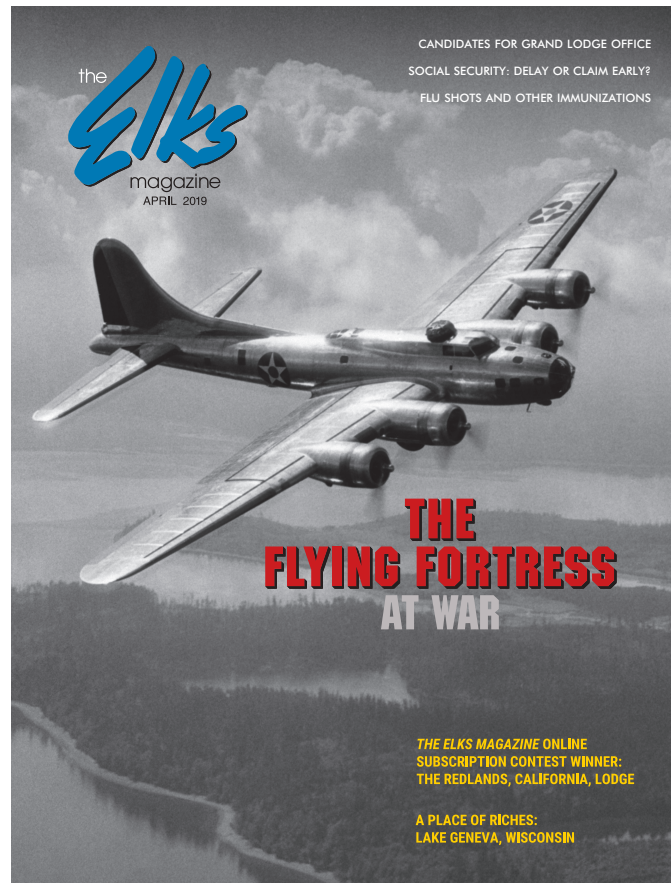


THE ELKS MAGAZINE ONLINE

April 2019 VOL. 97, No. 9



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APRIL 2019

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Doctor Urges Seniors to Carry Medical Alert Device

NO
CONTRACTS

Seniors snap up new medical alert device that comes with no monthly bills ever



THE BOTTOM

LINE: You don't need to shop around. All the leg work is done, this deal is too good to pass up. FastHelp with the \$150 instant rebate is a real steal at just \$149 and shipping and there are no monthly bills ever.

PROS: It's the sleek new medical alert device that comes with the exclusive FastHelp One-Touch E 911 Button that instantly connects you to free unlimited nationwide help with no contracts, no deposits and no monthly bills ever. It's quickly becoming a top pick with consumers because it instantly connects you to one of the largest cellular networks everywhere cell service is available for free, making this deal irresistible. Plus it's the only medical alert device that makes seniors look important, not old.

CONS: Consumers can't get FastHelp in stores until later this year. That's why it's so important for seniors to call the National Rebate Center Hotline within the next 7 days. For those who miss that deadline, the sleek little medical alert device will set you back over \$300 bucks.

People don't always do what their doctor says, but when seasoned veteran emergency room physician, Dr. Philip B. Howren says every senior should have a medical alert device, you better listen up.

"Seniors are just one fall away from being put in a nursing home," Dr. Howren said. "With a medical alert device, seniors are never alone. So it keeps them living independently in their own home. That's why seniors and their family members are snapping up a sleek new medical alert device that comes with no monthly bills ever," said Dr. Howren.

Many seniors refuse to wear old style help buttons because they make them look old. But even worse, those medical alert systems come with monthly bills.

To solve these problems Universal Physicians, a U.S. company went to work to develop a new, modern, state-of-the-art medical alert device. It's called "FastHelp™" and it instantly connects you to free unlimited nationwide help anywhere cell service is available with no contracts, no deposits and no monthly bills ever.

"This slick new little device is designed to look like the pagers doctors wear every day. Seniors love them, because it actually makes them look important, not old," Dr. Howren said.

FastHelp is expected to hit store shelves later this year. But special newspaper promotions, like this from Universal Physicians are slated for seniors in select areas. ■



NO MONTHLY BILLS: "My wife had an old style help button that came with hefty bills every month and she was embarrassed to wear it because it made her look old," said Frank McDonald, Canton, Ohio. Now, we both have FastHelp™, the sleek new medical alert device that our grandkids say makes us look 'cool' not old," he said. With FastHelp, seniors never have to worry about being alone and the best part is there are no monthly bills ever.

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66

The Flying Fortress at War

During World War II, B-17 bombers and the brave American airmen who flew them helped turn the tide of the war.

LINDA MCMAKEN



77

A Place of Riches: Lake Geneva, Wisconsin

This town nestled on the shores of Geneva Lake sports stunning scenery and an abundance of splendid, early twentieth-century mansions.

PATRICIA ANN MCNAIR

85

The Elks Magazine Online Subscription Contest Winner: The Redlands, California, Lodge

Redlands, California, Lodge No. 583 is the winner in the 0-500 members category of the contest.

TOM SCUDDER



90

Supporting Our Troops

Elks support active-duty US armed forces personnel by sending care packages overseas and donating much-needed resources to their families.

DEPARTMENTS

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MESSAGE FROM THE GER



Beginning a New Elks Year

SPRING! It's synonymous with baseball, the smell of fresh-baked apple pie, and the beginning of a brand-new Elks lodge year. What a fantastic time to step forward and become more involved with your lodge. Take time to find out what your lodge accomplished last year and what is in the works for the coming year. If you're not satisfied with what you learn, your time to be an active force for change has arrived. Volunteer for a committee appointment or become a lodge officer. Now is your chance to make a real difference in your community.

Even if you don't have a lot of free time, you can remain an essential part of our Order by paying lodge dues and making charitable donations to your state major project and the Elks National Foundation. Many members are unaware that every lodge is urged to support these programs with a per-member dollar amount called a per capita. This donation is not included in your annual dues, so it must be raised in other ways. Many lodges host fund-raisers during the year to help meet these goals. By participating in these events, you will be helping people in your city and state reap the rewards of these amazing Elks programs.

Spring is also when seventy-two of the best free throw shooters in the country gather in Chicago during the last weekend of April for the Elks National Hoop Shoot Finals. It's always amazing to watch our kids toe the line and fire one "swish" after another in their quest to be the best. Twelve shooters in each division will attempt twenty-five shots each, plus any extras necessary to break a tie. On the national level, our young shooters hit about 90 percent of their attempts collectively for the day, which is astounding. The kids never cease to impress, and we wish every competitor the best of luck.

This month, Barbara and I will be visiting the Tennessee, Oklahoma, Oregon, and Kansas Elks Associations. Both of us are looking forward to meeting some great Elks and making new friends!

Remember to pay your dues promptly, and please donate to our wonderful programs. Lastly, remember to say thank-you to every member who makes your Elks lodge a pillar of the community by Working Together to Make a Difference.

Sincerely and Fraternally,

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

Michael T. Luhr

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— J. Fitzgerald, VA



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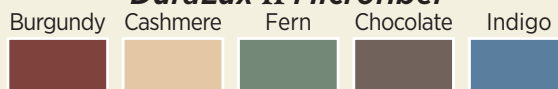
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On Tour with Michael T. Luhr



GER Michael T. Luhr and his wife, Barbara, spent three full days in **HAWAII** as guests of the California-Hawaii Elks Association. On their first full day, they toured the World War II Valor in the Pacific National Monument, which is the site of the USS Arizona Memorial; were guests of the Pearl City Lodge for lunch; and paid respects to the veterans interred at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific. The next day, they were guests for lunch at the Kailua Lodge and for dinner at the Honolulu Lodge, where GER Luhr presented the Elks Distinguished Citizenship Award to Honolulu Lodge member Delorese Gregoire. Pictured during the award presentation ceremony are (from left) Honolulu Lodge ER Byron Apo, honoree Gregoire, GER Luhr, and State Sponsor Louis J. Grillo.



GER Michael T. Luhr and his wife, Barbara, spent two days in **MAINE** as guests of the Maine Elks Association. On their first day, they were guests for an informal reception at the Sanford Lodge, followed by a formal banquet that was hosted by the Bangor Lodge and was attended by Elks from across the state. The next day, the first couple joined a group of Maine Elks in touring the Maine Air National Guard base located at Bangor International Airport, which is the home of the 101st Air Refueling Wing, which is informally known as the “MAINEiacs.” Pictured are (from left) SMSgt Jerry Martin, Past First Lady Barbara McCallum, SSgt Zachary Doughty, PSP Donald Piper, SP Susan Piper, GER Michael T. Luhr, First Lady Barbara Luhr, Past First Lady Donna Zellen, State Sponsor Michael F. Zellen, and SMSgt and Bangor Lodge PER Scott Monroe.

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2019–2020 Candidates for Grand Lodge Office



DeKalb, Illinois, Lodge Presents Bryan R. Klatt for Grand Secretary

Whereas, The Officers and Members of DeKalb, Illinois, Lodge No. 765 do recognize and appreciate the dedicated service and support rendered to the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks of the United States of America, the Illinois Elks Association, and the DeKalb Lodge by Bryan R. Klatt; and

Whereas, He was initiated into the DeKalb Lodge in November 1985, serving on numerous committees before becoming Exalted Ruler in 1989–1990 and serving as Lodge Secretary from 1998 to 2009; and

Whereas, He has served the Illinois Elks Association as Vice President of the North Central District in 1992–1993, as State Chaplain and State Americanism Committee Chairman in 1993–1994, as Third (1994–1995), Second (1995–1996), and First (1996–1997) Vice President, as State President in 1997–1998, as Chairman of the Advisory Committee in 2000–2001, of the Convention Committee from 2002 to 2004, and of the Leading Knight/Officer Training Seminars from 1998 to 2008; and

Whereas, He served as District Deputy in 1994–1995, was a Member of the Grand Lodge Membership Committee from 2001 to 2008, serving as Chairman from 2005 to 2007, served as Cochairman of the LouGER Committee to then Endorsed Candidate for Grand Exalted Ruler F. Louis Sulsberger, and has served in the position of Grand Secretary since 2008; and

Whereas, He was a co-owner of Kallal's Sheet Metal, Incorporated, is a member of St. Mary Catholic Church, past chairman of the HVAC Board of the City of DeKalb, a third-degree member of the Knights of Columbus No. 717, a member of the Loyal Order of Moose No. 586, and is a regular volunteer in his community in various school, civic, and athletic activities; and

Whereas, He has accomplished all of the foregoing with the help and support of his family, sons Gregory, Andrew, and Lucas, and his loving wife of thirty-five years, Susan; now therefore

Be it resolved, That the Officers and Members of DeKalb, Illinois, Lodge No. 765 are honored to present to the Grand Lodge Convention in Saint Louis, Missouri, for the ensuing 2019–2020 fraternal

year, the name of Bryan R. Klatt as a candidate for the office of Grand Secretary of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks of the United States of America.

*Angela Hudson, Exalted Ruler
Steffanie Barringer, Secretary
Jerry Schultz, Chairman/Trustees
Dated this 8th day of January 2019*



**Carbondale, Illinois, Lodge Presents
Charles R. Campbell for Grand Trustee**

Whereas, The Officers and Members of Carbondale, IL, Lodge No. 1243 and the eleven other Lodges in the South District of Illinois do recognize and appreciate the accomplishments, leadership, and dedicated service provided by Charles R. Campbell to the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks of the United States of America, the Illinois Elks Association, the South District of Illinois, and the Carbondale Lodge; and

Whereas, He has been a Member of the Order for nearly forty-four years, was initiated on November 4, 1975, has served on numerous Lodge committees, was installed as Exalted Ruler in April 1985, thereafter serving as a Lodge Trustee in 1987–1991, Lodge Secretary and Treasurer from 1991 to 1994 and again in 1996–1997, and was named Elk of the Year in 1995; and

Whereas, He has served the South District of Illinois as Junior Trustee in 1990–1991, Senior Trustee in 1991–1992, and District Vice President in 1992–1993 and has been serving as the District Sponsor of the South District since 2011; and

Whereas, He has served the Illinois Elks Association as Sergeant-at-Arms in 1984–1985, as Director of the Illinois Elks Children's Care Corporation from 1986 to 2010, as Board Treasurer from 1990 to 2003, as State Treasurer from 1998 to 2003, and was elected Third Vice President in 2003 and served as State President in 2006–2007 and upon completion of his duties as a state officer was honored by being elected to the position of Director Emeritus; and

Whereas, He served the Grand Lodge with distinction as District Deputy in 1994–1995, as a member of the Grand Lodge Americanism Committee from 2008–2012, and has served on the Grand Lodge Credentials Committee since 2013, has served as a Special Representative to several Lodges within his district, and was one of many Elk members who helped establish the first new Elks Lodge in Illinois (Johnson County, IL, Lodge No. 2880) in more than fifty years; and

Whereas, He graduated from West Frankfort High School in 1967, earned a bachelor of science degree in chemistry and mathematics in 1971 from Murray State University in Murray, Kentucky, and

followed that with a master of arts degree in information technology in 1975, also from Murray State University; and

Whereas, He worked as a computer programmer from 1968–1975 while he was an undergraduate student at Murray State University, was hired in 1975 as a computer systems programmer at Southern Illinois University, later worked as a computer systems programmer at Boeing Corporation in Saint Louis, Missouri, and Norge Division of Magic Chef in Herrin, Illinois, before returning to Southern Illinois University in 1981 as associate director of network engineering, a position he held until his retirement in 2009, after which he and his wife, Jan, founded SI Tours, and then sold the company in 2015, and it remains in operation today; and

Whereas, He has the support and love of his best friend and wife of fifty years, Jan Campbell, who is also a Past Exalted Ruler of the Carbondale Lodge and is a current Lodge Trustee, as well as his son, Michael Sean, who is a member of the Carbondale Lodge, and his wife, Andrea, and his daughter, Kimberly Dawn Opilka, and her husband, Mark, who is a member of the Carbondale Lodge, and his grandchildren, Dylan Michael, Madeline Grace, and Abigail Jordan; now therefore

Be it resolved, That the Officers and Members of Carbondale, Illinois, Lodge No. 1243 and the eleven other Lodges in the South District of Illinois are honored to present to the 2019 Grand Lodge Convention in Saint Louis, Missouri, the name of Charles R. Campbell for the office of Grand Trustee of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks of the United States of America.

Edmond Riddle, Exalted Ruler

Nicole Byrley, Secretary

Dated this 6th day of January 2019



**Longmont, Colorado, Lodge Presents
Allen H. Lenort for Grand Trustee**

Whereas, The Officers and Members of Longmont, Colorado, Lodge No. 1055 do recognize and appreciate the accomplishments, leadership, and dedicated service rendered by Allen H. Lenort to the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks of the United States of America, the Colorado

Elks Association, and the Longmont Lodge; and

Whereas, He was initiated into the Longmont Lodge in June 2002 and became an active and dedicated member, was elected Esteemed Lecturing Knight in 2003, was named Officer of the Year as Esteemed Loyal Knight in 2004–2005, served as Exalted Ruler during the Longmont Lodge’s 100th anniversary year in 2006–2007, served as Esquire in 2007–2008, was a member of the Colorado State Ritual Team that competed at the Grand Lodge Ritualistic Contest held during the 2008 Grand Lodge Convention in Anaheim,

California, and finished in the final four, in addition to being named the All-American Esquire for the Western Division at the 2008 Grand Lodge Convention, served as President of the Longmont Lodge PER Association in 2009, and served a five-year term as Lodge Trustee from 2008 to 2013, the last two years as Head Trustee, and is currently serving as Lodge Secretary and has held positions on and continues to serve as chairman of multiple Lodge committees; and

Whereas, He served the Colorado Elks Association as a certified Ritual Judge for many in-state and out-of-state contests, served the North District of Colorado as Ritual Chairman from 2007 to 2009, and served the Colorado Elks Association as State Ritual Chairman from 2009 to 2012 and as State Trustee from 2012 to 2015, the last year as Head Trustee, and in September 2017 was elected Third Vice President of the Colorado Elks Association and is currently serving as Second Vice President and is also currently serving as a member of the Leadership Development Team; and

Whereas, He served the Grand Lodge with distinction as District Deputy in 2007–2008, served faithfully as an Area 6 Ritualistic Committeeman from 2012 to 2018 and as Chairman of that committee from 2016 to 2018, was appointed Special Representative in 2017–2018, and is the current District Leader for the North District of Colorado, District No. 1440; and

Whereas, He served in the United States Marine Corps from 1987 to 1992 as an avionics electrician, working on CH-46 helicopters, serving in Hawaii, Okinawa, and the Philippines, and is now employed by a general contractor and has held jobs ranging from a laborer and a carpenter to a foreman and a superintendent, including his current position as a special projects and safety manager, and he is a life member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 2601; and

Whereas, He has the love and support of his best friend and wife of more than twenty-five years, Kim, who has been with him every step of the way on this journey with the Elks, from the Longmont Lodge to the Colorado Elks Association and to the Grand Lodge; now therefore

Be it resolved, That the Officers and Members of Longmont, Colorado, Lodge No. 1055 are honored to present to the 2019 Grand Lodge Convention in Saint Louis, Missouri, the name of Allen H. Lenort as a candidate for the office of Grand Trustee of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks of the United States of America.

David Borough, Exalted Ruler

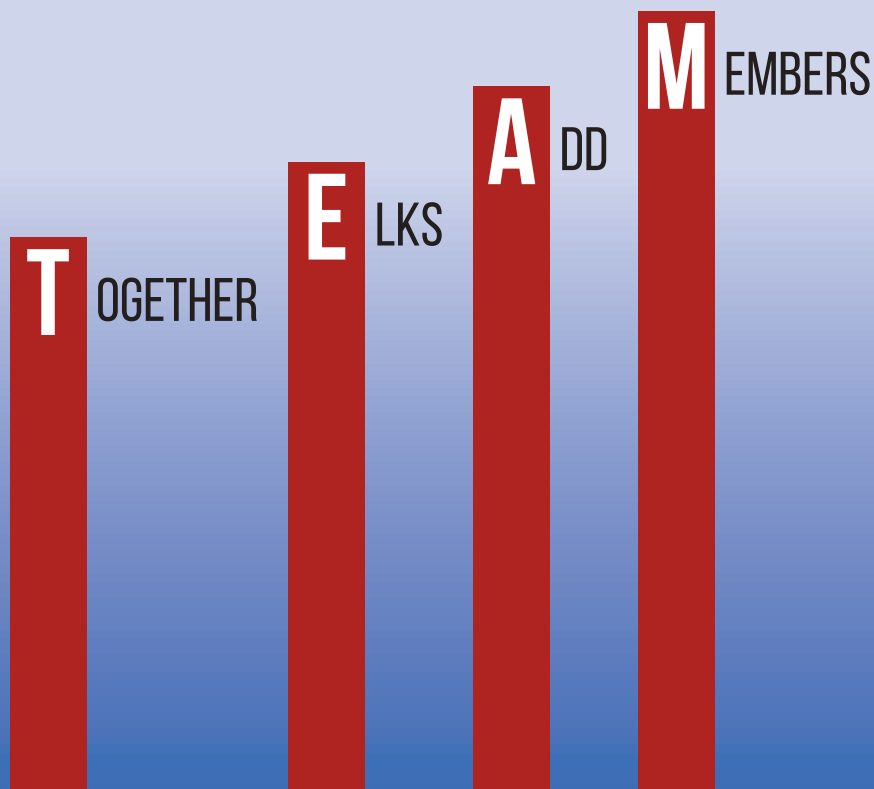
Allen H. Lenort, Secretary

A. Fred Pahlke, PER Association President

Dated this 9th day of January 2019



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IT'S YOUR BUSINESS



Timothy Middleton

Social Security: Delay or Claim Early?

RETIRING EARLY is an attractive notion on the surface. It can mean more time to spend with family and friends, the freedom to travel, or more free time to devote to other pursuits; however, retiring early has potential pitfalls and can come with financial complications. Inflation can outrun pensions (for the relatively few who have them), and personal savings can be exhausted. Such problems are the reason why Social Security is such an important aspect of a retirement plan. “It is longevity insurance,” says Steven Weiss, a financial adviser with Buckingham Strategic Wealth in Saint Louis, Missouri, who specializes in retirement planning.

Social Security rises with inflation and will therefore be consistent throughout all the years of your retirement. So, claiming the maximum Social Security benefits to which you are entitled can have a great impact on your standard of living during your retirement years. The question, then, is when should you begin claiming your benefits? Should you begin claiming early, or should you delay? The answer is that it depends. The decision to claim early or to delay will ultimately come down to your individual needs and circumstances.

Delay or Claim Early?

As was explained in the Social Security benefits article published in the March issue of *The Elks Magazine*, Social Security benefits are determined by what the government calls your full retirement age, or FRA, which is determined by the year you were born and is between the age of sixty-five and sixty-seven for those who are now headed toward retirement. You can claim Social Security benefits as early as age sixty-two, but claiming benefits early will cause the benefits to be reduced—permanently—by as much as 25 percent for those born between 1943 and 1954, and 30 percent for those born in 1960 or later. (Detailed information about these Social Security benefit schedules can be found on the Social Security Administration’s website, Ssa.gov.)

The argument for delaying claiming Social Security until you reach your FRA, then, is simple: if you wait to begin claiming Social Security benefits, your benefits will be larger. While a 25- to 30-percent cut in Social Security benefits is serious enough for those in

their sixties, such a permanent decrease in income will feel even larger twenty years later, when inflation has gnawed away at the purchasing power of your savings. Twenty years ago, \$1,000 had the same purchasing power as \$1,537 today. This means inflation alone has slashed the savings of those who retired twenty years ago by one-third. Indeed, the official US inflation rate, as of November 2018 (the most recent data available) was 2.2 percent. You would have to search hard to match that in an interest rate on a risk-free alternative, such as a money market fund or bank certificate of deposit. This is one of the reasons why Social Security can provide peace of mind in retirement. It is indexed to keep pace with the consumer price index, even though virtually no IRAs or 401ks are. Social Security payouts also have no strings attached, such as minimums or duration of deposit, as the private market usually requires.

Thus, putting off claiming Social Security until your FRA can pay off handsomely, and waiting longer, up to age seventy, can ultimately pay off even more. For the biggest age-group now approaching and entering retirement—baby boomers—payouts increase 8 percent annually and compound to a total of 132 percent of FRA benefits when the decision to delay until age seventy is made. That's an annual raise of \$3,200 on every \$10,000 of Social Security income.

The alternative to waiting, of course, is to claim early, and the argument for this can be simple, too. The decision to claim prior to your FRA could be driven by any number of considerations, including necessity and concerns about your health and/or longevity. After all, if your health and/or family history suggest that you might not be around to claim the increased payouts associated with waiting until your FRA and/or the delayed bonuses that come with waiting until age seventy, then waiting might not be the strategy for you. Just like the decision to wait, however, the decision to claim early is a serious one that only you can make, and it will be determined by your individual circumstances as you approach retirement age.

Social Security Planning with Your Spouse

The question of when to begin claiming Social Security benefits becomes even more complex when a two-person household is involved. In *The Elks Magazine's* March 2019 article on Social Security benefit basics, it was explained that in a one-career household in which one spouse has never worked or has not earned enough Social Security credits to qualify for their own Social Security benefits, this spouse can be eligible for spouse's benefits from Social Security based on their spouse's record. These benefits can be up to one-half of the amount of the primary beneficiary's payout. Just as with the primary beneficiary, however, if the person receiving spouse's benefits chooses to begin receiving benefits before they reach their FRA, their benefit amount will be permanently reduced.

In a two-career household, the situation is a little different. In this case, each spouse's benefits will be tied to their own work and earnings history; however, if one spouse's retirement benefits are lower than the benefits they could receive by claiming spouse's benefits, they will receive a combination of benefits equaling the spouse's benefit. The Social Security Administration offers the following example on its website. If one spouse qualifies for a retirement benefit of \$250 and a spouse's benefit of \$400, this spouse will receive their own \$250 retirement benefit plus a \$150 spouse's benefit for a total benefit of \$400 when they reach their FRA. It is important to note, however, that you are not eligible to receive a spouse's benefit until after your spouse has filed for their own Social Security benefit.

Steven Weiss recommends that those who are uncertain about their plans or have particularly complicated finances consult a professional who is an expert on the subject. There is also specialized software that can help tailor a Social Security plan to your unique circumstances. Weiss's firm uses a program called Maximize My Social Security; you can buy a home version for \$40. Some financial institutions offer free software, but it is not designed to help you formulate a strategy to wring every available dollar out of the system.

By the same token, Social Security offices are staffed with people, not robots, and you can make appointments for one-on-one meetings with experts in every facet of the program, such as benefits for disabled adult children of qualified beneficiaries. You've paid into Social Security—make the most of your benefits. ■

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Elizabeth A. Reid, MD

Flu Shots and Other Immunizations

HELEN AND JENNY meet for their regular walk. Helen tells Jenny that she's going for her flu shot after they finish. She is fretting, however, because she wants the super-flu shot, which is four times the dose of the normal flu shot, but her doctor says she doesn't need it until she is sixty-five. Jenny says she is never getting a flu shot again after the horrible experience she had two years previously. She got the shot, thinking it would keep her from getting sick that winter, and then proceeded to suffer one of the worst upper respiratory infections she had ever had, coughing so hard and for so many weeks that she broke two ribs. She doesn't think the shots are as powerful as advertised or even prevent the flu much of the time, and she worries about them causing side effects, maybe even the flu itself. Helen thinks otherwise. She fears the many diseases she reads about and has great faith in doctors and medicine. She believes in using modern medicine as much as possible to keep herself healthy.

