



History of the
Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks
Livonia Lodge No. 2246



On May 18, 1961, a letter was sent from Spencer E. Puthoff, Elk Member, Plymouth Lodge #1530, to the Chairman, New Lodge Committee, Michigan Elks Association, requesting consideration of a new Livonia Lodge. In June 1961, permission was granted by Past Grand Exalted Ruler, Edward J. McCormick to proceed with formation of a Lodge in Livonia, Michigan.

On August 21, 1961 a letter was sent to approximately 330 local residents, who were already members of various Elk lodges throughout the area, to discuss forming a new Elks Lodge in Livonia. After several meetings, a request for a B.P.O. Elks Charter was submitted and granted by the Grand Lodge of the Order.

On Sunday, December 10, 1961 the new Livonia Elks Lodge No. 2246 was instituted with 153 charter members (only nine remain as Livonia Lodge members today). The ceremony was initiated by Officers of Plymouth Lodge No. 1780 at the Wayne-Ford Civic League Hall, 1661 North Wayne Road just south of Ford Road.

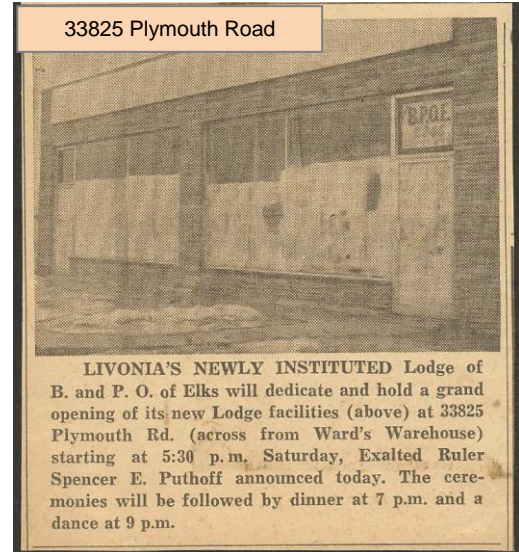


Livonia Elks 1st Class, December 10, 1961

Our first official lodge meeting was held on January 3, 1962 at Danny's Suburban Chop House, 30325 Six Mile Road, west of Middlebelt (later known as Vargo's). A regular meeting schedule was established for the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of the month. By-Laws were also recommended to the members and accepted soon thereafter.

The task of finding a more suitable meeting place was of utmost importance and, in February 1962, we re-located to 33825 Plymouth Road, west of Farmington Road. A formal Dedication and Grand Opening to celebrate our new facilities was held on March 17, 1962.

Our first bar was a wood board supported by beer cases (later, a permanent bar was built.) Many dinner dances were held, however, all the food was cooked in electric roasters by the women of our Lodge because we did not have a kitchen.



33825 Plymouth Road

LIVONIA'S NEWLY INSTITUTED Lodge of E. and P. O. of Elks will dedicate and hold a grand opening of its new Lodge facilities (above) at 33825 Plymouth Rd. (across from Ward's Warehouse) starting at 5:30 p.m. Saturday, Exalted Ruler Spencer E. Puthoff announced today. The ceremonies will be followed by dinner at 7 p.m. and a dance at 9 p.m.

The Fawns Club began in October 1962

The initiation of 73 charter members of The Fawns Club and the first installation of officers of the newly formed club was held on October 6, 1962. Over the years, the Fawns were instrumental in various fundraising events. They often held rummage and bake sales, craft shows, ran a Country Store, and planned many dances and lodge activities.



Livonia Elks Hall was taken over by the ladies on Saturday night, Oct. 6, with the full permission of the local Elks. The occasion was the initiation of 73 charter members of The Fawns and the first installation of officers of the newly formed club. The Fawns are sponsored by The Vivians Club of Plymouth. A charming candle-light ceremony was conducted by officers of that club. Members were welcomed by Spence Puthoff, Exalted Ruler of Elks Lodge No. 2246 of Livonia. Newly installed officers are: Betty Puthoff, President; Agnes Yates, Vice Presi-

dent; Myrna Beade, Recording Secretary; Betty Alexander, Corresponding Secretary; Mary Bullock, Treasurer; Betty Greeley, Chaplain and Billy Hargreaves, Sergeant-at-arms. Guests included Mr. Raymond Krieth, Past District Deputy; Mrs. Margaret Smith, Past President and Mrs. Venith Dauderman, Immediate Past President, all from Plymouth Lodge No. 1780. A buffet dinner, prepared by a joint committee of members of the two lodges was served, followed by an evening of dancing. All wives of Elks are eligible for membership in The Fawns.

