

# BUGLE





Brandon Elks Lodge #2383
800 CENTENNIAL LODGE DRIVE, BRANDON, FL 33510

ALL AMERICAN LODGE 1999-2000 PHONE 813-685-6469 FAX 813-643-5652

Volume 23 Issue 12

www.brandonelks.org

**DECEMBER 2023** 



# **Message From Your Exalted Ruler**



Ed Ciesla Exalted Ruler

Charity and Brotherly Love, 'tis The Season!

December is here, and our Lodge is coming alive with the spirit of Charity and Brotherly Love. In this season of hope and love, our Lodge stands as a beacon of compassion and community, embodying the true essence of the spirit of the holiday. At the heart of our Lodge's mission is the commitment to Charity. Throughout the year, our members work to support various causes. But during Christmas, our efforts are amplified. Some of our Christmas charity initiatives are our food and toy drive. With unwavering dedication, our member's rally to contribute non-perishable food items, clothing, and toys to our adopted families, ensuring many in need can experience the magic of Christmas. The happy faces of children receiving gifts, and families gathering around a quality meal, remind us of the profound impact of our collective generosity.

The warmth of Brotherly Love envelops us as we join hands to make a positive impact on those in need, as well as embracing the fellowship we enjoy in the company of our Lodge family. In the true spirit of Brotherly Love, our members foster a sense of community that transcends the holiday season. We come together not just as an organization but also as a family, sharing the joys and sorrows that life brings. This sense of unity strengthens our resolve to make a positive difference in the lives of others.

As we gather to celebrate Christmas, let us reflect on the significance of Charity and Brotherly Love in our lives. Our Lodge stands as a testament to the power of kindness and compassion. This Christmas let our actions speak loudly, echoing the principles of Charity and Brotherly Love that define our Lodge throughout the year.

As I asked of you in last months message, be sure to show your fellow members the charity and love you have in your heart this season. While attending our Lodge, have a smile on your face, speak kind words, have a happy tone in your voice, and embrace a positive feeling of well-being. Just think how, collectively, we can have an uplifting effect on "the spirit of our Lodge" this season.

May this season fill your heart with warmth and may the spirit of Charity and Brotherly Love shine brightly at our Lodge, and beyond.



~ Your Exalted Ruler, Ed Ciesla ~ EdTheBrandonER@gmail.com

Brotherly love teaches us to truly cherish and care for each other. To extend the hand of friendship, offering compassion, care, and empathy to others, and to our fraternal brothers.



### Volunteer of the month

Our Volunteer of the month for December is Lara McCleary. She is another one of those folks that works behind the scenes to make things happen at our Lodge. Every month she works diligently as the editor of our Bugle. She gathers the information for our dinners, publishes the menus, identifies when we have entertainment and who the entertainment is, updates the monthly calendar, lists our 500 Club winners, inserts the different articles that are submitted each month (like this one), and arranges everything to fit in the space allotted without having any blank pages. And there is more. Take a close look at this month's Bugle and imagine yourself creating it.

In addition, she composes and sends out (via e-mail) the weekly list of "Things To Do At Our Lodge". She has also modernized our communication platform by using an e-mail service to compose, send, track, and update our membership contact database. This is a major step in streamlining our process while assuring accuracy. She also helps maintain and monitor our Lodges' Members Only Facebook Page, keeping it both relevant and policed.

As our, shall we say, Director of Lodge Communications, Lara spends many hours each week staying up to date on Lodge activities and events while making sure we all know what is happening at our Lodge. Help me thank Lara for a job well done!



# **RV Storage Lot**

Monthly storage fee increase to \$60 per month Jan 2024. If you pay for the entire year up front it is \$50 per month.

