

# TEXAS DESERT TRAVELER

*“Crossing the Hot Sands of Texas”*

[www.aeaonms.org](http://www.aeaonms.org)  
[www.dtxfoundation.org](http://www.dtxfoundation.org)

Official Publication of the Desert of Texas  
Volume 9 - Issue 27 - Winter 2020

**“Do Your Duty and Vote”**



*You can register by mail to vote in Texas by printing a voter registration form, filling it out, and mailing it to your local election office. You can also register to vote in person if you prefer. Mail-in registration deadline: Must be postmarked by Monday, October 5, 2020 and in-person registration deadline: Monday, October 5, 2020.*

## **Oases of the Desert of Texas**

**Amarillo - Austin - Beaumont - Dallas - Denison - El Paso  
Ft Worth - Galveston - Killeen - Houston - San Antonio - Tyler**

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## From the Editor



Greetings,

Our organization and the world continues to be affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. More than 7 million in the United States have been diagnosed with the virus with more than 200,000 losing their lives.

It is imperative that you not only keep your health as a high priority but also be cautious on who you come in contact with. Continue to wear your face coverings and practice social distancing.

It continues to be my honor and pleasure of serving as the Public Relations Director for the Great Desert of Texas. It is also a honor to be appointed as the new Associate Editor of the Pyramid Magazine.

A reminder that the deadline for submissions to the next Pyramid is March 1, 2021. The cost per photo is \$15. Please continue to submit articles/photos of your activities to the Texas Desert Traveler. It is an honor to present the 27th edition of the Texas Desert Traveler. This publication provides our Temples, Courts and individual members the opportunity to showcase their activities within the Desert.

Fraternally,

Past Potentate Burrell D. Parmer  
Desert Public Relations Director

The *Texas Desert Traveler* accepts submissions of articles and photographs of general interest to Prince Hall Shriners and Daughters of the Imperial Court throughout the Lone Star State. The *Texas Desert Traveler* is published in the months of February, June and October. Submissions of articles and photographs are to be forwarded to the publication's Editor via email. Articles and photographs become the property of the publication and the right is reserved to edit and use the articles and photographs as deemed necessary. Deadline for submissions is the 20th day of the preceding issue. Articles are to be submitted using Microsoft Word (Arial 11) and photographs should be in JPEG format (150 - 300 dpi) and captioned (Times New Roman 11). Temples send submissions to [captparmer@hotmail.com](mailto:captparmer@hotmail.com) and Daughters send your submissions to [desertoftexasdoi@gmail.com](mailto:desertoftexasdoi@gmail.com). Permission to reprint original articles appearing in the *Texas Desert Traveler* is granted to all recognized Shrine and Masonic publications. Cover graphic by Noble Don Mills (76).

# Texas Desert Traveler

Publisher

Desert of Texas

Editor

Past Potentate Burrell D. Parmer

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## Imperial Deputies of and for the Desert of Texas



Hon. Past Imperial Potentate  
Burnell White Jr.



Past Commandress Edwina Evans



*Our Mission is to ensure total and unfettered access to our community the full range of services and information related to the following:*

- **National Diabetes Initiative:** Promote the understanding of cardiovascular disease and diabetes.
- **Student Aid:** Promote high standards in education and provide opportunity grants to assist students who have achieved academic success in high school to attend college/university or specialized trade schools.
- **Shrines as Mentors:** Tutoring and mentoring youth in the development of life skills, decision making and personal responsibility.
- **Voters Education/Registration:** Civic duties.

The *Texas Desert Traveler* is an official publication of the Desert of Texas. It is published three times a year for the members of the Desert and Oases of Texas, their Temples, Courts, families, friends, and the public at large. Opinions expressed by the editor and contributing writers do not necessarily reflect official positions of the Desert of Texas nor the Ancient Egyptian Arabic Order Nobles Mystic Shrine or its Auxiliaries.

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H.P.I.P. Burnell White Jr.

# Message from the Deputy

## T.E.A.M. – TOGETHER EVERYONE ACHIEVES MORE

"If you can't fly, then run; if you can't run, then walk; if you can't walk, then crawl; but whatever you do, you have to keep moving forward." Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Greetings Team Texas,

As we move into the fall, we have a multitude of challenges in front of us and each of them providing severe consequences should we fail to persevere. The challenges for us as individuals, communities, and organizations are immense; COVID-19 which appears to be sticking around for a while, the November elections...the most important of our lifetime, and certainly the social unrest, fueled by the imbalance of an unjust justice system. We are seeing a global response to racial inequalities unlike anything in our documented histories. These issues are paramount in not just our country but on a global scale. There are many different ways to address these challenges and all must be employed; however, the most immediate response to the challenges MUST be our actions toward the election being held on 3 November! From an individual standpoint, I will NOT be voting on 3 November! HOWEVER, I will be voting on 13 October, the very first day of early voting here in Texas. I submit to each of you, in the political climate of today, with all of the rhetoric being espoused, the safest thing for any of us to do is go to the polls early, reducing any opportunity for your vote to be "mishandled." Let's reserve our 3 November energies on assisting those that may need assistance to make it to the polls, not overlooking opportunities to assist with their ability to get to the polls for early voting. Also, don't overlook the need for poll workers which is experiencing a shortfall due to the pandemic. Thanks to all of you who have embraced the opportunity to get back in the community supporting the Voter Registration and Education Initiative, along with the feeding of our fellow citizens.

As we continue to re-immersing ourselves into our community, let's be ever mindful of the hazards of the COVID-19 pandemic. When we hear all of the rhetoric, it can become quite confusing. What should not be confusing is that we must take actions to protect ourselves and loved ones. Practice social distancing, wear a mask (they are readily available to suit your flavor, whatever that may be), and WASH YOUR HANDS!! Everyone seeing this edition of the Texas Desert Traveler has the blessing of being able to reason, and to protect our very lives and those of everyone around us, it is reasonable to take the above precautions. What do you have to lose? YOUR LIFE!!

Our lives have been impacted by many things that are going on in the world, a few of them mentioned above. This year has provided us with challenges on many fronts, to include so many of us being impacted by natural disasters, a busier than normal hurricane season, raging wildfires in the West, each bringing its own levels of death and destruction to so many of our neighbors. Let's first continue to lift all those impacted by these disasters in prayer. Secondly, let's continue to support our communities, near and far, in their relief efforts. We must remember the higher calling of our organization, none more important than the charity for which we are privileged to be able to provide. Team Texas is all too familiar with disasters and the sustained response that is necessary. I hope that I do not need to remind you of the Nobles and Daughters who came to our aid when we needed them most. Let me be clear, when we have displaced Nobles and Daughters residing in the Oases of THIS Desert, the leadership is expected to lead from the front and spearhead the assistance and hospitality we are known for. We know not the day nor the hour that the need for assistance is placed on our own doorsteps. The need for assistance will be greater as we approach the holiday season. Let us commit to working with our community partners in assisting those less fortunate than ourselves. That being said, there are many within Team Texas who may be in need of assistance. Let us not forget that charity starts at home and we should also look to help those that are closest to us. This is the time that we move into the season of holiday cheer, let's use all the resources we have available to ensure that those who depend on us for support during the most trying of times will certainly be looking to us under what is shaping up to be one of the toughest holiday seasons we have experienced in many, many years. In an effort to stretch your community dollars, please keep in mind that each Temple and Court has the designation of being "tax free" through the State of Texas Comptroller. If you need guidance on how to utilize that designation contact either myself or Past Potentate Burrell Parmer. This year it will be even more imperative that we work smarter, not harder. Additional assistance is available through the Desert of Texas Charitable Foundation. Requests for support should be sent to the Foundation at [dtxfoundation@gmail.com](mailto:dtxfoundation@gmail.com)

Lastly, I would like to again thank all of those who have been and continue to be on the frontline. I want to thank all of you who are out there finding new ways to further our organizational goals in the midst of this pandemic. I often say, the least we can do is pray, yet the most we can do is pray for our Brothers, Sisters, Nobles and Daughters. Let's continue to pray for one another and pray for those suffering who we know or don't know. Prayers for all of those who have lost loved ones since we last communicated with one another. Stay Strong, we are going to make it through these times. Tough times don't last, tough people do!! Until we meet again. "ONE TEAM, ONE MISSION - TEAM TEXAS"

Respectfully,

*Burnell White, Jr.*





*P.C. Edwina Evans*

# Message from the Deputy

Greetings Team Texas,

I would like to let each of you know that I miss seeing your smiling faces and waiting patiently until we can meet again. It is my prayer that each of you are staying safe and protecting yourselves. I would like to take a moment to congratulate all who have received Imperial appointments. Congratulations to all 2018 and 2019 Illustrious Commandresses for being exalted. As we all know, we have begun having virtual Court meetings. When your meeting is scheduled, please register through Zoom Video Conferencing in advance. A Daughter can attend the meeting via video conference or

by dialing in using the Zoom meeting telephone number.

Additionally, please ensure that you read and understand all directives coming from the Office of the Imperial Commandress. Also, be sure to tune in to "From the Desk of the Imperial Commandress" every 4th Thursday of the month on YouTube via the Imperial Media Relations Department YouTube channel. As we prepare for elections in December, make sure that you pay your dues on time and check on each other during this COVID-19 season. Some members are quarantined and not venturing outside so please check on them as they may need something while you are out. It is always good to have someone to call on.

