

Bethea-Welch VFW Post 7248 Ladies Auxilliary Collection

An inventory of Bethea-Welch VFW Post 7248 Ladies Auxilliary at DC Public Library

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Stage

Table of Contents

Summary Information	3
Biographical / Historical	3
Scope and Contents	4
Administrative Information	4
Collection Inventory	5
Series 1	5

Summary Information

Repository:	Stage
Title:	Bethea-Welch VFW Post 7248 Ladies Auxilliary Collection
ID:	137
Date [inclusive]:	1914-2004
Physical Description:	23 cubic feet; 15 boxes
Language of the Material:	English
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Abstract:	The Bethea-Welch Ladies Auxiliary of the Post 7284 Veterans of Foreign Wars Post was an auxilliary of the first VFW post for eligible African American veterans in Washington, D.C. The collection documents the day-to-day business of the club and contains lists of officers, event and meeting programs, printed materials, officer lists, awards, as well as meeting minutes and notes. Of particular note are photographs and scrapbooks documenting VFW events.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Biographical / Historical

The Bethea-Welch Ladies Auxiliary was founded May 12, 1948, and catered to African American women who supported the predominately black Bethea-Welch VFW. In 1947, Rosaline Thompson met with Bethea-Welch Post Commander Albert T. Jones and the mothers, wives and daughters of veterans who served overseas to discuss creating a women's auxiliary. As with the veteran's post prior to its founding, there was not a VFW Ladies Auxiliary for black women in D.C. With 16 charter members, the Ladies Auxiliary began working with veterans, their families, area youth, local churches and orphanages. In the early 1950s, the women of Bethea-Welch were invited to join the Department of the District of Columbia Ladies Auxiliary and participate in national programs. Members collected toys for young children, visited local VA hospitals, fed homeless families during the holiday season, provided books for veterans and children, and implemented programs at area churches. Some of the most popular programs included the Book Shower for veterans, annual Sweet Day for children living in a local settlement house, Junior Girls for young women, and the Bethea-Welch marching band. Other organizations benefited from

the work of Bethea-Welch including the Girl Scouts, Children's Hospital, Police Boys and girls Club, House of Ruth and Walker Whitman Clinic.

The Bethea-Welch Post 7284 Veterans of Foreign Wars Post was founded by David D. Dixon. At the time, there was not a VFW post for eligible African American veterans in Washington, D.C. After approaching the VFW of D.C., he was allowed to launch a new post for black veterans. The post's name was chosen in memory of Sargent Bethea, who was killed in World War I, and Captain George A. Welch, who died in action during World War II in Italy.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Scope and Contents

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[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Administrative Information

Publication Statement

Stage

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[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Collection Inventory

Series 1		
Title/Description	Instances	
By Laws and Booklet of Instructions, 1977	Box 1	Folder 1
Auxillary's Cancer Fund, 1986	Box 1	Folder 2
Award for Attaining 100 percent of 1985 membership by December 31 1984, 1985	Box 1	Folder 3
Certificate of Appreciation to Leora Thompson for 1986-1988 Service, 1988	Box 1	Folder 4
Officers List Template, 1990	Box 1	Folder 5
Current Roster Corrections, undated	Box 1	Folder 6
New Addresses: Evelyn Jones and Olive Thomas, undated	Box 1	Folder 7
Blank Sheets with Letterhead, undated	Box 1	Folder 8
Life Membership Application, undated	Box 1	Folder 9
Fortieth Anniversary Celebration, 1988	Box 1	Folder 10
Etiquette of the Stars and Stripes, undated	Box 1	Folder 11
Joint Installation May 6th 1990, 1990	Box 1	Folder 12
Communicator, 1987	Box 1	Folder 13
Patrons List, 1986	Box 1	Folder 14
Ann Landers, undated	Box 1	Folder 15
Application for life Membership, 1987	Box 1	Folder 16
Distribution of Reciepts - Disbursements and Cash Balance by Fund, 1986	Box 1	Folder 17
Active/Inactive Status Notes and Correspondence, 1949-1957	Box 1	Folder 18
Observance of Veterans Day Notes, 1982	Box 1	Folder 19
Certificate of Appreciation Mrs. Leora Duggans Thomas, undated	Box 1	Folder 20
Post and Auxillary Anniversary Well Wishers List, 1987	Box 1	Folder 21
Charter Members Initiated May 12 1948, 1948	Box 1	Folder 22
Anniversary Celebration, 1987	Box 1	Folder 23
Revital Booklet, 1985	Box 1	Folder 24
Pay Slip Booklet, 1979-1980	Box 1	Folder 25

