

The John Lyon Gazette

Volume 19, Number 3

September 2012



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, 2010, and 2011 Clair B. Poff Public Relations Award for Outstanding Newsletter, and Winner of National Awards for 2010, 2011

VFW Turns 113

“The Spanish-American War of 1898 was short but brutal, and when it was over America was a world power. In defeating Spain, we gained the islands of Guam, Puerto Rico, and the Philippines, and removed Spanish influence over Cuba. But the rigors of jungle fighting left many of the veterans in desperate shape; so bad, in fact, that the chief surgeon of the U.S. forces said “Many of them are wrecks for life, others are candidates for a premature grave and hundreds will require most careful attention and treatment before they gain the vigor they lost in Cuba.” The surgeon’s description fit not only many of the 18,400 men who served in Cuba, but also many of the 125,000 who would later return from the war in the Philippines (1899 – 1902.

“The VFW traces its beginnings to 1899 when those veterans of Cuba and the Philippines met separately to form organizations that would represent them in their quest for medical care and pensions. This was especially important since the government provided little for them in benefits or care, even for those disabled or those who suffered from tropical diseases. ...

“The first group was formed in Columbus, Ohio, in September 1899, and was called The American Veterans of Foreign Service. In December the Society of the Army of the Philippines was formed in Denver, and in Pennsylvania three separate groups of Cuba, China, and Philippines service veterans formed other groups. By 1914 the need to have one all encompassing national veterans service organization was obvious, and on the eve of WWI, an amalgamation of the separate groups took place and the name Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States was adopted.

“At the same time, the Ladies Auxiliary to the Veterans of Foreign Wars was formed....Following WWI, the VFW grew rapidly. During the 1920s, it was instrumental in the creation of the U.S. Veterans Bureau, later to become the Department of Veterans Affairs in the President’s cabinet, another major accomplishment of the VFW....”

Source: “Celebrate! Courage – Country – Community” Handout sheet of the VFW during the VFW’s 100th Anniversary. For further information, also see VFW Our First Century 1899 – 1999, by Herbert Molloy Mason, Jr., available in the Arlington Public Library and the VFW Store.

From The Commander:

The Commander is TDY and was unable to provide a column for this month. His column will resume next month.

From the President of the Ladies Auxiliary:

Dear Comrades and Auxiliary Members:

On September 12, 2012, the John Lyon Post is hosting a dinner for Cathy Graham, Ladies Auxiliary VFW, Department of Virginia President, to welcome Leanne Lemley the Ladies Auxiliary National President. I am very excited about this and hope that you will make an effort to join us. The event will start at 6:30pm. Our menu is Filet Mignon, Sweet Baked Potato, Grilled Asparagus, Salad, Roll and Desert. Cost is \$15.00 and you must have a reservation. Deadline to sign up is Sunday, September 9, 2012. Any proceeds we earn from this dinner will be used for our various banner requirements that target a particular area of a Veteran's needs.

Our National President's Theme this year is "Serving from the Heart for Our Veterans." The Department President's Theme is "Teamwork and Service." If you are a member of the Ladies Auxiliary we know that you have heart felt feelings for our Veterans. There will be plenty of opportunity this year to get motivated, join a team and work together to meet the needs of our Veterans. Watch for the newsletter and upcoming events.

Two team efforts that have taken place recently: The Ladies Auxiliary adopted a troop, 387th EOD Operations Task Force Falcon currently located in Kosovo. The Men's Auxiliary donated \$100.00 to the Ladies Auxiliary to use for the troop. The troop will be returning to the States in a few months and asked that we donate the money to the Wounded Warrior Project whom they felt needed it more. :)

Then the Post and the All American Day Charitable Trust organization teamed up to raise money for

Operation Homefront. Sixteen teams battled it out for the title of Cornhole Champion. Though the John Lyon teams were good, we didn't win the title. However, the Champions donated to the Post the two cornhole boards that they won and a whopping \$1,200.00 was raised. Operation Homefront also takes care of Wounded Warriors and their families. It was a lot of fun.

