



# THE ARABIAN

April 25, 2025 Houston, TX



Nobles, Friends and Supporters of Arabia,

Since our last newsletter, Arabia has been buzzing with activity. Your continued engagement is helping us share our mission, drive membership, and highlight the fun and fellowship that define Arabia Shrine.

In the last month, Our units have done multiple parades, engaging communities and spreading our mission far and wide. Many of our units have also had their mid-winter meetings and are feverishly preparing for their Texas Shrine Association competitions in June. We are very proud of all of you; keep making Arabia proud!

On Saturday, April 12, the Shrine Center welcomed families for our annual Crawfish Boil and Easter Egg Hunt—complete with tables piled high with crawfish, bounce houses, games, zydeco music and plenty of fezzes enjoying some great fellowship. Thank you to every Noble and lady who volunteered to make this event truly special for everyone who attended.

The 89th annual rendition of our Circus is almost here! This year The Arabia Shriners Circus will be returning to the Humble Civic Center Arena May 1-4. Our circus would not be successful without the support of our volunteers. Please come out and help ensure this year is the best one yet. We can't wait to see you under the big top!

Thank you for liking, sharing, and commenting on our social media posts—your online support amplifies our outreach and keeps our Shrine family connected. Since January, our social media pages have been viewed well over 200,000 times, and that number keeps growing thanks to your engagement!

As we move forward into the summer months, there are still plenty of activities going on, and a few big things in the works; let's stay engaged. Keep making Arabia Great, and as always, remember your "Why"!

Yours in the Faith,  
Ben LaBlanc  
Potentate

## Upcoming Events

- May 1-4: Shrine Circus (Humble)**
- May 3: Brenham Maifest Parade (Brenham)**
- May 10: Weimar Gedenke Parade (Weimar)**
- May 11: Strawberry Festival Parade (Pasadena)**
- May 17: Wine Class (Arabia)**
- May 19: Stated Meeting (Arabia)**
- May 27: Shriners Night at the Ballpark (Daikin Park)**
- May 31: Motorcycle Ride (New Caney)**



Please submit all articles and pictures to [newsletter@shriners-houston.org](mailto:newsletter@shriners-houston.org)





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## Baytown Shrine Club



Baytown Shrine Club has been quite busy and it looks like the trend will continue for some time.

We partnered with Highlands Rotary Club and 6 area Masonic Lodges to fry fish and all the fixings for Highland's Little League to help raise Funds to replace stolen grounds equipment. Sampson Lodge #231 was in the driver's seat on this one. It was opening day at the ballpark and the fans were ready. We served just under 1000 plates. Donations were presented to the little league last week in the amount of \$10,780. Sampson Lodge is also doing a raffle for a .22 Henry Golden Boy Masonic rifle - \$20/ticket. All proceeds will Go to Highland's Little League.

We also traveled to Morton Lodge in Richmond this month and served smothered cutlets for Aaron Tyksinski's Cornerstone Award.

We are helping Arabia Shrine's Circus Chairman, Otto Akers, with Circus agenda items, and getting ready for the BIG CIRCUS SHOW at Humble Civic Arena May 1st thru 4th. Putting out Circus signs, planning, setup, etc.

Monday, April 21st, we will serve Lunch at Baytown Shrine Club for the District 30 MWSA 30 for the annual San Jacinto Day observance. Most of the Grand Lodge Officers will attend, with MW Raborn Reader, Grand Master and Arabia Shriner, leading the way.

April 28th we will do our annual Fish fry for Shriners Children's Texas in Galveston for about 250 plates. Come help us serve!



**ARABIA ALCHEMISTS PRESENTS**

## BASICS OF WINE CLASS

Red, White, or Rosé? Old World or New World?  
Vintage or Non-Vintage? Do I smell the cork?  
How do I pair food? What is a Sommelier?

**Don't worry – your questions will be answered!**

Join us and learn while having fun tasting and assessing five excellent wines with food pairings.

Find out how to buy, to serve and to order wine with greater confidence!

Saturday, May 17th, 1-4 p.m., Arabia Shrine Center

### REGISTER HERE



Or at <https://buytickets.at/arabiashrinersalchemists/1621562>

Proceeds benefit Arabia Alchemists Unit. Payments are not deductible as charitable contributions.



