



**Robert H. Raleigh, Jr.
Chestertown, MD Lodge No. 2474
President, Maryland, Delaware and
District of Columbia Elks State Association**

State President's Message

I want to thank the membership of the Maryland, Delaware and District of Columbia Elks Association for allowing me the privilege to lead this great Association for the year 2021-2022. Trust that I will do my best to represent our Association with honor and pride.

We have all missed a great deal during the last year. As restrictions are lifted and things open up, we can hopefully begin to resume our normal operations and activities. Thanks to all of you that worked hard to keep your Lodges open during the past year.

My motto for this year is "Bring Them Back". Yes, we need new members, but we have so many members already on our roles who are assets to our Lodges as they already have knowledge of Elkdom. Let's focus on bringing our existing members back into and active within our Lodges!

I ask that our Lodges support Elks Camp Barrett, our State major project, as well as the William J. Jernick Memorial Fund. In addition to providing financial support for the Jernick Fund, please actively search for children in need so that we can provide support for them and their families.

Please continue to give generously to Elks National Foundation. The more we give, the more we receive from ENF to enable us to run our Camp as well as our Grand Lodge programs, such as Hoop Shoot, Soccer Shoot, Scholarships, Youth Activities, Drug Awareness, Americanism, Scouting and Veterans Services. The Army of Hope and Welcome Home Program also need our support so that we can continue to provide assistance to our veterans.

In addition, we need to make our communities aware of the great work and services we provide as Elks. We can accomplish this through an active Public Relations Committee. I encourage you to forward articles to your local newspapers and broadcasts, to become more visible in the community. Be proud of your Elks Lodge and the great work you do!

I would like to thank my officers and State committee chairs for their commitment and dedication to continue the programs of our Order. I look forward to working with all of the members of our great State Association while we work to "Bring Them Back"!

Thank you again for allowing me to be your President. I am honored and blessed.

Sincerely and Fraternally,

Robert H. Raleigh, Jr.

