

FR. MATTHEW J. O'KEEFE ASSEMBLY # 1162



“RELIGIOUSLY DEVOTED. PATRIOTICALLY PROUD”



# FR. MATTHEW J. O'KEEFE

## ASSEMBLY 1162



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4<sup>th</sup> Degree Knights of Columbus  
Norfolk, Virginia-Assembly 1162

*Fr. Matthew J. O'Keefe Assembly No. 1162*

## Faithful Navigator's Message

Worthy Sir Knights, Families, and Friends,

### New Fraternal Year = New Patriotic Opportunities

The Assembly had an outstanding fraternal year 2023 – 2024. We were actively engaged in numerous patriotic activities and events. By doing so, it's my opinion that we did a great job fulfilling the patriotic principle of the Fourth Degree. Well done to all those Sir Knights who participated to whatever extent that you did during the fraternal year. Your presence at meetings, engagement in the planning and execution of events, and participation in activities ensured that the Assembly was successful in its endeavors. Thank you. It's now time to move forward into the new fraternal year.

While completing the various year-end forms required by the District Master which measure an Assembly's performance of its patriotic mandate, it's clear that the range and breadth of activities and events which we can engage in are almost limitless. As I have said before, the Fourth Degree's unique position in the Order as a fraternal, church, patriotic, and ceremonial group enables its members expansive opportunities to be active in a wide range of venues throughout the year. That fact is something that we need to exploit for the benefit of our members and for the glory of the Order. It's our duty to do so.

There are optional or discretionary activities and events which the Assembly participates in during the fraternal year which demonstrate our patriotic fervor. These include parades, flag ceremonies, color guards, and other such activities which are generally fun to do. Doing them enables us to show our "colors" for both patriotic purposes and for high public visibility. Both purposes can indirectly yield recruiting benefits since prospective Third-Degree Knights may see the ceremonial arm of the Order in action and thus pine to be a member of the Fourth Degree. Seeing a Color Guard marching smartly and professionally in a big parade can do wonders for membership recruiting. Moreover, it can also shine a bright light on the Knights of Columbus and give credence to our public face. Doing that can elicit other Catholic men to join the Order. The result of both of those membership recruiting opportunities is exactly what we want. More fundamentally, a strong and vibrant membership actively engaged in activities is key to the survival of the Fourth Degree and the Order.

That's part of the reason we need to continue to aggressively seek out activities but also so that we are the shining example of patriotism in action. It's my intent to do that during this coming fraternal year.

There are other activities and events which the Assembly participates in that are neither discretionary nor optional. They are core activities which serve to display our respect and honor for deceased Sir Knights and those which directly support our priests and parishes. These required activities are fundamental to who we are as an Order but even more quintessential to the very existence of the Fourth Degree. As the ceremonial arm of the Order, our ability to execute and flawlessly complete the duties incumbent upon us at wakes, funerals, Eucharistic Processions, and Chalice Ceremonies cannot be overstated. The procedures and honors which are rendered for a fallen Sir Knight are ones which we must complete without fail regardless of the situation, the location, the time, or even whether we knew the Sir Knight. Silently and vigilantly standing guard at the casket of a deceased Brother is testament to our heartfelt fraternal love. An expertly choreographed Chalice Ceremony in front of the spouse, family, friends, and fellow Knights is the highest honor we can bestow upon the deceased Sir Knight. Even more importantly, its highly symbolic narrative and the solemn nature with which it is conducted are mostly for the benefit of those living and present at the Ceremony. It's to them that we show our respect and adoration for their departed husband, brother, son, and friend. Doing so brings honor to the Fourth Degree and the Order. Because of its importance and visibility, the Chalice Ceremony must be an activity that we can always perform even at the last minute. It's my intent to continue to recruit new team members and to train so that the Assembly can execute its most fundamental task: the Chalice Ceremony.

For any Assembly to professionally conduct either discretionary or required activities and events, it must be both fully manned and properly equipped. Deficiencies in either category mean that the Assembly will fall short of being able to complete its mission. Without manpower, we can't prosecute an aggressive plan of action to be involved in activities and events of any kind. Without equipment, we can't properly execute the activity or the event. Each is critical to a properly operating Assembly. Therefore, we must ensure that our arsenal of men and equipment are both well stockpiled. A healthy cohort of Sir Knights with all the equipment required to carry out the mission will ensure future success and viability of the Assembly. It's my intent during the new fraternal year to increase the membership and add to the inventory the equipment necessary to perform the activities and events we desire to participate in.

Growing the membership starts by recruiting men from the ranks of the Third-Degree Councils which support the Assembly. Each of us must tirelessly pitch the 10 Benefits of Membership in the Knights of Columbus Fourth Degree to entice new inductees. See the document later in the newsletter which spells out all the benefits of membership. I can tell you that some Sir Knights are members for the only reason: they will be afforded a Chalice Ceremony at death. If that's their sole motivation for membership, then so be it.

