

# THE BUGLE



## Brandon Elks Lodge #2383

800 CENTENNIAL LODGE DRIVE, BRANDON, FL 33510

ALL AMERICAN LODGE 1999-2000

PHONE 813-685-6469

FAX 813-643-5652

APRIL 2025

[www.brandonelks.org](http://www.brandonelks.org)

Volume 25 Issue 4



### A MESSAGE FROM YOUR EXALTED RULER, LOU VALENCIA

The beginning of a new Elk Year!

As your New ER, I am asking of all members—Let's make this year Outstanding!

Let's exemplify Elkdom by practicing our founding virtues: Charity, Justice, Brotherly Love and Fidelity.

Let us also remember that whether you are a member of the BPOE or the BLOE (or both!) we are all under the same spreading antlers of protection, as it is meant to be!

Working together for the good of "Our Lodge" will bring back the harmony that was once prevalent.

Charity: the voluntary giving of help, typically to those in need, in a Generous way.



Fraternally Yours, Lou Valencia, Exalted Ruler

### ELK OF THE MONTH

The elk of the month is **Larry Hester**, who on a Friday, steak night, took care of a situation in the men's bathroom while we were cooking, allowing us to continue in the kitchen without delay.

He has also helped walk other members to their vehicle safely.

He takes initiative to do things for the Lodge that others might not think of!

Let's thank Larry for his efforts.

I would also like to thank Melinda Giffen Frater and company for their effort on the Masquerade Ball event.

I heard nothing but praises regarding the decorations, food and the event in general.



To All PER's it's lunch time again! So, strap on those feed bags for Thursday, April 10 @ 11:30!

We will meet at Recipe Box 147 E Bloomingdale Ave in Bloomingdale Shopping Center,

I hope you can attend. The more the merrier.

See you soon!



Your Restaurant Hunter  
Kim Martinez PER

## Brandon Lodge Officers for 2025-2026 Elk Year

 <p>Lou Valencia Exalter Ruler 813-376-9863</p>	 <p>Robin Rutzke Leading Knight 305-498-5654</p>	 <p>Wendy Smith Loyal Knight 813-862-8573</p>	 <p>Michael Fultz Lecturing Knight 813-205-5885</p>
 <p>Christina Puhalla Lodge Esquire 609-217-5782</p>	 <p>Kathy Brogli Tiler 813-382-2898</p>	 <p>Beverly Laundry Inner Guard 813-446-0150</p>	 <p>Mark Fox Lodge Chaplain 813-785-5353</p>
 <p>Mary Lou Schreck Secretary 813-458-5872</p>	<p><b>Member Illness/ Convalescence: Notify Lodge Secretary</b></p>		 <p>Nancy Price Treasurer 813-756-9341</p>
 <p>Mark Vargo 1 Year Trustee 813-376-8855</p>	 <p>Nickie Wells 2 Year Trustee 813-716-8051</p>	 <p>Marionette Garvey 3 Year Trustee 813-956-3776</p>	 <p>Ed Ciesla 4 Year Trustee 813-679-7699</p>
		 <p>Rick Weigand 5 Year Trustee 813-748-2678</p>	

## Committee Chairs 2025-2026

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| Accident Prevention - Rick Weigand 813-748-2678   | Hall Rental - Terri Ciesla - 813-679-8007                                    |
| Annual Calendar Updates - Mark Vargo 813-376-8855 | <b>Hoop Shoot - COULD BE YOU!</b>  |
| Bugle Editor - Lara McCleary 203-988-5089         | House Committee - Rick Weigand - 813-748-2678                                |
| Community Activities - Lou Valencia or Mark Vargo | Kitchen Manager - Marionette Garvey - 813-956-3776                           |
| <b>Drug Awareness - COULD BE YOU!</b>             | Lodge Advisors - Henry Poage 813-480-6272                                    |
| Grants Coordinator - Robin Rutzke 305-498-5654    | Lodge Maintenance - Rick Weigand 813-748-2678 & Lou Valencia 813-376-9863    |
| Fraternal Committee -                             | Lodge Purchasing Food - Stephen Blackman 813-378-1597                        |
| Fraternal Sub Committees:                         | Public Relations - Jerrilyn Pietro 813-493-0425 & Lara McCleary 203-988-5089 |
| Americanism: Nickie Wells 813-716-8056            | Youth Activity - Jim Randall - 813-833-7086                                  |
| Flag Day: Robin Rutzke 305-498-5654               | Web Master : Ray Bilinski - webmasterbrandonelks@gmail.com                   |
| Lodge Activities: Mark Vargo 813-376-8855         |  |
| Orientation: Jerrilyn Pietro 813-493-0425         |  |
| Elks Memorial Day: Lou Valencia -813-376-9863     |  |
| ENF: Nickie Wells 813-716-8056                    |  |
| Veterans Services: Robin Rutzke 305-498-5654      |  |

