

# SHRINER

## MAGAZINE

*pride and tradition*



### *Inside this Issue:*

- ▶ James R. "Jim" Smith Elected Imperial Potentate
- ▶ Jerry Gantt Re-elected President of Our Philanthropy
- ▶ Caring for Others in a Time of Crisis
- ▶ Through Darkness I Shine
- ▶ First Lady Alice Smith's Fundraising Program
- ▶ Meet Our Oldest Living Patient



**Shriners International**



**James R. "Jim" Smith**  
Imperial Potentate,  
Shriners International

## A MESSAGE FROM YOUR IMPERIAL POTENTATE

### DEAR FELLOW NOBLES,

While it has been a couple of months since I was elected your Imperial Potentate, this is my first communication in this publication. I want to take this opportunity to thank you for allowing me to serve our fraternity in this capacity. It is an honor and privilege very few will experience — I am very grateful, and will do my best for our fraternity and philanthropy in the coming year.

Our traditions and our history are very important and can continue to guide us today. Our fraternity was specifically founded to bring fun and fellowship to the Masonic fraternal experience. Over time, that purpose seems to have become less important.

This year, we hope to emphasize fun and fellowship once again. The time and activities we share together in the spirit of having fun can build friendships and strengthen the bonds of brotherhood.

We are all acutely vaware of the threat and constraints of COVID-19 and we will need to be both creative and careful as we seek to offer and emphasize opportunities to come together.

Certainly supporting our first responders, serving those in need and assisting our communities can offer elements of fun and fellowship, as well as encouraging active involvement (with all appropriate cautions) in our many clubs and units, and finding more new ways to share good times together.

Fun and fellowship may look a bit different during this time of a pandemic — but they are no less important than they were when our fraternity was founded those many years ago.

Yours in the faith,  
James R. "Jim" Smith



**Jerry G. Gantt**  
Chairman, Board of  
Trustees, Shriners  
Hospitals for Children

## A MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

### DEAR FELLOW NOBLES,

Before all else, I want to say it is my honor and privilege to serve as President and Chairman of the Board of Trustees of Shriners Hospitals for Children for another term. Please be assured that your leadership, including the members of the Joint Boards, executive teams and local board members, continue to do all they can to strengthen, protect and preserve our philanthropy. We are also striving to ensure that Shriners Hospitals for Children is well positioned for its second hundred years of service to the world's children.

As this Imperial year begins, we continue to live under the disruption and threat of the COVID-19 pandemic, which has caused us to adjust so many things — including the way that we work. Unfortunately, it does not appear likely that this situation will end soon, and we need to be prepared to do our best under these trying circumstances for some time yet. Still, I remain confident in our organizations, and in each of you, and know we

will continue to do our best each day, and that we will eventually prevail over this deadly virus. I thank everyone for continuing to focus on our mission of improving the lives of children and families.

This year, we will continue the work of making the necessary adaptations to our various locations to meet the expectations and requirements of today's health care industry and improve the delivery of care to our patients and families.

As always, our decisions will be guided and determined by what is best for our patients and what will allow Shriners Hospitals to provide our unique brand of life-changing health care to more kids in more places for many years to come.

Yours in the faith,  
Jerry G. Gantt



**Shriners International**



**Shriners Hospitals  
for Children®**

## About Our Fraternity






Founded in 1872, Shriners International is a fraternity based on fun, fellowship and the Masonic principles of brotherly love, relief and truth. With nearly 200 Shriners centers in several countries and thousands of clubs around the world, the members of Shriners International are known for their fellowship, brotherhood, compassion and generosity. The fraternity established Shriners Hospitals for Children as its official philanthropy in 1922, and continues to support it today, while striving to make the world a happier, better place.

## About Our Philanthropy

Shriners Hospitals for Children® is one of the largest pediatric sub-specialty health care systems in the world, with locations in the U.S., Canada and Mexico. Our staff is dedicated to improving the lives of children by providing pediatric specialty care, conducting innovative research, and offering outstanding teaching programs for medical professionals.

## Find Us Online

-  [shrinersinternational.org](http://shrinersinternational.org)
-  [beashrinernow.com](http://beashrinernow.com)
-  [shrinersvillage.com](http://shrinersvillage.com)
-  [facebook.com/shrinersinternational](https://facebook.com/shrinersinternational)
-  [twitter.com/shriners](https://twitter.com/shriners)
-  [youtube.com/ShrinersTV](https://youtube.com/ShrinersTV)
-  [instagram.com/shrinersinternational](https://instagram.com/shrinersinternational)

- 
-  [shrinershospitalsforchildren.org](http://shrinershospitalsforchildren.org)
  -  [facebook.com/ShrinersHospitalsforChildren](https://facebook.com/ShrinersHospitalsforChildren)
  -  [twitter.com/shrinershosp](https://twitter.com/shrinershosp)
  -  [youtube.com/user/shrinershospitals](https://youtube.com/user/shrinershospitals)
  -  [instagram.com/shrinershospitals](https://instagram.com/shrinershospitals)

**BEING GOOD STEWARDS:** As a nonprofit organization dependent on donations, it is critically important that Shriners Hospitals for Children uses all funds wisely and effectively. The Oversight Committee investigates and reports on activities conducted for the benefit of Shriners Hospitals that have incurred, or apparently may incur, an appreciable financial loss. The Committee also checks on actions or possible actions of the Joint Boards that may not have followed appropriate practices or been fully vetted or disclosed. Findings are reported during Imperial Session. For more information, call 866-290-7637 or visit [shriners.ethicspoint.com](http://shriners.ethicspoint.com).

