

THE 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



APRIL 2026

www.brandonelks.org

Volume 26 Issue 4

A MESSAGE FROM YOUR EXALTED RULER, ROBIN RUTZKE

Wow...Brandon Elks Lodge and the Brandon Ladies of the Elks have achieved so much this past Elk year by practicing and demonstrating daily the Elk virtues; Charity, Justice, Brotherly Love and Fidelity. Past Exalted Ruler Lou Valencia, his team of officers and committee chairs, those members who have daily or monthly responsibilities and the Brandon Ladies of the Elks have done a phenomenal job. A THANK YOU to everyone who dedicated their time and talents to lodge activities and programs. A special thank you from me goes out to PER Lou Valenica and Past Brandon Ladies of the Elks President Terri Ciesla for all you did in your leadership position and setting me up for success. You have set the stage for an efficient transition to the new Elk year.

Now it is my time to step up and carry the torch and continue building the outstanding programs we have in our lodge. I promise all members I will do my absolute best to promote our lodge, continue membership growth (membership matters) and practice charitable giving to those in our local community. I and my team of officers installed on March 28th (see names next page) will strive to fulfill our duties for you. We will work together as a team to make Brandon Elks the premier lodge in the state of Florida and the southwest central district. Yes, I have lofty expectations and will strive to have a high degree of excellence in all our endeavors.

In conclusion, I am excited to lead the charge this Elk year and thank you for your trust and continued support. I look forward to working with each one of you, officers, committee chairs, and Brandon Ladies of the Elks. Thank you, officers and committee chairs, for committing to these positions. As a team of resolute professionals, we will have an influence in our lodge and community!

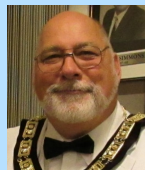


Elks Care - Elks Share..

Fraternally Yours, Robin Rutzke, Exalted Ruler

Hello PER's! I hope you're ready for a great lunch for April, we're going to go to Cheddar's Scratch Kitchen that will be on Thursday, 4/9 at 11:30, the address is 10140 Bloomingdale Avenue, Riverview 33578, it's located in front of Target. Mark your calendars. I hope you can all make it. See you then. Your Restaurant Hunter Kim Martinez PER

ELK OF THE MONTH -



Mark Vargo, who has dedicated the last 9 years to our lodge as an officer and a trustee, been the point person for Camp Spot, reorganized our RV storage lot as well as helping with Friday night dinner and snack bar!

Brandon Ladies of Elks Lady of Distinction MARCH



March's Lady of Distinction has been a loyal, dedicated member for many years. She is a regular presence at Sunday Breakfast, always ready to help with caterings, and even volunteered for the least desirable cleanup task at our most recent event. She is a joy to be around and often shares wonderful stories from her travels and activities.

This year, she has also taken on the demanding role of Scholarship Chair, investing many hours working with local high schools to ensure eligible seniors receive this opportunity. She does an outstanding job and is a true asset to the Brandon Ladies. Please join me in congratulating

Kathy Eldridge, our March Lady of Distinction.

Brandon Lodge Officers for 2026-2027 Elk Year

Robin Rutzke
Exalted Ruler
305-498-5654



Wendy Smith
Leading Knight
813-862-8573



Michael Fultz
Loyal Knight
813-205-5885



Jane Gilblair
Lecturing Knight
813-495-7260



Christina
Puhalla
Lodge Esquire
609-217-5782



Scott Mesick
Tiler
708-261-9834



Carole
DiAddezio
Inner Guard
484-678-3926



Jim McCleary
Lodge Chaplain
813-763-9019



Mary Lou Schreck
Secretary
813-458-5872

**Member Illness/
Convalescence:
Notify Lodge
Secretary**



Nancy Price
Treasurer
813-756-9341

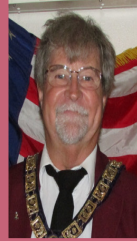
Nickie Wells
1 Year Trustee
813-716-8051



Marionette
Garvey
2 Year Trustee
813-956-3776



Ed Ciesla
3 Year Trustee
813-679-7699



Rick Weigand
4 Year Trustee
813-748-2678



Lou Valencia
5 Year Trustee
813-376-9863



The Galentine Day brunch was a huge success. It was very well attended with lots of “red” in the crowd. Everyone enjoyed the strawberry mimosas, the signature drinks, and the tasty food. They all were given a small gift. There were lots of raffle items, great comedians, door prizes, and the ladies were served by men handsomely dressed in tuxedo shirts. Thank you to all that helped and all who attended!