# BLOE BITS

Next Meeting is  
 APRIL 7<sup>TH</sup> @ 7:00 PM  
 Hoping to See You There!

Welcome to the new Elks year. A new beginning...a time for change. First and foremost, I would like to thank you for having the confidence and faith in me and selecting me to be your Brandon Ladies of Elks president once again. I would also like to thank the ladies who have stepped up into officer and chairperson positions. I've noticed there's been a change in our ladies' group. Membership has dropped, morale is low, attendance is low, and volunteerism is low. Some members have dropped out and others have said they don't want to continue. I can certainly understand that after what has occurred the past few months. Please give this new leadership a chance to show you it could be fun again. One of my biggest challenges this year is not only to retain membership, but to increase membership. I want to make our meetings worth attending. I want you, and all our members, to look forward to going to a meeting. I want us to be enthusiastic about events and bring friends with us who in tern might want to become future members. I would like all of us to have fun at meetings, dinners and at lodge functions. Our entire membership will be included in knowing what is going on and in making decisions for the betterment of our lodge. I am honored to have been asked by the Florida Ladies of Elks to be an alternate district delegate. By doing so I will be able to report the state information to you firsthand. We are a wonderful group of ladies with big hearts who have given a lot to our lodge and our community. Let's remember what we are about and what we do for our lodge, for our charities, for the children, for the veterans, and for the Elks organization in general. I am excited to work with each and every one of you to bring back our amazing organization. As you know, I have many ideas for events and fundraisers, but I am open and welcome to hear yours as well. In closing, thank you again. I look forward to all of us working together to reach these goals.



Terri Ciesla  
 President

## Brandon Ladies of Elks Lady of Distinction MARCH



Our Lady of Distinction for March learned quickly what it means to be a Brandon Lady of Elk. Immediately after she was sworn in and even before she was helping. She works the breakfast, hosted a table at the Christmas Tea and helped with gift wrapping. She is fast becoming one of our "go to" members when we ask for volunteers. Even though the event was cancelled she created decorations for the Halloween Party and continues to pitch in whenever and wherever she is needed. She cooked and decorated at our Masquerade Ball, helped @ the Casino night and worked on a Wednesday Night Dinner. Even after doing all that she finds time to help with Bingo and other BPOE events. She is just a wonderful volunteer. Please join me in congratulating **Donna Cassanese** as our March Lady of Distinction.

**ELKS**  
*Give the Gift of Time!*  
 Help  
**WANTED**  
**Volunteers Needed**

Community - Friendship - Charity  
[join.elks.org](http://join.elks.org)



10510 Riverview Drive  
 (813) 671-3121

**SOUTHERN FUNERAL CARE**  
 FUNERAL AND CREMATION SERVICES

Riverview, Florida 33578  
 (813) 671-3730 Fax

**Kevin Talbert**  
 Director / Owner

**Linda Hinkle**  
 Office Manager

**Mark C. Vargo, Sr.**  
 Director / Owner

**Mary Lou Schreck**  
**LODGE SECRETARY**

**Office Hours**

MONDAY: 3pm – 5pm  
 WEDNESDAY: 3pm – 5pm  
 Or call for appointment

**Nancy Price**  
**LODGE TREASURER**

**Office Hours**

MONDAY: 12pm – 3pm  
 THURSDAY: 12pm – 3pm  
 Or call for appointment

**EVERY FRIDAY NIGHT**  
**Dinner \* Dancing \* Music**  
 Weekly 50/50 Raffles  
 \$500 Club Drawing

# APRIL

**To All Lodge Members:**

To clarify an apparent misunderstanding regarding our lounge being reserved by one of our members. Our lounge is always open to our members, and their guests, during normal operating hours. If there is a private event also happening during those hours, members/guests are not allowed to freely partake of any food and/or beverages supplied by the member that reserved the use of our lounge unless you were invited to the event, or the member grants you permission to partake of their food/beverage.

