

1 **HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES - FLOOR VERSION**

2 STATE OF OKLAHOMA

3 1st Session of the 56th Legislature (2017)

4 HOUSE
5 RESOLUTION 1015

By: Wallace

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8 AS INTRODUCED

9 A Resolution commending Charlie Debus, President of
10 the Oklahoma Elks Association, and Michael Zellen,
11 Grand Exalted Ruler; offering congratulations and
12 best wishes for future endeavors; and directing
13 distribution.

14 WHEREAS, Charlie Debus, President of the Oklahoma Elks
15 Association, lived in the Tulsa area and worked for American
16 Airlines while volunteering his free time with the American Red
17 Cross; and

18 WHEREAS, Mr. Debus discovered his passion for volunteering
19 during his time with the Red Cross which led him to the Elks
20 organization where he joined the Sand Springs Elks Lodge in 1996;
21 and

22 WHEREAS, while at the Sand Springs Elks Lodge, Mr. Debus
23 volunteered for a number of years before becoming President of the
24 local lodge in 2005; and

1 WHEREAS, upon retirement from American Airlines in 2007, Mr.
2 Debus knew he wanted to be more involved in the Elks organization
3 and moved to Oklahoma City; and

4 WHEREAS, Mr. Debus found his new home with the Midwest City Elks
5 and chaired various committees within the local lodge, district and
6 state; and

7 WHEREAS, Mr. Debus worked his way up the organization by
8 becoming Vice President and District Deputy of the Southwest
9 District before being elected as the State President of the
10 organization; and

11 WHEREAS, President Debus has always focused on the good projects
12 of the Elks and been available to help wherever he is needed; and

13 WHEREAS, Michael F. Zellen, Grand Exalted Ruler to the
14 Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks of the United States of
15 America, has been employed in the banking industry for the last 44
16 years and served both of the cities of Everett and Peabody,
17 Massachusetts, as a member of the City Council, the Everett School
18 Committee and various local boards for many years; and

19 WHEREAS, Mr. Zellen was initiated into the Everett,
20 Massachusetts, Lodge of Elks in 1968 where he served as Esquire
21 before proceeding through the chairs to serve as Exalted Ruler, and
22 then served as Lodge Trustee, Secretary and Treasurer; and

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1 WHEREAS, he has been recognized a number of times for his
2 service to the Lodge, including being named Officer of the Year, Elk
3 of the Year, and having been awarded Honorary Life Membership; and

4 WHEREAS, Mr. Zellen has served the Massachusetts Elks
5 Association as Massachusetts Elks Scholarship Fund Director, State
6 Treasurer, State President, State Charity Fund Advisory Committee
7 member, State Convention Chairman, State President's Advisory
8 Committee member, Chairman of the Grand Exalted Ruler's Reception,
9 and was selected "Massachusetts State Elk of the Year" in 1997-1998;
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11 WHEREAS, he has served the Grand Lodge as District Deputy Grand
12 Exalted Ruler of the Massachusetts East District, Area Special
13 Representative of Massachusetts Area 3, Grand Lodge Committeeman on
14 Lodge Activities/State Associations, Area 1 Representative on the
15 Board of Grand Trustees and Secretary of the Board and Vice-
16 Chairman.

17 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
18 OF THE 1ST SESSION OF THE 56TH OKLAHOMA LEGISLATURE:

19 THAT the Oklahoma Legislature commends Charlie Debus for an
20 outstanding year as President of the Oklahoma Elks Association.

21 THAT the Oklahoma Legislature recognizes the excellent
22 leadership of Michael Zellen.

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1 THAT the Oklahoma Legislature congratulates President Debus and
2 Grand Exalted Ruler Zellen and wishes them well in their future
3 endeavors.

4 THAT a copy of this resolution be distributed to Charlie Debus
5 and Michael Zellen.

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7 DIRECT TO CALENDAR.

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