

North  
Carolina



June July 2024



**STATE PRESIDENT JOE CLANCY  
PRESENTS THE NORTH CAROLINA FLAG  
DURING OPENING CEREMONIES AT THE  
GRAND LODGE CONVENTION**





## Message from State President Joe Clancy

The 2024 Grand Lodge Convention is in the books. What a convention! At the 159<sup>th</sup> Grand Lodge Sessions, 6,444 Elks and guests gathered in Austin Texas for the 159<sup>th</sup> Grand Lodge Convention and North Carolina Elks were well represented. A special thanks to President Elect Mark Couch and his wife Julie for hosting the North Carolina Hospitality Room in Austin and boy do they know how to put on a party! Be sure to thank them when you see them. Thanks to the members of the Hickory Lodge for helping Mark and Julie.

I had the honor of representing the North Carolina State Elks Association by carrying the State Flag across the stage at the National Convention. This is something I will never forget. I also had the privilege of being a Ballot Official during the Resolution vote on Tuesday at the convention.

In other activities at the convention, this year's District deputies were installed. Special thanks and congratulation to this year's DD, from the East Alex Wingate of the Goldsboro Lodge, David Griener from the Southern Pines Lodge in the East Central, the West Central DD Kathy Hulla from Statesville and in the West Gary Gantt from the Hickory Lodge. I am looking forward to all of their District Deputy Clinic starting in August.

North Carolina was well represented when the awards were handed out. The Hickory Lodge took 1<sup>st</sup> Place in Division V, (451 to 700 Members) All- American Lodge Contest. In the Community Project contest, we had 3 winners. Mount Airy placed 2<sup>nd</sup> in Division II (151 – 225 members), Goldsboro took 1<sup>st</sup> place in Division IV (301 – 450 members) and Hickory walked away with another 1<sup>st</sup> place in Division V. Congratulations to all 3 Lodges! In the State Bulletin Contest for the best State Association bulletin North Carolina was awarded the 4 star Award. Congratulations to Ashley Buckwell and thank you for your continual hard work! North Carolina also was awarded 25<sup>th</sup> place in the nation in membership gain, thank you John Lawrence for your leadership.

Our new Grand Exalted Ruler is Douglas A. Schiefer and First Lady Julia, of Bucyrus, OH Lodge No. 156 . His motto is "Elkdom's Heart For America". Doug and Julia will be joining us at our Fall Convention in October.

**Continued on following page.**

## Presidents Message Continued

In June, Yenly and I traveled to Front Royal Virginia representing North Carolina at the Virginia State Elks Summer Convention as guest of State President Dennis Henline and his wife Linda. Yenly and I met many Virginia Elks and continued that friendship at the National Convention. We look forward to their friendship in the future. I had the privilege to play in their golf tournament with GER Randy Shook, PGER Ron Hicks and State President Dennis Henline. We had a great time on the course. I also attended all their meetings, it was good to see how another state association runs. On Saturday evening, we saw the new Virginia State Elks President being installed. Congratulations to Vince Brandent this year's State President! We look forward to having Vince and his wife Sandy as our guest at our Spring Convention in May 2025.

In other travels, Yenly and I attended the Hickory Lodge in mid-July to help the Lodge celebrate their All-American Lodge award. We had a great time and saw many old friends and made many new friends. Thanks you to the Hickory Lodge for inviting us.

In late July, Yenly and I were guests of the Morganton Lodge for the Annual Harley Davidson Raffle. This was a very successful event for the Lodge. Thank you to Exalted Ruler Kolby Watts and all the member of the Morganton Lodge for their hospitality.

