



## Washington Mardi Gras Announces 2027 Leadership: House Majority Leader Steve Scalise Named Captain

*King Pete November and Queen Peighton Ashley Announced as Royalty*

**WASHINGTON, D.C. - July 8, 2026** - The Sr. Lieutenants of the Mystick Krewe of Louisianians announced that House Majority Leader Steve Scalise will serve as Interim Captain of the Mystick Krewe of Louisianians for the 78th Washington Mardi Gras Ball. Additionally, Leader Scalise will serve as Chairman of the 2027 event. The Ball will be held on January 23, 2027, at The Washington Hilton.

Leader Scalise announced the selection of Ochsner Health President and CEO Pete November, of New Orleans, as King of the Festivities, and Peighton Ashley, a rising pre-med student at Xavier University of Louisiana in New Orleans, as Queen.

Commenting on his selections, Scalise said, "I am excited to serve as Chairman and Captain for next year's Washington Mardi Gras! I am honored to announce the selection of King Pete November and Queen Peighton Ashley to reign over the royal court at what has become one of our nation's premier social events, highlighting Louisiana's unique culture and joie de vivre."



Congressman Steve Scalise currently serves as House Majority Leader, the second-highest position in House leadership, and represents Louisiana's 1st Congressional District.

As Majority Leader, Scalise is responsible for implementing the House legislative agenda by setting the House floor schedule, guiding

committee chairs on policy priorities, and working with his colleagues to advance conservative solutions that address the nation's toughest challenges.

Elected to Congress in 2008 and now the longest-serving member of Louisiana's congressional delegation, Scalise has been a tireless advocate for the people of Louisiana. He understands the importance of energy development to the state's economy and has championed policies aimed at restoring American energy dominance. He continues to fight for a national energy strategy that increases domestic production through expanded development and technological innovation, helping lower energy costs for families while reducing America's dependence on foreign oil.

A steadfast defender of Louisiana's coast, Scalise led the effort to pass the RESTORE Act, which was signed into law in 2012. The legislation dedicated the vast majority of Clean Water Act fines resulting from the Deepwater Horizon oil spill to coastal restoration and is widely regarded as the single most significant federal action taken to restore Louisiana's coastline.

Scalise is also a strong advocate for offshore energy revenue sharing and has led the fight in Washington to protect and expand Louisiana's funding through the Gulf of Mexico Energy Security Act (GOMESA). Most recently, he secured a change in federal law that increases Louisiana's share of offshore energy revenues, providing hundreds of millions of additional dollars over the coming years to support coastal restoration and critical flood protection projects.



Pete November serves as the President and Chief Executive Officer of Ochsner Health, Louisiana's largest not-for-profit academic health system and its largest private employer. Under November's leadership, Ochsner is steadfastly committed to delivering exceptional, high-quality care, powered by human connection, and accelerated by innovation.

Before being named CEO in 2022, November served in numerous senior leadership positions within Ochsner, including Executive Vice President, Chief Financial Officer, Executive Vice President of Digital Health, and Chief Administrative Officer.

November has shepherded the organization through several significant partnerships, convening community leaders across New Orleans, Louisiana, the Gulf

South and beyond – including across industries – to unlock growth that improves healthcare access for community members across the Gulf South region.

This includes the development of Ochsner LSU Health System of North Louisiana. In partnership with LSU Health Shreveport, Ochsner created a meaningful impact across Shreveport, Monroe, and the surrounding communities by increasing the number of practicing physicians by 70%, expanding behavioral services, and investing more than \$450 million in improved facilities and infrastructure.

This transformative partnership has improved healthcare access and quality, brought patient-centered technology to the academic health system, expanded workforce and educational investments to train the next generation of healthcare professionals, and enhanced research across North Louisiana. November and Ochsner are now partnering with Xavier University of Louisiana to create the Xavier Ochsner College of Medicine. Together, they will increase the number of physicians for the region and the nation while promoting a personalized approach to medicine.

Ochsner recently broke ground on the new state-of-the-art facility and future home of the Gayle and Tom Benson Ochsner Children's Hospital, which will allow for more children and their families to receive high-quality care closer to home. Ochsner is also expanding access to expert neurology and neurosurgery care with the building of the Debra H. and Robert J. Patrick Neuroscience Institute that will bring innovative approaches to patients and their families, including an important partnership with Team Gleason.

Under his leadership, Ochsner has demonstrated an unwavering commitment to advancing healthcare innovation, enhancing the physician and team member experience, advocating for patient-centric high-quality care, and supporting economic growth and development across the Gulf South. He is a champion for cultivating a culture of trust, transparency and collaboration, ensuring that both patients and Ochsner teams have access to improved care delivery and the resources needed to thrive in a rapidly changing healthcare environment.

