

THE PATRIOT

Maryland District
Proudly Serving the Fourth Degree since 1904

December 2022

Volume 9 Issue 3



Worthy Sir Knights and Ladies;

I hope you all had a chance to spend time with family and friends this Thanksgiving. The Christmas season is here, with Advent starting on November 27th. Remember that this is the season for giving, and many in our communities are in need. If possible, volunteer at a Food Bank/Shelter or give clothing items to those in need. It is not for us to seek recognition in the present as our reward. That recognition, be it good or bad, will come later.

On November 5th, 2022, the Maryland District Exemplified 18 candidates into the Patriotic Order. Please congratulate these gentlemen and get them active in your various programs. Worthy Sir Knights, I ask that you become active and help your assembly conduct patriotic events.

Veteran Day this year was celebrated on Friday, November 11th. I hope you all took the opportunity to participate in any of the many patriotic events held in your area. Remember that Veterans Day is a celebration to honor all of America's veterans, living or deceased, for their patriotism, love of country, and willingness to serve and sacrifice for the common good of this great nation.

Lady Joan and I wish you all a Very Merry Christmas, and a Happy and Prosperous New Year.

Vivat Jesus!

Jim Duryee
Master
Maryland District
Calvert Province
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Religiously Devoted – Patriotically Proud

Request for Casket Watch

Remember, at the family's request, we will stand watch over any member of the Knights of Columbus in good standing, including their spouse. If an Assembly receives a request, they are to send the information out to their membership. If the Navigator or Color Corps Commander feels they need additional help, they may reach out to the Assemblies in the surrounding area. Please send your requests for Casket Watch to District Marshal Rick Przybylski. Rick will send it out to the various Assemblies asking the Navigator or Color Corps Commander to let their members know of the request, soliciting their support.

Please remember that this is the highest honor we as Fourth Degree members, can provide to a fallen Knight. As Yogi Berra said "*Always go to other people's funerals, otherwise they won't come to yours.*"

Sick and Deceased

Please pray for the following individuals:

Deceased

Deacon Ralph Trautwein Sr., Fr. Michael J. McGivney Assembly 2595

SK Jamie Gouldin, Our Lady of Victory Assembly 3389

Sick

FM SK Carl Roberts, Archbishop Francis P. Keough Assembly 385

Kathy Vassallo, wife of SK John Vassallo

Anthony Peek, Son in Law of PSD SK Dale Trott

FFL Pat Gauthier, wife of PSD SK Romeo Gauthier

PSD SK Romeo Gauthier, James Cardinal Gibbons Assembly 379

SK Jeff Koscho, State Council Growth Director

Family of FM SK Tom Greul

SK Dilushan Ariyanayagram, Fr. Joseph Mosley Assembly 1929

Important Dates in December

December 3rd – PA-Central Exemplification

December 7th – Pearl Harbor Day (1941)

December 8th – The Immaculate Conception of The Blessed Virgin Mary

December 16th – Boston Tea Party (1773)

December 17th – Wreaths Across America
Maryland State Council Christmas Party, Columbus Gardens

December 20th – Space Force Birthday (2019)

December 25th – Christmas Day

December 31st – New Year's Eve

Congratulations to the Newest Sir Knights

James Cardinal Gibbons Assembly 379

SK Stephan K. Leon

SK Okenna J. Ozoagu

SK Godrey Ukwuoma

Saint Francis Xavier Assembly 380

SK Chiburze C. Ikejiofor

SK Anthony J. Rasa

Admiral William S. Benson, USN Assembly 381

SK Clive J. Joseph

SK Patrick Welch

Father Joseph Mosley Assembly 1929

SK Dilushan Ariyanayagam

SK Charles L. Gailunus

SK Christopher P. Grazzini

SK Samuel C. Grazzini

SK Earle P. Wood

Pope St. Paul VI Assembly 2367

SK Kevin A. Burgess

SK Jacques R. Cowan

SK Raymond A. Liebenthal

SK David W. Opdycke

SK Michael D. Schroeer

At each Exemplification, the Master names an Honored Guest for the class to emulate. The Honored Guest has displayed excellent leadership skills, is active both as a third and fourth-degree member, and displays that sense of faithful patriotic citizenship. The Honoree for the November 5th, 2022 Exemplification was Sir Knight Ed Haynes, PSD, FM. Here is an excerpt from his bio:

PSD and FM Ed Haynes was born and raised in San Antonio, TX. He graduated from St. Mary's University in San Antonio and worked 35 years in

records management and strategic planning. Ed has two adult children, Todd (a Fourth Degree Knight) and daughter Terri; seven grandchildren and one great-granddaughter.

