

# The John Lyon Gazette

Volume 12, Number 3

September 2005



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 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; Best Newsletter in the Nation, 1999

## Post 3150 Website Takes 1<sup>st</sup> Place in VFW Competition!

It was announced on 5 August that Post 3150's website had been selected 1<sup>st</sup> place in the VFW's first website competition. The post competed in the District/Post division. The announcement from National also named the Department of California in the Department division. The announcement specifies "The winning entries were judged exceptional because of their professional and aesthetically pleasing design, current information and well-written content, quick load time and well-designed navigation." There were 75 competing entries.

The Post 3150 website was begun 8-10 years back by Richard Hoffman, and was one of the first VFW post websites on the Internet. It was enhanced and redesigned --- and maintained for a number of years --- by Eric Skrzypczak. Tanya Cobb, wife of 3150 member Steve Cobb, has been webmaster for the last year. Prior to the competition, Tanya thoroughly checked all aspects of the site, including links to other sites, improved download of information and streamlined the overall operation. The site information is updated at least once a month. You can see the announcement at [www.vfw.org](http://www.vfw.org), then click on website competition announcement on the left side. See 3150's webpage at [www.vfw3150.org](http://www.vfw3150.org). Congratulations to our webmasters and the folks that do the work reflected on the website. The website header with navigation buttons is seen below.



JOHN LYON VFW POST #3150  
2116 North 19th Street, Arlington, VA 22201 703-525-0108

ARMY · NAVY · AIR FORCE · COAST GUARD · MARINES



HOME	OFFICERS	AUXILIARY	EVENTS	ACTIVITIES	LOCATION	LINKS	GUESTBOOK
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## *From the Commander:*

I hope everyone has been enjoying the summer. We at the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 3150 have been enjoying the air conditioning at the post. The outside temperature has been in the ninety's. But there are some days that do make it perfect to make use of the nice picnic tables in the Post backyard. The Ladies Auxiliary will have their annual Labor Day Cookout on Monday, September 5. We hope Labor Day will be the nicest weekend of the year. The Ladies Auxiliary has been doing the Labor Day Cookout as their own project annually.

We had our highway cleanup on July 30. What makes it worthy of printing in this column is the number of people that showed up. There were ten, including our 82 year old assistant Chaplain, Ralph Huston. We needed to form two rows when we took the group photo of the cleanup crew. Everyone had a great time. The next Highway Cleanup will be on October 22, 05 starting with donuts and coffee at 8:30AM.

About a week ago, I walked into the post and noticed a young gentleman sitting at the canteen. I walked up to him and said, "I have seen you before..." The last time I saw Bill Wright, an army medic, was when he was home on leave from Afghanistan. Bill and his wife, Leslie, ate at our Post Valentines Day Dinner this last year. This was the night before he shipped out. Bill is a member of Post 3150 and we are happy to give him a heartfelt "welcome home".

Another annual event for everyone to remember is the Ladies Auxiliary Annual Bake Sale, October 9, 2005. I must say, we have some real Dessert Chefs at our post. The "good stuff" goes really fast. Last year, I bought one of Ruthie Rodier's, (just turned 80), famous Rum Cakes early at the beginning of the Sunday Brunch that coincides with the sale.

On August 28, we will have another one of our Sunday Brunches. This weekend coincides with travel from the VFW National Convention at Salt Lake City and a car race at Bristol, TN. Past 3150 All American Commander Gene Miller has offered to help out with the kitchen crew for that Brunch. Gene was the first egg flipper/grill man when the Post Brunch began years ago. I look forward to working with Gene in the kitchen. I've heard rumors that Gene also might have another one of his legendary Chili-Mac nights sometime in late January.

One more thing worthy of mentioning, (since I am former U.S. Air Force), is that we will celebrate the U.S. Air Force 58<sup>th</sup> Birthday at 7:00PM on Saturday, September 17.

