

# Second Ceremonial Master David J. Raymond

By MARK STOUGHT

If you don't know our new Second Ceremonial Master by now (and you might not; he isn't one to talk about himself freely), you will when you finish this article. Noble **David J. Raymond** is in fact a very interesting and multifaceted person (once the necessary information can be dragged out of him to figure this out). A resident of Saugus, Massachusetts, for the last 12 years, David went to school at Lakeville High School, where he displayed a talent for working with tools. Since his graduation (which he says was many moons ago, although he won't quite specify how many), David has had experience working for himself, as well as for others. He initially worked at his family's business in industrial equipment service and sales for 10 years, then opened his own service establishment for five years until a back injury prevented him from doing the heavy lifting required. He then went to work for Williamson Industrial in Chelsea, MA, where he is an Assistant Service Manager and Project Estimator.

David, when asked about his hobbies, says, "I'm a Mason and Shriner; that's my most active hobby." This is not unsurprising, as he is a fourth-generation Mason, third-generation Shriner, and third-generation Order of the Eastern Star (OES) member. His father, Noble **John C. Raymond** was a charter member of the Aleppo Minutemen, and he has many uncles who are also Masons in various places.

He joined the Craft in 1993, and was raised in Zetland Lodge (now Lynnfield-Zetland) when it still met in Cambridge. He was Master of Zetland in 1997-98, and was Master of Mt. Olivet Lodge in Cambridge in 1998-99 and again in 2004. He joined the Scottish Rite Valley of Boston, and he was appointed a District Deputy Grand Master for the Wakefield 13th Masonic District in 2006 and 2007.

What has allowed him such great success in Masonry is the support he receives from his family. As an example of this, David is also a Past Worthy Patron of Tontoquon Chapter #100, Order of the Eastern Star. That in itself is perhaps not particularly intriguing; a lot of people serve in OES multiple times. However, considering that the first time he was Worthy Patron, his sister was the Worthy Matron, and the second time, it was his wife, **Robin**, David has a large network of family members who understand and support his passion for the Craft. His mother, **Jean**, is a Shrine widow, and comes with David to participate in events from time to time. David also has three daughters: **Jenna Raymond**, **Kayla Davis**, and **Cori Davis**.

David joined Aleppo in 1995, and immediately became part of the Director's Staff, eventually

becoming Director of the Unit from 2004-07, taking over from longtime Director Noble **Larry Newton**. He was then made Chief Aide by Illustrious **Stephen G. Eriksen** in 2007-08, and now he has become low man on the Divan totem pole. This has not stopped him from doing other things around Aleppo, though – he works with the Provost Guard, works as Assistant Building Manager three or four times a year (as he will be doing at the upcoming Petting Zoo event), and even works with the Membership Committee. Our Second Ceremonial Master has also been known to frequent the Shrine Football Classic.

While David's dedication to the Craft is truly laudable, he does have outside hobbies (despite his protestations to the contrary). He enjoys freshwater and deep-sea fishing, and he often goes camping with his family when weather permits. Clearly, though, David's true passion is for Masonry and Shrinedom, but that passion is tempered by the understanding that familial support is necessary for success of not only the individual Mason and Shriner, but also the fraternal organizations. He sums this up most eloquently in his goals as a member of the Divan: "When I joined the Shrine, it was different than it is today – it was mostly older men, and I felt somewhat set aside as a younger member, so my goal is to continue to make Aleppo a place that attracts younger members and their families."



DAVID J. RAYMOND AND LADY ROBIN



David J. Raymond is installed as 2nd Ceremonial Master by Illustrious Potentate Robert F. Smith at the January 24, 2009 Ceremonial.

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## International Short Shriners of North America

A.A.O.N.M.S.

The Short Shriners held their first informational meeting on Wednesday September 17, 2008 at the Aleppo Shrine Center. There were several Nobles present who were interested in learning what the Short Shriners are all about. The officers of Bektash Short Shriners visited us in their full regalia, which was very impressive. It was explained that we need at least ten members to receive our charter. The Short Shriners is like a Shrine Club, not a marching or uniformed unit. The idea of the club is that you must be under five feet six inches tall, and that you want to have fun and improve the quality of Shrinedom. If you are interested in joining, call Illustrious Potentate Robert F. Smith at 978-663-6118 or e-mail robert.smith63@comcast.net.

If you are a "short Shriner," there is a new place at Aleppo for you!

Illustrious Robert F. Smith, Aleppo Potentate, is starting a new Club here at Aleppo called "The Short Shriners."

Requirements for acceptance are: Nobles in good standing, a height of no more than (5) foot (6) inches tall and willing to have a good time!

It is a Dinner Unit or Club.

No marching (unless you want to), just vertically challenged Shriners having fun.