Thank you.  
 Mark C. Vargo, Sr., PER  
 Board of Directors Chair

## Brandon Lodge supports our Veterans

Lodge Veterans please come out every 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of the month to enjoy free dinner and visit with other local Vets! Prepared by Nancy and friends.

**BLOE BREAKFAST**  
**ALL YOU CAN EAT \$12**  
**CHILDREN \$6**  
**2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday**  
**OPEN TO THE PUBLIC**

### Lounge Rental











Lounge usage will be restricted to members, spouses or widows/widowers for their own specific purpose, and they must be always present during the rental

**Lodge Meetings Are Open To Members In Good Standing and is the Place to Discuss any Lodge issues. 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of each month, May-January! February-April 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Mondays of the month!**

**Dress code for meetings is long pants and collared shirt for men.**

**Skirt, Dress, or long slacks for women.**

PER Meeting – 1<sup>st</sup> Monday, 7pm  
 Lodge Meeting 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of month, 7pm  
 Governing Board mtg – 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday at 7pm  
 BLOE Ladies Meetings – 1<sup>st</sup> Monday of month at 6:30pm

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		1 5PM -7PM CARDS  6:30PM BLOE INSTALLATION DINNER HALL	2 6:30PM PASTA DINNER LOUNGE	3 <b>BINGO</b> IN THE HALL 6:30pm	4 FRIDAY NIGHT DINNER SEE PAGE 5 FOR DETAILS	5 STATE GOLF TOURY SEBRING  11AM-3PM HALL RENTAL 7PM-12AM HALL RENTAL
6 SOCIAL & SPORTS LOUNGE 1PM 	7 6:30PM BLOE MEETING - HALL PER MEETING 7PM ANTE ROOM	8 5PM -7PM CARDS 	9 5PM - 9PM LOUNGE RENTAL	10 <b>BINGO</b> IN THE HALL 6:30pm	11 FRIDAY NIGHT DINNER SEE PAGE 5 FOR DETAILS	12 6PM - 11PM HALL RENTAL
13 8AM -11AM BLOE BREAKFAST HALL SOCIAL & SPORTS LOUNGE 1PM	14  LODGE MEETING 7PM	15 8:30AM - 2PM HALL RENTAL 5PM -7PM CARDS 	16 6:30PM BLOE DINNER HALL	17 <b>BINGO</b> IN THE HALL 6:30pm 6:30pm BRANDON BOYS LOUNGE	18 FRIDAY NIGHT DINNER SEE PAGE 5 FOR DETAILS	19 DD CLINIC LAKELAND
20 SOCIAL & SPORTS LOUNGE 1PM 	21 7 PM BOARD MEETING - HALL 5PM SPAGHETTI & MEATBALL DINNER 5:30PM GUEST SPEAKER	22 5PM -7PM CARDS 	23 6:30PM VETERAN'S DINNER HALL	24 <b>BINGO</b> IN THE HALL	25 FRIDAY NIGHT DINNER SEE PAGE 5 FOR DETAILS	26 5PM - 10PM LOUNGE RENTAL
27 SOCIAL & SPORTS LOUNGE 1PM 	28  LODGE MEETING 7PM	29 5PM -7PM CARDS 	30			

### Save the Date

**BLOE MEETING, APRIL 7<sup>TH</sup>**  
**PER MEETING, APRIL 7<sup>TH</sup>**  
**LODGE MEETING, APRIL 14<sup>TH</sup>**  
**BOARD MEETING, APRIL 21<sup>ST</sup>**  
**LODGE MEETING APRIL 28<sup>TH</sup>**

### LOUNGE HOURS

Sunday: 1pm – 7pm  
 Monday - Thursday 4pm – 9pm  
 Friday 4pm – 10pm  
 Saturday 4pm – 9pm  
 Memorial, 4th of July and Labor Day 11AM – 6PM  
 Manager: GLENN GARVEY

