

# Arizona Elks News

The Arizona Elks News is an official publication of the Arizona Elks Association

July 2023



## "Thanks for Lending a Hand"

Brother and Sister Elks,

There is a saying that..."time flies when you are having fun"!!

Seems as though Installation was yesterday and today we are packing bags to travel to Minneapolis for the Grand Lodge Convention, July 2-5. Brenda and I are so proud to represent our Lodges and our incredible members. I can not wait to see the sea of red vests and to proudly parade and wave that great Arizona flag.



It is confirmed that Arizona has placed third in the nation in membership growth. Congratulations and thanks to Jerry Ingram and the Fab Membership Committee who, along with the Lodge Secretaries around the State, made that last push to put us over the top. Jerry and I will be on hand to accept the Membership Award at the Convention.

Can anyone say "All-American Lodge"? Grand Lodge has published the top ten Contest A finalists in each of Divisions I-VI, and Arizona Lodges, of course, are well-represented. Congratulations to newcomers Page #2498, Tucson #385 and Chandler #2429 and to the "regular greats" Sierra Vista #2065, Casa Grande Valley #1957, Phoenix #335 and Sun City #2559. The top three Lodges in each Division will be announced at the Grand Lodge Convention. Good Luck to all. Get ready, Sergeant At Arms Alex, I suspect there will be a lot of "chirping" going on at the Mid-Year Meeting.

We welcome in Convention-installed District Deputy Grand Exalted Rulers (DDGER's):

North - Mike Duran, Winslow #536  
South - Larry Hamel, Wilcox #2131  
East - Brian Gorski, Chandler #2429  
West - Larry Bowell, Phoenix #335

I wanted to thank my home Lodge and family Phoenix #335 for stepping up to the plate in a very big way. The Lodge hosted my Organizational Meeting on June 10. The meeting was well-attended with almost all Committee Chairs and many Vice-Chairs on hand. The Committees met and then reported on respective goals and ambitions for the AEA Year. In the evening, the party of all parties...great band, great BBQ, great friends and well-wishers. Brenda and I are awestruck by the show of support and affection displayed by our friends, new and old, who made the trek from the four corners of our great State. Thank you, thank you, thank you. Finally, a huge thank you and hug to the Past Exalted Rulers of Phoenix Lodge who provided donuts and coffee and sub sandwiches at lunch and who covered all aspects of the party financially, physically and spiritually.

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**AEA Newsletter  
Submission deadline:  
19 July 2023**

**aeanewsletter  
@arizonaelks.org**



# ARIZONA ELKS ASSOCIATION 2023-2024 STATE OFFICERS

## **PRESIDENT:**

Al Kayal

## **FIRST VICE PRESIDENT:**

South: Susan Krausman

## **VICE PRESIDENTS**

North: Hershel "Hersh" Eaton

East: JeRay Bellon

West: Hank Thonnard

## **SECRETARY:**

Charyll McKean, PSP

## **TREASURER:**

Alane Asp

## **BOARD OF TRUSTEES:**

North-1 Year:

Edward Leuer, PSP

South- 2 Year:

Joe Riley, PSP

South- 3 Year:

Richard "Rich" Botkin, PSP

East-4 Year:

Jimmy S. Davis, PSP

North- 5 Year:

James R. Cassacchia, PSP

## **SERGEANT AT ARMS:**

Alejandro "Alex" Arroyo

## **CHAPLAIN:**

Brad Lucas

## **TILER:**

Travis Napolitan

## **INNER GUARD:**

Taleen Carpenter

## **ASST. SEC / TREASURER:**

Roy Haddick

## **PHOTOGRAPHER:**

Karen Koble

## **MUSICIAN:**

Ira Cohen

# "Thanks for Lending a Hand"

Continued from page 1

Congratulations and Thank You for a job well done to our outgoing DDGER's:

North - Marsha Haddick, Bullhead City #2408

South - Steve Asp, Catalina Mountain #2815

East - Mari Slocum, Tempe #2251

West - Gary Gist, Yuma 476

Don't forget to get your tickets for the Arizona Elks Major Project Mid Year Raffle. The Kawasaki TERYX side by side is a great prize.

I hope everyone has a fun and safe 4th of July.

Thanks for Lending a Hand!

