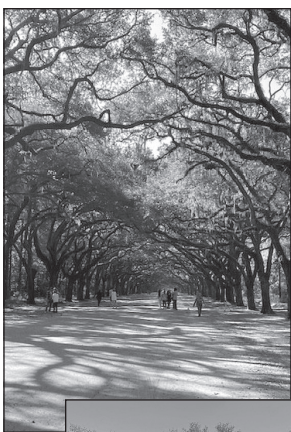


# AL KALY

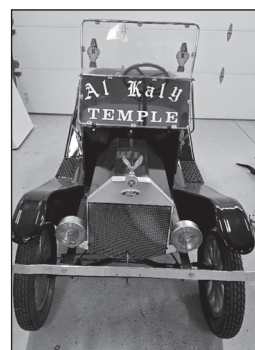
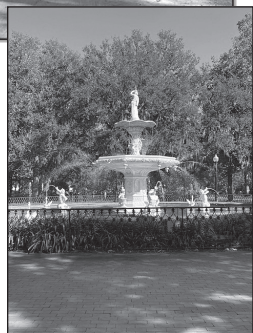
# AL KALY DUST



December 2024 / January 2025 ▲ Volume 71, Issue 6 ▲ Southern Colorado



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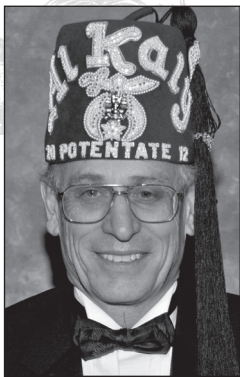
# CLOSING OUT ANOTHER YEAR!

**Gary Sears**  
Recorder

Well, it's that time again to tie up those loose ends to end our Al Kaly year, and turn the page starting over for 2024. If you have Al Kaly fez strips that you will not be using in 2025 please turn them to the Office, i.e., Potentate's Aide, Ambassador, etc. You may have some other old fez strips you no longer need anymore. If so, we can use them. This is also true of name badge ladders. We'll gladly take them.

Unit/Club secretaries, please turn in parade points and any other points you may be collecting on your members so that we can get them posted and awards presented at the December stated meeting.

Also, Unit/Club treasurers, please remember that your



unit/club financial report is due after you receive bank statements for December 31, 2024. A spreadsheet is located on the Al Kaly website – this makes it easier for you as it is in Excel format and it does the math for you.

There are a number of activities that require reservations. Please make them by the deadlines so we can provide accurate numbers for those preparing food. Your support is greatly appreciated. Donna and I wish all of you a Merry Christmas and a Happy and safe New Year.

ASK12B1

## A Note from the Recorder

I would like to thank all the Nobles for your support in 2024; it is very much appreciated. Overall, the office ran very smoothly this year. In large part this is due to our admin, Noble Mike Apker. He is doing an outstanding job for Al Kaly, and his hard work, dedication and knowledge are very much appreciated!

The cash picnic raffle and other fund raisers were very successful and again I thank you for your support!

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

**Gary Sears**

## OFFICIAL CALL OF THE POTENTATE

Notice is hereby given that the December 2024 Stated Meeting and Election of Officers for 2024 will be held December 13, 2024 at the  
**Pueblo Masonic Center, 126 Broadway,  
Pueblo, CO at 7 p.m.**

**I.S. John Weed**  
Potentate

**Attest: Gary Sears, P.P.**  
Recorder

## OFFICIAL CALL OF THE POTENTATE

Notice is hereby given that the January stated meeting will be held on January 4, 2025 at the:  
**Pueblo Convention Center at 7:30 p.m.**

**I.S. John Weed**  
Potentate

**Attest: Gary Sears, P.P.**  
Recorder



## UPCOMING EVENTS

### DECEMBER

- 8 Potes Appreciation event
- 13 Stated Meeting Election of 2025 Officers
- 21 Childrens Christmas Party
- 25 Christmas Day

### JANUARY

- 4 Installation of 2025 Officers and Stated Meeting



# DUST

Editor: Lara Ekle [alkaly\\_dust@outlook.com](mailto:alkaly_dust@outlook.com)  
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## AL KALY SHRINE

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## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Recorder's Message .....	pg. 2	Potentate Trip Photos.....	pg. 8
Official Call of the Potentate.....	pg. 2	Escalante Shrine Club.....	pg. 9
Upcoming Events .....	pg. 2	Featured Shriner Steven Schmidt .....	pg. 10
Official Call of the Potentate .....	pg. 4	Al Kaly Birthdays (December and January) .....	pg. 12
Suspence Dates for Article Submission .....	pg. 4	Festival of Trees Photos .....	pg. 13
Al Kaly Divan .....	pg. 4	Al Kaly Membership Award.....	pg. 14
Working to Refurbish a "Little T" .....	pg. 5	Donations .....	pg. 14
Membership .....	pg. 5	Al Kaly Awards.....	pg. 15
International Patient Ambassadors .....	pg. 6	In Memoriam .....	pg. 15



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# OFFICIAL CALL OF THE POTENTATE

Stated Meeting and Election of Officers  
Pueblo MASONIC CENTER  
December 13, 2024 at 7 p.m.