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**ABOUT THE COVER:** Imperial Session, originally scheduled to take place in Kansas City, Missouri, was canceled due to the coronavirus pandemic. A virtual Special Session was held in its place, in which delegates from around the world participated electronically from their temples and homes. On the cover are several members of the Joint Boards and their ladies who attended the live event and wore Fezzy masks.



# CARING FOR OTHERS IN A TIME OF CRISIS



**AS A FRATERNITY, THE SHRINERS ARE DEVOTED TO SERVING THEIR COMMUNITIES.**

In the face of the COVID-19 crisis, our members have found a multitude of opportunities to offer fellowship and aid to friends, neighbors and local health care workers. Here are the stories of just a few such efforts.

## Gizeh Shriners

*British Columbia  
and Yukon, Canada*

The Gizeh Drum and Bugle Corps Unit performed a socially distanced concert for the residents of Lakeshore Care Centre, a long-term care facility. The outdoor show featured a collection of tunes put together by Musical Director Wayne Reese. Afterward, the Lakeshore Care Centre staff provided a pizza lunch to show their appreciation.

Members of Cowichan Valley Shrine Club served meals to health care workers at Cowichan District Hospital. They set up in the employee parking lot, timing their efforts to coincide with the various shift changes, and cooked hotdogs and hamburgers. The club was able to feed approximately 350 people.

Noble Rick Mellson is one of the chairs of the club's Cook Wagon committee. "We just want to give back to them and to give back to the community that supports us so well," he said.

"All of us thought it's something we should do for the staff," said Ill. Sir Harold Wallace. "We are a community organization and we want to be able to give something back to the staff who are working their tails off for us."





## El Zagal Shriners

Fargo, North Dakota

Since March, Misfits BBQ of El Zagal has been supporting the temple, nobility, community and health care workers by providing nourishment in the form of delicious barbecue meals.

"We had a Shrine Temple that was closed," said Potentate Mike Dow. "We wanted to generate some revenue and help others. We provided meals to members in distress and families in distress. At one of our weekend barbecues, we gave away several meals to health care workers."



ribs, pork butts, brisket and pork loins. We set up in our temple parking lot with drive-through, no-contact serving. People would order in advance, pay online or at the event and have their main course for supper done for them."

The Misfits raised funds for the temple administration to help defray costs through the pandemic. "We now are looking to use some profits to help nobles and units and clubs in distress," Sturlaugson said.

Dow said it was a perfect way to stay in contact with nobles, without contact.

"Many people were getting weary of cooking at home," said Imperial Sir Matt Sturlaugson. "We would barbecue

## Hadi Shriners

Evansville, Indiana

No one does a parade better than Shriners. So, when the community planned an outdoor, socially distanced celebration for a woman's 90th birthday, Edna Mosby specifically requested the Shriners be part of it. Seeing the Shriners had always been Edna's favorite part of a parade.

Hadi Shriners were happy to answer the call. "It means a lot if you can put a smile on someone's face," said Noble Randy Eades. "If you can't give back, there's not a whole lot of reason to be here."

***"It means a lot if you can put a smile on someone's face," said Noble Randy Eades. "If you can't give back, there's not a whole lot of reason to be here."***

## About Saad Shriners

Panama

The club in El Salvador donated 1,700 sheets and 1,500 masks to the minister of public works. The donation was valued at more than \$7,500.



★★★★★  
**DeMOLAY**  
INTERNATIONAL

## DeMolay Honors Imperial Sir Jim Cain

Imperial Sir Jim Cain was recently honored by DeMolay International. In recognition of his Centennial Courtyard fundraising project, Cain was awarded the 2019-2020 Grand Master's Eagle for Philanthropy. Cain, who currently serves as Imperial Recorder, is a Past Imperial Potentate and an Honorary Supreme Council Member of Tennessee DeMolay. We congratulate Imperial Sir Cain for this accomplishment and appreciate his dedication and service.

# An Anniversary **FRATERNAL MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORY**

Celebrating 150 Years of Fun,  
Fellowship, Compassion and Generosity

The Shriners fraternity will celebrate 150 years of brotherhood, service to others and camaraderie in 2022. To honor and recognize this tremendous milestone, the storied history of our great fraternity and the commitment and dedication of our nobles, Shriners International is creating a special 150th Anniversary Edition Fraternal Membership Directory.

**THIS VERY SPECIAL KEEPSAKE** volume will include sections on our 150-year history and achievements, temple activities and accomplishments, and listings of individual temples and nobles. When Walter Fleming, M.D., and Billy Florence founded our fraternity in 1872, they intended to create a Masonic fraternity focused on fun and fellowship.

