

Pete Kendzior
Exalted Ruler

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



Fernando Escobedo, PER, PDDGER
Secretary

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Press Release**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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JACKSON ELKS LODGE HELPS BRING VIETNAM WAR MEMORIAL TO WYOMING

Jackson, WY – Jackson Wyoming Elks Lodge No. 1713 at their July 22nd, 2019 meeting voted to help sponsor “The Moving Wall” project to bring a half-size replica of the Washington, D.C. Vietnam Veterans’ Memorial to Rock Springs, WY.

“Our Veteran’s Services Committee Chair Donnie Rodgers was approached by American Legion Post 24 of Rock Springs to help them bring the memorial to Wyoming,” said Pete Kendzior, Exalted Ruler of Jackson Elks Lodge No. 1713. “As soon as our membership heard the idea, everyone was on board.” The membership voted unanimously at their July 22nd meeting to donate \$2,500 to the Rock Springs American Legion Post to bring “The Moving Wall” to The Cowboy State. “One of the many charitable missions of the Elks is to support veterans, and we hope that by bringing this monument to our neck of the woods it will raise awareness of veterans issues and show our heartfelt respect for those that paid the ultimate price for our freedoms,” continued Kendzior.

“The Moving Wall” memorial will be in Rock Springs, WY at the Western Wyoming Community College from August 22nd to August 26th, 2019. All are welcome to view the memorial and to pay their respects. The cost for sponsoring “The Moving Wall” is well over \$15,000, and those that wish to support this effort by donating should contact Rock Springs American Legion Post 24 Commander Michael Hobbs at (307) 382-3315. “We hope this visit by ‘The Moving Wall’ will be a success,” says Kendzior. “Maybe one year we will be able to bring this monument to Jackson.”

This monument has been touring the country for nearly 30 years and started when John Devitt attended the 1982 dedication of the Vietnam Veteran’s Memorial and felt the positive power of “The Wall”. John, Norris Shears, Gerry Haver, and other Vietnam veterans built “The Moving Wall”. Of the 58,299 names listed on the memorial, approximately 1,300 of these are still unaccounted for prisoners of war and missing in action. Learn more about this project by visiting www.themovingwall.org.

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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The Moving Wall monument in Camden, TN 2011
Photo courtesy of www.themovingwall.org

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