

Thank You

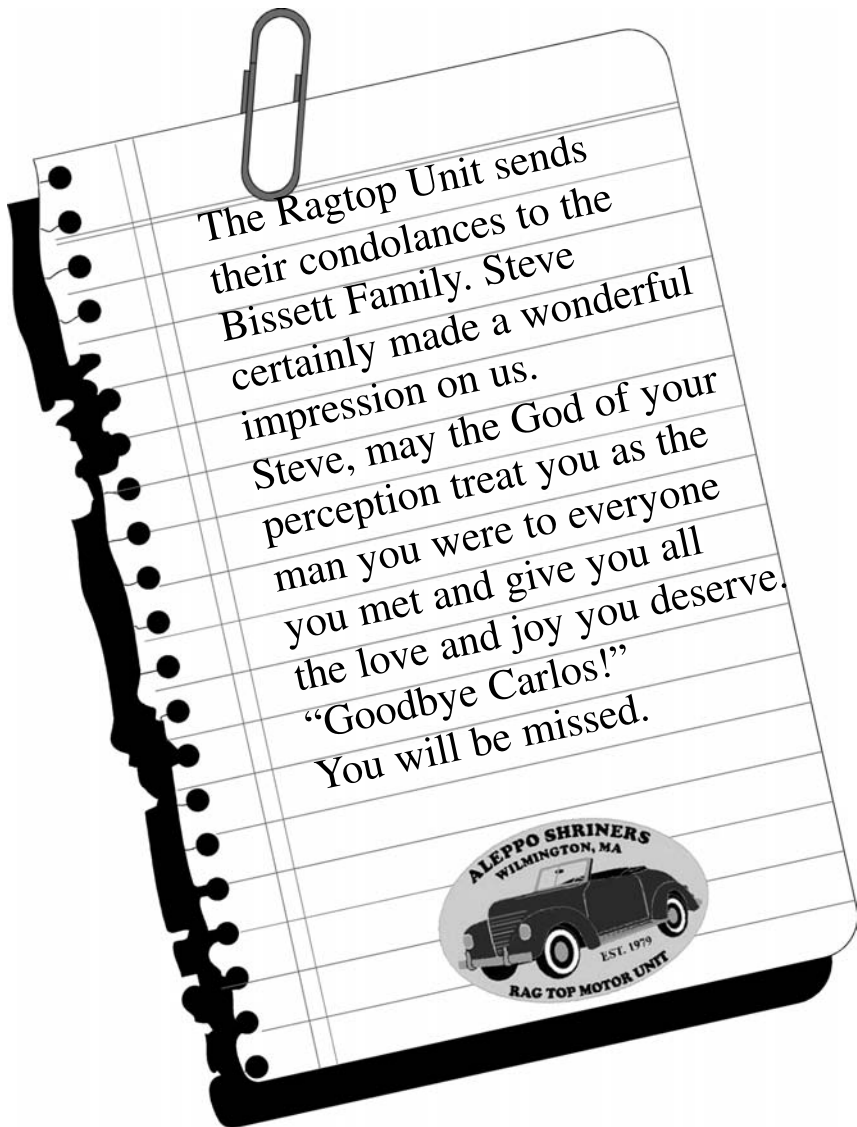


I would like to take a moment to thank, from the bottom of my heart, everyone who has been by my side to help me through the loss of my husband **Stephen T. Bissett**. Being in Anaheim at the time there were many people close to me already who did not leave my side, I am honored to have you in my life.

There were also many others for whom I do not know, who not only with words but actions; a hug, a squeeze of the hand, a whisper, that helped me in ways no words can describe. To all of you, I am very grateful, and thank you.

Being home surrounded by family, and friends who love me so much and have helped me through, thank you. You will always be in my heart and a part of my life.