Fraternally,

Al Kayal, President

Arizona Elks Association

# "Phoenix Lodge #335 Hosts Honor Flight Lunch"

On April 15, Phoenix Elks hosted the Honor Flight Luncheon for 76 guests including the World War II, Korean War, and Vietnam War veterans along with their families and guests. These two flights were paid for by the Honor Flight Veteran Network with the help of a \$4,000 donation from the Lodge 335 Veterans Committee. The trip to Washington DC gave these veterans the opportunity to share this momentous occasion with other comrades, remember the fallen, and share their stories and experiences with others. Two veteran Rosie the Riveters added color to the day. Honor Flight Board Member Matthew Hartman pinned Veterans Committee Kathleen Rose in honor of her father, David Smyers, a US Marine Corp Vietnam Veteran. A great job by our Veterans Committee and Sea Cadet volunteers to make the day a success.

Submitted by: Linda Thompson



## ***“Yuma Lodge #476 Awards Scholarships”***

Yuma Elks Lodge #476 awarded eighteen scholarships at five local high schools totaling \$31,000 for the Elk Year. Most Valuable Student Awards are funded by the Elks National Foundation; Vocational Awards are funded by the Arizona Elks Association; STEM Awards are funded by the Yuma Past Exalted Rulers Association. This is the 30th consecutive year Yuma's Lodge has awarded scholarships to our local graduating seniors.

### **SCHOLARSHIP RECEIPIENTS ARE AS FOLLOWS**

Armina Piedra, Most Valuable Student, \$2,000, Yuma Catholic High School  
 Jaylynn DeFries, Vocational, \$1,500, Antelope High School  
 Melanie Avila, Vocational, \$1,500, Antelope High School  
 Sonia Guillen, Vocational, \$1,500, Antelope High School  
 Miguel Sanchez, Vocational, \$1,500, Antelope High School  
 Abigahil Amador, Vocational, \$1,500, Antelope High School  
 Marina Gonzalez, Vocational, \$1,500, San Pasqual High School  
 Karina Sotelo, Vocational, \$1,500, San Pasqual High School  
 Jorge Ramirez, Vocational, \$1,500, San Pasqual High School  
 Esmeralda Ramos, Vocational, \$1,500, San Pasqual High School  
 Lorenzo Duran, STEM, \$2,000, Yuma Catholic High School  
 Xynnajezmie Banuelos, STEM, \$2,000, Yuma Catholic High School  
 Nayleen Soto, STEM, \$2,000, Yuma Catholic High School  
 Rodrigo Guizor, STEM, \$2,000, Cibola High School  
 Diego Curiel, STEM, \$2,000, Kofa High School  
 Jaylynn DeFries, STEM, \$2,000, Antelope High School  
 Sonia Guillen, STEM, \$2,000, Antelope High School

In addition Yuma Elks Lodge Golf Scholarship Committee awarded \$1,000 to each of the follow students.

Manuel Bermudez, Kofa High School  
 Taylor Clarkson, NAU  
 Logan Hartley, Kofa High School  
 Rori Hoffmeyer, Cibola High School

Isabelle Lizarraga, UofA  
 Delaney Rochester, Cibola High School  
 Jaisyn Wolfe, AWC

**Submitted by: Jim Thompson**

## ***“Casa Grande Valley Lodge #1957 Provides Swimming Scholarships”***



Bruno Ponsi (on left) and Todd Sample (on right), Elks Golf Committee members, presented a donation to the City of Casa Grande to provide swimming scholarships for children in our community. What is so unique about this picture is that the person receiving the check, Carrissa Tinsley, was a recipient of an Elks swimming lesson scholarship when she was a child and now she serves as head lifeguard at the pool.

The Casa Grande Elks are able to provide scholarships to over 130 children in the community each summer. The donated

funds were generated through a golf tournament held each year by the Casa Grande Elks. The Other recipients of their donations included Against Abuse, Arizona Elks Major Projects, and Seeds of Hope.

**Submitted by: Donna Johnson**



## *“Chandler Lodge #2429 Places ‘Sea of Flags’”*

On Sunday May 28th. Representatives from the Chandler Elks Lodge 2429 and John McCain VFW post 7401 placed flags on over 3100 graves of military veterans at the Valley of the Sun mortuary. The flags were donated by Ace hardware.

Corporate representatives from Northrup Grummond, Zelle and the Army Reserves participated and showed their respect to our fallen heroes.