You will be called upon to elect the following officers: Potentate, Chief Rabban, Assistant Rabban, High Priest and Prophet, Oriental Guide, Treasurer, Recorder and Representatives to the Imperial Council. To gain admission into this meeting, the Shriners International Bylaws require that a member must be in possession of and present his current year's membership card.

## Shriners International Bylaws Election Regulations:

Shriners International Bylaws, paragraph 325.11, Election Regulations (a) Electioneering. A candidate for an elected office in a Shrine temple may print, publish and circulate during the year he is seeking the elected office, a resume consisting of his educational background, his vocational history, and his Masonic and Shrine record. Except as provided in the prior sentence, the printing, publication, circulating or distribution of resolutions, letters, telegrams, tickets, email or other devices, by a unit, club, Noble, or group of Nobles, suggesting, recommending, opposing, or containing the names of proposed candidates for office in the temple is prohibited. (b) Expenditures Prohibited. The expenditure of money for gifts, favors, or entertainment on behalf of a candidate for elected office is prohibited. (c) Violation. For any violation of (a) or (b), the Imperial Potentate may suspend any offending Noble, and he may declare the election of the officers void and order a new election. (d) Notice. At least one week prior to the annual meeting or any election, the temple Recorder shall mail to each member a notice thereof containing this section. Aleikum Es Selamu

I.S. John Weed  
Potentate

Attest: Gary Sears, P.P.  
Recorder



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## SUSPENSE DATES FOR SUBMITTING ARTICLES FOR THE DUST ARE AS FOLLOWS:

### Article Due Dates / Issue

1 January / Feb - Mar  
1 March / Apr - May  
1 May / Jun - Jul  
1 July / Aug - Sep  
1 September / Oct - Nov  
1 November / Dec - Jan



101 Americana Way  
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## AL KALY DIVAN

### Board of Directors (Elective Divan)

Potentate..... John Weed  
Chief Rabban ..... Jared Maddox  
Assistant Rabban..... J. Scott Rhea  
High Priest and Prophet..... Mark Giffin  
Oriental Guide..... Arnold Montoya  
Recorder..... Gary Sears PP  
Treasurer ..... David Stevens PP/PPCSSA

### Appointed Divan:

1st Ceremonial Master and Parade Marshall ..... Abe England  
2nd Ceremonial Master..... Luis Flores  
Director ..... Jim Eaches PP  
Chaplain ..... Ralph "Doc" Hathaway  
Captain of the Guard ..... Ray Lingley  
Outer Guard ..... Nathan Rolofson  
Outer Guard ..... Dennis Fiester