Which of these two friends do you identify with most? They both express some common views that may contribute to people's decisions about whether to follow government recommendations on adult immunizations. According to an estimate from the Centers for Disease Control, only about 37 percent of adults were immunized against the flu virus during the 2017–2018 flu season, which was one of the worst on record in the United States. People fail to get immunized for many reasons, but it is important to know the facts about immunization against things like the flu before making a decision about whether to get vaccinated.

The Facts

Jenny is correct that a flu shot does not always prevent the disease. According to the Centers for Disease Control, an estimated 959,000 flu-related hospitalizations took place during the 2017–2018 flu season, and there were an estimated 79,400 flu-related deaths, with those over the age of sixty-five accounting for about 86 percent of all flu-related deaths. The vaccine helped only 36 percent of people who were immunized, but with immunization, a flu patient

was much better off and was 40 percent less likely to need to see a doctor than if they had not been immunized.

Jenny is also correct that the shots are not as effective as they are sometimes said to be, especially in older people, who produce 50 to 75 percent fewer antibodies in response to immunization than younger people do. Furthermore, Jenny is right in saying that a flu shot can produce the flu, but this is rare. The most common side effects are mild and short-lived effects, such as muscle aches and pains or redness at the injection site.

When Jenny complained to Helen that the flu shot was not effective and recounted how she had broken ribs because of coughing associated with an upper respiratory illness, she had forgotten something. She had forgotten that at the time, her doctor thought that she may actually have had pertussis (whooping cough), caused by a bacterium called *Bordetella pertussis*, not the influenza virus.

In talking with Helen as they walk, Jenny now begins to recall this and tells Helen about it. She had told her doctor that the last time she received a pertussis shot was at least thirty years ago, and her doctor had told her that her immunization against pertussis may have worn off since she had not had a booster shot in many years and that perhaps she ought to consider getting that vaccination.

In turn, Helen tells Jenny that she had been dissatisfied when her doctor told her she didn't need the super-flu shot, explaining that the basic flu shot was enough and that the super-flu shot was unnecessary because she was in robust, good health. She maintains a good diet and normal weight, has healthy sleep habits, gets regular exercise, uses little alcohol, and doesn't smoke. This all gives her a strong response to illnesses and helps protect her against severe flu complications regardless of her immunization status. Even with flu-shot efficacy rates of only 36 percent, her doctor explained, a basic flu shot is still worthwhile. More immunized people in a population group mean fewer people passing the disease around. When Jenny hears this, she thinks this sounds like a real benefit.

This reminds Jenny that when her doctor suggested she had pertussis, not the flu, she was told that the pertussis vaccine was combined with a tetanus shot, an immunization which prevents a truly awful and often lethal infection acquired in wounds infected by a bacterium called *Clostridium botulinum*. Tetanus immunization boosters are done routinely when someone seeks treatment for a deep wound, but they should be part of a routine immunization program throughout one's life in the event that medical attention is not available in an emergency.

Tetanus shots are highly effective, and like most other adult vaccines, they are very well tolerated. Jenny's doctor told her that a ten-year schedule is suggested for tetanus immunization, but the effects probably last longer than that. Jenny tells Helen how she had decided that given the pain of the rib fractures, the combined

pertussis and tetanus shot seemed to be a good idea and that she took her doctor's advice and was immunized.

Later in their walk, Helen tells Jenny that she has been worrying about shingles and has been reading about a new vaccine against shingles, which as her doctor once explained is the reawakened varicella virus (chicken pox virus) that lurks in almost 100 percent of adults. When the varicella virus re-emerges, it produces a debilitating, painful rash called shingles, usually on the trunk, but sometimes involving the eye or ear, or even the gut. Jenny recalls reading that one in every three people over the age of sixty-five will develop shingles at some point, so as the two friends discuss it, Jenny decides that this new, more effective shingles vaccine, which was released in the last few years, sounds worthwhile, even if its greater power means she's more likely to experience transient, flu-like symptoms after the shot.

Helen tells Jenny that she has also quizzed her doctor about a vaccine for pneumonia caused by the bacteria known as pneumococcus. Because she is under the age of sixty-five, she is not a candidate for that yet, either, but at sixty-five years old, Jenny is. Her doctor told her that 90 percent of invasive pneumococcal disease and nearly all deaths from it occur in people over the age of sixty-five, and this makes Jenny think maybe she should talk to her doctor about this. Helen tells her that her doctor also told her that there are adult immunizations available against viral diseases of the liver and some rarer infectious bacteria that cause meningitis but that these are generally reserved for people with compromised immune systems or with occupational or social risks associated with contracting these diseases.

Facts are always helpful in decision making, especially when it comes to important health decisions, and as Helen and Jenny come to the end of their walk, Helen feels better. Talking about what her doctor had told her makes her feel better about not getting the super-flu shot she had wanted, and she begins to think that, given her general good health, perhaps she needn't worry quite so much. Jenny, too, feels differently about vaccines. She can now see the value that immunizations have for society and is more receptive to the idea of immunizations for herself. ■

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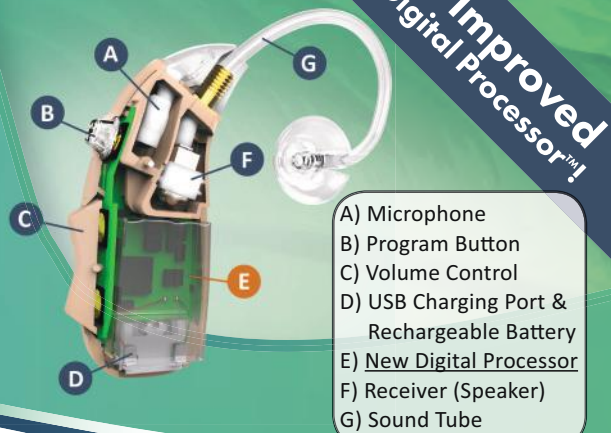


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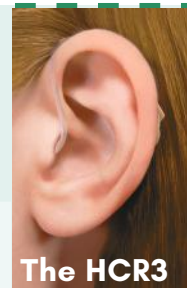
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Bullhead City, AZ, Lodge members hosted a dinner and ceremony in honor of Bullhead City Fire Department Capt./Paramedic Ryan Granath, Bullhead City Police Department Cpl. Bruce Greisen, and Fort Mojave Mesa Fire Department Firefighter/Paramedic Chad Wollitz. Following dinner, lodge members presented each of the honorees with a plaque. Pictured during the ceremony are (from left) Americanism Committee Chairman Melanie Beaver, Captain/Paramedic Granath, Corporal Greisen, and Firefighter/Paramedic Wollitz.

Cullman, AL, Lodge members used a \$1,500 ENF Anniversary Grant and some additional donations to give Christmas gift bags containing toiletries, clothing, and other gifts to 30 residents of two nursing homes. The lodge also gave several Christmas gifts to each of six children residing at a Victim Services of Cullman domestic violence shelter. Additionally, the lodge donated 35 stuffed animals to Victim Services of Cullman to be given to children who are served by the program.

In other news, the lodge held a donation drive and collected 42 coats for Hope for the Homeless. The lodge also donated several boxes of coats and other warm clothing to Curt's Closet, which assists needy families.

In more news, the lodge used a \$2,500 ENF Promise Grant to hold a children's Christmas party for about 150 students and teachers from local Head Start preschool programs. The event featured lunch

and an appearance by Santa, who posed for a photo with each child and gave each child a gift, a bag of fruit, and some snacks.

In further news, lodge members presented certificates to the proprietors of two auto dealerships and a bank branch to recognize them for correctly displaying the US flag.

Gulf Coast, AL, Lodge provided four needy families with Christmas gifts and gift cards to purchase food for Christmas dinner.

Eagle River, AK, Lodge donated a total of 72 backpacks full of school supplies, clothing, and snacks to needy schoolchildren.

In other news, the lodge donated \$1,000 to the local Meals on Wheels program, \$500 to a food pantry, and \$500 to the local Boys and Girls Club.

In more news, the lodge hosted a Christmas party for 72 local children. The event featured a meal, crafts, and an appearance by Santa and Mrs. Claus, who gave each child a gift. The lodge also provided Christmas food boxes and gifts to eight needy families with a total of 38 members.

In further news, lodge members distributed dictionaries to nearly 460 third graders in seven schools.

Homer, AK, Lodge used a \$2,000 ENF Beacon Grant to hold a party for more than 100 needy young people. The event featured a meal and craft activities, and before going home, each young person was given a winter coat.

Ajo, AZ, Lodge donated \$1,000 to assist members of the Paradise, CA, Lodge who lost their homes in the Camp Fire wildfire.

Casa Grande Valley, AZ, Lodge held a Christmas shopping trip for 25 needy children. Lodge members helped each child purchase



Catalina Mountain, AZ, Lodge members accompanied 35 needy children on a shopping trip and helped each child purchase \$150 worth of clothing and shoes. Following the trip, the lodge hosted a Christmas lunch, which featured a visit from Santa and Mrs. Claus, who gave each child a gift and a bag of school supplies. Pictured are Mrs. Claus (lodge member Gail Markwell) and Roadrunner Elementary School student Jasmine Sexton.

In related news, the lodge provided clothing, toys, and art supplies to 12 additional needy children.



Green Valley, AZ, Lodge used part of a \$1,500 ENF Anniversary Grant to hold three classes for widows in the community. The topics covered included handling power tools, car maintenance, and plumbing. A total of 27 people attended the three sessions, and two additional classes covering electrical work and fire

safety were scheduled. Pictured are (from left) car maintenance instructor Rick Smith, who is a car dealership maintenance manager, and participants Jolene Roesler and Darlene Green.

more than \$250 worth of clothing and shoes. Following the shopping trip, the lodge hosted a pizza party, which featured a visit from Santa. The event was held with the help of funds from a \$1,500 ENF Anniversary Grant.

In other news, lodge members distributed Christmas food boxes to 25 needy families in the community. Each box also contained toys for the family's children.

Coolidge-Florence, AZ, Lodge members recognized Poston Butte High School student Rose Ampadu-Siaw, Florence High School student Joshua Maignan, and San Tan Foothills High School student Mackenzie Martinez for excellence in academics and extracurricular activities. Each honoree received a certificate and a \$50 award.

Kingman, AZ, Lodge members delivered Christmas food baskets, each of which contained the ingredients for a festive holiday meal and some additional food, to a total of more than 100 needy families.

San Manuel, AZ, Lodge hosted a Christmas party for 200 children. The event featured snacks, crafts, and an appearance by Santa, who gave each child who attended the event a stocking filled with snacks and toys.

Sun City, AZ, Lodge provided a needy family of eight with three bunk beds, a washing machine, a dryer, a microwave oven, a dishwasher, a television, and some clothing and bedding. The lodge also arranged for an electrician to install additional capacity to accommodate the appliances. Additionally, the lodge provided the family with a fully decorated Christmas tree and about \$360 in gift cards and cash.

In other news, the lodge donated \$1,000 worth of clothing and



Highland, AR, Lodge held a breakfast with Santa for 22 children at Fountain Place, a retirement community. Each child visited Santa and received a gift, and following breakfast, Santa greeted several residents of the community. Pictured with Santa (lodge member Bobby Estes) is resident Jewel Hamilton.



Hot Springs, AR, Lodge donated nearly \$340 to Boy Scout Troop 10 to thank scouts for assisting during a party at the lodge. Pictured during the party are (front, from left) scouts Destin Allen, Sasha Thomas, and Jessie Weatherford with (back, from left) scouts William Huzinec, Carter Fulkerson, and Dilanne Allen.

In other news, the lodge provided bushel baskets of food to 96 needy families at Christmastime. Each basket contained a turkey and other ingredients for a festive holiday dinner. The lodge also provided toys for the more than 250 children of the families and used a \$2,000 ENF Beacon Grant to give bicycles to 50 of the children.

In more news, the lodge donated nearly 380 pounds of pet food and some cleaning supplies, pet toys, and blankets to the Humane Society of Garland County.

bedding to the UMOM New Day Centers and nearly \$8,700 worth of clothing to the outreach ministry of the Reborn Church of Phoenix.

Fayetteville-Springdale, AR, Lodge members distributed Christmas food boxes to 26 needy families.

Holiday Island, AR, Lodge used a \$2,500 ENF Promise Grant to provide Christmas gifts to more than 200 clients of the Learning



Mountain Home, AR, Lodge members honored the three winners of the lodge's Americanism Essay Contest in a ceremony at Pinkston Middle School and gave each winner a \$100 award. Pictured are (from left) Americanism Committee Chairman Vonya Schaufler, winners Emerson Walls, Rylee Crecelius, and Ella Hilvert, and ER Wayne Markham.

In other news, the lodge donated a \$2,000 ENF Beacon Grant to the Backpack Food 4 Kids program, which provides food for the weekends to needy schoolchildren. The lodge also used part of a \$2,500 ENF Gratitude Grant to donate \$1,000 to the Mountain Home Food Basket and \$500 to Kindness Inc., which provides in-home assistance to seniors who are living independently.

In more news, the lodge donated \$500 to the local Fraternal Order of Police lodge to support a Shop with a Cop event, during which needy children are taken on subsidized shopping trips accompanied by police officers, and \$500 to Christmas Wish 2018 to provide Christmas presents to 15 needy children.

Center of North Arkansas, which provides daycare for disadvantaged preschool children and disabled young adults in the community. Lodge members dressed as Santa and Mrs. Claus distributed the presents to the children.

In other news, the lodge donated \$500 to A Cup of Love Ministry, which provides hot food to needy families and individuals.

Banning-Beaumont, CA, Lodge donated a total of \$300 worth of toys to Operation Santa, which provides toys to hospitalized children during the Christmas season.

Carmichael, CA, Lodge donated nearly \$6,300 worth of gift cards to the Paradise, CA, Lodge to help the lodge and community rebuild after the Camp Fire wildfire.

Chico, CA, Lodge hosted an event during which a local businessman donated a truckload of bicycles, backpacks, toys, and other gifts



Elk Grove, CA, Lodge members delivered nearly 370 dictionaries to third-grade students at three schools. Pictured with four Barbara Comstock Morse Elementary School students are (back, from left) lodge member Michael Ellison, PER Ralph Daniels, lodge members Mike Vandepol, PER James McCloskey, staff member Nicholas Korner, and teacher Mary Condas.

In other news, the lodge donated 16 turkeys to the Elk Grove Food Bank prior to Christmas.

to the children of members of the Paradise Lodge who had lost their homes in the Camp Fire wildfire.

Concord, CA, and Walnut Creek, CA, Lodges held a Christmas lunch at the Concord Lodge for a total of 40 young adults who are clients of First Place for Youth, which serves foster children. The Walnut Creek Lodge contributed part of a \$2,500 ENF Gratitude Grant toward the cost of the lunch and the purchase of a \$15 gift card for each guest.

Hesperia, CA, Lodge used a \$2,000 ENF Beacon Grant to hold a Christmas party for 58 needy children and 20 of their siblings. Each child received a book, a coat, and a pair of shoes. The event also featured snacks, crafts, face painting, and a visit from Santa Claus.

In other news, the lodge collected 150 new toys for the San Bernardino Community Fire Department's Spark of Love Christmas toy drive.

Kern River Valley, CA, Lodge used a \$2,500 ENF Gratitude Grant to provide Christmas food boxes to 39 needy families. The boxes also contained clothing and toys.

In other news, the lodge donated the use of the lodge building to the ladies auxiliary to hold a children's Christmas party.

Lake Elsinore/Wildomar, CA, Lodge hosted a Christmas party for 215 children whose parents or guardians are incarcerated. The event included lunch, and each child received a gift.



Novato, CA, Lodge hosted a Court of Honor ceremony for new Eagle Scout Brandon Wu, of Boy Scout Troop 200, during which scout Carli Wu, of Girl Scout Troop 30368, was presented with the Girl Scout Silver and Bronze awards. Lodge members presented each scout with a certificate of recognition and a US flag. For his Eagle Scout Project, Brandon built a campus map and bulletin board for the Presbyterian Church of Novato. Pictured during the ceremony with then ER Barbara Trites (center), who has since passed away, are (from left) Girl Scout Troop Leader Jennifer Wu, Silver Award Scout Carli Wu, Eagle Scout Brandon Wu, and Scoutmaster Michael Hadfield.

Lancaster, CA, Lodge hosted a Christmas party for nearly 300 children and adults. The event featured lunch, games, and a visit from Santa, who arrived on a fire engine, posed for photos with each child, and gave each child a gift.

Mission Viejo-Saddleback Valley, CA, Lodge donated a truckload of clothing and household goods, including kitchenware, glassware, towels, sheet sets, blankets, and other bedding, to the Paradise Lodge to be distributed to victims of the Camp Fire wildfire.

Nevada City, CA, Lodge donated two trailers full of supplies to the Chico Lodge to be distributed to victims of the Camp Fire wildfire. The lodge also donated nearly \$1,900 to the Butte County Sheriff's Office to be given to fire victims.

Roseville, CA, Lodge hosted a breakfast with Santa for 17 families with members who participate in the Head Start preschool program. Following breakfast and a visit with Santa, each family received a box of food, toys, and clothing. Lodge members delivered additional boxes to ten families that were unable to attend the event.

In other news, the lodge donated 120 toys to the Salvation Army to be given to needy children at Christmas.

In more news, the lodge provided toys to 16 young children and \$20 gift cards to four teenagers staying at a homeless shelter.



Orange, CA, Lodge provided Christmas food baskets to 200 needy families. The lodge also provided bicycles, bicycle helmets, and locks to 36 needy children as part of the distribution. Pictured are (from left) Est. Loyal Knight Daniel Salas, bicycle recipient

Armando Gonzales, PDD Richard Bourke, and Drug Awareness Committee Chairman Michael Cash.

In other news, lodge members cooked 22 deep-fried turkeys for Mary's Kitchen to be served to needy people at Christmas.

San Rafael, CA, Lodge hosted a Thanksgiving dinner and raised \$2,000 for the state major project, which provides in-home therapy to children with special needs and vision screening to preschool children throughout the state.

Santa Barbara, CA, Lodge hosted a Christmas party for 35 children. The event featured lunch, games, and an appearance by Santa, who posed for photos with each family and gave each child a goody bag.

Santa Maria, CA, Lodge held a motorcycle run and collected more than \$15,000 and more than 200 toys and 77 bicycles for the US Marine Corps Reserve Toys for Tots Program.

Vacaville, CA, Lodge used a \$2,000 ENF Beacon Grant, a \$1,500 ENF Anniversary Grant, and additional lodge funds to donate \$100 grocery store gift cards to 22 families, gift cards for Christmas presents to 88 children of the families, and one-month bus passes to 60 seniors.

Visalia, CA, Lodge donated \$500 worth of toys to the US Marine Corps Reserve Toys for Tots Program.

Yreka, CA, Lodge donated five door gates to the Rescue Ranch, which is a local dog rescue organization. The lodge also made a donation of two large, folding wood tables to the Siskiyou Spay-Neuter Incentive Program.



Aurora, CO, Lodge used part of a \$2,500 ENF Gratitude Grant to donate \$1,500 to the Aurora Police Association Charitable Foundation to support a Shop with a Cop event, during which needy children were taken shopping for Christmas gifts accompa-

nied by police officers and cadets. Pictured during the event are (from left) Chief of Police Nicholas Metz, participant Miya Pear, and Police Cadet Katlyn Rooney.

Canon City, CO, Lodge provided Christmas food baskets to 30 families and single residents of Journey Home, a housing facility for formerly homeless adults.

Fort Collins, CO, Lodge used a \$1,500 ENF Anniversary Grant to provide 30 gift cards worth \$50 each to clients of the Crossroads Safe House, which is a domestic violence shelter.

In other news, the lodge used a \$2,500 ENF Promise Grant to provide Christmas gift bags to 23 needy Global Village Academy–Fort Collins students. Each bag contained a blanket, a hat, a pair of gloves, a toy, a package of cookies, and nearly \$130 worth of gift cards to provide food for the child’s family.

In more news, the lodge created 17 care packages containing toiletries, winter hats, and handmade Christmas cards to be given to first responders.

Glenwood Springs, CO, Lodge members delivered Christmas food boxes to a total of 100 needy families. Each box contained the ingredients for a festive holiday meal and some additional food.

In other news, the lodge hosted an early Christmas dinner for community residents and delivered prepared meals to residents who were unable to come to the lodge. A total of 400 meals were served.

Golden, CO, Lodge hosted a dinner for 27 needy families. After dinner, Santa arrived, posed for photos with each family, and gave each child a gift. Each family received a box containing the ingredients for a festive holiday meal and a wrapped present for each child in the family. Lodge members also provided winter coats, gloves, and hats to any family member who needed them.

In other news, the lodge used part of a \$2,500 ENF Promise Grant to donate \$500 to the Golden High School wrestling tournament and



Telluride, CO, Lodge used part of a \$2,500 ENF Gratitude Grant to donate \$300 to Brownie Troop 16236 to help purchase uniforms. The lodge also used part of the grant to donate \$500 to a local Boy Scout troop. Pictured are (front, from left) Brownies Hazel Noel, Brendalee Trujillo, Lola Randall, Lillie Pearl Williamson, Hadley Hannahs, Jayne Takacs, and Hazel Frerichs and PDD Cynthia Wyszynski with (back, from left) Assistant Troop Leader Maureen Waters and Troop Leader Ashley Williamson.

In other news, the lodge used part of a \$2,500 ENF Promise Grant to hold a holiday party for about 45 participants in the One to One mentoring program, including mentees, mentors, and program staff. The event featured lunch, and each of the mentees received a present from the lodge.

\$500 to the Golden High School lacrosse team. The lodge also used other lodge funds to donate an additional \$1,000 to the Golden High School wrestling tournament.

In more news, the lodge hosted a breakfast for 25 firefighters, police officers, and sheriff's deputies.

Salida, CO, Lodge used a \$2,000 ENF Beacon Grant to host a Christmas party for 70 seniors from the community. The event featured dinner and bingo games, and each guest received a Christmas present and a \$10 gift card.

Victor, CO, Lodge used a \$2,000 ENF Beacon Grant and many community donations to provide Christmas food boxes to 56 needy families. Each box contained the ingredients for a festive holiday dinner and many additional items of food, as well as presents for the children of each family.

Gainesville, FL, Lodge members distributed Thanksgiving food baskets to 25 needy families in the community. The lodge also donated 180 pounds of food to Catholic Charities prior to Thanksgiving.

Holley-Navarre, FL, Lodge used part of a \$1,500 ENF Anniversary Grant and an additional \$1,000 in lodge charitable funds to donate a



Florida Keys, FL, Lodge held a child safety day, which 33 young people attended. The event featured lunch, and members of the local Masonic lodge prepared identification kits for each attendee. Each attendee was also given a bicycle, a safety helmet, and a reflective armband. The lodge also provided safety helmets to 32 adults who requested them. Pictured is guest Enio Martins.

In other news, the lodge used a \$2,000 ENF Beacon Grant to hold a Christmas party for 92 children. The event featured lunch, a performance by a magician, crafts, and an appearance by Santa and Mrs. Claus, who posed for photos with each child. Each guest also received a goody bag.

total of \$1,500 to Caring and Sharing of South Santa Rosa County, which provides Thanksgiving and Christmas food baskets to needy families in the area.

Inverness, FL, Lodge hosted a kickoff party for 140 participants of the Hernando County Dragon Boat Festival on the night before the event. The lodge also provided food to about 600 spectators during the festival, which consisted of a day of boat races.

In other news, lodge members took part in a Christmas beautification project by decorating a Christmas tree in their community.

Inverness, FL, and West Citrus, FL, Lodges held a party at the West Citrus Lodge for children and foster families of the Citrus County Foster Parents Association. The event was attended by 25 foster families with a total of 62 foster children. The party included dinner, face painting, music provided by a DJ, and an appearance by Santa and Mrs. Claus, who gave each child two presents. The Inverness Lodge used a \$2,000 ENF Beacon Grant to purchase the Christmas gifts.

Jupiter, FL, Lodge members honored lodge Soccer Shoot champion Katheryn Rodriguez for winning the U-10 division of the Florida State Elks Association contest.

In other news, the lodge provided toys, athletic equipment, and other Christmas gifts to 75 needy children.



Green Cove Springs, FL, Lodge donated four sets of folding tables and matching chairs for preschool children to the Green Cove Springs Branch Library. The items were purchased using a Florida State Elks Association grant. Pictured at the library are (from left) ladies auxiliary member Linda Rittenhouse, ER Lucille Barnette, PER Gene Rittenhouse, library Branch Manager Jennifer Parker, and Friends of the Green Cove Springs Library Vice President Dee Pratt.

In other news, the lodge PER Association donated \$1,000 to Quigley House, a domestic violence shelter, during a golf tournament fund-raiser. The lodge also used a \$1,500 ENF Anniversary Grant to provide a sweatshirt and two books each to 88 first-grade students at Charles E. Bennett Elementary School.

