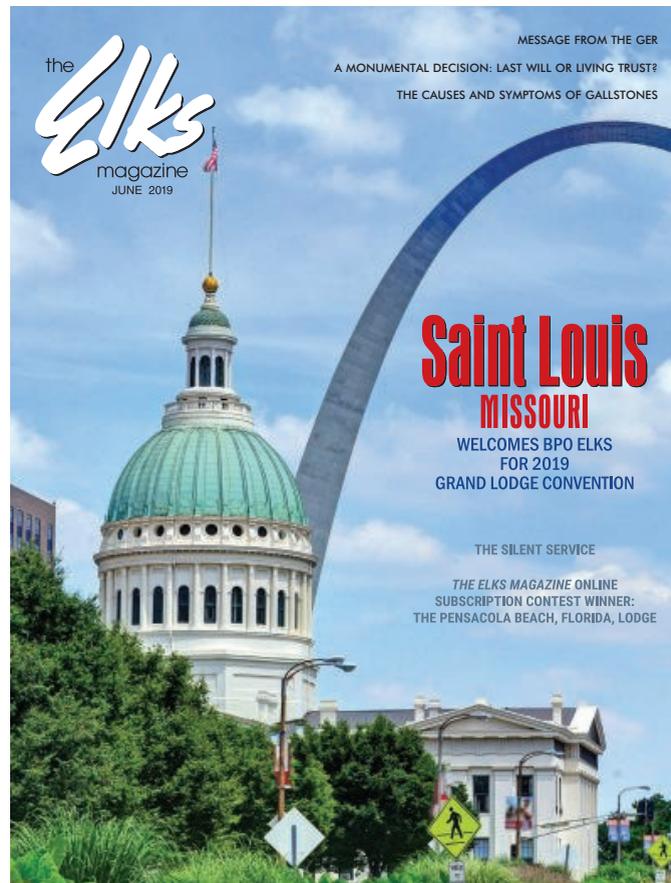


THE ELKS MAGAZINE ONLINE

June 2019 VOL. 98, No. 1



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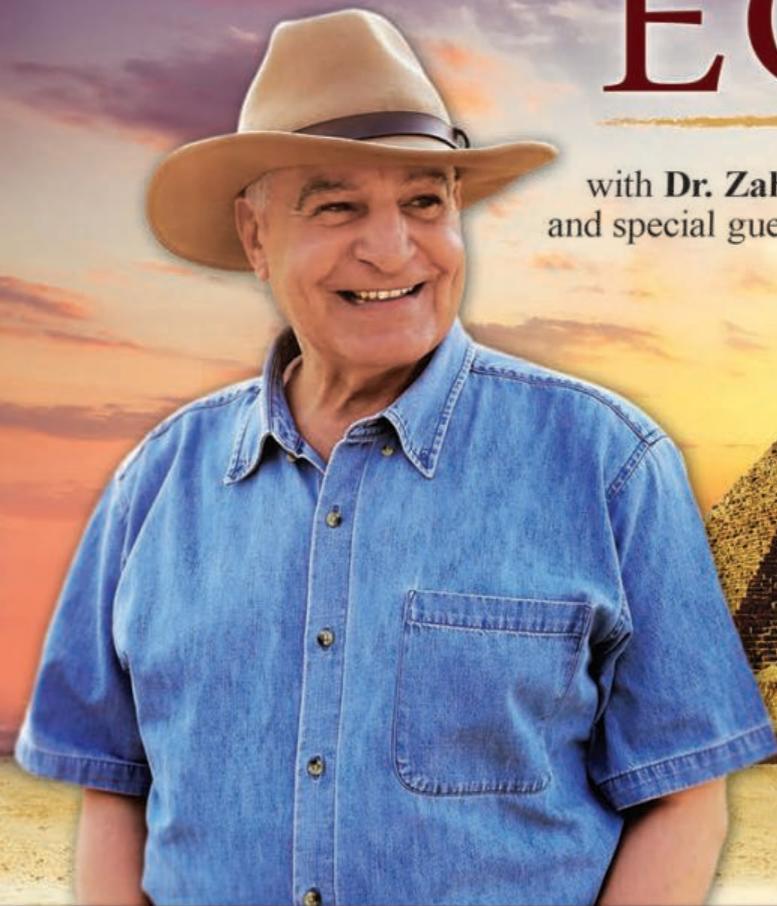
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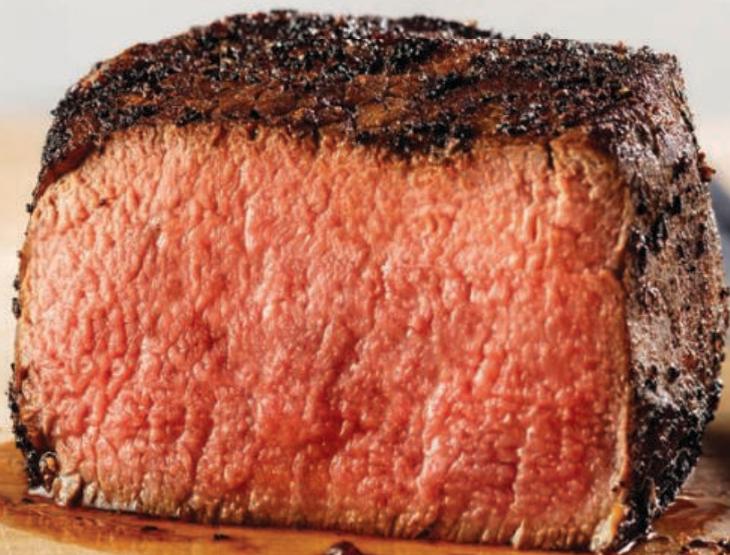


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45

Saint Louis, Missouri, Welcomes BPO Elks for 2019 Grand Lodge Convention

The Gateway to the West will host the BPO Elks as they celebrate the lodge year.

PHILIP HARTIGAN



57

The Silent Service

US Navy submariners often spend months below the surface of the ocean and have little outside contact during their stealth missions.

LINDA MCMAKEN

70

The Elks Magazine Online Subscription Contest Winner: The Pensacola Beach, Florida, Lodge

Pensacola Beach, Florida, Lodge No. 497 is the winner in the 1,101+ members category of the contest.

TOM SCUDDER



76

Elks National Veterans Service Commission

Elks support veterans and work to end veteran homelessness by holding fund-raisers and making donations that include Welcome Home Kits.

DEPARTMENTS

4 Message from the GER

6 Travels of the GER

9 It's Your Business

13 Healthline

17 News of the Lodges

85 Drug Awareness Program

87 Elks National Foundation

90 State Major Projects

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MESSAGE FROM THE GER



Growth, Dedication, and Farewell

AS I WRITE THIS, IT IS APRIL 1. However, this is not a joke. The BPOE is on the brink of a gain in membership! The Order has not had a gain since the 1979–1980 Elks year, but whatever happens when the count is finalized in June, we owe a big thank-you to Rick Gathen, whom I affectionately call Pit Bull because of the methods he uses to attack a problem. By Working Together to Make a Difference, every member of the Order has played a role in bringing us within reach of our goal, and whatever the outcome is as this Elks year ends, we all deserve congratulations!

There are other important events in June besides the end of the Elks year. Since 1907, the Elks have observed Flag Day on June 14. We proudly display our love for our country and its principles through our Flag Day ceremony. Please remember to fly your flag proudly on this special day and every other day throughout the year. Also, Father's Day falls on June 19, and we should take time to recognize and remember every dad who influenced our lives, contributed to our upbringings, and instilled in us a sense of right and wrong.

Barb and I were honored to represent all of you as your Grand Exalted Ruler and First Lady of Elkdom, the first from the great state of Alaska. It was our privilege to meet so many of you, the Best People On Earth. We saw a variety of fantastic major projects, veterans service programs and facilities, community service projects, and ENF CIP Grant success stories. We were able to see inspiring aspects of our United States—from lobster cookouts in Maine to Revolutionary War history in the Carolinas, from the horse races in Arkansas to the Lincoln Museum in Illinois, from the beaches of Saint Augustine, Florida, to Mardi Gras festivities in N'awlins. We even traveled in our beautiful home state of Alaska—we have truly been “everywhere, man,” and we are blessed to call this great country our home.

This is our last month on the road, and we are looking forward to visiting Indiana and Virginia, the state for lovers. Thank you to everyone who prayed for our health and safety during our travels. To you, dear reader, we extend this invitation: Meet me in Saint Louis—where, with luck, we will be celebrating a membership gain!

Sincerely and Fraternaly,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Michael T. Luhr".

Michael T. Luhr

PGER C. VALENTINE BATES

1942–2019

CHARLES VALENTINE BATES, Past Grand Exalted Ruler of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks, who served the Order with distinction at local, state, and national levels for forty-five years, passed away May 1, 2019.

Member Bates was born in Leesburg, Florida, on September 24, 1942, to Charles and Marjorie Bates. He graduated from Suwannee High School in 1960 and attended the University of Florida, where he graduated with a bachelor of arts degree in political science and a commission in the US Air Force in 1964.

He served as a communications intelligence officer from 1964 to 1968, achieving the rank of captain, and was awarded the Joint Services Commendation Medal for his meritorious service as an officer attached to the National Security Agency. After leaving the service, he returned to the University of Florida to study law, graduated with a juris doctorate in 1970, and was admitted to the bar. He practiced law privately, specializing in mediation law, until he sold his firm in 2014. He then continued to practice for the Alachua County Property Appraisers Office.

Bates joined the Gainesville Lodge in 1974 and became the lodge's exalted ruler in 1976. He was named the lodge's elk of the year in 1980 and became an honorary life member.

He served the Florida State Elks Association for seventeen years on the Judiciary Committee, including eight years as the committee's chairman. He also served as district vice president for the Northeast District, as vice president at large, and as state president in 1993–1994.

Member Bates began his service to the Grand Lodge as district deputy for the Northeast District of Florida in



1990–1991. He served on the Grand Lodge Committee on Judiciary from 1991 to 1994 and as a grand trustee from 1994 to 1998, the last year as chairman. He was elected Grand Exalted Ruler of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks in 1998.

In his acceptance speech, Bates called upon his fellow Elks to increase their commitment to volunteer their time: “Time is a gift of kindness to our fellow man, time to help our elders in a nursing home, time to be a mentor to a young person . . . time to show a hospitalized veteran we care. . . . Our commitment is redoubled, our goal is clear: to show our countrymen that Elks Care—Elks Share as Volunteers and Leaders.”

Following his term as Grand Exalted Ruler, Bates served on

the Elks National Veterans Service Commission from 2000 to 2009 and as an Elks National Foundation trustee from 2004 to 2018. He was the state sponsor for Georgia and the sponsor for Puerto Rico from 1999 to 2019, state sponsor for Alabama from 2000 to 2019, and state cosponsor for Florida from 2008 to 2019. As a leader, he was known for his ability to listen calmly to all sides of a controversy and then respond in the appropriate manner.

Beyond his service to the Elks, Member Bates was an active member of the Florida Bar Association and served on the Governor's Council on Criminal Justice. He was also a member of the Masons, having been initiated into both the York Rite and the Scottish Rite.

Past Grand Exalted Ruler Bates is survived by his wife of thirty-two years, Claudia MacKenzie Bates; his brother, Philip; his children, Lisa Bates-Lester, Jeffery Bates, and Jay Simmons; and nine grandchildren.





On Tour with Michael T. Luhr



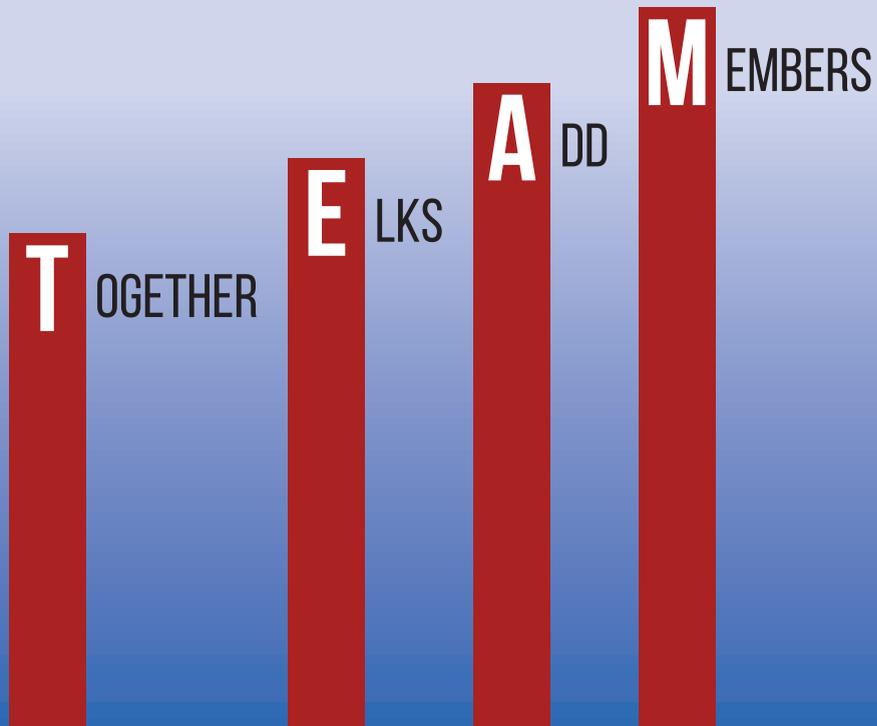
GER Michael T. Luhr and his wife, Barbara, were guests of the **ARKANSAS** State Elks Association during the annual Elks Day at the Races weekend. The trip began with a visit to the Arkadelphia Human Development Center, which is a residential center for people with special needs that is supported by the state major project. During the visit, the GER and first lady inspected a commemorative brick that had been laid at the facility in their honor. That evening, the first couple were guests of the Hot Springs Lodge for an informal dinner. The following day, the first couple joined Arkansas, Oklahoma, and Texas Elks for a day at Oaklawn Racing and Gaming racetrack, where GER Luhr presented a trophy to the owner of the winning horse after one of the races. The visit closed with a formal banquet at the Hot Springs Lodge. Pictured are (from left) GER Michael T. Luhr, Arkadelphia Human Development Center Volunteer Coordinator Deb Wilson, and First Lady Barbara Luhr.



GER Michael T. Luhr and his wife, Barbara, traveled to Lander, **WYOMING**, to attend the midwinter meeting of the Wyoming Elks Association. Following two days of business meetings that covered all aspects of the Wyoming Elks' work, GER Luhr addressed the assembled Elks at the closing banquet and encouraged them to continue to grow membership, retain members, and show the world that they were Working Together to Make a Difference. Pictured are (from left) Northglenn, CO, Lodge member and PDD Janice Chambers; Ogallala, NE, Lodge member and PDD Kenneth Priesner; Casper, WY, Lodge PER and Flag Tribute Trophy winner Frank Luers; and GER Michael T. Luhr.



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IT'S YOUR BUSINESS



Timothy Middleton

A Monumental Decision: Last Will or Living Trust?

MORE THAN FIFTEEN YEARS AGO, business consultant Tim Kerin was summoned, along with his siblings, to a family dinner hosted by his parents, who had some news to share. His father explained that he and Tim's mother had created a trust to distribute their assets after their death. Tim was named trustee. Nothing was discussed then or a decade later, when their father died. But five years after that, when their mother died, the family became consumed by the trust. It amounted to about \$2 million, and as trustee, Tim had to make myriad decisions that had financial consequences for all of the heirs. Meanwhile, personal circumstances among the siblings and their own families had changed. When Tim hired an attorney to help implement the terms of the trust, some of the other heirs also hired attorneys to contest them. In the wake of this wrangling, Kerin says, "I have no family left."

The Kerin family's distress is hardly unique. Settling a life's affairs is rife with opportunities for misunderstanding and for long-unspoken sibling rivalries to emerge—particularly when the person you select as your executor or trustee takes hefty payments from the estate for the services they provide. "When you name someone your executor or your trustee, you're not honoring them," says John T. Rogers Jr., a Los Angeles-based attorney and coauthor of an American Bar Association book on estate planning. "You are giving them a new job, and they deserve to be paid for it."

If you do nothing, the state where you live (and any other states where you own property, such as a second home) already has a web of laws in place to divvy up your assets and potentially take all of them for itself. You, however, can take charge by creating a will to funnel the fruits of your life's work to heirs, charities, and anyone else you want to provide for. Or you can opt for a living trust, which avoids the costliest and most time-consuming element of this process: probate. Some states have burdensome inheritance rules, so where you live might influence your decision. Also, probate is public, so celebrities and the owners of private businesses might be drawn to the nonpublic nature of trusts.

IT'S YOUR BUSINESS

Whatever you decide, make sure everyone who will or might want to benefit from your last testament understands your wishes. “Communicating with your family is really important,” says Betsy Simmons Hannibal, senior legal editor at Nolo, a publisher of do-it-yourself legal software. She emphasizes that the only way to ensure that your wishes are fulfilled is by making sure that everyone involved in the process is kept informed and up to date.

Where There's A Will

Wills are relatively straightforward legal documents in which you record how you want your assets divided. This becomes legally binding through local courts in a process called probate. Aside from leaving no final instructions, which will mean that you will die intestate and the courts will take over under the terms of state law after you die, a will is the cheapest final document you can buy. It typically costs a few hundred dollars if you work with a lawyer to create one and usually much less if you create one using online legal software.

The terms of your will are up to you. Typically, you apportion your most valuable assets among your heirs or favorite charities or both and name an executor to implement your wishes. Whatever your executor does will be overseen by the court, and anything your heirs disagree with can be challenged in court. The executor will pay all legal fees from the assets of the estate—including his or her own fee, which is usually limited by the courts and related to the size of the estate.

Typically, a married couple will arrange things so that everything is left to the surviving spouse and so that he or she is named the executor. In this case, they would serve without compensation, since they would only be taking their own money. When the surviving spouse dies, however, the executor—be that a child, a friend, or an attorney—can and usually will be paid, and their compensation is determined by local laws.

A lawyer helping you prepare a will is likely to call your attention to the option of creating a living will, which is a type of will that plainly states your wishes should you not be able to make your own health care choices, such as whether and when you should be resuscitated. Your agent for the living will can be the executor of the estate or someone else.

Choosing a Trust

If your financial affairs are at all complicated—if, for example, you own more than one home or properties in multiple states or if you run a family business—you may want to consider a living trust instead of a will. A trust supplants a conventional will in most regards. It can keep nearly all of your affairs out of the public eye and out of probate and can make life much simpler for whomever you name trustee. In some states, notably California, where probate can go on for a year

IT'S YOUR BUSINESS

or more, trusts are much more popular than wills. Plus, with a living trust, the person you name trustee can step in to handle your affairs if you become incapacitated. Otherwise, you and your beneficiaries could become embroiled in a very complicated, expensive, and often hurtful court proceeding to name a guardian or conservator.

These advantages, however, have their costs. Setting up a living trust is more complicated than a simple will and therefore results in more legal fees. Also, personal assets must be assigned to the trust, otherwise they don't enjoy such advantages as avoiding probate. This means that deeds and titles all need to be transferred to the trust, and this process may generate more fees and charges. Similarly, all other financial accounts, from savings and checking accounts to IRAs, must be rolled into the trust, and after all of that, you will still need a will, which is called a pour-over will, to deal with anything that was not captured by the trust, such as assets that were never transferred into it. Things not captured by the trust could include something like a checking account that a surviving spouse opened after the first spouse died. This occurred in Tim Kerin's case, where his mother opened a personal checking account after her husband passed away.

The Takeaway

What poisoned Tim Kerin's family estate is that nobody—not Tim and definitely not his siblings—knew the myriad details that ultimately left misunderstanding and ill will in the trust's wake. Tim and his siblings were also unprepared for the enormous time commitments that trusteeship required. In the year after his mother's death, Kerin said he devoted seven hundred hours to the trust's affairs. His experience prompted him and his wife, Tracey, to create a new business, TrustInFamilies.com, to help others address the kinds of issues their family faced.

