

Official
Publication
of
Alee Shriners
Savannah, GA

Organized June 23, 1896

February 2024



# Congratulations to our 2024 Divan

left to right Recorder - III Sir David Armstrong, Sr., P.P., Oriental Guide - Noble Larry Brantley, Assistant Rabban -Noble David Armstrong, II, Illustrious Potentate Carey Hodges, Chief Rabban - Danny Fries, Jr., High Priest and Prophet -Noble Ray G. Christian and Treasurer - Noble John Farley.

#### Shriner's Pledge Of Allegiance

" I pledge allegiance to my Flag and to the country for which it stands, one Nation under God, indivisible, with Liberty and Justice for all"

#### ALEE SHRINERS OFFICIAL PUBLICATION

Sponsored by Alee Shriners

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#### **2024 DIVAN**

Potentate - Carey Hodges carey.hodges.alee@gmail.com 912.660.1302 Chief Rabban - Danny Fries,Jr

chief Rabban - Danny Fries, Ji danny.fries.alee@gmail.com 912.665.2248

Assistant Rabban - Dave
Armstrong II

david.armstrong2@gmail.com 912.313.7448

High Priest & Prophet - Ray Christian ray.christian.alee@gmail.com 843.304.4601

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.Treasurer - John Farley john.farley.alee@gmail.com 912.663.8888

Recorder - PP Dave Armstrong, Sr recorder.alee@gmail.com 912.695.7132

#### 2024 APPOINTED DIVAN

Ceremonial Master - Noble James
Derrick Lewis
Director - Noble Brian Dixon
Temple Marshall - Noble Clint Carter
Captain of the Guard - Noble Ryan
Fedak
Outer Guard - Noble John Adams
Chaplain - Noble Carlos Ruiz

### REPRESENTATIVE TO IMPERIAL COUNCIL

Illustrious Potentate - Carey Hodges Elected - PP James "JJ" Johns Elected - PP Dave Armstrong, Sr. Elected - PP Steve Lingle Emeritus - PP Lester A. Claxton Emeritus - PP Calvin Hodges Emeritus - PP J. Brooks Gaudry, III

# ALEE WEBSITE www.aleeshriners.org

Web Master Ill Sir JJ Johns, P.P.

# PUBLIC RELATIONS DIRECTOR

Noble Greg Lard

#### ST. PATRICK'S DAY LIAISON

Ill Sir Buddy Grayson, P. P.

#### FEZ ARTICLES

To insure publication of you News Articles for the Fez, they must be emailed to

aleefez@gmail.com no later 10th of the month. Not responsible for articles or ads emailed to any other email address. Please do not use all caps, and

single spaced (keep to half a page).
Send articles as a word document

attached to the email. When pictures are used - please send originals. Photos must be high resolution jpeg. Provide the the photographer's name.



# February 2024



	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2 Office Closed	3  Ladies Aux Poker  Tournament
y r	4 First Lady's Tea/ Social. Arena 2 - 4	5	6	7	8	9 Office Closed	10 Fez article due aleefez@gmail.com Valentine Dance 7pm Ballroom
	11	12	13	14  they reflective Deg	15	16 Office Closed	17 DAY
	18	Office Closed  President's Day	20	21	22	23 Office Closed	24
n	25	26	27	28	29 Knights of Mecca Meeting - 7:00		





2024



l							
	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 Office Closed	2 Tattnall Crappie Tournament
	3	4	5	6	7	8 Office Closed	9 Parades: Claxton Tybee
] ]	10 Fez article due aleefez@gmail.com	11 Stated Session	12	13	14	15 Office Closed	16 Savannah St Patrick's Parade
8	Dayling Form						ST.PATRICK'S DAY PARADE
	Нарру	18	19 The First	20	21	22 Office Closed	23 Shellman's Bluff Parade
	Patricks Day		Day Of Spring		SASA Mid Winter Richmond, VA	SASA Mid Winter	SASA Mid Winter
	24 SASA Mid Winter	25	26	27	28	29 Office Closed	easter egg
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March 11th Stated Session 30th Easter Egg Hunt

April 11th Savannah Smiles 12th - 13th Potentate Weekend

June 10th Stated Session 30th - July 4th Imperial Session

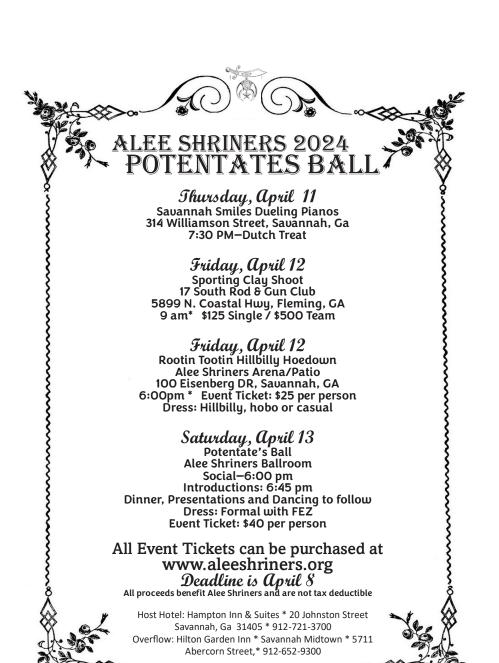
July 20th Kid's Dance

August 31st Scimitar Sportsman Banquet September 9th Stated Session 18th - 21st SASA

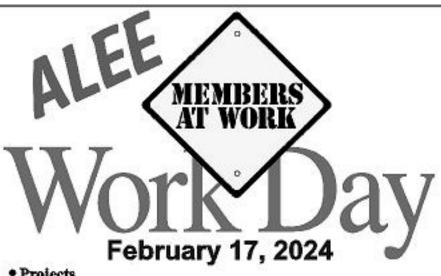
October Every Friday & Saturday Haunted House

November 4th Stated Session 15th - 16th Fall Ceremonial

December 8th Children's Christmas Party 11th Nobility Christmas Party







Projects

 Bring a Mason that is thinking of becoming a Shriner. Excellent opportunity to show your friend Shrine teamwork and Shrine life.

Work Day is to improve the aesthetics of the Temple in preparation of the Potentate's Ball and for rentals. Ladies Welcome!

