

# Tucson East #2532

## Lodge History



On May 10, 1975, Tucson East Elks Lodge was instituted into the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks with 346 members at Palo Verde High School. That same month, the Lodge and Club moved into rented facilities at the former Wilmot Inn. This facility served as home for Tucson East until 1977 when a group of concerned Brothers contributed \$19,000 for the down payment on the Triumphant life Foundation Church located at 7900 East Kenyon Road.

On April 7, 1977, the Lodge purchased the property from the American Baptist Churches of the Pacific Southwest and changed the address to 615 South Pantano Road. Through the dedicated work of many Brothers and the Auxiliary, the first mortgage was burned in an appropriate ceremony on September 6, 1984. With the burning of the mortgage came the first expansion program with the construction of the Lodge room. This addition was paid in full on October 24, 1987.

In 1990, after overwhelming consent of the membership, an aggressive further expansion was approved by the Grand Lodge. With strong participation by the membership in a Bond program, the funds were raised for the latest improvements; these included a new kitchen, game rooms, lounge facilities, offices and landscaping. These improvements were completed in February 1992. In 1995 the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks opened its doors to women members who now serve in every capacity. Tucson East Lodge is nonsmoking Lodge.

Tucson East actively serves veterans in hospitals, nursing homes and those who are homeless. Our youth programs include junior golf, hoop shoot, soccer shoot, drug awareness, scholarships and a dictionary program. We are partnered with Scouts from Catalina Council, Troop 739. Our Lodge among others in the state raises money and donates it to the U of A Steele Children's Research Center as part of the Arizona Elks Major project along with books, toys and blankets for sick children. We are proudly American holding a July 4<sup>th</sup> parade every year, presenting the Military flags during Memorial Day services, and participating the annual Tucson Veteran's Day parade downtown. We annually take low income and homeless children on a clothing shopping spree followed by a Pizza Party and provide over 100 food baskets during the holiday season.

In addition to providing excellent Lodge facilities for our members, the Lodge has participated in all the Grand Lodge programs over the 44 wonderful years of our existence. These programs included garnering many awards and single honors among its members and officers.

The dedication of its officers to the aims and purpose of the Benevolent Order of Elks will continue into the future.