

VETERAN ACTIVITIES

Army Navy Air Force Marines Coast Guard



Members of **Beacon Lodge #1493** attended the VFW Post #666 Veteran's Day service to honor the veterans of our country. Pictured are the members that attended the service. They are, from left to right: Richard Murphy, Joe Galbo, State Vice President Carl Oken, Bob Pucher, Walter Thomas, Alex Burka, Keith McArthur, Bob Lanier, Craig Kirkup, Exalted Ruler Kurt Tegtmeyer, PDDGER Alan Schrock, Bill Dooner, Patty Lamoree, Cathy Oken, Peter Miller, Chaplain Joan Healey, Bill Connolly and Jerold Delamaier.



Kinderhook, NY Lodge 2530 sponsored 16 Veterans from the Albany VA Hospital to a day of fishing at the DeLong property. The veterans, hospital staff and Lodge volunteers were treated to lunch at the Lodge pavilion after a day of "catch and release" at the pond. These Veterans (many confined to wheelchairs) were given the opportunity to leave the hospital environment and spend the day in the sunshine, enjoying a beautiful day with the Lodge members. One of the Veterans that participated is pictured proudly displaying a fish he caught.



Gouverneur Lodge #2035 hosted a dinner for area Veteran's. The dinner is an annual Lodge event. A meal was provided to 100, Veterans & their immediate family members. On behalf of the Lodge, Member Jane Prespare presented The Veterans attending the dinner with gifts that were donated by Kinney Drugs. The dinner was attended by three of the Lodges four remaining charter members, each a Veteran. PER Jimmy Jackson provided thank on behalf of the Lodge their service to our nation. Pictured L-R: Ernie Griebisch; Robert Fuller; Hilliard Seaker and PER Jimmy Jackson. Unable to attend but in the thoughts of the Gouverneur members was Claude Gates



Liverpool Lodge 2348 hosted local veterans from the Syracuse VA and Veterans Outreach Center to an outdoor cookout. Over 25 vets were served Hamburg's, Hot dogs and Sausage sandwiches with all the "fixins"! After the main course they made room for cake, brownies and ice cream.



Ilion Elks Lodge #1444 hosted a Veterans Dinner and award ceremony for 90 veterans and guests with entertainment provided by the nationally renowned performers of the "American Bombshells." Pictured left to right are Ilion Elks Lodge Veterans Committee Chairman and US Army retired Michael Sprotello, American Bombshell Vanessa Marco, District Deputy James Hoffman, American Bombshell Jaz Zepatos, Exalted Ruler Chuck Panko, WWII Veteran Bill Burns, American Bombshell Katie Hicks, Past State President Charles I. Noonan, and US Army retired Randy Dibble. The American Bombshells have performed around the world and have been featured on "Today," "Good Morning America," and "Fox News" and as recently November, in the "NY Post." A great time was had by all! God bless our Veterans!



Syracuse Lodge #31 used a portion of an ENF Beacon Grant to support Clear Path. Clear Path for Veterans is a local grassroots organization that is dedicated to the betterment of all local Veterans as well as all military personnel in a wide variety of areas. They provide meals, personal services (such as haircuts and massages), numerous other activities and rehab services. One of their main focuses is to utilize local rescue dogs as Therapy Dogs, paired with Veterans in need. These dogs and Vets are paired from the beginning and then go through a training process that encompasses all aspects, including medical issues and housing. The Lodge sponsored one Vet and one dog through the training module at a cost of approximately \$1200.00. Some of the Lodge members signed up to become volunteers at the site for future events. Veterans involved in the Clear program are pictured at the day room cafeteria.