Today, they would be amazed and proud of what that fraternity has become — and what it means to people throughout the world. Shriners have successfully blended fun, fellowship, brotherhood, compassion and generosity into an organization that attracts men from all walks of life, and gives them the opportunity to become better, stronger individuals who truly make a difference in their communities and in the world. These are among the many things we will honor and acknowledge in this special volume and throughout our 150th anniversary year.

To create this commemorative edition we will work with PCI, an experienced and reputable publisher. In addition to honoring our history, traditions, and accomplishments, the volume will include a section where temples, clubs and units will have the opportunity to provide interesting, quality photos with appropriate captions and a section for individual pictures of nobles, with a brief narrative.

There will also be a section listing nobles by location. While the name and temple of every Shriner will be listed, other specific member information, such as individual addresses and phone numbers, will not be shown without permission. Nobles may provide verification of member data and/or may also opt out of being listed by contacting PCI. The membership directory will be available in print and electronic formats.

A percentage of the proceeds generated by this project will be provided to Shriners International, and used to enhance our programs. We are truly excited to be able to offer what will be a unique and valuable item. The first step in this project is mailing postcards to individual nobles requesting verification of member information on file with Shriners International. Please be sure to call the toll-free number on the card, which you should receive via the postal service in the second week of November.

Additional information about this commemorative membership directory will be available on both Shriners Village and the Shriners International website. We hope that you join us in celebrating all that our fraternity and individual nobles mean to us, and all that we have accomplished together over the past amazing 150 years.



## Important Points to Remember Regarding the Membership Directory:

- ✓ We strongly encourage Shriners to contact PCI to verify their member information.
- ✓ The directory will list every Shriner and their temple affiliation.
- ✓ With, and only with the permission of a Shriner, will member information, such as a personal address or phone number, be included in the directory.
- ✓ Any Shriner can exclude himself from the directory by contacting PCI.





# MEMBERSHIP IS *Making Strides*

Nobles are Answering Calls to Action

## FOR THESE SHRINERS, JUST ONE ISN'T ENOUGH.

From April through June 2020, the following nobles were top-line signers of two or more Shriner recruits or restorations in conjunction with the **JUST ONE** membership campaign.

Charles Hicks  
John Wilson  
Randall Jones  
G. "Sam" Montgomery  
Allan Dickson  
M. Weedman  
Michael Palmer  
Dennis Snider  
Franklin Wallace  
Jerry Fields  
Ralph Wicker Jr.  
Granville Colvin  
Chip Keys  
Shannon Quinn  
Robert Hyde  
Robert Wilson  
Dennis West  
Hugh Bateman  
Marcus Goss  
Gary Dunlap  
Idelfeson Neves Publio  
Richard Bowersox  
Michael Pollock  
Jonair Ananias Miranda  
Norman James  
Luke Schofield  
David Way  
Joseph Schwartz  
Ralph Johnson  
Anthony La Cava  
Phillip Drinnon  
James Duke

Lucas McAfee  
Troy Thiel  
Luther Trent  
Jeffrey White  
Timothy Forbis  
W. Ben Hart  
Keith Koopman  
Steven Bates  
Nicholas Stith  
Mikhail Stith  
Harry Bond  
Thomas Ventura  
Benjamin Wilson  
Steven White  
James Garvin  
John Paglialunga  
Anthony Rotellini  
Archie Neal  
Thomas Runge  
Ronald Nielsen  
Michel Vigeant  
Joshua Caldwell  
Franklin Hall  
Gary Hooper  
William Hutchison  
Reid Jones  
Markus Sanders  
Dannie Wight  
James Sills  
Dennis Brady  
Brian Broshears  
Michael Orman



**WE ALSO CONGRATULATE THE NOBLES** who top-line signed 10 or more Creations or Restorations in the 2019-2020 Imperial year. Imperial Sir Jeff Sowder will recognize their extraordinary efforts with a special celebratory Zoom reception.

Jack Scarbrough  
John Porterfield  
Rodolfo Moreno  
Zachery Castillo  
Charles Williams  
Carl Thompson  
Robert Daniel  
Jose Segui Diaz  
Joey Brooks  
Ernest Pearlstein  
Stephen Eriksen  
Bruce Whitaker  
Germano Cesar de Oliveira Cardoso  
Adrian Aguayo  
Leopoldo Miranda  
John Olivarri  
John Miller  
Henrique Getulio de Barros  
Raul Audi Jr.  
Paul Curran  
Claustus Champion  
Danne Kindle

Jordan Settle  
Richard Nelson  
C. Wayne Burkett  
John Knox  
Larry Mann  
Gerald Mart Gamboa  
Rogelio Gevero  
Oliver Ko  
Al Joseph Dimalanta  
Raymond Kustush  
Tobin Bradley  
Jeffrey Kitsmiller  
Robert Pate  
Carl Culmann  
Joseph Burris  
Jeff Marcum  
R.A. Piersol  
James Woodard  
Jerry Weilacher  
Scott Kelly  
Ralph Dennis  
Gregory Hendrix  
Craig Matzke





# SESSION AND *Legislation*

The Virus Threat  
Completely Changed  
the Annual Meeting  
of our Organizations

## A Special Session

The COVID-19 pandemic has disrupted countless events the world over — including the biggest event of the year for Shriners International — Imperial Session.

