

## **Mt. Airy Lodge Honors Veterans**

**Mt. Airy, NC** On Saturday, November 9th, 2011, the Veterans committee of Mount Airy NC Lodge #2061, held its sixth annual Veteran's banquet with 90 people in attendance. Twenty-seven – (27) Veterans were honored with a ceremony centered on service and sacrifice. The program was filled with tributes in the form of readings, songs, special recognitions---such as Oldest, Youngest, Longest Served, and Highest Ranked veteran in attendance. Three World War II Veterans were also given special recognition. Many photos were taken during the event as well as a group photo of the Veterans in attendance.

Veterans were given goody bags, door prizes, identified with a white boutonniere adorned with a small US flag in the center, and a free meal. This annual tradition began in our social quarters six years ago with only about thirty people and has now grown large enough to be held in the Lodge ballroom.

The banquet and ceremony pays tribute to the Veterans, active duty service members who returned home as well as those who did not, including those **Missing in Action** and **Prisoners of War**. It is our Lodge's way of making good **on the pledge of Elkdom to honor the Veterans who have sacrificed so much to protect our freedoms and allow us to live the American Dream.**

Respectfully submitted by:

Fern Smith, PR CHAIR  
and Chairman of the Mount Airy Elks Lodge #2061 Veterans Committee

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