On Sept. 29, 2020, session 2 of the Insurance Webinar Series was held. I hope, at a minimum, that all Imperial Deputies for the Oases, Illustrious Commandresses, Recordresses, and Treasurers tuned in.

As we are nearing election time, we encourage you to continue your Voter Registration & Education Drives, as well as help get the community to the polls. We must vote as if our lives depend on it!

Please pray this prayer with me: Loving God, we come to you full of anxiety about what may happen in the coming days and weeks. Shower us with the peace Jesus promised to his disciples and make us into steady pillars for those around us. In this time of uncertainty and epidemic, wake us up to the reminder that we are not alone. Even as we are asked to keep our distance from others, help us to find ways to reach out to those who need our support. We pray especially for those whose incomes and livelihoods are threatened. For the children who will miss meals due to school closures. For those already isolated, lonely and scared. Loving God give them your peace, and through our hands ensure they have what they need. Sustain, strengthen and protect all caregivers and essential workers. Bless them as they offer compassionate care and show selfless courage in the face of risk. Remind us, each time we wash our hands, that in our baptism you call us to let go of our fears and live in joy, peace, and hope. Amen.

Yours in the Faith,

*Edwina Evans*





# Elected Desert Officers (Nobles)



**P.P. Earnest Hatter Jr.  
Chief Rabban**



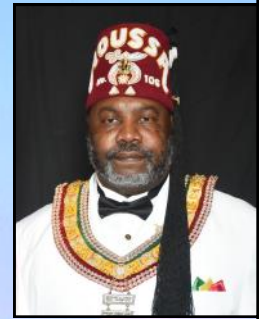
**P.P. Curtis Williams  
Assistant Rabban**



**P.P. Malachi Dews  
High Priest & Prophet**



**I.P. Raeford Watts  
Oriental Guide**



**P.P. Anthony Davis  
Treasurer**



**P.P. Freddy Jamerson  
Recorder**



**P.P. Steve Brown  
1st Ceremonial Master**



**P.P. Vincent Brown  
2nd Ceremonial Master**



**P.P. Alphonso Ford  
Captain of the Guard**



**P.P. Stacey Foushee  
Outer Guard**



**P.P. Norman Thomas  
Auditor**



**P.P. Roosevelt Huggins  
Auditor**



**I.P. Jason Bradley Sr.  
Auditor**





# Elected Desert Officers (Daughters)



**P.C. Simone Hall  
1st Lt. Commandress**



**H.P.C. Pamela Jameson Davis  
2nd Lt. Commandress**



**P.C. Tracy Nelson  
High Priestess**



**H.P.C. Kharyn Floyd  
Oriental Guide**



**P.C. R. Lucille Samuel  
Treasurer**



**H.P.C. Debra Edmon  
Recorderess**



**P.C. Ruby Jamerson  
1st Ceremonial Daughter**



**P.C. Barbara Jones  
2nd Ceremonial Daughter**



**H.P.I.C. Gladys Peterson  
Inside Spy**



**P.C. Patina Alexander  
Outside Spy**



**Anastasia Whitmire  
Auditor**



**P.C. Diane Adams  
Auditor**



**I.C. Meshanda Phillip  
Auditor**





AEAONMS, Inc.

# PYRAMID

RECRUIT-RECLAIM-RETAIN



44th Imperial Potentate  
**John T. Chapman**

# Desert of Texas Voter Registration & Education



Greetings,

Team Texas the time for voting is here and election 2020 is less than 34 days away. In the past, we have discussed voting as our individual civic duty; how our ancestors have been cheated on literacy tests and even died for this right. How important it is to vote from the school superintendent up the ladder to the president, we have requested that Team Texas join with other community groups to conduct Voter Registration and Education Drives.

Although schools are mostly being attended virtually, high schoolers of legal voting age can be reached thru family, friends and neighbors. One particularly important issue is the Polls; getting voters to the voting location safely. There is a shortage of poll workers that is already predicted to happen.

The Imperial Council has posted National Voter Registration Dates and Week. The established mandate that every Temple conduct a voter registration drive in May and September are in effect. Please ensure your Temple and Court execute the mandate. We already know about the disenfranchisement, peaceful protestors being attacked by law enforcement and federal agents all across the USA, militia groups, agitators and yes, veteran proliferators aligned to suppress voters.

The postal service, one of the greatest institutions ever created, being used by the post master general to cause voters to lose confidence that their ballot will be counted or used to cheat during the elections. We have discussed the diversity of voters in Texas and how polling places have been closed. So now we move on to what is new. In the 2016 presidential election, only 51.4 percent of those eligible to vote in Texas went to the polls – well below the national average of 60 percent.

Two civil rights groups and two Texas voters have asked a federal judge to require substantial changes to polling place procedures. U.S. District Judge Jason Pulliam dismissed a legal challenge from Mi Familia Vote, the Texas NAACP and two Texas voters who claimed the state's current polling place procedures — including rules for early voting, increased the likelihood of long lines and Gov. Greg Abbott's decision to not require voters to wear masks — would place an unconstitutional burden on voters while the novel coronavirus remains in circulation.

But Pulliam ultimately decided the court lacked jurisdiction to order the changes requested — an authority, he wrote, left to the state. Abbott partially fulfilled one of the changes the plaintiffs had sought. Although he did not grant a full month of early voting, the governor did extend the early voting period for the November election by six days, citing continued challenges posed by the coronavirus pandemic. Early voting for the Nov. 3 election will begin Oct. 13 instead of Oct. 19. The end date remains Oct. 30.

Respectfully,

P.P. James F. Woods, Jr.  
CHEOPS Temple No. 200  
Director, Voter Registration & Education  
Desert of Texas





# APPLICATION TO VOTE BY MAIL

To vote by mail in Texas, a potential voter must have a qualifying reason. A person may vote by mail if they:

1. Will be away from their county on Election Day and during early voting
2. Are sick or disabled
3. Are 65 years of age or older on Election Day
4. Are confined in jail, but eligible to vote

## **The Process to Vote by Mail**

- Register to Vote (immediately if you are not currently registered)
- Submit Application for Ballot by Mail NOW!! The County will start returning mail ballots to the voters beginning October 1st, and it will come with a return envelope.
- Complete filling out the Ballot and return it by mail immediately. (Do not wait!!!!)

## **Instructions for filling out the Application for Ballot by Mail (ABBM)**

1. Name
2. Address
3. Optional address if you want the application sent to another address.
4. Date of birth (Optional: phone number or e-mail address)
5. Reason for voting by mail (One of the (4) options listed above)
6. Only 65 years or older or Voters with a Disability: Choose which election the Application will apply.  
(a) ANNUAL APPLICATION (b) Primary Elections (c) other elections

***(IF THE ANNUAL APPLICATION IS SELECTED, IT WILL APPLY TO ALL ELECTIONS AND A BALLOT WILL BE MAILED TO THE VOTER AUTOMATICALLY BEFORE EACH ELECTION AND THE VOTER WILL NOT HAVE TO KEEP APPLYING)***

\* If a voter is currently absent from the County or in jail, an application is needed before each election.

7. A mailing address for the Application to be received that is different from a home address.
8. If the voter will be absent from the county and the mail is stopped, indicate the date mail is scheduled to be received and date of voter's return to residence.
9. Instructions for submitting a signed and scanned application
10. Signature (certifying the application)
11. Signature and printed name of someone who helped in completion of the application if needed.

MAIL (ABBM) TO:

ELECTION OFFICE, EARLY VOTING CLERK

Or follow the link below to find the address for your county:

<https://www.sos.texas.gov/elections/voter/county.shtml>

# Desert of Texas Mental Health Department



PP C.C. Robinson  
Director  
Aqaba Temple No. 173  
Oasis of Tyler  
#YouGoodBro



Dt. Stephanie D. Allen  
Directress  
Oro Court No. 20  
Oasis of El Paso  
#YouGoodSis

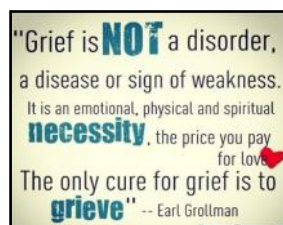
## COVID Grief and Coping with the “New Normal”

Greetings Team Texas,

The coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic has changed people's lives in many ways. In addition to feeling grief over the loss of life caused by COVID-19, you're likely grieving the loss of your normal routine. COVID-19 has shut down what we have always considered normal, from both an organizational and personal standpoint. Stay-at-home restrictions to prevent the spread of COVID-19 have affected some of our jobs, the ability to gather in person with family, friends, Nobles and Daughters, and simply, our normal daily routines. COVID-19 has changed the way we operate on a normal day-to-day basis and has taken so much from so many. Coping with these changes can become difficult for some. Whether it is the loss of a job, change in how we go about our usual day, sickness and recovery, or unfortunately, the loss of family and friends, having a way to cope with these issues and maintaining our Mental Health is vital. Grief is common in our lives, but even more so in 2020, learning how to cope with it and help others cope with it will hopefully make life a little easier for you and those around you.

