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Letters March 13, 2002



Thanks given for response to post Sept. 11th call

Over the past six months, local citizens and community organizations have pitched in to support the initial rescue and recovery operations after the attacks on the World Trade Center, and then to provide ongoing assistance to the families of victims of the attacks who live in Middletown.

In September, the Middletown Elks Lodge No. 2179 sent out a call to its members, their friends and families for material and financial support for disaster relief. That support started by sending sandwiches to the crews and volunteers working with Seastreak Inc. which was bringing supplies by ferry over to ground zero. It then escalated into selling U.S. Flag pins, patriotic T-Shirts and 50/50 chances to raise money for disaster relief. All told, the Lodge collected \$2,000 that was then donated to Middletown Favor, an organization that collects funds for the families in Middletown that were affected by the WTC attacks.

The Lodge was also a drop-off center for supplies in the days immediately following the attacks. Donors from all over Middletown dropped off bottled water, flashlights, towels, work gloves, work boots and dog food (lots of dog food!) which was then transported to the Seastreak ferry in Highlands, and then to ground zero for the use of rescue and recovery workers. Supplies that were not shipped to New York were donated to local charities.

The Middletown Elks wishes to thank all its members and every citizen in the community who responded to our call in September and who have continued to provide support to victims' families. God Bless America!

John Steakin

Leading Knight

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