BLOE BITS

Next Meeting is
APRIL 6TH @ 7:00 PM
 Hoping to See You There!

I would like to at this opportunity to thank you for having faith in me being your president. I believe with everyone's help we will be very successful. We have a lot of different functions this year hopefully everyone will be able participate. Also would like to take this opportunity to thank Terri for a very successful year. Please enjoy this year.



Nancy Price
 President

BLOE Elected Officers

President: Nancy Price
 Vice president: Jane Gilblair
 Recording Secretary: Donna Mancuso-Fultz
 Corresponding secretary: Beth Benham
 Treasurer: Janis Jacobson
 Past Lady President: Terri Ciesla

Appointed Officers

Chaplin: Mary Lou Schreck
 Parliamentarian: Grace Weigand
 Historian: Jerrilyn Pietro

Official Hostess: Lara McCleary & Jane Moon

Committee Chairpersons







Audit and Budget: Nickie Wells
 Birthdays and anniversaries: Cathy Hudson
 Bylaws: Mary Lou Scribner
 Catering: Terri Ciesla and Nancy Price
 Charities: Wendy Smith
 Lady of distinction: **OPEN**
 Lots of luck: Kathy Hattan
 Membership: Jane Gilblair
 Program: Laurie Bayne
 Properties: Carolyn Thomas
 Publicity: Jerrilyn Pietro
 Scholarships: **OPEN**
 Secret pal: Marisol Hester
 Sunday breakfast: Nancy Price
 Sunshine: Karen McArthur
 Telephone: Charlene Hart
 Ways and Means: Terri Ciesla
 Wednesday dinners: Terri Ciesla
 Yearbook: Lori Underberg

Committee Chairs 2026-2027

- Americanism: **Volunteer needed – Contact ER**
- Army of Hope: **Volunteer needed – Contact ER**
- Drug Awareness Education: Ed Ciesla 813-679-7699
- ENF Fundraising: Ed Ciesla 813-679-7699
- ENF Grants Coordinator: Kathy Bilinski KayBilinski@yahoo.com
- ENF Scholarships: Jane Gilblair 813-495-7260
- Government Relations: Rick Weigand 813-748-2678
- Harry-Anna Trust Fund: Ed Ciesla 813-679-7699
- Hoop Shoot: **Volunteer needed – Contact ER**
- Ladies Organization Liaison: Nancy Price 813-756-9341
- Lodge Activities: Mark Vargo 813-376-8855
- Lodge Membership: **Volunteer needed – Contact ER**
- Orientation: Jerrilyn Pietro 813-493-0425
- Public Relations: Jerrilyn Pietro 813-493-0425, Lara McCleary 203-988-5089 & Wendy Smith 813-862-8573
- Ritual: Marionette Garvey 813-956-3776
- Soccer Shoot: **Volunteer needed – Contact ER**
- Veterans Services: Robin Rutzke 305-498-5654
- Other Lodge Committees/Positions:
- Accident Prevention: Rick Weigand 813-748-2678
- Annual Calendar Updates: Mark Vargo 813-376-8855
- Board of Directors: Rick Weigand 813-748-2678
- Bugle Editor: Lara McCleary 203-988-5089
- Elks Memorial Day: Wendy Smith 813-862-8573
- Flag Day: Robin Rutzke 305-498-5654
- Fraternal Committee: Lou Valencia 813-376-9863
- Hall Rental: Terri Ciesla 813-679-8007
- Kitchen Manager: Terri Ciesla 813-679-8007
- Lodge Advisors: Henry Poage 813-480-6272 & George Scribner 850-206-0577
- Lodge Hostess': Lara McCleary 203-988-59089 & Jane Moon 813-957-8578
- Lodge Maintenance: Rick Weigand 813-748-2678 & Lou Valencia 813-376-9863
- Lodge Food Purchasing: Stephen Blackman 813-378-1597
- PER Committee Chair: Mary Lou Scribner 813-230-1943
- Youth Activity: Melinda Frater 973-908-7745
- Web Master: Ray Bilinski –webmasterbrandonelks@gmail.com



