



Tallahassee Elks Lodge #937 Reports Successful Army of Hope Picnic Fundraiser

Tallahassee, FL (PRBuzz) June 14, 2010 -- The Tallahassee Elks Lodge #937 reported a successful Army of Hope Picnic fundraiser, which benefits families of active duty, deployed, disabled or deceased military personnel. The Girl Scouts, Leon County Sheriff's Department, Tallahassee Fire Department, Army National Guard, Rickard's High School Color Guard and the Red Cross supported the event.

Carl Ledig, PER, VP ND who served as Master of Ceremony commented, "For many families of military personnel just knowing that we exist, that we care and that they can call is comforting. The Elks are so much more. Elks provide the smallest of benefits, such as a dinner or meal at our Lodge, phone cards, lawn mowing and transportation to more complicated needs, such as monetary support for specific identifiable needs. We will continue to support these families through our Army of Hope program."

In February, 2003, the Elks National Veterans Service Commission announced a program of mobilizing an "Army of Hope" to assist the families of Military Reservists and the National Guard who have been called to active duty during this time of crisis.

The response from our members and non-Elks has been overwhelming. Our elected government officials at the local, state and national levels are greatly impressed, and have responded favorably to our initiative.

The "Army of Hope" has many facets and literally any activity that supports our troops and their family falls under this vital program. Lodges are partnering with local and state organizations to adopt units and families to help them through these trying times and each year the program and support continues to grow.

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 is Co-Chair of the Publicity & Public Relations Committee for the North District of the Florida State Elks Association. He 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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