



THE PATRIOT

Maryland District
Proudly Serving the Fourth Degree since 1904



November 2020

Volume 7 Issue 3



Worthy Sir Knights, Ladies, and Friends,

Blessed Father Michael J. McGivney!!! Keep the miracles coming. If you are not already a member of the McGivney Guild, please consider joining. The Guild is open to everyone, <https://www.fathermcgivney.org/en/about-the-guild.html>, not just Knights. Pray for his sainthood.

7 November 2020 Virtual Exemplification of the Fourth Degree begins at noon. The cost is just \$50. Checks should be made out to, "Master of the Fourth Degree". Get those form 4's and checks into District Secretary Bill Copes. I heard a lot about 5- 6 candidates in several Assemblies. Let me know if there is something keeping you from getting those men to this Exemplification. Several Assemblies have not recruited a single member yet. We should always be in the recruiting mode and remember that everyone is a recruiter. There is no reason every Assembly should not exceed your recruiting goal for the year. The Maryland District is looking to conduct another Exemplification in March but there are always opportunities to get a member their Fourth Degree.

In November especially, we remember those who have already been called Home. The State Council, Chapters, Assemblies, and Councils all will remember our deceased Brothers, Ladies, and family members who our Lord has called Home. Please always remember and honor our Brothers and their immediate family members by attending their viewing, funeral Mass, and internment, if at all possible. If there is a casket watch, and especially if you are a color corpsman, please do your best to turnout. It is the greatest honor we can give to a Brother Knight or family member.

Start getting your input together in order to submit your Assembly Fraternal Survey. Members should send their Individual Survey to the Assembly as soon as possible. Assemblies should not wait to get Surveys from every member. You must get your Assembly Audit in on time. Every Assembly MUST submit a Fraternal Survey. They are due to Supreme not later than 31 January 2021. You can get them in earlier. Be sure to send a copy to District Master Fritz Leach, District Secretary Bill Copes, and Vice Supreme Master Mike Thumm. For all required reports, be sure you send them to the correct people or office. Some reports go to the Supreme Master others to the Supreme Secretary and still other to Fraternal Mission. If you send the report to the wrong office, your Assembly will not get credit.

Remember that every Assembly should be holding meetings every month, either wholly virtual or hybrid; some people in person and others virtually. Follow the guidance of local civil authorities, diocese, and parishes, as appropriate. November offers several specific opportunities for patriotic or civic programs. Programs are vital to the health of an Assembly and their membership. Be sure to have a full schedule of activities throughout the year, preferably at least monthly or more frequently. Share news of your programs with your membership, your parish and pastor, your Councils, Chapters, and local community. Programs should also offer opportunities for recruiting into the Fourth Degree and the Order. Don't waste these opportunities. As soon as you complete a program activity write it up for your Civic Award and To Be a Patriot Award application. Too many Assemblies earn all of the requirements for these prestigious awards but fail to submit the paperwork on time or at all. Take credit for the great works your members and Assembly continually do for the community, parish, our veterans and first-responders, the Nation, and our Order.

Lady Eleanor and I wish you a very happy and Blessed Thanksgiving. We should constantly thank GOD for his love and never-ending Blessings but, as a Nation, we set aside one specific day to do so. Don't let the stress and distractions of the Season keep us from professing our thanks.

May GOD continue to Bless and Protect you and your Families.

Vivat Jesu'

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"Maryland Knights - Serving GOD and Country"

***From the Desk of the
District Master***



Veterans Day is a U.S. legal holiday dedicated to American veterans of all wars, and Veterans Day 2020 occurs on Wednesday, November 11. In 1918, on the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month, an armistice, or temporary cessation of hostilities, was declared between the Allied nations and Germany in World War I, then known as "the Great War."

Commemorated in many countries as Armistice Day the following year, November 11th became a federal holiday in the United States in 1938. In the aftermath of World War II and the Korean War, Armistice Day became known as Veterans Day.