After placing the flags, many volunteers gathered at the VFW for a delicious luncheon provided by Senior Ozzy's Tacos y Mariscos.

**Submitted by Taleen Carpenter**



## *“Prescott Lodge #330 Officers Participate in Memorial Day Ceremony”*



The Prescott Elks Lodge Officers participated in the Ceremony on May 29th at the Prescott National Cemetery in Prescott. The ceremony is to honor and remember those who made the ultimate sacrifice in service to our nation.

**Submitted by: Bobbie Knorr**

Elks Officers L to R:  
Exalted Ruler Sam Volrich, Secretary Teresa Miller, Lecturing Knight Jim Guiles, Loyal Knight Gerri Runge, Trustee Russ Eby, and Leading Knight Frank Scherer.

## *“Lake Havasu Lodge #2399 Elkettes Continue to Bake Success”*

The Lake Havasu City Lodge 2399 Elkettes donated \$500 to Milemarkers, a disability services and support organization in Lake Havasu City. Funds were raised with Pie sales at the Elks lodge during dinner hours.

**Submitted by: Eva Fox**

From left to right in photo are: Chris Dukey, Pie sales Chairperson and Elkette member, Sarah Stinnett with Milemarkers and Elkette member Mae Pine.



## *“Yuma Lodge #476 Exalted Ruler Plays ‘Taps’ at Veterans Home”*



Yuma Lodge 476 Exalted Ruler Mike Burnet played taps at the Yuma Veterans' Home Memorial Day Ceremony. Over 75 residents and guests were in attendance to pay tribute to those who gave it all in the service of our country.

Submitted by: Jim Thompson

## *“Memorial Day Barbecue at Sedona Lodge #2291”*

Sedona Lodge 2291 had a Memorial Day barbecue on May 29 with live music on Javelina Highway. We had a wonderful event with an attendance exceeding expectation. In fact, we even ran out of food!

At 3 o'clock, we had a moment of silence and our veterans chair Rick Kimberly, led a short ceremony to discuss the meaning of Memorial Day. We then all joined in singing. God bless America.

It was a wonderful event for our lodge and attracted many residents from the Sedona community and surrounding communities. We even received several applications for membership as a result.



Submitted by: Julie Spector

## *“Flagstaff Lodge #499 Elks Riders Serve 300 Burritos to Honor Vets”*



On Wednesday May 17th the Elks Riders from Flagstaff Lodge 499 started their day at 3:00 am to stage and serve breakfast burritos, juice, and coffee to hundreds of riders on the Midway Route of the 2023 Run For The Wall as they passed through Flagstaff, Arizona on their way to Washington DC.

The mission of Run For The Wall is to promote healing among ALL veterans and their families and friends, to call for an accounting of all Prisoners of War and those Missing in Action (POW/MIA), to honor the memory of those Killed in Action

(KIA) from all wars, and to support our military personnel all over the world.

The Riders group worked with Sam's Club and Little America Hotel to get the food and coffee donated for the event. Volunteers prepared more than 300 burritos for Run For The Wall and the remaining burritos were delivered to the Family Food Center where they were handed out to those in need in the community within a couple of hours. Our Riders' commitment to supporting veterans is a wonderful example of what it means to be an Elk.

Submitted by: Kathleen Cothrun



## ***“6th Grader Sponsored by Lake Havasu City Lodge #2399 Wins AEA Contest”***

Starline Elementary School 6th grader Anna Bengard was awarded First Place in the Arizona Elks Association Americanism Essay Contest. As one of the top three essay winners in Lake Havasu City, her essay was sent to the State level for competition among all Elks Lodges in Arizona. The theme this year was "My American Dream". Ana wrote a moving essay on her vision of an American dream. As a state winner, her essay has been forwarded to the Elks Grand Lodge for consideration on the national level.



Pictured are: Starline Elementary School Principal Ginny Sautner, 6th Grade Teacher Rachel Charette, PER Debbie Herd, Anna Bengard with her parents Shelley and Tyler Bengard, PER Paulette Nainteau and Elks Americanism Chair Pam Depweg.

Submitted by: Eva Fox

## ***“Scottsdale Lodge #2148 Has Been Busy Doing Elkdom”***

Memorial Day was celebrated with a BBQ on the patio providing free meals for Veterans. 95 meals were served with \$260 being raised toward Veterans Benefits. Adding on to supporting our military and veterans the lodge held a fun bag building event to donate to the Tunnels to Towers program. The bags contained dishes, household items, linens, hygiene items, etc. to help returning soldiers transition into private housing. Over 200 boxes were put together with an estimated value of \$7,500.