### Imperial Council Representatives

John Weed  
Jarod Maddox

### C.S.S.A. Representatives

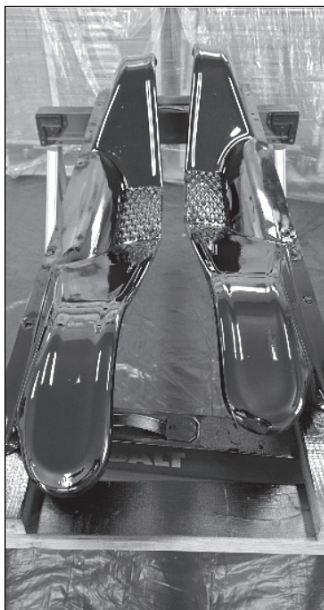
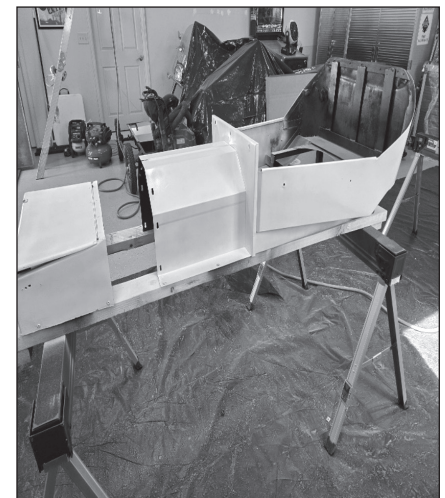
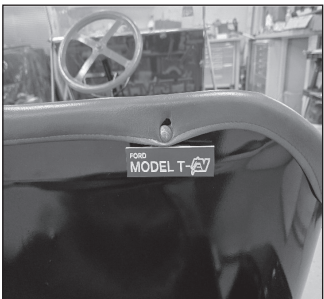
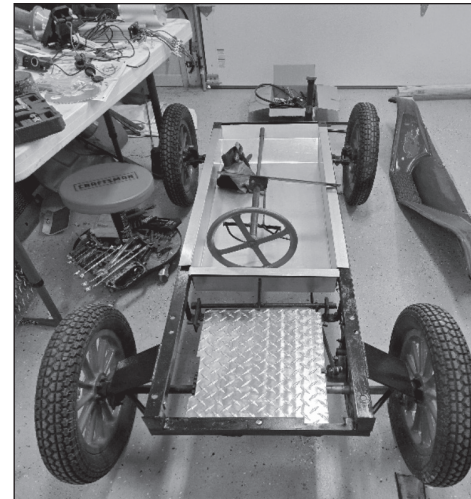
John Weed  
Jared Maddox  
Scott Rhea

Int'l Shrine Horse Patrol Past Presidents  
Allan Ake, P.P.

## WORKING TO REFURBISH A "LITTLE T"

Arnold Montoya  
Oriental Guide

It all started when my lady (Juanita), and I went to participate in a parade in La Junta. We unloaded the Little T, and attempted to start it. It wouldn't start, so we had to load it back up and just bring it back home. I was a bit frustrated and thought if I change out the engine that I shouldn't have this problem anymore. I then began the process. The next hurdle I encountered was that the company who originally supplied the engine would not sell me the same engine for a "Go Cart". Being an electrician, I decided to go "Electric", which led to a total rebuild of my little T!



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## Membership As Of: October 28, 2024

Beginning 01/01/24: 365  
Gains: 15  
Losses: 25  
Net Total: 355  
Plus Associates: 18  
Grand Total: 373



# MEET PAIGE AND GRAYSON

## 2024-2025 INTERNATIONAL PATIENT AMBASSADORS

Every year, Shriners Children's™ selects a pair of International Patient Ambassadors to represent the healthcare system's patients. The ambassadors share their stories of perseverance and the ways Shriners Children's has made a difference in their lives. We are honored to have these impressive young people advocating for our healthcare system.

### PAIGE

Paige, 19, is a college student from Louisiana studying business management. When she was 8, Paige experienced a terrifying allergic reaction to a newly prescribed seizure medication. At first, doctors thought she had developed strep throat, and some even thought it was pinkeye, a common childhood ailment. When her symptoms drastically progressed, she was rushed to the hospital with a 104 degree fever and her skin slowly blistering off her body.

Her diagnosis was Stevens-Johnson syndrome (SJS), a painful and rare condition often described as burning from the inside out. With the worst form of SJS, toxic epidermal necrolysis (TEN), Paige had developed a life-threatening rash that eventually covered 80% of her body and mimicked the effects of a severe burn injury. Doctors knew her best chance of survival was to transfer her to Shriners Children's Texas. The burn care teams at Shriners Children's have the specialized expertise to treat conditions such as SJS using many of the same burn care standards and treatments for skin conditions that have characteristics similar to burns.

Over the years, Paige has had over 20 surgeries, with much of her early teen years spent going in and out of the hospital for treatment. Today, she experiences the lingering effects of SJS, including issues with her vision. But this hasn't stopped her from accomplishing her goals and enjoying her life. Not only are her parents and two younger brothers a constant source of



*Without Shriners Children's, I would definitely not be where I am today. In fact, I probably would not be alive.*

strength (and laughter!), but her care team has become like a second family to Paige.

Paige became a patient ambassador for Shriners Children's Texas, a role that helped her strengthen her determination to succeed and gives her a platform to spread awareness about SJS. She is dedicated to helping children facing similar battles, including the bullying from peers that often accompanies these types of conditions. Her experiences have honed her leadership skills. "To me being a leader means that you have the will, the want, and the power to make a difference," said Paige. The hardest thing she has done in her life was accepting what happened to her and looking at it in a positive light: But she had the courage and perseverance to get through it and come out stronger on the other side.

Paige looks forward to sharing her story on an even bigger stage as an International Patient Ambassador. "Without Shriners Children's, I would definitely not be where I am today. In fact, I probably would not be alive," she said. "I am very excited about the chance to give back and talk about the life-saving care I received at Shriners Children's. I want to inspire others and give hope that they too can endure."

