



Tallahassee Elks Lodge Hosts Gretchen Everhart School Prom

MTallahassee, FL / [PRBuzz](#) / May 27, 2011 - - The Tallahassee Elks Lodge hosted the Gretchen Everhart School (GES) Prom Friday and Saturday nights. Friday's Prom was open to all GES students age 16 and older and GES alumni 30 and under. The students with intellectual disabilities look forward to the event all year.

The "Biker Bash" theme was complete with a motorcycles and riders at the entrance (courtesy of a student's father), bicycle balloons at every table and a Harley-Davidson motorcycle as the backdrop for photos (courtesy of Tallahassee Harley Davidson).

Jane Floyd Bullen, principal of GES, stated, "It means so much to the students to be part of such an important high school ritual. They get a chance to get dressed up, be with their friends and have a wonderful time at prom like every other high-schooler."

Bullen continued, "There was a marked change in the students when they walked through the door, sporting a corsage or boutonniere and dressed in their finest. You can tell they feel really good about themselves, and it is just really special to them."

The Tallahassee Elks Lodge provided the ballroom, servers, food and drinks.

The Tallahassee Junior League provided GES girls with donated prom dresses and a spa day at the Green Peridot Salon and Color Me Beautiful, and GES boys with tuxedos donated by Sacino's Formal Wear and a pizza party. They also served the food and drinks and danced with the students.

Greg Tish donated DJ services, Caroline Ferguson Photography took classic prom portraits of the students, Country Dollar donated studded biker bracelets for prom favors.

"A lot of the kids don't get to go to a party," stated Fran Preston, Junior League member and GES instructor. She continued, "I sent a cab to get three people who otherwise wouldn't have made it. A lot of these kids don't get to party like this, or have a nice meal and decorations."

Preston also noted a change in the way students behave at prom. She smiled as she watched them dancing and laughing on the floor.

Michael Fugler, FSEA State Vice Chairman of P & PR stated, "The Florida State Elks congratulates Tallahassee Elks Lodge #937 on carrying out one of the primary goals of The Florida State Elks, to have vision with action to bring joy and meaning to those in our local community in need because it all depends on you."

Mr. Fugler further stated "The Elks are The Local Solution. Elks Care, Elks Share and we want each of our local communities to hear about us and join us whether you want to pay it forward or give back.

The Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks Mission statement: To inculcate the principles of Charity, Justice, Brotherly Love and Fidelity; to recognize a belief in God; to promote the welfare and enhance the happiness of its Members; to quicken the spirit of American patriotism; to cultivate good fellowship; to perpetuate itself as a fraternal organization, and to provide for its government, the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks of the United States of America will serve the people and communities through benevolent programs, demonstrating that Elks Care and Elks Share.

The Elks National Foundation, established in 1928, has distributed over \$3 billion in cash, goods and services to the nations youth, its veterans, the disadvantaged and handicapped and in support of patriotic and civic programs. The Elks National Foundation mission is "helping Elks build stronger communities." We do this by providing tomorrow's leaders, our youth, with a healthy beginning, by providing more scholarships than any organization besides the U.S. Government.

The Florida State Elks support its two charities, the Florida Elks Youth Camp and the Florida Children's Therapy Services. The Florida Elks Youth Camp is located on 385 acres of rolling hills, forests, lakes and open space in Marion County, Florida. The camp has a ratio of one counselor and one counselor in training for every seven campers and is accredited by The American Camping Association as a safe camping environment for children.

The Florida Elks Children Therapy Services provides physical therapy and occupational therapy to Florida children with 20 mobile units consisting of both Physical and Occupation Therapists. They treat children all over the state of Florida who do not have easy access to therapy as a result of financial consideration without regard to the ability to pay for such services.

Michael Fugler, Investment Banker, Attorney at Law www.michaelfugler.com

Florida State Elks Association, Vice Chairman, Publicity & Public Relations 2011/2012

Mr. Fugler has been a member of the Tallahassee Elks Lodge #937 since 2006 where he has been extremely active behind the scenes supporting Lodge leadership and Lodge Committees and has spent a tremendous amount of time consulting with and advising members of the Lodge and volunteering at the Lodge, District and State levels.

Mr. Fugler was FSEA North District Co-Chairman, Publicity & Public Relations and FSEA Vice Chairman Publicity & Public Relations for 2010/2011.



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