Scottsdale Elks also donated from our general charity funds \$2,000 to the Phoenix West Lodge 2729 to help support in their fundraising efforts to send a Special Olympics baseball team to Germany for a tournament event. The lodge also donated \$2,000 to the Phoenix 335 Elks Ritual team to help with transportation costs to the National Convention for competition representing Arizona.



Shannon Memberto, Bill Schuster and Chris Arruda pose in front of Tunnels to Towers gift bags.

Submitted by: Jody Miller

## *“Sun City Lodge #2559 Sponsors Veterans on Honor Flight”*

By holding fund-raising events with proceeds going to sponsor Elk member veterans on Honor Flight, Sun City Elks #2559 were able to sponsor eight Vietnam-era veterans in May.

Call sign “Mission 99” took two WWII, eight Korean War, and twenty-two Vietnam Arizona war veterans to Washington D.C. May 24-26. A celebratory send-off and presentation of colors happened at Sky Harbor. Veterans received special recognition enroute from the flight crew and fellow passengers. Landing at BWI, a Baltimore Fire Dept. engine water salute greeted Southwest airlines American flag decorated aircraft.

Day 1 was to the WWII, US Marine Corp, Korean War, and U.S. Air Force Memorials. A pinning ceremony was held at the Vietnam memorial. Veterans witnessed the changing of the guard at the tomb of the unknown soldier and saw the Arlington Cemetery tombstones flagged for Memorial Day. Two of Mission 99’s women Army Veterans were distinguished at the Military Women’s Memorial. Elk member Eldora Engelbretson received a certificate of recognition as a chartered member of Women in Military Service to America.

A late afternoon flight back home enabled Mission #99 with an extended day-2 opportunity to visit Ft. McHenry. Veterans participated in the unfurling and flag folding ceremonies, and then continued to the US Naval Academy Museum. Upon arrival back in Phoenix, hundreds of AZ Honor Flight volunteers, family, friends, and grateful people were there for a “Welcome Home” to the weary travelers.

During the Vietnam War era, many veterans did not receive the welcome home they deserved. Alone on planes after tours, some were anguished by their countrymen’s condemnation. The simple and yet powerful mission of Honor Flight is not only to visit memorials, but also to have the camaraderie, the friendships developed among veterans and with their guardians. As one Mission 99 participant shared “That dark past can’t be changed. But the recognition, the number of people randomly patting my shoulder with gratitude, lifted a burden I’ve carried for honoring my oath to my country.”

Submitted by: Vicki Way



Sun City Elks at the Marine Corp flag raising at Iwo Jima. Pictured left to right: Bill Dupen, Eldora Engrbretsen, Dean Curtis, Bill Matthews, Ellie Jenkins, Veteran Services Chairman, Ed Jansen, Greg Kostrba, Mike Goodwin, and Ray Hagamann.

## *“Catalina Mountain Lodge #2815 PERs Donate to Quilts of Valor”*

The Past Exalted Rulers Association gave \$1000 to the Quilts of Valor group for materials and supplies to help them to keep making quilts for our Veterans. The Quilts of Valor is a group of volunteer quilters who design and donate quilts to Veterans. The presentation was on June 7th at the Catalina Mountain ELKS Lodge 2815 in Catalina, AZ.

Submitted by: Jim Beregi

**Elks National  
Convention**  
**Minneapolis**

**Grand Lodge Convention**  
**2-5 July 2023**



## *“Chandler Lodge #2429 Participates in Memorial Day Wreath Presentation”*



Al Kayal - AEA State President, Randy Appel - Chandler ER,  
Tracy Cabell - East District Veteran's Chairperson, and  
Susan Whitaker - Chandler Veteran's Chairperson

Memorial Day is a day to honor and mourn the members of the military who have died serving in the United States Armed Forces. Chandler Elks Lodge #2429 members, Chandler Elks Veterans Committee members and Chandler Elks Riders attended and participated in the Memorial Day Program at the National Memorial Cemetery of Arizona in Phoenix, Arizona on Monday, May 29, 2023.