# APRIL MENU ITEMS

THE ONLY WAY TO BE ASSURED OF A MEAL IS TO RSVP [RSVPBRANDONELKS@YAHOO.COM](mailto:RSVPBRANDONELKS@YAHOO.COM)

**BY 12 NOON THE DAY BEFORE FOR ALL MEALS!**

THIS HELPS US MAXIMIZE RESOURCES AND MINIMIZE WASTE  
 TEXTING OR CALLING THE LODGE IS NOT CONSIDERED AN RSVP!  
 DINNER IS FROM 6:30PM – 8PM

APRIL 23<sup>RD</sup>

APRIL 2<sup>ND</sup>



**Pasta!**  
**Night**  
 Wednesday April 2nd  
**Spaghetti and Meatballs**  
**\$10**  
 6:30 PM  
 WITH SALAD AND DESSERT  
 Please be sure to RSVP @  
[RSVPBRANDONELKS@YAHOO.COM](mailto:RSVPBRANDONELKS@YAHOO.COM)

APRIL 13<sup>TH</sup>



**Best Breakfast in Town**  
 Brandon Elks BLOE Breakfast  
 New Price!  
**\$12**  
 \$6 child  
 12 and under  
**sunday breakfast**  
**SUNDAY APRIL 13TH**  
**8AM-11AM**  
 Open to the public  
**ALL YOU CAN EAT**

APRIL 23<sup>RD</sup>



**Wednesday Night**  
**VETERANS**  
 \$10 Non-Vets Dinner **VETS EAT FREE**  
**April 23rd**  
 6:30pm  
 Nancy's Meatloaf

APRIL 4<sup>TH</sup>



**Friday Night Dinner**  
 FRIDAY APRIL 4TH  
 Bev Laundry and Friends  
**\$15**  
 PORK CHOPS WITH ALL THE FIXINGS! AND DESSERT **\$15**  
 Live Music!!!  
 Classic  
 PLEASE [RSVPBRANDONELKS@YAHOO.COM](mailto:RSVPBRANDONELKS@YAHOO.COM) THANK YOU!!!

APRIL 16<sup>TH</sup>



**BLOE WEDNESDAY NIGHT DINNER**  
 April 16th  
**Chef Terri's**  
 Beef Picadillo  
 yellow rice,  
 black beans  
 cuban bread,  
 Salad and dessert  
**\$10**  
 PLEASE RSVP [RSVPBRANDONELKS@YAHOO.COM](mailto:RSVPBRANDONELKS@YAHOO.COM)

APRIL 25<sup>TH</sup>



**Friday Night Dinner**  
 APRIL 25TH 6:30pm  
 Alan Smith and Friends  
**Mojo Pork**  
 Yellow Rice  
 Black Beans, Salad, and Dessert  
**\$15**  
 THE JUKEBOX JAM

APRIL 11<sup>TH</sup>



**Friday Night Dinner**  
 April 11th  
 Dinner starts at 6:30pm  
 Fried fish OR shrimp dinner with baked potato, THE hush puppies, Phil's grills, coleslaw and dessert!  
**\$15**  
 FISH FRY  
**JUKEBOX JAM!**  
[RSVPBRANDONELKS@YAHOO.COM](mailto:RSVPBRANDONELKS@YAHOO.COM) JUST FOR US TO GET AN IDEA THANK YOU!!!

APRIL 18<sup>TH</sup>



**Nickie and Friends**  
**Friday Steak Night**  
 Join us for the best steak in town!!  
**April 18th**  
 Dinner @ 6:30  
 Steak, fish, or shrimp with potato, veggie, salad And dessert  
**\$13** **\$15** **\$13**  
 Rock out with... **Fifth Gear Band**  
**THEY'RE BACK!!**

## TO OUR ELKS RV GUESTS

Welcome to our RV Park  
**ELKS MEMBERS ONLY**

OUR RATES ARE:

- ▶ \$25 per night; 7<sup>th</sup> night FREE
- ▶ RV Storage is \$60 per month

**THANKS FOR STAYING IN OUR PARK**

Jeff LaVoie- 518-586-6428  
 Mark Vargo- 813-376-8855  
 LODGE PHONE - 813-685-6469



BUGLE BOOSTERS:

**BE A BUGLE BOOSTER !!**

Please help defray the cost of printing and mailing out our Bugle. Donations help a great deal!!