In more news, the lodge used part of a \$2,500 ENF Promise Grant and a donation from the lodge PER Association to provide nearly 180 gift bags for a community appearance by Santa Claus.

Kissimmee, FL, Lodge used a \$2,000 ENF Beacon Grant to host a party for more than 300 foster children and foster families. The event featured lunch, musical entertainment, crafts, a bounce house, a hula hoop contest, displays by local first responders, and an appearance by Santa and Mrs. Claus, who gave each child a present.

Lakewood Ranch-Sarasota, FL, Lodge donated a total of ten Christmas food boxes to the Salvation Army Pathway of Hope program, which assists needy families.

In other news, the lodge hosted a Christmas party for 53 adults with disabilities who participate in the Miracle League adaptive baseball league.

Merritt Island, FL, Lodge provided Christmas food boxes, each of which contained a week's worth of food for a family, to 75 families with a total of more than 300 members.

In other news, the lodge provided Christmas gifts to 66 needy children in the community.

Orlando, FL, Lodge held a Christmas pizza party for nearly 230 clients of the Primrose Center, a center for people with developmental disabilities. The event featured karaoke, and each attendee received a stuffed elf doll, a bracelet, and a bag of candy.

In other news, the lodge donated \$3,000 to Nathaniel's Hope, which assists children with special needs, and \$1,100 to Baby DJ, which assists needy families at Christmastime.

Pensacola Beach, FL, Lodge donated \$5,000 to Chipola Family Ministries to assist people who are recovering from Hurricane Michael.

Punta Gorda, FL, Lodge donated nearly \$2,600 to the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul to help replenish the charity's food pantry and nearly \$1,300 to the Center for Abuse and Rape Emergencies to assist the center's clients at Christmastime.

In other news, the lodge donated cookies, snacks, drinks, and pulled pork to the Crossroads Hope Academy, which is a home and school for male foster children, for the school's Christmas party.



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Several lodge members also helped perform minor repairs for the Crossroads Hope Academy.

Saint Petersburg, FL, Lodge distributed more than \$9,000 worth of toys to needy children at Christmastime. The toys were given to families known to lodge members and to local charities that assist needy families. The lodge used \$1,500 from a \$2,500 ENF Promise Grant to purchase some of the toys.

In other news, lodge members distributed Christmas food boxes to 300 needy families. Each box contained food for a traditional holiday feast for a family of six.

In more news, the lodge donated \$500 to Safe Kids Florida Suncoast, which provides child safety education, and nearly \$250 to the Dixie Hollins High School girls softball team.

Sebring, FL, Lodge used a \$2,000 ENF Gratitude Grant to make donations of \$1,000 each to Junior ROTC programs at Avon Park High School and Sebring High School.

In other news, the lodge donated \$1,000 to the Champion for Children Foundation of Highlands County, which provides neglect and abuse prevention and early intervention programs to help protect vulnerable children.



Tampa, FL, Lodge used part of a \$2,000 ENF Beacon Grant to hold a Christmas brunch for about 170 homeless men and women who are served by the Hyde Park United Methodist Church Open Arms Ministry. The lodge also used funds from the grant to donate underwear to the ministry. Pictured are Hyde Park United Methodist Church Outreach Minister Vicki Walker (left) and volunteer Linda Aiken.

In other news, the lodge took 23 members of Club Chivalry for Successful Students, a club for at-risk students at Robinson High School that is funded by a \$10,000 ENF Impact Grant, to the Florida Elks Youth Camp to use the camp's ropes course. The lodge provided a bus to transport the students to the camp, and lodge members served three meals during the all-day event.

In more news, the lodge held a Christmas party for 86 local children. The event featured pizza, cookie decorating, entertainment by a clown and a magician, and presents for the children. The children also made sympathy cards for members of the Paradise, CA, Lodge, which was destroyed in a fire.

Zephyrhills, FL, Lodge donated nearly \$6,200 worth of gift cards to needy Zephyrhills High School students to help provide holiday meals for them and their families.

In other news, the lodge donated a brand new leaf blower to the Zephyrhills Little League.

Savannah, GA, Lodge hosted a Christmas party for 125 children, including children of armed forces personnel, foster children, and children in need. The event featured lunch, music, dancing, storytelling, and an appearance by Santa, who gave each child a present.

Coeur d'Alene, ID, Lodge hosted a Christmas party for 75 foster children and foster parents. The event was held with the help of \$1,000 that was raised by a children's Christmas party fund-raiser held at the lodge.

Lewiston, ID, Lodge donated 80 fleece blankets to the Lewiston Police Department to be given to children during stressful situations.

Moscow, ID, Lodge donated a \$1,500 ENF Anniversary Grant to the Disability Action Center NW to help provide and install access ramps in the homes of people with disabilities.

Saint Maries, ID, Lodge members delivered Christmas food baskets to 220 families. Each basket contained the ingredients of a traditional holiday feast as well as food for several additional meals.



Mount Vernon, IL, Lodge used a \$1,500 Illinois Elks Association grant to donate \$1,000 to Kingdom Seed Ministries to help provide shoes to schoolchildren and \$500 to Family Life Assembly of God to support the church's assistance to needy and homeless people. Pictured are (from left) Est. Lead. Knight Tim Bain, Kingdom Seed Ministries representative Monte Jo Clark, and ER David Edwards.

In other news, the lodge used a \$2,000 ENF Beacon Grant and a \$1,500 ENF Anniversary Grant to deliver holiday meals to 400 seniors and other homebound people.



Estherville, IA, Lodge used a \$2,500 ENF Promise Grant to support advanced home and commercial cooking classes for nine Estherville Lincoln Central High School students. The funds were used to purchase ingredi-

ents and two chafing dishes to be used in classes at the school. Lodge members also invited the class participants to use the lodge's commercial kitchen to cook a meal. Pictured are participants Chaz Berge (left) and Hunter Walders.

Champaign-Urbana, IL, Lodge hosted a donation drive and collected 100 backpacks and more than 25 bags of warm clothes and toiletries to be given to clients of the Daily Bread Soup Kitchen. The total value of the donations was more than \$700.

Joliet, IL, Lodge provided nearly 110 Christmas gifts to residents of the Parc at Joliet, which is a nursing home. The lodge also provided 43 children's winter coats to the Will County Center for Community Concerns to be given to needy children in the area.

In other news, the lodge donated a \$1,000 Illinois Elks Association grant to the Will County Juvenile Drug Court program, which provides supervised rehabilitation in lieu of punishment for juvenile, nonviolent offenders.

Oglesby, IL, Lodge used a \$1,500 Illinois Elks Association grant to donate \$750 to the Oglesby Police Department Shop with a Cop program, which provides subsidized shopping trips accompanied by police officers to needy young people, and \$750 to Cops 4 Cancer, which assists the families of cancer patients.

Des Moines, IA, Lodge members accompanied 300 first-grade and second-grade Park Avenue Elementary School students on a Christmas shopping trip, during which each student was given \$70 to buy gifts for their family members. Following the trip, the students visited with Santa and Mrs. Claus.

Perry, IA, Lodge used part of a \$2,000 ENF Gratitude Grant to donate \$500 to the Perry Police Department to support its Shop with a Cop program, which provides subsidized shopping trips accompanied by police officers to needy young people.

Hoxie, KS, Lodge donated a \$1,500 ENF Anniversary Grant to the Hoxie Area Ministerial Alliance to help provide food to needy families during the holiday season.

Junction City, KS, Lodge used part of a \$2,500 ENF Promise Grant to hold a Christmas party for 35 Special Olympics athletes and about 35 other guests. The lodge also used part of a \$2,000 ENF Gratitude Grant to donate \$300 to the Special Olympics.

In other news, the lodge used part of a \$2,000 ENF Gratitude Grant to donate \$300 worth of bingo cards to five nursing homes. The lodge also used part of a \$1,500 ENF Anniversary Grant to donate \$500 to the local Shop with a Cop program, which provides subsidized shopping trips accompanied by police officers to needy young people.

Osawatomie, KS, Lodge used a \$2,000 ENF Beacon Grant to hold a bingo party for 80 clients of Tri-Ko, a charity that provides employment and other assistance to people with disabilities. Participants were served cookies and won prizes that included toiletries, clothing, blankets, games, and candy.

Ashland, KY, Lodge held community Thanksgiving and Christmas dinners and served about 900 people at each event. The lodge also provided about 600 delivered and carryout meals on each occasion. In addition, 80 children who attended the Christmas dinner were given presents.

In other news, the lodge used a \$2,000 ENF Beacon Grant to provide Christmas gifts and ice cream to nearly 220 students at the Ashland Exceptional Early Childhood Center.

In more news, the lodge hosted a children's Christmas party for 160 at-risk children, their siblings, and their parents or guardians. A total of 260 people attended the party.

In further news, the lodge provided a total of 530 Christmas presents to preschool children. The gifts were distributed during Christmas parties held at six Boyd County Family Resource Centers.

Middlesboro, KY, Lodge used a \$1,500 ENF Anniversary Grant to provide Christmas food boxes to a total of 40 needy families who were identified by the Cooperative Christian Ministry, which is a local social service organization.

Plaquemine, LA, Lodge used a \$2,500 ENF Gratitude Grant to donate six protective vests to the Plaquemine Fire Department.

Annapolis, MD, Lodge donated \$2,000 each to the Annapolis Fire Department, the Anne Arundel County Fire Department, the Anne Arundel County Sheriff's Office, and the Anne Arundel County Police Department to assist the families of fallen first responders. The lodge also donated \$500 to 77Rescue, an advocacy organization that supports volunteer fire departments. The donations were made to honor first responders who were called to the Capital Gazette newspaper shooting.



Slidell, LA, Lodge members, with the help of Santa and Mrs. Claus, visited the Lumberton City Hall in Lumberton, MS, where they lit the town's Christmas tree and greeted more than 150 children and other visitors. Pictured are (from left) visitors Carolyn and Cheri Alsobrooks, Mrs. Claus (volunteer Carol Massarini), Santa (lodge member Pat Massarini), and visitor Paige Alsobrooks.

In other news, the lodge line dancing club put on a Christmas performance for about 45 residents of Azalea Estates of Slidell, a senior living community.



Laurel, MD, Lodge hosted a breakfast with Santa for 80 children and nearly 110 adults. The children visited Santa, received a wrapped present, and were given the opportunity to shop for presents for their family at a cost of one dollar per item. Pictured are attendees Kelsie Leith (left) and Karleigh King.

In other news, the lodge used part of a \$1,500 ENF Anniversary Grant to provide Christmas food boxes to 50 needy Brock Bridge Elementary School children.

Camp Springs, MD, Lodge hosted three Christmas parties for special education students from local schools. A total of 600 students attended the three parties, each of which featured lunch, music, a performance by a magician, and an appearance by Santa, who gave each child a gift.

In other news, the lodge donated a \$1,500 ENF Anniversary Grant to the University of Maryland Capital Region Health Foundation Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Center.

Hagerstown, MD, Lodge members delivered Christmas food baskets to 36 needy families. The lodge also hosted a children's Christmas party for 56 children, during which each child received a Christmas gift.

In other news, the lodge donated \$2,500 to seven charities, including \$500 each to the Salvation Army, the South Hagerstown High School food pantry, and the Maryland Food Bank. The lodge also recognized 18 students for outstanding citizenship and awarded \$200 to each of them.

In more news, the lodge donated \$500 to the California-Hawaii Elks Association to assist Elks who have suffered losses in fires.

Havre de Grace, MD, Lodge used a \$1,500 ENF Anniversary Grant and additional donations to provide Christmas food baskets to a total of 110 needy families.

Ocean City, MD, Lodge donated a total of nearly \$12,000 to 15 charitable causes. Among the donations were \$2,000 for the lodge's Coats for Kids program, \$1,000 to assist a family whose house was lost in a fire, and \$1,000 for Worcester Youth and Family Counseling.

Severna Park, MD, Lodge donated \$500 to the Severna Park Community Center to support the Heroes of Tomorrow program, which provides physical training for teenagers who intend to enter the US armed forces or become first responders. The lodge also donated a total of \$500 to the US Marine Corps Reserve Toys for Tots Program.

Westminster, MD, Lodge used a \$2,000 ENF Beacon Grant and additional donations to host a Christmas dinner for more than 90 needy children and their families. The event featured a festive dinner, performances by a local band and a magician, a visit from the Grinch, and an appearance by Santa Claus. The parents of the children received at least one gift per child in their families to be given on Christmas morning.

Boston, MA, Lodge hosted a Thanksgiving dinner for a total of 100 seniors. Lodge members also delivered nearly 340 meals to seniors and other homebound people.

Clinton, MA, Lodge used a \$1,500 ENF Anniversary Grant, as well as additional donations, to provide Christmas food baskets containing turkeys and the other ingredients for a holiday feast to 62 families in the community.

Lowell, MA, Lodge used a \$1,500 ENF Anniversary Grant to provide winter hats, gloves, mittens, socks, and blankets to needy families who were identified by Community Teamwork, which is a social services charity.



Dowagiac, MI, Lodge hosted a breakfast with Santa for about 200 parents and children. The event also featured crafts and cookie decorating, and each child posed for a photo with Santa

and received a gift bag. Pictured with Santa (performer Jim Hull) are young guests (from left) Penelope, Hunter, and Alivia Johnson.

In other news, the lodge donated \$550 to the Special Teams for Exceptional People program, which organizes adaptive sports leagues for people with special needs.

Melrose, MA, Lodge donated \$1,500 to A Servant's Heart Food Pantry prior to Thanksgiving.

Bay City, MI, Lodge provided Christmas food baskets to 50 needy families. Each basket contained the ingredients for a festive holiday meal and a significant amount of additional food. The baskets were purchased with part of a \$2,000 ENF Beacon Grant.

Gaylord Area, MI, Lodge provided nine needy families with about \$500 worth of food, clothing, and Christmas gifts each.

Negaunee, MI, Lodge donated the use of the lodge building to the ladies auxiliary for a fund-raising event in support of Bay Cliff Health Camp, which is a therapy camp for children with physical disabilities.

Niles, MI, Lodge members delivered Christmas food boxes to 80 needy families. Each box contained ingredients for a festive holiday meal and movie ticket vouchers for the children of each family.

In other news, the lodge held a Christmas party for 30 adults with special needs. The event featured a meal, games, and an appearance by Santa, who gave each guest a gift.

Otsego, MI, Lodge hosted a Christmas party for 36 needy children. The event featured lunch, crafts, and an appearance by Santa and Mrs. Claus, who gave each child a bag of gifts. Each child was also allowed to pick out a gift for their parents.

Warren-Sterling Heights, MI, Lodge provided Christmas food packages containing three baskets of food each to 55 needy families.



Tawas Area, MI, Lodge used part of a \$10,000 ENF Impact Grant to take 43 students and teachers from the Alternative Education Academy of Iosco County on a field trip to the Delta College Planetarium and Learning Center and the Sky Zone in Saginaw, which is an indoor amusement park that features ropes courses and other challenges. Pictured at the Sky Zone are students Dohnovan Newcome (left) and Brandon Parsons.

In other news, the lodge donated 40 winter coats to needy students at two elementary schools and 15 winter coats to needy students at a local middle school.

Worthington, MN, Lodge donated a \$1,500 ENF Anniversary Grant and an ENF Gratitude Grant worth \$2,000 to the Nobles County Sheriff's Department to provide six families, which together had a total of 16 children, with Christmas toys and clothing.

Hattiesburg, MS, Lodge held a trail ride fund-raiser on property owned by the lodge and raised \$10,000 for Caleb Crabtree to help with his recovery from a life-threatening accident. More than 140 horses and riders took part in the fund-raising event.

Benton County, MO, Lodge provided Christmas food baskets, each of which contained a week's worth of food, to 200 needy families. The lodge also provided gifts to 500 needy children and a car to a family that needed one.

In other news, the lodge hosted a holiday party for 60 adults with special needs. The event featured dinner, a performance by a band, and a visit from Santa and Mrs. Claus.

In more news, the lodge displayed a decorated Christmas tree during a community holiday fund-raiser. During the event, lodge members raised a total of \$86 to support the Center for Human Services' Benton County Christmas for Kids project.

Hannibal, MO, Lodge donated \$200 worth of toys and \$100 in cash to the US Marine Corps Reserve Toys for Tots Program; \$250 worth of food to the local Salvation Army food pantry; \$150 worth of pet food to the local Humane Society; and \$150 worth of toiletries and cosmetics to Avenues, a domestic violence shelter.



Ellisville, MO, Lodge hosted a breakfast with Santa for children from the community. Each child in attendance received a gift bag and a collectible stuffed animal. Pictured with

Santa (PER Michael Polson) are (from left) guests Trenten McNelly, Trevor Gilbert, and Samantha McNelly.



Ellisville, Manchester, and Saint Louis, MO, Lodges sponsored 30 children to participate in a Shop with a Cop event. To begin the day, the children were provided with breakfast and given gift cards and gift baskets by Santa, after which they were accompanied on a shopping trip for nearly \$130 worth of toys and clothing by a police officer. Following the shopping trip, the lodges provided lunch to the children and police officers. Pictured are (front, from left) participants Milo Wengler, Aiden Pacheco, and Daniella Pacheco with (back) School Resource Officer Randy Ferrell.

In other news, the lodge used part of a \$2,500 ENF Gratitude Grant to donate \$1,250 to Shine a Light on Autism to purchase tablets and other adaptive equipment.

Lake Taneycomo, MO, Lodge used a \$2,000 ENF Beacon Grant, a \$1,500 ENF Anniversary Grant, and a donation from the Freedom of the Road Riders to provide toys, warm clothing, toiletries, and food to 300 needy children.



Meramec (Arnold), MO, Lodge members visited the Missouri School for the Blind and held a Christmas party for 24 students and 14 staff members. The event featured dinner and an appearance by Santa, who gave each child a gift. The lodge also donated a collection of DVD movies to the school for the students' use. Pictured are Santa (Est. Lead. Knight Mark Hunze) and student Nathan Brown.

In other news, lodge members delivered Christmas gift boxes to 53 families. Each box contained the ingredients for a festive dinner, food for several more meals, and gifts for the children of the family.



Washington, MO, Lodge used a \$2,000 ENF Gratitude Grant to donate more than 500 items of food and some toiletries and paper products to the community Festival of Trees, which is a donation drive that supports local food banks.

Pictured are (from left) Festival of Trees Chairman Wendy Zick, food bank staff member Ron Mueller, lodge member Thomas Michels, and ER Eric Dobleman.

Springfield, MO, Lodge donated a total of more than \$3,100 to the Development Center of the Ozarks to help provide therapy to children ages three and younger.

In other news, the lodge donated a \$2,000 ENF Gratitude Grant to Ozarks Food Harvest.

Livingston, MT, Lodge members distributed Christmas food baskets to 300 families, which together had a total of more than 980 members. Each basket contained the ingredients for a festive holiday meal, some additional food, a \$20 gift card for each child in the family, and pet snacks for the pets in the family.

Broken Bow, NE, Lodge hosted an appearance by Santa and Mrs. Claus, which a total of more than 100 children and parents attended.

All guests received snacks and beverages, and each child visited with Santa and Mrs. Claus and received a goody bag.

York, NE, Lodge members delivered Christmas food boxes, each of which contained the ingredients for a full holiday dinner, to 150 needy families. The lodge also sent \$25 gift cards to 34 one- or two-person households.

In other news, the lodge hosted a Christmas dinner fund-raiser and raised more than \$11,000 for lodge Christmas charities.



Kearney, NE, Lodge members attended a Court of Honor ceremony for new Eagle Scouts Connor and Jacob McLaughlin, of Boy Scout Troop 158, and presented them with certificates and US flags. For his Eagle Scout Project, Connor built a handicap-accessible fishing dock in Fort Kearny State Recreation Area. Jacob, for his project, built a 240-foot sidewalk in Fort Kearny State Recreation Area. Pictured with their father, Assistant Scoutmaster Patrick McLaughlin (left), are (from left) Eagle Scouts Jacob and Connor McLaughlin and Est. Lead Knight Doug Kramer.



Tahoe/Douglas, NV, Lodge donated \$500 to Backpack Buddies, which provides food for the weekends to needy schoolchildren. Pictured are (from left) ER Richard Jones,

Backpack Buddies Chairman Lin Larson, and Est. Loyal Knight Annemarie Neacy.

In other news, lodge members delivered gift packages to 15 needy seniors. The packages contained food, toiletries, vitamin pills, hand-made quilts and slippers, some cash, and \$15 gift cards.

Pahrump, NV, Lodge used part of a \$2,000 ENF Gratitude Grant to donate a bulletproof canine vest worth \$700 to the K-9 unit of the Nye County Sheriff's Office.

Tonopah, NV, Lodge hosted a dinner for 125 community members following a youth athletic contest at the lodge.

Derry-Salem, NH, Lodge members delivered Christmas food baskets to 100 needy families. In addition to food for a festive holiday meal, each basket contained a board game or a toy.

Rochester, NH, Lodge used part of a \$2,500 ENF Gratitude Grant to donate \$1,000 to Community Toolbox, which provides home repairs to low-income homeowners.

In other news, the lodge donated \$1,300 worth of toys to the Salvation Army before Christmas.

Bayonne, NJ, Lodge hosted a toy drive and lunch with Santa, which about 150 people attended. The lodge gathered about 100 donated toys during the event.

In other news, the lodge held a Christmas dinner and dance for 60 people with special needs. The event closed with an appearance by Santa, who gave each guest a gift.

In more news, the lodge donated 50 toys to the Bayonne Economic Opportunity Foundation. The toys were to be given to needy, local children at Christmastime. Lodge members also delivered a total of 40 toys to children in the pediatric ward of Hoboken University Medical Center.

Cedar Grove, NJ, Lodge used part of a \$2,500 ENF Gratitude Grant to provide DNA and fingerprint identification kits to the families of 125 first-grade students. The balance of the grant was used to make donations of more than \$850 each to the Cedar Grove Police Department and the Cedar Grove Fire Department.



Carteret, NJ, Lodge held a Christmas party for 40 children with special needs and about 60 other guests. The event featured dinner, Christmas tree decorating, musical entertainment, and an appearance by Santa, who gave each child a wrapped present. Pictured with Santa (ER Robert Hill) is guest Ashley Thatcher.

In other news, lodge members delivered Christmas food packages, each of which contained the ingredients for a festive holiday meal and food for several additional meals, to 34 needy families.



Hackettstown, NJ, Lodge used part of a \$2,500 ENF Promise Grant to provide sensory enrichment supplies and sessions with a music therapist to a special-needs class at Oxford Central School. The lodge also used part of the grant to provide a Christmas party for the class. The party featured gifts, crafts, and snacks. Pictured are student Ryan Costellitto and special education teacher Shannon Pettinelli.

In other news, the lodge used part of a \$2,000 ENF Beacon Grant to provide Christmas gifts to 45 needy schoolchildren. The lodge also used part of the grant to provide Thanksgiving food baskets to 13 needy families in the area.

In more news, the lodge held a lunch for 20 officers and support staff of the Hackettstown Police Department. The lodge also gave the department several boxes of educational supplies. Additionally, the lodge and the local Police Benevolent Association held a comedy night fund-raiser, which raised \$4,500 for the Police Benevolent Association and nearly \$3,200 for lodge charities.

In further news, the lodge hosted a breakfast with Santa for more than 140 community members. Santa visited with each child and gave each child a gift. The lodge also donated two truckloads of nonperishable food to the Washington Community Food Pantry.

Edgewater Park, NJ, Lodge hosted an appearance by Santa Claus, who spoke with ten special-needs children, eight other children, and 15 adults. All attendees were given milk and cookies, and the children received wooden trees, stockings, and other small gifts.

In other news, lodge members delivered Christmas food baskets to 15 needy families.

Greater Wildwood, NJ, Lodge provided a total of 160 turkeys to people in need during the holidays.

In other news, the lodge donated \$1,500 to support a Christmas party for children with special needs and \$1,000 to provide Christmas gifts to students at Ocean Academy, a special education school.

Manasquan, NJ, Lodge used a \$2,000 ENF Beacon Grant to provide educational materials to students for whom English is a second language.

In other news, the lodge hosted a Christmas party for 17 children with special needs and about 90 other guests. The event featured a meal, a performance by the Manasquan High School jazz band, and



Hamilton, NJ, Lodge hosted a Christmas party for 75 children, including 31 children with special needs. The party featured lunch, live musical entertainment, music provided by a DJ, and an appearance by Santa, who posed for photos with each child and gave each child a gift. Pictured at the party with Santa and Mrs. Claus (volunteers Len and Joan Pope) are (from left) guests Elijah, Delilah, Jedi, and Noah Kerlin.



Kearny, NJ, Lodge held a Christmas party for 30 children with special needs, as well as children of lodge members. The event featured games, crafts, dinner, and a photo booth. Santa made an appearance and gave each child a gift card, a candy cane, and some other small gifts. Pictured are lodge member Lindsay Martin and guest Chelsea Russo.

an appearance by Santa Claus and Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer, who gave each child a toy.

In more news, the lodge held a toy drive and collected more than 500 toys to be given to children at Christmas.

Mount Holly, NJ, Lodge members distributed Christmas food boxes to 130 needy families. The food was purchased with the help of a \$2,000 ENF Beacon Grant.