Merriam-Webster defines grief as deep and poignant distress caused by or as if by bereavement; a cause of such suffering. It is important to know some signs and symptoms of grief. Grief might cause you to feel numb and/or empty, angry, and/or unable to feel joy and/or sadness. You might also have physical symptoms, such as trouble sleeping or eating, excessive fatigue, muscle weakness, and/or shakiness. Believe it or not, grief may have some positive effects. You might have a new and greater appreciation of not only the things you have in your life, but also for your friends, family, Nobles and Daughters and a newfound willingness to be there for others. A few ideas to help cope with “COVID Grief”: pay attention to your feelings. Do not think about just the things you have lost during this time, but also think of something you might have gained and allow yourself to embrace those feelings both good and bad. Staying connected is also a good way to cope with grief. Thanks to social media and advances in technology (Zoom, Google Meet, Facetime, etc), staying connected while also adhering to social distance precautions is easier than ever. Use these tools to uplift one another and simply just “check in” with your fellow Nobles and Daughters.

At the end of the day, we do not know what COVID-19 has in store for us, but what we can do is be ready to cope with whatever grief it may bring with it. Continue to find what works best for you during these times, and if you are not sure how to cope ASK someone what they are doing to cope with the stressors of today, continue to check on family, friends, Nobles, and Daughters. This pandemic has taken so much from so many people, but if we continue to learn how to cope with the grief, we will be better equipped to deal with whatever this pandemic may bring. Always remember strong Mental Health is not something you have to tackle alone, it is a team effort and you always have teammates that you can reach out to if you need them. Stay strong Nobles and Daughters.







# DTCF Emerging Leaders Program delivers Financial Boost for College Students

“Emerging Leaders” is a pillar program of The Desert of Texas Charitable Foundation. Its goals are to motivate, empower, challenge, educate youth to become a positive influence in the communities in which they live and to become caring and compassionate adults.

The Foundation does this by sponsoring events that ensure tools for proper learning environments, youth workshops and scholarships.

Expectations are:

- to encourage completion of primary and secondary education
- post-secondary training/education or enter the military
- assist with applications of higher learning/resumes
- assist with financial literacy
- assist with essential tools for learning

The Foundation is proud to announce the first three recipients of the “Emerging Leaders Scholarship”.



Makayla Golliday, of Galveston, is a graduate of Ball High School. While in school, Makayla received several academic and community awards including Academic Achievement Award in Spanish, FUBC 2020 Image Award, and Fire Prevention Safety Award. She is currently a freshman at Texas Southern University with a major in Education and a minor in Psychology. Her goal is to become a principal. “The reason I want to become a teacher is not to only help the children, but to make our community better, one step at a time, said Makayla.”



Claudia Barriga of, Mineola, is a graduate of Mineola High School. While in school, Claudia received several academic and community awards including English, World Geography, American Legion Essay and the Rotary Youth Leadership Award. She is currently enrolled as a freshman at Tyler Junior College with a major in Business Administration with an emphasis in Human Resources Management. “I have a passion for helping others solve problems and this is the top objective in Human Resources,” said Claudia. “I will take my work ethic and determination to college to obtain my degree and then become the best human resource manager I can be.”



Da'Lacia Jackson, of Beaumont, is a graduate of Monsignor Kelly Catholic School. While in school, Da'Lacia was on the honor roll where she earned the distinction of Cum Laude earning her membership in the MU Alpha Theta Math National Honor Society. She was a member of the National Society of High School Scholars, Crown Pleasers All-American Dancer Award and the Samaritan Award. She is currently enrolled at Prairie View A&M University majoring in Nursing. Da'Lacia's goal is to become a pediatric nurse practitioner.

- [www.dtxfoundation.org](http://www.dtxfoundation.org) -

COMMITTED TO SERVE

IMPERIAL  
OUTER  
GUARD  
2021

PROGRESSIVE  
LEADERSHIP  
WITH  
A  
PURPOSE

MARIO



EURY

ENDORSED BY

DEEP SOUTH SHRINE COALITION  
WESTERN CHAIN SHRINE COALITION  
MIDWEST SHRINE COALITION

NATIONAL VISIBILITY - MEMBERSHIP ENGAGEMENT  
SUSTAINABLE GROWTH



**MARIO**



**EURY**

## **EDUCATION**

**Masters of Business Administration (MBA)**

**Bachelors of Science**

**Computer Information Systems**

**Associate of Arts - Accounting**

## **CREDENTIALS**

**Imperial Deputy of the Oasis -  
Al Tariq Temple #245, Oasis of Marietta, GA**

**Credentials Committee Member -  
AEAONMS, Inc**

**Desert Conference Assistant Rabban-  
Desert of Georgia**

**Auditor  
Deep South Coalition**

**Past Illustrious Potentate -  
Nabbar Temple #128, Atlanta, GA**

## **MILITARY**

**United States Marine Corps (1991-1997)**

**Honorable Discharge (Veteran)**

**Financial Services Manager - Sergeant (E-5)**

## Oro Temple volunteers during COVID-19



*Story and Photos by: Temple Staff*

**EL PASO**, Texas – (August 25, 2020) During the Corona Virus (COVID-19) pandemic, Nobles of Oro Temple No. 9 received a call for assistance from local Pastors Michael Grady and Ann Audie.

Due to the guidelines from the Imperial Council, the Temple was not able to assist; however, Imperial Deputy of the Oasis Past Potentate Curtis Smith, P.P. Michael Hall, Nobles Michael Brown and William Hooks voluntarily answered the call.

Prior to assisting in distributing free food boxes sponsored by World Vision, the Nobles ensured that Center of Disease Control guidelines and safety measures were in place.

Once instructions were clear, Imperial Deputy of the Oasis Curtis Smith ask for volunteers from Oro Court No. 20. Answering the call were Past Commandress Maureen Simmons, who was assigned as the medical person on site; Daughter Stephanie Allen, who was in charge of bulk inventory and distri-

bution; and Dt. Vanessa Solomon, who came to assist with loading vehicles in the touchless operation and brought her two sons to help.

Volunteers from Oro Temple and Oro Court were not the only ones helping at the site. Members of Divine 9, which are Black Greek or-

ganizations, and church members from numerous churches came out to assist.

"We answered the call to assist as individuals, and now we are back together as Temple and Court in continuing to support our community," said Dep. Smith.

Once cleared to conduct community service by the 44th Imperial Potentate, other Nobles came out to get boxes and gave to the elder Nobles, Daughters, widows, and neighbors.

Every Tuesday from mid-June to mid-September, the volunteers have assisted in distributing 13,750 boxes of free food to El Pasoans and surrounding communities.

People were required to remain in their vehicles during the loading process as part of the COVID-19 safety measures and all volunteers were required to wear masks and gloves.

Hand washing stations were available and plenty of hand sanitizer was placed around the site.





# Oro Temple mentors through Zoom

Story by: P.P. Curtis Smith  
Imp. Dep. of the Oasis

**EL PASO**, Texas – (July 30, 2020) The Corona Virus pandemic (COVID-19) has affected Nobles' abilities throughout the Imperial Domain to get out and mentor the youth. As for Past Potentate Bernard Samuel, Past Imperial Deputy of the Oasis and Oro Temple's Shriners as Mentors liaison is able to provide mentoring through his karate dojo.

Every week, P.P. Samuel, a karate grand master, engages with his students via Zoom Video Conference to keep them in shape with karate and to keep their minds functioning while encouraging them to read daily while not in school.

"It is important to be knowledgeable about the technology available and use it to one's advantage to keep these children engaged," said P.P. Samuel. "They miss being in a classroom setting but they are still learning how to use the computer as this is the new normal in reference to COVID-19 for the new school year."



At the end of every Zoom session, P.P. Samuel asks the students what book they read that today or what educational programs did they watch, and they take turns discussing it.

During COVID-19, Oro Temple's Shriners as Mentors and the 3rd Generation Marial Arts lost a young

mentee who lost his fight with brain cancer.

P.P. Samuel received donations from the Masonic family to assist the Castillo Family with funeral expenses. Oro Temple asks all to continue to pray for the Castillo Family while they deal with the loss of a love one.



*Past Imperial Deputy of the Oasis, Past Potentate Bernard Samuel and Costillo family.*

## Oasis of Fort Worth works Jointly to feed the Community, Register Voters



Story by: I.P. LaTeef Lusk

**FORT WORTH**, Texas - (Sept. 19, 2020) The Nobles of Medji Temple No. 45 and the Daughters of Medji Court No. 38 worked jointly with the Beth Eden Baptist Church and the Tarrant County Food Bank to distribute thousands of pounds of food to the local community on the Beth Eden Baptist Church grounds.

Every family at a minimum received 100 pounds of fresh produce, meats, dairy, and other groceries. The Noble and Daughters assisted the event coordinators with directing traffic, registering families to receive food, and loading of food into cars.

As a central clearinghouse for donated food and groceries, the Tarrant Area Food Bank receives fresh, frozen and nonperishable food donated by the food industry and the community.

Dedicated volunteers help sort, inspect and repackage the food, which is then distributed to different mobile pantries.

The people who generously donate their time, funds and skills to the food bank help provide a valuable service to the citizens of Tarrant County.