Ed joined the Knights of Columbus in 1984 as a member of the Sacred Heart Council in Willingboro, NJ. Ed and his family moved to Brunswick, MD in 1985. He transferred to St. John's Council in Frederick, MD, where he served two years as Grand Knight. Ed held several chairmen positions for the Maryland State Council and served in the positions of Assembly Faithful Navigator, District Deputy, Master of the Fourth Degree, and Maryland State Deputy from 2006 to 2008. He is the Maryland State Council Parliamentarian and Captain of the Maryland Fourth Degree Team. Ed is also a Knight Commander in the Papal Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem.

Upcoming 4th Degree Exemplifications

The next MD District Exemplification will be held on Saturday, March 4th, 2023, at St. Peter the Apostle Roman Catholic Church, 9201 Green Valley Rd., Libertytown, MD 21762. Additional information will be coming out soon. I would like each Sir Knight to start actively recruiting within their council. Tell the Third-Degree Knights what you have been able to take away by being a member of the Patriotic Order. They don't need to become a member of the Color Corps, but it is certainly worthy of their consideration.

The Archdiocese of Washington District (AWD) will hold their next Exemplification on Saturday, February 18, 2023 in Bowie MD. This may be more convenient for some members. As we get more details we will provide via the IO.group. If you have potential Assembly members who wish to attend this Exemplification, please contact the MD District Executive Secretary, Jeffrey Wilk (diwilk@wilkworld.net) so we can properly coordinate with AWD.

Official Fourth Degree Uniform

The Official Regalia of the Fourth Degree consists of:

- Blue Blazer with the Fourth Degree crest and Emblem of the Order buttons,
- Official Fourth Degree gray trousers,

- Official Fourth Degree hand embroidered necktie,
- Official Fourth Degree black beret with Fourth Degree Badge,
- Plain white dress shirt with button cuff (no French cuffs and no button down collar),
- Black socks and plain black shoes,
- Official Fourth Degree Lapel Pin (PG-113)
- Incumbent Jewel of Office, Past and Former miniature medals above left pocket, and
- Black dress belt.

You do not wear a name badge when wearing the Official Regalia.

If you wish to order the Official Regalia, visit kofcuniform.com. The Uniform Package consists of the Blue Blazer, Gray Trousers, Embroidered Necktie, and Black Beret with Fourth Degree Badge. It can be ordered in either an Executive Fit (for those who need a bit more room around the middle), or Traditional Fit. If ordering the complete set, or purchasing the individual pieces separately, the cost is \$449.00.

Many assemblies offer an incentive for those purchasing the uniform. Check with your Color Corps Commander or Faithful Navigator and see if they are offering an incentive and what the criteria may be. If interested in purchasing other Fourth Degree items, visit The English Company at kofcsupplies.com.

Getting the Word Out!

Email

Much of today's information is communicated via email to the Faithful Navigators and Color Corps Commanders. This information can be routine administrative matters or general interest information about upcoming exemplifications, District events, and Casket Watch requests. The Navigator or Color Corps Commander disseminates this information to their members by forwarding the email or passing it verbally at meetings. This can, and often does, takes time to get the word out to all members.

Maryland Fourth Degree Groups.io

You can directly receive general interest information via the Maryland Fourth Degree Groups.io. This message group is dedicated strictly to the Fourth Degree in Maryland. Communications come directly to you without anyone having to forward them. The group is dedicated to Degree Exemplifications, important callouts, Color Corps

requests, information regarding those sick or deceased Sir Knights, and patriotic news addressed to and from Faithful Navigators or other Fourth Degree members. We try to keep superfluous message traffic down to provide efficient communication among the Fourth Degree. If you wish to become a member of the Maryland Fourth Degree Groups.io, subscribe by sending your request to KCMaryland4thDegree+subscribe@groups.io

Facebook

The MD District also has a presence on Facebook. Search for "Maryland District Fourth Degree KofC." Then request to join the group. This Facebook page features many pictures from Fourth Degree events. You can share your Assembly photos here as well.

