



# HEARTBEAT

ELKS NATIONAL FOUNDATION NEWS

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The San Rafael Elks always care! San Rafael, Calif., Lodge No. 1108 launched the Elks Kitchen Cares Project to prepare and serve free meals with the St. Vincent de Paul Society.



## ELKS STEP UP IN SUPPORT OF COMMUNITIES

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Though Elks are adapting to their new routines, one thing hasn't changed: they are far from the sidelines. Elks are stepping up in their communities to offer support where it is needed most.

Using Gratitude Grants, Elks are bolstering food pantries and food banks, and offering relief to individuals experiencing homelessness and the services they rely on.

Elks always care, especially in a crisis.

Some Lodges—like Tri-County, Ky., Lodge No. 2826—used their Gratitude Grant to meet more than one community need. The Tri-County Elks focused their Gratitude Grant on two groups in need in their community: small business owners and individuals experiencing homelessness. The Lodge purchased take-out meals from local restaurants and delivered them directly to White Flag Ministry, a program providing meals and shelter to community members in need.

“These are essential places,” says Gladys Lane, a Lodge Trustee, about White Flag Ministry. “For them to be able to feed individuals experiencing homelessness, it’s a true blessing.”

San Rafael, Calif., Lodge No. 1108 launched the Elks Kitchen Cares Project to help the St. Vincent de Paul Society prepare and serve free meals. With the help of the San Rafael Elks and other community partners, more than 250 people have received

*see Elks Step Up, continued on page 2*



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## MARK YOUR CALENDAR

**MAY 1: Emergency Educational Grant Applications Opened**

**JUNE 1: Spotlight Grant Launched**

**JUNE 28: ENFtoYou: Summer Series Launched**

**EARLY JULY: Weigel Medical School Scholarship Recipients Announced**

**AUGUST 1: Tentative Beacon Grant Launch**

**AUGUST 5: 2021 MVS Scholarship Contest Begins**

**SEPTEMBER 1: 2021 Legacy Awards Contest Begins**

Photo at right: Thank you to Elks across the country—and the communities they build—for meeting vital needs amid the pandemic.

*Elks Step Up, continued from page 1*

take-out meals from the St. Vincent de Paul Society every day since the project began. The Lodge is following strict social distancing protocol—they've had to limit the number of volunteers in the kitchen and on delivery, but other members help purchase food, spread the word and seek donations.

Elks from Morehead City-Beaufort, N.C., Lodge No. 1710 expressed their gratitude for frontline healthcare workers in the community. The Lodge is using their Gratitude Grant to provide meals for around 150 hospital employees over the course of four weeks—the employees simply pull up to the curb at the Lodge, grab, and go!

"The goal of this project is to recognize the hospital staff on every level—from the janitors to the doctors—for their selfless acts," says Lodge member Jane McClughan.

Gratitude Grant applications opened April 1. As of press time, the ENF approved more than 700 grants, totaling more than \$1.5 million.

"The Lodges jumped at the opportunity to put this grant money to work in their communities, helping people in need," says ENF Director Jim O'Kelley. "We've been working together to build stronger communities, and that work will pay off as we pick one another up and fight through this pandemic."





Jaime Graham stepped up to the free throw line at the 2006 Hoop Shoot National Finals. Today, she steps up to the front lines of the COVID-19 pandemic.

## ESSENTIAL ELKS FAMILY

Jaime Graham has always had a weak stomach. But the 2006 Hoop Shoot National Finalist's admiration for healthcare workers led her into the field. As a medical staff coordinator, Graham helps ensure hospitals and providers comply with state and hospital guidelines.

But as the COVID-19 pandemic took shape in the U.S., her job changed. She's been facing the unexpected with patience and lessons from her days at the free throw line.

"I think the most valuable thing the Hoop Shoot taught me is we have so many more things in common than we think we do," says Graham, who was sponsored in the Hoop Shoot by St. Marys, W.Va., Lodge No. 1701. "You can always find common ground with someone if you care to look hard enough. It's been encouraging to see how quickly people can come together and work toward a common goal."

Doctors, nurses, and healthcare support staff like Graham have united to fight the pandemic. Medical students—like Annie Hoang, a 2009 Most Valuable Student scholar sponsored by Bayonne, N.J., Lodge No. 434—are looking for innovative ways to help during the pandemic, since they can't be on the front lines.

