

Valerie Peterson
Exalted Ruler

**Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks
A Fraternal Organization
Jackson Lodge No. 1713
Chartered July 17th, 1947**



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Press Release**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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MOTHERS HONORED BY ELKS LODGE NO. 1713

Jackson, WY – Mothers past and present were honored this Sunday May 14th through the annual Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks Mother's Day ritual at the Senior Center of Jackson Hole. This annual ritual is performed by Elks Lodges across the United States to show appreciation for current mothers and to honor the memory of mothers that have passed on. For over 30 years, Jackson Elks Lodge No. 1713 has performed this ritual and served a delicious brunch to area mothers and their families at the Senior Center of Jackson Hole.

"The ritual and brunch are for mothers, their families, and for those that want to take time to reflect on mothers that are no longer with us," says Valerie Peterson, Exalted Ruler of Jackson Elks Lodge No. 1713. "It is truly a solemn time for appreciation and reflection. It's hard to get through the ritual without shedding a tear," Peterson continued.

This year, the Jackson Elks served 115 mothers and their families. Donnie Rodgers, Elk member and head chef, directed the preparation of a menu of Medallions of Beef Tenderloins, Cheesy Potatoes, Asparagus with Hollandaise Sauce, Scrambled Eggs, Apple Cobbler a la mode, and of course mimosas. "I like coming up with a menu that makes the mothers feel special and shows that we appreciate them," said Rodgers.

18 Elks members and their friends volunteered to prepare and serve brunch for the Mother's Day ritual. "Many Elks members are transplants to Jackson Hole and don't have the chance to spend this day with their own mother," Peterson explained. "Volunteering for the Mother's Day ritual helps them show that motherhood is something important that we need to take a moment to recognize. Even if we can't be with our own mothers, Elks can help make the day special for someone else's."

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The Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks was founded in 1868 to promote and practice the four cardinal virtues of Charity, Justice, Brotherly Love, and Fidelity; to promote the welfare and enhance the happiness of its members; to quicken the spirit of American Patriotism and cultivate good fellowship. Today the Elks are a fraternal order of nearly one million members with a network of more than 2,000 lodges in communities across the country. Annually the Order spends more than \$80,000,000 for benevolent, educational, and patriotic community-minded programs.

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