

October 10, 2016

Pythians get Thank You from Marines

Servicemen and Women and Veterans Committee Sent Packages to Base in Turkey.

The [Servicemen and Women and Veterans Committee](#) of the Grand Lodge Knights of Pythias received a thank you from Marines stationed in Turkey:

“Thank you so much for the care pkgs. The Marines send their gratitude for all you Pythians caring about us here in Turkey. We are in support of operation inherent resolve via electronic warfare. We basically jam radio or network signals from the enemies and disrupt their modes of communications.

“There are still boots on the ground because they need to set the command and military presence. My unit is VMAQ -4 , a lot of young Marines on their first deployment in this miserable place. Little Problem when a coup started against the Turkish President. He blamed the U.S.A. was behind it, and shut all power to the base. Our government said if power is not put back on, we will pull out all U.S. troops in Turkey. Lights and power right back on. A little scary we thought that ISIS would attack the base as we are very close to Syria. Once again thanks for all you do, we hope to be back in the states before the year ends. Please continue to aid our troops serving in harm's way.

“S/Sgt Wilmar M. Lopez”

The Grand Lodge of New York Knights of Pythias originally set up its [Servicemen and Women and Veterans Committee](#) 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, recognizing that our service personnel in the middle east battle zones lacked access to basic personal care products including shampoo, razor blades, snack foods, books, etc., started soliciting products to send over.

It currently costs \$15.00 to ship one box via USPS. With the support of Pythians and others, this Pythian Committee under the leadership of its chair, PCDGC Sir Joseph Robinson, raises enough money and material to box and ship some 900 boxes per year totaling over 5,000 individual packages to service men and women currently serving tours in Afghanistan and Iraq.

The [Order of Knights of Pythias](#) is an international, non-sectarian fraternal order, established in 1864 in Washington, DC, by Justus H. Rathbone and was the first fraternal order to be chartered by an Act of Congress. Its distinguishing [principles](#) are "FRIENDSHIP, CHARITY and BENEVOLENCE". Domains of the Order exist in most states and provinces, and [subordinate lodges](#) are located in many cities and towns across the United States and Canada. New York Grand Lodge supports [charities](#), including the [Pythian Humanitarian Fund](#), [Diabetes Research Association](#), [Pythian Camp](#), [Dr. Morris Smoller Social Service Fund](#) (which supports health and elder care institutions) and the [Special Olympics](#). For [information](#) on becoming a member of the New York State Order of the Knights of Pythias please visit [KOPNY.com](#) to be contacted by the Membership Committee (email: GSNYKOP@gmail.com). You may find a lodge near you by visiting the lodge listing [page](#), or by contacting Grand Lodge.