

The Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks of the United States of America



In Memory of Nevada's Fallen Soldiers

**Our thoughts and prayers are with the family members and loved ones of
those that gave their lives to fight for our country.
May God give you peace in your heart and strength to carry on.**

**They proudly served their country.
Now, they proudly serve with angel's wings.**

CT Dawson
January, 2002



Jim Gibbons *Governor, State of Nevada*

JIM GIBBONS
GOVERNOR



One Hundred One North Carson Street
Carson City, Nevada 89701
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Office of the Governor

May 17, 2008

GREETINGS FROM THE GOVERNOR

As Governor of the State of Nevada, I am deeply honored to address this gathering. On behalf of the citizens of the Silver State, I thank The Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks for organizing this event. This is a special time where we can honor and remember our brave men and women who have paid the ultimate sacrifice for a country and people that they loved.

It is with tender hearts that we remember these strong and valiant citizens of Nevada. We will always cherish their sacrifice made in our defense. Their commitment was undeniable, their loyalty unwavering. They leave behind a legacy of honor, of dignity and of bravery. I will be forever proud of their dedication to their country.

Today, as we join together in celebrating the lives of our greatest citizens, may we commit to never forget their sacrifice, and the sacrifice of their loved ones. I extend heartfelt sympathy to their families and pledge that I will never forget.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jim Gibbons".

JIM GIBBONS
Governor of the State of Nevada

/mm

Ken Curto

President, NSEA

Nevada
State



Elks
Association

May 17, 2008

Dear Elk Members, Veteran Families, and Friends;

The Benevolent and protective Order of Elks has a long history and proud tradition of supporting our Nations veterans. Beginning in 1917 the BPOE created the "War Relief Fund", which organized and equipped base hospitals in France and built a 700 - bed reconstruction hospital in Boston, MA. Throughout the years Elks have consistently supported veterans - even today the Elks pledge is *"...As long as there are veterans, the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks will never forget them"*.

During 2007, 901 Nevada Elks provided services to 4,077 veterans; Elks and their helpers donated 7,206 hours and traveled 79,542 miles serving veterans. All time, travel and donated items had a value of \$276,830. Indeed Elks have a high priority for Nevada veterans and their families.

On Behalf of Nevada's 5,000 Elks and their families, this Medal of Valor is presented to you as a token of our application for the sacrifices made in protecting our nation and its freedoms.

In grateful appreciation,

Ken Curto

Ken Curto, President
Nevada State Elks Association

Elks National Veterans Service Commission

In 1917, the world was at war. The Order of the Elks was only 49 years old. In April of that year, Grand Exalted Ruler Edward Rightor appointed a committee to study what the Order of Elks should do in this crisis. The Committee was ordered to present its findings to the Grand Lodge Session in Boston that July.

At the session, this committee, headed by Past Exalted Ruler John K. Tener, recommended to the membership that “the Elks give first consideration to the sick and wounded on the battlefields of France and equip base hospitals for their care,” and that “the Order create a fund for war relief work.”

The membership enthusiastically and unanimously approved a resolution appropriating \$1 million dollars for the War Relief Fund. Our Brothers at the subordinate Lodge level raised this money.

The Grand Exalted Ruler at the Boston convention, appointed an Elks War Relief Commission that evolved into the organization we have today: the Elks National Veterans Service Commission.

During World War I, the Elks allocated \$2million to finance efforts and organized and equipped the first two base hospitals to reach France – Unit 41 staffed by the faculty and alumni from the University of Virginia, and Unit 46 with University of Oregon faculty and alumni.

In 1918, to accommodate the maimed and wounded, the Elks built a 700-bed Reconstruction Hospital in Boston and gave it to the War Department. This was the only Veterans Hospital after World War I to be donated by a private entity. This was the first of what was to become the VA medical centers. Also in 1918, the Order built a 72-room Community House to take care of families visiting the 40,000 soldiers stationed at Camp Sherman, Ohio.

During the war, The Salvation Army was severely handicapped in its great work for the servicemen by lack of funds. To make sure The Salvation Army’s work continued, the Elks assumed the entire costs of many of their undertakings and at Christmastime in 1918, the Elks commission gave an additional \$60,000 to the Salvation Army.