### GRAYSON

Grayson, 20, was born in Kiev, Ukraine, without a femur, making his right leg significantly shorter than his left. He was also born missing two fingers on his left hand. At 15 months, he met his parents while living in an orphanage in Ukraine. His mom and dad were ready to adopt and aware that Grayson would need specialized medical care.

Grayson's mom, Ceci, knew who to call. She reached out to a contact at the Pediatric Orthotic and Prosthetic Services (POPS) department at Shriners Children's Lexington for help.

When Grayson arrived in the U.S. with his parents, they weighed their options for treatment with the medical team in Lexington. They decided on surgery to remove part of the foot and rework his ankle to suit a prosthetic leg.

Today, thanks to some help from his care team and a lot of personal perseverance, Grayson never lets his physical differences hold him back. He has tried everything from



(Continued on Page 5)


swimming to football, soccer, basketball, baseball and cross-country running. He's been active in 4-H and enjoys shooting sports. Grayson is an Eagle Scout and enjoys rock climbing, hiking, bicycling and skiing.

"Shriners Children's Lexington has been a part of my life from the very beginning," Grayson said. "Shriners Children's has literally given me the legs to be my fullest self. I am forever grateful for everything they have done for me."

Grayson's parents agree. Ceci said the medical center has always made it easy for Grayson to get the care he needs, especially remaining accessible at any time to make adjustments to his prosthetics for comfort, fit and function.

*I have the opportunity to use this platform to provide hope to others and share the message of the incredible care Shriners Children's gives.*

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For more photos of the events covered in this issue of the Dust, please visit:  
<http://alkalyshrinephotos.zenfolio.com>.



(Ambassadors, Continued From Page 6)

"We're so thankful for Shriners Children's, because we've been able to get above and beyond what Grayson needs. The quality of the care and the quality of the providers far surpass anywhere else," she said.

Grayson credits his parents and his care team for instilling in him the confidence to never put limits on himself just because of his physical differences. He strives to be the kind of leader who is humble, kind and generous even when people aren't watching.

Grayson grew up in Kentucky with his parents, brother and sister and is now attending college in Arkansas. He is majoring in construction science, with dreams of being a real estate developer.

He is very excited for the opportunity to serve as an International Patient Ambassador to give back to the organization that has treated him since he was a toddler. "I am so humbled to have been chosen to share my story and represent Shriners Children's. I want to inspire other amputees and let them know about this special community that has become like a family to me," said Grayson. "I have the opportunity to use this platform to provide hope to others and share the message of the incredible care Shriners Children's gives."

To learn more about Shriners Children's, please visit [shrinerschildrens.org](http://shrinerschildrens.org).



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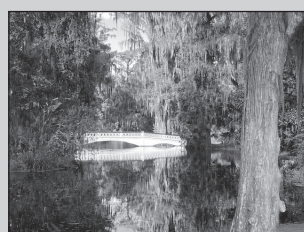
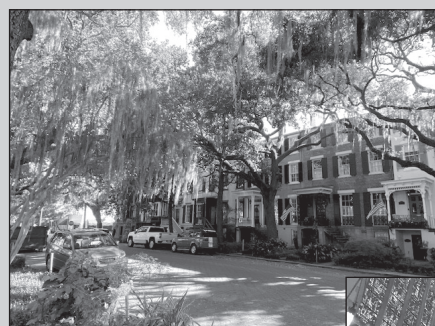




## HISTORY AND SOUTHERN HOSPITALITY



*The Potentate Trip took place from October 20-27, with travelers experiencing the unique beauty and charm of Charleston and Savannah! A delightful time was shared by all in these places of history and southern hospitality.*



## ESCALANTE SHRINE CLUB

*Nobles participating in the parade were (left to right): Norman Moss (float driver), Ed Merritt, Rob Kennedy, Mike Mussler, Rodney Branson, Aryol Brumley, Ron Kimi and Lee Coley (float co-pilot)*



*by Noble Michael Mussler*

Escalante Shrine Club participated in the Veterans Day Parade held along Montezuma Avenue in Cortez on 11 November. Perfect weather and an enthusiastic turnout of local public school students, with Montezuma-Cortez Middle and Senior High School bands, made for a perfect tribute to our area veterans. Shrine Club Nobles were treated to cookies provided by Ladies Jan Mussler and Patti Moss.

Lee Coley and Rob Kennedy went beyond the call of duty, participating in this our fifth parade of the year while recovering from their recent hip surgeries!