## SADDLE UP

DAUGHTERS OF THE NILE  
TABEL TEMPLE No. 88  
PRESENTS  
HIGH NOON  
AT  
DEAD-MANS SALOON  
**MURDER MYSTERY**  
SEPTEMBER 20, 2025  
SOCIAL 6:00 P.M.  
DINNER TO FOLLOW at 7:00 P.M.  
ARABIA SHRINE CENTER  
10210 HARWIN DRIVE  
HOUSTON, TEXAS 77036  
TO DODGE THE BULLET RSVP TO:

PRINCESS ROYAL  
LIZ TRADER  
832-457-1031  
[Ltrader949@gmail.com](mailto:Ltrader949@gmail.com)

### TICKETS \$35.00

★

DRESS ATTIRE: WESTERN WEAR  
QUEEN, NAOMI PEÑA  
RECORDER, LINDA HARKEY, PQ

PROCEEDS WILL BENEFIT THE GENERAL FUND OF  
TABEL TEMPLE No. 88  
DAUGHTERS OF THE NILE





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## NOBLE SPOTLIGHT



### *Spotlight on Arabia Shriner- Brother Noble James "Jim" Bush*

James Bush was born and raised in Houston, Texas. He attended Houston Vocational High School and the University of Houston. He often says "I was too lazy to work and too scared to steal, so I became a pilot". He began flying as a US Naval Aviator and then became a Captain for Continental Airlines. He later went on to become a private pilot for an oil man and eventually became part of the Flying Fezzes at Arabia.

James is widowed, with two grown children and one grandchild and enjoys reading and traveling in his free time. James joined DeMolay at 15 years old and was Raised at Reagan Lodge #1037 on July 17, 1961 and is the last living Charter member of Oak Forest Lodge #1398. James holds affiliated memberships at Holland, Temple, Doric, and Tranquility Lodges. He values the connections he has made through Masonry and is proud to belong to the world's largest fraternity.

He became a Shriner at the behest of Noble Dugan Miller on May 20, 1963 and proudly wears his **60 year pin!** He was one of the early members of the Arabia Flying Fezzes Unit, using private aircraft to transport skin and blood for surgeries at Shriners' Hospitals. For James, being a Shriner means being part of a group of men who do so much for children.

James's proudest moments include seeing happy faces during Shriner parades and being a Roustabout. His advice- "Don't let any Shriner talk you into getting into a gorilla suit and participating in a parade in July in Houston! We wore gorilla suites and rode in a cage along the parade route. We would sneak out of the cage and run along the street "scaring" the audience while the "gorilla handler" stood by seemingly oblivious. It took a lot to get us rehydrated after that parade"



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## *Night at the Ballpark- May 27*

Get ready for a day of excitement and camaraderie as you join the Arabia Shriners to cheer on the Astros! Feel the thrill of the game, connect with fellow fans, and enjoy the vibrant atmosphere at the ballpark. It's more than a game; it's a celebration!

Don't miss out on this fantastic opportunity to make memories and support the Astros with the Arabia Shriners. Grab your tickets, wear your Astros gear, and let's knock it out of the park together! See you there- **May 27th!**

Purchase your tickets today: <https://www.gofevo.com/event/Arabiashriners2>



## *Legion of Honor Marches On- With Purpose, Pride, and Plenty of Fun!*

This Mardi Gras season, the Legion of Honor made a bold and joyful statement in Galveston, rolling out one of the most eye-catching, spirit-filled floats in the parade. Representing Shriners with pride, our members showed up in force — waving flags, tossing beads, and spreading cheer — all in the name of our mission: having fun helping kids.

The fun didn't stop there. At the Ladies' Circus Turn-In, we proudly presented a \$600 check, further cementing our commitment to philanthropy and family. And just weeks earlier, our unit played a major role in the Willis Shriners Hospital Fundraiser, helping raise an incredible \$23,000 to support Shriners Hospitals for Children. Our contribution? Cooking up a mouthwatering Friday night steak and fish dinner that had folks smiling, satisfied, and eager to support the cause. Brotherhood and steaks— a perfect match!

Now, we're preparing to make headlines again, this time by leading a color guard detail at the newly dedicated Daiken Park, a televised event that will highlight our commitment to patriotism, service, and community presence. The date is set for May 27, 2025 at the Houston Astros game against some California team.

None of this would be possible without the leadership of our tireless commander, PP Eddie Reed, US Army, and his equally dedicated wife, Marty. Their energy, vision, and love for this unit are the driving forces behind every success we celebrate.

From parades to fundraisers, from the grill to the color guard — the Legion of Honor is on a mission. And we're proving every step of the way that serving others can be the most fun of all.

