



THE PATRIOT



Maryland District
Proudly Serving the Fourth Degree since 1904

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Worthy Sir Knights, Ladies, and Friends,

It is February and winter is finally starting to set in. After over two hundred years, our fragile democracy is still intact and functioning rather well, even if imperfect. It is time to get beyond parties and thinking that people who don't think your way are always 'the enemy'. We are all GOD's children and we need to treat each other with respect. And the only perfect Catholic I know is Jesus Christ. We are all flawed sinners. It is absolutely fine to speak up when we observe a wrong but let's try to be sure we are not simply being critical. Again, none of us are perfect.

Thank you to all who were able to participate in Wreaths Across America in any manner. Thanks to all who were able to pick up wreaths at any of the cemeteries at some time during this month. I pray next year's program will be more 'normal'. The Polar Bear Plunge was also very different this year. If you, your Assembly, or Council has not already supported Maryland Special Olympics, there's still time. The Annual March For Life in our Nation's Capital was virtual with plenty of associated virtual activities. I pray you were able to participate in any one of these activities or related activities at the local level or community. I know that my parish sponsored a March of Life in the community. Archbishop Lori was the celebrant at the annual Life is Beautiful Mass on Sunday, 24 January at the Basilica. At was a wonderful Mass, though not well attended, with a great homily. A few of us were honored to serve as Color Corps for this Mass. I believe requests for color corps turnouts will begin to increase, so dust off those uniforms, swords, and berets. Reach out to your pastors and communities and let them know the Knights of Columbus are anxious to get back out into the public eye.

We have two Exemplifications of the Fourth Degree quickly approaching. First, a degree in Spanish, sponsored by our Brothers in Texas, on Saturday, 6 February. We have a number of Brother Knights from Maryland already attending. It is definitely the last minute but there is still an opportunity to be included in this degree. Get your form 4 to District Secretary Bill Copes now. Second, is a degree hosted by the Maryland District on Saturday, 13 March. Do not delay. Get your form 4's to District Secretary Bill Copes as soon as possible. The cost for either degree is \$50 payable to "Master of the Fourth Degree". Send all checks to District Secretary Bill Copes. Remember that everyone is a recruiter; to our Order and the Fourth Degree. I receive notice of men who attend the Supreme Council sponsored Charity, Unity, and Fraternity Degree and thus become third degree Knights. I forward those names to the appropriate Assembly and expect that the Assembly contacts that Brother Knight and offer him the opportunity to become a Fourth Degree Knight. Please do not hesitate to contact that gentleman. Also remain in contact with your Council and be sure to contact men who take the Charity, Unity, and Fraternity Exemplification locally are offered the opportunity to become Sir Knights.

I've listed the two degrees directly related to the Maryland District but there are other degrees in Calvert Province and across the Order. Let me know if you have candidate looking for a Fourth Degree and their availability. Remember that if a Brother Knight is not available to attend a degree in the District but is available for a degree outside the District, you MUST gain District Master Leach's approval to attend another degree. In nearly all cases, the form 4 and check will go to District Secretary Bill Copes and Master Leach will need to send it to Supreme once the candidate has indeed attended an Exemplification. Thanks for your consideration and efforts.

Almost all Assemblies have scheduled a Renewal of Obligations. Most have been virtual and a few have been hybrid. We have conducted two Assembly Renewal of Obligations on a number of evenings. Assemblies should be meeting every month, so there is no reason why every Assembly should not hold a Renewal of Obligations. If your Assembly has yet to hold or schedule a Renewal of Obligations, contact District Master Leach and District Marshal Tommy Ebaugh and schedule one as soon as possible. Thank you.

Lent is soon upon us. Our annual reminder of the Love, Mercy, and Forgiveness GOD has for us. A time to take stock of who we are as men, as Knights, as Catholics. I encourage us all to grow in our faith every day and to live the Principles of our Order – Charity, Unity, Fraternity, and Patriotism. If we do, we will be doing what GOD calls us to do as Catholics. May GOD continue to Bless and protect you and your Families.

Vivat Jesu’

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“Maryland Knights - Serving GOD and Country”

Faithful Friar’s Message

Many of us will recall that before we celebrated President’s Day, we celebrated Washington’s birthday, February 22, as the holiday. Since Lincoln’s birthday was only 10 days before Washington’s, it did seem to make sense to celebrate all the presidents in one holiday, in between the birthdays of those two greats. So, while not every White House occupant has risen to the same heights of prestige, we also celebrate an office that is important for the nation. We all hope for a leader

who can unite the people, and work for the well-being of all.

