



Shriners International

Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow Celebrating the 150th Anniversary of Shriners International

In 1870, at the Knickerbocker Cottage in New York City, thirteen Masons took part in a lunch discussion that would ultimately impact the lives of millions of people around the world for many years to come. On that momentous day, these men, including Walter M. Fleming, MD, and famous stage actor William “Billy” Florence had an idea for forming a new fraternity of Masons. The first official meeting that established our beloved fraternity, Shriners International, was held 150 years ago today, on September 26, 1872.

What started out as an small group with the purpose of bringing more fun to Masonry, quickly spread around the country, and eventually the world, and evolved into something much more than our founders could have ever imagined. One hundred and fifty years later, we have a LOT to celebrate.

Celebrating Brotherhood

As Shriners, we know that the bonds of brotherhood formed among Nobles are strong, meaningful and transcend ordinary friendships. We share core values, and through our clubs and units, we enjoy common interests and activities. However, it is our differences that have shaped and enhanced our spirited group of brothers. We have different backgrounds, perspectives and life experiences, but what unites us is a fellowship that only Shriners can truly understand.

Celebrating Philanthropy

One hundred years ago, our Nobility decided they wanted to help the world become a better place, and they accomplished that goal in a big way when they founded Shriners Children’s. It is impossible to tally the countless hours that Shriners have dedicated to volunteering, fundraising and bringing joy to children’s lives. Since 1922, our healthcare system has improved the lives of more than 1.5 million children and their families, and continues to bring hope and healing to our patients every day.

Celebrating Our Future

We need to remember our past, but we also need to look forward and pave the way for future generations of Shriners, including our own sons, grandsons and nephews. Let us work together to strengthen the foundation of our fraternity, to adapt as needed to secure our future, and to encourage other men of character to join us in fun and fellowship.

Celebrating YOU

As you celebrate the 150th Anniversary of our amazing organization, we hope that you take a few moments to reflect on what it means to be a Shriner. YOU are a part of something much bigger than yourself. You are a member of a global family that plays together, serves together and looks out for each other in good times and bad. You are a SHRINER. Happy Anniversary!

Yours in the faith,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kenny Craven".

Kenneth G. "Kenny" Craven
Imperial Potentate



[View a multimedia presentation about the founding of our organizations.](#)

[Learn about the historical artifacts, people, places and events that shaped our history.](#)