Deciding what to do with your estate or dealing with an estate in the wake of a loved one's passing is difficult. These are situations that are full of uncertainty and unforeseen circumstances and problems, but the best way to avoid conflict is preparation. Whether you are planning for the disposition of your own estate or are one of the heirs to an estate, seeking advice is paramount. Whether you receive this advice from an attorney or through your own research on how estates work, you can never have too much information as you approach decisions of such significance. ■

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HEALTHLINE



Elizabeth A. Reid, MD

The Causes and Symptoms of Gallstones

THE MOST FAMOUS GALLSTONES in history probably belonged to Sir Robert Anthony Eden, who served as Britain's prime minister from April 1955 until January 1957 and later became Earl of Avon. In the obituary that appeared in the Times when he died in 1977, it was said that he was the "last prime minister to believe Britain was a great power, and the first to confront a crisis which proved she was not."

The crisis was the nationalization of the Suez Canal in 1956 by Egypt's President Gamal Abdel Nasser and the United Kingdom's subsequent, ill-fated participation in a military attempt to regain Western control of the waterway. Sir Anthony's response to the takeover of the canal led to the abrupt end of a spectacular political career—and to decades-long speculation about the role his gallbladder troubles, which had begun in 1953, may have played in a decision-making process that embarrassed Britain on the world stage. Sir Anthony's name and knowledge of his illness have now reached millions of people through his portrayal in a popular television series about the British royal family. While speculation about his impairment during the Suez Crisis remains just that, his case does provide a popular point of reference for a fairly common problem and its complications.

What Are Gallstones?

Gallstones are hard deposits formed from bile in the gallbladder, which is a two- to four-inch, pear-shaped sac tucked under the right side of the liver. The gallbladder is a reserve tank for bile—a very complex, yellow-green liquid formed continuously by liver cells. Bile has several functions. It carries metabolic waste products and potentially harmful substances, such as drugs, out of the body and transports vitamins and protective immune factors into the intestines. It also adds bile salts, which are made from cholesterol, to digesting food to help emulsify and break down fats for absorption. About half the bile made by the liver drains directly into the small intestine, but the other half goes into the gallbladder, where it is concentrated and held in reserve until a meal stimulates the gallbladder to contract and empty the bile into the intestine.

HEALTHLINE

Most gallstones are composed of cholesterol; others are made of blood pigments and minerals like calcium. Stones form when mucous proteins in the bile thicken it into sludge, making it difficult for the other substances to remain in solution. They begin to form crystals which eventually grow into stones. Poor intestinal motility and lack of sufficient fiber contribute to gallstone formation by slowing waste removal from the colon, where bacteria change the bile acids into a form that the colon then reabsorbs. Recycled bile acids go back to the liver, increasing the cholesterol concentration in freshly made bile.

Symptoms of Gallstones

Although gallstones are fairly common—they are present in 20 percent of Americans—they cause symptoms in only approximately 20 percent of those who harbor them. Obesity, diabetes, insulin resistance, pregnancy, estrogen use, and rapid weight loss all increase the risk of gallstone formation. It is difficult to predict who will experience these unpleasant gallstone symptoms, but women and people who have multiple or large stones have an increased likelihood of developing them.

Gallstones begin to cause trouble when they make their way from the gallbladder, via its cystic duct, into the liver's bile duct system, which empties into the small intestine via the common bile duct. A duct from the pancreas also joins the common bile duct, adding pancreatic enzymes to the bile. Gallstones stuck in the duct system block the flow of the liquids, and cause gallstone symptoms to begin.

In Sir Anthony's case, medical records show he had several episodes of abdominal pain and jaundice before a decision was made to remove his stone-filled gallbladder in 1953. Gallstone pain is usually in the right upper abdomen and is sometimes felt beneath the right shoulder blade. The intermittent contraction of the gallbladder against the pressure of the stone in a duct makes the pain colicky. When a stone blocks the duct from the pancreas, pain spreads to the center and left side of the abdomen. Nausea and vomiting are common. If the stone does not pass into the small intestine, inflammation begins in the gallbladder and pancreas, with more pain and the addition of fever. These unpleasant complications are called cholecystitis and pancreatitis.

Surgery may be needed to remove the gallbladder; however, most patients can be treated medically, and the gallbladder can be removed later when the situation has "cooled down." Pain, anti-nausea, and antibiotic medications and intravenous hydration are the usual treatments. In the last two to three decades, gallbladder removal has been done laparoscopically, through a very small incision, with good results. If the patient has undergone prior surgery, which causes scarring inside the abdomen, a full abdominal surgical procedure can be easier.

HEALTHLINE

Gallstones can be prevented by maintaining a healthy weight, eating sufficient fiber, getting enough physical exercise to keep the bowels moving well, and avoiding long periods without food. If recurrent bouts of upper abdominal pain suggest gallstone disease, an ultrasound scan of the abdomen will generally find them. Should surgery be required, it is best to seek a doctor who performs this type of surgery frequently. After gallbladder removal, fat digestion is sometimes a little more difficult, but people generally live well without the organ.

Unfortunately, Sir Anthony Eden disregarded advice to choose a surgeon who was skilled in biliary tract surgery and chose the general surgeon who had removed his appendix. He suffered a leak from the site where the cystic duct had been tied off, had to undergo a series of operations to correct the problem, and then experienced recurrent bouts of fever and abdominal pain, necessitating analgesics and sleeping medications, as well as the then popular amphetamine prescriptions to help his energy levels. Knowledge of this later fueled speculation that Sir Anthony was not himself when he chose to send British troops to the Suez Canal in 1956, an action that directly led to his resignation from his position as prime minister of Britain several months later and the destruction of his political career. ■

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Huntsville, AL, Lodge, with the help of a grant from the PER Elmer Hargis Endowment, arranged for 47 fifth-grade students from Owens Cross Roads Elementary School to attend a one-week session at Space Camp at the US Space and Rocket Center. Pictured are (from left) students Rachel Mann, Kayna Wilson, Tanner Hampton, and Carson Long.

Bullhead City, AZ, Lodge hosted a pizza party in honor of new Eagle Scouts Richard Duncan, Dylan Eaton, Jonathan Hess, and Tristen Morganson, of Boy Scout Troop 104. During the party, lodge members presented each scout with a framed certificate and a US flag. For his Eagle Scout Project, Duncan hosted a community blood drive in which 83 people took part. Eaton's project consisted of donating several backpacks filled with school supplies and toiletries to a community project that assists needy schoolchildren. Hess, for his project, organized a community donation drive in support of the Guardian Foundation, which assists needy and homeless veterans, and Morganson, for his project, created a computer resource room in an unused classroom at Mohave Valley Junior High School.

Casa Grande Valley, AZ, Lodge used a \$2,000 ENF Beacon Grant to sponsor a round of golf at a golf course for 14 Special Olympics athletes and ten coaches. The lodge hosted a pizza party and raffle after the event.

In other news, the lodge hosted a public event for the local Chamber of Commerce, which was attended by about 60 people.



Prescott, AZ, Lodge hosted a dinner followed by an awards ceremony, during which lodge members presented plaques to six outstanding first responders. Pictured are (from left) Est. Lead. Knight Sam Volrich, Arizona Department of Public Safety Trooper Randi Wybron, Yavapai County Sheriff's Office Deputy Blake Lanoue, Prescott Valley Police Department Officer Tyler Brown, Prescott Police Department Officer David Fuller, Prescott Fire Department Captain Kevin Keith, Central Arizona Fire and Medical Authority Firefighter Doug Copenhaver, and event committee chairman Richard Williams.



Sun City, AZ, Lodge used a \$2,000 ENF Beacon Grant to donate puzzles, games, craft kits, sensory perception items, music CDs, and DVD movies to 23 memory care facilities. Pictured at Palos Verde Senior Living are (from left) volunteer Lori McDonnell, lodge members Mary Stokes and John Stokes, resident Jennie, and Palos Verde Memory Care Program Coordinator John Shoff.

In other news, the lodge donated nearly \$3,000 worth of clothing, bedding, and towels to the UMOM New Day Centers, which assist homeless families and individuals.

Green Valley, AZ, Lodge hosted an awards ceremony and dinner, which was attended by approximately 90 lodge members and members of the public. During the ceremony, lodge members presented plaques to Pima County Sheriff's Auxiliary Volunteer of the Year

Ralph Atkins, Border Patrol Agent of the Year SBPA Marc Battaglini, Arizona Ranger of the Year Lt. George Grove, Pima County Sheriff's Deputy of the Year Sgt. Kevin Kubitskey, and Green Valley Fire Department Firefighter of the Year Austin Roush.

Hot Springs, AR, Lodge donated \$550 to Boy Scout Troop 10 to thank the scouts for their assistance during a lodge event.

Texarkana, AR, Lodge used a \$2,500 ENF Gratitude Grant to donate toiletries, cleaning supplies, and bath towels to the local Domestic Violence Prevention shelter.



Fullerton, CA, Lodge members honored the winners of the lodge's Americanism Essay Contest and presented them with certificates and awards of \$75 for first place, \$50 for second place, and \$25 for third place. The lodge received more than 110 entries to the contest. The winners of the seventh- and eighth-grade division were Cassandra Alvarado in first place, Izet Regalado in second place, and Luke Thacker in third place. The winners of the fifth- and sixth-grade division were William Gim in first place, Ryan Choi in second place, and Michael McMackin in third place. Cassandra and William also advanced to the state finals of the competition. Pictured are (from left) Americanism Essay Contest Chairman Claudia Santos, winners Luke, Izet, Michael, and William, and PER Scott Stephens.

In other news, lodge members honored Ethan Jaldera and his family for their efforts in coping with his cystic fibrosis. Ethan was given several gift cards and a pin, and his parents received a bouquet of flowers.

In more news, the lodge used a \$2,500 ENF Promise Grant to support an effort by two Daisy Girl Scout troops to create more than 100 handmade teddy bear dolls and donate them to several police and fire departments to be given to children in crisis situations.

In further news, the lodge awarded scholarships worth a total of nearly \$3,300 to eight high school seniors.



Escondido, CA, Lodge hosted a youth appreciation and awards dinner for eight outstanding young people and their families. Following dinner, lodge members presented medals to two Junior ROTC cadets, awarded \$200 scholarships to four students,

and recognized two winners of a lodge youth athletic contest. Pictured are JROTC Cadet Fabian Bernardino and ER Randall Moss.



Indio, CA, Lodge used a \$2,000 ENF Beacon Grant to donate sports equipment to John Kelley Elementary School. Pictured with two students are (from left) lodge member Harriet MacKnicki, ER Michelle Solvin, PDD James Miller, and lodge member Robert Evans.

Lake Elsinore/Wildomar, CA, Lodge used part of a \$2,000 ENF Gratitude Grant to provide one new book each to 2,600 first- through third-grade students at 13 elementary schools.

Lancaster, CA, Lodge held a firefighters appreciation night and honored Los Angeles County Fire Department Station 33 firefighters Travis Calka, Steve DeFrancesca, and Jacob Windell for their outstanding service. About 20 firefighters and paramedics attended the appreciation dinner.

Palm Springs, CA, Lodge members attended a Court of Honor ceremony for new Eagle Scout Liam Dixon, of lodge-sponsored Boy Scout Troop 262, and presented him with a certificate, a letter from the GER, and a US flag. For his Eagle Scout Project, Dixon donated



Mission Viejo-Saddleback Valley, CA, Lodge hosted a law enforcement and firefighter appreciation award dinner, during which 17 outstanding first responders were introduced by their superior officers and presented with plaques. Pictured are

(from left) ER Mike Klinger, Orange County Sheriff's Department (Dana Point) Lieutenant Margie Sheehan, and Orange County Sheriff's Department (Dana Point) Deputy of the Year Michael Swain.



Orange, CA, Lodge hosted a law enforcement and firefighter appreciation dinner, during which awards were presented to 11 outstanding first responders. Pictured during the event are (from left) Elroy the Elk (lodge member Theresa Schatz), Orange Police Department Officer Vince Flynn, Orange Police Department School Resource Officer Augie Rocha, Orange Police Department Lieutenant Jennifer Amat, Orange Police Department Chief and lodge member Tom Kisela, and Miss City of Orange Madelyn Walker.

In other news, the lodge hosted a ceremony during which Santiago Charter Middle School student Nolan Saunders was awarded the Youth Presidential Volunteer Service Award. Nolan was nominated for the award by the lodge.

3,000 heart-shaped cloth patches, which are used to help premature infants in incubators become used to their parents' scent, to the Desert Regional Medical Center Neonatal Intensive Care Unit.

Santa Ana, CA, Lodge hosted a presentation on suicide prevention, which about 20 lodge members and community members attended. The lodge provided lunch to attendees after the presentation.



Temecula Valley, CA, Lodge hosted an awards ceremony for the winners of the lodge Americanism Essay Contest. During the event, the winners were presented with certificates, book-store gift cards, and US flag lapel pins. The winners of the fifth- and sixth-grade division were Van Avery Prep student Ryan Freeman in first place, Calvary Murrieta Christian School student Bella Stutzman in second place, and Temecula Luiseño Elementary School student Giovanna Caputo in third place. The winners of the seventh- and eighth-grade division were Calvary Murrieta Christian School students Joey Cox in first place, Parker Remp in second place, and Gabriela Gonzales in third place. Pictured are (from left) winners Parker, Joey, Ryan, Gabriela, Giovanna, and Bella.

In other news, the lodge awarded scholarships worth a total of \$3,000 to Temecula Preparatory School student Nicholas Bacani, Temecula Valley High School students Seth Hankla and Holly Olivera, Murrieta Valley High School student Anna Holman, and Vista Murrieta High School students Carlie Lin and Blake Lindemeyer.

Santa Barbara, CA, Lodge donated \$500 to the state major project, which provides in-home therapy to children with special needs and vision screening to preschool children. Funds for the donation came from a fund-raiser that was held by the Santa Barbara Stardusters Dance Club.

Hartford, CT, Lodge used a \$2,000 ENF Beacon Grant to provide lunch to about 200 homeless individuals at Saint Elizabeth House.

Manchester, CT, Lodge donated a \$2,500 ENF Gratitude Grant to MACC Charities to support the Bistro on Main, which provides on-the-job training and transitional employment to students and graduates of the MACCchefs Culinary and Hospitality Education Fundamentals School.

Delray Beach, FL, Lodge held a dinner/dance fund-raiser and raised \$16,000 for the Sunny Shores Sea Camp, which is a summer camp for children and adults with cystic fibrosis and their families. The lodge also hosted a chili cook-off fund-raiser and raised \$1,000 for the Harry-Anna Trust Fund. The fund supports the state major



Groton, CT, Lodge used a \$2,000 ENF Beacon Grant, \$700 in additional funding, and a double matching grant from Operation Warm to provide winter coats to 300 Claude Chester Elementary School students. Pictured with three students are (back, from left) grant coordinator Joann Donnel, Principal Jamie Giordano, and ER Daniel Shea.



Wilmington, DE, Lodge donated a \$1,500 ENF Anniversary Grant to the Friendship House Empowerment Center, which serves individuals who are homeless, to help purchase cleaning supplies for extreme weather shelters supported by the center, as well as winter clothing items for center clients. Pictured are (from left) Friendship House staff members Carey Phillips and Lashea Reams, Friendship House Executive Director Kim Eppheimer, ER Stanley Stumbers, and Friendship House staff members Patty Gross and Paul Kielar.

projects, which are the Florida Elks Youth Camp and Florida Elks Children's Therapy Services.

In other news, the lodge held an awards dinner and presented awards to the police officer of the year, the firefighter of the year, the ocean rescue officer of the year, and the citizen of the year.



Saint Petersburg, FL, Lodge donated more than \$400 to the Dixie Hollins High School softball team to help replace stolen equipment. Pictured are (from left) team members Alecia Buanisky and Alyson Lucas, parent Hawaii Grimes Layner, team member Braelyn Grimes, ER Cathy Shriver, and Coach Robin Brady.

In other news, the lodge donated \$300 to the local Optimist International club.

In more news, the lodge donated \$1,000 to the Miracle League Palm Beach County, an adaptive baseball league; \$1,000 to the Sandoway Discovery Center, a marine biology education center; and \$500 to Aid to Victims of Domestic Abuse.

Green Cove Springs, FL, Lodge used a \$2,500 ENF Promise Grant to host a safety fair for 20 children and 14 parents and guardians. The event featured instruction on fire safety, bicycle safety, first aid, exercise, nutrition, and goal setting. The event also featured lunch, and participants received educational materials.

Lakeland, FL, Lodge held a donation drive for the Lakeland SPCA, during which it raised more than \$3,500 and collected nearly 960 pounds of dog food, 320 pounds of cat food, and some blankets, toys, bags of kitty litter, and containers of peanut butter.

Lakewood Ranch-Sarasota, FL, Lodge members spoke to nearly 220 local first-grade students at both Gene Witt Elementary School and Freedom Elementary School about safety and propriety. Each child received a copy of a book and a small stuffed animal to remind them of the lesson.

Punta Gorda, FL, Lodge held a bocce tournament and raised more than \$1,000 for Florida Elks Children's Therapy Services, which is one of the state major projects.

In other news, the lodge PER Association donated \$500 to a fundraiser for Tidewell Hospice. The PER Association also held a dinner and raised more than \$2,800 for the Harry-Anna Trust Fund, which supports the two state major projects, which are the Florida Elks Youth Camp and Florida Elks Children's Therapy Services.

Sarasota South, FL, Lodge donated a box of commemorative coins to the FC Sarasota youth soccer organization to be used for game-opening coin flips.

Sebring, FL, Lodge held a golf tournament and raised more than \$5,300 in support of the Sebring High School Air Force Junior ROTC program.

In other news, the lodge donated \$400 to a Little League youth baseball team and \$400 to a Little League youth softball team.

Tampa, FL, Lodge provided 47 homemade lunches to attendees at the monthly meeting of Club Chivalry for Successful Students, a club for at-risk students at Robinson High School that is a lodge project and is funded by a \$10,000 ENF Impact Grant.

Zephyrhills, FL, Lodge hosted a classic car show, which featured more than 70 entries, and raised about \$500 for local charities.

Zephyrhills, FL, and **Canajoharie-Fort Plain, NY,** Lodges and the Canajoharie Moose Lodge donated more than 170 pounds of aluminum pull tabs to Shriners Hospitals for Children—Tampa to be sold for their scrap value to support the hospital's activities.

Mount Vernon, IL, Lodge members honored the winners of their Americanism Essay Contest, presented them with certificates, and presented the first-place winners with \$50 awards. The winners of the seventh- and eighth-grade division were Bluford Grade School students Brooke McKay in first place, Heath Ellis in second place, and Ally Drake in third place. The winners of the fifth- and sixth-grade division were Bluford Grade School students Shelbi Yanez in first place and Gracen Sledge in second place and Spring Garden Middle School student Ava Lowery in third place. Shelbi also finished third in the Illinois South Central District contest.



Lake Oconee, GA, Lodge awarded \$1,000 scholarships to six high school seniors. Pictured are (from left) scholarship recipients Garrett Lester, Bailey Shultz, Natalie Roberts, Chandler Pearson, William McCommons, and Jamar Porter.



Savannah, GA, Lodge awarded McKenna-Friedman and John Nelson Scholarships worth a total of \$7,000 to eight high school seniors. Pictured are (front, from left) scholarship recipients Kiara Vasquez Narvaez of Effingham County High School, Loren Whitley of Richmond Hill High School, Anya Mashburn-Foushee of May River High School, and Olivia Bowser of South Effingham High School with (back, from left) ER Thomas Mulvaney, scholarship recipients Brian Nichols of South Effingham High School, Sirius Leptak of Bluffton High School, Payton Mercer of Georgia Cyber Academy, and Nathan Wetmore of Savannah Christian Preparatory School, and Scholarship Committee Chairman Elliot Palefsky.

Hammond, IN, Lodge used a \$2,500 ENF Gratitude Grant and an ENF Anniversary Grant worth \$1,500 to donate \$1,000 each to Habitat for Humanity, the Greater Hammond Community Services Food Pantry, Northwest Indiana Catholic Youth Organization Camp Lawrence, and Saint Joseph's Carmelite Home, which serves children and young women.

Wabash, IN, Lodge donated \$500 to the Wabash Community Women's Choir to help the choir cover the cost of travel to New York City to perform at Carnegie Hall.

Des Moines, IA, Lodge used a \$1,500 ENF Anniversary Grant and an ENF Gratitude Grant worth \$2,500 to present donations of \$1,000 each to the Pleasant Hill Police Department, Pleasant Hill Fire/EMS, the Pleasant Hill Public Library, and Pleasant Hill Parks and Recreation.

In other news, the lodge donated a \$2,000 ENF Beacon Grant to the city of Pleasant Hill to support a community beautification project.

