

# THE GIBBONS MISSION

A QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER FROM ASSEMBLY 150—NEWARK DELAWARE

JANUARY 2023

Meets Monthly At Holy Family Parish Hall

Date & Times Announced By E-Mail From The Navigator



## ASSEMBLY 150 S.K. OFFICERS 2022-2023

Thomas D. Green	Navigator
John Bordonaro	Captain
Rev. Christopher P. Hanley	Friar
Robert Kerrigan	Admiral
Vacant	Pilot
Joseph E. Koskol	Scribe
Lawrence B. Maguire	Comptroller
Michael Handlin	Purser
Gerald Safranski	Trustee 1 Year
Albert J. Ware	Trustee 2 years
Frank Strawser	Trustee 3 Years
James R. Metz	Inner Sentinel
John J. Mayberry	Outer Sentinel
Albert J. Ware [Appointed]	CC Commander
Michael Handlin [Appointed]	VAVS

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## THIRD DEGREE AFFILIATED COUNCILS

- 3751 Blessed Sacrament / Corpus Christi
- 4548 St. Michaels / Holy Family
- 6768 Coffee Run / St. Mary,s / Assumption
- 11384 San Pablo / St. Paul's Wilmington
- 11469 Our Lady of Fatima
- 11796 St. John The Beloved
- 12104 Holy Angels / St. John's Newark
- 12842 St. David's / St. Margaret of Scotland



Following a brief hiatus from a "monthly" Newsletter, "The Gibbons Mission" is being re-formatted to a **Quarterly** starting January 2023.

As Editor, I will rely on our Faithful Purser, Navigator and others to contribute timely material for this purpose. The Quarterly Newsletter should reflect a "patriotic" theme that highlights Assembly activity, veteran and active service activity, and may also include material relative to newsworthy articles regarding local and national emergency services and there will be room to include Church matters and military/patriotic history.

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Your Editor remains as S.K. Robert E. Zeigler, H.L., PGK and can be contacted at: prince.eugen@aol.com should anyone have comments and suggestions. Thank you.

I expect a "Quarterly" Edition to be published January, April, July, October. These editions will be smaller that the years before as content will be more focused.

**Should any Assembly 150 member or other NOT want to receive these Newsletters, please notify me by E-Mail at:**

**prince.eugen@aol.com. Please do not give me a reason for your decision. Your name & e-mail address will be removed from the database.**

When I E-mail the Newsletter by BCC, [blind copy] and the **Servers reject** the individual mailing for any reason, the addressee will be removed from the database also.

With all that said, this January Edition will be 11 pages or 6 pieces of paper if you decide to print. The format you will receive is in .PDF or Portable Document Format.

The Newsletter originates in Microsoft Publisher 2021 at my end and I convert it to .PDF for transmission. Receivers can also convert the .PDF to other formats, i.e., Microsoft Word, etc, by using FREE on-line converters.

Apple/MAC & IBM/PC can open .PDF documents.

With all these technical details known, they will not be repeated in further editions.

Thank you for your patience and.....enjoy!

**SHALOM....PAX....PACE....EIPHNH**

**PRAYERS ARE REALLY NEEDED FOR ALL AND MORE IN THIS TEXT BLOCK**

- ◆ THE HOLY FATHER, OUR BISHOP, OUR PRIESTS, DEACONS, BROTHERS, SISTERS, LAY MINISTERS, SEMINARIANS, TEACHERS AND ALL THOSE WHO LABOR TO SERVE CHRISTIANITY.
- ◆ THOSE WHO ARE SERVING IN THE ARMED FORCES, THOSE WHO HAVE SERVED, PEACE OFFICERS, EMT'S, FIREMEN AND LADIES AND....THEIR FAMILIES, BOTH LIVING AND GONE.
- ◆ ALL THE SICK AND DISABLED AND ANY OTHER AFFLICTED BY DISEASE
- ◆ PRAY FOR ALL THOSE MISLEAD BY HATRED, RUMORS, LIES AND INNUENDO
- ◆ PRAY FOR ALL EXPECTANT MOTHERS THAT THEY WILL DELIVER THEIR CHILDREN AS GOD'S CREATION
- ◆ PRAY FOR THE PERSECUTED CHRISTIANS IN THE MID-EAST AND EVERYWHERE AND THE END TO WAR IN THE UKRAINE



**WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA, DELAWARE EVENT**

**MORE INFORMATION ON PAGE 3**

**NOTE: ALL THE ARTICLES ON PAGES 2, 3, 4,5  
HAVE BEEN CONTRIBUTED BY S.K. MICHAEL  
HANDLIN, P.F.N., PURSER**





## American Pride on Display at this Year's

### National Wreaths Across America Day Event

*More than 2.7 million Sponsored Veterans' Wreaths were Placed by Volunteers at 3,702 Participating Locations Across the Country including at Veterans Memorial Cemeteries in Bear, and Millsboro Delaware.*

COLUMBIA FALLS, ME and Bear, Delaware— Dec. 17, 2022 — National Wreaths Across America Day took place Dec.17, 2020 at participating locations across the country. Our nation's heroes were remembered as each name was said aloud and honored as over two million volunteers, a third of whom were children, helped place more than 2.7 million veterans' wreaths on headstones of our fallen across the country. At the Bear and Millsboro Veterans Cemeteries specifically, over 6000 veterans' wreaths were placed by more than 200 volunteers.

Wreaths Across America would like to thank the community, dedicated volunteers, generous sponsors, essential truck drivers, area officials, and members of the media for coming together in unity and supporting those who have protected our freedom. Each person has played an important part in the mission to Remember the fallen, To Honor those that serve and their families, and To Teach the next generation the value of freedom.

Each live, balsam veteran's wreath was a gift of respect and appreciation, sponsored by an individual or organization and placed on a headstone by volunteers as a small gesture of gratitude for the freedoms Americans enjoy. For centuries, fresh evergreens have been used as a symbol of honor and have served as a living tribute renewed annually. Wreaths Across America believes the tradition represents a living memorial that honors veterans, active-duty military, and their families. When each wreath is placed the servicemember's name is said out loud, ensuring their memory lives on.

For more information, [WreathsAcrossAmerica.org](http://WreathsAcrossAmerica.org). Next year's National Wreaths Across America Day will be held on Saturday, Dec. 16, 2023.





Your Knights of Columbus Fourth Degree Assembly is the Patriotic Arm of Our Order.

### **Fundraising campaign from January 1, 2023 to April 30, 2023**

Cardinal Gibbons Assembly #150, The Patriotic Arm of the Knights of Columbus, is partnering with a unique group that sends military approved **socks** to our Units that are actively deployed in the field. Mr. and Mrs. Hogan began the program in memory of their son LCPL Donald Hogan who died, in service to our country, in Nawa Afghanistan 08/26/2009. The Hogan's developed a, "Socks for Heroes program," by linking with the San Clemente Marine Corps Support Group to honor their son's memory by caring for American Soldiers wherever they serve in Harm's Way.

OK – WHY SOCKS? Think of the stories from WWI and WWII, "Trench Foot." For those who are deployed in the front lines, without laundry facilities, having clean socks is very important. Dirty socks lead to injured feet, which result in additional injuries. Military clothing stores aren't close by, and so basic supplies fall mainly on the service member. The Hogan's have shipped over 800,000 socks to Service members in Harm's Way.

The San Clemente Marine Corps Support Group (SCMCSG) operates under the mantra of "Seeking Higher Ground." It also means that they are continually looking for ways to serve the needs of an underserved community who put the needs of their nation ahead of their own. SCMCSG is a registered 501 (C) (3) non-profit (Tax ID Number 45-284619), therefore any contributions are tax-deductible. Read more on the website: <https://www.socks4heroes.com>

*We can NOT accept socks.* The SCMCSG buys military approved socks and sends directly to the troops. A six-dollar **(\$6.00)** donation will really help.

Please make a check out to: Cardinal Gibbons Assembly and in the memo line please put "Socks". Mail to: **Cardinal Gibbons Assembly #150, c/o Holy Family Church, 15 Gender Road, Newark, DE 19713-2866.**

Thank You and God bless the United States and her Troops.



## Play me a Melody

Musical Outreach opportunity



Listening to the tinkle of the Ivory Keys, or the sound of an Acoustic guitar has been known to have a song in your heart or your foot tapping to a song. Imagine for just a second how it might help a veteran waiting at the VAMC for that appointment.

