

## Arlington-Fairfax 2188 Hosts Honor Flight Veterans to Dinner



Exalted Ruler Brenda Slingerland and a handful of Lodge 2188's WWII and Korean veterans were very proud to receive a special invitation to dine with about 120 Honor Flight veterans and their military volunteers on Saturday, June 6, 2015 in the Lodge Ballroom. The private dinner was coordinated by Greg Gardner from Eureka (California) Elks Lodge 652 who represented the North Coast Honor Flights from California. The Honor Flight veterans toured Washington, D.C. that day, with special stops at the Korean War Veterans Memorial, the Vietnam Veterans Memorial, the WWII Memorial where a special D-Day ceremony was held at 12:00 Noon, the Women In Military Service for America Memorial at the gateway to Arlington National Cemetery, the Tomb of the Unknowns at Arlington National Cemetery, the Air Force Memorial, the Iwo Jima Memorial, and the FDR Memorial. Exalted Ruler Brenda Slingerland, PER Frank Burns and Sandy, and PER Rose Thiebaut received an invitation by Mr. Gardner to serve as additional guardians to accompany the Honor Flight veterans during their D.C. tour.

The Honor Flight veterans were very happy to end their tour at our Lodge for dinner, where they received a very warm Elks welcome upon their arrival. The military Honor Guard presented the colors, member Michael Perry sang the National Anthem, and the Honor Flight representatives spoke before the dinner began. The ER was given permission by Mr. Gardner to invite a limited number of Lodge 2188 veterans to the dinner and included members Grace Kayatta, PER Everett Parris, Louise Christie, Ray Helms, PER Tom Thiebaut, Sal Guardino, and Art Wyman who photographed their dinner. Also attending by invitation only were dignitaries from the Virginia Elks Association, including President Beverly Hamby and First Vice President and North District Deputy Geoff Cox and his wife Susan. It turned out to be a very memorable and rewarding day for the Honor Flight veterans, and what an honor and privilege it was to have them choose our Lodge for their special dinner!

