

Dear Fellow Elks,

As we approach the 250th Anniversary of the United States, we must remember that our Freedom was not free. For over 250 years, brave men and women have fought for this great land, with far too many paying the ultimate price. As we celebrate this milestone on the Fourth of July, please keep in mind those who have fought and continue to fight for our Country. It is because of this Freedom that we can enjoy being members of the BPOE, the best fraternal organization in the world. As Elks, we are Patriotic, God-fearing citizens who value the life we have been given.

Recently, many Elks gathered at the Shawnee Elks Lodge for the "Billy-O-Wilson" Memorial golf tournament. I want to extend a huge thank you to the Shawnee Elks and all the volunteers who made this event possible so that we can fund our charitable projects. I also want to thank our "Baby Elks" who worked on the golf cart raffle which added even more to our charitable projects. It was a wonderful weekend for Elkdom.

With those memories still fresh, we are now preparing for the Grand Lodge Convention in Chicago. This is a special opportunity to gather with Elks from across the country to celebrate the 100th anniversary of our Veterans Memorial Building and review our accomplishments from the past year. We will also prepare for the future of our Order by electing new officers and voting on resolutions.

On the social side, 79 Oklahoma Elks will be attending the outing at Wrigley Field. There will be plenty of time for receptions and hospitality as we socialize with members from all over the United States.

Debi and I look forward to seeing everyone in Chicago. I hope you all have a safe 250th Fourth of July.

Please "Spread the word to the Herd."

Fraternally,  
*Ronnie Elsheimer Jr.*  
OEA State President

