

BEN HUR SHRINE

CHARTED AUGUST 16, 1892
7811 Rockwood Lane
Austin, Texas 78757
Phone 512-480-0812
www.benhurshrine.org
secretary@benhurshrine.org
recorder@benhurshrine.org

BEN HUR OFFICE HOURS
Mon - Fri 9:30am to 2:30pm
Closed on Major Holidays

**ILLUSTRIOUS SIR
CHARLES MADDOX
2026 POTENTATE**

charlesemaddox@gmail.com 512-567-6744

CHARLES FARNHAM...CHIEF RABBAN
CFARNHAM62@ATT.NET 512-497-3962

RICKY HAYES...ASSISTANT RABBAN
hayesre1@yahoo.com 512-914-7077

RICKI PIERCE.....HIGH PRIEST & PROPHET
PIERCERICK8511@GMAIL.COM 512-948-8867

MIKE PREECE.....ORIENTAL GUIDE
s.m.preece1954@gmail.com 512-461-0504

JAMES HEINEMAN.....TREASURER
heinemanja@yahoo.com 281-923-5890

SAM STIMSON, PhD.....RECORDER
sstimson70@gmail.com 512-796-4179

CHARIOT EDITOR Sam Stimson, PhD
Webmaster/Designer..... Diane Reid

APPOINTED STAFF (CONT)

Chief of Staff

Earl Robertson, PP

Office Manager

Aliya Spivey

Building & Grounds Manager

James Heineman PP

Chaplain

Ryan Divincenzo

Entertainment Committee

Chef Ernest Owney, Jim Kinley, Debbie Kinley,
Russell Hur, Russell Jones, Brenda Willis Scholin
Lana Stone, Dave Harnden, Mike Sanders, Michele
Sanders, Jeff Schlieve, Cristal Schlieve

Insurance Chairman

Gerald "Jerry" Carruth

Insurance Committee

Ill Sir Charles Maddox, Potentate, Charles
Farnham, PP, Andy Barclay
Sam Stimson, PhD , Recorder

Legal Counsel

Gerald C. "Jerry" Carruth

Masonic Relations

Christian Moore

\$100 Million Dollar Club

Ricki Pierce

Parade Marshal

Ricki Pierce

Parliamentarian

Gerald C. "Jerry" Carruth

Photographer

James Heineman PP

Public Relations

Andy Murray

Sickness & Distress

Nobility

Transportation Chairman

Vance Brown

Social Media

Andy Murray

Membership Committee

Ricky Hayes, Asst. Rabban Chairman
Chuck Jones PP
Andy Murray
Christian Moore
Jeff Schlieve

APPOINTED DIVAN

Temple Director - Chris Garner
Captain of the Guard - Robert Eschenburg
Outer Guard - Dave Harnden
1st Ceremonial Master—Russell Jones
2nd Ceremonial Master - Ted Robertson
Marshal - Raul Scully

APPOINTED STAFF

Colonel of Units

Danny Adrian

Donor Relations

Ronald Speaks, High Priest and Prophet

Master of Ceremonies

Mike Sanders

Fund Raising Chairman

Jonathan Felger

STATED MEETING

Ben Hur Shrine meets on the 3rd Thursday of the month. The next stated meeting will be Sept 17 2026. **CURRENT DUES CARD IS REQUIRED!**

CHIEF RABBAN - farnhamcf@outlook.com

I want to thank each of you who took time out of your weekend to support the 2026 Dinner and Casino fundraiser. It was wonderful to see so many Shriners, Ladies, and friends come together for an evening of fun, fellowship, and support for the future of Ben Hur Shrine.

We are now turning our collective focus toward the 2026 Texas Shrine Association (TSA) Ceremonial Session, which Ben Hur is honored to host from June 11–14, 2026, at the Austin Southpark Hotel and various competition venues throughout Central Texas. Our planning team and Ben Hur volunteers are working diligently to make this annual event a success.

The TSA Ceremonial Session includes a wide variety of activities, events, and Unit competitions that showcase the spirit, fellowship, and traditions of Texas Shrinedom. Additional details and event information can be found on the Texas Shrine Association website, www.texasshrine.com.



