

COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES



Cortland Lodge # 748 recognized Trooper Ryan Boline and Trooper Adam Koehler at the annual Cortland Elks Lodge Law Enforcement recognition ceremony. In August 2014, while working a night shift, these Troopers used a Stinger tire deflation device and stopped a fleeing murder suspect vehicle on I-81 in the Town of Cortlandville. The suspect had committed murder earlier in Greene County, NY. Pictured (Left to Right:) Captain Jeffrey VanAuken, Zone 3 Commander at Ithaca State Police, Major Donald Faughnan, Trooper Ryan Boline of the Homer State Police and his wife, Trooper Adam Koehler of Homer State Police and his wife, and Sgt/SC Mikhail Wolchetsky of the Homer State Police.



Albany County Executive Daniel P. McCoy hosted the annual County Executive's Volunteer Awards and presented honors to seven individuals who were cited for exemplary community service, including recently deceased Johanna Baniak of Watervliet Lodge # 1500. The awards were presented to a diverse array of county residents who have donated their time and energy to help others.

"Today we take time to recognize those residents who selflessly give of themselves for others," said McCoy. "The honorees this year are people of all ages and walks of life who are helping to make the community a better place to live. It is so gratifying to see the quality of this year's honorees and those nominated. We deeply appreciate all they do to serve the community."

This year's honorees have demonstrated an exceptional commitment to service and represented a range of causes.

"We are deeply grateful to these volunteers for the time, energy, skill and dedication they provide to the people of Albany County every day," said McCoy.

Johanna was a dedicated volunteer at the Stratton VA Medical Center, where she had dedicated nearly 6,000 hours over the last 13 years. She had been a key volunteer and organized fundraisers and coordinated recreational activities for veterans. She was also known as a very modest person who was passionate about helping others. Johanna is a Past Exalted Ruler of Watervliet Lodge #1500. Pictured in photo from Left to right are: Albany County Executive Daniel McCoy, member of Albany #49; Noney Grier, Volunteer Specialist, Albany Stratton V.A. Medical Center, Johanna Baniak, PER Watervliet #1500; Edward Baniak, PSVP, VA/VS Rep State Capital Region, Watervliet #1500; and Bruce Hidley, Past State President, Albany County Clerk.



Herb Flint, a member of **Johnson City Lodge #2821** has been recognized with The President's Volunteer Service Award. The award was presented to Herb Flint for his countless volunteer hours to the Johnson City Lodge and the Veterans in the community. Past State President Phil Holowacz and Past Exalted Ruler Gayle Klein are pictured presenting the award to Herb Flint, NY State Veterans Chair.



Johnson City Lodge #2821 participated as a Sponsor for the first annual **David "DW" Smith, Jr. Remembrance 5K Run/Walk**. The event was organized as a fundraiser to support and honor the memory of Patrolman David W. Smith, Jr., who was tragically killed in the line of duty on March 31, 2014. The 5K event kick-off at the Johnson City Police Department, 31 Avenue C, Johnson City, New York. The JC Elks sponsored the coffee/bagels tables for over 600 participants. Pictured are Denise Sherman and Jody Zevan, two of the runners in the event.



The **Vestal Lodge #2508** Pink Elk 5K Run/Walk was a success with over 175 runners/walkers. The event raised money to support the Lodges Veteran's Committee and Traci's Hope which is a local Breast Cancer Charity in our area. All winners won prizes donated by local businesses and some from our lodge members. This is the 3rd annual race and Vestal Lodge intends to keep it going. A special thanks to Barb Taggart and Jake Brown for organizing this wonderful event. Pictured are: Back Row - Rose Howard, BarbaraAnn Morrissey, Emil Bielecki, Mondee (Bunny) Potter, Dan Hayes, Deborah Mallen Middle Row - Patty Fitzgerald, Linda Hill, John Pooler and Front Row - Cindy Nord, Barb Taggart, Joe Sobiech, Karen Marple, Ella Sobiech, and Lori Hayes.

Potsdam Lodge #2074 and **Massena Lodge #1702** have been proud sponsors of the St. Lawrence County Law Enforcement Torch Run to benefit Special Olympics New York since the run was established in the county 15 years ago. Potsdam Lodge has made an annual donation and Massena Lodge has sponsored a post run luncheon. Massena Lodge Exalted Ruler James Root and Potsdam members Tim Welpé and Mike Pinckney are pictured with some of the Olympic athletes that participated following the luncheon at Massena Lodge. Potsdam Lodge members Tim Welpé, Mike Neaton and Mike Pinckney and Massena Lodge member Mike Girard have participated in most of the runs and have assisted with the coordination of the runs over the past 15 years. (Picture to the right)

