

1           A RESOLUTION honoring and congratulating the Benevolent and Protective Order  
2 of Elks upon the 150th anniversary of their order and recognizing the Kentucky Elks  
3 Association upon the occasion of their 2018 State Convention in Frankfort.

4           WHEREAS, founded in New York City on February 16, 1867, the Benevolent and  
5 Protective Order of Elks has spread across the country, with the history of the Elks in  
6 Kentucky beginning in 1877, when 12 gentlemen established Louisville Lodge #8,  
7 continuing with the first state convention in 1902, to today, when almost 6,000 members  
8 at 16 lodges all across the Commonwealth espouse the Elks' cardinal principles of  
9 charity, justice, brotherly love, and fidelity; and

10           WHEREAS, dedicated to those virtues, the Elks invest millions of hours each year  
11 to build stronger communities, assist homeless veterans, and ensure that kids steer away  
12 from drugs. To that end, Elks have disbursed, over the course of the Order's history, more  
13 than \$3.6 billion in cash, goods, and services to the nation's veterans, youth, the  
14 disadvantaged and handicapped, and patriotic and civic programs; and

15           WHEREAS, the philanthropic efforts of Kentucky's Elk Lodges and the Kentucky  
16 Elks Association are impressive as well, with the 2016-17 lodge year witnessing almost  
17 6,500 Elks and their helpers serving over 100,000 program participants, and donating  
18 over 25,000 volunteer hours and almost \$1.4 million in total value of contributions; and

19           WHEREAS, the programs of the Kentucky Elks have a special emphasis on  
20 children. From giving every 3rd grade student in the lodge area a dictionary, to spreading  
21 the Elks' drug awareness message, to conducting annual Hoop Shoot and Soccer Shoot  
22 programs to foster healthy competition, to providing sponsorships of scouting programs  
23 and schools, to providing hundreds of thousands of dollars in scholarship money to  
24 college bound students, the Elks have made supporting and fostering the next generation  
25 of leaders their organization's calling card; and

26           WHEREAS, this dedication to children is perhaps best exemplified through the  
27 Kentucky Elks major project, providing funding for two summer camps that serve

1 medically fragile children, allowing these innocent ones, who have had to grow up too  
2 quickly, the opportunity to be children again, if only for too brief a time; and

3 WHEREAS, embedded in the fabric of America, the Elks are steadfast in their  
4 commitment to honoring and serving our nation's military members and veterans. The  
5 Kentucky Elks fulfill this promise daily in visiting and providing social events and  
6 friendship to veterans in Veteran Affairs medical facilities, hospitals, and nursing homes  
7 and donating much needed supplies and equipment to these facilities to ensure the  
8 veterans receive the care they deserve; and

9 WHEREAS, it is indeed fitting and proper that an organization of such high  
10 purpose and good deeds, honestly and selflessly performed, receive public recognition  
11 and commendation.

12 NOW, THEREFORE,

13 ***Be it resolved by the House of Representatives of the General Assembly of the***  
14 ***Commonwealth of Kentucky:***

15 ➔Section 1. The Members of this Body do hereby commend the Benevolent and  
16 Protective Order of Elks for its long history of eleemosynary efforts for the children and  
17 veterans of this great nation, offer sincere congratulations upon the occasion of the 150th  
18 anniversary of their order, and wish the order good fortune in its future endeavors.

19 ➔Section 2. The Members of this Body do hereby commend the lodges and  
20 members of the Kentucky Elks Association for their altruism and dedication to the  
21 founding principle of their order, recognize the Association upon the occasion of their  
22 state convention, held in Frankfort, Kentucky, February 22-24, 2018, and commend their  
23 best wishes to the association in the years to come.

24 ➔Section 3. The Clerk of the House of Representatives shall transmit a copy of  
25 this Resolution to John Snyder, Exalted Ruler, Frankfort Elks Lodge #530, 309 Lewis  
26 Street, Frankfort KY 40601, for presentation to the Kentucky Elks Association State  
27 Convention.