Arlington-Fairfax 2188 and KofC Hold Bingo for Vets at VAMC

On August 29th Arlington-Fairfax 2188 volunteers along with Knights of Columbus volunteers traveled to the VA Hospital in Martinsburg, West Virginia, to host bingo games for the veteran patients. Lodge 2188 Exalted Ruler Patti Graves, Lodge Veterans Committee members Linda Gardner and Betty Kuennen, and Knights of Columbus volunteers Dick Owen, Carl Castle, Bob Bubiak, and Leo Weston all worked together to make this activity a special event for the veteran patients at the Martinsburg, WV, VA Hospital.

A record sixty patients attended the bingo games and everyone received at least two Canteen coupon books for attending the activity. Veteran patients were also given an assortment of donated clothing items, decks of cards, puzzles, and magazines. The veteran patients were very appreciative of the prizes and donated items they received. Several of the patients commented that they always enjoy our visits to the hospital.

The Elks Lodge 2188 Veterans Committee has partnered with the Knights of Columbus for many years to make the Martinsburg VA Hospital visits a great success. As a result, a kinship has developed between the partnering volunteers. At the conclusion of each visit, volunteers visit a local restaurant called My Pappy's Place. The restaurant has an eclectic atmosphere featuring a conglomeration of American historical artifacts and stained glass lighting and serves a variety of home-cooked dishes. Dinner at Pappys is always the capping highlight of a fun-filled, rewarding evening.

Submitted by Brenda Slingerland

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