

# VETERAN ACTIVITIES/AMERICANISM



While New York State President Jerry Shook was making his official visit to the Central District, he was able to take a moment to reflect and view the Fallen Star Tribute on display at **Herkimer Lodge 1439**. The Fallen Star Memorial was developed for the purpose of honoring the men and women from New York State who have died in Iraq and Afghanistan. The memorial depicted in chronological order are the faces, name, hometown, rank, and branch of service. The intent here was to insure that each hero was remembered in a special way. This memorial has traveled over 9000 miles and has been seen by thousands. Pictured with the display are New York State President Jerry Shook, Central District State Vice President Kevin McDonald, Past New York State President Charles I Noonan, and Central District, DDGER James Hoffman

**The NYSEA Americanism Committee** conducted the Second Annual Best Flag Day Program Contest. We received 22 entries from Lodges around the state. The program emphasizes each Lodge's unique celebration of Flag Day, and the impact it has on the community. To summarize the final results, from first place to third place in each division:

Division I: Auburn# 474 Ballston Spa #2619 Massapequa #2162

Division II: Corning #1071 Horseheads #2297 New York# 1

Division III: Elmira #62 New Hyde Park #2107 #Staten Island 841

Division IV: Lockport# 41 Watervliet# 1500 Poughkeepsie #275

Congratulations to each of these Lodges for their outstanding programs. All of the programs were unique in their own way. The public involvement ranged from parades, to dinners, to festivals. One program stood above the others. The "Best Flag Day Program" was awarded to Auburn Lodge# 474 for their outstanding program held at their local Veteran's Park. Pictured are PDDGER Mindy Johnson, PER Lisa Forney, and State Americanism Chair, DDGER Mel Oliveira, with this year's trophy.

Fraternally,

Mel Oliveira, DDGER

State Americanism Chairman

New York State Elks Association



Members of the **Syracuse Lodge #31** took Santa and Mrs. Claus on their annual visit to the Syracuse V.A. Hospital to greet the residents and present them with individual gift bags and to express our combined gratitude for their service to our Country. The lodge also donated cases upon cases of various individual snack items to be shared amongst all of the residents. Those on hand were Trustee Kevin Merriam, Inner Guard Kyle Merriam, and Secretary Sheila O'Connor; all helping Santa and Mrs. Claus, portrayed by George and Carol Dooher. Santa also presented Rec Therapist Lydia Messano with a new Blu-Ray disc player and a variety of the newest releases



**Potsdam Elks Lodge #2074** members, along with Clarkson University ROTC Air Force Cadets visited Veterans at the United Helpers Nursing Home in Canton in remembrance of Veterans Day. Each of the Veterans residing at the home was provided a gift bag and enjoyed visiting with the Cadets. Lodge member Shelly Vebber chaired the event. Clarkson ROTC members, along with Lodge members James Hassett, PDDGER, Shelly Vebber, Sheilia Guerin, PER, Paul Covey, Inner Guard, Sally Boslet, Trustee and Wayne Boak, PER. The visitation is an annual Lodge event.



Members of the **Ontario District Lodges**, along with some members of the **West Central District** joined the Veterans Day Parade held at the NYS Fairgrounds. There were thousands on hand to greet the Elks carrying all of the flags of our Armed Services and all of the Flags of our Country and the emblems of all of our Forces displayed on the District Float.

"SO LONG AS THERE ARE VETERANS,

THE BENEVOLENT AND PROTECTIVE ORDER OF ELKS

WILL NEVER FORGET THEM"

