

The Ontario District recently held its seventh "American Patriot Remembrance" Ceremony. It was a brief yet reverent ceremony to convey the appreciation of Elks who are members of the six lodges that comprise the Ontario District. The six lodges in the Ontario District are Syracuse Lodge #31, Oswego Lodge #271, Auburn Lodge #474, Fulton Lodge #830, Liverpool Lodge #2348 and Camillus lodge #2367 and are located in Cayuga, Onondaga and Oswego Counties. Each of the Officers participating in this ceremony are themselves service veterans. CDR John Joseph Trombetta, USN (ret), presented the oration. Lisa DuBois presented musical selections. Emily and Cory King played echo taps to close out the ceremony.

Members of the Ontario District gathered to honor the memory of two American Patriots who died as a result of the Iraqi and Afghanistan Wars (Nathan E. Wall and Kenneth Haines) and nearly 50 American Patriots who served our country during World War II (11 veterans were present at the ceremony). We also honored the 20 WWII vets honored in 2016-2017 and the 20 Patriots honored from 2012-2015 and all other American Patriots who died in our other wars. We also gather to pay tribute to the families of our service men and women who have served our country.

It has been over 70 years since World War II ended, yet the memories of that war continue to linger within the minds of those who served our country and by their family and friends. At that time, communication was not instantaneous as it is today and the fate of those who died or who were injured was many times unknown for weeks and months. Those who served, did so with courage and why they are referred to as the "Greatest Generation."

Candles were lit in honor of all above as well as one candle was lit in respect and honor of all World War II veterans. The last candle will be lit to honor all American Veterans who have served the United

States of America.



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