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# FEATURED SHRINER STEVEN "SCHMIDTY" SCHMIDT

by Billie Nigro

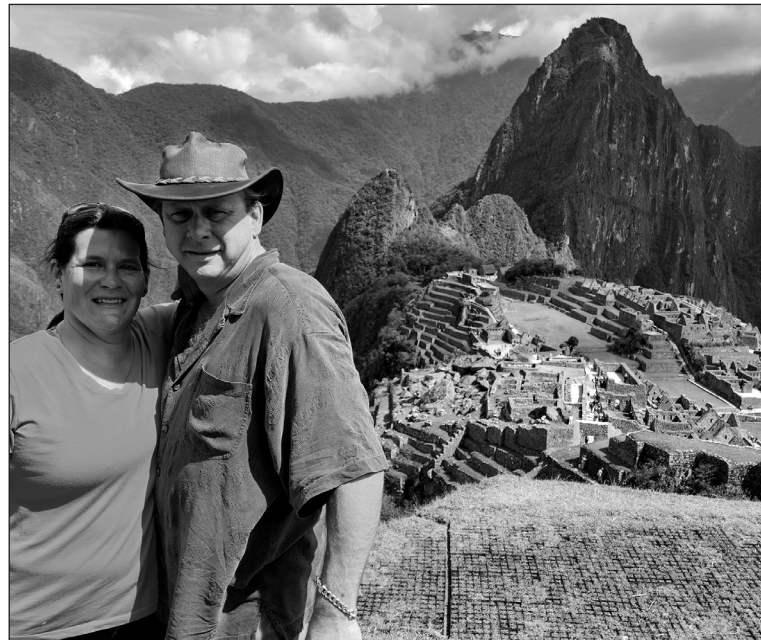
It was hard to know where to start with Steven, so I'll start where HE started. He was born in St Paul, Minnesota. He was an only child. His father was a master carpenter. His mother was a member of the Civil Air Patrol, worked as a "Stewardess", and worked for Catholic Charities in Tucson, Arizona. Steven went to high school at White Bear Lake High School in White Bear Lake, MN (yes, like from the movie Fargo- "go bears!"). He got his Associate of Arts at Century College in White Bear Lake, MN and transferred to the University of Wisconsin at River Falls, WI where he received a Bachelor of Science degree in Conservation and Environmental Planning.



Steve in his fez

His first job was at the age of 15 working at the Green Valley Nursery. It was owned by Noble Gordie Swanson. He currently works as a soil conservationist with the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Agency in Kiowa County, CO, with Noble Marty Miller. He served in every branch of the military except the Air Force (and Space Force). He joined the Navy as a Corpsman (Medic) in 1986 and was subsequently attached to a Marine unit. He was also a Navy recruiter before switching to the US Army National Guard in MN as a recruiter, a Training NCO (Non-Commissioned Officer).

I asked Steven to include some funny stories that have happened along the way. He did not disappoint! I'm going to quote this directly from what he sent me: "Bears have always been a major part of my life. By that, I mean that I have run into bears more often than most people. As a child, my cousins and I got to reproduce the classic cartoon scene of opening the outhouse door and having a bear growl at us from the inside. We shut the door, looked at each other



Steve with his wife Lisa in Peru

in bewilderment, and opened the door to check that we really saw a bear. Also, as a child, another cousin and I got to replicate the classic children's story 'Blueberries for Sal' when we and a bear were both collecting berries from the same bush. And remember, I grew up in White Bear Lake, MN, and went to White Bear Lake High school (Go Bears!). Later as an adult, I was treed by a bear, and I sang every Kenny Chesney song I knew in an attempt to get him to leave- it didn't work. During my last semester in college, I discovered that bears were my spirit animal. I was talking with a Blackfoot elder about life and he encouraged me to sprinkle tobacco at the base of a tree acknowledging his elders, which I did. Later that day, a bear appeared around that tree while I was writing my last college final exam. I found out later that bears hadn't been seen in the area for years. It was then that I realized bears have appeared at many moments in my life. Most recently, while riding to Alaska to complete the Hoka Hey (more below), a bear greeted me as I crossed the border from Canada to Alaska. The Great Architect is revealed to us in many ways."

Steven and Lisa met in college. He was attracted to her because she rode a motorcycle, which is their common interest. They have four adult children, all from their blended family. Steven and Lisa love to travel. Their quest is to see,

(Continued on Page 11)

(Schmidt, Continued From Page 10)

learn about, and experience other cultures. It has taken them to many countries around the world and they have made some very interesting friends along the way. Most recently is a couple from Croatia they met in Peru.

