



2012-2013 Freedom Grant Awards

Denver, CO (#17)

We will be holding our Second Annual Red, White & Brew: Beer Tasting, Silent Auction & Dinner to support Freedom Service Dogs.

Freedom Service Dogs is an Englewood, Colorado based charity that has partnered with the Veterans Administration to develop "Operation Freedom," which is aimed at training and placing service dogs with veterans and service members in need. The two pronged program not only places dogs with veterans, but it gives service members returning from Iraq and Afghanistan the unique opportunity to be involved in training dogs for their fellow veterans and military personnel. More information about Freedom Service Dogs is available on their Website at www.freedomservicedogs.org.

Lockport, NY (#41)

The Lodge will use the Freedom Grant to provide winter clothing, food, appliances, and other necessities for the 45 residents of Altamount House, a Homeless Veterans organization in our district. We will also host a Fall picnic for the resident veterans.

Lima, OH (#54)

The Freedom Grant will be used to purchase Christmas gifts for each Veteran in the Dayton VAMC Nursing Home and Hospital. We will also purchase turkeys, hams and other food for quality Christmas meals for each ward in the nursing home and hospital. We will support five Christmas parties which we call "Family Days" because family members of the veterans will be invited and encouraged to attend. Christmas gifts and cards will be presented to all veterans at these parties. Many of the cards are made by elementary school students in our local grade schools.

Portsmouth-Chesapeake, VA (#82)

Lodge will sponsor two events for Veterans from the Hampton, Virginia, Medical Center. The first event is a night out at the ballgame at Harbor Park in Norfolk, VA, on July 18th. The second event is a charter boat/pier fishing trip, in conjunction with Oceanview Fishing Pier, on July 27th.

Seattle, WA (#92)

We will use the Freedom Grant to help sponsor the 2nd Annual Seattle Standown at a local community college for 600-800 needy and homeless veterans in the Seattle area. Besides providing desperately needed personal care items, Lodge volunteers will help cook, serve, and assist. Veterans will be given the opportunity to meet with job counselors, VA staff helping them enroll for benefits, and family assistance coordinators. Our Lodge will also host a dinner for local veterans.

Des Moines, IA (#98)

We will use the Freedom Grant for several programs: Passes to local Science Center and Arts Center in Des Moines for veterans from Des Moines VA who are reintegrating into society, and Christmas food baskets for recently returned but unemployed veterans and their families.

Fort Worth, TX (#124)

The Freedom Grant will be used to provide lodging on a fishing trip to Galveston for veterans from the Bonham VA, who are from Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD). We will also purchase guitars and music lessons which are very therapeutic for PTSD sufferers.

Lafayette, IN (#143)

Dinner honoring over 120 Korean War Veterans and their spouses, with guest speakers, honor guard, and certificates of appreciation.

**Hastings, NE
(#159)**

We will be providing nine homeless veterans with linens and \$100.00 food vouchers when they move into the Grand Island Veterans Administration Transition Home. To enter this transitional home, the Veterans must have completed rehab and have no means of supporting themselves at the time of their discharge. The remainder of the grant will be used for our Armed Forces Day Veterans Golf outing. The monies will be used to offset the cost of providing free golf and prizes for ALL veterans that participate. We ask businesses and individuals within the community for donations of prizes, as well as contacting the other service organizations throughout the community to notify local veterans that we are hosting this event to honor their service to our nation.

Lansing, MI (#196)

We will use the Freedom Grant for our Homeless Veteran's Shelter at the VOA in Lansing. We will sponsor the Veteran's Day dinner at the shelter, provide for their Christmas party and provide a luncheon or dinner on Flag day at our Lodge for them.

Tyrone, PA (#212)

Tyrone Lodge 212 will be using this grant to host our veterans from the Hollidaysburg Veterans home to a picnic at the lodge during the summer and also hosting them for a Christmas party at the lodge. After the Christmas party, they will be taken on a tour of different communities to view the holiday light displays. We would also be purchasing gifts for the Hollidaysburg home veterans and distributing gifts to the veterans at the James E. Van Zandt Medical Center located in Altoona, PA.

York, PA (#213)

November turkey lunch with a short program of appreciation for members of local Air Support Battalion of National Guard, with \$50 gift cards redeemable at local stores for all who attend. The gift cards can be used to pay for their Christmas dinners or to put toys under the tree for the kids.

**Ohio River Valley,
OH (#231)**

The Freedom Grant will be used to provide \$1.0000 in gas cards to the Belmont County Veterans Service Office for use in transporting local veterans to the VA Hospital in Pittsburgh. The remainder of the Grant will be used to send items to front-line troops in Afghanistan and comfort packages for veterans in Martins Ferry Continuous Care Unit, Heartland Nursing Home, and other local veterans' facilities. Many of the items for the packages are donated by local school students as part of Make-a-Difference Day and Veterans Day.

**Charleston, SC
(#242)**

Lodge will purchase ramp a for disabled Veteran's wheelchair, and our Veterans Service Committee will partner with the Ralph H. Johnson VA Medical Center and Goodwill Industries to serve more than 300 homeless veterans at their 'Stand Down' in October.

