

Remembering the 343 Firefighters lost on 9/11

Firehouse Memorial Dinners

An idea conceived by Frank Sartanowicz, a retired WWII fighter pilot, to honor the heroes and victims of 9/11.

Frank's birthday is 9/11 and in 2004 he came up with the idea of cooking, serving and sharing a dinner with local firefighters and paramedics.

As an active Elks member, Frank is working to spread his idea across the whole nation. In 2005, 10 Elks lodges in Arizona served dinners to 35 fire stations throughout the state.

This project has received widespread media attention in Arizona and in Frank's home state of Massachusetts.

Frank's goal is not to solicit funds, but rather to spread the word nationwide and encourage people to remember this infamous day and honor the heroes who died.

***It is my hope and vision
that this concept will
spread throughout Elksdom
in the coming years.***

***This project is good
for the individual lodges,
for Elksdom overall,
and
good for the
United States of America.***

Firehouse Memorial Dinners


In September 2004, Frank Sartanowicz, envisioned a plan to honor the 343 firefighters who died on 9/11/01. As a way of thanking his local firefighters and paramedics, he decided to prepare, deliver, and serve a complete dinner to the local fire station in his community of Green Valley, AZ.

When Frank learned that there were 5 Fire Stations in his community, he went to his Elks Lodge #2592 for help. On 9/11/04, with the help of the lodge and many volunteers, dinner was served to all 5 stations.

The Green Valley Elks Lodge has already planned to make this a major project and Frank is hoping to inspire other Elks Lodges and individuals to participate in this rewarding project.

With approximately 2800 Elks Lodges in the US, if a majority of these participated nationwide, over 15,000 fire stations could be served on 9/11. *Just think what a message this would send throughout the world.*

What a wonderful way to show appreciation for the services firefighters and paramedics provide to all citizens on a daily basis.


**On August 22, 2005.....
Frank Sartanowicz was recognized
and cited for his efforts by Janet
Napolitano, Governor of Arizona.**

For more information

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9/11 Firehouse Memorial Dinners

Advantages to Elks Lodges

- ✓ Presents an opportunity for publicity – the local community will learn about the good work the Elks carry out
- ✓ Give Elks members an opportunity to get personally involved with their local fire personnel
- ✓ Give the community an opportunity to show their appreciation for the work their local fire stations perform
- ✓ Inaugurate a new yearly Elks project
- ✓ Encourage new membership – pool of potential young firefighters and paramedics
- ✓ Show the world that Elks are united and will never bow to terrorism or allow it to change our way of life through fear

Cost to Lodges

1. Minimum – most of effort is coordinating volunteers.
2. Solicit donations from local businesses to pay for food.
3. Food for complete turkey dinner for an average of 10 people per fire station can be bought for approximately \$35.00:

10 lb turkey	\$10.00
2 cans yams	3.00
2 cans cranberry sauce	3.00
green salad and dressing	2.00
rolls	2.00
dessert (2 pies)	10.00
green bean casserole	2.00
Boston baked beans	2.00

"Elks Lodges across the Nation breaking bread together in remembrance of our nation's fallen heroes in an outstanding way to honor their memories and show unity".

Medford Transcript, 9/15/05

"What started for him a week ago as a simple mission at a single fire station has blossomed into a much larger operation encompassing a cadre of volunteers, a civic organization and five fire stations. And Satarowicz, who moved to Green Valley four years ago, hopes the idea will spread to Tucson and beyond in the years to come."

Arizona Daily Star, 9/11/04

"The members of Chapter 106 of the Air Force Association were so impressed they passed the hat and took up a collection to support Frank's project and I will also be volunteering to help Frank in his endeavor this year."

Hal Lewell, President

Chapter 106 Air Force Association

"And it's a great way for individuals and communities to show their appreciation for what the firefighters and paramedics do on a daily basis."

Green Valley News, 4/8/05

"He would like to get the Tucson Elks clubs on board and has hopes that this appreciation dinner might grow to be sponsored by Elks clubs across the United States."

Green Valley News, 9/15/04

"I think it's great to get the community support to recognize what we do, said Simon Davis, fire chief at Station 153. It doesn't take away what happened three years ago, but we do appreciate it."

Arizona Daily Star, 9/11/04

"Elks Care Elks Share"

"It is hoped that this project will spread throughout the USA in the future. All indications are that it is and on 9/11/06 there should be hundreds of 9/11 memorials dinners served."

Green Valley Elks Thunder, October 2005

Coordinating with Fire Houses

- Contact the Fire Captain who will be on duty on 9/11.
- Determine how many people on that shift.
- Find out the best time to serve dinner.
- Find out about utensils (i.e., plates, cups)
- Have the Fire Captain arrange for someone to standby in the Fire House in case of a call

Recruiting

- Show the volunteers they will be having the pleasure of meeting and eating with their local fire personnel.
- Volunteers will also get to learn about the inner working of their local fire stations.

Need for Commitment

- Early commitment from Lodges will increase the number of dinners that are planned. This information can be provided to the media. Attention and publicity will promote the effort.
- Individual lodges can easily get publicity in their local areas. Local publicity can be spread regionally and hopefully nationwide.
- Our country is always looking for a way to honor and remember 9/11. We need to rally, and spread the word throughout the United States.
- Ultimate goal is to provide the public with a way to remember and to thank their local firefighters.