

## **“Our Prized Elk” Martin Ira Hoxworth**

This column is for our special members who we feel have earned recognition for the time, dedication, loyalty, and support they have given to Our Elks Lodge over the years.

This month's Prized Elk is someone who is a perfect example of perseverance, positivity, commitment, and love. His infectious smile and laugh quickly fills anyone near with optimism, while making one wonder what jovial thought is going through his head at that moment.

Martin Ira Hoxworth was born in San Pedro on December 3, 1938. He has been an Elk member for 56 years, first joining when he was stationed in Roswell, New Mexico with the Air Force. He joined the lodge in 1961, after being persuaded by his boss at Pop's Drive-In Diner, where he was a fry cook. The main reasons he liked being a member then and still does now is because of the fellowship, community, friends, and the food & drinks!

He often stops in for lunch and rarely misses a traditional Saturday Night Dinner with his buddies and their wives. Sadly, missing from the circle of friends is Martin's wife Marcia, who passed away in January of 2016. The life of the party, quick to laugh and joke, beautiful, and loving, Martin fell in love with her long before he would ever marry her.

He met her at Marine Land in 1957, where she worked. He attempted many times to get a date, and she didn't accept until he called her mother about wanting the same coffee pot model she had, which Marcia had bought, and therefore was somewhat forced to help Martin find one! What a clever excuse!

With perseverance paying off, they married 10 years later on November 24, 1967 (and he still has that coffee pot!). She is missed dearly by all, as "Martin & Marcia" were always the couple at the Lodge that brightened it with their presence, laughter, helpfulness, and generosity.

The Hoxworth Family consists of son Mark, his wife Karen, and their children Clayton and Brandi, and son Mike, his wife Becky, and their children Ashley, Mikel, and Dylan. Mike and Mark are both Elk Members.

The family spends a lot of time at the Lodge, including celebrating Mike's 40th Birthday and Martin and Marcia's 40th Wedding Anniversary there. Despite a serious stroke Martin had in 2013, the supportive family still enjoy traveling together in his huge RV with the Elk Enders and have visited all over the United States in it. His favorite places to go are Palm Springs and Emerald Desert.

Another adventurous mode of transportation Martin is passionate about is flying in airplanes. He is a Senior Observer, flying over 500 hours in planes. He was an Aircraft Electrician, Supervisor of Staff, Director of Staff, HR for Flight Tests, and a Medical Administrator at Mac Donnell Douglas and Boeing. He also worked at the Kelly Air Force Base in San Antonio, retiring from there in November 1996.

The love of airplanes grew while he was in the Air Force as an Aircraft Electrician. From 1961-1965, he loaded B-52's with bombs for Vietnam. He earned medals as a Lieutenant Colonel from the Air Force and Civil Air Patrol, volunteering for over 50 years and therefore visiting any base he wanted.

Always willing to help and get involved, Martin has worn many hats at our Lodge, and there isn't much space on his office wall left for any more plaques or badges! He is a Life Member, and was President of the Elk Enders in 1997-1998, Chairman of the Board in 2003-2004, Past Chairman of The Elks Rally in 2005, Treasurer of The Elks Rally in 2014, Director of The Strawberry Festival for 10 years, President of the Strawberry Festival Project in 2007, Elk of the Month, Past Officer of the Year, and Elk of the Year, to name a few!!

While it's quite obvious that Martin is an invaluable brother of Our Lodge, we may not always think to give him and all of our fellow members the appreciation they deserve. This Summer, when we see each other working hard in the heat, enjoying each other's company, and toasting

to our past, present, and future, let us remember to cherish each other and the unique personalities and qualities we all contribute together to make us the best Lodge in America!

Taken from August 2017 Elk Call