**Janesville, WI
(#254)**

We will send local veteran's to the Easter Seals Veteran's Family Camp. The recreational activities consist of high & low rope courses that include: a climbing tower, zip line, crafts, campfires, fishing, & other adaptive sports & games. They will also be able to enjoy a trip to Wisconsin Dells water park attractions & giving the veterans downtime to rest & rejuvenate. The Lodge will also sponsor a bus trip to the memorials in D.C and a picnic for Gulf War veterans at the Lodge.

**New Albany, IN
(#270)**

We will provide breakfast to local National Guard members as they participate in their monthly training exercises - a group of over 100 soldiers and officers, many of which have been deployed one or more times in the Middle East. Lodge members will work with the unit command and be on-site to hand out the food and express directly our gratitude for their commitment and service. We will also offer ourselves as a local resource center if members of the unit are looking for various services, recommendations on contractors, etc. Although our primary mission is to show them our appreciation, sharing ourselves may be a source point of growth for the lodge as we encounter, educate and encourage like-minded individuals to be a part of Elksdom.

Muskegon, MI (#274)	We will use the Freedom Grant to put on a Steak dinner with dessert for 350 Veterans at the Grand Rapids Home for Veterans. Approximately two dozen Elks volunteers will make the trip to cook and serve the meal. Afterwards, we will have bingo with prizes for all the residents.
Joliet, IL (#296)	Will County, Illinois has instituted a Veterans Court to deal exclusively with veterans accused of generally non-violent criminal offenses. Studies have indicated that most of their behavior can be attributed to PTSD. As part of their acceptance into the veterans court the must undergo psychological assessment at Hines Veterans Hospital in Chicago, which is 40 miles away. Most veterans do not have the means to travel to Chicago. The grant will help pay for transportation for veterans to receive the intake assessment.
Beaumont, TX (#311)	<p>The Freedom Grant will allow us to do a couple of important things. One, we will be able to invite the families of veterans as well as the veterans themselves to our Veterans Remembrance dinner in November.</p> <p>We also support a local transitional home for homeless veterans. Although we collect donations as much as possible, many items need to be purchased. We will be able to purchase food, utensils, linens and other necessities to make it a better place for these at risk veterans to live.</p>
Yakima, WA (#318)	The Freedom Grant will be used to provide gas and grocery cards for over 600 Veterans during a Stand Down in October at the: Yakima Readiness Center. Although the VA can provide dental and health checks and offer counseling, the veterans also need assistance getting to their VA appointments, job interviews, or taking care of family emergencies. The Lodge will also provide refreshments for the veterans attending the event.
Fort Smith, AR (#341)	Thanksgiving dinner for local National Guard unit and their families. We will also provide USO themed entertainment with music and dancing for their enjoyment.
Naval (Port Angeles), WA (#353)	We are joining the Lakeview Veterans Home to provide a two day fishing trip for 30 wounded, active-duty military plus 10 support personnel. This event will be on September 13, 14 & 15, 2012. Naval Elks #353 will be housing and preparing meals for these people for the duration of the fishing trip. Monies are needed to cover 500 gallons of fuel, 40 Washington State Licenses, Bait and meals.
Calumet, MI (#404)	<p>We will charter the 90-passenger Isle Royale Queen Ferry Boat and invite all Army National Guard and their families on a day trip to Isle Royale National Park. We will partner with the National Park Service and the Isle Royale Line, Inc along with the Army National Guard 1431st Sapper Company here in Calumet. Active and prior military personnel who served in Iraq and who are currently serving in Afghanistan along with their families will be our primary guests.</p> <p>Cost of charter over \$10,000, but the Ferry line will accept the \$2,000 from the Freedom Grant as payment in full.</p>
Bozeman, MT (#463)	We will use the Freedom Grant to support a Stand Down hosted by Vietnam Veterans of America. Veterans from all walks of life will be provided legal advice, information on housing, job placement, and VA benefit assistance. We expect approximately 400 veterans to attend. The Lodge will volunteer at many of the booths; provide refreshments, gas cards, and Wal-Mart gift cards.

**Frankfort, KY
(#530)**

Frankfort Lodge will coordinate with the Lexington VA Hospital Leestown Recreation Therapy staff, to host a 'Spring Picnic' for approximately 75 veterans. Hot dogs, brats, hamburgers, slaw, potato salad, chips, drinks, paper products and any needed picnic items will be provided by the Elks. Homemade goodies will be provided by Elk Lodge members.

In addition we will use the Freedom Grant to provide \$1500 worth of bus tokens and telephone cards to the Homeless Veterans Transitional treatment residents and the PTSD unit at Lexington VA, Leestown Division. The bus tokens and telephone cards enable these men and women to maintain contact with family and friends while trying to get their lives back on track. The bus tokens allow them to get to and from work and visits with family and friends during their stay at the Lexington VA Hospital.

**Columbia, MO
(#594)**

Columbia Elks Lodge 594 will use the grant to adopt 5 local families of deployed active-duty military personnel. We will provide each family with a box of appropriate Christmas gifts to meet their need (clothing, toys and household essentials for all in-home family members). We will also send care packages to these deployed service members and their units. Throughout the year, Lodge members will offer these families services such as babysitting, lawn mowing, snow removal, handyman repairs, etc. at no cost.