The Commission made 40,000 rehabilitation, vocational and education loans to disabled veterans who were ineligible for government help or were waiting approval of their applications for assistance. This service was so effective that the federal government followed the Order’s example; the GI bill, which makes funds available to veterans for education, had its genesis from this Elks program.

More than 70,000 Elks served in the armed forces during World War I. The supreme sacrifice was made by more than 1,000.

In 1940, at the Grand Lodge Session in Houston, the Elks unanimously voted to establish the Elks National Defense and Public Relations Commission. The primary focus was to establish a patriotic program. In 1942, the Elks War Commission was created. The United State Army asked the War Commission to recruit 45,000 young men for ground crews in the Army Air Corps. The commission recruited 97,000.

Throughout World War II, the Elks fully contributed to the war effort by providing for members of the armed forces. More than \$ 1.5 million was spent, while local Lodges spent hundreds of thousands of dollars more. Thousands of gift boxes and personal hygiene items were sent to our fighting military personnel, while thousands of slippers were distributed to hospitalized members. In addition, the Elks provided the hospitals with radios, phonographs, playing cards, books, magazines, games, musical instruments, craft supplies and personal items. Elks volunteers spent hours listening to our heroes. It was through this work with hospitalized veterans during World War II that the Elks continued its evolution of “serving our nation’s veterans”.

In July 1946, the Elks National Veterans Service Commission was created to replace the Elks War Commission. Its primary goals were to carry on the Hospital Program, the Peace Army Enlistment Campaign, and all uncompleted activities supervised by the Elks War Relief Commission. The Elks pledged that ...

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

Throughout history, the Elks Commission has continues to offer its help to the troops in the Korean War, the Vietnam War, Operation Desert Storm and other international conflicts. In 1999, the members of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks pledged support of the National World War II Memorial, to be built on the National Mall in Washington, D.C. This memorial will preserve the memory of the more than 16 million people who served in WWII, the more than 400,000 who died, and the millions more who made lesser but nonetheless important sacrifices to support those in combat overseas.

Our story is long, our work is humble, our history is proud. The Elks National Veterans Service Commission continues its commitment to this day serving our nation’s veterans.



Let us remember Freedom is not Free

You are our HERO'S and You will never be forgotten...



Hero

**For those who fought on distant shore,
Who gave without a word;
Defending us with honor,
So gallantly they served.**

**For every boy who left his home,
Returning there a man;
And every woman who made a choice,
To make serving part of her plan.**

**For every fallen soldier,
Who gave all they could give;
To guarantee our liberty,
And the freedom that we live.**

**Each one who served with honor,
The brave, the tried, the true;
America gives it thanks today,
For we see a hero in you.**

**Allison Chambers Coxsey
©1999**

Medals of Valor Recipients

The following young men have made the supreme sacrifice, in Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom, protecting our freedom and the freedom of the peoples of Afghanistan and Iraq. With deepest gratitude we present the Elks Medals of Valor to their proud families.

If we have overlooked anyone or have misrepresented the individuals rank or personal information we sincerely apologize. The selection of the following young men was made from available records, through public information, showing significant ties to Nevada.

**William M. Wiseman, PER
Henderson/Green Valley Lodge #2802**

Marine Sgt. Phillip A. Bocks, 28, of Truckee, CA.

9 November 2007, Nuristan Province, Afghanistan

Marine Corps Mountain Warfare Training Center, Bridgeport, CA.

Killed while conducting combat operations in Aranus.

He grew up in Truckee and attended Truckee HS. He is survived by his father, step mother of Truckee and his mother of Troy Michigan. (By request of California)



Army Cpl. Mathew A. Commons, 21, of Boulder City.

4 March 2002, Gardez, Takur Ghar, Afghanistan

Company A, 1st Battalion, 75th Ranger Regiment

Killed in action when he and fellow Rangers were exiting a Chinook helicopter while under fire during Operation Anaconda. The Boulder City VFW chapter is named in his memory. A 1999 Boulder City HS graduate.



Army Spec. Jason A. Disney, 21, of Fallon.