In June 1964, Livonia Elks issued its first "official" monthly publication, titled "Old Bill." This publication placed second in the National Elks Bulletin Contest for 1965-66.

Livonia Elks Earn Second In Nation

Jack R. Murphy, Exalted Ruler of Livonia Elks Lodge No. 2246, has announced receipt of official notice from Grand Lodge Activities Chairman James A. Gunn that "OLD BILL", official monthly publication of the Livonia Elks Lodge, has placed SECOND in the National Elks Bulletin Contest for 1965-1966.



Singled out for special praise and the gratitude of his lodge brothers was H. Dow Tunis, 29843 Lori, Livonia. According to Murphy, "Mr. Tunis, who was Exalted Ruler of Livonia during 1964-1965, was instrumental in the formation of the publication just two years ago. He won the lodge contest for naming the bulletin and contributed a majority of the articles and pictures published during the first year." In June 1965, Tunis succeeded Richard Baade as Editor of "OLD BILL".

Murphy stated that, "The award is a great honor for Livonia and a singular tribute to Tunis. As a one-man committee with a borrowed camera, a beat-up typewriter, a sense of humor and originality, he contributed the maximum effort which was necessary to place Livonia in the national rankings."

The name "Old Bill" was taken from a 97-year-old tradition that is associated with Elkdom. Lodges throughout the country used the name "Bill" to welcome visiting brothers. Every lodge prided itself on extending its hospitality and greetings to a brother from another Elk Lodge.

The publication started as four pages of pictures and social event recaps. Due primarily to Tunis' contributions the bulletin soon reached eight pages and was climaxed with a 28-page edition last December, which included not only pictures and recaps but feature articles, editorials and local interest news items. It is mailed free of charge to 400 Livonia Elks. Due to the many requests received from all over the state, the current mailing list has swelled to over 500 copies each month.

The name "OLD BILL" was taken from the 97-year-old tradition that is associated with Elkdom. Over 2,000 lodges throughout the country use the name "Bill" to welcome visiting brothers. Every lodge prides itself on extending its hospitality and greetings to a brother from another Elks Lodge. Thus the name "OLD BILL", although not original, is unique as the banner on a lodge publication.

Livonia Lodge will be presented with a commemoration plaque at the Grand Lodge Convention in Dallas in July.

Note: The monthly publication was renamed "The Bugle Call" in September 1966.

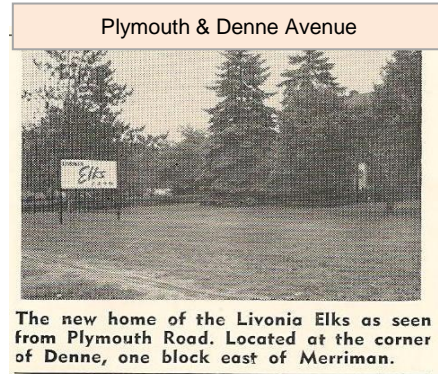
As our membership increased and the Lodge prospered, it became apparent that larger and more permanent quarters were needed.

An ideal location was found at the corner of Plymouth Road and Denne Avenue with plenty of room for expansion.

Denne Land Company, Inc. was formed in 1965 and debentures were sold to the members in order to buy the property which consisted of approximately 3.5 acres.

History of Denne Land Company, Inc.

The following information was published by the Board of Directors of Denne Land Company in November 1971 in order to inform the members of the Livonia Elks Lodge about the purpose of the Company.



HISTORY OF DENNE LAND COMPANY, INC.

Denne Land Company, Inc., was originally formed in 1965 by the Building Committee of the Livonia Elks Lodge #2246. Denne Land Company is a non-profit corporation under the laws of the State of Michigan and is restricted, by its charter, to activities that are concerned with providing land and building facilities for the Livonia Elks Lodge.