**Santa Barbara, CA
(#613)**

Work with Department of Veterans affairs Out-Patient Clinic Program to identify homeless and other veterans in need, and providing bus tokens, Shell gas cards, Sears Gift cards, K-Mart gift cards, Vons Gift cards grade 8. Homeless veterans. Early submission.

**Stevens Point, WI
(#641)**

Stevens Point Lodge will host a Veterans Appreciation Night during National Salute Week for all active and retired military. We will invite local students to 'Meet Your Heroes' in order to let the young people understand what service means. We will recognize those veterans who have won medals for heroism, and will also present the Elks Medal of Valor for those area residents who have lost a son or daughter while serving. We will also provide coupon books (their only source of income and their biggest need) for the Veterans at the King Veterans Home, and personal care items for Veterans in our local nursing homes around Christmas time.

Antigo, WI (#662)

Lodge members will assist in construction of a ramp at the home of a disabled veteran. The Lodge will work with American Legion members and local carpenters. Estimated cost of the project is \$2,400.00 with remaining money coming from other organizations.

**Warrensburg, MO
(#673)**

We will provide a Sunday meal the first weekend of each month for 75-80 Veterans at the Veteran's Nursing Home. Lodge members prepare and help serve the meals.

**Telluride, CO
(#692)**

The Freedom Grant will be used to rent equipment, purchase food, and provide Lodging for a retreat for Wounded Warriors. Sporting activities will provide them the opportunity to relieve stress and bond with their comrades.

**Salisbury, NC
(#699)**

We will use the Freedom Grant to help the veterans in the VA Home in Salisbury. The Home just received new TV's but need wall mounting brackets to install them, and have also requested a large outdoor tent to shield the vets from direct sun when they want to go outside.

Tampa, FL (#708)

Tampa Lodge #708 will partner with Liberty Manor for Veterans, which assists homeless male veterans to again becoming productive members of our society. We will supply basic needs items, plus bus passes and tools for a therapeutic workshop which will help the homeless veterans develop needed skills.

Blocton, AL (#710)

Dinner and entertainment at the Lodge for our returning local National Guard unit which has served tours in Kuwait, Iraq, and Afghanistan.

Nashua, NH (#720) We have teamed with local retailers and the community to provide shoes, warm coats, and other clothing for the homeless veterans at a local shelter. New England winters are very cold and this is a great need. The retailers either donate the items or sell the items to us at cost. We will also provide other necessities for these Homeless Veterans throughout the year.

Kewanee, IL (#724) We will use the Freedom Grant to reach more veterans in the Quad Cities and Peoria area for a program we started last year-"Wills for Veterans". Our local law firm donated the time of 3 lawyers to set up free wills and free legal advice for any and all veterans at the Kewanee, IL Elks Lodge. Kewanee Elks members served as witnesses and provided food. 17 veterans received free wills. Kewanee Elks Lodge will organize, advertise, and host the event again this year, and the same law firm will volunteer, but with the addition of some of the Grant funds, we will be able to advertise in a wider area and serve more veterans. Refreshments will be provided.

Winfield, KS (#732) We are purchasing adjustable height and width Bariatric Parallel Bars. The parallel bars allow the recovering patient to use their arms to take weight off of their legs while learning to walk again.

The Veterans Home is also lately taking in clients who are large in stature and need oversized pieces of furniture which we will supply to the extent of our resources. We are the only local organization supporting the Home.

Raleigh, NC (#735) The Freedom Grant will be used to purchase 500 snack bags every quarter to distribute to service personnel passing through USOs at several local airports.

Petaluma, CA (#901) We will use the Freedom Grant to purchase and install refrigerator in transitional housing for homeless veterans, send care packages to overseas troops, and hold a Christmas party for all active duty personal of the military in Sonoma County.

Santa Monica, CA (#906) The Lodge sponsors a major clothing drive for the Veterans of the West Los Angeles, Sepulveda and Long Beach Veteran Administration Hospitals through an on-going program called 'Boxers and Briefs'.

We will supply brand new, in-package underwear, socks and t-shirts for men and women at the VA. We also supply shoes, coats, toiletries and reading material, both donated and new, in conjunction with this program.

Woburn, MA (#908) We ask all 4500 students from the local school system to bring in one or two items from a list provided to send to military personnel serving in Iraq and Afghanistan. We also ask all students to provide us the names and addresses of anyone they know that is serving overseas.

Students, faculty, families and Lodge Members are invited to sort and package all of the items collected. Due to the cost of postage the Freedom Grant will allow us to ship hundreds more packages than we ever have before.

Burlington, VT (#916) We will use the Freedom Grant to purchase materials, which Lodge Members will use to create a media space in transitional housing for homeless veterans. Internet PCs purchased will enable veterans to search for jobs, housing, benefits, and items of need.

Willmar, MN (#952) We will be taking veterans from the home and other veterans out on a lake to go fishing. This is done through another organization called let's go fishing that does it for senior citizens. They have the equipment that we can get disabled vets onto boats and take them fishing or just a cruise around the lake. We will also after the fishing be providing a well-rounded meal at a local restaurant for the vets after the fishing. Lodge members will be meaningfully involved through helping with the vets to fish, and just enjoy themselves on the lake. We will be serving the vets through getting them out of the veterans' hospital and getting them active outdoors. Afterwards we will take the veterans to a nice restaurant for dinner.