13 February 2002, Kabul, Afghanistan

58th Maintenance Company, 7th Transportation Battalion, 507th Corps Support Group

Died shortly after a large piece of heavy equipment he was working with came loose and fell on him. A 1999 Churchill County HS graduate active in baseball.



Army Sgt. David Joseph Drakulich, 22, of Reno.

9 January 2008, Chagali, Afghanistan

508th Parachute Infantry Regiment, 4th Brigade Combat Team,
82nd Airborne Division, Fort Bragg, NC

*Killed in action when his vehicle was hit by a mine. A
2003 graduate from Hug Hugh School. Attended TMCC
for 2 semesters before he joined the army in 2004.*



Army N.G. Chief Warrant Officer John M. Flynn, 36, of Sparks.

25 September 2005, Deh Chopan, Afghanistan

Company D, 113th Aviation Regiment, Army National Guard

*One of five soldiers killed when their CH-47 Chinook
helicopter crashed. He flew fixed wing aircraft before
joining the Army. A 1988 graduate of Reno High School.
He is survived by his wife, two children and his parents.*



Army Sgt. John C. Griffith, 33, of Las Vegas.

5 May 2006, Kunar Province, Abad, Afghanistan

3rd Battalion, 10th Aviation Regiment, 10th Mountain Division

*Died when the CH-47 Chinook helicopter he and nine
other soldiers were riding in crashed during combat
operations. A 1994 Rancho High School graduate. He is
survived by his wife and three children.*



Navy Petty Officer 2nd Class Shane E. Patton, 22, of Boulder City

13 February 2002, Asadabad, Kabul, Afghanistan

SEAL Delivery Vehicle Team 1, Naval Special Warfare Group 3

*One of 16 U.S. troops killed when a MH-47D Chinook
helicopter was shot down while reinforcing a four-man
SEAL reconnaissance team. He was a 2000 graduate of
Boulder City High School.*



Army Chief Warrant Officer Joshua R. Rodgers, 29, Carson City

30 May 2007, Upper Sangin Valley, Afghanistan

3rd General Support Aviation Battalion, 82nd Brigade Combat
Team, 82nd Airborne Division, Fort Bragg, NC

*Killed in action when their helicopter crashed due to
enemy fire. He graduated from Douglas High School in
1997. He is survived by his wife and 3 daughters.*



***Army Reserve Staff Sgt. Cameron B. Sarno, 43, of Las Vegas.
1 September 2003, Kuwait City, Kuwait***

257th Transportation Company, U.S. Army Reserve, Las Vegas
*Hit by a truck and killed while changing his vehicle's
tire. A black belt in karate, he planned to open a karate
school when he returned. His son Cameron Bryan "BJ"
Takeuchi, 22, is serving in the Army in Afghanistan.*



***Army Chief Warrant Officer John D. Smith, 32, of Las Vegas.
24 February 2003, Afghanistan***

Company B, 5th Battalion, 158th Aviation regiment, 12th Aviation
Brigade

*Aboard a UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter that crashed
NW of Kuwait City during a training mission in a sand-
storm. He is survived by his wife and two daughters.*



***Army National Guard Sgt. Patrick D. Stewart, 34, of Fernley.
25 September 2005, Del Chopan, Afghanistan***

Company D, 113th Aviation Regiment, Nevada Army National
Guard, Stead, Nevada

*One of five soldiers killed when their CH-47 Chinook
helicopter crashed. A 1989 graduate of Wooster High
School. He is survived by his wife, daughter and son.*



***Marine Lance Cpl. Nicholas H. Anderson, 19, of Las Vegas.
12 November 2004, Al Anbar Province, Iraq***

Weapons Company, 1st Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, 3rd Ma-
rine Division, 3rd Marine Expeditionary Force

*Died in a non-hostile vehicle accident. A 2002 graduate
of Bonanza High School. He was a member of the U.S.
Army JROTC and played varsity football.*



***Army Staff Sgt. Bryan E. Bolander, 26, of Virginia City.
29 April 2008, Baghdad, Iraq***

1st Battalion, 502nd Infantry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat
team, 101st Airborne Division Fort Campbell, KY.

