



By JAMES I. STARRATT

THE Arab Patrol Annual Holiday Social was recently held at Angelica's Restaurant, Middleton. Seventeen (17) patrolmen and fifteen (15) ladies attended. We were honored to have as our guests Illustrious Potentate **Albert D. Flight** and Lady **Jean**. A fine time of socializing followed by a delicious meal was enjoyed by all attendees.

Congratulations to Major **James G. Perkins, Jr.** on being presented the coveted Robert Gardiner Wilson, Jr. Medal at the January Ceremonial. This award is presented to Nobles for their outstanding service above the call of duty to Aleppo Shrine, and is named to honor the late Noble **Robert Gardiner Wilson, Jr.**, who was a Past Aleppo Potentate, Past Imperial Potentate, and an active member of the Arab Patrol. Congratulations are also in order to **Sal Privitera** on his promotion to Colors Master Sergeant and to **German Garcia** on his promotion to Colors Sergeant. German was also named "Patrolman of the Year 2007" at the Holiday Social. Congratulations also to Colors Master Sergeant **William Colmer** on his retirement from active duty in the Arab Patrol Colors Unit after serving close to twenty-five (25) years and his designation as Colors Past Sergeant. We look forward to Bill's continued association with the Arab Patrol.

Arab Patrol was represented at the work party to renovate the public rest rooms at Aleppo Temple by Major James G. Perkins, Jr., **Al Whipple** and . The project consisted of replacing the ceiling tiles, painting the suspension system, installing new lighting and general clean up.

Arab Patrol extends our condolences to the family of Captain/Executive Officer **Malcolm R. Gavin** on his passing, after an extended illness. Mal was very active in the function of the Arab Patrol and Craftsman Unit and will be sorely missed. Mal was the husband of 55 years to the late **Jean (Young) Gavin**, father of **Melissa Gavin Whitney** and her husband **Gene** of Dummerston, VT and **Bonnie Gavin Jones** and husband **Stephen** of Duxbury. Grandfather of **Amanda J. Whitney** of Portland, ME, and **Scott G.** and **Allison Jones** of Duxbury, dear friend of **Joan Nesbitt** of Somersworth, NH. Masonic Services were held Saturday, February 2, 2008. Rest in peace Noble Brother.

The patrolman of the year is chosen by the patrol staff officers. It is awarded once a year to a member of the Unit who meets the following criteria: attendance to drills, Ceremonials, parades, volunteering for functions at the Aleppo Temple, working as ticket taker at Friday functions, and performing a service above and beyond the call of duty.



PRESENTING the Patrolman of the Year 2007 award to Noble German Garcia (middle) is Illustrious Albett D Flight (left), and Major James G. Perkins Jr. (right).

Patrolman of the Year 2007

By CHARLES "BUCKY" BUCHANAN

IT has been a long road for Noble **German Garcia**, from being a student at the Havana Business University to being named Patrolman of the Year for 2007 in the Aleppo Arab patrol. Noble Garcia came to the United States in 1962 and trained with a group of freedom fighters, hoping to return to Cuba to fight the Castro regime. When he realized this was not going to happen, he migrated to Lowell, Massachusetts and found employment with the aid of a friend of his parents. He worked at two different jobs before being employed by Raytheon where he worked for 28 years as a missile assembler before retiring in 2005.

German began his Masonic career at Kilwinning Lodge in Lowell in 1997. He joined the Scottish Rite and the Aleppo Shriners in 1999, and has since advanced to the rank of Sergeant and is also a member of the Aleppo Temple Color Guard.

Noble Garcia was married to his wife, **Mirtha Garcia**, for 44 years before her demise in 1997. She was also from Cuba, but came here prior to his arrival. They have one son, **German Garcia III**, who has followed in his father's footsteps at Kilwinning Lodge, the Scottish Rite and Aleppo Shriners.

Major **James G. Perkins, Jr.**, Commander of the Arab Patrol, said Sergeant Garcia is an on-time hard-working member of the Arab Patrol deserving the honor of being selected as the Patrolman of the Year for 2007.

Saturday
ANOTHER GREAT DAY!



The day could not have been more perfect. Phil and Jenna came to visit with Sarah and we walked the campus (I still can't get over how beautiful it is!). We stopped and had ice cream and played a game of croquet - Sarah's idea! She has *SO* much energy, and there is so much here to keep *US ALL* occupied! She wants to come up next weekend for the watercolor class! Maybe I'll take Sarah to the neighborhood gardens in the morning. We could cut some flowers for her to bring into class. Roses happen to be her favorite. *MINE, TOO!* I love having them visit! This is *BETTER* than I ever imagined!

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