Property Stickers, undated	Box 1	Folder 26
40th Anniversary Celebration Howard Inn October 16 1988 Info, 1988	Box 2	Folder 1
Sharter Members Initatives May 12 1948, 1948	Box 2	Folder 2
Chartered Members as of October 24 1982, 1982	Box 2	Folder 3
Handwritten Notes, undated	Box 2	Folder 4
Headquarters Grand Army of the Republic - General Orders No. 11, 1968	Box 2	Folder 5
Building America Today for Tomorrow, 1978	Box 2	Folder 6
Ladies Auxillary to VFW Pamphlet, undated	Box 2	Folder 7
Buddy Poppy Day, 1999-2000	Box 2	Folder 8
Early Historical Data, 1914	Box 2	Folder 9
Past VFW Ladies Department Presidents List, undated	Box 2	Folder 10
1997 Hospital/VAVS Program Certificate, 1997	Box 2	Folder 11
Franklin P. Nash Methodist Church Certificate, 1960	Box 2	Folder 12
Membership Award for Attaining 100% of 1991 Membership by Dec 31 1990, 1990	Box 2	Folder 13
Proceedings of the 43rd Annual National Encampment of the Ladies Auxillary, 1956	Box 2	Folder 14
By Laws as Amended - 20th Surpreme Convention August 1981, 1981	Box 2	Folder 15
Buddy Poppy Info, 1999-2005	Box 2	Folder 16
James P. Moran Reception Program, 1995	Box 2	Folder 17
Nation WWII Memorial Correspondence, 2004	Box 2	Folder 18
Martin Luther King Jr. Bio, 1998	Box 2	Folder 19
Loyalty Day - 1995 Program DC Department VFW, 1995	Box 2	Folder 20
"An Anniversary Celebration" continued service to veterans, 2003	Box 2	Folder 21
"Dear Readers and Response" Washington Post Article, 1989	Box 2	Folder 22
Certificate of Recognition for Keeping the Promise to Our Hospitalized Veterans, 1996	Box 2	Folder 23
That Freedom May Live Bethea Welch, 1982-1983	Box 2	Folder 24
Podium Edition By Laws and Ritual, 1981	Box 2	Folder 25
Safety Tips Metrorail and Safe Kids Pamphlet, undated	Box 2	Folder 26
Bethea- Welch Ladies Auxillary Roster - 1989-1990, 1990	Box 2	Folder 27
Ritual Booklet, 1976		

	Box 2	Folder 28
Observance of Veterans Day Memorial Service at Arlington, 1982	Box 2	Folder 29
Membership Award for 100 percent of 1977 membership by December 31 1976, 1977	Box 2	Folder 30
Photograph: Auxillary Women, undated	Box 3	Folder 1
Catherine Coleman President, undated	Box 3	Folder 2
Rebecca Cannon, 1968	Box 3	Folder 3
Mary Anderson - 1964-1966, 1966	Box 3	Folder 4
Lila Medley - 1976-1977, undated	Box 3	Folder 5
ADA Winstead - 1960-1962 and 1984-1986, undated	Box 3	Folder 6
Elizabeth Tyler - 1968-1970, undated	Box 3	Folder 7
National Safety Award, undated	Box 3	Folder 8
Membership Award for Attaining 100% of 1976 Membership by Dec 31, 1976	Box 3	Folder 9
Membership Award for 100 percent of 1998 Membership by December 31 1997, 1997	Box 3	Folder 10
Community Service Award Second Place - 1979-1980, 1980	Box 3	Folder 11
Health and Happiness Certificate - 1996-1997, 1997	Box 3	Folder 12
Health and Happiness Certificate for Quota Fullfillment - 1978-1979, 1979	Box 3	Folder 13
Citation of Merit for Reporting over one hundred percent in membership, 1974	Box 3	Folder 14
Health and Happiness Certificate for Quota Fullfillment - 1984-1985, 1985	Box 3	Folder 15
Golden Anniversary Award - 1948-1998, 1998	Box 3	Folder 16
Ladies Auxillary VFW Magazine, 2002-2003	Box 3	Folder 17
Ladies Auxillary VFW Magazine, 2003	Box 3	Folder 18
Ladies Auxillary VFW Magazine, 2004	Box 3	Folder 19
VFW Auxillary Magazine, 2000	Box 3	Folder 20
Fortieth Anniversary Celebration Program, 1988	Box 3	Folder 21
VFW Recruitment Pamphlet, undated	Box 3	Folder 22
Carbon Paper Notes, undated	Box 3	Folder 23
Through the Eyes of a Child - 2004 Calender, 2004	Box 3	Folder 24
Jesus Photograph, undated	Box 3	Folder 25

