

**2016-2017
ELK OF THE YEAR
CHARLES "CHUCK" O'DEY**

By Paul Escobar

About our departed member, from the August 2017 Elk Call: Chuck was born on July 31, 1943, in Tilden, Nebraska. He moved to California in 1962, proudly served in the Navy and married Myrna Lynn in 1966, and they had one son and three daughters. Chuck moved to Anaheim in 1968 where he worked for McDonnell Douglas for 33 years. He was initiated into Garden Grove Lodge in March of 2006. Chuck became active with the Trustees in 2009 and served as Chairman of the Board in 2013.

Chuck enjoyed camping with the Elk Enders, served as Co-Chairman of the Volunteer Sunday Breakfasts, and could often be seen around the lodge experimenting with new Menu items.

A little history on **Elk Colors**. The Elk colors are Royal Purple and White, a combination deriving its origin from the history of the clergy, nobility and the people. Throughout Europe, the Orient and in Rome, the symbolism of colors was associated with severity of laws and customs. Each color in each pattern was identified religious, or political, and to change or alter it was a crime of rebellion, a desertion of principles, party or cause.

White denotes purity and absolute truth. When combined with Royal Purple it signifies the love of truth and the highest degree of virtue. Purple is the badge of Kingship, the color for the robes of Emperors and High Priests and signifies highest favor.

Blending of White and Royal Purple indicates the favor of the people, which bespeaks the status of Elkdom.

ELKS COLORS

By Paul Escobar



From Elks Lodge to City Hall: G.G. Elks Second Exalted Ruler

George Honold served as the second Exalted Ruler of Garden Grove Elks 1952. A long-standing resident of Garden Grove, Honold was elected to the first City Council in 1956 and served as mayor from 1960 to 1968. In 1970, Honold served as the foreman of the Orange County Grand Jury.

Professionally, Honold co-founded Honold Brothers Mortuary in 1940 and later became president of Westminster Memorial Park Mortuary, a position he maintained until his retirement in 1981.

Deeply dedicated to community service, Honold participated in various civic, fraternal, and patriotic organizations. Among his notable achievements, Honold became the first World War II veteran to be named Commander of the Garden Grove American Legion Post 286. He also served as past president of the Garden Grove Chamber of Commerce, the Garden Grove Rotary Club, and the Garden Grove Strawberry Festival Association.

Additionally, Honold contributed his time to Boy Scout Troop 41 by serving on the court of honor committee, where he helped award merit badges to many scouts over the years.

Next time you stroll through the entry hallway at our lodge, take a moment to appreciate the legacy that George Honold, Garden Grove Elks' second Exalted Ruler of 1952, contributed to our community.



Exalted Ruler 1956-1957

By Stephanie Janji

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B.P.O.E. Trivia

Who is the mascot for the Elks National Drug Awareness Program (DAP)?

Garden Grove Trivia

Started on September 30, 1939, what was the precursor to the Strawberry Festival?

GG Elks Trivia

One of our Assistant Tilers, and former clowns, went by the name "Yorkie." Who is it?

BROUGHT TO YOU BY THE GARDEN GROVE ELKS HISTORIAN COMMITTEE

CONTACT US AT HISTORIAN.BPOE.1952@GMAIL.COM WITH SUGGESTIONS, CONTRIBUTIONS OR COMMENTS

MEMBERSHIP CARD CASES - BLENDING PRIDE WITH FASHION

By Jim Spurlock

“The membership card, which will be presented to you by the Secretary, is a means of identification. It shows that you are a member in good standing in this lodge. You should carry it with you at all times. You are required to present it in order to gain admission to this lodge, and without it you cannot gain admission to another lodge.”

We hear these words at every Initiation ceremony, and we are asked to show our cards every time we enter the building. “For goodness sake, don’t you know me?” “I just showed it to you yesterday!” “Are you kidding me? My hands are full!” We’ve all been there, and yet we still keep coming back!

Did you know that back in the day (we’re talking the early 1900’s), it was a true point of pride to show your Elks membership card? The Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks were an elite group, and members enjoyed the esteem and notoriety of belonging to such a noble and charitable organization. Carrying your card in your billfold was okay, but for the truly dedicated, a card case was a must! Custom cases made of precious metals with personal monograms were all the rage. Several prominent jewelers specialized in watch fobs, rings, membership card cases, and other jewelry for fraternal organizations such as the Elks. If you were a gentleman carrying one of these stylish card cases and sporting an Elk tooth pendant, you were definitely getting noticed!

