. Many of you have known for some time that my time in Northern Virginia was drawing to an end. That time has come and by the time you read this my next adventure has already begun.

Being Post Commander of John Lyon Post 3150 has been one of the greatest honors and privileges of my young life. I have grown personally during my tenure in ways that would have not been possible without the Post and I have made some of the greatest friends of my 32 years sitting around our canteen and working community initiatives with you all. Thank you for the trust and confidence you have shown me and for helping me find a tribe.

The Post is in great hands. Comrade Ganser will be assuming the role of Commander until a mid-year election can be held. I have no doubt that the Post will grow and prosper in unimaginable ways. After all, it is you, the members and leaders of the Post, who make us great, not one individual.

I love you all and will miss you greatly. While I will be in Texas before many of you read this, please know that I am always available and will move any mountain to be of service to you all and the Post we call home. Remember to always take care of one another and to set aside petty jealousies and trivial personalities for the sake of camaraderie and service before self.

Until next time, my friends.

Semper Fidelis,  
-w

Walter Sweeney, USMC  
Post Commander, John Lyon VFW Post 3150

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

It is October and that means the days are getting shorter and colder. Be extra careful while driving, as children do not always look before crossing streets.

This year's Celebrating America's Freedom Event was held at Gettysburg National Military Battlefield Park at the visitor center as the rain made it hard to be outside. A majority of Department Presidents were present and some had their Commanders participate in the presentation of flags. The ceremony included the National President and the National Commander in Chief, B.J. Lawrence, who was the keynote speaker. He joined National President Sandy Kriebel in presenting a \$2000 donation to the Gettysburg Battlefield Foundation. The Department of Virginia was represented by President Patty Baskett, and flag bearers Maggie Myers and Vicki Butler. All those present had a good time and we were able to get other people to recognize the VFW Auxiliary as a whole.

A big hello and hope you are all safe to those members who live in North and South Carolina: Angeline Agresti, Gigi & Herman Cruz, Bob Lewis, Janet & Greg Moscatel, Vivian Parker, Ceil Wasserman, and Carol Zimmerman.

As the year continues, your Auxiliary decided to try a bake-less bake sale fundraiser. By now you should have received a letter if we did not have an email address for you. Hopefully you can help us in some small way with our programs. As can be seen in the newsletter, our scholarship programs are ongoing with different due dates. Also, the Patriotic Art Contest has upped the prize money and added the ability to have art in three dimensions. There is a limit on the size and weight of the project. To find out more about the contest and to find an application form visit the National Auxiliary website at [vfwauxiliary.org](http://vfwauxiliary.org), click on Scholarships. Now is the time to start thinking about and planning for the holidays. Will you be staying in town or going away? Will you be sharing the meals with family and friends or just doing your own thing? Will you include the military or veterans in your planning, or just family and friends? The next thing you know the New Year is upon us.

Annual membership dues are now being accepted. You can pay our treasurer, Jodie LaFreniere-Dajc at the post address by \$25 check or go to the National Auxiliary website and pay by credit card. If you have not received your card within two months let Jodie or myself know. You can email me at [cg12dc12@outlook.com](mailto:cg12dc12@outlook.com). Also, if you have a neighbor or friend who is eligible, the application is on the National website or send me an email with their contact information.

As always check on the sick and elderly. Happy Anniversary and Birthday to those celebrating in October.

Cathy Graham  
President VFW Auxiliary 3150

### ***Marching Off...Reported by National...***

**Robert E York, Jr**, 65, of Warrington, PA, on 30 April 2010.. He was an Army vet who served in Vietnam, receiving the Vietnam campaign ribbon and the Combat Infantryman's Badge.

**Ralph M Howe, Jr**, 78, of Fairfax County, VA and Brentwood, MD, on 10 June 2010. He was an Air Force veteran and participated in the post World War II Occupation. He was buried in Fort Lincoln Cemetery, Brentwood.