In other news, the lodge hosted a Thanksgiving lunch for 65 guests from the community.

In more news, the lodge held a Christmas party for 125 children with special needs. The event featured a visit from Santa, who gave each guest a gift bag.



Manahawkin, NJ, Lodge hosted a Christmas party for nearly 90 children with special needs and nearly 90 adults with special needs. The event featured lunch, music provided by a DJ, and a visit from Santa, who gave

each guest a pair of gloves, a hat, and a scarf. Pictured with Santa (Esq. Louis Fischer) is New Jersey Area 1 Special-Needs Ambassador Carlie Evans.



South Plainfield, NJ, Lodge hosted a breakfast with Santa for about 70 children and adults. Following breakfast, Santa arrived and posed for photos with guests. Pictured during the breakfast with Santa (lodge member Timothy Kelly) are (from left) guests Alena, Jacob, Tom, Arabella, and Megan Brady.

In other news, the lodge used a \$1,500 ENF Anniversary Grant to donate tablet computers and covers to the Bright Beginnings Learning Center and Daycare.

Nutley, NJ, Lodge hosted a Christmas party fund-raiser and raised \$500 for the Elks National Foundation.

Orange, NJ, Lodge used a \$2,500 ENF Promise Grant to hold a Christmas party for 120 children with special needs. The event featured lunch and crafts, and each child received a gift from Santa and Mrs. Claus.

Passaic Valley, NJ, Lodge used a \$1,500 ENF Anniversary Grant and an ENF Beacon Grant worth \$2,000 to provide 15 families with



Sussex, NJ, Lodge used part of a \$1,500 ENF Anniversary Grant to donate \$600 worth of food to the Harvest House Community Lunch Program, which assists needy individuals. Pictured are (from left) PERs Steven Clark and Patricia Green, ER Warren Wisse, Harvest House volunteer Gladys Meyer, Harvest House Kitchen Manager Karen Dykenga, and Treas. Richard Green.

In other news, the lodge hosted a breakfast for local first responders and used part of a \$1,500 ENF Anniversary Grant to donate \$300 each to the Sussex Fire Department, Wantage Fire Department, and Wantage First Aid Squad.

Thanksgiving supplies. Each family received a basket of basic food-stuffs and a \$200 grocery store gift card.

In other news, the lodge hosted a Christmas party for children and adults with special needs. More than 200 people attended the event, which featured lunch, music provided by a DJ, and an appearance by Santa and Mrs. Claus and some costumed characters. Santa and Mrs. Claus gave each guest a gift during the event.

In more news, the lodge hosted another Christmas party, during which Santa gave presents to 80 children. Party attendees donated 250 toys to the US Marine Corps Reserve Toys for Tots Program.

Springfield-Hillsdale, NJ, Lodge held a toy drive and donated 100 toys to be distributed to needy children. An additional 25 toys were given to Overlook Medical Center to be distributed to children who were hospitalized there.

West Milford, NJ, Lodge donated \$2,000 to a local man who had been diagnosed with cancer, \$1,000 to the Elks National Foundation, \$300 to the West Milford High School dance team, and \$240 to the West Milford Police Benevolent Association.

West Orange, NJ, Lodge donated about \$1,000 worth of food to the Holy Trinity Episcopal Church Food Pantry prior to Christmas.

Auburn, NY, Lodge hosted a Christmas party for nine local children. The event featured crafts, cookie decorating, and an appearance by Santa and Mrs. Claus.



Hudson, NY, Lodge members attended a Court of Honor ceremony for new Eagle Scout Shane Dunn, of Boy Scout Troop 122, and presented him with a certificate and a US flag. For his Eagle Scout

Project, Dunn replaced a sign and maintained the area surrounding a veterans memorial stone at Livingston Town Hall. Pictured are (from left) Eagle Scout Dunn and PERs Daniel and Rose Shaughnasey.

In other news, the lodge hosted a Christmas party for more than 130 clients of the Berkshire Farm Center and Services for Youth, a child welfare agency. The event featured breakfast, crafts, and an appearance by Santa and Mrs. Claus, who spent time with each guest who attended the party.

In more news, lodge members distributed 240 dictionaries to third-grade students at Montgomery C. Smith Elementary School and Germantown Central Elementary School.



Johnson City, NY, Lodge members and Santa Claus used a \$2,500 ENF Promise Grant to deliver Christmas presents to 15 children residing at Mom's House, a charity that assists young mothers and their families. The lodge also donated three educational toys to the charity. Pictured are Santa (lodge member Scott Dow) and Mom's House resident Thomas.

In other news, the lodge used a \$2,500 ENF Gratitude Grant to host a Christmas party for 25 residents of four group homes for adults with disabilities. The event featured dinner and an appearance by Santa and Mrs. Claus, who gave each guest a gift. The lodge also sent a cooked turkey and side dishes to each of the four homes to be served at Christmas.

Bath, NY, Lodge members distributed blankets to a total of more than 200 patients at the Fred and Harriett Taylor Health Center and the Steuben Center for Rehabilitation.

Canajoharie-Fort Plain, NY, Lodge used part of a \$2,500 ENF Promise Grant to hold a breakfast with Santa for 150 children. Each

child posed for a photo with Santa and received a gift and a craft kit. The holiday event also featured face painting, and the children were encouraged to make cards for veterans.

In other news, the lodge used a \$2,000 ENF Beacon Grant to assist Fort Plain Central School students with the Gram Lorraine community children's Christmas project. The lodge purchased gifts for 14 needy children and purchased some supplemental gifts to be given to children whose main gifts were provided by other donors. The lodge also provided a pizza party for 25 volunteer students who helped to wrap the gifts.

In more news, lodge members delivered Christmas dinners to eight needy families.

Cohoes-Waterford, NY, Lodge hosted two breakfasts with Santa. About 110 people attended the first breakfast, which was also a fund-raiser that raised \$600 for Girl Scout Service Unit 161 and a toy drive that collected two boxes of toys for the US Marine Corps Reserve Toys for Tots Program. The second breakfast was attended by 280 people, raised \$400 for the Uniform Firefighters of Cohoes Local 2562 Cheer for Children program, and yielded a donation of several toys for the program.

In other news, the lodge used a \$1,500 ENF Anniversary Grant, an ENF Beacon Grant worth \$2,000, and additional donations to deliver Christmas food boxes to 130 needy families. The lodge also donated a total of \$100 to Boy Scout Troop 632 to thank the scouts for helping to pack and deliver the boxes.



Liverpool, NY, Lodge donated the use of the lodge building to Girl Scout Troop 10134 to hold its regular meeting. Pictured are (from left) scouts Anna DeJohn, Katelyn Reynolds, Diana Sugrue, and Natalee Landon.

In other news, the lodge hosted a Christmas party for 65 children. The event featured snacks, crafts, and a visit by Santa, who gave each child a candy cane and a bag of goodies.

Esperance, NY, Lodge members distributed dictionaries to 240 third-grade students in four schools.

In other news, the lodge donated \$200 to a food bank.

Fulton, NY, Lodge and Parents of Special Children held a party for 50 children with special needs and about 30 other guests. The event featured food, music, dancing, and karaoke. The lodge also donated \$100 to Parents of Special Children.

Guilderland, NY, Lodge members accompanied Santa and Mrs. Claus on visits to five group homes for people with special needs and gave Christmas presents, candy canes, and snacks to a total of 40 residents of the homes.

Ken-Ton, NY, Lodge donated \$500 to scout Dominick Harris, of Boy Scout Troop 450, to support his Eagle Scout project, which involved placing wooden enclosures around several garbage cans at Forest Lawn Cemetery.

Lancaster, NY, Lodge initiated a new Antlers program and installed the first class of Antlers officers.

In other news, the lodge hosted a flea market fund-raiser and raised \$500 for lodge charities and other local charities.

Mechanicville-Stillwater, NY, Lodge hosted a breakfast with Santa for more than 170 children and parents.



Newark, NY, Lodge used a \$2,000 ENF Beacon Grant to provide toys, clothing, and holiday food to more than 150 young people who are clients of the Victims Resource Center of the Finger Lakes (VRC), which assists domestic violence victims. Pictured are (from left) ER Jeffrey Tellier, Tiler Lori Randolph, Est. Lead. Knight Susan House, lodge member Susan Skeels, VRC staff member Mallory (at front), and VRC staff member Martha.



Patchogue, NY, Lodge members distributed 32 dictionaries to third-grade students at Blue Point Elementary School and 26 dictionaries to third-grade students at Holy Angels Regional School. Pictured with four Blue Point Elementary School students are (from left) ER Karen Costello, Treas. Robert Carciello, and PDD Edward Rosavitch.



Saratoga-Wilton, NY, Lodge used a \$2,500 ENF Promise Grant to donate 30 bags, each of which contained a winter jacket, snow pants, boots, mittens, and a book, to the local Head Start preschool program to be distributed to participating children. Pictured with the donation are (from left) Head Start Director Bernie Jones, ER Susan Waghorn, lodge member Nancy Douglas, Head Start Child Development Manager Jackie Ellsworth, Est. Lead. Knight Geraldine Conboy, PER David Waghorn, lodge member Robert Lloyd, and Head Start Regional Manager Jennifer Mancucci.

In other news, the lodge hosted a Christmas party for 26 children. The event featured lunch, crafts, music provided by a DJ, and an appearance by Santa, who gave each child a toy, a book, and a candy cane.

In more news, lodge members volunteered to collect entrance fees and sell raffle tickets at a high school basketball tournament that was held over the Christmas break.



Sidney, NY, Lodge used a \$2,000 ENF Beacon Grant to support backpack programs, which provide food for the weekends to needy school children, at Gilbertsville-Mount Upton and Bainbridge-Guilford Central School Districts. Pictured are (from left) ER Patrick Dedman, Treas. Sharon Harris, Ladies Auxiliary President Nancy Peck, and Bainbridge-Guilford Central School District Backpack Program Coordinator and school nurse Heather Amatuccio.



Smithtown, NY, Lodge used a \$2,000 ENF Beacon Grant and a \$1,500 ENF Anniversary Grant to host a Christmas party for 55 residents of eight group homes run by United Cerebral Palsy of Greater Suffolk. The event featured dinner, live musical entertainment, and an appearance by Santa, who gave each guest a gift. In addition, the lodge donated several baskets of candy, a television, and a karaoke machine to United Cerebral Palsy. Pictured with three of the guests are (back, from left) lodge members Angelina Roccisano, Rita Spano, and Sylvia Russo.



Southampton, NY, Lodge used a \$1,500 ENF Anniversary Grant and \$500 in additional lodge funding to provide nearly 110 men's, women's, and children's coats to six charities to be distributed to needy individuals. Pictured are (from left) Secy. Eugene Scanlon, Maureen's Haven volunteer Kaitlin Corwith, and lodge members Richard Nilsson and Susan Armusewicz.

In other news, the lodge raised \$200 for the state major project, which supports the Cerebral Palsy Associations of New York State, by selling personalized ornaments to be placed on the lodge's Christmas tree.

In other news, the lodge adopted a local family, consisting of a mother and two children, by providing every item on their Christmas wish lists.

Monticello, NY, Lodge donated course materials and craft kits with an anti-bullying theme to the Sullivan County Department of Community Services to be distributed to the county's eight school districts.

Oswego, NY, Lodge gave Christmas food boxes to 20 needy families. The lodge also provided new clothing to each member of each family.

Port Jervis, NY, Lodge donated toys, coats, shoes, and other clothing to more than 200 needy children.

Scotia-Glenville, NY, Lodge used \$300 from a \$2,500 ENF Gratitude Grant and some additional member donations to donate a total of 38 toys to the City Mission of Schenectady to be given to local children at Christmastime.

Watervliet, NY, Lodge donated a \$2,000 ENF Beacon Grant to the Watervliet Civic Center to provide tablet computers for the center's after-school programs.

Hickory, NC, Lodge held a food and fund drive and collected a total of \$35,000 in monetary donations and a truckload of food for the



Shallotte, NC, Lodge donated a \$1,500 ENF Anniversary Grant to Town Creek Elementary School to replace books that were destroyed by Hurricane Florence. Pictured are (from left) Est. Lead. Knight Robert Kordiak, Librarian Cortni Lemon, Secy. Carol Desmond, Vice Principal Jennifer Faircloth, and ER Walter Wilson.

In other news, the lodge used part of a \$2,500 ENF Gratitude Grant to donate \$500 to Brunswick County Streetreach to help provide toiletries and other supplies to homeless people; \$500 to the Brunswick County Toy Run, which provides toys and clothing to needy children at Christmastime; \$350 to Communities in Schools, which helps at-risk students stay in school; and \$250 to Warm Homes, Warm Hearts to assist needy people with winter heating bills.

Catawba County Backpack Program, which provides food on the weekends to needy students.

Roxboro, NC, Lodge held a fund-raising event and raised about \$1,300 to help provide needed school supplies to local teachers.

In other news, the lodge awarded the four-year, \$4,000 William C. Bullock Memorial Scholarship to recent Person High School graduate Oscar Powell.

Winston-Salem, NC, Lodge members provided Christmas food boxes worth a total of \$500 to needy area families.

Mansfield, OH, Lodge donated \$1,000 each to the Mansfield Police Department, the Mansfield Fire Department, and the Richland County Sheriff's Office.

New Lexington, OH, Lodge donated \$1,000 to Chipola Family Ministries in Florida to assist victims of Hurricane Michael. The donation was made at the recommendation of the Pensacola Beach, FL, Lodge.

Coquille Valley, OR, Lodge used a \$1,500 ENF Anniversary Grant to donate a total of 43 bicycles to the Bikes for Tykes community Christmas event, which provides bicycles to needy children.



Chillicothe OH, Lodge donated more than 500 pounds of aluminum pull tabs to the Ronald McDonald House Charities of Central Ohio to be sold as scrap to raise money to help provide temporary residence to the families of hospitalized children. Pictured are (from left) PER Butch Bost and Ronald McDonald House representatives Megan Brumfield, Kelly Renner, and Rob Hatfield.



Jackson, OH, Lodge used a \$2,500 ENF Promise Grant to hold a Christmas party for 150 students and staff of Hope Haven, which is a special education school. The event featured lunch, a performance by a magician, and an

appearance by Santa, who gave each child a gift. Pictured are Santa (Tiler Jay Riepenhoff), one of the students, and ER Rodney Bachtel.

In other news, the lodge used part of a \$2,000 ENF Gratitude Grant to donate a total of \$700 to the Jackson Food Pantry.

Bedford, PA, Lodge donated a \$1,500 ENF Anniversary Grant to the Pink Ribbon Fund, which assists families with members undergoing treatment for breast cancer.

In other news, the lodge provided more than 370 hot dogs to attendees of a community Christmas event.

In more news, lodge members picked up 260 discarded Christmas trees from community members' yards in order to dispose of them.



Keizer, OR, Lodge used a \$2,000 ENF Gratitude Grant to donate \$1,000 to Court Appointed Special Advocates of Marion County, which represents abused and neglected children in the foster care system, and \$1,000 to Liberty House, a child abuse assessment center. Pictured are ER Corrine Arehart (left) and Liberty House representative Adrienne Christian.

In other news, the lodge provided Christmas food boxes to 225 needy families. Some of the food was purchased with funds from a \$2,000 ENF Beacon Grant and \$10,000 in lodge member and community member contributions, and other food items were donated, including 10,000 pounds of produce donated by the Perrydale Future Farmers of America and 6,000 pounds of food that was collected in a donation drive held at Gubser Elementary School.

In more news, the lodge used a \$1,500 ENF Anniversary Grant to donate \$1,000 to the Keizer Community Food Bank and \$500 to Foster Parents' Night Out, which provides child care for foster children so that their foster parents can enjoy a night out.



Bellefonte, PA, Lodge hosted a Christmas party for 70 children. The event featured snacks and a visit from Santa, who gave each child a small gift. Pictured with Santa (PDD Richard Mulfinger) is guest Chase Campbell.

Erie, PA, Lodge members and ladies auxiliary members delivered Christmas food boxes to 200 needy families. Each box contained ingredients for a festive holiday meal and an additional meal. The lodge and ladies auxiliary also provided Christmas presents to more than 80 clients of the Sarah A. Reed Children's Center, which assists needy and at-risk children.

In other news, the lodge hosted a Christmas party for 26 clients and 24 caregivers from the Erie Home for Children and Adults, which is a home for people with special needs. The event featured lunch, a

performance by a clown, music and karaoke provided by a DJ, and a visit from Santa, who gave each guest a gift.

In more news, lodge members volunteered to ring bells and hand out candy canes for eight hours for the Salvation Army. The lodge also donated \$500 to the organization.

Indiana, PA, Lodge donated \$1,000 to the Turkeython, which is a fund-raiser for the United Way of Indiana County.

Tri-City, RI, Lodge members delivered Christmas food baskets to 50 needy families. In addition to food, each basket also contained gift cards, toys for the children of the families, toiletries, and clothing. The lodge used part of a \$2,500 ENF Gratitude Grant to purchase some of the items.

In other news, the lodge used part of a \$2,500 ENF Promise Grant to host a breakfast with Santa for 60 children and their parents and grandparents. Following breakfast, Santa posed for a photo with each child and gave each child a gift.

In more news, the lodge used a \$1,500 ENF Anniversary Grant to give winter coats to 75 needy children.

Little River, SC, Lodge hosted a breakfast with Santa for 35 needy children. Following breakfast, Santa gave each child a toy, a coat, a hat, and a scarf.

In other news, lodge members delivered packed lunches to 32 first responders in the aftermath of Hurricane Florence.

Murrells Inlet, SC, Lodge donated \$3,000 worth of toys to the US Marine Corps Reserve Toys for Tots Program.



Summerville, SC, Lodge hosted a silent auction and raised more than \$2,000 for Shriners Hospitals for Children–Greenville. Pictured at the auction are (from left) Est. Lead. Knight Cindy Bolduc, Shriner Ralph Calhoun, ER Sheila Shea, Shriner Bill Fenters, event committee chairman Sylvia Zakrzewski, Est. Lect. Knight Diane Serralta, and Est. Loyal Knight Steve Hawkins.

In other news, the lodge held a painting class fund-raiser and raised \$400 for Carolina Concerns of Police Survivors, an advocacy organization for the families of slain law enforcement officers.



Vernal, UT, Lodge hosted a Christmas party for about 350 children from various preschool programs. The event featured lunch and an appearance by Santa, who gave each child a toy. Pictured at the party with Santa (volunteer Ken Harrison) is guest Kadee Howell.

In other news, the lodge hosted a breakfast with Santa for nearly 800 guests from the community. After breakfast, Santa made an appearance, visited with the children in attendance, and gave each child a small gift.

Yankton, SD, Lodge donated a \$2,000 ENF Gratitude Grant to Court Appointed Special Advocates, which advocates for children in the foster care system.

Arlington, TX, Lodge donated eight boxes of toys and \$1,500 in cash to the US Marine Corps Reserve Toys for Tots Program.

Saint George “Dixie,” UT, Lodge hosted three Christmas gatherings for local organizations. The guests at the first party included about 100 members of the local chapter of the Arc, which assists people with special needs and their families. The second Christmas party was held for more than 100 clients of the Dove Center, which assists the victims of domestic violence. The party featured crafts, face painting, dinner, and a visit from Santa and Mrs. Claus, who gave each child a wrapped present and a stocking full of small gifts. The guests at the third party included more than 70 children and mentors participating in the Big Brothers Big Sisters program. This event featured dinner, crafts, and an appearance by Santa and Mrs. Claus, who visited with the children and gave each child a wrapped present and a stocking containing several small gifts.

In other news, the lodge hosted a community Christmas party for more than 400 people. Following dinner, the lodge provided stockings full of gifts to the 150 children in attendance. In addition, the US Marine Corps Reserve Toys for Tots Program provided 200 toys to the children, and other community donors provided warm clothing, blankets, and other items for attendees.

In related news, lodge members delivered Christmas food boxes to a total of 48 needy families. The boxes included more than 1,000 items of canned and dry food that were collected by students at Santa Clara Elementary School.

In more news, the lodge hosted a breakfast and year-end meeting for 14 local School Resource Officers of the Saint George Police Department. Lodge members also volunteered to cook a dinner at the Grace Episcopal Church Community Soup Kitchen.

Barre, VT, Lodge used part of a \$1,500 ENF Anniversary Grant to donate \$250 to the One Unified Response House, which is an organization that provides advocacy and investigative resources for victims of domestic violence.

Arlington-Fairfax, VA, Lodge hosted a Christmas party for 70 children from the community. The event featured a puppet show, followed by a visit from Santa, who gave each child a gift. The lodge also hosted a Christmas party for about 100 children and family members who are members of the Spina Bifida Association. This party also featured a puppet show and an appearance by Santa, who gave the children gifts that had been provided by their parents.

In other news, the lodge provided Thanksgiving food boxes containing the ingredients for a festive holiday meal to 50 needy families. Each family also received warm clothing, toys for the children of the family, and grocery store gift cards to purchase a Christmas meal. The lodge donated some leftover nonperishable food to the Pine Springs Food Bank.

In more news, the lodge hosted a Christmas sing-along and toy drive and collected more than 100 toys for the US Marine Corps Reserve Toys for Tots Program. Lodge members also volunteered to pack more than 100 backpacks full of food to be given to needy schoolchildren on the weekends. The food was purchased with part of a \$2,500 ENF Gratitude Grant.

In further news, lodge members distributed more than 800 dictionaries to third-grade students at eight elementary schools.

Bedford, VA, Lodge members presented a \$1,600 donation from the Chamberlain Fund, which was established by a past resident of the Elks National Home, to provide a Christmas light display at the English Meadows–Elks Home Campus, which is the former Elks National Home. Lodge members also attended the official opening of the display.

In other news, the lodge used a \$1,500 ENF Anniversary Grant to donate more than 20 bags full of scarves, gloves, mittens, and hats to the local domestic violence shelter.

Charlottesville, VA, Lodge members delivered nearly 110 Christmas food bags to needy families and to charities that assist needy families. The food was purchased with the help of a \$2,000 ENF Beacon Grant.

In other news, the lodge and the ladies auxiliary used a \$2,500 ENF Gratitude Grant to donate 20 Handbags of Hope, containing toiletries and other gifts for women, and 20 Totes of Hope, containing toiletries and other gifts for men, to the University of Virginia Health

System Emily Couric Clinical Cancer Center to be distributed to patients being treated there.

Danville, VA, Lodge used a \$2,000 ENF Beacon Grant to provide 50 bags full of toiletries, towels, and other supplies to the Danville House of Hope, which is a transitional housing facility for homeless people, to be given to people who are leaving the facility for new housing. The lodge also provided dinner to nearly 20 residents of the transitional housing facility.

In other news, the lodge used a \$1,500 ENF Anniversary Grant to donate \$1,000 to the local Fraternal Order of Police lodge to support a Shop with a Cop program, which provides subsidized shopping trips accompanied by police officers to needy young people. The remainder of the grant was used to donate \$500 to a domestic violence shelter.

Front Royal, VA, Lodge used a \$2,500 ENF Promise Grant to hold a Christmas party for 50 needy children. The event featured visits from the Front Royal Fire girls softball team, K-9 Officer Bosco of the Front Royal Police Department, Elroy the Elk, and Santa, who gave each child a gift. Each of the 30 families at the event received a box of nonperishable food after the party.

In other news, the lodge donated 2,500 pairs of safety glasses to Culpepper County Public Schools. The Virginia Elks Safety Glass Program is one of the state major projects. The lodge also donated a total of \$1,500 to the Samuels Public Library to support children's summer reading programs. The donations were made with the help of a \$1,500 ENF Anniversary Grant and an ENF Gratitude Grant worth \$2,500.

Loudoun, VA, Lodge members delivered Christmas food shipments, which each consisted of two large boxes of food, to 25 needy families in the community.

In other news, the lodge held a charity raffle during its 50th anniversary celebration and raised a total of more than \$540 to support lodge charities.

Martinsville, VA, Lodge members delivered Christmas food boxes to 24 needy families in the community. Each box contained the ingredients for a holiday meal, some additional nonperishable food, and some paper goods.

In other news, the lodge hosted a community motorcycle run and toy drive. The lodge served as the starting and end point for the run and donated \$500 to help purchase toys.

Pulaski, VA, Lodge donated more than 140 pairs of safety glasses to New River Community College. The Virginia Elks Safety Glass Program is one of the state major projects.

In other news, the lodge donated the use of the lodge's building to the Adaire Theatre, a community theater organization, to hold seven

performances of a Christmas-themed musical theater production. Lodge members also volunteered to help with preparation and serve as ushers and security staff. The theater company handled the cost of insurance for the production.

Staunton, VA, Lodge members delivered Christmas food boxes to a total of 110 needy families. Each basket contained the ingredients for a full Christmas dinner and some additional food. The lodge purchased the food with the help of funds from a \$2,000 ENF Gratitude Grant and an ENF Anniversary Grant worth \$1,500.

Suffolk, VA, Lodge hosted a donation drive and collected about ten bags of nonperishable food, toiletries, and clothing for the Genieve Shelter, which serves the victims of domestic violence, and ForKids, which assists homeless families.

Waynesboro, VA, Lodge members delivered nearly 120 Christmas food packages to needy families in the community. Each package contained two large boxes of food.

