

Acknowledging those who built our Lodge

Looking back at our History

Every month in the Exalted Ruler’s message, you read about how proud we are of the members of Elks Lodge 2222 who came before us and laid the foundation for our Order in the Town of Enfield. We thought it would be a good idea to share some of the history of our Lodge for the benefit of new and long-term members alike.

Our Lodge was established 61 years ago **this month**. Here is a photo of the first suite of officers.

OFFICERS and TRUSTEES OF ENFIELD ELKS LODGE NO. 2222 1961 - 1962

Exalted Ruler	Sam Browne
Esteemed Leading Knight	Edward Szewczyk
Esteemed Loyal Knight	Richard Halley
Esteemed Lecturing Knight	Eli Raffia
Secretary	Manuel Santos
Treasurer	George Colli
Tiler	John Savage
Esquire	Robert Smith
Inner Guard	William Walsh
Chaplain	Joe Annis
Trustee	Joseph Casanelli
Trustee	Robert Sarrasen
Trustee	Richard Morin
Trustee	John Raissi
Trustee	Robert D’Vileskis



Thirty-six years ago in February 1986, the Lodge celebrated its 25th Anniversary with a gala celebration and mortgage burning ceremony.

The following information was copied from the program for the 25th Anniversary & Mortgage Burning celebration. Events included an Elks Stag Night on Feb 7th; the 25th Anniversary Ball on Feb 8th—including a prime rib dinner, mortgage burning ceremony and dancing to the Anthony Quartet; and a Champagne Brunch on Feb. 9th.

History of Elk’s Lodge #2222

Instituted at the Polish National Home Enfield, May 21, 1961.

First meetings were held at the Mount Carmel Hall, 1961-1963. In 1964 the location was moved to a hall on 95 Raffia Road. During this period plans were being formulated to build on land previously purchased on North Maple Street. This was to be the present site of the Lodge.

The sale of bonds to raise construction money was launched in 1967.

Ground breaking was held in January 1969. Construction of the 6,700 square foot building began in the spring of 1969. The building consists of two halls, a ladies lounge donated by Emblem Club 380, Club Room and kitchen.

The majority of the finishing work involving the building was done by Lodge members.

Moving day was December 15, 1970 during a major snowstorm. In 1976 a pavilion was added to enhance the outside functions.



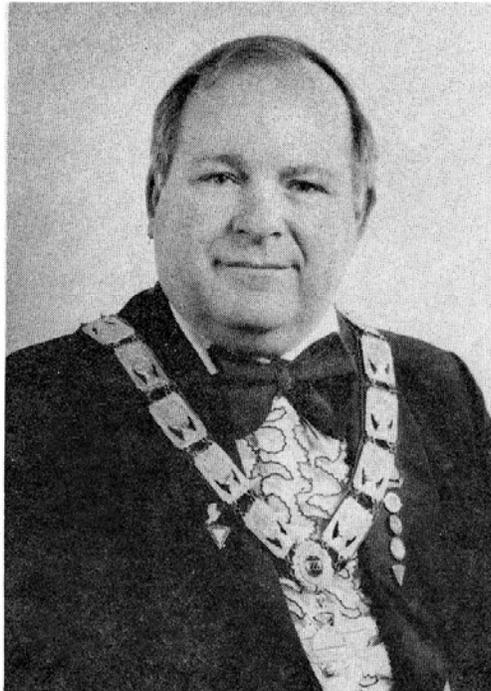
Front row (l-r): Robert D’Vileskis, Richard Halley, Edward Szewczyk, Samuel Browne, Eli Raffia, George Colli, Manuel Santos and Joseph Casanelli. Back row (l-r): Robert Smith, Joseph Annis, Richard Morin, Robert Sarrasen, John Savage, William Walsh and John Raissi.

continued

Acknowledging those who built our Lodge

Looking back at our History—continued

Here's the message in the 25th Anniversary program from 1985-86 Exalted Ruler Ron Campbell. Ron, who served as Exalted Ruler eight times, passed away in August 2021.



In this, the twenty-fifth anniversary year of the Enfield Lodge of Elks; I have the distinct pleasure and privilege to be serving as its twenty-fifth Exalted Ruler. Having reviewed the archives and the past histories of our lodge, I am pleased to say Enfield Lodge of Elks is carrying on in the best traditions of Elkdom as set forth by our first Exalted Ruler, Brother Samuel T. Browne, P.D.D. and carried on by all of my predecessors.

It was through their leadership and the hard work of all the faithful committees and members who brought our lodge to where it is today. Hopefully, as my year is coming to an end as your Exalted Ruler it will be looked upon as a year which maintained the high standards as set by those who have gone before. I know that because of the dedication of our members, Enfield Lodge of Elks will continue its journey through the vineyards of Elkdom and continue to be a beacon for those who desire to become associated with this Great Order.

As we burn our mortgage this evening I dedicate it to all of those Brothers mentioned above.

So, therefore, thank you and congratulations in this silver year from myself, the officers, our committees and their families.

Best Wishes for continued success.

Ronald L. Campbell
Ronald Campbell
Exalted Ruler