



Clifton Park Lodge #2466 Members and the Ladies' Auxiliary proudly assisted the Homeless Women Veterans Project, a project sponsored by the Saratoga County Rural Preservation Company, in their quest to assist homeless women veterans by providing them with a critically-needed, temporary shelter facility called The Guardian House. Today, women comprise up to 14% of our military forces. This elite project was created to assist in one of the fastest growing issues: the homeless population of women veterans. The mission entailed the refurbishing of a historic home purchased by the SCRPC through many fundraisers and donations, along with a grant from the Veterans Administration. The Lodge "adopted a room" - a bedroom that will house up to 4 women veterans at a time. During the entire month of June, lodge and auxiliary members worked on the room to make it welcoming and comfortable for the women. From scraping and painting the woodwork, plastering and cleaning, to furnishing the room with curtains, carpeting, bedding, storage and other needed essentials, the room turned out to be one of the nicest in the house! In addition to decorating the room, the Clifton Park Lodge and Auxiliary donated \$500 to be used towards the purchase of a washer and dryer for The Guardian House. Pictured from left to right: ER Dan Drescher, Guardian House Board President Julia Towne, and Auxiliary President Dorothy Smith.

Riverhead Lodge # 2044 "This Ice Cube is on us," says the Riverhead Lodge #2044 to the magnificent troops serving us in Afghanistan in Alpha Company/CMT 1 1/3 Unit. Exalted Ruler John Hubbard received word that a request had been made for the Ice Cube maker and the mission was accepted on behalf of the Riverhead Lodge. With the help and expertise of Aquebogue Postmaster (also a member of the Riverhead Elks) Mark Linnen, it was properly packaged and ship off to Alpha Company. The temperature in Afghanistan is between 120 and 140 degrees and the Lodge members sure hope that this affords them a cool drink. God Bless our Troops and God help them get home safe.

Huntington Lodge #1565 annual Flag Day Ceremony and Flag Retirement Ceremony was held on Saturday, June 11th at 10 a.m. New York State Assemblyman Jim Conte, along with the Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts of America, joined the Lodge in hosting its annual Flag Day Ceremony and Flag Retirement Ceremony. The festivities began with a Dedication Ceremony of the Pergola, designed and built by Eagle Scouts

Zack and Sean Kulsziski, of Troop 200 BSA in Elwood, New York. The Flag Day Ceremony then took place under the Pergola in the Lorraine Martin Memorial Garden at the rear of the Elks Lodge. Also invited to the day's festivities were the winners of the Americanism Essay Contest for the presentation of certificates and a \$25.00 Gift Card. An interesting note was that one of the young winners was equally excited about the essay Contest presentation and her confirmation that was to take place later in the day. She explained that she was adopted as a baby from Russia and truly appreciated growing up in America and writing her Essay. "Our annual Flag Day Ceremony is a great way for members of our local community to help commemorate the adoption of the flag of the United States and take part in an informative and exciting event," said Jack Safarik, the Huntington Elks Lodge Exalted Ruler.

Liverpool Lodge #2348 members filled a need at the Syracuse VA hospital. They were requesting a commercial toaster and soup warmer/server for their new a la carte dining program and the lodge purchased and donated both for just under \$500. They also hosted Veterans from the VA Hospital in Syracuse and Outreach Center for its annual fishing derby. Close to 50 patients, staff and volunteers were treated to an afternoon of fishing and a good old fashion outdoor bar-b-q. All patients and clients of the Outreach Center were presented patriotic shirts at the end of the day.



Auburn Lodge #474 had the honor to participate in a Memorial Service at the grave of Sp4c Robert Stryker located in Pine Hill Cemetery. Sp4c Robert Stryker served the US Army, Company C, 1st Battalion, 26th Infantry, 1st Infantry Division at Vietnam. Sp4c Stryker was with his unit Tuesday, November 7, 1967 near Loc Ninh where he lost his life as his unit suddenly met a hail of automatic weapons and small arms fired from enemy forces. As the enemy was circling his company he continued to fire grenades into the trees, killing enemy snipers and enabling his comrades to server that attempted encirclement. As the battle continued, Sp4c Stryker observed several wounded members of his squad in the killing zone of an enemy claymore mine. With complete disregard for his safety, he threw himself upon the mine as it was detonated. He was mortally wounded as his body absorbed the blast and shielded his comrades from the explosion. His unselfish actions were responsible for saving the lives of at least 6 of his fellow solders. Sp4c Stryker was 22 when he lost his life. Sp4c Stryker's great personal bravery was in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflects great credit upon himself, his unit and the US Army. Sp4c Stryker was awarded several Medals

especially the Congressional Medal of Honor. The Stryker humbe that is used today is named after him and another fellow who gave his life with the same last name. Pictured above from left to right ~ front to back Elaine Post, Trustee; Frank Saya, Esteemed Leading Knight; Phyllis Allen, PER; Lisa Forney, ER; Fritz Allen, PER, PSVP, PDDGER, PSC and Mindy Johnson, PER, PSVP, DDGER elect.



Riverhead Lodge # 2044 - On July 16th, for the first time our Lodge applied for and received a "Gratitude Grant" from the Grand Lodge Elks National Foundation. Thanks to the efforts made by our members Larry Judd and Debbie Boschetti we were able to make a \$1,000.00 donation to the Disabled American Veterans Transportation Network. This donation will help provide our disabled Veterans with ride to and from the Northport VA Hospital as well as participating in community activities. Pictured above from left to right: Debbie Boschetti, PER Theresa Hubbard, Larry Judd, Dennis Krulder (VA Transportation), PDD Dick Herzog, PER Paul Leszczynski, ER John Hubbard, PER Gary Van Husen and James Wooten, Town Coucilman.



Saugerties Lodge #2574 participated in this years 4th of July parade promoting Elkdom and our newest committee "Adopt A Soldier." This program was formed to send care packages to our service people giving the children and adults in our community the opportunity to share and show their support to those who serve our Country. Marching in the parade was an excellent way to promote awareness of this program to our community. Over 200 packages have been mailed since this committee formed last October. Photo above: Members of Saugerties Lodge.



At a recent ceremony at Brunswick Lodge 2556, the **Lady Veteran Volunteer of the Year**, Gloria DOnovan, was recognized with a plaque. Congratulating Gloria are Joe Donovan, PER, Gary Cereta, Veteran's Chairman, Gloria and Mike Pendergast, ER.