*Killed when his vehicle struck a makeshift bomb. He is
survived by his son, parents, grandparents, and fiancé.
He was planning to get married 6 June.*



Army Sgt. Kenneth E Bostic, 21, of Hawthorne.

30 October 2006, Baghdad, Iraq

204th Military Police Company, 519th Military Police Battalion,
1st Combat Support Brigade

Died of injuries suffered from contact with enemy forces using small arms fire during check point operations. A 2003 Mineral County High School graduate.



Marine Lance Cpl. Raul S. Bravo, 21, of Elko.

3 March 2007, Al Quaim, Al Anbar Province, Iraq

3rd Battalion, 4th Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division, 1st Marine Expeditionary Force

Killed when his convoy came in contact with a road side bomb. Bravo was serving his second tour of duty in Iraq. He joined the Marines while still in high school.



Army Capt. Joshua T. Byers, 29, of Sparks.

23 July 2003, Baghdad, Iraq

F Troop, 2nd Battalion, 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment

Killed when his convoy hit a roadside bomb. He attended Sparks High School and was a 1996 graduate of the West Point Military Academy. He is survived by his wife, parents and two brothers.



Marine 2nd Lt. James J. Cathey, 24, of Reno.

21 August 2005, Al Karmah, Iraq

Company G, 2nd Battalion, 2nd Marine Regiment, 2nd Marine Division, 2nd Marine Expeditionary Force

Killed by a makeshift bomb that detonated while conducting combat operations. He is survived by his wife, expecting their first child and a 9-year-old daughter.



Marine Lance Cpl. Donald John Cline Jr., 21, of Sparks.

23 March 2003, Nasiriyah, Iraq

Headquarters & Service Company, 1st Battalion, 2nd Marine Regiment, 2nd Marine Expeditionary Brigade

Killed by a rocket-propelled grenade after taking part in rescuing his fellow Marines following a brutal battle out side Nasiriyah. He is survived by his wife and two sons.



**Army N.G. Spc. Anthony S. Cometa, 21, of Las Vegas.
16 June 2005, Safwan, Iraq**

1864th Transportation Company, 106th Transportation Battalion,
Nevada Army National Guard

*Died when his Humvee rolled over. He graduated in
2002 from Silverado High School where he wrestled and
taught himself to played bass.*



**Marine Lance Cpl. Budd Michael Cote, 21, of Marana, AZ.
12 December 2006, Anbar Province, Iraq**

Marine Support Squadron 373, Marine Wing Support Group 37,
3rd Marine Aircraft Wing, 1st Marine Expeditionary
Force, Marine Corps Air Station Miramar, CA

*Killed by a makeshift bomb. He attended Mountain View
HS, Marana, AZ. He is survived by his wife and parents.*



**Army Pfc. David N. Crombie, 19, of Winnemucca.
7 June 2006, Ramadi, Iraq**

2nd Battalion, 6th Infantry Regiment, 1st Armored Division

*One of two soldiers killed when a roadside bomb deto-
nated near their Humvee. He played in the Cibola High
School marching band and wanted to teach high school
band, after completing college, once he returned home.*



**Army Staff Sgt. Sean Michael Gaul, 29, of Reno.
9 January 2008, Sinsil, Iraq**

3rd Squadron, 2nd Stryker Cavalry Regiment, 1st Armored Divi-
sion, Vilseck, Germany

*Killed when a makeshift bomb detonated during combat
operations. Gaul was a tri-athlete. He is survived by his
wife, daughter, mother, father and four sisters.*



**Army Pfc. Daniel F. Guastaferrero, 27, of Las Vegas.
7 January 2005, Ramadi, Iraq**

Company D, 1st Battalion, 503rd Infantry Regiment, 2nd Brigade
Combat Team, 2nd Infantry Division

*Died when his military vehicle left the road and crashed
into a canal. He attended Cimarron Memorial High
School. He is survived by his parents.*



Marine Cpl. Jesse Jaime, 22, of Henderson.

15 June 2005, Ramadi, Iraq

Company A, 1st Battalion, 5th Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division, 1st Marine Expeditionary Force

One of four Marines killed when their vehicle hit an improvised explosive device. He was a member of the Navy Junior ROTC at Chaparral High School.



Marine 1st Lt. Nathan M. Krissoff, 25, of Reno.

