



Deployed Military and Veterans Honored at Tallahassee Elks Lodge #937 Memorial Day Service

Tallahassee, Florida (PRBuzz) June 10, 2010 -- The Tallahassee Elks Lodge hosted a Memorial Day event at their Lodge honoring deployed military and veterans. During the service, under the direction of Lou Langnehs, an emotional and heart-warming video from four Tallahassee Lodge #937 Elks who are currently deployed in the Middle East was played and the POW/MIA Table was re-dedicated. The traditional memorial flag ceremony was performed by a local Tallahassee Boy Scout Troup, and the event had over fifty veterans in attendance together with many Lodge members and families of the deployed Elks.

"Remembering our courageous veterans at Tallahassee Elks Lodge on Memorial Day was one of my memorable days and I'll keep this day close to my heart for a long time," said Lou Langnehs. "As a former career sailor and combat veteran, I will always be grateful to have had the opportunity to serve my country. It was truly an honor and a privilege to defend our nation's principles of freedom and liberty, and acknowledge those who 'gave it all' and their families who sacrificed so much for America."

The members of the Lodge were very excited to receive news from their U.S. Army deployed Elks, 1SG Robert Ponder, SSG Bill Yates, SSG Tim Dolan, and SPC John McDonald. Also deployed is SPC Troy Tabanelli, son of Elk Paul & Marilyn Tabanelli. The video can be viewed at <http://www.tallahassee.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=20105310313>.

Florida State Elks Association, North District Publicity & PR Co-Chair, Michael Fugler, photographed the event and stated, "This is the first official Elks presentation of Memorial Day that I have attended and I was moved emotionally with the simplicity yet passion of the ceremony." He continued, "With all the conflict in the world today and the reality that there are those who seek to destroy us and our democracy, it was easy and clear from this ceremony to see what a debt of gratitude we owe to our servicemen and women that protect our lives and our freedoms. I am proud that our organization takes the time and devotes the energy and resources to deliver this message to our community and asked that when you read this you stop and thank God for our military and say a prayer for their safe return home." Photographs from the event can be seen at Facebook: Florida Elks North District.

Also during the service, the Lodge's POW/MIA Table was re-dedicated with a presentation and reading by Ron Brown. The Table is to honor our prisoners of war and those still missing in action. The Table's small size, white covering, sparse settings and empty chair symbolically remind us of the men and women who sacrificed their liberty, and in some cases their lives, for our country. The Table is intentionally small to emphasize the soldier's lonely battle and/or prisoner of war's vulnerability in captivity and round because a circle implies eternity and/or an undying concern for missing soldiers and their fates. The Table is covered in a simple white cloth symbolic of the pure heart with which soldiers serve their country and on the Table is one inverted drinking glass and a white bread plate that holds a slice of lemon and grains of salt, representing the meal that captive soldiers will not receive, their bitter fates and the tears and despair of the loved ones who await their return. There is a white candle representing peace, a small vase with a red ribbon and a red rose symbolizing missing soldiers' lives or for the hope that someday all missing soldiers will come home or the soldiers' loved ones who continue to wait for their return home. Whether one chair or six (five represent missing men and women from each branch of the service and the sixth, missing civilians), the chairs are always left empty, signifying the absence of the missing men and women the Table has been erected to commemorate. For more information, see A Small, White Table in the May issue of The Elks Magazine, elks.org/elksmagazine/issue.cfm?IssueID=88-10.

Florida State Elks Association www.flelks.org

The Florida State Elks support its two charities, the Florida Elks Youth Camp and the Florida Elks 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. Each therapist sees an average of fifteen patients per week.

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.

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.

Michael Fugler www.michaelfugler.com

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.

Carl Ledig

Carl Ledig is the Florida State Elks Association, North District, Vice President. He has been a member of the Tallahassee Elks Lodge #937 since 2001 and has held the following offices: Inner Guard, Chaplain, Loyal Knight, Leading Knight, ER. Mr. Ledig won Lodge Officer of the Year twice, Lodge Elk of the Year and the Jolly Cork Award as Loyal Knight. He has been State Inter Lodge Visitation Vice Chairman, State Government Relations Chairman, State Ritual Vice Chairman and Chairman.

Contact:

Michael Fugler
North District Co-Chair Publicity & Public Relations
Florida State Elks Association
www.michaelfugler.com
917.834.7250
mrfugler@aol.com

Carl Ledig
North District Vice President
Florida State Elks Association
850.212.7397
greygramps@comcast.net

Florida State Elks Association
www.flelks.org
352.669.2241
fsea@mpinet.net