

Wareham-New Bedford Lodge of Elks #73
US NAVY/MMA Personnel conduct formal ceremony honoring
Missing Soldiers Table and POW/MIA Chair



Left to right ~ Bob Powaltis; Rose Berry; Tom Cookinham Left to right ~ Ensign Steve Anderson; Ensign Michael Adley; SR. Chief Bill Ostrander



Left to right ~ Trustee Jim Callan; Exalted Ruler Charles Anson, Jr.; Ensign P J Usalis

September 11, 2017 while the country was celebrating a National Day of Remembrance, our Lodge was receiving a new POW/MIA chair to display in concert with our “Missing Soldier Table”. Rose Berry, Branch Manager of the Eastern Bank (Wareham) and Bob Powaltis (Post Commander) and Tom Cookinham from American Legion Post 220 were the donors of the exquisite chair which will be displayed in the Lodge in conjunction with the Missing Soldier Table.

Ted Hatch, Lodge Inner Guard contacted Eastern Bank and began the process of the donation with Rose Berry who then worked with the Wareham American Legion Post 220 Commander Bob Powaltis and Tom Cookinham. The bank donated the chair while the Post donated the flag and installed the insignia on the fabric area of the chair as displayed. In addition, there is an engraved plaque that adorns the chair explaining that freedom comes with a cost ~ sacrifices by our military personnel up to loss of life, prisoners of war and still missing in action. The chair was received just 5 days before the annual National POW/MIA day of Friday, September 15, 2017.

Trustee Jim Callan championed the effort to bring in the US NAVY and Massachusetts Maritime representatives who did an outstanding job of explaining in detail what each item on the table represents. This explanation will be displayed in a frame with table. Those in attendance were simply awed at the very solemn ceremony.

“So long as there are Veterans the BPOE will never forget them”