The need for this "extra" corporation (the Livonia Elks Lodge is also a non-profit corporation) is associated with the Elks Grand Lodge Statutes which prohibit any subordinate Lodge from directly investing in land or building unless they have funds equivalent to 60% of the total purchase price. Although the Grand Lodge statute was adopted during the Depression of the 30's, when many Lodges went bankrupt, it still remains in force today. At the time Denne Land Company was formed, the Livonia Elks Lodge was about four years old and was interested in purchasing land for development of the Lodge. With no substantial amount of cash on hand, formation of Denne Land Company enabled us to sell a sufficient quantity of debentures so as to raise the necessary down payment on a land contract for the purchase of the three acres of property we now own.

We moved into the "old house" in the spring of 1966 and it became our Lodge building. It was obvious, of course, that more facilities were needed, so a building program was put into planning. The initial plan recognized that we needed as much space as we could obtain, within a limited availability of funds. We began construction of a new building (now our Lodge Room, kitchen and washroom facilities) in 1967, and occupied the building for the first time in April, 1968. The financing for this effort was, once more, acquired through the sale of debentures to members and the Lodge itself and also from the five year contractor debentures which were issued to some of the contractors who erected the building. The contractor debentures were all paid off before they reached three years of age.

When our so called "new building" was erected in 1967-68, a patio, measuring 30' by 50', was poured immediately to the east of the building. With future expansion in mind, footings (comparable to the actual building) were also poured. In 1970, we recognized that our present building had been outgrown, and initiated

the program of closing in the patio for use as a larger lounge. Also, we occupied the old house on an appeal basis (as it does not conform to Livonia's commercial building code) which expires in August of 1972 and it may be necessary to demolish the house at that time. The construction costs of this latest effort were paid, principally, through Denne Land Company's operating revenues, although additional purchases of debentures by members also helped greatly.

The latest addition to our building, the lounge we presently occupy, was completed in September, 1971. It represents the latest part of our building, development program.

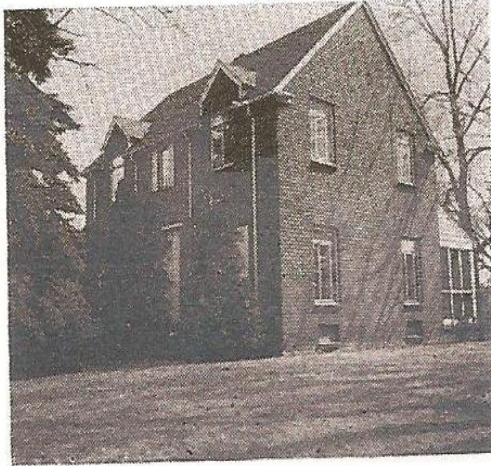
This is a summary of the history of Denne Land Company, Inc. from its inception to date.

* * *



In June 1966, Livonia Elks No. 2246 moved to their new address at 31117 Plymouth Road. The "old house" on the property served as our Lodge, complete with an apple orchard in the back (currently our parking lot). The former owner of the orchard sold apples out of a stand on Plymouth Road. The house was eventually renovated and was called the "Red Carpet Lounge."

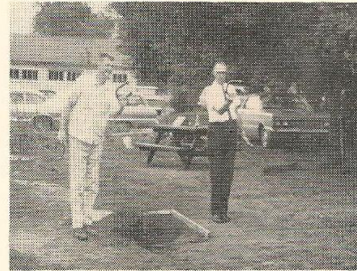
Following are various photographs from first edition of "The Bugle Call," September 1966, Volume 1 No. 1



Temporary home of the Livonia Elks. This building at 31117 Plymouth Road is serving as our interim location pending the construction of a new building at the same location. Though somewhat restrictive in indoor facilities the Elks and Fawns are finding the temporary quarters comfortable. It is nice to have the privacy of our own building, on our own land . . . and to know that in the not too distant future we will have a much better building with all the facilities we need. If you haven't visited our new location, stop by soon.



The afternoons are never lonely in the Lounge. If you've got a few minutes and you're in the area . . . drop by and say "hello".



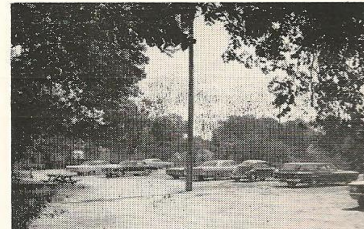
Popular in the late afternoons and early evenings is the horseshoe court. Almost any day you can find a spirited match from 4 p.m. on.



Our picnic grove situated among the fruit trees. A popular spot on Sunday afternoons and the site of our Annual Picnic on September 18th.

