

# Illustrious Robert F. Smith

## Nothing Stops Him

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Patrol Association where he was instrumental in organizing their annual competitions.

In 2007, he became Chairman of the Aleppo Shriners Football All-Star Classic, which is one of the biggest contributors to the Aleppo Shriners Children's Transportation Fund, raising thousands of dollars each year.

Bob and Helen are hosting a cruise to the Bahamas this year and have made plans for an Aleppo trip to New Orleans scheduled for December 7 to 11. They hope many other Nobles will join them on their trip. They are also representing Aleppo at the NESAs in Burlington, Vermont, and the Imperial Session in San Antonio, Texas.

Illustrious Smith's main concern has been membership: since his appointment as 2nd Ceremonial Master by Illustrious **Robert F. Greene, Sr.**, in 2003 and throughout his years on the Aleppo Divan, and now during his reign as Potentate in 2009. His slogan "5K No Way" refers to the membership at Aleppo, which is currently at 5,100 members. His goal is to prevent it from dropping below 5,000.

To this end, several initiatives to boost membership are going on full-force at Aleppo. The Public Relations team, led by Douglas Dodge, is working on awareness of the Shriners and the Shriners Hospitals for Children not only with the public, but with other Nobles and their families. Much of the Nobility has yet to step foot in a Shriners Hospital, and they should definitely see first-hand what we Shriners have worked hard for all these years, and will continue to do so for many more.

The Membership Committee is diligently working on boosting new membership and

also on retaining members. A lot of Nobles have outstanding dues and have not been active in the Shrine.

In a lot of organizations, members who are card holders keep up with their dues and are not active. The Membership Committee is using the new Mentor Program to guide new Nobles from the time they are interested in joining the Shrine all the way thru their initiation. During the Ceremonial they show the new Nobles the Aleppo Shrine Center and walk them through the Units tables to help them understand what Aleppo does. The program was received favorably by the incoming Nobles at the January Ceremonial and helped them immensely. The Mentors are also keeping in touch with those Nobles to make sure they are not forgotten.

One of Illustrious Smith's endeavors that he started last year is chartering an Aleppo Chapter of the International Short Shriners Club of North America. This is a social club with very strict requirements – you have to be five-foot-six or shorter to become a member. Illustrious Smith has no problem with that criteria!

This year marks the final year of payment for the air conditioning system that was installed in the auditorium. This system has helped the facility become a more sought-after venue by allowing shows in the warmer months of the year without the stifling heat inside. Donations to this fund, the Cold Sands, are welcome and can be sent to the Aleppo Shrine Center in Wilmington, MA.

Illustrious also stated that he tries to make things "short and sweet." So, here's to a prosperous year as Potentate of the Aleppo Shriners.



ILLUSTRIOUS Robert F. Smith took a turn at trying the drums after Noble Dan Caro's performance at the Shriners Hospital for Children-Boston.

## 2009 Shrine Club and Uniform Units Divan and Liaison List

NAME	UNIFORM UNIT	SHRINE CLUB	CHAIRMAN
<b>Robert F. Smith</b> <i>Potentate</i> 6 Topliff Street Billeria, MA 01821 978-663-6118	Temple Guard	Hillbillies	
<b>Jeffrey Arnold</b> <i>Chief Rabban</i> 13 Tumeltry Road Peobody, MA 01960 978-536-8242	HONS Provost Guard Fire Brigade Mounted Patrol	Newburyport King Philip Southeastern MA	Ritualistic Degree Team
<b>John E. Grant, Jr.</b> <i>Assistant Rabban</i> 76 Kelly Road Hyannis, MA 02601 508-775-6252	Cape Cod Fire Brigade Lighting Unit Medical Corps	Weary Travelers Cape Cod South Shore	Plaque Program
<b>Peter A. Simmons</b> <i>High Priest &amp; Prophet</i> 155 Sugar Road Bolton, MA 01740 978-779-6447	Cycles Unit Clown Unit Oriental Band	Worcester County Metro West	Football Chairman
<b>Dennis E. Reebel</b> <i>Oriental Guide</i> 133A Elm Street Marlborough, MA 01752 508-485-0126	Arab Patrol Transportation Unit Stewards Activities	Fitchburg-Leominster Gardner	\$100 Million Dollar Club
<b>Richard A. Doherty</b> <i>1st Ceremonial Master</i> 188 Green Street Reading, MA 01876 781-944-5348	Brass Band Legion of Honor Rag Tops Pipe Band	Cape Ann Charles River North Shore	St. Patty's Day Dance
<b>David J. Raymond</b> <i>2nd Ceremonial Master</i> 14 Smith Road Saugus, MA 01906 781-231-1329	Director's Staff Minutemen Motor Patrol Chanters	Neponset Valley Yacht Club	DeMolay Widow's Luncheon



Luncheon for our  
*Widows*  
Wednesday, April 22, 2009

Mail your RSVP to the  
Aleppo Shriners by April 15, 2009.

Invitation letters will be mailed out soon.

Place your ad today!

call 978-657-4202

or email:

alepponews@alepposhriners.com