One of the most well-known jewelers specializing in manufacturing fraternal jewelry for the Elks, Masons, Odd Fellows, etc., was Alfred Schickerling, who operated in the famous Maiden Lane Jewelry District in New York. Maiden Lane and surrounding streets had been the epicenter of the NYC jewelry trade from 1795 to the early 20th century, at one point boasting more than 300 jewelry firms in less than two blocks! Schickerling’s cases are high-end, many with inlaid enamel, rubies, and diamonds – most are sterling silver, but some are gold! Many are marked not only with his name, but also the famous “51 Maiden Lane” address. Many other jewelers also created Elks card cases, including The Gustave Fox Co., CQ&R (Carter, Qvarnstrom & Remington), B. Mfg. Co., Marathon Jewelers, and Elgin American Mfg Co., among others.



\$66 receipt for Schickerling case in 1918



Examples of various card cases

Harry Houdini’s gold card case

Many times, card cases were presented to members as gifts. The legendary entertainer and escape artist Harry Houdini was given a stunning gold and diamond studded case by his home lodge, Lodge No. 01, in New York. Lodges presented special cases to members commemorating such things as their service in “the World War”, for attaining the much sought-after “Life Member” status, and other notable achievements.

Membership in the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks, Garden Grove Lodge No. 1952, is a distinction worth recognition. Our members are encouraged to present their cards with pride! The next time the Greeter or Tiler asks to see your card at the door, remember all of the great Elks who came before you, and show your honor at being counted among them! And remember, when being asked to see your card, it’s perfectly acceptable to ask to see theirs – no one is exempt from this exhibition of BPOE pride, not even the Head Tiler herself!

The Historian Committee is very happy to announce that we will be updating the display in the front cabinet, which we plan to unveil at the beginning of May. The next time you pass the cabinet, take a peek to see what new items may be arriving. Word has it there may be a nice display of card cases for your viewing pleasure – stay tuned!



Quilts of Valor
Quilts = Healing!

Honoring Veterans & Our Lodge

Have you ever taken time to admire the framed American flag quilt that hangs on the wall near the doors of our lodge meeting room & wondered about its’ history?

The beautiful quilt was donated to our lodge by the nonprofit organization Quilts of Valor Foundation. Founded in 2003, the group creates and awards handmade quilts to U.S. service members and veterans who have been touched by war, offering both recognition for their sacrifice and a symbol of comfort and healing.

The organization began with a powerful personal experience. Founder Catherine Roberts, a quilter whose son was deployed to Iraq, had a vivid dream about a struggling soldier in need of comfort. Inspired by that dream, she envisioned wrapping service members in quilts as a tangible expression of appreciation and support. That idea soon grew into a national movement of volunteers dedicated to honoring those who served.

Each quilt is carefully handcrafted and presented in a ceremony recognizing the recipient’s service and sacrifice. Presentations are often deeply emotional events. A veteran’s service history is read aloud and the quilt is placed around the recipient’s shoulders while those present offer words of gratitude. The quilt represents a civilian award of appreciation -recognizing the courage, sacrifice, and service of America’s veterans.

The scale of Quilts of Valor is remarkable. More than 10,000 volunteer quilters working in hundreds of groups across all 50 states participate in the program. Their collective efforts have resulted in the awarding of more than 430,000 quilts to veterans and service members since the foundation’s founding!

The Elks have long supported the Quilts of Valor effort by hosting quilt presentations at lodges across the country (including ours!), sponsoring quilting groups, helping to fund materials, and even helping sew and assemble quilts.

The next time you are leaving our lodge meeting room, take a moment to admire the beautiful quilt and appreciate the hard work of the Quilts of Valor volunteers. And most importantly, remember the courage and sacrifice of our service members.

By Mark Schuster



SERVING THOSE WHO SERVE

With service to veterans foremost in its members' minds, in 1917 the BPOE began the work that would evolve into the Elks National Veterans Service Commission as we know it today. Over 100 years ago the World War raged on, and the Elks realized the impact they could have on our country's war effort. During the July 1917 Grand Lodge Session held in Boston, the Elks War Relief Commission was established, and one million dollars was appropriated for the "War Relief Fund," money which was raised by Brothers at the lodge level. In addition to contributing funds, more than seventy thousand Elks served in the Armed Forces during World War I. So, with the noble goal of serving our country and its soldiers, the close relationship between Elks and Veterans began...