Additionally, Medji Temple's Voter Registration & Education Committee, led by Noble Shamon Studmire and Noble Justin Davis, continued the Temple's efforts to register as many people as possible to

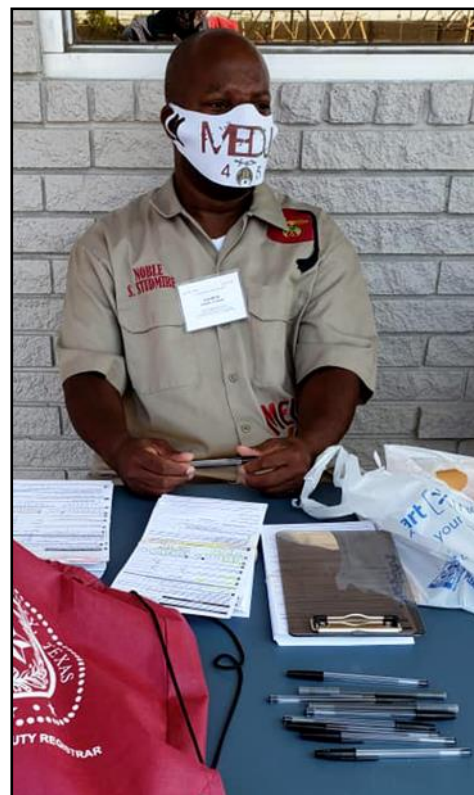
vote during the November 3rd election.

Thanks to Illustrious Commandress Conwaja Brunson-Grice and Medji Court for working with the Nobles during the food bank distribution. Working Together for the City of Fort Worth.





# Nobles of Medji Temple help Community Kids, register New Voters



Story by: Temple Staff

**FORT WORTH, Texas** – (Sept. 6, 2020) The Nobles of Medji Temple No. 45 joined forces with Barberz United to assist in an annual Back to School Drive-thru Giveaway.

The coalition provided free backpacks and school supplies to students along with free food and drinks.

Students who registered also had the option to receive free haircuts or hair braids courtesy of the event organizers.

Additionally, Medji Temple held a Voter Registration & Education (VRE) Drive to allow citizens to register to vote.

Over the course of the event, the VRE team was able to register multiple people to vote, while follow social distancing guidelines as designated by the City of Fort Worth and the State of Texas.

“It was an awesome experience to see the community come together to help out kids who are in need,” said Illustrious Potentate LaTeef Lusk. “Additionally, it was so important for our VRE team to

be there to provide an opportunity for citizens of Tarrant County to register to vote.”

Medji Temple thanks Past Potentate Derec Thomas and Noble Shamon Studmire for coordinating the joint event.

*Noble Shamon Studmire and other Nobles of Medji Temple No. 45's Voter Registration & Education Department were on hand to assist and urge citizens to register to vote.*



# Medji Temple creates Pandemic Task Force



Story by: I.P. LaTeef Lusk

**FORT WORTH, Texas** – (Sept. 3, 2020) In March of 2020 the entire state was shut down due to the Coronavirus Pandemic.

During this period, the Nobles of Medji Temple No. 45 felt the need to create a task force specifically to check on their elderly Nobles and Daughters.

The Temple made a commitment to check on all Nobles and single/widowed Daughters who were 65 years of age and over on a weekly basis.

The task force consisted of Illustrious Potentate LaTeef Lusk, Past Potentate Derec Thomas, Noble Justin Davis, and Noble Willie Reeves.

The main purpose of the task force was to perform a weekly wellness check and perform any errands that were needed to be ran.

This effort assisted in keeping elderly members from having to go out in public due to the pandemic.

The feedback received from the elder members was very positive. They were very appreciative that the Temple took the time out to give them a call.





## Amid COVID-19 Thomas H Routt Scholarship Fund awards Student Aid to Deserving Students

Story by: P.P. Norman Thomas  
Imp. Dep. of the Oasis

**HOUSTON** – (Sept. 1, 2020) The Thomas H Routt Scholarship Fund, in upholding the legacy of the late Judge Thomas H Routt, awarded \$1,000 student aid grants to Caleb J. James of North Shore High School and Jacob H. Boyd of Shadow Creek High School.

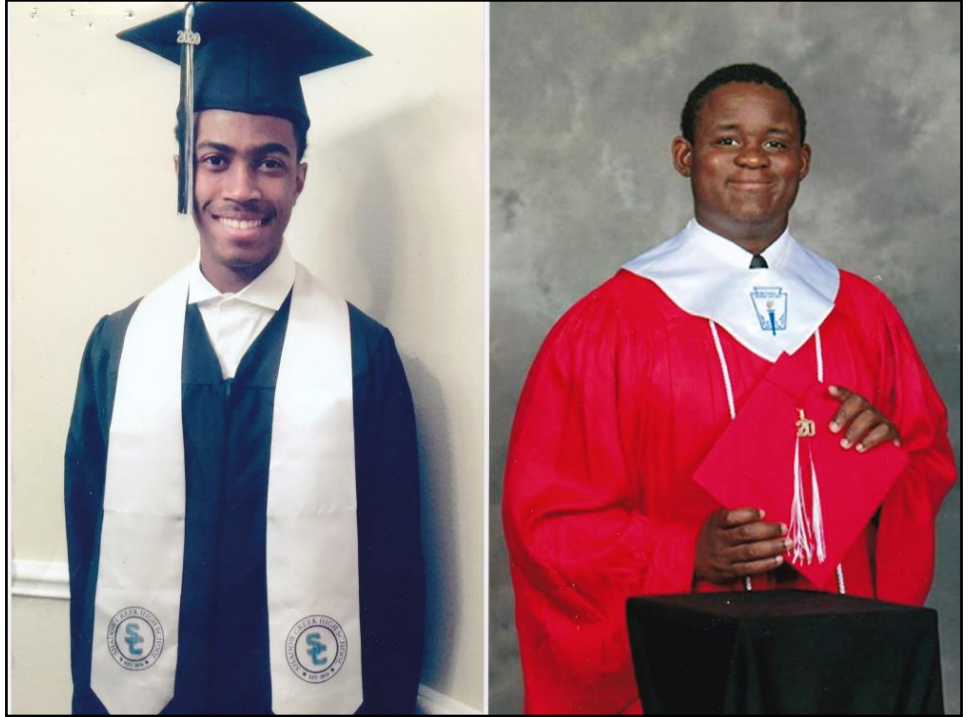
Caleb, who is attending Rice University, and Jacob, who is attending Prairie View A&M University were grateful for the financial assistance in furthering their higher education.

Over the past 25 years, the Routt Scholarship Fund has awarded over \$275,000 in scholarships to students in the Greater Houston Metropolitan area. The theme of this year's student aid program was "Working to Advance the Education of the Leaders of Tomorrow".

Since its inception, the fund has endeavored to provide meaningful services to the Houston community through mentoring and tuition assistance to enhance and enrich the lives of deserving youth.

Officers of the Routt Scholarship Board include Norman Thomas, chairman; Edward Brown II, president; Walter Sloan, secretary; Herman L Gabriel, treasurer; members James Hooper, Kevin Barnett, Christopher Houston, Patrick D. Lewis, Charles Mills, and Oscar Coward.

Information on making donations may be directed by contacting the board via email: [throuthfoundation@gmail.com](mailto:throuthfoundation@gmail.com) or by calling (713) 272-0519. For additional information visit the Foundation's website: [www.throuthfoundation.org](http://www.throuthfoundation.org).



*Jacob H. Boyd*

*Caleb J. James*



*Officers of the Thomas H. Routt Foundation*



# Oasis of Houston conducts VRE Drives



Story by: Noble Steve Strahan Sr.  
Photos by Temple Staff

**HOUSTON** – (Sept. 29, 2020) The Nobles of Doric Temple No. 76 and the Daughters of Doric Court No. 83 have been participating in joint efforts to register individuals to vote throughout the city.

Voting is the cornerstone of a democracy but sadly far too few people vote and are miseducated according to Illustrious Potentate Vernon Truvillion.

“Voter Registration is Voter Education,” said I.P. Truvillion. “There are some people in the community who believe in the myth that if you were incarcerated you can’t vote and that’s not true. If you are fully discharged from your felony you can vote.”

On Sept. 19, 2020, the Doric also participated in VRE and U.S. Census Drive with City Mayor Sylvester Turner and Congresswoman Sheila Jackson Lee at the historical Trinity United Methodist Church which is the oldest Black Methodist church in the city.

Following the latest pandemic

safety-conscious parade trend, more than 85 cars decorated with balloons, tassels, and posters, cruised through the residential streets of the historical Third Ward.

The goal of the Yes! To Census 2020 campaign is to educate all the citizens of the Harris County and Houston area about how a

100% response rate makes a positive difference to their quality of life.

“We wanted this event to make the community aware of the voting and how important filling out the census is in the process,” said Pastor Ed Jones III. “If there is to be change in the community, it starts with the people of the community.”





# History Doric's Journey 2 Manhood Project



posited and distributed among the young men.

According to Noble Forney, the process teaches the young men to earn funds rather than obtaining through illegal means and understanding of being Businessmen and Investment Group Members.

The facilitators continue communication with the young men on a consistent basis. Their participation is what keeps the facilitators willing to continue to make volunteer their time each month.