# Brandon Lodge Officers for 2023-2024 Elk Year



Ed Ciesla Exalted Ruler 813-679-7699



Donald Harrison Leading Knight 813-376-8949



Lou Valencia Loyal Knight 813-376-9863



Robin Rutzke Lecturing Knight 305-498-5654



Ed Campbell Lodge Esquire 813-245-0827



Carol DiAddezio Inner Guard 484-678-3926



Teresa Reeves Tiler 813-650-1607



Mark Fox Lodge Chaplain 813-785-5353



Mary Lou Schreck Secretary 813-458-5872 Member Illness / Convalescence: Notify Lodge Secretary



Nancy Price Treasurer 813-756-9341





Sharon Hammersla 2 Year Trustee 813-323-1992



Mark Vargo 3 Year Trustee 813-376-8855



Jim McCleary 4 Year Trustee 813-763-9019



Marionette Garvey 5 Year Trustee 813-956-3776



Committee Chairs 2023-2024

486

Accident Prevention - Rick Weigand 813-748-2678

Annual Calendar Updates - Mark Vargo 813-376-8855

Bugle Editor - Lara McCleary 203-988-5089

Community Activities - (COULD BE YOU!)

Drug Awareness - Don Harrison 813-935-9040

Grants Coordinator - Sharon Hammersla 813-323-1992

Fraternal Committee - Jim McCleary 813-763-9019 Fraternal Sub Committees:

Americanism: Nickie Wells 813-716-8056
Flag Day: James Randall 813-833-7086
Lodge Activities: Mark Vargo 813-376-8855
Orientation: Jerrilyn Pietro 813-493-0425
State Associations: TBD (Could be You!)
Elks Memorial Day: TBD (Could be You!)

ENF: TBD (Could be You!)

Veterans Services: Robin Rutzke 305-498-5654

Hall Rental - Terri Ciesla 813-679-8007

Hoop Shoot - Don Harrison 813-935-9040

House Committee - Sharon Hammersla 813-323-1992

Kitchen Manager – Ed Ciesla 813-679-7699 Kitchen Coordinator – Terri Ciesla 813-679-8007

Lodge Advisors - Henry Poage 813-480-6272 & Sharon Hammersla 813-323-1992

Lodge Maintenance - Rick Weigand 813-748-2678

Lodge Purchasing Food - Stephen Blackman 813-244-4613

Public Relations - Michael Highfill 813-812-2727

Youth Activity - Don Harrison 813-935-9040

Web Master: Ray Blinski - raybilinski3@gmail.com

# **BLOE BITS**

Next Meeting is DECEMBER 4<sup>TH</sup> at 7:00 PM
Hoping to See You There!

We are well on our way to a very busy time. The Christmas season has arrived and with that multiple events are on the calendar. I want to say thank you to everyone who has signed up to volunteer for all our catering events. We could not do this without everyone's help.

I am looking forward to all our fun events in the next 2 months. Maybe you're looking for a Christmas present for a certain person? A ticket to Casino night, February 3, 2024, would be a good idea.

I am looking forward to good times and new friends in 2024.

Sending out to everyone Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Jane Gilblair B. L. O. E. Lady President



# t **E**

# Shhhhhh. There's A Meeting Going On

As you may know, our lounge is required to be closed during our Lodge meetings. What you may NOT know is that those guests waiting in the lounge for the meeting to finish can be heard laughing and talking. Although we want you to have fun at our Lodge, this is very distracting, especially during the solemn ceremony of Initiation. So, please keep the volume down, and perhaps gather at the far end of the bar, the further the better. Thank-you for your consideration.



# Brandon Ladies of Elks Lady of Distinction NOVEMBER



Brandon Ladies of Elks are blessed with many great women who prove year after year how awesome they are. The lady of this month is a long-time member who has been stepping up and volunteering since she first became a member. She has chaired several positions but in the last couple of years she has found her niche. She is editor of our awarding winning yearbook. She loves to take pictures and you can be sure if you need a picture of any event she has one in her files. While preparing for the yearbook publication she is notorious about making sure that every paid member is listed, there is a budget, a list of events and the by-laws are current. She has several different people proofreading her final draft and it is near impossible to find a mistake, she is that good. She is always willing to help at fundraising events and other activities at the lodge and is always camera ready. You all know who we have chosen as November Lady of Distinction but just in case you haven't guessed please congratulate Lori Underberg.