On Sunday, June 28, we will hold an initial 2027 calendar-setting meeting at the Temple. This meeting is intended for Unit heads and leaders of other Masonic-related bodies to provide input regarding their proposed 2027 events. The meeting will begin at 2:00 p.m. and continue as needed to accommodate the input and scheduling needs of each Unit and organization.

I will also be hosting the second 2027 Planning Meeting on June 30, 2026, from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. at Onion Creek Lodge. This meeting is intended for both active and non-active Nobles who are interested in joining the conversation about guiding Ben Hur into the future. A light meal will be provided. Please email me at farnhamcf@outlook.com to confirm your attendance.

Subsequent planning meetings will be held throughout our Oasis. One of these meetings has already been scheduled at Norton Moses Lodge in Leander on September 20. Additional details will be provided as future meetings are scheduled.

Looking ahead, we also have the Ben Hur Rodeo scheduled for October 10 and the rescheduled Dinner and Draw on December 19. The Ben Hur Rodeo presents a wonderful opportunity for Nobles to come together in support of Ben Hur Shrine while enjoying fellowship and camaraderie. Thank you to those who have already expressed an interest in helping with the Rodeo. If you would also like to volunteer your time and talents, please let me know.

The strength of Ben Hur has always been found in the dedication of its Nobles, Ladies, and supporters. Every event we host, every hour volunteered, and every act of fellowship help build the legacy we leave for future generations. Together, we continue to strengthen Ben Hur Shrine and ensure that its traditions, values, and spirit of brotherhood remain strong for years to come.

In closing, I want to highlight the impact we have as Shriners. While the public often recognizes Shriners for our philanthropy and our support of children and families in need, the true reach of our fraternity is found in the impact we have on society and within our own Temple.

(continued page 4)

Our impact on society can be seen in the countless hours volunteered, the charitable work performed, and the positive example set by Shriners across the country. Whether helping at a fundraiser, supporting community events, mentoring younger members, or simply offering a helping hand, every Noble contributes to our legacy of brotherhood, compassion, and service.

Perhaps the greatest impact of all is the reminder that kindness, fellowship, and service still matter. In a world that often feels divided, the Shrine fraternity continues to bring people together with a common purpose — to support one another, strengthen our communities, and leave the world better than we found it.

CASINO GAME NIGHT AT BEN HUR



ASSISTANT RABBAN - hayesre1@yahoo.com

Ill Sirs, Nobles, and Ladies,

What an incredible time we had at the Casino Night Fundraiser! Excellent turnout and high stakes energy along with great food, silent auction items, and multiple gaming options made for a wonderful evening. What made it great was the fellowship! Thanks to all who worked to make the evening happen and to all who so generously attended and helped make the night a jackpot!!



Next up, our Trailblazer team, as well as some of the other amazing units of Ben Hur have been busy preparing for the upcoming Texas Shrine Association statewide competition being held in and around Austin this year. The TSA team has been hard at work for an extended period of time to ensure all the Shrine temples of Texas will have an amazing time not only competing but continuing the business, fun and fellowship of the Ceremonial. We would love to see everyone come out and support Texas Shriner's and check out all the fun!

Nobles, our work continues. Membership recruitment and philanthropic support are paramount to the continued success of our Temple. As you continue to support your Blue Lodges by attending meetings and functions, please speak to our brothers about the rewards of being a Shriner and all it holds. Let's work together to honor the legacy of those that came before us, celebrate the incredible work we are doing now, and build a bright future for the Nobles to come.

Finally, a sincere thank you to all the Nobles, Ladies, families, and friends who support Ben Hur and Shriner's Children's. It is because of your time, talents, energy, loyalty, and dedication that we succeed and can continue to serve children.

Fraternally,

Noble Ricky Hayes, Assistant Rabban

ORIENTAL GUIDE - piercerick8511@gmail.com

This year is going very well to date except for the loss of Noble Ron Speaks having to make the hard decision to resign due to health. Please join me in wishing Noble Ron and Lady Debbie fair winds and following seas.

TSA is upon us but we also have TSA Victory Party & the Stonewall parade on 20 June. Following this will be the Luling Parade and Watermelon Thump Festival 27 June. I would love to have as much participation at these events as possible. Thanks again to everyone for entrusting me to be your Oriental Guide.