The Veterans Administration Medical Center( VAMC) in Wilmington on Kirkwood Highway is looking for individuals, men, or women, students too, who play Piano or Guitar, who will sit at the piano or bring their guitar and just play music in the mornings at VA maybe for an hour in the mornings Mondays thru Fridays. Are you willing to play for the greatest audience ever-our Veterans! Jim Coty is looking for you! Piano players, Guitar players are needed in the mornings to play for veterans, as the veterans wait for their appointments or interviews.

You do not need to be a Concert pianist or play First Chair in an orchestra. Just be willing!

If you have the skills, join volunteers who give of their time for our veterans. Be a sounding board for this idea, spread the word, please.

**Contact Jim Coty at the VA, room 189, phone >>302-994-2511 Ext. 4545.**

## VAMC Food Pantry

**We need your help!** The Wilmington Veterans Administration Medical Center (VAMC) has opened the Wilmington VA Medical Center Food Pantry June 6 2022. The pantry is for Veterans identified by their healthcare teams as having food insecurities. Right now, the cupboards in the pantry need restocking. We need your help to stock the shelves full of non-perishable items.

Here is how you can help:

- Go Online and order food from Amazon: [https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/HI4SRMI62TBJ?ref\\_=wl\\_share](https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/HI4SRMI62TBJ?ref_=wl_share)
- Shop your local grocery stores and drop off the groceries to the Voluntary Service Office, rm 189A, between 8a-430p, Mon-Fri.
- or send a monetary donation to: **Wilmington VAMC**; memo section: **General Post Fund (GPF) 9018, Food Pantry**

It is through your ongoing generous contributions, that Voluntary Service can facilitate and support programs that directly impact Veteran patients.

**THE THREE WINNERS OF THE RAFFLE HELD AT ST. MARY'S OF THE ASSUMPTION ON DECEMBER 5, 2022. THE OCCASION WAS THE ANNUAL GIBBONS 150 CHRISTMAS PARTY. THE HAND MADE WREATH IN CENTER WAS WON BY S.K. SAFRANSKI AND THE WREATH WAS MADE BY BARBARA L. ZEIGLER, AS WAS DONE IN PREVIOUS YEARS. SHE IS THE SPOUSE OF YOUR EDITOR.**

**S.K. JOSEPH KOSKOL ON THE LEFT, IS THE ASSEMBLY SCRIBE AND S.K. THOMAS GREEN, THE MAN ON THE RIGHT IS OUR FAITHFUL NAVIGATOR. KUDOS TO ALL!!!**



**THERE WAS ANOTHER AWARD GIVEN BY THE ASSEMBLY TO YOUR EDITOR FOR 15 YEARS OF PUBLISHING A NEWSLETTER FOR THE ASSEMBLY, AND THERE I AM .**

**MY MOST SINCERE THANK YOU TO ALL WHO HAVE CONSIDERED ME FOR THIS RECOGNITION.**





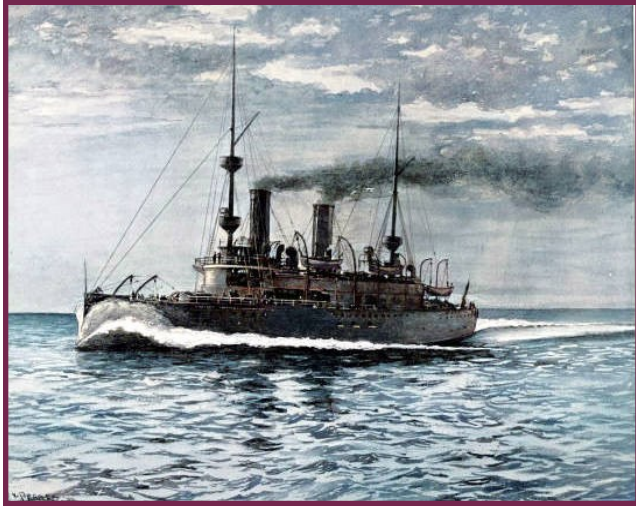
THREE NEW MEMBERS OF ASSEMBLY 150 AS OF NOVEMBER 11, 2022

S.K KEVIN O'ROURKE

S.K KYLE E. McKEOWN

S.K. MICHAEL P. CAPODANNO





Pages 9,10,& 11 are EDITORIAL “INTRUSIONS”, and are relative to US military actions of over 100 years ago, and specifically the Spanish-American War.

