



Members of **Carthage Lodge #1762** teamed up with fourteen students from the Carthage High School Twelve Honors Class and visited the VA Hospital in Syracuse, NY. Members and students provided an evening of conversation and activities to forty three disabled veterans. Exalted Ruler Wayne Moore presented hospital staff with a check for \$200.00 to assist the veterans on outside hospital outings and to purchase gift coupon books that can be used in the hospital store.



East District Annual Veterans BBQ- held at the Northport VA Hospital was a huge success! Over 250 veterans were entertained, served and cared for by over 35 Elks from **Hicksville, Smithtown, Islip, Massapequa, Freeport/Baldwin, Port Jefferson, Huntington and Southampton and Riverhead Lodges.** Hot dogs, hamburgers, soft drinks and salads were provided with all the fixings, along with DJ music and an array of belly dancers. Patients were escorted to the grounds by Elk volunteers, where they enjoyed an entire afternoon with their family and friends.



Hicksville-Levittown Lodge #1931- Elk Members joined forces with VFW Post 9592 in a recent project spearheaded by Jack Stein, PER. This worthy endeavour raised monies for a monument to be erected in honor of local resident GM3 Peter Bopp. GM3 Bopp was a casualty of the Turret Two explosion of the Battleship Iowa in April of 1989 and in his memory, the monument will be placed at Levittown Memorial Park on Memorial Day of this year. Pictured (L-R) is District Commander Robert Spicer, Hempstead Town Supervisor Kate Murray, Mr. and Mrs. Peter Bopp, Project Leader Jack



Stein, PER and Post Commander and Hicksville Elk Member George Doll. The Memorial Day Ceremony is expected to bring hundreds in attendance as this project was supported by much of the local community.

Liverpool Lodge #2348 recently hosted a "Beat the Winter Blues Ice Cream Social" at the Syracuse Veterans Hospital. This event saw over 30 patients served bowls of ice cream and root beer floats while listening to live music. It was a much enjoyed break from the very long winter in Upstate New York. Liverpool Lodge #2348 recently hosted 22 patients from the Syracuse VA Medical Center for a clambake and fishing derby. Many smiles could be seen on their faces as they reeled in their catch. They then spent the afternoon filling their bellies on clams, chicken, sausage and salads. As the men and women left they were given shirts, hats, radios, puzzle books and the greatest gift of all, memories.



Oswego Lodge #271 adopted The Headquarters Platoon of HHC 710th Brigade Support Battalion. The troop is stationed in Afghanistan. There are 20 soldiers in the unit. Members from the lodge packed 10 boxes and shipped them over to the soldiers. The Lodge raised over \$ 800.00 to buy items for the soldiers. Pictured are members putting together bags for each soldier.



Poughkeepsie Lodge #275 recently presented a \$ 1,000.00 check and a plaque to the Castle Point Wheel Chair Olympics Team. The Night of Champions Committee has recognized this team for the last three years for their accomplishments in the Wheel Chair Olympics held in different parts of the world. Pictured above L to R; back row Thomas Incorvaia, Mid Hudson Deputy VAVS Rep and member of Poughkeepsie Lodge, Ray Rogers, front row; Larry Daly, Edward Horvat, Donald Plunkett, Jimmie Loupe and Craig Shera.

Wellsville #1495 - Wellsville Lodge #1495 recently held an Americanism Essay Contest for students in the 5th, 6th, 7th, and 8th grades who wrote an essay entitled "What Freedom Means to Me." The winners from Wellsville Central School were sent on to the next level of competition. The Elks Lodge is proud to announce that one of the students, 5th grader Peyton Keib, has won First Place in the State competition Division 1. For her winning essay, Peyton was awarded a \$125.00 saving bond. She is now eligible to compete nationally for a \$1000.00 saving

bond. Congratulations to Peyton for a job well done!

Keeseville Lodge #2072 hosted their Annual Veterans Dinner which was well attended. Donations were made and the lodge raised \$ 323.00. ER David Gload brought the check to the VA Hospital in Albany.

Southwest District - On Saturday, July 18, Elks members from both the Southwest and Southern Tier Districts provided a Pig Roast which served 141 Veterans at Bath VA Medical Center. Veterans also enjoyed Karaoke that afternoon. This annual event is a labor of love from the Elks for the resident veterans. Several members started early in the morning in order to cook a very large pig. Other members and their families served the food to the veterans in the pavilion. Some of the Elks also served food to veterans in the infirmary. The rest of the picnic fixings' was provided by the kitchen staff at the Bath VA.



Liverpool Elks lodge #2348 was given the great honor of laying a wreath at the tomb of the Unknown Soldier. Exalted Ruler, Robert Inman, Past Exalted Ruler Doctor Thomas Conley, Leading Knight, Patricia McKenna and Veterans Chairman Michael Kaltenborn participated in this formal and moving ceremony. Approximately 40 members, family and friends of the lodge traveled to Virginia to witness this ceremony.

One of the motto's of the Elks is "So long as there are veterans, the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks will never forget them." This was printed on the banner on the wreath laid at the tomb. In addition each branch of the military as well as the POW's had a plaque attached to the wreath and an Elks symbol in the middle. Chris' Flowers Etc in the Village of Liverpool did a spectacular job preparing the wreath which was taken to Arlington for this ceremony. Pictured handing the wreath to the Tomb Guard sentinels Front nearest Robert Inman, Exalted Ruler further Michael Kaltenborn, Veterans Chairman Rear nearest Dr. Thomas Conley Past Exalted Ruler further Patricia McKenna Leading Knight

Riverhead Lodge #2044- Riverhead Lodge #2044, in conjunction with A.B.A.T.E. of Long Island, raised over \$1800 to be used for Veteran's functions at The Northport Veteran's Hospital. The Long Island Chapter of A.B.A.T.E. (American Bikers Aimed Toward Education) promotes motorcycle safety, awareness and education and they have worked with Riverhead Lodge to help raise this sizeable contribution through various parties and other functions. Riverhead Lodge takes seriously their commitment toward our local Veterans, which is quite evident in their consistent dedication in their fundraisers geared solely for this purpose.



A ceremony was held recently at which PSP, PGELK Richard T. Moore received the "Presidents Call To Service Award" Given for his many years of volunteerism in conjunction with his various community activities, and with his long involvement with Elks charitable and educational programs. Pictured above: PDD Tom Meier and Richard T. Moore.