



PHOTO CREDIT

Cummings, Georgia, Chapter 1030

CLOTHING THE HOMELESS, EDUCATING THE YOUNG

BY MARTY FARRELL

In 2017 the board and members of Cummings, Georgia, Chapter 1030 voted to make assistance to homeless veterans its Number 1 priority. The chapter bought several dozen coats and worked with the VA Homeless Veterans Outreach program to identify those in need.

Last November the chapter repeated that gesture. Members traveled to the former Fort McPherson, where the Atlanta VA has a homeless shelter. They brought with them sixty new winter coats and knit caps.

In September Chapter 1030 traveled to Winder, Georgia, to the North Georgia Homeless Veterans Shelter. They brought a couple dozen backpacks filled with personal care items, socks, and underwear. In addition, they had a van full of supplies for the shelter, including disposable plates and eating utensils.

What's more, funding already has been set aside for this year's donations. These efforts are funded in good measure by gun raffles. The raffles also help fund the chapter's other signature effort: its scholarship program.

Every year Chapter 1030 awards scholarships to college-bound high school seniors who are the children, grandchildren, or great-grandchildren of veterans. Selection is based on academic excellence, school and community activities, and the quality of an essay on the topic, "Why Freedom Isn't Free."

Each scholarship is presented in memory of a Georgian killed in the Vietnam War. When the \$1,000 check is presented to each winner, we also give a certificate and photo of the KIA in whose name the scholarship is presented. Relatives of the KIA are invited to the presentation. This year we began providing AVVA memberships to surviving family members.■

Marty Farrell is a member of Cumming Chapter 1030. For more information, contact him at martysyracuse@yahoo.com

