



Recently a Christmas gift was given by **Penn Yan Lodge #1722** to the 10th Mountain Division (Army) and all military personnel at **Ft. Drum, NY** in the northern zone. Thru the auspices of the USO and the work and co-operation of Karen Clark and Meredith Sood, The Penn Yan Lodge #1722 sponsored the "Over the Hump Hot Dog Day" on **Wednesday December 22, 2010**. Free hot dogs were provided by the Lodge to all Military personnel from 11:30 am to 1 pm in the USO buildings on post. This event gave us something we have been looking for a rationale for helping our troops and enhancing their morale. We also wanted to help support the USO's Ft. Drum mission to provide the military with a variety of services, outreach programs, and morale boosting events. Many of our troops have deployed in Iraq and Afghanistan and are scheduled to be rotated back there again. Obviously, there is a profound need for more services! The morale of our troops remains a top priority for our lodge. T'was the season to be jolly and we showed our generosity and spirit and made this event "something Special" There were many smiles, grins and feelings of joy and more importantly it was good soul food for one and all WOW! Kinda Heavy! That's my Brother Eddie!

Port Jefferson Lodge # 2138

adopted a local disabled veteran who, with his wife and six children, had fallen on hard times. This veteran, named Chris, was presented with money raised at the Lodge sponsored Stickball Tournament.

On Thanksgiving Day two Lodge members, Lori and Charlie Gerrard, prepared and delivered a sumptuous turkey dinner with all the trimmings to Chris' home. Chris and family were then invited to attend the Annual Port Jefferson Elks Kids Christmas Party. While there, each of Chris' kids were presented with a gift by Santa Claus, enjoyed lunch and were our guests at the professional wrestling event scheduled at the Lodge that evening. Finally, Chris and his family were treated to a fabulous Christmas dinner at J&R Steakhouse.

The Lodge under the direction of Chairman Robert McClean conducted its annual Stickball Tournament in honor of local disabled American Veterans from the Iraq/Afghanistan Wars. As a result \$12,000 was raised and was distributed to 6 disabled Veterans in attendance and for care packages, which were purchased and mailed to members of the 101st Airborne Unit.

Chairman McClean reported that approximately 170 guests attended and enjoyed the hamburgers, hotdogs, sausage and peppers, salads, ice cream and candy, which were served.

U.S. Congressman Tim Bishop made an appearance and praised the Veterans who were present. Also a representative of the NHL New York Islanders and a local artist, Dennis Coburn, were present and contributed articles for an auction. To top it all off Santa Claus arrived via fire truck and gave each child a small gift.

Two distinguished members of the Port Jefferson Lodge #2138, Robert McClean, Lodge Trustee Chairman and Edward M. Lee, Past District Deputy Grand Exalted Ruler and Lodge Sponsor each received a commendation from U.S. Congressman Tim Bishop for their outstanding and continuing service to our Veterans.

Robert McClean received recognition for his chairing the "Stickball Tournament" which raised \$12,000 to be divided among 6 Veterans and care packages that were donated to the 101st Airborne Unit in Afghanistan. This is the eleventh tournament he has directed and is credited with raising over \$100,000 for disabled vets and veterans charities.

Ed Lee received his commendation for his 14 years as a member and President of the Calverton National Cemetery Support Committee. He is also known for his tireless volunteerism with Elks services at the VA Hospital in Northport and the NY State Veterans Home at Stony Brook.



Clifton Park Lodge #2466 The 2nd Annual Veteran's Christmas event was held in two separate sessions. Those who were able to travel and join us at the lodge did so on Sunday December 19, 2010. Veterans from the Ellis Residential & Rehab Center were served breakfast and afterwards were given Goodie Bags filled with personal items and were presented a gift of a Wii Gaming System to use at their facility. They were so happy and appreciative of their gifts. The second session took place on January 6, 2011. A group of Shenendehowa Varsity Lacrosse boys and girls along with our NYS President, Mike Bloss and representatives from the Clifton Park Elks Lodge and Ladies' Auxiliary traveled to the Albany Stratton VA Medical Center in Albany. They brought pizza, goodie bags and gifts to the veterans on the 9th floor (approximately 40 veterans). The group served and ate pizza with the veterans, then handed out goodie bags filled with personal items. Lastly the Unit was presented with a 32" Flat Screen TV and a red Wii gaming system that were mounted on a red cart (proudly donated by 3 local Snap-On Tool Dealers who are also lodge members,; Steve Bariteau, Tommy Primeau and Tom Popielarz. This allows veterans who are bed bound to participate in Wii activities. The guys and the staff were all thrilled and thankful for the gifts and were pleased to be wheeled to their rooms by the Varsity players. Once back in their rooms, the group continued on to hand out goodie bags to the rest of the veterans who were not able to join them for lunch. The day ended with a visit in one veteran's room who took particular pleasure in sharing some of his war stories with the group. All those were involved in this event whether through attending, raising funds for the purchases, bagging the goodie sacks and filling out cards for the veterans, felt good that they were able to touch so many veterans lives. The crew from Ellis Residential & Rehab Center with some of the Elk & Auxiliary volunteers (R) Ellis: Veterans Levio Angelozzi & Pat Parillo with Center Aides Rebecca Atwell & Ned Mead (L) John & Marie Olsen, Johanna Mrochko, Susan Drescher, Mike Mrochko - Exalted Ruler & John & Diane Patterson.

Auburn Lodge # 474 - The barbecued chicken came with a dusting of snow at the Elks lodge on a recent Sunday afternoon, but the hungry lunch crowd didn't seem to mind. The lodge served 170 half-chickens, 70 of them to the National Guard members for whom the sale was a benefit. Volunteers were on hand at 4 a.m. to set up an eight-foot grill outside, and the slowly roasting chicken was the only heat source available to stave off the

cold. Snowflakes sizzled on the charcoal as the cooks stomped their feet and poked the birds with thermometers The idea for the fundraiser came from Elk Frank Saya, whose 27-year-old son, Andrew, is a member of the Auburn National Guard. "This National Guard has been very active in going overseas," Saya said. "We thought we could raise a few bucks for them."The money for the 100 meals sold to private citizens will be donated to a National Guard program that helps soldiers in hard times.



Clifton Park Lodge #2466 - Shenendehowa Lacrosse Varsity Players with Elk members, along with Mike Bloss the NYS President, at the Albany Stratton VA Medical Center presenting a Flat screen TV, a Wii gaming system mounted on a mobile cart donated by Clifton Park Elk Lodge members Steve Bariteau, Tommy Primeau & Tom Popielarz, who are all Snap-On Tools Dealers. 1st Row: Ron McKay, Wade Relation (Veteran), NYS Elks President, Michael Bloss, John Olsen, 2nd Row: Tim Coll, Owen Jarem, Nick Hourigan, Keegan Woloss, John Eric Olsen.



Syracuse Lodge #31 recently hosted a dinner to honor our local veterans. There were 32 Vets with 4 staff member of the Syracuse Veterans Hospital in attendance. There were 18 officers and members of Syracuse Lodge #31 in attendance. The chorus from Saint Rose entertained the guest during the evening. There were 12 chorus members, their Director and approximately 22 adults with the chorus. The Veterans were served a Prime Rib dinner. The Lodge also provided the kids and parents with pizza, wings, salads and soda.