

**DO NOT RELEASE UNTIL August 3, 2009**

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## **AK-SAR-BEN CORONATION BALL ANNOUNCES ESCORT HONOREES**

*August 3, 2009, Omaha, Nebraska* – The Ak-Sar-Ben Coronation Ball Committee has announced the names of the Escorts of the Royal Court for the 2009 Coronation Ball titled *For One Night Only* scheduled for Saturday, October 10 at the Qwest Center Omaha. A tradition of the Heartland since 1895, the mission of the Coronation Ball is to promote, recognize and celebrate volunteerism, philanthropy, and civic pride. All proceeds raised benefit the Knights of Ak-Sar-Ben Scholarship Fund.

The Royal Court is comprised of Princesses, Heartland Princesses, Escorts, Heartland Escorts, Standard Bearers and Pages from the region and reigned over by a King and Queen who remain a mystery until the actual coronation ceremony. An Omaha Escort is a young man between the ages of 21 and 26 whose family has actively contributed to the Omaha community. A Heartland Escort is of the same age, but whose family resides in Nebraska (excluding Omaha) and western Iowa.

The 2009 Omaha Escorts of Ak-Sar-Ben are:

Ryan Joseph Bartman, son of Jean and Rudy Bartman; John Stephen Bruckner, son of Dr. Anne and Stephen Bruckner; Michael Ryan Callahan, son of Sandra and Steven Callahan; Matthew Girard Dobleman, son of Mary and Dr. Thomas Dobleman; Jordan

Paul Dudzinski, son of Sherrie and Dr. Bernard Dudzinski; Joel Scott Elson, son of Brenda and Dr. Joel Elson; Scott Joseph Fehrman, son of Kathleen and William Fehrman; Matthew Lawrence Foley, son of Deanna and John Foley; James Matthew Fonda, son of Janice Fonda and John Fonda; Mark Joseph Foxall, son of Gwendolyn and Dr. Mark Foxall; John David Hecker, son of Patricia McManus and Melanie and David Hecker; James David Hubbard, son of Robyn and David Hubbard; James Edward Landen, Jr., son of Diane and James Landen, Sr.; Thomas John Langdon, son of Kathy and Dr. Thomas Langdon; Daniel James Little, son of Anna and George Little; Bryce Morton McLeay, son of Jane and Bartholomew McLeay; Joseph Patrick Mikuls, son of Dr. Janie and Gregory Mikuls; Patrick Thomas Morris, son of Susan and David Morris; Ryan Michael Morrison, son of Michelle and Dr. Michael Morrison; David William Raetz, son of Jane and Gary Raetz; Scott William Robinson, son of Cheryl and Edward Robinson, III; John Joseph Samek, son of Sharon and Thomas Samek; Britt Ashley Thedinger, Jr., son of Kelly and Dr. Britt Thedinger; and David Lee Turk, son of Debbie and Dale Hallock.

The 2009 Heartland Escorts of Ak-Sar-Ben are:

Matthew J. Artz, son of Lorie and Merle Artz of Wallace; Aaron Josef Bauer, son of Lorrie and Randy Bauer of Chadron; Vincent Joseph Bellino, son of Valerie and Donald Bellino of Papillion; Craig Stefan Dannehl, son of Sonya and Mark Dannehl of Bertrand; Parker James Edick, son of Dr. Nancy and Robert Edick of Waterloo; Chase Eli Kliewer, son of Kerri and Steven Kliewer of Henderson; Taylor Michael Lemke, son of Kimberley and Dr. Luke Lemke of Columbus; Gabe Christopher Lenners, son of Jane and Danny Lenners of Imperial; Andrew Scott Liggett, son of Judith and Dr. Scott Liggett of Lincoln; Trevor James Massey, son of Dallas Massey and Paul Snyder of Scottsbluff and Dr. Gwendolyn Beck and Dr. James Massey of Scottsbluff; Gerald Edward Matzke, III, son of Ann and Dr. Gerald Matzke, Jr. of Gothenburg; Joshua George Medlock, son of Joanne Medlock of Valentine; Brenton Ryan Nesbitt, son of Deborah and Roger Nesbitt of Grand Island; Captain Jonathan Hendrik Oliva, Offutt AFB, son of Charlotte Vandenberg and Stanley Oliva of Keene, New York; Winston William Ostergard, son of Holly and Tonn Ostergard of Lincoln; Andrew Charles Pankonin, son of Cathi and Philip Pankonin of Plattsmouth; Erik Robert Pedersen, son of Sheila and Dan Pedersen of Underwood, IA; James Gerald Pfeifer, son of Julie and Terry Pfeifer of Grand Island; 1<sup>st</sup>

Lt. Christopher Michael Porter, Offutt AFB, son of Janet and Daniel Porter, Lexington, South Carolina; Connor Alden Smith, son of Lynn and Neil Smith of Blair; Dean Anthony Sorensen, son of Susan and Bradley Sorensen of Harlan, IA; Brett Matthew Tesmer, son of Roxie and Dr. Timothy Tesmer of Lincoln; Whitney Ryan Weeks, son of Janell and Robert Tessari of Houston, TX and Margaret and Dr. William Weeks of Yutan, NE; and Alexander James Wolf, son of Susan and James Wolf of Albion

Serving in leadership roles for each group are Omaha Escort Chairman, Andrew Scott Parker, son of Sandra and David Parker and Heartland Escort Chairman, Philip Edward Hranac, son of Kathleen and Dr. Richard Hranac, of Kearney.

The annual Coronation Ball is organized through the year-long dedication of nineteen volunteers led by Women's Ball Committee Chairman, Mary Johnson. "Our committee and all the families of the court are outstanding examples of the spirit of volunteerism in our region," Johnson said.

The Ak-Sar-Ben Coronation Ball is one of several recognition programs the Knights of Ak-Sar-Ben Foundation offers as part of their mission "to build a more prosperous Heartland, where communities can flourish and every child can succeed."

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