The day started with Chandler Elks Riders President, Mags Bonner, and many other Elks Riders gathering at the lodge and riding to the national cemetery in Phoenix. The program began with the fly over the presentation and parade of colors. AEA President, Al Kayal was one of the dignitaries on stage. Chandler Elks Lodge #2429 Exalter Ruler, Randy Appel and Veterans Committee Chair, Susan Whitaker participated in the presentation of wreaths. The program included patriotic music and a moving story of his time in Iraq by Sergeant R.J. Mitchell, a U.S. Marine veteran. After the conclusion of the program, the group traveled back to the Chandler Elks Lodge and were joined by many other members to a

delicious potluck of grilled hamburgers and hot dogs and all the fixings, hosted by the Chandler Elks Riders.

Attending and participating in the Memorial Day Program at the National Memorial Cemetery of Arizona was a first for a lot of the Chandler Elks Lodge members and all agreed that the experience was worth it and look forward to it next year.

Submitted by: Taleen Carpenter

## *“Sun City Lodge #2559 Honors Our Flag”*

Flag Day is literally and figuratively part of who the Elks are. The promotion of patriotism is an important mission designed to stimulate a genuine feeling of pride for our country. The Officers and PERs of our Lodge held a free, open-to-the-public Flag Day celebration on June 14 that inspired and informed with its public ceremony. The stories of the history of the American flag were told by PER Vicki Way in recognition of eight of the country's flags starting with the Pine Tree Flag of 1775 through our current flag with 50 stars and 13 red and white stripes which was accompanied by POW/MIA flag.

The colorful parade of flags was born by Elk member veterans accompanied by retired Marine Jose' Cordero Torres. Attendees participated in the celebration where patriotic songs were accompanied by Lodge organist Sandra Codero. Refreshments were enjoyed following the ceremony. Airman E-3 Blake Torrey from Luke Air Force Base was the guest speaker for the ceremony.

Submitted by: Vicki Way



Color Guard Jose Cordero Torres, Flag Bearers Robert Wheat, Dale Blomker, Greg & Barb Selendic, Airman E-3 Blake Torrey, Jerry Whisman, and Ed Jansen. Not pictured: Marty Galchutt.



## *“Mesa Buckhorn Lodge #2656 Stays True to Elks Veterans Motto”*

May was one of two months that Mesa Buckhorn Elks was raising money for Veterans Charities in 2023. The chairperson, Debbie Melton, PER, led her committee in doing several fundraising activities in May. Some of the activities that they had was a food drive, silent auction, 50/50, meat raffles, and crazy slingo.

The food drive brought in about \$5,000 worth of food that will go to community housing that supports veterans (such as, Valor on 8th in Mesa, AZ that Mesa Buckhorn Elks partners with Chandler Elk Lodge #2429 in AZ) and welcome baskets when homeless vets get their own apartment. The silent auction was the biggest that Mesa Buckhorn Elks have ever done. The silent auction brought in \$2,200. The volunteers and members showed up in force to raise a grand total of \$7,000. We want to thank every veteran for their service and hold true to the Elks motto of, "As long as there is a veteran, they will not be forgotten".

Submitted by: Tarrance Marrill

## *“Tucson Lodge #385 Partners With American Legion Post for Flag Day”*



Tucson AZ Lodge #385 member Gene Wicky (and member of American Legion Post 132 honor guard) explaining what each of the 13 American Flag folds mean, with American Legion Post 132 honor guard members.

Submitted by: John Aceves

## *“Prescott Lodge #330 Hosts Quilts of Valor Presentation”*



On May 27, 2023 the Prescott Elks Lodge hosted a presentation by the Quilts of Valor Foundation of two handmade quilts created by them. Melissa Emery who is also an Elks Lodge member, along with other members of the Foundation meet once a month at the Lodge to work on the quilts.

The quilts are given to veterans to let them know and comfort them for the sacrifices and years of service. This can be given to any veteran who has an honorable discharge and has not already received one. Its a big welcome home for a veteran!

The quilts were given to Robert Kenny and Mark Mareno.

Submitted by: Bobbie Knorr

## *“Yuma Lodge #476 and Scout Troop 8051 Team Up for Flag Day”*



On June 14, 2023 Yuma Lodge 476, with the assistance of Scout Troop 8051, conducted a Flag Day Ceremony with over 85 members and community guests attending. Guest of Honor, Yuma Mayor Doug Nicholls was Orator.

