

Senate Resolution 1103

By: Senator Jones II of the 22nd

### A RESOLUTION

1 Commending the Improved Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks of the World; and for  
2 other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, the Improved Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks of the World has grown  
4 into the largest Black fraternal organization in the world with more than 500,000 members  
5 across over 1,500 lodges, advancing programs that support education, youth development,  
6 and community service; and

7 WHEREAS, the Improved Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks of the World was  
8 formally established on September 28, 1898, in Cincinnati, Ohio, when Arthur James Riggs  
9 and Benjamin Franklin Howard organized Alpha Lodge No. 1 to create a fraternal  
10 organization for people of color; and

11 WHEREAS, despite facing persistent legal challenges and discriminatory opposition, the  
12 organization endured and expanded its reach, strengthening its mission and presence across  
13 the nation and beyond; and

14 WHEREAS, on June 13, 1902, Emma Virginia Kelly organized the Daughters of Elks in  
15 Norfolk, Virginia, establishing an auxiliary body that further broadened the organization's  
16 impact, with Norfolk Temple No. 1 recognized as the first temple; and

17 WHEREAS, guided by principles of Charity, Justice, Brotherly and Sisterly Love, and  
18 Fidelity, the organization has developed numerous departments, including education, medical  
19 services, veterans affairs, youth programs, civil liberties, and historical preservation; and

20 WHEREAS, through these initiatives, the organization has provided scholarships, supported  
21 youth through educational and enrichment programs, and delivered extensive community  
22 service efforts that continue to uplift individuals and families; and

23 WHEREAS, it is abundantly fitting and proper to honor the Improved Benevolent and  
24 Protective Order of Elks of the World during this special time.

25 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body  
26 commend the Improved Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks of the World for its  
27 enduring commitment to service, education, and community advancement as well as extend  
28 best wishes for continued success.

29 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed  
30 to make an appropriate copy of this resolution available for distribution to the Improved  
31 Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks of the World.