APRIL

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1 6:30PM PASTA DINNER LOUNGE	2 BINGO IN THE HALL 6:30pm	3 FRIDAY NIGHT DINNER SEE PAGE 5 FOR DETAILS	4
5 SOCIAL & SPORTS LOUNGE 1PM	6 7PM BLOE MEETING - HALL 7PM PER MEETING - ANTE ROOM	7 4:30PM - 7PM CARDS 	8 6:30PM CARD BINGO LOUNGE	9 BINGO IN THE HALL 6:30pm	10 FRIDAY NIGHT DINNER SEE PAGE 5 FOR DETAILS	11 STATE GOLF TOURNEY - SEBRING 6PM - 10PM HALL RENTAL
12 8AM -11AM BLOE BREAKFAST HALL SOCIAL & SPORTS LOUNGE 1PM	13  LODGE MEETING 7PM	14 4:30PM - 7PM CARDS 	15 6:30PM BLOE DINNER	16 BINGO IN THE HALL 6:30pm BRANDON BOYS' DINNER 6:30PM LOUNGE	17 FLOE Retreat - Umatilla FRIDAY NIGHT DINNER SEE PAGE 5 FOR DETAILS	18 DD CLINIC - PC 11AM - 2PM HALL RENTAL 6PM - 9PM LOUNGE RENTAL
19 SOCIAL & SPORTS LOUNGE 1PM 2-4PM LOUNGE RENTAL	20 7 PM BOARD MEETING - HALL	21 4:30PM - 7PM CARDS 	22 6:30PM VETERAN'S DINNER HALL	23 BINGO IN THE HALL 6:30pm 6PM 10PM LOUNGE RENTAL	24 FRIDAY NIGHT DINNER SEE PAGE 5 FOR DETAILS	25
26 SOCIAL & SPORTS LOUNGE 1PM	27  LODGE MEETING 7PM	28 4:30PM - 7PM CARDS 	29	30 BINGO IN THE HALL 6:30pm		

To All Lodge Members:
To clarify an apparent misunderstanding regarding our lounge being reserved by one of our members. Our lounge is always open to our members, and their guests, during normal operating hours. If there is a private event also happening during those hours, members/guests are not allowed to freely partake of any food and/or beverages supplied by the member that reserved the use of our lounge unless you were invited to the event, or the member grants you permission to partake of their food/beverage.

Lounge Rental
Lounge usage will be restricted to members, spouses or widows/widowers for their own specific purpose, and they must always be present during the rental

Brandon Lodge supports our Veterans
Lodge Veterans please come out every 4th Wednesday of the month to enjoy free dinner and visit with other local Vets! Prepared by Nancy and friends.

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

Dress code for meetings is long pants and collared shirt for men.

Skirt, dress, or long slacks for women.

PER Meeting – 1st Monday, 7pm

Lodge Meeting 2nd Monday of month, 7pm

Governing Board mtg – 3rd Monday at 7pm

BLOE Ladies Meetings – 1st Monday of month at 6:30pm

Save the Date

BLOE MEETING, APRIL 6TH

PER MEETING APRIL 6TH

LODGE MEETING, APRIL 13TH & 27TH

BOARD MEETING, APRIL 20TH

LOUNGE HOURS

Sunday: 1pm – 7pm

Monday - Thursday 4pm – 9pm

Friday 4pm – 10pm

Saturday 4pm – 9pm

Memorial, 4th of July and Labor

Day 11am – 6pm

Manager: GLENN GARVEY

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

APRIL MENU ITEMS

THE ONLY WAY TO BE ASSURED OF A MEAL IS TO RSVP RSVPBRANDONELKS@YAHOO.COM
BY THE WEDNESDAY NIGHT BEFORE FOR FRIDAY NIGHT MEALS!
 THIS HELPS US MAXIMIZE RESOURCES AND MINIMIZE WASTE
 TEXTING OR CALLING THE LODGE IS NOT CONSIDERED AN RSVP!
 DINNER IS FROM 6:30PM – 8PM

