

# The Knights of Sparta visit the Empire of the Sun

The heavenly bodies of our solar system were highlighted as the Knights of Sparta presented the organization's 57th annual ball masque, staged Sunday evening in the Great Hall of the Fontebarran Center. Colorful costumes, lavish scenery, lilting music and clever choreography highlighted the evening as the Knights entertained their guests with a pageant titled "Empire of the Sun."

Reigning as queen of the ball was Miss Megan Elise Ducote, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John P. Ducote.

Maids in her majesty's court were Miss Virginia Marie Spencer-Brown, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Robert M. Brown, and granddaughter of the krew's captain and first lady; Miss Barbie Ann Cure, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Robert F. Cure; Miss Emily Beatrice Dureau, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Milton M. Dureau Jr.; Miss Erica Jean Macaluso, granddaughter of Mrs. Dade A. Vincent and the late Mr. Vincent; Miss Corrin Marie Remy, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Mark S. Remy; and Mrs. Jennifer Kiefer Jamieson, wife of Mr. Casey A. Jamieson Sr., daughter of Mr. George G. Kiefer and Ms. Anne Zoller Kiefer, and granddaughter of the late Mr. and Mrs. Bernard I. Zoller Jr.

Junior maids of the court were Misses Margaret Rose D'Alfonso Foster, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Frank D.A. Foster; and Heidi Lynn Kilgen, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Brian H. Kilgen.

Princesses of the court were Misses Madilyn Joy Cooper, daughter of Mr. and Mrs.

Thomas P. Cooper; Emma Lola Duffrene, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Ronald Duffrene; Josie Nicole Fry, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. James J. Fry; Skylar Renee McLeod, daughter of Ms. Renee M. McLeod; Madelyn Leigh Predmore, daughter of Mr. Lawrence L. Predmore; and Ms. Jennifer N. Predmore; and Andrea Renee Remy, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Mark S. Remy.

Heralds to his majesty were Masters Eric Joseph Duffrene, son of Mr. and Mrs. Ronald Duffrene; Matthew James Hedrick IV, son of Mr. and Mrs. Matthew J. Hedrick III; and John David Herbert, son of Mr. and Mrs. Henry A. Herbert Jr.

Scepter bearers to their majesties were Misses Alyssa Maria Brown, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Robert M. Brown, and granddaughter of the captain and first lady; and Abigail Elizabeth Clement, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Russell J. Clement.

The prince and princess of the court, representing the Cystic Fibrosis Society, were Master Patrick Coogan Ryan, son of Dr. and Mrs. Thomas B. Ryan; and Ms. Jennifer Elizabeth Lewis, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas R. Lewis.

As queen, Miss Ducote wore a princess-style gown of silver Alençon lace re-embroidered in an overall baroque pattern. The dress was heavily embellished with Austrian rhinestones, crystal beading and seed pearls, and featured a full court train. A Medicci collar of French re-embroidered Alençon lace embellished with Austrian rhinestones, crystal beading and seed pearls framed the queen's face. Her mantle of silver silk lamé featured as its central motif



Megan Elise Ducote



Spencer-Brown



Cure



Dureau



Macaluso



Remy



Jamieson

elaborate appliquéd scrolls surrounding the traditional crown and double "S" for Sparta, and was trimmed in aurora borealis stones and crystals. The traditional hand-set Austrian rhinestone matching crown and scepter completed her royal attire.

His majesty wore a traditional Romanesque-style costume and carried a mantle similar in overall design, material and color to that of his queen. A traditional hand-set Austrian rhinestone matching crown and scepter also completed his royal attire.

In the culmination of the tableau, which featured a lavish ballet sequence that depicted alien life on another planet, the captain of the Knights of Sparta appeared as if from the rays of the sun. He wore a traditional

Roman tunic-style costume of silver brocade, heavily trimmed with Austrian rhinestones, crystal and rhinestone appliqués and seed pearls. His full monarch cape was of silver silk lamé trimmed in ermine. A classic laurel wreath design surrounding the jeweled crest of the Knights of Sparta formed the central motif of the flowing cape. His classic Spartan-style helmet was heavily encrusted with Austrian rhinestones and mirrors, and was topped with white triple-set ostrich plumes. As his baton, he carried a jeweled-encrusted replica of a Spartan Laconian short sword.

Linking the generations of Carnival tradition, the captain's baton then made his entrance. He was Master Brandon James Bogle, son of Mr. and Mrs. John R. Bogle Jr. and grandson of the captain and first lady. He wore a

traditional Roman tunic-style costume and cape that matched that of the captain, and also carried a jewel-encrusted replica of a Spartan Laconian short sword.

The maids of the court were costumed in keeping with the solar-system theme. Miss Spencer-Brown portrayed Earth, Miss Cure symbolized Neptune's moon Larissa, and Miss Dureau represented the Jovian moon Callisto. Miss Macaluso depicted the planet Venus, Miss Remy reflected Earth's moon Luna, and Mrs. Jamieson personified the asteroid belt's Ceres.

General chairman of the ball was Mr. Phillip S. Lundgren Sr. Honorary general chairman was Mr. Charles A. Andrews Jr., and honorary vice general chairman was Kerner Mayor Edmond J. Muniz.

Vice general chairmen were Messrs. John A. Beninate III, Nicholas J. Beninate Jr., Norman R. Bourgeois Jr., Richard G. Breux, McKinley J. Cantrell Jr., Philip F. Fricano Jr., Michael H. Haydel Sr., Pendleton W. Larsen Jr., Wayne M. Lee, Baldessare F. Mannino, Maurice H. Olivier Jr., John C. Oswald Jr., Donald C. Szabo, John A. Tessitore, Odell P. Zeringue and Dr. Jack J. Jacob.

Chairmen of the ball committees were Messrs. Nicholas J. Beninate III, Leon R. Benoit III, John R. Bogle Jr., Rob M. Brown, Earl M. Duke III, Joseph B. Exnicios III, Gary W. Fortmayer, Matthew J. Hedrick Jr., Matthew J. Hedrick III, James J. Julian, David E. Larsen, Pendleton W. Larsen III, John A. Mahan, Joey D. Marcer, San Nicholas, Martin J. Reinshmidt, Edward W. Scuderi Sr., Walter F. Schwander, Joseph A. Trovato Jr., Michael S. Yenni, Judge Roy M. Casco, Recorder of Mortgages Gaspier J. Schiro Jr. and Dr. Timothy A. Melancon.

Members of the honorary court committee were Messrs. Jonathan P. Ducote, Robert F. Cure, Milton M. Dureau Jr., Casey A. Jamieson Sr., Mark S. Remy, Dade A. Vincent Jr., D. Michael Vincent and Jarod J. Murphy.

Guest performers in the tableau were members of the dance company of the Edge Cook School of Dance from Marion, Ohio. Music for the evening was provided by Maestro B.J. Perez and the Orchestre de Carnival. Guest narrator was Mr. Dane Rhodes. Guest vocalist was Mr. John Skidmore, and guest actors were Professor Carl Nivale and Mr. Edward Cox.