The annual convention typically covers several days and is a time for fellow nobles and their families to gather for fun and fellowship, as well as the time for the required election of officers for the coming year, and the passing of legislation that affects the direction of both the fraternity and the health care system. Our leadership met the unexpected challenge nearly flawlessly.

## Making Alternative Plans

Written balloting on changes to the bylaws to permit holding a virtual special session concluded on June 13, 2020. All of the measures necessary to proceed with the planned special session were adopted. We received 634 responses from the Iowa Representatives and 1,215 responses from the Colorado Members which met the requirement of 150 — the quorum requirement under either the Iowa or Colorado Corporation bylaws.

Using a combination of pre-recorded audio and video clips, live streaming and a variety of electronic programs and platforms, much was accomplished in the one-day online event. Voting was conducted; nominations, reports and motions were heard; positions were accepted; new officers were fezzed and officers were installed. In addition, Imperial Sir Jeff Sowder and Lady Cheryl gave closing remarks, and Imperial Sir Jim Smith and Lady Alice gave their first statements as Imperial Potentate and First Lady. In addition, a video of her fundraising program, *Rising Stars*, was shown. Finally, our new National Patient Ambassadors, Mia and Connor, were introduced.

## New Legislation

Legislation to allow Abou Saad, Al Rai'e Saleh, Amal, Anezeh, Bolivia and Hikmat Shriners to form and become charter members of the Latin American Shrine Association was passed, and the charter was granted. This is the first new Shrine Association in more than 50 years. Legislation needed to hold the 2024 Imperial Session in Reno, Nevada, also passed. Both pieces of legislation were adopted through unanimous consent. A majority vote was required for adoption.

This Special Session took considerable planning and technological knowledge and ability to execute. We appreciate the efforts and expertise of everyone involved, and congratulate them on a successful event. Temples served as hosts to voting delegates, providing assistance with the technology used to view the Special Session.

## The Imperial Year

On July 29, a Facebook live event was held, *A Look at the New Imperial Year*, featuring the premiere of the National Patient Ambassadors video, *Through Darkness I Shine*. Also shown were many of the speeches and videos from the Special Session, in order to ensure that as many fraternity members as possible, and their ladies, had the opportunity to view this important material.

## A Word About the Award of Merit

One of the highlights of every Imperial Session is the presentation of the Award of Merit by the Imperial Potentate. It is the highest honor the fraternity has for nobles, and is meant to honor individuals for outstanding service to our fraternity and philanthropy. While those who would have received this award for the Imperial year that just concluded have been selected, the decision was made to wait until next year's public opening in Houston to make them known. This will allow the presentation to be made in a more traditional manner with the normal large gathering of nobles and ladies in attendance to congratulate these outstanding men.





# JAMES R. “JIM” SMITH ELECTED IMPERIAL POTENTATE

A Ben Hur Shriner Will Lead the Fraternity  
for the 2020-2021 Imperial Year

★ James R. “Jim” Smith of Georgetown, Texas, was elected Imperial Potentate, part of the 12-member body that helps govern the Shriners fraternity, in Tampa, Florida, on July 11, 2020. He is serving his 10th year as a member of the Boards of Directors for Shriners International and Shriners Hospitals for Children.

Smith became a member of the Imperial line to make a difference. “I really thought I could help,” he said. “We need to strengthen the temples and ensure they are places where people want to go, and are welcomed. We have to make it attractive to join. To put it in business terms, we need to offer a better product.”

## His Masonic Journey

Smith became a Mason on Feb. 13, 1999, and a Shriner in 2004. He joined the fraternity as a way to acknowledge and give back to the organizations that assisted a nephew who had orthopaedic difficulties, and received care at Shriners Hospitals for Children — Chicago throughout his childhood.

Smith joined Zor Shriners in Madison, Wisconsin. When the family moved to Georgetown, Texas, he joined Ben Hur Shriners in Austin where he participated in the Provost Guard and helped transport children to and from the Texas Shriners Hospitals. He also was a member of the Board of Governors for the Houston Shriners Hospital.

In 2009, Smith served as Potentate of Ben Hur Shriners. That year, the temple had a balanced budget for the first time in many years and was awarded a Gold Membership Award for a net gain in membership. It was the first time Ben Hur Shriners had achieved gold status in 38 years.

## Fun and Fellowship

Smith believes the fraternity needs to emphasize and focus on its original purpose of bringing fun and fellowship to a Masonic organization.

“When the Shriners fraternity started in 1872, its purpose was fun and fellowship,” said Smith. “We did well with that — but we’ve lost our focus. As Imperial Potentate, I will try to put Fun and Fellowship back in the fraternity.”

Smith has established a Fun and Fellowship Council to help find ways for “Nobles and ladies to have a good time.”



Finding that “better product,” and promoting it effectively, will positively impact the fraternity’s membership numbers and future, which is critically important to the Shriners organization, Smith said.

## Family, Faith and Education

A native of Racine, Wisconsin, Smith spent his childhood summers on his father’s family farm. “I really enjoyed that time. It was a great way to be raised,” he said.