APRIL 1ST

Spaghetti Night
 Wednesday April 1st
Spaghetti and Meatballs
 6:30 PM
 WITH SALAD AND DESSERT
\$10
 RSVPBRANDONELKS@YAHOO.COM

APRIL 12TH

Best Breakfast in Town
Brandon Elks BLOE Breakfast
\$12
 \$6 child 12 and under
sunday breakfast
 SUNDAY APRIL 12TH
 8AM-11AM
 Open to the public
ALL YOU CAN EAT

APRIL 22ND

Wednesday Night
VETERANS
 \$10 Non-Vets Dinner **VETS EAT FREE**
April 22nd
 6:30pm
Nancy's Meatloaf

APRIL 3RD

Bev Landy and Friends
Friday Night Dinner
 April 3rd 6:30pm
\$15
 Pork Chops
 With all of the
 Fixings, and
 Dessert
GARYOKA

APRIL 15TH

BLOE
Wednesday Night Dinner
April 15th
Marisol Hester and Friends
\$10
Goulash
 Salad
 Bread and dessert
 Please RSVP By 4/13
 Rsvpbrandonelks@yahoo.com

APRIL 24TH

Alan Smith and Friends
Friday Night Dinner
 April 24th 6:30pm
\$15
BBQ
 WITH ALL OF THE FIXINGS
 AND DESSERT
Live Music!
 Ship (the Gujfar whisper) and Nancy!
 Please RSVP
 RSVPBrandonelks@yahoo.com

APRIL 10TH

Brandon Boys
FRIDAY NIGHT Dinner
\$15
Friday April 10th 6:30pm
Ribs
 with all of
The fixings
 and
Dessert
 Come rock the house with:
Bert & The Party Boyz
 Please RSVP
 RSVpbrandonelks@yahoo.com

APRIL 17TH

Nickie and Crew
Friday Night
Steak Night
\$17
 \$16 SHRIMP OR FISH
 Choice of Steak Shrimp or Fish
April 17th 6:30
 Join us for the very Popular!!!
GARYOKA

TO OUR ELKS RV GUESTS

Welcome to our RV Park
ELKS MEMBERS ONLY

OUR RATES ARE:

- ▶ \$25 per night; 7th night FREE
- ▶ RV Storage is \$60 per month

ALL RESERVATIONS ARE MADE THROUGH CAMSPOT SEE INFO ON PAGE 6

Mark Vargo- 813-376-8855
 LODGE PHONE - 813-685-6469



BUGLE BOOSTERS:

YOUR NAME COULD APPEAR HERE

BE A BUGLE BOOSTER !!!

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

JOIN THE BOOSTER CLUB

TO OUR APRIL BIRTHDAY MEMBERS

CHRYSTAL MORGAN, ELIZABETH WILKERSON, VICKI KNOTT, MARISSA MENDEZ, MICHAEL MARTINEZ, RICHARD LAUVE, LONA PARSONS, HEATHER HOLDER, STEVEN LANDERS, DAVID JONES, ED WILKS, MICKEY MOORE, CRAIG TOTH, ALBERT NORIEGA JOSEPH ZEBRAK, BERNHARD LEHWALD, MELINDA FRATER, MARIONETTE GARVEY, TINA SPRUILL, MERL TATE, CHARLES WEIRICH, CLAY HOGUE, YOVANNY MONTERO, JOAN URSIN, HENRY LEON, ANTHONY RHOADS, TERESA REEVES, DAN SIMMONS, MARK FOX, FRED CIAMPI, KEILEEN GARCIA-FIGUEROA, JACK OSMANSKI, MIKE HIGHFILL, PAUL CWIK, MICHAEL JONES, DUANE PETRY, JR., JACK SCAGLIONE, JAMES CLAUSSEN, PHILLIP LARSEN, JOSEPH TAYLOR