YOUR NAME COULD APPEAR HERE

**JOIN THE BOOSTER CLUB**

# Happy Birthday

TO OUR APRIL BIRTHDAY MEMBERS

ELIZABETH WILKERSON, VICKI KNOTT, MARISSA MENDEZ, MICHAEL MARTINEZ,  
 SONDRAGARB, RICHARD LAUVE, LONA PARSONS, STEVE LANDERS, DAVID JONES, ED  
 WLIKS, MICKEY MOORE, CRAIG TOTH, ANGELO CONSTANTINO, ALBERT NORIEGA,  
 JOSEPH ZEBRAK, BERNHARD LEHWALD, GISELA MCGINLEY, MEINDA FRATER,  
 MARIONETTE GARVEY, MERL TATE, CLAY HOGUE, MARY RILL, JOAN URSIN, HENRY  
 LEON, ANTHONY RHOADS, TERESA REEVES, DAN SIMMONS, MARK FOX, FRED CIAMPI,  
 JACK OSMANSKI, MIKE HIGHFILL, PAUL CWIK, MICHAEL JONES, DUANE PETRY JR.  
 JACK SCAGLIONE, JIM CLAUSSEN & PHILLIP LARSEN!

### BLOE Elected Officers

President: Terri Ciesla  
 Vice president: Jane Gilblair  
 Recording Secretary: Donna Mancuso-Fultz  
 Corresponding secretary: Beth Benham  
 Treasurer: Janis Jacobson  
 Past Lady President: Jane Gilblair

### Appointed Officers

Chaplin: MaryAnn Kramer  
 Parliamentarian: Carole DiAddezio  
 Historian: Jerrilyn Pietro

**Official Hostess:** Nickie Wells

### Committee Chairpersons

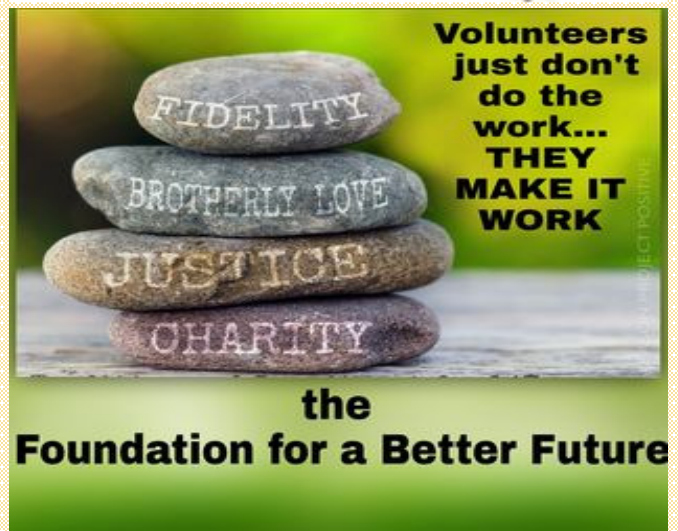
Audit and Budget: Jane Gilblair  
 Birthdays and anniversaries: Cathy Hudson  
 Bylaws: Mary Lou Scribner  
 Catering: Terri Ciesla and Nancy Price  
 Charities: Wendy Smith  
 Lady of distinction: Julie Ebert  
 Lots of luck: Kathy Hattan  
 Membership: Jane Gilblair  
 Program: Lauri Bayne  
 Properties: Carolyn Thomas  
 Publicity: Jerrilyn Pietro  
 Scholarships: Kathy Eldridge  
 Secret pal: Millie Marrero  
 Sunday breakfast: Nancy Price  
 Sunshine: Karen McArthur  
 Telephone: Charlene Hart  
 Ways and Means: Terri Ciesla  
 Wednesday dinners: Terri Ciesla  
 Yearbook: Lori Underberg

### *From the Secretary's Desk.*

It's that time of year.....  
 To sign up for the 500 Club, the  
 fee for the member is \$52 and for  
 the spouse \$52 and must be  
 received by the first Friday in April.  
 (April 4<sup>th</sup>) You may also sign up  
 every week (\$1)

Thank you to all the volunteers  
 who have helped throughout the  
 year. You are appreciated more  
 that you know!