Hoang, a student at University of California-San Francisco School of Medicine, headed into a study period this past winter to prepare for a national standardized test. She lived those two months in a quarantine-like existence, not knowing it would continue well beyond the exam.

Before her exam—and the pandemic—Hoang was participating in patient care in hospitals and clinics.

In early March, the American Association of Medical Colleges recommended in-person medical student rotations and clinicals be suspended to protect medical students and conserve the already-limited supplies of personal protective equipment.

*see Essential Elks, continued on page 4*



We're celebrating you! Elks helped the ENF break records across the board last year. Our mission to build stronger communities strengthens every day because of your support.

## SHATTERED RECORDS

Last year was one for the books, to say the least. While our normal shifted as the COVID-19 pandemic changed our lives, the generosity of the Elks did not.

In Fiscal Year 2020, the Elks raised an incredible \$6,697,176.55 for the Elks National Foundation, setting an all-time high.

The previous record was set in Fiscal Year 2018, when the ENF received \$6,597,765.11 in donations. During a pandemic, Elks cleared that record by nearly \$100,000.

And that's not all. To read more about our record-breaking year, visit [enf.elks.org/RecordSet](https://enf.elks.org/RecordSet).

Thank you so much for choosing to support us—especially right now. Your decision means the world to us, and we don't take it for granted.



## THE MISSION CONTINUES

A great deal has changed since the last edition of *Heartbeat* reached you. The Elks National Foundation office has been closed since mid-March. But the mission continues.

During this uncertain time, we can remain certain about one thing—the communities we’ve built together are strong enough to navigate uncharted territory. Elks across the country are fulfilling the ENF’s mission in more ways than one—they’re using Gratitude and Spotlight grants to support individuals and organizations on the front lines; they’re using technology to stay connected and relevant; and they’re showing everyone that #ElksAlwaysCare.

Thank you to the Elks for stepping up and building stronger communities, no matter the circumstances. We know that whenever we emerge from this crisis, we will emerge as strong as ever because of the efforts of the Elks.



**SUPPORT THE GREAT HEART OF ELKDOM!**

Visit [enf.elks.org/HBSpring](https://enf.elks.org/HBSpring), and your online donation will be put to work immediately in Elks communities!



**Lauryn Falcone, a 2009 MVS scholar and 2014 Weigel recipient, feels she can never repay the Elks for the scholarships she received. But we don’t know how to ever repay her for her work as a physician.**

my conviction that practicing medicine means to serve the most vulnerable and to fight for equity,” Hoang says, “especially as we see that during times of crisis, the patients who are most affected—medically, socially and economically—are the same people from the most marginalized parts of our society.”

Lauryn Falcone, a 2014 Gunther & Lee Weigel Medical School Scholarship recipient and 2009 MVS scholar, also stands ready to help. Falcone is finishing her seven-year dual doctoral degree program at West Virginia University. She started her residency in internal medicine in June.

“I think it’s quite normal for anyone to feel nervous prior to entering residency, and that’s just compounded with everything happening in the world right now with COVID,” says Falcone, who was sponsored by Enfield, Conn., Lodge No. 2222.

Falcone finished her classes online, and she’s since become an Elks scholar alum.

“I’m not sure I can ever repay the Elks for all they have done for me,” Falcone says. “The financial as well as emotional support during my early career played a big part in getting me to where I am today. Thank you for all that you do and for being such strong advocates for students and our community.”

To Falcone, Hoang, Graham, and all the other members of the #ElksFamily helping on the front line and the sidelines, *thank you*.

*Essential Elks, continued from page 3*

“Given the PPE shortage and possible surge of patients in the hospital, students are currently sidelined,” Hoang says. “Yet, many of us are contributing in the realm of public health, from participating in PPE drives to translating medical information in other languages.”

Hoang is on a five-year program in Medical Education for Urban Underserved at UC-SF and will start her master’s in public health this fall at Harvard—while still in med school. The pandemic has solidified her dedication to medicine.