**Past Commander Eugene D Miller III** Services are as follows:

#### **16 October 2018**

1:30 pm - Catholic Mass - St Agnes Catholic Church, 1910 North Randolph Street, Arlington 22207

3 - 5 pm & 6 - 8 pm - Viewing- Murphy's Funeral Home, 4510 Wilson Blvd, Arlington, 22203

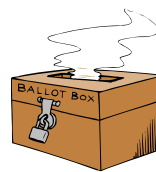
<https://www.vv.dignitymemorial.com/obituaries/arlington-va/leugene-miller-7901024>

#### **17 October 2018**

11 am - Burial -Arlington National Cemetery- Full Military Honors  
Reception to follow

### **Yoga: Thursday Nights**

Yoga Legion has moved to Thursday nights. Every week at 6 pm! Yoga mats are available at the Post. Wear comfortable clothing. No experience necessary.



**Moved Recently?  
Are you registered to Vote?  
Deadline is 15 October in  
Virginia.**

**To register, update your address, or get info  
on Virginia elections, go to  
<https://elections.virginia.gov/>**

**And you will need a photo ID to vote  
on 6 November.**

### **Renew Now!**

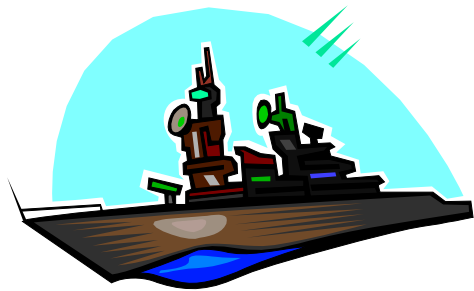
Renew your Post Annual membership early and show for the next Post meeting (the third Monday at 7:30 pm) to (in the words of the Commander) "maybe even win a little something".



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

## Homebrew Competition

GRiST is partnering with the John Lyon VFW Post 3150 to host the Second Annual NoVA Homebrew Competition Classic, an AHA/BJCP sanctioned Competition. GRiST is the Arlington Homebrew club that conducts their monthly meetings at VFW Post 3150. Come out on 27 October 2017, from 5 -7 pm to taste some delicious brews and show your support for GRiST, VFW Post 310, and all the local brewers competing in the event!



## U.S. Navy Birthday

The Post will celebrate the U.S. Navy Birthday with a cake cutting ceremony on Saturday, 13 October about 7 pm. As usual, members of all services are invited to attend this celebration. Dinner will be served starting at 6 pm

### Hours for Post Canteen

The Post Canteen is scheduled to be open as follows:  
First Thursday of each month from 6-10 pm  
Every Friday from 5-10 pm  
Every Saturday from 3-10 pm  
Every Sunday from 1-6 pm  
Post may extend hours for various events.

## Gary's Guide

This column is named after one I wrote for my high school newspaper...

**Searching.** Overlooked in the headlines for Crazy Rich Asians, this movie also stars John Cho, this time as a father of his missing daughter. What makes film very intriguing is the father's reliance on his daughter's social media contacts and internet postings to solve the mystery. Very enlightening and while a plus for his efforts, a warning to the rest of us about what we post on-line. A good mystery overall.. \*\*\*\*stars



## Fire Prevention Week 7 – 13 October 2018

### Schedule Updates

For the frequently updated openings, hours, end events, go to [www.vfw3150.org](http://www.vfw3150.org) and click on Calendar.

Event updates can also be found on our Facebook page. "Like" us at

"John Lyon VFW Post 3150".

### A John Lyon "Hello" to...

All our members in the Carolinas, Virginia and other states affected by Hurricane Florence. Our thoughts and prayers are with you. And best wishes to Past Commander Walter Sweeney, enroute to his home in Texas.



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

(We continue a series of articles about Lt John Lyon leading up to the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of his death and the end of World War One.)

John renewed his passport application at the U.S. Embassy in Paris in November 1915 for six more months of hospital work<sup>viii</sup> but a passenger list for the U.S.S. Philadelphia showed that he returned to the U.S. on December 16, 1915.<sup>ix</sup> He enlisted in the U.S. army and was stationed for six months on the Mexican Border.

