

HCR 29 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Rules

Prepared By: Leslie Porter, LPRO Analyst

Meeting Dates: 6/22

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Honors Salem Elks Lodge for its community involvement and charitable contributions.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

The Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks (BPOE) is one of the oldest and largest fraternal organizations in the nation. Since its inception in 1868, the BPOE has been committed to the ideals of charity and community betterment. The BPOE lodge in Salem, Oregon, has a long history of investing in the community through programs that help children grow up healthy and drug-free, meet the needs of veterans, and improve the quality of life for all. The Salem Elks Lodge and its members have volunteered countless hours and donated more than \$17 million to make the Salem community a better place.

The Salem Elks Lodge is dedicated to improving the lives of veterans, Oregon National Guard personnel, and their families. It provides financial support for homeless veterans transitioning into stable housing and spends thousands of dollars annually to provide gifts for the children of veterans and military personnel who find themselves in need during the Christmas season. The Salem Elks Lodge has provided meals for staff members at the Oregon Veterans' Home in Lebanon since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, and it regularly provides snacks and requested items for veterans who live there. The Salem Elks Lodge also supports foster children, children with disabilities, homeless families, and others in need in the community and provides Christmas gifts and needed items to improve the lives of the children at the Oregon School for the Deaf. The Salem Elks Lodge supports education, providing scholarships worth almost \$10,000 per year to area students, and distributing hundreds of backpacks filled with school supplies to children of veterans and military personnel, the Oregon School for the Deaf, and Salem-Keizer Public Schools.

The Salem Elks Lodge supports many other local organizations, including Marion Polk Food Share, Habitat for Humanity of the Mid-Willamette Valley, the Kroc Center, Boys and Girls Club of Salem, Marion and Polk counties, Horses of Hope Oregon, and the Salem Police Department's D.A.R.E. program. The Salem Elks Lodge works with local partners to provide a free Thanksgiving meal to homeless persons and anyone else in need in the community, a free Veterans Day meal to veterans in need, and disaster relief assistance efforts for those impacted by typhoons in the Pacific islands and wildfires in Oregon.

The Salem Elks Lodge has created a quiet network of good deeds that have bettered the community, yet there is little public awareness of the impact of their vital work. House Concurrent Resolution 29 honors the Salem Elks Lodge for its remarkable charitable work, which has made the Salem community a better place and profoundly changed countless lives.