



### **Obituary**

Robert J. Huffman, 83, of Pass Christian died Tuesday, November 23, 2004 in Pass Christian. Mr. Hoffman was born in Lorain, Ohio and had been a resident of the coast for many years. He was Methodist. Mr. Hoffman served in the U.S. Army during World War II. He was an active member of the Gulfport Elks Lodge #978, serving as an officer on the local and state levels. He was also a member of the American Legion. Mr. Hoffman was a retired Supervisor for the State of Mississippi Department of Audit.

He was preceded in death by his wife – Ruby Steen Hoffman. Survivors include a son – Tommy J. Hoffman of Madison, MS and a grandson – Tommy R. Hoffman II of Ridgeland, MS.

An Elks memorial service will be at 5:00 PM Sunday in the funeral home chapel. A graveside service will be at 9:00 AM Monday at the Biloxi National Cemetery.

### **From Gulfport Elks Lodge # 978 - Run Date 8/13**

Robert J. “Bob” Hoffman can remember back to the late 1920s and early 30s when there were several fraternal organizations such as the Elks, the Moose, the Eagles, and several ethnic clubs. He moved to Long Beach, Mississippi in 1953.

In 1954 his father had attended the Grand Lodge meeting (national convention) in Los Angeles, California and afterwards visited Bob here on the coast. His dad found the local

Elks Lodge where he met Arthur Lang and very quickly Bob found himself proposed for membership. In a special initiation with himself and Joe Irby and Jim Cobb he became an Elk. In 1955 he was elected Lecturing Knight, and after serving in all the “chair” positions was elected Exalted Ruler (president) in 1958.

In 1966 Bob moved to Jackson but retained his membership in Gulfport; he moved back to Long Beach in 1976. He became active once again, serving as Treasurer and Secretary. He was elected Secretary and later, President of the Mississippi State Elks Association for 1983-84.

Another highlight happened in 1966. His father told him to be sure to attend the Grand Lodge Convention in Dallas, Texas. Bob had a half-brother, who he had never met and who was Exalted Ruler of the Canton, Ohio Elks Lodge. It was such a story that the Dallas Morning News on July 4<sup>th</sup>, 1966 ran a story on the front page with the headline: “Elks bring brotherhood into the family”.

One of Bob’s goals was reached when his total contributions to the Elks National Foundation came to \$5000.