



By JAMES I. STARRATT



PATROLMAN PHILLIP GEORGE POST NAMED "2008 PATROLMAN OF THE YEAR"

MAJOR James G. Perkins, Jr., Captain James I. Starratt, and Lieutenant David L. Anderson presented Patrolman Phillip George Post the "2008 Patrolman of the Year Plaque" at our recent Arab Patrol Holiday Social held at Angelica's. Phil has been steadfast in his attendance to drills, ceremonials, parades, Aleppo Functions, and volunteering to work as ticket taker for the various functions at Aleppo Auditorium. Phil has also volunteered on numerous occasions "canning" for the Aleppo Shriners Children's Transportation Fund. Phil is active in Liberty Lodge AF&AM, Beverly as Junior Steward and is Past Chief of the Northeast Club. Phil and Lady Carol have been blessed with four children, who have collectively blessed them with seven grandchildren and four great grandchildren.

Patrolman Raymond A. Whipple Jr. came to a recent drill with over two and one half pounds of "pull tabs" for the Aleppo Shriners Children's Transportation Fund. When asked how he acquired so many he explained that his grandson, Benjamin R. Mallard, a student at the University of New Hampshire got the idea from observing his diligence in saving pull tabs. Ben presented the idea to his roommate Jered Neff who agreed that it was a good cause and they started collecting tabs from classmates whenever they visited, and it was a challenge to "fill the bottle." They would pull tabs off empty cans at parties, pick up cans left at the cafeteria and even go through recycle bins. When they explained why they were collecting, and the cause that it would help, namely the Children's Transportation Fund. Classmates would come by with their tabs to help fill the bottle. Within a few weeks the bottle was filled and, to their surprise, towards the end of the semester friends presented their own filled bottles. Classmates helping the cause in addition to Ben and Jered were: Louie Derby, Geoff McGuirk, Andrew Capaul, Ryan Morin, Danielle Taylor, and "Curly" Chris Morton. Shriners should be proud of these young folks and challenged to equal their task with due diligence of collecting pull tabs.

Twenty-four Nobles and twenty-two Ladies enjoyed our annual Holiday Social held at Angelica's in Middleton, MA. We were honored to have as guests Aleppo's Illustrious Potentate Stephen G Eriksen and Lady Lynne. A great time of socializing and a fine meal was enjoyed by all.

Mark your calendar for the following shows Arab Patrol will be working: Home Show, February 6, 2009; Spa Show, April 3, 2009; Ultimate Fights, May 29, 2009, and August 7, 2009; Home Show, September 25, 2009. Signup sheets will be at drills.

Shriners Hospitals Patients' Winning Ways

PATIENTS at Shriners Hospitals for Children receive more than first-class, expert medical care. They receive personal attention, which encourages self-confidence, determination and achievement. Over the years, many Shriners Hospitals patients have demonstrated these traits, winning all sorts of accolades and awards. Two new amazing achievers are Morgan Kelly and Shay Oberg.

Ten-year-old Morgan of Mulberry, Fla., a patient at Shriners Hospitals for Children — Tampa — where she is also a patient ambassador — recently won the senior division (ages 10-12) of the 2008 Pre-Teen Florida Scholarship and Recognition Program.

"This competition is about brains, report cards, ability," said Morgan's mom. The fifth grader, who first participated in the junior division in

2006, has a 4.0 grade point average.

Participants compete in seven areas: academic achievement, volunteer service, school honors and activities, development of personal skills and abilities, general knowledge, communication ability and on-stage acknowledgement of accomplishments.

Morgan's ability to communicate, as well as her understanding and poise, were particularly evident during her speech, where she placed first and said: "My hopes and dreams for the future are that befriending a person with disabilities will become easier for everyone in the world ... A person is so much more than their illness or injury ... We have hopes and dreams, just like you."

Morgan, who has spinal muscular atrophy, is the first person who uses a wheelchair to win the title. Her accomplishment has attracted the attention of national publications serving people with disabilities, including Sports N Spokes and Kids on Wheels magazines.

Shay Oberg is a former patient of Shriners Hospitals for Children — Spokane and an outstanding softball player. A senior at Montana State University, Shay recently won a 2008 ESPY award from ESPN for Best Female Athlete with a Disability. The ESPY winners were determined through online votes by the public. Shay attended the ceremony, hosted by Justin Timberlake, in Los Angeles on July 16.

Shay was born without her left hand. Even so, she grew up playing basketball, softball and volleyball, and running track in her hometown of Great Falls, Mont. Eventually, softball, which Shay considers her first love, emerged as her best sport.

After high school, Shay played softball at Southwestern Oregon Community College. She later transferred to Montana State University and became one of the leading batters on the women's softball team, batting a .280 with three home runs and three doubles this past season. From her position in the outfield, she made 33 putouts and had three assists. She is pursuing a degree in psychology.

Both Morgan and Shay exemplify extraordinary determination and self-confidence. Shriners Hospitals is proud of them, and proud to be part of their lives.

www.shrinershospitals.org



Morgan Kelly, who has spinal muscular atrophy, is the first person who uses a wheelchair to win the Pre-Teen Scholarship and Recognition Program competition.



Shay Oberg, a patient at the Spokane Shriners Hospital for 16 years, won an ESPY award from ESPN in July. She is nationally known for her softball prowess.

Aleppo Shriners Past Master's Club

Thank you to all the nobles who have sent me email and called in reference to starting this group again. If any other Nobles who are Past Masters would like to participate with us, please send me an email at RWJeffA@comcast.net or call me at 978-536-2842.

We are setting up a few dates in October when we will meet to see what parts of the Third Degree people would like to do. With the approval of



Grand Lodge, we hope to do a Third Degree either at the end of this year or the beginning of next year somewhere on the North Shore. I look forward to hearing from you.

Jeffrey Arnold



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