

# Arlington-Fairfax 2188 News Items



Photo by member Art Wyman

## **Arlington-Fairfax 2188 Initiates Six New Members**

In November, our lodge initiated six new members--ALL WOMEN! Pictured are: Donna Crisp, Karen Weed, Anne St. Jacques, Dianne Walsh, Sabra Ambrogen, and Janita Sullivan. Welcome!

Submitted by Fredi Hensley

## **Arlington-Fairfax Lodge 2188 Elects Interim Exalted Ruler.**

Frank Burns, Past Exalted Ruler, was elected on 22 Nov 2011 to complete the term of our late Exalted Ruler, Linda Powell-Buskirk who passed away on 15 Oct 2011. Mr. Burns was ER of the Lodge 2006-07. He is a retired Senior Executive Service member from the Federal Government. Mr Burns is an expert ritualist and brought home the 11 O'Clock Toast Trophy when he was ER. The members would like to

thank Jim Weed, Leading Knight, who ably ran the Lodge during Mrs Powell-Buskirk's illness until Mr Burns was elected to fill the vacancy.

submitted by Fredi Hensley

## **Arlington-Fairfax Lodge 2188 Thanksgiving Food and Coat Program.**

Once again, Lisa Stevens and her band of Thanksgiving Miracle Workers made our holiday food basket program a tremendous success! We started the day with 50 Thanksgiving baskets/turkeys and 50 packs of Giant gift cards for 292 people in need. We had some very excited people...8 families arrived as much as *45 minutes earlier than our designated pickup time* and the first woman came behind the check-in table and gave me a big hug. We had two repeat recipients but many who have never asked for public assistance from anyone until this year. The hardest thing to swallow was the little boy who came in with no shirt on under his windbreaker. He left the lodge with a warm *new* winter coat, a toy car and a big smile on his face!

At the end of the day, 48 of 50 baskets were picked up. The last two baskets were given to two lodge maintenance employees who had to work the next day. We also fed 2 *additional* families: one which we had sponsored last year and this year had no letter from us but showed up to see if we could help her. Another who came in with a family we had sponsored and was clearly in need. We had some additional food items to share with them plus we let them help themselves to the toiletry donations.

A special thanks to our member, Anthony Barrero, and his colleagues at Fairfax County Fire Departmentt for their *very generous* donation of dozens and dozens of new children's coats and to all our other members and their friends and family who donated more than 150 additional coats (many new!) as well as money to the charity fund. We had so many extra coats that we had enough to donate to the DC Homeless Shelter.

Submitted by Fredi Hensley with lots of help from Lisa Stevens, Chair of the Food and Coat Program