“These times, while hard, only further



The 2020 Top 20 Most Valuable Student finalists came together for the first time on April 24. They connected from across the country to share their stories with one another and to interview for the top six awards.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the MVS Leadership Weekend looked different this year; instead of meeting in Chicago, the brand-new Elks scholars gathered virtually. But the socially distanced atmosphere didn't stop the scholars from connecting with one another and forming friendships with their fellow Elks family.

"This weekend was reaffirming that I'll be able to rely on the Elks family for a long time," says Santiago Alvillar, sponsored by Montebello, Calif., Lodge No. 2051. "If [meeting] was this amazing through this virtual weekend, imagine how amazing it would be if we were to meet in person."

To start things off, the finalists shared their shields—personal crests to represent themselves. And, leading up to the weekend, the scholars got a preview of what it means to be a member of the Elks family as they watched four films demonstrating just that.

"It showed me how many values and ideas I have in common with the Elks," Leah Aaronson, sponsored by Ashland, Ore., Lodge No. 944, says of the films. "It made me so excited to be a part of something greater—to be a part of the Elks."

Saturday morning was the moment the Top 20 had been waiting for—the chance to virtually interview with a panel of three national judges for the top awards of \$30,000, \$40,000 and \$50,000.

Before the weekend ended, the scholars shared their favorite moments of the virtual programming, and what would stick with them the most.

"I really got to see the similarities we have and our connection to service, and also the ways that it's impacted all of us individually," says Neer Jain, sponsored by Katy, Texas, Lodge No. 2628. "We all share the same core values, and knowing that is really rewarding."

*see Elks Family, continued on page 6*



Isabella Harris is one of 803 scholars making up the Class of 2020.

## A LEGACY CONTINUES

We're proud to announce the class of 2020 Legacy Awards recipients.

Because Legacy Awards recipients have a parent or grandparent in the Order, they know that being involved with the Elks means having a family wherever you go. Here's what Isabella Harris, a 2020 Legacy scholar sponsored by Sumter, S.C., Lodge No. 855, says about receiving the award:

"I was unsure of how my family and I were going to pay the tuition and expenses of college, but now my worries have been lifted by the Elks National Foundation. I cannot put into words how grateful I am. I will represent the Elks well and make everyone proud."

Visit [enf.elks.org/LegacyThanks](https://enf.elks.org/LegacyThanks) to read more messages of gratitude. Visit [enf.elks.org/leg](https://enf.elks.org/leg) to see the full list of winners.

The 2021 Legacy Awards contest begins on September 1.



## WE'RE BRINGING THE ENF TO YOU!

The Elks National Foundation is proud to present ENFtoYou: Summer Series, a virtual experience for Elks to learn more about the ENF and its programs. Since the Elks National Convention was canceled, we're bringing the ENF to you—wherever you are. The ENF kicked off the Summer Series on Sunday, June 28, at 5 p.m. CST with a virtual version of the show it would have presented at Opening Ceremonies in Baltimore, featuring the top two MVS scholarship recipients. The recording is available at [enf.elks.org/ENFtoYou](http://enf.elks.org/ENFtoYou) and [enf.elks.org/YouTube](http://enf.elks.org/YouTube).

We'll bring programming to you every two weeks throughout the summer. Interested? Visit [enf.elks.org/ENFtoYou](http://enf.elks.org/ENFtoYou) to learn more and register. By registering, you'll receive a digital swag bag to help you get ready for the series; notifications and updates about the types of programming the ENF will offer; and a chance to win ENF prizes.



**Santiago Alvillar, one of the top winners of the MVS scholarship contest, joined 19 others for the first-ever virtual Leadership Weekend. Alvillar received a \$50,000 scholarship to pursue his college education. He'll attend Stanford University in the fall.**

especially in this challenging time, I believe it's important we all do what we can to support the next generation."

At about an hour before dawn, Mark, Sean and one of the scholars finally closed the door on a memorable, if unusual, Leadership Weekend.

We're pleased to announce the 2020 Top Winners.

In third place, Madison Johnson, sponsored by Selbyville, Del., Lodge No. 2173, and Tanner Christensen, sponsored by Provo, Utah, Lodge No. 849, will each receive \$30,000 toward their college education. In second place, Irissa Machetta, sponsored by Clear Lake (Kemah), Texas, Lodge No. 2322, and Daniel Ardity, sponsored by Pompano Beach, Fla., Lodge No. 1898, will each receive \$40,000. And in first place, the recipients of \$50,000 scholarships are Sarah Harper, sponsored by Athens, Tenn., Lodge No. 1927, and Santiago Alvillar, sponsored by Montebello, Calif., Lodge No. 2051.