During World War I, in 1917, the Elks used the newly established War Relief Fund to care for the sick and wounded on the battlefields of France, and to organize and equip the first two base hospitals in France. In 1918, the Elks built a 700-bed hospital in Boston and donated it to the federal government, creating the precursor to today's VA Medical Centers. Between 1918 and 1924, more than 40,000 rehabilitation, vocational, and educational loans were made to disabled veterans who were ineligible for government help or were waiting approval of their applications for assistance. This service was so effective that it inspired the federal government to create the GI Bill, which still exists today and which makes funds available to veterans for education.

The Elks War Commission, formed in 1942 after Pearl Harbor, was the BPOE's World War II initiative, a patriotic effort that transformed lodges into "Victory Centers," provided support for servicemen, and assisted with recruitment for the Army Air Corps. Throughout the United States, 155 Elks Fraternal Centers were established to provide members of the Armed Forces who were not Elks some of the comforts of home while far away from their families.

Following WWII, in 1946, the Elks pledged to never forget veterans in hospitals, leading to the creation of the Elks National Veterans Service Commission (ENVSC). This permanent commission raises tens of millions of dollars and continues to provide support for hundreds of thousands of veterans and their families every year through programs for housing, health, and employment.

To this day, the Elks continue to incorporate new programs, answer the call for assistance, and grow their impact on the veteran community. Among some notable additions is the Veterans Leather program, started in 1948 to provide free wheelchair gloves and rehabilitation materials to veterans. In 1951, during the Korean War, the Elks collected over half a million pints of blood in response to a plea from the Secretary of Defense. In 1955 the Elks joined the Veterans Affairs Voluntary Service Executive Committee, and hundreds of Elks began to volunteer at VA facilities! In 1997, the Elks again partnered with the VA, this time to support Adaptive Sports Events to help recovering veterans and veterans with disabilities stay healthy and active. In 2011, the VSC began to offer Freedom Grants to help Lodges serve veterans and military members in their communities. Just this past month, our own Garden Grove Lodge #1952 hosted a districtwide Veterans Standdown event, providing veterans in need with food, clothing, showers, hygiene products, pet supplies, haircuts, manicures, dental work, onsite medical services, and access to all types of helpful resources! None of this would be possible had the BPOE not made the determination back in 1917 that veterans deserve to be a continual focus for our support, and had its members not put in the work through the decades to keep the program alive.

So long as there are veterans, the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks will never forget them!

By Amber Spurlock



While going through some old Elk Calls, I found this heartwarming article written by Neil Baker PER and former Lodge Historian. For a couple of minutes, let's go back to September of 2016 and enjoy this article about our Garden Grove Elks Clowns.

"Let's talk about The Clowns. At one time we had about 50 of them in our Lodge. They were makeup-wearing, funny wiggled, red nosed, funny dressed, balloon animal making clowns. Some, husband and wife, some women, some men, but they all had fun. Some of the older clowns are Ray Kuczynski and his late wife Loretta, Nelson Burk, Charley Barnhouse, Tom Gosgrove, the late Jo Johanson and her husband Arnie, and yours truly and my wife Gwen, just to name a few.

I was only in the group for about 2 years, Gwen, a lot longer, so I cannot refer to them as "we", but it was fun. They had a float that was remodeled every few years, and they drove it as far as Big Bear for their 49er's Day parade. One of their favorite parades was the Huntington Beach parade.

Each July 4th Parade, on their way to the Huntington Beach parade, their route took them west on Yorktown and crossed Magnolia. One block from our home. Every July 4th morning Gwen would stand on the corner in full costume, waiting on the float to pick her up, waving at the kids passing by in cars and on bicycles, on their way to the parade.

They took part in the Belmont Shores Christmas parade, the East L.A. Parade in South Gate, and the Hollywood Christmas parade. Plus, any other parade that came up.

They visited senior centers, convalescent homes, hospitals, schools, CHOC and the Orangewood Home for Children. Anywhere a clown was needed, a Garden Grove Elks Clown was there.

Every Labor Day morning you would find them in the west parking lot of The Lodge at 7:00 AM, putting on a pancake breakfast to start the Labor Day festival."

