



Civil Air Patrol

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Winchester Composite Squadron
DATE**

News Release

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Winchester Composite Squadron Cadets Deliver Valentines, Cheer to area Veterans

Winchester, VA – “The assistance of those stunning cadets helping to deliver the Valentines was a big boost to the project,” said Barbra Savidge, organizer of a big Valentines for Vets Project. Over 500 valentines to patients in the nursing and hospice wing of the Veterans Hospital in Martinsburg, WV. on Saturday, Feb 14th.

Members from the Winchester Composite Squadron, Civil Air Patrol, visited the hospital to hand out cards and magazines to injured or ailing veterans. “Their cheerful, caring conversation, mature demeanor, and those especially sharp uniforms elicited a very positive response from the patients,” said Savidge. “Everyone seemed eager to talk to the cadets, which in turn seemed to make the vets themselves feel good about being able to offer some fatherly advice.”

Major CJ Muncy, who has multiple responsibilities with the Winchester Composite Squadron and the Virginia Wing stated, “I went hoping to give something to the vets from a vet and share a little time with them. To my fortunate surprise I met a former Drug and Alcohol Counselor who gave me some great words to help me in my new role as Drug Demand Reduction Administrator for Virginia Wing. I learned while watching him speak to the group of us about substance addiction and goal setting. We plan on talking some more in the near future.”

A number of local community and church groups also participated in the Valentines for Vets Project to come together to honor and our countries veterans. “The amazing thing was that while we were at the hospital to give we ourselves received far more from the veterans, such as hugs, sincere appreciation for our efforts, and lots of ‘God bless you’ s,” said Savidge. “It was a genuine pleasure to work with the Civil Air Patrol.”

The Civil Air Patrol is the official Auxiliary of the United States Air Force, and conducts over 90 percent of the nation’s inland air and ground search and rescue operations for the Air Force Rescue Coordination Center. In addition, they provide aerial imagery, damage assessment, communications relay, and limited cargo haul support to Federal, State, and local officials. They maintain a vibrant cadet program focused on developing the nation’s emerging leaders, and strive to develop a better understanding of aviation and space exploration contributions to society.

The Winchester Composite Squadron of the Civil Air Patrol, the official auxiliary of the U.S. Air Force, is a nonprofit organization with members from the surrounding counties. Resources include qualified ground and air

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crews, CAP aircraft, ground vehicles and communication equipment, distributed across the Greater Winchester Area for immediate deployment. CAP volunteers also perform homeland security, disaster relief and counterdrug missions at the request of federal, state and local agencies. The squadron also performs other community service such as providing Color Guard for ceremonies, sports events and parades, help at community events and with parking control at festivals. The Squadron also educates groups and schools in drug free activities for a better way of life.

For Winchester Composite Squadron inquiries, please contact the Lt Colonel Charles Gittins, Commander at 540-662-9036, e-mail cgittins@aol.com or Major CJ Muncy, Deputy Commander of Cadets at 540-551-9968, or e-mail cjmuncy@earthlink.net.

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