

**Guilderland Lodge #2480** awarded to Captain J. McKenna Military Courtesy Room a grant of \$ 500.00 for providing a comfortable setting for our military personnel while they are waiting for flights. The awards were presented by Stephen R. Frankoski, PDDGER, Secretary and John P. Blais, PSVP, ENF Chairman on behalf of the lodge.



**Auburn Lodge #271** recently held several events funded by the gratitude grant that they received. They served a Chicken and Biscuit dinner specifically for the Veterans in Cayuga County. They served over 30 dinners and had football on their big screen TV for those who wanted to stay at the lodge and visit with other veterans. The local chapter of the DAV held their monthly meetings at the lodge and recently benefited from our ENF grant. Auburn Lodge #271 was able to donate \$400 from the ENF grant towards their activities. They also added to our lodge's dictionary fund and bought enough dictionaries for not only Auburn city school 3rd graders, but also targeted home schooled students who typically don't receive the same support from the city school district.

**Massena Lodge #1702** Veterans Committee visited local Nursing Homes recently to present gifts to local Veterans. Over 41 Veterans received "Wounded Warrior" t-shirts, cookies and other small items. The Lodge also hosted a Veterans' Luncheon with around 180 served. Committee members Dianne Meyer, Norm Lazore, Gerry Elman and John Paul Dumas are pictured with two of the Veterans during one of the Nursing home visits.



The **East District Veterans Committee** Chairman Nick Feliciano PER had a great Elk turnout for the Northport Veterans Annual Winter-fest. Twenty seven members attended (not all in the picture). The committee members escorted resident vets throughout the facilities and many prizes were given out at the bean bag toss. PER Jack (with Wally on his lap) and SVP Elect Lynne Stein handed out Army carrying sacks, playing cards and hats from the Elks National Veterans Committee. Chips and canteen books were provided by Veteran Chairman PER Nick Feliciano. The Army bags were donated by Lynne Stein's cousin Fred King who is a Vietnam Veteran. He has donated more than a thousand different bags that have been given out at various Veterans events. Wally the puppet was just exhausted by the conclusion of the annual bean bag toss. The residents gave the "Man in the Moon" quite a beating.

Lodges throughout the **North Central District** conducted a candy bar drive on behalf of the Fort Drum USO. The candy bars were raised for returning soldiers. The candy bar drive was featured on WWNY-TV and eventually picked up nationally. The initial news telecast assisted in gathering donations from the public that initially resulted in 7501 candy bars being raised. Following a national release, there was an addition pledge of 4000 candy bars from Lodges and community members from around the country. USO Director Karen Clark is pictured receiving the initial 7501 candy bars from PSP Tim Kelley, PDD James Hassett, Potsdam Youth Group member Jessica Charleston, member Bruce Wells and SVP Mary Charleston. The event was coordinated by SVP Charleston.

**Albany Lodge #49** March 7, 2012. Albany Lodge in cooperation with Celtic Tours held a fund raiser for The Wounded Warrior Project. It Was attended by well 200 people. Following dinner, entertainment was provided by The Merry Ploughboys , direct from Ireland. All proceeds went to the Wounded Warrior Project .