

Americanism and Veterans

Massapequa Lodge #2162- Massapequa Lodge held its annual Veteran's Holiday dinner with over 130 veterans and their aides in attendance. Residents from Northport Veterans Hospital, the Stonybrook Veterans Home and the three veterans facilities from the St. Albans Veterans Hospital, were transported to the Lodge for an evening of fine food and entertainment to kick off the Holiday season. They were treated to a turkey dinner with all the fixings and a group of dancers for their entertainment. A great time was had by all.



Lowville Elks Lodge #1605 invited all area veterans to a special Veteran's Remembrance Luncheon honoring their service and commitment to our country. Nearly 100 veter-

ans and their significant others attended and enjoyed a hot lunch and beverage of their choice. Pictured are (Front L to R): Veteran's Ed Kaldowski and Melvin Kipfer. (Back L to R): Past Exalted Rulers David Giver, Donald Rockwood, John Sammis, event coordinator Michael Nuffer, Richard Vanyo, Exalted Ruler Joe Boshart and PSVP William Schaab.

On Thursday, November 5th, 2009, **Queens Borough**

Lodge # 878 hosted a Thanksgiving Luncheon for thirty veterans from the St. Alban's VA Hospital. Attendees enjoyed a turkey meal with all the trimmings. Pumpkin and Apple pie was served with coffee and tea as Tony Grant performed songs from decades gone by. Lodge members took time out of their busy day to volunteer as servers for the event. Lodge guests were treated with travel coffee mugs as gifts donated by a local community bank. Veterans commented that they appreciated the attention and special treatment they received by the lodge and thanked all that participated. Exalted Ruler, Guillermo Rodriguez noted that "it was our pleasure to serve those that proudly served our country" and that "all veterans were welcomed back anytime

Albany Lodge #49 sponsored its annual essay contest for Albany's elementary schools. This year's subject was "The American Dream - What is it?" 256 students participated by writing essays in grades 3-8. Each winning essayist read their piece onstage in front of parents, teachers and families and were awarded a framed certificate of excellence along with other prizes. The main prizes were \$100 US savings bond for first place, \$50 bond for second place, along with a bag including signed certificates from Albany Mayor Gerald Jennings, a personal dictionary, Elks pencils, and certificates for ice-cream cones.



During December, **Ticonderoga's American Legion Post # 224, Ticonderoga Lodge#1494 BPOE** and **Keeseville Lodge#2072 BPOE** made their annual trip to the Veterans Hospital in Albany NY. Each year these organizations come together with a program called "Bake a Dozen for the Vets". This year, Members of the Ticonderoga & Keeseville Communities provided approximately 150 dozen baked goods that were shared with the Veterans at the hospital. In addition to the baked goods, the Ticonderoga Black Watch Library donated 150 novels for the Library at the hospital. These organization also presented checks to the National Veterans Service Representative and these monies will be used to purchase equipment needed for the Veterans at the hospital. Pictured are: Thomas Provoncha - Essex County American Legion Commander, Ticonderoga American Legion Post #224 Peggy Lamb - Lodge Photographer, Ticonderoga Lodge #1494 Richard A. Nadeau - Exalted Ruler Ticonderoga Lodge #1494. Debbie Witherwax - Keeseville Lodge #2072 Dan Witherwax - DDGER, Keeseville Lodge #2072 Dean Frasier - PER Trustee, Ticonderoga Lodge #1494 David Carr - NY State Elks President, Ticonderoga Lodge #1494. Ed Baniak - National Veterans Service Representative, Watervliet Elks Lodge #1500

Carthage Lodge #1762 is participating in an Adopt-a Platoon program. The Lodge has adopted the entire 10th Mountain Division, 1st BCT Medical Company from Ft. Drum. In recognition, the Lodge sponsored a "greet and meet" pizza and wings party that was attended by 60 members of the Medical Company. Exalted Ruler Wayne Moore and Past State President Tim Kelly are pictured with members of the company. The Medical Company will be deployed to Afghanistan in the spring.