So now you know where two Cornhole Boards are. Also, I've identified three groups of people you can team up with, John Lyon Post members and the Ladies and Men Auxiliaries. Bring us your ideas for fund raisers and let's get it done.

Food for thought: People judge you by your actions, not your intentions. You may have a heart of gold, but so has a hard-boiled egg. (Loring Forcer) Please review the calendar on the back of this newsletter and I hope to see you soon.

Sincerely,

Lola D. Kane, President
Ladies Auxiliary 3150

From the President of the Men's Auxiliary:

I'd like to take a moment to thank the members of the All American Day Charitable Trust who provided Post 3150 with some much needed entertainment and youthful enthusiasm on August 4, 2012. This group of young folks has it right...organizing and managing enjoyable fund-raising events that directly benefit Veterans. I was proud that the Men's Auxiliary made our contribution to the organization by procuring, preparing, serving the food, and cleaning up afterwards. In particular, many thanks to Wilbur Rawlings who did an excellent job in procuring and preparing the food. The roast beef was outstanding as was all the other food. It was a special event put on by a special organization and we look forward to participating again soon.

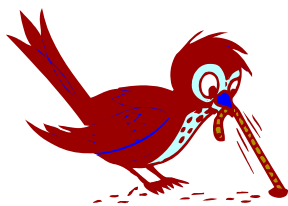
The heat was unbearable this summer but the season is now beginning to wind down and we are all looking forward to cooler days ahead. What a

great time to get out and about and enjoy all that the area has to offer. Why not participate by taking a stroll around Arlington? There are many sights to see, fine places to dine and walking / biking trails to almost anywhere you want to go. For example, when is the last time you visited the Iwo Jima, John Lyon, or Air Force Memorials or Arlington National Cemetery? What better way for us to re-connect with our mission to support Veterans causes than to honor those who made the ultimate sacrifice? I've found that every time I return to these hallowed places, I learn something new about them...and about myself. I come away with a renewed sense of pride for our country and those who fought to keep our country the best in the world. Why not take some time this fall to visit one or more of our beautiful memorials? We all too often take for granted the wonderful sights and memorials there are to see right in our own back yard.

With the Holiday Season fast approaching, the Men's Auxiliary is looking forward to participating in a big way again this year. The Holidays are a special time of the year around John Lyon Post 3150 and it affords us all an opportunity to shine and let the community know what we stand for. There certainly is no shortage of Veterans in need in our area so let's all work together to make this Holiday Season their best yet.

"There is nothing new in the world except the history you do not know."
Harry S. Truman, 33rd President of the United States of America

Mike "Red" Lowe, President
Men's Auxiliary
VFW, John Lyon Post #3150



Be an Early Bird!
Renew Now
Early Bird Steak Dinner
6 October 2012

From Your Post Service Officer...

Arnold Dixon
Hire a Veteran

Many veterans have found that their veteran preference points didn't seem to help them land a federal job. Hopefully the following will help veterans understand how their preference points work and how they don't work.

The recent push to hire veterans for federal jobs is often hard to put in black and white terms – current directives and policies can be applied in different ways and are often subjective. However, the [Veteran Preference Point System](#) is fairly straight forward. Unfortunately, it is only one part of the hiring decision process.

In simple terms, the point system grants 5 or 10 points for veterans based on their dates of service and disability rating, which are added to a veteran's **passing** score on the federal civil service exams. These points are not applied to the final hiring process; they are kind of a foot in the door. From that point on the federal agency doing the hiring is free to determine the best "eligible" candidate.

