

## **SC ELKS SUPPORT VETERANS AND ACTIVE TROOPS AMIDST COVID-19 PANDEMIC**

Even though the COVID-19 has slowed things down a bit, our Veterans and Active Duty Troops are not forgotten. Through the SC Elks Veterans Charitable Trust Fund, six new iPads have been purchased for use at our two VA Nursing Homes. Three each for the Richard Campbell VA Home in Anderson and the Veterans Victory House in Walterboro.

As no visitors (family members) are able to come see their loved ones at the facilities due to the virus, residents can now use the iPads to chat with their families and loved ones virtually. Each resident has a scheduled date and time, and an allotment of about 30 minutes each to chat in order for everyone at the home to take advantage of this. Special thanks to Brian Reichle (Anderson Elks Lodge) and Robert Tieg (Walterboro Elks Lodge), both Elks VAVS Reps.

You may know, our South Carolina National Guard troops were deployed to the Washington, DC area - as well as other areas - to assist with setup of COVID-19 test and care facilities, as well as the support of police departments in the DC area due to protests. Upon their return to South Carolina they were quarantined for the standard 14 days.

The Elks were asked to help provide comfort to these troops. One such unit was assigned to the North Charleston National Guard facility for their quarantine. VAVS Rep, Wayne Wright from the Charleston Elks Lodge immediately went into action. He contacted a local Subway sandwich shop in North Charleston and together they provided a fabulous luncheon for these brave men and women. I would like to add a thanks to Bob Aiken, PER, Fort Mill Elks Lodge for keeping me informed of the National Guard Troop deployments.

Please, if you see Brian Reichle, Robert Tieg, or Wayne Wright, thank them for all they do to support our Veterans and Active Duty Troops!

Sincerely and Fraternaly,

Fred Thompson  
Past State President - South Carolina Elks Association (SCEA)  
National Veterans Service Commission Chair (SCEA)