Growing up, the importance of family and faith were deeply instilled — to this day, he continues to uphold the conservative values and Lutheran faith of his family.

Smith received his bachelor’s degree in Business Administration from the University of Wisconsin. He studied for his MBA at the Keller School of Management in Chicago.

## The Smith Family

Mary Lou Jones and Alice Smith shared a classroom when both were young teachers. Her husband, Bob Jones, was a friend of Jim Smith and arranged a blind date to bring the future Mr. and Mrs. Smith together. Jim and Alice were married 10 months later in Alice’s hometown of Kilbenny, Minnesota, and celebrated their 48th wedding anniversary in August.

As Jim’s career with a conveyor systems company progressed, the family moved quite often, mostly to various cities in Wisconsin and Minnesota, but they also spent time in Illinois and on the East Coast. Eventually, they purchased a fuel company in Phillips, Wisconsin, which was their last move before retiring to Georgetown, Texas.

The Smiths have a son, Jason, and a daughter, Abby, and five grandchildren. The fraternal tradition will continue in the Smith family for at least the next generation — both Jason and Abby’s husband, Greg, are Shriners.



# JERRY GANTT RE-ELECTED PRESIDENT OF OUR PHILANTHROPY

Jerry G. Gantt of Lincolnton, North Carolina, was re-elected President of Shriners Hospitals for Children in Tampa, Florida, on July 11, 2020. As president, he also serves as Chairman of the Board of Trustees. Gantt is currently serving his 16th year as a member of the Board of Directors for Shriners Hospitals for Children. He served as Imperial Potentate in 2015-2016.

## An Able Leader

As Chairman of the Board, Gantt will continue to guide our health care system, Shriners Hospitals for Children, toward a more efficient and effective care model that meets both the needs of today's patients and families and the expectations of the health care industry.

Long-range plans also include creating Centers of Excellence that will offer care for all four of our major service lines and developing many more access points to our health care system by establishing more local affiliations and collaborative efforts, as well as expanding outreach efforts. In addition, Gantt is determined to work with the leadership teams to ensure that all our resources, including beds and buildings, are used wisely, effectively and efficiently. Implementing these changes will allow Shriners Hospitals to effectively reach more kids in more places, and offer our unique brand of life-changing health care to as many children as possible, regardless of where they live.

Gantt has proven his ability to work well with all types of people and balance different viewpoints, which will continue to help him successfully lead Shriners Hospitals during a time of significant changes and unexpected crises.

## A Little Background

Gantt became a Mason in response to the organization's compassion and concern for others, especially orphaned children. He was raised a Master Mason in 1971 and quickly learned of another organization that helped children. He became a member of Oasis Shriners in Charlotte, North Carolina, in 1972. In 1980, he joined Arabia Shriners in Houston, Texas, where he held numerous offices, including being chairman of the Five-Year Planning Committee and serving as Potentate in 2002.

In 1993, he was appointed to the Board of Governors of Shriners Hospitals for Children — Houston, a position he held for 10 years, serving as Chairman in 2002 and 2003. In 2005, he was elected to the Imperial line as Imperial Outer Guard.

*“Our shared determination, commitment and compassion will see us through this crisis, **and on to an even stronger future.** We remain dedicated to the mission of Shriners Hospitals for Children, and **we continue to look to better days ahead, and the end of the pandemic.**”*

As a member of the national Board of Directors, he has served on virtually every committee, including Budget, Building and Equipment, Public Relations and Strategic Planning. He has also served as Liaison Officer to seven Shriners Hospitals.

As Imperial Potentate in 2015-2016, he worked to strengthen the relationship between headquarters' staff, the Boards of Governors, the national Joint Boards and the temple Divans.

## Facing the Future

While the 2020 Imperial year is starting under difficult circumstances, as the pandemic continues to disrupt lives and plans around the globe, Gantt is confident of the future of our organizations.

“We are people of hope. Although we are unsure of some aspects of the future, we are continuing to prepare Shriners Hospitals for Children for its second hundred years, and implement our strategic plans to restructure and streamline our health care system to meet the needs of the future, and the expectations of both our patients and families and the health care industry,” said Gantt.

“Our shared determination, commitment and compassion will see us through this crisis, and on to an even stronger future. We remain dedicated to the mission of Shriners Hospitals for Children, and we continue to look to better days ahead, and the end of the pandemic.”



# New Leadership

## FOR 2020-2021

Meet Our New Imperial Captain of the Guard, Imperial Outer Guard and Imperial Chaplain



### ELECTED IMPERIAL CAPTAIN OF THE GUARD Matthew "Matt" Sturlaugson, El Zagal Shriner

Sturlaugson served as Potentate of El Zagal Shriner in 2015. He currently serves on the North Dakota Shrine Bowl Board of Directors. Past roles include membership on the Leadership Seminar Team and Executive Membership Team and Program Coordinator of the Temple Leadership Seminars for Oriental Guides and Assistant Rabbans. He was raised a Master Mason in Lebanon Lodge #34 in Langdon, North Dakota. Sturlaugson has a bachelor's degree in organizational leadership and management from University of Mary. A legacy Shriner, Sturlaugson is dedicated to his family and is intentional about balancing his time with them. He and his wife, Mandi, have three children, Kayli, Carson and Gabriella.



