

# Patriot Resilience

By Tim Buhl

Americans are resilient. America has faced tough times throughout her storied history. From her inception, we have faced tyranny, natural disaster, political strife, war, and economic calamity. The constant is that American will and ingenuity always finds solutions. Today is no different than any other time in our history. We face struggles that may appear almost insurmountable; high unemployment, staggering debt, and a loss of prestige. Who does America call upon to solve her problems? Who are the problem solvers? They're us. We the people. We as Elks, an exclusively American organization, are patriots. Patriots relentlessly pursue truth and defend liberty. When America faces war we volunteer and fight to defend her. When disaster strikes a neighbor, we are charitable. When tyranny rears its ugly head we defend justice. We extend the hand of brotherly love to orphans and immigrants. When political leadership strays from the path of honor, we demand fidelity.

As Elks we extol the virtues of charity, justice, brotherly love and fidelity. As Patriots we must steadfastly defend the blessings of liberty. As an organization we must continue to grow and remain vigilant in the defense of these values. For it is these values that will ensure America remains the beacon of liberty and opportunity, and that has always been our hallmark. We must continue to educate our children that true Americanism is good and just. Never compromise, never falter.

The result is this effort and hard work yields wonderful outcomes. Success stories are written everyday. American innovation has made the world a better place. But it's not all work and no play. Americans have fun. Backyard ballgames with children, poker night at Grandpa's, league night at the bowling alley, driving too fast in a Corvette, kegs of beer and a Frisbee at the beach, popping wheelies on a Harley. It's what we do and why we do it. And we invented Rock 'n Roll. Have fun tonight my fellow Americans, you earned it.

God bless you and God bless America.