

Veterans Committee

Augusta Elks members put together a Christmas party for the Mental Health Ward at the Togus VA.

The Elks and DAV provided clothing; the Gardiner Middle School provided hand written Christmas Cards; the VA the tray of food; the VA Recreation Division supplied canteen coupon books; and the Stand Down Committee donated jackets, mittens, and underwear. There were 17 patients on the ward who enjoyed the food and gifts and joined in the Christmas spirit with the musician. It was an up lifting experience for all who were there.



Elk Members Maria Hassen, Dennis Gagne and the multi-talented musician Dick McAuslin (Lefty).



Maria Hassen and Elizabeth Marrone, Recreation Director, looking over the handmade cards

Letter sent from David Hassen Elks National Veterans Service Commission Chairman, to Gardiner Middle School for the cards distributed to the veterans at the party:

Dear Dianne,

Sunday, December 11, 2016

I had asked you if the students might like to write cards for veterans. This resulted in a show of respect and gratitude for our veterans way beyond our expectation. Cards were written by middle school, the high school band and choir. Our request was for 25 cards that we supplied, instead we received more than 100 cards--most hand made with great care, humor and thoughtful messages.

During the Annual Christmas Season visit to Veterans at the VA, Togus, the ELKS/DAV along with the other military and community volunteers brought refreshments, gifts and the Gardiner Middle School cards to patients in Mental Health, Long Term Care, and Hospice units. The cards were very well received and shared among the patients.

Several ended up being displayed on the window ledge and bulletin boards for all to see. They really liked them. Here's an attached sample:

"Dear Veteran,

Others may see Superman or Batman as their Hero. Some may dream to be like them someday. To me, you are the real Hero.

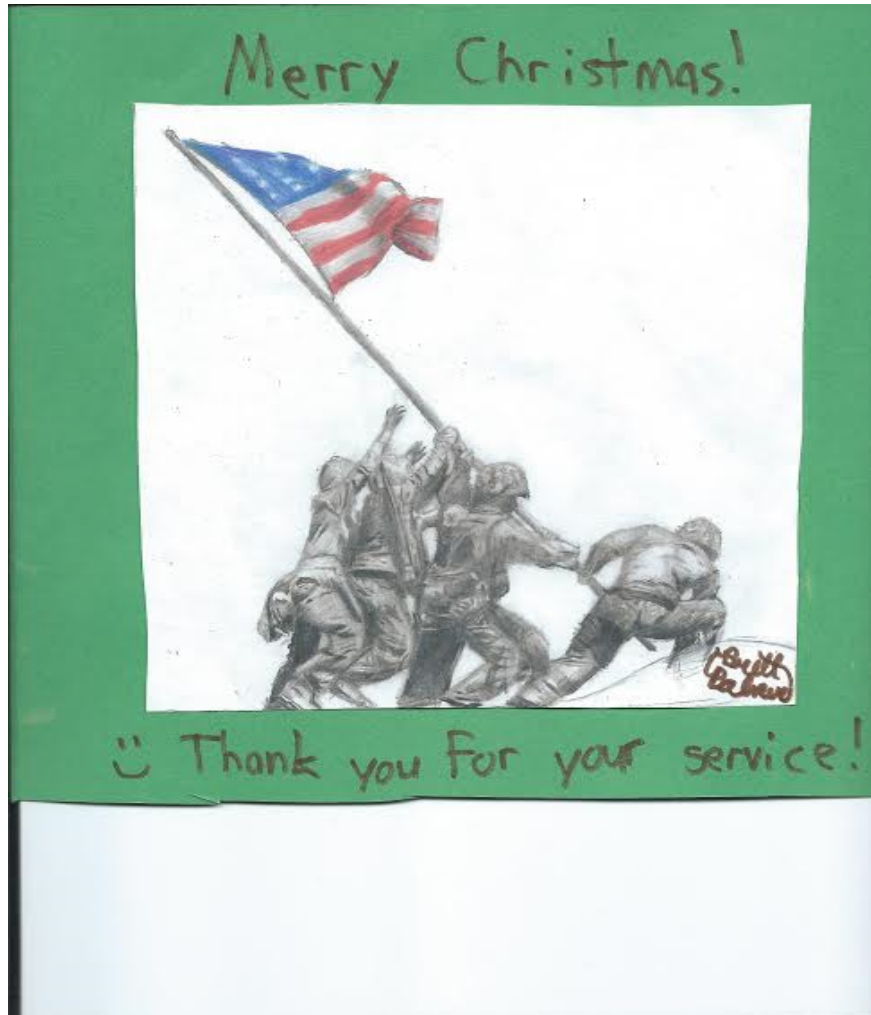
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Thank you for your major sacrifice, and for your service.
You and your service is a great gift.

Happy Holidays"

Also a picture is worth a million words!

Thank you and your students for making a special day for our hospitalized Veterans.



Respectfully submitted,

Karen Curtis

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Veterans Committee Chair