Pictured are members of Scout Troop 8051, their leaders, Mayor Nicholls, and Lodge Officers.

Submitted by: Jim Thompson

## *“Show Low Lodge #2090 Pays It Forward in Community”*

Elks doing what we do best - charitable work in our community!

On Tuesday, June 13th, the Show Low Elks Lodge #2090 presented donations to three different local organizations. Our lodge members' donations to the Elks National Foundation allowed us to apply for and receive the Beacon and Gratitude Grants and are honored to pay it forward in our community.

The Show Low Elks Lodge #2090 donated \$1250 to the White Mountain Autism Foundation, \$3000 to Meals on Wheels, and \$3000 to the Walking Down Ranch (provides housing and basic needs services to Veterans).

Ken Patterson, Past Exalted Ruler from Show Low Lodge, and David Whitmore, current Exalted Ruler at Show Low Lodge, presented the checks to Alan Cota, Rance Pullin, Gary Smith, Don McMasters, and Johnny Walker from the White Mountain Autism Foundation; to Karen Hook from Meals on Wheels, and to Maggie Heath and Jamie Poteet from Walking Down Ranch.



Submitted by: Renee Higginbotham

## *“Yuma Lodge #476 Donates Gloves at Veterans Home Grand Opening”*



During the Grand Opening Ceremony for the Arizona State Veterans Home in Yuma, the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks donated 25 sets of gloves to be used by wheelchair bound residents. These gloves are part of the Elks leather program. Picture is Arizona Elks Association State President Al Kayal, Elks National Veterans Service State Chairperson Mary Shaffer, Yuma State Veterans Home Administrator David Barrientos, and Yuma Elks Lodge 476 Exalted Ruler Mike Burnet.

Submitted by: Jim Thompson



## *“Yuma Lodge #476 Donates AED to Youth League”*



Yuma Elks Lodge #476 donated an Automated External Defibrillator (AED) to the Yuma Catch & Go Flag Football League.

Submitted by: Jim Thompson

Pictured are front row: Anthony Aiello, Luke Aiello, Landon Molina. Back row: Elk Past Exalted Ruler Lonny Cline, League Vice President Charlie Castaneda, Elk Exalted Ruler Mike Burnet, League President Charlie Castaneda, Elk Past Exalted Ruler Don Jacobs, League Social Media Arianna Aiello, and League Coaches Coordinator Josh Schreiber.

## *“Grand Lodge News”*

### **Continue Promoting Elksdom With Enthusiasm**

It is hard to believe that July is here already. A year ago, Helen and I embarked on an incredible journey in representing all of you as your Grand Exalted Ruler and First Lady. I can honestly say that this was something that we never envisioned, but we're so very glad to have been given this tremendous opportunity.

The commitment and care that we witnessed in each Lodge in each state throughout our travels was truly remarkable. Each of you has been a source of inspiration to your Lodge and your community through your involvement with the programs of our great Order. We saw you warmly and heartily *“Promoting Elksdom with Enthusiasm.”* Every state promoted our program. We developed a renewed sense of pride in each and every state.



**Message from  
the Grand  
Exalted Ruler  
BRUCE A.  
HIDLEY**

We saw Members working together; smiles on the children; the fruits and rewards of hard work of our youth as they received a scholarship; a proud thank you from our veterans; and an utmost sense of patriotism and loyalty to our nation's flag. We cannot express our gratitude for your fine work and continued growth to your Lodge and to our Order.

It was enlightening to meet new Members and friends as well as renew

time with old friends. Please continue to ask that relative or friend to join you in becoming a Member of this great Order. It was fantastic to spend time at state conventions, youth camps, Major Project events, veterans' ceremonies, flag celebrations, and much, much more. The Elks we met reminded us that we indeed have a huge family out there.

Helen and I promise to continue to serve you as we move forward into this next Elks year and for many more. We will continue in *“Promoting Elksdom with Enthusiasm”* as we know that you will too. We absolutely look forward to serving this organization and the people who we love and enjoy: You, the Elks!

Please see GER, Page 2



### **GER** From Page 1

We look forward to this convention in Minneapolis. It will be a fun and exciting time. Together we can, we do, and we will continue to make a difference in our Lodges and in our communities.

God bless all of you, God bless our troops, past and present, and most of all, **God bless America.**