

BIOGRAPHY OF
CHARLES VALENTINE “VAL” BATES

GRAND EXALTED RULER

1998-1999

Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks of the U.S.A.

Charles Valentine Bates was born in Leesburg, Florida on September 24, 1942. He attended public schools in Ocala, Florida and Live Oak, Florida and graduated from Suwannee High School in 1960. He attended the University of Florida and received a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Political Science and a Regular Commission in the United States Air Force in 1964. After receiving communications intelligence training, he was assigned to the National Security Agency as a communications Intelligence Officer serving in Texas, Okinawa and at Strategic Air Command Headquarters in Omaha, Nebraska. While serving in Okinawa, he was awarded the Joint Services Commendation Medal for meritorious service during the Vietnam War.

Val left the Air Force in 1968 to return to the University of Florida Law School and graduated with a Juris Doctor degree in 1970. He joined the Order in 1974, and was elected Exalted Ruler of Gainesville Lodge No. 990 in 1976. He served for many years as the Lodge Presiding Justice; served the Lodge on numerous committees; was instrumental in the construction of the new Lodge facility; and was elected Elk of the Year in 1980 and Honorary Life Member in 1994.

Val served the Florida State Elks Association for 17 years on the Judiciary Committee, serving as its Chairman for eight years, and has served as legal advisor for the Harry Anna Trust Fund for 10 years. He served as Vice President of the Northeast District in 1988, Vice President at Large in 1992 and State President in 1993-1994. He was Chairman of the Past Presidents' Advisory Council in 1996.

On the Grand Lodge level, Val served as District Deputy Grand Exalted Ruler for the Florida Northeast District in 1990-1991. In 1991, he was appointed to the Grand Lodge Judiciary Committee and served until 1994 when he was elected to the Board of Grand Trustees. He served the Board as Secretary, Building Applications/East Member, Home Member and Chairman.

As a practicing attorney for 27 years, Val served his state as a member of the Governor's Council on Criminal Justice and his community as Chairman of the Santa Fe Work Release Center Advisory Committee. He is a recognized expert in the field of commercial law litigation and has lectured on the subject and written a published text for Continuing Legal Education lecture series, and is a Florida Supreme Court Certified Mediator. He is admitted to practice before all Florida Courts as well as the United States Supreme Court and the United States Court of Claims. He is a Mason and holds membership in the York Rite and the Scottish Rite, as well as Morocco Shrine Temple.

Val and his wife, the former Claudia Prince MacKenzie, are members of the McIntosh Presbyterian Church where he is an Elder and Chairman of the Board of Trustees. Both of the Grand Exalted Ruler's sons, Jeffrey and Jay, are Elks as is his daughter, Lisa. Lisa is a recent law school graduate and has one son, Michael. Son Jeffrey is a physician and is married to Leila, and they have two children: Chad and Maggie; son Jay is in the health insurance industry while pursuing a Master's Degree in Hospital and Health Care Administration.