

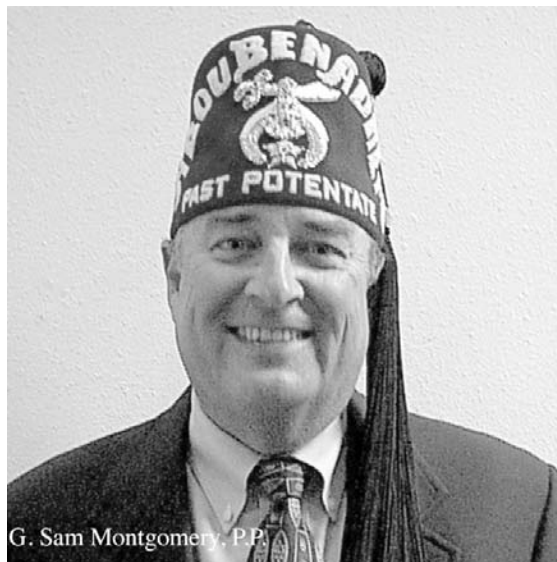
## Outstanding Shriners Receive 2009 Award of Merit at 135th Imperial Council Session

**T**HE Imperial Potentate's Award of Merit acknowledges nobles who have made extraordinary contributions to Shriners International and Shriners Hospitals for Children. There is no greater honor in the fraternity.

During the 135th Imperial Council Session in San Antonio, Texas, July 5-9, Imperial Potentate Douglas E. Maxwell recognized three Shriners for their exceptional lifetime achievements by presenting them with an Award of Merit.

### The Unsung Shriner Hero

At the 135th Imperial Council Session, Imperial Sir Maxwell also recognized "The Unsung Shriner Hero." This award was not dedicated to an individual Shriner; instead, it was presented in appreciation of each and every noble and his continued dedication to Shriners International and Shriners Hospitals for Children.



G. Sam Montgomery, P.P.

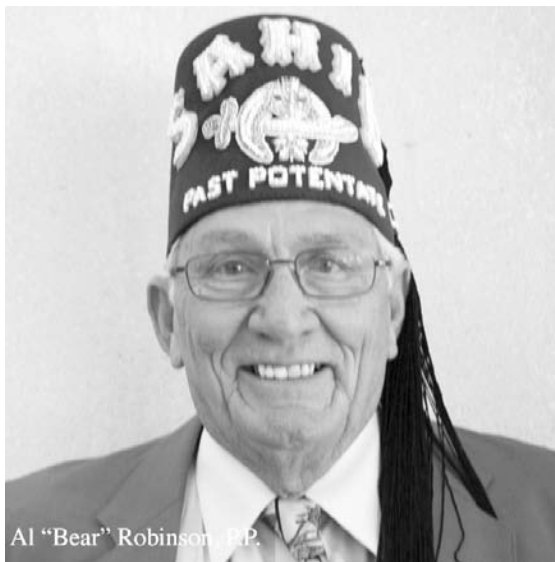
### G. Sam Montgomery, P.P.

Illustrious Sir Sam Montgomery became a Master Mason in 1977. That same year, he joined Abou Ben Adhem Shriners in Springfield, Mo., where he served in various leadership roles throughout the years, including Potentate in 2001. Membership for the entire Masonic family has always been his main concern.

Montgomery's experience and success with membership initiatives led to his appointment to the Imperial Membership Executive Committee. He helped organize the Temple Resource and Counsel Program (TRAC) and still works as a TRAC specialist. He also served on the pilot program implementation team.

Montgomery is a Past Regional Director and a membership presenter for the Shriners International Membership Seminar, Oriental Guide and Assistant Rabban educational seminars, and the Shrine Directors' Association Convention.

He is also a 33rd degree Scottish Rite Mason, Inspector General Honorary and Past Master of Solomon Lodge #271.



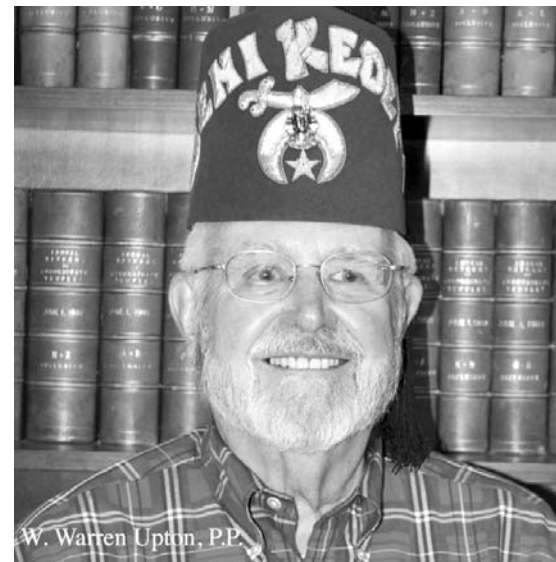
Al "Bear" Robinson, P.P.

### Al "Bear" Robinson, P.P.

Illustrious Sir Al Robinson was raised a Master Mason in 1969 at Sarasota Lodge #147 and created a Shriner in 1989. Robinson is Past Potentate of Sahib Shriners in Sarasota, Fla. In 1996, he was appointed to the Imperial Donor Relations Committee, and in 2003, he served as president of the Southeastern Shrine Association.

In addition to raising hundreds of thousands of dollars for Shriners Hospitals for Children, Robinson is also responsible for coordinating the Shriners Hospitals for Children traveling exhibit program. Since taking over this responsibility in 2004, he has logged countless hour and miles scheduling appearances and transporting the exhibits, helping increase awareness about Shriners International and Shriners Hospitals for Children.