Health and Happiness Certificate for Quota Fullfillment - 1999-2000, 2000	Box 3	Folder 26
25th Department Convention Pamphlet, 1958	Box 3	Folder 27
Sunday October 24 1982 Programme, 1982	Box 3	Folder 28
VFW Joint Installation Services April 17 1959, 1959	Box 3	Folder 29
26th Department Convention June 26-27 1959, 1959	Box 3	Folder 30
Office Name and Auxillary Booklet, 1962-1963	Box 3	Folder 31
29th Department Convention Program, 1962	Box 4	Folder 1
28th Department Convention June 1961, 1961	Box 4	Folder 2
1981-1982 Officer List Booklet With Addresses, 1982	Box 4	Folder 3
1960-1961 Officer List Booklet, 1961	Box 4	Folder 4
1961-1962 Officer List Booklet, 1962	Box 4	Folder 5
1960-1961 Officer List Booklet, 1961	Box 4	Folder 6
1980-1981 Officer List Booklet, 1981	Box 4	Folder 7
1979-1980 Officer Booklet, 1980	Box 4	Folder 8
1978-1979 Officer List Booklet, 1978-1979	Box 4	Folder 9
1977-1978 Officer List Booklets, 1978	Box 4	Folder 10
1976-1977 Officer Booklet, 1977	Box 4	Folder 11
1982-1983 Officer List Booklet, 1982	Box 4	Folder 12
Silver Anniversary Banquet Inivitation, 1973	Box 4	Folder 13
Community of Hope Update, 2004	Box 4	Folder 14
Constitution of the United States, undated	Box 4	Folder 15
Ritual Booklet, 1985	Box 4	Folder 16
Official Program 81st National Convention, 1980	Box 4	Folder 17
In Memoriam Past Department Presidents, 1945	Box 4	Folder 18
Auxillary Youth Christmas Party December 97, 1997	Box 4	Folder 19
The VFW Grace Stewart Memorial, undated	Box 4	Folder 20
In Memoriam Frances J. Dove, 1948	Box 4	Folder 21
History and Officer List, 1988	Box 4	Folder 22
VFW National Magazine, 1974-1975	Box 4	Folder 23
VFW National Magazine, 1976-1977	Box 4	Folder 24
VFW National Magazine, 1978	Box 5	Folder 1
VFW National Magazine, 1979		