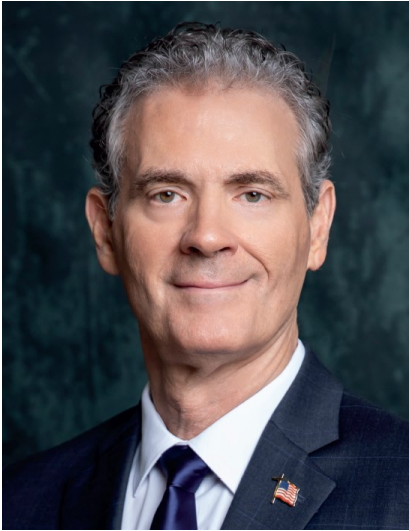
In August the District Deputies will hold their first DD Clinic, please plan to attend your District Deputy Clinic. See out website for the date for your district.

As I am writing this letter, the convention committee is finalizing the details for the Fall Convention being held in Charlotte on 25<sup>th</sup> to 27<sup>th</sup> of October. Watch for the registration information on our website and plan to attend this year's Fall Convention. The convention committee asked that you register early so we can plan accordingly.

In Closing, I want to remind everyone my slogan this year is TOGETHER WE CAN DO MORE!! I challenged each Lodge to do one new activity this year to help strengthen our presence in our communities and show everyone that the Elks are a group of people that want to give back to our community and make them better.

Fraternally,

Joseph Clancy  
President, North Carolina State Elks Association



## Message from Grand Exalted Ruler Douglas Schiefer

What an unbelievable opportunity to serve our great Order! I need to first thank my wonderful wife, Julia. Without her love, support, and commitment this experience would not be possible. We both are so grateful to have been chosen to take this amazing journey. We have been so blessed by the support of our family, friends, and our Elks family. We are so thankful for everything you do. My theme this year is “Elkdom’s Heart for America.” It means re-organizing all the honorable and charitable things Elks strive for and want to accomplish in their quest to make their communities and America a better place. I chose this theme because it exemplifies what our founding Members learned when they came to the aid of a fellow Elk’s widow 156 years ago. It was that spirit that changed the local social club into the amazing organization it is today by demonstrating charity and brotherly love. As we travel the country, Julia and I will be promoting our Elks programs administered by our Grand Lodge Committees to make our Lodges stronger and improve our image throughout our great Order. We will be promoting local community service projects. Here’s an opportunity to engage with your schools, help children who need it by providing critical school supplies, and lay the groundwork for other Elks youth programs. These programs can build stronger communities while stimulating a response that motivates worthy members of the public to seek Elks membership. In this way, our community service builds the foundation for our future. Successful Lodges create and develop local projects that can become signature accomplishments in the eyes of their community. In turn, members of the community will see these projects mature over time and want to become involved. If we work together toward our charitable pursuits and remain faithful to our programs, I’m confident we will see an increase in membership. It will not be just temporary gains, but a new time of growth where participation becomes commonplace. A great source of funding community projects is the Elks National Foundation, known as the “Great Heart of Elkdom.” For 2024-25, the ENF allotted \$16.3 million to the CIP to help build stronger communities through programs that support youth, serve veterans, and meet the needs in areas where we live and work. The support we provide makes the Foundation’s work possible. The goal established for 2024-25 is \$5.00 per Member. Here’s an idea for this week: Visit [elks.org](http://elks.org), go to the Fraternal Committee page, and print off a copy of the “Patriotism Week Proclamation.” Have your mayor sign it to proclaim September 9-15, 2024, as National Patriotism Week in your town. Then, use this opportunity to encourage new Members to join our great Order. Remember “Elks Care – Elks Share” by showing “Elkdom’s Heart for America.” God bless you all, God bless our troops, and God bless America .

**Elkdom’s Heart for America**





## NORTH CAROLINA DISTRICT DEPUTIES SWORN IN AT GRAND LODGE CONVENTION



District Deputies L-R: West Central District, Kathy Hulla; East District, Alex Wingate; West District, Gary Gantt; East Central District, David Griener.



President Elect Mark Couch, President Joe Clancy, and PGER Jack Frost in the North Carolina hospitality room.