Yours in Comradeship,

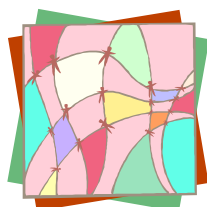
/s/

Greg Moscatel  
Commander, Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 3150



## *From the President*

It is now September and the start of our busy season. By the time this is published I will have attended the National Convention in Salt Lake City and will be home in time to help out at the Labor Day Cookout. The beginning of August we were busy with ceremonies to honor our Coast Guard comrades and those who have been awarded the Purple Heart. Those who attended both ceremonies and the cookout had an enjoyable time. The month of September contains numerous ceremonies starting with the 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the end of World War II, Patriot's Day, then Air Force birthday, POW/MIA Recognition Day, Citizenship Day, Gold Star Mother's Day and the anniversary of the VFW and its Ladies Auxiliary. Sandwiched in these ceremonies are the Post and Auxiliary meetings, District meeting and the Department Fall Council meeting.



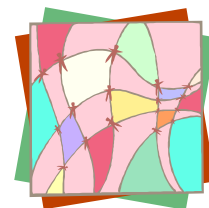
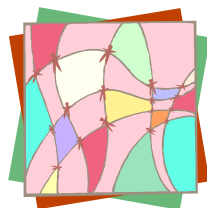
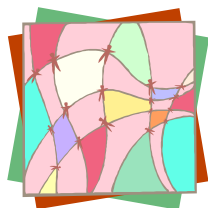
At the Labor Day Cookout, we will conduct a Cancer Aid and Research raffle of a homemade quilt. The chances are \$1 each or 6 for \$5. The drawing will be conducted at Thanksgiving. The chances will be available at the post home whenever an auxiliary member is present beginning 5 September.

Now to remind everyone, we have our early bird drawing scheduled for the November meeting. The membership renewals must be postmarked by 31 October; this allows everyone a chance to be in the running for a life membership or one of three free continuous memberships. So send in your dues to the Treasurer, Gail Hoffman at the post address or in response to her letter for dues. Also for those current life members, Cancer Insurance is due. That is \$9.90 and can also be sent to Gail at the post address. Remember to make your checks payable to the Ladies Auxiliary to VFW 3150.

Hope everyone has had a safe and healthy summer and now that school is back in session everyone is keeping an eye out for the children. Finally, a happy birthday wish is extended to all those born in September.

/s/

Catherine M. Graham



## Welcome to Our New Members

Welcome to new Post members, John Dreswick (Navy - Persian Gulf), Michael Nelson (Army - Korea Service), and Charles Reddoor (Life) (Army - Vietnam), elected at the August meeting. Because of the early deadline for this month's issue, the Ladies Auxiliary meeting had not yet occurred. Any new members will be reported in next month's issue.

We also welcome new MIP members to the VFW: Gerald French, William Lallement III, Rosalio Loera, and Henry Nguyen.

## 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary end WW2: - downtown

There will be a ceremony marking the end of the war at the World War II Memorial in Washington on Friday, 2 September. The event, which is free and open to the public, will start at 7:00 pm, with pre-ceremonial entertainment starting at 6:00 p.m. and post ceremonial entertainment lasting until approximately 8:45 p.m. For further information, see [www.60wwii.mil](http://www.60wwii.mil).

## -and at the post

The Post will also have a ceremony marking the end of World War II. Friday, 2 Sept at 7:30 pm

### *Marching Off...*

James H Jenkins 89, on 31 July 2005. Jim was a Navy veteran who spent 2 two years in the Pacific during World War II. Upon returning to the States, he was proprietor for many years of his own sheet metal shop in Falls Church and reportedly built a mockup of an early space vehicle for NASA. He also was a prolific inventor. As a poet, he spent many hours putting his life's experiences on paper and had a number of his many poems put to music. He was an earlier member of the Falls Church VFW, transferring into Post 3150 in the 1991. He had been a Life Member of the VFW since July 1990.

## Why Renew Now? Great odds in upcoming drawing

Yes, it's that time of year again. Even though your annual membership card is good until December 2005, the VFW has begun sending out renewal notices. As it takes a while to get everyone renewed, the process begins early. Those who join or renew by 30 September will qualify (along with all Life members) for the Early Bird Dinner in October. New and renewing Post members will also qualify for the Life Membership drawings done at that Early Bird Dinner. There will be six drawings, one for each of the five youngest year categories and one for those over 71. (See story in July newsletter for related news in the over 71 category.) 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 join or renew. As the Post is currently over 75% Life, this means that there are only about 100 annual members to compete in those five categories in the drawing. Your chances of having your name drawn are about one in twenty, much better odds than in the mega lottos --- or most any other drawing for that matter. If you have not received a renewal notice, you can send or bring your dues by the Post: \$30 for VFW members.