Last year, Modern Healthcare recognized November as one of the 100 Most Influential People in Healthcare of 2025, honoring individuals with significant industry impact and leadership.

Before joining Ochsner, November served as Executive Vice President, General Counsel and Head of Acquisitions for LHC Group Inc., one of the largest providers of home care in the nation. Before LHC Group, Inc., he was an equity partner with Alston & Bird, an international law firm, where he helped a wide range of healthcare organizations navigate growth and complex partnerships for more than 14 years.

November earned his B.S. in Accounting from the University of Kentucky, received his Juris Doctorate from the University of Kentucky College of Law, and is a Certified Public Accountant. He is actively involved in the community and currently serves as Adjunct Professor at the University of Queensland College of Medicine and Adjunct Professor and Guest Lecturer at Loyola University College of Business.

November serves on multiple boards and committees, reflecting his extensive leadership and dedication. He is a member of the Board of Trustees for the American Hospital Association (AHA) as well as the Treasurer on the Board of Trustees for the National World War II Museum. Additionally, he holds positions on the Business Council of New Orleans and the River Region, Leaders for a Better Louisiana, and the University of Kentucky Visiting Committee. He also served on the Healthcare Transition Committee for Governor Jeff Landry and co-chaired the Economic Development Transition Committee for Mayor Helena Moreno.

During November's leadership, Ochsner Health has also played an important role in giving back to the community as the Official Medical Provider of the New Orleans Super Bowl Host Committee in 2025 and the Official Healthcare Provider of the New Orleans Jazz & Heritage Festival. November proudly calls Louisiana home with his wife of over 30 years and two adult children.



Peighton Ashley is a dynamic scholar, servant leader, and emerging changemaker whose academic excellence, leadership, and commitment to community service reflect a bright and purposeful future.

A proud member of the Liberty Magnet High School Class of 2026, Peighton graduated Summa Cum Laude as Valedictorian with an exceptional 4.7 GPA, earning all A's throughout her high school career. During her time at Liberty Magnet, she distinguished herself as a leader and high achiever through her involvement in the National Honor Society, National Beta Club, National STEM Honor Society, ICare Club, and the prestigious 25+ ACT Club. She also served as Parliamentarian for her school's chapter of HOSA–Future Health Professionals and was a proud member of the Patriette Dance Team, gracefully balancing academic rigor, leadership, service, and the arts.

Peighton's dedication to excellence was further recognized by the College Board National Recognition Program, where she received the School Recognition Award for her outstanding academic achievements. In addition to her high school accomplishments, Peighton is also a member of the Baton Rouge Community College Class of 2026, where she earned an Associate of Arts in Liberal Arts with a perfect 4.0 GPA. She was honored as a Chancellor's Scholar and named to the Dean's List, further demonstrating her discipline, drive, and commitment to academic success.

Beyond the classroom, Peighton has consistently shown a passion for leadership, youth empowerment, and service. She is a member of the Louisiana Leadership Institute's

Leadership Academy, a program designed to cultivate leadership, academic achievement, self-esteem, and motivation among students. She also served as Captain of the organization's dance team, the Dazzling Starlettes, where she encouraged teamwork, confidence, and excellence among her peers.

Committed to making a meaningful difference in her community, Peighton was selected as a member of the Baton Rouge Delta Development Corporation's 2025 Coterie of Debutantes. Through this experience, she continued to expand her commitment to service and civic engagement, earning the prestigious Louisiana Volunteer Service Award in recognition of her dedication to serving the state of Louisiana and uplifting others through volunteerism.

This fall, Peighton will attend Xavier University of Louisiana, where she plans to major in Psychology while pursuing a pre-med track. Guided by her belief that every child deserves the opportunity to grow up mentally and emotionally healthy, Peighton aspires to help break down the barriers that prevent individuals from seeking support and care. Her long-term goal is to ensure that children and families have access to the resources, compassion, and professional support they need to thrive.

This summer, Peighton is completing an internship with ExxonMobil in the Public and Government Affairs Department, where she specializes in social media and helps promote STEM professions throughout the Baton Rouge community. Through this work, she continues to combine her interests in communication, leadership, science, and community impact.

When she is not studying, leading, serving, or preparing for her next chapter, Peighton enjoys reading, dancing, listening to true crime podcasts, and spending quality time with her family and friends. She is the daughter of Shannon and Garland Johnson of Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

With her extraordinary academic record, servant's heart, leadership spirit, and passion for helping others, Peighton Ashley represents the promise of the next generation: brilliant, compassionate, grounded, and ready to make a lasting impact.

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*One of the nation's capital's most celebrated and largest events, the Mystick Krewe of Louisianians and its hundreds of krewe members bring a touch of Louisiana to thousands of guests in a multi - night celebration. Washington Mardi Gras is proudly celebrating 75+ years of themed balls, dinner dances, royal courts and other beloved royal traditions.*