*Elks Family, continued from page 5*

When it was over, it wasn't over. Most of the scholars gathered once more for a virtual Elks Family Game Night hosted by ENF Director Jim O'Kelley and 2003 top Most Valuable Student and national scholar judge Sean Loosli.

Demonstrating that Elks family is forever, Mark Ansell, 2015 top winner, joined the party.

"I decided to volunteer at this year's Leadership Weekend because of the profound positive impact winning the MVS scholarship had on my life," Mark said. "An important part of the scholarship was the nudge to keep striving, and



**Sarah Harper won the second \$50,000 MVS scholarship. Harper will study Industrial Engineering at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville.**





Mystical creatures abound in Ferndale, Michigan. That's because Ferndale, Mich., Lodge No. 1588 formed the T-Rex Walking Club to bring joy to their community in quarantine.

## ★ ARE WE HAVING FUN YET?

*From Director Jim O'Kelley's fifth blog post in a series about the need for Lodges to stay relevant during this time of isolation. #StaySafeBeRelevant.*

Many of us have been mostly staying at home for two months now, which begs the question, “Are we having fun yet?”

In answering that question, I can't speak for everyone, but after crashing one of their virtual happy hours, I *can* speak confidently for the folks at Ferndale, Mich., Lodge No. 1588. That crew is having a ball.

Ferndale is a suburb of about 20,000 people, just across the Eight Mile from Detroit. A bedroom community in the 1920s and '30s, Ferndale boomed along with the auto industry in the '40s, '50s and '60s. In fact, today, it still derives its nickname from a catchy 1960s advertising campaign that caught: Fashionable Ferndale.

As the economy went, so went Ferndale. The city has had its ups and downs since that heyday, and the financial crisis hit it hard. But these days, Ferndale is fashionable again. The city is growing, and the buzz word around town is “development.”

Back in 2002 when he opened his establishment, a local restaurateur says there were maybe six restaurants in a two-block radius. “Now, there's more like 26.”

Citing its nightlife, the *Detroit Free Press* recently described Ferndale as “one of the trendiest spots in metro Detroit.”

The Lodge, with a great corner location on the main drag, has ebbed and flowed with the community. Like the city, right now, the Lodge is flowing. Membership has more than doubled since 2015, from 253 to 616. And with an average age of 50.66, the Lodge is the youngest in Michigan and the sixth youngest in the nation. Importantly, the Lodge's demographics reflect Ferndale's diverse population ... *read the rest of the post by visiting the ENF blog: [enf.elks.org/HavingFun](http://enf.elks.org/HavingFun).*

## AN INSTINCT FOR CARING

*From Donor Service Coordinator Claire Schnucker's blog post on her analysis of the final numbers from Fiscal Year 2019-20.*

Our world and our communities have greatly changed since mid-March, and none of it was expected. But there is one thing in life—and mathematics—that is always expected: uncertainty.

Fiscal Year 2019-20 was a year of growth. Not massive, but predicted and on average.

During my presentation, I did not focus on predictive models. I know where we stand. I have no way to gauge where we are heading because Elks have not had to face challenges like these since we started tracking our numbers. There is no basis of comparison; instead, I focused on our standard year of growth.

But, as I wrote before, “Hope is a perfect impetus for success.” My predictive models will stay tucked away in my many spreadsheets. I know what our future could be because Elks, just like numbers, have expected patterns.

Read more at  
[enf.elks.org/Instinct](http://enf.elks.org/Instinct).

## #HAMPER HOOSHOOT

We know getting to the court or gym to shoot hoops isn't easy right now. So we're bringing the Hoop Shoot home!

Join Hoop Shooters of past and present, BackBoard members, and Elks from across the country and show us how you #HamperHoopShoot!

Demonstrate your free throw prowess with your hamper, laundry basket or garbage can—the more creative the better! Then share the video on social media by July 31. Use the #HamperHoopShoot and tag the Elks National Foundation on Facebook (@ElksNationalFoundation), Instagram (@elksinaction), or Twitter (@ElksNtlFndtn).

