

June 2018

Focus on Flags and Fathers This June

As I write this message, it still feels like winter in New Jersey, but I hope by the time you read it, summertime will finally be on its way. And with that, I'll be one month shy of finishing this journey with you. Until then, there's still time before your Lodge breaks for the summer to find ways to fulfill my theme of strengthening Elkdom through community awareness, especially with Flag Day and Father's Day happening in June.

As Elks, allegiance to our country's flag has been a requirement for every member since our inception. When the Grand Lodge designated June 14 as Flag Day in 1907 and made the occasion a mandatory observance for all Lodges in 1911, the holiday became an even more important day in Elks history, as well as our country's history. President Harry Truman, an Elk himself, recognized June 14 as a national observance of the flag in 1949, and ever since all Americans honor the flag on this day. I hope you participate in Flag Day services at your Lodge this year and I encourage you to welcome all members of your communities, Elks or not, to these events. Take a moment to recollect on the values our country's flag stands for as well as remember all the men and women who have served and continue to serve it. As Elks, let's be proud of the role our leaders before us have played in making Flag Day such an important day for this remarkable nation.

Father's Day on June 17 is another moment for Elks to remember our organization's founding fathers as well as all fathers in our Lodges and communities. Just as we honored mothers last month, take some time now to plan a brunch, game night, or other event to show your appreciation for the dads that do so much for your Lodge as well as their own families.

For those of you I've yet to visit on this journey, what will you do to honor flags and fathers this month? I can't wait to experience the great things you are working on to support my theme and our shared Elks values.

I'll see you here--and in San Antonio--next month for my last moments as your Grand Exalted Ruler. I'm looking forward to celebrating all that we have accomplished this past year and welcoming a new year of leadership to Elkdom.