#### Hostess Corner

I can't believe it's already December. The hustle and bustle of the stressful (oops...did I say stressful? I meant joyful) holiday is here! To keep your sanity during the "Yule" time, don't forget "you" time. Make plans to join your Elks family at the lodge Christmas party on Friday, December 15. We're going to be doing our regular Friday night steak dinner and Skip and Nancy will be playing that night. Please RSVP for this dinner indicating your choice of steak, fish or shrimp. We really need to get a count of meals. As always, this will be open to Elk members and their guests, so you are welcome to invite your friends and family. And, after the Christmas excitement has worn off, join us at the lodge for a New Year's Eve dinner, followed by a New Year's day brunch. (A wonderful Christmas gift idea is to buy someone a ticket to our New Year's events!!)

10510 Riverview Drive (813) 671-3121



Kevin Talbert Director / Owner Linda Hinkle Office Manager Riverview, Florida 33578 (813) 671-3730 Fax

Mark C. Vargo, Sr. Director / Owner

Mary Lou Schreck LODGE SECRETARY Office Hours

MONDAY: 3pm – 5pm WEDNESDAY: 3pm – 5pm Or call for appointment Nancy Price LODGE TREASURER Office Hours

MONDAY: 12pm – 3pm THURSDAY: 12pm – 3pm Or call for appointment

SUN

# **DECEMBER**

EVERY FRIDAY NIGHT Dinner \* Dancing \* Music

Weekly 50/50 Raffles \$500 Club Drawing

#### 500 Club Winners

Called, signed up, present: Jerrilyn Pietro Called, NOT signed up: Jane Mumbauer, Howard Shirey, Pat Hiskey, John Jackson Norma Godsey, Erin Gallagher, Leslie Langill, Duane Petry, Jr, Patricia Sweet David Shaw, Patricia Lokar, Richard Motl Jason Conner, Diane Fox, Richard Wagner Linda Graves, Esther Cantrell, Janis Jacobson

## **Door Duty**

December 1<sup>st</sup> -Mark F
December 8<sup>th</sup> - Ed Campbell
December 15<sup>th</sup> - Marionette
December 22<sup>nd</sup> -Don H
December 29<sup>th</sup> - Carol D

#### **BLOE BREAKFAST**

ALL YOU CAN EAT \$10 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday OPEN TO THE PUBLIC



# **Lounge Rental**

**ONLY** Elk members can rent the lounge for themselves or immediate family (children, parents, siblings, aunts or uncles).

Lodge Meetings Are Open To Members In Good Standing and is the Place to Discuss any Lodge issues. 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of each month, May-January! February-April, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Mondays of the month!

<u>Dress code for meetings is long pants</u> <u>and collared shirt for men.</u> Skirt, Dress, or long slacks for women.

PER Meeting – 1<sup>st</sup> Monday, 7pm

Lodge Meeting 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of month, 7pm

Governing Board mtg – 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday at 7pm

BLOE Ladies Meetings – 1<sup>st</sup> Monday of

month at 6:30pm

26	27	28	29	30		02 Iks President Visit Dec 1 <sup>ST</sup> – 3 <sup>RD</sup> Hall Rental 8AM – 2PM Hall Rental 6PM – 11PM
O3 Social & Sports Lounge 1PM  2PM Annual Memorial Service in Hall Bring a covered dish	04 BLOE Meeting 6:30PM 7PM PER Meeting	5-7PM Queen Cards, Pool snack bar open	Spaghetti Dinner Hall 6:30PM \$8	DINGO IN THE HALL 6:30pm SNACK BAR OPEN	08 Lounge Rental 10AM - 2PM Music: Tony Knight Friday night dinner see page 5	09 Hall Rental 6PM – 12AM
Social & Sports Lounge 1PM 2PM - 7PM Lounge Rental 8-11AM BLOE Christmas Breakfast	Lodge Meeting 7PM	5-7PM Queen Cards, Pool Snack bar open	13 BLOE Dinner Hall 6:30PM Christmas Gift Wrapping in Lounge	BINGO IN THE HALL 6:30pm SNACK BAR OPEN	Music: Skip & Nancy Friday night dinner see page 5	16 Hall Rental BHS JROTC Ball
Hall 17 Social & Sports Lounge 1PM 1PM BLOE Foster Kid Christmas Party Lounge	18 7pm Governing Board Meeting	5-7PM Queen Cards, Pool Snack bar open	20	BINGO IN THE HALL 6:30pm SNACK BAR OPEN	Friday night dinner see page 5	23
24 Christmas Eve Lodge CLOSED	25 Christmas Day Lodge CLOSED	26 5-7PM Queen 🍪 Cards, Pool snack bar open	27	28 BLING O IN THE HALL 6:30pm SNACK BAR OPEN	29 Friday night dinner see page 5	30