Oskaloosa, IA, Lodge donated a \$1,500 ENF Anniversary Grant and an ENF Gratitude Grant worth \$2,000 to the Take-Along Weekend Food Program, which provides backpacks full of food for the weekends to needy children.



Slidell, LA, Lodge held its 24th annual law and order night dinner, which about 110 people attended. Dinner was followed by a panel discussion on current law enforcement issues and an awards presentation, during which plaques were presented to Deputy of the Year Scott Daussin, Firefighter of the Year Aaron Hall, and State Trooper of the Year David Levy, and a posthumous award was presented to the family of Police Officer of the Year Jason Seals. Pictured are (from left) event committee Chairman Pat Massarini, event committee Cochairman Carol Massarini, ER Stephen Daigle, Deputy of the Year Scott Daussin, Saint Tammany Parish Sheriff Randy Smith, and PER Lee Guillory.

Ashland, KY, Lodge donated \$500 to the Foundation for the Tri-State Community to support the Area Education Grants program, which supports educational projects developed by teachers.

Shreveport, LA, Lodge donated \$400 to Southern Hills Elementary School in support of the school's top readers program, which provides outstanding students with books of their choice.

Bath, ME, Lodge donated \$2,000 to the Midcoast Community Alliance to help provide study rooms at the Bath Youth Meetinghouse and Skatepark.

In other news, the lodge used a \$2,000 ENF Beacon Grant to provide toiletries to homeless and needy teenagers through local schools and the local food bank.

Annapolis, MD, Lodge donated a \$2,000 ENF Gratitude Grant to Sarah's House, a supportive housing facility for homeless families. The lodge also provided a total of 60 dinners and desserts to residents of the house.

Cambridge, MD, Lodge donated the use of the lodge's building to the Cambridge Little League for a breakfast and silent auction fundraiser. Lodge members also helped cook the meal and serve it to attendees. During the event, the lodge donated a \$2,000 ENF Gratitude Grant and an ENF Anniversary Grant worth \$1,500 to the league to help support a renovation project.

Ocean City, MD, Lodge donated \$8,500 to local charities. Among the donations were \$1,000 to the 4STEPS Therapeutic Riding Program and \$1,250 to the Ocean City Parks and Recreation Department, to provide spring activities for young people.

Prince Georges County, MD, Lodge held a charity ball and raised \$1,100 for the Elks National Foundation.

Severna Park, MD, Lodge used a \$2,000 ENF Gratitude Grant to hold an appreciation brunch for 45 teachers. After breakfast, lodge members gave each teacher a bag of school supplies and sent an additional 55 bags of school supplies to local elementary schools. In addition, several attendees received \$25 awards as door prizes.



Negaunee, MI, Lodge used a \$2,000 ENF Beacon Grant to hold a day of snow tubing at the Al Quaal Recreation Area for nine young people and six adults who participate in the Big Brothers Big Sisters mentoring program. Three lodge members volunteered to accompany the three young people who did not have adult mentors. Pictured are (from left) young guests Andrew Gauthier and Reanna Gauthier, lodge members Kathy Enright, David Lander, and Charles VanBeynen, young guest Michael Starrine, and lodge member and Big Brothers participant Peter Gadzinski.



Traverse City, MI, Lodge donated a \$2,000 ENF Gratitude Grant to Norte, which provides free loans of bicycles to young people and other resources to bicycle riders of all ages. The donation went toward purchasing adaptive bicycles for young people

with special needs. Pictured are (from left) ER Carolyn Waters, Norte cofounder Ty Schmidt, and DD James Rowland.

Westminster, MD, Lodge hosted an awards ceremony, during which the lodge donated \$300 each to seven high schools to help needy students purchase yearbooks, class rings, and other graduation-related items. The donations were made using a \$1,500 ENF Anniversary Grant and funds from the lodge golf committee. The golf committee also donated more than \$4,000 to local charities during the event.



Brainerd, MN, Lodge Youth on Stage Program, which is supported by a \$8,500 ENF Impact Grant, held an open mic concert, during which performers ages 25 and younger were encouraged to perform. The local Eagles club provided space for the concert and the Youth on Stage Program provided sound equipment and some musical instruments. Pictured are (from left) performers Owen, Turner, Caiden, Rocco, Allison, Braden, and Teagan and PER James Runberg.



Benton County, MO, Lodge used part of a \$2,500 ENF Gratitude Grant to donate seven chairs to the Lincoln Community Care Center to be placed in an activity room. Pictured with some of the new chairs are (front, from left) residents Delores Keuper, Francis Wright, and Pauline Rambow and Secy. Vicki Brooke with (back, from left) lodge members Mike Blyth, Sherry Blyth, Robert Ferraguti, and Linda Kosmicki and PER Tim Fink.



Ellisville, MO, Lodge members attended a Court of Honor ceremony for new Eagle Scout Nicholas Dolson, of Boy Scout Troop 783, and presented him with a certificate. For his Eagle Scout project, Dolson built an overnight shelter for injured animals and

installed several squirrel nesting boxes for the Wildlife Rescue Center. The lodge had previously used part of a \$1,500 ENF Anniversary Grant to donate \$300 to help Dolson complete his project. Pictured are (from left) ER Douglas Steffan, Eagle Scout Dolson, and Scouting Committee Chairman Michael Polson.



Jackson, MO, Lodge used part of a \$2,000 ENF Gratitude Grant to donate \$1,000 to the Jackson Police Department to help the department purchase equipment for the special response team. Pictured are (from left) House Committee Chairman James Crowden, Police Chief James Humphreys, PER Chuck Reed, and Golf Committee Chairman Bill Gosche.

Port Huron, MI, Lodge raised nearly \$4,200 to support lodge charities through an ongoing Queen of Hearts raffle fund-raiser.

Ocean Springs, MS, Lodge members organized and participated in the 44th annual Ocean Springs Mardi Gras Parade, which a total of about 20,000 people attended.

Blue Springs, MO, Lodge members delivered Christmas food baskets containing a full week's worth of groceries to 200 needy families. The lodge also provided 500 gifts to needy children and a



Kalispell, MT, Lodge donated a \$2,500 ENF Gratitude Grant to the local Future Farmers of America (FFA) chapter to help with the cost of travel expenses for chapter members. Pictured are (from left) Past Grand Lodge Committeeman Robert Stephens, PDD Carmel Stephens, and FFA officers Mabry Shepard, Amber Reiner, Matt Glimm, Maddie Sutton, Cole Dykhuizen, Bethany Lyford, and Whitney Levanen.



Tahoe/Douglas, NV, Lodge awarded the Elks Distinguished Citizenship Award to Linda Larson to recognize her work as executive director of the Douglas County Backpack Buddies Program, which provides food for the weekends to

more than 300 needy students in 11 Douglas County schools. Pictured are (from left) ER Richard Jones, honoree Larson, and Est. Loyal Knight AnneMarie Neacy.

In other news, the lodge used part of a \$2,000 ENF Beacon Grant to donate nearly 230 items, including clothing, shoes, and school supplies, to C. C. Meneley Elementary School.

car to a needy family. The total value of the food, gifts, and car was more than \$40,000.

North Las Vegas, NV, Lodge donated more than \$13,000 to the Elks National Foundation.

New Hampshire State Elks Association sponsored the 66th New Hampshire State Spelling Bee, in which 33 finalists from across the state competed. Association members presented a \$3,000 award to the champion, Timberlane Regional Middle School student Anna



Elmwood Park-Paterson, NJ, Lodge provided food, beverages, and a place to warm up to nearly 100 firefighters from local and neighboring fire departments who were battling a blaze at a paper manufacturing plant during a period of record cold temperatures and high winds. The lodge remained open to firefighters for extended hours during the several days that it took for the

blaze to be completely extinguished, and lodge members also invited firefighters to attend their monthly breakfast. Pictured during the first night are Carlstadt Fire Department Deputy Chief Dennis Kronyak and PER Dennis Orosz.

Hammer. State association members also served as judges during the event.

Bayonne, NJ, Lodge held a dance fund-raiser and raised nearly \$2,000 for special-needs children's charities.

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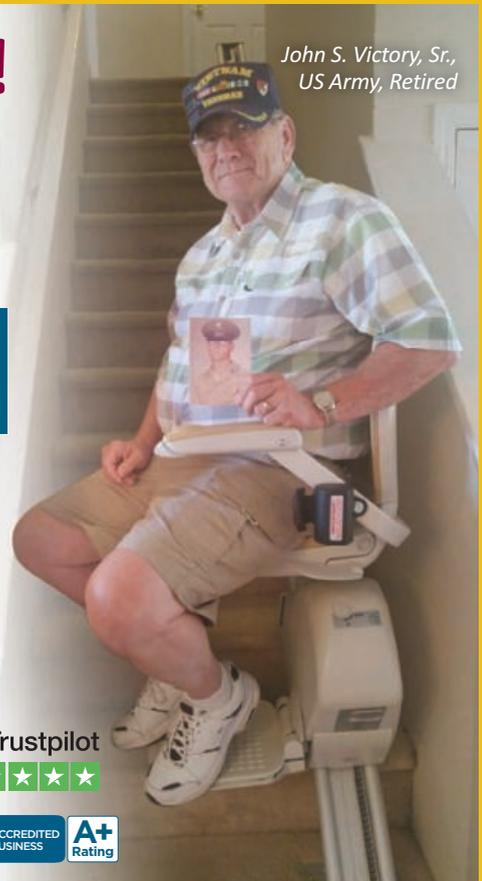
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Bayville, NJ, Lodge used a \$2,000 ENF Gratitude Grant and additional lodge funding to donate \$1,000 worth of food to each of three food pantries.

Cedar Grove, NJ, Lodge held a chili cook-off and raised about \$700 for the Elks National Foundation.

In other news, lodge members took part in a community polar plunge fund-raiser and raised \$600 to provide financial assistance to the family of a child with disabilities.

Hackettstown, NJ, Lodge donated complete sets of US Bowling Congress bowler's education materials to six local elementary schools.

Park Ridge, NJ, Lodge used part of a \$2,500 ENF Gratitude Grant to donate \$1,000 to the Carl Inserra Leukemia Fund to support leukemia research and provide financial assistance to families of leukemia patients.

Ridgefield Park, NJ, Lodge members took part in the New Jersey Southeast District's John Sentner Memorial Polar Plunge and raised \$6,100 for the state major project, Elks Camp Moore, which is a camp for children with special needs.

Southeast District, NJ, lodges held the annual John Sentner Memorial Polar Plunge, in which about 250 Elks and volunteers participated, and raised approximately \$89,000 for the state major project, Elks Camp Moore, which is a camp for children with special needs.

South Amboy, NJ, Lodge donated a \$2,000 ENF Gratitude Grant to Renovation House, a drug and alcohol abuse rehabilitation facility. Lodge members also presented a certificate of recognition to the house's staff.

Toms River, NJ, Lodge members participated in the New Jersey Southeast District's John Sentner Memorial Polar Plunge and raised more than \$22,000 for the state major project, Elks Camp Moore, which is a camp for children with special needs.



South Plainfield, NJ, Lodge used part of a \$1,500 ENF Anniversary Grant to donate \$1,000 to the Bright Beginnings Learning Center, a special education school, to help improve the school's playground. Lodge members also read to several students at the school. Pictured with student Joey is ER Christine Sauer.



West Orange, NJ, Lodge members honored the winners of their Americanism Essay Contest and awarded each of them a \$100 gift card. Pictured are (front, from left) winners Isabella Davis, James Tibang, and Samantha Galantini with (back, from left) Liberty Middle School Principal Robert Klemt, PER William Michael, and teachers Jane Horwitz and Chris Todd.

West Milford, NJ, Lodge donated \$1,500 to the Police Unity Tour, which pays tribute to slain police officers and raises funds for the National Law Enforcement Museum. The lodge also donated a total of \$450 to two fund-raisers for New Jersey North District special-needs children's charities.

Ballston Spa, NY, Lodge donated a \$2,000 ENF Beacon Grant and \$1,000 from a \$2,000 ENF Gratitude Grant to the Gordon Creek Elementary School backpack program, which provides weekend meals to needy children.

In other news, the lodge used part of a \$2,000 ENF Gratitude Grant to donate \$1,000 to the First Baptist Church of Ballston Spa's summer lunch program for children.

Beacon, NY, Lodge hosted an awards ceremony and dinner, which about 100 people attended, during which lodge members recognized 12 outstanding first responders.

In other news, lodge members used a \$2,500 ENF Promise Grant to distribute 240 dictionaries to third-grade students in the Beacon City School District.

In more news, the lodge donated a \$1,500 ENF Anniversary Grant to a local soup kitchen.

Brewster, NY, Lodge members held a first responders dinner and presented certificates to representatives of 11 emergency service departments and other local government agencies to recognize them for properly displaying the US flag.



Auburn, NY, Lodge members presented the Elks Distinguished Citizenship Award to Dr. Adam Duckett to recognize his service as a member of the Heroin Epidemic Action League. Pictured during the presentation are (from left) lodge member Mario Campanello, Cayuga County Sheriff and lodge member Brian Schenck, Elk of the Year and PER Edward Darrow, Distinguished Citizen Duckett, and SP Stuart Rische.



Monticello, NY, Lodge hosted a reception, dinner, and ceremony in honor of six outstanding law enforcement officers, which nearly 130 Elks and guests attended. Pictured are the honorees, (from left) Sullivan County Sheriff's Office Detective Sergeant Edward Clouse, Sullivan County Jail Chief Hal Smith, New York State Police Investigator Joseph Nuzzo, Liberty Police Officer James Simon, Fallsburg Police Officer John Chevalier, and Sullivan County District Attorney Jim Farrel. At right is PSP Philip Conaty.

Clifton Park, NY, Lodge used a \$1,500 ENF Anniversary Grant to support a seven-week basketball program for 30 needy children at the Southern Saratoga YMCA. Each child was given dinner after each session and received a T-shirt and a pair of athletic shoes.

Cohoes-Waterford, NY, Lodge hosted a breakfast fund-raiser, which more than 200 people attended, and raised approximately \$1,500 for lodge charities.

Ithaca, NY, Lodge used part of a \$2,500 ENF Gratitude Grant to donate \$500 each to the Enfield School Age Program, which is an



New York, NY, Lodge members attended a Court of Honor ceremony for six new Eagle Scouts from Boy Scout Troop 332 and presented each scout with a framed certificate and US flag. For their Eagle Scout Projects, Joseph Callahan rebuilt a public bocce court; Anthony Doall planted several trees, which were grafted from surviving trees in the Ground Zero area, in a memorial park in the Village of East Rockaway; Edward Dredger wrote and filmed a video on resisting bullying; Brandon Larkin grew ten batches of fresh produce and donated them to a soup kitchen; Eric Levine built four bat houses and donated them to the Village of Lynbrook; and Jason Thompson landscaped an area near the Metropolitan Transit Authority East Rockaway Station. Pictured are (from left) scouts Levine, Callahan, and Larkin, ER Brian Steckler, state Trustee Anitra Butler, and scouts Doall, Thompson, and Dredger.

after-school child care program for schoolchildren; the local YMCA youth program; Second Wind Cottages, which is a residential program for homeless men; and the American Red Cross.

In other news, the lodge used an ENF Anniversary Grant worth \$1,500 to distribute dictionaries to a total of nearly 700 third-grade students in Tompkins County.

Lockport, NY, Lodge donated \$500 to Wings Flights of Hope, which provides free air transportation to people with medical and humanitarian needs.

Newburgh, NY, Lodge held a fund-raising event and raised \$7,000 for the Humane Society of Walden.

Oswego, NY, Lodge used a \$2,000 ENF Gratitude Grant to provide diapers and other infant care supplies to the Oswego County Opportunities OPTIONS program, which provides assistance to expectant mothers and parents of infants.

Sidney, NY, Lodge members donated a total of nearly 170 pounds of aluminum pull tabs to the local Shriners lodge to be sold as scrap in order to support medical transportation for seriously ill children and their families.



Saratoga-Wilton, NY, Lodge Seniors in Need Food Delivery Program, which is funded by a \$10,000 ENF Impact Grant, made several deliveries of food from three local food pantries to more than 90 seniors in their homes, including 26 residents of Raymond Watkin Apartments, a senior living community. Pictured is Raymond Watkin resident Anne Salmiery.

Southern Tier District, NY, lodges and the Bath, NY, and Sayre, PA, Lodges held a trivia contest at the Elmira Lodge. The contest was won by the Horseheads Lodge, whose members designated Saint Baldrick's Foundation, which supports children's cancer research, as the recipient of the \$200 that was raised during the event.

Fayetteville, NC, Lodge hosted an awards banquet and ceremony, during which plaques were presented to Student of the Year Joshua Jourden, Fireman of the Year Taylor McCullen, Law Enforcement Officer of the Year Gregory Morrison, and Volunteer EMT of the Year Greg Strahan.



Shallotte, NC, Lodge used part of a \$2,500 ENF Gratitude Grant to donate \$500 to Special Olympics Brunswick County and \$500 to the Shallotte Dixie Youth Baseball League to sponsor five teams. Pictured are (from left) Special Olympics Coordinator Steve Goodwin, ER-elect John Alcorn, ER Walter Wilson, Trustee Paul Salerno, and Est. Lead. Knight Robert Kordiak.



Van Wert, OH, Lodge donated \$50 to the MAV Youth Mentoring Program. Pictured are Est. Lead. Knight Keith Collins and MAV Youth Mentoring Program representative Nancy Eberle.

In other news, the lodge used a \$1,500

ENF Anniversary Grant to enable 15 young people to attend a session at 4-H Camp Palmer.

Athens, OH, Lodge used part of a \$2,000 ENF Gratitude Grant to donate \$1,000 to Good Works, which provides assistance to needy people in rural Appalachia.

In other news, the lodge hosted a poker tournament and raised more than \$700 for the state major project, which supports cerebral palsy treatment centers throughout the state.

Coshocton, OH, Lodge used a \$2,000 ENF Beacon Grant to give smoke detectors to 320 first- and second-grade students in two elementary schools. Lodge members and firefighters also spoke to the students about fire safety.

In other news, the lodge used part of a \$2,000 ENF Gratitude Grant to donate \$500 to Coshocton CARES, which helps high school students with college admissions, and \$500 to Coshocton County React, a civilian auxiliary whose members assist emergency responders during emergencies and large public events.

In more news, the lodge donated \$750 to Warsaw Elementary School to purchase a laminating machine.

Gallipolis, OH, Lodge held a dinner and dance, which was attended by more than 260 people and raised a total of nearly \$15,000 for the Elks National Foundation.

Newark, OH, Lodge hosted a breakfast fund-raiser and raised a total of \$400 for the state major project, which supports cerebral palsy centers throughout the state.

Sandusky, OH, Lodge donated a \$2,000 ENF Gratitude Grant to the Sandusky Police Department to help purchase surveillance cameras.

Ponca City, OK, Lodge used a \$2,000 ENF Beacon Grant to hold a Valentine's Day party for 96 children at the Child Development Center of Ponca City, which is a child care center for needy families.



East Stroudsburg, PA, Lodge members distributed dictionaries and small US flags to 380 third-grade students in Stroudsburg Area School District schools. Pictured are (from left) PDD Mark Hutson, Hamilton Elementary School students Shane Burkhart, Annabella Lavacca, Alexandra Molinaro, and Luke Swartzentruber, and ER Ralph Bush.

Each child received a children's book, a pair of gloves, a cap, and a bag of snacks.

In other news, the lodge donated a \$2,500 ENF Gratitude Grant to the Friendship Feast, which provides free, hot meals to needy adults and children.

Oregon City, OR, Lodge Past Elks of the Year Committee raised \$2,700 for local charities.

Bloomsburg, PA, Lodge hosted a ceremony in honor of the winners of the lodge's Americanism Essay Contest. Each winner received a gift card, a certificate, and a small US flag. The winners of the fifth- and sixth-grade division were W. W. Evans Elementary School student Wyatt Brosious in first place, Saint Columba Catholic School student Emily LaRouche in second place, and W. W. Evans Elementary School student Marc-Alexi Dobbins in third place. The winners of the seventh- and eighth-grade division were Saint Columba Catholic School student Mary Grace Duncan, who placed first in the contest; Southern Columbia Area Middle School student Ella Karnes, who placed second in the contest; and Saint Columba Catholic School student Lyla Oast, who placed third in the contest.