Augusta, ME (#964) The Augusta Elks Lodge will provide a turkey dinner at the Lodge on Veterans Remembrance Night and a box lunch for 300 attendees at the Stand-Down hosted by the Maine Veterans Administration October, 2012. Box lunches will be prepared and packaged by Lodge Members. We will also provide housewarming baskets including basic necessities such as cleaning materials, towels, and bed linen. Dress clothing will be donated to veterans seeking jobs.

The Veterans Remembrance Dinner will also be a fund raiser enabling us to purchase phone cards, fuel coupons, and gift cards for the homeless veterans.

Rocky Mount, NC (#1038) We will bring 30-35 wounded warriors and family members from the Fort Bragg Wounded Warrior Battalion to Rocky Mount for a 3-day vacation. Local businesses will donate lodging, some meals, transportation, and a few tours.

Lodge members are involved in all aspects of this trip. Many are needed to solicit motel rooms, meals, tours, fishing events, etc. Lodge members are used as drivers, cooks, etc. At least one meal will be at the lodge with all members and spouses invited to attend and greet these soldiers.

Woodstock, IL (#1043) The Transitional Living Services New Horizons Homeless Veterans shelter in Hebron IL. is always in need of household items. We will use the Freedom Grant to purchase 4 vacum cleaners & extra bags, bathroom, laundry, cleaning and kitchen cleaning supplies, other non-perishable items, and fresh fruit.

Somerville, NJ (#1068) Funding from the Freedom Grant will be used to support three activities for the veterans residing at the Lyons Campus of the New Jersey VA HCS. This facility provides general medicine, psychiatry, and long term care. We will have President's Day pizza party at Lyons in February 2013, a trip to the Army of Hope Picnic on Sunday, September 9, 2012 and a holiday celebration at Somerville Lodge 1068. Phone cards and personal care kits will be provided to the veterans.

Fayetteville, NC (#1081) We will have a cookout and a Valentine's Day social at the VA Hospital. At Christmas, we will give presents to both the patients and homeless veterans.

We are also sponsoring long-term care patients on several trips to see our local semi-pro baseball team.

Wichita Falls, TX (#1105) Our Lodge will use the Freedom Grant to put on a Thanksgiving dinner for personnel from Shepperd AFB, where we expect 200-250 to attend. We will also work with Family Services at the base to provide food for families in need and Christmas presents for the children.

Anacortes, WA (#1204) Thanksgiving dinner with entertainment and gifts for 200 veterans, where they will all receive gifts. The event will also involve our local schools, as we will invite the choir to come in and sing for them. Part of grant will be used to pay for bus, nurse, and driver to transport veterans.

Palatka, FL (#1232)	We will use the Freedom Grant to expand our gift program at the VA hospital and partner with book publisher and Dunkin Donuts to bring books and refreshments to hospitalized veterans. Every two weeks a minimum of two members will visit the Veterans in the Shands VA Hospital and take them coffee, donuts, bagels, etc., along with new books from a list that they have chosen, and supply them with an array of requested toiletries.
Summit, NJ (#1246)	We will use the Freedom Grant for a fundraiser for 'Bonds of Courage', a local non-profit organization whose mission is to support post 9/11 troops by providing assistance finding jobs, finances, families, and health. The organization uses person to person contact to bond with these veterans whose courage in defending our country has earned this respect.
Fort Myers, FL (#1288)	We will take local veterans to a Fall and Spring minor league baseball team with Lodge Members transporting the veterans to and from the games. We will also have an early dinner or lunch at the Lodge for the veterans before each game which will be prepared and served by our volunteers.
Chippewa Falls, WI (#1326)	We will use the Freedom Grant to help purchase a trailer and an orbital floor cleaner for the Veterans Assistance Program in Chippewa Falls. They need a trailer to help load/unload furniture and many other larger items for their transitional housing. The floor cleaner will not only help the veterans maintain their communal housing, it will also help them learn to be productive.
Porterville, CA (#1342)	<p>On October 24th, our Lodge will sponsor a Veterans' Appreciation Day for local veterans. The VA Outreach team from Fresno is coming to our lodge to discuss Veterans Benefits and get Veterans signed up for those benefits and services. We will also to have a barber present to give free haircuts to any veterans who would like one. Our Elk Volunteers will be helping with registration, filling out forms and serving food.</p> <p>In November, our Members will prepare and serve a Thanksgiving dinner for local veterans and their families.</p>
West Palm Beach, FL (#1352)	West Palm Beach Lodge 1352 will use the Freedom Grant for two purposes. First, to purchase items which will be used as a fundraising at the Army of Hope picnic, which will raise even more money for our Army of Hope. Second, we will prepare packages for 40 veterans at the West Palm Beach Medical Center. Each package will include underwear, outerwear, shoes, magazines, cards, and leather gloves for wheelchair patients.
Nampa, ID (#1389)	We will work with Idaho Veterans Assistance League to provide short term transportation needs (fuel and/or vehicle repairs), rent assistance (often to stop eviction), payment of utilities to stop shut-offs, short term medical or prescriptions, clothing to be more presentable at job interviews and other needs as determined on a case by case basis from personal interviews with the veteran, family or their representative. Funds will be paid directly to the provider not to the veteran, soldier, representative or family member.
Gardner, MA (#1426)	We are working with Veteran Homestead Inc. and the Northeast Veteran Training and Rehabilitation Center to provide 20 Thanksgiving Day baskets worth \$100 each to twenty veterans families in need. The veterans and their families are housed in ten buildings constructed specifically to assist them. These veterans are amputees, burn patients, have traumatic brain injuries, or suffer from PTSD. In addition to the housing built by Veteran Homestead Inc., the NVTRC provides a range of mental and physical rehabilitation services to help the veterans and their families lead healthy, productive lives.
Orange, CA (#1475)	Orange Elks Lodge has partnered with 'Vets First' (a non-profit 501c3 agency and the only one in Orange County providing services exclusively to our area homeless and at risk veterans) by adopting Manor House, which is transitional housing for these veterans at risk. We provide welcome baskets, meals, and have already redone their floors. The Freedom Grant will allow our Lodge volunteers to renovate their staircase and railing.