Coffee and doughnuts at 7:30 Work begins at 8:00 am Lunch will be provided Contact: P.P. Freddie Humphries - 912.313.1450

# Congratulations to 2023 Award Winners



#### Noble Lenzy Phillips

Jack Hepner Shrine/Mason of the Year: Noble Danny Fries Jr

MOST MONEY RAISED FOR **Shriners Children's Hospitals: Tattnall Shrine Club** 

- CC+CO

**Alee Iron Knights** 

Unit of the Year: Alee Hillbilly

Club of the Year: **Effingham Shrine Club** 

Most Improved: **Brunswick Shrine Club** 

#### **MERIT JEWEL:**

**Noble John Adams Noble Ryan Fedak Noble Greg Lard Noble Will Morgan Noble Gary Uptain Noble Andrew Watt** 

**Crown of Honor: Noble Wayne Foster Noble Carl Hendricks II Noble Garry Hendricks Noble Chris Hutson Noble Steve Premo Noble Carlos Ruiz Noble Bobby Sauls Noble Joe Baby Thomas** 

**Crown of Honor Bars:** 

Noble Chris Barnes \* Noble Jamie Corcelius \* Noble Clayton Fender Ill Sir Buddy Grayson \* Ill Sir Freddie Humphries Jr Noble Larry Pawlowski \* Noble Craig Perry \* Noble Dwayne Sutton Noble Terrance White \* Noble John Willis

#### Unit and Club Shriners of the Year:

- Augusta Shrine Club: Noble Charles Gay (posthumously)
- **Bryan County Shrine Club: Noble Jerry Mitchell**
- **Claxton Shrine Club: Noble Jason Franklin**
- **Director's Staff: Noble Brock McCloskey**
- **Dune Cats: Noble Neal Thompson**
- Effingham Shrine Club: Nobles: Glenn Edwards, **Cliff Edwards and Barry Patnaude**
- **Hillbilly: Noble Bobby Sauls**
- Hinesville/Ft. Stewart Shrine Club: Noble Dwayne Sutton
- **Mobile Unit Classics: Noble Larry Klopp**
- **Pirates: Noble Robbie Major**
- Swainsboro Shrine Club-Nobles: Nick Brown & Brian Sause
- **Tattnall Shrine Club: Noble Dustin Nail**
- Waynesboro Shrine Club: Noble Jimmy Allen (posthumously)

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# Waynesboro Shrine Club

On behalf of our President, Jimmy Atkins and the members of Waynesboro Shrine Club, I would like to congratulate Illustrious Sir Carey Hodges for being elected and installed as the 2024 Potentate of Alee Shrine. We would also like to congratulate to 2024 Divan, and we look forward to working with all in 2024.

We had our 2024 Alee Divan Visit on Friday January 26, 2024, and what a fantastic time we had. The pork chops were grilled to perfection and the sides were just as good. Thank you to the ladies for the fantastic decorations which were awesome. If you were not able to make it, you missed a great time. We would also like to thank the members of Thomson Shrine Club for joining Waynesboro for the Divan Visit. We look forward to having you all come join us.

As we need our membership to grow in our club, President Atkins would like all Nobles and Ladies to seek out those Masonic brothers you know would make a great Shriner and speak to them about becoming a member of the world's greatest philanthropy and our club. Membership is one key to the success of Alee Shrine and Waynesboro Shrine Club being around for many years to come.

Nobles and Ladies, please, we ask that you keep those friends and relatives in your prayers that may be dealing with difficulties. This world has gone crazy, and prayers do work!

Nobles there is still time to pay your 2023 before I purge the club membership rolls. I will be purging the rolls at the end of February. If you have not paid your 2024 dues, I will be glad to accept them at the next meeting. Should any Noble needs help with paying dues, please contact our secretary, Ill. Sir Clyde Bowie at 706-945-7377 to get your dues paid. Brothers, I always say, if we don't know it is broken, we can't even start to fix it.

Please stop by and see what's going on in the Bird Dog Capital of the World and check out our little club. Come sit with us and enjoy some good food and fellowship! Shriners Children's Hospitals Making Kids Well Over 100 Years.

Fraternally yours, Clyde Bowie, P.P. Secretary



# Waynesboro Ladies Auxiliary

Greetings from the Waynesboro Shrine Ladies Auxiliary. I pray this message finds you in good health

On January 26, 2024, we welcomed Illustrious Sir Carey Hodges and Lady Julie and the ALEE DIVAN to our club to a railroad/teacher theme setting. We had trains and books on all the tables. Fun was had by all. Everyone enjoyed the appetizers, pork chop dinner and assorted desserts.

We would like to congratulate Illustrious Sir Carey Hodges and Lady Julie for being elected Potentate and Frist Lady of Alee Shrine. We look forward to a fun year working with you as we support the Shriners Hospital for Children in Greenville SC. We are looking forward to a busy year and hope to see folks at parades throughout the year. Congratulations to Jimmy Atkins for being elected as President of Waynesboro Shrine Club. We Ladies are here to support you men as we go into the year. Looking forward to our annual BBQ in May and Farm Fest in September, so much fun and great teamwork makes these a success every year. We hope to see you throughout the year having fun and helping our Shrine Children at the same time. God bless and be with you.

Lady Melissa Damon President



# Oriental Band

Happy Valentine's Day! I hope you are all doing well in this New Year! Congratulations to our new Divan & Illustrious Potentate, & Ladies. The First Ladies Tea /Social will be on Sunday, February 4th & Valentine's Dance on Saturday, February 10th. There will be a Temple workday on Saturday, February 17th. Please everyone come out a support your Temple. Many hands make light work. Who loves a parade!!!! The month of March will have a lot of parades. Be sure to check the Fez for dates and times

Any Bandsman who's not getting the Band callouts please contact President Terry Wright at 912-222-8356 or Garry Hendricks at 912-429-1626 so you can stay informed on what is going on with the Band. Please stop by the Oriental Band Room. The Oriental Band is always looking for new members as well as old ones to enjoy & have fun. The band has always been a crowd-pleaser, come out and have fun.

We would like to thank you for your help filling our can trailer. Please keep bringing cans! The more we fill up the trailer the more we can contribute to the Greenville Hospital.

The Oriental Band Ladies Auxiliary has Fez cases & other accessories you can special order, contact Annette Perry at 912-308-2980 or Cindy Hendricks at 912-663-2370. Thank you to Our Military, 1st Responders, Doctors, and nurses, for what they do! Keep the less fortunate in your thoughts & prayers as well as Tony Stanford. Remember many hands make light work. Hope to see everyone out & about the Temple. Let's do more in 24!!!!!!!!

Fraternally Yours, Garry Hendricks

# Augusta Shrine Club

On behalf of President Any Cato and the members of the Augusta Shrine Club, I would like to congratulate Illustrious Sir, Carey Hodges for being elected and installed as the 2024 Potentate of Alee Shrine. We would also like to congratulate the entire 2024 Divan and we are willing to assist Alee Shrine and Shriner Children's Hospital in 2024.

Nobles and Ladies, what a fantastic time we had at our 2024 Alee Shrine Divan Visit. We had some great food, and the fellowship was even better. What a great year Illustrious Sir Hodges and the Divan have planned.

Please come out and join us for some good fellowship during what I think will be a very busy year. The Augusta Shrine Club meets the second Wednesday of each month. We have a wonderful meal starting at 7:00 pm and we meet at 8:00 pm. Ladies are always invited, and they conduct the Ladies Auxiliary meeting while the Nobles are having theirs. Prospects for the Masonic Degrees and Masons are always welcome to come and see what we are all about. We are always looking for good Master Masons to be part of our fraternity.

On behalf of President Cato, we would like to invite all of Alee Clubs and Units to come to Augusta in March and participate in the Augusta St. Patrick's Day Parade. More information will be coming as soon as we can confirm the date and times for line-up and step-off. Come join us for an awesome time and lunch will be served afterward at the club.

Fraternally yours, Clyde Bowie, P.P. Secretary Augusta Shrine Club



# ALEE PIRATES

Ahoy Me Hearties

Well, the first of the year has kicked off with much success. Want to congratulate our 2024 Divan and look forward to your leadership throughout the year. We had a great time at the Oyster Roast and several Pirates, and their Ladies completed Degrees.

