

AL KALY AL KALY DUST

December 2025 / January 2026 ▲ Volume 72, Issue 6 ▲ Southern Colorado

~ Festival of Trees ~



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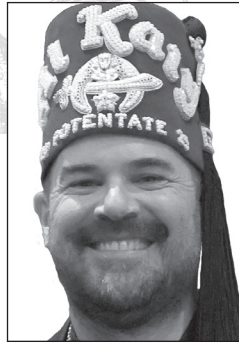
Our Email: alkalyrecorder@gmail.com

HAPPY HOLIDAYS!



Jared Maddox
Potentate

Well, here we are again coming to the end of another year and heading into the holiday season! Time really does fly by when you are having fun! This year has been quite a ride for me and Lady Alex, filled with experiences that we will never forget. My time as Potentate really has served to grow my pride in being a Noble of the Mystic Shrine.



of you as we can to personally thank you for all you do. It is truly humbling for us to know so many good people who make up the membership of Al Kaly.

This Holiday season it is my hope that all of you will be surrounded by family and friends, in a spirit of Holiness to our Lord and thanksgiving for all that we are blessed with. Let us use this time to rest up and be ready to hit 2026 running and make it an even more prosperous year for Al Kaly.

Please give the incoming Divan that same support that you all showed me.

Again, thank you to all of you for thinking enough of me to elect and sustain me as your Potentate. This has been a year that has helped me grow and improve as a Shriner and a Mason.

I am forever grateful to the help and mentorship of my brother Nobles. Thank you and may the Grand Architect bless all of you and your families.



OFFICIAL CALL OF THE POTENTATE

Notice is Hereby given that the next stated meeting will be held on:

December 12, 2025 at 7 p.m.

**Pueblo Elks Lodge, 426 N Santa Fe, Pueblo, CO
Stated Meeting and Election of Officers for 2026**

Jared Maddox
Potentate

Attest: Gary Sears, P.P.
Recorder

OFFICIAL CALL OF THE POTENTATE

Notice is hereby given that the January 2026 Stated Meeting will be held:

January 3, 2026

Pueblo Convention Center at 7:30 p.m.

Jared Maddox
Potentate

Attest: Gary Sears, P.P.
Recorder

Membership

As Of: November 2025

Beginning January 1, 2025 339

Losses: 14

Gains: 12

Total October 31, 2025: 337

Associates: 19

Grand Total 356

****Pending Suspension — 15****



UPCOMING EVENTS

DECEMBER

- 4 DON Supreme Queen Visit
- 12 Stated Meeting
- 25 Christmas Day

JANUARY

- 1 New Year's Day
- 3 2026 Installation of Officers
- 3 Stated Meeting
- 11 LOH OV

FEBRUARY

- 7 DON Tea
- 15 Past Masters OV





DUST

AL KALY SHRINE

635 W. Corona Ave. #120 ▲ Pueblo, CO 81004

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 193 ▲ Pueblo, CO 81002

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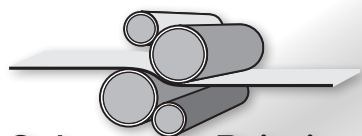
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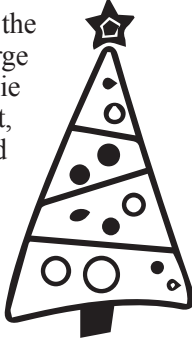
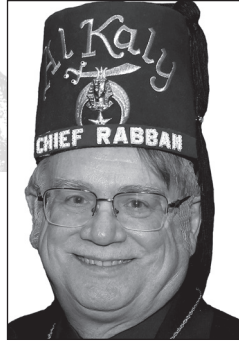
Scott Rhea
Chief Rabban

As you can see by the cover of this edition of the Dust, the 3rd Annual Feztival of Trees has now officially come and gone (Nov 22-29). Colorful highlights can be seen by visiting Al Kaly's website (alkalyshrine.org) to view the 19 beautifully decorated trees, along with this year's lucky winners!

A special thanks goes to our business sponsors who make this event truly successful: Buffalo Lodge Bicycle Resort, Focused Car Wash Solutions, From the Summit to the Sea Travel, O'Reilly Auto Parts, Pikes Peak Discharge Clinic, Potter Excavation & Pueblo Lock Doc, Rollie and Susan Leyh, Texas Roadhouse (Monument, CO), The Broadmoor & Pikes Peak Railway, Third Angle, and Zuccaro's Kitchen. Nobles, please support them as they have supported us.