Ugo Domini, Ph.D., was one of my history professors as I entered the Baccalaureate Program at LaSalle College [now University] in 1958. He is deceased. He was the Aide-De-Camp or Flagship Administrator to Commodore George Dewey, the CO of the ship & fleet. Ugo conveyed to the class his personal notes and memories of the Manila Incident and your Newsletter Editor rummaged about to uncover some of this history and to intertwine it with my knowledge of naval history.

The rank of Commodore is conferred during the time of war and falls between Captain and Rear Admiral. Dewey became Admiral of the Fleet in 1903 and that was made retroactive to 1899.

USS Olympia—A “protected class” heavy cruiser. [CV-6] Commissioned 1892>De-Commissioned 1899>recalled to active service in 1902 and was finally removed from duty in 1922. It was powered by coal fuel and vertical 3 cylinder triple expansion steam engines generating 7,000 hp to each of 2 drive shafts.

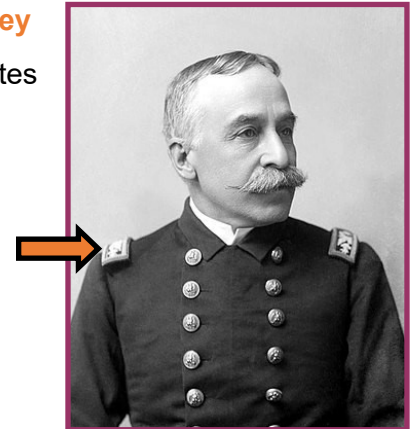
The Battle of Manila Bay or called The Battle of Cavite; occurred May 1,1898 and the battle lasted 6 hours. The fighting involved US personnel suffering 7 superficial injuries. There were no casualties reported on the Olympia, however one yeoman had a heart attack.



Commodore Dewey

[will explain the epaulettes later]

← USS Olympia at Phila,













Admiral Dewey

← USN Dress Whites as of today Elder Captain is a descendent of Dewey





<b>Passed Midshipman</b>	<b>Master</b>	<b>Lieutenant</b>	<b>Lieutenant Commander</b>	<b>Commander</b>
O-1	O-2	O-3	O-4	O-5
				
January 19, 1861	February 28, 1861	April 19, 1861	March 3, 1865	April 13, 1872
<b>Captain</b>	<b>Commodore</b>	<b>Rear Admiral</b>	<b>Admiral</b>	<b>Admiral of the Navy</b>
O-6	O-7	O-8	O-10	Special Rank
				
September 27, 1884 (Retroactive to July 28, 1884)	February 28, 1896	May 11, 1898	March 8, 1899 <sup>[36]</sup>	March 24, 1903 <sup>[36]</sup> (Retroactive to March 2, 1899) <sup>[36]</sup>

The chart above represents the shoulder Epaulettes as conferred upon Naval officers in the late 1800's and early 1900's and were applicable at the time Commodore / Admiral Dewey served.

The following is a transcript submitted by Commodore George Dewey, Commander of the U.S. Naval Force on Asiatic Station, which includes the Manila Bay encounter. ↓

SIR: I have the honor to submit the following report of the operations of the squadron under my command:

The squadron left Mirs Bay on April 27, immediately on the arrival of Mr. O. F. Williams, United States consul at Manila, who brought important information and who accompanies the squadron.

Arrived off Bolinao on the morning of April 30 and, finding no vessels there, proceeded down the coast and arrived off the entrance to Manila Bay on the same afternoon.

The *Boston* and *Concord* were sent to reconnoiter Port Subic, I having been informed that the enemy intended to take position there. A thorough search of the port was made by the *Boston* and *Concord*, but the Spanish fleet was not found, although, from a letter afterwards found in the arsenal (enclosed with translation), it appears that it had been their intention to go there.

Entered the Boca Grande, or south channel, at 11.30 p. m., steaming in column at distance at 8 knots. After half the squadron had passed, a battery on the south side of the channel opened fire, none of the shots taking effect. The *Boston* and *McCulloch* returned the fire. The squadron proceeded across the bay at slow speed, and arrived off Manila at daybreak, and was fired upon at 5.15 a. m. by three batteries at Manila and two at Cavite and by the Spanish fleet anchored in an approximately east and west line across the mouth of Baker Bay, with their left in shoal water in Canacao Bay.