## Charge Your Renewal On-Line Also Change Address, Replace Lost Card

Post members who would like to charge their annual renewals may do so on-line at [www.vfw.org](http://www.vfw.org). Once you reach the national VFW webpage, click on "Membership", then "Member Tools". You will then see a list of member options which will allow you to pay your annual dues or sign up for Life Membership. You can also obtain a duplicate life or annual membership card or change your address. You will need your membership number, found on your membership card for any of these transactions, plus the Post dues amount to renew (\$30). (If you need help finding your membership number, give the post a call.)

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



1973-74 Post Commander Gary C. Miller introduces the Post 3150's Voice of Democracy winner, Jean Thenette, during award ceremonies held at John Lyon during spring of 1974.

## *A John Lyon Hello ...*

To Post member William Wright who recently returned to the U.S. after a tour in Afghanistan, and to Past District Ten Commander Barney Marquart, currently resting up in the hospital.

## **Gold Star Mother's Day**

Gold Star Mother's Day is Sunday, 25 September. Gold Star Mothers are those mothers whose sons or daughters died in combat, and who made, next to those who did not return, the greatest sacrifice for the nation. At least two members of the 3150 Ladies Auxiliary are Gold Star Mothers. We salute these valiant ladies. The Post will hold ceremonies at 4 pm.

## **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 2005-2006 theme is "How I Demonstrate My Freedom". Deadline is November 1, 2005.

**Patriot's Pen:** essay contest for grades 6, 7 and 8. The 2005-2006 theme is "Who Are Today's Patriots?" The deadline is November 1, 2005.

**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, 2005.

**Scout of the Year:** Any Eagle Scout, Venture Silver Award recipient, or Sea Scout Quartermaster may qualify. Deadline is March 1, 2006

**Ladies Auxiliary's Young American Creative Patriotic Art:** grades 9, 10, 11 or 12. Deadline is March 29, 2006. See <http://www.ladiesauxvfw.com>, then Scholarships.

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

The Veterans' Tribute Scholarship is available to children and grandchildren, ages 16 to 18, of all U.S. military veterans, active duty, Reserves and National Guard.: Deadline is December 31, 2005. Application at VFW website.

Except as noted above, see [www.vfw.org](http://www.vfw.org), then Programs, then Youth Development or Citizenship Education. Or call Post 3150 at 703-525-0108 for further information.



## Early Bird Dinner Scheduled

The Early Bird Dinner is scheduled for 4 - 7 pm on Saturday, 1 October. This is a no-cost "thank you" for all renewed and Life members of the Post and Ladies Auxiliary. There will be a charge for non-Early Birds. Call the Post for further information and to sign up. RSVP by 9 pm Mon, 26 September.

## Member Benefits

"Vacation time has arrived! As you travel, take advantage of the VFW Hotel/Motel Discount program. Save up to 30% when you stay at any of the following: AmeriHost, Days Inn, Howard Johnson, Knights Inn, Ramada, Travelodge, Wingate Inns, or Super 8. For more information or to get your free discount card, contact Member Benefits at 800-821-2606, option 4 or e-mail at [memberbenefits@vfw.org](mailto:memberbenefits@vfw.org)." (Source: *VFW National Headquarters Bulletin, August 2005*)

## Last Month for VFW Life Membership Drawings

The Post will again hold a special drawing during the Early Bird Dinner from all members who have joined or renewed by 30 September. The drawing will include one each from the five youngest age groups as well as one in the over 71 age group. The winners will receive a Life membership in the VFW. If the member whose name is drawn had gone Life when renewing or joining this summer, he/she will be reimbursed for that Life Membership and so will not be penalized for having "gone Life". To qualify for the drawing, National must have posted your Direct Dues renewal by 30 September or you must join/renew at the Post by 30 September.

## 9-11 / Patriot's Day

John Lyon Post will remember those lost on 11 September 2001 at the World Trade Center, the Pentagon, and at Somerset, PA with ceremonies at 4 pm. The day has been named Patriot's Day.