Interestingly, on February 22 the Church celebrates a uniquely named feast, “The Chair of St. Peter.” Historians tell us that at first it likely honored the martyrdom of St. Peter, leaving the chair of the Bishop of Rome empty. In time, it more reflected St. Peter assuming that responsibility for Rome and the Church around the world. Today, it reminds us of the role of the Holy Father as well, a universal role that unites Catholics wherever they may live in the world. While there were some Popes throughout history who were also less than stellar, there have also been many magnificent leaders, both saintly and scholarly, who truly speak with a unique moral authority. (Incidentally, tradition tells us the original chair is encased in a bronze reliquary in St. Peter’s Basilica, and the altar below it, behind the main altar, is often referred to as the “Altar of the Chair.”)

This month, as patriotic and faith-filled men, let us pray for both President Biden and Pope Francis, for each has a huge responsibility. Let us pray for their well-being, for them to make wise decisions, and that they be open to the inspirations of the Holy Spirit that can lead to what is truly the common good. While there are some things we cannot do during the pandemic, prayer is something we can offer for others. Stay well and stay safe.

Vivat Jesus!

SK Fr Donald Grzymiski, OFM Conv.



District Marshal Report

Brothers and Sir Knights,

The new year is off to a good start! We are still hindered by restrictions on gathering sizes and so forth, but none-the-less, we are still getting things done.

There are many Fourth Degree Exemplifications available across the Country and beyond. Please do your best to welcome all Third-Degree Brothers into our “fold”.

In December, many participated in the “Wreaths Across America” project as we do each year. This year, due to numbers restrictions at cemeteries and so forth, we had to make a reservation ahead of time to keep numbers in line. On that basis, I suggested we stagger our efforts for the removal of these wreaths at the Baltimore National Cemetery so that we all could help. After last year when Master Fritz Leach and myself were the only two Knights, and also two of only seven people there, I asked you all for more help. I was one of many who was in-route with three other Sir Knights in my car on the morning of Saturday, January 16th, and minutes from the cemetery just before 9:00am when another Brother called to say the job was done! I want to extend my sincerest thanks to all who put forth the effort that day. I can only believe that the Cemetery had military groups and/or ROTC or Scouts there prior to that Saturday to remove many of the wreaths. Regardless, **THANK YOU ALL SO MUCH FOR YOUR EFFORTS.**

I continue to hear of members stepping up and buying the Color Corps uniform. I want to thank you all and I hope that before long, we are able to turn-out together for an event. Keep up the good work! I believe the more of us who are seen in uniform, the more who will want to join us. If you need help with your beret or any other uniform questions, I am here to help.

The Master and I were honored by St Joseph Assembly 3502 last Sunday to turn out for the “Celebrate Life Mass” celebrated by Archbishop

Lori at the Basilica of the Assumption. Father Bianco told me that there could be a small contingent there for the Mass since restrictions on numbers allowed in the Basilica are still in force. I contacted the Navigator and Color Corps Commander of that assembly and asked them to handle it since only a small number was allowed. They had four members in uniform and asked Master Fritz and myself to join them. So, since there was such a limited number allowed, I did not put out a district-wide request. Pray for more opportunities to come soon!

I want to let you all know about a situation that came up early in the month that I believe exemplifies exactly what we as Knights of Columbus and as Fourth Degree Sir Knights are all about. On Tuesday, 5 January 2021, Master Fritz Leach was contacted by the Hampshire County Veterans Foundation (HCVF) with a request for help for a disabled Army Veteran who served in Iraq and Afghanistan among other tours. This Veteran, Paul Edwards, had been recently discharged from the VA hospital in Martinsburg, WV and had moved into a small apartment in Petersburg, WV. The HCVF representative said that he receives a small stipend for his disability that barely covers his personal monthly needs. She was requesting money to be sent in his name to assist him with getting on his feet and so on. The HCVF was running out of resources and needed help. The connection between the HCVF in West Virginia and the Maryland District Knights of Columbus is Past Faithful Navigator Dick Vandenburg of Our Lady of Victory Assembly who is the brother of the woman who contacted us. God works in mysterious ways!

Master Fritz Leach put out a request to all of our Navigators and many others to pass the word and see how we could help this Veteran. Many of us grabbed the “bull by the horns”. By the following Friday, 15 January, the Maryland District Knights of Columbus had delivered many furniture items such as a reclining loveseat, end table, 32” flat screen TV, coffee table, another reclining chair, leather desk chair, microwave and more. We also delivered three boxes of non-perishable food, bath linens, throw rugs, and other items that escape me at this point. But you get the point. We were able to help this Veteran by making his home comfortable and show him that people care and thank him for his service to our Great

Country! After all, we were told he had nothing more than two folding “hammock-type” chairs in his apartment. Additionally, many other assemblies as well as individual members sent checks to the HCVF to be used in his behalf. Thank you all!!