We can still put them on the roles and accept their dues payment to support Assembly operations. I will endeavor to make a recruiting visit to each Council in the first month or two of the new fraternal year to pitch for membership. Each of us needs to take responsibility for doing our part to bring in a new member. Doing so is critical to grow the membership ranks so that we will have the firepower necessary to aggressively engage in activities and events this fraternal year.

In my mind, a properly equipped Assembly means two things: flags and the ORD. Without either, we can't do the mission. With just flags, we can't effectively do much. With just the ORD, we can do lots of things. With both, we can do just about anything. The new mandate from the District Master restricting participation in any sort of official ceremonial duties to Sir Knights who are properly outfitted in the ORD means that we must have enough of them in the Assembly to be aggressively active. We must have more Sir Knights with the ORD to properly conduct ceremonial events. Completing events in the ORD is how we demonstrate our commitment to the patriotic principle of the Fourth Degree. We simply can't be a viable Assembly without more Sir Knights in ORD. Similarly, not having a full complement of flags, stands, and harnesses means that we are not able to participate in any color guard events. We can easily rectify the equipment deficiency with flags by purchasing a set. We are conducting a fundraising event in mid-July to buy a full set of flags so that we will be properly equipped. However, the ORD remains as an impediment to the Assembly's ability to carry out its mission. Let's resolve the issue so that we can be the best Assembly possible. Each of us must personally decide to obtain the ORD so that we can fully participate in patriotic activities going forward. I would encourage you to do that.

The fraternal year 2024-2025 should be the best one ever for Assembly 1162. It will be if we all relentlessly recruit more members, fully and properly equip ourselves and the Assembly, train effectively to complete all our missions, and aggressively engage in all available activities and events. Let's do it. Thanks.

Vivat Jesus,  
Dan Doyle  
Faithful Navigator



# Purpose and Mission of the Fourth Degree

## Purpose

Promote and strengthen patriotic spirit and civic responsibility within the community.

Educate members and others in the teachings of the Church and the history of the USA.

Promote through example and with programs the highest type of citizenship which is necessary for the preservation and perpetuation of the republic form of government and its democratic institutions.

Oppose the dissemination and spread of doctrine dangerous and contrary to the United States government and to the divine law of the Catholic faith and morality in general.

Support by word and deed the duly constituted authorities of local, state, and national government, and recognize excellence in public life.

Promote Catholic citizenship through programs, events, and activities in parishes and schools.

## Mission

Demonstrate through individual action as a Sir Knight and collective action as an Assembly support for all religious, civic, and charitable causes using programs, activities, and events to engage Knights, parishioners, children, and citizens in every way possible to enhance faith, nurture patriotism, demonstrate admiration for the military services and veterans, increase civic responsibility, and spearhead recruiting of new Fourth Degree members.

## The Emblem of the Fourth Degree Order

**The Triad Emblem of the Fourth Degree features the Dove, the Cross, and the Globe.**



The Triad Emblem of the Fourth Degree features the Dove, the Cross, and the Globe. The Dove – classic symbol of the Holy Spirit and Peace is shown hovering over the orb of the earth (Globe). Both which are mounted on a variation of the Crusader's Cross – that which was found on the tunics and capes of Crusading Knights, who battled to regain the Holy Land from the pagans.

Our Honored Order cherishes as its patron Christopher Columbus. Christopher (Christ Bearer) Columbus (Dove of Peace), symbolizing the Paraclete spiritually; the sacred symbols on the emblem typify the Union of the Three Divine Persons in on God – the most Blessed Trinity.

The Orb or Globe represents God the Father the Creator of the Universe. The Cross God the Son the Redeemer of Mankind. The Dove the God the Holy Spirit and Sanctifier.

These symbols along with the red, white, & blue colors are used to stress the basic principle of the Fourth Degree

# **Patriot of the Month for July 2024**

## **Larry Taylor, Capt. US Army**

The Patriot of the Month for July is another hero who earned the Medal of Honor for conspicuous gallantry during the Vietnam War. He earned the Nation's highest honor for his actions during one of the most iconic rescue missions of the entire war. As an Army aviator, he was perhaps the most highly decorated and valiant helicopter pilot who served during the Vietnam War. The story of his selfless devotion to his fellow soldiers, heroism in battle, and service to the country are extraordinary and noteworthy. His story is a compelling one that I am honored to tell. It is one which other Sir Knights should know.

Larry Taylor came from a long line of family members who served in the military. Hailing from Chattanooga, TN, his great-great-grandfather fought in the Civil War, his great-uncle served in World War I, and his father and uncles fought in World War II. His heritage of military service made it natural for him to also eventually serve his country when the time came. Because of his family's history, his fate was sealed but he could not have known how incredible his service would be.

