

Elks Always Remember Veterans

This June, as in so many years past that nobody can remember when it all started, our Lodge had a cookout at the W.G. (Bill) Hefner VA Medical Center in Salisbury, NC. Lead by Dwight Strickland, our Veterans Committee chairperson, 16 Elks and spouses made the 65 mile journey to the hospital on Saturday afternoon, June 18, 2011.

In the hospital complex there is very nice, well shaded pavilion where our Elks hosted the cookout. Over 100 veterans, who are patients in the hospital, plus staff attended. We cooked and served hamburgers and hot dogs (a particular favorite since they do not get them as hospital food), all the usual trimmings and a very special desert. Lindy and Tom Hutchinson, Nancy Long and Megan Long, from Centenary Methodist Church provided two large pans of REAL, *Southern*, homemade banana pudding. The pudding was the obvious highlight of the meal.

Our Elks team had a chance to visit with the veterans and the staff, talk about their service to our country, answer questions about Elkdom and, most important, to thank the veterans for their service protecting our country and way of life.

Near the end of the visit some Elks walked to the top of the hill behind the hospital. There they visited the veteran's national cemetery, where literally thousands of past veterans, some from our Greensboro Lodge families, are interred.

As in years past, our Elks and spouses came away with a feeling of having done well. We helped make the day better for our guests; we honored past veterans with our visit to the cemetery....and we came away as better Elks!