

National Advisory Committee Male Volunteer of the Year



H. Lee Davis

Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks
VA Maryland Health Care System
Baltimore, Maryland

With a volunteer as dedicated, humble, and selfless as Lee Davis, it would be easy to let his 31 years and more than 4,000 hours of VAVS service speak for themselves. But numbers don't tell the whole story. Past Elks National President Paul Helsel says, "there is no Elk more devoted to fulfilling the long-standing Elks Pledge — "So long as there are Veterans, the Elks will never forget them" than Lee Davis."

For decades, Lee has been a rock for the Veterans at the Loch Raven VA Medical Center, arriving every month to serve its residents, rain or shine. Along with his wife Hilda and an ever-growing list of Elk volunteers, Lee plans and facilitates multiple monthly events for

Veterans throughout the VA Maryland Health Care System, providing refreshments, entertainment and ongoing friendship and support.

These events include oldies music nights, puppet shows, and birthday parties. Beyond his regular service, Lee participates in annual special events, like the National Salute to Veteran Patients, and hosts Memorial Day events at his Lodge, and at the Loch Raven VA Medical Center. Thanks to his years of experience and the substantial volunteer support he has recruited to the cause of serving our Veterans, 2019 has been Lee's best year yet. In addition to his monthly events, Lee helped with special campaigns like raising funds for TVs in Veterans' rooms and new patio furniture for those in hospice. He brought supplies and volunteers for the art show, kept the coffee cart stocked, and purchased clothing and comfort items. He brought canteen books and cash prizes for bingo, took Veterans to baseball games, and spent months planning the Elks Annual Christmas in July celebration for Veterans.

At his Lodge and in his Elks State Association, Lee welcomes new members and recruits them as volunteers. In his community, he helps raise and distribute funds through the Army of Hope, a regional initiative that provides emergency assistance to Veterans in need of anything from a food basket to a few months' rent. He mentors other VAVS Representatives and volunteers at the VA and in the Elks organization.

An Army Veteran himself, Lee's commitment to service is expansive. He visits other facilities, plans Veterans dinners at his Lodge, volunteers at an Elks youth camp, served as Elks State Veterans Chair from 1999 through 2005, and spent a year as Elks State President. In recognition of his contributions, he has been named to the Elks Camp Barrett Hall of Fame, was voted the Maryland/Delaware/DC State Association Elk of the Year in 2005 and was voted the Maryland/Delaware/DC State Association's Veteran Volunteer of the Year in 2006-07.

The outpouring of support in Lee's nomination package was extensive, but his fellow Elk, Debbie Price sums up the sentiment of all who have worked with him. She says in closing, "While I'm sure Lee would be honored to be recognized as National VAVS Volunteer of the Year, it is us — the Elks — who are honored to have someone so devoted to a cause that is of such great importance to us all."