Watertown, MA (#1513)	<p>Veterans Day dinner with entertainment and gifts at the Lodge for hospitalized veterans from area VA facilities. The VA provides transportation. Entertainment will include Irish Step Dancers, music, and a sing-along. The Watertown Fire & Policemen will assist bringing in any veterans who are disabled. The other half of the grant would be used to purchase necessities like toiletries and clothing for the veterans' homeless shelter we work with.</p>
Hendersonville, NC (#1616)	<p>An evening of 'Stars and Stripes' for the veterans from the Asheville VA, ABCCM Restoration Quarters, and the Blue Ridge Rehabilitation Center, as well as the Black Mountain State nursing home. Besides a fine prime rib dinner and music, we will present certificates of appreciation to each veteran. We will also distribute clothing and personal care items to all who attend. In addition, we will recognize four outstanding care givers who take care of these veterans.</p>
Huntsville, AL (#1648)	<p>Huntsville Lodge 1648 will use the Freedom Grant to support Operation Stand Down, a three day event which will provide information and resources to homeless and at-risk veterans. Besides being able to take a shower and obtain fresh clothes, veterans will get dental check-ups, professional advice on filing paperwork to obtain VA benefits, applications for employment, and counseling on preparing resumes. We will also promote to our Lodge Members the need to collect clothing and other necessities for homeless veterans throughout the year.</p>
Bitterroot Valley, MT (#1651)	<p>Our Lodge will use half of the Freedom Grant to provide personal care items for hospitalized veterans in our area. The other half will be used to assist DAV (Disabled American Veterans) which provide transportation for veterans to and from their appointments. The distances in Montana are great, and DAV needs all the help it can get performing this vital service. Our donation will help cover fuel and repairs to their vehicles.</p>
San Benito, TX (#1661)	<p>Most of the grant will be used to provide our local Veterans Clinic with 'Rebounders' - therapeutic equipment critically needed for the physical rehabilitation for the 20,000 veterans registered in this area.</p> <p>The remainder of the Grant will be in support of a Stand Down hosted by the VA Clinic of Harlingen. Lodge Members will participate in and contribute towards this event for homeless and at-risk veterans.</p>
Cahaba Valley, AL (#1738)	<p>Our Lodge will use the Freedom Grant for three separate activities, each hoping to reach a different segment of our veteran population. The first will be a Veterans Day parade partnership with the VFW where the veterans will be provided service jackets and hats to wear during the parade. After the parade, we will provide lunch.</p> <p>The second activity planned is a holiday dinner on December 15, 2012, honoring 20 vets to be held at the Lodge. Civic leaders of Pelham will be on hand to acknowledge and express their appreciation for the Veterans' service. We will also provide Christmas gifts to the veterans in attendance. .</p> <p>The third event will be centered around our Flag Day celebration at our city's Civic Center on June 9, 2013. We expect 400 veterans to attend this community wide event is sponsored by the Lodge and the City of Pelham. We will have 30 vets at this event as our honored guests. A local Boy Scout troop will carry the Flags for the ceremony.</p>
St. George Dixie, UT (#1743)	<p>Lodge volunteers will assemble and organize resource material with the object of creating a guidebook for the families of deceased veterans. The guidebook will be a source of information for the surviving families to help cope with emotional and practical problems, including how to obtain VA benefits.</p>

