

# Woodbridge 2355 News of Recent Lodge Activities



## Annual Golf Tournament is a Success



On a beautiful day, the grass was slightly dewy and the beer carts fueled – eighteen golfers attacked the course with the team of Bill Marcellino, Harry Kocharian, Tony Sollars and Doug Scott coming out on top. This year the Lodge raised \$660 to support the Elks National Foundation.

Woodbridge 2355 received great support from the local community including Chick-fil-A, Famous Dave's, PF Chang's, Lustine Chrysler Dodge Jeep, and the Malloy Auto Group and would like to thank them for their support of this annual event.



## Woodbridge 2355 Takes Vets to Atlantic City



Utilizing our 2014–2015 ENF Beacon Grant, Woodbridge 2355 sponsored and supported 31 warriors from the Wounded Warrior Transition Unit at Fort Belvoir, VA to a trip to Atlantic City, NJ. The trip provided the opportunity for these Heroes and their spouses to 'let their hair down' and spend the day in Atlantic City seeing the sights, attending a show, walking on the beach or maybe even visiting a casino or two. During the ride to and from Atlantic City members of the Lodge provided 'stewardess' services serving the warriors food, drink, and snacks. Upon arrival, the Tropicana Hotel and Casino provided each traveler with a \$20 certificate good for gaming at the table games or slot machines in their establishment.

Trip organizer PDDGER Roger Highfield stated that these are "America's Heroes and providing them a day away from base with the opportunity to escape the pressures of recovery is the least we can do." He echoed the Elks mantra: "So long as there are veterans, the Benevolent and protective Order of Elks will never forget them."



## Woodbridge Lodge Visits McGuire Veterans Medical Center



Woodbridge 2355 visited 70 veterans at the McGuire Veterans Medical Center in Richmond, VA, arriving at the center loaded with three push carts of food items, drinks, snacks, blankets, jackets and a large assortment of personal care items. They also brought Elks Wheelchair gloves and Elks Playing cards. Each veteran received a \$10 canteen book they can use in the hospital store.

Lodge members visited the Community Living Center (Nursing Home) and the Hospice Units thanking them for their service to our country. This year patients held lengthy conversations with us talking about their experiences while on active duty and the "Redskins." The goal was to make their day a little brighter; but, actually they continue to inspire us with their courage and dignity.

McGuire Team Leader PER Mary Louise Mawn commented "these patients always remain in our thoughts and hearts long after our visit".

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### **Woodbridge 2355's Annual Senior Thanksgiving Luncheon**

This year's annual Senior Citizens Thanksgiving Luncheon brought out more than 120 senior citizens. All enjoyed a thanksgiving lunch, complete with all the trimmings. After the meal they were entertained by DJ Michael Perry of the Arlington-Fairfax Lodge and many took to the dance floor.

Again this year many of the community stores participated in the program and the Lodge would like to thank Harris Teeter, Wegmans, BJ's, Costco, Safeway, Food Lion and Giant for their generous donations to the program. Also, a special thank goes out to the U.S. Marine Chapel on Quantico Marine Corps Base for their monetary donation to help purchase food for the event.

Event Chairman Roger Highfield, PDDGER, commented that "Many of these Senior Citizens would have no Thanksgiving Dinner were it not for this event." For more than 23 years Woodbridge Lodge has provided this luncheon to ensure all enjoy a Thanksgiving meal.



### **Woodbridge 2355 Holds Memorial Service**

Memorial Day is a day set apart as a day for Elks to gather to honor the memory of their departed.

PER Mary Louise Mawn officiated this year's memorial service. Secretary Ken Catterton read the names of those members who will be added to the memorial board: Roger Conard, William Gaddy, Edward Grier, Stanley McCain, and John Wettlaufer

Exalter Ruler Mike Johnson read an Irish Prayer and the Lodge sang "Auld Lang Syne." Lodge members lit candles for departed family members and a special candle was lit for those Service Members who paid the ultimate sacrifice. At the conclusion of the 11 o'clock toast all participants were invited to the hall for lunch and fellowship.



### **Woodbridge 2355 holds Christmas Early**

Woodbridge 2355 hosted this year's Margaret Colley Christmas Party at Old Hickory Golf Club. The event is named for a former Lodge member in honor of her years of support to the program. Having outgrown the Lodge Hall, the ARC had to find a new location.

This year's party provided Christmas to individuals who live in one of seven group homes or live somewhat independently in the supported program throughout the county. For many of these residents, this is their only real Christmas.

Assisted with a \$2000 ENF Promise Grant the Lodge was able to provide assistance with food and purchasing need household items for the group homes.

Submitted by Ken Catterton

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