Veterans Day is not to be confused with Memorial Day—a common misunderstanding, according to the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. Memorial Day (the fourth Monday in May) honors American service members who died in service to their country or as a result of injuries incurred during battle, while Veterans Day pays tribute to all American veterans—living or dead—but especially gives thanks to living veterans who served their country honorably during war or peacetime.



Wreaths Across America (WAA)

I've received many questions about national Wreaths Across America Day. Is still going to occur in person on 19 December 2020. They are still accepting individual and group donations. Each venue is conducting the wreath laying differently so check with the local coordinator. If you don't know who that is or how to get the information, send me an email letting me know where you plan to participate and I will try to get you a contact information.



Marine Corps Birthday

Happy 245th Birthday to the United States Marine Corps!! Semper Fi



Thanksgiving

If you check the history on this day, you may find several “first” Thanksgivings and other information that may seem ‘different’ from what and how many Americans recognize and celebrate this holiday.



Advent and Christmas

Start preparing now, time is flying by.

Remember our widows and orphans



Columbus Day – Baltimore 2020

For so many years now the Knights of Columbus have participated in a Mass at St Leo the Great Church in Little Italy, a wreath laying ceremony at the statue of Christopher Columbus in Columbus Piazza on President’s Street, and have led the Baltimore Columbus Day Parade.



In spite of the misguided efforts of individuals in Baltimore who toppled and subsequently tossed the Columbus Statue into the Inner Harbor on the Fourth of July of all days, Columbus Day activities occurred this year and the Knights of Columbus were integral to those activities. Together with various Italian American groups a Mass was held, a procession led by the Knights of Columbus Fourth Degree took place, and wreaths were laid at Columbus Piazza. State Deputy Vince Grauso made the most significant remarks during this moving ceremony attended by a smaller than usual audience.



Faithful Friar's Message

Pope Francis' recently released encyclical, Fratelli Tutti (All Brothers), speaks of the shared humanity of not only Catholics around the world, but of all people as children of God. And so, Pope Francis is reminding us, and all of good will, to take love of neighbor very seriously. Within the encyclical the Pope applies such basic principles to many human situations, and to some of the problems and challenges we face in the world.

It seems to me that as 4th Degree Knights, as patriotic citizens who are also serious disciples, we can find many applications for how we live and how we serve. Even a very secular but serious citizen will understand civic duties and can love his/her country. For us, we have a stronger motivation to protect all people and to work for the common good, for our patriotism is rooted in our faith.

Even as we move into the post-election period, we can sense our call to work for a less acrimonious society, to bring people together in common projects, to seek cooperation that leads to consensus. While there are certain issues (generally moral issues) on which compromise is not possible, most things can be resolved by a consensus where all can be satisfied with the resolution, and where there doesn't have to be winners and losers.

Not everyone wins a political race, and not everyone will be pleased with election outcomes, but people who truly seek the common good, and who truly love their neighbor, should be able to work together. May we Knights, rejoicing in the beatification of our founder Fr. Michael J. McGivney, bring his creativity and enthusiasm into our faith communities, our councils and assemblies, and our neighborhoods as well.

Vivat Jesus!

SK Fr Donald Grzyski, OFM Conv.
District Friar

District Marshal Report

Brothers and Sir Knights,

Below is an update on the virtual exemplification success we have had in the Province since last Marshal's report. **REMEMBER**, Maryland District is holding our exemplification on Saturday, 7 November!!!

- 17 October – Archdiocese of Washington (**36 new Sir Knights** including one Priest from the Virginia District)
- 24 October – PA Central District (**78 new Sir Knights**)
- 24 October – PA East District (**59 new Sir Knights**)
- 31 October – Virginia District (Master/PSD Steve Raschke is expecting close to 300 new Candidates on the day we celebrate Father McGivney's beatification)
- 7 November – Maryland District (**Master Fritz Leach is looking for a sizeable class!!!**)
- 14 November – Delaware District

I am happy to report that I have heard of and even seen a number of Color Corpsmen in the uniform! Thank you, guys for stepping up to the plate. A couple of men are taking advantage of the "buy a piece at a time" option that the uniform company has offered. That being that you can order just a beret, or a blazer, or the trousers and the total cost will still come to the \$449.00 as advertised. Remember too, that Supreme is picking up the shipping charges, at least for the time being. So, you may want to take advantage of the "freebies" while they last!

