

Martinsville 1752 Holds Christmas Party at Salem VAMC

The Martinsville Elks used a \$2000 Gratitude Grant to hold a Christmas Party and Bingo Night at the VA Hospital in Salem, Virginia. The event was held on Tuesday, November 24. There were forty-five Veterans in attendance including two Veterans who served in WW II. Participating were ER Robert Stegall and Secretary/Veterans Chair Lynnette Kyle. There were also seven helpers that went with us that were not Elks.

The first picture is of Stephen Kenneth Gibson, 93, who served in the Army during WW II. He was at the invasion of Normandy and was injured and spent months in a hospital in France before finally being able to finish out his term. He currently lives in Roanoke, Virginia. The second picture is of Mary Mackey, 94, who served in the Army Nurses Corp. She served in both Africa and Italy and currently resides at the VA Hospital. Also in both pictures is Martinsville Lodge Veterans Chair Lynnette Kyle.

The third picture is of some of the other Veterans who were in attendance. The fourth picture is of some of the items we donated.

We prepared fifty gifts of fleece jackets and fifty goodie bags filled with candy, snacks, socks, word search books, pens, playing cards, chap stick, toiletries, canteen books, and other items. These were handed out to the Veterans in attendance and then the remainders were taken to some Veterans on the wards. We also used part of the grant to purchase items requested by the various recreational therapy departments – two-10X10 canopy tents, two 55 gallon coolers, fifteen fishing rods and tackle, five DVD/Blu-Ray players, two 40-cup percolators, two microwaves, and a CD boom box.

We also played ten games of bingo with the Veterans and gave out \$10-\$25 worth of canteen books for prizes per game.