By Paul Escobar with credit to Neil Baker PER, Lodge Historian September 2016 Elk Call

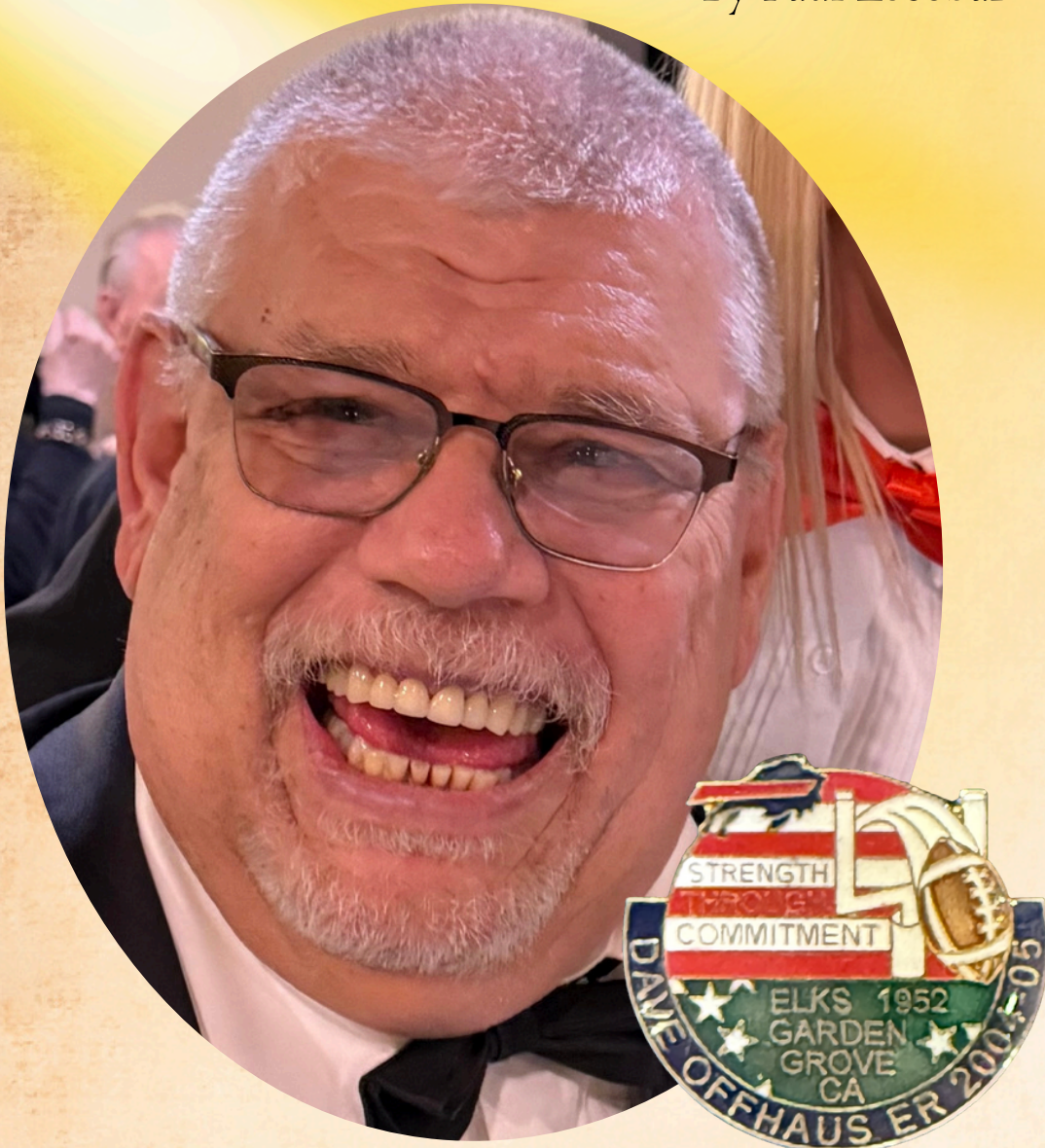
CLOWNS!



**Making a
Difference - One
Smile at a Time**

Elk in the Headlights: David Offhaus, P.E.R.

By Paul Escobar



David Offhaus was born in Buffalo, New York to Robert and Myrna. He has one younger sister that lives in Lake Havasu City. David was an average student that did not know what he wanted to do in life, so he joined the Army right out of high school, literally entering the service weeks after graduation.

David started his military career at Fort Quarter, Georgia for MP training. After, he was stationed in Belgium at the NATO'S equivalent to our Pentagon, SHAPE, Supreme Headquarters Ally Powers Europe, as a Military Policeman. David served for three years. After getting out of the Army, David went to work for Veterans Affairs as a police officer.

