

# Virginia Elks Association News

July 14, 2015

## Roanoke 197 and Others Hold Cookout at Salem VAMC



Miss Mary Mackey



Left to Right....Cacti and Calibi in background. In foreground, Barbara Brandtner and Christine Jordan. Behind Barbara and Christine is Steve Brandtner.



Waiting for something to do. Left to Right, Brad Wilson, Dan Saunders (ER) and Jennifer Saunders.



The cooking staff. Left to Right. Jesse Shumate, Tom Hensley, Daniel Markley (VAMC) Bob Burwell, Marc Castillo and Vince Brandtner



That one needs to be rolled over, Hmmm, looking yummy!



ER Dan Saunders.



Put more burgers on this grill!



Cacti and Calibri playing.

Hi folks, I just want to say thank you to all of the folks that showed up to help out at the VAMC in Salem on Saturday (7/11). Due to the National convention, many of the volunteers that we normally have were not able to attend. Nonetheless, we had plenty of help. Big thanks to the following Elks from Roanoke Lodge 197: Brad Wilson, Donna Castillo, Marc Castillo, Christine Jordan, Barbara Brandtner, Vince Brandtner, Steve Brandtner, Dan Saunders, Jennifer Saunders, Tom Hensley, and Tim Shepard. In addition I'd like to thank Bob Burwell

whose home lodge is actually 2348 in Liverpool, New York. Thanks also to Jesse Shumate who came from lodge 1752 in Martinsville Virginia. I also have to say thank you to my friend Louise Lenner who was visiting from Bethlehem PA and was kind enough to help us out. One more thanks goes to Chef Cindy at the Roanoke lodge. She ordered the food that we cooked and served. It was at the lodge and ready to be transported to the VAMC on Saturday morning. Furthermore, thanks to the staff of the VAMC for helping with some of the details and having the room all set up. Finally, and most importantly, I'd like to thank the Vets who have served our great nation and enabled us to enjoy the freedoms that we have today. Events such as this are but a small token of our appreciation for what you have done.

It was a beautiful day, perfect for grilling out. We served a total of 125 Vets including the ladies and gentlemen who could not come down to the Auditorium. Live music was provided by Cacti and Calico who came from Bedford and Roanoke. They volunteered their services also.

Above are a few pictures that I snapped. I only got a photo of one Vet. The lady in the wheelchair is Miss Mary Mackey. She is a 94 year old veteran of the Army Nurses corp. During WWII, she was a 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant and served in a couple different theatres. Her first assignment was in North Africa after General Patton's army defeated Field Marshall Rommell. Then she served in Italy after the invasion of Sicily. She tells many fascinating stories, and is a witty and entertaining woman. Mary frequently comes to Lee Hi Lanes to bowl with us and I consider her a friend.