District Deputy Alex Wingate from the Goldsboro Lodge with the certificate for the Lodge finishing in first place in the Community Project Contest.

Presenting the certificate is Activities Committee Chairman Michael Bryant.

## 2024-2025 District Deputy Clinics

### East District: Alex Wingate, District Deputy GER

August 25, 2024	Wilmington, NC
January 26, 2025	Goldsboro, NC
March 23, 2025	Morehead City – Beaufort, NC

### East Central: David Griener, District Deputy GER

August 18, 2024	Sanford, NC
February 2, 2025	Raleigh, NC
April 13, 2025	Southern Pines, NC

### West Central: Kathy Whitley Hulla, District Deputy GER

August 4, 2024	Statesville, NC
January 19, 2025	Winston Salem, NC
April 6, 2025	High Pt., NC

### West District: Gary Gantt, District Deputy GER

August 11, 2024	Waynesville, NC
January 12, 2025	Newton, NC
March 30, 2025	Hendersonville, NC

# NCSEA FALL CONFERENCE



The Fall Conference of the North Carolina Elks Association will be held October 25th through 26th at the DoubleTree South Charlotte. Set aside the dates and make plans to attend and give Grand Exalted Ruler Douglas Schiefer and First Lady Julia a warm Carolina welcome.

Reservation for the conference and hotel can be made at

[www.ncelks.org/stateconvention](http://www.ncelks.org/stateconvention)

## PAST EXALTED RULER GOLF TOURNAMENT



Attending the convention and playing golf?

The Past Exalted Ruler Association will be holding their golf tournament to support PER Lodge Grants.

Friday October 25th, 8:00 AM

Registration fee \$100

[www.ncelks.org/stateconvention](http://www.ncelks.org/stateconvention)

# NORTH CAROLINA LODGES WIN COMMUNITY PROJECT CONTEST AWARDS

**Congratulations to First Place winners  
Hickory and Goldsboro Lodges  
and Second Place winner Mt Airy Lodge**

## **Division IV • (301 – 450 Members)**

*1st Place* Goldsboro, NC No. 139

*2nd Place* Tampa, FL No. 708

*3rd Place* Cynthiana, KY No. 438

## **Division V • (451 – 700 Members)**

*1st Place* Hickory, NC No. 1654

*2nd Place* Alamogordo, NM No. 1897

## **Division II • (151 – 225 Members)**

*1st Place* El Paso TX, NM No. 187


*2nd Place* Mount Airy, NC No. 2061



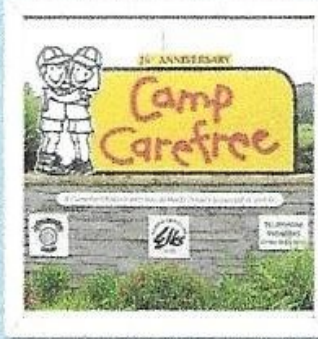
**CONGRATULATIONS TO HICKORY LODGE #1654  
1st PLACE WINNER OF THE ALL AMERICAN LODGE  
CONTEST, DIVISION V**





