



The Light Yet Burns in our Hearts

By: HARRY G. ORCUTT
CAPTAIN



THE Minutemen Unit joins the Legion of Honor in mourning the untimely demise of their 1st Lieutenant Commander **John Martin Kandres**. John had been an early Minuteman, but shortly after the Legion of Honor was formed, John, having been a young Lieutenant in the Vietnam War, where he suffered a grievous wound and was a recipient of the Bronze Star for Valor, transferred to the Legion. However, he never forgot his comrades in our Unit, and often included us as occasion allowed in various Masonic events in which he had a hand organizing.

To those who knew him, John was a Mason's Mason. Whenever one of the many Lodges with which he was associated needed a hand conducting degree work in the 1st through 3rd degrees, John would be there at any station the Lodge required. He was Master of Major General Henry Knox Lodge in 1980-81, and then sat in the East in King Cyrus Lodge (reinforcing Good Samaritan Lodge) in 1985, before returning to the East of Knox Lodge

in 1990-91. I understand that he may have served as the Master of other Lodges in which he was affiliated. Somewhere between the first and last dates John served as the D.D.G.M. of the Old Chelsea 3rd. As he completed his year as Master, he was recognized with a Past Master's Diploma which in part proclaims "in which station he was a Light to the Brethren and an Ornament to the Craft." Being the Master of any Lodge is an arduous undertaking, so anyone who fulfills his service proficiently is certainly a Light to the Craft. In my many years of Masonry a very few of the Masters that led Lodges in which I hold membership have been candles, while others have been somewhat more luminous. I very much doubt that anyone would deny that John was a veritable light house with a very bright beacon that brought many a Brother to safe harbor.

To honor him, the Minutemen have made a donation to the Aleppo Shriners Children's Transportation Fund as if he were still a serving member of the Unit, where in our hearts he will forever remain. God Bless and keep you John, it is only the sure knowledge that we will serve with you again in the Celestial Lodge that eases our present pain.

With sadness we also report the passing of Lady **Evelyn McIntosh**, wife of Noble **Lenny McIntosh**. The Minutemen Ladies will make a donation in her memory to the Aleppo Shriners Children's Transportation Fund.

Our Brethren of Prince Hall Grand Lodge, A.F. & A.M., Jurisdiction of Massachusetts have begun celebrating their 200th Anniversary as a regular and duly constituted Grand Lodge. The City of Cambridge has chosen this auspicious time to honor the man, Prince Hall, declaring him to be a Patriot and Founding Father of the Nation, with a Memorial to be placed on the hallowed grounds in the Revolutionary War Circle of Cambridge Common where the immortal Washington first took command of the Continental Army in July 1775. The monument will be paid for by public subscription and is estimated to cost upwards of \$150,000.

At the November Heads of Unit Meeting I put forward a proposal (which appeared to be well

received) that each of the 20+ Units of Aleppo Shrine donate a suggested one hundred (\$100.00) dollars, sent to our Minutemen Paymaster (as someone has to coordinate the project), Noble **Charles Pace**, at 44 Meadow Lane, Whitman, MA 02382. At the end of January we will bundle all of the checks (whether from Units or individuals), and will request that the incoming Potentate send the checks with a letter stating the Units and individuals that have made donations to the Friends of Prince Hall Memorial (as checks should be inscribed).

Before this article is published, our Unit will have enjoyed our Annual Christmas - Hanukkah Party. The coordinator of our Minutemen Ladies, Lady **Carol Vere**, wife of Past-Captain **Bob Vere**, recently sent an email to her membership that describes the party and its meaning far better than I could improve upon. She said:

I hope all will take advantage of attending the Minutemen Christmas party on December 13 (the men should already have the details). It's such a nice affair to be together and join in the holiday spirit with a nice dinner and entertained with the Xmas show. I have always thought it is very generous of the Minutemen to have a holiday get together as a "thank-you" for all the time the men have donated throughout the year! It's always a good time to sit back, be served and watch the Xmas musical!!

For those who want to join us at our 2009 Party by enlisting and participating with us in the coming year, our Monthly Muster is held the first Thursday of each month (except July and August), at 7:30 p.m., in our recently vacuum cleaner cleaned (thanks to Lt. **John Girdvainis**, our Ensign Recorder) 2nd Floor Barracks Room (the one with the Minuteman on the door). And did I mention that our Ladies provide a sumptuous collation after each Muster? Those desiring to march with Flags, Fifes, Drums, or Muskets always welcome. No experience necessary (other than knowing how to walk).



Twins Find "New Life" with Shriners

BRIAN and **Shana Howard** have been inseparable since birth. As twins, it's expected. Unfortunately, they were also together when disaster struck.

At only two years old, the twins suffered severe second- and third-degree burns when their aunt's house caught on fire. Immediately, the young children were rushed to a local hospital with burns over nearly half their bodies.

"Their faces didn't even look like a face," recalled their mother **Pam**.

For two weeks, Brian and Shana clung to life in medically-induced comas while their parents worried for their survival.

"I thought we were going to lose them," said **Ralph Howard**, the children's father.

As their children stabilized, Ralph began think-

ing of the future.

"The only thing I could think of is, 'I need to make all the right decisions.'"

One of those decisions was made with the help of a Shiner. With a simple "I'm here to help you," the children were moved to Shriners Hospitals for Children -- Cincinnati.

The ambulance arrived to pick them up with blue and pink blankets, only a glimpse of the personal care the children would receive.

"Within the first four hours, there was a game plan established. Everyone who needed to see these kids, from the X-ray technicians to the nutritionist and chief of staff had seen them," continued Ralph. "It made us feel a lot better."

"They help children, and while they help children, they help the parents, too."

Brian and Shana received skin grafts and reconstructive surgeries, and over the next 19 years of their lives, Shriners Hospitals provided this extensive care at absolutely no charge.

"Shriners Hospitals prepared me for life. They helped make me a stronger person," said Brian.

"When I walk into the Cincinnati Shriners Hospital, it's not like I'm walking into a hospital; it's like I'm walking into a family reunion," explained Shana. "They've given me a life."

In addition to the loving environment for which they're so thankful, they've also attended Camp Ytiliba, a summer camp for burn patients, as campers and junior counselors. And they've visited several Shriners fraternity chapters to share their stories and thank those who have helped them.

"It's a wonderful thing we've given them," said **Richard Kogan, M.D.**, who worked closely with the siblings. "Likewise, they've given us something just as wonderful in return."



Shana and Brian Howard's story was featured at the 134th Imperial Council Session in St. Louis this summer.

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