Our first social is at Amelia Island in May. Remember to book those rooms. Don't forget if you came last year we had a blast and will be bigger this year. Also, will probably have the chance to parade so bring your Pirate gear. We are also working on our Past President and Cabin boy night we were unable to have last year.

Also, the unit rep for our Shrine Children is no other than Steve Premo who also is a very active Road Runner. Contact Steve and he will help you get the family in contact with the unit and the Hospitals.

We have a lot to handle for the month of March and Parades coming up. So, let's get our Pirate out-fits ready and Yelduz II ready to ride. We have some woodwork that must be completed before the ship starts Parade season. Also don't forget the Alee Shrine workday is February 17th.

PIRATES ARR NUMBER ONE!

**Jeff Roberson,** President, 2024 Alee Pirate Unit alee.piratepresident@gmail.com

"Now and then we had a hope that if we lived and were good, God would permit us to be Pirates." - Mark Twain

# Temple Ladies Auxiliary

Hello Everybody who loves Alee!

As I said in January, we have big things planned. We provided the refreshments after the Alee Memorial Service held on Sunday January 14<sup>th</sup>. It was a really special tribute to Shriners who have passed on in the past year.

Calling all Nobles' Ladies! You would be so welcome at the Alee Ladies Auxiliary! I say this every month because we mean it. We got 3 new members last month! Please Ladies, if you want to get to know other Shrine Ladies outside of your usual group, come and be with us. Our meetings are held on the First Tuesday at 11AM in the Bill Porter Room. We have refreshments and a lot of fun!

The election and installation of the new Divan happened on January 13th. Congratulations to Illustrious Sir Carey Hodges, Lady Julie and the rest of the 2024 Divan. We are sure they will do a great job for Alee.

We are continuing our Poker Tournaments in the new year with 2 planned already. The first one is to be held on February 3<sup>rd</sup> with registration at 11 and play beginning at Noon. Please pre-register with Marlene Armstrong. It is a fun day for us and an excellent fundraiser for our Auxiliary.

Also, with 176 children - over twice as many children as last year! – attending our Children's Christmas Party we have depleted our toy inventory and will be asking for each Unit, Club, and Auxiliary to please find it in your hearts to donate to this worthwhile cause for us. It was a great time and we would like to say the biggest thank you to ALL clubs and units, auxiliaries, that participated in the party with crafts and lots and lot of Holiday fun.

We sure would love to have you join us. Find out what's going on with Alee Shriners even if your Shriner's unit doesn't have an Auxiliary or if it does, come meet new ladies.

Hope to see you at all of these fun events!

BS

# Augusta Golf Unit

On behalf of President Any Cato and the members of the Augusta Shrine Club, I would like to congratulate Illustrious Sir, Carey Hodges for being elected and installed as the 2024 Potentate of Alee Shrine. We would also like to congratulate the entire 2024 Divan and we are willing to assist Alee Shrine and Shriner Children's Hospital in 2024.

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Fraternally yours, Clyde Bowie, P.P. Secretary Augusta Shrine Club





We are beginning a new year and look forward to many of you attending meetings and events. There seems to be a renewed sense of purpose in the unit and you are encouraged to be part of the Renaissance.

Our first event will be the Past Presidents Oyster Roast on February 12. Always a fun time and probably the best meal we will have this year. Please come and be part of this fun evening.

Brian Dixon seems to think that he is on the same level as Rick Jones because his name is mentioned in this article. (Brian doesn't understand that there is a difference between respect and ridicule. Don't tell him.)

Brian did tell me that he's not eating gummies ever again. He watched an entire movie on Mute and started crying because he thought he was deaf.

Our call back will be February 19, 2024. Be there. I'm sure our meal will be okay. Thanks to Brock for always making sure we have plenty to eat.

Bobby told me he married his wife for her looks, just not the ones he's been getting lately.

I know that President Ben has some good ideas for this year, he just hasn't shared them with anyone. I guess we need to be at the meetings to find out what's going on. Plus, most of us are good guys and would welcome you without much grief.

That's all for now. If you haven't figured it out, we would love to have YOU rejoin us.

Ol' (used to be) Sparky



# Jesup Shrine Club

Greetings from the Jesup Shrine Club,

As we begin a new year, I can't help but reflect on last year. We had such a great year...new nobles getting involved and filling up our club monthly, many improvements in and around our club, doing what we love and loving what we do for the children! We are looking forward to another fantastic year, under new leadership! At our December meeting, new officers were installed by our Illustrious Sir PP John B. Johnson: President Noble Jasper Blanton, Vice President Noble Hunter McCrary, Secretary Noble Phil Kay and Treasurer Noble Ronnie Jones. Ladies Auxiliary new officers were also installed: President Kacie Blanton, Vice President Natalie Carter, Secretary Joy Courson and Treasurer Colleen Howell. We had some honored visitors at the meeting, CRAP Carey Hodges and Lady Julie, and Alee Treasurer John Farley and Lady Roula. Before the installation, our outgoing President Caleb Poppell made a few presentations recognizing unsung heroes: Noble Hunter McCrary for his great efforts in fundraising, Noble Dan O'Neal for keeping our Shrine Club lawn mowed and looking fresh, and Noble Joey Courson as club bartender. Outgoing Lady president Erin Poppell recognized the Ladies Auxiliary officers for the year for their diligence and giving of their time, and she also recognized me for the Fez Articles, which really is my pleasure. The Jesup Hillbillies had a presentation of their own, donating a check of funds made at Savannah Fair parking. A special thank you to those who cook our meals, bring desserts and appetizers, and decorate to make each occasion at our club memorable!

There was a blood drive hosted by the Jesup Shrine Club Ladies Auxiliary in December. At the time of this writing, I do not have the results, but I wanted to extend a special thank you and recognize Lady Jan Arwood who goes above and beyond to organize and make these happen! Along with many wonderful volunteers, you have helped to save many lives through your efforts. Thank you!

A group of us attended the Nobility Christmas Party also in December. It was great fun getting dressed in our "ugly" sweaters, although they are not ugly to me! Oh what fun it is to ride.... on the bus with all of the festive party goers! We had a wonderful time seeing all of our friends, being in the Christmas spirit, and enjoying a fabulous meal! We look forward to this each year and have so much fun laughing and having fellowship.

Finally! The much-anticipated Jesup Christmas Parade, which was postponed twice, did actually happen and we are thankful for the huge turnout of Shriners who attended! This year was different with our annual oyster roast being canceled due to weather, but the parade happened, nonetheless. Thank you to all who attended, we appreciate you!

We also had a small parade for Noble Cale Harris and Lady Melanie and family. One of their children, daughter Kennedy, is battling cancer. The huge giving hearts of Shriners and their special soft heart for children, formed a parade of Jesup Shrine Club, Tattnall Shrine Club, Hinesville Shrine Club, Statesboro Shrine Club and a few local Fire fighters with their trucks and also, the man himself, Santa Claus. This made the whole family smile and Kennedy and her friends gave us a little baton twirl show. Thank you to all who participated (forgive me if I left anyone out).

We are looking forward to a bright and brand new year!

