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Lewiston Lodge of Elks Speech

Louis-Philippe Gagne

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First, I want to express my sincere appreciation for the kind invitation extended to me and my wife to attend this dinner.

I take also this occasion to congratulate the Lewiston Lodge of Elks on this first annual service award. This in itself is a most outstanding event that deserves public recognition.

We are gathered here to-night to pay homage to six local persons who have been outstanding in our community for their contributions to local enterprises and community life.

The fact that they are being honored by the Elks indicates that they have been most successful in their individual endeavors and achievements. The fact that they have been successful would indicate also that someone had the privilege to benefit from their good services.

As Mayor of Lewiston, I do not hesitate to state that our City as a whole has been the beneficiary of their outstanding accomplishments. Moreover, we are witnessing at this present moment a public vindication of our community. In fact, you want the whole world to know that six of our citizens have given their best in knowledge, in devotion, in personal efforts, to be of service to their fellow citizens in the social, educational, economic, recreational, political and industrial world. They tacitly showed their faith in the future of our community and their firm belief that, after all, Lewiston is a City perfectly fit to live in.

All of our citizens owe a debt of gratitude to the six outstanding persons selected for the service award tonight. It is time to realize once and for all that a community does not live only on taxation or on parking meter revenues. Its own life depends ^{rather} on the spiritual values of its ~~own~~ citizens and especially on the unselfish devotion of men like those who are being honored tonight.

May God give them happiness and his divine blessings so that they may continue to be so useful to mankind.