Born on February 12, 1942, in Chattanooga, TN, Larry's own personal connection to the military started when he attended the University of Tennessee and was a member of the Army Reserve Officer Training Corps (ROTC). After graduating in June 1966, he was commissioned as Second Lieutenant in the Army. Interestingly, his Army career started as an armor officer after he volunteered for training to fast track his assignment to combat duty. However, after completion of armor training at Fort Knox, KY, Taylor quickly concluded that he would be better suited to serve the Army as an aviator instead of a tank man. Since he had previously earned his private pilot's license during college, Taylor quickly and easily received approval to begin aviation training instead of continuing his development as an armor officer.

Taylor began his aviation training with primary helicopter flight training in Texas at Fort Wolters. From there, he transitioned to advanced helicopter training at Fort Rucker, AL. It was there that Taylor honed his aviator skills and began his storied Army helicopter career that would eventually culminate in earning the Nation's highest honor for bravery. The Army's need for helicopter pilots was almost unquenchable in the late 1960's due to its new doctrine of air mobility for infantry and cavalry units in the prosecution of the war effort. Taylor was designated an Army aviator in June 1967 and shortly thereafter was ordered to service in Vietnam where the survival rate for a newly minted Army Second Lieutenant helicopter pilot was measured in weeks. Taylor was destined to beat the odds with his distinguished aviation skills.

Less than two months after earning his aviator wings, Taylor was on the ground in Vietnam in August 1967. His first assignment was with D Troop, 1<sup>st</sup> Squadron, 4<sup>th</sup> Cavalry Regiment, 1<sup>st</sup> Infantry Division. The unit was garrisoned at Bien Hoa Air Base, which was located north of Saigon, South Vietnam. It was there that Taylor trained to be among the initial cohort of Army aviators to fly the new AH-1G Cobra attack helicopter. The Cobra was the first helicopter to be specifically designed to be an attack-type aircraft and was equipped with a menacing machine gun and rocket pods. It was piloted by a two-man crew who sat fore and aft instead of side by side in the more traditional configuration. The new design gave the helicopter a narrower forward profile to the ground firing enemy. Its sole mission was to provide close air support for ground troops with deadly fire from above. The Cobra was not designed for troop transport or rescue missions. Yet that's exactly what Taylor would use it for on one of the most famous and daring aerial missions of the Vietnam War.

On the evening of June 18, 1968, 1<sup>st</sup> Lieutenant Taylor and his co-pilot CWO2 Ratliff were informed that a 4-man long-range reconnaissance patrol (LRRP) was surrounded by enemy forces and about to be overrun. The team leader had radioed an urgent call saying they were low on ammunition and in a "Custer-like situation" which required immediate extraction. Taylor jumped into action and manned his Cobra helicopter to provide gunship support for what he understood to be a rescue mission by other airborne helicopter assets. As a Cobra pilot, his primary role should have been to lay down suppressing fire to enable UH-1A Huey helicopters to land and extract the LRRP team. Little did he know when he launched on the dire flight that he would do all the above missions with his aircraft.

Taylor, his co-pilot, and wing man aircraft launched out of forward operating air base Phu Loi at about 9 PM to head to the site of the encircled LRRP team. The two aircraft sortie proceeded towards the battle site but had immediate difficulty locating the men on the ground. Repeatedly flying over the general area of the firefight, Taylor instructed the LRRP team leader to radio him when he heard the aircraft directly overhead. After several fly-bys, Taylor was successful in locating the general area of the engagement. He then directed his wing man to lay down suppressing fire along one side of the combat area where the team was while he did the same on the other side. The two aircraft strafed and fired their rockets until they were low on ammunition. The idea was to force the enemy combatants away from the LRRP team so that they could egress in the direction of a landing zone from which other rescue helicopters could then extract the team. The plan worked to pin the North Vietnamese Army Regulars and Viet Cong down while the team moved out. Little did anyone know that that would not solve their problem. The rescue plan by other airborne assets would not come to fruition.

While reconnoitering the extraction zone, Taylor learned that command elements had canceled the rescue mission by Huey helicopters because it was deemed that it would be a one hundred percent failure. The LRRP team would have to fight their way out to safety. Knowing that was not possible due to his assessment of the situation on the ground, Taylor ordered his wing man to fire his last rounds of ammunition to suppress the enemy movement towards the LRRP team one final time. He then ordered the other aircraft to return to base since it was low on fuel. Taylor and his co-pilot were now the only airborne help available for the team. He then made the most audacious decision of his flying career: he directed the LRRP team to proceed to a small landing zone (LZ) nearby which would enable him to land his helicopter. Braving harrowing and intense small arms fire with total disregard for his own safety, Taylor landed his AH-1G Cobra helicopter next to the 4-man team in the tiny LZ. Two of them climbed onto the landing skids on one side of the helicopter while the other two sat on the rocket pods on the other side. The four of them then hung on for dear life as Taylor executed a miraculous extraction lift-off from the now overrun LZ. He then flew several miles away from the combat area at breakneck speed and skimming the tops of the trees in the dark of night all while low on fuel and out of ammunition to safely alight the LRRP team in another LZ from which UH-1 Huey helicopters could save them. Mission complete, Taylor and his co-pilot could then safely return to base.

