

Holiday Baskets in a Small Town

American Legion Auxiliary Joseph E. Appert Unit 126 of Hazelton was busy during the 2025 holiday season. Members worked on projects such as baking holiday cookies and making festive candies, thoughtfully shopping for simple gifts, and then assembling Christmas gift baskets. Local veterans who might have spent the holiday alone with no family members nearby to help add holiday cheer enjoyed a holiday basket.

The ladies outdid themselves this year! Everyone had an idea, and there was not a bad plan among them. The baskets and gift bags (our cup runneth over!) were filled with items such as fresh fruit, cocoa mix, puzzle books, neck warmers, decorated holiday cookies, homemade fudge, Christmas ornaments, banana bread, chocolates, a gift card for a free meal at the local Coffee Shop, and a Christmas card wishing them a “Merry Christmas and thank you for your service.”

It is just a small gesture on our part to show our appreciation for their sacrifice to keep our country safe and free. Some of the veterans came to the Coffee Shop to pick up their baskets, and Auxiliary members were able to spend some quality time with these special men. They were appreciative of our efforts to ensure they each had a bright holiday. Truth be told, they made our Christmas brighter too!

Photo and article submitted by: Arlene Davis