

The John Lyon Gazette

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September 2010



- Veterans of Foreign Wars
John Lyon Post #3150
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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



POW / MIA
Recognition Day
Fri, 17 Sept 2010

Post 3150 Ceremony
7:30 pm

From The Commander:

Several days ago, after listening to the lyrics “Where have all the young girls gone?” from the song “Where Have All The Flowers Gone?” by Pete Seeger, I asked myself – “Where have all the female veterans gone?” Or more specifically, where are the many “VFW qualified” female veterans?

We are quite possibly at a point in time where more females than ever have served, and continue to serve, in combat zones and other qualifying areas. It is therefore disheartening to not see more female comrades in our ranks, at our meetings, events and throughout the VFW as a whole.

Even if you look long and hard, you still only count ‘ones and twos’. Although the situation is not unique to our post, one has to ask: “where are they?”, “why aren’t they joining and participating?”, and perhaps more importantly - **How do we reverse the trend?** These aren’t trick questions, nor are they rhetorical. I don’t pretend to have the answers, but perhaps by discussing the issue some answers may come forward.

Help me get the word out. Join me in inviting all qualified female veterans to our post. Invite them to our Sunday brunches, to our events and to our activities. And by the way, in the coming months we’ll be having a bonanza of special activities that everyone will want to be involved with. I firmly believe that once they catch a glimpse of what the VFW is really about, they too will want to be an active part of it.

Switching subjects now; just in case you haven’t noticed it friends, summer is almost over and it’s that time of year again - “Back to School”. Even if you don’t have kids in the school system, you are still affected. Let’s be especially alert as we start the new school year and adjust to the new traffic patterns. Keep watchful eyes out for the kids getting on and off the school buses in the mornings and afternoons. Consider getting out a little earlier and thereby giving yourself a little extra time in the mornings.

If like myself, you do have a child, a youngster or teenager in school - be involved in their school work, homework, events and grades. It only shows you really care. Research studies have consistently shown that a parent’s involvement goes a long way in encouraging and helping a student go further academically.

Yours in comradeship,

Nelson Betancourt, Commander, Post 3150

“If you know the enemy and know yourself, you need not fear the result of a hundred battles”.
- Sun Tzu

From the President of the Ladies Auxiliary:

Hail and Greetings:

So far this summer has provided us with extreme hot days and astounding thunderstorms and lightening. We are thankful for the rain and Mother Nature’s cleaning, but the hot days in September will continue. Please remember those who are shut in and check on neighbors and friends.

During one storm overhead, I thought of the “bombs bursting in air” at Fort McHenry, Maryland, the night/morning of 13-14 September 1814. Francis Scott Key reported that he saw our flag still waving that morning.

We should remember our flag at the ‘twilight’s last gleaming’ and be thankful and proud at the ‘dawn’s early light’ that our flag is still there because of the brave. When a US flag is unsuitable for use, proper disposal is in order. You may bring or send to the Post any faded, tattered or fragments of our US flag.

The Ladies and Men’s Auxiliaries look forward to seeing you for the Labor Day Cookout on Monday 6 September 2-5 PM when we will be serving up sausages, cheeseburgers, and sides. Come by for great food.

Sisters, our next Ladies Auxiliary meeting is on Thursday, 16th at 7:30 pm. Please attend and provide your input. The Ladies Auxiliary (organized 1914) has a 96th Anniversary Ceremony on Friday, 17th at 7:45 pm.

POW/MIA Remembrance Ceremony is on Friday, 17th at 7:30 pm. As we continue to support our Veterans, “You will not be forgotten” should always be in our thoughts.

The children will be heading back to school, so let’s watch out for our next generation of Patriot’s Pen and Voice of Democracy entrants and winners!

We thank our Veterans who have always ensured that our flag flies “O’er the land of the free”.

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 by thanking everyone in attendance for our roast beet dinner. It is always a pleasure to prepare and serve dinner to the John Lyon Family.

Many thanks also to the volunteers that helped so ably to make the dinner a success. Waiters and waitresses were Annie McCormick, Ladies Auxiliary President, Dennis Gerrity, and Mike Lowe. The kitchen was staffed by Shirley McAlhaney, Sheldon Ellison, and past Men’s Auxiliary President, Ernie Deal. Charlene Spollen brought in the beautiful flowers. And where would we be without Wilbur Rawlings whose culinary skills speak for themselves? Thanks to everyone. You were all terrific.

Coming next is the joint Ladies’/Men’s Auxiliary Labor Day Cookout. Food will be served from 2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. Grilled cheeseburgers and sausages for \$7 a plate, how can you pass? Join us at the Post for fun and food.