Assembly Awards

Star Assembly Award

Each Assembly should strive to attain the Star Assembly Award. Assemblies that excel in membership recruitment, sponsoring patriotic programs in their communities, submit their reports to the Supreme Council and keep their members and others informed of assembly activities are eligible to earn this award. The Assembly can earn this award by completing the following:

- ✓ Earn the Fourth Degree Civic Award
- ✓ Enter the "To Be A Patriot" competition
- ✓ Meet the assembly new member goal of 7%
- ✓ Submit the Report of Officers (Form 186) (due by 1 July)
- ✓ Submit the Annual Survey of Fraternal Activity (Form 1728) (due by 31 January)
- ✓ Submit the Annual Assembly Audit Report (Form 1315) (due by 1 August)
- ✓ Publish a monthly newsletter or bulletin for assembly members

The Civic Award highlights the spirit of patriotism and national pride exemplified by the assembly's program of activities. To qualify, the assembly must conduct and report at least four varied patriotic programs held within the fraternal year. The application for the Civic Award must be received by Supreme no later than 30 June.

The To Be A Patriot Award annually recognizes the three best patriotic programs conducted by Fourth Degree Assemblies each fraternal year. The assembly must submit a report on their single best patriotic activity on Form TBP-2 and send it directly to the Master by April

30. Entries are judged at the district, provincial and international levels.

Military Chaplain Scholarship Fund

Supreme Knight Kelly recommitted the Fourth Degree of our Order to continue our support of the AMS Co-Sponsored program. Our goal is to work with each State Deputy, District Master, Grand Knight, and Faithful Navigator to promote this most important program. Every council, assembly and yes, ladies auxiliary, should consider making a small monthly donation, single payment donation, and to host fund raising events throughout the fraternal year.

It is important that our members are aware that people in military service to their country is a very special vocation. Those who serve their country in the armed forces are subject to special conditions of life which demand a suitable adapted apostolate. They are engaged in the most delicate ministry of peace and love. The co-sponsored program recognizes that this ministry requires a special calling, the military form of life demands an extraordinary flexibility and creativity. At the same time, it offers exceptional challenges to chaplains who have personal access to thousands of young people. The potential benefits for the Church at large through priestly ministry to military personnel is enormous. Understand that we have just over 800 billets for Catholic Chaplains, yet we have around 200 on active duty, the need is there, your support is greatly needed.

Donations should be made payable to: Knights of Columbus Charities On the memo line write "Military Chaplains." Mail checks to: Knights of Columbus Attn: Maryann Ludington, Charities One Columbus Plaza New Haven, CT 06510.

District Flag Teams

As some of you may now know the Worthy Master has appointed me as District Flag Team Commander. I am so pleased to be part of a team again and I thank our Worthy Master for giving me the chance to serve. Him being my predecessor, I will do my best to be worthy of this position.

My goal for this fraternal year, is to form 3 flag teams. We receive many requests for colors to be presented and posted. Some are either the same day or at the same time. Instead of not being able to support multiple events, we will be able support them. The Worthy Master has given me a list of those who he thinks would be a good fit for these teams

along with the existing team members. I have notified them of my goal, and some have responded to me. If you feel that this is something that you would be interested in and have not been notified, please email me. Once I have a complete list, training will be given to all that have replied. In the past our teams have won 3 of the 5 provincial competitions and been asked to preside at many civic events and other events within the province. The flag team is an integral part of the combined color corps, and I thank you all for considering joining.

Dave Bellistri, PGK, PFN
District Flag Team Commander
davidbellistri@gmail.com

District Friar Message

My dear friends,

For a few weeks we have been journeying through Holy Season of Advent toward the celebration of the birth of our Savior—may we allow the sacred beauty of this Season to change our lives. Let us long for a re-awakened sense of the Sacred. Let us desire it for ourselves and for so many whose lives may be empty or broken.

Beginning our journey towards the crib at Bethlehem, the Church always reminds us of God's call safeguard a sense of the sacred. We are given the chance to do this each Advent by calming our hearts and minds of the frustrations of life and prayerfully focus on the baby Jesus.

I wish you all a very prayerful Advent, and a Blessed Christmas Season!

District Marshal Report

Brother Sir Knights,

First, I want to welcome our 18 new Sir Knights who joined the 4th Degree on November 5th. Please welcome these new Sir Knights when you see them. Get these men involved in your Assembly and encourage them to join the Color Corps.

Secondly, I hope Color Corps members are having regular practice and training. If any Assembly member or Color Corps Commander requests some assistance with training or practice, please contact me and I or another Marshal

will be happy to attend your Assembly meeting and conduct training to your Color Corps members.

I hope you and your families had a Happy Thanksgiving and I wish you all a wonderful Advent season and a Merry Christmas!

