
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE RESOLUTION

No. 272 Session of
2018

INTRODUCED BY CORMAN, FEBRUARY 5, 2018

INTRODUCED AND ADOPTED, FEBRUARY 5, 2018

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing the month of February 2018 as "Benevolent and
2 Protective Order of Elks Month" in Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, On the 150th anniversary of the establishment of the
4 Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks, residents of this
5 Commonwealth celebrate the commitment of the Benevolent and
6 Protective Order of Elks and the Pennsylvania Elks State
7 Association to selflessly serve others in need across our great
8 Commonwealth; and

9 WHEREAS, Founded in New York City on February 16, 1868, by
10 Charles Algernon Sidney Vivian and a handful of friends, the
11 Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks has spread across the
12 country, with nearly 1 million members and 2,000 lodges; and

13 WHEREAS, Dedicated to charity, justice and patriotism, the
14 Elks have invested millions of hours each year to build stronger
15 communities, assist homeless veterans and ensure that children
16 steer away from drugs; and

17 WHEREAS, Over the course of their history, the Elks have
18 disbursed more than \$3.6 billion in cash, goods and services to

1 our nation's veterans, disadvantaged individuals, individuals
2 with disabilities and patriotic and civic programs; and

3 WHEREAS, In the last fraternal year, the Pennsylvania Elks
4 State Association raised \$6,989,884.94 for the following
5 purposes:

6 (1) scholarships;

7 (2) drug awareness;

8 (3) programs for military, veterans and homeless
9 veterans;

10 (4) youth basketball and soccer; and

11 (5) home nursing programs;

12 and

13 WHEREAS, Accordingly embedded in the fabric of our nation,
14 the Elks have steadfastly committed to honoring and serving
15 military members and veterans; and

16 WHEREAS, For more than a century, the Elks have pledged: "So
17 long as there are veterans, the Benevolent and Protective Order
18 of the Elks will never forget them"; and

19 WHEREAS, The Elks fulfill this promise daily by visiting and
20 providing social events and friendship to veterans receiving
21 treatment in medical facilities, hospitals and nursing homes
22 operated by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs;
23 and

24 WHEREAS, The Elks donate much-needed supplies and equipment
25 to these medical facilities, hospitals and nursing homes to
26 further ensure that veterans receive the care they deserve; and

27 WHEREAS, During World War I, the Elks donated at least \$2
28 million to assist American soldiers going abroad and organized,
29 constructed and equipped the first two American field hospitals
30 in France; and

1 WHEREAS, After World War I, the Elks built a 700-bed hospital
2 in Boston and donated the facility to the Federal Government;
3 and

4 WHEREAS, During that period, the Elks empowered nearly 50,000
5 disabled veterans to live full lives by providing
6 rehabilitation, vocation and education loans; and

7 WHEREAS, Education assistance given by the Elks was a
8 catalyst for passage of the GI Bill by the Congress of the
9 United States; and

10 WHEREAS, The Elks were instrumental in raising funds for the
11 National World War II Memorial, having donated \$1.22 million to
12 its construction; and

13 WHEREAS, The Elks have dedicated endless hours and resources
14 in support of youths and celebrating the accomplishments of our
15 nation's youths; and

16 WHEREAS, Committed to building up the next generation, the
17 Elks rank among the top three private providers of scholarships
18 for students; and

19 WHEREAS, Each year, millions of dollars donated by the Elks
20 are awarded to thousands of students who may pursue dreams of
21 becoming our nation's future leaders; and

22 WHEREAS, One of the most impressive Elks-sponsored youth
23 programs is the Elks National Hoop Shoot; and

24 WHEREAS, "Elks National Youth Week," observed each year
25 during the first week in May, recognizes young individuals for
26 their involvement with the achievements in the community; and

27 WHEREAS, The Elks truly make a difference in the lives of
28 many young individuals through their sponsorship of youth fairs,
29 career nights, student government days, athletic and education
30 programs, clubs and more; and

1 WHEREAS, The Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks is the
2 fraternal organization most actively engaged in promoting strong
3 and healthy futures for young people; and

4 WHEREAS, The Elks National Drug Awareness Program is the
5 nation's largest volunteer-based drug prevention organization;
6 and

7 WHEREAS, Since 1982, the Elks have distributed 7 million
8 pieces of anti-drug educational materials to students, educators
9 and parents free of charge; and

10 WHEREAS, In partnership with the United States Drug
11 Enforcement Administration, the Elks produce an annual comic
12 book focused on empowering youths to make good decisions when
13 faced with negative social pressures such as bullying and drug
14 use; and

15 WHEREAS, More than half a million copies of the comic book
16 are given to schools each year along with teacher's guides for
17 easy and effective classroom incorporation; and

18 WHEREAS, Last year, the Elks and the United States Drug
19 Enforcement Administration collaborated to produce a YouTube
20 video on the effects of drug use on an individual's physical
21 body, future education, career opportunities and relationships,
22 which has been viewed more than half a million times; and

23 WHEREAS, Members of the Pennsylvania Elks State Association
24 always put the needs of others before themselves, thus
25 comprising one of the first organizations on the ground during a
26 crisis to provide supplies and relief to affected individuals;
27 and

28 WHEREAS, The Elks raised more than \$1 million to help
29 families victimized by the horrific terrorist attacks of
30 September 11, 2001; and

1 WHEREAS, More recently, the Elks donated \$25,000 to persons
2 affected by Hurricane Harvey in Texas; and

3 WHEREAS, Since the earliest days of the Benevolent and
4 Protective Order of Elks, patriotism has further distinguished
5 the Elks from other fraternal organizations; and

6 WHEREAS, The Elks have always revered the American flag and
7 the sacrifices made daily in its honor; and

8 WHEREAS, In 1907, the Elks adopted June 14 as "Flag Day"; and

9 WHEREAS, In 1911, the Elks made it mandatory that all lodges
10 observe "Flag Day" with appropriate ceremonies; and

11 WHEREAS, On August 3, 1949, President Harry S. Truman, a
12 member of the Elks, permanently designated June 14 as "Flag Day"
13 nationwide; and

14 WHEREAS, Prominent Elks who went on to achieve greatness in
15 public life include the following:

16 (1) Presidents Warren G. Harding, Franklin D. Roosevelt,
17 Harry S. Truman, Dwight D. Eisenhower, John F. Kennedy and
18 Gerald R. Ford.

19 (2) United States Army Generals Douglas MacArthur,
20 George Patton and John Pershing.

21 (3) Hundreds of members of the Congress of the United
22 States;

23 therefore be it

24 RESOLVED, That the Senate recognize the month of February
25 2018 as "Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks Month" in
26 Pennsylvania.