9 December 2006, Al Anbar Province, Iraq

Headquarters & Service Battalion, 3rd Marine Division, 3rd Marine Expeditionary Force, Okinawa, Japan.

Killed by a roadside bomb while serving as a counterintelligence officer. His father later joined the Navy Medical Corps as a way to honor his son's sacrifice.



Army Cpl. Stanley J. Lapinski, 35, of Las Vegas.

11 June 2005, Baghdad, Iraq

Company B, 3rd Battalion, 7th Infantry Regiment, 3rd Infantry Division

Killed when an improvised explosive device detonated near his military vehicle. He hosted a radio talk show on KUNV-FM under the air name "Stan the Man".



Army Cpl. Shawn Thomas Lasswell Jr., 21, of Reno.

23 April 2006, Taji, Iraq

7th Squadron, 10th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division

One of three soldiers killed when a roadside bomb detonated near their Humvee. A 2001 Valley HS graduate. Shawn's wife is presently serving in the military.



Army Staff Sgt. Emmanuel L. Legaspi, 38, of Las Vegas.

7 May 2006, Tal Afar, Iraq

1st Battalion, 36th Infantry Regiment, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 1st Armored Division

Died of injuries sustained when his unit came under enemy small arms fire. He enlisted in the Army in 2000. He is survived by his wife and 6-month-old daughter.



Marine Lance Cpl. Jeremy Z. Long, 18, of Sun Valley.
10 August 2006, Al Anbar Province, Iraq

1st Battalion, 7th Regiment, 1st Marine Division, I Marine Expeditionary Force

Died while conducting combat operations. He graduated from Spanish Springs High School in 2005. He was active in football (4 yrs), wrestling, swimming and track.



Marine Pfc. John Lukac, 19, of Las Vegas.
30 October 2004, Baghdad, Iraq

Company B, 1st Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, 3rd Marine Division, 3rd Marine Expeditionary Force

Killed when a Marine convoy was attacked with a car bomb in western Iraq, near Baghdad's Abu Ghraib prison. 2003 honors graduate of Durango High School.



Army Cpl. Joseph L. Martinez, 21, of Las Vegas.
27 August 2005, Tal Afar, Iraq

E Troop, 2nd Squadron, 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment

Killed when his dismounted patrol was engaged by enemy forces using small-arms fire. He was posthumously awarded the Bronze Star. 2002 graduated of Durango High School & a member of the Air Force Jr. ROTC.



Army Sgt. Gordon F. Misner II, 21, of Sparks.
22 February 2006, Balad, Iraq

1st Battalion, 8th Infantry Regiment, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division

One of three soldiers killed when a roadside bomb detonated near their Bradley Fighting Vehicle. A 2000 Sparks HS graduate. He left a wife & three daughters.



Army Pfc. Joshua Steven Modging, 22, of Las Vegas
19 June 2007, Muhammad Ali, Iraq

1st Battalion, 30th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division, Fort Stewart, GA.

Killed in action when a makeshift bomb exploded near their vehicle. He attended HS in Las Vegas, NV and Corona, CA. He is survived by his mother and father.



**Army Pvt. Joshua M. Morberg, 20, of Sparks.
27 December 2005, Baghdad, Iraq**

2nd Battalion, 8th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team,
4th Infantry Division

One of two soldiers killed when a roadside bomb detonated near their dismounted patrol. He was born in Anchorage, Alaska & 2004 graduate of Washoe HS.



**Army Sgt. Eric Wayne Morris, 31, of Sparks.
28 April 2005, Tal Afar, Iraq**

Company A, 1st Battalion, 5th Infantry Regiment, 1st Brigade
(Stryker Brigade Combat Team), 25th Infantry Division

Killed when a roadside bomb exploded near his Stryker military vehicle. He is survived by his wife and their twin daughters.



**Army Sgt. Alfred Garcia Paredes Jr., 32, of Las Vegas.
20 November 2007, Baghdad, Iraq**

1st Battalion, 8th Cavalry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team,
1st Cavalry Division, Fort Hood, TX

He was killed when his vehicle struck a makeshift bomb. This was his second tour to Iraq; his first in 3003. He is survived by his wife and three step children.