*Story by: Noble Steve Strahan Sr.*

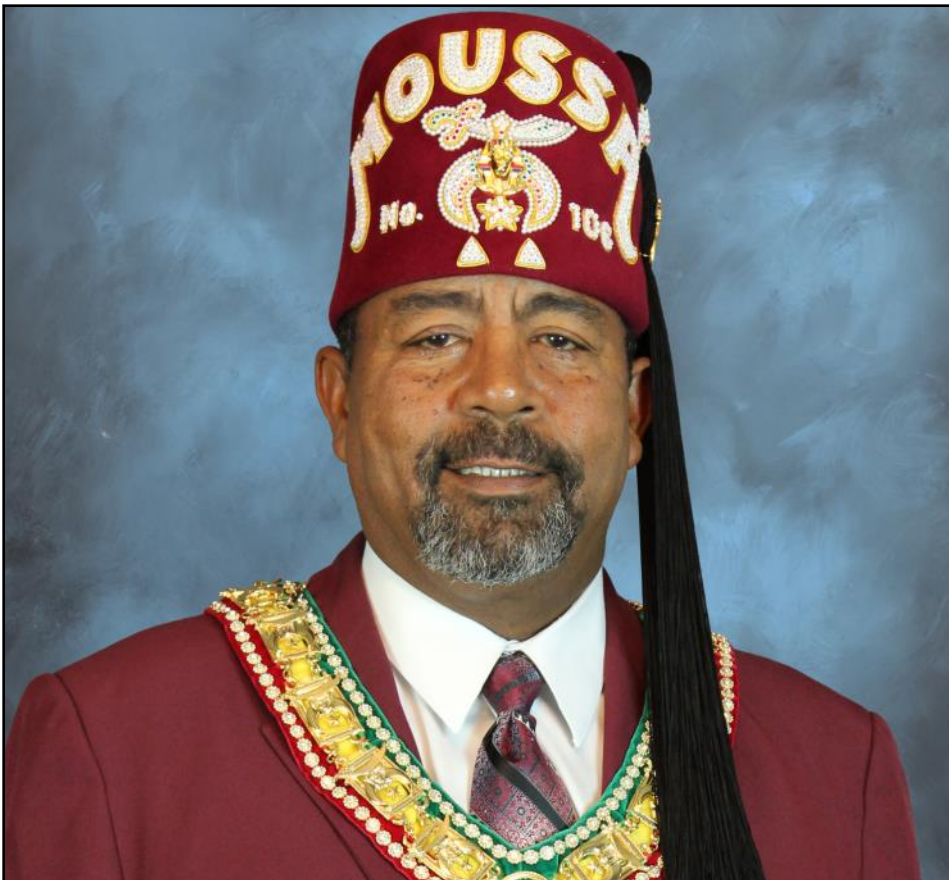
**HOUSTON** – (May 1, 2020) Every second Saturday of the month the Journey to Manhood Project is being supported by the Nobles of Doric Temple No. 76. The purpose of the project is to mentor young men from the ages of 12 – 18 years old with class sizes varying from 7 – 14

“This is an important time in the African-American community due to many of our young men are being reared in homes where fathers are absent,” said Noble Keith Forney. “The project is to provide young men with the tools to assist them in decision making choices, as well as being a positive role in society.”

The young men are involved in Thrift Store Operations (collecting, sorting, and listing garments for sale in the community and online) with the funds received being de-



## Moussa Nobles attain Greater Responsibilities



*H.P.I.P. Burnell White Jr., Imperial Deputy of the Desert of Texas.*

*Story by: Temple Staff*

**SAN ANTONIO** – (Sept 15, 2020) For Nobles, Hon. Past Imperial Potentate Burnell White Jr. and P.P. Burrell Parmer of Moussa Temple No. 106, working hard for the benefit of their Temple and Desert is highly important. Their dedication and commitment, has resulted in them being charged with greater responsibilities within the Imperial Council of the Ancient Egyptian Arabic Order Nobles Mystic Shrine, Inc.

H.P.I.P. White, who serves as the Imperial Deputy of the Desert of Texas and President of the Desert of Texas Charitable Foundation, was elected as President of the Deep South Shriners, a coalition of eleven states throughout

the Southern United States, during the organization's annual meeting held virtually in July.

Other Deep South elected officers included 1st Vice President, P.P. Rev. Dr. Toney Crisler (Mississippi), Recorder, P.P. Mark McGraw (Arkansas), Financial Recorder P.P. Robert Datcher (Texas), and Treasurer H.P.I.P. Otis Burnette (Tennessee).

"I am so proud of the Deep South Executive Team as they did not allow COVID-19 to deter them from doing the right thing," said H.P.I.P. Paul Webb, Immediate Past President. "I am so pleased that this Team is unified in their actions and focused on the goal of moving the awesome coalition forward."

P.P. Parmer, who serves as the Public Relations Director and Editor of the Texas Desert Traveler, was appointed as the Associate Editor of the Pyramid Magazine, the official organ of the A.E.A.O.N.M.S.

"Residing in San Antonio, and being members in the some of the same organizations as P.P. Parmer, has afforded me the opportunity to observe the zeal and dedication by which he serves., H.P.I.P. White said about P.P. Parmer. "Having seen his work from publishing newsletters while deployed in some extremely austere locations, and then returning to San Antonio and becoming the editor of local publications that allow us to tell our story, his work speaks volumes."

According to H.P.I.P. White, as the Editor of the Texas Desert Traveler, with a global distribution, it was apparent P.P. Parmer was a logical selection in support of the Pyramid Magazine.

"We are very proud of his growth and commitment to showcase our stories," concluded H.P.I.P. White.



*P.P. Burrell Parmer, Desert of Texas Public Relations Director*



# Get Registered, Moussa Temple holds VRE Drive



Deputy Voter Registrar and Moussa Temple's Recorder, Noble Darrin Prude (right), joined by I.P. Derek Scott, assist a resident with completing a voter registration card. (Photo by P.P. Burrell Parmer)

Story by: P.P. Burrell Parmer

**SAN ANTONIO** – (Sept. 26, 2020) In the 1800s, the U.S. Constitution did not specifically state who could vote. In most cases, landowning white men were eligible to vote, while White women, Black people, and other disadvantaged were disenfranchised.

To ensure that citizens of Bexar County are ready to participate in the November elections, the Nobles of Moussa Temple No. 106 held a Voter Registration & Education Drive at Casa de Smitty's located on the city's eastside.

"Voter Registration & Education is one of the pillar programs of the Prince Hall Shriners," said Illustrious Potentate Derek Scott. "We believe that every citizen should have the opportunity to participate in the political process by exercising their right to vote for the candidate of their choice."

Joining the Nobles were Illustrious Commandress Verda Byrd of Moussa Court No. 119, the Imperi-

al Deputy for the Oasis, Hon. Past Imp. Commandress Cynthia Lemley, and the Imperial Deputy for the Desert of Western Europe, P.C. Karen Allen-Mirabeau of Al Kerak Court No. 179.

Additionally, during the drive, city residents signed petitions for the city council to place a ballot to repeal Chapters 143 and 174 of



I.C. Verda Byrd of Moussa Court No. 119 (right) and the Imperial Deputy for the Desert of Western Europe, P.C., Karen Allen-Mirabeau of Al Kerak Court No. 179. (Photo by P.P. Burrell Parmer)

the Texas Local Government Code, which would eliminate collective bargaining applicable to the City of San Antonio's Police Officers.

Special thanks to Noble Warren Smith, owner of Casa de Smitty's, for allowing Moussa Temple to hold drive.

To follow the activities of Moussa Temple No. 106, like them on Facebook: Moussa Temple No. 106.



Photo by: P.P. Burrell Parmer



# Moussa Temple awards Student Aid Grants



*Alyssa J Bolden*

*Story by: 1st C.M. James Houston, Sr.*

**SAN ANTONIO** – (Sept. 1, 2020)  
One of the Imperial Council's Pillar Programs is to assist in providing student aid to young men and women who are seeking a high education. The Nobles of Moussa Temple No. 106 supports this program by awarding student aid to deserving youths in the community in the form of the Past Potentate C.W. Bankston Memorial Student Aid Program.



*Eddie L. Bankston*

The first-place recipient of the 2020 P.P. C.W. Bankston Student



*Past Potentate C.W. Bankston*

Aid Grant was Alyssa J Bolden, a graduate of Brennan High School. She was a member of both the National Honor Society and the Spanish Honor Society along with several other accolades. Currently Alyssa is attending Texas State University majoring in Nursing.

The second-place recipient was Eddie L. Bankston of East Central High School who is attending the University of Texas, Austin majoring in Psychology. Eddie was a a National Honor Society inductee

along with other accolades.

It is Moussa Temple's hope that both these great students and those who applied for the 2020 P.P. C.W. Bankston Student Aid Grants continue to make a positive impact on their families, campus and communities.

In 2021, Moussa Temple will be celebrating its Centennial Anniversary and will be awarding a minimum of \$4,000 of aid to the deserving youth of the Greater San Antonio area.