David bounced around from job to job, trying to find himself. He had numerous jobs and ended up working for Southern California Edison. As most people do, he started towards the bottom and slowly worked his way up. From "Utility Man" to mechanic. After years of service at fossil fuel plants, David was transferred to San Onofre Nuclear Power Plant.

David has been a member of the Elks for 30 years. His proposer lived right behind our lodge and invited him to go to Pizza Sunday with him. After a few visits, his proposer handed him an application! David did not have any expectations about the lodge. He thought it was a nice place to have a good time.

Although David found the lodge as a social club, he got involved quickly. After 6 months as a member, he was asked to be Inner-Guard. He agreed and in 2004 he became Exalted Ruler. His ER year's theme was the Buffalo Bills. All the officers wore silver shirts with a Bills tie.

Ritual has always been a love for David. He competed while going through the different positions and grew to love it. After competing, David went into coaching.

David was asked what advice he has for a member considering to be an officer. His reply was, "work hard, be dedicated and be prepared for the expenses." "The officers need to lead by example and attend events too."

David was also asked what kind of advice he has for new members. He said, "Talk to members. Find something you're interested in and participate. Don't just come down and sit at the bar."

As we all are aware, David moved to South Carolina in early October. He moved to Charleston, South Carolina and transferred to the Charleston Lodge #242. We all wish David well and will miss him greatly.



By Paul Escobar

LuAnn & Randy Barrows: A Dynamic Duo



LuAnn Barrows

LuAnn Barrows was born in Minnesota and grew up in Long Beach, CA. She graduated from Wilson High School (Go Bruins) where she was active with the marching band. After high school, LuAnn attended Long Beach City College where she studied to be a flight attendant. She also played softball at LBCC, she was a catcher. She enjoyed playing softball and said she was the catcher "because she had the biggest mouth". LuAnn also received an associate's degree in business.

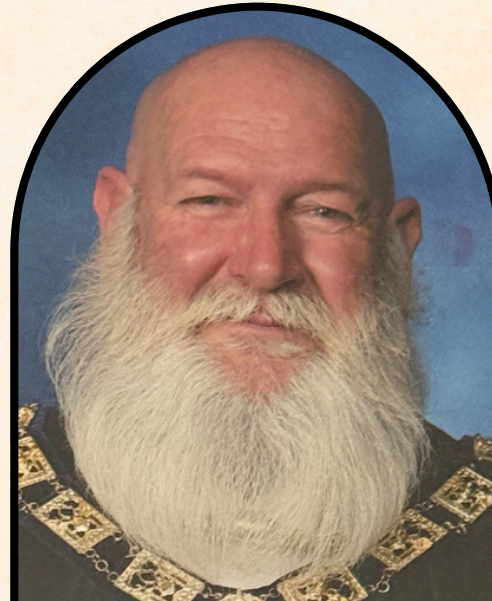
LuAnn has worked in our office for 13 years. Some of her duties are inputting of bills, making sure checks are cut and meeting people at the window. I'm sure you have all talked to LuAnn if you called the office. She also takes care of membership record keeping. And if needed, she will sell you something from the jewelry case! Whatever needs to be done, LuAnn will do it.

LuAnn was married to Randy Barrows PER, as First Lady she enjoyed attending other lodge events and having the opportunity to meet members from other lodges. She enjoyed being at the lodge on Friday and Saturday nights and socializing with our members. She has made so many great friends from her time as First Lady and still today sees people she met back then. LuAnn enjoyed the social aspect and being Randy's right-hand lady.

LuAnn is currently Emblem Club State President. She has been an Emblem Club member for 19 years and has held numerous positions. The Emblem Club is the official auxiliary of the Elks and is similar in many ways to the Elks. Each year, the Emblem Club gives out scholarships and donates to local charities. Their biggest fundraiser each year is the hamburger stand at the Strawberry Festival, where you can get the "Best Burgers at the Fair".

The Emblem Club was founded on April 26, 1926, in Providence, RI. Their motto is "Truth, Justice and Charity". The Emblem Club emphasizes a strong dedication to Patriotism and Americanism. Membership is open to everyone, men and women, age 16 years and older. In earlier years, membership was limited to the wives, mothers, sisters, daughters, stepdaughters and widows of members of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks.

