



**The Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks**  
of the United States of America  
est. 1868

## **Press Release**

### **BPOE Lodge #1679, Sanford, NC**

November 21, 2016

**Sanford Elks Lodge #1679 distributed 5000 Red Ribbons to Sanford area students grade K-5 during late October. The red ribbons celebrate Red Ribbon Week and promote Drug Awareness in our school systems. Drug Awareness Chairperson, Karen Riojas organized this event for the Lodge.**

**Red Ribbon Week, the nation's oldest and largest drug prevention program, reaching millions of Americans during the last week of October every year, is celebrated annually October 23- 31. By wearing red ribbons and participating in community antidrug events, young people pledge to live a drug-free lifestyle.**

**In 1988, the National Federation of Parents for Drug-Free Youth championed the first national Red Ribbon Week campaign with Honorary Chairman President Ronald Reagan and First Lady Nancy Reagan. That same year, Congress officially established Red Ribbon Week.**

**During the eight-day celebration this year, more than 80 million young people and adults show their commitment to a healthy, drug-free life by wearing or displaying the Red Ribbon.**

**For additional information please contact Sanford Elks #1679 Drug Awareness chairperson, Karen Riojas at [drugawareness@sanfordelks1679.org](mailto:drugawareness@sanfordelks1679.org) or visit**

The Benevolent and Protective Order of the Elks is a non-profit fraternal organization founded in 1868 with over 800,000 current members. Sanford lodge #1679 was chartered in 1945 and is located at 910 Carthage Street, Sanford, NC 27330. Sanford Elks actively support a variety of programs that benefit veterans, drug awareness, continuing education, youth and Americanism.