# NCSEA Ad in the GL Convention Newsletter



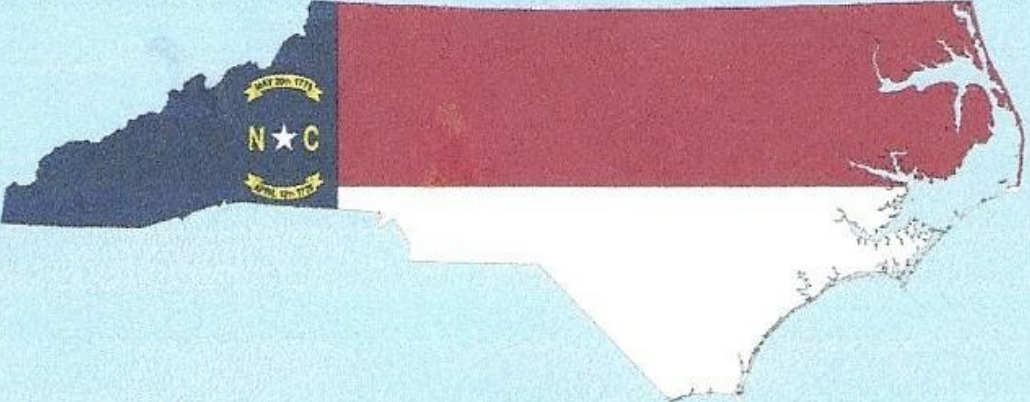
Elks  
USA



25th ANNIVERSARY  
Camp Carefree



Calling



MAY 20th 1971  
N★C  
EST. 1914

Home!

North Carolina State  
Elks Association



# News From the East District

## CALABASH ELKS DONATE TO BE-THE-ONE PROGRAM

The Veteran's Affairs Committee of the Calabash Lodge recently made a \$1000.00 donation to the American Legion Post 68 **BE-THE-ONE** Program. The mission of the **BE-THE-ONE** Program is to assist Veterans, their families, care givers, friends or interested civilians to: Destigmatize asking for mental health support; Provide peer-to-peer support and resources in local communities; Deploy FDA approved therapeutics for veterans to identify issues and find resources for support; and educate everyone on how they can Be-the-One to address the number 1 issue facing the Veteran community– Suicide. **Veterans** are encouraged to Be-the-One to: Talk with others about how they are feeling; Ask for help when you know you need it; Know there are people ready to help them; Remember family and friends' care.



Pictured above L-R are: Donna Kozlowski, VAC Member; John Corbett, VAC Chairman; John Hacker of the John E. Jacobs American Legion Post 68; and Joyce Dorsa, VAC Member.

## MOREHEAD/BEAUFORT ELKS DONATE TO CAMP CAREFREE



Morehead City/Beaufort Elks donated the proceeds from Bunco for the past three months to Camp Carefree. We donated \$900.00 to help with their great adventures for the children.

## CALABASH LODGE DONATES TO MEALS ON WHEELS



The Calabash Elks Lodge recently donated \$1500 to The Brunswick Center at Calabash for their Meals-on-Wheels program. This program currently provides daily meals to between 100 and 120 home-bound clients, many of whom are Veterans. Donations such as this will significantly help improve the quality of food as well as the quantity of food they can deliver.

Pictured L-R; Mark Kerr, Lodge Trustee, Elk Dan Shaw, Heather Puglisi, Brunswick Center Meals-on-Wheels coordinator; and Elk Cyndi Shaw. Dan and Cyndi Shaw are also volunteer with the Meals-on-Wheels program delivering meals.



# News From the East Central District

## SOUTHERN PINES LODGE RECOGNIZES GIRL SCOUT

The Southern Pines Elks recognized Kenna Johnson, a straight A sophomore student at Pinecrest high school and member of Girl Scout Troop 1868 for her outstanding community service projects she completed over the last two years. For her Girl Scout Silver Award, Kenna created a community inventory of local Little Free Libraries, then organized a book drive to stock the sites with books. She has certainly made an impact and serviced her community promoting books and sharing resources.

Kenna also completed a Girl Scout Take Action project, where she collected donations for feminine hygiene products then oversaw a meeting with the middle school aged scouts in her troop. The scouts created “period packs” that would be available at local schools and women’s shelters for women and girls in need. For her demonstrated leadership and creativity, Kenna received a certificate and a \$50 award for her two impactful community focused projects.





## SANFORD LODGE SUPPORTS BACKPACK PALS

In a remarkable display of community support, the Sanford Elks Lodge recently delivered 200 pounds of food to the Christians United Outreach Center (CUOC) of Lee County along with a generous check for \$4,000 designated for the Backpack Pals program. This substantial monetary contribution is a grant from the Elks National Foundation, awarded in recognition of the Sanford Elks Lodge members' dedication and successful fundraising efforts.