We asked LuAnn if she had any advice to new Elk (and Emblem) members. She said, "Don't join and go away. Come to the meeting, get involved". She also suggested to get active in a committee and learn as much as you can.



Randy "Big Dog" Barrows

Randy Barrows PER, was born in National City and grew up in Long Beach, CA. Born to Bob and Shirley Barrows, he had one brother and one sister. Growing up, Randy enjoyed spending time at the beach with his friends. They walked to the beach almost every day during the summer. Randy graduated from Millikan High School and later attended Long Beach City College.

Randy was a Navy Veteran. He was a Navy Seabee, a specialized force that builds and repairs military infrastructure, roads, bridges and airfields. He served in the Navy in the 60s and spent time in Vietnam.

Randy worked for the phone company. He worked for General Telephone that later became Verizon. He started out doing field work climbing telephone poles and later went into management. Once Randy retired, he went back and consulted with them for many years.

Randy and his wife LuAnn met while working for the phone company. Randy had 3 children from a previous marriage. LuAnn stepped in and helped raise the three. They were 7yrs, 13yrs and 16yrs old when Randy and LuAnn got married.

Randy became a member of the Garden Grove Elks in 1999. Randy's job caused them to move away from the area for a while. During this time, he was not active in the Elks, but the Exchange Club kept him busy. The Exchange Club is a community service organization, dedicated to serving the local area. Does that sound familiar? Work eventually brought him back to Orange County and he was reinstated at our lodge.

Randy was Exalted Ruler in 2007-08. His motto was "Unleash the Power of Info," playing on his career with the phone company and his nickname "Big Dog". During his time as ER, Randy was able to install the sconces that still hang in our lodge room. Randy and LuAnn enjoyed their time as Exalted Ruler and First Lady. They enjoyed visiting the other lodges and meeting new people.

Nicknames are fun, and sometimes a nickname will be given for a special trait or characteristic. Although Randy was a big man and most would guess his nickname "Big Dog" came from his size, we all would have guessed wrong. Randy received his nickname because he always wore Big Dog brand t-shirts! Some other fun facts that you may not know about Randy, he loved what the Elks stood for. Randy also enjoyed being Santa Claus, he was Santa for 20 years. He worked as Santa at the South Coast Plaza for almost 10 years. He was an honest man, and you always knew what he was thinking and would tell you how he felt about something. He was a very honest and loving person.



Conversations with our NEW Exalted Ruler & First Lady "ELKS MATTER"

By Paul Escobar

INTRODUCING OUR 2026-27 EXALTED RULER, ALICE SALINAS!



April is a time for renewal for the Benevolent Protective Order of Elks. The new membership year starts and so does the Officer Corp. We spent March voting on new positions and starting April 1st, our new Officers will assume new responsibilities. Our incoming Exalted Ruler, Alice Salinas, sat with Timeless Tracks and we got to ask her a few questions.

Alice is a 6-year member of the Elks and a 32-year member of the Emblem Club #279. She became a member of the Elks during COVID and quickly became active. Her first officer position was Asst. Inner-guard alongside Pete Zappella. She learned a lot and found her desire to become an Exalted Ruler quickly.

Asked what her goals are during her ER year, Alice voiced that she would like people to come and be happy to attend meetings and be happy to come to events. "It's important that we all feel like a family."

Alice was born in Texas. She is the youngest of 7 children. As a child, she enjoyed performing in plays, the choir, drama club and was a cheerleader. She met her husband John at the age of 15 and married him 4 years later. They were married 50 years before John passed away. John served in the Marines, and they lived in multiple states, mainly stationed in California and Hawaii.

Alice decided to become an Elk after attending a convention and learned that part of the meetings were for members only. Not wanting to miss out, she decided to become a member and learn as much as she could.

Alice has been the Garden Grove Emblem #279 President 4 times and has held higher up positions. She has been a State Officer and a Supreme Officer. Emblem was her 1st love, and she admires how hard the ladies work. And the amount of work they do alongside the Elks.

It has been Alice's dream to be Exalted Ruler of Garden Grove Lodge #1952 for 5 years. Come April, her dream will come true. As members, please welcome Alice and her 1st Lady Jennifer Kushner and support them during the 2026-27 Elk year.

JENNIFER KUSHNER - A FIRST LADY DEDICATED TO SERVICE



Now that we have welcomed in the New Year, it's time to welcome out Newly elected Exalted Ruler, Alice Salinas and her 1st Lady Jennifer Kushner. Jennifer is no stranger to the Benevolent Protective Order of Elks; she has been a member for 13 years and a member of the Garden Grove Emblem Club #279 for 10 years.