In other news, the lodge Handbags of Hope program provided a total of 39 handbags filled with toiletries and other supplies to two domestic violence shelters and a transitional shelter for homeless people. The supplies were purchased with a \$1,500 ENF Anniversary Grant.

Winchester, VA, Lodge members, along with Santa Claus, gave Christmas gift bags and boxed lunches to 39 residents of Green Valley Commons Assisted Living.

Woodbridge, VA, Lodge used a \$2,000 ENF Gratitude Grant to donate 140 toys to the US Marine Corps Reserve Toys for Tots Program, which provides Christmas gifts to needy children.

Bremerton, WA, Lodge held its 41st annual Christmas party for people with special needs. A total of more than 300 people with special needs, family members, and caregivers attended the event, which featured lunch, musical entertainment, and a visit from Santa, who gave each guest a gift.

Morgantown, WV, Lodge members delivered Christmas food baskets to 48 needy families. Each basket contained the ingredients for a full Christmas dinner and enough food for several additional meals.

Wheeling, WV, Lodge members delivered Christmas food baskets to 110 needy families.

Sheboygan, WI, Lodge used a \$2,000 ENF Beacon Grant to hold a party for 42 needy families. A total of more than 180 guests attended the party, which featured lunch and an appearance by Santa, who

gave each guest several presents. Each family also received a basket of food to take home.

Wausau, WI, Lodge hosted a breakfast with Santa fund-raiser and raised more than \$950 for the Marathon County Sheriff's Office to support the department's K-9 program.

Wisconsin Elks Association announced the creation of a memorial fund for the families of fallen first responders. The fund will provide a \$1,000 grant to the family of any police officer, sheriff's deputy, firefighter, or emergency medical technician who dies while serving in the line of duty. ■

THE FLYING FORTRESS AT WAR



Nearly thirteen thousand Boeing B-17 Flying Fortresses, like this famous example known as the *Memphis Belle*, which is on display at the National Museum of the US Air Force in Dayton, Ohio, were built during World War II. Favored by the courageous men who flew it because of its legendary ability to absorb massive amounts of damage and keep flying, the Flying Fortress evolved throughout the war and was instrumental in the defeat of Nazi Germany.

LINDA McMAKEN

ON MAY 17, 2018, inside a hangar at the National Museum of the United States Air Force in Dayton, Ohio, a legend was reborn. A curtain was lowered and one could hear a pin drop as those gathered together beheld a World War II B-17 Flying Fortress bomber, looking as pristine as the day it rolled off the assembly line, with the hangar's bright lights reflecting off its meticulously restored surfaces. The plane was not just any B-17—it was the legendary Flying Fortress known as the *Memphis Belle*. There was an audible gasp, then silence, followed by a deafening round of applause from those present for the aircraft's unveiling, and for a brief moment, the crowd was transported back to 1943, when the *Memphis Belle* was on a tour of the United States with its crew of ten courageous men, fresh from completing twenty-five missions in the hostile skies over Europe. In that hangar it was, however, present day, and the remarkable aircraft, looking new and strong, was ready



PHOTO: CLASSICSTOCK/ALAMY STOCK PHOTO

The original B-17 prototype, shown here in Seattle, Washington, in the 1930s, received the name “Flying Fortress” as a result of a remark made by a member of the press at its unveiling in 1935.

to tell its story, as well as the story of the mighty Boeing B-17 Flying Fortress, to new generations.

A New Long-Range Bomber

In the early 1930s, the US Army Air Corps began looking for a large, multi-engine bomber to protect far-flung American interests. The Boeing Company, Douglas Aircraft Company, and Glenn L. Martin Company all took part in the design competition that ensued. In mid-1934, Boeing began building an airplane for the competition; the result was the Model 299.

The Model 299 was unveiled on July 28, 1935, in front of members of the press. The bomber prototype had four 750-horsepower Pratt & Whitney engines, could carry 4,800 pounds of bombs, and was equipped with five .30-caliber machine guns for defense. Observing the numerous machine guns, journalist Richard Smith, who was representing the *Seattle Times*, quipped that the plane looked like a “flying fortress.” Liking the name, Boeing trademarked it. All was going well, until the Model 299 was destroyed in a fatal crash in 1935. This knocked Boeing out of the competition, and although it looked as if the project would end there, the US Army Air Corps was so impressed with the plane’s capabilities that it found a way to continue funding the Model 299’s development.

On January 17, 1936, the US Army Air Corps placed an order for thirteen Model 299 test aircraft. These prototypes were each provided with more powerful engines and given the designation Y1B-17. A total of fourteen development aircraft came out of the Y1B-17 program, the last of which was fitted with turbochargers and delivered to the US Army Air Corps for final service testing on January 31, 1939. When this was complete, all fourteen airframes were

accepted into service and given the designation B-17 or B-17A. Although born in the 1930s, the Flying Fortress came to maturity in the mid-1940s as a result of the demands of World War II. Its story is ultimately one of a work in progress that was brought to perfection through hard lessons learned in combat in the skies over Europe.

Fortresses over Europe

By the time the United States entered World War II in December 1941, there were 155 B-17s of various types in service with the US Army Air Corps, but the Flying Fortress had already seen its first combat in the hands of the British Royal Air Force.

In 1941, the RAF took delivery of twenty B-17Cs and used them to conduct small-scale bombing missions against German targets. The planes did not fare well. With only four .50-caliber machine guns in the fuselage, one .30-caliber machine gun in its plexiglass nose, and no ventral guns, dorsal guns, or tail guns, this early version of the Flying Fortress proved vulnerable to fighter attacks from the front, above, and behind and suffered from mechanical problems at high altitude. Consequently, the RAF used the planes mostly for submarine chasing and in other roles in the Middle East.



This photo taken in 1941 shows a B-17E, the first mass-produced version of the B-17 bomber. The B-17E was the first production variant of the Flying Fortress equipped with tail guns, a dorsal gun turret and a ball gun turret in the plane's belly.

The B-17E was introduced in late 1941, following the production of only forty-two B-17Ds. It was the first mass-produced variant of the Flying Fortress. It also represented the first major upgrade to the design. It was ten feet longer than its predecessors and manned by a crew of ten, as were all future variants. The B-17E was also equipped with a total of ten .50-caliber machine guns and one .30-caliber machine gun. Previous variants' front, rear, top, and bottom vulnerabilities were addressed by the addition of a dorsal gun turret

mounting twin .50-caliber guns, a ventral “ball” turret with twin .50-caliber guns, and twin .50-caliber guns in the tail. The light defenses in the nose, however, continued to be a problem. A total of 512 B-17Es were ultimately built, and it was the type of Flying Fortress with which the newly renamed US Army Air Forces went to war in the skies over Europe in 1942.

Elements of the US Army Air Forces Eighth Air Force began arriving in England in May 1942, and at least eighteen B-17Es were ready to begin flying small-scale missions against German targets in France, Belgium, and Holland by mid-August. These early successes fatally contributed to the sense among US military commanders that the B-17E was capable of defending itself against enemy fighters without fighter escorts to take it to and from its targets. It was a determination that would come back to haunt them.

By 1943, production of American heavy bombers like the Flying Fortress and the B-24 Liberator had reached the point where large-scale bomber attacks against German targets in Europe were finally possible. Owing to its superior defensive firepower and ability to absorb unbelievable amounts of damage and keep flying, the B-17 emerged as the premier Allied bombing platform in the European Theater of Operations and was beloved by its crews.

One B-17 copilot from the 100th Bomb Group reported seeing a B-17 that had been hit by so much flak that it broke in two upon making it back to England and landing. In 1943, a B-17 called *All American* famously collided with a German Messerschmitt Bf-109 over North Africa. The German fighter hit the bomber’s fuselage, nearly severing the plane’s tail and then going down with the bomber’s left rear stabilizer. The B-17 pilot managed to right the plane and flew on.

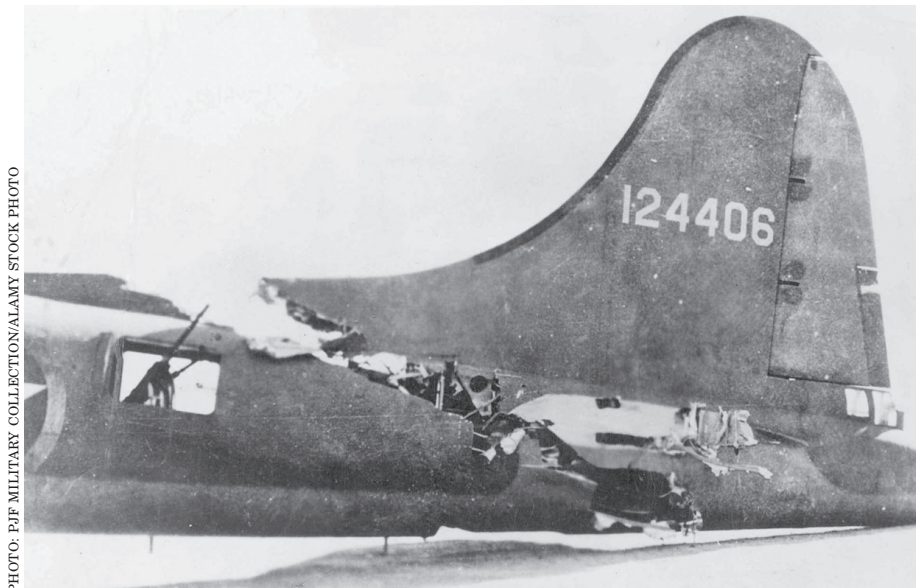


PHOTO: PAF MILITARY COLLECTION/ALAMY STOCK PHOTO

The nearly severed tail section of the B-17F called *All American* is pictured here in 1943 after being struck in midair by a German fighter. The ability of the Flying Fortress to withstand this kind of damage and fly on, as *All American* did, helped make the plane’s durability legendary.

Eyewitness accounts like this helped develop the B-17's legendary reputation among the men who flew it for taking punishment, but the bomber was not just becoming legendary among its crews. Thanks in part to a Hollywood film released in 1943 called *Air Force*, which starred John Garfield, Gig Young, Harry Carey, and George Tobias, the Flying Fortress and the courageous men who flew it were becoming legends on the home front as well. Then, in June 1943, a B-17 called the *Memphis Belle* and its crew survived twenty-five combat missions, and the B-17 was on its way to becoming an American icon.

The *Memphis Belle* arrived in England in October 1942 and was assigned to the Eighth Air Force's 324th Bomb Squadron, 91st Bomb Group during the early phase of the strategic bombing of German-occupied Europe. The *Belle* was a B-17F, which had only been in production since May. With its four 1,200-horsepower engines and up to thirteen .50-caliber heavy machine guns (three more than the B-17E), it was the fastest and most heavily armed B-17 yet built and could carry a huge 8,000-pound bomb load (nearly twice the size of the bomb load that could be carried by the B-17E).



PHOTO: PICTORIAL PRESS LTD/ALAMY STOCK PHOTO

This photo of the *Memphis Belle* and its crew was taken on June 7, 1943, three weeks after they completed their twenty-fifth mission and shortly before they flew the plane back to the United States.

Between November 1942 and May 1943, the *Memphis Belle*'s crew flew missions against targets in France, Belgium, and Germany, and it was during this time, in January 1943, that the Allies began their Combined Bomber Offensive. The offensive called for the US Army Air Forces to conduct all daylight bombing missions over Germany, while the British Royal Air Force was tasked with nighttime missions. Bombing without the cover of darkness exposed brave American aircrews, like the men of the *Memphis Belle*, to exponentially greater dangers, and the fact that the Allies had no

Twenty-Five and Home

ON MAY 17, 1943, the crew of the B-17 called the *Memphis Belle*, under the command of US Army Air Forces pilot Captain Robert Morgan, reached the critical twenty-five mission mark, that allowed all ten crew members to return home under the “twenty-five and home” policy that was implemented in 1943 to boost bomber crew morale. Since that time, the *Belle* has often been thought of as the first B-17 and accompanying crew to reach the twenty-five-mission mark. The fact is, however, that other Flying Fortresses completed twenty-five combat missions prior to the *Memphis Belle*. Among these aircraft were the B-17s known as *Suzy-Q* and *Hell’s Angels*. The *Suzy-Q* is believed to be the first B-17 to reach the mark, and the *Hell’s Angels* is acknowledged to have completed twenty-five missions a full six days before the *Memphis Belle*.

But trying to accurately determine which plane and crew combined hit this milestone first is complicated. It is further complicated by the fact that B-17s rarely, if ever, had the same ten crewmen for all twenty-five missions. The *Memphis Belle* is a case in point. Not only did some of the crew who reached the twenty-fifth mission mark aboard the *Belle* on May 17 complete several of their missions aboard other bombers, on May 17, 1943, the *Belle* itself had only completed twenty-four missions. The *Memphis Belle* completed its twenty-fifth mission on May 19, 1943, with a completely different crew than the crew who made their twenty-fifth mission together on May 17.

PHOTO: AVIATION C2017/ALAMY STOCK PHOTO



US Army Air Forces Captain Robert Morgan piloted the B-17 known as the *Memphis Belle* during its crew’s famous twenty-fifth combat mission on May 17, 1943. In June 1943, the *Memphis Belle* and this crew returned to the United States to help sell war bonds and raise morale on the home front.

In the end, historians believe that the Eighth Air Force, facing dark times and needing good news fast in mid-1943, may have selected the *Belle* and its crew to represent the twenty-five-mission completion mark because Hollywood director William Wyler and his film crew had flown two combat missions with them. Wyler and his team were present for the bomber crew’s final sortie, and one member of Wyler’s crew was killed during one of the missions the film crew flew aboard the *Memphis Belle*.

The *Memphis Belle* and its crew arrived in the United States in June 1943 and immediately embarked on a three-month war bond and morale-boosting tour of the country. Then, in 1944, Wyler’s footage was turned into a film called *The Memphis Belle: A Story of a Flying Fortress*, further cementing the *Memphis Belle* and its heroic crew into the American consciousness

—LINDA MCMAKEN



PHOTO: PICTORIAL PRESS LTD/ALAMY STOCK PHOTO

fighters with the range needed to escort bombers all the way to and from targets deep inside Germany only made matters worse.

Shown here is a dramatic movie poster for *The Memphis Belle: A Story of a Flying Fortress*, which was a documentary about the *Memphis Belle* created from footage shot by Hollywood director William Wyler on the two missions he and his crew flew aboard the bomber prior to its retirement.

Overall, American bomber losses during this period were around 6 percent, but individual raids could sustain much higher losses; therefore, to help raise bomber crew morale, the US Army Air Forces instituted a policy of “twenty-five and home,” allowing a crewman to return home after completing twenty-five missions. The

IN JUNE 1943, less than a month after completing their twenty-fifth mission, the crew of the *Memphis Belle* flew the bomber back to the United States for a three-month tour to promote the sale of war bonds and increase morale on the home front. On June 16, 1943, the *Memphis Belle* landed in Washington, DC, where its last combat pilot, US Army Air Forces Captain Robert Morgan, and ten crewmen took part in an official ceremony to mark the beginning of the tour of the United States.

During the tour, Captain Morgan often flew the plane a little too close to the rooftops, buzzing more than one city hall. While the public loved this display, US Army Air Forces commanders and local leaders were not pleased. This, however, did not prevent many cities from receiving a loud, low, and brazen flyby from the *Belle*.

After the tour ended, most of the *Memphis Belle*'s crew took a well-earned retirement, but others, such as Captain Morgan and bombardier Vince Evans, signed up for a second tour of duty. Morgan led the first B-29 bombing attack on Tokyo in November 1944. —LINDA MCMAKEN

grim reality, however, was that most bomber crewmen did not make it as far as their sixth mission, and the brave men of the Eighth Air Force began to say that being in the Eighth Air Force “was like holding a ticket to a funeral—your own.” It was amid this tense atmosphere, in mid-May 1943, that the *Memphis Belle* and its crew famously made it to the twenty-five-mission mark, and both were sent home to tour the United States and help raise morale and sell war bonds. Not all B-17 crews were this lucky, but tactics designed to give crews a better chance at survival were evolving, just as the B-17 itself was continuously evolving.

By 1943, it had been determined that more than 50 percent of all US bombers lost to enemy fighters had left the protection of their formation. In response, a new formation was devised in which the bombers flew in staggered defensive boxes. In theory, this would allow massed Flying Fortresses to use their heavy machineguns to create an overlapping field of fire that would protect the entire formation from fighters.

In July 1943, another variant of the Flying Fortress, the B-17G, hit production lines, and it was with this type that the plane's design would reach its zenith. The B-17G was somewhat slower than the B-17F, but it was now much more dangerous to German fighters. It packed a total of thirteen .50-caliber machine guns and now had the badly needed frontal protection previous variants had lacked. This protection was provided by twin .50-caliber machine guns mounted in a remotely operated “chin turret” under the nose.

German fighter pilots had long discovered that one of the greatest weaknesses possessed by earlier B-17 variants was their lightly defended nose, which made the bombers vulnerable to head-on attacks. When the chin turret appeared on the B-17G, German pilots soon found that this was no longer the case. The new defensive machine guns at the front of the B-17G combined with the new box



PHOTO: WORLD HISTORY ARCHIVE/ALAMY STOCK PHOTO

A group of B-17G bombers from the 381st Bomb Group are shown here being escorted by a P-51 Mustang. The bombers' "chin turrets," which were made standard on the B-17G and helped add much-needed frontal protection, can be seen just below the planes' noses.

formation in which the bombers were flying had an effect, leading German fighter pilots to call the B-17 combat box *fliegendes Stachelschwein*, which in German means "flying porcupine." Finding it far too dangerous to engage individual bombers the way they had been, German fighters were forced to make high-speed strafing passes at entire formations of Flying Fortresses. As effective as the American crews' new tactics and the upgraded B-17G were, however, two fateful missions over Germany in August and October 1943 would put an end to the notion that the B-17 bomber was defensively self-sufficient.

Black Thursday

In August and October 1943, the Eighth Air Force launched massive attacks on the ball bearing factories in Schweinfurt, Germany. The hope was that these attacks would bring the German war effort to a halt. A total of 521 B-17s participated in the two raids (230 planes in August and 291 in October), but without long-range fighter escorts to take them all the way to and from the target, both operations sustained devastating losses.

During both missions, the Flying Fortresses were intercepted by roughly three hundred German fighters. Thirty-six B-17s and two hundred crewmen were lost as the bombers fought their way in and out of Germany on the first mission, while seventy-seven aircraft and about 650 crewmen were lost in the second. The October raid was so disastrous that only 33 of the 290 B-17s that participated in the raid made it back to England without damage. As a result of the second mission, the US Army Air Forces suspended all daylight bombing raids, as well as any missions that required bombers to hit targets outside the combat radius of existing escort fighters.

Big Week: The Beginning of the End

The suspension of bombing missions deep into Germany lasted until late December 1943. By that time, the arrival of early versions of



A B-17G Flying Fortress flies through a flak field during a sortie in November 1944. Flak from the German air defenses was often so thick that American crewmen would say one could step out of a plane and walk across it.

the North American P-51 Mustang, improved versions of the sturdy Fairchild P-47 Thunderbolt and the speedy Lockheed P-38 Lightning fighters, and the invention of range-extending drop tanks for fighter escorts made it possible for fighters to provide continuous cover for Allied bombers over Europe.

On February 24, 1944, with long-range fighters to provide continuous cover, the US Army Air Forces once again sent masses of bombers to knock out the ball bearing factories at Schweinfurt, as well as aircraft factories in other German, Austrian, and Polish cities. Of the hundreds of bombers sent against the targets, 54 percent were B-17s, and with them went hundreds of the long-range escorts the bomber crews called “little friends.” At Schweinfurt, fighter cover dramatically decreased bomber losses. Whereas during the Schweinfurt attack in October 1943 the Eighth Air Force had lost nearly 27 percent of its planes and 22.4 percent of the bomber crews with them, losses over Schweinfurt during Big Week were held to less than 7 percent.

The number of brave American airmen who sacrificed their lives was still hugely significant, but the material and manpower losses sustained by the Eighth and Fifteenth Air Forces during Big Week and the rest of February were ones from which the United States could ultimately recover. Back home, the recruitment of brave, young Americans to fight against the Axis powers was nearing its peak, and B-17 production was also peaking. For Germany, however, it was a very different story.

As a result of the Eighth and Fifteenth Air Forces’ February 1944 raids, the Luftwaffe lost roughly one-third of its fighters and as much as one-fifth of its pilots. Although German industry recovered from

Restoration of the Memphis Belle

THE CITY OF MEMPHIS saved the *Memphis Belle* from being dismantled for scrap at an aircraft boneyard in Altus, Oklahoma, when it purchased the plane for just \$350 in 1946. The plane was flown to Memphis and placed on a plinth near the Memphis National Guard Armory, which was then near the Memphis International Airport. There it sat for many years, abandoned, forgotten, and even vandalized. Many of the plane's parts were removed by scavengers, and over time, the paint on the fuselage peeled and the bombing-run marks painted on the nose that symbolized the bravery of the crew nearly faded away.

In 2005, the *Memphis Belle* was acquired by the National Museum of the US Air Force and was moved to a hangar in Dayton, Ohio, for restoration. The painstaking work took thirteen years, as the museum team hunted down missing parts, arranged for the fabrication of new parts, and worked on repainting the plane in the same colors that were used during the war. The restoration team found an invaluable resource in the film footage shot in 1943 by Hollywood director William Wyler for his film *The Memphis Belle: A Story of a Flying Fortress*. This film enabled the restorers to recreate and replace markings in the proper locations. The restored *Memphis Belle* was unveiled for display at the National Museum of the US Air Force in May 2018, seventy-five years after flying its twenty-fifth mission. Pilot Robert Morgan's widow, Linda, attended the unveiling, saying: "My husband always said the *Memphis Belle* is a representative of all the B-17s and the bombers who flew in World War II." —LINDA MCMAKEN

the Big Week raids fairly quickly, what Germany could not recover from was the loss of trained pilots, and this depletion of manpower directly contributed to the German forces' inability to prevent the success of the Allied landings at Normandy three months later.

For the remainder of 1944, the biggest threat B-17s faced over Germany was flak. In March 1944, the US Army Air Forces began scaling back the production of the Flying Fortress in favor of the Boeing B-29 Superfortress, and by late April 1945, the Allies had attained such complete dominance over European skies that the US Army Air Forces did not find it necessary to replace lost bomber aircraft and began drawing down the number of bombers in the Eighth and Fifteenth Air Forces.

Because of the B-17's relatively limited combat radius, it never became the premier bomber of the Pacific Theater of Operations. This honor fell instead to the Consolidated B-24 Liberator; nonetheless, in the skies over Europe, there was no question as to which Allied bomber was the most capable or which one bomber crews wanted to fly. General Carl Spaatz, who commanded the Eighth Air Force briefly in 1942 and went on to become the first chief of staff of the US Air Force, later said: "Without the B-17, we may have lost the war." Be that as it may, a machine is only as good as its operators, and in the end, it was the selfless sacrifices made by tens of thousands of brave, young American airmen, combined with the capabilities of exceptional bomber and fighter aircraft, that ultimately brought Nazi Germany to its knees. ■

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A Place of Riches **LAKE GENEVA** *Wisconsin*



PHOTO: IMAGES-USA / ALAMY STOCK PHOTO

The beautiful shores of Geneva Lake in southern Wisconsin are shown here on a summer day with hot air balloons flying overhead. The town of Lake Geneva, which is situated on the lake, gained popularity after the Great Chicago Fire of 1871 and soon became known as “the Newport of the West.”

PATRICIA ANN MCNAIR

THE CITY OF LAKE GENEVA is a bustling tourist destination in southern Wisconsin that owes much of its popularity to Chicago’s Mrs. O’Leary and her legendary cow. As the story goes, a cow knocked over a lantern in Mrs. O’Leary’s barn one fateful October night in 1871 and started the Great Chicago Fire, which destroyed one-third of the city of Chicago. That devastating event led many well-to-do Chicagoans to seek refuge in the lush, green countryside outside the city. Some of them headed eighty miles north to Lake Geneva, Wisconsin, where they hunkered down in their summer mansions while waiting for their homes in Chicago to be rebuilt. Other Chicagoans of means followed those who already had homes in Lake Geneva, and soon there was a building boom in the small, lakeside resort. Since then, Lake Geneva has been known

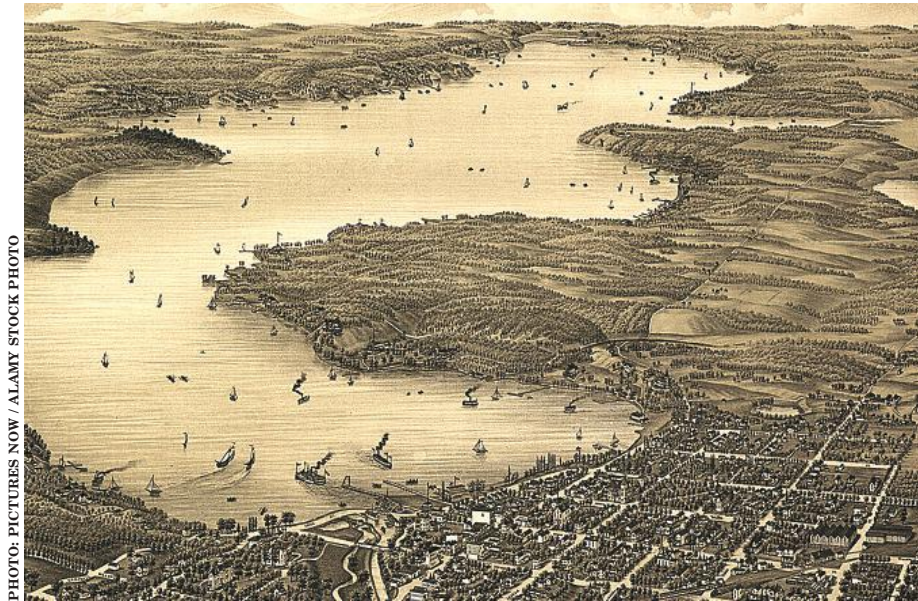


PHOTO: PICTURES NOW / ALAMY STOCK PHOTO

This nineteenth-century engraving depicts an aerial view of Lake Geneva a decade after the Great Chicago Fire of 1871.

for its gently rolling, lake-abundant terrain, its summertime attractions, and the splendid residences that have led it to be called “the Newport of the West.”

