

King James Brinkley Taylor, Jr.

As Carnival Memphis celebrates our 87th Anniversary, James Brinkley Taylor, Jr. has been chosen to reign as King to honor the Mid-South Fashion Apparel Industry.

King Jim Taylor, a native Memphian, has proudly lived in Memphis all his life. His family roots appear in Memphis history as often as riverboats on the Mississippi, including his great-great-grandfather Robert Campbell Brinkley, who built the original Peabody Hotel and named it for his friend George Peabody. The same grandfather also donated the land on which St. Mary's Episcopal Cathedral was built.

King Jim was not only born and raised in Memphis, he was Memphis educated as well. After graduating from Grace St. Luke's School, he received his Bachelor of Arts degree from Rhodes College, and a Master of Arts degree in economics from Memphis State University, now the University of Memphis. He is currently a self-employed Private Investor.

King Jim's quite serious money management life gives way to frivolity in his Carnival life, making him a very active and popular host. From events at the University Club to the Taylors' estate, dubbed Club 33, our King is ever present and center stage. His welcoming nature permits him to open his home to Carnival participants before and after each Carnival event, each greeted warmly at the door. King Jim's Carnival activities provide an interesting contrast to wife Mimi's interest and love of gardening. She matches Jim's Carnival devotion with a devotion of her own – the Memphis Flower Shows, where she is a constant winner.

King Jim Taylor was introduced to Carnival Memphis in 1995 when he became a member the oldest of Carnival Memphis' Grand Krewes, The Mystic Society of The Memphi. He became quite active in Memphi: a Duke escorting his wife, Mimi, Duchess of 2007; Clubroom Chairman in 2008; Assistant General Chairman in 2009; and General Chairman in 2010. He was the Memphi OURO, the Grand Krewe's formal position of King, in 2011; and elected to the Board of Regents in 2014. He is currently Membership Chairman of the Memphi Board of Regents, and Chairman-Elect. His wife Mimi was Memphi Queen in 2014. King Jim served as President of Carnival Memphis during our 85th Anniversary celebration in 2016, and the following year as Board Chairman.



Front row, left to right: Heloise Humphreys, Courtney Taylor Humphreys, Tucker Humphreys, Selden Humphreys with Monkey, Eliza Elliott, Annie Humphreys, Lawrence Taylor Elliott with Briggs Elliott on her lap. Back row, left to right: Mckee Humphreys, Semmes Humphreys, Mimi Taylor, King Jim, and Tim Elliott. And Opie out front.

Mr. Taylor has also been very involved, over the years, at Grace-St. Luke's Episcopal Church where he served on the Vestry and as Senior Warden for four terms. He has been President of The University Club for three terms and has the distinction of owning club membership number 1. He is also a member of The Memphis Country Club. He served on the St. Mary's Episcopal School Board, and for six years as Board Chairman.

Our King is easily recognizable in Carnival venues and in Memphis society by his quick smile, firm handshake, inviting nature, and...on occasion, a pastel-colored suit. By his own confession, Jim is a "clothes horse," unafraid of stretching the norm, and he admits to having a taste for flair. A man of many interests, our King, and his wife love to travel, and count Ponte Vedra, Destin, New Orleans, and Windstar Cruises among their favorite destinations.

A life-long Memphian, King Jim is married to the former Mimi Hall. They are proud parents of four daughters: Courtney, Semmes, Lawrence, and Selden. The Taylors are blessed with five grandchildren: Tucker, Heloise, Eliza, Annie, and Briggs. He will easily admit, however, that his love for travel, cooking, and clothing, as well as his interest in the community and his church, all pale in comparison to his love for--and devotion to--his family and friends.