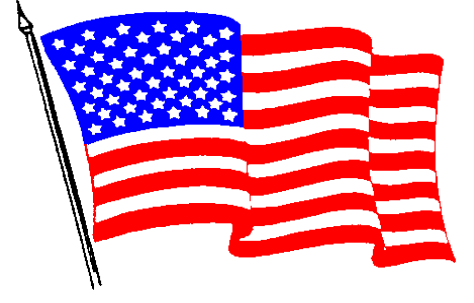


# VETERAN'S ACTIVITIES



**Massena Lodge #1702** sponsored a Wounded Warrior turkey hunt that took place at the John & Resa wings veterans retreat on Route 131 Massena New York . This event was funded by the Beacon Grant which paid for Shirts, Turkey game calls and a steak dinner after the hunt. The hunt is when our volunteers take a warrior and or their family out to hunt turkeys, we assist the wounded warrior out in the wood if they are in a wheel chair, prosthetic limb, no matter what their disability is we make there day in the field priceless.

Pictured In the top left row is committee Member Ed Ryder and in the bottom left row are trustees John Root and Jeff Root with all the wounded warriors who took part in the Turkey hunt and activities.



**Oswego Elks Lodge #271** is helping our Veterans who have served our country by transporting our Veterans to the Syracuse Veterans Hospital and to varies doctor appointments. Pictured is Exalted Ruler Jim Oldenburg presenting Veterans Chair Bernie France a check for \$ 250.00 to buy coffee and supplies for the Veterans clinic in Oswego. Also pictured is James Dillabough. Jim volunteers his time by driving the Veterans to their doctors appt. Jim has been driving Veterans for over nine years. The Oswego Elks has this service to help the Veterans in Oswego.



Area Vietnam Veterans, including Lodge members, were honored by **Co-hoes-Waterford lodge # 1317** as they commemorated the 50th Anniversary of the Vietnam War. The Lodge received a proclamation from the Mayor of Cohoes that acknowledged the 50th Anniversary of the Vietnam War and cited the role that Cohoes-Waterford Elks played in commemorating the date. Lodge member and Vietnam Veteran Roland Abare was the event Chairperson. The veteran's participated in a community parade and the Lodge provided complimentary food and refreshments after the Parade. One Vietnam Veteran commented that he finally got his homecoming! A group of veterans are pictured holding a banner commemorating the 50th anniversary.

## ELKS NATIONAL VETERANS SERVICE COMMISSION

JULY 2015 GRAND LODGE NEWSLETTER MESSAGE

### RE-CREATION USA

Terrific! Fantastic! Awesome! These are just a few of the words used to describe the outstanding members of the performance group known as Re-Creation. The performers are between the ages of 18 and 30, and they are all volunteers, giving up an entire year of their lives to honor our Veterans. If you were ever fortunate enough to have had the opportunity to see and hear the group performing at one of the VA medical centers scattered throughout the United States, you know what a heart-warming experience it is.

Re-Creation was founded by Hugh Brooks to offer live entertainment at nursing homes, hospitals and other institutions. It was such a huge success, that the group was asked to perform for the USO and VA medical centers. However, in 1983 the group had to take on the task of funding the myriad costs involved in touring and presenting their shows. In 1986, the Elks National Veterans Service Commission partnered with the group to help them continue to bring their wonderful entertainment to our Veterans.

As part of that partnership, the Commission and some State ENVSC committees provided direct, ongoing financial assistance, as well as replacement vehicles for their transportation needs. In addition, the Commission, State and local Lodge committees provided local housing and meals as the troupe travels and performs at the various Veteran facilities throughout the United States each year.

To date, most of the funding has come from the State and local committees. However, effective with the Re-Creation tours beginning August 1, 2015 and beyond, all housing costs will be funded directly by the Elks National Veterans Service Commission. This should help ease the financial pressures on local Lodges that are involved in the Re-Creation effort, thereby freeing up their funding for continued support with meals for the troupe, as well as for other Veteran Service efforts.

To learn more about this program, as well as the Re-Creation tour itinerary, please visit [www.Elks.org/veteransprograms](http://www.Elks.org/veteransprograms) and [www.re-creationusa.com](http://www.re-creationusa.com).

Your support of this outstanding program is truly appreciated as you demonstrate once again *"So long as there are Veterans, the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks will never forget them"*.

Sincerely and Fraternally,

David R. Carr, PGER

Secretary/Treasurer, ENVSC



**Southampton, NY Lodge #1574** presented a check for \$3,000.00 to Honor Flight Long Island, an organization which flies World War II vets for free (including round-trip airfare, busing and meals) to view the World War II Veterans Memorial in Washington, D.C. The donation, \$2,000.00 from the Elks National Foundation as a Gratitude Grant, and a \$1,000.00 additional donation by the lodge, will fly ten veterans to Washington on the next Honor Flight in October. On hand to receive the check presented by E.R. Tom Bruzdoski was USAF Col. Bob Grisnik (retired), Treasurer of Honor Flight L.I., and Virginia Bennett of Southampton Town's Department of Human Services, which handles L.I. Honor Flight's administrative tasks and travel arrangements