How About That New Parking Lot!

Yes sir, it's just great. The new parking lot, that is. Lots of room, easy parking, no mud, no sweat. And,



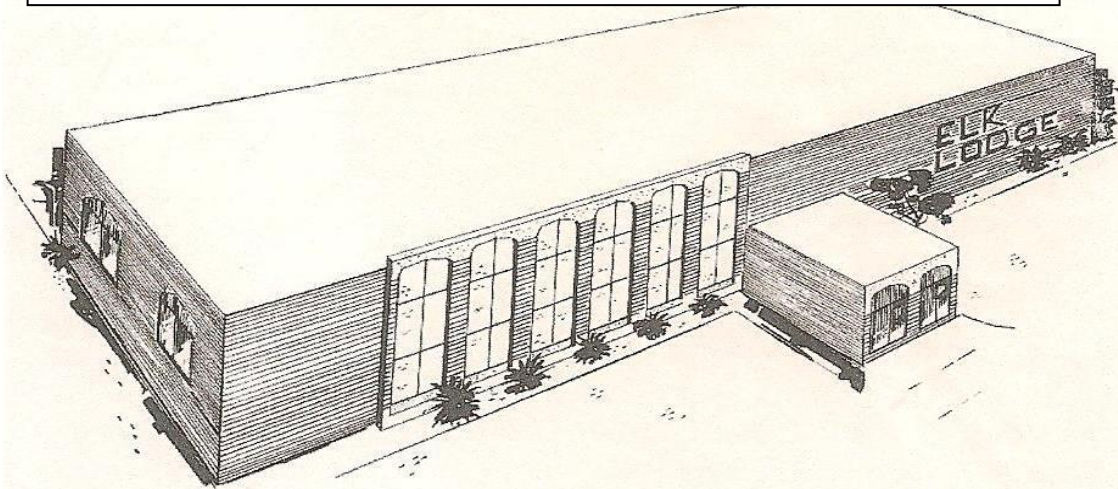
Our New Parking Lot.

it's lighted! Entrances are off Plymouth Road and off Denne Road. Just great!

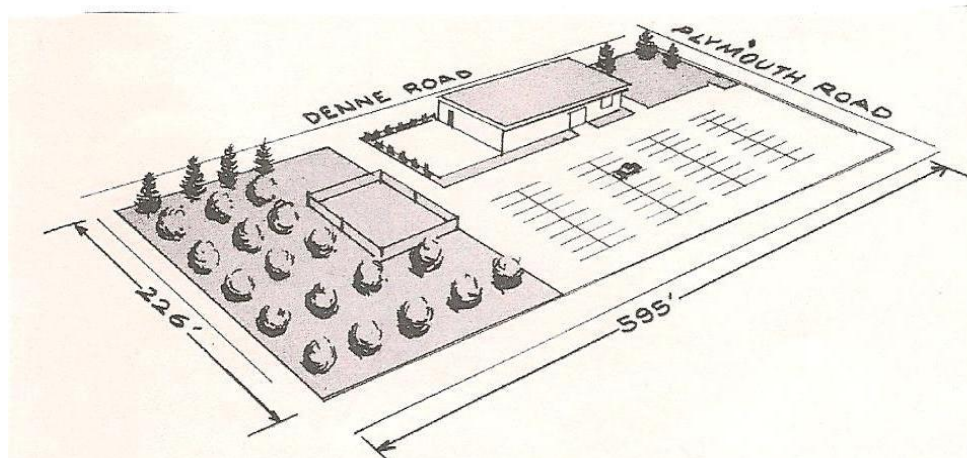
In August 1966, members approved the hiring of architect William Lindhout to design a new Lodge building. Denne Land Company sold debentures in various values from \$100 and up, to provide funding for the construction. After the first two structures were completed (Lodge Room and Bar/Lounge), the old Lodge house was torn down.

The new building was to include a large Lodge room and hall with kitchen facilities, an attractive bar and lounge, Officer, Committee, and Fawn meeting rooms, office for the Secretary, a card room, coat room, ample storage, and be completely air conditioned. Also included in the plans were a covered entranceway and parking lot to accommodate 60 cars, with expansion room for an additional 140 cars. In addition, outdoor facilities were to include a barbeque pit, horse shoe courts, shuffleboard, large picnic area, patio off the south end of building and children's play area.

