



**PRESS RELEASE**  
**Veteran's Affairs Committee**  
**Benevolent & Protective Order of Elks ~ Lodge 2679**  
**937 Carter Drive, Calabash, NC 28467**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**"CALABASH ELKS UPHOLD ORDER'S 101 YEAR OLD PLEDGE TO VETERANS"**

**"Veteran's Affairs Committee Honors Veterans of 6 Wars and Campaigns at Appreciation Luncheon"**

*By Michael Trescak*

The following pledge, adopted by the Elks National Service Commission in 1917, shows the commitment the Order has made in serving our Veterans over the past 101 years:

*"So long as there are Veterans, the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks will never forget them!"*

Continuing in their tradition of hard work and service to our Veterans, the Veteran's Affairs Committee (VAC) of Elks Lodge 2679 in Calabash, NC, recently upheld the Elks' pledge to Veterans by hosting a "Veterans Recognition Luncheon" and award ceremony for Veterans, as well as their Spouses.

Twenty-One (21) veterans, and many spouses, were served a full-course lunch, planned for and hosted by many of the dedicated volunteer members of the Calabash Elks Lodge's VAC. The purpose of the event was to recognize and show appreciation for, not only the Veteran in the family, but the Spouse as well. In attendance was a Veteran who served in WW II, and the remainder served in Korea, the Cuban Missile Crisis, Vietnam, and Desert Shield and Desert Storm in Iraq. Funding for the event was made possible, in part, by a "Beacon Grant" from the Elks National Foundation, the charitable arm of the order.

Each Veteran was personally "Pinned" with an American Flag/Elks Pin, and presented a Personalized "Certificate of Recognition" for their service, as part of the VAC's on-going "Pin-a-Vet" Program. Additionally, each Veteran who attended the luncheon was awarded one of the VAC's proprietary "VAC ~ 2679 Veteran's Appreciation" Blankets. These blankets, in which the Elks Logo and the words, - "Calabash Elks Veteran's Affairs Committee," are permanently woven into the fabric of a colorful, full-sized, commemorative blanket, are especially appreciated by, and useful to, those wounded and aged veterans. (Photo Available)

A Good Day was had by all!

The mission of the Veteran's Affairs Committee of the Benevolent Protective Order of Elks, Lodge ~ 2679, is to provide occasional funding, fraternal activities, and general support for our local Veterans, various Veteran's Programs, and our Military located throughout South-Eastern North Carolina, as well as for our Retired and Wounded Warriors located in the Fort Bragg area of Fayetteville, NC, and Camp LeJeune in Jacksonville, NC. For more information about other ways our Elks Lodge supports our Veterans' and Military Community, visit their web site at [www.CalabashElks.Org](http://www.CalabashElks.Org) and click on the [Veterans Affairs] TAB.

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Photos Follow



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*Pictured above (Left to Right) are some of the Veterans and Members of the Calabash Elks Veteran's Affairs Committee (VAC) who participated in the VAC's Veterans Appreciation Luncheon & Recognition Ceremony held on March 8, 2018 at the Calabash Elks Lodge: They are, - Charles "Charlie" Munden, - Barbara Heffernan, and - Patricia "Pat" Brosius, - all VAC Members; - Ron Wilson, US Army Veteran and current Director, "Veterans Welcome Home Center," Little River, SC; - Amy Johnston, US Army Veteran and current Board Member and Office Manager of the "Veterans Welcome Home and Resource Center" in Little River, SC; - Bert Reaves, both USAF and US Army Veteran, and currently serving as a Lieutenant with the Brunswick County, NC Sheriff's Office; - Vincent Decaria, Veteran of the Royal Australian Air Force who supported our troops in Viet Nam; - Keith Wynn, US Navy Veteran; - Barbara "Barb" Uher, VAC Member; and - Robert "Bob" Kaelin, Manager of the VAC's "Pin-a-Vet" Program.*





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*Pictured Left is Vincent Decaria, a Veteran of the Royal Australian Air Force and Robert "Bob" Kaelin, VAC Member. Vincent flew missions in Viet Nam in support of our US Troops there. Vincent is being "Pinned" by Calabash Elks VAC member Robert "Bob" Kaelin, as part of the Committee's on-going "Pin-a-Vet" Program instituted by Kaelin.*

*Photo by Michael Trescak*

*Pictured below is a Calabash Elks Veteran's Affairs Committee (VAC) proprietary "VAC ~ 2679 Veterans Appreciation Blanket" on display at the Calabash Elks Veterans Recognition Luncheon. Each of the 21 Veterans in attendance at the Luncheon were personally presented with a Blanket of their own.*

*Photo by Michael Trescak*





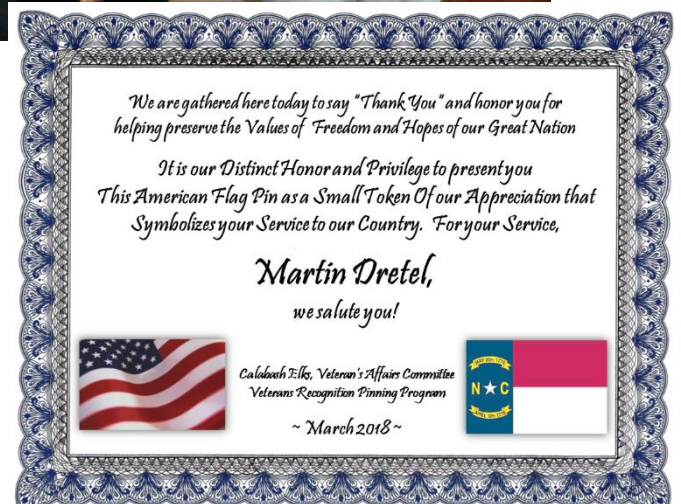


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*Photo by Michael Trescak*



Pictured above is an Image of one of the Certificates of Appreciation typical of those presented to each of the Veterans who attended the Luncheon on March 8, 2018



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*Photo by Michael Trescak*





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*Pictured above, with lots of Smiles, are some of the Veterans and Members of the Calabash Elks Veteran's Affairs Committee (VAC) who participated in the VAC's Veterans Appreciation Luncheon & Recognition Ceremony held on March 8, 2018 at the Calabash Elks Lodge: They are, (Left to Right) – Richard "Rich" Norcia, VAC Member; - Donald Ray Troutt, US Marine Corps Veteran; - Agnes Norcia, VAC Member; - Kurt Hiner, US Army Veteran; - Joe Kennedy, Army National Guard Veteran; - Robert "Bob" Kaelin, Manager of the VAC's "Pin-a-Vet" Program; - William Nemeth, US Army Veteran; - Craig Rarick, US Navy Veteran; - Glen Hartung, US Navy Veteran and current Veteran Service Officer of the Brunswick County, NC Veterans Service Office; (Partially Hidden) Raine Kaelin, VAC Member; and – Ken Baxter, VAC Member.*

*Photo by Michael Trescak*

**~ END OF PHOTOS ~**