Upcoming Events

Unless otherwise noted, questions concerning events should first be addressed to your Assembly Color Corps Commander or Faithful Navigator, then to District Marshal Rick Przybylski, rjp3579@yahoo.com, 443-506-9566. If you have an event you'd like to have listed here, especially one that you need or are inviting participation from other Assemblies, please send the information to DM Przybylski; be sure to include the date, time, address, and what is expected. Thank you.

Thank you and Vivat Jesus,

Rick Przybylski
District Marshal
rjp3579@yahoo.com
443-506-9566

Maryland District Assemblies in Action

**Korean War Memorial Wreath Laying
30th Anniversary
Christopher Columbus Assembly 2272
11 November 2022**



Veteran's Memorial Mass at St Leo the Great St Joseph Assembly 3502 13 November 2022



The Marine who was a duck (yes, an actual duck)

By Claire Barrett



Siwash the Duck during the Battle of Tarawa. (USMC)

On Nov. 20, 1943, 18,000 Marines were met with withering fire, poured out by elite troops of the Imperial Navy's Special Naval Landing Force. The attack on Betio, the largest and southernmost island in the Tarawa atoll, required a direct assault on the beachheads by U.S. Marines. On that day, alongside those Marines clutching the beachhead amid a lethal hailstorm of mortars, machine gun and rifle fire, was a duck.

Won in a raffle at a New Zealand pub by Sgt. Francis “Pappy” Fagan, the duck was given the rank of sergeant and named Siwash after Sgt. Jack “Siwash” Cornelius of Skagit County, Washington. According to the Marine Corps Chevron, Cornelius acquired the nickname due to it sounding similar to his home county’s name.

(Note, Siwash is a derogatory term for Native Americans in the Pacific Northwest, and as such, the name “Siwash” will be replaced in this story with “duck.”).

Becoming the 2nd Marine Division’s unofficial mascot, the duck followed Fagan everywhere he went, developing a penchant for guzzling beer — just like her owner. “Siwash just can’t pass up a free drink” Fagan told the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette in 1944. “A long one and a short one is her limit, but she doesn’t know it. She won’t touch draft beer though. And it’s got to be warm beer. The way it was in New Zealand.”

While the “devil duck” was beloved by her men, it was her actions on Tarawa on the second day of the invasion that cemented her place in Marine Corps lore.

By the end of the first day, the Marines had a tenuous hold on all three landing zones — designated Red 1, Red 2 and Red 3. From this precarious position, General Julian Smith radioed General Holland Smith midafternoon, stating, “Successful landings on Beaches Red 2 and 3. Toehold on Red 1. The situation is in doubt.”

Corralled onto the narrow beaches, no units had penetrated more than 70 yards inshore by nightfall. Being driven back into the sea was a legitimate threat. Protected by coral reefs, the flat, small island was one of the most heavily fortified in the Pacific, and because of the island’s geography, the nearly 5,000 Marines would have no immediate room to maneuver.

For the duck, however, the situation was never in doubt. Channeling Col. David Shoup report — “Casualties many; percentage of dead not known; combat efficiency: We are winning” — the duck reportedly locked eyes with a Japanese rooster and took the enemy encounter into her own webbed feet. “The rooster didn’t have a chance,” Fagan later related to the St. Louis Post-Dispatch. “Siwash whipped him and chased him 30 feet up the beach.”

While there was initial talk among Marines of rewarding the duck with a Purple Heart, she was eventually cited for bravery. (The Marines initially believed she was a he until the duck began to lay eggs.)

“For courageous action and wounds received on Tarawa, in the Gilbert Islands, November 1943. With utter disregard for his own personal safety, Siwash, upon reaching the beach, without hesitation engaged the enemy in fierce combat, namely, one rooster of Japanese ancestry, and though wounded on the head by repeated pecks, he soon routed the opposition,” the citation read. “He refused medical aid until all wounded members of his section had been taken care of.”

From there, the duck served during the Battle of Saipan — this time from the safety of a destroyer — and the Battle of Tinian.

But the Marines couldn’t keep a good duck down, and at Tinian, the duck “hit the beach on D-Day and personally captured a tiny Jap duck,” TIME reported in 1944. After Tinian, however, the duck’s war was over.

Upon returning home, the devil duck was given a hero’s welcome before parting with Fagan to live out the rest of her days at Chicago’s Lincoln Park Zoo. There she stayed until the hard-drinking girl passed away from liver disease in 1954. Her body was later stuffed and presented to the National Museum of the Marine Corps in Triangle, Virginia.