The funds were secured after the members of the Sanford Elks Lodge surpassed the \$4.80 per capita donation goal set by the Grand Exalted Ruler, showcasing their commitment to community service and philanthropy. This achievement is part of a broader tradition of giving, as the Sanford Elks Lodge has now contributed over \$30,000 to the Back Pack Pals program over the years.

The Backpack Pals program, an initiative aimed at providing food to children in need, ensures that students have access to nutritious meals even when they are not in school. The program is vital for many families in the community, and the ongoing support from organizations like the Sanford Elks Lodge plays a crucial role in its success.

The Christians United Outreach Center (CUOC) of Lee County is equally important, providing essential services and resources to those in need within the community. The donation of 200 pounds of food will help stock the CUOC's pantry, supporting their mission to alleviate hunger and provide aid to local families.

The Sanford Elks Lodge's contributions highlight the power of community involvement and the positive impact that can be made through collective effort and generosity. Their continued support of programs like Backpack Pals and CUOC underscores their commitment to making a difference in the lives of those around them.

This latest donation serves as a testament to the compassion and dedication of the Sanford Elks Lodge members and sets a strong example for other organizations to follow.



Pictured L-R: Alex Votytk, Lodge Trustee; Teresa Seagroves, CUOC Office Administrator; Steve Johnson, Lodge Secretary; Randall Mattingly, Exalted Ruler; Nancy Johnson, CUOC Board Chair; Joe Clancy, NCSEA State President and Lodge Treasurer; Kym Smith, Lodge Chaplain; and Duncan Riddle, Lodge Esquire.





# RALEIGH LODGE AND ROTARY CLUB AND SCOUTS HOLD FLAG DAY SERVICE

A wonderful Flag Day presentation was attended June 9 by the officers and members of the Raleigh Elks Lodge. Raleigh Scout Troop 104 Oconeechee Council in the North Star District performed the presentation of Flags during the ceremony as well as a Flag burning before, during and afterward. We partnered with The Rotary Club again this year.



Pictured are Rotary members, the Flag Committee, the scouts and ER Brian Madigan.



## NC VIETNAM VETERANS RECOGNIZE MICHELLE DeLAIRE

On 7/9/2024, North Carolina Vietnam Veterans, Inc. (NCVVI) recognized Michelle DeLaire as an Associate member of their organization for all of her service to the organization and assistance in the showings of their play "Etchings In Stone" about the Vietnam Memorial Wall. NCVVI also thanked our Lodge for donated use of our annex and the use of the lower annex for their monthly meetings.



Pictured with Michelle are Dave Samuels, President of NCVVI and Brian Madigan, Raleigh Elks ER.

Others pictured are members of NC Viet Nam Veterans, Inc. members including our own Raleigh Elks Bo Williams and Angie Edwards



## SOUTHERN PINES ELKS SUPPORT FAMILY PROMISE

Southern Pines Elks supported Family Promise with needed personal home products and \$500 to carry-on their mission. Family Promise of Moore County provides shelter, meals, and opportunity to help families experiencing homelessness or financial insecurity achieve sustainable independence through a community-based response. A worthy charity indeed.



## RALEIGH ELKS SUPPORT BOYS AND GIRLS CLUB

Raleigh Lodge #735 used the \$2000 Spotlight Grant to support the after school dinner program at the local Boys and Girls Club.

Pictured L-R: Hugh McLean, VP of B&GC operations; Madison Reed, B&GC Program Director; and Gary Bush, PER Raleigh





# News From the West Central District

## SALISBURY ELKS TREAT VETERANS TO LUNCH

Salisbury Elks volunteers served up BBQ and more at the Salisbury Veterans Home in May. About 80 veterans and staff shared a delicious lunch, great conversations and fellowship together. Local restaurant, Marlow's Bar-B-Q & Seafood, catered the annual event.