A letter to the Washington Times dated August 17, 1916 from John Lyon posted from Brownsville, Texas offers a glimpse of his personality. His letter that lightheartedly asked that Sarah Bernhardt, a famous French singer and actress who had recently toured America, visit U.S. troops along the Mexican border just as she had visited French troops in France. His letter gently complained that life for Company G of the First Volunteers was easy duty but he also may have hinted that he missed home by writing, "Life here is as quiet, so far as danger is concerned, as it was on the farms or in the villages back home."<sup>x</sup>

Even before Lt. Lyon arrived in Texas, the Mexican border was patrolled by the U.S. Army. In March of 1916, Mexican revolutionary leader, Pancho Villa raided Columbus, New Mexico, killing ten civilians and eight soldiers.<sup>xi</sup> General John Pershing led an expedition into Mexico to capture him and U.S. troops remained to patrol the border against more incursions. The border

remained troublesome to the U.S. military. Germany had long sought to incite a war between Mexico and the U.S. to divert American attention and slow the export of American arms to Europe. In February of 1917, the British government exposed a coded telegram from German Foreign Secretary, Arthur Zimmermann, to the German ambassador to Mexico instructing the ambassador to approach the Mexican government with a proposal that Germany would provide funding and assistance for Mexico to reconquer Texas and the Southwest if it looked like the U.S. was about to enter the war.

These same troops under General Pershing, including the First Virginia Regiment were trained, had experience, and were the best prepared to deploy to Europe once the U.S. declared war in April 1917. Lyon returned home briefly and then promoted to sergeant in his company, departed with his men for Camp McClellan, in Alabama on September 25, 1917.<sup>xii</sup> ... From there Lyon shipped out to France. Probably because of his experience and his level of education, he was promoted to lieutenant and assigned to the machine gun company of the 116<sup>th</sup> Infantry of the 29th Division. Composed of men from both the north: Maryland and the south: Virginia, and North Carolina, the 29<sup>th</sup> Division was nicknamed the "Blue and Gray" a reference to the blue uniforms of the Union and the gray uniforms of the Confederate armies during the Civil War.<sup>xiii</sup> These fresh troops were immediately deployed to the front. Letters from John to his family led them to believe that he served almost the entire time in front lines trenches.<sup>xiv</sup>

(Excerpted from a "Those Who Gave Their Lives: Arlington's Fallen Sons in World War I", *The Arlington Historical Magazine*, Vol. 15, No. 2, 2014, by permission of the author, Annette Benbow.)

## Students, Teachers, & First Responders



**Voice of Democracy:** audio essay contest for grades 9 through 12. The 2018-2019 theme is “*Why My Vote Matters*” Deadline is Oct 31, 2018. NOTE: Entry should be recorded on CD or flash drive.



**Patriot's Pen:** written essay contest for grades 6, 7 and 8. The 2018-2019 theme is “*Why I Honor the American Flag*”. The deadline is Oct 31, 2018.



**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 Oct 31, 2018. The national teacher --- and his/her school ---- each receive a \$1000 award.

Above awards are presented at post, district, state, and national levels and can add up to thousands of dollars. Deadlines are to Post 3150 (or your local post).

Further information, including entry forms, brochures, and background, are available at [www.vfw.org](http://www.vfw.org), then Community, then Youth and Education, then on one of the four programs. Forms and information may also be obtained at <http://www.vfwva.org/>, then Community Programs. Or call Post 3150 at 703-525-0108 for further information. You can see last year's winners at the link.



**Firefighter, EMT, Law Enforcement Nominations due 15 December.**

Nominations for Public Service Awards --- **Law Enforcement Officer, Firefighter, and EMT of the Year** --- are due at the Post by 15 December. Nominations include a resume of nominee's background in applicable area, resume of accomplishments in field, photograph, title and address.

## Moved? New Email?

**Please notify us when you move or change your email!** Send an email with your new address or email to the Adjutant at (new email address) [adjpost3150@vfwva.org](mailto:adjpost3150@vfwva.org)

## Qualifying for VFW or Auxiliary Membership

Veterans who served overseas in an active or passive war zone are likely eligible for the VFW. The best indicator is receipt of an Expeditionary or Campaign Medal, although some other qualifiers exist. The most common are World War II, Korean War and subsequent service in country to the present, Vietnam War, Desert Storm, and the Afghanistan and Iraq Wars, but other campaigns and situations, such as Bosnia, Panama, Cuba, and Imminent Danger Pay also qualify. A DD Form 214 or other documentation which shows the qualification is required. Further information is available at the Post or email the Adjutant at [adjpost3150@vfwva.org](mailto:adjpost3150@vfwva.org).