Best regards from the Jesup Shrine Club, Lady Denise Bennett





# Augusta Go-Cart Unit

On behalf of the Captain Don Harris and the members of the Augusta Shrine Club Go-Cart Unit, I would like to congratulate Illustrious Sir Carey Hodges for being elected and installed as the 2024 Potentate of Alee Shrine. Our members would also like to congratulate the 2024 Divan and we look forward to working with all in 2024.

Captain Harris has us prepping the carts so they will be ready for parades in 2024. We look forward to seeing the kids smile as we pass by making noise and having fun for a purpose.

Nobles and Ladies, take a moment and check out the new and improved Augusta Shrine Club website at <a href="https://www.Augusta-Shrine-Club.com">www.Augusta-Shrine-Club.com</a> and see all the improvements Illustrious Sir Gary Damon has made to it.

Nobles and Ladies, while on bended knees please keep all in your prayers as we know many who are dealing with difficulties in their lives.

Noble's your 2023 and 2024 Go-Cart Unit dues are due. If you are suffering a hardship, please let Captain Harris or myself know so we can help. We are all Shrine Masons and are here to help our brothers in need.

If you are interested in visiting our meetings, we meet on the third Wednesday of each month at the Augusta Shrine Club 1826 Phinizy Road Augusta, Georgia. We eat at 7:00 pm and we meet at 8:00 pm. Ladies are always welcome. If you would like to visit our meeting, please call our Secretary, Clyde Bowie P.P. at 706-945-7377 to make sure we have enough food to go around.

Clyde Bowie, P.P. Secretary and Tire Changer



I can't believe it is already 2024 and another year has rolled by us. Our new slate of officers has been installed and we are ready to ride. January is always a bittersweet month as we look to a new year and the fun we will have; we also remember the No-

bles who came before us and paved the way for us. As we ride, we think about the kids we meet along the way and are reminded of why we all belong to Alee. Look to the future as we welcome our new Potentate for 2024

Ride safe,

Walt



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#### **Mobile Classics Unit**

Greetings and salutations,

2023 is in our rearview mirror, As the Mobile Unit Classics drives into 2024, we pulled over to reflect on the past year, The MCU had a record year in our endeavours and we need to take time to thank outgoing President Noble Earl Futch.for a two year job well done. Much of our success was due to your leadership. You led from the front and proved yourself time and time again.

We were heartbroken when the Black Camel claimed our long time member Noble Odell Talley. You will be missed Brother. You are more than a sentence in the FEZ paper. Your memory will stand the test of time. Thank you for the memories.

2024 brings a new slate of officers to the MCU. President George Pratt, Vice President Frank Norris, Secretary Will Morgan, and Treasurer Larry Klopp all were installed, by Illustrious Sir Past Potentate Lester Claxton, at the MCU Christmas Party. We are proud of each and know they will execute their position in the best interest of the MCU. We are expecting great things from our officers with new ideas. A special congratulations goes out to our 2023 MCU Shriner of the year Noble Larry Klopp.

The MCU is gearing up and ready for a year of great parades and camaraderie with all our brothers in the red fez. By the time you read this we will have a new Potentate installed and a new member in the line of officers as the Oriental Guide. Our prayers are that GOD lays his hands on our Temple leadership to make great decisions for our Shriners. spouses, children and hospitals. Shriners love what they do and we make a difference in many lives throughout the ALEE footprint. Come ride with the MCU...a new year, a new adventure. Let's see what is around that next curve.

Fraternally Fastlane and the Pitcrew

# Augusta Ladies Auxiliary

Greetings to all,

We hold all that are ill or dealing with a lot of issues in our prayers and wish them well and recovery. Each of us is already blessed by being a part of the Shrine family network. We are a family, and we are always there for you as you deal with life's issues. Reach out and say hello and feel the love start to flow.

On January 27, 2024, we welcomed Illustrious Sir Carey Hodges and Lady Julie and the ALEE DIVAN to our club to a Hillbilly Railroad/Teacher theme setting. We had candy dish on all the tables and wood pins on each side, one with Carey's Pin and one with Julie's Pin. On our stage we had a Hillbilly/Train theme for pictures. Fun was had by all. Everyone enjoyed the appetizers, BBQ dinner and assorted desserts.

We would like to congratulate Illustrious Sir Carey Hodges and Lady Julie for being elected Potentate and Frist Lady of Alee Shrine. We look forward to a fun year working with you as we support the Shriners Hospital for Children in Greenville SC. We are looking forward to a busy year and hope to see folks at parades throughout the year. Congratulations to Andy Cato for being elected as President of Augusta Shrine Club. We Ladies are here to support you men as we go into the year. Looking forward to the Golf Unit Golf Tournament which is held in May, and our annual 10 Grand Party in October at the club. We hope to see you throughout the year having fun and helping our Shrine Children at the same time. God bless and be with you.

Lady Melissa Damon President

### Hinesville - Ft. Stewart Shrine Club

Alee Club of the Year 2016, 2017, 2018 & 2021

Alee Parade Club of the Year 2018

In last month's article we got so wrapped up in other stuff that we forgot to congratulate our 2024 Officers. Bill and Shiela Badger did such a good job in 2023 that we reelected Bill to a second term as club president, and elected Lee Smith as VP. Nobles Mike Braver and Roger Hutchinson will continue to serve as Treasurer and Secretary, respectively. The Ladie's Auxiliary reelected Shiela as the President, along with Tiffany Smith as VP and Cyndi Hocking as Secretary. Presiding over the installation were Illustrious Sir Buddy Grayson and Lady Laura.

Bill presented a couple of awards at the installation party. Because of his continuous dedication, constant participation, and unparalleled support Past President Dwayne Sutton was selected as HFSSC Shriner of the Year. Lee Smith also received an award as top salesman for our first gun raffle, selling over 250 tickets.

Congratulations to the 2024 Alee Potentate Illustrious Sir Carey Hodges and Lady Julie. Carey has always expressed strong support for HFSSC as a Hillbilly and Divan Member and we now look forward to supporting him as our new leader and Lady Julie as the First Lady of Alee.

We want to thank immediate Past Potentate Illustrious Sir Robbie Moore and First Lady Cookie, not only for their leadership and contributions as the leaders of Alee, but for their constant and continuous work and support throughout their journey that began 5 years ago when Robbie was elected to the Divan. That's a tough 5 year journey from OG to Potentate and these two wonderful people did it with their own style and common sense approach to every event and obstacle. We congratulate them on their accomplishments and wholeheartedly thank them for their contributions and support. On a side note, we also take this opportunity to let them know that never again will the HFSSC building be decorated in Pirate décor.

We all know the Potentate cannot accomplish anything on his own. The Divan must be totally committed to supporting the Potentate in every task and we think they did a fantastic job this past year and are confident that the 2024 Divan will do the same.

One can only imagine the apprehension in accepting the office of Potentate without the assurance, advice, and support of past Potentates who are selected as advisors. Each of the advisors are proven leaders with their own experiences and difficulties who serve an invaluable but sometimes unappreciated role in the success of the Potentate and Alee. Apparently, these guys did a great job this year because Robbie and Cookie had a very successful year.