Along with Alice, Jennifer has been very active with Emblem and is ready to take on the responsibilities that go along with being 1st Lady. Although most of Jennifer's time has been with the Emblem Club, plans to be more involved with the Elks and meet more Elk members.

At the age of 12, Jennifer and her mom moved to Finland from London, England. When she was 16, she moved to the US. As a child, she liked to read and was interested in History. She wanted to be an archaeologist when she was young. Her favorite types of books are murder mystery and spy novels.

Jennifer was asked by a neighbor to visit the Elks; she didn't know much about it but agreed to attend "Taco Monday". She thought the food was delicious and the drinks were inexpensive! After her neighbor continued to ask her, she finally became a member. Shortly after becoming a member, she attended an event that she thought was an Elk event. It was an animal rescue event held by the Emblem Club. Shortly after, she was a member of the Emblem Club.

Jennifer has been President of the Emblem Club twice and a Supreme Deputy for the district. She is currently the Supreme Assistant Chaplain. As with the Elks, an officer term is for 1 year starting in April. Jennifer is proud of all the charitable work the Emblem Club does. She is also proud of all the scholarships that Emblem gives out. Emblem meetings are held at the lodge on the second Wednesday of every month, and Board Meetings are the 1st Monday of every month. She also added that these days don't interfere with Elk meetings!

Please stop and say hello to our 1st Lady! All Garden Grove Elks need to introduce themselves and support Alice and Jennifer's journey through the 2026-27 year.

"MADE AN ELK" COINS

OWN YOUR OWN PERSONALIZED PIECE OF HISTORY!

"Made An Elk" personalized commemorative coins are available now from your Historian Committee!

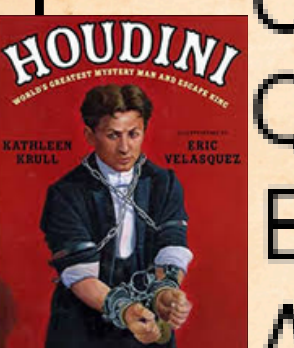
Featured in our premier issue of Timeless Tracks, released September 1, 2025, "Made An Elk" coins have been popular since the turn of the last century, as a way to commemorate initiation into the brotherhood of Elks.

The "heads" side is an Elk and II O'clock Toast symbol, and the reverse side reads "MADE AN ELK B.P.O.E." with room for personalized engraving, such as your lodge name and number, member name, and initiation date. It's a chance to create your own piece of history! Ask any of our committee members how you can order your Made an Elk coin for only \$20.00!

Proceeds benefit the Historian Committee, which will use them in the production of our newsletter Timeless Tracks, to improve historical displays in the lodge, for special projects, and to offer support to the Lodge and other committees. If you'd like to learn more about purchasing any of the items available for sale by the Historian Committee, please see Paul Escobar or Amber Spurlock, text Amber at 714-624-9803, or email the Historian Committee at Historian.BPOE.1952@gmail.com.



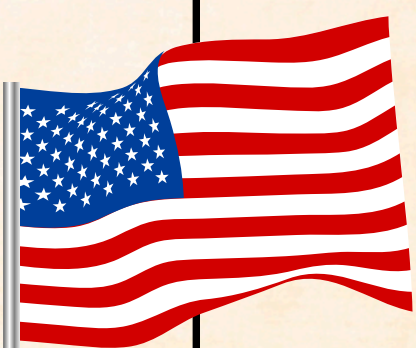
Thank you for your interest in the traditions of our past!!!



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Sew4Good

all about
QUILTS OF
VALOR



WORD SEARCH

By Maria Cox

- SCHICKERLING
- PURPLE
- MORTUARY
- FREEDOM
- CLOWNS
- FRATERNAL
- HOUDINI
- ENVSC
- AMERICANISM
- QUILTS
- BIGDOG
- EMBLEM
- MEMBERSHIP



Visit the History Page at Elks1952.org for the answers!

B.P.O.E. Trivia Answer

Elroy

Garden Grove Trivia Answer

Grover's Day

GG Elks Trivia Answer

Joanne Galvin

PLEASE LOOK FOR OUR NEXT QUARTERLY EDITION - COMING IN JULY 2026
GARDEN GROVE ELKS HISTORIAN COMMITTEE