# Back-to-School Jamboree continues to support Children amid COVID-19

Story by: P.P. Burrell Parmer

**SAN ANTONIO** – (Aug. 7, 2020) The Claude W. Black Center Advisory Board in partnership with the Desert of Texas Charitable Foundation (501(c)3) and City Council Office of District 2 hosted the 15th Annual Back-to-School Jamboree at the Claude W. Black Community Center.

More than 1,000 supply-filled backpacks were available via curbside/drive-thru distribution. For the protection and safety of families and volunteers, wearing of face masks/coverings was mandatory.

"We come together even during these troublesome times," said Hon. Past Imperial Potentate Burnell White Jr., president of the Desert of Texas Charitable Foundation and the Imperial Deputy of the Desert of Texas. "This is what we need to be doing in our communities regardless of the decisions being made regarding schools, these children still have a need."

Moussa Temple has been sponsoring and providing volunteers for the event for numerous years.

"Even though these are uncertain times and we don't know what it is going to look like for our kids," said District 2 Councilwoman Jada Andrew-Sullivan. "We are fortunate for people and organizations to step up and provide support. We thank you so much!"

Thanks to the following sponsors and supporters: H-E-B, Amerigroup, Frost Bank, San Antonio Zulu Association, Noble Gentlemen of San Antonio, Moussa Temple No. 106 (Prince Hall Shriners), San Antonio National Panhellenic Council, City of San Antonio Human Services, San Antonio Police Department, and the San Antonio Observer.

The Claude W. Black Community Center is a staple on San Anto-



*Noble Tavarus Glover (left), vice president of the Claude W. Black Center Advisory Board, joined by District 2 Councilwoman Jada Andrews-Sullivan, and H.P.I.P. Burnell White Jr., president of the Desert of Texas Charitable Foundation.*

nio's East Side and offers programs to assist community members in need.

The Back-to-School Jamboree, along with others events hosted throughout the year, is the Claude W. Black Center Advisory Board's

way of accomplishing its mission of enhancing life, one family at a time.



*Illustrious Commandress Verda Byrd of Moussa Court No. 119 and Noble Vernon Nauls Jr. of Cheops Temple No. 200.*

# Moussa Daughter's Life featured in Documentary, earns Awards at Film Festivals



*Illustrious Commandress Verda Byrd*

*Story by: P.P. Burrell Parmer*

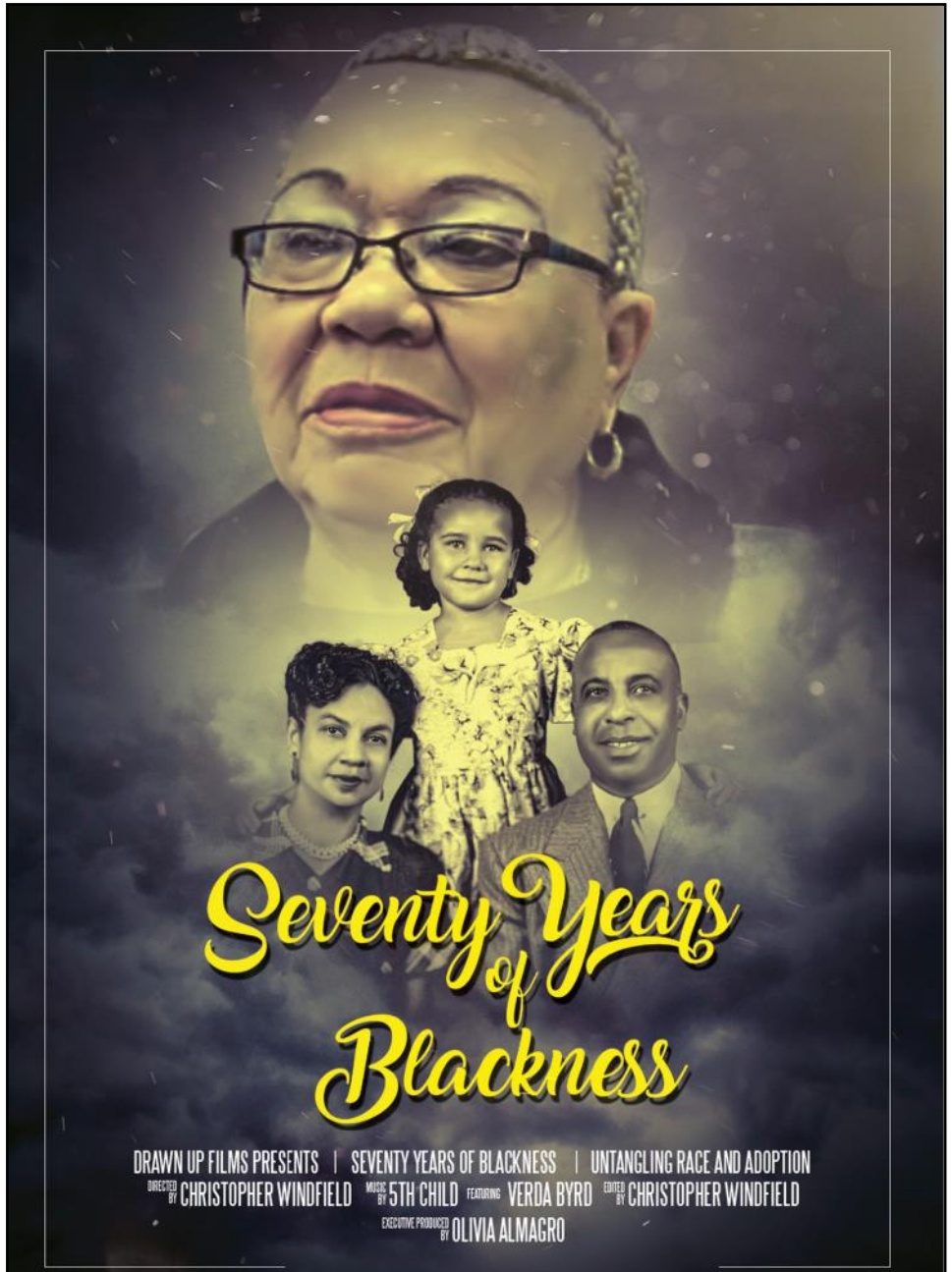
**SAN ANTONIO** – (Sept. 1, 2020)  
The Oasis of San Antonio has one of its own who is sharing her story in print and in film.

Daughter Verda Byrd, the Illustrious Commandress of Moussa Court No. 119, has written an autobiography and been featured in the documentary, "70 Years of Blackness".

I.C. Byrd has been living her entire life as a Black woman. Only until the age of 70, she made a shocking discovery that she had been adopted and her biological parents were actually White.

The documentary, directed by Christopher Winfield, is a look into I.C. Byrd's story while examining the effects race played within the adoption industry.

"When I first meet Verda Byrd I had no idea how the adoption process worked," said Winfield, an award-winning filmmaker who works with a creative visual language. "Not only did she open my eyes to the taboo world of adoption dating back to the 50s but also how



important race was a factor when adopting a child."

"70 Years of Blackness" was accepted into the 2020 Urban Mediamakers Association & Film Festival, the International Black Film Festival, the Oxford Film Festival, USA Film Festival, the African Film Festival, National Black Film Festival, and many others.

The documentary has won awards at the WorldFest-Houston

International Film & Video Festival and the People's Choice Award at the African Film Festival held in Ghana, West Africa. Additionally, it was a finalist in the USA Film Festival Shorts Competition.

The book is available for purchase at [www.amazon.com/Seventy-Years-Blackness-Verda-Byrd/dp/0997493585](http://www.amazon.com/Seventy-Years-Blackness-Verda-Byrd/dp/0997493585). Follow the documentary on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/70yearsblack/>.





**Fred Brock American Legion Post No. 828**  
*3415 Martin Luther King Dr.*  
*San Antonio, Texas*



# Junior NCO Reception

Friday, November 6, 2020 from 5 - 7 p.m.

Free meals for active duty/reserve NCOs  
in the ranks of E-4 thru E-6.

Dine-in or take-out. Face coverings are required.

Moussa Temple No. 106



Prince Hall Shriners



ADVISORY BOARD

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Noble Gentlemen of San Antonio

## Oasis of Tyler welcomes New Deputy for the Oasis



Story by: Dt. Sonya Baker

**TYLER, Texas** – (Sept. 1, 2020) Dt. Shakendra Hawkins was appointed as the new Imperial Deputy for the Oasis of Tyler.

She is not an unfamiliar face to her members and community. Dep. Hawkins is a proud charter member of Aqaba Court No. 221 and held the office of Illustrious Commandress for two years. While un-

der her leadership, Aqaba Court continued to successfully grow.

Dep. Hawkins stepped into her new role excited and willing to do what's best for the Court. She is a servant leader who is also the first to show up for any voluntary event.

She's a planner, and very compassionate about everything she is involved with. Dep. Hawkins has

always been very active within the community of Tyler.

Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, she has continued to check in with all of the Court Daughters, the community, all along with practicing social distancing while participating in volunteering.

Dep. Hawkins is excited about her new role as Imperial Deputy for the Oasis, and had a wonderful predecessor, Past Dep. Kharyn Floyd, who recently participated in the Court's back to school drive. The Court was successful in distributing over 2,000 backpacks filled with supplies.

