

1 **HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES - FLOOR VERSION**

2 STATE OF OKLAHOMA

3 1st Session of the 57th Legislature (2019)

4 HOUSE
5 RESOLUTION 1010

By: Baker

6
7 AS INTRODUCED

8 A Resolution recognizing and applauding the
9 accomplishments and service to community goals of Mr.
10 Michael T. Luhr, Grand Exalted Ruler of the
11 Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks of the United
12 States of America, and Mr. Gary L. Lassiter, State
13 President of the Oklahoma Elks Association;
14 commending their excellent leadership and continued
15 service; and directing distribution.

16 WHEREAS, the mission of the Benevolent and Protective Order of
17 Elks is to assist in building stronger communities; and

18 WHEREAS, in fulfilling this mission the Elks invest in community
19 programs, scholarship programs, drug awareness programs, veteran
20 service programs and other programs and grants which are of immense
21 benefit to this country; and

22 WHEREAS, the leadership for the Elks, both on the national and
23 state level, provides the strong foundation that makes the Elks so
24 successful and admired for the work they do; and

1 WHEREAS, Michael T. Luhr, of Petersburg, Alaska, was installed
2 as Grand Exalted Ruler of the Benevolent and Protective Order of
3 Elks of the U.S.A. on July 4, 2018, during the organization's 154th
4 national convention in San Antonio, Texas; and

5 WHEREAS, Michael T. Luhr is a successful businessman who, along
6 with his wife, Barbara, were sole proprietors of a machine shop
7 until 2011, at which time they purchased a shipyard that had closed
8 the previous year, thereby providing employment to 17 people and a
9 full-service ship store for local fishermen; and

10 WHEREAS, Michael T. Luhr was proposed and initiated into
11 Petersburg Lodge No. 1615 in November 1977 by his father, Exalted
12 Ruler Donald Luhr; and

13 WHEREAS, Michael T. Luhr served as Trustee for Petersburg Lodge
14 No. 1615 from 1998, was appointed as Esquire in 1998, continued
15 through the Chairs, and was named Exalted Ruler in 2001-2002 and
16 2002-2003; and

17 WHEREAS, Michael T. Luhr was elected to the Petersburg Lodge No.
18 1615 Trustees again, serving from 2003 to 2008, and has served as
19 the Lodge's Treasurer since 2008; and

20 WHEREAS, Michael T. Luhr began his service at the Alaska state
21 level in 2004 when he was elected as Trustee; and

22 WHEREAS, Michael T. Luhr was elected and served as President of
23 the Alaska State Elks Association in 2009-2010 and continues to
24

1 serve as Chair of the ASEA's Charitable Trust Fund, Advisory
2 Committee Chair and on the Lodge Development Board; and

3 WHEREAS, at the Grand Lodge level, Michael T. Luhr was appointed
4 District Deputy Grand Exalted Ruler of Alaska's East District in
5 2005-2006, 2007-2008 and 2008-2009, was appointed to the G/L-Lodge
6 Activities/State Associations Committee from 2010-2012 and was
7 appointed as Special Representative to the Alaska East District in
8 2011, serving through December 2017; and

9 WHEREAS, Michael T. Luhr was elected to represent Area 8 on the
10 Board of Grand Trustees, serving as Building Applications-West
11 member in 2012-2013, as Secretary of the Board in 2013-2015 and Vice
12 Chairman in 2015-2016; and

13 WHEREAS, in 2016, Michael T. Luhr was appointed as Special
14 Deputy Grand Exalted Ruler for the State of Alaska; and

15 WHEREAS, Michael T. Luhr was elected and installed as Grand
16 Esteemed Leading Knight at the Grand Lodge annual convention in
17 Reno, Nevada, and served in that capacity in 2017-2018; and

18 WHEREAS, Michael T. Luhr has been a dedicated member of the
19 Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks for almost 42 years and has
20 been actively involved in the organization's many charitable
21 pursuits; and

22 WHEREAS, Michael T. Luhr has been a valuable asset, not only to
23 the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks, but also to the State
24 of Alaska and to the nation; and

1 WHEREAS, at the state level in Oklahoma, the Elks, under the
2 leadership of State President Gary L. Lassiter, are involved in many
3 laudable projects that benefit this state, including the Special
4 Olympics, the Troop 99 Special Camporee, the Cadet Lawman Academy,
5 the Sky's the Limit Ranch and the Art Bartunek Scholarship Program;
6 and

7 WHEREAS, Gary L. Lassiter attended elementary and high school in
8 Moore, Oklahoma, and was very active in Boy Scouts, achieving the
9 rank of Eagle Scout with two Palms; and

10 WHEREAS, Gary L. Lassiter began his working career at age 16,
11 working in many positions with the C.R. Anthony stores, starting as
12 a stock clerk and reaching the position of lead design engineer for
13 stores throughout the western United States; and

14 WHEREAS, Gary L. Lassiter currently works at Hunzicker Brothers
15 in the quotations department; and

16 WHEREAS, Gary L. Lassiter was proposed and initiated into El
17 Reno Lodge No. 743 in September 2008; and

18 WHEREAS, Gary L. Lassiter has served in many positions within El
19 Reno Lodge No. 743, including Exalted Ruler (2009-2010 and 2010-
20 2011), Trustee (2011-2012 and 2012-2013), and Lodge Esquire (2017-
21 2018 and 2018-2019); and

22 WHEREAS, Gary L. Lassiter began his service to the Benevolent
23 and Protective Order of the Elks on the state level in 2011 when he
24 was elected State Tiler; and

1 WHEREAS, Gary L. Lassiter served as the Northwest Vice President
2 in 2014-2015; and

3 WHEREAS, Gary L. Lassiter has served at the district and state
4 levels on various committees, including Government Relations, Most
5 Valuable Student, State Spring & Fall Convention, Oklahoma Major
6 Projects and Past Exalted Rulers Association; and

7 WHEREAS, Gary L. Lassiter is currently active in the State Drug
8 Awareness, Government Relations and Public Relations committees; and

9 WHEREAS, Gary L. Lassiter was elected as Oklahoma State
10 President-Elect for the fraternal year 2017-2018 and is the current
11 State President for 2018-2019; and

12 WHEREAS, at the national level, Gary L. Lassiter served as
13 District Deputy Grand Exalted Ruler for the Oklahoma Northwest
14 District for fraternal years 2012-2013 and 2014; and

15 WHEREAS, Gary L. Lassiter is a great Oklahoman whose work for
16 worthy causes exemplifies the Oklahoma commitment to excellence.

17 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
18 OF THE 1ST SESSION OF THE 57TH OKLAHOMA LEGISLATURE:

19 THAT Mr. Michael T. Luhr is hereby commended for his excellent
20 leadership for the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks of the
21 United States of America.

22 THAT Mr. Gary L. Lassiter is hereby commended for his excellent
23 leadership for the Oklahoma Elks Association.

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1 THAT Mr. Michael T. Luhr and Mr. Gary L. Lassiter are hereby
2 commended for their continued service to an organization that
3 provides so much to our communities.

4 THAT copies of this resolution be dispatched to Mr. Michael T.
5 Luhr and Mr. Gary L. Lassiter.

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7 DIRECT TO CALENDAR.

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