I would like to personally thank every Noble and Lady who volunteered to solicit tree sponsors, manage gate admissions, sell raffle tickets, or guide our visitors around the display floor. I also greatly appreciate the Daughters of the Nile Ruhamah Temple #71 who not only sponsored a tree but also had food available for our lunch hour guests and workers (not to mention those delicious confections). In addition, Pikes Peak Court #20 of the Order of the Amaranth sponsored a tree – we are blessed to be part of our extended Masonic Family.

I can't forget to give a great big thumbs up emoji to our social media experts: A.B. Consulting and Media for our at-cost ads, Nobles Nathan Rolofson and Dave Bills for Facebook and website management, and I.S. Bill Davidson for his many posts.



And finally, I wish to extend both gratitude and a challenge to the Clubs and Units of Al Kaly; gratitude to those who sponsored a tree (CSSC, PSC, M-ASC, Past Masters, Corvettes, and Divan) and a challenge for the 2026 Feztival of Trees. Clubs, extend your reach by using your tree as an anchor for a Club row that includes trees from your community businesses. Units, get two or even three Presidents together to sponsor a combined group tree, or solicit two small businesses to co-sponsor a tree. Together, we can not only grow the impact of this fundraiser, but more importantly grow the impact of Al Kaly Shriners on our Patients and their families.

One last wish: May God bless the 2026 Divan and may Al Kaly Shriners have a fun and successful ensuing year!

AL KALY DIVAN

Board of Directors (Elective Divan)

Potentate.....	Jared Maddox
Chief Rabban	J. Scott Rhea
Assistant Rabban.....	Mark Giffin
High Priest & Prophet.....	Abe England
Oriental Guide.....	Steven Schmidt
Recorder.....	Gary Sears
Treasurer	David Stevens, PP/PPCSSA

Appointed Divan

1st Ceremonial Master	Mack Word
2nd Ceremonial Master.....	Vacant
Parade Marshall	Abe England
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

Jared Maddox
J. Scott Rhea

C.S.S.A. Representatives

Jared Maddox
J. Scott Rhea
Mark Giffin

Int'l Shrine Horse Patrol Past Presidents

Allan Ake, PP

Masonic Men's Mondays

Who: Any Mason

What: Free coffee, donuts & conversation

When: Every Monday 7:30 am – 9:30 am

Where: Masonic Temple, 126 Broadway, Pueblo, CO

Why: To get together, have coffee & donuts & Build friendships with our brothers in masonry



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



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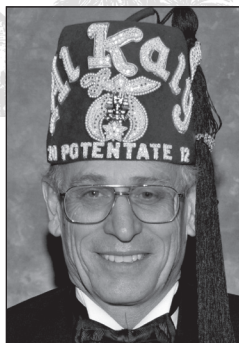
GREG ARMSTRONG
gregarmstrong1817@gmail.com

119 WEST 4th. ST.
PUEBLO, COLORADO 81003

CLOSING OUT ANOTHER YEAR!

Gary Sears, PP
Al Kaly Recorder

Well, it's that time again. Time to tie up those loose ends to end our Al Kaly year, turn the page starting over for 2026. If you have Al Kaly fez strips that you will not be using in 2026, please turn them in to the Office, i.e., Potentate's Aide, Ambassador, etc. You may have some other old fez strips you no longer need any more. 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, 2025. A spreadsheet is located on the Al Kaly website – 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. Lady Donna and I wish all of you a Merry Christmas and a safe Happy New Year.

A Note from the Recorder

I would like to thank all the Nobles for your support in 2025, it is very much appreciated. Overall, the office ran very smoothly this year. As always, this is due to our admin, Noble Mike Apker, he is doing an outstanding job for Al Kaly, his hard work, dedication and knowledge is 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

IMPORTANCE OF SELECTING QUALIFIED CANDIDATES FOR THE OFFICE OF ORIENTAL GUIDE

From the Office of the Imperial Recorder

When the members of a Shrine elect a Noble to the office of Oriental Guide, they are virtually starting that Noble through the Divan line on the assumption that he will prove qualified for any merit achievement to the high office of Potentate.

Hence, it's quite evident that the nominations for Oriental Guide should be based upon a thorough and accurate evaluation of character, ability, and interest.

A Noble can be a good fellow, a hard worker, and a loyal Shriner...and yet lack the basic qualifications which make a good Potentate. Unless a Noble is fully qualified for the job, he is unfair both to himself and to his temple in seeking the office or in permitting his fellow nobles to support and promote his candidacy.