	Box 5	Folder 2
VFW National Magazine, 1981	Box 5	Folder 3
VFW National Magazine, 1982-1983	Box 5	Folder 4
61st Annual Veterans Day Ball, 1979	Box 5	Folder 5
Veterans Day Ball Pamphlet, 1978	Box 5	Folder 6
Safety Tips: Metro Buses Pamphlet, undated	Box 5	Folder 7
Mini vs. Flag, undated	Box 5	Folder 8
Building Today for Tomorrow, 1979	Box 5	Folder 9
54th Department Convention June 19-20 1987, 1987	Box 5	Folder 10
Department Convention June 19-20 1987, 1987	Box 5	Folder 11
59th National Convention Official Program, 1958	Box 5	Folder 12
59th National Convention New York, 1958	Box 5	Folder 13
49th Department Convention June 1982, 1982	Box 5	Folder 14
Health and Happiness Certificate - 1990-1991, 1991	Box 5	Folder 15
Tyler Papers, 1989	Box 5	Folder 16
General Orders - 1980-81, 1981	Box 5	Folder 17
Membership Reunion Tea, 1992	Box 5	Folder 18
54th Department Convention, 1987	Box 5	Folder 19
Auxillary Luncheon 1987, 1987	Box 5	Folder 20
Cards 1 of 2, 1981-1982	Box 6	Folder 1
Cards 2 of 2, 1981-1982	Box 6	Folder 2
Meeting Notes/ Talking Points, undated	Box 6	Folder 3
Trustees Audit, 1977	Box 6	Folder 4
VFW Archives, 1989	Box 6	Folder 5
Misc, 1977-1980	Box 6	Folder 6
Newletters, 1976	Box 6	Folder 7
VFW Roster, 1976	Box 6	Folder 8
Officers - 1980-1981, 1980	Box 6	Folder 9
Chairman 1977-1978, 1977	Box 6	Folder 10
Officer Lists, 1976-1978	Box 6	Folder 11
Book 6 Officers, 1970-1971	Box 6	Folder 12
Book 7 Officer List, 1961	Box 6	Folder 13

Security Attendance, 1978	Box 6	Folder 14
Certification of Support of the VFW National Home, 1979	Box 6	Folder 15
Attendance - 1980-1981, 1980	Box 6	Folder 16
Roster - 1972-1973, 1972	Box 7	Folder 1
Roster, 1972-1973	Box 7	Folder 2
Roster, 1972-1973	Box 7	Folder 3
Roster, 1972-1973	Box 7	Folder 4
Roster, 1972-1973	Box 7	Folder 5
Roster, 1972-1973	Box 7	Folder 6
Washington Afro-American "VFW Aids Help Cookout" and Aid Cancer Fight Dinner, 1977	Box 7	Folder 7
Memorial Program Adel aide Gilliard Bourne, 2001	Box 7	Folder 8
Hazel Mansell, 1995-1997	Box 7	Folder 9
Americanism Award, 1999	Box 7	Folder 10
1962-1964 Evelyn Allen, 1962-1964	Box 7	Folder 11
Lillian Miller, 1956-1958	Box 7	Folder 12
1958-1960 Erma Frazier, 1958-1960	Box 7	Folder 13
VFW Bulletin August, 1950	Box 7	Folder 14
VFW Bulletin, 1951	Box 7	Folder 15
VFW Bulletin, 1952	Box 7	Folder 16
VFW Bulletin, 1955-1956	Box 7	Folder 17
VFW Bulletin, 1957	Box 7	Folder 18
VFW Bulletin, 1958	Box 8	Folder 1
VFW Bulletin, 1959	Box 8	Folder 2
VFW Bulletin, 1960	Box 8	Folder 3
VFW Bulletin, 1961	Box 8	Folder 4
VFW Bulletin, 1962	Box 8	Folder 5
VFW Bulletin, 1963	Box 8	Folder 6
VFW Bulletin, 1964	Box 8	Folder 7
VFW Bulletin, 1965	Box 9	Folder 1
VFW Bulletin, 1966	Box 9	Folder 2
VFW Bulletin, 1967	Box 9	Folder 3
VFW Bulletin, 1968		

