

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

1st Session of the 57th Legislature (2019)

HOUSE

RESOLUTION 1010

By: Baker

AS INTRODUCED

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

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

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

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

WHEREAS, Michael T. Luhr, of Petersburg, Alaska, was installed as Grand Exalted Ruler of the Benevolent and Protective Order of

1 Elks of the U.S.A. on July 4, 2018, during the organization's 154th  
2 national convention in San Antonio, Texas; and

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

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

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

15 WHEREAS, Michael T. Luhr was elected to the Petersburg Lodge No.  
16 1615 Trustees again, serving from 2003 to 2008, and has served as  
17 the Lodge's Treasurer since 2008; and

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

20 WHEREAS, Michael T. Luhr was elected and served as President of  
21 the Alaska State Elks Association in 2009-2010 and continues to  
22 serve as Chair of the ASEA's Charitable Trust Fund, Advisory  
23 Committee Chair and on the Lodge Development Board; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

23       WHEREAS, at the state level in Oklahoma, the Elks, under the  
24 leadership of State President Gary L. Lassiter, are involved in many

1 laudable projects that benefit this state, including the Special  
2 Olympics, the Troop 99 Special Camporee, the Cadet Lawman Academy,  
3 the Sky's the Limit Ranch and the Art Bartunek Scholarship Program;  
4 and

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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