### ELECTED IMPERIAL OUTER GUARD Marty Bartlett, Alzafar Shriner

Marty Bartlett, of San Antonio, Texas, is serving as Potentate of Alzafar Shriner in 2020. He serves on the Board of Directors and is Past Treasurer of Camp Alzafar and is involved with his temple in many ways. He was raised a Master Mason in Cibolo Lodge #151 in San Antonio and served as Master in 2014. Bartlett has a bachelor's degree in astrophysics and mechanical engineering from Vanderbilt University and a master's degree in materials and mechanical engineering from Georgia Institute of Technology. A legacy Shriner, Bartlett has been married to his wife, Martha, for 26 years. The couple have two children, Mariah Bartlett, 23, and Matthew Bartlett, 22.



### APPOINTED IMPERIAL CHAPLAIN David C. Hamm, Sharon Shriner

David C. Hamm, of Winona, Texas, was Potentate of Sharon Shriner in 2012 and has served as Treasurer since 2014. Other roles he has held include President of the Texas Shrine Association and Secretary/Treasurer of the Texas Shrine Directors Association. He was raised a Master Mason in Montgomery Lodge #94 in Cincinnati, Ohio. He became a member of Starr Lodge #118 in Winona in 2004 and served as Worshipful Master in 2007. Hamm attended Scarlet Oaks Joint Vocational School in Cincinnati. He served in the U.S. Navy for 20 years, earning many medals and awards. A legacy Shriner, Hamm has been married to his wife, Charlene, for 42 years. The couple have a daughter, Kerri, a son, Joshua, and four grandchildren, Makaylah, Hailea, Mykaela and Denver.

## Congratulations to these Shriners Leaders

Introducing the 2020-2021 Imperial Divan and Shriners Hospitals for Children Trustees:

### IMPERIAL DIVAN

James R. "Jim" Smith	Imperial Potentate
William S. "Bill" Bailey	Imperial Chief Rabban
Kenneth G. "Kenny" Craven	Imperial Assistant Rabban
James E. "Ed" Stolze Jr.	Imperial High Priest & Prophet
Richard G. Burke	Imperial Oriental Guide
Jim Cain	Imperial Recorder
Brad T. Koehn	Imperial Treasurer
Kevin R. Costello	Imperial First Ceremonial Master
Lawrence J. "Larry" Leib	Imperial Second Ceremonial Master
Mark E. Hartz	Imperial Marshal
Matthew "Matt" Sturlaugson	Imperial Captain of the Guard
Marty Bartlett	Imperial Outer Guard

### SHRINERS HOSPITALS FOR CHILDREN BOARD OF TRUSTEES

\*Elected in 2020 \*\*Re-elected in 2020

Jerry G. Gantt, Chairman**	Leslie Stewart, M.D.*
William S. "Bill" Bailey	Ken Guidera, M.D.*
Anthony M. West	James R. "Jim" Smith
James A. "Jim" Doel**	Kenneth G. "Kenny" Craven
Charles D. "Chuck" Pittman	Brad T. Koehn
Paul F. Poulin, M.D.	Jeffrey L. Sowder



Through  
Darkness

# I Shine

The Stories  
of Connor  
and Mia

★ Every year, Shriners Hospitals for Children selects two National Patient Ambassadors to represent its patients. The ambassadors share their stories about the obstacles they've faced and how the health care system has made a dramatic difference in their lives.



Connor

*"I want to help other kids feel good about themselves and their differences."*



Mia

*"This community consists of the best people, and it truly makes my heart soar to know I'm a large part of it."*

**CONNOR**, 14, was born with a bilateral incomplete cleft lip and complete cleft palate involving the hard and soft palate. As a newborn, his condition was so severe that he was unable to create the suction needed to feed. By the time he was 3 weeks old, he was failing to gain weight and was about to be admitted to a hospital. That's when a friend who was also a Shriner recommended the family contact Shriners Hospitals for Children — Chicago.

There, his RN care coordinator gave Connor's mother, Kelly, a special syringe, making it possible for her to finally feed her baby. From that moment, Connor began an extensive treatment plan of surgeries and interventions that will continue until he is 21, so that some repairs can be made after he has stopped growing.

Connor's condition affects not only his teeth and his ability to eat, but also his speech, hearing, and social and emotional well-being. In addition, Connor has a connective tissue disorder that eventually made it difficult for the active teen to participate in contact sports.

Connor's can-do spirit and supportive family have helped him find many ways to pursue his passions. Connor umpires for youth baseball, acts as a physical education mentor for other kids with disabilities at his school, and is an advocate and community volunteer. But above all else, Connor is a golfer. He maintains a busy training schedule and hopes to one day become a pro. Along with his family, Connor is part of a large local annual fundraiser, a golf tournament that has raised more than \$200,000 over the years for Shriners Hospitals for Children.

"I want kids to know that no matter what they look like, or how they walk, or what makes them different — that they shouldn't let anyone else make them feel bad," Connor said. "I want to help other kids feel good about themselves and their differences."