**Marine Lance Cpl. Richard A. Perez Jr., 19, of Henderson.
10 February 2005, Al Anbar Province, Iraq**

Bulk Fuel Company, 6th Motor Transport Battalion, 4th Force
Service Support Group, Marine Forces Reserve, LV

Died as a result of non-hostile vehicle incident. He was a 2003 graduate of Coronado High School. A street in Henderson was named after him.



**Marine 2nd Lt. Frederick Eben Pokorney Jr., 31, of Tonopah.
23 March 2003, Nasiriyah, Iraq**

Headquarters Battery, 1st Battalion, 10th Marine Regiment, 2nd
Marine Expeditionary Brigade, HDQ Battery

Killed during a battle in Nasiriyah. As a 2001 graduate of Oregon State he enlisted in the Marines and enrolled in the ROTC program. He his wife and young daughter.



Army Spec. Ignacio Ramirez, 22, of Henderson.
9 August 2006, Ramadi, Iraq

1st Battalion, 37th Armor Regiment, 1st Armored Division
One of three soldiers killed when a roadside bomb detonated near their Humvee during combat operations. A 2002 graduate of Basic High School where he played football his freshman year and enjoyed music.



Army 1st Sgt. Carlos N. Saenz, 46, of Las Vegas.
5 May 2006, Baghdad, Iraq

490th Civil Affairs Battalion, Army Reserve
One of three soldiers killed when a roadside bomb detonated near their Humvee. He served as a military policeman during Desert Storm and Desert Shield. He is survived by his wife and son.



Marine Cpl. William I. Salazar, 26, of Las Vegas.
15 October 2004, Al Anbar Province, Iraq

Headquarters & Service Company, Headquarters Battalion, 1st Marine Division, 1st Marine Expeditionary Force
Died from wounds received from a car bomb as result of enemy action. He worked at Metro Pizza and plumber's apprentice before joining the Marine Corps.



Army Staff Sgt. Coby G. Schwab, 25, of Henderson.
3 May 2007, Ramadi, Iraq

Company B, 321st Engineer Battalion of the U.S. Army Reserve
Killed when his armored carrier was struck by a roadside bomb explosion. He joined the Army in 2000 after graduating from Advanced Technologies Academy. He is survived by his wife, also on active duty.



Army Sgt. Anthony J. Schober, 23, of Carson City.
12 May 2007, Al Taqa, Iraq

4th Battalion, 31st Infantry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mountain Division
Died of wounds sustained when his patrol was attacked by enemy forces using automatic fire and explosives. He is survived by his parents, sister and grand parents.



**Army Pfc. Thomas C. Siekert, 20, of Lovelock.
6 December 2005, Baiji, Iraq**

Company A, 1st Battalion, 187th Infantry Regiment, 3rd Brigade
Combat Team, 101st Airborne Division

*Died of non-combat related injuries. A 2004 graduate of
Pershing County High School, he was very active in
track and relay events, something he very much enjoyed.*



**Army Sgt. Timothy M. Smith, 25, of South Lake Tahoe, CA.
7 April 2008, Baghdad, Iraq**

4th Brigade Special Troops Battalion, 4th Brigade Combat Team,
10th Mountain Division (Light Infantry), Fort Polk, LA

*Killed in action when his vehicle encountered a makeshift
bomb. He graduated from South Tahoe HS in 2001. He
is survived by his wife and son. (By request of California)*



**Army Spec. Teodoro Torres Jr., 29, of Las Vegas.
5 May 2006, Baghdad, Iraq**

490th Civil Affairs Battalion, Army Reserve

*One of three soldiers killed when a improvised explosive
device detonated near their Humvee. He survived by his
wife, Yarissa Diaz-Baez. He was raised in Rochester,
New York, and of lately of Las Vegas.*



**Army Staff Sgt. Michael Lopez Townes, 29, Las Vegas.
16 September 2007, Balad - Salah ad Din, Iraq**

4th Battalion, 227th Aviation Regiment, Aviation Brigade, 1st
Cavalry Division, Fort Hood, TX

*Died from non-combat related illness. Townes joined the
military in October 1999 as a wheeled vehicle mechanic.
Sorry to say I was unable to find any info on Michael.*



