

Drug Awareness Program Newsletter, January 2013



Elks National Drug Awareness Program

January, 2013

The passing of the first National Director of the Elks Drug Awareness Program, Dick Herndobler

The entire Drug Awareness Community was saddened to hear of the passing of the first National Director of the Elks Drug Awareness Program, Dick Herndobler. Both Bill and I had the pleasure of serving with Dick as State Chairman and I served as an Assistant Director under him. Some of the more senior members of the Elks DAP will fondly remember Dick, who was the consummate Elk and a true gentleman.

Dick was a native of Oregon and a longtime business owner, civic leader and combat veteran with nearly four decades of military service. He passed away December 2, 2012 at the age of 90. He was an American patriot to the core.

While in college, Dick enlisted in the U.S. Navy and was later commissioned an officer in 1943. Trained as an anti-submarine warfare (ASW) officer, he served aboard six destroyer escorts in the Atlantic and Mediterranean where he taught the crews ASW tactics. He was on the bridge of the *U.S.S. Fogg* (DE-57) off the coast of Spain when the ship was torpedoed by German submarine U-870, resulting in major damage and killing 15 of his companions. This event haunted him for years. Later in the war, he served on destroyers in forward areas of the Pacific. There he experienced the hell of kamikaze attacks near Okinawa; participated in the shelling of Japan in preparation for the planned invasion; and supported the Marines in China. He remained active in the Naval Reserve (29 years) and later joined the U.S. Army National Guard. He retired as a Captain, serving 14 days shy of 40 years.

After the war, Dick married Waunita J. Dye, in New York City, although they grew up in the same Portland neighborhood and knew each other for 85 years. Mrs. Herndobler was a great supporter of his work in Elksdom.

In addition to being a voracious reader and a constant learner, Dick had a strong work ethic, a good sense of humor and thoroughly enjoyed working with people. Over the years he was president and board member of many organizations including the Ashland Chamber of Commerce, the Ashland Rotary Club, the Ashland Library and the Ashland Community Hospital. He was an active member of the Ashland Elks Lodge #944 for over 60 years and served the Oregon State Elks Association as well.

In 1980, the leadership of the Elks asked Dick to develop a national program that put Elks' financial muscle behind community efforts to discourage illicit drug use, as well as tobacco and alcohol use among children in all 50 states. The Elks picked the right man for the job and we are all indebted to Dick for what he started and for where we are today. He served on President Reagan's drug advisory council and he served in similar capacity for Presidents Bush and Clinton.

He retired (once again!) from managing the Elks Program after 18 years of volunteer service. We nominated him for a President's Volunteer Service Award, which was presented to him a few years ago. He considered this one of his most valued awards.

Dick may no longer walk among us, but he will be forever remembered as the Founding Director of the Elks Drug Awareness Program and as you all know: "Once a member of the DAP; Always a member of the DAP." Dick was a friend to all, especially those who joined him in service to the Elks Drug Awareness Program.

Elks National Drug Awareness Program

Kent Gade

Director - Elks National Drug Awareness Program

Elks National Drug Awareness Program | 407 East 22nd Street | Atlantic | IA | 50022

Submitted by Pete Decatur