Sheila Bissett



OCTOBER 6, 2007

The Grand Master Jeffrey B. Hodgdon
Class of Canditates

Arch Degree



Aleppo Wins Another Dromedary Award

By HARVEY J. WAUGH
EXECUTIVE EDITOR

IMPERIAL Public Relations Committee Chairman, **Bernard J. Lemieux, M.D.**, announced that the *Aleppo Shriners News* has won the 2007 Dromedary Award as being the best Shrine newspaper in its class. Aleppo was in the category of a temple with a membership of 3,500 Nobles or more.

The official award presentation took place in Anaheim, California on July 4. Chief Rabban, **Stephen Eriksen** accepted the winning trophy from Imperial Sir Lemieux on behalf of Aleppo.

Each year, the Imperial Shrine national office in Tampa asks local journalists and other industry professionals to evaluate the quality of Shrine newspapers from across the country. Seventy-eight publications were judged on a rating scale from a low of 1 to a high of 5, with a score of 3 being "satisfactory." On one of the evaluation forms for the *Aleppo Shriners News*, a judge gave the publication all "5's."

There were 37 Honorable Mention Award winners.

As Executive Editor of the *Aleppo News*, I am grateful for the people who make the publication the quality news product that it is. It takes a lot of dedicated Shriners to provide information worthy of publication. From the Uniformed Units, Shrine Clubs and other correspondents, the *Aleppo News* will always depend on these Nobles for their support.

From a production point of view, the *Aleppo News* benefited for over 20 years under the guidance of Editor, **Joe Mc Mckertich**. Joe won 13 Dromedary

Awards for Aleppo during his tenure. It is a marvelous feat. He kept the Aleppo paper at the highest level of quality.

Joe passed away in early 2006. Since then, the "Aleppo Shriners News" has been produced primarily by three Nobles; **Hermes Boyatis**, of Brockton, **Charles C. Buchanan** of Charlton (formerly of Framingham), and **Thomas Friberg** of Billerica.

Each news issue begins with a production meeting with the above Nobles and myself. Over the next two months one or two other meetings are scheduled to make additional assignments, evaluate progress and make necessary decisions as needed.

Hermes Boyatis and his lady, **Jane**, contribute many stories of interest along with biographies of interesting Nobles. Their feature stories are always intriguing.

Charles Buchanan earned a degree in journalism and is retired from Raytheon. His professional writing and objective reporting on numerous assigned articles and feature stories are always welcomed.

Tom Friberg works every day at the Aleppo Office. He has overall responsibility for *Aleppo News* production. He receives news articles from writers, organizes the paper, communicates with correspondence, typesets copy, handles advertising and interfaces with the printing company for final production and delivery.

These three men are the backbone of the *Aleppo News*. Without them, a Dromedary Award for 2007 would not have been possible. They are to be congratulated for winning this distinction and honor.

Farewell to Stephen T. Bissett

By HERMES BOYATIS

IN our last interview, we described **Steve**, the newest member of the Divan, as a man of many hats: the tasseled mortarboard of a university graduate in communications, the helmet of a motorcyclist, a chef's cap, and of course the Fez.

Appointed this year to the Divan by Illustrious Potentate **Albert D. Flight**, Steve said laughingly, "I'm the smallest fish in the smallest pond."

Steve found joy in everything he did and what his beloved wife **Sheila** did. After working for fifteen years, he founded his own business, Penguin Theatrical Productions, Inc. He traveled worldwide as executive producer, meeting such top performers as Cher, Streisand, and the Back Street Boys. For the Shriners, he has produced Broadway musicals and concerts.

His most heart-thumping moment? "A special agent showed up at our door with a gold medal in a box, a letter, and a certificate. President George Bush awarded me the gold medal for my years of VOLUNTEER SERVICE!"

Steve completed our interview: "Shrine is my hobby and my fun and my happiest service."

Steve's travels take him now to the oasis, the route of the black camel. Sheila will have her special memories and the medal. We lost Steve in Anaheim, but we all shall continue Steve's Shriners' missions!



THE ALEPPO HIGHLANDERS played for the attendees of the Tartan Ball on April 28, 2007. They came marching into the Fez Room filling the entire room with their melodious and thundrous sounds.