



Tallahassee Elks Lodge #937 Prepares for Annual Flag Day Ceremony, June 13, 2010

Tallahassee, FL (PRBuzz) June 14, 2010 -- The Tallahassee Elks Lodge #937 prepares for its annual Flag Day Ceremony on June 13, 2010 at 4:00 PM. The ceremony will kick off in the Lodge room with local girl scouts, boy scouts and the Army Honor Guard. Upon completion of the ceremony, will be the official flag lowering for presentation to PER (past President) Jan Thorburn and raising the flag of current ER (President) Tracey Austin. Immediately following the flag changing, there will be a reception in the Dining Room.

Grand Exalted Ruler (National President) James L. Nicholson said, "Flag Day is June 14, which is a very important day indeed for the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks. In our lodges, our country's flag stands close to our altar, and it is close to our hearts as patriotic Americans. We honor the American flag because it represents the principles of freedom and human dignity. We fly the flag in recognition of those who fought to defend these principles."

Flag Day originated with the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks (BPOS), an active patriotic organization. In 1898, a resolution to be forwarded to the President of the United States was proposed by the Past Grand Exalted Ruler (National President), Ned Hay.

"Whereas, the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks, being an American institution, and the country today is unhappily engaged in war with a foreign power, be it "Resolved: That the Grand Lodge...tenders to the President of the United States its sympathy in these trying moments and its hearty interest in his every act pertaining to the welfare of the country, assuring him of loyalty and devotion to the Flag and all it symbolizes..."

Eulogies to the flag became a part of Elks ritual. The Elks were the first and only order in the United States to make the observance of Flag Day mandatory. The Flag Day Service was and is colorful, instructive and inspiring. Elks began to hold it publicly throughout the nation. Many outside authorities feel that no other group has done more to promote a proper knowledge and respect for the flag. Elks' influence, in fact, was powerful in getting attention for Flag Day, both in the Congress and across the country.

"In today's unstable political environment with constant reminders of global conflict and daily media viewing of dysfunctional political parties failure to interact for the benefit of the people they represent, it is important that a stable organization like the Elks takes a

stand and demonstrates to our community, especially the youth in the community, that we have traditions, like Flag Day, that are worthy of celebrating to remind us that we live in a free country and remember that every time we see our Flag we should realize that it is representative of those who fought to give us the freedom we enjoy each day," said Michael Fugler, Co-Chair of the North District P&PR Committee.

The Elks of Tallahassee Elks Lodge #937 extend an open invitation to all in the Tallahassee community to join us on June 13, 2010 at 4:00 PM at the Tallahassee Elks Lodge located at 276 North Magnolia Drive, Tallahassee, FL, for this beautiful and educational tribute to the symbol of our Nation.

Tallahassee Elks Lodge #937 www.tallahasseeelks.org

The Tallahassee Elks Lodge #937 takes the principles of the National BPOE of Charity, Justice, Brotherly Love and Fidelity together with the recognition of a belief in God, the promotion of the welfare and happiness of its Members, the encouragement of the spirit of American patriotism, cultivating good fellowship and utilizing it's structure as a fraternal organization to serve its local government, the people and community of Tallahassee, demonstrating that Elks Care and Elks Share.

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.

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