

Gatlinburg Elks Lodge

BENEVOLENT AND PROTECTIVE ORDER OF ELKS NO. 1925

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GATLINBURG, TENNESSEE

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A WORD FROM THE EXALTED RULER

Fellow Elks:

Grand Exalted Ruler Jack Frost has officially proclaimed November as "National Veterans Remembrance Month", and has requested all Lodges to observe this month of recollection of the debt we owe all Veterans in a manner recommended to all Elks.

The Elks have always been a patriotic organization and our support of our service members and Veterans. In April 1917, after the United States entered World War I, the Elks at their Boston Grand Lodge session resolved to appropriate \$1,000,000 to establish "The War Relief Fund". The War Relief Commission's first act in July 1917 was to finance and build two field hospitals in France. The #41 MASH (Mobile Army Surgical Hospital) and the #46 MASH were the first American hospital units to arrive in the trenches of France, saving lives and relieving suffering.

In 1918 the Elk's War Relief Commission oversaw the construction of a 700 bed "Reconstruction Hospital" in Boston for the U.S. government, the first of its kind. The Elks contributed all material and construction costs and it was donated to the U.S. government as the first Veterans Administration Hospital. In July 1918 the Elks appropriated a 2nd \$1,000,000 for the War Relief Fund.

Gatlinburg Lodge 1925 will be making our annual trip to the Veterans Hospital in Johnson City on November 9th. If you can make this trip, I encourage you to go. Many of the vets there say that our visit is the best day of their year, and it's a lot of fun for us as well. If you can't come with us, please bring any donations of books, magazines, clothing, etc. to the Lodge this week so they can be distributed during our visit.

Chris Davis, Exalted Ruler

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~~--- Exalted Ruler~~

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RICHARD ROGERS

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KERRY RICHARDSON

Secretary

BUD RICE

Treasurer

DOUG HARTLEY

Chaplin

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Leo (Benny) Benson

Douglas McGrath

Donald Gillespie

Bill Duncan