

DO NOT RELEASE UNTIL JULY 28, 2008

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AK-SAR-BEN CORONATION BALL ANNOUNCES ESCORT HONOREES

July 28, 2008, Omaha, Nebraska – The Ak-Sar-Ben Coronation Ball Committee has announced the names of the Escorts 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. 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 2008 Omaha Escorts of Ak-Sar-Ben are:

Brett Murphy Barstow, son of Holly and Bruce Barstow; Scott Benson Buchanan, son of Dawn and Douglas Buchanan; Bryan Wickham Burkley, son of Karen and Robert Burkley II; Timothy Robert Carlson, son of Anne and Scott Carlson; Brett Michael Carver, son of Sarah and William Carver; Scott Christopher Chisholm, son of Amy and John Chisholm; Matthew John Dinsdale, son of Dawn and Sid Dinsdale; Peter Lewis

Dobleman, son of Mary and Dr. Thomas Dobleman; Jacob Andrew Enenbach, son of Janis and Mark Enenbach; Steven Earl Gardels, son of Linda and David Gardels; Adam Noah Gendelman, son of Dr. Bonnie Bloch and Dr. Howard Gendelman; Matthew Joseph Haas, son of Anne and Dr. John Haas; Robert Charles Irvine, son of Cynthia and James Irvine; Richard Young Joyce, son of Katherine and Robert Joyce; Brandon Tyler Koch, son of Ashlee and Harry Koch; Benjamin Luke Lowndes, son of Constance and Dr. William Lowndes; Jeffrey David McCollister, son of Deborah and John McCollister; Andrew Scott Parker, son of Sandra and David Parker; Joel Zachary Passer, son of Sandra and Dr. Jeffrey Passer; James Michael Root, son of Nancy and Michael Root; Jeffrey Connor Sharp, son of Robecka and Jeffrey Sharp; Steven Eugene Slone, son of Leslie and Bryan Slone; Chase Evan Weaver, son of Laura and David Weaver; Thomas Alexander Windle, son of Drs. Mary and John Windle.

The 2008 Heartland Escorts of Ak-Sar-Ben are:

Connor Harrison Boucher, son of Janet and Richard Boucher of Lincoln; 2nd Lt. Silas Daniel Brown, of Offutt AFB, son of Cammie and Daniel Brown; Grant Henning Buckley, son of Nancy and Lester Buckley of Lincoln; Bryan Michael Chochon, son of Tracie and Richard Buckley of Columbus; Christopher Allen Coffman, son of Cynthia and Michael Coffman of Fremont; 2nd Lt. Leonardo Dizon Cruz, Jr, of Offutt AFB, son of Elenita and Leonardo Cruz, Sr. of Bellevue; Nicholas Michael DeBolt, son of Debbie DeBolt of LaVista and LTC Michael DeBolt of Papillion; Andrew Merlin Carroll Doll, son of Julia and Mark Doll of Council Bluffs, IA; Drake Christian Doolittle, son of Julie and Dr. Doak Doolittle of Holdrege; Jon Packard Hedgecock, son of Debra and Norman Hedgecock of Lincoln; Christopher Robert Hillis, son of Dian and Robert Hillis of Fremont; Michael John Hoch, son of Janie and Harry Hoch, Jr., of Grand Island; Philip Edward Hranac, son of Kathleen and Dr. Richard Hranac of Kearney; Jameson Drew Lauer and Jared Taylor Lauer, sons of Kelly and Dr. David Lauer of Lincoln; Thomas Alexander McKnight, son of Drs. Evelyn and Thomas McKnight of Fremont; Jason Norbert Meis, son of Rosemary and Clyde Meis of Grand Island; John Russell Palmtag, son of Janet and John Palmtag of Nebraska City; Michael Jay Peter, son of Tamara and Paul Peter of Lincoln; Daniel Allen Pfeifer, son of Janet and Allen Pfeifer of Madison; Capt. Joshua Lee Ream, of Offutt AFB, son of Debra and Jeffrey Ream of Bellevue; Eric Lee Tesmer, son of Roxie and Dr. Timothy Tesmer of Lincoln; John Andrew Thomas, son of John

Thomas and the late Annita Thomas of Aurora; Matthew Jon Weber, son of Mary and Dr. Scott Weber of Ogallala; Matthew Philip Werner, son of Colleen and Philip Werner, of Hastings; Gregory William Wieting, son of Diane and Dr. D. Scott Wieting of York.

Serving in leadership roles for each group are Omaha Escort Chairman, Matthew John Dinsdale, son of Dawn and Sid Dinsdale, and Andrew Scott Parker, son of Sandra and David Parker. Heartland Escort Chairman is Michael John Hoch, son of Janie and Harry Hoch Jr., of Grand Island. Heartland Escort Assistant Chairman is Andrew Merlin Carroll Doll, son of Julia and Mark Doll of Council Bluffs, IA.

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 outstanding examples of the spirit of volunteerism 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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