

## Americanism and Veterans



**Southampton Lodge #1574-** Southampton Lodge donated a spectacular \$15,000 check to the Disabled Veterans from the Northport Veterans Hospital. This sum represents monies raised at their recent Annual Golf Outing and all proceeds have been given to purchase a van to be used to transport Veterans to medical appointments and facilities. The event was chaired by members Artie Orlowski and Peter Magnuson, who is also a volunteer and East End driver for the hospital. Pictured ( L-R ) is E.R. Tom Daily, Golf Outing Co-Chair Peter Magnuson, Dennis Krulber, NYS Chairman of DAV Transportation, Golf Outing Co-Chairman Artie Orlowski and Member Skip Heaney, Major Supplier of auction prizes. The check was presented to Dennis Krulber with both

When a **Poughkeepsie Elk's # 275** member realized a two or three year accumulation of softballs and baseballs he had collected was too much for him to clean to be sent to the soldiers in Afghanistan, he turned to Boy Scout troop 275 Scoutmaster Ron Edick for help. The scout leaders, scouts, and their families were eager to assist because this equipment will be distributed by the soldiers to the local children in that country. The scouts used their meeting nights to scrub and clean over 400 softballs and baseballs for this project. If anyone has any softball or baseball equipment they would like to donate, call Ron Edick, 845-452-9490 or Gerry Sprague 845-452-7224.



**Middletown, NY Lodge #1097** with twenty members visited Castle Point Veterans Hospital in November and gave out sixty goody bags consisting of toothpaste, toothbrushes, socks, shaving cream, combs, razors, soap, decks of cards and canteen service coupons. Also given out were lap robes made by the ladies from the Harmony Baptist Church. The goody bags were donated by area businesses and money collected from the Castle Point donation box in the Lodge and items sold from the Elks display case which consists of Elks pins, caps, etc. The veterans enjoyed our visit and another one will

**Clifton Park Lodge #2466** held their monthly Veteran's/Scholarship Breakfast at the Lodge. Proceeds from the breakfast, along with the tips of all of the waitresses which are donated, go towards the lodge's Veterans Fund and their Scholarship Fund. Almost every month, they host some Veterans from the Stratton VA Medical Center in Albany who are transported to the lodge by the Center's volunteers. This month, 12 Veterans came to enjoy the breakfast. They get to order whatever they'd like and it's made to order. Other patrons that come to the breakfast don't mind waiting for their orders while the staff prepares the special guests' breakfasts. The Vets truly enjoy coming to the Lodge, visiting with the crew, enjoying breakfast and getting a break from being in the hospital!

WATERVLIET - World War II veterans will have the chance to tell the story of their life during the war as part of a project with the **Watervliet Lodge #** . The Elks were awarded a \$6,000 impact grant by the Elks National Foundation through the Community Investments Program which is designed to encourage Elks' involvement in the community.

Eight Watervliet High School students will work with the Elks to create the video. "This video will be a real asset to the community. Developing the video will teach the students about video production and the video itself will serve as a great collection of some of the fascinating stories of our veterans," said Bruce Hidley, Past State President and program coordinator for the Elks Lodge. "We are very excited to have received this grant and to be able to make this program possible." The students, in grades 9 through 12, will meet at the Menands and Watervliet Public Libraries to plan out the video before shooting the interviews. The video is expected to be completed in May, when the Elks Lodge will host a premiere and air the video at the lodge on Fourth Avenue. The grant funding was used to purchase new video production equipment. The Elks chapter is comprised of members from Green Island, Menands, and Watervliet. Veterans or others interested in the program can contact PSP Hidley