

Veterans Helping Veterans With \$11,000 Check

It's not unusual to see members of Perinton's Veterans of Foreign Wars Memorial Post 8495 volunteering at the Canandaigua VA Medical Center helping Veterans and Residents in one way or another. And it's also not unusual to open the mail in Canandaigua and find a check from the Perinton VFW to help with an urgent or continuous need. But on Thursday November 2nd, their assistance climbed to a new level when they presented the Medical Center with a check for \$11,000.

The Perinton Post designated their check to be used by the VA for the National Golden Age Games. The Games are a senior adaptive rehabilitation program, and the only national multi-event sports and recreational competition program designed to improve the quality of life for all older Veterans, including those with a wide range of abilities and disabilities. The VA Challenges and encourages senior Veterans to be proactive in embracing a healthier lifestyle. The games are open to Veterans, ages 55 or older,



Above from left: Post Commander Eric Warner; QuarterMaster Jerry Gropp; Roy LaRose, Golf Chairman; Medical Center Director Michael Swartz; Voluntary Service Manager Robin Johnson.

Pictured at left: VFW 8495 members presenting \$11,000 check to Lucy Olson and Canandaigua VA Recreation Staff.

Below: Golfers enjoying the Tournament.



who receive health care from the Department of Veterans Affairs. The Canandaigua VA has sent a number of local Veterans to the Games in the last few years, and hopes to continue doing so in the future, with help such as this.

The funds were the proceeds from their annual Golf Tournament held in September at Eagle Vale Country Club in Fairport. 144 golfers participated in the tournament. After a fun day of golf and camaraderie, the VFW Post put on a fabulous steak dinner at their Post home in Perinton, for all to enjoy.

The Perinton VFW has been a friend of Veterans and a friend to the Canandaigua VA Medical Center for many many years. For the third year in a row, Post 8495 members have provided over 1,000 hours of volunteer time, escorting Veterans to Religious services and appointments, playing Bingo and entertaining residents, and accompanying Veterans on a number of different recreation activities both at the VA and in the Community. They have also proven to be a great source for donating gift cards and gas cards, which are always in great demand in the VA Homeless Veterans program,



which covers the 5 County area in the Canandaigua VA's catchment area.

In 2014, the Perinton VFW Post 8495 donated a new pontoon boat to the Canandaigua VA, which remains docked at Canandaigua Lake. →

Every summer, 8495 members take Veterans for fishing or boating trips, and provide them with an enjoyable day on the water. The Auxiliary from Perinton Post 8495 even helps every year with donations dedicated to help pay for the gas. A true family effort.



Above and Right: Golfers golfing for a good cause.

In 2016, VFW 8495, not wanting to leave any Veteran without, supported the opening of Monroe County's first female Veteran and family housing program, initiated by the Veterans Outreach Center. Through their generosity, they were able to supply the funds needed to furnish the 2 – 2 bedroom apartments, all for Rochester area female Veterans and their family members.

In accepting the check at the presentation, Medical Center Director Michael Swartz expressed his gratitude to the members of VFW Post 8495, and what this gift will mean to the spirit and lives of so many Veterans. It was a sentiment that was reiterated by members of the Recreation Staff that were present at the presentation, and who have personally experienced the Golden Age Games. Hats off to Perinton VFW Memorial Post 8495 for their continuing support of our Veterans. →

Below: Quartermaster Gropp, Golf Chair LaRose, VA Recreation Supervisor Hank Riegel, and Center Director Michael Swartz.

