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## **MEDIA ALERT – FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **156th Anniversary of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks**

#### **THE ELKS WERE FOUNDED ON FEBRUARY 16, 1868**

Chicago, IL – As we approach February 16, 2024, Elks Lodges across the nation are gearing up to celebrate the remarkable 156th anniversary of the founding of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks on February 16, 1868.

With a rich history spanning 156 years, the Elks have been unwavering in their commitment to community service, making a substantial impact through donations exceeding \$12 Billion. In the past year alone, their generosity reached \$399 million, reflecting their dedication to creating better communities.

Beyond financial contributions, the Elks actively invest in the future through annual college scholarships, awarding nearly \$5 million to support educational pursuits. Additionally, their commitment to community development is evident in the substantial investment of almost \$19 million through the Elks Community Investment Program. One of the hallmarks of the Elks' commitment is their support for veterans. Last year, the Elks contributed over \$39 million to Veterans Administration Medical Centers, clinics, and state care facilities, providing essential items, comfort, and organizing various activities.

Boasting nearly 1,800 lodges and a membership approaching 800,000, the Elks welcome individuals aged 21 and above who share a belief in God. To learn more about the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks and to explore membership opportunities, visit [www.elks.org](http://www.elks.org) or [Join.Elks.Org](http://Join.Elks.Org).

Join us in honoring and celebrating 156 years of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks, recognizing their enduring commitment to community impact, service, and fostering a sense of belonging.