As we move head-on into 2024 our calendar is already getting full. This year we will again host our Pumpkin Patch, paper drives (Hospital Crusade), another raffle, our 2<sup>nd</sup> pool/billiards tournament, and the Hinesville Christmas Parade. Our 2<sup>nd</sup> annual pool/billiards tournament is currently scheduled for 4 May. We will hold paper drives on 11 May and 7 September.

For the rest of the events read the minutes from the latest meetings and your copy of the FEZ. We'll see ya'll soon.

If You Find Mistakes
IN THIS PUBLICATION,
PLEASE CONSIDER THAT
THEY ARE THERE FOR A
PURPOSE WE PUBLISH
SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE,
AND SOME PEOPLE ARE ALWAYS
LOOKING FOR MISTAKES!!!

# Alee Dune Cats



Have a Happy New Year!

Great Kick-off meeting in January with our newly elected Officers!

Welcome to your newest member Ira Harper, from the '23 Fall Ceremonial, we are glad you chose to join us.

What a feztastic job with the Memorial Service hosted by Alee Knights of Mecca, Thanks to President Jamie Corcelius, Lady Colleen, The Temple Auxiliary, and all for a great job, I am sure the Families where very appreciative.

Working on a few things for 2024. Reminding everyone of the upcoming events: Valentine's Dance on February 10<sup>th</sup> a table for 10 can be reserved just call the Temple Office.

TEMPLE WORKDAY is February 17 starting with coffee and doughnuts at 7:30. This is our time when Nobles and Ladies come out that day and help on various projects to better the temple. This is an excellent opportunity to invite a fellow Mason who might not know a great deal regarding Shrine Life and let them see firsthand what a great organization Shriners can be and how well we all work together from different backgrounds and work experience, we come together and have fun.

Parade season is just around the corner!! Start getting those buggies all spiffed up and working great.

We would like to remind you that our meetings are on the first Monday of each month at 7:30 in the Dune Cat room located on the second floor of the JC Lewis Building.

We need to get your involvement. If you haven't been able to attend, you are missing the fun and fellowship that only face-to-face meetings can create. We have missed YOU and we hope we can count on you to attend the next meeting. The Dune Cats look forward to another great year. It would be great if you joined us for fun and fellowship.

Please keep our Troops, Children, Doctors, Shrine patients and their families, the Divan, and each other in your prayers.

Speedy

## Alee Shriners Past Masters' Association

Many thanks to all who participated in the Annual Memorial Service hosted by the Knights of Mecca. This annual event allows Alee to honor the Nobles who passed away in 2023. Alee is very thankful to the families for allowing their Noble to work and play supporting our Shriners Children's. The families of the deceased Nobles family and their Shrine family were very appreciative. PGM Rev. Don Combs gave an inspirational message of comfort. It is at times like this when your Shrine family is most important in honoring the Black Camel. Thank you to Pres. Jamie Corcelius, VP Lenzy Phillips, Treasurer Jordan Foster, Secretary Wayne Foster, the Alee Shrine Ladies Auxiliary, and Holly Humphries for the refreshments.

The Alee Knights of Mecca invite all Past Masters and current sitting Masters to join. We meet on the Fifth Thursday of the month (appx 4 times per year). Our next meeting and first meeting for 2024 is February 29. Yes, that is correct, this leap year we celebrate with an extra day in February. We will meet at Carey Hilliard's on Hwy 21 in Garden City at 6:30 for a no-host dinner. The meeting starts at 7pm.

Dues to join are \$5 per year or \$100 for Lifetime.

# MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

Nobles and Ladies of Alee,

Wow Wow Wow what a turnout we had at the annual elections. Thank you to all the Nobles and Ladies of Alee for coming out and supporting the greatest temple on earth.

I congratulate the Illustrious Sir Robbie Moore and Lady Cookie on an amazing year.

Job well done.

Congratulations Illustrious Sir Carey Hodges on being elected and installed as

Potentate of Alee 2024 and Lady Julie on becoming the first lady.

Congratulations to Larry Brantley on being elected as Oriental Guide and newest divan member for 2024. I congratulate all the elected Divan members and their ladies. Please let me know if I can be of assistance to better our temple.

But most importantly, I implore every one of you to visit your blue lodge. Let's keep that masonic light bright.

Fraternally Terrance White



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#### Shriners Children's - Greenville

On behalf of Board Chairman, Most Worshipful Brother Bobby Simmons, the Board of Directors and Hospital Staff, I am proud to report, your Greenville Hospital continues to operate under budget, as we provide the best care possible to children with orthopedic and many other conditions.

Greenville continues to improve all numbers set forth by Tampa which are used to measure progress and performance of our hospital. Due to some changes in the reporting (STR) system, there are still a few of the Strategic and Tactical numbers that are not available in the below chart.

#### **Hospital Performance Dash Board:**

	YTD 2022	Goal	YTD 2023
Total Referrals	4,076	TBD	-
New Patient Visits	3,096	3,189	-
Clinic Visits	13,192	13,588	-
Telehealth Visits	1,937	1,956	-
Outreach Clinic Visits	135	TBD	-
Inpatient Discharges	261	277	288
Outpatient Surgery Encounters	822	868	875
OR Utilization	73.18%	70.00%	73.76%
Percentage of First Case on Time Starts	80%	80%	82%
Average Daily Census	3.30	3.47	4.30

The Nobles and Ladies of Alee Shrine donated a total of \$281,427.08 to Greenville in 2023. The members and ladies of Alee Shrine continues to amaze us all, with the generous donations made to Shriners Children's Greenville and surely made it another record breaking year. As of December, the 18 temples which support Greenville, has donated a total of \$2,149,106.03 to the hospital. Shriner Children's Greenville has 18 of the greatest Shrine temples in the world supporting our mission.

Our Alee Roadrunners have made 24 trips safe and sound to Greenville. These dedicated Nobles and Ladies go above and beyond to transport our most precious cargo to our hospitals safely. I cannot say enough about these dedicated individuals. Thank you again for your hard work and dedication to Greenville, our patients and Alee Shrine for all you do!

**Calling all Alee Shrine Clubs and Units,** I am still looking for craft shows, other events and outlets to set up a booth to hand out pamphlets to advertise the services offered by Shriner Children's Greenville and transportation options provided by the Alee Shrine Road Runners. If you can get me a contact person who I can get in touch with to reserve a spot, please let me know.

Nobles, Noble Hutchinson and I would be honored to make arraignments if any club or unit would like to make an in-person donation to Greenville or have a member of our donor relations team come speak with your club or unit, please let Noble Hutchinson or myself know so we can get the details worked out for your event.

Noble's, on behalf of Board Chairman, Most Worshipful Brother Bobby Simmons and the entire Board, we want to thank each of you for all the support Alee Shrine has given Shriners Children's Hospital Greenville and look forward to your continued support!