The Office of Personnel Management website says, "Veterans' preference does not require an agency to use any particular appointment process. Agencies have broad authority under law to hire from any appropriate source of eligible applicants including special appointing authorities. An agency may consider candidates already in the civil service from an agency-developed merit promotion list or it may reassign a current employee, transfer an employee from another agency, or reinstate a former Federal employee. In addition, agencies are required to give priority to displaced employees before using civil service examinations and similar hiring methods."

Legal speak for they can do pretty much what they want.

Visit the OPM site to read a helpful set of [Frequently Asked Questions on Veteran Preference Points](#).

Understanding the limitations of the system can help veterans manage their own expectations and focus on the rest of the application process.

John Lyon to Host Ladies Auxiliary National President



Ladies Auxiliary National President Leanne Lemley, of West Point, Iowa, will visit John Lyon Post on Wednesday, 12 September at 6:30 pm. A dinner is planned and seating is expected to be limited. \$15 will be the charge for filet mignon, baked sweet potato, asparagus, salad, and desert. RSVP to 703-525-0108.

Mrs Lemley is seen above center with 3150's State Commander Margo Sheridan and State President Cathy Graham at the 2011 National Convention.

Welcome to Our New Members

Welcome to new Post members Andrew Klimkowski (USAF – GWOTEM)(trans), Justin Kobus (USMC – GWOTEM), Shawn Lovill (Army – Iraq/Afghanistan)(Reinst)(Life), and Valerie Palacios (Army – Iraq/Afghanistan/Kosovo) (Trans), elected at recent meetings and whose paperwork is complete.

End of World War II Monday, 3 Sept, 2:30 pm

While the official end of World War II was 2 September 1945, a short ceremony to commemorate the end of World War II, 67 years ago, will be held at the Post on Monday, 3 September at 2:30 pm in connection with the Labor Day cookout. We have received some new World War II artifacts which will be on display.

Renew Now to Qualify for Membership Drawings

Post members who renew their dues for 2012 by 4 October will qualify for Annual Membership drawings to be held in early October. The member will receive free Annual Membership the following year. There will be a drawing for each of the five youngest age categories established by National, plus one for the two oldest categories which will be combined due to other programs covering these age groups. The result is that all Continuous or Annual members are urged to qualify quickly by renewing their dues by 4 October. Any member who renews and "Goes Life" and whose name is drawn will be reimbursed the cost of annual membership for the year. New members this year can look forward to qualifying when they renew next year.

Annual Members May Qualify for Life Membership

In a new program recently established by the Post, a committee of top Post officers may recommend to the Commander up to two annual members a year to be granted a Life Membership based on their participation and contributions to the Post.



Labor Day Cookout

The Post will hold a Labor Day cookout on Monday 3 September 3-6 pm. The menu will include burgers, 'dogs, and sausages, cole slaw and French fries. A suggested donation is \$6 is requested. Kids under 10 are free. As usual, we ask you to put your name(s) on the sheet at the Canteen or call the Post (703-525-0108) to help us with the planning.

Sliders Added to Post Menu

In addition to the fresh boiled shrimp (\$8) available at the Post canteen, sliders have been added to the food fare available during open hours. You receive three generous sliders for \$4.25. Also try our new draft beer.



Back to School Time Watch out for Kids

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 or call the Post for more details.

Sat, 6 Oct: Early Bird Dinner, 4 -7 pm RSVP

Fri, 12 Oct: GWOT Night, 6:30 – 9:30 pm

Sat, 13 Oct: Navy Birthday, 7 pm, 6:30 p

Sat, 15 Oct: Auxiliaries Dinner, 4:30 - 7:30 pm

Fri – Sun, 18 – 21 Oct: So Conf Mtg, W'burg

Fri, 26 Oct: John Lyon Halloween Party, 7 pm

Sat, 27: Highway Cleanup, 8:30 am

Help?

The busy brunch and dinner schedules mean the Post and Auxiliaries could often use some extra hands, whether cooking, serving, cleaning-up or washing dishes. If you've got some time, please consider offering a helping hand for one of these events.

