

Pythians thanked for Supporting Our Troops

The Servicemen and Veterans Committee was originally set up to provide support and visitations to VA hospitals where simple gifts and good cheer would bring comfort to injured – many permanently disabled -- members of our armed forces. In 2006, a New York Pythian and former Marine recognized that our service personnel in the middle east battle zones were not getting access to basic personal care products like shampoo, razor blades, snack foods, books, etc. and started soliciting products to send over.

It currently costs \$14.00 to ship one box via USPS. Since setting up, the Servicemen and Veterans Committee has raised enough money and material to box and ship about 900 boxes per year totaling over 5,000 individual packages to service men and women currently serving tours in Afghanistan and Iraq.

Below find two letters, the first with a photo recently received by PCDGC Sir Joseph Robinson.

Joseph,

Wanted to say thanks a million to you & your team for the recent care package that arrived here in Kandahar. I have a feeling that my name got placed on a USMC League list out in California, and I really appreciate it.

My team and I are thankful for still being remembered here as we fight the TB. You really blew us away with a lot of needed items like toothpaste, snacks, videos, and books. Very cool.

Please feel free to share this with your entire team at the North Shore detachment #240 as well as the Knights of Pythias in Garden City Park.

We are in the midst of the normal gloom period with high winds, cold, and blowing sand. I can get shower regularly and hot food, so not too bad. But your care package was a good shot in the arm now that the holidays are over.

I attached a pic so you can put a face to my name.

All the best, and thank you again.

*1LT Brian Mahoney
82nd ABN DIV
Kandahar Air Field, OEF*



Good Morning Ladies and Gentlemen,

On behalf of the Female Engagement Team here in Afghanistan, thank you all for your overwhelming support. We have received so many packages that the Marines are out of space to store the plentiful items you have sent our way and they want for nothing. What a wonderful problem!

Due to the draw down, we are sending several Marines home early. There may be more leaving in the coming months but we don't know for sure. As a result of all of the packages we have received and our reduced numbers, we ask that these packages please be redirected to another military unit in an effort to get them to troops who may be without support. Additionally, we are expecting our address to be shut off sometime next month, and we don't want to see any resources wasted.

Thank you again for the support. It has been very humbling and appreciated more than you could possibly know. We wish you all many blessings over the holiday season.

Respectfully,
SSgt Brea A Witt
ASNCOIC
II MHG (FWD) FET 11.2

[Posted March 4, 2012]