New Year's Eve Party 5PM Lounge see page 6 for more details TO BE ASSURED OF A MEAL, YOU **MUST** RSVP
TO <u>RSVPBRANDONELKS@YAHO@.COM</u>
BY **12 PM THE DAY BEFORE FOR ALL MEALS!** 

**TEXTING SOMEONE IS NOT CONSIDERED AN RSVP!** 

## **Save the Date**

BLOE MEETING, December 4<sup>th</sup> LODGE MEETING, December 11<sup>th</sup> Board Meeting December 18th

#### LOUNGE HOURS

Sunday: 1pm - 7pm Monday - Thursday 4pm - 9pm Friday 4pm - 10pm Saturday 4pm - 9pm Manager: Jane Gilblair

## DECEMBER MENU ITEMS

TO BE ASSURED OF A MEAL, YOU MUST RSVP TO RSVPBRANDONELKS@YAHOO.COM

BY 12 PM THE DAY BEFORE FOR ALL MEALS! **TEXTING SOMEONE IS NOT CONSIDERED AN RSVP!** 



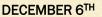
#### DECEMBER 1ST

**BEV LAUNDY \$15** 

**ENTRÉE: PORK CHOPS** 

SIDES: MASHED POTATOES, PEAS

SALAD & DESSERT MUSIC: MIKE ALBRIGHT



TERRI & ED \$8

**ENTREE: SPAGHETTI & MEATBALLS** 

SALAD & DESSERT

#### DECEMBER 8TH

**PAT & JEFF \$15** 

ENTRÉE: BAKED HAM

SIDES: POTATO CASSROLE & VEGGIES

SALAD & DESSERT MUSIC; TONY KNIGHT

#### DECEMBER 13TH **BLOE DINNER \$10**

**NICKIE & NANCY** 

ENTRÉE: BEEF TIPS OVER NOODLES

SIDES: VEGGIES

SALAD, ROLL & DESSERT

#### DECEMBER 15TH

**NICKI & FRIENDS** SALAD: TOSSED

ENTRÉE: (PLEASE CHOOSE ONE): STEAK (\$15),

SHRIMP (\$13), OR FISH (\$13)

SIDES: VEGGIES AND BAKED POTATO

MUSIC: SKIP & NANCY



#### DECEMBER 22ND

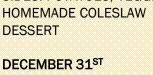
PHIL HINKLE & FRIENDS SPECIAL SNACK BAR MENU PRICES WILL BE BASED ON YOUR SELECTION



#### DECEMBER 29TH

#### LARRY OLIVER & MARK FOX \$15

ENTRÉE: STEVE SAUDY'S ROASTED CHICKEN OR CRAB CAKES SIDES: POTATOES, VEGGIES,



# **NEW YEAR'S EVE CELEBRATION**

\$35 IF PURCHASED BEFORE DECEMBER 1ST COMBO WITH NEW YEARS DAY BRUNCH \$45

AFTER DECEMBER 1ST \$40

COMBO WITH NEW YEAR'S DAY BRUNCH \$50



PRIME RIB OR STUFFED SALMON ROASTED ROSEMARY POTATOES, GREEN BEANS

**ALMONDINE** 

SALAD, BREAD & DESSERT MUSIC: DJ SONNY LOVE



2836

# TO OUR ELKS RV GUESTS

# Welcome to our RV Park **ELKS MEMBERS ONLY**

**OUR RATES ARE:** 

- ▶ \$25 per night; 7<sup>th</sup> night FREE
- ▶ RV Storage is \$50 per month

THANKS FOR STAYING IN OUR PARK

Frank Craft - 813-245-6238 LODGE PHONE - 813-685-6469



## **BUGLE BOOSTERS:**

Pat & Jeff LaVoie Joseph Zebrak Kim Martinez

Lynda & Frank Craft Carolyn & George Thomas

John Christensen Julie & Henry Ebert Phillip Singletary

Charlene Hart Grace & Rick Weigand Connie & Henry Poage

**Donald Harrison** Kenneth League Diane League

# **BE A BUGLE BOOSTER!!!**

Please help defray the cost of printing and mailing out our Bugle. Donations help a great deal!!

