

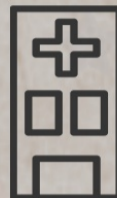
The History of the Elks National Veterans Service Commission

Our story is long; our work is humble; our history is proud.

1918: The Elks built a 700 bed hospital in Boston and donated it to the federal government, creating the precursor to today's VA Medical Centers.



1917: Elks established a War Relief Fund to care for the sick and wounded on the battlefields of France. Elks also organize and equip the first two base hospitals in France.



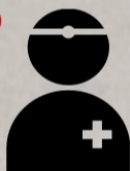
1946: The Elks National Veterans Service Commission is established, with the goal of serving hospitalized veterans.



1918-1924: Elks make 40,000 rehabilitation, vocational and educational loans to veterans with disabilities, a program so successful it inspires the government to establish the GI Bill.



1951: In response to a plea from the Secretary of Defense, Elks help collect over half a million pints of blood.



1948: The Veterans Leather Program begins, providing free wheelchair gloves and rehabilitation materials to veterans.



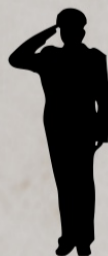
1997: The Elks again partner with the VA to support Adaptive Sports Events to help recovering veterans and veterans with disabilities stay healthy and active.



1955: The Elks join the Veterans Affairs Voluntary Service Executive Committee, and hundreds of Elks begin to volunteer at VA facilities.



2011: The ENVSC begins to offer Freedom Grants to help Lodges serve veterans and military members in need in their communities.



2016: The Elks launch the Welcome Home program to help end veteran homelessness.



What are the Elks up to today? Visit www.elks.org/vets to find out.