Erie, PA, Lodge held a Saint Patrick's Day party and raised nearly \$2,500 for the state major project, which provides advocacy and home visits by nurses to children with special needs. The lodge also hosted a chili cook-off fund-raiser and raised nearly \$1,100 for the state major project.

State College, PA, Lodge held a raffle and raised approximately \$4,100 for lodge charities.

Beaumont, TX, Lodge used a \$10,000 ENF Impact Grant to renovate a cottage to be used as a community room and kitchen for residents of Boys' Haven of America, a residential home for boys who have been removed from their families. Lodge members were assisted by members of the lodge-sponsored Venture Crew and volunteers from the community in carrying out the renovations.

Denton, TX, Lodge members attended the awards banquet of the Frontier Trails District of the Longhorn Council of the Boy Scouts of America and presented certificates and US flags to a total of 18 new Eagle Scouts.

Fort Worth, TX, Lodge used part of a \$2,500 ENF Promise Grant to provide science education kits to 98 elementary school students.

In other news, the lodge used a \$2,000 ENF Beacon Grant to host a dinner and dance for 27 children and adults with special needs and 110 other guests.

San Angelo, TX, Lodge used a \$2,000 ENF Beacon Grant and additional lodge funding to sponsor the San Angelo Area Spelling Bee. Lodge members also volunteered to set up before the contest and serve as judges and recorders and in other needed capacities during the contest.

In other news, the lodge hosted a fish fry and raised more than \$700 for the Family Shelter, a domestic violence shelter.

In more news, the lodge sponsored a Little League baseball team.



Saint George "Dixie," UT, Lodge members presented certificates to the proprietors of six businesses to commend them for correctly flying the US flag. Pictured at a car wash are (from left) co-owner Conner Atkin, employee Heather Jessop, Est. Lead. Knight Lyn Murray, Americanism Committee Chairman Tim Murray, co-owner Quinn Allgood, and employee Chandler Day.

In other news, the lodge hosted a soup tasting, which more than 100 people attended, and raised more than \$700 for local charities. The lodge also hosted a Valentine's Day dance and raised more than \$1,000 for the Past Exalted Rulers Scholarship Fund.



Portsmouth-Chesapeake, VA, Lodge used part of a \$1,500 ENF Anniversary Grant to donate \$500 to the Help and Emergency Response (HER) shelter, which provides assistance to the victims of domestic

violence, stalking, sexual violence, and human trafficking. Pictured are (from left) ER John Yandle and HER Crisis Service Director Olivia Smithberger.

Barre, VT, Lodge used part of a \$2,500 ENF Gratitude Grant to donate \$500 to the Twin Valley Senior Center and \$400 to Courtney's Allies, which raises awareness about and assists the victims of domestic violence.

Clifton Forge, VA, Lodge members presented the Elks Distinguished Citizenship Award to Allegheny County Sheriff's Deputy Chris Fisher to recognize his efforts as DARE officer for the Allegheny County Public Schools.

Fredericksburg, VA, Lodge used a \$1,500 ENF Anniversary Grant to provide winter coats to 39 Walker-Grant Middle School students.

Hampton, VA, Lodge used a \$2,000 ENF Gratitude Grant and an ENF Anniversary Grant worth \$1,500 to hold a Christmas party for 220 children with special needs. The event featured lunch, music, dancing, and a visit from Santa.

Newport News, VA, Lodge hosted a chili cook-off fund-raiser and raised a total of nearly \$1,400 in support of the Lung Cancer Research Foundation.

Onancock, VA, Lodge hosted a barbecue fund-raiser and raised nearly \$24,000 for the family of college student Austin Brady to help with his treatment for stage-four Hodgkin's lymphoma.

Suffolk, VA, Lodge donated a \$2,000 ENF Gratitude Grant to the Genieve Shelter, which assists domestic violence victims.

Waynesboro, VA, Lodge used a \$10,000 ENF Impact Grant to renovate an indoor area at a facility of the Boys and Girls Club of Waynesboro, Staunton, and Augusta County to create a play space for fourth and fifth graders. The renovations included installing an air conditioning system.



Greater Spokane, WA, Lodge members attended a Court of Honor ceremony for new Eagle Scout Connor McLaughlin, of Boy Scout Troop 15, and presented him with a US flag. For his Eagle Scout Project,

McLaughlin built a sunshade for the Spokane Gun Club. Pictured are (from left) Americanism Committee Chairman Charles Porter, new Eagle Scout McLaughlin, and Scoutmaster Aaron Penny.



Wausau, WI, Lodge members attended a Court of Honor ceremony for new Eagle Scout Wyatt Sether, of Boy Scout Troop 427, and presented him with a US flag. For his Eagle Scout Project, Sether built a wheelchair ramp to make the house of a lodge past exalted ruler accessible. Pictured are (from left) Est. Loyal Knight Adam Doede, Est. Lead. Knight Marcelo Coscio, ER Dale Krenz, Eagle Scout Sether, and PER and Eagle Scout Scott Waldhart.

In other news, the lodge used a \$1,500 ENF Anniversary Grant to donate a number of different school supplies to Wenonah and William Perry Elementary Schools.

Bremerton, WA, Lodge hosted an auction and raised more than \$8,300 for the Elks National Foundation. ■



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Saint Louis^{Missouri}

Welcomes BPO Elks for

2019

Grand Lodge Convention



PHOTO: EXPLORE ST. LOUIS

The Gateway Arch, located on the west bank of the Mississippi River in Saint Louis, was finished in 1965 and has become an instantly recognizable symbol of this important city. The magnificent 630-foot-tall structure is meant to evoke the idea of Saint Louis as the Gateway to the West and recall to mind the fact that this city was the place where countless pioneers began their journey westward.

PHILIP HARTIGAN

SAINT LOUIS, MISSOURI, welcomes members of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks for its 155th Grand Lodge Convention, which will be held at the America's Center Convention Complex in downtown Saint Louis from June 30 to July 3, 2019. Saint Louis is famously known as the Gateway to the West because during the nineteenth century it was a common point of departure for pioneers traveling westward. Today, the iconic image of Saint Louis is the soaring modern structure of the Saint Louis Gateway Arch—a portal beyond which one finds a thriving and



PHOTO: PRISMA ARCHIVO/ALAMY STOCK PHOTO

This 1850 engraving depicts a street in Saint Louis filled with wagons being loaded and unloaded in front of local businesses, illustrating the significant mercantile expansion of the city that took place throughout the nineteenth century.

welcoming midwestern metropolis. Home to the Saint Louis Cardinals baseball team and the National Blues Museum, this city, whose origins go back more than 250 years, is the perfect place for members of the BPO Elks to gather as they celebrate the accomplishments of the past year and plan for future success.

A Long History

When French explorers arrived in the region in 1673, the area covered by modern-day Saint Louis was home to Native Americans of the Osage and Missouri tribes. In 1763, a French trader named Pierre Laclède Liguest visited the site of the future city of Saint Louis. The following year, he returned to the area and established a trading post and settlement there, naming it after King Louis IX of France, who had been canonized.

In 1803, Saint Louis was ceded by France to the United States as part of the Louisiana Purchase settlement. In 1804, Meriwether Lewis and William Clark made Saint Louis the starting point of their exploration of the West, a journey that was to be repeated by hundreds of thousands of settlers later in the nineteenth century. In 1809, Saint Louis was incorporated as a town and then as a city in 1822. At that time, the city had a population of 5,000 people, which grew to more than 160,000 in 1860 and then to more than 300,000 by 1870, making Saint Louis the third largest city in the United States. At its peak in 1950, Saint Louis had a population of more than 850,000.

With the expansion of suburban communities in the 1960s, Saint Louis (in common with many large American cities) experienced a rapid urban population decline, but recent redevelopments of the city center have prompted a resurgence of the downtown population. This renewed growth has been driven by the creation of pleasant public spaces and a vibrant hospitality and leisure sector.

Around Downtown Saint Louis

The America's Center Convention Complex, located at 701 Convention Plaza, offers more than 500,000 square feet of exhibition



PHOTO: EXPLORE ST. LOUIS

The America's Center Convention Complex is located downtown and is only a short distance northwest of the Gateway Arch.

OFFICE OF THE

Mayor

Dear honored guests and attendees:

ON BEHALF of the city of Saint Louis, it is my great pleasure to welcome you and your guests to Saint Louis—the Gateway to the West—for the Grand Lodge Convention of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks of the USA, being held from June 30 to July 3, 2019. We are thrilled that Saint Louis was chosen as the site for this important meeting.



Saint Louis was founded by French fur traders, and the city is named after a French king, Louis IX. A statue of King Louis is found at the top of Art Hill in Forest Park, the largest urban park in America. I invite you to discover it and to explore the many other great cultural and entertainment attractions in our city, including Grand Center's entertainment district, Lafayette Square's Victorian homes, and South Grand's international dining district, in addition to the many cultural institutions in Forest Park.

Best wishes for a successful, memorable visit to our fine city, and I hope that you will visit Saint Louis again soon.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Lyda Krewson". The signature is fluid and cursive, written over a light blue background.

Lyda Krewson
Mayor

space on three levels, plus eighty meeting rooms, a 28,000-square-foot ballroom, and an executive conference center. The convention center also houses a 1,400-seat theater and an adjacent space called the Dome, which is large enough to host a trade show or up to sixty-seven thousand attendees to a concert. The headquarters hotel for the convention, the Marriott Saint Louis Grand, is located directly opposite the convention center, at 800 Washington Avenue.

Downtown Saint Louis packs a lot of history and many interesting sites within a few square miles. These attractions include public buildings, museums, and dozens of restaurants and cafes. One way to see an example of what the city has to offer is to take a walk along Market Street from the Gateway Arch, near the Mississippi River, to Union Station, which is located approximately one and a half miles northwest of the arch.

The Gateway Arch, completed in 1965, soars 630 feet into the air and consists of more than forty-three thousand tons of concrete and steel. Designed by architect Eero Saarinen, the arch is meant to symbolize the westward expansion of the United States, and an underground museum below the arch tells the story of the many pioneers in the nineteenth century who made Saint Louis the leaping-off point for their new lives out West. It is possible to take a specially designed tram to the top of the arch to admire the stunning views of the city, the Mississippi River, and the surrounding landscape, though visitors should note that they are still required to navigate six flights of stairs if they wish to visit the observation deck at the top.

A short walk away from the Gateway Arch, at the intersection of Market Street and Fourth Street, stands the Old Courthouse, a domed building that was built in 1839. In front of the courthouse one can see a statue of Dred and Harriet Scott. The Scotts were slaves who sued their owner for their freedom in 1846—a suit that was finally decided in 1857 by the US Supreme Court in the famous Dred Scott decision. The statue commemorates the Scotts' fight and the fact that their suit was first lodged at this historic courthouse.



PHOTO: IAN G. DAGNALL/ALAMY STOCK PHOTO

The Gateway Arch dominates an area of national parkland designated in 1935 by President Franklin D. Roosevelt as the Jefferson National Expansion Memorial, which is now called Gateway Arch National Park. The national design competition for the memorial, which was announced in 1948, was won by Finnish-born architect Eero Saarinen.

PHOTO: IMAGEBROKER/ALAMY STOCK PHOTO



The Old Courthouse, built in 1839, earned a place in legal history as a result of two cases that were first heard there and eventually appealed all the way to the US Supreme Court: the Dred Scott case, filed in 1846, concerning the rights of freed slaves, and the Virginia Minor case of 1874, which was about women’s right to vote.

Continuing northwest along Market Street, visitors will find six parks in the space of seven blocks (a total of 108 parks are managed by the Saint Louis Parks Department). Kiener Plaza, just west of the Old Courthouse, between North Broadway and Seventh Street, is a paved public space with a fountain and a statue at its center. The statue depicts Harry Kiener, a multi-sport athlete who competed in the 1904 Olympic Games, which were held in Saint Louis.

Citygarden is a park that is located between Eighth Street and Tenth Street. It is an urban oasis of trees, pools, fountains, and sculptures. The twenty-four sculptures and the water features are connected by winding pathways, and a sixty-seat cafe provides refreshments for visitors. A few blocks farther along Market Street, the Serra Sculpture Park contains one large piece by American sculptor Richard Serra, comprising long plates of Cor-ten steel (a special, decorative steel that is intended to rust) that contrast impressively with the surrounding buildings of downtown.

PHOTO: EXPLORE ST. LOUIS



Residents and visitors to Saint Louis stroll down the paths of Citygarden, an urban oasis filled with trees, water features, and twenty-four sculptures by world-renowned artists.

To Convention Attendees

ALL ELKS AND GUESTS attending the Grand Lodge Convention **MUST** register.

Preregistration is available through the Elks website (*Elks.org*) until as late as June 26, 2019. The preregistration fee is \$50.00 for all members (there is no fee for non-Elk spouses and guests), and payment may be made using a credit card or PayPal. In order to preregister for the convention, you will need to establish a username and password for the members-only login section of the Elks.org website. You can then preregister online at <https://www.elks.org/convention/prereg.cfm>. When you arrive at the convention center in Saint Louis, have your email confirmation and current membership card available. Proceed to the registration area, then enter the preregistration line to collect badges for yourself and your spouse and/or guests. If you are qualified to vote, you may also pick up your voting credentials.

On-site registration will be available at the America's Center Convention Complex, Hall 3, 701 Convention Plaza, Saint Louis, Missouri 63101. The on-site registration fee is \$60.00 for all members (there is no fee for non-Elk spouses and guests). A registration information card will be found on the tables in the registration area. This card must be filled out to receive registration badges for you and your spouse and/or guests and your voting credentials if you are qualified to vote.

Once the registration information card is completely filled out, payment of the \$60.00 registration fee must be made at the cashier's booth in the registration area by cash, personal check, traveler's check, or credit card.

After payment of the fee, you will then be directed to the registration line, where you will present the completed registration information card. You must also present a current membership card (removed from any plastic case or covering so that it may be stamped).

All non-Elk guests, including widows and widowers of Elks, **MUST** register at the convention center to obtain their registration badges. An official badge is necessary for a guest to enter the exhibit hall and/or to attend the installation of Grand Lodge officers on Wednesday (or to attend any other functions where guests are permitted).

Grand Lodge registration and its required fee are **NOT** included in any state association's package arrangement. A Grand Lodge registration badge will be required for anyone to enter the exhibit hall and all business sessions.

Sincerely and Fraternaly,

*Bryan R. Klatt, Grand Secretary
Chairman, Committee on Credentials*

*Phil Claiborne, Director of Circulation, The Elks
Magazine, Registration Coordinator*

From the Serra Sculpture Park, it's just a seven-minute walk northwest along Market Street to the Soldiers Memorial Military Museum, which is located slightly north of Market Street at 1315 Chestnut Street and is surrounded on all sides by small parks. In 1936, President Franklin D. Roosevelt attended the dedication ceremony for the building, which was opened in 1938 and was built to honor the more than one thousand residents of Saint Louis who lost their lives during World War I. In the late 1940s, a Court of Honor

PHOTO: BILL GRANT/LAMY STOCK PHOTO



The Soldiers Memorial Military Museum was constructed in 1938 in honor of soldiers from Saint Louis who died in World War I. In 1948, the Court of Honor was built next to the museum in memory of those who served in World War II, and in 2018, the Five Branches Fountain and the reflecting pool were added.

WELCOME TO **Missouri**

To the delegates of our convention:

ON BEHALF of the almost thirty-one thousand members of the Missouri Elks Association, I welcome delegates, spouses, and guests to the 155th Grand Lodge Convention of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks! It has been sixteen years since Saint Louis hosted a Grand Lodge Convention, and I am confident that the Gateway to the West will once again serve as a tremendous location for us.



There have been many changes to the area since the Elks were last here, and I encourage you to enjoy the sights and some of what the city has to offer. Home to the Saint Louis Cardinals Major League baseball team, the city saw the opening of an impressive new stadium in 2006. In recent years, the area was updated with the development of Ballpark Village, a district that is open year-round and offers eating establishments, shops, and the Cardinals Hall of Fame and Museum. The Show Me State's crown jewel, the welcoming Gateway Arch, is a must-see while you are here. Most of the hotels are within walking distance of these and other sights, as well as the America's Center Convention Complex, where sessions and meetings will be held.

I hope you are looking forward to this year's convention. You can be sure Saint Louis and the Elks of Missouri are excited to welcome you back and will do their best to make you feel at home!

Sincerely and Fraternally,

F. Louis Sulsberger, PGER
State Sponsor of Illinois, Missouri, and Wisconsin

was added to the plaza in front of the museum in memory of those who served during World War II. A revitalization project was recently completed on the museum and the Court of Honor, and new monuments were added on the walkways between the two to memorialize service members from Saint Louis who have sacrificed their lives since World War II. The free-admission military museum offers a number of permanent and changing exhibits that document the stories of local service members, veterans, and their families.

The Court of Honor, located on the south side of the Soldiers Memorial Military Museum, is situated at the east end of Memorial Park, an eleven-acre area of public space that extends northwest for five blocks between Thirteenth Street and Eighteenth Street. Heading northwest to the corner of Market Street and Fourteenth Street, visitors will pass by the Stifel Theater, previously known as the Peabody Opera House and as the Kiel Opera House before that. The theater first opened in 1934 and has hosted great entertainers of different eras, including Frank Sinatra and The Rolling Stones.

Walking a few more blocks along Market Street, one will soon arrive at Saint Louis Union Station, a grand, nineteenth-century structure that has been redeveloped into a center for recreation and



PHOTO: TODD BANNER/ALAMY STOCK PHOTO

The Grand Hall of Union Station, with its sixty-five-foot-high ceiling and ornate stained-glass windows, opened in 1894 and cost \$6.5 million—approximately \$189 million in today's dollars.

hospitality. The station opened to the public in 1894, and during the next half-century or so, it was one of the busiest rail terminals in the United States. Passengers transiting through the station were amazed by the architecture of the Grand Hall, which was the main waiting room and was modeled on the interior of Romanesque churches. The hall's barrel-vaulted ceiling is sixty-five feet high, and a profusion of glazed terracotta tiles covers the walls and the pillars. There are

Saint Louis Lodge Open for Visiting Elks!

DURING THE 2019 GRAND LODGE CONVENTION, the Saint Louis, Missouri, Lodge will host a Beat the Saint Louis Heat open house and pool party on Tuesday, July 2, beginning at 4:00 p.m. The event will include food and refreshments, music, and the lodge's weekly Queen of Hearts raffle drawing and is open to all Elks who will be in Saint Louis during the convention. Saint Louis Lodge No. 9 is located at 12481 Ladue Road, Creve Coeur, Missouri 63141. Please contact Saint Louis Lodge ER Timothy Luby at trluby@gmail.com for further information.

also more than a dozen stained glass windows. Union Station closed to travel in 1978, but since 1985, it and its surrounding buildings have been renovated to turn the site into a mixed-use complex of restaurants, amusements, and a hotel with more than 560 rooms. Further attractions are being added, including an aquarium and a Ferris wheel.

Where to Eat

If visitors to Saint Louis Union Station happen to get hungry, they are in luck. There are three places to eat located within the station complex, with several more in the planning stages. Landry's Seafood House, located beneath the former train shed, next to an artificial lake, offers dishes such as shrimp orleans and lemon-pepper catfish. For a hearty steak or burger, try the Station Grille, formerly a Harvey House, the once-ubiquitous chain of railroad restaurants. Alternatively, one can order small plates in the Grand Hall and watch the light show that is projected on the hall's magnificent interior most days of the year at 5:00 p.m.

Approximately halfway between Union Station and the convention center, at 1104 Locust Street, is Rooster, a European-style urban cafe that is popular for breakfast and brunch. In addition to common items such as egg dishes, crepes, and french toast, diners can order the Rooster Slinger, which comes with andouille sausage, potatoes, and fried eggs, all served over thick-cut toast.

Luckily for convention goers, Washington Avenue, where the convention center and the Marriott Saint Louis Grand are located, is one of the busiest eating and entertainment districts in the city. Sen Thai Asian Bistro, located at 1000 Washington Avenue, offers a wonderful Thai menu, with options that include crab rangoon, tom yum soup, and green curry, as well as a Japanese menu, featuring items such as edamame, sashimi, and a variety of noodle bowls.