## HIGH POINT ELKS DONATE TO “GO FAR”

The High Point Lodge presented a \$2,500 ENF Gratitude Grant to the non profit GO FAR (Go Out For A Run) The grant will be used to purchase sneakers for elementary school children at Title 1 schools in High Point.



## HIGH POINT PERFORMS FLAG DAY AT HOME FOR VETERANS

The High Point Lodge performed the Flag Day Ceremony at the Arthur Cassell Transitional Home for Veterans.





# SALISBURY ELKS HONORS CORPORAL RYAN WALKER

The Salisbury Elks Lodge recently honored Corporal Ryan Walker of the Rowan County Sheriff's Office. Kenny Martin, Lodge Exalted Ruler, presented Walker with two awards: the Elks Distinguished Citizen Award and the Medal and Certificate of Service Award. This is the first year the local Elks have awarded the Medal of Service to recognize an exceptional individual who works in public safety.

He has been a School Resource Officer since 2002 and is the longest-serving SRO in the Rowan-Salisbury School System.

Corporal Walker is especially passionate about helping young people. He secured funding and coordinated Youth Leadership and Safety Camps, the Junior Sheriff's Academy and the Shop with a Cop special event for Christmas each year. All camps are free thanks to grants and local donors.

"Often kids see only one side of us because they've gotten into trouble, so it can be a negative interaction." shares Walker. "The camps show a broader view of law enforcement. We can create better experiences to build trust and positive relationships with young people. "

About 75 members and guests attended the luau-themed celebration facilitated by James Green and the Salisbury Elks team.







## SALISBURY ELKS HOLD FLAG DAY SERVICE AT VETERANS HOME



The Salisbury Elks Lodge held its annual Flag Day Ceremony at the NC State Veterans Home in June. Over 30 guests were present including Elks' members, local veterans and staff.

Harry Agner spent 23 years in the military, most of his service with the North Carolina National Guard. He shared his patriotic spirit, dedication and encouragement to others.

"I am really proud to be an American," said 93-year-old Agner, "I've been to other countries who do not have the freedoms we do. I've seen some things that I wish I hadn't. Our country has a lot of problems, but we can fix them because at the end of the day, we are all Americans."

Agner has been an active member of the Elks for 66 years. His officer roles include Past Exalted Ruler and Past District Deputy.





## **HIGH POINT LODGE MEMBER BUILDS “HEALING WATERS FOR HEROES WATERSCAPE”**

High Point Lodge Lecturing Knight, Tyler Dixon designed and constructed a "Healing Waters for Heroes Waterscape". The Lodge also made a donation for this project which is located at the Arthur Cassell Transitional Home for Veterans.





# SALISBURY ELKS USE GRATITUDE GRANT TO ASSIST LOCAL ORGANIZATIONS AND VETERANS

Thanks to the Elks National Foundation Gratitude Grants, Salisbury Elks Lodge recently paid it forward into their local community.

The lodge awarded a \$3,000 grant to Family Crisis Council and \$1,000 to Rowan Helping Ministries to support veterans' programs.

They also donated coffee makers for Eagles Nest III Veteran apartments at Rowan Helping Ministries. The veteran residents also received kitchen items, bedding sets, and small appliances to assist their move from their transitional housing program to permanent residences.



Kyna Grubb, Executive Director of Rowan Helping Ministries with Salisbury Elks Lodge members Rich Penk, AND Kenny Martin.

Angela Chapman-McDavid (center), Executive Director of Family Crisis Council, receives grant award check from Rich Penk, Salisbury Elks Grants Coordinator (right) and Kenny Martin, Exalted Ruler (left).



Salisbury Elks member Bob Sce presents Kyna Grubb with additional donated items.

# HIGH POINT LODGE PRESENTED WITH PROCLAMATION FROM CITY OF HIGH POINT

The High Point Lodge was presented with a Proclamation stating July 15, 2024 as “The High Point Elks Lodge 115th Anniversary Day” in the City of High Point, North Carolina. Pictured are Lodge members with Michael Holmes, Mayor Pro Tem High Point City (Center).



