

VETERAN ACTIVITIES

"So Long as There are Veterans, the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks will Never Forget Them"



The Beacon Elks Lodge #1493 members sign Valentine cards for the patients at Castle Point Veterans Hospital. The cards were delivered to the patients by Sue McDonald and Clara Lou Gould. Pictured left to right - Maria Valentino, Patty Lamoree and Cathy Oken.



Brockport Elks Lodge #2110 made their annual Holiday appearance at the Batavia, NY VA Nursing Home. They gave out 100 tee shirts and 100 care packages, hosted BINGO and distributed pizza, pie, Ice cream and drinks. Pictured are Front row: Veteran Richard Weldon, Elk Member Bob Yrico, Veterans Jack Smith and Frank Finnerty. Back Row: Veteran Kenneth Bergen, Elk Member and Brockport Lodge representative to the VA Jack L. Hall, and veteran Leo Bogdan.



The New York East District National Veterans Service Commission has regularly scheduled quarterly visit to the Northport Veterans Affairs Medical Center supply them with coffee, snacks, toiletry items as well as laundry items, new socks and underwear in the facility pantry for resident veterans. Funds are donated by the lodges in the district for this purpose. Shown in the photo, l. to r. are New York State Elks State Vice President for the East District, Gerald Kraus; Past Exalted Ruler Nicholas Feliciano, Chairman of the East District VAVS and National Veterans Service Commission and Philip Moschitta, Director of the Northport, NY Veterans Affairs Medical Center.

Lodge members from Johnson City Lodge # 2821 traveled to the New York State Veterans Home at Oxford and held a Christmas party for 36 Veterans. The event featured dessert and a visit from Santa and Mrs. Claus, who gave each Veteran a gift. Pictured with US Air Force Veteran Theodore Lashway (seated) are veterans home staff member Jamey Supensky, PER Kenneth Jennison, Mrs. Clause (member Emillie Klein), party guest and Lashway's stepson Charlie Frayer, volunteer Sabrina Wright, Santa (member Scott Dow) and Lodge member Bruce Deling. The members also delivered 200 stockings full of small gifts to the Syracuse VA Medical Center that was provided to the Veterans at the facility. The Lodge also delivered homemade Christmas cookies, candy canes and chocolate to the USO Fort Drum.



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 seen by thousands. Pictured here is 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



Liverpool Elks Lodge 2348 recently sent 17 Veteran's and drivers from the Syracuse VA to the famous "Lights on the Lake" Winter Spectacular. Lights on the Lake are more than two miles of light displays on the Shore of Onondaga Lake. Afterwards the lodge hosted this same hero's for a delicious Spaghetti dinner and tons of sweets for dessert. After eating and socializing, each patient was presented a warm sweatshirt with their favorite sports logo.



Riverhead Elks Lodge #2044 recently held a benefit for the Riverhead veterans. There were three live bands, hors d'oeuvres, a 50/50 raffle, and lots of dancing! A member of less than a year, David Wellen, is the leader of his band Joe Hampton & The Kingpins. He came up with the idea for the benefit, and recruited two other bands to join the evening: The Pamela Betti Band (Pamela Betti is a New York Blues Hall of Fame inductee), and Mike Ryan & Friends. With lots of help from other Riverhead Elk members, the evening was a great success. They sold out, and it was a packed crowd. The evening was so successful that it was decided to make this a yearly event! The Lodge raised \$2,500 to donate to a home for veterans in Riverhead, which will go towards making the bathroom handicapped accessible. The local press and others from the local veterans association, along with the Riverhead Elks Exalted Ruler, Theresa Hubbard; Elks members John Hubbard, David Wellen, and Gail Evans met at the veterans home to present their gift to them, which will go towards renovations to the bathroom so it will be handicapped accessible. Exalted Ruler Theresa Hubbard is pictured presenting the donation.