According to Dep. Hawkins, everyone is living in a new era, and she is always ready to participate and assist as needed.

Dep. Hawkins' career background is in education, so her job has been very challenging thus far.

Please keep the Oasis of Tyler in your prayers, as everyone grows and learns through this pandemic.





# In Memory of Dt. Kelly Pinke



*Story by: Court Staff*

**TYLER, Texas** – (Aug. 18, 2020) Daughter Kelly Suzanne Pinke, born Nov. 11, 1966, was a member Aqaba Court No. 221, and passed away due to complications of COVID-19.

She was actively involved in the Tyler community and will be greatly missed. Dt. Pinke was recently selected as Daughter of the Year for Aqaba Court and leaves behind

her husband of 33 years, Ferrell Pinke, two children, five grandchildren, and a host of family and friends.

Dt. Kelly Pinke was also an active member in the Order of the Easter Star, Heroines of Jericho and Ladies of the Circle of Perfection.

One of her many accomplishments included the founding of a non-profit organization that spon-

sored Easter egg hunts and serving the homeless.

Dt. Pinke was active in various projects until the week of her untimely illness. She delivered care baskets to all Daughters of Aqaba Court, which each member will cherish always.

Many of the Daughters saw her doing what she loved most, making others smile. Rest in Paradise Dt. Pinke.

## Killeen Police receives 500 Face Masks from Local Veteran Association



Story by: Hunter King  
Killeen Daily Herald  
Contributed by: I.P. Jerry McGrone

**KILLEEN**, Texas – (Sept. 10, 2020) The Killeen Police Department received 500 face masks from the Korean War Veterans Association.

Noble Eddie Bell Sr. of Nubia Temple No. 191 is also the state president of the Texas Korean War Veterans Association and met with Killeen Police Chief Charles Kimble to complete the donation.

"With everything that's going on in the world today, it's great to know that we still have citizens and organizations that are thinking about the police, particularly our health and our welfare, by providing masks," said Chief Kimble, a member of Nubia Temple. "It's a small gesture but it goes a long way and it's appreciated."

Noble Bell talked about why he and his organization decided to donate the masks.

"To support the first responders in their endeavors when they're out trying to take care of our communities so they'll be protected," said Noble Bell, who wants it to be known that his association is open to any veteran who has served in Korea.

Texas Gov. Greg Abbott issued a statewide executive order in July requiring all residents ages 10 and older to wear face masks in public places.

"The mask is commonly used around the world to protect everyone from this pandemic, but here locally our veterans and Nobles are donating masks to help protect those that are protecting us in our neighborhoods and in our homes," said Illustrious Potentate Jerry McGrone. "We want to help protect

those who are on the front lines from this virus, one being the dedicated men and women of our Killeen Police Department, and we support those that protect us."





# Nubia's Voters Registration Drive provides Results



Story by: Noble Kenneth B. Jones Sr.  
Photos by: IP Jerry McGrone  
& Noble Advisor George Love

***"The vote is the most powerful instrument ever devised by man for breaking down injustice and destroying the terrible walls which imprison men because they are different from other men."*** Lyndon B. Johnson, 1965

**KILLEEN, Texas** – (Sept. 1, 2020) In various places around the world and within the Domain of Shrinedom, there is a requirement and need for citizens to exercise their rights to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. In no short order should that right to be wasted on trivial things in life but to show

up at the voting polls and elect good, moral and liked minded members of the various cities, counties, state and federal electoral positions. The citizen allows them to hold office, represent their constituents, and bring esteem and honor to their communities. In order to make those choices a reality, a citizen must first be a registered voter.

Nubia Temple No. 191, under the leadership of Noble Advisor George Love and the members of the Voter Registration & Education Committee, have stood the test of time.

They have attended several events within the Greater Killeen area from May to September 2020 to provide citizens the opportunity to make their voices heard. Amid

the COVID-19 pandemic, Nubia Temple has been able to make the necessary adjustments while practicing social distancing.

In May 2020, Nubia Temple, while working with the Killeen





NAACP, registered 15 citizens to vote with many more taking the card to mail in themselves.

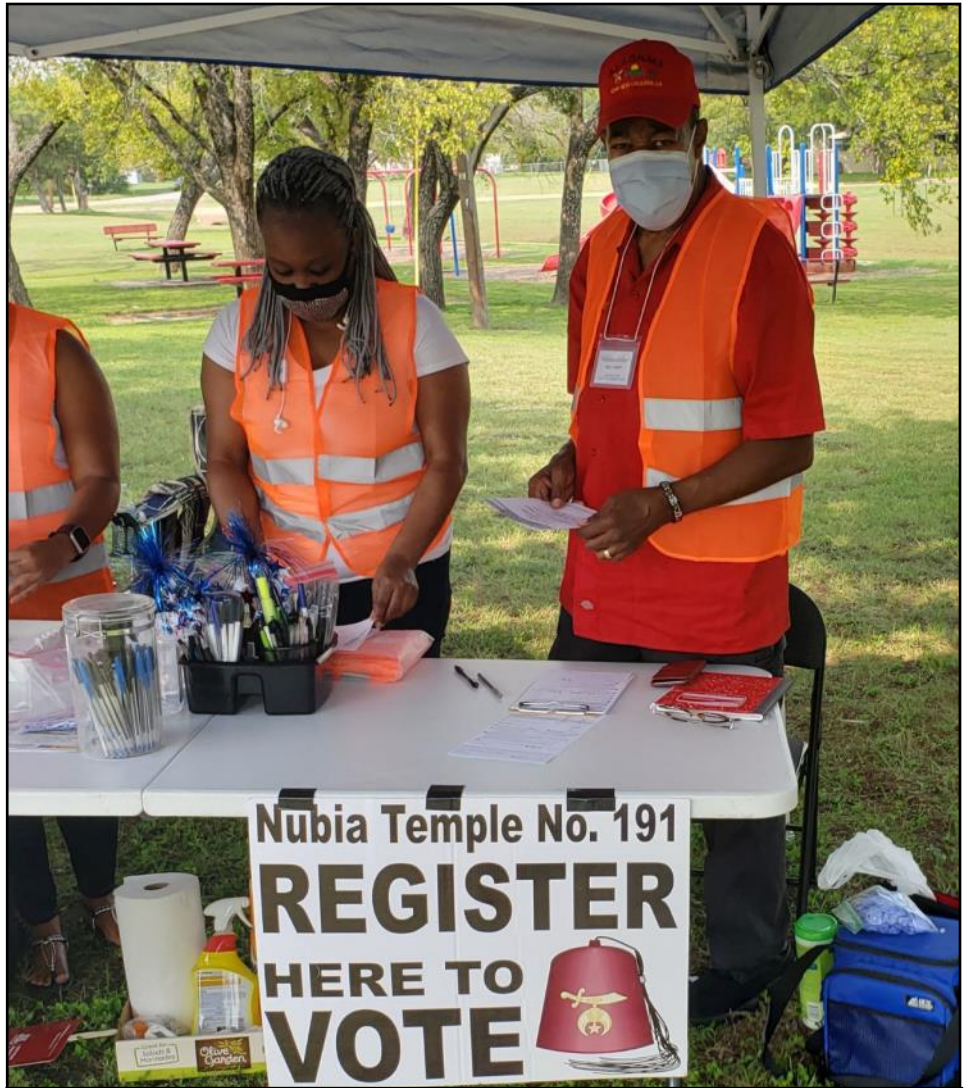
From June to August 2020, 21 additional citizens registered at various events including a joint event with VFW Post 3892 in Harker Heights which is led by Post Commander Willie Keller, a member of Nubia Temple.

A BBQ fundraiser and VRE Drive between the two groups helped reach those non-registered voters in the surrounding communities who aren't yet registered to vote. The committee set a goal to register up to 20 or more on that particular day.

"Trying to increase voting participation within the different communities is a goal of the Shriners of Nubia Temple No. 191," said Noble Love. "The more voters we register, the bigger the change and difference that could be made within the State of Texas and in America as a whole."

Noble Love registered 12 voters and it wasn't easy while navigating the challenges of being in the midst of a pandemic and trying to get people to stop for a second just to fill out a form to register.

"Change is always good because nothing stays the same forever," said Illustrious Potentate Jerry McGrone. "Time brings on changes and changes comes with the time. A job well done to Noble George Love and the Voter Registration & Education Committee."





# Nubia supports the Police's Homeless Outreach



Story by: CRAB Earnest Caffie and Noble Kenneth B. Jones Sr.  
Photos by: CRAB Earnest Caffie

***"No one is useless in this World who lightens the burdens of another." Charles Dickens***

**KILLEEN, Texas** (Aug. 29, 2020) While the community was waking up to another hot Central Texas Saturday morning, several Nobles of Nubia Temple No. 191, along with members of the community showed up at Friends in Crisis Shelter in support of Officer Kyle Moore of the Killeen Police Department who heads the City of Killeen Homeless Outreach program.

Homeless citizens and needy families received donations of clothes, shoes, toothpaste, toothbrushes, and soap. Snacks and refreshments were also made available.

Additionally, voter registration, voter information, Medicare, and

Medicaid information were made available.

In all, Nubia Temple provided assistance for up to 125 homeless citizens.