There have been a number of small Color Corps events this month, mostly casket watches, unfortunately, but an opportunity for us to get out and show what we are made of. The Annual Pilgrimage for the Sea Services Mass at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Shrine did in fact take place on 4 October 2020. We had a total of 15 Color Corpsmen turn out for this event. We did not push this turn out since we were told there would be limitations on numbers and we would only be forming a gauntlet for the Clergy as

they entered and exited by the side aisle. As we assembled there that day, things were loosened up and we were permitted to escort the Liturgical procession both into the Shrine and back out as we are accustomed to doing. That felt really Good!

Color Corps Commanders, please start thinking about Color Corps training and certification as your Parish facilities may be opening up in the near future. I will make myself as available as I can to come to your assembly and hold training. Please give me some notice as best you can. I realize we all still have to remain flexible as none of us know what each day may bring with this virus, etc. I'm just putting the bug in your ears to keep this in your planning wherever it can fit in.

3 November 2020, ELECTION DAY and last opportunity to VOTE in the current Presidential Election as well as local elections. Please get out and Vote. **It is our Civic Duty as U.S. Citizens.**

Vivat Jesus

Tommy Ebaugh
Maryland District Marshal
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New sculpture honoring servicewomen and military working dogs unveiled at Arlington National Cemetery

Servicewomen and military working dogs were honored with a new sculpture that was unveiled at Arlington National Cemetery in Virginia on Saturday, October 17th.

Titled "The Pledge," the sculpture is part of the Women In Military Service For America Memorial located at the cemetery's entrance.

Created by sculptor Susan Bahary, the life-size bronze statue shows a female dog handler kneeling alongside her working dog and was commissioned by the U.S. War Dogs Association National Headquarters.



The unveiling took place during a closed ceremony, due to health concerns stemming from the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

One side of the statue includes a quote from Anne Sosh Brehm, who served in the Army as a nurse during World War II. It reads: "Let the generations know that women in uniform also guaranteed their freedom. That our resolve was just as great as the brave men who stand among us. And with victory, our hearts were just as full and beat just as fast — that the tears fell just as hard for those we left behind."

‘Candy Bomber’ during Berlin Airlift glides into milestone birthday

Retired Air Force Col. Gail S. Halvorsen changed the course of history with just two pieces of gum. Now has made a bit of his own history. Halvorsen turned 100 years old in October.

For all that has been written and documented, and all the awards that have been given, the infamous “Candy Bomber” or “Uncle Wiggly Wings” — as the children of Berlin called him — Halvorsen’s story never gets old.



Halvorsen joined the Air Force in 1942. After training, he served in the South Atlantic theater flying planes for the foreign transport service. For whatever he accomplished during the war years, it was the years just following World War II that changed his life forever.

The devastation left behind from the war included a split in philosophies on how Germany, and particularly Berlin and its people, should be handled. The Soviets had set up a blockade, including barbed wire fencing and cut off ground travel into Berlin. In response to the blockade of land routes into West Berlin, the U.S. and its allies began a massive airlift of food, water and medicine to the citizens of the besieged city.

In order to make sure Berliners had food, “Operation Vittles” was organized under Gen. William H. Tunner, commander of the Combined Airlift Task Force. Halvorsen was reassigned to the area to help fly missions in what is now known as the Berlin Airlift. The Western allies had a written agreement allowing for air travel to Tempelhof air field, but not ground travel permission.

Operation Vittles filled C-47s and C-54 cargo planes with tons of flour, dried milk, dried eggs, dried potatoes, coal and other rations. They came from two air bases into Tempelhof and exited one way out. The planes, including ones flown by Halvorsen, were landing every 13 minutes to help the nearly 2 million starving Germans. That went on from July 1948 to September of 1949.

“As I look back at Operation Little Vittles and the years that have followed, there is one human characteristic above all others that gave it birth – the silent gratitude of the children at a barbed wire fence in Berlin, July 1948,” Halvorsen wrote in his autobiography.