Fundraising Lunch

**Prize Opportunities** 

For Attendees

Respectfully Submitted, Clyde Bowie, P.P., Member Roger Hutchinson, Associate Member Board of Directors Shriner's Children's Greenville

# Recorders Report January 2024

December 2023 1280

Nobles Created
Nobles Affiliated

Nobles Affiliated

**Nobles Restored** 

Nobles Associated

Total Gain Total 1280

Nobles Demitted -

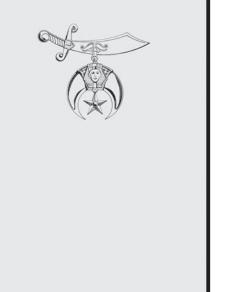
Nobles Suspended - 58

Nobles Deceased - 3

Nobles resigned:

Associate drop

Total - 66 Total 1214



# Save the Date Shriners Days 2024 You're invited! Please join us at Shriners Children's Greenville for an enjoyable evening reception and informative morning program. Registration information to follow. Friday, March 8 | 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. Saturday, March 9 | 9:30 a.m. to 12 noon 950 West Faris Road | Greenville, SC | 29605





TYRIAN LODGE #111

WARNER ROBINS, GA

REGISTER

HERE:









At the Annual, 2023 Awards were announced. Shrine Mason of the Year - Noble Danny Fries, Shriner of the Year - Noble Lenzy Phillips. Unit of the Year - Alee Hillbillies, Club of the Year - Effingham Shrine Club

Congratulations









Nobility Christmas had a new category "Couples Ugly Sweater Contest". Hillbilly Gals also presented the quilt to Ill Sir Robbie and Lady Cookie; Jesup was the last Christmas Parade of 2023 after several date changes. Ill Sir John B installed the Jesup Shrine Club President and Auxiliary President. Statesboro Shrine Club held their installation of Officers.











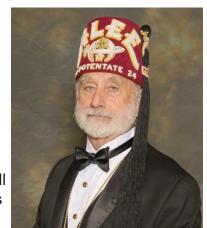


At the Annual, Ill Sir Robbie recognized The Fez for receiving an Honorable Mention from Shriners International. This is just a few of the Fez Team that make the Fez happen each month. Thank you to all contributors to the Fez without you there would no Fez. All articles, pictures and event flyers are greatly appreciated. Keep up the good work.

# Illustrious Potentate's Message

Hello Nobles and Ladies,

What a great day to be an Alee Shriner. How can I begin to thank each and every one that has bestowed me the honor to be elected as your Potentate for 2024? I would like to congratulate all of the 2024 Divan, and I'm looking forward to another successful year. Lady Julie and I look forward to working with all the Nobility and the ladies of Alee. As February rolls around we start the month off with the Valentines dance is on the 10<sup>th</sup>. There is a five-dollar cover charge, and it's open to the public. There will be a cash bar that night. Saturday the 17<sup>th</sup> is our temple workday. That's when we will spruce up the Temple and grounds. All come out, help, and have some fun and fellowship while making our Temple shine. Coffee and doughnuts will be served in the morning, and lunch will be provided. Continue to support your Blue Lodges, Scottish Rite, York Rite and your clubs and units. We are Alee Strong!



Focus on what matters while doing more in "24!

Fraternally yours,

Carey Hodges





# First Lady's Message

Greetings Nobles and Ladies of Alee. Congratulations to all newly elected Presidents and Divan members of 2024! It has been a whirlwind year for Carey and me. We look forward to the upcoming one with you all. First, let me thank you for the honor bestowed on us for being chosen as Potentate and First Lady! We will strive to support every Noble and Lady in any way we can. After all, YOU make Alee the number one temple in all of Shrinedom!! It's your units and clubs that contribute the most work to support our Children's Hospitals, our

temple, and the Roadrunners. So, lets "Do more in '24" to continue educating others about our noble cause!

Your First Lady of 2024 Julie Hodges

It's Official Illustrious Potentate Carey Hodges has been sworn in by Ill Sir Buddy Grayson, received his jewel from son, Noble Lee Malphus, fezzed with a kiss from First Lady Julie and received his gavel handmaded for specially for him by Noble Billy Mullins.

Our Potentate is ready to lead our GREAT Temple into doing more in '24.









# Chief Rabban



Happy New Year Alee,

I would like to start out by saying Congratulations to Illustrious Sir Robbie Moore and Lady Cookie for an amazing year. Job well done. Thanks to all the Nobles and Ladies that made 2023 one of the best.

Congratulations to the Units and Clubs that received awards, it takes all of us working together to keep our Hospitals and Temple going. Big shout out to all those who received personal recognition. Job well done and well deserved.

Congratulations to Lenzy Phillips, Shriner of the year. Thank you, Illustrious Sir Robbie for the Shrine - Mason award it meant a lot to me.

Congratulations to Illustrious Sir Carey Hodges and Lady Julie and the 2024 Divan on their elevation. I Would like to welcome Larry Brantley as our new O.G.

I look forward to seeing y'all in and about the temple. Again, if there is anything I can do for you please let me know. I am just a phone call away. Looking forward to "More In 24".

Don't forget to support your Blue lodge and the Rites. Remember those who are sick and those who have lost loved ones in our daily devotion to almighty God.

Fraternally yours, Danny Fries Jr.

# High Priest & Prophet



Hello fellow Nobles and Happy New. Congratulations to Illustrious Sir Carey Hodges on being elected as our Potentate for 2024. I look forward to this year. Congratulations to Noble Larry Brantley on being elected as Oriental Guide, fasten your seat belt. Congratulations to all the other Divan members that were elected. The Valentines dance will be on February 10th so please mark it on your calendar and join us for a great time. Thanks to all the nobles who had the confidence in me to elect me as High Priest and Prophet for 2024 and if I can ever be of assistance to any Unit, Club or Noble, I'm a phone call, text or email away.

Lastly, please keep the families of the nobles that we lost in 2023 in your prayers, our brothers will be missed.

Fraternal yours,

G. Ray Christian High Priest and Prophet 2024

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# Assistant Rabban



It always a great day to be an Alee Shriner.

Congratulations to Illustrious Sir Carey Hodges and First Lady Julie. We look forward to Doing more in 24 with your leadership.

Thank you to the nobility for your continued confidence in me and electing me as your Assistant Rabban. Lady Cheryl and I look forward to serving Alee again this year.

Congratulations to all the Divan members and Representatives that were elected at our Annual Communication. Welcome Noble Larry Brantley and Lady Tonya to the Divan Line. Thank you to everyone who was able to attend.

Thank you to all that attended the Alee Memorial Service hosted by the Knights of Mecca. It was a Great way to start the year Remembering those Nobles we lost in 2023. "Memories are the one place we can visit those we lost "unknown author. Thank you to Mrs. Colleen Humphries for helping coordinate this event and the Alee ladies Auxiliary for the refreshments.

A Great time was had by all at our 2024 Leadership conference. We were able to hear the vision for the upcoming year while having fun and fellowship.

Please join us for the annual Valentines Dance February 10<sup>h</sup>. We will have fun Dancing the night away with our sweethearts. The event is \$5 per person. Doors open at 7Pm.

February 17<sup>th</sup> is the Alee clean up day Please come out and help Make your temple shine. Hope to see you all there.