Steven just completed the Hoka Hey Motorcycle Challenge, which is a 10,000-mile trip from Daytona Beach, Florida to Homer, Alaska. The challenge requires participants to use only Turn by Turn directions (no GPS), sleep with the motorcycle, and have no drug or alcohol consumption. Participants who finish within 14 days are considered Elite Finishers. Steven finished in 12 ½ days and made no wrong turns nor did he exceed 90 miles an hour for the entire ride.

His father is a Master Mason, Shriner, and member of Scottish Rite. His paternal grandfather was also a Mason. After his father passed away, he decided to join the Masons. He views his membership as a continuing of a family tradition. He became a Mason on March 18, 2004, at the Montgomery Lodge 258, and was raised May 6, 2004. He became a Shriner in April 2024 in the Al Kaly Shrine because he likes the idea of helping children with severe medical conditions, such as his cousin who was a Shriner child.

Steven has three rules of life that match his personality perfectly:

1. No good comes from the statement, "Hey watch this, hold my beer."
2. Only 10% of the world looks good naked. That gives you a 90% chance of not being in the 10%. Keep this in mind when wearing a midriff shirt or mowing the lawn without a shirt, whichever applies.
3. Always listen to Lisa, especially when she tells you that the tire is flat on the motorcycle, as she did during a motorcycle ride on the Dragon's Tail in 2022.



Steve with his "spirit animal"



JUST ONE

Who do you know that would make a good Shrine Mason?



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Southern Colorado Consistory



# A HEARTY AL KALY

## October

Tam Tran  
Daniel E Coburn  
Spencer L Holland  
Lee J Greenwood  
Maurice E Heikes  
Dennis A Bright  
Thad S Miner  
Kent E Eckley  
Jeffrey T Stevens  
Carl G Hagans  
Samuel J Pisciotta P.P.  
Ralph M Beuc  
Stafor Steven  
Kenneth L Jones P.P.  
Howard W Magan  
Kenneth E Grayson  
Craig S Howe  
Nathaniel K Seeley  
John R McConnell P.G.M.  
Douglas W Gabel  
James G Johnson  
Henry H Taylor



**Congratulations to the following nobles that will be celebrating birthdays during December and January**

Paul L Crawford  
Scott E Nistler  
Charles L Phillips  
Alan J Lynn  
Dwain P Jack  
Kevin L Sharrar  
Guy O Sturdy  
Marlin J Miller  
Cedric Asis  
Reginald A Graham

Scot M Autry  
Michael A Kruse  
James K Marcum  
John R Stulp  
Gerald D Oldsen  
Mark A Giffin  
Christopher G Sears  
Andrew B Wyatt  
Ronald A Bowen P.P.  
Fred I Collazo

## January

Curtis Payne  
William E Price  
Thomas C Holmes P.P.  
Allen Surber  
Charles J Buck Jr.  
Abe M England  
Reuben R Vigil

Larry L Childs  
Travis K Walker  
Troy L Hanson  
Larry D Allen  
L.G. Oxford  
Vivian M Musgrove  
Eugene J Dobrzelecki  
Richard C Larke  
Louis M Graner  
William E Horst  
Lester H Nowell  
Israel Trujillo  
David W McKey  
Frank T Krutzke  
John R White  
Dennis D Mutcher  
Earl D Chamblin  
Ernest T Park Jr.  
Henry D Ainsworth  
Thomas W Gilliland  
Raymond D Lingley  
Jackson W Chandler  
Richard G Calhoun

## Support Al Kaly Shrine



**AL KALY  
LEGION OF HONOR**

**"Shrine Veterans Still Serving" JOIN US**

**Luis Flores  
Commander**

**Jim Johnson  
Adjutant**



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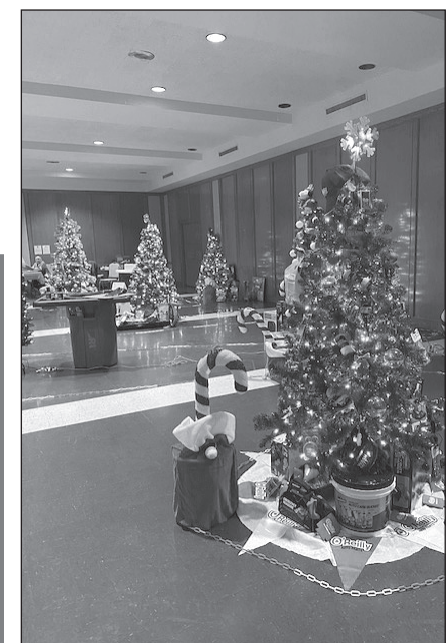


**Al Kaly Shrine  
and the  
Clowns of Al Kaly**

**We Are Shiner Clowns  
We Run So Children Can Walk**



## JOYFUL FUN AT THE 2024 FEZTIVAL OF TREES!





# 2024 AL KALY MEMBERSHIP AWARD



On 22 November, at a special ceremony in conjunction with the Festival of Trees, our Shrine Potentate, Ill Sir John Weed, presented the Al Kaly Shrine Membership Trophy for 2024 to WM Mark Tucker, of El Paso Lodge #13.