Fraternally,

Noble Ricki Pierce

Ben Hur

Oriental Guide

2026 TSA Ceremonial Session

Preliminary Schedule (5/16/2026)

Thursday, June 11, 2026

- 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. | TSGA (Golf) Competition – Day 1 | Jimmy Clay Golf Course
- 8:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. | Marketplace Setup | Austin Southpark Hotel – Longhorn Ballroom (A-B)
- 2:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. | Marketplace | Austin Southpark Hotel – Longhorn Ballroom (A-B)
- 2:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. | Registration | Austin Southpark Hotel - Lobby
- 6:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. | Counterparts/Cabiri Reception | Austin Southpark Hotel – Longhorn Ballroom Foyer
- 7:00 p.m. – 10:00 p.m. | Counterparts Dinner | Austin Southpark Hotel – Longhorn Ballroom (C-D)

Friday, June 12, 2026

- 8:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. | Registration | Austin Southpark Hotel - Lobby
- 8:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m. | Marketplace | Austin Southpark Hotel – Longhorn Ballroom (A-B)
- 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. | TSSSA (Shotgun) Competition | Capital City Clays
- 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. | TSA Business Meeting | Austin Southpark Hotel – Longhorn Ballroom (D-F)
- 10:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. | TSGA (Golf) Competition – Day 2 | Roy Kiser Golf Course
- 10:30 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. | VIP Ladies Luncheon | Bob Bullock Texas State History Museum (Bus Provided)
- 1:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. | Registration | Austin Southpark Hotel - Lobby
- 4:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. | TSHBA (Brew Units) “People’s Choice” tasting and cornhole competition | Austin Southpark Hotel – Magnolia Room

Saturday, June 13, 2026

- 7:00 a.m. – 9:00 a.m. | Registration | Austin Southpark Hotel - Lobby
- 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. | TSMMPA (Motorized) | Circuit of The Americas (COTA) Lot E
- 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. | TSPGA (Provost Guard) | Austin Rifle Club
- 8:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m. | Marketplace | Austin Southpark Hotel – Longhorn Ballroom (A-B)
- 9:00 a.m. – 9:45 a.m. | Bands | Austin Southpark Hotel – Longhorn Ballroom (D-F)
- 10:00 a.m. – 10:45 a.m. | TALOH (Legion of Honor) | Austin Southpark Hotel – Longhorn Ballroom (D-F)
- 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. | TSCA (Clowns) | Austin Southpark Hotel – Longhorn Ballroom (D-F)
- 1:00 p.m. – 1:45 a.m. | TSDA (Directors Staff) | Austin Southpark Hotel – Magnolia Room
- 2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. | TASOB (Oriental Bands) | Austin Southpark Hotel – Longhorn Ballroom (D-F)
- 6:00 p.m. – 6:30 p.m. | Dinner and Awards Reception | Austin Southpark Hotel – Longhorn Ballroom Foyer
- 6:30 p.m. – 9:30 p.m. | Dinner and Awards with entertainment provided by the Hill Country Ramblers | Austin Southpark Hotel – Longhorn Ballroom (C-F)

Sunday, June 14, 2026

- 6:00 a.m. – Noon | Marketplace Move-out
- Breakfast on your own – Safe travels home

FAMOUS ARTISAN CARVED BEN HUR CHARIOT

In 1926 the American Statesman reported on a parade in Austin in which the Ben Hur Shrine was showcasing its new glittering chariot pulled by four horses with Ben Hur as charioteer. Little is known about the actual building of the chariot which place circa 1925-26 and was built using running gear components from a 1915-1920 truck chassis. Wheels were wood spoke with hard rubber tires probably from the same parts source. The article mentioned that at the conclusion of the parade the chariot would be returned to shop of Peter Mansbendel for completion. We now know that the master artisan that created the beautiful artwork on the current chariot was none other than the well-known Peter Mansbendel.