Halvorsen saw 30 children holding onto the fence and watching as the planes would land, unload and take off again. While his plane was being unloaded, Halvorsen went over to the children and spoke to them. Many spoke some broken English.

“They did not beg for chocolate,” Halvorsen said. “Flour meant freedom. They would not lower themselves to ask for more.” Halvorsen wanted to give them all something but reached into his pocket and found two pieces of gum. He broke those in half and told them to share. The pieces were broken into smaller pieces and when there was not more, the children without took the pieces of paper wrapping up to their nose and smelled the mint flavor.

“I was astounded. I wanted to do more. That is when I promised them, I would drop chocolate bars out of my plane on little parachutes the next time I flew into Tempelhof,” Halvorsen said. “They said they would share. The children wrote letters to express their gratitude.” Halvorsen added, because of the gratitude of the children the two sticks of gum became 23 tons of chocolate and other treats from my buddies and me and others. This act of service picked up momentum.



With so many planes, the children were afraid they would miss him. So, Halvorsen agreed to wiggle his wings so they would know it was him. It should be noted that Halvorsen did not have clearance to do Operation Little Vittles, but when called to see the commanding officer, he was told that he was doing a great deal of good and to keep doing it.

Well, as Halvorsen said, from small things comes that which is great, and chocolate and candy companies started donating, groups back home sent handkerchiefs and string. It was now an enterprise.

To this day, with many of the children old themselves, Halvorsen still receives love and affection from the German people.

In 1951 and 1952, he earned bachelor's and master's degrees in aeronautical engineering from the University of Florida as an assignment from the Air Force Institute of Technology. In 1958, Halvorsen was transferred to the Air Force Space Systems Division of Air Force Systems Command in Inglewood, California. Halvorsen's job included research and development on various space projects. The most notable of these was the Titan III launch vehicle program, which he helped chair.

During his career, he also worked on and developed plans for the advanced manned reusable spacecraft, space policy and procedures, and on the Manned Orbital Laboratory Project. After numerous assignments, he was eventually assigned to be deputy chief of staff for research and development at the Pentagon.

By 1969, Halvorsen was preparing to turn in his retirement papers. He received a call asking if he had done so and questioned what the Air Force could be thinking. It wasn't the U. S. Air Force but the Germans that were doing much of the thinking. They had requested that for his last stint, Halvorsen would return to Germany. In July of 1970, Halvorsen became the new commander of Tempelhof Airport in Berlin. "General (Joseph R.) Holzapple thought it would be a good idea to have me return to the scene of my airlift days," Halvorsen said.

After four years at Tempelhof, Halvorsen retired.

From 1976 to 1986 he served as assistant dean of Student Life at Brigham Young University. Following that retirement, he and his wife Alta served a one-year mission for The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints to London. Prior to her death in 1999, the Halvorsens served another 18-month LDS mission to St. Petersburg, Russia.

After his beloved Alta died, Halvorsen was reunited with his high school sweetheart, Lorraine Pace. They married in 2004. Over his lifetime, the Candy Bomber has made hundreds of candy drops. First as missions similar to the airlift in places such as Bosnia-Herzegovina, Albania, Japan, Guam and Iraq.

On May 11-12, 2019, Berliners celebrated the 70th anniversary of the day the Soviets lifted their blockade strangling West Berlin in the post-World War II years with a big party at the former Tempelhof airport in the German capital.

Among the invited guests of honor: U.S. pilot Gail Halvorsen.

On May 11th, a baseball field at Tempelhof airport was named after him — the "Gail S. Halvorsen Park — Home of the Berlin Braves" in honor of his help for Berliners during the Cold War. Dressed in a military uniform, Halvorsen told Berlin's mayor Michael Mueller that "it's good to be home."

Maryland District Web Site And Yahoo Group

Subscribe to the Maryland Fourth Degree Yahoo Group by registering with Yahoo or by sending an email to kcmaryland4th-subscribe@yahoogroups.com to join the Master's Yahoo Group Listserv.

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.