	Box 9	Folder 4
VFW Bulletin, 1969	Box 9	Folder 5
VFW Bulletin, 1970	Box 9	Folder 6
VFW Bulletin, 1971	Box 9	Folder 7
VFW Bulletin, 1972	Box 10	Folder 1
VFW Bulletin, 1984	Box 10	Folder 2
VFW Bulletin, 1986	Box 10	Folder 3
Handwritten Notes, undated	Box 10	Folder 4
Past Auxillary Presidents List, undated	Box 10	Folder 5
General Orders, 1979-1980	Box 10	Folder 6
Internal Correspondence, 1957-1982	Box 10	Folder 7
Officer Lists 1, 1956-1980	Box 10	Folder 8
Charter Member List, 1948	Box 10	Folder 9
Handwritten Notes, undated	Box 11	Folder 1
VFW Auxilliary Magazine, 1972	Box 11	Folder 2
VFW Auxilliary Magazine, 1973	Box 11	Folder 3
VFW Auxilliary Magazine, 1976	Box 11	Folder 4
VFW Auxilliary Magazine - 1981, 1982	Box 11	Folder 5
Bethea Welch Ladies Auxillary History, undated	Box 12	Folder 1
Bethea Welch Post History and Past President List, undated	Box 12	Folder 2
Council Member no. 4 Elizabeth Tyler - 1984-1986 sign, undated	Box 12	Folder 3
Eastern States Conference President Williams - 1995-1996, undated	Box 12	Folder 4
Photographs Speaker Cabinet Committee Ambassador, 1969	Box 12	Folder 5
Photographs Eric Holder and Members, undated	Box 12	Folder 6
Photographs, 1970	Box 12	Folder 7
Obituary July 20, 1988	Box 12	Folder 8
Minutes 1/17/68 Note Card, 1967-1968	Box 12	Folder 9
VFW National Programs Report, 1984	Box 12	Folder 10
Power of Patriotism Pamphlet, 1981	Box 12	Folder 11
"Voice of Democracy" 35th Annual Broadcast Scriptwriting Scholarship Program, undated	Box 12	Folder 12
Veterans Day Arlington National Cemetery Nov 11 1981 Pamphlet, 1981	Box 12	Folder 13

VFW - 1981 Congressional Banquet, 1981	Box 12	Folder 14
62nd Annual Convention June 19-20 1981, 1981	Box 12	Folder 15
Committee for Memorial Pay Observances - 1981 Brochure, 1981	Box 12	Folder 16
Correspondence to George Regarding Certificate of Attendance, 1981	Box 12	Folder 17
Memorial Day 1981 Tickets Correspondence, 1981	Box 12	Folder 18
Upton Citizen Article July 10 1980 Millard and Dooley, 1980	Box 12	Folder 19
Army Times November 20 1978, 1978	Box 12	Folder 20
Holiday Volunteer Correspondence, 1982	Box 12	Folder 21
National Salute to Hospitalized Veterans February 10 1982, 1982	Box 12	Folder 22
Scholarship AD/"Building America Together", 1982	Box 12	Folder 23
Veterans Day National Committee 28th Veterans Day National Ceremony Invitation, 1981	Box 12	Folder 24
Stan Mooney Ham, 1982	Box 12	Folder 25
New Release and Public Announcement February 26 1982, 1982	Box 12	Folder 26
9th Annual National Salute to Hospitalized Veterans, 1982	Box 12	Folder 27
Management Opportunity Job Post, undated	Box 12	Folder 28
World Vision - Helping Children and Families-Check/ Donation Reciept, 1982	Box 12	Folder 29
Volunteer Services Correspondence, 1981	Box 12	Folder 30
Misc, undated	Box 12	Folder 31
Minutes-Meeting April 5 1980, 1980	Box 12	Folder 32
Reorganization of Gainesville PAC/Beautification and Clean up, 1981	Box 12	Folder 33
Veterans Can Help POW/ MIA Suggestions, undated	Box 12	Folder 34
Lite Bike/Bring Your Bike AD, undated	Box 12	Folder 35
V.F.W National Programs Report Forms, 1981	Box 12	Folder 36
VAVS - Hospital Report, 1981	Box 12	Folder 37
Christmas Part National Children's Center for Retarded December Report, undated	Box 12	Folder 38
33rd Anniversary Event Info, 1981	Box 12	Folder 39
Halloween Party Info, 1981	Box 12	Folder 40
Friends of Ruth Jone Message, 1981	Box 12	Folder 41
Washington Urban League Membership Renewal Correspondence, 1981	Box 12	Folder 42