Fraternally,  
 Mary Lou Schreck,  
 Lodge Secretary



# Florida Elk Night with the Orlando Magic!



VS

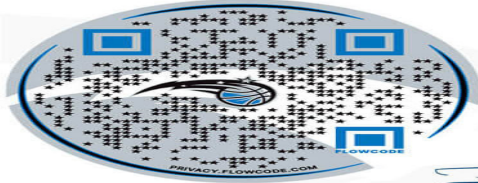


**Tuesday, April 8<sup>th</sup> at 7pm**

Get ready to cheer on the Orlando Magic with your fellow Elks at Florida Elk Night!

A portion of each ticket sale will benefit the Harry-Anna Trust Fund!

SCAN HERE



MAKE IT MAGIC

Jack Lensky 407) 916-2949 | [jlensky@orlandomagic.com](mailto:jlensky@orlandomagic.com)



50/50 raffle

## Join us for the Elk Olympics!! Saturday

May 31st 1:00pm (chefs 12:00)  
Brandon Elks Lodge

Max 8 person  
Per event/Per lodge

*\$5 entry fee pp  
For team events*

*\$10 pp  
For meals*

Cornhole



8 BALL POOL TOURNAMENT



Lodge with most attendance at each Event awarded 2 points!!

Chili competition



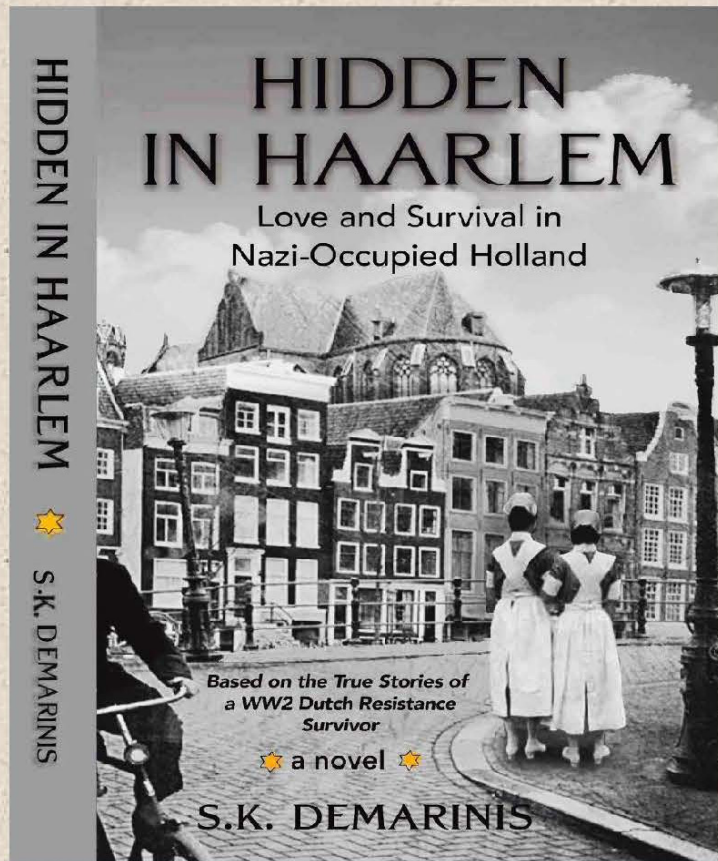
Cupcake competition



Brandon Elks Lodge  
800 Centennial Lodge Dr  
Brandon, FL 33510

~AUTHOR TALK on HISTORIC FICTION NOVEL~

# “HIDDEN IN HAARLEM”



“*Hidden in Haarlem*” weaves the true stories from an interview with an elder who survived WW II in Holland as a teenager. Many stories tell of war heroes and the persecuted, but this novel aims to bring to light **stories of the regular folks** who tried their best to bring a horrific war to a close. They went to extremes to survive and help save as many as they could, often at a great personal risk. It is the hope of this author to honor those citizens who have been hidden from the stories of history.

DATE: April 21<sup>st</sup> 2025

TIME: 5:30PM

LOCATION: 800 Centennial Dr.