This is part of the email Master Leach sent asking for help. If you or your assembly still wishes to send funds on behalf of this Veteran, please follow the suggestions below:

“The Hampshire County Veterans Foundation is trying to assist him but is running out of resources. If you could consider making a financial donation, as an individual or an Assembly or Council, it would be much appreciated. The Foundation will use the funds to procure furniture for this veteran.” **(No more furniture needed! Money will help with his monthly existence).**

Checks should be made payable to HAMPSHIRE COUNTY VETERANS FOUNDATION, or to shorten it, HCVF. **Most important is that on the memo line you write "Furniture for Vet. Edwards"! I must strongly ask that this be put on the memo line because then it will only be used for that purpose.** Again, I strongly ask that this be done. Checks should be mailed directly to:

Janice Faust
 c/o Hampshire County Veterans Foundation
 733 Tanager Trail
 Augusta, WV 26704

I just want to pass on the Master's most sincere thanks for all the efforts both in-person and behind the scenes with regards to the mission to collect and deliver a modest amount of furniture and household items to help this disabled Army Veteran, Mr. Paul Edwards. Paul said that he was "finished, he had all he needs now". That was a good feeling knowing how much of an improvement we all have made to this Veteran's life and personal comfort.

The Master has told me how grateful he is and how proud he is to be a part of this group of Catholic Gentlemen, Knights of Columbus, unselfish, caring band of "Brothers" ready to help at a moment's notice. I too am so proud to be your Brother. Thank

you on behalf of Maryland District Master, Fritz Leach and myself.

Tommy Ebaugh
 Maryland District Marshal
 Provincial Marshal, Calvert Province
 443-226-8812

Upcoming Events

1 Feb	Renewal of Obligations, Assembly #3502 (Virtual), 7pm
3 Feb	Renewal of Obligations, Assembly #384 (Virtual), 7:30pm
6 Feb	Spanish Exemplification – Virtual with Texas IV District, Our Lady of Guadalupe Province. 10:00am Central time. Candidates log on beginning at 10:00am Eastern
8 Feb	Renewal of Obligations, Assembly #3162 (Virtual), 7:30pm
9 Feb	Renewal of Obligations, Assembly #385 (Virtual), 7:00pm
9 Feb	Renewal of Obligations, Assembly #3245 (Virtual), 7:30pm
11 Feb	Renewal of Obligations, Assembly #2454 (Virtual), 6pm
14 Feb	VALENTINE’S DAY! Don’t forget your better half!
15 Feb	President’s Day
17 Feb	Ash Wednesday
22 Feb	Renewal of Obligations, Assembly #2367, 7:30pm
25 Feb	Renewal of Obligations, Assembly #2272, 7:30pm
9 Mar	Renewal of Obligations, Assembly #3769, 8pm
9 Mar	Renewal of Obligations, Assembly #381, 7:30pm (Virtual or Hybrid)
13 Mar	Maryland District Exemplification of the Fourth Degree (Virtual). Candidates Log-in beginning at 11am. Degree begins at 12 noon sharp!
14 Mar	St. Philip Neri Church re-dedication, 11:00am, 6405 S. Orchard Rd. Linthicum
17 Mar	St. Patrick’s Day
25 Mar	Renewal of Obligations, Assembly #2595, 7:30pm
22 May	Diaconate Ordination, Basilica of the Assumption, time TBD
19 Jun	Priestly Ordination, Cathedral of Mary Our Queen, time TBD

Maryland District Assemblies in Action

Christopher Columbus #2272
St Joseph #3502
Admiral William S Benson USN #381

**Wreaths Across America
Clean Up
Baltimore National Cemetery
January 16, 2021**



The *Dorchester* had been a 5,649 ton civilian [liner](#), 368 feet long with a 52-foot beam and a single [funnel](#), originally built in 1926 by Newport News Shipbuilding and Dry Dock Company, for the Merchants and Miners Line, operating ships from Baltimore to Florida, carrying both freight and passengers. It was the third of four liners being built for the Line.

The ship was converted for military service in World War II as a War Shipping Administration troop transport operated by Atlantic, Gulf & West Indies Steamship Lines (Agwilines) allocated to United States Army requirements. The conversion was done in New York by the Atlantic, Gulf, and West Indies (AGWI) SS Company, and included additional lifeboats and life rafts; guns (a 3-inch gun forward, a 4-inch gun aft, and four 20mm guns); and changes to the large windows in the

pilot house so that they would be reduced to slits to afford more protection.

Designed for 314 civilian passengers and 90 crew, she was able to carry slightly more than 900 military passengers and crew.