Mansbendel, Peter Heinrich (1883–1940). Peter Heinrich Mansbendel, woodcarver, was born to Johann Peter and Valeria Siegrist Mansbendel on August 12, 1883, at Basel, Switzerland. The elder Mansbendel was a businessman who gave his children little beyond three meals a day and a grade school education. At ten Peter had determined to become a woodcarver and was apprenticed to a local master named Ulrich Huber, with whom he trained for the next six years. There followed a period of study at the Industrial Arts School and then a stint of compulsory service in the Swiss Artillery. Once discharged, Mansbendel yielded to wanderlust and set out for London to examine the woodcarvings of the seventeenth-century English master, Grinling Gibbons. He then departed for Paris to complete his education at the Coquier-Roland School of Art. Mansbendel immigrated to America in 1907. He worked first in Boston and then in New York, where he executed woodcarving for L. Marcotte and Company, an interior design firm. During this time, he also taught night classes in clay modeling at the Cooper Union for the Advancement of Science and Art. At tea in his studio, he met Clotilde Shipe, whose father, Monroe M. Shipe, was a prominent Austin real estate developer. Mansbendel followed Miss Shipe to Austin, where they were married in 1911. In time they became the parents of a daughter and a son. Mansbendel opened a studio in a corner of the former Swedish consulate at 109 West Ninth Street, where Swante Palm once housed his library. He worked out of this studio until ill health overtook him late in 1939.

During the 1920s and 1930s leading architects in Austin, Dallas, Houston, and San Antonio would summon Mansbendel to put finishing touches on their most important projects. His fireplace mantels were especially popular. In addition to architectural detail work, he also made [furniture](#) and decorative household items. He frequently interpreted Texas themes-historic persons, places, and events as well as the flora and fauna of his adopted land. His pieces are noted for their fidelity, strength, and spirit. He was always the seeker of the quick, spontaneous effect, always careful to avoid chiseling the life out of an object. Except for portrait carvings, surfaces were never sanded; crisp tool marks were left for texture and effect. The market for Mansbendel's kind of artistry was in decline during his lifetime, however. Texas had only recently emerged from its frontier past, and the children of its pioneers had just begun to develop a serious interest in the fine arts. Moreover, Mansbendel was at the peak of his ability just as the [Great Depression](#) settled over the country. Nonetheless it was during these hard times that he produced some of his most notable public work: the magnificent carved doors of the [Spanish Governor's Palace](#) and of Mission San José at San Antonio, as well as the portrait medallions of former University of Texas presidents which are located in the Texas Union on the University of Texas campus in Austin. In addition to his career in woodcarving, Mansbendel was actively engaged in the Austin Community Players, both as a set designer and performer, in the Austin Sängerrunde, and in St. David's Episcopal Church. He died of cancer on July 20, 1940, in Austin and is buried in Austin.

June 2026

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	1 Texana 123	2 RENTAL	3 LOH RENTAL	4	5 RENTAL	6 RENTAL Motley Brue
7 RENTAL	8	9 Mini B RENTAL	10 Parsons Motorized	11 HLSC	12	13
				TSA CEREMONIAL		
14 Flag Day	15	16 Directors Staff RENTAL	17 NILE Parsons	18 BHST Stated	19 Juneteenth	20 TSA Victory Party
21 LOS Fathers Day	22	23 RENTAL	24	25	26	27
					Mahjong Tournament	
28 Calendar Prep 2pm	29	30 Planning Mtg Onion Creek Lodge 6:30p RENTAL				


BE SURE AND CHECK WWW.BENHURSHRINE.ORG FOR LATEST DATES AND TIMES. CALENDARS CAN CHANGE.

July 2026

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1 LOH RENTAL	2	3 BHST Closed	4 Motley Brue "The 4th"
5 RENTAL	6 Texana 123	7 RENTAL	8 Motorized Units	9 HLSC	10	11 Hill City Celebration
12	13 GOLF	14 RENTAL Mini-Bs	15 NILE	16	17	18 BUNCO
19 LOS	20	21 Directors Staff Provost RENTAL	22	23	24	25 PPP Event GROTTO
26	27	28 RENTAL	29	30	31	

BE SURE AND CHECK WWW.BENHURSHRINE.ORG FOR LATEST DATES AND TIMES. CALENDARS CAN CHANGE.

**SHAKESPEARE
TEXAS STYLE**



A GOOD OL' MURDER MYSTERY


FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 11TH, 2026

DOORS OPEN 6:30 PM - SHOOTIN' STARTS 7 PM

**BEN HUR SHRINE
7811 ROCKWOOD LANE
AUSTIN, TX 78757**

**SUPPER AND SPECTACLE
\$40 PER PERSON**

RSVP BY SEPTEMBER 4TH
All profits benefit Shriners Children's,
a fully qualified 501(c)(3) organization.