## The Al Kaly Shrine General and Transportation Fund are in need of a financial boost.

The increasing cost of operating Al Kaly Temple and transporting kids to the hospital combined with decreasing membership has put a strain on the General Fund and Transportation Fund. Please remember both of these funds when donating. Send your donation to:  
Al Kaly Shrine, P.O. Box 193, Pueblo, Colorado 81002

### DONATIONS

#### SHRINERS HOSPITALS

William and Ruth Morr, 9/6/2024

#### TRANSPORTATION FUND

In Memory of Debbie Adelbush, given by Charles Tedrow, 9/16/2024

In Memory of IS Robert Burr, given by Bob Buxmann, 9/16/2024  
Sandra Clark

#### MEMORIALS

In Memory of Ill Sir Bob Burr, given by Richard Swede Hanson, 10/9/2024

## SUPPORT AL KALY SHRINE



See you on the road! Join the Flivvers  
For more information call

Jerry Allin, Secretary: 719-495-1062

## In Memoriam

As of: April 25, 2024

"Do not stand at my grave and weep,  
I am not there, I do not sleep.  
I am in a thousand winds that blow,  
I am the softly falling snow.  
I am the gentle showers of rain,  
I am the fields of ripening grain.  
I am in the morning hush,  
I am in the graceful rush.  
Of beautiful birds in circling flight,  
I am the starshine of the night.  
I am in the flowers that bloom,  
I am in a quiet room.  
I am in the birds that sing,  
I am in each lovely thing.  
Do not stand at my grave and cry,  
I am not there. I do not die.  
Mary Elizabeth Frye

#### Alan Sulzenfuss

Born: October 20, 1947

Created: June 10, 1977

Died: May 15, 2024

## The Easy Way to Donate to the Shriners Hospitals for Children!

**Text The Word "Dream" to Phone Number 25383**

A \$5.00 Donation to Shriners Hospitals for Children  
will be added to your phone bill

**Text "Shc" To Phone Number 69866** to get Hospital  
News and Information on Upcoming Events sent to  
your phone

## AL KALY SHRINERS

of Southern Colorado

[www.alkalyshrine.org](http://www.alkalyshrine.org)

Do you know a child in need of Medical Attention?  
Orthopaedic, Burns, Cleft Lip or Palate, or other

**The Shriners are here to help!**

Call 719-544-0658 or contact a Shriner for more information.

## AL KALY AWARDS

The following Nobles received awards  
or were eligible to receive awards at our  
September Stated Meeting:



#### Gold

David Dickey  
Brian Carter  
Mark Giffin  
Barton Guthrie  
Gary Sears  
John Weed  
Billy Swartz  
Ray Singmaster  
Gerald Oldsen  
William Davidson  
David Stevens  
Dennis Shepherd

#### Silver

Dan Brooks  
Randle Harmon, **Medal**  
Brett Axton  
Dennis Lauer, **Medal**  
Jeffrey Stevens, **Medal**  
Kenneth Jones, **Medal**  
Donald Carpenter  
Rodger Fuller

## Helping A Child Is Just A Phone Call Away

Determining whether a child is eligible for care at Shriners Children's is as simple as calling 800-237-5055 (toll free in the U.S.), or 800-361-7256 (in Canada) from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Eastern Standard Time, Monday through Friday. During the initial phone call, you will discuss the nature of the child's condition, age and location of residency with a patient referral coordinator. Based upon the information provided, you will be referred to a specific Shriners Children's location that can best care for the child. Additional information is available on [shrinerschildrens.org](http://shrinerschildrens.org).

Shriners Children's specializes in treating orthopedic conditions, burns, spinal cord injuries, and cleft lip and palate.



