

BIOGRAPHY OF
JOHN D. AMEN
GRAND EXALTED RULER
2014-2015

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

John D. Amen was born in Denver, Colorado; the third of three sons of Jake and Clara Amen. He was raised in Fort Collins, Colorado and attended public schools there. John was an excellent student and participated in school athletics throughout junior and senior high school. John attended Colorado State University, graduated with honors and was awarded a Bachelor of Science degree with a major field of study in General Business in 1970. During his time at CSU, John met and married the love of his life, Marcia. After undergraduate school John accepted employment in Fort Collins as a design engineer. Thereafter, John entered Law School at the University of Colorado, finishing high in his class in 1973. During his final year of Law School, John was recruited and accepted employment with Chevron Corporation. Following graduation, with a Juris Doctorate degree, John immediately sat for, and passed, the rigorous Colorado Bar exam.

After Chevron, John served in various legal and management positions with independent oil and gas exploration and production companies. With Snyder Oil Corporation of Fort Worth, Texas, John served as Vice President of a growing New York Stock Exchange company. Snyder eventually merged into Devon Energy Corp.

In 1988, John left the corporate world and joined the preeminent 17th Avenue law firm of Burns, Wall, Smith and Mueller, P.C. as Special Counsel. After a successful practice representing various oil and gas clients, John retired from the firm in 2004. Since that time John has limited his practice to a part time endeavor serving limited clients.

John and Marcia have two children, John, Jr. and Jennifer, and are further blessed with four grandchildren, Hailey, Hannah, Hope and Hillary. All reside in Colorado. John and Marcia are very proud of their children's accomplishments.

While working in the natural resources field John acquired professional experience working with both legislators and government regulators; so it was natural that John became involved in government relations with the Elks early in his Elkdom career. Serving as Vice Chairman of the Colorado Elks Association from 1997 and later as State Chairman, John led an active team of Elks that served to represent the interests of the Elks at the state and national levels.

John recognizes that all of the good works of Elkdom are carried out at the Lodge level and he has been active as a leader of Denver Lodge No. 17 in a variety of capacities. He has served Lodge 17, the "Mother Lodge of the Rockies," in all of the Lodge chairs. John's Lodge has honored his outstanding service by bestowing him the honors of "Elk of the Year" and Honorary Life Membership.

In addition to his service to Elkdom, John has served many dedicated hours to support and lead the Colorado Elks Association State Major Project: Elks Laradon Hall. This large project serves over 500 developmentally disabled citizens of all ages. John served two full three-year terms on Laradon's Board of Directors, the last five as its Chair, and further served Laradon most recently as a director of its supporting foundation.

In 2008, John was elected Third Vice President of the Colorado Elks Association and thereafter served with distinction in each of the three Vice President chairs and then as Colorado Elks State President in 2012.

John is a Past District Deputy and served on the Grand Lodge Committee on Judiciary from 2006 through 2013 and chaired this hardworking committee his final two years.

"The help we extend to others increases our own riches." Since his appointment to the Committee on Judiciary, John has been helping the 265 Lodges in Grand Lodge Area 6 with their legal matters. From advising Lodge Officers on statutory procedures and requirements, to helping them with their by-laws and corporate documents, John established many friends and relationships throughout his eight states of responsibility and throughout our Order. John has become a recognized expert on the Law of Non-Profits and taxation of exempt entities.

John passionately believes that the principles of Elkdom will guide us through periods of crisis and endorses the concept that maximum effort should be focused on reversing the downward trend in membership. Creative ideas are never scarce with John, particularly when his favorite subject — Elkdom — is the topic.

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