For his heroic actions that night, Taylor was awarded the Silver Star medal. At the time, it was the penultimate award of his distinguished Army aviation career. However, the award was subsequently upgraded to the Medal of Honor by the Department of the Army during a review of the commendations awarded during the Vietnam War. On September 3, 2023, now retired Army Captain Larry Taylor was finally presented with the most deserving recognition for his gallant actions on that dark night over 55 years early. In the ceremony at the White House, President Joe Biden presented the Medal of Honor to Taylor. In attendance at the ceremony were numerous other Medal of Honor recipients and members of the LRRP team who Taylor had rescued that night. It was a fitting tribute for the hero.

Taylor had a distinguished aviation career in Vietnam. He flew over 2,000 combat missions in both the UH-1 Huey and AH-1G Cobra helicopters. Remarkably, he was engaged by enemy fire on at least 340 of those missions. His aircraft was shot down and forced to land on five occasions. Miraculously, he survived them all. During the war, Taylor was awarded over 50 combat decorations during his one year of service in Vietnam. Of them: 43 Air Medals, the Bronze Star, two Distinguished Flying Crosses, the Silver Star (later upgraded to the Medal of Honor), and the Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross with Bronze Star. His bravery was unmatched among Army helicopter pilots.



Larry Taylor's service in Vietnam ended in August 1968. He subsequently served with the Second Armored Cavalry Division in West Germany and was promoted to Captain shortly after arriving at his new duty station. Taylor remained on active duty until 1971 and then left the Army.

He subsequently returned to Chattanooga, TN and lived a quiet life without notoriety or acclaim. He ran several businesses and was active in veterans' organizations for his remaining days. Taylor contracted cancer and fought a valiant battle with it just like he did the enemy during his combat in Vietnam. Unfortunately, he lost the battle and died on January 24, 2024, just one month short of his 82 birthday and only four months after having been presented with the Medal of Honor. Heroic and courageous to the end, Darkhorse 32 had completed his final mission in life.

Larry Taylor is an American hero. He served his country valiantly and selflessly during a war that was despised by many Americans. Nonetheless, he did his duty and then, after eventually leaving the Army, went on to humbly live out his life in an exemplary but humble manner. Although he was not a Knight, he exemplified the highest traditions of the Fourth Degree. He is a model patriot, American, and citizen who we should all emulate.



## **10 Benefits of Membership in the Knights of Columbus Fourth Degree**

- 1. Join a Brotherhood of like-minded Knights sharing a common love of patriotism.**
  - Demonstrate your religious devotion while being patriotically proud.
- 2. Attain the pinnacle rank within the Knights of Columbus and the Order.**
  - Be a member of a select group of Knights admitted to an exclusive organization.
- 3. Awarded the honorary title of "Sir Knight" upon completion of the Exemplification.**
  - A distinguished moniker identifies you as a member of a very distinct group.
- 4. Wear a distinctive uniform reserved only for Fourth Degree Knights.**
  - Harken back to your military days or wear one for the first time.
- 5. Participate in a unique Exemplification Ceremony that is a closed and secret event.**
  - Surround yourself with rabid patriotism and pure Catholicity.
- 6. Serve the Order in a separate fraternal group formed as an Assembly.**
  - Patriotism is the binding principle of all Fourth Degree Sir Knights.
- 7. Leadership opportunities in a hierarchy of officer positions within the Assembly.**
  - Take your leadership skills to another level with a core group of patriots.
- 8. Ability to participate in Color Corps ceremonies and events.**
  - Show your personal patriotism by marching in a professional Color Corps.
- 9. Opportunities to be a visible representative of the Order while serving the Church.**
  - Eucharistic processions, adorations, funerals, ceremonies, all need professionals.
- 10. Recipient of a uniquely symbolic and spiritually powerful Chalice Ceremony at death.**
  - Your wake is guaranteed to be extra special, a real tearjerker, and quite memorable.

# JUNE EVENTS 2024



**OUR ASSEMBLY PARTICIPATED IN VARIOUS EVENTS IN JUNE. ABOVE IS THE COLOR GUARD FOR SIR KNIGHT JOE REJUNEY'S FUNERAL & VARIOUS EUCHARISTIC PROCESSIONS IN OUR PARISHES. VIVAT JESUS!**

# HOPE 4 LIFE 6/22/24



By the grace of God,  
Hope 4 Life has saved  
**over 1,162 babies**  
since 2015



**OUR ASSEMBLY PARTICIPATED IN THE OPENING FLAG CEREMONY AND MANY SIR KNIGHTS & THEIR FAMILIES ATTENDED. FR KEVIN FIMIAN INTRODUCED THE GUEST SPEAKER, DR KATHI AULTMAN, OB/GYN, WHO USED TO PERFORM ABORTIONS & CHANGED HER MIND AND IS NOW A STRONG ADVOCATE FOR THE RIGHT 4 LIFE & PRO-LIFE MOVEMENTS. AS THE SIGN ABOVE STATES THAT 1,162 BABIES HAVE BEEN SAVED SINCE 2015. A GREAT NUMBER FOR AN ASSEMBLY TOO! 😊**