The 2020 BackBoard will judge your free throw, slam dunk, lay-up, or creative new move for a special prize.

Not on social media?  
Email us your submission at [hoopshoot@elks.org](mailto:hoopshoot@elks.org).

The Elks have always been a paw-sitive part of Wyatt Good's life. Through bad times and Good, the #ElksFamily always cares.



They say there's the family you're born into and the family you choose. For Wyatt Good, the Elks are both. A child and grandchild of Elks, Good grew from an Elks scholar into an Elk himself—and a proud donor to the Elks National Foundation.

The Elks Lodge has been a constant in Good's life, beginning with his parents' and extended family's commitment to the Order. His personal ties to Elkdom were strengthened when he became an Elks scholar in 2014. Good received an Emergency Educational Grant, which provides undergraduate college financial assistance to children of deceased or totally disabled Elks.

"The grant funds made a huge impact on my life, as they [helped pay] for my schooling and placed less stress upon myself and my family," Good says. "I was able to graduate from college debt-free, which is a huge relief."

Good is now a member of Greybull, Wyo., Lodge No. 1431—his family's Lodge and the one that sponsored him as a student applying for an EEG.

"I have always had the desire to be an Elk, and when I graduated from college, that was one of the first things that I did," Good says.

He elected to make his first donation to the ENF when paying his Lodge membership dues.

"I chose to donate to the ENF in order to pay back a bit and do my part in helping the Elks achieve any goals they may have," explains Good.





## A NEW KIND OF BONUS

When Gratitude Grants launched on April 1, a new bonus launched with them that's all about the Fidelity Club.

Lodges become eligible for the Gratitude Grant just by meeting the National President's per-member goal for giving to the ENF in the previous fiscal year. And, if at least 15 percent of the Lodge's members donated \$10 or more in the prior fiscal year, they earn a \$500 bonus—increasing the grant total from \$2,000 to \$2,500.

Now, Lodges that achieve 10 percent membership support, with 10 percent of supporting members belonging to the Fidelity Club, will earn an additional \$500.

Lodges can earn both bonuses, or one or the other. It is possible for a Lodge to earn the Fidelity Club bonus and not the membership support bonus, or vice versa. If a Lodge earns both bonuses, their Gratitude Grant will be a total of \$3,000.

Learn more about the ENF's monthly giving program, the Fidelity Club, at [enf.elks.org/FidelityClub](http://enf.elks.org/FidelityClub).

## CHANGE IS COMING

The biggest change to the ENF's cumulative recognition program was originally slated to take effect on December 31. But in light of the COVID-19 pandemic, the change will take effect on April 1.

Earlier this year, we announced the discontinuation of the three cumulative recognition levels below \$1,000: the Participating Member (\$100), the Sustaining Member (\$250), and the Distinguished Member (\$500). The change will emphasize annual giving and allow the ENF to cut down on increasing postage costs.

Visit [enf.elks.org/Cumulative](http://enf.elks.org/Cumulative) to learn more.

## ASK THE ENF...

**Q** I've run out of things to watch on my streaming apps and TV. Do you have any binge recommendations?  
—Restless in Riverside

**A** Dear Restless:  
We're so glad you asked! The ENF's YouTube channel is full of bingeable content—and we're adding more all the time. Director Jim O'Kelley and Assistant Director Debbie Doles are cranking out new weekly episodes of the *Midday Minute*, our YouTube show. The *Midday Minute* covers all our breaking news, plus there's time for fun in every episode—and a chance for our viewers to win in a comment contest. Visit [enf.elks.org/MiddayMinute](http://enf.elks.org/MiddayMinute) to binge.

In addition to the *Minute*, we launched *20 For 20*, a new series featuring the 2020 Top 20 MVS Scholars. Visit [enf.elks.org/20for20](http://enf.elks.org/20for20) to meet the top scholars.

When you run out of ENF films to watch, head to our blog to read our latest series, #StaySafeBeRelevant, which features Lodges' efforts to stay connected and give back while social distancing. Visit [elksnationalfoundationblog.org](http://elksnationalfoundationblog.org) for binge-worthy blog posts.

Don't forget to check [elks.org/enf](http://elks.org/enf) for the most up-to-date ENF news.