Barbara Myer Rich Clark Karen McArthur **Angela Sweeney** Pat & Bernie Hiskey Gerri Mann

Mary Lou & George Scribner







You build people and then people build the brand BEGINS & ENDS at the lodge level

#### Victoria Harrison

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# randon Elks HAPPY NEW YEAR New Years Eve Celebration

# ecember 31 st

5:30PM - COCKTAIL HOUR **LIGHT APPETIZERS** DINNER 6:30 PM

Prime Rib or Stuffed Salmon Roasted Rosemary **Potatoes** 

Menu:

String Bean Almandine

Salad, Bread, And Desset

Midnight Snacks Champagne toast



\$35 if purchased before Dec 1st (Eve/Brunch Combo \$45) \$40 if purchased after Dec 1st (Eve/Brunch Combo \$50)

New Years day brunch Jan 1st 11 am



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#### ATTENTION! ATTENTION! ATTENTION!



Looking for Santa Elves for 2023!



Yes, you read that correctly . . . actively seeking a team of Brandon Members to fill in as Santa Elves for Christmas 2023!

Why did you become an Elk? Most new and long-term members say they joined because they wanted to be part of an organization that does good for their community, supports children and the military; to be personally involved in such activities. However, the biggest question I sometimes hear from members is how do I get involved and join a team if I don't even know about it?!? And you mean it doesn't involve cooking? (LOL!) And aren't there already assigned team members? Trust me, we can always use additional team members.

Well, I'm here to tell you that our lodge has been involved with the Walgreens Toy Drive for the past 5 years. Our PER Association chairs and organizes this event. We are actively seeking interested lodge members and/or their spouses who would enjoy being part of this team. It's an annual event that only takes a couple days of your time in December, and it is fun and rewarding. What's involved you might ask? Well.......

Our lodge is assigned 14 local Walgreen stores who collect the donated toys for us. Our part is to pick up the toys within an assigned 2-day window. We sort the toys at the lodge and the best part...... we get to give them away!! As you might guess....the giving away part is the most fun!

Title 1 schools, home for battered women, shelters for abused children, our own teachers, and toys for our Elk Therapists, just to name a few of the recipients who are invited to come to our lodge and "shop" for free. We literally get to be Christmas Elves ...... Santa's Helpers.

Let me give you some idea of the impact this annual event has had on our community. Our lodge collected a total of 6,304 toys in the past 5 years. At an average cost of \$5 a toy, that's at least \$31,520 in free toys that we have shared with our community to bring smiles to children.

If you have any interest in being part of this annual event or have questions ...... please contact me (Mary Lou Scribner, PER) at 813-230-1943 or perelkmls@hotmail.com. We would absolutely love to have more of our Brandon members involved to share the fun. Here's your chance to jump on board! Please help!

# Blessing Bag Assembly for ECHO

The Emergency Care Help Organization (ECHO) mission is to assist residents of Eastern Hillsborough County in crisis with emergency food and clothing, offering life-stabilizing programs and resources. Our Lodge has been a friend to ECHO for many, many years. We have helped them with food, clothing, toiletries, etc., and at Thanksgiving, our BLOE builds cranberry cups for their Thanksgiving Meal outreach. These meals are delivered to families living in local motels. Another of their projects is to provide Blessing Bags to the families in need who have received a Thanksgiving meal. This year, on Monday before Thanksgiving, ECHO was short 100 bags. I knew we could help. Our Lodge rallied and provided funding for these 100 bags. But we did not stop there. Kathy Brogli and our Lodge Hostess Terri Ciesla went to work. They tackled the enormous task of shopping for 100 each of the following items: Family size shampoo and conditioner, baby wipes, full size tube of toothpaste, 4 toothbrushes, a 3 pack of soap, 1 large jar of peanut butter, 1 jar of jelly, a box of crackers, a full-size bag of beef jerky, a box of granola bars, and finally, a box of fruit snacks. The crew pictured here helped pack these bags. They were then delivered to ECHO the next day, in time for their distribution! To coin a phrase, "This is what we live for!" To learn more about ECHO, visit echofl.org.