Quick snacks are available at Tazé Mediterranean Street Food, located near the convention center at 626 Washington Avenue. Diners can fill wraps or bowls with a choice of vegetarian ingredients, such as saffron rice, hummus, and roasted eggplant, and they can also add chicken or beef.

ALL GRAND LODGE MEMBERS, exalted rulers, visiting Elks, and their guests must be registered; your badge must be displayed for admission into the exhibit hall, session halls, and all Elks-related functions associated with this convention.

The registration area will open Saturday, June 29, at 8:00 a.m. at the America's Center Convention Complex, Hall 3, 701 Convention Plaza, Saint Louis, Missouri 63101. Information pamphlets are provided in the registration area to inform you about the convention and events. The America's Center Convention Complex should be considered your information center.

Preregistration will be available through the Elks website (*Elks.org*) until as late as June 26, 2019. The preregistration fee is \$50.00 for all members (there is no fee for non-Elk spouses or guests) and will be payable using a credit card or PayPal. In order to preregister for the convention you will need to establish a username and password for the members-only login section of the Elks.org website. Preregister at <https://www.elks.org/convention/prereg.cfm>. When you arrive at the convention center in Saint Louis, have your email confirmation and current membership card available. Proceed to the registration area, and then enter the preregistration line to collect the badges for you and your spouse and/or guest. You may also pick up your voting credentials at this time, if you are qualified to vote.

On-site registration will be available at the America's Center Convention Complex, Hall 3, in the registration

area. The on-site registration fee will be \$60.00 for all members (there is no registration fee required for non-Elk spouses or guests).

Registration Hours

Saturday, June 29	8:00 a.m. to 4:15 p.m.
Sunday, June 30	8:00 a.m. to 3:45 p.m.
Monday, July 1	7:30 a.m. to 3:45 p.m.
Tuesday, July 2	7:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Exhibits

Displays for the activities of Grand Lodge committees and programs, state major projects, and trademark licensees will be located in the America's Center Convention Complex in Hall 3.

Exhibits open each day at the same time that registration begins. Exhibits close fifteen minutes after registration closes on Saturday, Sunday, and Monday. On Tuesday, the final day to view displays, the exhibits close at 2:00 p.m.

Grand Lodge Sessions

All sessions will be held daily at the America's Center Convention Complex, Hall 4, 701 Convention Plaza, Saint Louis, Missouri 63101.

Ritualistic Schedule

Ritualistic Contest finals will be held at the America's Center Convention Complex on Monday, July 1.

For a filling evening meal, a popular spot near the convention center is Sugarfire Smoke House, located at 605 Washington Avenue. The restaurant serves delicious barbecue dishes, such as pulled pork, smoked brisket, ribs, and sausage, and for those with a big appetite, there is a plate called the Meat Daddy, which comprises a four-bone rib, a sausage link, and four ounces each of brisket, pulled pork, and turkey. The Sugarfire Smoke House is open until 9:00 p.m., or until they run out of food, so patrons are advised not to plan their visit for too late in the evening.

In recent years, national newspapers and travel magazines have included Saint Louis in their top ten lists in a range of different categories, including best budget-friendly family destination, best bakeries, best small museums, and best up-and-coming city for business start-ups. All of these, and more, are reasons enough for coming to Saint Louis, but add to this the fraternal spirit that binds hundreds of thousands of Elks together all across this great nation, and you have the perfect place for the Order to gather in celebration. To all those attending the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks Grand Lodge Convention, the Gateway to the West awaits you and sends out the following message: meet me in Saint Louis! ■

155th Grand Lodge Session Program

All Grand Lodge Sessions will be held daily at the America's Center Convention Complex, Hall 4, 701 Convention Plaza, Saint Louis, Missouri 63101. Sessions will start each morning promptly at 8:00 a.m. All attendees are required to register. Please be sure to attend all sessions to receive the 2019–2020 program information.

SUNDAY, JUNE 30

10:00 a.m.–12:30 p.m. A seminar for special deputies will be held at the Marriott Saint Louis Grand in Gateway Ballroom B. PGERs are invited to attend.

11:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m. A membership and marketing seminar will be held at the America's Center Convention Complex in the Ferrara Theater. The seminar will cover ways to continue your lodge's "bricks and clicks" transformation and will introduce the new Grand Lodge Membership and Marketing Virtual Manual, which will be accessible 24/7 to all members registered on Elks.org. It offers continuous and collective learning opportunities that will help deepen our members' understanding of their roles and responsibilities within the Order.

1:30–3:00 p.m. Join the studio audience for a live taping of the *Middy with the Elks National Foundation* podcast at the America's Center Convention Complex in the Ferrara Theater.

4:00 p.m. Official Grand Lodge Opening Ceremonies. Members and accompanied guests are invited to attend. Master of Ceremonies and Past Grand Exalted Ruler Ronald L. Hicks will give the opening remarks and introduce the Past Grand Exalted Rulers and Past First Ladies. Chairman of the Grand Lodge Fraternal Committee Dennis Ramsey will introduce the state presidents and the presentation of the flags. The Elks National Foundation Report, including Hoop Shoot and scholarship winners' presentations, will be given, and the principal address will be given by Grand Exalted Ruler Michael T. Luhr, followed by the convention celebration. The CELEBRATION will feature a performance by the band the Party Crashers and is sponsored by the Elks National Foundation.

MONDAY, JULY 1

8:00 a.m. Opening Grand Lodge Business Session. The Annual Report will be given by Grand Exalted Ruler Michael T. Luhr. Reports will be given by the Elks National Convention Commission, the National Memorial and Publications Commission, the Veterans Restoration Trust, the Disaster

Relief Fund, and the Board of Grand Trustees, and there will be a Committee on Judiciary preliminary report and legislative session discussion.

10:00 a.m. All registered guests are invited to attend the session.

10:10 a.m. Nomination and election of Grand Lodge Officers for 2019–2020.

10:55 a.m. CELEBRATION and the Grand Exalted Ruler elect will give his acceptance speech.

12:30–1:30 p.m. The Elks National Foundation will hold a seminar at the America's Center Convention Complex in room 130 on the ENF Community Investments Program. The seminar will provide an overview of all 2019–2020 CIP grant opportunities and how to use the new online dashboard to apply for and document the use of CIP grants.

1:30–3:00 p.m. The Elks National Foundation will hold a seminar at the America's Center Convention Complex in room 131 for ENF fund-raising chairmen to discuss how to fulfill this role effectively.

12:30–3:00 p.m. Members of the Grand Lodge Auditing and Accounting Committee will hold a seminar at the America's Center Convention Complex in room 132 on subjects ranging from proper business practices to budgeting and other lodge financial topics. The seminar will be followed by a discussion and question-and-answer session.

12:45–3:00 p.m. A district deputy designate conference will be held at the Marriott Saint Louis Grand in Landmark Ballroom 5. Special deputies are required to attend.

1:00 p.m. Ritualistic finals will be at the America's Center Convention Complex.

1:00–4:00 p.m. A workshop for major projects administrators will be held at the America's Center Convention Complex in room 125.

1:30–4:00 p.m. The Committee on Judiciary will be available for questions at the Marriott Saint Louis Grand in the Shaw Boardroom.

2:00–3:00 p.m. The Marvin M. Lewis–Elks and Scouting Awards presentation will be held at the America's Center Convention Complex in room 123.

2:00–3:00 p.m. The Elks National Veterans Service Commission will conduct a seminar at the America's Center Convention Complex in room 130 called "Serving Local

Veterans in Need.” Learn how your lodge can identify the needs of veterans in your community and use Elks resources to meet them. The seminar will offer an overview of existing programs and grant opportunities and honor the Veterans Service Volunteer of the Year.

2:00–2:30 p.m. The Grand Exalted Ruler elect will be available at the Marriott Saint Louis Grand in Landmark Ballroom 3 for photos with the state presidents.

3:00–4:00 p.m. The Grand Exalted Ruler elect will be available for photos with the district deputies designate at the Marriott Saint Louis Grand in Landmark Ballroom 3.

TUESDAY, JULY 2

7:45 a.m.–2:00 p.m. Elks National Foundation staff members will be available at the ENF booth in Exhibit Hall 3 to answer questions about ENF Community Investments Program grants. This is not a seminar. Meetings are one on one with ENF staff members. Visit the ENF booth in Exhibit Hall 3 to sign up for a ten-minute meeting.

8:00 a.m. The Grand Lodge Business Session will commence. Reports will be given by the Resolutions Committee, Registration (final report), the Board of Grand Trustees (final report), and the Grand Forum/Pardon Committee.

8:45 a.m. The Committee on Judiciary legislative session will be held.

9:05 a.m. Reports will be given by the Auditing and Accounting Committee, the Activities Committee, and the Government Relations Committee, and the Fraternal Committee All-American Lodge Awards reports will be given.

9:45 a.m. The Grand Exalted Ruler elect will speak.

9:55 a.m. The Chicago headquarters 2019–2020 program will be presented.

10:15 a.m. Nonmembers will be admitted.

10:25 a.m. The Elks National Drug Awareness Program report will be given.

10:55 a.m. The Elks National Veterans Service Commission will give its report.

11:05 a.m. The Ritualistic Committee will give its final report and present team awards.

11:25 a.m. Legislative results will be announced.

12:30–3:00 p.m. Members of the Grand Lodge Auditing and Accounting Committee will hold a seminar at the America’s Center Convention Complex in room 132 on

subjects ranging from proper business practices to budgeting and other lodge financial topics. The seminar will be followed by a discussion and question-and-answer session.

1:00–3:00 p.m. Meet the Grand Exalted Ruler Elect by the Elks Memorial Clock in the concourse area of the America’s Center Convention Complex to take a picture with him and have him sign your membership card.

1:30–3:30 p.m. An Elks National Drug Awareness Program seminar will be held at the America’s Center Convention Complex in the Ferrara Theater. This is a call to action! Please join us to learn how the Elks Drug Awareness Program can boost your membership and strengthen your community. Come meet the directors of the program, hear about this year’s highlights, and speak with Mika Camarena, wife of slain DEA agent Enrique S. Camarena. Attendees will also have a chance to meet Bob Sabouni, the driving force behind some of the most viewed drug awareness videos on social media.

1:30–4:00 p.m. The Committee on Judiciary will be available for questions at the Marriott Saint Louis Grand in the Shaw Boardroom.

1:30–2:30 p.m. The staff of *The Elks Magazine* will give a seminar at the America’s Center Convention Complex in room 123 on how to submit fraternal news and photos to *The Elks Magazine*.

1:30–2:30 p.m. The Grand Lodge Activities Committee will hold a seminar at the America’s Center Convention Complex in room 131 about the Antlers Program, the Community Projects Contest, the Elks Virtual National Soccer Shoot, and more.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 3

8:00 a.m. Final Grand Lodge Session. This session is an open session to which members and accompanied guests are invited to attend. All district deputy designates are required to attend. The Memorial Service will be held under the direction of Past Grand Exalted Ruler Malcolm J. McPherson Jr.

9:00 a.m. A membership and marketing presentation will be given.

9:15 a.m. Past Grand Exalted Ruler Michael F. Zellen will install the 2019–2020 Grand Lodge Officers.

9:35 a.m. The installation of 2019–2020 district deputies will commence. All registered attendees are invited to attend. The Grand Lodge Session will conclude by 11:00 a.m. Departure plans should be made accordingly. Late checkouts should be arranged with each individual hotel in advance.

The Silent Service



PHOTO: US NAVY PHOTO/ALAMY STOCK PHOTO

A dolphin is shown racing ahead of the *Virginia*-class attack submarine USS *John Warner* during a sea trial in 2015. The *Virginia* class is the newest of the four classes of nuclear submarine that make up the US Navy's submarine fleet, which currently comprises more than seventy vessels.

LINDA MCMAKEN

THEY HAVE CHOSEN TO BE HERE. They live deep beneath the ocean's surface, sharing what little personal space they have, including their bunks. For months, they go without seeing their loved ones and without seeing the sun. They have undergone intensive training and rigorous evaluation by their superiors, and they have learned to operate some of the most sophisticated seagoing vessels in the world. These are the submariners of the US Navy—the men and women of the Silent Service.

The First American Submarines

The United States' first submarine is generally considered to have been a craft designed and built by Revolutionary War-era engineer



This model of colonial engineer David Bushnell's Revolutionary War-era submersible vessel, called the *Turtle*, gives visitors to the Submarine Force Library and Museum in Groton, Connecticut, an idea of what the United States' first submarine may have looked like.

David Bushnell. Not all submarine historians agree that this vessel ever actually existed and have cast doubt on Bushnell's accounts of his Revolutionary War experiences; however, other historians have successfully re-created working vessels based on contemporary descriptions of Bushnell's design, suggesting that it is possible that the vessel did exist.

Bushnell began experimenting with designs for water mines and submersible craft while attending Yale College during the early 1770s. After war broke out between the colonies and Great Britain in April 1775, word of his work reached General George Washington, who decided to fund one of his designs for a submersible craft capable of attacking British ships. The resulting vessel was nicknamed the *Turtle* and is considered by some historians to be the first submarine ever used in combat.

The onion-shaped *Turtle* is believed to have been made primarily out of wood and was about eight feet across, just large enough for a single operator. Using pedals and hand cranks, this person was able to maneuver the vessel underwater, where it was hoped it could be used to stealthily attach explosives to the hulls of British warships. In September 1776, a sergeant in the Continental army, Ezra Lee, is said to have piloted the *Turtle* on its first mission, during which he unsuccessfully attempted to place a mine on the underside of the HMS *Eagle*, the flagship of British Admiral Richard Howe, which was moored in New York Harbor. Over the next several weeks, the *Turtle*

is said to have embarked on more missions, none of which were successful. The *Turtle* was eventually lost when its transport sloop was sunk during the Battle of Fort Lee.

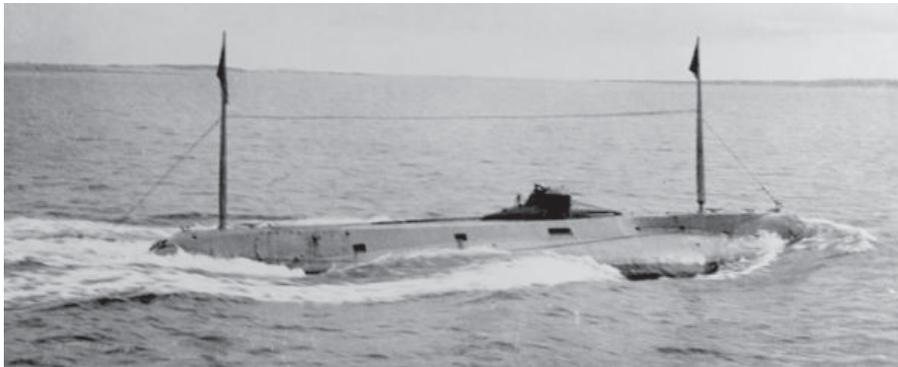
The US Navy was officially established in 1794, and the next attempt to equip American forces with a submarine took place more than half a century later, during the American Civil War. This vessel, called the USS *Alligator*, was a thirty-foot submersible made of iron and had room for eighteen crew members. It was intended as a defense against the Confederacy's ironclad warships; however, the *Alligator* never saw combat. It was lost while en route to South Carolina, when the ship that was towing it encountered a storm and had to cut the submarine loose. The *Alligator* sank off the shores of Cape Hatteras, and the navy did not attempt to build another submarine during the war. Indeed, it would not be until the turn of the twentieth century that the US Navy finally found a submarine design worth adopting.

The USS *Holland* and World War I

In the late 1890s, US Navy officials were approached by Irish-born American engineer John Philip Holland, who is considered by many to be the father of the modern submarine. Holland had spent the last three decades studying submersible ships and had perfected a design for a fifty-three-foot gas-powered submarine outfitted with guns and torpedoes. The US Navy purchased the prototype, called *Holland VI*, on April 11, 1900, and commissioned it as the USS *Holland* on October 12, 1900. The USS *Holland* was the first submarine to be commissioned by the US Navy.

The USS *Holland* was in service for ten years, during which time the navy ordered more submarines from John Holland and began developing its own designs, using the USS *Holland* as a model. By the beginning of World War I in 1914, the US Navy's submarine fleet comprised twenty-seven vessels, which sailors called "pigboats" because of the cramped and foul living conditions aboard the vessels. The ten-man pigboats were too limited in terms of speed and weaponry to be very effective during the war, but they taught the US

PHOTO: US NAVAL HISTORY AND HERITAGE COMMAND (NH 63091)



Pictured in the Long Island Sound in 1899 is the *Holland VI*, which was renamed the USS *Holland* in 1900 when it became the US Navy's first officially commissioned submarine.

RISH-BORN AMERICAN ENGINEER John Philip Holland is considered by many to be the father of the modern submarine. In the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, Holland developed submarines for both the US Navy and the British Royal Navy, and his designs would go on to play a significant role in the first submarine war—World War I.

Holland was a schoolteacher in Cork, Ireland, in the 1860s when he read about the Battle of Hampton Roads, which took place during the American Civil War. The two-day battle was significant because it featured the first encounter of rival ironclad warships, the USS *Monitor* and the CSS *Virginia*. Upon reading about the battle, Holland determined that the best way to stop such armored ships would be to attack them from below the water line, and he began to conceive of a vessel capable of just such a feat.

In the 1870s, Holland immigrated to the United States, where he started submitting submarine designs to the US Navy. The navy turned down his proposals, but he was undeterred. He spent the next two decades developing submarine prototypes with funds from private investors, and by the late 1890s, he had perfected his design for a fifty-three-foot, gas-powered submarine outfitted with guns and torpedoes. The US Navy purchased the prototype and commissioned it as the USS *Holland* on October 12, 1900. The USS *Holland* was the first submarine to be commissioned by the US Navy and went on to serve as the model for the navy's submarine designs in the early years of its submarine service. Holland died in 1914, right at the beginning of World War I and the start of the German U-boat campaign, in which submarines were used to disrupt Allied supply routes in the waters around Europe. —MM

Navy important lessons about submarine safety and undersea warfare, which would prove invaluable in the next world war.

World War II and a Fitting Name

World War II was an important period in the history of the development of the American submarine service, and it was during this conflict that the service came into its own. The United States officially entered the war after Japan attacked the US Navy base at Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941. During the attack, Japanese forces managed to decimate the navy's battleship fleet, but the more than fifty submarines stationed in and around Pearl Harbor were left largely undamaged. The failure to destroy the American submarines at Pearl Harbor is considered by some military historians to be one of Japan's biggest tactical mistakes of the war. Shortly after the attack on Pearl Harbor, US Navy Chief of Naval Operations Admiral Harold R. Stark issued the following order: "Execute unrestricted air and submarine warfare against Japan."

During the first eighteen months of the United States' involvement in the war, the navy's submarine service struggled. Some submariners believed that they were receiving commands that limited how effective their ships could be; moreover, many American submarines were carrying faulty torpedoes. During the Battle of Midway in June

of 1942, the twelve submarines stationed around the Midway Atoll were ordered to stay close to land and stalk the harbors and ports. This frustrated the crews, who felt that the submarines would have been put to better use out on the high seas, where they would have been able to stop Japanese supply ships. During the battle, only one submarine came within firing range of a Japanese warship, and the torpedo it fired had a malfunctioning firing pin that failed to detonate the warhead on impact.

After the Battle of Midway, upgrades were made to the navy's submarines. The first SJ radars were installed in August of 1942, which allowed American submariners to track enemy ships and even aircraft with great accuracy, and in the fall of 1943, the navy received deliveries of improved torpedoes with more reliable firing pins. From then on, the navy's submarine fleet proved to be a formidable seagoing force and played a crucial role in the Pacific theater of operations. While submarines made up only 2 percent of the US fleet during the war, they were responsible for sinking 60 percent of all Japanese merchant ships lost during the war, cutting off Japan's supply routes and depriving the island nation of the resources it needed to wage war. American submarines also sank more than 30 percent of the Japanese warships sunk during the war, including eight aircraft carriers, eleven cruisers, and a battleship. However, submarines were not limited to attack missions. Crews performed other tasks that were invaluable to the war effort as well. They conducted reconnaissance missions, transported teams of commandos, and rescued airmen who had been downed over the ocean.