The normal starting point of Shrine leadership is the office of Oriental Guide. The following checklist may prove helpful in evaluating potential candidates for the office of Oriental Guide. However, no thinking man would be so naïve or presumptuous as to all the virtues, talents, and qualifications which are set forth in this checklist for advance evaluation of potential candidates by the voting members.

- Leadership
- Executive ability
- Business sense
- Community standing and influence
- Financially secure
- Free to donate ample time
- Capable of building good public relations
- Good habits and moral character
- Interest in Shrinedom
- Ability to give and get cooperation
- Diplomacy

Many temples have placed a definite limitation upon their progress as a result of hasty judgment in connection with nominations for the office of Oriental Guide. Every Noble is not fitted to meet the rigorous demands imposed upon Potentates.

So let's be fair, honest, and wise in the all-important matter of electing to office only men who are eminently qualified for the job. We all know that with honor comes responsibility. And while there is high honor associated with a Divan office, the ensuing responsibilities entail a lot of time-consuming, energy-consuming WORK! Eternal vigilance must be wisely and thoughtfully exercised by the voting membership in order to perpetuate a high caliber of leadership!



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ESCALANTE SHRINE CLUB



Montezuma-Cortez High School Homecoming Parade

Escalante Shrine Club Nobles (left to right) Mike Mussler, Rodney Branson, Aryol Brumley and Sam Barrett participated in the Montezuma-Cortez High School annual homecoming related events (the parade was just one of many) during the week of September 29 through October 4 and enjoyed a good turnout of followers along the Main Street parade route. There was a lighter than usual turn out of Nobles for this parade due to medical issues for a number of our Nobles. We are hoping for positive resolution of those issues and a better turnout for the Veteran's Day Parade in November!



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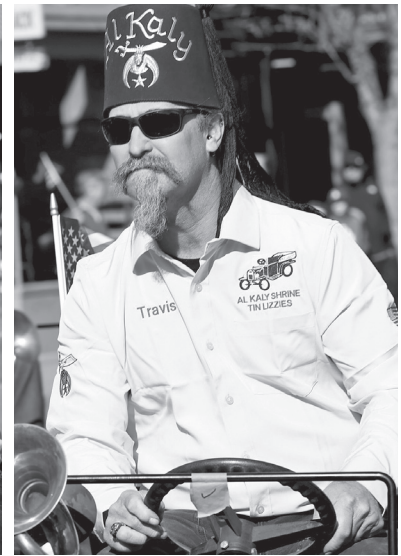
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It was a great honor for the Al Kaly Tin Lizzie Unit to show support for our Veterans in the Veterans Day Parade. We are reminded on this day and every day that freedom isn't free.



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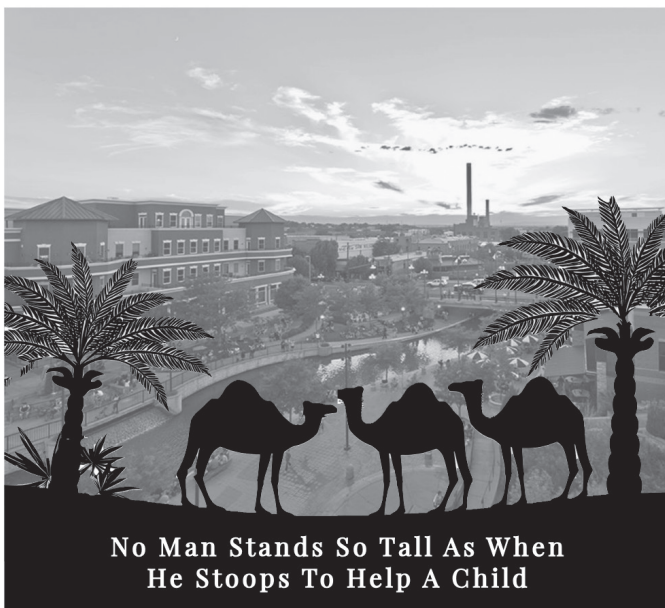


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A HEARTY ALKALY

December



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

Tam Tran
Daniel E Coburn
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
Richard W Pintler
Kenneth E Grayson
Craig S Howe
Nathaniel K Seeley
John R McConnell P.G.M.
Douglas W Gabel