The squadron then proceeded to the attack, the flagship *Olympia*, under my personal direction, leading, followed at distance by the *Baltimore*, *Raleigh*, *Petrel*, *Concord*, and *Boston*, in the order named, which formation was maintained throughout the action. The squadron opened fire at 5.41 a. m. While advancing to the attack, two mines were exploded ahead of the flagship, too far to be effective. The squadron maintained a continuous and precise fire at ranges varying from 5,000 to 2,000 yards, countermarching in a line approximately parallel to that of the Spanish fleet. The enemy's fire was vigorous, but generally ineffective.

Early in the engagement two launches put out toward the *Olympia* with the apparent intention of using torpedoes. One was sunk and the other disabled by our fire and beached before an opportunity occurred to fire torpedoes. At 7 a. m. the Spanish flagship *Reina*

*Christina* made a desperate attempt to leave the line and come out to engage at short range, but was received with such galling fire, the entire battery of the *Olympia* being concentrated upon her, that she was barely able to return to the shelter of the point. The fires started in her by our shell at this time were not extinguished until she sank.

At 7.35 a. m., it having been erroneously reported to me that only 15 rounds per gun remained for the 5-inch rapid-fire battery, I ceased firing and withdrew the squadron for consultation and a redistribution of ammunition, if necessary.

The three batteries at Manila had kept up a continuous fire from the beginning of the engagement, which fire was not returned by this squadron. The first of these batteries was situated on the south mole head at the entrance to the Pasig River, the second on the south bastion of the walled city of Manila, and the third at Malate, about one-half mile farther south. At this point I sent a message to the Governor-General to the effect that if the batteries did not cease firing, the city would be shelled. This had the effect of silencing them. At 11.16 a. m., finding that the report of scarcity of ammunition was incorrect, I returned with the squadron to the attack. By this time the flagship and almost the entire Spanish fleet were in flames, and at 12.30 p. m. the squadron ceased firing, the batteries being silenced and the ships sunk, burnt, and deserted.

At 12.40 p. m. the squadron returned and anchored off Manila, the *Petrel* being left behind to complete the destruction of the smaller gunboats which were behind the point of Cavite. This duty was performed by Commander E. P. Wood in the most expeditious and complete manner possible.

The Spanish lost the following vessels:

Sunk---*Reina Christina, Castilla, Don Antonio de Ulloa.*

Burnt---*Don Juan de Austria, Isla de Luzon, Isla de Cuba, General Lezo, Marques del Duero, El Correo, Velasco, and Isla de Mindanao* (transport).

Captured---*Rapido and Hercules* (tugs) and several small launches.

I am unable to obtain complete accounts of the enemy's killed and wounded, but believe their loss to be very heavy. The *Reina*

*Christina* alone had 150 killed, including the captain, and 90 wounded.

I am happy to report that the damage done to the squadron under my command was inconsiderable. There were none killed and only 7 men in the squadron very slightly wounded. As will be seen by the reports of the commanding officers which are herewith inclosed, several of the vessels were struck and even penetrated, but the damage was of the slightest, and the squadron is in as good condition now as before the battle.

I beg to state to the Department that I doubt if any commander in chief, under similar circumstances, was ever served by more loyal, efficient, and gallant captains than those of the squadron now under my command. Capt. Frank Wildes, commanding the *Boston*, volunteered to remain in command of his vessel, although his relief arrived before leaving Hongkong.

Asst. Surg. C. P. Kindleberger, of the *Olympia*, and Gunner J. C. Evans, of the *Boston*, also volunteered to remain after orders detaching them had arrived.

The conduct of my personal staff was excellent Commander B.P. Lamberton, chief of staff, was a volunteer for that position and gave me most efficient aid. Lieut. T. M. Brumby, flag lieutenant, and Ensign W. P. Scott, aid, performed their duties as signal officers in a highly creditable manner. The *Olympia* being short of officers to the battery, Ensign H. H. Caldwell, flag secretary, volunteered for and was assigned to a subdivision of the 5-inch battery.