Fraternally Dave "D2" Armstrong II

### reasurer



Hello Nobles,

First and foremost, I would like to congratulate the mem-

bers of the Divan on the election; Illustrious Potentate Carey Hodges & Lady Julie; Chief Rabban Noble Danny Fries & Lady Sheila; Assistant Rabban Noble David Armstrong, II & Lady Cheryl; High Priest & Prophet Noble Ray Christian & Lady Annette; Oriental Guide Noble Larry Brantley and Recorder III. Sir Dave Armstrong Sr & Lady Marlene. I want to give a big thank you to III Sir Robbie Moore & Lady Cookie for your leadership and ensuring ALEE's continued success. Lady Roula and I wish you a well-deserved rest. We look forward to seeing you both in and about the temple. Congratulations to all those that were either elected or appointed to positions in the temple. I look forward to supporting you throughout 2024. A HUGE thank you to the Nobility of Alee for your continued trust in overseeing your Temple finances; I will always do my very best for each of you. I want to also thank you for reelecting me as your SASA Representative for 2024; I will do everything to represent you and ALEE well. Congratulations to the entire 2024 Divan as I look forward to working with each of you. Thank you to all the nobles who attended the solemn Memorial Service put on by the Knight of Mecca to honor our fallen Nobles. Lady Roula & I look forward to seeing around the Temple and if I can be of any assistance, please do not hesitate to ask.

Fraternally, John Farley

## Recorder



From the Recorders Desk Nobles and Ladies

First, I would like to say CONGRATULA-TIONS to III. Sir Robbie Moore and Lady Cookie for a great year in 2023. It was a pleasure working with you both throughout the year, you kept us upbeat and positive. We are ALEE STRONG Sailing into the future, and it is a great day to be an ALEE SHRINER.

Congratulations to the new Illustrious Potentate Carey Hodges and First Lady Julie as we are planning to do more in 24 and I look forward to working with you both to make 2024 another successful year for Alee Shriners.

Congratulations to Chief Rabban, Noble Danny Fries, Assistant Rabban, Noble David W Armstrong II, High Priest and Prophet, Noble G. Ray Christian, and Oriental Guide, Noble Larry Brantley and their Ladies (because you know we could not do what we do without our Ladies). I look forward to working with each of you in 2024.

I want to thank the Nobles of Alee for the confidence you have placed in me, to serve yet another year as YOUR recorder of YOUR temple and Imperial Representative for 2024. If there is anything that I can be of assistance with, please contact my office. My email is recorder.alee@gmail.com and my cell # is (912) 695-7132 and I will be happy to help you with any situation that you may have.

Congratulations to all the Unit, Club and individual award winners.

Nobles, please send all fundraiser requests to <a href="mailto:recorder.alee@gmail.com">recorder.alee@gmail.com</a> I will check the dates to make sure they do not conflict with Temple dates and forward to the Potentate for his final approval and send you an acknowledgement of approval.

Shriners are brothers, we share a common CREED, with common goals and values.

Remember to attend your Blue Lodge, Scottish Rite, and York Rite regularly.

As always remember our men and women in the armed forces, fighting to keep our country free, your Divan working hard for the success of Alee, and the children and doctors at our hospitals while on bended knee.

It is always a great day to be an Alee Shriner Let us keep ALEE Great Again as we do more in 2024

David W Armstrong Sr P.P. Recorder

# Oriental Guide



I would like to thank everyone that came to our annual meeting. I am very appreciative that you elect me as your Oriental Guide. I will do my best to make sure you do not regret it.

I know under the guidance of Potentate Carey Hodges; we will have a grand year. I look forward to all the visitations and meeting all our brothers and their lovely ladies. If I could be of any help to you, please feel free to call me at 912-294-3604. Thank you and have a blessed day until we meet again.

Larry Brantley



# Alee Shriners Ladies Auxiliary TEXAS HOLD'EM

- ◆Tournament open to Ladies & Men
- ◆Registration starts at 11 am
- ♦Play starts at 12 noon
- ◆Food and Drink Provided

Register for chip-up and questions: 912-433-6091 or armsmka@gmail.com

# February 3rd

\$50 Entry

All proceeds benefit the Alee Shriners Ladies Auciliary and are not tax deducible.

# Appointments Are for Only One Year

When a Potentate's term of office expires, all appointments made by him during his administration **terminate** according to the Imperial Code. Such appointments include all appointed officers, Potentate's aides, members of committees and their chairman, special appointees, directors, assistant directors, and all members of the Potentate's staff.

Some uninformed nobles have mistakenly believed or assumed their appointments to be permanent; that is not! Each Potentate when installed in office must make his own appointments including divan appointments.

The Potentate has the power and authority, under Imperial Shrine law, to replace every appointee, or he may, if he believes it to be in the best interest of the Shrine, retain all appointees by reappointment.

Traditionally, for the sake of efficiency, many nobles of demonstrated ability are continued in office or appointment by reappointment. But this is at the will and pleasure of the incoming Potentate.

In no case is he bound, or can he be bound by his predecessor. By the same token in no case can any Potentate bind his successor.

If it is the will and pleasure of the incoming Potentate that the noble is to continue in his office or position by reappointment, he will be notified by the Potentate to that effect.

Should any noble not holding appointment by the current Potentate wear a fez carrying any title such as "Aide" or any other designation, he does so in violation of the code.

Some nobles seek to perpetuate an appointment fictitiously by adding to the lettering on the fez the year or years of their appointment. This is a violation of Imperial law. The offending may be informed but "... ignorance of the law is no excuse."

Candidates are everywhere...
It is not too early to start looking



Have you found any yet?

Fall Ceremonial
November 15 & 16
Get Those Petitions Ready!



# ATTEND YOUR BLUE LODGE





Jimmy R Anderson William F Aspinwall John A Atkinson Memory L Ayres Jr William C Bennett Charles C Bennett John Thomas S Black Andy J Brannen Charles R Brewer P.P. Henry J Buchanan Sr Randall C Burney Ewell S Byrd Jr Thomas M Carfrey Jamey E Chalker Christopher Chandler John E Cogley James C Courson Timothy W Creech Robert Lee O Crowley Gary L Damon Charles E Dixon Jr Kirk E Douglas Curtis P Eason Timothy W Eason Bruce R Elder Jordan P Foster Guy Allen Goss Otis D Gould Ralph L Grayson P. P. William S Gustin Garry L Hendricks Daniel P Hodges Clayton R Hodges Michael J Hogan Willis C Hunter Walter Feldon Hussey James J Johnson Jr Gavin R Jones Danny H Kicklighter Lawrence K Klopp Wade L Knight Michael T Lang

Charles K Lee **Ernest A Martin** Blair A Martin Darren R McGee William E Mewborn Jeffrey S Mills Sr Shaun P Moon William B Moseley Jr. Billy Mullins Ryan M Myers Dustin G Nail John H Oldfield Wendell O Osteen Jay G Owens Jr. James E Patterson Craig H Perry Shane F Poppell David R Pylant Sr Richard P Ramsey George J Reckentine Lance T Royal Robert M Scott Jerry L Seaman Paul H Shivers Jr Matthew T Smith Jessie M Stanfield Brian J Stewart William Fredrick Stregles Sr Chas L Strickland Jr Patrick D Sweet Thomas R Taggart John N Templeton Jr Ricky L Thompson William Thornton Sean J Tolbert Kenneth D Wade Clifton D Way Charles G White Christopher D Williams Gerald D Wood Russell E Zittrauer

#### **FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS**



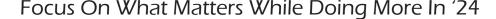
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#### Henry's Forever Smile

Henry's <u>Shriners Children's Boston</u> story started before he was born. His mother, Meghann, had an anatomy scan when she was 20 weeks pregnant, revealing her son's diagnosis: a <u>cleft lip</u> and <u>cleft palate</u>.