Geneva Lake Shore Path

The city of Lake Geneva sits on Geneva Lake’s northeasternmost tip. The lake is about eight miles long and two miles across at its widest point. It is the largest of several bodies of water in this part of southern Wisconsin, and its shores also touch the nearby towns of Williams Bay and Fontana-on-Geneva Lake. Each of these towns can be reached via the Geneva Lake Shore Path, which is a public access trail that extends for twenty-six miles all the way around the lake and provides scenic views of the water and the opulent buildings that surround it.

The path’s unofficial starting point is in downtown Lake Geneva at the Lake Geneva Public Library, a handsome, Prairie School–style building designed by a student of Frank Lloyd Wright and erected in the 1950s. At the library, walkers can pick up path maps containing information about the various sites along the trail, including the homes and estates that can be found there. Walkers can choose to meander on their own, following the path and the water’s edge, delighting in the finely landscaped lawns and flowering gardens that climb the gentle slopes in springtime or admiring the sunlight that slants through the leaves of the trees in autumn.

The shore path hugs the edges of an array of public and private properties. When passing through wooded areas, it can become rugged. Elsewhere, the path runs at the foot of magnificent estates, whose owners are responsible for keeping their portions of the trail clear and tended. Historic homes are many along the path, and while more than a few of the original structures have been torn down to

make way for contemporary mansions, some of Lake Geneva's early splendor can still be found.

On Geneva Lake's northern shore, not quite two miles southwest from the path's start at the library, there is a mansion known as Green Gables. The house was the last home of P. K. Wrigley, the heir to the Wrigley chewing gum company, who died in 1977. At one point, Chicago's Wrigley family, which made its fortune manufacturing confections, owned six waterfront properties in Lake Geneva.



Green Gables, which once belonged to Chicago's Wrigley family and made up part of the family's collection of Lake Geneva estates, is one of many historic mansions that visitors will encounter on the Geneva Lake Shore Path.

Although some of the homes have since passed into the hands of other owners, the properties are still referred to collectively as the Wrigley Estate. Green Gables was the last home to be built on the Wrigley Estate. Although the original Green Gables property dated back to 1892, it was torn down, and the existing structure was built in the 1960s in a traditional style, with tall windows, sloped roofs, and an impressive entryway. At the water's edge, you can still see the estate's original 1905 boathouse.

Continue along the trail and you will encounter more majestic estates, many of which were built around the turn of the twentieth century by Chicago's wealthiest families and most successful business moguls. Not too far from Green Gables is a white stucco house called Edgewood, built in 1906 by the heir to the Swift and Company meatpacking empire. A little farther west, you will find the redbrick, white-pillared Driehaus Estate. Originally built for Norman W. Harris of Harris Trust and Savings Bank, its grounds were landscaped by the sons of Frederick Law Olmsted, the original landscape architect for New York City's Central Park. Over the last century, this magnificent Georgian-style mansion has been in the families of several prominent Chicago businessmen, including the founder of the Yellow Cab Company and the president of Morton Salt. Today, it is owned by the investment manager and philanthropist Richard Driehaus.



The white stucco manor called Edgewood was built in 1906 by the heir to Chicago's Swift and Company meatpacking empire.

As you wind along the shore path toward the town of Williams Bay, the path passes through a number of parks as well as the Kishwaukee Nature Conservancy. About ten miles from the library, you will reach the town of Fontana-on-Geneva Lake, named for its underground springs, or fountains. At this point, you are at the westernmost end of the lake, and walking back to the library in Lake Geneva along the lake's southern banks will take you by many more stunning and historic buildings.

The sites on the lake's southern shores include Abbey Springs, which is located on the grounds of an estate that once belonged to Edward G. Ayer, who helped build the Art Institute of Chicago and Chicago's Field Museum; an estate called the Echoes, which is a Queen Anne-style mansion that was built in 1896 and once belonged to Amariah Cox, William Wrigley's business partner; and the Lake Geneva Yacht Club, which was established in 1874. This stretch of the path features several picnic spots as well as Big Foot Beach State Park, and it is here that you will find breathtaking Stone Manor, the largest estate ever built on Geneva Lake.



Completed in the early 1900s, Stone Manor, on the southern branch of the shore path, is the largest estate ever built on Geneva Lake. It has served as a French restaurant and a Christmas tree museum and today contains several luxury condos.

Construction on Stone Manor began in 1899. The original owner, Otto Young, was a Chicago merchant who had made his fortune in real estate following the Great Chicago Fire. When the mansion was completed, it had seven levels, a 250-foot-wide veranda, a miniature golf course, a three-lane bowling alley, and a ballroom that could accommodate one hundred guests. It also had gold-plated door-knobs, plumbing, and electrical fixtures. The property changed hands many times over the course of the twentieth century, serving alternately as a private school for girls, a French restaurant, and a Christmas tree museum. Today, the building has been subdivided into six luxury condominiums.

By Boat

While the shore path is an impressive way to see Geneva Lake and its environs, there are other opportunities for exploration, too. Many of Lake Geneva's historic mansions and natural shorelines are just as spectacular when seen from the water. The Lake Geneva Cruise Line offers boat tours that depart from the Riviera Docks in downtown Lake Geneva. The docks are part of a handsome civic center called the Riviera, which was constructed in the early 1930s and features a second-floor ballroom overlooking the sparkling, crystal water of Geneva Lake. Visitors waiting to board one of the tour boats can sit near the cool spray of the Riviera's fountain or peruse the shops and boutiques on the main floor of the building.



PHOTO: ILENE MACDONALD / ALAMY STOCK PHOTO

The Riviera is a civic center complex near downtown Lake Geneva that was originally built in the 1930s. It provides visitors with beautiful spaces to enjoy, including a second-floor ballroom overlooking Geneva Lake and a marina.

The Lake Geneva Cruise Line offers visitors a number of ways to enjoy the lake, including daytime and sunset tours, brunch or lunch excursions, dinner excursions accompanied by a jazz band, water-borne ice cream socials, and holiday cruises. The tours are narrated



Pictured here on the left is the *Walworth II*, a working mail boat that takes visitors on daily summer cruises featuring demonstrations of Lake Geneva's unique mail delivery system.

by knowledgeable and charming locals and are full of information on the area and its history.

A one-of-a-kind cruise is the US Mailboat Tour, which is open to the public from mid-June to mid-September. The US Mailboat Tour is just what its name suggests: a cruise on a boat that delivers the mail to lakeshore residents. Lake Geneva is one of a few places in the country where mail is still delivered by boat, in this case, by a boat called the *Walworth II*, which has been in service since 1967. The town's maritime delivery system was implemented in the early twentieth century, when the most direct way to many of the lakeside estates was not by land but by water. Residents could sign up to receive their mail via boat, and it was delivered daily to mailboxes on the residents' piers. The mail is still delivered this way by special postal workers called "jumpers."

Geneva Lake is not particularly shallow; nevertheless, the depth around the shoreline prevents the mail boat from coming very close to the piers. This is where the jumpers come in. Jumpers were originally all young men. They would hold onto the sides of the boat and wait for the perfect moment to leap to the pier, run to the mailbox, deliver the mail, and jump back aboard the boat. This allowed the mail boat to continue its voyage, albeit slowly, without having to come into the shallows or stop its motor.

Today there are male and female jumpers, who are often local high school students. They not only deliver mail but also narrate the Lake Geneva Cruise Line's US Mailboat Tour. For two-and-a-half hours, passengers aboard the *Walworth II* learn about Lake Geneva's history and its unique way of delivering the mail. They might even get to witness the rare occasion when a jump becomes a "dump"—when the mail jumper misses the pier and ends up falling in the lake.

Visiting History

Most of the homes around Geneva Lake are private residences, but some, like Black Point, are open to the public for tours. Located on Geneva Lake's southern shore, Black Point is a magnificent,



PHOTO: VISIT LAKE GENEVA

Black Point is the name given to this magnificent, twenty-room Victorian cottage, which has been transformed into a museum and is open to the public.

twenty-room “cottage.” Its crow’s nest observation tower, which is visible from various spots on Geneva Lake, has become an iconic symbol of the area. The home was completed in 1888 by Chicago businessman Conrad Seipp and remained in the Seipp family until 2005, when it was donated to the state of Wisconsin to be transformed into a museum.

When it was first built, the principal way to access Black Point was from the shore. Even today, the home is best accessed from the water, and the Lake Geneva Cruise Line offers a special boat tour that will drop you off at the estate. Visitors begin their tour of the property with a long climb up a grand, one-hundred-step stairway from the shoreline, much as visitors in the nineteenth century would have done.

The structure has been carefully preserved, and during the one-and-a-half-hour tour, visitors will explore the mansion’s first two stories and see original plumbing, furniture, rugs, drapes, and carved wood trim and moldings. Since opening to the public in 2007, Black Point has been named one of the top ten estate home tours in the United States by a national travel organization and shares this honor with other historic homes like Biltmore, Monticello, and Mount Vernon.

There are other stately homes in the Geneva Lake area that are open to the public as well. At least two of these may be found in Lake Geneva’s Maple Park Historic District. The district lies just northwest of downtown Lake Geneva and contains some of the town’s oldest houses. The streets here are lined with nineteenth-century homes built in Italianate, Greek Revival, and Queen Anne styles as well as with twentieth-century buildings influenced by Prairie School and Arts and Crafts architecture. Maple Park itself and the cemetery in this neighborhood date from the early nineteenth century, when Lake

Geneva was founded as a settler community, before it became a resort favored by Chicago's wealthy citizens.

Southeast of Maple Park is a white brick building that was originally constructed in 1856 and is considered to be the first mansion built in Lake Geneva. Maxwell Mansion, as the place is called, has tall, black-shuttered windows and a flat roof that gives the building a clean, European look. Today, the mansion is a hotel. Along with the six suites inside the main house, there are accommodations in the carriage house and stables, all of which have been refurbished and given contemporary comforts.

The nearby Baker House is another historic, in-town property that has been transformed into a hotel. This handsome building, which was completed in 1885, is just south of downtown and overlooks the lake. Over the years, it has served as a sanitarium for rich Chicagoans in need of a peaceful respite and as a hotel and restaurant. Much like Maxwell Mansion, Baker House now operates as a boutique, period hotel, offering guests a taste of Gilded Age glamor and opulent luxury.

A Destination for Everyone

Visitors from all over the world enjoy the hospitality and recreation offered in Lake Geneva and its neighboring towns. Long-established resorts like Lake Lawn Resort on pretty Lake Delavan, the Abbey Resort in Fontana-on-Geneva Lake, and the Frank Lloyd Wright-inspired Grand Geneva Resort and Spa offer packages that provide a range of experiences for every budget. Guests also have the option of staying in historic inns, cozy cottages, cabins, lake homes, and condos rented out by their owners or in familiar chain hotels.

Summer is a particularly popular season for Lake Geneva visitors, with boating, golfing, lounging, and hiking among the diversions that both visitors and locals alike enjoy. Spring and autumn have their allure as well, and in winter, the area's nature preserves and scenic pathways become transformed into miles of snowmobiling and cross-country skiing trails.

In any season, visitors can find something to do in Lake Geneva. The many restaurants downtown serve everything from fine cuisine to regional favorites, like fresh-caught whitefish, bratwurst, fried cheese curds, and locally made root beer. Year-round, the entertainment can be as varied as the menu. Visitors can take in shows at Tristan Crist's Magic Theatre and the Belfry Music Theatre (formerly a summer stock theater where notables like Paul Newman and Harrison Ford once appeared), listen to summer concerts on Geneva Lake in Williams Bay, and visit the annual Scarecrow Fest in downtown Delavan.

Lake Geneva is an area rich in scenery and history, with landscapes whose beauty rivals that of the area's many splendid, early twentieth-century mansions. To this day, Lake Geneva remains a perfect getaway for people not just from Chicago but from all over the world. ■

Redlands

CALIFORNIA
LODGE



Members of the Redlands, California, Lodge, one of the winning lodges of *The Elks Magazine* Online Subscription Contest, are pictured during a pet adoption event that they supported by using ENF Community Investments Program grants to subsidize adoption fees for people who wanted to adopt a pet from the local humane society animal shelter.

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 0–500 members category, Redlands, California, Lodge No. 583.

The Redlands Lodge and Its Members

Redlands is a city of about seventy thousand inhabitants in the Inland Empire region of southern California, about ten miles southeast of San Bernardino and about sixty miles east of downtown Los Angeles. Located in the foothills of the San Bernardino Mountains, the city was established in the 1880s following the completion of railroads linking southern California to the rest of the country, and as it grew, it acquired all the amenities of a prosperous early twentieth-century community—including an Elks lodge—and came to be called “the jewel of the Inland Empire.” The Redlands Lodge opened its doors in 1911 and maintains a connection to its historic foundation even as it moves into the twenty-first century.

The original lodge building has long since been sold and removed to make way for a shopping mall, but in the current lodge building, which was built in the mid-1960s, visitors can see the original building’s cornerstone. Plus, if they visit the main lodge room, they will find it lit up by a stained glass window from the original lodge, now backlit and installed in the lodge room’s ceiling. “It gives a really nostalgic, retro feel to the lodge,” says ER Bonnie Burks. The lodge’s main room and spacious back patio are two important features, but the lodge’s most important assets are its members—and the sense of community they have.

The Redlands Lodge is a small but growing lodge with 446 members. This number is considerably greater than it was just a few years ago. At the end of the 2013–2014 lodge year, the figure stood at just 244 members, and membership increased by more than 70 members in 2017–2018 alone. Lodge members attribute this turnaround to an effort to deliberately spread the word about the lodge within the community, by being more engaged in community activities, and by being visible as Elks. These initiatives were often accomplished through events as simple as taking a group trip to a bowling alley wearing Elks gear. “We wanted to show people that we were having fun together,” remembers PER Hilary Fulton of one such trip.

As time has passed, more elaborate community involvement has brought more people to the lodge for events such as the annual Veterans Day meal, and the people who visit the lodge during one of these events are always welcomed with plenty of information about the Order. “There are always advertisements for visitors to look at and people for them to talk to at any of our open house events,” notes past Secy. Joyce Beauregard, who retired in 2018 after ten years of service to the lodge.

A New Strategy for Engaging Members

As the Redlands, California, Lodge has grown, its members have worked hard to keep their fellow Elks involved in lodge events and initiatives. Communication is at the core of this mission, and it is accomplished through traditional methods, such as making phone calls and sending information through the mail, as well as through newer methods, namely social media. By using the lodge's Facebook page, as well as a commercial mass email program that manages the lodge's mailing list, lodge officers can quickly spread the word about upcoming charitable and social events and opportunities in the community. "The trick is to reach everyone through some method or other," says PER Fulton.

In fact, Fulton credits the lodge's social media network with allowing them to win their division in *The Elks Magazine* Online Subscription Contest. "When I read about the contest, I sent a message to our mass email group and to our Facebook group. And because many of our members were computer savvy and on the younger side, they saw the advantage in eliminating some of the paper waste and trying out the electronic version."

The lodge's broad range of communication methods also reminds members of the lodge's social and charitable events. One important way that members develop a sense of community is by eating together—and they eat well. The second Friday of every month is steak night, when the lodge becomes the best deal in town for a quality steak dinner, and during the month of February, every Tuesday is members' night, when lodge members take it upon themselves to prepare their finest dishes for their fellow members. But for PER Fulton, the best meal served at the lodge, the Purple Pig Spaghetti Night, is also the cheapest meal the lodge serves.

"In every month that has five Tuesdays," PER Fulton says, "the fifth Tuesday is the Purple Pig Spaghetti Night." All members are



Redlands Lodge members prepare to serve food to guests from the community during the lodge's annual Veterans Day dinner.



Pictured with \$500 worth of athletic gear that was donated to Barbara Phelps Community Day School, an alternative school for at-risk middle school and high school students, are (from left) Redlands Lodge PER John Fulton, Barbara Phelps Community Day School Principal Lisa Garcia, Redlands Police Department Sgt. Esteban Valenzuela, and Redlands Lodge Hoop Shoot Director Antonio Lemos.

encouraged to attend this free spaghetti meal, which features a sauce based on a recipe by PER Louis “Tony” Bartoli, and to bring their Purple Pig piggy banks with them. These piggy banks are used statewide to support the state major project, which provides in-home therapy to children with special needs and vision screening to preschool children. Each member is encouraged to put any loose change in their piggy bank, and Spaghetti Night is the night when everyone turns in their donations. Therapists who work for the project and families who have been assisted by the project are often invited to attend the dinner and share their experiences so that lodge members can better appreciate the good work their fund-raising efforts help support.

Redlands Lodge members also rally to provide service to veterans. One of the ways they have joined in the fight against veteran homelessness is by using Elks National Veterans Service Commission grants to create Welcome Home Kits containing important household items, such as bedding, dishes, cookware, and towels, for formerly homeless veterans who are moving into new housing.

Another important area of focus for the lodge is service to youth. The lodge has been active in providing positive social outlets for young people through its Antlers Program and through its sponsorship of two Boy Scout troops, a Girl Scout troop, and a Young Marines detachment. Additionally, one notable lodge member who has had a nationwide influence on young people is Ray Lozano, who is the Elks National Drug Awareness Program’s spokesman. He talks to thousands of young people each year about the importance of staying drug free and focused on fulfilling their potential.



Pictured during the lodge's annual Flag Day service are (from left) PER Hilary Fulton; PER John Fulton; lodge member and ceremony history reader Christina Villegas; ER Bonnie Burks; lodge member, US Marine Corps veteran, and ceremony narrator Thomas Gates; Est. Lect. Knight Lisa Hubbell; Est. Lead. Knight Chris Hubbell; Est. Loyal Knight Justin Langley; and Chaplain Christin Langley.

All in all, the Redlands Elks seek to help their community in any way they can, and they're not afraid to think outside the box to make a fund-raiser a success. For example, for the past two years, the Empire Wrestling Federation has staged wrestling matches at the lodge, raising \$1,000 for local youth sports one year and \$1,000 for veterans service activities the next. On another occasion, the lodge held a fund-raiser to support the construction of a skate park. During the event, the lodge's back patio accommodated several skate ramps and a performance by a local punk rock band.

Still, for all things that have changed about the lodge, bedrock Elks events inspire the most enthusiasm among the lodge's leadership team. The lodge's annual Flag Day celebration is PER John Fulton's favorite lodge event, and PER Hilary Fulton is enthusiastic about becoming more involved with the Elks National Hoop Shoot program. "The old staples that are Elks activities are going very strong at our lodge," says PER Hilary Fulton. "They are what make us want to participate in the social activities." With a solid basis in Elks tradition and an openness to twenty-first century technology and culture, the Redlands Lodge and its members are showing that they are among the Best People On Earth. ■

Look for the profiles of the other two lodges that won The Elks Magazine Online Subscription Contest in the 501–1,100 members category and the 1,101+ members category in future issues of the magazine.



Click here for more photos of Redlands, California, Lodge members



Supporting Our Troops



Gilroy, CA, Lodge welcomed two members of the South Bay Blue Star Moms during a veterans dinner that was held at the lodge. Pictured at the dinner are (from left) PER Rick Flores, South Bay Blue Star Moms Past President Donna Zolezzi, PER Angela Moore-Flores, and South Bay Blue Star Moms President Chris Cherry.

Eagle River, AK, Lodge hosted a Christmas dinner for a total of 42 active-duty service members who were unable to return home for the holidays. The event was held with the help of part of a \$2,000 ENF Beacon Grant and part of a \$2,000 ENVSC Freedom Grant.

Corona, CA, Lodge held a steak dinner for more than a dozen Blue Star mothers, six Gold Star mothers, and one Gold Star father. The event included a ceremony during which the guests were invited to share stories about their family members who are serving in the US armed forces.

Orange Coast District, CA, lodges held a holiday dinner for about 350 service members and guests at Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton. The event featured gingerbread house decorating, several contests, and live music. Children in attendance received toys that had been donated by community members and several local charitable organizations.

Stockton, CA, Lodge members wore red during weekly lodge events to raise awareness about US armed forces members deployed

overseas. During these events, lodge members prepared care packages to be sent to deployed US troops.

Douglas County, CO, Lodge members gathered more than 400 thank-you cards written by young students. The cards will be delivered to Colorado National Guard members and other US troops deployed overseas.

Golden, CO, Lodge served as the registration site and starting point for a motorcycle ride fund-raiser that raised \$3,000 for the Colorado National Guard Foundation. The lodge sold burritos and raised \$250 of the total donation.

Venice-Nokomis, FL, Lodge members shipped a total of 15 care packages containing candy, snacks, socks, DVD movies, books, toiletries, and Christmas cards to members of the US Army 41st Infantry Division who are deployed in Afghanistan.

Viera, FL, Lodge donated more than \$2,700 to Operation Shoebox, which sends care packages to US armed forces service members who are deployed overseas.

Perry, IA, Lodge used part of a \$2,000 ENF Gratitude Grant to adopt an Iowa National Guard family for the holidays. Lodge members purchased, wrapped, and delivered \$500 worth of gifts for the family.

Escanaba, MI, Lodge members distributed 32 Blue Star banners in one month.

In other news, lodge members prepared and sent 32 care packages to US armed forces service members deployed overseas.

Arlington-Fairfax, VA, Lodge members helped stock the freezer at the USO facility at the Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport a total of five times over two months. Each delivery included ten boxes of frozen meals.

Loudon, VA, Lodge members made several trips to the USO facility at the Washington Dulles International Airport and delivered enough food to restock the facility's freezer during each visit.

Pulaski, VA, Lodge members arranged for a new cooking range to be delivered to the home of an active duty national guard member. ■



Elks National Veterans Service Commission



Anniston, AL, Lodge members gave Christmas gifts to 26 residents of the Col. Robert L. Howard State Veterans Home. Pictured are Santa (lodge member Henry Luecken), home Director of Activities Ali Conn, and US Air Force veteran Bobby Burgess.

Eagle River, AK, Lodge members gave Christmas stockings full of small gifts to 45 residents of the Fisher House on Joint Base Elmendorf/Richardson, which provides temporary residence to veterans and active-duty service members receiving outpatient care and the families of hospitalized veterans. Later, lodge members returned and gave wrapped Christmas presents to 48 residents of the house. The presents were purchased with the help of part of a \$2,000 ENF Beacon Grant and part of a \$2,000 ENVSC Freedom Grant.

Ajo, AZ, Lodge members gave Christmas gifts based on wish-list requests to 20 residents of the Arizona State Veterans Home. The lodge also donated \$500 worth of cookies to a Christmas party that was held at the home.

Raceway, AZ, Lodge donated a total of \$1,500 to the Paralyzed Veterans of America.

San Manuel, AZ, Lodge members provided a total of \$6,500 worth of Christmas gifts to veteran patients of the Southern Arizona VA Health Care System.

Fayetteville-Springdale, AR, Lodge members delivered more than 120 Christmas food boxes to veterans.



Kingman, AZ, Lodge's Operation Turnkey program, which is funded by a \$10,000 ENF Impact Grant, provided a washing machine and a laundry basket full of laundry supplies to US Marine Corps veteran Brennan Donnelly, who was moving with his family into a new home. The lodge also arranged for the appliance store to donate a freezer to the family. Pictured are (from left) veteran Donnelly; his wife, Amber; lodge member Nani Chrimes, and Jerry Ambrose Veterans Council of Mohave County representative and veteran Terry Flanagan.

In other news, the lodge hosted a Christmas party for 29 children of veterans. The event featured lunch and an appearance by Santa, who posed for a photo with each child and gave each child a gift.

In more news, lodge members served food during a Christmas party at the Fayetteville Veterans Home. Lodge members also gave more than 140 Christmas cards that were made by Prairie Grove Elementary School students to the veterans.

In further news, the lodge hosted a Christmas lunch for 11 veterans and three staff members from the Fayetteville Veterans Home. Lodge members gave each veteran a gift bag.

Highland, AR, Lodge members delivered Christmas presents to veterans in local nursing homes and rehabilitation centers.

Holiday Island, AR, Lodge members gave canteen books worth a total of \$300 as Christmas gifts to veterans at the VA Healthcare System of the Ozarks in Fayetteville.

