

**ELKS NATIONAL VETERANS  
SERVICE COMMISSION**



**SERVING OUR NATION'S VETERANS**

**BENEVOLENT & PROTECTIVE ORDER OF ELKS**

Mt. Vernon Lodge # 819 1107 Jordan Mt. Vernon, IL 62864 (618) 244-4885

Dear Brother & Sister Elks and Supporters of Mt. Vernon Elks Lodge 819:

The ties between the Order of Elks and our nations veterans dates back to 1917 when, on the battlefields of France, the Elks organized and equipped the first two base hospitals to care for those soldiers who became sick or were wounded in combat.

The ties between Mt. Vernon Elks Lodge 819 and the Marion and Anna, Illinois VA Nursing Care facilities began more than twenty years ago when Brother Dennis Zedalis began visiting the veterans at each facility on a monthly basis putting on a bingo program as well as delivering comfort items and general good cheer. I'm proud to say that with the help of numerous volunteers, and funds provided by the members and supporters of this Lodge, we are able to carry on the tradition started by Brother Dennis and continue to uphold the pledge of the Elks National Veterans Service Commission that states; ***“So long as there are veterans, the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks will never forget them”***

To help Elks Lodge 819 and the Lodge Adopt-A-Vet team of volunteers to continue serving our area veterans on a monthly basis we are asking you to consider contributing to the Elks Adopt-A-Vet program.

Through your kindness here is a partial list of what the veterans we serve will receive: cash payouts and refreshments to all veterans participating in the bingo programs, comfort care and personal hygiene products on a regular basis, personal greeting cards on their birthday and other national holidays, and individual gifts at Christmas time. In addition, as available funds allow, we try to fulfill “wish list” requests presented to us by the Marion and Anna VA Nursing Care facilities.

If you would like to make a donation and be part of the Mt. Vernon 819 Adopt-A-Vet team, please fill out the form below and return it with your donation to the Mt. Vernon Elks Lodge via regular mail or in person. **If you send a check please write “Adopt-A-Vet Program” on the memo line.** Through your generosity we will be able to enhance the level of comfort for some of our veterans and let them know that Elks Care! Elks Share!

Fraternally yours, Keith Hertenstein – Lodge Veterans Chairperson

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**YES! Count me in as a member of the Mt. Vernon Elks 819 Adopt-A-Vet Team!**

Enclosed is my contribution of \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State and Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

I would like to get more involved. My number is \_\_\_\_\_ My email address is \_\_\_\_\_