2016-17 Veteran Volunteers of the Year

Thank you to all our exceptional Elks volunteers who devote their time and efforts to veterans throughout the year.

Alaska  Jan C. Jonker, PER, and Kathi A. Johns, PER
Arizona  Roger G. Bedell
Arkansas Martin G. Caldwell Jr., PER, and Evonne Darrow
California-Hawaii  Robert A. Pickett, PER
Colorado Larry C. Herrera, PER, and Joan Verhey
Connecticut Philip C. Sengle and Denise Johnson, PER
Florida  James Klocke and Lisa Ann Leighty

James Klocke manages the Adopt-A-Veteran program, regularly holds meals and other veterans events, and initiated the Veteran Fund at Manasota, FL Lodge No. 2734.

A longtime volunteer, Lisa Leighty coordinates meals and activities for VA residents, organizes trips, and supports the annual Christmas event for veterans with visual impairments at Orlando, FL Lodge No. 1079.

Georgia  John C. Hunt Jr. and Maureen Ann Manning
Idaho  Ralph F. West, PER, and Susan West
Illinois  Stanley K. Hayes and Dolores Tomscheck
Indiana  Robert M. Hill
Iowa  Bob Kirchner and Tasha Welch
Kansas  Gary A. Austin, PER
Kentucky  Mike See and Janet Cartwright, PER
Louisiana  Don Baye, PER

(Left to right) PGER Jim Damon, Idaho Veteran Volunteers Susan and Ralph West, PGER Ron Hicks
Maine Henry G. Breton and Sandra L. Anderson, PER

Maine Veteran Volunteer Henry Breton dressed up as a lobster with a local restaurant owner and community supporter.

Maine Veteran Volunteer Sandi Anderson sets up at a fundraising event for homeless Veterans.

MD-DE-DC Guy W. Boniface

Minnesota Richard Peterson and Gretchen Peterson

In Minnesota, the Petersons have spent the past year rallying lodge members and changing the lives of more than 100 veterans in the Minneapolis area through the Welcome Home Program, as well as many other volunteer activities with veterans.

Missouri Steven C. Jeffries and Mary Ouhl

Nebraska Jimmie L. Meers and Shirley Meers

New Hampshire Dennis M. Joy Sr. and Marion Savage

New Hampshire State Veterans Chair James Stewart presents Dennis and Marion with their awards.
New Jersey Fred Spages, PER, and Kelly Mazzocchi, PER
New Mexico Allen Semrau and Janice Semrau
New York William T. Mayer

Bill Mayer, a veteran himself, has been an active member of the Veterans Committee at Haverstraw, NY Lodge No. 877 for 34 years, including his service as the chair for the last 15 years. He makes weekly visits to the Montrose VA and local nursing homes, organizing bingo, meals, and holiday events.

North Carolina Frank T. Brady Sr., PER, and Joan K. Breidenbach
Oregon Robert A. Wymore, PER, and Rhonda Brustol
Rhode Island Pasquale A. Matteo and Lynette Michele Wagner
South Carolina Robert Block and Jeanette Roveri-Smith
Texas Roy J. Chambers, PDDGER
Utah Alan P. Saunders and Judith Cooley
Virginia Dieter Schneider, PER, and Patricia J. Graves, PER
West Virginia Nick Conti and Carol Bostic

Virginia Veteran Volunteer Patti Graves, PER.
Virginia Veteran Volunteer Dieter Schneider, PER, receives his award.
Marcella Conti (right), accepts the West Virginia Veteran Volunteer of the Year Award on behalf of the late Nick Conti.