## Labor Day Cookout Monday, 5 September

2 - 5 pm \$6.00

Chicken Breasts

Tossed Salad

Corn on the Cob

Baked Beans

Sponsored by 3150 Ladies Auxiliary

## VFW Life Membership Fees to go up?

At least two proposals exist to raise Life Membership fees in the near future. These were to be considered at the National Convention in August. At least one proposal included hefty increases and it seems likely the fees will be raised in some manner. Those considering Life Membership would do wise to take action now before the increase goes into effect. Anyone who has already renewed their dues for 2006 can still convert to Life membership and receive a refund for what you have already paid.

The current rates are:

Age by 31 December:

Through 30 = \$245

31 - 40 = \$235

41 - 50 = \$215

51 - 60 = \$195

61 - 70 = \$165

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 next birthday.

Any member who has renewed for the year as an annual member, may have his/her renewal fee applied towards Life Membership until the middle of December.

**Moved Lately?  
Are you registered to Vote?  
Check your new county  
for registration deadline!**

## **VFW Organizations Birthdays**

The VFW as an organization will mark 106 years of serving veterans, their families, their communities, and the nation on September 29<sup>th</sup>. And the like-minded VFW Ladies Auxiliary will be 91 years old on September 17<sup>th</sup>. The occasions will be marked on Saturday, 17 September at 4 pm and the Post at 7 pm on the 29<sup>th</sup>.



**Back to School Time  
Watch out for Kids**

**And Slow Down! The Police  
watch the streets near Key  
Elementary School for speeders.**

**In case of illness or death, please notify the  
Post Commander or Adjutant or Ladies  
Auxiliary President or Secretary. The Post  
address / phone number are shown on the  
front page.**

## **Hospice Benefit Night**

Mark your calendars: the annual Hospice Benefit Dinner is scheduled for 4 - 8 pm on Saturday, 15 October. Karaoke will follow the dinner.

## **Air Forces Birthday**

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**Commemorating the  
Army Air Corps,  
Army Air Force,  
U.S. Air Force**

## **Ceremonies**

**Saturday, 17 September 2005  
7:00 pm**

## **VFW Weblog**

The Department of Virginia has a new weblog with a myriad of VFW information and a links to about 200 or so other military weblogs. It currently features interviews with Virginia's three gubernatorial candidates, answering questions put to them by the VFW. Go through the Department of Virginia website at <http://www.vfwva.org> or directly to <http://www.manilasites.com/VFWVA/> or

## **District Meeting and Department Fall Council Meeting**

The VFW and Ladies Auxiliary Tenth District will hold their quarterly meetings at 1 pm on Sunday, 18 September at Springfield Post 7327.

The Department Fall Council meeting for VFW and Ladies Auxiliary members will be held 23 - 25 September in Lynchburg, VA. Meetings will be held at the Holiday Inn Express. Phone 434-528-5000. Please also notify the Post if you will attend the Saturday evening banquet so we can get a ticket for you.

VFW and Ladies Auxiliary members are invited to attend either or both meetings.



## The VFW in Washington

“The location of our office in Washington D.C., allows the VFW to monitor Congress and to administer our Veterans' Services program. The VFW has more than 100 trained service officers to assist any veteran, or their dependents, obtain federal or state entitlements.

“VFW service officers also assist veterans seeking discharge upgrades, record corrections, education benefits, disability compensation, pension eligibility and other veterans' needs. Field representatives regularly inspect VA healthcare facilities, regional offices and national cemeteries. In addition, civil service and employment specialists monitor laws concerning veterans' preference in federal employment and represent veterans in grievances regarding employment in the federal, state and private sectors. A recent addition to the Washington D.C., office is the Tactical Assessment Center, a 24-hour help line for veterans with questions or concerns about VA entitlements. (1-800-vfw-1899)

“VFW's National Legislative Service office monitors all legislation affecting veterans. It alerts VFW membership to key veterans' legislation under consideration and actively lobbies Congress and the administration on veterans' issues. It often assists congressional staffs in preparing veterans' legislation.

“VFW's National Security and Foreign Affairs office monitors national security and foreign affairs issues.” (Source: VFW National Website, [www.vfw.org](http://www.vfw.org), then click on VFW Capitol Hill)

## Address Changes Cost Post \$\$

Because we use the third class rate for the Post newsletter, when we use the “Address Service Requested” line above the address label every other month or so, the Post Office charges us 70 cents to forward your newsletter and send us your new address. **PLEASE let us know before you move!**

## Canteen Tidbits...

Lunch in the Canteen should be resuming in the near future although no firm date has been set as we go to press. Watch for the weekly email update or check with the Post for details. (To be added to our email list, send an email to the webmaster at [vfw3150@cws-online.net](mailto:vfw3150@cws-online.net). Your request will be forwarded to the Adjutant who will add you to the list.)

