

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, the Benevolent and Protective Order of the Elks, was founded in New York City 153 years ago, and today has nearly 2,000 lodges nationwide;

WHEREAS, the fraternal organization was established in Salem 125 years ago, on April 21, 1896 as Lodge #336, and is dedicated to community service by instilling the principles of charity, justice, brotherly love, and fidelity; and

WHEREAS, Salem Elks have given back more than \$17 million in volunteer hours and donations to the Salem community, including \$10,000 in student scholarships, an annual donation of \$10,000 to support unhoused veterans transitioning to stable housing, as well as \$15,000 for children of veterans and Oregon National Guard members, which included 24 families with 63 children in 2020; and

WHEREAS, Salem Elks have also supported children by purchasing holiday gifts for those at the Oregon School for the Deaf, donating backpacks filled with school supplies, and general charitable support to numerous local nonprofit agencies; and

WHEREAS, as a longstanding community partner, Salem Elks Lodge #336 and its members deserve recognition for making Salem a better place for all residents the past 125 years; and

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Chuck Bennett, Mayor of the City of Salem, do hereby proclaim April 21, 2021, as

ORDER OF THE ELKS DAY IN SALEM

and encourage residents to recognize and appreciate the many years of service the Elks have contributed to the community.

DATED this twelfth day of April 2021.

Chuck Bennett
Mayor

