

## *King Raymond Marion Dearman, junior*

As Carnival Memphis celebrates our 91st Anniversary, Raymond Marion Dearman, Junior has been chosen to reign as King to honor the Mid-South Accounting Profession.

Born and raised in Hattiesburg, Mississippi, King Buddy is a graduate of the Baylor School in Chattanooga, Tennessee, and the University of Mississippi Patterson School of Accountancy in Oxford. His family was involved in Carnival in Hattiesburg through the Mystic Krewe of Zeus. Buddy was a Duke when his father was King in 1985, and his sister Kathan was Queen in 1989. After graduating from Ole Miss in 1986, he started his accounting career with Memphis-based George B. Jones & Company, a firm specializing in serving the needs of automobile dealerships and their owners, and became a Certified Public Accountant in 1988. In 1993, he moved to Rhea and Ivy where he became a Partner in 2000. Following Rhea & Ivy's merger with Dixon Hughes Goodman (DHG) in 2008, King Buddy became an integral part of the new firm. He currently serves as Managing Partner of DHG's Dealership practice of more than 160 professionals, overseeing services for over 3,000 rooftops nationwide. He has more than 30 years of experience working with dealerships and their owners and focuses primarily on all aspects of tax and business planning with medium and large dealership groups. King Buddy has spoken on tax topics at dealership industry events such as NADA Convention, AICPA Dealership Conference, National Association of Dealer Counsel Conference and various state dealer association meetings. On June 1, 2022, the accounting firms of DHG and BKD completed a merger of equals to create FORVIS, the eighth largest accounting firm in the nation.

His Carnival Memphis involvement started when he was a young member of the Grand Krewe of Osiris, where he ultimately became Chairman and King, and continued while he served as Carnival Treasurer for many years. In 2010, King Buddy moved into a different leadership position with the organization as President with current Queen Sarah Clifton's father as King. Twelve years later the Dearman and Yandell families are reunited again for a great celebration. When Carnival needed leadership help in 2013 Buddy answered the call and served a second term as President and Chairman of the Board the following year. His counsel and leadership has been invaluable to the organization for many years.



*The Dearman Family  
William Wade, Lockie Wade, Peyton Wade, Laura Dearman,  
Buddy Dearman, Tripp Dearman, Victoria Dearman,  
and Rames Dearman*

In the summer of 1985, a chance meeting at a grocery store in Oxford with Ole Miss student Laura Holmes York was the start of something very special. The couple married in 1989 and they have two adult children, Raymond M. Dearman III (Tripp) who is married to Victoria Smith Dearman; and Lockie Monette Dearman Wade who is married to Peyton Chandler Wade. Tripp and Lockie were members of the Carnival Royal Court and Lockie served as Queen of Carnival in 2015 with King John Bobango, while Tripp was a Scarab. Tripp and his wife Victoria are the parents of Raymond M. Dearman, IV (Rames) who was born in July 2020, and are expecting their second child this fall; and Lockie and Peyton are parents of William Scott Wade who was born in October 2021. Buddy and his family are very involved in St. John's Episcopal Church, where both he and Laura have served in a number of leadership capacities. He is also a Board Member and Treasurer of the Memphis Country Club, and a member of the Carnival Memphis Board of Directors Emeritus. In his spare time, Buddy enjoys golf, Ole Miss sports, snow skiing and traveling with his family.