**Army Pfc. Alejandro P. Varela, 19, of Fernley.
19 May 2007, Baghdad, Iraq**

1st Battalion, 5th Cavalry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team,
1st Cavalry Division

*One of six soldiers killed when their vehicle hit an anti-
tank mine exploded by insurgents. He attended San Juan
and Casa Robles High Schools before moving to Fernley.*



Army Spec. Travis Michael Virgadamo, 19, of Las Vegas.
30 August 2007, Fob Taji, Iraq

3rd Squadron, 7th Cavalry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team,
3rd Infantry Division, Fort Stewart, GA

*Died in a non-combat related incident. He is survived by
his mother and grand mother of Las Vegas and his father
of the Philippines.*



Army Pfc. Phillip Brandon Williams, 21, of Gardnerville.
9 October 2006, Baghdad, Iraq

4th Brigade Troop Battalion, 4th Brigade Combat Team, 101st
Airborne Division (Air Assault)

*Killed by sniper fire while on his first tour of duty as a
military police officer. His father and uncle are both
sergeants with the S. Lake Tahoe Police Department.*



The History of Memorial Day

Memorial Day, originally called Decoration Day, is a day to remember those who have died in our nation's service. After the Civil war, many people in the North and South decorated graves of fallen soldiers with flowers.

In the spring of 1866, Henry C. Welles, a druggist in the village of Waterloo, NY, suggested that the patriots who had died in the Civil War should be honored by decorating their graves. General John B. Murray, Seneca County Clerk, embraced the idea and a committee was formed to plan a day devoted to honoring the dead. Townspeople made wreaths, crosses and bouquets for each veteran's grave. The village was decorated with flags at half mast. On May 5 of that year, a processional was held to the town's cemeteries, led by veterans. The town observed this day of remembrance on May 5 of the following year as well.

Decoration Day was officially proclaimed on May 5, 1868 by General John Logan in his [General Order No. 11](#), and was first observed officially on May 30, 1868. The South did not observe Decoration Day, preferring to honor their dead on separate days until after World War I. In 1882, the name was changed to Memorial Day, and soldiers who had died in other wars were also honored.

In 1971, Memorial Day was declared a national holiday to be held on the last Monday in May.

Today, Memorial Day marks the unofficial beginning of the summer season in the United States. It is still a time to remember those who have passed on, whether in war or otherwise. It also is a time for families to get together for picnics, ball games, and other early summer activities.

General Orders No. 11

WASHINGTON, D.C., May 5, 1868

I. The 30th day of May, 1868, is designated for the purpose of strewing with flowers or otherwise decorating the graves of comrades who died in defense of their country during the late rebellion, and whose bodies now lie in almost every city, village, and hamlet church-yard in the land. In this observance no form of ceremony is prescribed, but posts and comrades will in their own way arrange such fitting services and testimonials of respect as circumstances may permit.

We are organized, comrades, as our regulations tell us, for the purpose among other things, "of preserving and strengthening those kind and fraternal feelings which have bound together the soldiers, sailors, and marines who united to suppress the late rebellion." What can aid more to assure this result than cherishing tenderly the memory of our heroic dead, who made their breasts a barricade between our country and its foes? Their soldier lives were the reveille of freedom to a race in chains, and their deaths the tattoo of rebellious tyranny in arms. We should guard their graves with sacred vigilance. All that the consecrated wealth and taste of the nation can add to their adornment and security is but a fitting tribute to the memory of her slain defenders. Let no wanton foot tread rudely on such hallowed grounds. Let pleasant paths invite the coming and going of reverent visitors and fond mourners. Let no vandalism of avarice or neglect, no ravages of time testify to the present or to the coming generations that we have forgotten as a people the cost of a free and undivided republic.

If our eyes grow dull, other hands slack, and other hearts cold in the solemn trust, ours shall keep it well as long as the light and warmth of life remain to us.

Let us, then, at the time appointed gather around their sacred remains and garland the passionless mounds above them with the choicest flowers of spring-time; let us raise above them the dear old flag they saved from his honor; let us in this solemn presence renew our pledges to aid and assist those whom they have left among us a sacred charge upon a nation's gratitude, the soldier's and sailor's widow and orphan.

