Arlington-Fairfax 2188 Supports Reagan National USO in April

On April 23, 2014, the USO at Reagan National Airport was alive with colorful ball gowns, food aplenty and various toiletries – donations from the generous Arlington Fairfax 2188 members and delivered by ER Patti Graves and Member Linda Gardner.

The frozen food deliveries for the USO are an on-going program that is made possible by monetary donations from many Lodge 2188 caring members. This program fills the USO freezer stores and provides meals or hearty snacks for the military and veterans who stop by the Reagan National Airport USO Lounge while waiting for their flight connections.

On a previous food delivery, USO manager Linda Vine asked if Arlington-Fairfax 2188 would be able to provide toothpaste, toothbrushes, and shaving cream, when the USO’s previous donator was no longer able to participate. Without hesitation, Lodge 2188 members met the call; purchasing and donating several hundred self-pasted toothbrushes and toothpaste kits, as well as travel-size shaving cream.

Additionally, hearing that 2188 has a history of putting on formal balls and dances, the USO asked if we could canvass our membership for donations to support Project Cinderella. Members were asked to search their closets for gowns for our military ladies who cannot afford to buy one and to help give them a Ball night to remember. Arlington-Fairfax 2188 members never fail to deliver! Approximately 50 gowns of various sizes, colors and styles were delivered to Manager Linda Vine for this USO of Metropolitan Washington-Baltimore sponsored program. Plus, there will be more delivered next month.

More about Project Cinderella:

Most branches of the service have at least one anniversary or recognition “gala” each year. For many of the spouses of the junior enlisted, this is their first exposure to a formal event. These special events can be intimidating and uncomfortable considering the etiquette and protocol associated with attending these functions. Project Cinderella is a full-day event that empowers women with interactive workshops, such as “Dressing Right for Your Body Type,” “Beauty on a Budget,” “Fun with Makeup and Hair,” and “Formal Etiquette and Protocol.” After the last workshop, the ladies are invited to visit the “Boutique” and select a “new-to-you” formal gown.

Arlington-Fairfax’s support of Reagan National USO is also featured on their Facebook page: https://www.facebook.com/photo.php?fbid=10152757844608356&set=a.138299718355.137907.11472498355&type=1&theater

Submitted by Brenda Slingerland

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