During World War II, the US Navy's fleet had three classes of submarine: the *Gato* class, the *Balao* class, and the *Tench* class. While each succeeding class improved on the previous one in terms

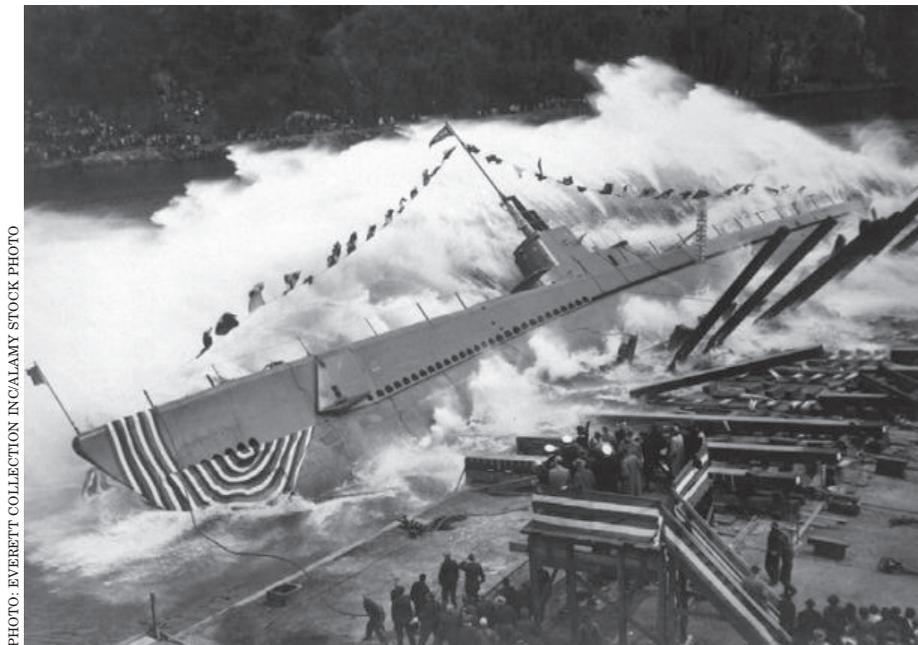


PHOTO: EVERETT COLLECTION INC/ALAMY STOCK PHOTO

The *Gato*-class submarine USS *Robalo* is shown being launched on May 9, 1943, in Manitowoc, Wisconsin.

of defensive capabilities, speed, and depth of dive, these three types of submarine had much in common. The boats of each of these classes had a complement of about ten officers and seventy sailors, and they were all diesel-electric boats, which meant they could not stay submerged for more than forty-eight hours. While on the surface, submarines would replenish oxygen stores and run the diesel engines that recharged their batteries, which were used to power the electric motors that drove the vessels when they were submerged. Because water stores were limited aboard submarines, crew members would sometimes take advantage of their time on the surface to bathe in the ocean.

Despite having some luxuries unheard of aboard other ships, like air conditioning, World War II-era US Navy submarines provided sailors with cramped and often uncomfortable accommodations. Heat from the engine room caused temperatures to climb above 100 degrees Fahrenheit, and with all available space used for storing torpedoes and provisions, including enough food and water to last seventy-five days at sea, sailors were forced to “hot rack”—meaning, they shared their bunks. Crews worked around the clock in shifts, and as one sailor was completing his shift, he would return to a bunk that was still warm from the previous occupant, who was just starting the next shift.

The US Navy lost fifty-two submarines and more than 3,600 brave submariners during World War II, making the casualty rate in the submarine service nearly 20 percent. While casualties were reported to the public during the war, most other details about American submarine activity were kept secret, even the victories. Many of these exploits became known only after the war, and as commanders sought to preserve the secrecy that was so essential to the missions of the submarine service by withholding vital information, the service became known to the public as the Silent Service.

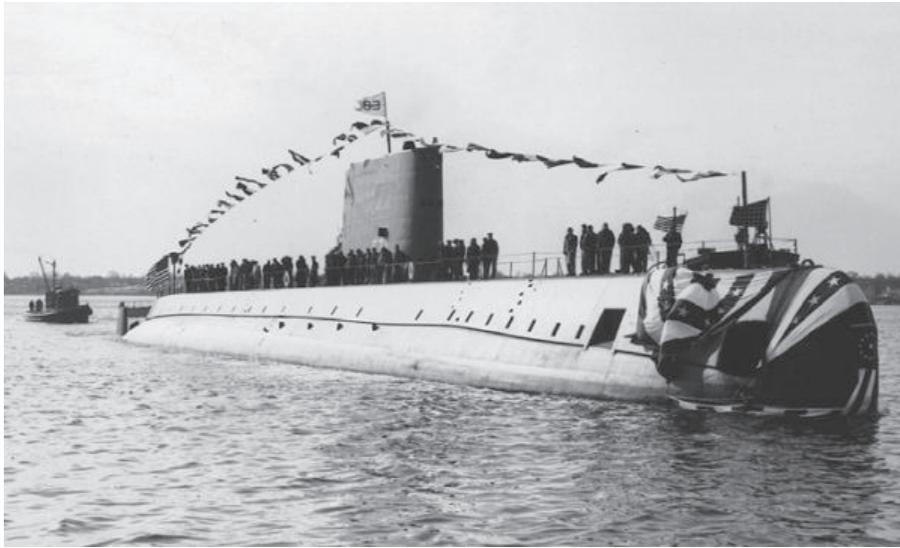
The Nuclear Era

The events of World War II demonstrated to the US Navy the enormous national defense advantages of submarines, and after the war, the navy collaborated with scientists and other government agencies to develop the most advanced seagoing vessels that the world had ever known.



PHOTO: WAR POSTERS/ALAMY STOCK PHOTO

This US Navy recruitment poster from World War II offers statistics about the efficacy of American submarines in the Pacific theater of operations and calls on men to join the service.



The USS *Nautilus*, pictured here in 1954 in the Thames River in Connecticut shortly after its christening ceremony, was the US Navy's first nuclear-powered submarine and the first nuclear-powered submarine ever built.

The idea of a nuclear-powered submarine had been proposed first in 1939 by scientists at the Naval Research Laboratory, shortly after the discovery of nuclear fission. The benefits of powering a submarine with steam produced by a nuclear reactor were clear. The ship would run cooler and quieter and would not need to surface to recharge batteries. It would also be able to remain submerged for much longer periods of time. US Navy Admiral Hyman G. Rickover, who is known as the Father of the Nuclear Navy, became the director of the Naval Reactors Branch of the Bureau of Ships in 1949 and spearheaded the development of nuclear reactors capable of powering the navy's surface ships and submarines. In 1951, the US Congress approved the construction of the United States' first nuclear submarine, and three years later, the USS *Nautilus* was christened, launched, and commissioned.

Whereas diesel-electric submarines were more submersible boats than true submarines, the USS *Nautilus* was a submarine in every sense of the term. It was larger than its World War II-era predecessors, more than twice as fast, and capable of remaining submerged for weeks, allowing it to travel places where no submarine had ever gone before. In the summer of 1958, the *Nautilus* traveled underneath the Arctic ice cap and became the first ship to reach the geographic North Pole.

The success of the *Nautilus* convinced the navy to invest in a nuclear-powered submarine fleet, and by 1962, it had twenty-six nuclear-powered boats in service and another thirty under construction. Naval engineers continued to improve on nuclear submarine designs and developed vessels with such features as strategic ballistic missile systems that would allow US submarines to fire ballistic missiles while submerged. The primary function of submarines during the Cold War, however, was nuclear deterrence, and the

HYMAN G. RICKOVER WAS AN admiral in the US Navy who became known as the Father of the Nuclear Navy for his role in developing nuclear-powered ships for the US Navy, specifically nuclear-powered submarines. Rickover was born on January 27, 1900, and was educated at the US Naval Academy and the Naval Postgraduate School, where he studied electrical engineering. During World War II, he served as head of the electrical division of the US Navy's bureau of ships.

After the war, Captain Rickover was assigned to help develop nuclear reactors at a laboratory, located in Oak Ridge, Tennessee, that had been part of the Manhattan Project. During this time, he began advocating for the use of nuclear power aboard ships, specifically submarines. His superiors thought his ideas were too far-fetched, and he was reassigned to an office job in Washington, DC. Rickover was not dissuaded, and he eventually convinced US Navy Admiral Chester Nimitz, who was Chief of Naval Operations and a former submariner, to create a Naval Reactors division within the Bureau of Ships. Rickover became the head of



US Navy Admiral Hyman G. Rickover, pictured here around 1955, is known as the Father of the Nuclear Navy because he saw the potential for using nuclear power aboard ships when others found the idea implausible.

PHOTO: THE NAVAL HISTORY AND HERITAGE COMMAND (NH 99117)

both this division and the Reactor Development division of the Atomic Energy Commission. In this dual role, he began developing the world's first nuclear submarine, the USS *Nautilus*, which was commissioned in 1954.

Rickover was promoted to vice admiral in 1958 and spent the rest of his career overseeing the navy's transition to nuclear power for some of its vessels. He was a tireless worker who insisted on personally interviewing not only the engineers who helped build submarine reactors but also the sailors who volunteered to serve aboard nuclear submarines. He was skeptical of military bureaucracy and often rankled other naval officers. Despite this, he was eventually promoted to full admiral and received two Congressional Gold Medals for his outstanding public service. His diligence and oversight are often cited as being directly responsible for the US Navy's excellent safety record during the develop-

ment of its nuclear program. Rickover considered both nuclear power and hard work to be the best deterrents of future wars: "The more you sweat in peace, the less you bleed in war," he once said. —MM

growing presence of American fast-attack and ballistic-missile submarines in the world's oceans was meant to discourage a first strike by the Soviet Union. By the end of the Cold War in 1989, the US Navy had more than one hundred such submarines in service. The USS *Nautilus* helped the navy pioneer its modern, nuclear-powered fleet, and after it was decommissioned in 1980, it was designated as a national historic landmark. It is now a museum ship that can be visited at the Submarine Force Library and Museum, which is located in Groton, Connecticut.

The Silent Service in the Twenty-First Century

Today, the US Navy operates three distinct types of submarines, including ballistic-missile submarines, attack submarines, and guided missile submarines. All of these boats are powered by nuclear reactors. The navy currently has fourteen *Ohio*-class ballistic missile submarines. They are the largest submarines the US Navy has ever built and have a greater displacement than the US Navy's most numerous World War II-era carrier type, the *Casablanca*-class escort carrier. Known as "boomers" because of the Trident II ballistic nuclear missiles they carry, *Ohio*-class ballistic missile submarines make up part of the United States' nuclear triad, which has been the

Life Aboard a Modern Nuclear Submarine

THE US NAVY'S MODERN NUCLEAR SUBMARINES are marvels of engineering and shipbuilding that provide their crews with unique, undersea ecosystems in which to live and work. Using the power generated by their nuclear reactors, nuclear submarines operate sophisticated air and water purification systems that allow the boats to remain submerged for as long as their food and other provisions last, which is usually about ninety days. The reactor compartments aboard today's submarines are so well shielded that sailors receive very little radiation exposure. In fact, naval pilots receive more radiation from the sun than submariners do from nuclear reactors.

US Navy ballistic missile submarines (known as "boomers") have two separate crews. These crews are called the Gold crew and the Blue crew, and they take turns manning their ship in sixty-to-eighty-day rotations. Attack submarines, on the other hand, have longer deployment periods and might be at sea for up to six months. These submarines typically have only one crew and spend more time in port between deployments. Both male and female sailors serve aboard US Navy submarines. Women first began serving in this capacity in 2012, when four female officers earned the dolphin insignia that identifies members of the Silent Service.

Since 2014, a submarine day while at sea has been based on a regular twenty-four-hour day (prior to this, an eighteen-hour-day was used). The day is divided into three segments of eight-hours each, called "watches." The lights aboard a US Navy nuclear submarine are regularly dimmed and brightened to help simulate the passing of each day as crew members, who are all assigned to a watch, go on and off duty.

When not on watch, a crew member will perform necessary maintenance, study their job specialty, sleep, and relax. Because the crew works in shifts, it is possible to save space on a submarine by having the crew "hot rack," which means they each share a bunk with another member of the crew. When one sailor is coming off a shift, another is going on, and the bunk they share may still be warm from the previous occupant—hence the term "hot rack." Personal storage space aboard a nuclear submarine is extremely limited and consists primarily of a portion of a three-inch-deep pan located below the shared bunk.

Leisure activities aboard a US Navy submarine include watching movies, working out, and listening to music. Technology on today's submarines allows submariners to keep in touch with their loved ones by email, but the contact is not regular. Crew members can only send and receive emails when the boat is surfaced, which can be as little as twenty days out of a six-month deployment, and because these signals can give away a submarine's position, the crew can't always count on being allowed to send messages even then. —LM

basis of the nation's nuclear deterrence policy since the days of the Cold War.

The US Navy currently operates about forty attack submarines spread over three classes of boats. The backbone of the US attack submarine force are the numerous boats of the *Los Angeles* class, the first of which was commissioned in 1976. US Navy attack submarines are tasked with hunting down enemy ballistic missile submarines, attack submarines, and surface ships. They can also

strike targets on land, using Tomahawk cruise missiles, and transport special operations forces.

In 2002, the navy removed four *Ohio*-class ballistic missile submarines, including the class namesake boat, the USS *Ohio*, from its ballistic missile submarine force to create a new type of submarine called a guided missile submarine. These boats are largely intended to conduct attacks against land-based targets. Instead of nuclear-tipped ballistic missiles, these former boomers each carry weaponry that can aid land forces in ground operations, including 154 Tomahawk cruise missiles. These highly specialized boats also have accommodations for as many as sixty-six special operations forces, as well as all of their equipment.

The number of crew aboard US Navy submarines varies based on the type of submarine. For example, US Navy attack submarines have a crew of about 130 men and women, while a guided missile submarine operates with as many as nearly 200 sailors aboard. Up to a third of each boat's interior space is devoted to the nuclear reactor that powers it, leaving precious little room for the sailors who run these vessels.

While today's nuclear submarines are more comfortable and better equipped than any other submarines in American history, operating these vessels is complex, and life aboard them can be challenging. Because of the stealth nature of submarine missions, submariners spend months with almost no interaction with the outside world and with very little communication with their families. As a result of the difficult life that comes with being a submariner, US Navy service members volunteer to join the Silent Service—no sailor is compelled to serve aboard a submarine.

To ensure the safety of the boats and their crews, US Navy submariners are required to undergo rigorous training and preparation at the Naval Submarine School, which is located at Naval Submarine Base Groton in Groton, Connecticut. Training is ongoing for submariners, but before they can become a member of the Silent Service, officers and enlisted personnel must pass basic courses. Officers must graduate from the ten-week Submarine Officer Basic Course, and enlisted personnel must graduate from Basic Enlisted Submarine School, which lasts a total of six weeks.

While in submarine school, officers and enlisted personnel learn the basics of operating a



PHOTO: WILLIAM KENNY/US NAVY

Prospective submariners train to fight fires aboard submarines in a simulated environment at the Naval Submarine School in Groton, Connecticut.

The “Navy Hymn”

“**E**TERNAL FATHER, STRONG TO SAVE,” also known as the “Navy Hymn,” is the official hymn of the US Navy and is sung during services in naval chapels, ceremonies at the US Naval Academy at Annapolis, and funerals for US Navy service members. Over the years, two verses have been added to the hymn, one by Rev. Gale Williamson and one by David B. Miller, to reflect the contributions made by the members of the Silent Service. —*LM*

Bless those who serve beneath the deep,
Through lonely hours their vigil keep.
May peace their mission ever be,
Protect each one we ask of thee.
Bless those at home who wait and pray,
For their return by night and day.

—REV. GALE WILLIAMSON

Lord God, our power evermore,
Whose arm doth reach the ocean floor,
Dive with our men beneath the sea;
Traverse the depths protectively.
O hear us when we pray, and keep
Them safe from peril in the deep.

—DAVID B. MILLER

nuclear submarine and are cross-trained in various roles, which means, for example, that even cooks must possess basic knowledge about how a nuclear reactor works and even nuclear engineers need to understand the basics of navigation. Potential submariners must also pass a two-day pressure-testing and underwater escape class, which is conducted in a specially designed pool. To pass the class, candidates must first demonstrate their ability to perform the Valsalva maneuver (exhalation against a closed nose and mouth, which many people commonly do when flying to equalize the pressure in their ears) and their ability to correctly use the Submarine Escape and Immersion Equipment Suit, which is designed to bring them to the surface from a stricken submarine and provide them with a lifesaving flotation and shelter device on the surface of the water.

After graduating from Naval Submarine School, both officers and enlisted personnel continue their training aboard vessels on which they may eventually serve. During this phase of their training, officers may spend up to two years serving aboard an active-duty submarine, and enlisted service members may spend as much as nine months training aboard an active-duty vessel before they take a final exam that tests them on all aspects of submarine operation. Those who successfully pass and become a submariner earn the right to wear a special insignia that is reserved for members of the Silent Service. This highly coveted badge—gold for officers and silver for enlisted personnel—was first used in 1924 and depicts twin dolphins leaping into waves parting around the conning tower of a submarine preparing to dive.

PHOTO: SENIOR CHIEF PETTY OFFICER LEAH STILES/US NAVY



The crew of the USS *Indiana* are shown saluting on the submarine's upper deck during its commissioning ceremony in Port Canaveral, Florida, in September 2018.

Although their achievements will go largely unknown by the public, the men and women who serve aboard the navy's submarines are among the best trained and most capable in the US armed forces. They belong to a proud tradition of courageous yet humble sailors who, from the depths of the world's oceans, protect their homeland. These are the men and women of the Silent Service. ■

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Pensacola Beach

FLORIDA
LODGE



The Pensacola Beach, Florida, Lodge, one of the winning lodges of *The Elks Magazine* Online Subscription Contest, is housed in a building that was constructed in 2005, after the previous lodge was destroyed by Hurricane Ivan in 2004.

TOM SCUDDER

IN JUNE 2018, *The Elks Magazine* launched an online subscription contest to get the word out about the bonus content, including feature article sidebars, crossword puzzles, photos, and videos, available in every issue of *The Elks Magazine* digital edition and to recognize lodges that are embracing this new way of receiving the magazine. The contest ran from June 1 to December 31, 2018, and all lodges were automatically entered. To participate, lodge members simply switched from their current print subscriptions to an online subscription that they could access each month from their computers, tablets, or smartphones. When the contest ended, we ran the numbers to see which lodge in each of three categories (lodges with 0–500 members, lodges with 501–1,100 members, and lodges with 1,101+ members) had the highest percentage of members who changed their subscription from a print subscription to an online subscription between June 1 and December 31, 2018. *The Elks Magazine* is pleased to profile the winning lodge in the 1,101+ members category, Pensacola Beach, Florida, Lodge 497.

The Pensacola Beach Lodge and Its Members

Pensacola, a city of about fifty thousand people located in the far west of Florida's panhandle, is home to Naval Air Station Pensacola, which is one of the most important naval air bases in the country, and to the station's most famous ambassadors: the spectacular Blue Angels aerobatics team.

Twice a year, the Blue Angels put on a show for their hometown, during which they execute amazing feats of aerial skill above the unincorporated community of Pensacola Beach, which is located on the barrier island of Santa Rosa, to the southeast of the city of Pensacola. Viewing spots along the shore or in the water are at a premium on those two days, and one of the best places to watch the show is the stretch of shoreline on the property of the Pensacola Beach Lodge.

The lodge building sits on Little Sabine Bay, a sheltered cove separated from the Gulf of Mexico by the narrow Santa Rosa Island. During the Blue Angels' shows, the bay fills up with boats loaded with people looking to watch from the water.

The Pensacola Beach Lodge was founded in 1962, but its building is considerably newer, as a result of a catastrophe that befell the area in 2004. That year, Hurricane Ivan devastated the barrier island community and destroyed the lodge building. The replacement building, which was opened in 2005, boasts a beautiful second-floor balcony that overlooks the bay and the lodge's eleven boat slips. The new lodge building is considerably more durable than its predecessor—according to PER Association President Kenneth Branch, the building is rated to resist 130-mile-per-hour winds without protective shutters over the windows. As part of this design, the structure is built high up on pilings, which allow space underneath for parking and an open-air grill near the shore.

The lodge has an active social schedule, which includes hosting taco Tuesdays, Sunday brunches, and Friday night dinners, all



According to Pensacola Beach, Florida, Lodge Exalted Ruler Rick Reynolds, the view from the lodge's second-floor balcony offers "some of the best sunsets in the country."

prepared by a professional kitchen staff who support a full menu. According to Exalted Ruler Rick Reynolds, the lodge also affords views of “some of the best sunsets in the country.”

