



# State of North Carolina

## Department of Administration

Pat McCrory, Governor

Bill Daughtridge, Jr., Secretary

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### NC Div. of Veterans Affairs Thanks *The Order of the Elks* for their Years of Supporting NC Veterans

RALEIGH, NC – May 2, 2014

Ilario Pantano, Director of The North Carolina Division of Veterans Affairs (NCDVA), a Division of the North Carolina Department of Administration, and keynote speaker for the May 3, Annual Elks Convention in Asheville, NC offers his heartfelt gratitude to the both the local and national Elks Lodges for their partnership and continued support of the veteran residents at our State Veterans Nursing Homes. “The Order of the Elks has taken it upon themselves to ensure that our most vulnerable senior veterans are provided for in a way that should make all North Carolinians proud,” said Pantano. “From adopting veterans at Christmas time to furnishing the State Veterans Nursing Homes with televisions and travel buses, the generosity of the Elks is heart warming. Their continuous day-to-day support and interaction with our veterans is priceless and ensures that our heroes are not forgotten while Elk’s charitable giving has topped half a million dollars.”

In 1917, *The Protective and Benevolent Order of the Elks*, established as a band of Brothers, dedicated themselves to serving Veterans by building the first Veteran Hospital in support of the war efforts of WWI. This magnitude of support has continued both internationally and nationwide with each War and conflict including US involvement. This veteran outreach effort continues today in North Carolina as The Elks have donated countless hours and over half a million dollars in resources towards NCDVA’s State Veterans Nursing Homes’ residents who have bravely served in our Armed Forces.

Mr. Woodard, a Vietnam Veteran and naval aviator administers the Veterans Homes. Woodard likewise praised the Elks, “every year, throughout the year, The Order of the Elks is one of the greatest supporters of our Veterans.” Woodard continued, “for over 12 years, The Elks have graciously included provisions for each State Veterans Home’s needs in their annual budgets. Elks have donated TVs, minibuses, clothes, transport vans and many gifts to each of the four State Homes. If a veteran enters a State Home, with only the clothes on their backs, the Elk contact for each home is notified and the local Lodge will provide that Veteran with multiple sets of new clothes. They are the primary sponsors each year of the “Adopt a Veteran” program providing a multitude of gender specific gifts for each Veteran and celebrates with the Homes watching tearfully as each gift is unwrapped during the Holiday Programs. The have spent countless hours visiting our senior residents listening to the heroic stories of service and survival- laughing, crying and supporting North Carolina’s valiant Senior Veterans.

The North Carolina State Veterans Nursing Homes are located in Black Mountain, Salisbury, Fayetteville and Kinston and some have received 5-star ratings with US News and World Report. For more information about the state Homes, contact James Woodard at 1-(844)-NC4-Vets.

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