Saturday, July 18, 2026

Hosted by
Ruh Neb Temple No. 64
Daughters of the Nile
Royal Dancers

Each \$25 ticket includes:

- Heavy Snacks
- Door prize tickets
- Three rounds of Bunco

Schedule:

- 1:30 PM: Door Open
- 2 PM: Tournament Begins

Friends and family welcome!
Event includes tournament prizes!

Held at Ben Hur Shrine
7811 Rockwood Lane
Austin, TX 78757!

Name _____ Phone _____
Email _____ Food allergies? _____

PLEASE NOTE: WE ARE UNABLE TO TAKE PAYMENT BY CC OR DEBIT CARDS FOR THIS EVENT

Check payable to **Ruh Neb No. 64** Check Number: _____

Cash or check at door

Registration due
Monday, July 13th
Janet Heineman
460 Middle Crk
Buda, TX 78610
jheineman@yahoo.com
713.828.6389



Proceeds benefit
Ruh Neb Temple No. 64,
Daughters of the Nile
*Our sole philanthropy
is supporting Shriners
Children's.*

Hill City Lodge
456
1876 • 2026

Celebrate
150 YEARS!
of
Hill City Lodge No. 456,
A.F. & A.M.
Austin, Texas • 1876 – 2026

We warmly invite you, your family, partners, and masonic friends to celebrate this historic milestone together in fellowship and brotherhood.

Saturday, July 11, 2026 | 11:00 AM – 3:30 PM
– The Ben Hur Shrine –
7811 Rockwood Lane • Austin, TX 78757

- + Delicious food
- + Historic interview footage
- + Silent Auction
- No charge to attend
- + Live entertainment
- + Reminiscences from PMs
- + Children's activities
- + Meet old friends

Reserve places now.
Scan the code or email
reply@hillicitylodge.org

Welcome to our new Nobles, Mitchell Fuller and Arun Jacob. Created at the Ben Hur May Stated Meeting. Have fun Nobles.



After our May special election we now have a new High Priest and Prophet as well as a New Oriental Guide. Congratulations to HPP Ricki Pierce and OG Mike Preece



CHARIOT BOOSTER CLUB

Brian & Carol Vance	12/36
Greg & Ann Murrow	04/35
Steve & Pat Koehn	03/35
Bobby Tiner	05/30
Greg & Vinna Rye PP	04/30
Aggie & George Auer PP	02/30
David & Juanell Yeager	02/30
In Memory of Joyce & Donna King	08/29
Betty & Charlie Farnham PP	05/29
John Eric Cooper	05/29
In memory of James McConnell PP	03/29
Ron & Debbie Speaks	03/29
Ron & Jamie Dewees	03/29
In memory of Gus Carlson	02/29
In memory of Loren Orme PP	05/28
Fred & Traci Maynard	01/28
Jerry & Bea Hohman	07/28
Gerald "Jerry" Carruth	09/27
In memory of Gail Carruth	09/27
In memory of Don Lee	07/27
Charles & Emily Maddox	07/27
Ricki Hayes & Angie Shaffer	04/27
Boyce and Jody Freitag	04/27
In memory of Byron Betncourt	04/27
Brenda W. Scholin, Realtor	03/27
In memory of Stan Anderson	03/27
Kay & Ron Harrison PP	02/27
Pat & Wanda McDavid	02/27
The Count, Lady Dengehel And Girlfriend Margaret	09/26
Billy D & Alice Edmondson	08/26

NOTICE: Did YOUR name get dropped this edition? Remember to check the date following your name. **Next edition will drop all dates to 06/26!** Send in the form below TODAY with your \$25 to become/remain a loyal booster club member.

YES! I WANT TO BE A BOOSTER

Enclosed please find my check in the amount of \$_____

- ONE LINE (single name) - \$25 per year
- ONE LINE (Mr. & Mrs. or two names) - \$25 per year
- TWO LINES (Yours and your Lady's name on 2 lines - \$45 per year

NAME(S): _____

Mail to the Temple Secretary.

BROWN, LACALLADE & LANGE, P.C.

