

BIOGRAPHY OF  
**DWAYNE E. RUMNEY**  
GRAND EXALTED RULER  
**2000-2001**

*Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks of the U.S.A.*

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Born in Sandwich, Illinois on May 17, 1937, the youngest of three children, Dwayne E. Rumney was raised in a small town where everyone knew each other by name and friendships were close and lasting. During his early years, Dwayne learned the true importance of family, community, volunteering, and a strong work ethic. Not surprisingly, the values and ideals that Dwayne learned to cherish as a child would later lead him to join the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks.

In 1955 Dwayne graduated from Sandwich High School, one of a class of 50 students, and the following year he entered the U.S. Air Force. While stationed at a base in Willmar, Minnesota, Dwayne met Sandy Lindquist, whom he married in 1959. For more than forty years, Sandy's wisdom, counsel, and love have been a source of strength for Dwayne in every aspect of their lives together.

Upon receiving his discharge from the Air Force in 1960, Dwayne and Sandy moved to Minneapolis where Dwayne pursued a degree in Accounting at the Minnesota School of Business, graduating in 1963.

Bringing together discipline and teamwork learned in the military, an ability to understand others, and the knowledge acquired in college, Dwayne quickly became a powerful force in the business community. Through the years, his strong leadership and creative problem-solving skills proved to be key in making floundering businesses successful. Those traits also made him a valued and distinguished member of his community. His professional and public life have included such highlights as serving as President of the Willmar Area Chamber of Commerce; President of the Willmar Area Quality Council, which he was instrumental in forming; President of the Willmar Technical College Foundation; ten-year Board Member of the Ridgewater College Foundation; Director of West Central Industries, an organization which assists the physically-challenged; and Vice-Chairman of the Central Minnesota Jobs and Training Services, a state agency that provides career training and employment to the unemployed, the under-employed, and youths. Not surprisingly,

Dwayne was also named as a finalist for the Minnesota Entrepreneur of the Year Award in 1991.

On October 14, 1967, Dwayne was initiated into Willmar, MN Elks Lodge No. 952. He joined the Order, he explains, after becoming excited by "the camaraderie of people getting together, volunteering, and doing things to help others." That enthusiasm, coupled with the many friendships he forged at the Lodge, led him to become very active in the Elks and an avid supporter of its many programs. After progressing through all of the elected chairs, Dwayne was chosen to be the Exalted Ruler of the Lodge in 1975-76, and later he served the Lodge as the Chairman of its Board of Trustees.

Over time, Dwayne's dedication and enthusiasm led him to serve the Order in a number of positions, both elected and appointed, including certified Ritualistic Judge; Central District President, four years; President of the Minnesota Elks Association in 1990-91; and in 1992-93, District Deputy Grand Exalted Ruler for the Central District of Minnesota. In 1992-93, Dwayne was also appointed as a member of the Grand Lodge Youth Activities Committee, a position that he held until 1995, when he was elected to the Board of Grand Trustees, on which he served for four years, the last year as Chairman. In this capacity, Dwayne used his strong managerial skills and keen insight on behalf of the Order of the Elks, paying particular attention to the Order's operations. In recognition of the vital role that he has played in all levels of the Order, Dwayne was elected as an Honorary Life Member of Willmar Lodge and was designated as Willmar Lodge's Elk of the Year in 1998-99.

For Dwayne, the most rewarding thing about being a member of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks has been the warming of the heart he has felt when lending a hand to others. "When I look at the future of our Order," he states, "I see the Elks' enthusiasm [for helping others] building and the support we give our communities growing stronger than ever." It is his hope that as he fulfills his duties as Grand Exalted Ruler he will carry this message — the true spirit of the Order — to the people and places he visits.