

Virginia Beach 2268 to Hold Flag Day Ceremony June 7



Our Mission as Elks

To inculcate the principles of Charity, Justice, Brotherly Love and Fidelity; to recognize a belief in God; to promote the welfare and enhance the happiness of its Members; to quicken the spirit of American patriotism; to cultivate good fellowship; to perpetuate itself as a fraternal organization, and to provide for its government, the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks of the United States of America will serve the people and communities through benevolent programs, demonstrating that

Elks Care and Elks Share.



Virginia Beach Elks Lodge # 2268



*Flag Day Ceremony
At the Flame of Hope
671 S Oceana Blvd,
Sunday, June 7th, 2015
11am*

PROGRAM

***Welcome Guests
Paul Shoemaker, Past Exalted Ruler***

***Introductory
Karyn Swenor, Exalted Ruler***

***Presentation of Colors By
CID Unit Hampton Roads***

***Invocation
Paul (IB) Dacycayn, Past Exalted Ruler***

***The Flag: It's History
Bonnie Shoemaker***

***Flag Bearers
Military Veterans***

***Response
Norine Kuhn***

***Guest Speaker
CAPT Louis J Schager, Jr, CO NAS Oceana***

***Guest Speaker
Mayor Will Sessoms***



BPOE Flag Day

Patriotism has characterized the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks of the United States of America since the early days of the organization. Allegiance to the flag of our country is a requirement of every member.



In 1907, the Grand Lodge of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks designated, by resolution, June 14, as Flag Day. The Grand Lodge of the Order adopted mandatory observance of the occasion by every Lodge in 1911, and that requirement continues.

The Elks prompted President Woodrow Wilson to recognize the Order's observance of Flag Day for its patriotic expression.

But it was not until 1949 when President Harry Truman, **himself a member of the Elks**, made the proclamation that thereafter June 14, would be a day of national observance for the symbol of our country.

It was through his Elks Lodge in Independence, Missouri, that President Truman got the idea for a national observance of Flag Day

President Harry S. Truman signed the legislation in 1949 and June 14th was properly designated Flag Day.

This is where Flag Day stands today, 66 years after Truman.

Ragged Old Flag

*On Flanders' Field in World War One, she got a big hole
rom a Bertha Gun.*

*She turned blood red in World War Two, and she hung
limp a time or two.*

*She was in Korea and Vietnam, she went where she was
sent by her Uncle Sam.*

*In our good land here she's been abused; she's been
burned, dishonored, denied, refused.*

*And the government for which she stands, is scandalized
throughout the land.*

*She's getting threadbare and wearing thin, but, she's in
good shape for the shape she's in.*

*Because she's been through the fire before, I believe she
can take a whole lot more.*

*So we raise her up every morning, and we take her down
every night.*

We don't let her touch the ground, and we fold her up right.

On second thought, I do like to brag.

Because I'm mighty proud of that Ragged Old Flag

Historic U.S Flag Bearers

*Pine Tree Flag
Bob Caley
Navy Veteran*

*Snake Flag
Eric Swenor
Navy Veteran*

*Grand Union Flag
James A. Franks
Army Veteran Suffolk Lodge*

*Betsy Ross Flag
Richard Dycus
Army Veteran*

*15 Star Flag
DC2 Barrett Harper
Active Duty Navy*

*20 Star Flag
James Powell
Air Force Veteran Suffolk Lodge*

*48 Star Flag
IT3 Andrea Mont
Active Duty Navy*

*POW-MIA Flag
Paul Long,
Suffolk Lodge*

*50 Star Flag
Gunny Sargent Brandon Alexander
Active Duty Marine*



**CAPT Louis J Schager, Jr, USN
Commanding Officer
Naval Air Station Oceana**

Captain Louis J. Schager, Jr. is a native of Palatine, Illinois and graduated with Merit from the United States Naval Academy in 1990, earning a Bachelor of Science degree in Mechanical Engineering. He attended flight training in Pensacola, Florida and Meridian, Mississippi and received his Wings of Gold in July 1993.

Captain Schager reported to the "Grim Reapers" of VF-101 at NAS Oceana in August 1993 for replacement training in the F-14A "Tomcat." After completion of this training, he reported to VF-211 "Checkmates" at NAS Miramar. He embarked on a Western Pacific deployment with VF-211 onboard USS NIMITZ (CVN 68) in 1995-96. In September 1997, Captain Schager returned to VF-101 as an F-14A/B/D Instructor Pilot. During this tour, he graduated from the Strike Fighter Tactics Instructor program at Navy Fighter Weapons School (TOPGUN) in May 1998. Captain Schager was awarded Fighter Wing Atlantic Instructor of the Year for 1999.

Captain Schager reported as a department head to VF-103 "Jolly Rogers" at NAS Oceana in May 2000. He served as Maintenance and Operations Officer while VF-103 embarked onboard USS GEORGE WASHINGTON (CVN 73) for Arabian Gulf deployments in 2000 and 2002. Captain Schager received the Commander, Naval Air Force, U.S. Atlantic Fleet peer selected Leadership Award for 2001.

Captain Schager next attended the U.S. Naval War College at Newport, Rhode Island and was awarded a Master of Arts Degree in National Security and Strategic Studies in November 2003. He then reported to the Joint Staff in the Pentagon, Washington, DC at the National Military Command Center. He served as Assistant Deputy Director for Operations and Senior Emergency Actions Officer, providing initial analysis of developing military and political situations worldwide for the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, the Secretary of Defense and the President of the United States.

Captain Schager served as Executive Officer of VFA-32 "Swordsmen" from August 2006 to November 2007. He received the Commander, Naval Air Force, U.S. Atlantic Fleet peer selected Leadership Award for 2007 and 2008. Next, Captain Schager was assigned as Executive Officer of VFA-106 in 2009 before moving on to his Command tour with the "Blue Blasters" of VFA-34 beginning in May 2010 where he completed two Western Pacific/Arabian Gulf deployments aboard USS ABRAHAM LINCOLN (CVN 72). Captain Schager reported to NAS Oceana as Executive Officer in August 2013.

Captain Schager has accumulated over 4200 flight hours and 815 arrested landings.



**Mayor William D. Sessoms, Jr.
City of Virginia Beach**

Will Sessoms is a Virginia Beach native. He began his political career in 1988 as an at-large member of the City Council. In 1992, his fellow council members selected him to be Vice Mayor, a position he held for 10 years. He was elected Mayor in 2008, and re-elected in 2012.

In 2012, Mayor Sessoms was recognized as Elected Official of the Year by the Association of Defense Communities "for critical role he played in leading and gathering support for Virginia Beach's effort to turn back encroachment" threatening Naval Air Station Oceana.

Mayor Sessoms is past chairman of the Hampton Roads Transportation Planning Organization, the Hampton Roads Military & Federal Facilities Alliance, and the Oceana Land Use Conformity Committee. He is on the executive committee and board of directors of the Hampton Roads Economic Development Alliance and the Hampton Roads Partnership.

As chairman of the HRTPO, Mayor Sessoms effectively led the region to prioritize its major road projects, resulting in significant state funding. He also led negotiations for Virginia Beach to buy the Norfolk Southern right-of-way through the city. He created the Mayor's Alternative Energy Task Force to explore new energy sources for the city, region and commonwealth.

In 2010, he launched the Mayor's Action Challenge for Children and Families, a community-wide approach to providing youth and families with accessible, affordable and sustainable opportunities to improve their quality of life.

In 2011, Mayor Sessoms established Envision Virginia Beach 2040, a group of bright, passionate and dedicated community activists charged with providing a thoughtful vision for Virginia Beach to achieve by 2040.