

# City of Gainesville, Florida

Office of Mayor Lauren Poe  
PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, on the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the establishment of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks, we celebrate the Order, and Gainesville Lodge #990's commitment to selflessly serving others in need across our great City; and

WHEREAS, founded in New York City on February 16, 1867, by Charles Algernon Sidney Vivian and a handful of friends, the Order has spread across the country with 19,000 Elks members and 100 lodges in Florida alone; and

WHEREAS, dedicated to charity, justice and patriotism, the Elks invest millions of hours each year to build stronger communities, assist homeless veterans and to ensure kids steer away from drugs. To that end, Elks have disbursed, over the course of the Order's history, more than \$3.6 billion in cash, goods and services to the nation's veterans, the disadvantaged, the physically and mentally challenged and patriotic and civic programs. The Gainesville Elks Lodge #990 has contributed to the Gainesville community through: multiple programs for military, veterans, hospitalized veterans and homeless veterans; annual fundraising activities for autistic and spectrum related support programs; providing college scholarships, and sponsoring less fortunate children to the Florida Elks Youth Camp in Umatilla; and

WHEREAS, the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks always put the needs of others before themselves. From building strong communities to donating time and money to disasters, the Elks answer the call when asked to serve. They are one of the first organizations on the ground during a crisis, providing needed supplies and relief to those affected; and

WHEREAS, each day they impart lessons of hard work, dedication to community, faith in God and support to those who may simply need a hand.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Lauren Poe, by the authority vested in me as Mayor of the City of Gainesville, do hereby proclaim February 16, 2018 as

## *The Benevolent and Protective Order of the Elks 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary*

in the City of Gainesville and invite all our citizens to join me in honoring this organization and thanking them for their many contributions.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the official seal of the City of Gainesville, Florida, this 6<sup>th</sup> day of February, A.D., 2018.

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Lauren Poe  
Mayor