James G Johnson
Henry H Taylor
Paul L Crawford
Scott E Nistler
Charles L Phillips
Alan J Lynn
Kevin L Sharrar
Marlin J Miller

Cedric Asis
Reginald A Graham
Scot M Autry
Michael A Kruse
Emory G Cowan Jr.
James K Marcum
Gerald D Oldsen
Mark A Giffin

Andrew B Wyatt
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
Vivian M Musgrove
Eugene J Dobrzelecki
Richard C Larke
William E Horst
Lester H Nowell
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FEATURED SHRINER SAM LEÓN

by **Billie Nigro**

When Billie Nigro first reached out to tell me I had been selected as the featured Shriner

In the Dust, I felt blessed and honored. However, the more I thought about what I wanted to say about myself, the less I wanted to say anything at all. So, I prayed to the Lord, saying, The Featured Shriner is all about Dust readers getting to know me, so what do I want Dust readers to know about me? In that moment, the Holy Spirit came over me, saying, “And they overcame by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony; and they loved not their lives unto the death.” Revelation 12:11 KJV.

In September 2023, my wife, Kenyatta, and I returned to Colorado with a baby on the way. We found an RV campground in Calhan and picked up where we left off in Colorado, with a new purpose: to prepare for the arrival of our newest family member, Ezekiel C. León. The following month, during a routine checkup, we received the news that my wife was in critical condition and at extreme risk of losing the baby. My wife was placed on bed rest, I called my employer and stopped working. I immediately felt my life falling apart around me, so I did the only thing I knew to do in this situation. I called on the name of the Lord. We spent the rest of October walking on eggshells until my wife’s water broke at 22 weeks and 4 days. We rushed to the hospital, where we were admitted and told that the hospital’s policy prevented care for babies born before 23 weeks, so we prayed for a miracle over the next three days.

On the second day, my wife started having contractions, and on the third day, the baby was ready to be delivered. My wife was laid up and prepared for the delivery; just as we were about to begin, the OB-GYN pulled me aside, saying, “I’ve seen hundreds of these types of deliveries and the babies don’t survive the birth, so just love on him and we’ll take care of his body.” I said, “We’ll see,” and started back to my wife’s side, but was stopped by the neonatologist, who pulled me aside and said, “During this period of development, babies need amniotic fluid to develop their lungs in the womb. The baby hasn’t had any for the last three days, so if he survives the birth, he won’t be able to breathe.”

Often in our lives, we face difficult and challenging situations where we are unsure of what to do or where to turn. All around us, we see death and suffering, the world telling us what we can or cannot do, who we should or should not be, what is right and wrong, but we forget the one from whom all good comes. The one who is everlasting life and love, comfort and refuge, strength and safety. The one who sees us in our trials, sad and defeated, when we’re too tired or old to go on. The one who has given us victory and dominion over this world, and I suddenly remembered, “Death and life are in the power of the tongue: and they that love it shall eat the fruit thereof” Proverbs 18:21 KJV. So, I said, “We’ll see,” and purposefully walked to my wife’s side, surrendering control over my life to Jesus, saying, “Your will be done, not mine.” In surrender to our Lord Jesus Christ, He saved our boy, He saved me, and He can save you, and He can save our Shrine.

Sam León was born in Los Angeles, California, and raised in Stansbury Park, Utah. He has an older brother and three younger sisters. His parents are retired Pentecostal pastors; from a young age, they instructed them that commitment to faith and community service is vital. In his early years, his father would take him and his older brother to construction sites, where they gained experience in framing, drywall, and related trades. Sam could be found helping around the church, serving on the worship team as a bassist, or accompanying his father evangelizing and doing home visits. During his teenage years, Sam’s father got him a job at a metal recycling site during the summer, where he drove



a 12-speed water truck for dust suppression.

Sam graduated from Stansbury High School, home of the Stansbury Stallions, where he played on the varsity basketball team. After graduating from high school, he worked for Geek Squad’s call center, troubleshooting and remotely assisting customers with their computers. He went to Snow College in Ephraim, Utah, and Utah Valley University, majoring in Political Science where he worked at Pew Research, taking political surveys. Currently, he is a first-year student at Charis Bible College.

He enlisted in the US Army as a Human Resources Specialist in March 2015, serving until August 2019. During his service, he was stationed at Fort Jackson, SC; Fort Carson, CO; Fort Irwin, CA; and Fort Polk, LA. He achieved the rank of Sergeant, served as a sharpshooter, and was the Squad’s M-249 machine gunner. As a Private, Sam led his battalion’s single soldier program (BOSS), which provided him with valuable

leadership experience. Sam was recognized by the Adjutant General’s Corps, receiving the COL Robert Manning award for his distinguished service, as well as graduating from Basic Leader Course (BLC) on the commandant’s list.