Hot Springs, AR, Lodge donated \$100 worth of prepaid phone cards, 32 boxes of books, two boxes of magazines, and some toiletries to the Saint Francis House Veterans Re-Entry Program, which provides assistance to homeless veterans.



Sun City, AZ, Lodge held a Christmas-themed bowling party at a bowling alley for 28 veterans and staff members from three housing facilities for formerly homeless veterans. The party included lunch and a visit from Santa Claus, who gave each veteran a Christmas card and a five-dollar bill. Pictured are (from left) Arizona Elks Association Veterans Service Committee Chairman Gary Drumheller, US Navy veteran Paul Davis, Santa (PDD Valentino Bianchini), and US Army veteran Gary Bloch.

In other news, the lodge donated two golf carts, some bus passes and sporting event tickets, some clothing, and a new hospital bed to the US VETS facility for formerly homeless veterans. The total value of the donations was \$8,200. The lodge also donated nearly \$15,000 worth of medical supplies and equipment to the Paralyzed Veterans of America, \$6,000 worth of furniture to Vets for Vets, and more than \$2,300 worth of clothing, gift cards, and Christmas gifts to veterans at the Arizona State Veterans Home.

Mountain Home, AR, Lodge provided gifts to 21 veterans residing in local nursing homes based on wish lists that the veterans submitted.

Banning-Beaumont, CA, Lodge members used a \$2,000 ENVSC Freedom Grant to provide warm jackets to 17 children of veterans residing in the Liberty Village Apartments, a residential facility for formerly homeless veterans.

Buena Park, CA, Lodge participated in the Wreaths Across America nationwide, coordinated wreath-laying ceremony by laying four boxes of wreaths on veterans' graves in Memory Garden Memorial Park.

Elk Grove, CA, Lodge members visited 30 veterans at the VA Northern California Health Care System facility in Mather and gave each of them a small Christmas tree and a stocking full of treats that were suitable to the veterans' medical conditions. Lodge members donated 30 additional stockings and 30 additional small trees to be given to other veterans at the facility.



Stockton, CA, Lodge members donated 40 flannel blankets and some pillows, socks, and razors to veterans at Dignity's Alcove, a residence for formerly homeless veterans. Pictured with some of the residents are lodge members Linda Dillon (front, left) and Carol White (second from left), veteran and volunteer Virginia Buck (second from right), and volunteer Sharon Benninger (right).

Huntington Beach, Mission Viejo-Saddleback Valley, and Newport Beach, CA, Lodge members took part in the Wreaths Across America nationwide, coordinated wreath-laying ceremony by laying 120 wreaths on the graves of veterans at Pacific View Memorial Park. The Mission Viejo-Saddleback Valley Lodge donated \$2,000 to purchase the wreaths.

Mission Viejo-Saddleback Valley, CA, Lodge used a \$2,000 ENF Beacon Grant to provide Christmas presents, including a computer for one child, to two veterans' families.

Nevada City, CA, Lodge hosted an appreciation dinner for 290 veterans and their family members.

Roseville, CA, Lodge members traveled to the Veterans Home of California-Yountville and held a Christmas lunch for 17 veterans residing there.

Yreka, CA, Lodge members prepared a dinner at the lodge for more than 100 veterans and other guests.

Arvada, CO, and Lakewood, CO, Lodge members participated in the Wreaths Across America nationwide, coordinated wreath-laying event to honor veterans by laying wreaths on the graves of 53 veterans in Crown Hill Cemetery.

Evergreen, CO, Lodge members took part in the Wreaths Across America nationwide, coordinated wreath-laying event by placing wreaths on the graves of more than 300 veterans.

Fort Collins, CO, Lodge provided Welcome Home Kits containing basic household necessities to 36 veterans who were moving into new homes.

In other news, the lodge held a shopping trip for a total of 20 veterans and arranged for each of them to shop for about \$150 worth of goods. Following the trip, the lodge held a lunch for all participants in the event.

In more news, the lodge created 97 care packages containing socks, winter hats, toiletries, and Christmas cards to be distributed to local veterans.

Golden, CO, Lodge held a Pearl Harbor Day dinner, which 12 veterans and eight other guests attended. During the event, a WW II veteran spoke about his experiences in the invasion of Normandy.

In other news, the lodge used a \$2,000 ENF Beacon Grant to provide beds, bedding, tables, chairs, dressers, other furniture, and work clothes to three formerly homeless veterans who were moving into new housing.

In more news, the lodge donated a \$1,500 ENF Anniversary Grant to US Warriors Outdoors, which is an organization that provides outdoor activities for veterans.

Lakewood, CO, Lodge members gave pillows, blankets, warm coats, and other clothing to 35 veterans residing at Archway Housing, which is a residential facility for formerly homeless veterans.

Longmont, CO, Lodge donated eight space heaters to the local Fisher House, which provides temporary residence to veterans and active-duty service members receiving outpatient care and to the relatives of hospitalized veterans and service members.

Telluride, CO, Lodge used part of a \$2,500 ENF Gratitude Grant to hold a veterans service fair, which featured booths staffed by veterans service organizations. About 50 veterans attended the event.

Danbury, CT, Lodge members participated in the Wreaths Across America nationwide, coordinated wreath-laying ceremony by laying wreaths on the graves of nearly 140 veterans in three cemeteries.

Gainesville, FL, Lodge members used part of a \$2,500 ENF Promise Grant to provide Thanksgiving food boxes to a total of 125 veterans' families.

Green Cove Springs, FL, Lodge hosted a lunch for 64 veterans and 27 other guests. The event featured a presentation by a representa-

tive of K9s for Warriors, a charity that provides service animals to wounded veterans. Following lunch, the lodge donated a \$2,000 ENF Gratitude Grant to K9s for Warriors.

In other news, the lodge donated \$7,000 to Wreaths Across America to support the organization's nationwide, coordinated wreath-laying ceremony in honor of veterans.

Holley-Navarre, FL, Lodge donated \$600 to Food for Vets, a food pantry that serves veterans and members of their families.

Inverness, FL, Lodge hosted a veterans breakfast and served 275 meals to veterans and other guests.

Jupiter, FL, Lodge donated \$1,000 to the Wreaths Across America nationwide, coordinated wreath-laying ceremony in honor of veterans. Lodge members also took part in the ceremony by laying wreaths on the graves of veterans who were laid to rest in South Florida National Cemetery.

Lakewood Ranch-Sarasota, FL, Lodge held a dinner and raised \$5,000 for Homes for Troops, which builds and rehabilitates homes to be adapted to the needs of wounded veterans.

New Port Richey, FL, Lodge members participated in the Wreaths Across America nationwide, coordinated wreath-laying ceremony to honor veterans by helping lay wreaths on the graves of more than 600 veterans who were laid to rest in Pine Hill Cemetery and Meadowlawn Memorial Gardens.

Punta Gorda, FL, Lodge held a Veterans Day parade, which featured entries from several high schools, veterans service organizations, and other community groups. The event also featured an exposition providing information on the activities of veterans service organizations and services available to veterans.

In other news, the lodge PER association provided \$270 worth of gift cards to veterans residing in the Punta Gorda Veterans Village, a transitional housing facility for homeless veterans.

Saint Petersburg, FL, Lodge provided bags containing toiletries and snacks to 27 veterans residing at Heaven on Earth for Veterans, a low-cost housing facility for veterans.

Sebring, FL, Lodge hosted a Christmas lunch for 45 veterans from four assisted living facilities. Following lunch, Santa and Mrs. Claus arrived and gave each veteran a gift that was donated by The Forty & Eight veterans service organization.

Zephyrhills, FL, Lodge donated a television and 600 coffee pods to the James S. Haley Veterans Hospital in Tampa to be used in the hospital's domiciliary facility.



Lake Oconee, GA, Lodge members visited the Georgia War Veterans Home and held a cookout for more than 200 veterans and staff members. Lodge members also gave 150 gift bags to the veter-

ans. Pictured are (from left) lodge member Robert Smith, veteran Richard Hecht, and lodge member Bill Limehouse.

Blackfoot, ID, Lodge held a dinner and auction fund-raiser and raised \$28,000 for veterans service activities. Some of the funds were used to donate \$11,000 to the Pocatello Veterans Home to create a putting green and a walking path.

East District, ID, lodge members traveled to the Pocatello Veterans Home and gave polo shirts to 49 resident veterans.

Mountain Home, ID, Lodge members delivered gift baskets containing blankets, socks, toiletries, snacks, playing cards, and puzzle books to 70 veterans who were unable to leave their homes.

Plymouth, IN, Lodge used part of a \$2,500 ENF Gratitude Grant to donate \$200 to the local American Legion post to support a temporary exhibition of a traveling replica of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, DC.

Cedar Rapids, IA, Lodge used a \$2,500 ENF Gratitude Grant to provide Christmas food baskets to 24 veterans and other seniors.

Des Moines, IA, Lodge invited more than 30 veterans to a Thanksgiving dinner. The veterans were residents of Pleasant Hill Residential, which is an assisted living facility that primarily serves veterans.

West Des Moines, IA, Lodge provided more than \$12,000 worth of Christmas assistance to 21 veteran families. The funds were used to provide gifts, candy, and fruit for the children of each family and grocery and gas gift cards for the families.

Junction City, KS, Lodge and several veterans service organizations held a dinner for more than 400 veterans and other guests from the community. The lodge helped fund the event with \$400 from a \$2,000 ENF Gratitude Grant.



Slidell, LA, Lodge members, along with Santa and Mrs. Claus, visited 50 veterans and other seniors at Azalea Estates, an assisted living facility. Pictured with veteran Jerry San Martino are Mrs. Claus (volunteer Carol Massarini) and Santa (lodge member Pat Massarini).

In other news, the lodge used part of a \$2,500 ENF Promise Grant to donate a total of \$1,000 to provide Christmas gifts for the children of wounded veterans.

Osawatomie, KS, Lodge hosted a dinner for 25 veterans. During the event, a lodge member presented the keys to a used car to a veteran family on behalf of Cars 4 Heroes, which is a veterans service organization that is supported by the lodge.

Cynthiana, KY, Lodge gave 40 gift bags containing Christmas cards and nonperishable snacks to veterans being treated in the Cooper and Leestown Divisions of the Lexington VA Medical Center.

Shreveport, LA, Lodge hosted a dinner for 91 homeless veterans and 12 staff members of the Overton Brooks VA Medical Center in Shreveport. Following dinner, each veteran was given a backpack filled with toiletries and other supplies. Additionally, 2 veterans were given bicycles, 14 veterans were given gift cards, and 1 veteran was given a quilt. An additional 34 backpacks filled with toiletries were sent to the medical center to be given to veterans who could not attend the dinner.

In other news, lodge members laid about 2,300 wreaths on the graves of veterans at the Northwest Louisiana Veterans Cemetery.

Annapolis, MD, Lodge donated a \$1,500 ENF Anniversary Grant to the Fisher House Foundation, which provides temporary residence to the families of hospitalized veterans and active-duty service members in 78 locations across the country.

In other news, the lodge hosted a charity ball and raised a total of more than \$500 for the Charlotte Hall Veterans Home.

Hagerstown, MD, Lodge provided five Christmas food baskets to Welcome Home, Veterans, which is a transitional home for homeless veterans. The food in the baskets was used to provide Christmas dinner to the 24 veterans residing there. The lodge also provided coffee and donuts to the veterans on New Year's Eve.

In other news, the lodge invited 17 veterans from the Martinsburg, WV, VA Medical Center to the lodge's monthly birthday dinner, during which each veteran received a \$15 gift card. The lodge also donated \$500 to the center.

Bay City, MI, Lodge provided 50 Christmas food baskets to veteran families. Each basket contained the ingredients of a full holiday dinner and a significant amount of additional food. The food was purchased with part of a \$2,000 ENF Beacon Grant.

Gaylord Area, MI, Lodge hosted a Christmas lunch for 52 veterans.

In other news, the lodge donated 50 care packages containing toiletries to the Gaylord VA Community Based Outpatient Clinic.

Otsego, MI, Lodge hosted a dinner and bingo session for 31 veterans from the Battle Creek VA Medical Center. Following dinner, each veteran received a gift.

In other news, lodge members traveled to the Battle Creek VA Medical Center and held a bingo session with snacks for 76 veterans. The event also featured a performance by a band.

Eureka-Pacific, MO, Lodge hosted a Thanksgiving lunch for a number of local veterans.

Kansas City (Northland), MO, Lodge donated \$1,000 to the Cameron Veterans Home.

Washington, MO, Lodge members held an ice cream social at the Missouri Veterans Home—Saint Louis for 45 veterans. The lodge also donated some clothing, \$500 worth of toiletries, and \$1,000 to the home. The event was held with the help of a \$2,000 ENVSC Freedom Grant.



Ellisville, MO, Lodge provided dinner to 17 veterans prior to a graduation ceremony for two graduates of the Six String Heroes at Jefferson Bar-racks program, which provides therapeutic guitar lessons to veterans. Both graduates received guitars from the lodge. Pictured are Six String Heroes Chairman Dave Corbet and veteran graduate Robyn Combs.

Tonopah, NV, Lodge donated a \$2,500 ENF Gratitude Grant to the local VFW post to be used to provide assistance to veterans on a case-by-case basis.

Brigantine, NJ, Lodge used a \$2,000 ENF Beacon Grant to host a lunch followed by a viewing of the Army-Navy college football game for 125 veterans from the Veterans Memorial Home–Vineland and Veterans Haven South, a facility for homeless veterans. Following lunch, 20 gift cards worth \$25 each, a football signed by the members of the Army team, and a football signed by the members of the Navy team were given as door prizes. The event also featured bingo games. Following the conclusion of the football game, each veteran was given a take-home dinner.

Greater Wildwood, NJ, Lodge held a golf outing fund-raiser, in which 120 golfers took part, and raised \$17,000 to support veterans service activities.

In other news, the lodge donated \$2,000 to the Wreaths Across America nationwide, coordinated wreath-laying ceremony. Lodge members also took part in the ceremony by laying wreaths on the graves of veterans in Cold Spring Cemetery.

In more news, the lodge donated nearly \$1,100 to help a veteran and his family pay electric bills.



Hackettstown, NJ, Lodge donated eight Welcome Home Kits containing basic household supplies to Veterans Haven North, a transitional facility for homeless veterans, to be given to veterans moving into new housing. The lodge also donated four Welcome Home Kits to the New Jersey State Elks Association Veterans Service Commission. Pictured at Veterans Haven North are (from left) PER Fred Spages, veteran Marcos Miller, lodge member Ann McCatharn, veteran Timothy Avdarsen, and lodge member James McCatharn.

In other news, the lodge used a \$2,000 ENVSC Freedom Grant to donate four winter tents to Operation Chillout to be given to homeless veterans in the area.



Kearny, NJ, Lodge donated a winter coat, a pair of boots, some additional clothing, and other items to US Army veteran Roy King (pictured), who lost his residence to a fire.



Mount Holly, NJ, Lodge hosted a dinner and awards ceremony, which 75 veterans and other guests attended. Following dinner, plaques were presented to five veterans to thank them for their service. Pictured are

(from left) guest speaker and US Air Force Lt Gen Gina Grosso, WW II veteran Ray Hoagland, and guest speaker and US Air Force Col Brian O'Conner.

Mahwah, NJ, Lodge hosted a dinner and bingo session for 45 veterans. Each veteran also received a goody bag and a T-shirt.

Manahawkin, NJ, Lodge donated 50 backpacks full of toiletries, gloves, hats, scarves, socks, and towels to local veterans service organizations to be given to veterans in need.

Manasquan, NJ, Lodge donated a total of \$500 to Operation Beach-head, which provides adaptive surfing and other water-based activities for disabled veterans.

Nutley, NJ, Lodge members and scouts from Cub Scout Troop 142 collected 24 packages of socks and underwear to be given to veterans at the East Orange Campus and the Lyons Campus of the VA New Jersey Health Care System. The scouts also wrote Christmas cards for the veterans.

Passaic Valley, NJ, Lodge used part of a \$2,500 ENF Gratitude Grant to donate 200 articles of clothing to be given as Christmas presents to veterans at the Veterans Memorial Home—Menlo Park.

In other news, the lodge invited 20 veterans to attend the lodge's annual Breakfast with Santa.

Rutherford, NJ, Lodge used a \$2,000 ENVSC Freedom Grant and a donation from a retail store to provide a total of 100 backpacks full of warm clothing to Operation Chillout, which provides winter survival gear to homeless veterans.

South District, NJ, lodges held a motorcycle run and donated nearly \$3,000 worth of clothing, electric razors, toiletries, and blankets to the Veterans Memorial Home–Vineland.

Albany, NY, Lodge gave winter coats, gloves, hats, socks, and long underwear to 32 veterans residing at the Vet House, which is a transitional home for homeless veterans. The lodge also provided dinner to 15 of the veterans. Additionally, the lodge donated three ironing boards, three irons, 32 sheet sets, and 32 pillows to the house. A \$2,000 ENVSC Freedom Grant was used to finance the veterans service project.

Ballston Spa, NY, Lodge donated \$3,600 to the Wreaths Across America nationwide, coordinated wreath-laying ceremony. Lodge members took part in the ceremony by helping to lay wreaths on the graves of 12,000 veterans at Gerald B. H. Solomon Saratoga National Cemetery.

Brunswick, NY, Lodge hosted a lunch for more than 160 guests, including local veterans and their families.

Cohoes-Waterford, NY, Lodge provided Christmas gifts to 16 veterans residing at the Sgt. Henry Johnson Veterans House, which is a transitional housing facility for homeless veterans.

In other news, the lodge hosted a painting class fund-raiser and raised a total of nearly \$160 for veterans service activities.

Huntington, NY, Lodge hosted a drum concert fund-raiser and raised a total of more than \$4,000 for veterans service activities.

In other news, the lodge used part of a \$2,000 ENF Beacon Grant to provide \$200 worth of gifts to the children of veterans served by the Northport VA Medical Center. The lodge also used part of the grant to donate \$800 worth of canteen books to the center.

Johnson City, NY, Lodge members and scouts from a local Girl Scout troop accompanied Santa on a visit to the New York State Veterans Home at Oxford, where they held a Christmas party for 36 veterans. The event included snacks and caroling, and lodge members gave the veterans Christmas presents.

Liverpool, NY, Lodge hosted a dinner for 14 veterans and six staff members from the Syracuse VA Medical Center. The event featured

a performance of Christmas songs by a chorus and an appearance by Santa, and each veteran received a warm shirt and a bag of Christmas cookies.

Northeast District, NY, lodges sold Christmas ornaments and raised \$1,700 for Patriot Flight, which flies veterans to Washington, DC, to visit national monuments.

Norwich, NY, Lodge donated playing cards, stationery, magazines, books, puzzles, craft kits, DVD movies, and articles of clothing to the New York State Veterans Home at Oxford prior to Christmas.

Oswego, NY, Lodge donated \$1,500 to Honor Flight Syracuse to help fly veterans to Washington, DC, to visit national monuments.

Patchogue, NY, Lodge donated \$520 to the local American Legion Auxiliary to help provide supplies for homeless female veterans.

Poughkeepsie, NY, Lodge used a \$2,000 ENF Beacon Grant to provide 50 bags of toiletries, snacks, gloves, hats, socks, and undershirts to the Mental Health America of Dutchess County Vet2Vet Resource Office to be given to homeless veterans.

Saratoga-Wilton, NY, Lodge members took part in the nationwide, coordinated Wreaths Across America wreath-laying ceremony by helping to lay wreaths on the graves of 12,000 veterans at Gerald B. H. Solomon Saratoga National Cemetery.

Scotia-Glenville, NY, Lodge donated more than 200 pairs of socks to veterans at the Albany VA Medical Center: Samuel S. Stratton.

Sidney, NY, Lodge used a \$1,500 ENF Anniversary Grant and an ENF Gratitude Grant worth \$2,000 to provide two adjustable beds to the New York State Veterans Home at Oxford. The lodge also held a donation drive and collected more than 130 gifts to be given to veterans at the home at Christmas.

In other news, the lodge hosted a Pearl Harbor Day luncheon for 85 veterans and other guests, including a WW II veteran.

Vestal, NY, Lodge members held a Christmas party for 24 residents of a memory care unit at the New York State Veterans Home at Oxford. The event featured lunch, caroling, and a visit from Mrs. Claus, and each veteran received a present.

Asheville, NC, and **Hendersonville, NC**, Lodge members visited the Charles George VA Medical Center in Asheville and held a Christmas party for 28 veterans. The event featured lunch and each veteran received a pair of socks and five dollars.



Goldsboro, NC, and New Bern, NC, Lodge members visited the North Carolina State Veterans Home—Kinston and delivered Christmas presents to 100 resident veterans. Members of the lodges were accompanied by several US Air Force airmen. Pictured with one veteran, Mr. Starling, is US Air Force Airman Boyton.



Hendersonville, NC, Lodge hosted a dinner for 23 veterans from the Charles George VA Medical Center in Asheville. Pictured are (from left) veteran James Mulligan, PDDs Charlie Campbell and Frank Brady, and veteran Harvey Foust.

In other news, the lodge used a \$2,000 ENVSC Freedom Grant and some additional lodge funding to provide complete dental exams and all needed procedures to nine veterans.

Calabash, NC, Lodge donated \$1,000 to the Camp Lejeune Fisher House, which provides temporary residence to the families of hospitalized veterans and active-duty service members.

Berea, OH, Lodge and the local VFW post provided sweatpants, sweatshirts, T-shirts, underwear, socks, and toiletries to nearly 100 veterans at the Louis Stokes VA Medical Center in Cleveland. Lodge



East Liverpool, OH, and Wellsville, OH, Lodges used two ENVSC Freedom Grants worth \$2,000 each to provide clothing, toiletries, and blankets to more than 60 veterans during a stand down for homeless veterans. Pictured are (from left) US Army veteran Cornelius Peachey, US Air Force veteran and US Congressman Bill Johnson, Wellsville Lodge member Mary Ellen Reed, and US Navy veteran and East Liverpool Lodge member Billy Ash.



South Central District, OH, lodges held a Christmas celebration for more than 200 veterans at the Chillicothe Lodge. The event featured dinner, entertainment, and gifts for the attending veterans. Pictured is Chillicothe Lodge PER Butch Bost presenting a pair of fingerless gloves to veteran Mike Thobe.

members also arranged for a therapy dog to spend some time with the resident veterans.

In other news, lodge members arranged for 20 disabled veterans to tour the USS *Cod* Submarine Memorial in Cleveland.

Hillsboro, OH, Lodge members gave gift cards worth a total of \$200 to 25 veterans who attended a health fair at the Highland County Senior Citizens Center. The lodge also provided \$200 worth of gift cards to the center to be distributed to veterans. The cards were purchased with part of a \$2,000 ENVSC Freedom Grant.

In other news, lodge members visited the Southern Ohio Veterans

Home—Georgetown prior to Christmas and gave resident veterans three boxes of books, 120 cookies, and \$200 worth of toiletries. The food and other items were purchased using part of a \$2,000 ENVSC Freedom Grant.

Coquille Valley, OR, Lodge members prepared a breakfast at the lodge for 65 veterans and their guests.

Keizer, Lebanon, and Salem, OR, Lodge members visited the Oregon Veterans Home—Lebanon and held a Christmas party for 50 veterans. The event featured refreshments and a performance by a chorus, and each veteran received a gift package containing blankets, games, gift cards, and other small gifts. The event was held with the help of a \$2,000 ENVSC Freedom Grant.

Bedford, PA, Lodge used a \$2,000 ENF Beacon Grant to host a dinner for 53 veterans, including 15 residents of local nursing homes. The event also featured a performance by a choir, and each veteran received a medallion and a small US flag. The lodge also provided transportation for those veterans who needed it.

Erie, PA, Lodge members provided ten winter coats for children to the families of veterans.

In other news, the lodge donated more than 600 pounds of food to the Erie VA Medical Center's emergency food bank. The donation



South Kingstown, RI, Lodge members installed two access ramps and a bathroom safety grab bar in the home of Korean War veteran Alvin Hammond, who lost both legs in the Korean War and uses a wheelchair. The ramps and safety bar were provided at cost by the supplier. Pictured with Hammond and his wife, Mary (front right), are (from left) lodge members Alvah Early, James Mulhearn, and Andrew Robinson; a representative from the supplier, Mike Vierra; and lodge members Edward Folgo, Thomas Mueller, Richard Durant, and Richard Gray.



Pendleton, SC, Lodge used a \$2,000 ENVSC Freedom Grant to hold an information fair and family fun day for 25 veterans and their children. The event featured lunch, informational displays by several veterans service organizations, and games and crafts for the children. Pictured during the information fair are (from left) event committee chairman Starlett Craig, US Army veteran Joe Coke, US Air Force veteran Ann Warren, ER Margaret Miller, and US Army veteran Emmett Tucker.

included 68 pounds of food that was gathered by lodge-sponsored Boy Scout Troop 182.

Florence, SC, Lodge used a \$2,000 ENF Beacon Grant to provide a total of 12 Welcome Home Kits containing household appliances and other kitchen equipment to the Veterans Resource Center of Florence to be distributed to veterans moving into new housing.

Little River, SC, Lodge members placed US flags on the graves of 250 veterans in North Myrtle Beach Memorial Gardens prior to Veterans Day. The lodge also hosted a lunch for about 25 people who attended the local Veterans Day observance.