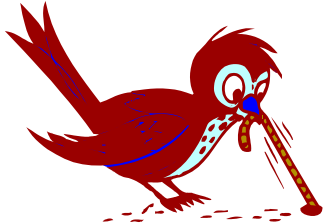
Labor Day marks the end of summer, back to school, and the start of football season. The Post is a great place to watch the Sunday football games. Make plans now to join your friends for Sundays at John Lyon.

See you at the Post.

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

End of World War II Remembrance 2 pm Thursday, 2 September

A short ceremony to commemorate the end of World War II, 65 years ago, will be held at the Post on Thursday, 2 September at 7:30 pm.



Early Bird Dinner Scheduled

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. Call the Post for further information and to sign up. 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.

VA Hospital Visit

A Hospital Visit to the Washington VA Hospital Nursing Home is scheduled for Saturday, 25 September. Meet at the Post before 12:30 pm and car pool to the hospital. Come help us bring a bit of cheer to our elderly veterans.

Welcome to Our New Members

Welcome to new Post members, Scott Clendaniel (USMC - Iraq) (Life Trans), Gerald "Jerry" Render, (Navy - Vietnam), Ron Shaffer (Navy - Vietnam), Joseph Shusko (USMC - Iraq), Grant Vaught (Army - Afghanistan), and Josh Wellner (Navy - GWOT) (Trans), all elected at the August meeting. The auxiliaries did not report new members or had not met at press time.

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 at 703-525-0108 for further information.

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 7:30 pm on Saturday, 11 September. The day has been named Patriot's Day. All members and their guests are invited to attend.

From the John Lyon Past...



A group of John Lyon members gather in front of the house next door in June 1994. The next day, bull dozers moved in and the house was demolished, making room for the post's current parking lot. The surface of the lot went through several variations until the current surface was installed about 2001 and redone several years ago.

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. And remember that the sooner your dues are paid, the sooner you will qualify for the Post's Life Membership drawings on 2 October.

Renew Auxiliary Membership

Members of the Ladies and Men's Auxiliaries may renew their memberships by sending a check to their Treasurers at the Post Address on the first page. Ladies Auxiliary (\$25 or Life membership), or Men's Auxiliary (\$30) and qualify for the Early Bird Dinner!

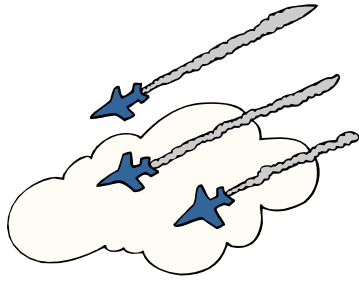
VFW National Birthdays

The VFW as an organization will mark 111 years of serving veterans, their families, their communities, and the nation on September 29th. And the like-minded VFW Ladies Auxiliary will be 96 years old on September 17th. The occasions will be marked by the ladies on Friday, 17 September at 7:45 pm and the VFW at 7:30 pm on Wednesday the 29th. All are invited to both ceremonies.

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



Back to School Time
Watch out for Kids



Air Force 63rd Birthday

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

**Cakecutting
Saturday, 18 September 2010
7:30 pm**

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

Gold Star Mother's Day

Gold Star Mother's Day is Sunday, 26 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 1 pm.

A John Lyon Hello...

...to our World War II veterans who, this month, celebrate their victory of 65 years ago. And Welcome Home to Kevin Palgutt, recently returned from Afghanistan!

State Commander and Ladies Auxiliary President's Homecoming Set for 25 September at Dale City

State Commander Jim Martin and Ladies Auxiliary President Betty Gimble are both members of nearby VFW Post 1503 in Dale City. Their Homecoming Party is scheduled for Saturday, 25 September from 4 pm – 12 midnight at their post home at 14631 Minnieville Road and John Lyon members are invited. RSVP to vfw1503qm@comcast.net.

Thanks to Renewers

The VFW renewal notices are out and some have responded already. Our thanks to these members who quickly took action. The life blood of the Post is its membership and YOU ARE IMPORTANT TO US! We urge those who haven't renewed yet to do so soon. If anyone is unemployed or otherwise unable, please contact the Commander in confidence and we may be able to help out.

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



Labor Day Cookout

Monday, 6 September

2 - 5 pm \$7.00

Kids under 10 eat free

**Grilled Sausage & Burgers with
French Fries, Cole Slaw**

Ice Cream

**Sponsored by 3150 Ladies and Men's
Auxiliaries**

RSVP: 703-525-0108

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.