**Shriners  
Children's**



### AL KALY SHRINERS

Southern Colorado  
[www.alkalyshrine.org](http://www.alkalyshrine.org)



Allan Ake  
Past Potentate  
Lady Linda Agresta

20020 Lockridge Dr.  
Colorado Springs, CO 80908

home (719) 495-9252  
[allanake@att.net](mailto:allanake@att.net)



### AL KALY SHRINERS

Southern Colorado  
[www.alkalyshrine.org](http://www.alkalyshrine.org)



Roger Mendenhall  
Potentate 2013  
Lady Karen

10055 Raptor Loop  
Falcon, CO 80831

hm (719) 495-0678  
[rogerm52@q.com](mailto:rogerm52@q.com)

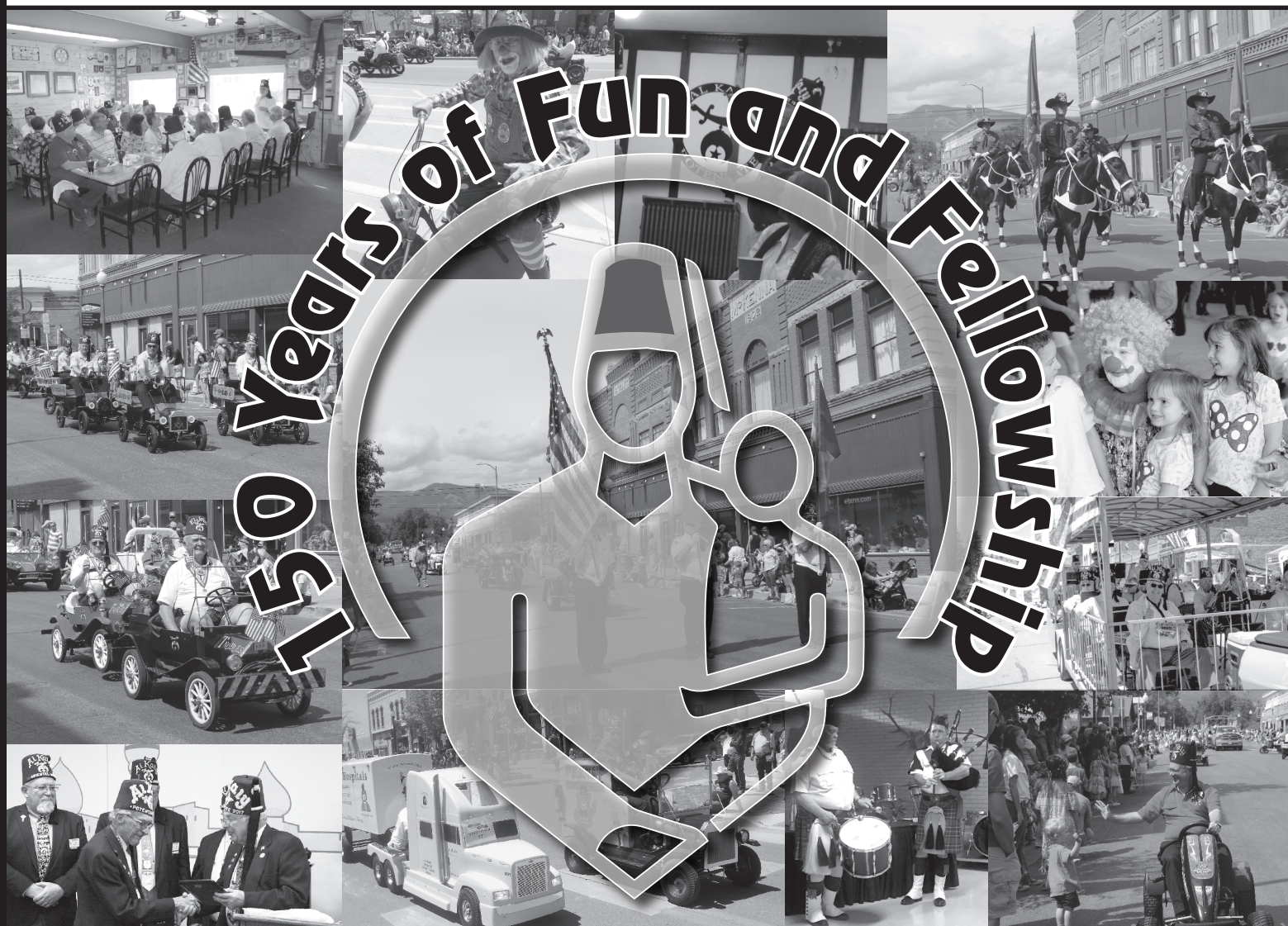


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# Support Our Al Kaly Membership Committee

## Shriners, Having Fun and Helping Kids

*For more information, please call Gary at 719-544-0658.*

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