

Above: West Warwick Housing Authority Executive Director Stephen O'Rourke (back, center) stands with a group of veterans. Below: O'Rourke (right) smiles with three former military service members.

West Warwick Housing Authority honors vets

Agency holds events at local developments to recognize veterans

WEST WARWICK – The West Warwick Housing Authority held events at two of its developments in November to honor residents who served in the military.

Veterans and staff members attended a coffee and pastry event where they were acknowledged and thanked for their service to the country. Those who attended received American flap lapel pins, key chains and money clips donated by New England Fashion of Cranston. Coffee, donuts and muffins were provided by Dunkin Donuts.

"I have been to events and parades honoring veterans, but I have never been personally recognized and it was an honor to be recognized by the WWA," said Ed Skurka, a veteran living at West Warwick Manor. "I enjoyed telling my story when I served and listening to stories of the other veterans who attended the event 'Honoring Our Resident Veterans.'"

Stephen J. O'Rourke, the Housing Authority's Executive Director and a Vietnam veteran, said he was pleased that other residents appreciated veterans and their serv-



ice to the country. He thanked Dunkin Donuts and New England Fashions for their generous contributions to the event.

"They didn't hesitate for a second in offering their products for the event," he said.

"It was an honor for me to put this event together for our resident veterans," said Lisa Cancelliere, the WWA's resident Service

Coordinator. "They appreciated being recognized. I am looking forward to it becoming an annual event honoring our military service men and women."

The WWA was founded in 1962 and manages 250 units of public housing and over 160 units of Section 8 Housing Choice Vouchers. The WWA is home to approximately 275 elderly and disabled residents.