Please submit all articles and pictures to [newsletter@shriners-houston.org](mailto:newsletter@shriners-houston.org)





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## Baytown Shriners Clay Shoot

The 2025 Baytown Shriners Clay Shoot was a big success. I want to thank Gene and Jackie Anderson and the entire Gene's Powersports Country for their support.

I want to thank all of the volunteers that spent two days in the rain and the cold helping provide a fun time for all participants. I especially want to thank my Lady Mary for keeping me grounded and always keeping me on track.

I have worked and participated in many Arabia events, and I have to say I have never witnessed the support that this event received from this Divan and two Illustrious Sirs. Amy and Kelley registered all of the teams, Henry and Ceci entered them in the system along with their payment, while Angel, one of the BSC Ladies registered the Early Bird Shooters. Illustrious Sir Jerry Parrish and Lady Edie handled the Auction. Illustrious Sir Eddie Reed stayed busy helping Weston with the raffle tickets. Lastly Illustrious Sir Ben, Chris and Otto helped out doing everything from setting up tents to pulling a sunk boat out of the lake. I thank them all for coming out and helping where they were needed.

A special thanks goes out to Illustrious Sir Jerry Parrish who worked by my side almost every day for the last three weeks before the shoot to support me.

We thank Jeff Minton and Russel Jones and their ladies that took care of the merchandise. And Weston for handling the raffles, which took a big load off of me.

We also could not have done the Clay Shoot without all of the volunteers who helped us set up, work both days and tear down on Sunday and Monday. I thank them all.

A special shout out goes to David Bennett for providing all of our great meals and to Anthony Tacker for donating the Black Box (smoker and pit).

That leaves us with two groups without whom the Clay Shoot would not have happened:

- Our sponsors- we have a loyal group of sponsors that support us every year and provide the money to get us off the ground and get the shoot going. I give them all a special thank you.
- Our Shooters, we have a loyal group of shooters that shoot every year and talk up the shoot at all of their events.

My Lady Mary and I and the entire Board of Directors of the Baytown Shrine Club sends out a Thank You to all of the groups mentioned above and everyone that helped out to make the 2025 Baytown Shriners a great success.

It rained and it was cold? Why was it a success?

- We pulled together over 70 volunteers from Arabia, the BSC, the Barbers Hill Shooting Team, the Stephen F Austin JNROTC and from Gene's Powersports Country.
- We provided a premier shooting opportunity for over 75 rounds of shooting. The Shooters look forward to this event all year.
- We paid the Stephen F Austin JNROTC students for trapping, the money went into a fund to help support over 150 students in their program.
- We had a big article in the Baytown Sun.
- And we made a little bit of money.

No thank you is complete with out an announcement that the 10th Annual Baytown Shriners Clay Shoot will be held the same time next year, give or take a week, so get ready for a bigger and better event in 2026.

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## Honoring Service, Celebrating Tradition: The Annual Legion of Honor Military Ball

Each year, the Legion of Honor Military Ball stands as one of the most meaningful and memorable evenings in our Shrine calendar – a night dedicated to honoring military service, preserving cherished traditions, and raising funds for a greater cause.

Held with all the dignity and pageantry befitting our noble mission, the Military Ball pays tribute to our veterans, active-duty service members, and fallen heroes, reminding us of the sacrifices that secure our freedoms. It's an evening where our uniforms shine, our flags fly proudly, and our hearts swell with pride as we celebrate the values of duty, honor, and country.

But this event is more than ceremony – it is also a critical fundraiser that allows the Legion of Honor to continue serving as a potent force for good. Each year, proceeds from the Military Ball help support the Shriners Hospitals for Children, the First Lady's Project, the Shrine Circus, and essential equipment maintenance that keeps our unit operational. Whether it's flags, uniforms, or other mission essentials, every ticket and donation help us carry on our work.

We are also privileged to welcome distinguished guest speakers, who enlighten us with powerful insights on military service, history, and leadership – adding depth and reverence to the evening's celebration.

The Military Ball is more than a fundraiser – it is a reflection of who we are: veterans, patriots, Shriners, and servants of a higher cause.

So come join us in camaraderie, in celebration, and in commitment to "having fun helping kids" – with honor at our core and service in our hearts.

Legion of Honor – Saluting the Past. Serving the Present. Shaping the Future.

