



**Beacon Lodge #1493** purchased and delivered to the clothing room at Hudson Valley Rehabilitation Center (Castle Point VA Hospital) \$1000 worth of men's and women's under garments. Pictured left to right are SVP Carl Oken, volunteers Shannyn Preston and Barbara Leota. The Elks continue to support our military families throughout the United States.



The New York **East District Veterans Service Committee** took 40 Veterans from the Northport VA Hospital for a round trip ferry ride from Port Jefferson, NY to Bridgeport, Connecticut and back. The ride lasted about three and one-half hours and the Elks fed the veterans while on the ride. Shown in the picture are PER Jack Stein; SVP Gerald Kraus; PDDGER Robert Ryan; PER Nicholas Feliciano, District Veterans Service Chair; PER Norman Newkirk; PER Dennis Casey; Ted Farkas and Bill Bernhalter.



**Oswego Elks Lodge 271** donated a new microwave and 6 pounds of coffee to the Veterans at the State university at Oswego (New York). The veterans have a lounge where they can relax with other veterans. There are approximately 12 to 20 Veterans that stop at the lounge on campus. Pictured is Ben Nordmark who served in the United States Navy, and Kevin Coleman who served with the United States Marines. Also pictured is Past Exalted Ruler Lolly Malone of the Oswego Elks.



**Staten Lodge #841** PER Sandra Lotz attended the Vietnam Veterans Of America Thomas J. Tori Chapter 421 'A DAY OF REMEMBRANCE' at the memorial wall remembering the men and women who were lost during the war and those who remain as POW's. Family members placed flowers beneath the names of love ones. The photo shows the monument and several members in the color guard.



**Potsdam Elks Lodge #2074** conducted a community candy bar drive to support Fort Drum soldiers returning from Iraq and Afghanistan this past summer. USO and deliver the candy bars. The candy bars were provided to returning soldiers and their families when soldiers returned this past summer. Thanks to an amazing involvement by the Potsdam and Canton area communities, 18,272 candy bars and 252 boxes of Girl Scout cookies were delivered. PSVP Mary Charleston did an outstanding job chairing the event. She made arrangements for TV interviews and coverage from WWNY-TV 7, radio interviews with B99.3, prepared and dropped off collection boxes to several area businesses, in coordination with B99.3 participated in several live remotes, assisted with the counting of candy bars, organized the delivery to Fort Drum. B99.3's Todd Truax farranged live remotes that clearly made the drive a success. Lodge members Jim Mason, Bruce Wells, Glen Clark, and Rob Sprague assisted with the counting and boxing of the candy bars prior to the delivery. Lodge members James Hassett, PDDGER, Mary Charleston, PSVP, Mike Neaton, (and his son Xavier) Tim Welp, PDDGER, Todd Truax, Bruce Wells and Scott Dunston, along with Kay Hassett, PSP Tim Kelly, Tim Phallon, Brittany Charleston and Anna Gay are pictured at the OSO facility after delivering the candy bars. After the candy bars were delivered, USO Director Karen Clark provided the delivery team a tour of several Fort Drum



The **Ontario District** recently held its third "American Patriot Remembrance" Ceremony. It was a brief yet reverent ceremony to convey the appreciation of Elks who are members of the six lodges that comprise the Ontario District. The six lodges in the Ontario District are Syracuse Lodge #31, Oswego Lodge #271, Auburn Lodge #474, Fulton Lodge #830, Liverpool Lodge #2348 and Camillus lodge #2367 and are located in Cayuga, Onondaga and Oswego Counties. Each of the Officers participating in this ceremony are themselves service veterans. SSGT David Gunther, USMC presented the oration. Denise O'Connor and Erin Goldman presented musical selections. Emily and Cory King played echo taps to close out the ceremony. In the past years thirteen members of the Armed Forces from the counties located in

the Ontario District made the supreme sacrifice in defense of all that our American Flag represents. The supreme sacrifice is the greatest gift an individual can give. Ontario District Elks gathered to meet and mourn the tragic loss of these young lives; no loss of an American Patriot should go unnoticed. The Elks also wished to show appreciation to the families of our fallen American Patriots for it is the family that suffers most. Families and friends of the fallen American Patriots were asked to accept condolences and sincerest gratitude for the sacrifices that were made. They were presented an American Patriot Plaque. The families were also promised that their loved ones will be remembered by the members of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks now and in years to come. SSGT Francis G Phillips, US Army was the thirteenth fallen soldier to be remembered at this ceremony. During the ceremony we lit a candle for each fallen hero; along with a candle for all veterans who have served the United State of America. Pictured is Don Fittipaldi PDDGER as he lights candles

**"So long as there are veterans, the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks will never forget them."**