IN CONGRESS, July 4, 1776

**The unanimous Declaration of the thirteen United States of America**

When in the Course of human events, it becomes necessary for one people to dissolve the political bands which have connected them with another, and to assume among the powers of the earth, the separate and equal station to which the Laws of Nature and of Nature's God entitle them, a decent respect to the opinions of mankind requires that they should declare the causes which impel them to the separation. We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.--That to secure these rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed, --That whenever any Form of Government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the Right of the People to alter or to abolish it, and to institute new Government, laying its foundation on such principles and organizing its powers in such form, as to them shall seem most likely to affect their Safety and Happiness. Prudence, indeed, will dictate that Governments long established should not be changed for light and transient causes; and accordingly, all experience hath shewn, that mankind are more disposed to suffer, while evils are sufferable, than to right themselves by abolishing the forms to which they are accustomed. But when a long train of abuses and usurpations, pursuing invariably the same Object evinces a design to reduce them under absolute Despotism, it is their right, it is their duty, to throw off such Government, and to provide new Guards for their future security.--Such has been the patient sufferance of these Colonies; and such is now the necessity which constrains them to alter their former Systems of Government. The history of the present King of Great Britain is a history of repeated injuries and usurpations, all having in direct object the establishment of an absolute Tyranny over these States. To prove this, let Facts be submitted to a candid world. He has refused his Assent to Laws, the most wholesome and necessary for the public good. He has forbidden his Governors to pass Laws of immediate and pressing importance, unless suspended in their operation till his Assent should be obtained; and when so suspended, he has utterly neglected to attend to them. He has refused to pass other Laws for the accommodation of large districts of people, unless those people would relinquish the right of Representation in the Legislature, a right inestimable to them and formidable to tyrants only. He has called together legislative bodies at places unusual, uncomfortable, and distant from the depository of their public Records, for the sole purpose of fatiguing them into compliance with his measures. He has dissolved Representative Houses repeatedly, for opposing with manly firmness his invasions on the rights of the people. He has refused for a long time, after such dissolutions, to cause others to be elected; whereby the Legislative powers, incapable of Annihilation, have returned to the People at large for their exercise; the State remaining in the mean-time exposed to all the dangers of invasion from without, and convulsions within. He has endeavored to prevent the population of these States; for that purpose, obstructing the Laws for Naturalization of Foreigners; refusing to pass others to encourage their migrations hither, and raising

the conditions of new Appropriations of Lands. He has obstructed the Administration of Justice, by refusing his Assent to Laws for establishing Judiciary powers. He has made Judges dependent on his Will alone, for the tenure of their offices, and the amount and payment of their salaries. He has erected a multitude of New Offices and sent hither swarms of Officers to harass our people and eat out their substance. He has kept among us, in times of peace, Standing Armies without the Consent of our legislatures. He has affected to render the Military independent of and superior to the Civil power. He has combined with others to subject us to a jurisdiction foreign to our constitution, and unacknowledged by our laws; giving his 2 Assent to their Acts of pretended Legislation: For Quartering large bodies of armed troops among us: For protecting them, by a mock Trial, from punishment for any Murders which they should commit on the Inhabitants of these States: For cutting off our Trade with all parts of the world: For imposing Taxes on us without our Consent: For depriving us in many cases, of the benefits of Trial by Jury: For transporting us beyond Seas to be tried for pretended offences: For abolishing the free System of English Laws in a neighboring Province, establishing therein an Arbitrary government, and enlarging its Boundaries so as to render it at once an example and fit instrument for introducing the same absolute rule into these Colonies: For taking away our Charters, abolishing our most valuable Laws, and altering fundamentally the Forms of our Governments: For suspending our own Legislatures, and declaring themselves invested with power to legislate for us in all cases whatsoever. He has abdicated Government here, by declaring us out of his Protection and waging War against us. He has plundered our seas, ravaged our Coasts, burnt our towns, and destroyed the lives of our people. He is at this time transporting large Armies of foreign Mercenaries to complete the works of death, desolation and tyranny, already begun with circumstances of Cruelty & perfidy scarcely paralleled in the most barbarous ages, and totally unworthy the Head of a civilized nation. He has constrained our fellow Citizens taken Captive on the high Seas to bear Arms against their Country, to become the executioners of their friends and Brethren, or to fall themselves by their Hands. He has excited domestic insurrections amongst us and has endeavored to bring on the inhabitants of our frontiers, the merciless Indian Savages, whose known rule of warfare, is an undistinguished destruction of all ages, sexes and conditions. In every stage of these Oppressions. We have Petitioned for Redress in the most-humble terms: Our repeated Petitions have been answered only by repeated injury. A Prince whose character is thus marked by every act which may define a Tyrant, is unfit to be the ruler of a free people. Nor have We been wanting in attentions to our British brethren. We have warned them from time to time of attempts by their legislature to extend an unwarrantable jurisdiction over us. We have reminded them of the circumstances of our emigration and settlement here. We have appealed to their native justice and magnanimity, and we have conjured them by the ties of our common kindred to disavow these usurpations, which, would inevitably interrupt our connections and correspondence. They too have been deaf to the voice of justice and of consanguinity. We must, therefore, acquiesce in the necessity, which denounces our Separation, and hold them, as we hold the rest of mankind, Enemies in War, in Peace Friends. We, therefore, the Representatives of the united States of America, in General Congress, Assembled, appealing to the Supreme Judge of the world for the rectitude of our intentions, do, in the Name, and by Authority of the good People of these Colonies, solemnly publish and declare, That these United Colonies are, and of Right ought to be Free and Independent States; that they are Absolved from all Allegiance to the British Crown, and that all political connection between them and the State of Great Britain, is and ought to be totally dissolved; and that as Free and Independent States, they have full Power to levy War, conclude Peace, contract Alliances, establish Commerce, and to do all other Acts and Things which Independent States may of right do. And for the support of this Declaration, with a firm reliance on the protection of divine Providence, we mutually pledge to each other our Lives, our Fortunes and our sacred Honor.