(Architect William Lindhout's building design below was not carried out.)



The artist rendering of the exterior elevation of the new building illustrates the attractive design that will be incorporated into the construction of our new Elk Lodge. Note the enclosed entranceway providing an attractive admission to the building.



This "birdseye view" shows the location of the new building on the property. Also visible are the large parking area, the picnic grove, the children's play area and the patio.

In October 1967, Livonia City Officials joined officers of Livonia Elks in a ground breaking ceremony for our new Lodge building. One addition after another was built on the new building and many changes have been made over the years to facilitate our needs.

The Livonia Observer, Wednesday, October 11, 1967, Vol. 28 No. 58



LIVONIA CITY OFFICIALS join officers of Livonia Elks Lodge in ground breaking for the new \$175,000 temple at 31117 Plymouth Road. Mayor Harvey Moelke handles the first shovel of dirt before Elks' leaders. The group includes: (Front from left) Leading Knight William Yates, District Deputy Grand Exalted Ruler Ralph Soper, Exalted Ruler Bob Lyons, Mayor Moelke, Edward Pinardi and Council President Peter Ventura; (back from left) Robert Whall, Richard Baade, Howard White and Jack Murphy.

Elks Break Ground For New Building

The Livonia Elks Lodge is going to spend \$175,000 to build a better clubhouse.

Ground was broken Saturday on the club's site at 31117 Plymouth Road, with quite a delegation of present and past officers participating.

Turning the earth in the usual kickoff manner was Mayor Harvey W. Moelke. Lending a hand was Robert J. Lyons, exalted ruler, and Edward F. Pinardi, chairman of the Denne Land Co.

With a group of club members stood Ralph W. Soper, district deputy grand exalted ruler; James E. Harris, south east district vice president; past exalted rulers Spencer E. Puthoff, H. Dow Tunis, Jack Murphy and Richard Baade, and Board member Howard White.

FIRST PHASE of the expansion is an addition to the two story house that became the Elks home two years ago. The next phase will be the remodeling of the present structure, to turn it into a lounge, and the building of an addition at the rear.

The lodge, organized here in 1961 with 153 members, has initiated about 500 new members since, Tunis said.

The primary goals of the order are charity, justice, brotherly love and fidelity. Livonia Lodge has consistently been in the top 10 among the 71 Michigan lodges, in donations to such charitable pro-

jects as the Michigan Major Project which aids crippled children and the Elks National Foundation which aids in medical research and academic achievement.

Livonia placed second in the nation in the lodge bulletin contest in 1966 and third in the district ritual contest. Its recreation league team won the city championship in 1966 and placed second in the state.

"The basic goal of the lodge is to help others--and have fun doing it," Tunis said.

The Order of Elks is celebrating its centennial this year with the motto "A Proud Past - A Challenging Future".

The "old house" after the first phase of the building expansion project.



On Sunday, November 10, 1968, Livonia Elks held a dedication ceremony to unveil a new memorial plaque honoring Livonia servicemen killed in the Korean and Vietnam conflicts. The money for the plaque was raised by placing canisters in business establishments throughout the City of Livonia.

Livonia Observer, November 13, 1968



Following is an excerpt from a letter by H. Dow Tunis, District Vice President, Michigan Elks Association to the Elks Magazine Publicity Chairman:

"The brothers of the Lodge under the Chairmanship of Jim Jacobs, Chairman, Americanism Committee, conducted an extremely moving ceremony in front of their new building before approximately 190 people. Traffic literally stopped on Plymouth Road as the program moved from hoisting the new flag by the VFW Color Guard, to the unveiling of the memorial, to a three round volley and taps. Many cars pulled over to the side of the highway to watch and if we could count those who slowed down to see the ceremony our attendance probably would have surpassed four hundred. This was an event in the true image of our Order and one that made you very proud to be an Elk."

December 3, 2011Our 50th Anniversary

Livonia Elks Lodge is celebrated its 50th Anniversary with a special event on December 3, 2011. Our lodge is considered to be one of the finest lodges in the area and continues to participate in all the charitable works of Elkdom. Throughout our 50 years of existence, many members and their spouses have willingly provided countless hours of their time and energy by volunteering to support our lodge activities and functions and have provided several generous donations that made our lodge a special place we all can be proud of today.