II. It is the purpose of the Commander-in-Chief to inaugurate this observance with the hope that it will be kept up from year to year, while a survivor of the war remains to honor the memory of his departed comrades. He earnestly desires the public press to lend its friendly aid in bringing to the notice of comrades in all parts of the country in time for simultaneous compliance therewith.

III. Department commanders will use efforts to make this order effective.

By order of

JOHN A. LOGAN, Commander-in-Chief

N. P. CHIPMAN, Adjutant General

Official: WM. T. COLLINS, A. A. G.

***The members of Nevada State Lodges of the
Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks
extend our deepest gratitude to the families of our
Fallen Heros for having given the
supreme sacrifice to protect our way of
Life and Freedom!***

*Reno Lodge No. 597 - (775) 825-0597
Tonopah Lodge No. 1062 - (775) 482-6850
Las Vegas Lodge No. 1468 - (702) 258-3557
Ely Lodge No. 1469 - (775) 289-4904
Boulder City Lodge No. 1682 - (702) 293-2457
Hawthorne Lodge No. 1704 - (775) 945-1704
Carson City Lodge No. 2177 - (775) 882-2177
Fallon Elks Lodge No. 2239 - (775) 423-2239
N. Las Vegas Lodge No. 2353 - (702) 642-9431
Sparks Elks Lodge No. 2397 - (775) 358-2397
Minden/Douglas Lodge No. 2670 - (775) 264-4523
Pahrump Lodge No. 2796 - (775) 751-2796
Henderson/Green Valley Lodge No. 2802 - (702) 565-9959
Mesquite Lodge No. 2811 - (702) 345-2811
Red Rock Lodge No. 2835 - (702) 254-7075*

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



***Honor them by remembering...
Freedom - is their gift to us.***

Memorial Service

17 May 2008 - 1:00 PM

Welcome

*Pete Urdiales Jr., Nevada South Vice-Chairman
Elks National Veterans Service Commission*

Presentation of Colors

Basic High School Marine Corps JROTC

Invocation

Major Michael Nute, The Salvation Army

History of Memorial Day

*Clint Courtney, Veterans Chairman
Henderson/Green Valley Elks #2802*

Elks History of Veterans Service

*Jim Menagh, Veterans Chairman
North Las Vegas Elks #2353*

Roll Call of Veterans

Veterans Chairmen, Southern Nevada Elks Lodges

Lighting of Remembrance Candles

And

Presentation of Medals of Valor

*Exalted Rulers, Southern Nevada Elks Lodges
Accompanied by veteran family members*

Acknowledgements and Introductions

*Pete Urdiales Jr., Nevada South Vice-Chairman
Elks National Veterans Service Commission*

Benediction

Major Michael Nute, The Salvation Army

Please Join Us For Lunch

Memorial Service

28 June 2008 - 1:00 PM

Welcome

*Nevada State Elks Association Veterans Service Chairman
Wayne Leroy, PER, North Las Vegas Lodge #2353
Dennis Hansberry, Exalted Ruler, Fallon Lodge #2239*

Acknowledgements and Introductions

NSEA Veterans Service Chairman Wayne Leroy, PER

Presentation of Colors

*Fallon Naval Air Station Color Guard
(Military Service Flags Courtesy of the Flag Store, Sparks, Nevada)*

Invocation

NSEA Chaplain Roger Lund, PER, Reno Lodge #597

Elks History of Veterans Service

*NSEA Veterans Service Vice Chairman Ken Catlin, PER
Fallon Lodge #2239*

Roll Call of Veterans

NSEA Veterans Service Chairman Wayne Leroy, PER

Presentation of Medals of Valor

*Exalted Rulers, Northern Nevada Elks Lodges
Accompanied by veteran family members*

Lighting of Remembrance Candles

*Veterans Chairman, Northern Nevada Elks Lodges
Accompanied by veteran family members*

“Let us remember Freedom is not Free”

Roger Lund, PER, Reno Lodge #597

Remarks

Dignitaries Present

Benediction

NSEA Chaplain Roger Lund, PER, Reno Lodge #597

Please Join Us For Lunch