## THE PRICE THEY PAID

Have you ever wondered what happened to the 56 men who signed the Declaration of Independence? What fates befell them for daring to put their names to that document?

Five signers were captured by the British as traitors and tortured before they died.

Twelve had their homes ransacked and burned.

Two lost their sons serving in the Revolutionary Army, another had two sons captured.

Nine of the 56 fought and died from wounds or hardships of the Revolutionary War.

They signed and they pledged their lives, their fortunes, and their sacred honor.

What kind of men were they?

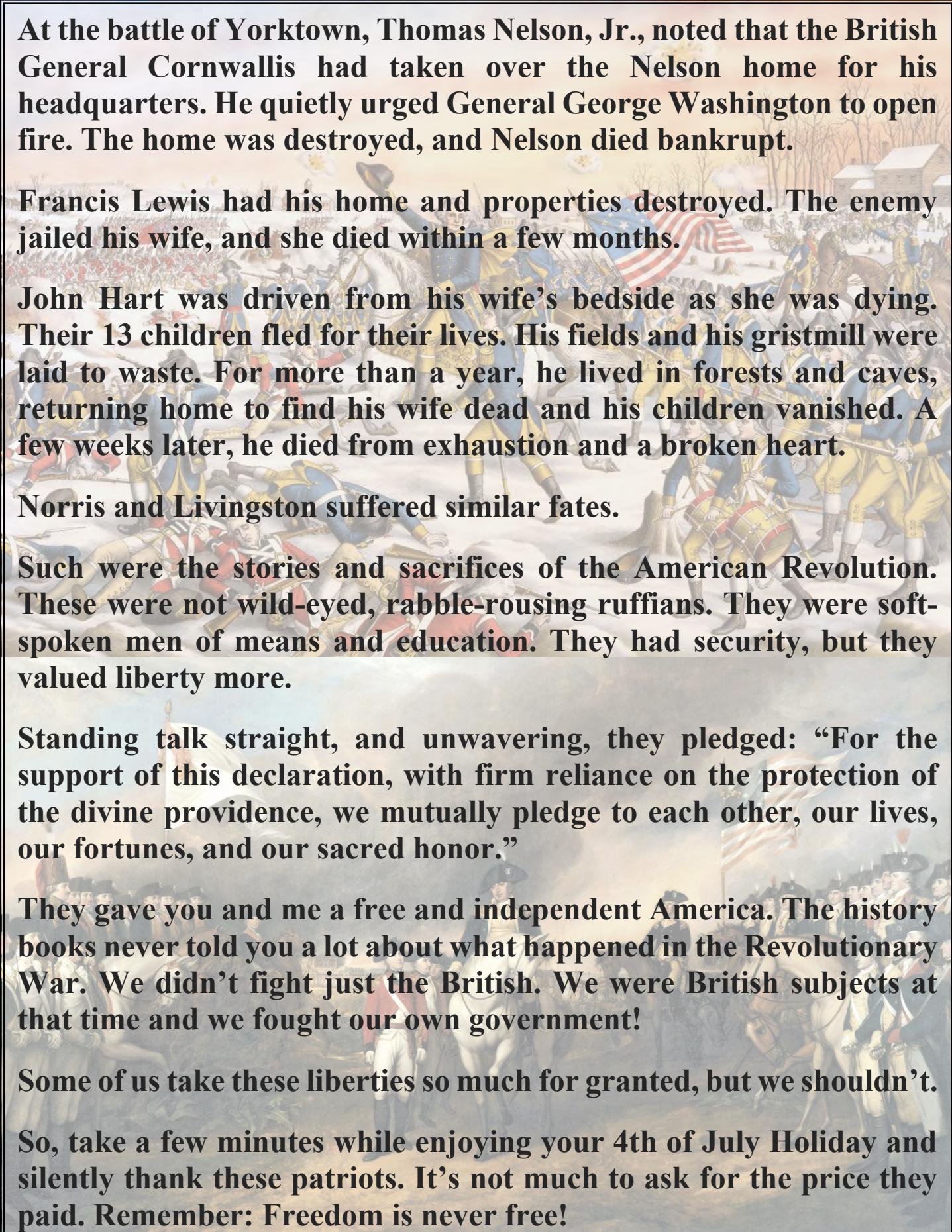
Twenty-four were lawyers and jurists. Eleven were merchants, nine were farmers and large plantation owners; men of means, well educated. But they signed the Declaration of Independence knowing full well that the penalty would be death if they were captured.

