



**Hornell Lodge No. 364** awarded Medals of Valor to the wife and family of U.S. Marine Lance Cpl. Zachary Smith during a private Sunday ceremony. Smith, 19, a 2008 Hornell High School graduate, was killed in action Jan. 24 supporting Operation Enduring Freedom in the Helmand province of Afghanistan. He was the first Hornell area casualty of war since Vietnam. ER Howard Nisbet presented two medals, one to Zach Smith's wife, Anne Deebes, and another to his parents, Christopher and Kim Smith. Smith has been posthumously awarded the Purple Heart for combat heroism and federal legislation is in the works to have the U.S. Post Office renamed in his honor.



**Red Hook-Rhinebeck Lodge# 2022** held its annual Veterans dinner on March 6, 2010 with great success. The Lodge served a total of 55 veterans and distributed 8 meals to local veterans that could not attend. All Lodge PERs were invited to attend as guests of the Lodge. The color guard from V.F.W. Post 7765 performed the opening ceremonies.

**Webster-Fairport Lodge # 2396** - Honored the Family of a Fallen Soldier in Afghanistan. With the "Elks Medal of Valor" The "Elks Medal of Valor" is given to Elks Members who have lost close family relatives who were serving in the U.S. Military. On Saturday, February 6, 2010 the Webster-Fairport Elks Lodge # 2396 presented the "Medal of Valor" to Mr. and Mrs. James Perry of Webster, N.Y. who lost their son Army PFC Kyle Wright, while serving our country in Afghanistan. On January 13, 2010 PFC Kyle Wright, age 22, was killed in the Kandahar Province of Afghanistan. His vehicle was struck with an Improvised Explosive Device. ( I E D ) He was assigned to the 5<sup>th</sup> Stryker Brigade, 2<sup>nd</sup> Infantry Division, out of Fort Lewis, Washington. PFC Kyle Wright was laid to rest on February 2, 2010 with Full Military Honors in Arlington National Cemetery. Exalted Ruler Scott Seltzer presided over the presentation ceremony. The "Medal of Valor" was presented by David Carr, President of the New York State Elks Association, Donald Williams, Vice President representing the New York State West Central District, and Thomas Gowan, District Deputy Grand Exalted Ruler. During the medal presentation Veterans in attendance were invited to stand and offer a salute. The Medal was engraved with PFC Kyle Wright's name and included an Afghanistan Campaign Ribbon. The ceremony was very emotional and there was not a dry eye in the place.

**Potsdam Elks Lodge #2074** members, along with Clarkson University ROTC Cadets visited Veterans at the United Helpers Nursing Home in Canton in remembrance of Veterans Day. Each of the Veterans residing at the home was provided a gift bag and enjoyed visiting with the Cadets. Clarkson ROTC members are pictured with PDDGER James Hassett and Elk members Robert Watkin and William Swafford. The visitation is an annual Lodge event.



**Liverpool Lodge #2348** recently donated a new computer system valued at \$600 to the Syracuse VA Hospital. This computer is being set up strictly for patient usage. Patients are able to surf the net and set up E-Mail accounts. It provides a much need diversion to their every day lives. Pictured L-R is Suzanne Hawes, Lead Recreation Therapist, Michael Kaltenborn, Lodge Veteran's Committee Chairman and his Granddaughter Emery Kaltenborn.