

BIOGRAPHY OF  
**L. J. "JIM" GRILLO**  
GRAND EXALTED RULER  
**2005-2006**

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

Louis James "Jim" Grillo was born and raised in Stockton, California. Jim, a fifth-generation Stocktonian, attended Madison Elementary School, Daniel Webster Junior High School, and Amos Alonzo Stagg High School in Stockton. He graduated from California State University in Sacramento, with a degree in Criminal Justice. While in college he interned for the District Attorney's Office.

Jim was a baseball player all through high school and college, reaching the semipro level. He had aspirations of becoming a professional, until an injury ended his career. Jim then planned to enter the field of law enforcement, but at the urging of a family friend, he instead launched a successful 27-year career as a sales representative, retiring only recently.

In his youth, Jim served his community and Church, St. Stephen's Episcopal Church. He and his brother, David, were the first Acolytes ever to serve at St. Stephen's. He also worked on numerous Church committees throughout his youth and young adulthood. Ultimately, he served on the Bishop's Committee for ten years, overseeing the operations of the Church.

As a teenager, Jim worked with his grandfather, Jim Fisher, at Fisher Brothers, the family's sixth-generation house moving company. From this experience, he learned the value of a hard day's work and respect for his fellow man. He also learned the lesson to never ask anyone to do anything he would not do himself.

Currently, Jim is a member of the Bersaglieri Society, called "Campo Di Bersaglieri" in Italian, one of the oldest Italian organizations in the United States. The Society originated with a group of guards who protected the Italian royal family. Jim is a third-generation member. He attended many meetings of the Society with his late grandfather Louis (Luigi) Grillo and his late father, Dr. Italo J. Grillo. For a number of years, Jim served as "The Collector" of the Society. In September of 2004, Jim was proposed for membership in the Emblem Club by his mother, Charter Member Dorothy Fisher Grillo, and Past Supreme President Betty Parsons. Jim was initiated into Stockton Emblem Club No. 226 in October, 2004.

On February 12, 1974, Jim was proposed for Elks membership by his father, who was then State Vice-President of the Central District of the California-Hawaii Elks Association. On a visit home from college, Jim was formally initiated into Stockton, California Elks Lodge No. 218, on March 26, 1974. He served

with distinction in all the Chairs and was elected to serve as Exalted Ruler for 1987-1988.

Subsequently, in 1991, he was Chairman of the Centennial Celebration for the Stockton Lodge, a celebration which included a visit from then Grand Exalted Ruler James W. Damon. Jim also was the editor of the Lodge's 100-year Commemorative Book, and was instrumental in obtaining television coverage for the Lodge's 100 years of Elkdom on the *NBC Today Show*. Jim is an Honorary Life Member of Stockton Lodge No. 218.

Jim has been active on various California Central District Committees and has served the Grand Lodge as District Deputy Grand Exalted Ruler in 1991-1992. He served the California-Hawaii Elks Association as State Indoctrination Chairman in 1994-1995, and in 1995 was appointed to serve on the California-Hawaii Elks Major Project Board of Trustees for three years. Jim served on various committees of the Major Project Board: the Continuing Education Committee (*three years, one year as Chairman*); the State Disabled Scholarship Committee (*two years, one year as Chairman*); the Insurance & Safety Committee (*three years*); and the Hospital Grant-North (*three years, as liaison to the University of California San Francisco, Ophthalmology Department*). For one year, Jim was Secretary of the Major Project Board of Trustees. In 1998-1999, Jim was First Vice-President of the California-Hawaii Elks Association, and he was elected President of the Association for 1999-2000. Currently, he is serving as District Leader of the eleven (11) Lodges in the California Central District.

Jim was on the Grand Lodge-Lodge Activities/State Associations Committee from 2000 to 2001, and was Chairman of the All-American Lodge Contest during that time. Currently, Jim is completing four years on the Board of Grand Trustees, the general financial agent of the Order and of the Elks National Home. As a Board Member, he was responsible for Building Applications West in 2001-2002; Pension Member in 2002-2003; and Approving Member in 2003-2004. In July of 2004, Jim was elected Chairman of the Board.

Jim met Lucia Catherine Olivieri at an Elks gathering, and on December 1, 1990, they were married. Since that time, Lucia has been at his side, not only in life, but also in Elkdom. They live on the family ranch in Linden, California, where Lucia was born and raised. They are involved in overseeing the operations of the walnut and cherry orchards that were established by Lucia's father in the early 1920s.