💰 Are you giving money away 💰

If you are at the Lodge on a Friday night you could WIN UP TO \$500 if you have signed up for the 500 Club. If you are signed up and cannot be there you can still WIN UP TO \$250. Tell me that extra money would not make your day! The easiest way to sign up so you don't miss a drawing is to do it one time before April 1, 2026, when you pay your dues. \$52 and you're good for the year. That is much easier than paying a dollar weekly. Every member in good standing and their spouse gets their name put in the drawing bin on April 1st. Did you know you can even win more than once a year? It has happened! If your name is selected it goes right back in the bin, so you have many other chances to win. In these fast-paced days make it easy on yourself. If you have a membership card sign up! Don't miss out! Sign up before April 1st and you're done. Good luck everyone.

RV RESERVATIONS – CAMPSPOT

There has been a change to scheduling and paying for camping reservations at the Brandon Lodge RV park. Reservations and payment will now be completed online via the RV park info link on brandonelks.org website. Individuals desiring to camp at Brandon Lodge 2383 will be redirected to the elks.org website where he or she will log in to verify membership and enter the CampSpot website to complete the reservation.

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WHAT IS A BUGLE BOOSTER?


It may be something you have forgotten about or don't know what a Bugle Booster does. Believe it or not there are members in our Lodge that do not have a computer, so they depend on the Bugle Boosters to keep them informed on lodge news and activities. So, we mail them a Bugle every month. This program reminds those members that they are always invited to our beautiful Lodge and what is going on so they can make a monthly plan. CAN YOU SPARE \$5 A YEAR? That's what I said just \$5. That's less than two cents a day. Help keep all our members informed and you get your name printed in the Bugle as a Booster. When you pay your dues just add that extra \$5 with your dues and let the office know that it is for the Booster Club. Don't forget you get your name printed in the Bugle that's cool all by itself. I'm a member. Do you know who I am? *Remember Elks care Elk's share!*

Exalted Ruler Recognition & Thank You

With Appreciation & Gratitude

★★ *From Your Exalted Ruler* ★★

 **Jeff & Pat Lavoie**
Masters of the Officer Installation Reception
Appetizers prepped, set-up handled



 **Rick Weigand, Lou Valencia, Bob Florentino, Walter Brooks & John Pohl**
Brightened the lodge – literally – with new LED fixtures in the hall, kitchen, and lounge


 **Marionette Garvey**
Reverse Raffle Chair
Keeping the excitement rolling





 **Brandon**
Ladies of the Elks
Dessert heroes for the Officer Installation



 **Bob & Jackie Florentino**
Gave our Elk Entrance Sign a fabulous refresh
First impressions matter!




 **Gary Varnum**
Brought the fun with Garyoke at Officer Installation




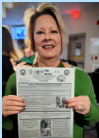
Wendy Smith, Mary Lou Schreck, Nancy Price, Rick Weigand, Jane Moon & Robin Rutzke
Showed up strong at



Lara McCleary & Jane Moon
Designed the Officer Installation Program
Made sure every boutonniere was ready for its big moment.



 **Lara McCleary**
Editor of *The Bugle*
Keeping the lodge informed, entertained, and connected



 **Glenn & Marionette Garvey**
2025–2026 Bar Manager & Kitchen Manager dream team



 **Wendy Smith & Lou Valencia**
Coordinated the Umatilla Bus Trip to the Florida Elks Youth Camp
Adventure delivered!



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/Consultant



On February 22, 3026, members from Brandon Elk's Lodge 2383 took a bus trip to the Florida Elk's Youth Camp. The tour of the Umatilla grounds was extremely educational with what is provided at the camp as well as the history of the camp. A big thank you to Camp Director Elliott Gilbert for a fantastic tour and lunch.



After the tour, the members traveled to the Eustis Elk Lodge #1578 and subsequently the Brooksville Elk Lodge #2582 for fellowship with other Lodges. A great time was had by all.



Our mission is to mold the current generation of youth into adults that we'd be proud to have as American citizens. Our motto is to "inspire, connect, and expand." We inspire our kids through the quality of our facilities, of our staff, and of our programming. Without electronics, we help kids build connections between themselves and their peers, their counselors, and nature.