Chief Rabban Earnest Caffie thanked all the Nobles for their donations, dedication and support of

this event.

The following Nobles participated at the event: CRAB Caffie, Past Potentate Alveton Lewis, High Priest & Prophet Johuntas Hawkins, Outer Guard Gregory Benton, Nobles Willie Keller, Carlo Davis, and Noble George Evans.





# Nubia donates to Local Church during Jubilee Day



Story by: Nobles Willie Locke  
& Kenneth B. Jones Sr.  
Photos by: Noble Willie Locke

***“Every gift opens a heavenly door to the giver.”***

**KILLEEN**, Texas – (April 10, 2020)  
The Illustrious Potentate of Nubia Temple No. 191, Noble Jerry McGrone issued a call to action to the Nobles to keep up the standard as a nonprofit organization to try and help someone in the community.

After much contemplation on how to proceed, it was finally decided and asked of each Noble to support donations to the 2nd Street Baptist Church.

“This donation would be provided at our annual Jubilee Service in June; however, due to COVID-19 restrictions the full Jubilee Service program was cancelled well in ad-

vance,” I.P. McGrone. “I am asked if we can help do our part to shine light amongst all the darkness that’s going on here at home and around the world as we know it.”

Noble Willie Locke, Jubilee Day Service committee chairman, went to work contacting members seeking donations. In all, he received \$20 donations each from up to 50 different members totaling \$1,200.

On Jubilee Service Day, only a few Nobles could attend the normal church service due to pandemic’s social distancing requirements. Of those in attendance were I.P. McGrone, Chief Rabban Earnest Caffie, Assistant Rabban Ray Baldwin, High Priest & Prophet Jhuntas Hawkins, Captain of the Guard Pete Prescott, Second Ceremonial Master Ronald Turner, and Noble Wille Locke. Pastor Roy Harris greeted the Nobles very warmly on this day, not aware of

the blessing his church was to receive.

As the church service was near completion, the opportunity for the donation was made available. The presentation of the \$1,200 made Pastor Harris very emotional.

“The main air conditioner unit had just gone out at the church and we were contemplating closing the church as it would cost exactly \$1,200 to replace the unit,” said Pastor Harris. “This was a test of our faith and prayer, so I’m going to keep doing what God called me to do and keep this church going.”

I.P. McGrone said, “I was very moved by Pastor Harris’ words and his spirit. Nobles let’s keep doing what we can for our community for we never know who we are sent to bless or be blessed by. Awesome job Noble Willie Locke and Nobles of Nubia Temple No. 191!”



# In the Spotlight

## Noble Charles Mills reaches Century Mark



*Photo by: Noble Don Mills*

*Story by: Noble Don Mills  
Imp. Photography Director*

**HOUSTON** – (June 18, 2020) The Nobles of Doric Temple No. 76 honored the 100th birthday of Hon. Past Potentate Charles Mills, a resident of Pearland, Texas.

A native of Galveston, Texas, H.P.P. Mills was born on June 18, 1920 and served as a Merchant Marine during World War II, initially working part-time as a seaman.

In 1946, H.P.P. Mills moved to New York where he was elected to represent merchant seamen in the National Maritime Union.

He retired from the National Maritime Union in 1989, and he and his wife moved to Country Place, a Pearland community for people age 55 and up.

H.P.P. Mills have served “Historic Doric” for more than 30 years. Additionally, he has been a 15-year board member of the Thomas H. Routt Foundation whose mission is to enhance the ability of deserving students to attend institutions of higher learning finance and promote programs that mentor to youth.

He remains an active member of the Attentive Ear Lodge No. 350,

Blue Ridge United Methodist Church, Boy Scouts of America, American Merchant Marines, and the American Legion.

H.P.P. Mills was married to the late Wilhelmina Mills and they reared three children.

# In the Spotlight



*Story by: Temple Staff*

**EL PASO**, Texas - (Sept. 1, 2020) Noble William Hooks was created a Noble of the Mystic Shrine on June 16, 1978 in Al Kerak Temple No.194 in Kaiserslautern, Germany and transferred into Oro Temple No. 9 in the Oasis of Paso, Desert of Texas in 2018.

He was Raised to the Sublime Degree of Master Mason in Charles R. Williams Lodge No.132, Jurisdiction of Maryland, while receiving his Scottish Rite Degrees with Charles A. Spike Consistory No. 323, Valley of Kaiserslautern in 1977.

Noble Hooks, also known as Deacon, was born on the Chicago's Southside on January 10, 1952. He married the former Juanita Coppage in 1976, having two sons,

William Jr. ,42, and Keandre ,35. His parents presently reside in Chicago and he has four siblings.

Noble Hooks joined the U.S. Army in 1977 at Fort Leonard Wood, Mo. He retired at Fort Bliss, Texas after 20 years of honorable service and multiple personal awards.

He joined the El Paso Police Department in 2001 with many assignments from police patrol to vice retiring in 2017.

While a member of Sun City Fellowship Baptist Church he was ordained a deacon and presently attends the Fort Bliss Gospel Service ADA Chapel.

Noble Hooks is an active member is Oro Temple working diligently in the El Paso community assisting those in need of food boxes from various organizations.

He is recognized as the Noble in the Spotlight Noble for his selfless service during the COVID-19 pandemic.

He had worked every Tuesday at Christ Temple Apostolic Church controlling the traffic entering the parking lots and assisting in loading boxes of free food into vehicles for approximately two months.

When he is not at that location, he volunteers his time in helping at You Eat I Eat Community Food Pantry Corps and Selma's Food Distribution Corp.

He always delivers boxes to the widows of the Temple, his neighbors and friends while letting the Nobility know of other places needing help so that the Temple can get involved.



# SOUTHERN STYLE

COLOR	1 MONTH	3 MONTH RUN
FULL PAGE	\$120	\$200
2/3 PAGE	\$100	\$150
1/2 PAGE	\$80	\$100
1/3 PAGE	\$50	\$90
BUSINESS CARD	\$20	\$50

2020  
GENERAL  
ADVERTISING  
RATES

EFFECTIVE FEB 2020





**BLUE ILLUSION**  
CONSULTING

www.facebook.com/blueillusionconsulting  
Phone : 214 664-9950 | Fax : 972-274-2703  
Email : blueillusiongraphics@gmail.com

# Blue Illusion Consulting

Technology Based Firm specializing in  
all areas of Graphical, Database and Multimedia Design

## Multimedia Masterminds

We love to bring any creative idea to life. Our skillset can create high quality print media to HD Video Animation. Let us show you what we can do.

## High Quality Products and Services

Event Flyers      Invitations  
Business Card Design      Image Editing  
Logo Design      Video Marketing

**AND MUCH MORE!**

## Professional Service



We deliver all of our product and service offerings with a high level of professionalism.

## Website Design



From a Simple static info-site to a fully Dynamic responsive web presence, let us bring your vision to reality

## Competitive Pricing



Contact for 1st time customer specials. We have solutions that can fit into any budget. Contact us for more details!



# Virtual Independent Professional Business Solutions

*"Every business deserves V.I.P treatment."*



P.O. BOX 623  
Fresno, TX 77545

www.vip-biz-solutions.com  
Email: info@vip-b-z-solutions.com

Phone: 832-359-1050 or 281-932-2777  
Fax: 832-415-0222

V.I.P Business Solutions was founded in 2009 by Shawnti Boswell Refuge and is independently owned and operated in the United States. Shawnti Boswell Refuge has over 20 years administrative experience ranging from Customer Service to Executive Administrative Support. She has a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration (2008), is a Texas Notary Public (bonded and insured).

Shawnti also has a Master of Business Administration with a concentration in Human Resources Management (2010). She is certified in Mediation Training Alternative Dispute Resolution in accordance to Texas Civil Practice and Remedies Code Title 7 Chapter 154.

V.I.P Business Solutions is dedicated to addressing the administrative needs of your organization, allowing you more time to focus on growing your business. V.I.P Business Solutions can intercept the time-consuming administrative tasks so that you can place your focus on your business by generating revenue, attaining potential clients, and continuing relationships with existing clients.

V.I.P Business Solutions offers a wide variety of services are available in a virtual office setting in an ethical, professional, and precise manner. V.I.P Business Solutions accepts projects ranging from one-time only to long-term. No matter the extent of your need, V.I.P Business Solutions is here to assist.

Based in the Houston, Texas area, V.I.P Business Solutions provides first-class, confidential, and dependable business administrative services with the latest in technology. A wide variety of services are available to you in a virtual office setting.

Administrative services including but not limited to:

## Word/Information Processing

- Ghostwriting
- Data entry
- Notary Services (will travel)
- Editing/proofreading
- Dictation/transcription
- Content Writing
- Power Point presentations
- Business proposals
- Document scanning

## Virtual Administrative Support

- Inbound/Outbound Telecommunications
- Electronic filing creation/maintenance
- Spreadsheet maintenance
- Contact management
- Reminder services
- Schedule coordinating
- Reservations/appointment scheduling
- Internet research
- Online purchasing
- Budget development/maintenance



# SUPREME DJ UNIT



*Donte "Dj Roc" Allen*  
*Booking: 682-554-7356*  
*Donteallen6@hotmail.com*

## S.D.U.



*"Taking Events To The Next Level"*