CHARLES L. LACALLADE
ATTORNEY AT LAW

425 RR 2900 TEL (325) 388-7100
P.O. Box 1956 FAX (830) 265-6007
KINGSLAND, TEXAS 78639 CHUCKLACALLADE@BLANDLLAW.COM

ED WEEREN
INSURANCE AGENCY

Professional Insurance
Service Since 1899

(512) 454-5266



Texana Masonic Lodge No. 123
Meets First Monday of Each Month
at the Ben Hur Shrine Center
Eat at 6:30 p.m.; Meeting at 7:30 p.m.

BLACK CAMEL REPORT



RICHARD D, CARPENTER 5/5/2026



Brenda W. Scholin,
REALTOR®, CRS, GRI, SRES

World Class...Worldwide
C 512-731-6627



Each Keller Williams Office is independently Owned and Operated



Laura's Smiles Quilts

Crafted by Laura Holst

Specializing in T-Shirt & Memory Quilts

LauraSmiles.com | 512-736-4392



CENTRAL LOCK & KEY

PROFESSIONAL LOCKSMITH SERVICES

- AUTOMOTIVE
- RESIDENTIAL
- COMMERCIAL

(512) 335-0190

PROUDLY SERVING AUSTIN SINCE 1988

IMPORTANT NOTICE

IF YOUR ADDRESS CHANGES, PLEASE CALL THE TEMPLE AND LET US KNOW. WE WILL UPDATE YOUR INFO IN THE DATABASE. THE POST OFFICE CHARGES US 74¢ FOR EACH INCORRECT ADDRESS.

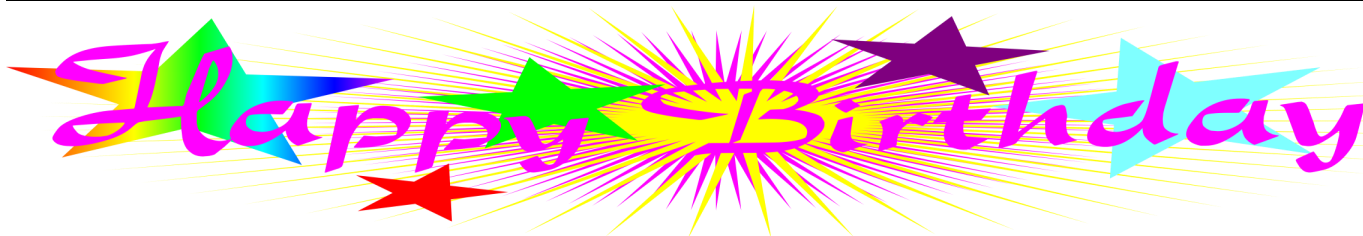
If you wish to make a donation directly to our Shriners Childrens in Texas, here is the address. Make your check payable to Shriners Hospitals for Children—Texas

**Shriners Hospitals for Children
Donation Department
815 Market Street
Galveston, Texas 77550**

Ben Hur Shriners
7811 Rockwood Lane
Austin, TX 78757
(512) 480-0812

TIME DATED MATERIAL
DO NOT DELAY

NON PROFIT ORG.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit 1165
Austin, Texas



BEN HUR NOBLES WITH BIRTHDAYS IN JUNE

6/2

Justin E Crawford

6/5

Jackie W St. Clair
Travis P Johnston

6/7

Edward L Weeren
David E Martin
Bert A Bronaugh, Jr

6/8

Glenn J Goulet
Frank R Gibson

6/10

Francis M Jackson, Jr
John R Kollman

6/11

Daniel P Vasquez

6/13

Delmar E Tally
Charles E Campbell
Grant M Georgulis

6/14

Jorge A Millan-Espana

6/15

Robert N Crawford

6/16

Gordon N Decker
Billy D Edmondson

6/17

Johnnie V Barnett
Thomas D Hoke

6/18

Nazario Cantu III

6/20

Steven D Rivers
Marshall D Tiner

6/22

David Hilton
John E Cooper

6/24

Dillard C Keirse

6/25

Wallace G Schuehle
William D Bays
James J Davila

6/26

Earl D Robertson PP
Jeffrey D Pietsch

6/27

George Moxley

6/28

Marc Siemes

6/29

Bobby W Clark
Bryan L Martin

6/30

Joe M Kelly Jr.