# HIGH POINT ELKS USE GRANT TO SUPPORT TINY HOUSE COMMUNITY

High Point Lodge used the \$1,000 ENF Freedom Grant to support Tiny Houses Community Development. These funds will be used to purchase building material for small homes for veterans who have experienced homelessness and other difficult challenges. Pictured, Scott Jones, Executive Director Tiny Houses.





## HIGH POINT ELKS DONATE GRANT TO COMMUNITY COLLABORATION FOR CHILDREN

A Charitable Trust Grant for \$1,500 was given to the Community Collaboration for Children. Their mission is to focus on the health and well-being of children by “walking the walk” with them. As connectors, they work closely with other community agencies to provide quality, targeted, and intentional support services.

Pictured from left to right, Petula Sellars, Executive Director C3, Phil Driscoll, Lodge Grant Coordinator.



## HIGH POINT LODGE SUPPORTS YMCA READERS PROGRAM



A \$500 donation from the High Point Lodge to the High Point YMCA Y Readers Program will help support students during the summer months. Certified teachers provide literacy instruction and students participate in a variety of enrichment activities.



# News From the West District

## NEWTON ELKS HOSTS 4th ANNUAL JERRY WAYNE LAIL VETERANS POKER RUN



The Newton Elks Lodge recently hosted the 4th Annual Jerry Wayne Lail Veterans Poker Run. A total of 72 bikes and 102 total riders participated in the enjoyable event.

Pictured are members of the Lail family who led the poker run; Sarah Jean Lail, Tim Lail, Paul Lail, Chantee Lail, Natalie Lail, Cierra Lail, Dylan Lail, Dwight Wilson, and Dawn Wilson.

## MORGANTON LODGE DONATES TO PREGNANCY CARE CENTER

The Morganton Lodge presented the Pregnancy Care Center with a check for \$544.00 raised from their Disco Night held April 20th.



## HICKORY LODGE DONATES TO OPERATION BATTLEHORSE AT Walk WITH ME FARMS



The Hickory Elks Lodge, was thankful to be able to assist the local equine therapy ranch in western Catawba County. Operation Battlehorse at Walk With Me Farms works with PTSD and traumatic brain injury veterans on coping day-to-day. The Veterans Committee presented a check for \$250 for their veterans program, in advance of their annual fundraiser.

Picture left to right: Cary Bowman PER; Jason Keating Operation Battle Horse Program Director; and Samantha Bowman Veterans Committee Chair.

## HICKORY LODGE HELPS HOMELESS VETERAN WITH WELCOME HOME KIT

The Hickory Elks Veterans Committee is very happy that the Elks “Welcome Home Kit Program” exists. They were able to get various household goods and a bed for Veteran William Ross who spent 6 months homeless and living in his car. The VA provided him the means to get an apartment and Veterans Committee helped him get all the things he needed to make it a home!

Pictured: Samantha Bowman Veterans Committee Chairperson; and Veteran William Ross.





# NORTH WILKESBORO DONATES TO SAMARITANS KITCHEN

The North Wilkesboro Lodge was successful in obtaining \$8,500 from the Grand Lodge in Beacon, Gratitude, and Spotlight grants. The funds will go to Samaritans Kitchen for the backpack and pantry food programs. Lodge members will be volunteering their time to match the investment from the Grand Lodge.

From Left to Right: Derek Wiles; Luke Splawn; Brent West, Chairman of Board of Directors Samaritan's Kitchen; Michael Staley; Larry Day



# HICKORY ELKS CELEBRATE FLAG DAY AND HONOR PATRIOTS

A crowd gathered on the front lawn at the Hickory Elks Lodge Friday evening, June 14<sup>th</sup> to celebrate and honor the flag of our country in what is officially known as Flag Day by President Woodrow Wilson's Presidential Proclamation on June 14, 1916.