Inspire. Connect. Expand.

A project of the Florida State Elks Association, this beautiful and modern 405-acre complex provides a unique camping experience for 7 weeks during the summer to all Florida kids ages 9 through 13.

Camp sessions last from Sunday afternoon to Saturday morning and provide campers 8 with housing, food, and of course, tons of fun!

**VETERANS AFFAIRS
Committee Chair
Robin Rutzke**

**BPOE Leading 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!



Brandon Elks Lodge #2383 National Salute to Hospitalized Veterans

In support of February’s Salute to Veterans, the members of the Brandon Elks Lodge #2383, along with the support, involvement and talents of the Brandon Ladies of the Elks, made homemade crafts for the veterans of the James A. Haley Veteran’s Hospital.

Robin Rutzke, Brandon Veterans Chair and Leading Knight asked for donations from the members, spouses, and Brandon Ladies of Elks and she coordinated delivery to the patients at James A. Haley Veterans Hospital. Those who participated by making and donating crafts were Elk members and Brandon Ladies of Elks: Lara McCleary, Jerrilyn Pietro, Jackie Florentino, along with Lady President Terri Ciesla.

During the month of February 2026, the members, spouses, and ladies made crafts for the veterans. They handmade, with love, many patriotic items that the veterans could display in their rooms or could place on their nightstands. Items included themed door hangers, eyeglass cases made from potholders, and women’s jewelry.

On February 26th Veteran Chair Robin Rutzke delivered the items to Rashed Thompson, Center for Development and Civic Engagement, James A. Haley Veterans Hospital who was more than happy to accept on behalf of their veterans.

This lodge is always looking for new ways to expand on their initiative to always support our hospitalized veterans while bringing a smile and brighten their day.

Pictures:

Lara McCleary-Jackie: Left to right: Jackie Florentino, Lara McCleary displaying some of the donated items.

Rashad–James Haley: Rashad Thompson, Center for Development and Civic Engagement, James A. Veterans Hospital who accepted the donations



Brandon Elks Lodge #2383

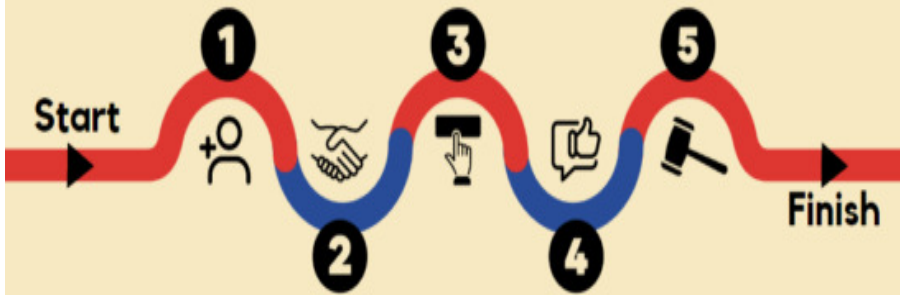
800 Centennial Lodge Drive
Brandon, FL 33510

**Change Service Requested



ELKS

Every Member Begins as a Guest!
NEW MEMBER RECRUITING



1. Ask a friend to join the Elks.
2. Invite your friend to the Lodge.
3. Ask them to apply on-line.
4. Follow-up with the application.
5. Schedule an initiation.

Community • Friendship • Charity
join.elks.org



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FLORIDA WILL, LIVING TRUST LIVING WILL

POWER OF ATTORNEY
William R. Mumbauer, Attorney
813-685-3133

205 N. Parsons Ave., Brandon, FL 33510
www.flwillstrustsprobate.com

Living Will \$75
Durable Power of Attorney \$75
Health Care Surrogate Designation \$75



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(813) 504-1645
www.jackscaglioneinsuranceagent.com
JScaglione3@briighthouse.com

Jack Scaglione
Licensed Insurance Agent

Medicare Supplements ~ Medicare Advantage
Final Expense ~ Whole Life ~ UL's ~ IUL's
Term Insurance ~ Annuities