★★★★★ Houston, Texas ★★★★★

**ARABIA LEGION OF HONOR**

**MILITARY BALL**  
November 9, 2024  
(Open to the Public)

     

**\$50 per seat (8 seats to a table)**  
Or  
**\$375 per table**

DANCING \* LOST WEEKEND "RAFFLE" \* DINNER  
\* CASH BAR \*

Military - Dress/Tux (wear full or miniature medals)  
Civilian - Formal Attire (wear full or miniature medals)

 ★★★★★ 5:30 PM Doors Open ★★★★★  
Dinner served at 7 PM  
★★★★★ 

Arabia Shrine Center 10510 Harwin Drive  
Houston, Texas 77036 "Ballroom"

Email questions to [rick@rzvltld.com](mailto:rick@rzvltld.com)

RESERVATION ONLY  
RSVP with payment by October 15, 2024

NOT TAX DEDUCTIBLE - PROCEEDS BENEFIT THE ARABIA LEGION OF HONOR







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## *Celebrating a Lifetime Member*

It was with great pleasure to present our own Lifetime member of the Arabian Knights Calvin R. Roach with his “50” year certificate and pin from Arabia Shrine Center. Calvin was very appreciative.

If the Shrine doors were open, Calvin and Georgie probably opened them. He started riding drills at TSA and parades with the Knights in 1975. After his time in the saddle at these events, he continued participating by riding in the Whoop n Ride wagon during competition and parades.

Calvin was a dedicated member of the director's staff also. They loved to work Circus, from the first day of move in til the day after it was over. He held numerous staff and top staff positions throughout his years at Arabia. Calvin is also a “1st Ceremonial Emeritus”. He is a member of Montgomery County Shrine Club. Calvin also received his 50-year certificate and pin from the Houston Scottish Rite.

Presenting this award was even more heartwarming because it was on Calvin’s 98th birthday. Thank you, Calvin, for your lifetime dedication and love towards our mission.

Arabian Knights  
John Arnold, PP

## *Dollars and Sense from the Treasurer*

Dear Nobles and Ladies,

As we continue planning exciting events and fundraisers for our Temple, it’s important to stay aligned with the guidelines set forth by Shriners International—especially when it comes to referencing our beloved Shriners Hospitals for Children.

Imperial Treasurer Brad Koehn recently shared an important reminder on this topic. When promoting or advertising a fraternal fundraising event, we must **not** give the public the impression that the event is a hospital fundraiser. This includes **no hospital references in advertising materials, flyers, or tickets**. Once guests are inside the event space (such as the Temple, circus, Festival of Trees), **then and only then** may we share information about our hospitals and the life-changing care they provide.

Brad offers a helpful example from Arab Shrine’s circus, where the hospital van was moved inside the arena to avoid confusion. Once patrons entered, they could be educated about our mission and impact. When the van was at the front entry it could have given the impression that it was a hospital benefit. Do feel free, if you’re having a hospital benefit to advertise Shriners Children’s Hospital with advertisements, patients, etc. Also, please remember if it is a hospital benefit you will need to fill out and have a CAF (charitable activity form) approved before the event.

As always, feel free to reach out if you have questions.

Fraternally, Chris Staudt







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## Clownin' Around

As of this writing, the Arabia Shrine Circus is upon us. Which means, the clowns do what we do best – circus skits! A lot of planning and practice goes into every skit we do for the circus. Some say we don't work, that we're just having fun. Well yes, we have fun, but we work hard at it!

Our stated meetings continue to be well attended and we've increased our membership numbers this past month.

This past week, Flux, Buddy, Bam Bam and Squiggles were invited to entertain at a lady's house in Pearland for her 80<sup>th</sup> birthday. The clowns sang Happy Birthday backwards. Flux gave a plug for the hospital and the clowns collected money for the Sneaker Fund.

The Sneaker Fund is a philanthropy inside the Shriners Hospitals for Children. The Sneaker Fund is a fund raising activity for Children's Burn and Osteogenesis Research. I.S.C.A. operates this activity under the annual permission of the Imperial Council, which I.S.C.A. gets from each Imperial Potentate. Arabia Shrine Clowns use this activity to raise money for the hospitals.



**2025 SHOW ME THE CASH!**

**Daughters of the Nile - Tabeel Temple No. 88**

**TICKETS ARE \$25 EACH**

**1ST \$1,000.00 2ND \$750.00 3RD \$500.00**

**Winner Drawn September 20th, 2025 at the Murder Mystery Dinner**

Proceeds will benefit the Sneaker Fund of Tabeel Temple No. 88 - Daughters of the Nile

**2025 SHOW ME THE CASH!**

**Supporting Daughters of the Nile**

**Tabeel Temple No. 88**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Ticket No: \_\_\_\_\_

2025 SHOW ME THE CASH!

Supporting Daughters of the Nile

Tabeel Temple No. 88

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Ticket No: \_\_\_\_\_