

## What is Your Lodge Doing for Veterans This Month?

Remember, GER Ron Hicks has proclaimed November as Elks Veterans Remembrance Month. What is your Lodge doing for Veterans this month? The Grand Lodge and the Department of Veterans Affairs is serious about this and outline their concern (and possible funding) in the two Press Releases below. What is **your Lodge** doing for Veterans this month?



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**ELKS NATIONAL VETERANS SERVICE COMMISSION**

**“NOVEMBER IS ELKS VETERANS REMEMBRANCE MONTH”**

Chicago, IL, October 27, 2015: Some twenty-two million veterans live in our communities. The Elks National President, Ronald L. Hicks, has proclaimed November as Veterans Remembrance Month as a way to encourage us to find local veterans and help them with their needs.

As Elks, we can never do enough for our Veterans and their families who have sacrificed so much for us. The Iraq and Afghanistan Wars alone have generated more than 2 million young veterans, many of whom have returned home with disabling injuries, while more than 18% of new Veterans suffer from PTSD (2008 Rand Corporation study).

The Elks proudly declare: *“So long as there are Veterans, the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks will never forget them.”* “Among our ongoing efforts to back up that statement, we make our presence known in every VA hospital; adopt veterans in need of support; assist military families with our Army of Hope; place POW/MIA tables in our Lodges; and participate in Stand Downs for homeless veterans. To learn more, visit [www.Elks.Org/vets/](http://www.Elks.Org/vets/).”

And, just recently, the Elks have entered into a partnership with Veterans Health Administration to support efforts for homeless Veterans in their communities. To this end, the Elks have pledged \$4 million to help end Veteran homelessness.

Let us remember to thank our Veterans and to show our appreciation in some special way every day, not just in November. And, should you see a member of our Armed Services in uniform, please march right up to him or her and say: “Thank you for your service. Have a great day!” It is the least we can do. To learn more visit [www.elks.org](http://www.elks.org)

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**VA**



U.S. Department  
of Veterans Affairs

## News Release

Office of Public Affairs  
Media Relations

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
October 14, 2015

**Elks Pledge Four Million Dollars to End Veteran Homelessness**  
*Commitment Is Part of VA and Community Partnership*

WASHINGTON – The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is strengthening community and non-profit partnerships to better serve Veterans. The Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks of the United States of America (BPO Elks) today announced that it has committed \$4 million over a 4-year period to help end Veteran homelessness.

This partnership and pledge embodies the mission of MyVA, launched last year to transform VA by putting Veterans in control of how, when and where they wish to be served. In order to achieve transformation, the Department has been reaching out to community partners working to meet the needs of Veterans.

As a part of this partnership, the Elks will work with VHA staff on pilot programs in the cities of Washington, Chicago and New York City. In addition, the organization is calling on the group’s 800,000 members across the country to support efforts to support homeless Veterans in their communities. The Elks have a strong tradition of service to VA. In this fiscal year alone, approximately 1,300 Elks members volunteered more than 117,000 hours of service at VA facilities nationwide.

“We’re so excited about partnering with the Elks on this important issue impacting far too many Veterans,” said VA Secretary Robert A. McDonald. “As we move closer to our goal of ending Veteran homelessness, partnerships like these will be critical to ensuring that all Veterans have access to safe and affordable housing.”

“Our goal is to provide the tools and support necessary for homeless Veterans to transition successfully into healthier and more stable lives,” said Mary Morgan, Director of the Elks National Veterans Service Commission. “Most Americans agree that Veteran homelessness should not exist, but few people know how they can help.”

For more information about VA’s homeless initiatives, visit <http://www.va.gov/homeless/>. For more information about the Elks’ service to Veterans, visit <http://www.elks.org/vets/>.