He met Lady Kenyatta during their military service, while assisting soldiers prepare for deployment at Fort Carson. Lady Kenyatta was also in the Army! Sam said, “Ken has the most beautiful and unique personality; she has this magnetism and aura that recharges and revitalizes you. She is the best conversationalist I’ve ever met. She has the best smile I’ve ever seen, and she exudes life.” He said she is a great leader and inspires everyone around her to do and be better. He said she’s a Woman after God’s heart, an intentional, loving wife, and a devoted, caring, and nurturing mother. Sam says they share a mutual devotion to their relationship and faith in our Lord Jesus Christ, which forms the foundation of their relationship. They married June 2017, and enjoy traveling, camping, and seeking new experiences together. While Lady Kenyatta is passionate about technology, coding, and computers, Sam, not so much. They are blessed with a two-year-old son, Ezekiel, whose presence has profoundly enriched their lives.

Sam has a passion for cooking and is glad he can bless his family through those efforts. He enjoys reading, particularly historical novels. He’s been captivated by Dana Fuller Ross’s Independence series. He also listens to podcasts such as The Gospel Truth with Andrew Wommack, The Jordan B. Peterson podcast, and The PBD podcast. Additionally, he enjoys playing chess online and other strategic games like Catan online. Much of his leisure time is dedicated to his wife and son in activities they enjoy. When not with his family, he dedicates time to his spiritual growth through prayer and studying God’s Word. He attends Bible studies with fellow veterans, film workshops with the Patton Veterans Project, and practices Wing Chun Kung Fu under the guidance of Sifu Dave Daniels.

Sam was initiated into Freemasonry in 2018, with the late Noble Bo Cruz serving as his first line signer and guiding him into the fraternity. His exposure to inspiring military leaders, some of whom were Masons, ignited his interest in the craft. Their integrity and leadership motivated him to explore Freemasonry,

(Continued on Page 10)

(León, Continued From Page 9)

which ultimately led to his mentorship with Bo Cruz.

He proudly became a Shriner in June 2021, after attending a steak & cigar dinner that solidified his commitment. The organization's compassionate mission to support Shriners' Hospitals for Children deeply resonated with him. The presence of upstanding masons like Bo Cruz and Noble Earl Schaffer Jr. made the decision that much easier. He said, "I love that the Shrine has an actual mission, to support Shriners' Hospitals for Children. The way we support is by raising funds and having fun while we do it. When I joined, I immediately found a home with Nobles Jim Gibson and Paul Nigro with the Provost Guard. I am currently the President of the Provost Guard. The support and counsel of these two upstanding men and their wives (Lorri and Billie) has been such a blessing in our lives." Sam is currently the Junior Warden at Manitou Lodge #68 and has enjoyed cooking for his brothers this year and hopes every Mason reading the Dust gets a chance to visit and experience the legendary Manitou fellowship.

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

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Jerry Allin, Secretary: 719-495-1062

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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 shrinerschildren.org.

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



**Shriners
Children's**



In Memoriam

As of: November 1, 2025

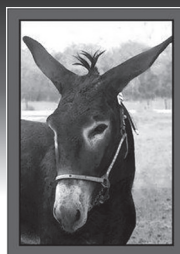
"Do not stand at my grave and weep,
I am not there, I do not sleep.
I am in a thousand winds that blow,
I am the softly falling snow.
I am the gentle showers of rain,
I am the fields of ripening grain.
I am in the morning hush,
I am in the graceful rush.
Of beautiful birds in circling flight,
I am the 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

Noble David Ashley

Born: March 4, 1940
Created: January 9, 1992
Died: September 30, 2025

Noble Elmo Gardner

Born: September 14, 1946
Created: June 29, 2008
Died: September 30, 2025



Al Kaly Mule Train Join Us

"We ride so children can walk"

Ray Lingley, President (719-505-5546; Raymond.lingley@yahoo.com)
Orlando Maez, Vice President (719) 671-9597, orlandomaez@yahoo.com)
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Torry Krutzke, Treasurer (719-546-0888; torryk@mindspring.com)

AL KALY SHRINERS



of Southern Colorado
www.alkalyshrine.org



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

The Shriners are here to help!

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

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

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