<i>El Campo, TX (#1749)</i>	We will use the Freedom Grant to purchase a scooter through the 'Everyday Heroes' Foundation' for a veteran who is disabled but who does not qualify for VA benefits because the disability is not service related.
<i>Plymouth, MI (#1780)</i>	The Freedom Grant will be used to partially fund our Christmas gift program where we will create 850 gifts containing 14 items each. We will also sponsor a steak dinner for 100 veterans from 2 VA hospitals and a Veterans homeless shelter. The Christmas gift program brightens up the Veteran at the holiday time as to remind them they are not forgotten. Lodge Members will purchase, package and wrap all of the gifts. We will also prepare and serve the steak dinner.
<i>Berea, OH (#1815)</i>	The Freedom Grant will allow us to take 50 hospitalized veterans from the Wade Park Veterans Hospital in Cleveland to a Cleveland Indians game at Progressive Field in September. The hospital will provide the transportation of the veterans to the game and this includes approximately 25 wheel chair bound veterans. The ticket price includes all you can eat picnic style menu and non-alcoholic beverages.
<i>North Wilkesboro, NC (#1846)</i>	Lodge 1846 will partner with the Wilkes County Veterans Service (VA contact-Ralph Broyhill) to have a Christmas party for the families of the 875th Engineering Company of the NC National Guard, currently serving in Kuwait. We expect approximately 250 family members to attend.
<i>Green Cove Springs, FL (#1892)</i>	We will use the Freedom Grant for three separate programs. One will be a day of fishing for veterans from the Lassen Nursing Home. Second will be a dinner for Veterans in the Green Cove Springs area who are suffering from Post-Traumatic Stress Syndrome (PTSD). Lodge members will prepare food and help with the transportation. Lastly, we will provide support for the Equine Therapy which has had a tremendous effect on many veterans.
<i>Dover, DE (#1903)</i>	<p>We will use the Freedom Grant to hold a barbecue for approximately 220 troops from the mortuary unit at Dover Air Force base. This unit handles the remains all of our heroes' who have fallen and delivers them to their loved ones.</p> <p>Our Lodge feels these active duty military personnel certainly deserve some downtime from their emotionally draining days and would like to reward them with a carefree activity. We will have Lodge members doing the shopping, prepping and cooking for this event.</p>
<i>Kingsville, TX (#1926)</i>	We will have a Christmas dinner for active duty members attached to Kingsville Naval and their families, with toys for their children. Lodge volunteers will prepare and serve the food.
<i>Long Beach, WA (#1937)</i>	We will celebrate Veterans Day at a newly established Veterans Park by providing food and entertainment for the Veterans. We will have a Christmas dinner especially for local veterans where we will also give them personal care packages to take home with them. In May, we are hosting a charter fishing trip for veterans returning from our current conflicts.
<i>Cartersville, GA (#1969)</i>	We will partner with the Family Readiness Coordinator for the Army Natl. Guard for a special project this Christmas. They will provide us with a list of needs and wishes for the Guard Members and retired service folks and their families. We will shop for each individual child as well as provide a ham for each needy family.
<i>Bordentown, NJ (#2085)</i>	We will work with Bordentown Armory to have a picnic for 200 troops and their families. We want the troops and their families to realize how much we appreciate their service and that we are here to help them and their families with whatever resources we can provide, not just with this picnic, but throughout the year.

**Franklin, MA
(#2136)**

We have partnered with Julian's Oil, a local heating oil business, to provide free heating oil to those veterans' in need. We are constantly doing fundraisers to support this cause. We started this program 2 yrs. ago and only raised \$750. But in the past year we have been able to raise almost \$3000. This year, with the help of the Freedom Grant, we hope to raise over \$7500.

This program is only available to military personnel, veterans and their families. Our Esteemed Leading Knight, Mike Mele, provides the Oil and our members contact us and make donations to ensure all the oil needs are met.

**Arlington-Fairfax,
VA (#2188)**

Fisher House at Fort Belvoir, VA, recently opened a facility for the visiting families and loved ones veterans undergoing treatment. We will purchase items necessary for meeting the needs of the residents by buying televisions, recreational equipment, and furniture and if we have enough funds remaining, books and toys for the children. Our Elks will make the purchases, deliver, and install at Fisher House, when necessary. This project will be ongoing, on the first of each month following our receipt of the money.

**Lexington, MA
(#2204)**

The Bedford, MA VA has started an in-house media computer center. Veterans with no experience will be taught to use them and veterans with knowledge will be able to use the PCs. The PCs have special software which is used to treat veterans with schizophrenia and other memory issues. Although the center already has 3 donated PCs, they need three more with software, which we expect will cost close to \$2,000.

**Pinellas Park, FL
(#2217)**

We will use the Freedom Grant to buy tickets and refreshments for 46 Veterans from Bay Pines VA at a Rays baseball game. We will also purchase personal hygiene kits and clothing for the patients in the hospital's dependency program and for their community living center residents.

**Oak Lawn, IL
(#2254)**

8.5 Purchase a 4 person Golf cart equip with safety harness and seat belts for the passengers, to take veterans from the hospital to the small lake on the hospital grounds. Lodge will also sponsor a Fishing Tournament/Picnic at the Manteno Veterans hospital in the summer of 2013 to present the golf cart to the residents.

Sussex, NJ (#2288)

We will use the Freedom Grant to honor Korean War veterans with a charter bus trip to Atlantic City where the New Jersey War Memorial Stands. Food and refreshments will be provided, and we expect dignitaries from the State to attend and speak. The Korean War veterans come from the surrounding area and three Veterans care facilities. The Korean War is often called 'the forgotten war', and we hope by this project to show them that they are not forgotten.