Recently, Robinson was also instrumental in establishing the hurricane relief fund for Shriners, and the Ford partner recognition program for Shriners and employees of Shriners International and Shriners Hospitals for Children.



W. Warren Upton, P.P.

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Illustrious Sir Warren Upton was raised a Master Mason at Kanawha Lodge #20 and created a Shriner in 1966 at Beni Kedem Shriners in Charleston, W.V. He served as Potentate of Beni Kedem Shriners in 1977 and has served as an Imperial Council Representative since 1976. In addition to being a member of the Scottish Rite and York Rite, Upton is a Past Director of Charleston Court 111, Royal Order of Jesters, and Past Impresario of the Court.

A former U.S. attorney for the southern district of West Virginia and partner at a law firm, Upton has been recognized numerous times as one of the best lawyers in America. He retired from the full-time practice of law in 2001, but he has continued contributing his legal expertise to Shriners International.

He was appointed chairman of the Jurisprudence and Laws Committee in 2000, and he has served nine Imperial Potentates as chairman of this valuable standing committee. He is also chairman emeritus of the Grievances and Appeals Committee.

## Masonic Organizations Partner to Give Children with Cleft Lip and Palate a Healthy Smile

**S**HRINERS Hospitals for Children is partnering with the Humanitarian Foundation of the Grottoes of North America, a Masonic-affiliated fraternal organization, to provide its cleft lip and palate patients with financial assistance for routine dental care.

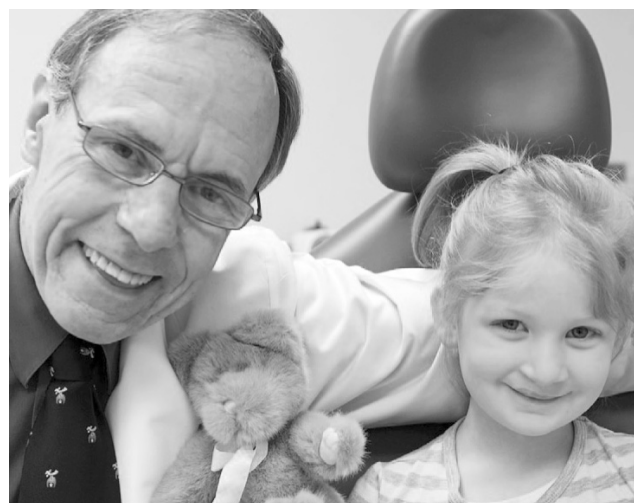
"This partnership will help us ensure that the dental needs of our patients are taken care of between their visits to our hospitals," said **Douglas E. Maxwell**, president and CEO of Shriners Hospitals for Children. "We are very appreciative of the Grottoes' assistance."

The Grottoes of North America includes more than 15,000 members; approximately 70 percent are also members of Shriners International, the organization that founded and continues to support Shriners Hospitals for Children. The Grottoes of North America began its dental program in 1970. The goal is to provide the funds needed to improve the dental health of special needs children, who are often excluded from normal childhood dental care.

Any child under age 18 with cerebral palsy, muscular dystrophy, mental retardation or organ transplant is eligible for their services.

"We're excited about expanding our dental program to include the cleft lip and palate patients at Shriners Hospitals for Children," said **Alan Betker**, chairman of the Humanitarian Foundation of the Grottoes of North America. "This is just one example of the many opportunities that exist for Masonic charities to work together for a cause."

Shriners Hospitals for Children added cleft lip and palate as an official care discipline in 2005. Treating cleft lip and palate often requires several types of surgeries, including lip and palate repair, nasal reconstruction, facial work and dental procedures.



Many of these surgeries are not possible unless the patient has healthy gums and teeth. Since cleft lip and palate patients are at a higher risk of dental diseases, routine visits with a pediatric dentist greatly maximizes their treatment. The partnership with the Grottoes of North America will help ensure that patients receive the financial assistance, when needed, to make these routine visits possible.

Staff at a number of Shriners Hospitals for Children have referred special needs patients to the Grottoes of North America for years. In November 2007, the first formal agreement between the two organizations was created. Shriners Hospitals for Children — Chicago was selected as the pilot facility and will continue to serve as a resource as more Shriners Hospitals for Children become involved in the Grottoes' dental program during the next year. Initial hospitals

include Portland, Houston, Los Angeles, Cincinnati and Springfield.

The care coordinators at Shriners Hospitals for Children will help families who may benefit from the Grottoes' dental program. They will consult with the patient's treatment team about the dental needs of the child, and the dentist or surgeon on the team will let the care coordinator know what surgeries may be necessary, and what dental care will be needed to help ensure the best surgical outcomes.

If the patient already has a qualified dentist back home, the care coordinator can provide necessary information that will make it possible for their dentist of choice to receive payment from the Grottoes' dental program. If a family has difficulty finding a dentist willing to treat their child, the Shriners Hospitals for Children care coordinator will work with the Grottoes of North America to assist them.

The Grottoes' dental program is the secondary carrier when the patient already has insurance and acts as the primary carrier if no insurance is available. Very few pediatric dentists accept Medicaid; however, there are Medicaid resources available to help find a dentist. Patients with Medicaid can be referred to the Grottoes of North America if a dentist is not available in their area.

For more information, please contact **Jane Valentine**, corporate director of nursing at Shriners Hospitals for Children, at (813) 281-7171 or [jvalentine@shrinenet.org](mailto:jvalentine@shrinenet.org).

[www.shrinershospitals.org](http://www.shrinershospitals.org)



**Shriners Hospitals**  
for Children™