

July 9, 2012

# Woodbridge 2355 Recent News and Events

## Ken Catterton Receives Public Relations Award



During the business session held on Saturday of the VEA Annual Spring Convention, Ken Catterton, Secretary, Woodbridge Elks Lodge 2355 was recognized for outstanding contributions to the state's public relations program. Ken commented that this is not his award but the Lodge's. Without the Lodge doing good works in the name of Elksdom there would be nothing to write about.

## Mary Louise Mawn receives Veteran's Award

During the evening state dinner held on Saturday of the VEA Annual Spring Convention, Mary Louise Mawn of 2355 was honored as the Elks National Veterans Service Commission Virginia Women Veteran Volunteer of the Year. Honored for her unselfish work with and for our Nation's Veterans, for helping them realize their sacrifices for our country were not in vain and the United States of America is a world leader because of their Patriotism and Valor, but most importantly for being a good will Ambassador to all Veterans. Mary Louise thanked her team for the success for the Lodge's Veterans program.

## Woodbridge 2355 Presents GER Carr with Veteran's Service Coin



During Saturday of the VEA 2012 Spring Convention, Woodbridge Lodge 2355 presented GER Carr with their Veteran's Service Coin. Designed as a gift to be given to Veterans during Lodge Veterans Events and VA Hospital visits, this coin is based on the military challenge coin. The origins of the challenge coin dates back to the Second World War and was first used by Office of Strategic Service personnel who were deployed in Nazi held France. The coins were simply a local coin used as a "Bona Fides" during a personal meeting to help verify a person's identity.

## Woodbridge 2355 conducts Elks Flag Ritual



Woodbridge, Virginia, June 16, 2012. As the ritual opened with the singing of the National Anthem all activity stopped and viewed the historic flags whipping in the breeze. Emotions flowed to the surface as each flag from the Nation's history was paraded by Boy Scout Troop 1390 and was placed into their base behind the station of the Exalted Ruler.

With the Exalted Ruler attending the State Convention, Michael Haman, Lodge Esquire, filled in acting as the Exalted Ruler for the Ritual. He commented that "This is what Elks do: Honor our Veterans and help prepare the country's young to be suitable replacements."

A number of flags ready for retirement were presented to Boy Scout Troop 1390 who will transport the flags to summer camp with them later this month for proper dismantling and disposal.

## Woodbridge 2355 Supports the 32<sup>nd</sup> National Veterans Wheelchair Games



PER Wayne Wirick and Lodge Member Susan McDaniel arrive at the 32<sup>nd</sup> National Veterans Wheelchair Games



They visit with a participant at the Games

On June 27<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> members of Woodbridge 2355 supported the 32<sup>nd</sup> National Veterans Wheelchair Games held in Richmond. Athletes competed for top honors and all fifty states were represented. Competition was fierce. All Veterans trained hard to win at their sport. Many won top honors in several categories and wore as many as four medals around their neck to show for their dedication and hard work. McGuire Veterans Medical Center served as hosts to the visiting Veterans and their families and guests. June 27<sup>th</sup> saw nine members of the Lodge traveling to Richmond to provide support on the field and some screaming fans from the stands. June 30<sup>th</sup> Mary Louise Mawn, Lodge Veterans Chairman and eight Lodge members went to Richmond and again provided support for the Veterans.

Submitted by: Ken Catterton