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MEMBER
MIDIAN SHRINERS
WICHITA, KANSAS

DATE: April 22, 2020

TO: Nobles and Ladies

It is my sad duty to inform you that the Shrine Imperial Session scheduled for June 29 through July 9 in Kansas City has been cancelled. This decision comes after many days of careful consideration of the data and opinions of public health professionals and the decisions of governmental officials acting in reliance upon that information. We have also had productive conversations with various entities in Kansas City, including the Kansas City Department of Public Health. A decision of this magnitude is never easy but every member of the Joint Boards felt this was consistent with the most current public health information and governmental "Stay at home" orders intended to protect the best interests of everyone concerned.

Ultimately it became an issue of following public health direction to provide safety – the safety of our members, of the residents of Kansas City, of those in our local communities once we returned from the Imperial Session and most importantly the safety of the children and staff in our hospitals that we would come in contact with after the session.

Cheryl and I are deeply grateful to the Imperial 2020 Team that has labored tirelessly over the past four years in preparation of the Kansas City Imperial Session. Our Director General Bart Ogden and his Lady Lesa, Deputy Director Generals Nick Baldi and his Lady Kay, and Chris Muro and his Lady Barbara have led the team in an outstanding way throughout this process. We know how hard they have worked along with everyone else that have volunteered their time, talent, and resources in an effort to make the session one that would be remembered for many years to come.

We would also like to thank two very special individuals from VisitKC that have assisted us along the way. Esther Walker-Young and Rebecca Elliott are to be commended for their support of our Imperial 2020 Team in every step along the way. They never wavered in their efforts and were always there to provide us with whatever we needed.

To **ALL OF YOU** – even though "the fruits of our labors" will not be seen in KC this summer – please know that each of you hold a very special place in our hearts. We **THANK** each of you for your support on our Imperial journey and know you join us in wishing Imperial Sir Jim Smith and his Lady Alice the very best as they start their Imperial journey on July 9. We look forward to seeing each of you in the months and years ahead – we will have completed our term but we will continue to work for our great fraternity and philanthropy.

Jeff and Cheryl Sowder