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**VETERANS AFFAIRS Committee Chair** Robin Rutzke

**BPOE Lecturing Knight USAF** (ret) 305-498-5654



Any questions or concerns about the Veterans that the Elks Lodge serves, or other note worthy Veteran events, please address them with Robin.

**God Bless our Veterans!** 



#### JOIN US TO WATCH THE MEN STRUT THEIR **FASHION ATTIRE**

JANUARY 20, 2024

. . . . . . . . . .

BRANDON ELKS LODGE

PLEASE RSVP TO: ANNIE FOX BY JANUARY 12, 2024

NOW FOR SOMETHING COMPLETELY DIFFERENT!!! COME AND HAVE DINNER AND A SHOW -- AND LOTS OF LAUGHS: TICKETS FOR \$20 OR \$144 TABLE OF 8











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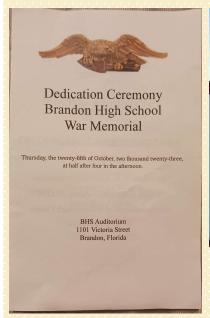




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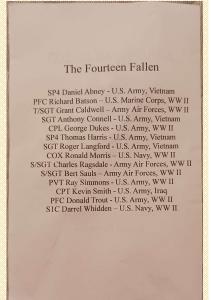
# Brandon High School KIA Memorial

On November 2<sup>nd</sup> Our Lodge made a big impact in our community. The ceremony was attended by many long time Brandonites, as well as many dignitaries. The ceremony was very impressive, very moving. The bios of the 14 Fallen were very interesting to hear, as well. The ceremony was attended by several of the surviving spouses, and other relatives.









#### Wasn't That Fun?!? So Let's Do It Again.......

For the past many years, the Past Exalted Ruler Association (PER) puts on an annual fabulous Friday night dinner. The next annual event is scheduled for Friday, January 26th, 2024. The food, we have been told by many, is absolutely delicious. The dancing and listening entertainment is always good. This is an event where our members always invite their family, friends, church and sorority groups. Last year 218 dinners were prepared and sold!!!! This raised over \$3,200 in profit for our lodge improvements. This is the PER's largest fund-raising event for our lodge. This is not an evening you want to miss.

It takes a lot of hard work by our PER's and their spouses. Chef Rick Weigand and his sou chef team will once again be cooking. Tickets are on sale from Past Exalted Rulers, behind the Bar, or RSVPBrandonelks@yahoo.com. Menu is Pork Roast with Rick's infamous Apple Cranberry Stuffing, Mashed Potatoes, Veggies, Salad, and Desserts made by spouses of our PER's. It just doesn't get any better than that! And the price remains at \$15 a ticket!

The PER dinner is served in the big hall. There is dancing on the large dance floor! Plenty of room to spread out and just have fun. It's a time to bring family and friends. We invite you to be part of this annual event and hope you will be one of many to support this PER event. We can cook the best dinner there is in Brandon, but we need our members to buy tickets to make it work!

We are starting sale of tickets early this year so that you can purchase as a "Christmas Gift".



On Veteran's day our lodge and the ladies from Tangled Threads presented several of our members with a Quilt of Valor! The ceremony was very heartfelt and touching. Help me to thank Lew Palumbo, George Thomas, Bernie Hiskey Joe Pietro & Glenn Garvey for their many years of service not only to our country but also to our lodge!











**DECEMBER 13, 2023** 

Our Christmas wrapping for our Christmas families' children will be at 6:30 p.m.

We will be taking donations to help with the families

Christmas dinner.

If you have any questions, please contact.

Marionette at 813-956-3776



Brandon Elks Lodge #2383

800 Centennial Lodge Drive Brandon, FL 33510

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#### FLORIDA WILL, LIVING TRUST LIVING WILL

#### POWER OF ATTORNEY

William R. Mumbauer, Attorney 813-685-3133

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