

Front Royal 2382 Participates in Veterans' Appreciation Day



On a hot, humid, Wednesday morning, on August 10, a half-dozen US military Veterans from the Martinsburg VA Medical Center Nursing Home, arrived at the Warren County Virginia Izaak Walton League of America (IWLA) Park, just outside of



Front Royal, near Browntown, VA, and enjoyed a delightful morning of productive fishing. IWLA members ensured that plenty of healthy refreshments and beverages were available. Around noon, these veterans, along with several aides, were then bussed to the Front Royal Elks Lodge for a filling lunch of homemade chicken and dumplings.

This was the second year for this joint program, co-sponsored by

the local Izaak Walton Chapter and Elks lodge 2382.

The Izaak Walton Park is a lovely old farm setting, well maintained and comprised of some 155 acres, heavily wooded and having a stocked pond as well as the Chapter House. Since many of these guests were wheel chair bound, numerous volunteers were on hand to provide assistance. The veterans all caught fish – some catching more than others, but lots of competition was evident throughout the morning. Prior to boarding the bus for lunch, each veteran was presented with their own Izaak Walton coffee mug as a token of the Chapter’s appreciation, not only for them attending the outing, but also in recognition of their military service.

Upon their arrival at the Elks Lodge, following a blessing offered by Virginia Elks North District Deputy GER and Lodge 2382 ER Dennis Henline, everyone – veterans, aides, and a good number of volunteers from both the



Elks and Izaak Walton - partook of a delicious meal prepared by the Elks. For dessert, a great selection of cakes was provided.

While these guests enjoyed a truly remarkable outing - successful fishing as well as a tasty all-you-could-eat lunch - the highlight of the outing may have occurred when one of the veterans was mistakenly served coffee with butter milk-something Rich Crawford won’t live down for a while!

Plans are already underway to hold this event again during the spring of 2017. This is just another example of how two different organizations can come together and conduct a successful veterans’ experience. As the old saying goes, “A lot of good things can be accomplished, if nobody cares who gets the credit”.