Membership in the VFW Auxiliary is open to men and women whose spouse, parent, grandparent, child, grandchild, sibling (and half-sibling who attain the status prior to the age sixteen) was or is eligible for membership in the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States of America. Documentation is required as it is for the Post. Members must also be at least sixteen years old. Those whose family members might be interested can get further information at the Post or email the Adjutant at [adjpost3150@vfwva.org](mailto:adjpost3150@vfwva.org).

# Recent Events Around the Post



## Air Forces Birthday

<<< (l to r, front) Commander Walter Sweeney assists Air Force veteran J. Gary Wagner cut into the cake marking the U.S. Air Force's 71st birthday, while Chanda Choun, Mike Beatty, Bill Kelly, and Nancy Springer look on. The event also honored, as usual, members of the Army Air Service, Army Air Corps, and the Army Air Force.

## VFW Auxiliary Birthday

VFW Post 3150 Auxiliary members >>> celebrate the 104<sup>th</sup> birthday of the VFW Auxiliary. Preparing to cut the cake are (from the left) Gail Hoffman, Wauleah Ellison, Karen Stewart, Cathy Kerns Deal, and. Cathy Graham



## POW / MIA Day

<<< Nancy Springer and J. Gary Wagner preside over the POW / MIA Day ceremony at the Post, which included the Harms story (which can be seen on the front page of this newsletter.) as well as the meaning of the POW / MIA table.

# Recent Events Around the Post

## Patriot Day: 11 September 2001 Remembered



<<< John Lyon Post and Auxiliary members remembered the 11 September 2001 attacks on the Pentagon and the twin towers in New York City, and the air crash in Pennsylvania with a ceremony at the Post. From the left are Chris Gaffney, Cam Kennedy, Nancy Springer, Eric Grenlin, Kathy Kerns Deal, Eric Ganser, and J.Gary Wagner. Walter Sweeney was the photographer. A bill passed by the House and the Senate in 2001 requested the President designate 11 September as Patriot Day in honor of those killed in the attacks.

## Clarendon Day

(l to r) Stacy Jer, Nancy Springer, and Eric >>> Ganser man the Post 3150 booth at the recent Clarendon Day. Others who filled shifts at the booth during the day were John Dingeman, Walter Sweeney, Bill Kelly, J.Gary Wagner, Andrew Kirsch, Mike Beatty, Leslie Kindling, and Alyssa Marlow. Several new members were recruited and funds were accepted for Buddy Poppies and other donations.



## Team Rubicon

<<< The Post hosted Team Rubicon for two days each on two weekends for conducting training sessions. One of the groups posed for a photo outside on the first weekend. Several Post members are also Team Rubicon members.



# VFW 3150 October 2018



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4 Yoga Legion, 6 pm	5 Buddy Poppy distribution, 5 pm	6
7	8 COLUMBUS DAY House Committee / Post O Call 7:00 pm,	9	10 GRIST mtg, 7 pm	11 Yoga Legion, 6 pm	12	13 Navy Birthday 6 pm
14	15 <b>Register to Vote deadline in Virginia</b> Post meeting 7:30 pm	16 Gene Miller services (p 3) Auxiliary meeting, 7:30 pm	17 Gene Miller Funeral 11 am Arlington National Cemetery	18 Yoga Legion, 6 pm	19	20
21	22	23	24	25 Yoga Legion, 6 pm	26	27 GRIST / NoVA Homebrew Competition 5 - 7 pm
28 USMC Marathon	29	30	31 HALLOWEEN	Voice of Democracy, Patriots Pen, and Teacher of the Year Deadline 31 October by 6 pm		

Event updates can be found on our Facebook page. "Like" us at "John Lyon VFW Post 3150".

Also check [www.vfw3150.org](http://www.vfw3150.org), then Calendar for daily hours and events updates.



**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**  
**October 2018**



**Happy 132<sup>nd</sup>**  
**Birthday,**  
**Miss Liberty**  
**28 October**  
**1886-2018**