Sunday Brunch \$7.00

2nd and 4th Sundays

9 am - 12 noon

Kids under 10 eat free

Sunday Brunch to be \$8.00 in Oct

The price for Sunday Brunch is expected to go up to \$8 in October. Kids under 10 will continue to eat free. This is the first increase in the cost of Brunch in about five years.

Address Changes Cost Post \$\$

Because we use the third class rate for the Post newsletter, and the required "Address Service Requested" line above the address label, the Post Office charges us 70 cents (sometimes double due to overlapping dates) to forward your newsletter and send us your new address. **PLEASE let us know before you move!** You can also email the Adjutant at adjpost3150@va.vfwebmail.com.

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



Senior Vice Commander Mike McCartney (left) and Commander Dewey Carter (right) bracket Purple Heart recipients Arnold Dixon and Richard Hoffman during ceremonies honoring recipients on Purple Heart Day. Dixon and Hoffman were injured during the Vietnam War.

Free Steak Dinner and a Chance in Membership Drawings

Reasons to Renew Your Membership Now

Yes, it's that time of year again. Even though your annual membership card is good until December 2012, the VFW and the Auxiliaries have begun sending out renewal. As it takes a while to get everyone renewed, the process begins early. Why renew now?

1. Post and Auxiliary members who renew early will qualify for 3150's free Early Bird Steak Dinner on 6 October.

2. Post members will also qualify for the membership drawings done at the Early Bird Dinner. The drawings will be for paid Annual Membership for the following year. There will be six drawings, one for each of the five youngest year categories, plus one for the two oldest year categories.

2a. Ladies Auxiliary 3150 has a Life Membership and two Annual Membership drawings in November for memberships for those who renew early.

3. Avoid all those renewal reminders, letters, and phone calls.

Respond to your renewal notice or send a check to the Post Quartermaster (\$30 or Life membership), Ladies Auxiliary Treasurer (\$25 or Life membership), or Men's Auxiliary (\$30). VFW members may also renew on-line at www.vfw.org. Click on Login in upper right corner, then login or create an account, then Member Services, then Manage Account.

Consider a Life Membership. For VFW and Ladies Auxiliary Life memberships, see tables below. The VFW is making it easy by providing two options: Lump sum payment, and 12 month payment plan. For the payment plan, there is a one-time \$35 payment and the VFW will bill you monthly for the remainder. Post 3150 will reimburse you the \$35 when your status changes to "Life". Send a note to the Post to receive the rebate.

The VFW is also offering an automatic payment for annual and installment memberships. You provide your credit card and they will automatically charge the card at the appropriate interval. See your renewal notice or the website for further information.

VFW Life Membership Fee Schedule

Age on 12/31	One time payment	12 months plan
< Age 31	\$425.00	\$40.39
31-40	\$410.00	\$39.02
41-50	\$375.00	\$35.84
51-60	\$335.00	\$32.20
61-70	\$290.00	\$28.11
71-80	\$225.00	\$22.20
81 and over	\$170.00	\$17.20

Men's Auxiliary

At the present time, there is no Life Membership for the Men's Auxiliary.

Ladies Auxiliary Life Membership Fee Schedule

Age on 12/31	Fee
Through Age 20	\$220
21-25	\$210
26-30	\$200
31-35	\$190
36-40	\$185
41-45	\$175
46-50	\$170
51-55	\$160
56-60	\$150
61-65	\$140
66-70	\$130
71-75	\$115
76-80	\$95
81-85	\$75
86-90	\$60
91 and over	\$50

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 check 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, Vietnam War, Desert Storm, and the current 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.

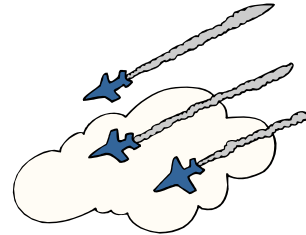
Membership in the Ladies and Men's Auxiliaries is open to men and women whose spouse, parent, grandparent, child, grandchild, sibling (and half-sibling who attain the status prior to the age sixteen) was or is eligible for membership in the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States of America. Documentation 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 adjipost3150@va.vfwwebmail.com.