Carter Braxton of Virginia, a wealthy planter and trader, saw his ships swept from the seas by the British Navy. He sold his home and properties to pay his debts, and died in rags.

Thomas McKeam was so hounded by the British that he was forced to move his family almost constantly. He served in the Congress without pay, and his family was kept in hiding. His possessions were taken from him, and poverty was his reward.

Vandals or soldiers looted the properties of Dillery, Hall, Clymer, Walton, Gwinnett, Heyward, Rutledge, and Middleton.





**At the battle of Yorktown, Thomas Nelson, Jr., noted that the British General Cornwallis had taken over the Nelson home for his headquarters. He quietly urged General George Washington to open fire. The home was destroyed, and Nelson died bankrupt.**

**Francis Lewis had his home and properties destroyed. The enemy jailed his wife, and she died within a few months.**

**John Hart was driven from his wife's bedside as she was dying. Their 13 children fled for their lives. His fields and his gristmill were laid to waste. For more than a year, he lived in forests and caves, returning home to find his wife dead and his children vanished. A few weeks later, he died from exhaustion and a broken heart.**

**Norris and Livingston suffered similar fates.**

**Such were the stories and sacrifices of the American Revolution. These were not wild-eyed, rabble-rousing ruffians. They were soft-spoken men of means and education. They had security, but they valued liberty more.**

**Standing tall straight, and unwavering, they pledged: "For the support of this declaration, with firm reliance on the protection of the divine providence, we mutually pledge to each other, our lives, our fortunes, and our sacred honor."**

**They gave you and me a free and independent America. The history books never told you a lot about what happened in the Revolutionary War. We didn't fight just the British. We were British subjects at that time and we fought our own government!**

**Some of us take these liberties so much for granted, but we shouldn't.**

**So, take a few minutes while enjoying your 4th of July Holiday and silently thank these patriots. It's not much to ask for the price they paid. Remember: Freedom is never free!**



## Fr. Matthew J. O'Keefe Assembly 1162

### Schedule of Upcoming Events

(July - December 2024)

| Date     | Day       | Time                        | Place                                              | Event                                                           |
|----------|-----------|-----------------------------|----------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------|
| July 1   | Monday    | Dinner 6 PM<br>Meeting 7 PM | Council 367                                        | Monthly Membership Meeting<br>Installation of Assembly Officers |
| July 4   | Thursday  | 9 AM                        | Council 367                                        | Flag Raising Ceremony                                           |
| July 14  | Sunday    | 2:30 PM                     | Church of the<br>Resurrection, Portsmouth          | Installation of Assembly Officers                               |
| July 19  | Friday    | 5 PM                        | Council 367                                        | Fundraising Dinner                                              |
| Aug 5    | Monday    | Dinner 6 PM<br>Meeting 7 PM | Council 367                                        | Monthly Membership Meeting                                      |
| Sept 4   | Wednesday | 6:30 PM                     | Basilica of the National<br>Shrine, Washington, DC | Fr. Vincent Capodanno Memorial<br>Mass                          |
| Sept 7   | Saturday  | 10 AM                       | Catholic High School, VB                           | AOH Annual Car Show<br>Food vendor for the show                 |
| Sept 9   | Monday    | Dinner 6 PM<br>Meeting 7 PM | Council 367                                        | Monthly Membership Meeting                                      |
| Sept 21  | Saturday  | 6:30 PM                     | Tides Park                                         | Knights of Columbus Night at the Park                           |
| Sept 28  | Saturday  | Noon                        | Manassas, VA                                       | Fourth Degree Exemplification<br>Ceremony                       |
| Sept 29  | Saturday  | 11:30 AM                    | Atlantic Avenue, VB                                | 2024 Neptune Festival Parade                                    |
| Sept TBD | TBD       | TBD                         | Flame of Hope<br>NAS Oceana, VB                    | POW/MIA Recognition Day<br>Wreath Laying Ceremony               |
| Oct 7    | Monday    | Dinner 6 PM<br>Meeting 7 PM | Council 367                                        | Monthly Membership Meeting                                      |
| Oct 19   | Saturday  | Evening TBD                 | War Memorial Museum                                | Honor Flight Honor Guard                                        |
| Nov 4    | Monday    | Dinner 6 PM<br>Meeting 7 PM | Council 367                                        | Monthly Membership Meeting                                      |
| Dec 2    | Monday    | Dinner 6 PM<br>Meeting 7 PM | Council 367                                        | Monthly Membership Meeting                                      |
| Dec 14   | Saturday  | Noon                        | Saint Mary's Catholic<br>Cemetery                  | Wreaths Across America Ceremony                                 |