"I met with a doctor and she recommended Shriners Children's Boston for cleft lip and palate care," said Meghann. The condition, typically diagnosed during an ultrasound, gives doctors a head start in mapping out a care plan.

Facial clefts form in the womb and are the No. 1 craniofacial birth difference treated at Shriners Children's. A cleft lip forms when the lip does not properly develop, causing a newborn's smile to split. A cleft palate is the result of tissues on the roof of a child's mouth not fusing. If the conditions are not fixed, they can affect breathing, speaking, eating and appearance. "Very early in a child's development, these segments don't meet up properly and that leads up to these fissures and clefts that we know of as cleft lip and palate," explained <a href="Jay Austen, M.D.">Jay Austen, M.D.</a>, a <a href="plastic surgeon">plastic surgeon</a> on the cleft and <a href="Craniofacial">craniofacial</a> team at Shriners Children's Boston and chief of plastic and <a href="reconstructive surgery">reconstructive surgery</a> at MassGeneral Brigham. The Shriners Children's Boston Cleft and Craniofacial Center is a collaborative program with MassGeneral Hospital for Children.

Patients will receive a comprehensive care plan to meet their clinical and developmental needs. In a single visit, patients have access to <u>plastic surgeons</u>, <u>speech pathologists</u>, orthodontists and dietitians. "You may only need one

of us, you may need five of us, you'll need us at different points in your child's life, but you know that's what we're here for," said Dr. Austen.

In June 2022, when he was just 4 months old, Henry had his cleft lip repaired, followed by surgery to address his cleft palate the following November. We were all stressed out about the upcoming surgery and the recovery. Dr. Austen made it seem like everything would be okay. Meghann, Boston, Herny's Mom

Meghann credits Dr. Austen with helping her family prepare for Henry's hospital stays. "We were all stressed out about the upcoming surgery and the recovery. Dr. Austen made it seem like everything would be okay," she noted. "That was helpful to have his perspective of 'this is something the hospital has done for a long time, and this is not something to be afraid of or worry about." Meghann said Dr. Austen's optimism and positivity helped the family throughout the treatment process.

Patients in the cleft and craniofacial program benefit from clinicians who routinely treat cleft lip and palate conditions. "That's one of the many great things about the Shriners cleft lip and palate program. We have a world-class team dedicated to not only doing this work, but doing it together to make it not just the best care, but the easiest care for the families," said Dr. Austen.

Meghann shared that the clinical team, especially Sandy Barrett, a nurse care manager, was a great resource. Nurse <u>care managers</u> and <u>social workers</u> are available during and in between appointments, to support patients and their caregivers with the answers to questions associated with craniofacial conditions. "Sandy, who has helped us with coordinating appointments, has been helpful. Anytime I email her a question, she is so responsive."

Henry is ready for his forever smile. Pictured: Henry as a baby.

Henry is a happy and active toddler who loves playing with airplanes and trucks. "We call him 'Wreck-It Ralph,' he's like a bull in a china shop, he loves to have fun," joked Meghann. Henry also loves listening to music, especially with his grandfather. "My dad will watch music videos with him. Every time he hears music, he's drawn to it."

Meghann gets emotional when describing how important the Shriners Children's Boston <u>music therapists</u> were to her son. "I remember the first time he had his lip done, they had a woman playing guitar," said Meghann. "She was singing *Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star.*" Pediatric-trained music therapists tailor each session to fit the child's needs. The sessions can help provide comfort during a procedure, act as a distraction to help with pain management, or improve a child's sleeping patterns. Music therapists work directly with a child's care team to understand their individual goals and monitor progress.

Meghann urges young families who have received a similar diagnosis to take advantage of early intervention and other resources provided at Shriners Children's Boston. "We have a speech therapist who works with Henry. In the beginning, it was help with feeding with the cleft palate, which was challenging," Meghann explained. "Once he had the palate repair, just making sure he was able to feed, then transition from formula to solids."

Even though the process has been challenging, Meghann explained that it is manageable. "From the start to finish, it has been great working with the team at Shriners Children's Boston. We've always felt like the team is helpful and accommodating. They have the best interests of Henry in mind."

Reprinted from Shriners International website

#### Reno Teen Up and Running Thanks to Scoliosis Care at Shriners Children's

From the time Jackson was very young, his mother, Shannon, had an instinct telling her something wasn't quite right.

"I distinctly remember looking at him when he was around one thinking, 'his back doesn't look quite right,'" said Shannon.

It was a good thing she listened to her instincts, because before Jackson reached his first birthday, doctors had diagnosed him with <u>congenital scoliosis</u> – an abnormal curvature of the spine that affects newborns and young infants. The curvature causes the spinal column to bend left or right in the shape of an S or C. When he was 13 months old, Jackson was in a full <u>back brace</u>. Based on her own research, however, Shannon knew the brace was not going to improve his outcome completely.

Struggling to Find Care

Shannon took her son to a few doctors throughout the Reno, Nevada, area and struggled to find a doctor who specialized in pediatric <u>spine</u> and scoliosis care. "It was devastating," she said. "You're already overwhelmed as a new mom, and not being able to find someone that specialized in Jackson's condition was so frustrating."

At the time, Shannon worked at a local country club and struck up a conversation with a gentleman who believed he could help. He encouraged Shannon to reach out to <u>Shriners Children's Northern California</u>, knowing that the facility had an excellent pediatric spine program – one of the best in the nation.

As soon as Shannon stepped foot inside Shriners Children's Northern California, she knew she was in the right place. "That man changed our lives," she said. "We were able to get in quickly and the staff was amazing. They remembered our names at follow-up appointments, and they were genuinely interested in how I was doing – taking in all of this information regarding Jackson's diagnosis. They cared about Jackson and they cared about me as his mother.

I'm so proud of how far he's come. This place saved my son, and I want everyone to see all the wonderful opportunities Jackson has because of the care he's received at Shriners Children's.

SHANNON, JACKSON'S MOM, NORTHERN CALIFORNIA

The Best Care

After speaking with a number of doctors and pediatricians in and around Reno, desperately trying to find help for Jackson, Shannon felt how different the environment was at Shriners Children's. She could immediately feel the difference that being in a hospital that is specifically tailored to providing care for children makes.

"Doctor's offices have a tendency to be kind of stale, but the combination of having staff who know how to relate and communicate with children, an activity pavilion for kids to run around and play in, and knowledgeable staff just always made us feel like we were in the right place receiving the best care possible for Jackson," said Shannon. "And he never cried. Whenever we went to see his team at Shriners Children's, he never, ever cried."

Jackson underwent two surgical procedures to treat his scoliosis – one at the age of 5 and again at age 13. Chief of Orthopedics Rolando Roberto, M.D., performed the surgeries. Now, Jackson is a competitive cross country star, running many miles each week – something his mother never imagined he'd be able to do.

"I'm so proud of how far he's come," said Shannon. "This place saved my son, and I want everyone to see all the wonderful opportunities Jackson has because of the care he's received at Shriners Children's."

Reprinted from Shriners International Website





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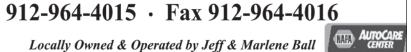
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