Brandon, FL 33511

Author S. K. DeMarinis retired after 30 years as a chiropractor and took up writing novels to broaden her passion for storytelling. “*Hidden in Haarlem*”, her fourth novel, weaves the true stories from an interview with a 95-yr-old elder who survived WW II in Holland as a teenager. Actual wartime events and some added fictional characters bring the reader inside history. Fascinated by his tales of resistance as a **citizen saboteur**, Sue further investigated this period of the 20th century. She presents a 1-hour slide show of her research of old newspapers, vintage photos, documents of other survivors, and digital encyclopedia references.

Sue DeMarinis, author





**VETERANS AFFAIRS  
Committee Chair  
Robin Rutzke**

**BPOE Loyal Knight  
USAF (ret)  
305-498-5654**



Any questions or concerns about the Veterans that the Elks Lodge serves, or other note worthy Veteran events, please address them with Robin.

**God Bless our Veterans!**



## **ATTENTION – ATTENTION – ATTENTION!**

**Parade of Heroes  
recognizes and honors veterans from  
WWII, Korea, Viet Nam, Gulf War,  
Operation Iraqi Freedom and  
Operation Afghanistan Freedom.**



### **Parade of Heroes**

**3-day, all expense paid event  
in our nation's capital honoring our Military Veterans  
over Veterans Day**

**If you are interested in participating in the  
**Parade of Heroes****

For more details go to our  
FSEA Historical Programs 2025 Parade of Heroes Website  
for enrollment and more details.

**Registration opens on [www.floridaelks.org](http://www.floridaelks.org)  
second week in January, 2025**

Reach out to Brandon Veteran Chair, Robin Rutzke  
305-398-5654 [rrutzke@gmail.com](mailto:rrutzke@gmail.com)

**Brandon Lodge has participated in this event each year sending many of  
Military Veteran Brandon Lodge members to Washington.**

**If you are a Military Veteran,  
take advantage of this great opportunity and event!**



Brandon Elks Lodge #2383

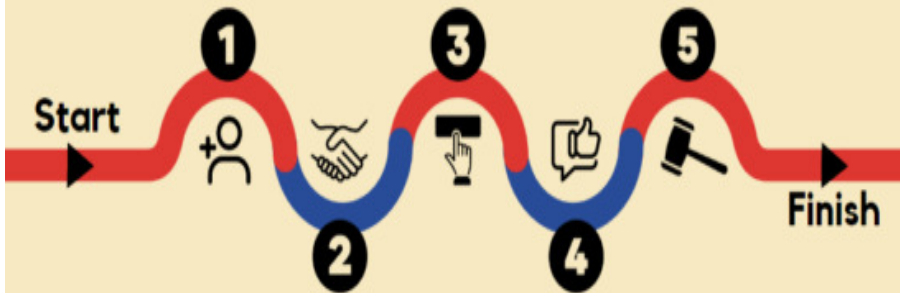
800 Centennial Lodge Drive  
Brandon, FL 33510

\*\*Change Service Requested



# ELKS

*Every Member Begins as a Guest!*  
**NEW MEMBER RECRUITING**



1. Ask a friend to join the Elks.
2. Invite your friend to the Lodge.
3. Ask them to apply on-line.
4. Follow-up with the application.
5. Schedule an initiation.

Community • Friendship • Charity  
[join.elks.org](http://join.elks.org)



## FLORIDA WILL, LIVING TRUST LIVING WILL

**POWER OF ATTORNEY**  
William R. Mumbauer, Attorney  
813-685-3133

205 N. Parsons Ave., Brandon, FL 33510  
[www.flwillstrustsprobate.com](http://www.flwillstrustsprobate.com)

Living Will \$75  
Durable Power of Attorney \$75  
Health Care Surrogate Designation \$75



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Tampa, FL 33617  
(813) 504-1645  
[www.jackscaglioneinsuranceagent.com](http://www.jackscaglioneinsuranceagent.com)  
[JScaglione3@briighthouse.com](mailto:JScaglione3@briighthouse.com)

**Jack Scaglione**  
Licensed Insurance Agent

Medicare Supplements ~ Medicare Advantage  
Final Expense ~ Whole Life ~ UL's ~ IUL's  
Term Insurance ~ Annuities