In other news, the lodge provided Welcome Home Kits containing basic household supplies to three veterans who were moving into new homes. The lodge also donated \$390 worth of groceries to Hutton House, a housing facility for homeless veterans.

Murrells Inlet, SC, Lodge donated \$300 to the local Disabled American Veterans post.

Summerville, SC, Lodge donated a \$1,500 South Carolina Elks Association grant to Fisher House Charleston, which provides temporary residence to the families of hospitalized veterans and active-duty service members.

Oak Ridge, TN, Lodge members gave Christmas gifts worth a total of nearly \$2,800 to 30 veterans at the Ben Atchley Tennessee State Veterans Home. The lodge also donated a popcorn machine to the veterans home.

Saint George “Dixie,” UT, Lodge hosted a Christmas dinner for more than 100 active-duty service members, veterans, and family members. The event also featured musical entertainment and an appearance by Santa, who gave each guest a gift. Lodge members were assisted by cadets from the local Junior ROTC program.

Charlottesville, VA, Lodge members took part in the Wreaths Across America nationwide, coordinated wreath-laying event by laying a wreath at the Dogwood Vietnam Memorial.

In other news, lodge members gave Christmas poinsettias to 20 veterans at the Charlottesville VA Community Based Outpatient Clinic and gave an additional ten poinsettias to the clinic to be given to other veterans.

Front Royal, VA, Lodge members and scouts from Boy Scout Troop 4 participated in the Wreaths Across America nationwide, coordinated wreath-laying ceremony by laying wreaths on the graves of 400 veterans in Prospect Hill Cemetery.

In other news, the lodge hosted a Christmas dinner for about 200 guests, including 50 veterans. Lodge members also delivered dinners to 19 people who could not leave their homes. The event also featured an appearance by Santa and Mrs. Claus, who gave a gift to each child in attendance.

Martinsville, VA, Lodge hosted a veterans appreciation dinner, which 40 veterans and their families attended. During the event, the oldest veteran in attendance, the youngest veteran, and the veteran with the most years of service were all recognized.

In other news, the lodge used a \$2,000 ENF Gratitude Grant to organize a Christmas party at the Salem VA Medical Center for a total of 50 veterans. Each veteran present was given a fleece jacket and a goody bag, and the center was given a grill, a pavilion tent, and an outdoor speaker system. Following the meal, lodge members called bingo games and provided canteen books to bingo winners as prizes. Several veterans also won other door prizes.

Newport News, VA, Lodge held its tenth annual fund-raising event and raised nearly \$1,700 for the Hampton VA Medical Center. This year's fund-raiser was held in memory of Melinda Angel, who founded the event.

Pulaski, VA, Lodge members helped lay wreaths on the graves of veterans at the Southwest Virginia Veterans Cemetery in recognition of the sixth anniversary of the cemetery.

Waynesboro, VA, Lodge donated a trailer load of games, books, magazines, puzzles, and playing cards to veterans at the Salem VA Medical Center.

Bremerton, WA, and **Port Townsend, WA,** Lodge members traveled to the Washington Veterans Home and held a Christmas dinner for nearly 400 veterans. Members of the two lodges gave the veterans gift cards worth a total of \$3,000. ■



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Elks Drug Awareness Program



Coolidge-Florence, AZ, Lodge members recognized the winners of the lodge's drug awareness poster and essay contests and presented them with certificates, ribbons, and gift cards in the amount of \$100 for first place, \$75 for second place, and \$25 for third place. The winners of the poster contest were Ashley Barraza in first place, Lasia Ziemer in second place, and Noelani Thorner in third place. The winners of the essay contest were Anakin

Menjivar in first place, Kyla Reisenbichler in second place, and Emmalee Smith in third place. Pictured with essay contest winner Kyla is Drug Awareness Committee Chairman Karen Johnston.

Eagle River, AK, Lodge members and Elroy the Elk discussed the importance of drug awareness with nearly 460 third graders in seven local elementary schools.

Elk Grove, CA, Lodge members distributed drug awareness coloring books, wrist bands, bookmarks, and literature to nearly 370 third-grade students at three local elementary schools. During their visits to the elementary schools, lodge members also gave presentations on the importance of drug awareness.

Santa Barbara, CA, Lodge members distributed drug awareness coloring books to 35 children who attended a Christmas party held at the lodge.

Santa Maria, CA, Lodge hosted a graduation ceremony for students enrolled in the D.A.R.E. program. More than 900 graduates, parents, and other guests attended.

Golden, CO, Lodge members distributed 250 bags containing drug awareness coloring books, crayons, pencils, rulers, and games during a community Christmas parade.



Green Valley, AZ, Lodge held a drug awareness door decorating contest during Red Ribbon Week for students at Sopori Elementary School. The lodge organized pizza parties for the winning classrooms in both divisions. Pictured are (from left) members of the winning first-grade class, Jaymee, Guadalupe, Trevor, and Ruben, and Arizona Elks Association Drug Awareness Committee Chairman John Ponzio.



Temecula Valley, CA, Lodge held a dinner for the 15 winners of its drug awareness poster, essay, and video contests and their family members and teachers. During the dinner, lodge members recognized the winners and awarded them certificates. Pictured are (from left) first-place essay contest winner Lauren Stringer, second-place poster contest winner Priscilla Lopez, Drug Awareness Committee Chairman Diane Farrens, first-place poster contest winner Izzy Mestman, and third-place poster contest winner Emilia Toensing.

In other news, the lodge used part of a \$2,500 ENF Promise Grant to donate \$1,500 to support a drug- and alcohol-free post-prom party at Golden High School.



Coeur d'Alene, ID, Lodge members and Elroy the Elk discussed the importance of drug awareness with nearly 80 foster children and their guardians during a Christmas party at the lodge. Pictured with some of the young guests is Elroy the Elk (lodge member Charles Edlund).

Florida Keys, FL, Lodge members staffed a drug awareness booth and distributed drug awareness pamphlets to 33 children during a child safety event at the lodge.

Inverness, FL, Lodge held a drug awareness poster contest for grade-school students at Hernando Elementary School and presented certificates of recognition and gift cards to first-place winner Serena DiNardo, second-place winner River Moll, and third-place winner Michael Green.

In other news, the lodge held a drug awareness essay contest for students of Lecanto Middle School and presented certificates to first-place winner Inge Frederick, second-place winner Cassidy Struble, and third-place winner Christian Hale.

Hagerstown, MD, Lodge donated \$1,000 to the local Officer Phil safety program to support the distribution of more than 3,100 drug awareness booklets to third- and fourth-grade students in Washington County.

Lake Taneycomo, MO, Lodge members distributed drug awareness coloring books to the parents of more than 300 children during a holiday gift event for needy families that was held at the lodge.

Nevada State Elks Association members recognized Kaycee Schultz, a national drug awareness essay contest winner, during a meeting of the state association. Kaycee was awarded a certificate of recognition and several gift cards.

Reno, NV, Lodge members presented the local Enrique Camarena Award to Washoe County School District Police Officer Debbie Brautigam and her police dog, Cigo, during a ceremony at the lodge,



Broken Bow, NE, Lodge members distributed drug awareness coloring books during a meet and greet with Santa Claus, which more than 100 people attended. Pictured (front, from left) are Mrs. Claus (ER Rebecca Loy), guest Braxton Varland, Santa (PDD Paul Loy), and guest Baylee Varland with (back, from left) guest Jessica Varland, PER Robert Anderson, and guest Tyler Varland.



Hamilton, NJ, Lodge members distributed drug awareness coloring books to nearly 80 children during a Christmas party at the lodge. Pictured are (from left) Mrs. Claus (volunteer Joan Pope), Santa (volunteer Len Pope), and guest Karina Hannawacker.

which more than 50 people attended. Brautigam also received the award at the state level.

Sparks, NV, Lodge members staffed the state drug awareness trailer during a Christmas parade, which several thousand people from the community attended.

Manasquan, NJ, Lodge used a \$2,500 ENF Promise Grant to pay for ten young people and chaperones to attend the New Jersey State Elks Association's annual, three-day Peer Leadership Conference.



Lordsburg, NM, Lodge members recognized R. V. Traylor Elementary School third grader Jason Mansfield for his dedication to raising awareness about drugs among his classmates. Lodge members presented Jason with a telescope and a drone during a Red Ribbon Week assembly at his school. Pictured with Jason is Drug Awareness Chairman Maria Sanchez.



Mechanicville-Stillwater, NY, Lodge members staffed a drug awareness booth during a breakfast with Santa event at the lodge and distributed drug awareness coloring books, bracelets, frisbees, and pamphlets. A total of more than 170 people attended the event. Pictured are lodge member Victor Wood and guest Michael Tutoro.

Huntington, NY, Lodge members and Elroy the Elk attended a concert at the Children's Readiness Center and discussed the importance of staying drug-free with 200 children.

Port Jervis, NY, Lodge donated nearly \$4,200 to Operation PJ Pride, which is a drug awareness organization.

Roxboro, NC, Lodge members staffed the state drug awareness trailer during a local Christmas parade, which thousands of people from the community attended.

Lorain, OH, Lodge members and Elroy the Elk distributed drug awareness pamphlets, coloring books, and comic books during a youth athletic contest at Lorain High School, in which a total of 31 students participated.

Indiana, PA, Lodge organized a drug take-back event with the help of the local sheriff's office and collected ten pounds of unused prescription drugs to be destroyed. ■

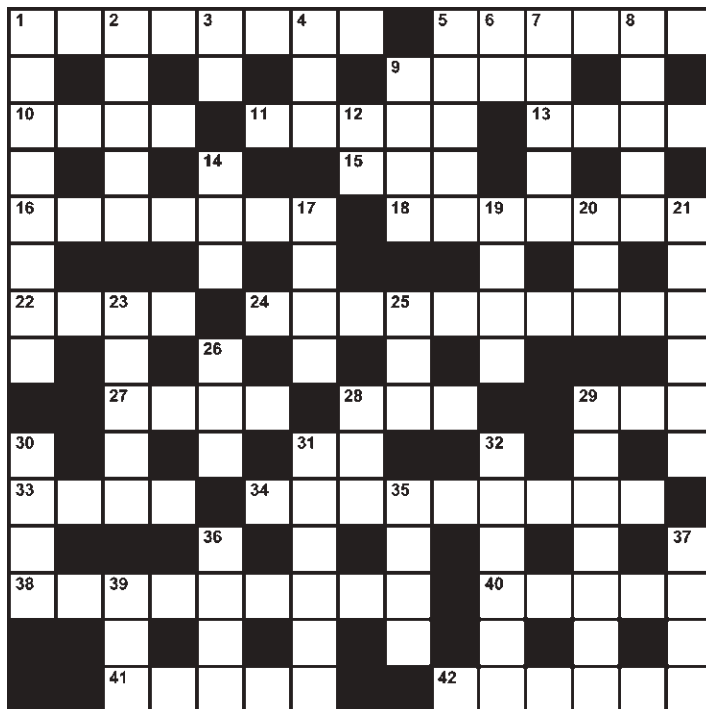


BY MYLES MELLOR

Answers appear on page 123.

ACROSS

1. Month that marks the birthday of the BPOE
5. Make a charitable contribution
9. Attend, 2 words
10. Clean the surfaces
11. Water-based cosmetic fluid
13. Soft cheese
15. Dublin's land, for short
16. Sixteenth president of the United States
18. Patriotic symbols, 2 words
22. Time in office
24. Philanthropic
27. Cherished people
28. You might look up to it
29. Heat measurement, abbr.
31. 51 to a Roman
33. Solemn promise
34. French artist who designed the Statue of Liberty
38. Brotherly
40. Pay for dinner
41. Scout's merit badge award
42. Recycles



DOWN

1. One of the cardinal principles of the Elks
2. Large North American mammal that nearly went extinct
3. Raise
4. Route for short
5. Architectural features—the roof of the Elks National Veterans Memorial in Chicago is one of them
6. More than eight hours work in a day, abbr.
7. Peace prize
8. Making a knot
9. Expert
12. Providence locale
14. Wild animal park
17. Must have
19. Vital nourishment
20. The Elks National Hoop Shoot program minimum is eight
21. Arranges, 2 words
23. Moral
25. Creature the Jolly Corks chose as a symbol for the organization
26. Sports arbiter, abbr.
28. Respectful address
29. Plans spending
30. Game often played for charitable causes
31. Start
32. Posh party attire
35. Recounted
36. The *B* in BPOE's nickname
37. Grade school groups
39. Swiss mountain



Helping Elks Build Stronger Communities

Beyond the Scholarship



Sean Pringle (right), a recipient of a 2010 ENF Most Valuable Student Scholarship, is now a member of the Oceano/Five Cities, California, Lodge, and serves as the scholarship chair for his lodge and district. He is pictured here at the 2018 Elks National Convention with Oceano/Five Cities Lodge ER Mel Baker.

THE ELKS NATIONAL FOUNDATION gave students \$4.8 million in scholarships this past year—but there's more to each scholarship than its cash value. When students become Elks scholars, they embark on a journey with support from the BPO Elks and are introduced to new opportunities to grow and give back. For some scholars, it marks the beginning of a life of service. When Elks members and lodges go beyond, as did the Oceano/Five Cities, California, Lodge, it's the start of the next generation of Elks.

In 2010, the Oceano/Five Cities Lodge sponsored Most Valuable Student Scholarship hopeful Sean Pringle, and after he won an MVS Scholarship, lodge members made sure to keep in touch with him throughout his time in college. When Pringle graduated, he got a call from a lodge member asking if he'd like to join the lodge, and he said, "Yes!" Now, just a few years after receiving that phone call, Pringle is the scholarship chair for his lodge and district. "The feeling you get when you volunteer, whether it's at a shelter or at a veterans event or at a dinner, it's a really rewarding feeling," Pringle says. "And, to me, the Elks do it really, really well."

The Elks National Foundation team hears these types of stories from many Elks Scholars, and they recently compiled some of these

tales in a four-part film series called *Beyond the Scholarship*, which features scholars talking about their experience with the Elks. The short films feature footage from the 150 for 150 Elks Scholar Service Trip in San Antonio, Texas, which took place during the 2018 Elks National Convention, as well as footage from past Elks Scholar Service Trips to New Orleans and Nashville. By starting their relationship with the Elks through service, the Elks scholars learn about an important aspect of being an Elk—building stronger communities.

The *Beyond the Scholarship* film series has a natural progression. In the first film, “Pillars of the Community,” scholars talk about the role of the Elks in their communities. Then, in “Road to Elkdom,” they discuss how they became involved with Elks community service projects and how those experiences have led some Elks Scholars to join the Order. In the short film “Full Circle,” they express their gratitude to the Order and describe the fulfillment they feel by giving back to others. Finally, in “The Future of Elkdom,” the scholars look forward to the Elks’ next 150 years. “As a younger generation, we can sign up to become Elks,” says Becky Clark, who was a 2014 ENF Most Valuable Student Scholarship recipient, “and we’re going to keep that legacy and that value going forward.” ■

To view the Beyond the Scholarship film series, visit enf.elks.org/BeyondTheScholarship.

WATCH THE LATEST ENF VIDEOS, including the *Beyond the Scholarship* series, and subscribe to the ENF YouTube channel at enf.elks.org/YT.

State Major Projects



New Hampshire

Copper Cannon Camp



PHOTOS COURTESY OF COPPER CANNON CAMP

About five hundred children, like this young camper, experience outdoor camping activities, such as archery, each year at Copper Cannon Camp, the support of which is the state major project of the New Hampshire State Elks Association.

ABOUT 150 MILES NORTH OF BOSTON, in northern New Hampshire, sit a group of about a dozen buildings and a small pond. The picturesque campus is surrounded by 128 acres of forested land near White Mountain National Forest and boasts spectacular views of Mount Lafayette. Every summer, about five hundred children from impoverished backgrounds escape from the world for a week here. This is Copper Cannon Camp, the support of which has been the state major project of the New Hampshire State Elks Association for fifty years.

Copper Cannon Camp was founded in 1963 and became the state major project of the New Hampshire State Elks Association in 1969. The camp was originally located south of the town of Franconia, New Hampshire, and moved to its present location in 1976. Since its founding, the camp has served children of modest means who might not otherwise be able to enjoy a camp experience. Today, any child who is eligible for subsidized or free school lunch is also eligible for a free week at Copper Cannon Camp.



Three young Copper Cannon Camp attendees get to work in the camp's organic garden, which provides fresh vegetables for campers' meals.

The camp's facilities include five boys cabins and four girls cabins, as well as a dining hall and a rustic lodge. Outdoor activities are accommodated by the camp's three-quarter-acre pond, an athletic field, an archery range, and four tent platforms. The campus also has a library, an arts and crafts building, and a building designed to teach campers about nature.

The camp holds eight traditional one-week camp sessions a year for children ages nine to twelve and hosts between sixty-five and seventy-five children during each of those weeks. Copper Cannon Camp also holds a Ranger Week and advanced mountain biking and backpacking weekends for young teenagers ages thirteen to fifteen, as well as the Last Chance Camp for campers ages fifteen and sixteen who want one last opportunity to stay at the camp they have come to love over the previous years. Finally, there is the counselor-in-training program for sixteen-year-olds, which runs alongside the regular camp and provides young people with the opportunity to learn leadership skills from experienced camp counselors.

Copper Cannon Camp provides its attendees with fun outdoor activities as well as a wide variety of educational experiences—and sometimes these are one and the same. As camp Director Peter Christnacht points out, outdoor activities are inseparable from learning, particularly in the areas of science, technology, engineering, and math. The camp is a perfect place to learn about the environment and biology, and campers even practice using the Pythagorean theorem to estimate the height of trees.

Elks Involvement

The New Hampshire State Elks Association, through support from the Elks National Foundation and creative fund-raising by local lodges throughout the state, provides about 16 percent of the camp's

operating budget and is by far its most generous supporter. In addition to providing for the camp's budget, the New Hampshire State Elks Association also offers college scholarships to former campers, each year awarding three scholarships worth \$500 each to help cover the cost of books and other incidental expenses.

Local lodges, too, provide much-needed support to the camp. Lodges from around the state work to coordinate the arrival of campers and provide a bus from their region to the camp, which can be very helpful to the campers, many of whose parents have only limited transportation available to them. New Hampshire State Elks Association members also take part in several volunteer clean-up days that are held at the camp throughout the year. In particular, Elks arrive during the camp's autumn and spring Teen Leadership Retreat weekends and work under the instruction of teenagers who are practicing their leadership skills. During these working vacations, those Elks who are skilled tradesmen are particularly valued for their ability to complete ambitious projects to improve the camp's facilities.

One special event, held in partnership with Adaptive Sports Partners of the North Country and the Littleton Lodge, which is located just eight miles from the camp, is a weekend for campers with special needs. During the weekend, about fifty campers are provided with special accommodations for their disabilities and are given the chance to experience a full range of camp activities.

Local lodges also help the camp with its largest fund-raising event, an annual auction, that is held at the Littleton Lodge. Littleton Lodge members make the space available a week in advance to give camp staff a chance to set up, and then, Elks from around the state attend the auction. This is another way local lodges help contribute to their state major project's success. New Hampshire Elks also lend their talents to the camp as members of its board of directors.

By making it possible for hundreds of children from families of modest means to enjoy a week in the great outdoors, the Elks of New Hampshire have shown themselves to be among the Best People On Earth. ■

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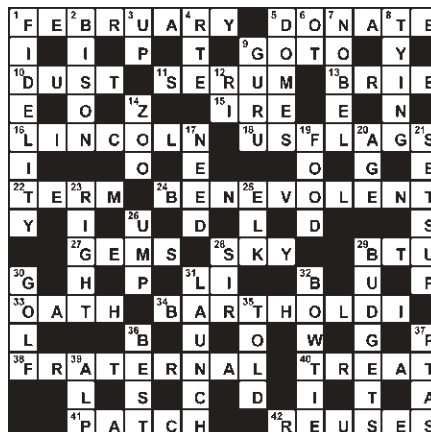
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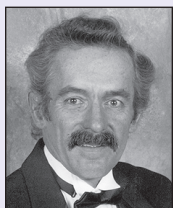


Departed GL Officers



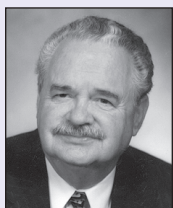
Past Grand Esteemed Leading Knight

James H. McLuskie, of the Billings, MT, Lodge, passed away December 31, 2018. Member McLuskie served as Grand Esteemed Leading Knight in 1991–1992. He served on the Grand Lodge Membership Committee from 1987 to 1990. He was district deputy for the Central District of Montana in 1989–1990 and was president of the Montana State Elks Association in 1984–1985.



Past Grand Esteemed Leading Knight

Jerry C. Wieber, of the Kodiak, AK, Lodge, died December 26, 2018. As a member of the Bristol Bay Lodge, Member Wieber served as Grand Esteemed Leading Knight in 1999–2000 and as president of the Alaska State Elks Association in 1983–1984. As a member of the Homer Lodge, he was district deputy for the Central District of Alaska in 1978–1979.



Grand Esteemed Loyal Knight

John G. Holt, of the Burbank, CA, Lodge, died January 5. Member Holt was serving as Grand Esteemed Loyal Knight and as a member of the Grand Lodge Pardon Commission. He served on the Grand Lodge Auditing and Accounting Committee from 1994 to 1997 and as chairman of that committee from 1997 to 1999. He served on the Grand Lodge Lodge Activities/State Associations Committee from 2007 to 2010. He was district deputy for the Metropolitan District of California in 1989–1990 and was president of the California-Hawaii Elks Association in 2000–2001.



Past Grand Lodge Committeeman

Avery M. Boose, of the Red Oak, IA, Lodge, died December 24, 2018. Member Boose served on the Grand Lodge State Associations Committee from 1987 to 1989. He was district deputy for the Southwest District of Iowa from 1969 to 1971 and served as president of the Iowa Elks Association in 1975–1976.

Past Special Deputy Paul W. Elliott Sr., of the Knoxville, TN, Lodge, passed away January 17. Member Elliott served as special deputy from 1981 to 1991. He served the Grand Lodge as district deputy for the East District of Tennessee in 1975–1976 and served as president of the Tennessee Elks Association in 1978–1979.

Past District Deputy Ronnie G. Attkisson, of the Columbia, TN, Lodge, died January 21. Member Attkisson served as district deputy for the Middle District of Tennessee in 2006–2007 and was president of the Tennessee Elks Association in 2009–2010.

Past District Deputy Lemieul L. Bennett, of the Perry, FL, Lodge, died January 21. Member Bennett served as district deputy for the North District of Florida in 1992–1993.

Past District Deputy Thomas E. Burkart, of the Sycamore, IL, Lodge, died January 23. Member Burkart served as district deputy for the Northwest District of Illinois in 2001–2002.

Past District Deputy William J. Ferrick, of the Haverhill, MA, Lodge, died December 31, 2018. Member Ferrick served as district deputy for the North District of Massachusetts in 1991–1992.

Past District Deputy Joseph A. Gareis, of the Tri-City, CO, Lodge, died September 22, 2018. Member Gareis served as district deputy for the Central Northwest District of Colorado in 1979–1980.

Past District Deputy Charles F. Hershey III, of the Wilmington, DE, Lodge, died May 24, 2018. Member Hershey served as district deputy for the Northeast District of Maryland, Delaware and the District of Columbia in 1988–1989.

Past District Deputy Jack H. Noonburg, of the Hasbrouck Heights, NJ, Lodge, died November 1, 2018. Member Noonburg served as district deputy for the Northeast District of New Jersey in 1993–1994.

Past District Deputy Garrett C. Roseboom, of the Boonville, NY, Lodge, died October 29, 2016. Member Roseboom served as district deputy for the Central District of New York in 1981–1982.

Past District Deputy Kenneth A. Rupert, of the Albany, GA, Lodge, died December 23, 2018. Member Rupert served as district deputy for the Southwest District of Georgia in 2010–2011.

Past District Deputy Edward S. Torrilhon, of the Livermore-Pleasanton, CA, Lodge, died January 29. Member Torrilhon served as district deputy for the Central District of California in 2012–2013.

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The Elks Magazine Online Subscription Contest Winner: Redlands, California, Lodge

Photos courtesy Redlands, California, Lodge



Top: This photo, taken during an initiation ceremony in March 2018, shows the Redlands Lodge's main lodge room, which features a ceiling-mounted, backlit, stained-glass window from the lodge's original building, which was constructed in 1911. Above: Pictured are the Redlands Lodge's slate of officers for 2018-2019, including ER Bonnie Burke seated at front and center.



Top: PER John Fulton (center) is pictured with Est. Lead. Knight Chris Hubbell and Est. Lect. Knight Lisa Hubbell, who each received the Exalted Ruler's Outstanding Service Commendation certificate from then GER Malcolm J. McPherson Jr. Middle: Several members of the Redlands Lodge pose for a photo after taking part in a community blood drive. Above: Pictured are some of the dedicated members of Redlands, California, Lodge No. 583.

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Interview with Vincent J. “Bill” Purple—WWII B-17 Pilot

Boeing B-17F Memphis Belle Restoration: Markings & More

Memphis Belle Restoration Time Lapses
(Bomb Bay Painting & Cheek Guns Installation)

Videos courtesy of the National Museum of the United States Air Force

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