

DO NOT RELEASE UNTIL JULY 28, 2008

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AK-SAR-BEN CORONATION BALL ANNOUNCES COUNTESS HONOREES

July 28, 2008, Omaha, Nebraska – The Ak-Sar-Ben Coronation Ball Committee has announced the names of the Countesses of the Royal Court for the 2008 Coronation Ball titled *Jewels of the Heartland* scheduled for Saturday, October 11 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, Countesses, Escorts, Heartland Escorts, Standard Bearers and Pages from the region and reigned by a King and Queen who remain a mystery until the actual coronation ceremony. A Countess is a young woman between the ages of 21 and 24 whose family has actively contributed to their community in Nebraska (excluding Omaha) or western Iowa.

The 2008 Countesses of Ak-Sar-Ben are:

Kristin Marie Allan, daughter of Kathleen and Tamas Allen of Lincoln; Paige Allison Fastenau, daughter of Shelley and James Fastenau of Bertrand; Kelly Christine Gillespie, daughter of Christine and Dr. Kevin Gillespie of Lincoln; Jennifer Marie Gloystein, daughter of Mary and Dr. Brad Gloystein of York; Tyeler Angela Godbout, daughter of Beth and John Godbout of York; Kayla Leigh Hadden, daughter of Barbara and Patrick Snyder, and Chris Hadden of Sidney; Sarah Juliet Holdt, daughter of Sylvera and Dr. David Holdt of Scottsbluff; Carolyn Eaton Hunt, daughter of Sue and Nicholas Hunt of Atlantic, IA; Laura Ann Kusek, daughter of Carol and Dr. Anthony Kusek of Albion; Valerie Anne Liston and Victoria Gene Liston, daughters of Kimberly and John Liston of Hooper; Katherine Ann Madsen, daughter of Patricia and John Madsen of Stuart; Laura Alexandra Matzke, daughter of Ann and Dr. Gerald Matzke, Jr., of Gothenburg; Natalie Rose Moravec, daughter of Judy and Mark Moravec of Grand Island; Abby Lee Olson, daughter of Patricia and Randy Olson of Tekamah; Amy Sierra Panning, daughter of Nancy and James Panning of Hooper; Alexandra Rae Pauley,

daughter of Colleen and Thomas Pauley of Ayr; Allyson Gerhart Peetz and Kathryn Gerhart Peetz, daughters of Sarah and Jeffrey Peetz of Lincoln; Mackenzie Leigh Peterson, daughter of Jennifer and Russell Petersen, Jr., of Fremont; Brooke Ann Rambour, daughter of Lynne and George Rambour IV, of Columbus; Kimberly Ruud, daughter of Thomas Ruud and the late Jaime Ruud of Lincoln; Anne Marie Rye, daughter of Deborah and Matthew Rye of Lincoln; Emily Ann Shanks, daughter of Lori and Randall Shanks of Council Bluffs, IA; Elizabeth Ann Stinson, daughter of Sue and Chris Stinson of Grand Island.

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