**Clear Lake (Kemah),
TX (#2322)**

We will use the Freedom Grant for two projects. First we will take 4 to 6 Wounded Warriors from Brodce Army Medical for a weekend hunting trip. All meals, housing, transportation and equipment will be provided.

Second, we will partner with the City of Kemah, Texas to provide 100 Wounded Warriors and their families with dinner and breakfast during their weekend retreat to the city of Kemah, TX. On November 3rd &4th, 2012. Elks will prepare and serve the food.

**Arcadia
Valley(Arcadia), MO
(#2330)**

We will bring in 100 Veterans from the nursing home for a Veterans Day dinner and dance. We will also treat the same veterans to Thanksgiving dinner with entertainment and gifts.

Next Spring we will sponsor several disabled veterans on trip to Camp Hope. Camp Hope is a campsite where veterans are given the opportunity to hunt, fish, and learn to adapt to their disabilities. Besides being fun, it gives the veterans hope and confidence in their futures.

**Apache Junction, AZ
(#2349)**

We will use the Freedom Grant for 3 separate projects. In December we will have a Holiday Pizza Party for the Mental Health Intensive Care Unit at the Phoenix VA here at the lodge. Entertainment and gifts will be provided. In February we will have a field trip for the I Patient Substance Abuse Unit at the Phoenix VA Hospital. The veterans will be taken to the Goldfield Ghost-town near the lodge where they will go on a mine tour, train ride and try their hands at gold panning. The Lodge will provide lunch for this event. In May of 2013, we will purchase tickets for approximately two dozen veterans from the Substance Abuse Unit to attend an Arizona Diamondbacks Ballgame near the VA Hospital.

**North Las Vegas, NV
(#2353)**

The North Las Vegas Elks will use the Freedom Grant for three different projects:

Our Members & helpers will participate and support a 'Stand Down' for homeless and at-risk veterans hosted by the Southern NV Healthcare System. We will prepare and serve food to approximately 500. In addition, we are also having a clothing drive. We will use part of the Grant to support transitional housing for homeless veterans. The remainder of the grant will be used to provide refreshments and hospitality for active military passing through the Las Vegas USO at McCarran Airport. Approximately 3,500 troops pass through McCarran each month.

Sparta, NJ (#2356)

We will use the Freedom Grant for a Barbeque with entertainment, for local veterans, wounded warriors and their families. We will have a Military Truck Pull Competition Fundraiser with proceeds going to benefit Elks Army of Hope Wounded Warriors. Non-veterans will be charged for admission. We will also invite the town council, the town council, local Senators and Congressmen.

**Mesquite, TX
(#2404)**

The Freedom Grant will allow us to increase the number of meals we provide to approximately 80 veterans at our local VA. We will provide monthly meals, and also have bingo with prizes after each meal.

On Veterans Day, we will host a dinner at the Lodge and provide comfort care kits to approximately 50 veterans. At Christmas, we will give the veterans \$500 in phone cards. In the summer we will have a barbeque for all the veterans from the VA as well as their families.

**Tucson East, AZ
(#2532)**

We will use the Freedom Grant for two projects. The First project is "Operation Exodus" a three day event in December in which our Members will partner with the City of Tucson Veteran Affairs Committee to provide nearly 2500 soldiers from Ft Huachuca who will pass through Tucson International Airport on their way home for Christmas. For many of these, this will be their last stateside leave before being shipped out to Afghanistan and other Military Installations abroad. This project provides bagged non-perishable food stuffs, soft drinks, water and other items to help make the departing Soldiers trip as comfortable as possible. The second will be a Dinner to present The Elks Medal of Valor to eight families of fallen military personal. These families will be our guests for dinner. The medals will be presented in a display case with an engraved plaque. In addition, Gold Star Mothers will be invited to be our guests at this function.

Lodge members will be wearing our Lodge Shirts at the airport to hand out these bags during Operation Exodus. Lodge members will serve our guests at the dinner and share tables with the families as well as conduct the presentation ceremony.

Ocean Shores-North Beach, WA (#2581) The Freedom Grant will be used to provide a Veterans Day dinner, dance and entertainment for veterans, active duty personnel, and their families. The main purposes of the event will be first, to bring all of the community veterans, active duty personnel, their families, friends, and community members together in one venue to celebrate, recognize and honor their service to our country, and secondly to reestablish (or establish) an event that will become an annual Elk recognition event. We will partner with the Ocean Shores Chamber of Commerce, VFW post 8956, Harbor Pointe Shores Retirement Community, and other organizations to reach out to the community to find the veterans and troops, and provide transportation to the event.

Tahoe/Douglas, NV (#2670) Working with the Reno Veterans Hospital, we will provide items such as toiletries, personal care items, telephone cards, clothing, and whatever else the veterans may need. We will also supply items for families visiting the hospitalized veterans. The families stay in temporary housing during their visit. We will also bring the veterans from two nearby senior centers to our Lodge for dinner twice a month. These Veterans do not get many opportunities to leave the centers, and they are very appreciative of the chance to meet our Members, many who are veterans themselves.

South Hillsborough, FL (#2672) Our Lodge presently invites homeless Veterans associated with James Haley Veterans Hospital monthly to the lodge for dinner. The Freedom Grant will allow us to purchase clothing and personal care items for these veterans.

