

October 17, 2014

## Arlington-Fairfax 2188 Awarded Freedom Grant



The Elks National Veterans Service Commission (ENVSC) has approved the Arlington-Fairfax 2188 Freedom Grant request. The Freedom Grant is essential to A-F 2188 being able to continue to meet the needs of the USO Lounge at Reagan National Airport.

The Grant funding will allow the Veterans Committee to meet the increased needs for frozen food items. USO Center Manager Linda Vine has reported record setting, phenomenal numbers of visitors to the lounge in recent months. This increased activity is anticipated to continue through the next year and beyond.

The Freedom Grant award funds will be used to purchase individually wrapped, microwavable frozen foods such as hamburgers, chicken sandwiches, breakfast croissants, etc., that are readily available from the USO's on-site freezer. The donated food will provide the travel-weary service men and women a chance to have a hot snack or meal while they are relaxing in the USO Club. Snack foods for children will also be provided for those service men/women with accompanying family members. Additionally, 2188 members have donated small toiletry items and Elks Drug Awareness coloring books and crayons.

Veteran's Committee and lodge members are proud and thrilled to receive this award and pass it on to our service members and their families!!

In September, the Reagan National Airport USO Facility Director and USO volunteers publicly recognized the Lodge 2188 for their diligence in stocking their facility freezer with frozen sandwiches.