VFW National Home Launches New Website

The VFW national Home for Children has redesigned its website to "more interactive and visually appealing, easier to navigate and a better representation of today's National Home." You can see it at www.vfwnationalhome.org or reach it via Facebook at www.facebook.com/vfwnationalhome. The National Home provides a home environment for children of veterans and active duty personnel.

Moved Lately?
Are you registered to Vote?
Check your new county
for registration deadline!
12 Oct most places in Virginia

US Flag

On the night of September 13-14, 1814 the American forces at Fort McHenry were bombarded during the Battle of Baltimore. When the smoke cleared, Francis Scott Key was able to see the American Flag still waving. Later, he was inspired to describe his experience in a poem, "The Defence of Fort McHenry", which was published in the *Patriot* on September 20, 1814. The poem was written to the rhythms of British composer John Stafford Smith's "To Anacreon in Heaven" and in 1931 became our national anthem.

Bring your unusable US Flags to the Post and we will ensure proper disposal.



Members of John Lyon post and auxiliaries gather near the post flag pole during John Lyon Shirt and Cap Day. Many members wore their John Lyon shirts and caps throughout Saturday and Sunday to show the community we are here in their midst. Some of them were: front: Patrick Long, Gerald "Jerry" Render, George Jordon, Karen Stewart, Mark Wolfe, Carol Rawlings, Mike Lowe, Commander Nelson Betancourt, and, rear, Gene Simpson, Mike McCartney, President "Tennessee" Binkley, President Annie McCormick, and Eric Anderson,

Recent Events Around the Post

Korean War veterans Jim Tingler >>> (center) and Walt Landry (right) pause with Commander Nelson Betancourt during the Korean War Veterans Armistice Day ceremonies recently held at the Post. The Korean War cease fire was 57 years ago.



<<< Margo Sheridan (center) , Comptroller for the Coast Guard and member for Post 7327 and 3150's Catherine Graham (right) cut the cake for the Coast Guard birthday while Post Commander Betancourt watches from the rear while. Sheridan, an Army veteran, is also VFW State Judge Advocate while Graham, a Navy veteran, is Ladies Auxiliary State Junior Vice President.

Commander Nelson Betancourt (right) >>> led the ceremonies on Purple Heart Day, and later paused with several of the Post's Purple Heart recipients, from the left, Gene Miller, Arnold Dixon, and Richard Hoffman.



September 2010



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 Movie Night 7 pm	2 65 th Ann. end of WW II 7:30 pm	3	4
5	6 LABOR DAY Auxiliaries Cookout 2- 5 pm House Com Post O Call 6 pm	7	8 Movie Night 7 pm	9 Post Meeting 7:30 pm	10	11 Patriots Day / 9-11 Ann. 7:30 pm
12 Sunday Brunch 9 am - 12 n	13 Battle of Baltimore inspires Star Spangled Banner in 1814.	14 Men's Auxiliary Meeting 7:30 pm	15 Movie Night 7 pm	16 CITIZENSHIP DAY-----> Ladies Aux Meeting 7:30 pm	17 POW/MIA Remembrance 7:30 pm Ladies Aux 96th Birthday 7:45 pm	18 Air Forces Birthday 7:30 pm
19	20	21	22 Movie Night 7 pm	23	24	25 VA Hospital Visit, 12 noon State Cmdr & Press Homecoming Dale City
26 Sunday Brunch 9 am - 12 n Gold Star Moms 1 pm	27	28 -----> RSVP Deadline for Early Bird Dinner ----->	29 VFW 111th Birthday 7:00 pm Movie Night 7:15 pm	30 Deadline: Renewal for VFW Life Member drawings		2 October Early Bird Dinner 4 - 7 pm RSVP by 29 Sep

Call 703-525-0108 for reservations or info

U.S. Constitution 223 Years Old Approved 17 September 1787

“As in all fiercely fought campaigns, not everything was left to debate and persuasion. When New York Antifederalists maneuvered to keep the state out of the new Union, Hamilton and Jay threatened *to take New York City out of the state*. In the end New York ratified by the heart-stopping close vote of 30 - 27.

“Ratification was celebrated by a huge victory parade down Broadway in Manhattan. Thirty seamen and ten horses pulled a twenty-seven foot model ship named *Hamilton*. Workers, artisans, and craftsmen joined merchants in celebration...

“It was the first of many more tumultuous parades down Broadway under the new government. Later, they would add ‘ticker tape’ to celebrate peace, victory, and --- sweetest of all --- liberty”. (Source: *William J Bennett, America The Last Best Hope, Vol I, p 132.*



CELEBRATING THE ADOPTION OF
THE CONSTITUTION, NEW YORK