



101 Leymar Rd. Glen Burnie, Maryland 21060 • Phone: (410)0608-4587
E-mail: mdrodman@yahoo.com

Capt. Stuart A. Burgoon Sr.
President
Maryland, Delaware, District of Columbia

A Fraternal Organization

01/08/2021

House Bill 371 - Slots for Homeless Veterans Bill

The Honorable Anne R. Kaiser
House Office Building, Room 131
6 Bladen Street
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Members of the Ways and Means Committee,

My name is Stuart A. Burgoon Sr. and I reside at 101 Leymar Rd. In Glen Burnie, Md. I am a 20 + year member of The Benevolent Protective Order of Elks, Glen Burnie Lodge #2266. I currently serve as our State President. We are 20,000 proud members serving our charities and communities.

The Elks organization supports many charities in our community. Our Veterans hospitals and V A centers. Youth scholarships. The Elks are 2nd to only the U S government in supporting continued educations. Colleges, vocational and trade school scholarships. Our 140 + acres Camp Barrett in Crownsville lets hundreds of children enjoy a Summer Camp experience. As well as our Girl and Boy Scout troops. The Camp serves many organizations events such as fundraising for Fisher House, Trucking for Troops, Army of Hope and Welcome Home program, to name a few. We help many families with our Holiday baskets and making Christmas happy for many children who are less fortunate. The Covid did not allow us to have many of the activities as we normally do.

This all takes money. Unfortunately, since the outbreak of the Covid 19 Pandemic we have gone from a 3 year high in membership to a delinquency of 15%. Not to mention some of families own financial difficulties. These are lost monies from members not renewing dues. Not knowing when they will be able to 100% enjoy their lodges. It is now 2021. We are 10 months into this, with really no end in sight. There are so many unknowns. Closures, limited hours, limited capacities. To name a few. I cannot come up with what the total financial burden has been. Lost revenues from Bingos, Lounge sales of food and refreshment. Charitable donations used in our communities and neighborhoods. Increased utility costs , supplies for our building food goods and sundries continue to go up in price. Some Lodges have revenue loss of 50 – 75%. Lodges struggle month to month as families do. A few are on the brink of closing. Some of our local businesses are facing closing decisions. So are some of our Elks Lodges. Even in the extraordinary times we continue to try and support our charities and communities.

I am asking that you support the Gaming Legislation which will allow our Fraternal Organization to continue the great work we do for our communities. With support the Ticket Lottery Machines HB 371, “Slots” for Homeless Veterans Bill, the increased revenue from gaming in the Elks Lodges would allow us to continue and support the charitable work we do. The Bill that would strengthen our Elks Lodges in our communities and assist homeless Veterans. I appreciate you giving us the opportunity to come before the committee and thank you for any support and passage.

Thank you,
I would entertain any questions at this time.
Stu Burgoon Sr.
President

“Shake a Veterans Hand, Keep a Smile on Your Face and a Song in Your Heart “

