



A Penny Saved

By: HARRY G. ORCUTT
CAPTAIN



SOMEONE appears to be looking out for the Minutemen Unit. We just received the latest catalog from our new uniform supplier and the cost has gone up \$38.50, from \$247.50 to \$286.00 including shipping! Still, we won't be getting much sympathy from members in other Units given what they presently pay for a complete Unit uniform. If we had held off on our purchase until now, we would have paid an additional \$875.50 to attire our current roster. But then, besides the added expense, we wouldn't have looked nearly so good when we presented "Flags of the American Revolution," at the opening segment of the June 7th Ceremonial.

After our flag presentation had concluded, Illustrious **Stephen G. Eriksen** called up Noble **Robert Magovern**, our first Captain, to present him with his long-overdue Past Captain's Fez. Bob had served for eight years as our Captain beginning in 1974. He had never received his Past Captain Fez, because when he stepped down as our leader, he was selected as Colonel Commanding the Uniformed Units Staff. He received his Fez surrounded by the Unit he had formed, some present members of which had served under his Captaincy. With the loan of the present Captain's sword, his new Fez atop his head, he led the Unit off the floor displaying a most gracious and proud smile.

Saving a buck can get to be a habit. The Unit and individual members desired to purchase additional Brown Bess or Charleville Muskets, which are our current standard. The Shrine allocated us the nec-

essary \$1,050 plus shipping in our 2008 Unit Budget to purchase two such weapons, made in Europe.

But then I contacted a friend, **Peter Plunkett** of the Middlesex Village Trading Company, of Charlestown, NH, who markets muskets made in India (where the British Government throughout the 1800's purchased the same for their Asian armies), and was informed that he sold Brown Besses for \$475, and 1777 Charlevilles for \$550 to individuals, which also included slings, hammer-stalls (a leather hood that covers the steel frizzen, the original safety), flashguards (a small brass shield attached to the pan, which keeps the shower of sparks from hitting your neighbor when the musket is fired), and bayonets. These latter items, though they are necessities, are not included by other dealers, and add appreciably to the cost.

Then came the really, really good news. Peter told me that Units making an initial purchase of a minimum of five muskets receive a special discount. The Besses then became \$375 and the Charlevilles \$395, so we purchased three of each. The three Besses were purchased for a total price of \$1,125 and are stamped as Unit Property, while the Charlevilles totaled \$1,185 and were paid for by three individual members. In the future our members may order either musket (or any other personal period arm) individually and still receive the Unit discount price. Now, that's the type of deal I most enjoy making! It is a lot more affordable to be a musket-carrying Minuteman.

The Minutemen Ladies provided me with a check to make a donation at the April Heads of Unit Meeting on their behalf to the Potentate for the Aleppo Shriners Children's Transportation Fund in memory of **Jacqui Trudell**, wife of Nobel **Fred Trudell**. She made the burdens of others lighter whenever she smiled.

Our current year is half expended, but we still have plenty of powder for our muskets, strength in our hands to rap and tap the drums, air in our lungs to play our fifes, and shoulders sturdy enough to carry our flags in Aleppo's concluding Tours of Duty (T.O.D.'s) at the Northeast Shrine Association Parade in Manchester, NH, on Saturday, August 23rd, the Marlborough Labor Day Parade, on Monday, September 1st, and the East Boston Columbus Day Parade on Sunday, October 12th. Those Nobles interested in sharing with us our representation of the Patriots who began the struggle for the freedoms we enjoy today may request enlistment papers be sent them by our Ensign Recorder, Lt. **John Girdvainis**, by emailing him at: masjig@aol.com. We will make every effort to have any Nobles that respond NOW fully uniformed before this year's marching season is over, so that they can be eligible to participate in our legendary Christmas Party.

The Minutemen Unit recruiting station will again be open to enlistees at the first Muster in September held the first Thursday of the month at 7:30 p.m. in our 2nd floor barracks room, at the Aleppo Shrine Center in Wilmington.



THE ALEPPO MINUTEMEN Unit presenting "Flags of the American Revolution," at the opening segment of the June 7th Ceremonial.



LED BY CAPTAIN **Harry G. Orcutt**, the Aleppo Minutemen marched in the Newton Parade on May 18, 2008.

A Silver Lining in Every Cloud: Amazing Hope in the Face of Injury

AT the age of 12, **Darrell** sustained a spinal cord injury (SCI) that left him unable to walk.

About a year after his injury, he came to Shriners Hospital for Children — Chicago for rehabilitation. As soon as he was strong enough, Darrell was ready to participate in an annual week-long camp for teens with SCI, based right in the hospital.

During the camp, teens get to participate in many activities, such as scuba diving, sailing, and rock climbing. They play wheelchair basketball, baseball and tennis. For Darrell, trying kayaking



was his absolute favorite part.

The chance to meet other young people facing the same challenges is important, as many Shriners Hospitals patients are often one of few young people in their communities who have a similar injury or who use a wheelchair. SCI camp is a great opportunity for kids to build strong relationships with other teens like themselves.

Young people with spinal cord injuries also have a range of challenges. Because they can't move their legs, cardiac health depends on finding other ways to keep fit. In addition, most children who use wheelchairs need to restrict their calorie intake to assure they keep their weight under control and remain as mobile as possible. Shriners Hospitals for Children helps kids like Darrell learn about how to overcome these challenges and re-learn life management skills that will help make their lives more fulfilling.

Despite all the challenges and hardships that Darrell has endured, he always sees the silver lining in every situation. His optimistic attitude allows him to defy the challenges life has presented to him.

Darrell has also had an epiphany or two since he began treatment at the Chicago Shriners Hospital. He recently decided that nursing might be a good occupation for him. Inspired by a positive young nurse who uses a wheelchair, he's motivated to do the same for other Shriners Hospitals kids in the future.



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October 4, 2008
Ceremonial

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