**MIA**, 16, was born with a severe case of infantile idiopathic scoliosis. Her journey with Shriners Hospitals for Children began at age 2, when she was first seen at the St. Louis location. Mia's treatments have included halo traction to gradually straighten and stretch her spine, as well as nearly 20 surgeries.

During her extensive time in the hospital, Mia and her care team developed a tight bond, and Mia considers the people she knows at Shriners Hospitals — her doctors, nurses, therapists and even the security guard — family. She has served as a patient ambassador for Shriners Hospitals for Children — St. Louis since she was 4 and has appeared in promotional videos and media interviews. Mia's passion is theater and singing, and she was featured singing *I'll Be Home for Christmas* in our holiday commercials. Mia is also part of the Shriners children's choir that performed in the recording of Foreigner's new version of their hit song *I Want to Know What Love Is*.

"I am so honored to be in this position," Mia said. "For as long as I can remember, I have always loved Shriners Hospitals. Not just because of the life it has given me, but the real love that comes from it. This community consists of the best people, and it truly makes my heart soar to know I'm a large part of it."



To watch their video, *Through Darkness I Shine*, please visit <https://youtu.be/fLLg8EqqlMo>.



# FIRST LADY ALICE SMITH'S FUNDRAISING PROGRAM

*Rising Stars Helps Patients  
Discover Their Potential*

We are all proud of Shriners Hospitals for Children's commitment to providing wrap-around care — maintaining a family-centered approach and caring for our patients' overall health and well-being.

This can mean different things for different patients. It can include finding ways to help them play with their friends, enhance their education, enjoy a hobby and live more independently.

"For many children, reaching their goals is often possible, but they may need to approach them in a different way," said First Lady Alice Smith. "Sometimes an assistive device can make all the difference. In my program, *Rising Stars*, I want to highlight the ways that Shriners Hospitals help kids realize their potential by providing assistive devices and other support."

## Treating Unique Needs

For some kids, independence means that they want to be able to feed or dress themselves. Shriners Hospitals therapists help with that by evaluating each patient individually and working to find or create a custom tool, such as cutlery for persons with a hand or limb difference or devices to assist with dressing or grooming for persons with limited use of upper extremities.

Other assistive devices are mobility aids, such as crutches, walkers and wheelchairs that help patients learn to walk or regain that ability and to move about independently. There are also computer-driven augmentations to help those with speech and communication difficulties.

## Integrating Technology

We also use assistive technology in our therapy programs, through the availability of various systems such as body weight supported gait training and functional electrical stimulation bikes. To help patients enjoy a higher quality of life, we also provide, or make families aware of, adaptive recreation opportunities and items to provide additional kid-friendly mobility, such as adaptive toy cars or bikes.



**"We all want our children to be happy and successful," said First Lady Alice. "I want to help our patients move from the Shriners Hospitals system to successful, independent adult lives."**

## Women Working Together

Women have always encouraged others and influenced change in society. Today, women have a greater opportunity than ever to support the work that they hold dear.

As First Lady of Shriners International, Lady Alice is pleased to support *Women & Philanthropy*, which is now in its second year. Membership is open to women of all ages and backgrounds. The only criteria are having a heartfelt desire to make the world a better place and a passion to improve the lives of children. *Women & Philanthropy* will support First Lady Alice's *Rising Stars* program.

First Lady Alice invites all women, including those who are Shriners Hospitals for Children physicians, nurses, therapists, administrators, vice presidents, members or volunteers, as well as women worldwide who support the life-changing work of Shriners Hospitals for Children — to join this mission-driven community by committing to an annual gift of \$500. Membership includes a commemorative necklace, collectible pin, special event invitations and other opportunities.



To learn more, please visit  
[lovetotherescue.org/first-lady-program](https://lovetotherescue.org/first-lady-program).



# MEET OUR OLDEST LIVING PATIENT

Irene Was Treated at the Original  
Twin Cities Hospital in Minnesota

★ **The impact that Shriners Hospitals for Children has reverberates through generations.** This was especially evident at a very special celebration earlier this year — Irene Hand Roberts, who is believed to be our oldest living Shriners Hospitals for Children patient, turned 103.

As a surprise for Irene, Shriners Hospitals for Children patients and staff put together a video with well wishes and a message from (then) Imperial Potentate Jeffrey Sowder. Irene, who resides in a senior living community in Helena, Montana, was also treated to a pair of drive-by birthday parties. Family members shared the experience with her outside, and gifts and her favorite meals were delivered.

Irene was born on April 28, 1917, at her grandmother's restaurant and boarding hotel in McLaughlin, South Dakota. Her first six years were filled with the life of a child growing up on a farm in north central South Dakota, a life that was very exciting and very hard.

In July 1923, Irene developed polio. She had a fever, and when her mother told her to hold up her arm, she couldn't do it, nor could she stand. At first she was treated locally, but later a doctor who was also a Shriner referred Irene to the new Shriners Hospital in Minnesota.

Irene spent six months in the Minnesota Shriners Hospital. Her mother found a job in Minneapolis, which enabled her to visit her daughter every day, while back home, Irene's grandmother took care of her siblings while her father worked. Eventually, Irene recovered the use of her right leg and strength in her right hand, but her right arm remained paralyzed.

