



CALABASH ELKS
Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks ~ Lodge 2679
937 Carter Drive, Calabash, NC 28467
910.579.4600 Lounge ~ 910.575.8900 Office ~ e-Mail: Secretary@CalabashElks.Org

THE ELEVEN O'CLOCK TOAST

Regular meetings of Subordinate Lodges have always been held at night. In the earlier days, they were usually held on Sunday nights and were concluded about eleven o'clock. As the participants departed, they naturally made inquiries about the absentees and expressed sympathetic interest in the causes of their absence. It soon became a custom for some member to propose a toast to the brothers who were not present. And in the course of time this custom was quite generally observed whenever a group of Elks were together at eleven o'clock.



Eventually the Grand Lodge specifically provided for such a ceremonial to be observed during Lodge sessions; and designated it as "The Eleven o'clock Toast." Under this provision, whenever a Lodge is in session at that hour, the regular order of business is suspended for a few moments while the Exalted Ruler recites the beautiful ritual prescribed, concluding with the words: "To our absent Brothers."

Upon other strictly fraternal occasions this "golden hour of recollection" is generally observed in somewhat the same manner. A designated brother, with or without a few preliminary remarks, proposes the toast, to which all members respond with the words: "To our absent Brothers."

Even when small groups of Elks are together at this hour, although it is not a formal fraternal occasion, it is not inappropriate to recall the sentiment with a moment of dignified silence.

The ceremonial is a very effective one, distinctively associated with the Order of Elks. The sentiment it embodies is wholesome and commendable; and it is, therefore, obvious that the designed effect should not be marred by any lack of dignity or decorum; and that it should never be cheapened by observance in inappropriate surroundings.