Dorchester left New York on January 23, 1943, en route to Greenland, carrying the four chaplains and approximately 900 others, as part of a convoy of three ships (SG-19 convoy). Most of the military personnel were not told the ship's ultimate destination. The convoy was escorted by Coast Guard Cutters *Tampa*, *Escanaba*, and *Comanche*.



[USCGC Escanaba](#) rescues *Dorchester* survivors.

The ship's captain, Hans J. Danielsen, had been alerted that Coast Guard sonar had detected a submarine. Because German U-boats were monitoring sea lanes and had attacked and sunk ships earlier during the war, Captain Danielsen had the ship's crew on a state of high alert even before he received that information, ordering the men to sleep in their clothing and keep their life jackets on. Many soldiers sleeping deep in the ship's hold disregarded the order because of the engine's heat. Others ignored it because the life jackets were uncomfortable.

During the early morning hours of February 3, 1943, at 12:55 am, the vessel was torpedoed by the German submarine *U-223* off Newfoundland in the North Atlantic.

The torpedo knocked out the *Dorchester's* electrical system, leaving the ship dark. Panic set in among the men on board, many of them trapped below decks. The chaplains sought to calm the men and organize an orderly evacuation of the ship, and helped guide wounded men to safety. As life jackets were passed out to the men, the supply ran out before each man had one. The chaplains removed their own life jackets and gave them to others. They helped as many men as they could into lifeboats, and then linked arms and, saying prayers and singing hymns, went down with the ship.

“As I swam away from the ship, I looked back. The flares had lighted everything. The [bow](#) came up high and she slid under. The last thing I saw, the Four Chaplains were up there praying for the safety of the men. They had done everything they could. I did not see them again. They themselves did not have a chance without their life jackets.”

— Grady Clark, survivor

According to some reports, survivors could hear different languages mixed in the prayers of the chaplains, including Jewish prayers in Hebrew and Catholic prayers in Latin. Only 230 of the 904 men aboard the ship were rescued. Life jackets offered little protection from hypothermia, which killed most men in the water. The water temperature was 34 °F (1 °C) and the air temperature was 36 °F (2 °C). By the time additional rescue ships arrived, hundreds of dead bodies were seen floating on the water, kept up by their life jackets.

On December 19, 1944, all four chaplains were posthumously awarded the Purple Heart and the Distinguished Service Cross. Additionally, members of Congress later authorized a special medal, the Four Chaplains' Medal, approved by a unanimous act of Congress on July 14, 1960, through Public Law 86-656. The medals were presented posthumously to the next of kin of each of the Four Chaplains by Secretary of the Army Wilber M. Brucker at Fort Myer, Virginia, on January 18, 1961.



Ceremonies and services are held each year on or around the February 3 "Four Chaplains Day" by numerous military and civilian groups and organizations. In 1998, February 3 of that year was established by senate resolution 169-98 as "Four Chaplains Day" to commemorate the 55th anniversary of the sinking of United States Army transport Dorchester and subsequent heroism of these men.

The Chapel of the Four Chaplains was dedicated on February 3, 1951, by President Harry S. Truman in the basement of Grace Baptist Church of Philadelphia. In 1972, Grace Baptist Church sold the building to Temple University two years later. Temple University renovated the building as the Temple Performing Arts Center. In February 2001, the Chapel of the Four Chaplains moved

to the chapel at the Philadelphia Naval Shipyard. Knights of Columbus Council #13901, located at Fort Leonard Wood is known as the "Four Chaplains Council".

Veterans Identification Card Update

The application process for the national Veterans Identification Card (VIC) is available for Veterans — yet another action honoring their service.

Only those Veterans with honorable service will be able to apply for the ID card, which will provide proof of military service, and may be accepted by retailers in lieu of the standard DD-214 form to obtain promotional discounts and other services where offered to Veterans.

The VIC provides a more portable and secure alternative for those who served the minimum obligated time in service, but did not meet the retirement or medical discharge threshold. Veterans who served in the armed forces, including the reserve components, and who have a discharge of honorable or general (under honorable conditions) can request a VIC.

To request a VIC, Veterans must visit vets.gov, click on “Apply for Printed Veteran ID Card” on the bottom left of the page sign in or create an account. Veterans who apply for a card should receive it within 60 days and can check delivery status of their cards at vets.gov.

Maryland District Web Site And Yahoo Group

Subscribe to the Maryland Fourth Degree Yahoo Group by sending an email to <https://groups.io/g/KCMaryland4thDegree> to join the Master’s Yahoo Group.

If your Assembly has events that you want to advertise for others to consider for their participation, send the information or flyer to Mike Forehand at michael4hand@yahoo.com. for inclusion in the District Newsletter.