These assets have helped the lodge record eight straight years of growth and encouraged a vibrant atmosphere of camaraderie and volunteerism. Exalted Ruler Reynolds estimates that about ten to fifteen new members join the lodge each month, and thanks to these numbers, he has been able to implement a unique team-building strategy. “I tell the group of new Elks—for example, the group that was initiated in February—that they are the team for their month; then I give them a specific challenge. For example, I asked February’s team to take part in the planning for the golf tournament, which is our major annual fund-raiser.” Exalted Ruler Reynolds also takes a group photo of each month’s team, blows it up to poster size, and displays it in several locations in the lodge for the following month.

This influx of new members has enlivened the lodge and has also brought a more youthful profile to the membership. Past Exalted Ruler Branch estimates that the average age of the lodge members has gone down by about eight years over the recent period of membership growth, and he attributes lodge members’ willingness to adapt to a more digital world (and the lodge’s success in *The Elks Magazine* Online Subscription Contest) to this younger profile.

Veterans Service

Service to veterans is important to Pensacola Beach Lodge members. One significant veterans-focused event the lodge puts on each year is a day of fishing for veterans, held in cooperation with AHERO, an Alabama-based veterans service organization. The event is known as the Wounded Warrior Hook-Up Weekend. In 2018, the lodge found thirty-five volunteers to lend their ocean-going boats to the event so that the lodge could take about eighty veterans on an all-day fishing trip in the Gulf of Mexico, followed by a fish fry hosted by the lodge.



Pictured during the fish fry at the Pensacola Beach Lodge following the annual Wounded Warriors Hook-Up Weekend fishing event for disabled veterans are Past DAV National Commander Dave Riley (left) and Pensacola Beach Lodge PER Kenneth Branch.



In 2017, the Pensacola Beach Lodge, as part of its commitment to support veterans, donated 275 blankets to the Gulf Coast VA Veterans Health Care System–Joint Ambulatory Care Center in Pensacola. Pictured delivering the blankets are (from left) ER Rick Reynolds, PER Kenneth Branch, VA administrator Michael Grey, PDD Paul Palmer, and PER James Roze.

Lodge members also work to assist organizations that help veterans. For example, in 2018, with the help of a grant from the Elks National Veterans Service Commission, the lodge was able to provide a new patio area for the Clinton Cox Residence for homeless female veterans.

In addition to helping veterans, the lodge also extends hospitality to the active-duty service members who serve at Naval Air Station Pensacola. In particular, the lodge hosts a Thanksgiving dinner for about fifty to seventy enlisted personnel each year. These young people are often away from home for Thanksgiving for the first time and have chosen to save their limited leave time for Christmas. A home-cooked Thanksgiving dinner helps brighten what could otherwise be an unhappy holiday experience for these service members.

The Pensacola Beach Lodge also leads its community in publicly saluting those who have served. Each Veterans Day, the lodge organizes and runs the local parade. Lodge members solicit parade entries and coordinate the event with the police and fire departments, and lodge funds pay for the entire event. The parade has become a major occasion in the community over the thirty years during which the lodge has been sponsoring it.

Assistance to the Community

Pensacola Beach Lodge members are active in helping others in need in the community, as well. Every Christmas, the lodge opens its doors to more than fifty foster children and their foster families and invites them to enjoy a Christmas party with Santa Claus. The lodge is also closely involved with the Weekend Food Program, a charity that provides food for the weekends to needy schoolchildren.

To support these charitable endeavors, the lodge holds an annual golf tournament for nearly 150 golfers at the Tiger Point Golf Club

and solicits donations from local businesses and other community members for the post-tournament auction. The event typically raises between \$23,000 and \$25,000, which the lodge uses to support charities that assist veterans and young people.

Beyond their formal charitable commitments, there are also times when lodge members simply see someone in need and lend a hand. Following Hurricane Michael, some lodge members met a young couple from Panama City who had lost everything in the storm. In addition to being displaced from their home, these two young people had been forced to put off their wedding and didn't know how they were ever going to bring those plans to fruition. Lodge members came to their aid by inviting them to use the lodge's deck for their wedding and providing food for the celebration. The lodge even arranged for a local pastor to conduct the ceremony.

Thanks to their lodge's spectacular waterfront location, the members of the Pensacola Beach Lodge might be forgiven if they chose to just kick back, relax, and let the world pass them by, but that is not what they do. Instead, the lodge's active, energetic members have shown themselves to be among the Best People On Earth through their dedication to serving their community. ■



[Click here for more photos of Pensacola Beach, Florida, Lodge members](#)

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Customer Rating ★★★★★

COMPARE TO VALEO \$14.99 **SAVE 66%**

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NOW \$4.99 **\$5.99**

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3 TON HEAVY DUTY STEEL JACK STANDS

Customer Rating ★★★★★

• Adjusts from 11-3/4" to 16-3/4"

COMPARE TO TORIN JACK \$34.99 **SAVE 45%**

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NOW \$18.99 **\$23.99**

LIMIT 3 - Coupon valid through 10/1/19

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1/2" COMPOSITE PRO EXTREME TORQUE AIR IMPACT WRENCH

Customer Rating ★★★★★

1190 TORQUE FT. LBS. BOLT BREAKAWAY

• Weighs 4.4 lbs.

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ITEM 62891

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Customer Rating ★★★★★

COMPARE TO PORTFOLIO \$30.98 **SAVE 50%**

ITEM 64486 ITEM 64739 63483 shown

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Customer Rating ★★★★★

COMPARE TO HONDA \$329.99 **SAVE \$230**

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Customer Rating ★★★★★

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Customer Rating ★★★★★

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Elks National Veterans Service Commission



Sun City, AZ, Lodge held a party at a bowling alley for 39 veterans and eight staff members from three housing facilities for formerly homeless veterans. The event also featured lunch, and each veteran received a \$10 gift card. In addition, veteran Daniel Patterson received a comforter. Pictured with the comforter are (from left) Community

Bridges Transitional Living Supervisor Ace Carter, veteran Patterson, and Arizona Elks Association Veterans Service Committee Chairman Gary Drumheller.

In other news, the lodge donated powered wheelchairs, clothing, bus passes, bedding, and food worth a total of more than \$11,000 to the Community Bridges Supportive Services for Veterans and Families; more than \$7,000 worth of medical equipment to the Paralyzed Veterans of America; a powered scooter and some clothing, together worth nearly \$3,200, to a US VETS facility for formerly homeless veterans; more than \$3,600 worth of furniture to Vets for Vets to be given to veterans moving into new homes; and \$470 worth of food to the Cloudbreak Victory Place, which is a housing facility for formerly homeless veterans.

In more news, the lodge arranged for veteran Dan Flaherty, who was leaving the state, to donate his used car to veteran Pedro Alves.

In further news, the lodge hosted a casino night fund-raiser and raised more than \$3,500 to help send veterans to Washington, DC, to visit veterans memorials and national monuments through the Honor Flight program. The lodge also hosted a lunch for 37 lodge member veterans.

Huntsville, AL, Lodge used part of a \$2,000 ENF Beacon Grant to hold a dinner at the lodge for about 15 veterans from the Floyd E. "Tut" Fann State Veterans Home.

Casa Grande Valley, AZ, Lodge donated \$2,000 to support a three-day display of a traveling replica of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial



Holiday Island, AR, Lodge hosted a military ball for 76 veterans and other guests. Pictured with a group of US Air Force Junior ROTC cadets are State Senator Bob Ballinger (far left) and State Representative and US Navy veteran Harlan Breaux (far right).

In other news, lodge members visited the Fayetteville Veterans Home and the Leroy Pond Mental Health Residential Rehabilitation Treatment Program, which is a VA facility, and presented \$5 canteen books and Valentine's Day cards made by schoolchildren to a total of 40 veterans.

in Washington, DC. Lodge members volunteered as attendants while the memorial was on display.

Fayetteville-Springdale, AR, Lodge members held four events at the Fayetteville Veterans Home, including a craft event for 11 veterans, a trivia contest for ten veterans, a birthday celebration for 13 veterans, and a Valentine's Day party for 34 veterans. During the Valentine's Day party, the veterans were given Valentines made by schoolchildren.

In related news, the lodge hosted a dinner and game session for a group of 11 veterans and four staff members from the Fayetteville Veterans Home.

Texarkana, AR, Lodge used a \$2,000 ENF Beacon Grant and an ENF Anniversary Grant worth \$1,500 to donate nonperishable food to the Hero's Pantry, which supplies more than 100 veterans with monthly deliveries of food.

Calpine, CA, Lodge used a \$2,000 ENF Beacon Grant to host a dinner for 90 veterans and guests. The event featured an address by the veterans service officer for Plumas County.



Santa Monica, CA, Lodge Operation Veteran Warmth program, which is funded by a \$10,000 ENF Impact Grant and additional donations, distributed winter jackets to 360 veterans at the Veterans Home of California–West Los Angeles. The program also donated 200 coats to the local VA Voluntary Services representative to be distributed to needy veterans. Additionally, the program donated 75 hardcover books, 40 pairs of underwear, 40 pairs of socks, two 50-piece silverware sets, four sets of towels, and three blankets to a residence for formerly homeless veterans. Pictured are (from left) Secy. Donald Checchi, state VP Karen Buchanan, US Army veteran Paul Dobine, Veterans Home representative Zachary Sandler, SP and Endorsed Candidate for GER Robert Duitsman, and Veterans Service Committee Vice Chairman Ronald Fink.

Elk Grove, CA, Lodge members and members of an American Legion post visited the VA North California Health Care System facility in Mather and provided dessert to 200 veterans.

Lake Elsinore/Wildomar, CA, Lodge held a board game session with snacks and small prizes for 35 veterans at the VA Loma Linda Health Care System.

Ontario, CA, Lodge hosted a dinner for ten veterans from the VA Loma Linda Health Care System. Each veteran received a gift bag, and the lodge donated a total of \$200 to the health care system.

Glenwood Springs, CO, Lodge held a fund drive and raised \$5,000 to provide two lift chairs and seven adaptive recliner chairs to be used by residents of the Colorado State Veterans Home at Rifle.

Englewood, FL, Lodge hosted a lunch for 81 veterans and caregivers from the region, including residents of four nursing homes.

Gainesville, FL, Lodge members accompanied a therapy dog owner and her dog on several visits to the Malcolm Randall VA Medical Center in Gainesville to visit veterans, particularly those with post-traumatic stress disorder.

In other news, the lodge used a \$2,000 ENVSC Freedom Grant to provide 60 blankets, 50 backpacks, 100 sleeping bags, 100 flashlights, and a large quantity of toiletries, pairs of socks and gloves, and books to needy and homeless veterans during a stand down for homeless veterans.

Inverness, FL, Lodge used a \$2,000 ENVSC Freedom Grant to hold a half-day guided fishing outing for ten members of the Military Order of the Purple Heart. Following the trip, the lodge hosted a fish fry for the participants and guides, during which awards were presented to the fisherman who caught the most fish, the fisherman who caught the biggest fish, the participant voted the best sport by the fishing guides, and the participant who the guides agreed would be best off finding another hobby.

Twin Cities, FL, Lodge donated a \$2,500 ENF Gratitude Grant to Healing Paws for Warriors, which provides service animals to veterans living with post-traumatic stress disorder, traumatic brain injuries, and other trauma.



Lake Oconee, GA, Lodge members visited the Georgia War Veterans Home, served dinner to 50 veterans in a public dining area, and delivered 20 more dinners to veterans in their rooms. Pictured are (front, from left) veteran Richard Hecht, lodge member Lynda Lewis, and veteran Jonathan Norwood with (back, from left) lodge member John Hunt, Past Grand Lodge Committeeman Merle Sebald, PDD William Lewis, and volunteer Judy Faulconer.

Easton, MD, Lodge used a \$2,000 ENF Gratitude Grant and additional lodge funding to donate more than \$2,600 to Pleasant Day Medical Adult Day Care to provide support for an adult day care program for veterans.

North Central District, MD, lodges used the proceeds of a concert fund-raiser and a \$1,500 ENF Anniversary Grant contributed by the



Bowie, MD, Lodge used part of a grant from the Elks National Veterans Service Commission to provide veteran Tania Harris with some furniture, cookware, and other kitchen supplies for her new home. Pictured are Est. Loyal Knight Wilford Davis and veteran Harris.

Annapolis Lodge to donate nearly \$3,800 to the Fisher House Foundation, which provides temporary residence to the relatives of hospitalized veterans and active-duty service members.

Ocean City, MD, Lodge donated \$500 to the Worcester County Veterans Memorial at Ocean Pines.

Washington, DC–Rockville, MD, Lodge held a dinner at a restaurant for the members of the Re-Creation USA troupe and several VA staff members following a concert at the Washington, DC, VA Medical Center. Re-Creation USA is a musical group that performs concerts at VA medical facilities across the country.

Gaylord Area, MI, Lodge hosted a lunch for 41 veterans.

Marquette, MI, Lodge donated a \$1,500 ENF Anniversary Grant to SAIL Disability Network of the Upper Peninsula to support the U.P. Vets SERVED program, a health and wellness program for veterans and military families.

Jackson, MO, Lodge used part of a \$2,000 ENVSC Freedom Grant to provide a bed and some bedding to a veteran who had recently moved into a new apartment.

North Las Vegas, NV, Lodge members attended a Super Bowl viewing party at a US VETS housing facility for formerly homeless veterans and helped serve food to 80 veterans in attendance. While there, lodge members gave each attending veteran two T-shirts, two pairs of socks, and two pairs of underwear.

Reno, NV, Lodge members traveled to the VA Sierra Nevada Health Care System's Community Living Center and held trivia games for about 25 veterans. Snacks were served, and each veteran received a gift bag.



Kalispell, MT, Lodge donated \$3,000 to the Montana Veterans Home—Columbia Falls to support recreational outdoor activities and to help purchase recreational equipment. Pictured are (from left) PDD Carmel Stephens, Veterans Home Administrator Joren Underdahl, ER David Barnes, resident Peter Pisk, and Veterans Home Director of Social Services Karen Fehlman.



Tahoe/Douglas, NV, Lodge members traveled to the VA Sierra Nevada Health Care System, visited 100 veterans, and gave each veteran a small US flag and a Valentine's Day card. Pictured are (from left) US Army veteran James Rhodes and PER Gary Wendt.

Nashua, NH, Lodge used an ENF Anniversary Grant worth \$1,500 and some additional funds to donate 15 microwave ovens, 15 coffee makers, 15 small vacuum cleaners, and 15 sets of bedding to the Manchester VA Medical Center's Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing program, which provides housing assistance to formerly homeless veterans.

Bayonne, NJ, Lodge used a \$2,000 ENVSC Freedom Grant to provide Welcome Home Kits containing kitchen supplies, bedding, coffee makers, microwave ovens, and cleaning supplies to 15 formerly homeless veterans who were moving into new housing.

Kearny, NJ, Lodge hosted a dinner for 28 veterans and caregivers from the East Orange Campus of the VA New Jersey Health Care System. Each veteran received a gift bag containing a T-shirt and several other gifts.

Ridgefield Park, NJ, Lodge hosted a fund-raising event and raised nearly \$3,400 for the VA Secaucus Vet Center, which provides services to homeless veterans.

Ballston Spa, NY, Lodge provided a Welcome Home kit containing bedding, towels, small kitchen appliances, and other kitchen and cleaning supplies to a veteran who was moving from the Vet House, a transitional housing facility, to his own apartment.

Camillus, NY, Lodge members provided furniture and basic household supplies to about 14 formerly homeless veterans who were moving into new housing.

Ithaca, NY, Lodge used part of a \$2,500 ENF Gratitude Grant to donate \$500 to Twin Tiers Honor Flight to help fly veterans to Washington, DC, to visit veterans memorials and other monuments.



Cohoes-Waterford, NY, Lodge donated 660 craft kits to the SGT Henry Johnson Veterans House, a transitional residence for veterans. Pictured with some of the kits are (from left) House Director Lee Vartigian, Est. Loyal Knight Richard Hogan, PER Regina Hogan, and two of the house residents.

In other news, lodge members visited 150 veterans in the Albany VA Medical Center: Samuel S. Stratton and provided them with ice cream and copies of an inspirational poem.

In more news, the lodge held a fund-raiser at a bowling alley and raised more than \$1,800 for veterans service activities. The lodge also held a painting class fund-raiser and raised nearly \$160 for veterans service activities.



New Bern, NC, Lodge members traveled to the North Carolina State Veterans Home—Kinston and held bingo sessions for 25 resident veterans. Pictured are (front, from left) veterans Jesse Banks, Robert Leland, and Harvey Grady with (back, from left) lodge members George Burens, Douglas Foster, and June Kent, volunteer Sherri Burens, and lodge member John Serumgard.

Mechanicville-Stillwater, NY, Lodge members traveled to the Albany VA Medical Center: Samuel S. Stratton and provided dessert to a total of about 150 veterans.

Patchogue, NY, Lodge members visited the Long Island State Veterans Home and held a bingo session for about 40 veterans.

Poughkeepsie, NY, lodge used a \$2,000 ENF Beacon Grant and \$500 in additional funding to create 50 care packages containing warm clothing, toiletries, and ready-to-eat food to be distributed to homeless veterans by the Mental Health America of Dutchess County Vet2Vet Resource Office. The lodge also donated \$500 to the office.

In other news, the lodge donated \$200 worth of canteen books to veterans who were being treated at the Castle Point Campus of the VA Hudson Valley Health Care System.

Saratoga-Wilton, NY, Lodge members visited the Albany VA Medical Center: Samuel S. Stratton and provided dessert to about 150 veterans. Lodge members also gave the veterans 35 handmade quilts that were donated by the Saratoga Quilters Club.

Athens, OH, Lodge used part of a \$2,000 ENF Gratitude Grant to donate \$1,000 worth of gift cards to the Athens VA Community Based Outpatient Clinic to be used to assist needy veterans.

Coshocton, OH, Lodge used part of a \$2,000 ENF Gratitude Grant to donate \$500 to the Coshocton Canal Quilters, to help create lap blankets for veterans, and \$500 to the Coshocton County Honor Guard.

McAlester, OK, Lodge used a \$2,000 ENF Beacon Grant to donate toiletries to the Talihina Veterans Center.

Oregon City, OR, Lodge hosted a Valentine's Day dinner and dance, during which \$200 was raised for veterans service activities.

Little River, SC, Lodge used funding from the Elks National Veterans Service Commission to donate about \$180 worth of groceries to the local Disabled American Veterans chapter and to donate groceries worth a total of more than \$200 to the North Strand Housing Shelter and the Veterans Welcome Home and Resource Center to be given to veterans moving into new housing.

San Angelo, TX, Lodge donated more than \$710 to the Concho Valley Women Veterans Association using the proceeds of a fish fry fund-raiser.

Springfield, VT, Lodge used a \$2,000 ENF Beacon Grant to donate \$500 worth of toiletries, clothes, and reading glasses and \$500 worth of arts supplies each to the White River Junction VA Medical Center and the Vermont Veterans Home.

Hampton, VA, Lodge members held a bingo session with snacks and beverages for about 50 veterans at the Hampton VA Medical Center. Lodge members were assisted by several US Air Force airmen.

Janesville, WI, Lodge held a donation drive and collected about \$500 worth of toiletries, blankets, and towels for the Housing 4 Our Vets transitional living facility for homeless veterans. The lodge also donated a \$1,500 ENF Anniversary Grant to the facility. ■



Elks Drug Awareness Program



East Stroudsburg, PA, Lodge held a dinner to honor the winners of its Drug Awareness Poster contest and presented them with certificates, gift cards, and US flags. The winners were Tobyhanna Elementary Center third grader Emma Corvino, fourth grader Mya Aragona-

Young, and fifth grader Anais Alexis Nisha. Pictured with fifth-grade winner Anais are (from left) lodge member Gerald Richardson and Drug Awareness Committee Chairman Randy Polinski.

In other news, lodge members distributed 380 drug awareness bookmarks and pencils to third-grade students in the Stroudsburg Area School District.

Casa Grande Valley, AZ, Lodge held drug awareness poster contests at Mary C. O'Brien and Mesquite Elementary Schools and presented the winners in each division with blue ribbons and certificates of merit.