Have a question for the ENF? Email us at [enf@elks.org](mailto:enf@elks.org).

# FOUNDATION FELLOWSHIP

We salute the following members of the 2019-20 Foundation Fellowship who contributed \$1,000 or more to the Foundation from April 1, 2019, through March 31, 2020. To learn more about the Foundation Fellowship and to view the benefits for each level, visit [enf.elks.org/fellowship](http://enf.elks.org/fellowship).

( + Denotes deceased member; ^ Denotes ENF Trustee; > Denotes John F. Malley Society; \* Denotes Fidelity Club; # Denotes Loyalty Club; < Denotes Named Scholarship donor)

## CHARITY (\$10,000)

Stephen W. Barker >  
Frank Bertagnolli  
Jason Blackhurst  
Nick Bradley \*  
Robert D. Clow  
Edward G. Downs >  
L. Scott Henry \*\*  
Karl V. Karlin  
Charles W. Lester > \*\*  
Edgar W. Miner #  
Jody M. Patterson #<  
Linda E. Weigel \*

## HOPE (\$5,000)

John and Caroline Allman #  
Rose Asbury  
Charles R. Buel  
William W. Carpenter >  
Mishell A. Clement  
Anne V. Cox  
Kathryn W. Foy > #  
Randall L. Garland  
Sharon E. Glasrud  
William "Joe" Grant  
N. Todd Graves > #  
Tony Hafford  
Paul A. Harasimowicz  
Patricia A. Heller #  
Mark J. Henderson #  
Marlen J. Hoesly #<  
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Marilyn Leatherman \*\*  
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William R. Michael #  
Joan E. Mills  
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Glenn Peifer  
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Gunther K. Schroth #  
Gabrielle U. Scott  
Westley C. Stull \* #  
Stephen J. Terrible  
Pepper D. Westerman

## FAITH (\$1,000)

Steven Abrahams  
Ronnie Adkisson  
Tim Allison  
John D. Amen PGER #  
Jill M. Ames  
Bradley Anderson  
Dean A. Anderson Jr. #  
Gordon R. Anderson  
Joan Anderson  
David E. Anger \*  
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Patricia A. Baccus \*\*  
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Alan A. Baranyai #  
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George R. Carstens #  
Aaron A. Castellanos  
Michael Castorina #  
Bryce E. Caswell  
George E. Cattey #  
Thomas D. Chase  
Donald R. Checchi > \* # <  
Russell L. Childers #  
David P. Cioe > \* #  
Michael D. Clark > \* # <  
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Richard L. Clayton Jr. #  
Ralph A. Clegg  
Steven Clifton  
Clyde L. Clubine  
Lawrence Colgan  
Janet Cooper #  
Randall P. Corey #  
Linda Cosgrove  
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Philip K. Daughton \* #  
Margaret R. D'Ambra +  
Paul A. D'Ambra  
Emmett W. Darbyshire \* #  
Augustine E. Datillo

Thomas A. Datillo  
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Ralph R. Davis  
Virginia M. Davis  
Brian W. Dean #  
Harvey H. Deboe Jr.  
James M. Decker  
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Rosemary Durant # <  
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Joanne M. Elholm  
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Barbara A. Farber  
Mike Fattor  
Jack M. Fearneyhough \* #  
Robert J. Ferone Sr. \* #  
Kenneth A. Findlay #  
Robert S. Finley +  
Charles J. Fleskes  
Harry E. Flood  
Ronald Fortenbury \* #  
Dorothy Foster  
William T. Foster #  
Thomas W. Fraker \* #  
Frank H. Frazier > \* # <  
Roberta J. Freck #  
Mark T. Freeman  
Jean F. Friend #  
Russell W. Frum  
John and Carol Fuller \* # <  
Terry L. Gaber #

Eugene L. Gage  
Douglas P. Gallaher  
Elizabeth M. Gamble  
Florence F. Gandolfi \*  
Alice Jo Garcia  
Gregory H. Garhart  
J. Scott Gates #  
Thila VanDulken Gerber  
Irene Girard  
Frank Giugliano  
Marc-Allyn Gloriande  
Shelley Gonzales \*  
Ronald Grant  
Patricia J. Graves \* #  
James M. Gray #  
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