This year's red, white, and blue adorned celebration was replete with patriotic music, a historical review of the origin of Flag Day, and a demonstration of the proper way to retire a worn flag once it has proudly served the United States. In recent years the Hickory Elks have honored a patriot from the area who has continuously demonstrated selfless service to our nation and to the community. Several patriots have been honored posthumously. Their names along with the names of 15 other patriots are now enshrined with engraved plates mounted on the base of the Elks Lodge flagpole known as "The Patriot's Pole". This year's Hickory Elks Patriot of the Year is, SP4 US Army Charles E. Crawford III. Highlighting his service to our nation, Mr Crawford served in the Vietnam War. Volunteering for a second back-to-back tour in the war zone with the 25<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division's Combat Engineers, he was severely wounded by the detonation of an improvised explosive device (IED) planted on a roadway by the enemy. After more than two years of medical treatment and almost losing a leg, Mr Crawford was medically retired from the military service. To this day, he continues to serve his country and community through volunteerism, especially in service to and remembrance of his fellow military veterans and wounded warriors.



Major James E. Tate Retired US Army presenting flag to  
SP4 Charles E. Crawford III, US Army

**Article continued on next page.**



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This year's celebration also honored Chief Petty Officer (Retired) Matthew Cline, US Navy, who received the Hickory Elks Exceptional Military Service Person of the Year (Navy) award for his 20 years of service to our nation. Today, Chief Petty Officer (CPO) Cline serves as a Naval Science Instructor for the Newton-Conover High School Navy JROTC program. It was noted by one of Cline's students, Cadet Lieutenant Commander Chris Martin, that CPO Cline deserves this recognition because, "You see, no one ever asks him to be the one to step up and lead this generation of cadets to success, he willingly does this on his own accord". Martin's comment is a fitting tribute to a military veteran who today is mentoring tomorrow's leaders in our community and our nation.



Chief Petty Officer (Retired) Matthew Cline, US Navy. Presented plaque by  
Major (Retired) James E. Tate, Jr., US Army

## HICKORY LODGE HONORS JROTC CADET

During the NCHS JROTC Award Ceremony at Newton-Conover High School held on Wednesday, June 18, 2024, Charlie Self, a member of the Americanism Committee with the Hickory Elks Lodge, presented to Cadet Lieutenant Commander Christopher Martin from Newton-Conover High School a \$50.00 check and plaque honoring the JROTC position of Commander of the NCHS Unit for the school year of 2023-2024. As a member of this academic team, he placed in the top 30% among 75 schools in the division. Cadet Martin will be attending North Carolina State University under a ROTC scholarship which will further pave his way in becoming a Naval Officer.



## MORGANTON LODGE RAFFLES HARLEY DAVISON BIKE TO SUPPORT CHARITIES



Pictured with the bike are Morganton Exalted Ruler Kolby Watts and State President Joe Clancy who was invited to attend the drawing.

Funds from the raffle will support Lodge charities.



## HICKORY LODGE PARTICIPATES IN MEMORIAL DAY SERVICE



The Hickory Elks Lodge participated in the City of Hickory's Memorial Day ceremony on May 26 in downtown Hickory. Nine lodge members passed out over 300 flags to the crowd who were there to celebrate our Veterans and attend "Swinging Under the Sails", Friday's concert series. Cary Bowman, PER opened the event with short speech before the event started.

Pictured below Hickory lodge members L-R Major Charlie Self, Retired Air Force; Bill Zacharenko; and Cary Bowman.



This publication is produced for and by the North Carolina State Elks Association.

The NCSEA Communication Committee encourages all member Lodges and Committee Chairmen to submit articles to be included in future issues.

All submissions may be forwarded to Ashley Buckwell, Editor at [ashbuc@atmc.net](mailto:ashbuc@atmc.net)