“Newsletter” – 10/18/26”

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Did you know?

According to the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs Point-in-Time Count, there are 32,495 homeless veterans in America. 18,977 of those veterans live in sheltered settings (emergency shelters or transitional housing), while 13,518 live in unsheltered conditions. Veteran homelessness in the U. S. results from a combination of economic hardships, service-related trauma, and a difficult transition to civilian life. The Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks helps homeless veterans through direct financial aid, housing setup kits, and community-based grants via the Elks National Veterans Service Commission (ENVSC) and local lodges.

This year alone our Palmetto lodge has hosted a Veteran Support Group Meeting on the third Tuesday of every month offering a free meal to ANY Veteran, not just a veteran member. Your lodge supplied over $2,000 worth of food and clothing to homeless Veterans, and has also personally passed out goody bags full of hygiene products to hospitalized veterans at the VA hospital in St. Petersburg. As the year comes to a close your lodge will be supplying winter coats to the homeless veterans in the Manasota area. We are “adopting” a veteran family for Christmas, and also passing out 100 Christmas stockings filled with socks, bibles, candy and other items to homeless veterans on our streets. The Palmetto lodge loves our Veterans, and we want to

make sure each and every one of them is given the dignity and honor they deserve. I hope you will join in the festivities and charities coming up. Be a part of it. You will be blessed.

The Valor Commons is a 24-acre site being developed right here in our area where every veteran and their family will be welcomed home, supported in transition and empowered to thrive with dignity, purpose and connection. There will be a “Hero’s Journey Entrance”, walking trails, 30+ memorials, water features, veterans resource center, a museum and so much more. I am excited to say that our lodge will be partnering with Manatee County Veteran Services in getting some of these services up and running in the future! Please take a moment to check out this wonderful development at Valorcommons.org.

Palmetto Elks are AMAZING!!! Your love for the residents of Manatee River Assisted Living Facility is truly over the top astonishing, wonderful and very much appreciated! A great big THANK YOU to everyone who has given of your “time and your dime” to make these folks feel ever so very special! They love you all so very much! With the money you have given we have been able to purchase a new bed frame, a new mattress, slippers, comforters, linens, pillow and several other personal care items. Angela just gave us $150.00!!! Wowzers!!! With this money we are going to buy items on the residents’ “wish lists”. Everything from chocolate milkshakes to arthritic gloves! And, for everyone who has given clothes – WOW!! THANK YOU!! The sweet couple that gave all the men’s pj’s and sweatpants and T shirts! Thank

you! Ladies, for all the clothes you have provided. Thank you! You have all been so much more than generous, loving and kind. We are now in need of some ladies small to medium sized clothing. If anyone has anything you can bring it would be greatly appreciated. We appreciate all the magazines, word search and crossword puzzles. These items were on their wish lists as well. Thank you is just not enough to say …….

The minutes from the General Meeting will be sent to you via email. Please take a moment to read those minutes so you will know what is going on at the lodge. I encourage you all to attend the general meeting held monthly at the lodge. At this meeting you can not only find out the latest update about the lodge, but you can also express any concerns you have, ask questions, sign up for Charity events, sign up for volunteer work, and enjoy being a vital part of your lodge.

The Veterans Support Group meeting is this coming Tuesday, the 20th, at 6:00 pm. Remember, this meeting is open and free to ALL Veterans, not just members of our lodge, so invite all your buddies, church friends, neighbors, co-workers – any and all Veterans you know! Also, mark your calendar for the 3rd Tuesday in November. We will have a special guest speaker at that meeting. Mr. AJ Jimmerson. He is a Retired US Army, Veteran Service officer with the MANATEE County Government/Community and Veterans Service. He will be explaining many benefits available to our Veterans. You don't want to miss that meeting.

Please continue to come and support your lodge daily. Lodge opens at 2:00 pm with food services and entertainment almost every night and Bingo and games filling out the week. Always something for everyone. Queen of Hearts, Fedora Friday, everyone welcome bowling, and Wednesday Wings!

Continue to pray for our Homeless Veterans, those in need, those that are ill, and most of all our Country.

GOD BLESS AMERICA!