Renew Now to Qualify for Membership Drawings

Post members who renew their dues for 2013 by 4 October will qualify for membership drawings to be held on October 6th. There will be a drawing for each of the five youngest age categories established by National, plus one for the two oldest categories which will be combined due to other programs covering these age groups. The winners will have their dues paid for the following year. All Continuous or Annual members are urged to qualify quickly by renewing their dues by **4 October**. (Renewals must be at the Post or credited by National by this date) New members this year can look forward to qualifying when they renew next year.

**Early Bird Dinner
Saturday, 6 October
4 - 7 pm**

**RSVP by 3 October
Free for Early Birds
\$12.00 for non-renewed
and non-3150 members**



**Air Force 65th Birthday
Commemorating the
Army Air Corps,
Army Air Force,
U.S. Air Force**

**Cake cutting
Tuesday, 18 Sep**

Thanks to Renewers

The VFW renewal notices for 2013 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.

Gold Star Mother's Day

Gold Star Mother's Day is Sunday, 30 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.. 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 2012-2013 theme is "*Is Our Constitution Still Relevant?*" Deadline is Nov 1, 2012. Awards up to \$30,000. A student from Virginia came in 8th last year in the national contest and won a \$3500 scholarship.

Patriot's Pen: essay contest for grades 6, 7 and 8. The 2012-2013 theme is "*What I Would Tell America's Founders.*" The deadline is Nov 1, 2012. Awards up to \$16,000. A student from Virginia came in 4th last year and won a \$2750 scholarship.

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 Nov 1, 2012.

Scout of the Year: Any Eagle Scout, Venture Silver Award recipient, or Sea Scout Quartermaster may qualify. Deadline is March 1, 2013. Early submission / interest may provide opportunity for additional trip for Scout. Awards up to \$5,000.

Ladies Auxiliary's Young American Creative **Patriotic Art Contest:** grades 9, 10, 11 or 12. Deadline is March 31, 2013. 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 Post 3150 or the local post.

Further information, including entry forms, brochures, and back ground, are available, except as noted above, at www.vfw.org, then Community, then Scholarship Programs, then on one of the four programs. Forms may also be obtained at <http://www.vfwva.org/programs.htm>. Or call Post 3150 at 703-525-0108 for further information.

Public Service Nominations due 26 Oct

Nominations for Public Service Awards --- **Law Enforcement Officer, Firefighter, and EMT of the Year** --- are due at the Post by 26 October. Nominations include a letter of nomination and up to several pages of supporting documentation.

VFW National Birthdays

The VFW as an organization will mark 113 years of serving veterans, their families, their communities, and the nation on September 29th. And the like-minded VFW Ladies Auxiliary will be 98 years old on September 17th. The occasions will be marked by the ladies before their meeting on Thursday, 20 September at 7 pm and the VFW at 7 pm on Saturday the 29th. All are invited to both ceremonies.

A John Lyon Hello...

...to Jeremy and Cheyenne Zeimet, proud parents of a new baby girl, Leah Nicole, born in May; ...to Past Post 3150 Senior Vice Commander Jerry Peterson, named All-American Post Commander of Nevada Post 12101, named VFW Veteran of the Year in Nevada, and elected Nevada State Surgeon.

Are you registered to Vote? Deadline is early October in most places

Virginia to Host Southern Conference Meeting

Virginia will host the 14 Southern States of the VFW and Ladies Auxiliary Thur – Sun, 18 – 21 October at the Crowne Plaza Williamsburg Fort Magruder, 6945 Pocahontas Trail in Williamsburg. Room rates are \$85. Phone 800-860-7109 and specify this event. Registration is \$60 and includes banquet and shirt. See the August 2012 General Orders at <http://vfwva.org/general-orders/> for additional info or contact the Post Adjutant before 15 September.

