

Echoes ~ Sentinal

Veterans thank local businesses



Disabled American Veterans give thanks to Warrenville Hardware

The Somerville Chapter of the Disabled American Veterans presented a plaque to Warrenville Hardware as a thank-you for letting the group fundraise in front of the store for seven years and counting. In front, from left, are: Wendell Stowe, Gerard Walsh, Richard Pirrello, Bill MacDonald of Warrenville Hardware, Dr. Craig Wilson, and, in back from left, are: Dwight Staehler, Joe Bellafonte, and Vic Griguoli.

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Veterans thank local businesses By BRIAN WOODS Staff Writer

WARREN TWP.—The Disabled American Veterans, or DAV, of Somerville, paid thanks to the many businesses that support their fundraising, on Wednesday morning, Oct. 1.

Chapter 16 of the DAV spends a few days a year outside of businesses in Warren, fundraising for veteran patients in VA nursing homes and hospitals. They also had a Forget-Me-Not Father's Day capital funding drive this year. Everything they do is volunteer work meant solely to help their brothers and sisters get through their medical troubles after their service.

"I go to school a couple times a year and learn about helping veterans claim insurance benefits. I go out to nursing homes and even make house calls. On Monday I made a house call to a veteran with one leg. I do it all for free," said Service Officer Vic Griguoli.

Stores such as Country Squire Restaurant, Kings, Dunkin' Donuts, Bagels 4 U, A&P and Warrenville Hardware provide the DAV with a place to fundraise and advertise their cause.

On Monday, members of the DAV - there are over 700 of them - visited those stores to make sure that they know their help doesn't go unappreciated.

Commander Gerard Walsh and Vice Commander Dr. Craig Wilson gathered their team of DAV representatives and members to present a plaque to Warrentville Hardware, who has been letting them collect money for veterans for seven years now. They went on to present plaques to the other businesses as well.

All of the money they raise outside of these stores goes to a cause. There are no advertising percentages taken out or wages being paid.

“One hundred percent of money we raise goes to veteran patients at VA Lyons and East Orange facilities, as well as upgrades to the facilities, dinners for veterans, coffee, and new TVs for the buildings,” Wilson and Walsh went on to add.

The DAV was the first veterans association, established since World War II. They were able to celebrate the people who make them stronger, on Wednesday.