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MEMBER  
OMAR SHRINERS  
MT. PLEASANT, SOUTH CAROLINA

## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Temple Leaders and Leaders of Shriners Hospitals for Children

**FROM:** Kenneth G. Craven, Imperial Potentate

**DATE:** August 9, 2022

**SUBJECT:** Misconstrued Communications

There has been a significant misunderstanding with regard to the actual words and purposes of a previous communication posted on the internet that now appears to be taking on a life of its own through embellishment in repeating a factually inaccurate words attributed to Imperial Sir Bill Bailey.

Imperial Sir Bill Bailey made the following statement:

To all the Nobles and Ladies of Abou Saad Shrine, Debbie and I could not have been happier with the way you treated us; greeted all of our friends and Imperial Officers from the Hospital and from the Fraternity, and you've done an extremely wonderful job of promoting Shriners International and Shriners Hospitals for Children. I will tell you this: we need to focus on raising money for membership, and the hospitals will take care of themselves. But we need to focus on membership. So, on behalf of my all of Imperial colleagues, thank you for your kindness and I want you to know that Abou Saad is like a second home to Lady Debbie and I. Thank you.

However, he did not say, in the video that has generated the misunderstanding and controversy, that Shriners should no longer raise money for the hospitals. That statement or meaning simply can't fairly be found in the words quoted above.

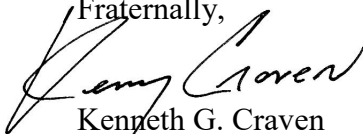
Instead, his point was to say that, in addition to efforts that Shriners continue to make to support its charity, members of the general public have embraced the great work Shriners started and Shriners remain fully in control of the governance and operations of our amazing health care system. Additionally, independent analysis has shown the stewardship of Shriners to be outstanding and this is validated by the public's generous support of our charity.

Imperial Sir Bill's message to Shriners was that we cannot, and should not, expect members of the general public to rally to the membership and financial concerns faced by our temples and Shriners International. He urged Shriners to focus efforts, financial and otherwise on protecting our fraternity. He urged Shriners to prioritize current fraternal concerns, but certainly not to exclude our charity.

I have seen numerous statements that completely mischaracterize the actual words and the actual intention of Imperial Sir Bill's remarks found in the video quoted above. There really is nothing controversial in his actual words. However, the controversy arises only when his words are misquoted or misinterpreted.

We encourage Shrine leaders to use appropriate care to accurately report statements that are made. Let's be slow to find a negative interpretation when an ordinary or positive interpretation is obviously available and then bend the actual words to obtain a controversial result.

Fraternally,



Kenneth G. Craven  
Imperial Potentate

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