Calabash, NC (#2679) We will use the Freedom Grant for a number of purposes: Veterans Day celebration at the Lodge with lunch, bingo and a trip for the Veterans to Sunset Beach Pier; Barbeque at the State Veterans Home; Thanksgiving at the VA hospital; Valentines' Day Lunch at the VA Hospital in Fayetteville; Support for the Welcome Home and Resource Center in Little River SC and prepare luncheons for the Wounded Warriors at Camp LeJeune and Ft. Bragg; Ship packages to active military overseas; Donations and support for the Good Shepherd Center for Needy Veterans in Wilmington.

Phoenix West, AZ (#2729) Phoenix West Lodge #2729 Veterans Services Committee is targeting aged and infirm veterans who are at high risk of being socially isolated and lacking family contact and support. These veterans represent substantial contingents from World War II, the Korean War, and Vietnam War as well as many others who served at interim points between these major conflicts.

Residents from the Arizona State Veteran Home Nursing Care Center will be transported to the Lodge for Friday night dinner once per month September through May. The funds will also be used to hold a special "Veterans' Recognition and Thank You Holiday Dinner" which will feature a recognition ceremony and holiday presents for the veteran attendees. Lastly, we will provide personalized cards written in recognition and thank you to veterans at the Arizona State Veteran Home for Patriot Day, Veterans Day, Pearl Harbor Day, President's Day, Armed Forces Day, Memorial Day, and Flag Day.

Golden, CO (#2740) We will have a dinner at the Lodge for over 30 veterans during Veterans Remembrance Month. We will also invite representatives from the Wounded Warriors Service Dog program (along with their dogs) to explain how the program works and its benefits. We will make a \$250 donation to this program. We will also support the Denver VA's 'Stand Down' for homeless and at risk veterans by providing over \$1,000 worth of clothing and other needed items. Last, we will donate \$250 to the Denver VA Medical Center to help them with their National Veterans Talent Show, where we expect our Member to volunteer as well.

**Clark Fork Valley,
MT (#2757)**

On November 9, 2012 we will have a wonderful holiday dinner free to all veterans in our area along with their families. We expect 150 to attend. The event will also be a fundraiser where we hope to raise as much as \$3,000 to support the DAV (Disabled American Veterans) van which transports veterans from their homes to facilities for treatment and appointments. We are 100 miles from the closest VA hospital, so the DAV provides an important service. This donation will have the bonus effect of getting our logo on the side of their van! We will also partner with the American Legion Post 52 to produce this event. They will help us this event by conducting a ceremony before the meal to honor our veterans and troops.

**Scotia-Glenville, NY
(#2759)**

Not many people think of the plight of many female veterans, especially those who have served recent tours overseas. Many of them suffer from Post-Traumatic Stress Syndrome (PTSD) or physical injuries. We have a local home for female veterans called the "Guardian House" which helps them rejoin society in a productive and meaningful way. The Lodges in the Northeast District as well as some of the ladies auxiliaries are very active meeting the needs of this home but they are in constant need of appliances, utensils, electronics, repairs, furniture and other necessities. The Freedom Grant will help meet many of these needs.

**Benton County, MO
(#2783)**

Grant money will be used to purchase and donate a Broda Model 30VT 20" positioning chair and supplies to create sensory stimulation kits to the Missouri Veterans Home in Warrensburg MO, a long term health care facility.

The Broda positioning chair will be used to allow disabled (bedridden) Veterans to become more involved in daily activities outside their room, improving their quality of life by allowing staff member to transport them comfortably to group activities such as movies, religious services, and holiday events.

The Sensory Stimulation Kits contain a variety of items that are designed to stimulate the senses of Sight, Hearing and Touch. These items are used by qualified staff members to help calm and distract those Veterans that may be suffering from various forms of dementia and are in an agitated state. They are also used in support of occupational therapy. These kits contain common items such as texture balls, noisemakers, manipulation toys and other items that have been proven to help. The facility medical staff will be consulted as to the exact items that need to be purchased.

**Catalina Mountain,
AZ (#2815)**

We have adopted (2) Air National Guard Helicopter Units: BCO 1-285 Attack Recon Battalion Apache Chopper Companies A and B stationed in Tucson Az. Company A has already deployed to Afghanistan while company B leaves in July. One-half of the Grant will be used to provide personalized care packages to the deployed troops. The other half of the Grant would be held in contingency to help the families of the deployed troops of our adopted companies. Typical help is emergency appliance or auto repair, utility bills, help with Special needs children anything of an emergency nature. Requests come from the Unit commanders stationed here in Tucson. Catalina Mountain will be partner with American Legion Oro Valley Post 132 who have a similar program. This will help maximize the impact on the families of the two Companies.

**Marshall County, AL
(#2869)**

We will be using \$1500 to provide Christmas gifts for the veterans at the Floyd E "Tut" Fann State Veterans Home in Huntsville, AL. The remaining \$500 will go to Disabled American Veterans organization which provides transportation to veterans in rural areas to treatment facilities. Our donation will be used to defray the high cost of gas. The DAV is the largest veterans' organization to provide this important service to our veterans.