

Pythians Support Our Troops

September 8, 2012

Members of the Knights of Pythias routinely visit shopping centers and supermarkets where – with the permission of the owners – members solicit cash and sundries to provide to members of the armed forces serving overseas. This “Shake-A-Can” effort is part of a project of the Pythian Veterans and Servicemen and Servicewomen Committee of the Grand Lodge of New York.

On Saturday September 8, 2012, at Key Food Supermarket in Gerritsen Beach, Pythians collected over 50 shopping bags of food and more than \$600.



(Left to Right Past) Chancellor Errol Lewis (Genesis Lodge #64) Chief Deputy Grand Chancellor David Stanger, Store Manager John, and Jeffrey Freese (Genesis Lodge #64) with food Collected for on a recent Shake A Can Food drive

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 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.