

VETERAN ACTIVITIES



The **Mid Hudson District #6180** sponsored a musical show at Castle Point Veterans Hospital with 45 veterans in attendance featuring the performance group Re-Creation USA. Re-Creation USA is an 11 person group of volunteers who travel the United States each year visiting every Veterans Hospital. They travel 325 days per year entertaining our veterans with help of our lodges and the Elks Veterans Commission. A Re-Creation performer is pictured singing to one of the veterans in attendance.



The **Johnson City lodge #2821** held a Veterans Thank You dinner. Girl Scout Troop #30135 helped serve spaghetti with meat sauce to the attendees. Pictured are Veteran and member Gail Ghinger and mom Terry talking with the scouts.



Lowville Elk's Lodge #1605 held their annual Veteran's Luncheon on Columbus Day. The luncheon was free to all veterans and approximately 92 Veterans and Elks members attended. Very special guests included the five Ingersoll brothers, all of whom served in the US armed forces, with three of them serving in WWII. Also, the sons of two prisoners of war were in attendance in recognition of their father's service to our country. Pictured are the five Ingersoll brothers; in front on the left is George - age 90, and on the right is Edward, the oldest - age 96. In the back from left to right, Victor - age 81, Harvey - age 76, and Robert - age 92.



Riverhead Lodge #2044 sponsored lawn mower races as part of a fund raiser to help support the Lodges Veteran Service program. The lodge has held these lawn mower races since 2002. The mowers are brightly painted, complete with racing numbers and of course that have no blades on them. The races are strictly for fun as no prizes are awarded and the spirit of friendly competition permeates the event. The top priority is safety, with plenty of rules in place and the competitors participate in a number of heats, with between 10 and 25 movers in each heat.



Malone Lodge #1303 members celebrated Veterans Day by visiting with Veterans in area care facilities and giving them a special gift from the Lodge. Barbara Morris a newly initiated member presented Exalted Ruler, Carlos Mato with a poem for Veterans that she had written for her Grandfather who served in World War II. After receiving the poem the officers thought it would be a fitting gift for local Veterans who were in nursing homes and assisted living facilities in the Malone area. With Barbara's permission the poem was reprinted and framed along with a star from an American flag and given to the Veterans during the visits. Officers Sheila Hargrave, Andrew Duprat and Tamra Murphy along with Passed Exalted Ruler Robert Hutchins went to Val Haven Assisted Living, The Farrar Home, Franklin County Nursing Home and Alice Hyde Nursing Home and presented the poems to the



During his visit to the **North Central District**, NYSEA President Jerry Shook had an opportunity to visit the Fort Drum USO. Following a tour of the USO Facility, He presented a \$5160 donation on behalf of the NYSEA to Karen Clark, Fort Drum USO Director. Pictured with State President Jerry during the presentation are State Vice President Paul Monnat, Past State President Tim Kelly, State Trustee Scott Hirst, Past District Deputy John Minners and his wife, State Trustee Deb Minners, Watertown Exalted Ruler Ray Cooley, State Editor Tim Welpel and Carthage Chaplain Paul Clark. Also participating in the donation were SVP Paul Monnat's wife Christy and SP Jerry Shook's wife Abby.



The **State Capital District Elks** were out in force on Veteran's Day and marched in the Albany Veteran's Day Parade. Pictured carrying the banner for the State Capital were Brian Speech, Exalted Ruler of Rotterdam #2157 and Patty Gardner, Exalted Ruler of Watervliet #1500. Also marching were State Vice President Helen Blais of Guiderland #2480 and District Deputy Mel Oliveria of Rotterdam #2157. They were accompanied by Elk Riders.