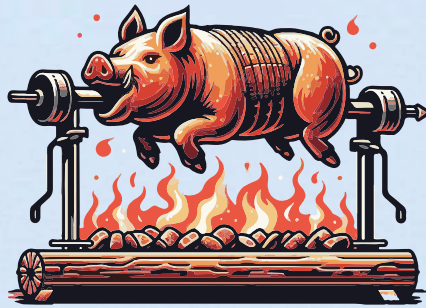


Knights of  
Columbus®  
#3548

# FOURTH *of* JULY

*Pig Roast*

**\$10**



**\$10**

**SATURDAY, JULY 6TH • 12PM – 4PM**

*all you can eat*  
**BBQ, HAMBURGERS, HOT DOGS**  
*and all the fixings*

**MUSIC, FUN AND FELLOWSHIP**  
*open to all! kids welcome*





## DRIVE-THRU PORK BBQ DINNER



WHERE: 5201 KENNEBECK AVE, NORFOLK, VA 23513

WHEN: 5 – 6:30 PM FRIDAY July 19<sup>th</sup>, 2024.

MENU: PORK BBQ SANDWICH, BAKED BEANS, COLE SLAW, CORN ON THE COB, CORN BREAD, & DESSERT!  
(UTENSILS, NAPKIN, & CONDIMENTS PROVIDED)

COST: \$15 (ORDERS MUST BE RECEIVED BEFORE JUL 15<sup>th</sup>.)

TO ORDER, CONTACT PGK JOHN PERSON @ 757-675-2107 OR JPERSON415@COX.NET. TO PICK UP, DRIVE TO 1<sup>ST</sup> DOOR TO PAY & DRIVE TO 2<sup>ND</sup> DOOR TO RECEIVE FOOD. **EATING IN IS AVAILABLE! \$3 BEER & WINE, \$1 BOTTLED WATER & SODA!**



## **FR. MATTHEW J. O'KEEFE ASSEMBLY #1162**

July 2024  
Volume 8, No. 1

4<sup>th</sup> Degree Knights of Columbus  
Norfolk, Virginia-Assembly 1162

### **2023/2024 Fraternal Year Assembly #1162 Officers**

|                         |                         |                                         |                     |
|-------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------------------------|---------------------|
| <b>Navigator</b>        | <b>Daniel Doyle</b>     | <b>dandoyle615@gmail.com</b>            | <b>757-348-0884</b> |
| <b>Friar</b>            | <b>Deac. Mike Brown</b> | <b>mdb46@yahoo.com</b>                  | <b>757-547-6576</b> |
| <b>Captain</b>          | <b>Peter Laurin</b>     | <b>laurin1@cox.net</b>                  | <b>757-479-9450</b> |
| <b>Admiral</b>          | <b>Brad Van Horn</b>    | <b>bradvanhorn@yahoo.com</b>            | <b>910-915-9451</b> |
| <b>Pilot</b>            | <b>Stephen Petras</b>   | <b>s_petras@cox.net</b>                 | <b>757-377-7232</b> |
| <b>Comptroller</b>      | <b>Larry Forsythe</b>   | <b>michigan_masterchief@hotmail.com</b> | <b>757-383-2585</b> |
| <b>Scribe</b>           | <b>Dan Schmidt</b>      | <b>dantheman195009@gmail.com</b>        | <b>757.348.5517</b> |
| <b>Purser</b>           | <b>James Pressler</b>   | <b>pressler.jim@yahoo.com</b>           | <b>757.515.5116</b> |
| <b>Inner Sentinel</b>   | <b>Mike Griffin</b>     | <b>megriffin.koc@gmail.com</b>          | <b>973-864-4062</b> |
| <b>Outer Sentinel</b>   | <b>Mike Schmidt</b>     | <b>juggalo2476@gmail.com</b>            | <b>757-470-2086</b> |
| <b>Trustee 1yr</b>      | <b>John Escuadra</b>    | <b>je2820@aol.com</b>                   | <b>757-639-5628</b> |
| <b>Trustee 2yr</b>      | <b>Edward Nettleton</b> | <b>nettleton.edward@gmail.com</b>       | <b>904-742-9289</b> |
| <b>Trustee 3yr</b>      | <b>Mike Pselio</b>      | <b>pselio.mike49@gmail.com</b>          | <b>757.410-4920</b> |
| <b>Color Corps Cmdr</b> | <b>James Pressler</b>   | <b>jimpresskoc@yahoo.com</b>            | <b>757.515.5116</b> |



Be sure to like **Father Matthew J. O'Keefe Assembly No. 1162 - 4th Degree, KOC** on Facebook and website, **kofcassemblby1162.org** to keep updated on Assembly events and news.