National Convention



Upper left: Dee Guillory, Ladies Auxiliary 6002 in Denbigh, VA, was elected Ladies Auxiliary National Guard. She was the first Virginian ever elected to national office in either the Auxiliary or the VFW. She is expected to be National President in 2017-18.

John Lyon members attending the convention include State Commander Margo Sheridan, State President Cathy Graham, State Chief of Staff C.D. "Doc" Crouch, State Inspector J.Gary Wagner, Millie Wetterberg, and one of the Post's newest members, Valerie Palacios. Past Post 3150 Senior Vice Commander Jerry Peterson, now Commander of Nevada Post 12101, also attended.

Recent Events Around the Post

Richard Hoffman, William “Tennessee” >>> Binkley, and, far right, Commander Dewey Carter pause with the Cornhole Champions at the All American Day Charitable Trust’s first Annual Beef n’ Beer n’ Bag Toss fundraiser. The winners won the two cornhole boards and donated them to the Post following the competition. The All American Day Charitable Trust raised \$1200 for their designated charity, Operation Homefront, which provides “needed assistance to the families of service members and wounded warriors.” The Trust holds a series of fundraisers for their charity throughout the year. They were previously at Post 3150 in November 2010.



<<< Assistant Scoutmaster Mike Durham (left) and members of Boy Scout Troop 638 display old flags prior to commencing a retirement ceremony at the Goshen Scout Reservation. Many of the flags are collected by Post 3150 (in the flag box outside the Post) and given to the Scouts for proper retirement. Scout father and Post 3150 member Mark Stoffel says “flag retirement ceremonies remain an excellent opportunity for the scouts to learn about the history of our flag, and why we show it respect.”

Members of John Lyon family 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, Nelson Betancourt, Wauleah Ellison, Karen Stewart, Lola Kane, J.Gary Wagner, and rear, Dennis Gerrity, Scott Clendaniel, Annie McCormick, and Arnold Dixon.



September 2012



Sunday Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday Friday Saturday

						1
2 67 th Ann. end of WW2-----→	3 LABOR DAY 67 th Ann. end of WW2 2:30 pm Cookout 3- 6 pm	4	5 Movie Night 7 pm	6	7	8
9 Sunday Brunch 9 am - 12 n	10 House Com Post O Call 7 pm	11 Patriots Day / 9-11 Ann. 7 pm Men's Auxiliary Meeting 7:30 pm	12 Ladies Auxiliary National President Visit to Post 3150, 6:30 pm RSVP	13 Post Meeting 7:30 pm	14	15
16 10D Mtg Mclean 1pm	17	18 Air Forces Birthday 7 pm	19 Movie Night 7 pm	20 Ladies Aux 98th Birthday 7 pm Ladies Aux Meeting 7:30 pm	21 POW/MIA Remembrance 7:30 pm	22 VA Hospital Visit, 12 noon
23 Sunday Brunch 9 am - 12 n	24	25	26 Movie Night 7 pm	27	28	29 VFW 113th Birthday 7 pm
30 Gold Star Moms 4 pm			3 October RSVP Deadline for Early Bird Dinner	4 October Deadline: Renewal for VFW Membership drawings	6 October Early Bird Dinner 4 - 7 pm RSVP by 3 Oct	

Call 703-525-0108 for reservations or info



JOHN LYON POST # 3150
"All American Post"
Veterans of Foreign Wars
2116 North 19th Street
Arlington, Virginia 22201-3514

Dated Material Please Do Not Delay

September 2012

NON-PROFIT ORG
U.S. POSTAGE
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Merrifield, VA
Permit No. 9209

Address Service Requested



POW / MIA
Recognition Day
Fri, 21 Sept 2012

Post 3150 Ceremony
7:30 pm