Orange, CA, Lodge members honored Anaheim Police Department Officer Kevin Moretti, who won the lodge Enrique Camarena Award, which recognizes excellence in combatting drug abuse by a law enforcement officer. Lodge members presented him with a framed certificate in a ceremony at the lodge.

Greater Pine Island, FL, Lodge members and Elroy the Elk staffed a drug awareness booth during the Pine Island Garden Club's annual gala and distributed more than 60 bags containing drug awareness materials to attendees.

Green Cove Springs, FL, Lodge members and Elroy the Elk staffed a drug awareness booth during a youth fair held at the lodge. The event was attended by 20 children and 14 parents and guardians.

Ocean City, MD, Lodge donated \$1,000 to the local chapter of the National Association of Drug Diversion Investigators. The lodge also donated \$500 to help fund a drug- and alcohol-free after-prom party at Worcester Preparatory School.

Ridgefield Park, NJ, Lodge held a fund-raiser and raised \$1,000 to help fund a drug- and alcohol-free graduation party for students at Ridgefield Park High School.

In other news, the lodge used a \$2,000 ENF Gratitude Grant and an ENF Anniversary Grant worth \$1,500 to sponsor eight young people to attend the New Jersey State Elks Association Peer Leadership Conference, which teaches young people to make healthy and responsible choices in regards to drugs and alcohol.

South Amboy, NJ, Lodge donated a \$2,000 ENF Gratitude Grant to the South Amboy Police Department's DARE Program to purchase Fatal Vision goggles, which simulate the effects of intoxication.

Weehawken, NJ, Lodge held a pizza party and award ceremony for the winners of its Drug Awareness Poster and Essay contests and their families. The winners of the poster contest were third grader Dyanna Sinche, fourth grader Michael Rovito, and fifth grader Alanah Shinn, and the winners of the essay contest were sixth grader Abigail Kielty and seventh grader Ryley Cheplic. All five winners received framed certificates and small cash prizes.

Watervliet, NY, Lodge honored the two winners of its Drug Awareness Poster Contest and awarded small cash prizes to each. The winners were Menands School students Julian Samedy, who is in third grade, and Adithya Thumilan, who is in fourth grade. They each went on to place first in the district contest.

Fort Worth, TX, Lodge members recognized the first-place winners of its Drug Awareness Poster Contest and presented them with \$25 gift cards. The first-place winners were third grader Madison Edwards, fourth grader ShaCole Harris, and fifth grader Naomi Michael. The lodge also awarded \$20 gift cards to three second-place winners, \$15 gift cards to three third-place winners, and \$10 gift cards to the other eight children who submitted posters. ■



Helping Elks Build Stronger Communities

The Elks Emergency Assistance Fund: The True Impact



US Army veteran Nicole, pictured here during a tour of duty in Iraq, received financial assistance through the Elks Emergency Assistance Program.

SINCE JULY 2015, the Elks National Foundation has contributed \$4 million to help end veteran homelessness. These funds support the Elks National Veterans Service Commission's Welcome Home initiative, which includes the Elks Emergency Assistance Program. Through this program, veterans who are registered with and receive services from the US Department of Veterans Affairs can apply for one-time monetary assistance to help them stay in their homes or secure a living space. This support is available to veterans who live in one of the eight cities within which the VA has asked for increased involvement from the Elks. These cities are Chicago, Illinois; Washington, DC; Loma Linda, California; Los Angeles, California; Miami-Dade, Florida; New York, New York; San Diego, California; and Seattle, Washington.

To date, the ENVSC has provided about \$2 million in emergency assistance to nearly 1,200 veterans. These are impressive figures, but even more impressive are the stories behind the numbers. The ENF has launched a series of essays called *Be the Spark*, which can be found at <http://enf.elks.org/BeTheSpark>. These essays present the stories of veterans who, after serving their country selflessly, have fallen on hard times and have received assistance from the Elks Emergency Assistance Program to help them get back on their feet. For some, like US Army veteran Nicole, the Elks' emergency aid can mark a turning point.

Nicole joined the army soon after high school because she couldn't afford to go to college. Two years after she joined the army, she was deployed to Iraq, during the Iraq War. Nicole summarizes the experience with one word: traumatic. "I spent my twenty-first birthday

there,” Nicole says. “I saw a lot of things that made me grow up and realize what the world was about—not just where I’m from—and how people in other countries don’t even have basic rights.”

While serving, Nicole earned her associate’s degree in human resources. After returning to the United States, she struggled to readjust to civilian life and reacquaint herself with her family and friends. Nicole spent the next couple of years chasing the college experience she never had, trying to figure out who she was. “I lived for the day,” she says. “I didn’t think about tomorrow because I didn’t understand that there was a tomorrow; I only saw today and that I was still alive.”

When Nicole became pregnant with her first son, everything she had spent two years running away from finally caught up to her. “The wake-up call hit,” she says. She took a job in human resources for the Wounded Warriors Project and Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington, DC, but she could feel herself returning to the dark places she had experienced overseas. “It was hard for me because those wounded warriors happened to be some of my friends,” Nicole says. “They were the people I was in the army with.”

During this time, something started changing within Nicole, and her family noticed, too. She was arguing more with her sister, and her mother was scared to be around her. Nicole felt like no one understood what she was going through, and it led her to a mental breakdown. “My whole life fell apart,” she says.

Nicole decided to leave her job, and as a result, she was no longer able to afford her own place. Her family was afraid of taking her in, so she and her son stayed at a hotel for two months. “It’s almost like a hole,” Nicole says. “When you don’t have anyone to pull you out of it, you just keep falling and falling and falling.”

Nicole needed help. She turned to the VA, and there, she started speaking to a counselor and began to find herself at long last. She moved into her first rental home, and she also began arts therapy, which led her to discover a passion for acting. Although things were getting better, Nicole still had worries, this time in the form of a growing electric bill. “I knew the day and time would come when I’d come home, and my power would be off,” Nicole says.

Nicole’s social worker through the VA heard about the Elks Emergency Assistance Program and encouraged her to apply. Nicole was so used to people saying “no” to her that she wasn’t expecting a “yes” from the Elks—but that’s just what she got. The BPO Elks paid Nicole’s electric bill in full. “You guys responded quickly,” she says, “and did what you said you were going to do. That’s just the integrity of your organization.” Nicole says that she wants people to know that this aid is going right to the people who truly need it—veterans. “I’m a real person testifying that in my time of need, the Elks said they would help, and that is what they did,” Nicole says.

The help the Elks gave her allowed Nicole to continue to get better. Today, she is studying at a dramatic arts school and hopes to start working in a creative role soon. She is raising her son, who is now ten years old, and teaching him how to be a strong person, just

like his mom. “I want my son to watch me as an example to understand that even if he saw me down before, he sees me up now,” Nicole says. “We can continue to try harder and do better.”

Nicole also wants to serve as an advocate for veterans in her community, especially regarding their mental health. “People didn’t realize the pain I was experiencing inside,” Nicole says. “I lost myself. And people don’t realize how hard it is to be in this world when you don’t know who you are.”

Although her journey wasn’t easy, Nicole feels like she is finally where she should be. There might not be a right way, but Nicole says she is finding the way that works best for her to live her life. ■

Read more stories from the ENF’s Be the Spark series to hear from other veterans who have been helped by the Elks Emergency Assistance Program at <http://enf.elks.org/BeTheSpark>.



New Jersey

Elks Camp Moore



PHOTOS COURTESY NEW JERSEY STATE ELKS ASSOCIATION

A group of campers and counselors are pictured near the entrance to Elks Camp Moore. This summer camp for children with special needs was established as the New Jersey State Elks Association's state major project in 1972. About 640 children and adults spend a week or weekend at Elks Camp Moore every year.

EVERY SUMMER, hundreds of children with special needs from across New Jersey gather at a camp that was built on a forested mountaintop especially for them. While there, they can sit around a campfire, sing, dance, swim, create crafts, and enjoy all the activities of a summer camp with the help of a dedicated staff of counselors. This is Elks Camp Moore, the state major project of the New Jersey State Elks Association, whose members refer to it as the Miracle on the Mountain.

The camp was created by the Democratic League of Essex County in 1936 as a retreat for needy children. It is situated in the Ramapo Mountains, which are a part of the Appalachian chain, and was named Camp Moore, after three-time governor of New Jersey Harry Moore. The camp was successful for several decades; however, by the late 1960s it began experiencing financial difficulties. In 1970, it was donated to the New Jersey State Elks Association with the stipulation that it would always be known as Camp Moore. The

New Jersey Elks decided to use the camp to serve children with special needs and make it their state major project. After the existing ten buildings were refurbished, the camp reopened in August 1972 as Elks Camp Moore.

Today, children from across the state are invited to apply to attend Elks Camp Moore. Applications are distributed through local lodges, where the lodge Special Children's Committees are tasked with identifying the children in their areas who would benefit most from a week at the camp. When a lodge approves an application, it pays all costs associated with the child's attendance at the camp.

Before an application is approved by a lodge, it is also reviewed by Elks Camp Moore officials. This is so they can ensure that the camp is prepared to meet the needs of each child who attends. The camp provides medical support through an on-campus nurse, and children who require extra attention are assigned a single camp counselor each, while children who are relatively more independent are assigned at a ratio of up to three campers to one counselor.

The camp season at Elks Camp Moore includes a summer session for children ages seven to eighteen, which runs for eight weeks from June through August; a last-chance session, which takes place during one week in September and focuses on young adults ages nineteen to twenty-one; and four respite weekends for adults with special needs, two of which occur in April and May and two of which are scheduled in September and October. The camp can accommodate 60 campers at one time, and a total of about 640 campers attend the camp each summer.

A Week at Elks Camp Moore

Each week at camp begins on Sunday afternoon. "When the children arrive, they are first introduced to the counselor who will be



Campers and counselors enjoy some cold beverages beneath the roof of Elks Camp Moore's pavilion. Local lodges visit the camp at least twice a week during the summer session to provide barbecue meals at the pavilion for the campers.

with them for the whole week,” says Camp Director Todd Thompson. After that, the children pick out their bunks, meet their bunkmates, check in with the camp nurse, who determines how their medical needs can be served, and are escorted to the camp’s handicapped-accessible swimming pool for a giant pool party.

Following the pool party (during which parents and other caregivers make a quiet departure), the children make their way to the camp pavilion, where New Jersey Elks serve them a barbecue dinner and provide additional entertainment, which over the years has included such things as live music, recorded music provided by a DJ, and a magic show. Dinner and entertainment are followed by a session around a campfire and then a nine o’clock bedtime.

Campers are provided with five scheduled activities each day. These typically include at least two recreation sessions in the pool and activities ranging from creating arts and crafts to exploring nature. All of the activities are designed to meet the needs of individual campers, providing each camper with the level of challenge appropriate to his or her circumstances.

In addition to the adaptive swimming pool, the camp’s facilities include a park and playground, an arts and crafts room, and a music room. The most recent addition is a spray park, which is an open area where brightly colored fountains spray jets of water in all directions. The spray park was created to allow children who are unable to use the swimming pool to enjoy playing in water during hot summer afternoons.

While the camp activities are valuable to the children, according to Camp Director Todd Thompson, the most cherished element for most children is the friendships they make, which carry forward from year to year. “Every year they want to be with the same cabin mates, look forward to seeing the people they stayed with, and ask if they will be with the same camp staff as the previous year,” he says.

Support from New Jersey Elks

New Jersey State Elks Association lodges engage in creative fund-raising activities in support of Elks Camp Moore year-round. There are large, high-profile fund-raisers, such as the annual, state-wide Miracle Run motorcycle run and motorcycle raffle, which raises more than \$100,000 a year for the camp, and several different and highly successful polar plunges that take place each winter. The camp also benefits from raffles, dinners, and the simple generosity of individual Elks from across the state who make donations.

But fund-raising is far from the only way in which local lodges are involved with the camp and help make it successful. Every week during the summer camp season, a lodge or district provides dinner and entertainment at the camp on Sunday and Wednesday nights, and sometimes on other nights as well. In addition, once a year, the Manasquan Lodge hosts a day at the beach for the campers, which includes the use of beach-adapted wheelchairs to help the campers move around the beach and get into the water. The Point Pleasant Lodge also hosts an annual day for campers from Elks Camp Moore,

which includes a cookout, fire truck rides, boat rides, and a variety of carnival activities.

New Jersey Elks also lend their aid when the camp is not in session. Two districts and thirteen lodges each sponsor at least one building at the camp and take responsibility for that building's upkeep. Elks from across the state also take working vacations at the camp to open it in the spring by clearing debris and performing necessary repairs. Elks also spend time at the camp in the fall to help close it down and winterize it.

Elks Camp Moore plays an important role in local lodges' efforts to reach out to people with special needs. Each lodge has a Special Children's Committee, which is dedicated to helping local people who have special needs. Some of the children who are assisted are designated as lodges' special-needs ambassadors and are treated as celebrities by their lodges. While local lodges take care of their special children all year, one of their most valued services is providing them with a week at Elks Camp Moore.

By giving children with special needs an annual week of fun and relaxation, the memories of which they can carry with them for the rest of their lives, the members of the New Jersey State Elks Association truly show that Elks Care—Elks Share. ■

[**Click here for more information on the
New Jersey State Elks Association's major project.**](#)



ELKS NATIONAL FOUNDATION

Per Member and Chair Challenge Contest Winners

PER MEMBER WINNERS

The following is a list of the top five state associations and the top three lodges (in each membership division) in per member contributions to the Elks National Foundation in the 2018–2019 fiscal year (does not include bequests).

	Members as of <u>4-1-18</u>	Total <u>Donations</u>	Average Per <u>Member</u>
State Associations			
1. Nevada	5,371	\$ 146,186.68	\$ 27.218
2. Texas	13,068	235,991.74	18.059
3. Mississippi	2,685	36,147.48	13.463
4. Virginia	7,866	102,526.04	13.034
5. Minnesota	7,322	95,258.34	13.010
Lodges of 1 to 300 members			
1. North Las Vegas, NV	150	58,176.00	387.840
2. Pendleton, SC	52	14,145.00	272.019
3. Manila, PI	142	25,786.43	181.595
Lodges of 301 to 500 members			
1. Louisville, KY	388	18,253.50	47.045
2. Corona, CA	336	12,383.00	36.854
3. Raleigh, NC	400	13,946.00	34.865
Lodges of 501 to 700 members			
1. Las Vegas, NV	549	21,845.00	39.791
2. Calabash, NC	644	23,313.96	36.202
3. Connellsville, PA	535	15,893.00	29.707
Lodges of 701 to 1,100 members			
1. Gallipolis, OH	797	21,628.00	27.137
2. Kent Island, MD	714	17,903.55	25.075
3. West Shore, PA	939	21,015.25	22.381
Lodges of 1,101 to 1,500 members			
1. Miss. Viejo-Sadd. Valley, CA	1,182	93,242.50	78.885
2. Westminster, CO	1,203	14,848.41	12.343
3. Portsmouth, NH	1,367	15,802.22	11.560
Lodges of 1,501 and more members			
1. Orange, CA	1,520	32,458.22	21.354
2. Yuma, AZ	1,728	25,898.37	14.988
3. Bristol County, RI	1,659	22,493.83	13.559

CHAIR CHALLENGE WINNERS

The following is a list of the top five state associations and the top three lodges in each membership division in the ENF Chair Challenge. The ENF Chair Challenge rewards lodges for having a broad-based fund-raising program.

	Members as of <u>4-1-18</u>	Composite <u>Score</u>
State Associations		
1. Rhode Island	6,657	481.100
2. New Hampshire	7,397	322.321
3. Minnesota	7,322	317.270
4. Wisconsin	7,400	284.103
5. MD, DE and DC	19,559	283.838
Lodges of 1 to 300 members		
1. Apopka, FL	221	765.000
2. Ajo, AZ	281	729.500
3. Plymouth, NH	257	717.000
Lodges of 301 to 500 members		
1. Kerrville, TX	303	921.000
2. Melbourne, FL	305	823.000
3. Oak Harbor, WA	375	817.000
Lodges of 501 to 700 members		
1. Owatonna, MN	698	910.000
2. Sheboygan, WI	524	825.500
3. Dexter, MO	615	799.500
Lodges of 701 to 1,100 members		
1. Greater Cape May, NJ	948	825.500
2. Lakewood, CO	1,096	806.000
3. Gallipolis, OH	797	777.000
Lodges of 1,101 to 1,500 members		
1. Reno, NV	1,370	647.500
2. Ocean City, MD	1,485	611.500
3. Haverstraw, NY	1,409	610.500
Lodges of 1,501 and more members		
1. Orange, CA	1,520	945.000
2. Bristol County, RI	1,659	909.000
3. Sun City, AZ	3,182	703.000

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Departed GL Officers



District Deputy Robert L. Fritzel, of the Pueblo, CO, Lodge, died March 14. Member Fritzel was serving as district deputy for the South District of Colorado.

District Deputy Ann F. Gable, of the Nashville-Franklin, TN, Lodge, died March 4. Member Gable was serving as district deputy for the Middle District of Tennessee.

Past District Deputy John E. Andre, of the Salida, CO, Lodge, died March 10. Member Andre served as district deputy for the Mountain District of Colorado in 1980–1981.

Past District Deputy Darwin L. Baker, of the Huntsville, AL, Lodge, died March 23. Member Baker served as district deputy for the North District of Alabama in 2000–2001.

Past District Deputy Clare A. Hayes, of the Twin Cities, FL, Lodge, died March 6. Member Hayes served as district deputy for the North-west District of Florida in 1999–2000.

Past District Deputy Merritt A. Hill, of the Hendersonville, NC, Lodge, died March 5. Member Hill served as district deputy for the West District of North Carolina in 2012–2013.

Past District Deputy Edwin B. Hodgins Sr., of the Bangor, ME, Lodge, died March 8. Member Hodgins served as district deputy for the North District of Maine in 2006–2007.

Past District Deputy Francis J. Sisco, of the Westerly, RI, Lodge, died March 19. Member Sisco served as district deputy for the West District of Rhode Island in 1989–1990.

Past District Deputy Kenneth W. Swift, of the Elizabethton, TN, Lodge, died March 24. Member Swift served as district deputy for the Upper East District of Tennessee in 1988–1989 and was president of the Tennessee Elks Association in 1995–1996.

Lynda F. Mayer

Lynda F. Mayer, widow of PGER Arthur Mayer Jr., of the Bergenfield, New Jersey, Lodge, died March 26. She accompanied her husband during his term as GER in 2001–2002. She is survived by their three children and three grandchildren. She worked tirelessly to support the Elks National Foundation and lovingly supported her husband during his service as a Past Grand Exalted Ruler.

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NEWS OF THE LODGES

State Directory

Alabama	17
Arizona	17–19
Arkansas	19
California	19–22
Connecticut	22, 23
Delaware	23
Florida	22–25
Georgia	25, 26
Illinois	25
Indiana	26
Iowa	26
Kentucky	27
Louisiana	27
Maine	27
Maryland	27–29
Michigan	28, 30
Minnesota	29
Mississippi	30
Missouri	29–31
Montana	31
Nevada	31
New Hampshire ...	31, 32
New Jersey	32–34
New York	25, 34–37
North Carolina.....	37
Ohio	38
Oklahoma	38, 39
Oregon	39
Pennsylvania	39
Texas	40
Utah	40
Vermont	41
Virginia	41, 42
Washington	42
Wisconsin	42

The Elks Magazine Online Subscription Contest Winner: Pensacola Beach, Florida, Lodge

Photos courtesy the Pensacola Beach, Florida, Lodge



Members of the Pensacola Beach Lodge are pictured installing a new grill on the deck outside the Clinton Cox Residence for homeless female veterans.



Pensacola Beach Lodge member P. J. Imhof (back, left) poses for a photo with a group of veteran guests during the fish fry that followed the lodge's Wounded Warrior Hook-Up Weekend fishing event.



The second-floor balcony of the Pensacola Beach Lodge's building overlooks Little Sabine Bay, a sheltered cove separated from the Gulf of Mexico by a narrow strip of land.



Pictured are the members of Team July 2018, the group of new Elks who were initiated into the Pensacola Beach Lodge in July 2018. Lodge ER Rick Reynolds groups together the new Elks that join the lodge each month into a team and encourages them to work together on a community service project.



Pictured are two participants in the Pensacola Beach Lodge's annual golf tournament, which is held at the Tiger Point Golf Club and is the lodge's major fundraiser and supports charities that assist children and veterans.

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