

Grand Lodge News

Message from the GER

Oh, the places Elks will go over 150 more years

Message from the Grand Exalted Ruler
MALCOLM J. McPHERSON JR.

What an extraordinary year it has been! It's hard to believe that my tenure as your Grand Exalted Ruler is coming to an end. Pat and I are extremely humbled and grateful for this experience that allowed us to not only travel the United States, but to meet all of the men and women of the Order and witness the positive work you are doing.

As you know, my theme of the past year was "Strengthening Elkdom Through Community Awareness," and you have far exceeded my expectations. I'm so proud to say that Elks are thriving in every corner of our country. Each and every Lodge we visited is making a tangible difference in their communities in many valuable ways: unique initiatives to support our youth and those with special needs, numerous scholarship awards, and generous donations to our veterans.

It was inspiring to see many Lodges use their 150th Anniversary Grants to further their local causes and respond to unexpected tragedies, such as helping the victims of the devastating hurricanes last summer.

I look forward to seeing many of you again this month in San Antonio for my final stop on this adventure, to celebrate your extraordinary accomplishments over the past year and the 150th birthday of our Order. You have so much to be proud of and I can't wait to raise a glass in your honor.

While I may be closing this chapter of my journey, our journey together as Elks is just beginning. There is much more we can accomplish and give back to our communities as we head into the next 150 years. I encourage you to keep striving for success. As Dr. Seuss wrote in his famous children's book *Oh, The Places You'll Go!*, "You're off to Great Places! Today is your day! Your mountain is waiting, So... get on your way!" I truly believe the Elks are on the road to great places, and it is you, our outstanding Members, who will lead us there.

Pat and I are overwhelmed by your generosity, hospitality, and enthusiasm in welcoming us into your lives and Lodges and will forever cherish the lasting memories we have made. Thank you from the bottom of our hearts. We'll see you out there again soon.