Correspondence D.C General Hospital Contribution, 1982	Box 12	Folder 43
Community Activity Notes/Correspondence, 1982	Box 12	Folder 44
V.F.W Newsletter Series, 1982	Box 12	Folder 45
Community Activity Chairman October Report, 1981	Box 12	Folder 46
Community Activity Chairman, 1982	Box 12	Folder 47
Contribution thank you for 95th birthday observance of statute of liberty, 1981	Box 12	Folder 48
National Salute to Hospitalized Veterans, 1981	Box 12	Folder 49
Immaculate Conception Pupil Wins DC Contest, 1982	Box 12	Folder 50
Office Ballot Cards and White House Luncheon Tickets, 1981	Box 12	Folder 51
Washington Conference, 1982	Box 12	Folder 52
Thank you cards, undated	Box 12	Folder 53
Service of Remembrance for John R. McPherson, 1981	Box 12	Folder 54
Handwritten Notes, 1982	Box 12	Folder 55
DC Voice of Democracy Winners Robin Dyson, 1981	Box 13	Folder 1
Wakeup America October 31 1981, 1981	Box 13	Folder 2
National Children's Center Photographs, undated	Box 13	Folder 3
35th Anniversary, 1981	Box 13	Folder 4
Visitation Dept. Commander Thomas Foley, undated	Box 13	Folder 5
Veterans Days Services for 1981 at Arlington Cementary, 1981	Box 13	Folder 6
D.C VFW and Auxillary- Phila. 1981, 1981	Box 13	Folder 7
V.F.W 1975 Trip to Hawaii and 1986 Photographs 1 of 2, 1986	Box 13	Folder 8
Bethea- Welch Post No. 7284 Position/name List, undated	Box 13	Folder 9
Mason's Parade Six Auxillary Members Particpated, 1966	Box 13	Folder 10
Check Photo Copies, 1966	Box 13	Folder 11
Annual Joint Installation Services Tuesday May 16 1967, 1967	Box 13	Folder 12
Prevention of Blindness Contribution to United Givers Fund, 1966	Box 13	Folder 13
Thank you Cancer Aid and Research Fund Program, 1966	Box 13	Folder 14
A Brief Note of Thanks - 1967 VGF Campaign, 1966	Box 13	Folder 15
Suit Party Christmas Holidays, 1966	Box 13	Folder 16
Have a Heart for Children Meriwether Home Children's Outing, 1966	Box 13	Folder 17
Underpriviledge Children going on Barge Trip, undated	Box 13	Folder 18

VAVS Advisory Committee Contribution Correspondence, 1966	Box 13	Folder 19
Annual Veterans Day Ball Committee, 1966	Box 13	Folder 20
The D.C 5 W's, undated	Box 13	Folder 21
Christmas Card, undated	Box 13	Folder 22
Thank you for Clothing, 1967	Box 13	Folder 23
Thank you letter, undated	Box 13	Folder 24
Thank you for American Flag, 1967	Box 13	Folder 25
Constitution Day - 180th Commemorization, 1967	Box 13	Folder 26
Rag Dolls and Toys for Junior Village Dolls and Toys and Administration Building, undated	Box 13	Folder 27
Thank U Gram From Joseph S. Kosisky, 1967	Box 13	Folder 28
Sympathy Card, undated	Box 13	Folder 29
Report of Buddy Poppers to be made at National Presidents Visitation, undated	Box 13	Folder 30
United Givers Fund Thank you Letters Correspondence, 1967	Box 13	Folder 31
National Programs Correspondence, 1967	Box 13	Folder 32
Thank you for V.F.W Lancers Drum and Bugle Corps Funding, 1966	Box 13	Folder 33
V.F.W National Programs Report Form and Questionnaire, undated	Box 13	Folder 34
Post Auxillary and Jr. Unit St. Valentines Dance at 5th Elizabeth Hospital, undated	Box 13	Folder 35
Eastern States Conference By Laws, 1967	Box 13	Folder 36
Smart Bowling Apparel By Brunner, undated	Box 13	Folder 37
Scrapbooks, 1955-1960	Box 14	Folder 1
Scrapbooks, 1960-1966	Box 15	Folder 1
Scrapbooks, 1966-1968	Box 16	Folder 1
Scrapbooks, 1968-1974	Box 17	Folder 1
Scrapbooks, 1974-1977	Box 18	Folder 1
Scrapbooks, 1977-1984	Box 19	Folder 1
Plaques, 1965-1996	Box 20	Folder 1
Plaques, 1965-1996	Box 21	Folder 1
Plaques, 1965-1996	Box 22	Folder 1
Plaques, 1965-1996	Box 23	Folder 1

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)