When she returned home to South Dakota, Irene had completely missed second grade. She had to work very hard to catch up and experienced many challenges. As time went on, Irene adjusted to her new life and learned how to do things differently.

After graduating from high school, Irene was in the first graduating class at the new Eastern Montana College in Billings, Montana, where she earned her teaching degree. She taught school for one year before marrying and starting her family — Irene and her husband, Byron, had eight children. Her kids say it was understood that they all would get college degrees, and they all did, and so did all of her grandchildren.

Throughout her busy and accomplished life, Irene and her family never forgot the Shriners. Her son, David, who worked for Wells Fargo Bank, helped Shriners Hospitals with financial investments. Another son, Dean, dreamed of playing in the Montana East-West Shrine Football Game. While that dream did not come true for Dean, both of his sons, as well as his grandson, were selected to play in the game.



*Happy 103rd  
birthday to Irene  
Hand Roberts,  
believed to be our  
oldest living Shriners  
Hospitals for  
Children patient.*



Four generations of Irene's family were positively affected by the care she received as a little girl at the new hospital in Minnesota. Today, Shriners Hospitals for Children has improved the lives of more than 1.4 million children. We are pleased to wish Irene a happy 103rd birthday and send her warm wishes for a safe and healthy year.

*Shriner Magazine gives special thanks to Algeria Shriners Potentate Jon Jackson, who interviewed Irene, and Sapphira Temple, Daughters of the Nile Past Queens Pam Jackson and Sharon Nielsen, who transcribed the interview.*



To see Irene's special birthday video, please visit <https://youtu.be/-9q1bniEtWY>.





# SUPPORTING SHRINERS HOSPITALS for *Children*

## Signature Events Tell Our Story

**THIS YEAR, OUR SPORTING EVENTS** may look a little different. Because of the pandemic, many events and traditions have had to be adapted for a changing world. But one constant is this: The positive attention the Shriners Hospitals for Children Open and the East-West Shrine Bowl™ bring to our philanthropy is life-changing.

“As the nation and the world have had to adapt to the events of 2020, so have our SHC sporting events,” said Bob Roller, director of sports management and executive director of the East-West Shrine Bowl. “The SHC Open and the East-West Shrine Bowl provide large national platforms to promote our amazing health care system and highlight our patients and their incredible stories. While we are not certain of the status of the upcoming events as of this publication, our teams are working tirelessly to promote and present these events if circumstances allow them to proceed in the coming months.”



## Your Cars Help Our Kids

Cruise Past the Hassles of Selling...  
**DONATE YOUR VEHICLE!**

**DONATE TODAY**



**ONE OF THE MANY WAYS TO SUPPORT** Shriners Hospitals for Children is to donate a vehicle. Almost any type of vehicle, in any condition, may be donated — cars, trucks, RVs, boats and even airplanes. It's a convenient option for anyone looking to downsize when a vehicle isn't needed anymore. Since our program is designed to get top dollar for all donations, it is also an amazing way to donate your unique vehicle, classic car or beloved car collection. Donating a vehicle may also be a great choice for those who would like to support Shriners Hospitals for Children in a way other than, or in addition to, more traditional ways of giving.

Donating a vehicle is a caring and creative way to support our philanthropy. “My granddaughter was born with arthrogryposis and club feet, which prevented her from using her arms and legs,” said donor Tim C. “Shriners Hospitals for Children — Spokane did a wonderful job taking care of her. When an opportunity came for us to make a donation, we couldn't think of a better nonprofit to give to.”

Interested in donating a vehicle? The process is easy and free. Just fill out the donation form online at [shrinerscardonations.org/home](https://shrinerscardonations.org/home) or call 833-SHC-KIDS (833-742-5437). We take care of the rest, including sending you a sincere thank-you letter, which will also serve as your tax receipt.





## Shriners International

P.O. Box 31356  
Tampa, FL 33631-3356  
813-281-0300  
Change Service Requested



# HOUSTON, HERE WE COME!

The 147th Imperial Session of Shriners International will take place in Houston, Texas, July 4-8, 2021

Imperial Sir Jim Smith, his Lady Alice and the Ben Hur Shriners look forward to hosting nobles, families and friends in Houston. Come enjoy Space City while celebrating the fun, fellowship and philanthropy that makes Shriners International the greatest fraternity in the world.

Houston received its nickname in 1967 because of its connection to NASA space programs. The United States' fourth-largest city, Houston is brimming with opportunity, excitement, culture and history, and considers itself the Culinary and Cultural Capital of the South. With more than 10,000 restaurants, world-class theater groups, diverse

culture and artistic expression, there is something for each of you to experience and enjoy in Houston. Join your fraternity brothers and their families in exploring this unique city.

The 2021 Imperial Session will be held at the George R. Brown Convention Center, which is conveniently located in the dining, entertainment and arts district called Avenida Houston. In addition, it is connected by skywalk to the Marriott Marquis Houston, our headquarters hotel.



For updates on Imperial Session 2021, please visit [Imperialsession.com](https://Imperialsession.com).