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MEDIA ALERT FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The Elks Honor the 385th Anniversary of the National Guard

Chicago, IL –National Elks President T. Keith Mills recently announced Local Elks Lodges from every state, Guam, Puerto Rico and the Panama Canal Zone congratulates and offers our gratitude on the 385th Anniversary of the National Guard.

They are older than the formation of these United States. They are older than the U.S. Army. They have been called the ‘weekend warriors’ and ‘citizen soldiers’, yet they have fought in every major conflict in American history. They are 385 years old, being born on Dec. 10, 1636.

In 1636 the Massachusetts Bay colony organized the first units, with males, ages 16 to 60, which were required to join. Then they were called the militia – today they are known as the Army National Guard. In addition to its other duties, the National Guard also works in partnership with 84 other countries training them in military techniques, explosive disposal exercises, medical readiness, and NCO/Officer development programs. As we celebrate the 385th anniversary of the National Guard, let us give thanks to the men and women who have volunteered to serve their state and their country with courage and dedication, and continue to uphold their motto of, **“always ready, always there.”**

The Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks has made more than 12 Billion in donations since they first started 154 years ago. Last year alone, the Elks donated approximately \$351 million in cash, gifts and time to make our communities better places to live. The Elks are one of the premier patriotic and charitable organizations in the United States of America.

There are nearly 1,800 Elks Lodges across the country with a total membership of around 800,000. Elk’s members must be American citizens who are at least 21 years of age and must believe in God. To learn more and to join us in service, visit www.elks.org. For membership information visit *Join.Elks.Org*.