Although our membership has declined significantly over the past several years, and we struggle to make ends meet during the current economic downturn, we are hopeful and determined to prosper.

* * * * *

Historical articles and photographs regarding the history of The Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks of the United States of America are available at <http://www.elkshistory.org/>. Following is an article from the website.

How the Elks Began

The moving spirit for the Elks was an Englishman named Charles Algernon Sidney Vivian. Born October 22, 1842, this son of a clergyman was a successful comic singer and dancer in the music halls of London. In November 1867, Vivian arrived in New York City to try his fortune.



Other actors and entertainers soon gravitated toward his magnetic personality. With everything closed on Sunday because of New York City Blue Laws, a group of theatrical people began meeting for their own amusement under Vivian's leadership. A loose organization was formed to make sure the larder was well-stocked for these gatherings. They called themselves the Jolly Corks, a name derived from a trick introduced by Vivian in which the uninitiated purchased a round of refreshments.

When one of their members died shortly before Christmas in 1867, leaving his wife and children destitute, the Jolly Corks decided that in addition to good fellowship, they needed a more enduring organization to serve those in need.

On February 16, 1868, they established the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks and elected Vivian to head it. Its social activities and benefit performances increased the popularity of the new Order. Membership grew rapidly. Elks traveling to other cities spread the word of the Brotherhood of Elks. Soon there were requests for Elks Lodges in cities other than New York. In response to these appeals, the Elks asked the New York State legislature for a charter authorizing the establishment of a Grand Lodge with the power to establish

How the Elks Began (continued)

local Lodges anywhere in the United States. When the Grand Lodge Charter was issued, the founders then received the first local charter as New York Lodge No. 1 on March 10, 1871.



Dissension soon erupted. Legitimate actors headed by George F. McDonald wanted to restrict membership to the theatrical profession. This view was opposed by Vivian and his friends. Taking advantage of Vivian's absence due to an out-of-town engagement, the McDonald group summarily expelled Vivian and several of his closest friends. Years later the Order rectified this illegal act, but it gave rise to a controversy whether Vivian was actually the founder of the Order. In 1897, a formal inquiry firmly established his right to this honored title.

Vivian continued, after his expulsion from the Order, to enchant audiences across the country. He starred with some of the largest road companies of the time. Together with his actress wife, the former Imogene Holbrook, Vivian set up a repertoire theater in Leadville, Colorado. Shortly thereafter he died of pneumonia on March 20, 1880. In 1889, the Elks moved his body from Leadville, Colorado, to Mt. Hope Cemetery, Boston, Massachusetts. Mrs. Vivian received a stipend from the Order her husband founded until her death in 1931.

The legacy of Charles Vivian continues to this day. In addition to aiding members in distress, the Elks raise money for children with disabilities, college scholarships, youth projects and recreational programs for patients in veteran's hospitals.

On June 14, 1907 the Order held a Flag Day observance. This tradition later was declared a national holiday by President Harry S. Truman.

During World War I, the Elks funded and equipped the first two field hospitals in France and built a 72-room community house in Camp Sherman, Ohio, and a 700-bed rehabilitation hospital in Boston, which they turned over to the War Department. They also raised money for the Salvation Army's frontline canteens.

Their loans to 40,000 returning veterans for college, rehabilitation and vocational education were the precursor of the GI Bill.

When World War II broke out, the Elks were the only civilian organization asked to help recruit construction workers for the military, a task that was completed three months ahead of schedule. The Elks also contributed more than half a million books to the Merchant Marines so that their men would have reading material on board ship.

How the Elks Began (continued)

The Korean War again brought out the best in the Elks. They donated more than half a million pints of blood to help wounded soldiers.

When the wounded from Vietnam needed help, the Elks responded. They provided the funds for a recreation pavilion at the Navy Hospital on Guam. The wounded at Tripler Medical Center in Hawaii were sweltering in the heat. When the Elks heard of their plight, they purchased 24 air-conditioning units so these patriots could recuperate in some degree of comfort.

When Operation Desert Storm took place, the Elks again led the support for our fighting men and women in the Persian Gulf. Subordinate Lodges undertook letter-writing campaigns to help keep up the spirits of the defenders of freedom. The Elks were also among the first to welcome them home and thank them for a job well done.

Our story is long; our work is humble; our history is proud. As long as there are those who need our help, the Elks will be there to give aid and comfort.