## Locker Fees Due

Locker fees for the next twelve months are now due. Please submit \$10 to the Quartermaster by 1 September or the locker will be considered abandoned and emptied.

# Citizenship Day 17 September 2005 U.S. Constitution Approved 1787

## Early Newsletter

Yes, the newsletter is **early** this month. The editor will be out of town and felt an early newsletter is better than a late one.



# Recent Events Around the Post

With the camera flash demonstrating >>> the value of the Post's safety jackets, John Lyon members gather in the front yard prior to hitting the streets for the recent Highway Cleanup. From left to right, kneeling are George Flanigan and Greg Moscatel, and standing are Eric Anderson, Tom Kane, Steve Michalski, Shirley McAlhaney, "Fuzzy" Collier, Nancy Collier, Ralph Huston, and J.Gary Wagner. The post's area includes both sides of Lee Highway from Rosslyn to Veitch Street.



<<< Ladies Auxiliary Senior Vice President Karen Stewart assists Commander Greg Moscatel cut the U.S. Coast Guard cake during ceremonies marking the 215<sup>th</sup> birthday of what once was known as the Revenue Cutter Service among other names.

Purple Heart recipients Richard >>> Hoffman (left, Vietnam) and Irv Munroe (right, World War II and Korean War) join Commander Greg Moscatel following Post 3150 ceremonies for Purple Heart Day.



# Recent Events Around the Post



<<< The Arlington Little League Challenger Division presented Post 3150 with a thank you for its special support earlier in the year. The post's donation helped the Challenger Division of "special" children attend the yearly tournament in Norfolk. Accepting the plaques are Junior and Senior Vice Commanders, Tom Kane and Eric Anderson, Commander Greg Moscatel, and Quartermaster Richard Hoffman. Team representative Peter Kehoe holds the two plaques after his daughter, Laurie Ann, presented Moscatel with a team-written thank you.

John Lyon members gather near the post >>> flag pole during John Lyon Shirt and Cap Day. Members wore their John Lyon shirts and caps throughout Saturday and Sunday to show the community we are here in their midst. Show are Greg Moscatel, kneeling, standing first row, Eric Anderson, Ken Jansen, Peggy Varney, Lola Kane, J.Gary Wagner, second row, Ruth Rodier, Karen Stewart, Juanita Diggs, Bill Yeager, and, rear, Butch Hovermill and Tom Kane.



<<< Commander Greg Moscatel thanks Irv Munroe for his service during ceremonies marking the end of the Korean War 52 years ago.



# September 2005

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2 60 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary end of World War 2 7:30 pm	3
4	5 Ladies Aux Labor Day Cookout 2 - 5 pm	6 House Com 7:30 pm Post O Call 8 pm	7 Movie Night	8 Post Meeting 8 pm	9	10
11 Sunday Brunch 9 am - 1 pm  9-11 / Patriots Day 4 pm	12	13	14 Movie Night	15 Ladies Aux Meeting 7:30 pm	16 POW/MIA 7:30 pm	17 Ladies Aux 91st Birthday 4 pm Air Forces Birthday 7 pm
18 10th District Meeting Springfield 1 pm	19	20	21 Movie Night	22	23 Fall Council Meeting - Lynchburg	24 Fall Council Meeting - Lynchburg
25 Fall Council  Sunday Brunch 9 am - 1 pm Gold Star Mothers 4pm	26 RSVP Deadline for Early Bird Dinner	27	28 Movie Night	29 VFW 106th Birthday 7:30pm	30 Renewal for Life Member drawings	1 Oct Early Bird Dinner 4 - 7 pm

Call 703-525-0108 for reservations or info



**JOHN LYON POST # 3150**  
**"All American Post"**  
**Veterans of Foreign Wars**  
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**U.S. POSTAGE**  
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**Merrifield, VA**  
**Permit No. 9209**

**Dated Material Please Do Not Delay**



**POW / MIA**  
**Recognition Day**

**16 September 2004**

**Post 3150 Ceremony**  
**7 pm**