



PRESS RELEASE
Veteran's Affairs Committee
Benevolent & Protective Order of Elks ~ Lodge 2679
937 Carter Drive, Calabash, NC 28467

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

“CALABASH ELKS DONATE TO ‘SGT Eugene Ashley Memorial Center’ ”

~ Helping Homeless Veterans at SGT Eugene Ashley Memorial Center ~

By John Corbett

The Veteran's Affairs Committee (VAC) of the Calabash Elks Lodge ~ 2679 recently donated \$6,000 to the SGT Eugene Ashley Memorial Center under the Good Shepherd Center located in Wilmington, NC. The donation was made possible by a combined Beacon and Spotlight Grant from the Elks National Foundation. The SGT Ashley Center provides transitional bridge residence and recovery programs for homeless veterans. The Center will use these funds for their food pantry, facility maintenance, and support and assistance for the resident veterans. This brings VAC donations to the SGT Ashley Center to almost \$16,000 since 2017.

The Sgt. Eugene Ashley Memorial Center provides short-term transitional “Bridge Housing” for up to 23 homeless Veterans. The Ashley Center was established to provide homeless Veterans with a safe place to live, grow, and become empowered as they make the transition to permanent housing. Since its inception in 2001, the Ashley Center program has succeeded in returning 92% of participating Veterans to permanent housing. To learn more about the Ashley Center, visit their Web Site at <http://goodshepherdwilmington.org/project/ashley-center/> .

The mission of the Veteran's Affairs Committee of the Benevolent & Protective Order of Elks, Lodge ~ 2679, is to provide occasional funding, fraternal activities, and general support for our local Veterans, various Veteran's Programs, and our Military located throughout the South-Eastern North Carolina area. For more information about other ways our Elks Lodge supports our Veterans' and Military Community, visit their web site at <https://www.calabashelks.org/> and click on the [Veterans Affairs] TAB.

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The Calabash Elks Veteran's Affairs Committee (VAC) recently donated \$8,000 from an Elks National Foundation combined Beacon-Spotlight Grant to the Sergeant Eugene Ashley Memorial Center in Wilmington, NC to support their veterans homeless center. Pictured (L-R) are Maureen Weaver, VAC Member; John Corbett, VAC Co-Chairman; Brian Mansfield, Development Coordinator for the Sgt. Ashley Center; Jerry Kimble, VAC Co-Chair, and Mike Thole, VAC Member'