Mr. J. L. Stickney, formerly an officer in the United States Navy, and now correspondent for the New York Herald, volunteered for duty as my aid, and rendered valuable service.

While leaving to the commanding officers to comment on the conduct of the officers and men under their commands, I desire especially to mention the coolness of Lieut. C. G. Calkins, the navigator of the *Olympia*, who came under my personal observation, being on the bridge with me throughout the entire action, and give the range of the guns with an accuracy that was proven by the excellence of the firing. On May 2, the day following the engagement, squadron again went to Cavite, where it remains. A landing party was sent to destroy the guns and magazines of the batteries there. The first battery, near the end of Sangley Point, was composed of two modern Trubia B.L. rifles of 15 CM caliber. The second was 1 mile further down the beach and consisted of a modern Canet 12 CM B.L. rifle behind improvised earthworks.

On the 3<sup>rd</sup> of May, the military forces evacuated the Cavite Arsenal, which was taken possession of by the landing party. On the same day the Raleigh and Baltimore secured the surrender of the batteries on Corregidor Island, paroling the garrison and destroying the guns. On the morning of May 4, the Transport Manila, which had been aground in Bakor Bay, was towed off and seized.

Very respectfully your obedient servant George Dewey Commodore, USN Commanding U.S. Naval force on the Asiatic Station.

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**AND THAT CONCLUDES THE “EDITOR’S INTRUSION” FOR THE JANUARY 2023 QUARTERLY. PROSIT!**

**TWO THOUGHTS FOR THE DAY:**

WHAT DO ESKIMOS GET FROM SITTING ON THE ICE TOO LONG? **POLAROIDS !**

TWO ESKIMOS SITTING IN A KAYAK WERE GETTING COLD. THEY LIT A FIRE IN THE CRAFT AND IT SANK; PROVING THAT YOU CAN'T HAVE YOUR KAYAK AND HEAT IT TOO! THIS IS CORNEY!!!





## Faithful Navigator's Message

Brother Sir Knights, I hope you and your families had a Blessed & Merry Christmas!

This is the first edition of our new quarterly assembly newsletter. It replaces the monthly assembly newsletter that Bob Zeigler had religiously published for over 15 years. He was recognized at our December Dinner for this achievement.

Our Annual December Dinner is held to welcome our new Sir Knights to the assembly.

Please join me in congratulating Mike Capodanno, Kyle McKeown & Kevin O'Rourke who were exemplified at the Fourth Degree Exemplification on November 12, 2022, and are now members of the assembly.

Our assembly has been extremely active in the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter of this year. Among our patriotic programs were Vet Fest 2022 on September 24<sup>th</sup>, in Middletown, DE, Flagging Graves at the the Delaware Veteran Memorial Cemetery in Bear, DE, and Wreaths Across America. We will also be kicking-off our Socks for Heroes program in January. More details regarding these programs are in separate articles in this newsletter.

Of course, we were also very busy with a number of Veteran programs through the Elsmere Veterans Medical Center. They included the newly established food pantry, their Thanksgiving food card program and the Christmas Angel Tree. Most other year-round veterans' programs at the center are opening up again and will need our continued support.

On a sad note, we lost a member in the past quarter. Sir Knight Thomas F. Duffy passed away on December 10, 2022. A memorial proclamation which includes a memorial bench plaque at the statue of Our Lady Queen of Peace on the grounds at Holy Spirit Church, was presented to his family at his visitation.

In closing, I want to wish you all a very Healthy & Prosperous New Year!

Fraternally,

Tom Green, FN

## Flagging Veterans Graves at the Bear cemetery and Millsboro Veterans cemetery.

Sir Knight Tony Hickey asked a very straight forward question at the Cardinal Gibbons Meeting in October. "Are we participating in Flagging of our veterans' graves for Veterans Day?" A call to the Bear Cemetery gave us the time and Date- Nov 4 at 8am. Sir knights have been looking for a real, physical activity as we have exited Covid. Picture arriving at the Bear Veterans memorial cemetery, and you notice over 30 Verizon crew trucks and many cars. They were there to assist by clearing the dirt out of the preset holes in the memorial grave markers. The workers from Verizon went thru 13,000 graves in a short time allowing all other volunteers the ability to honor the deceased veterans by placing a flag at their grave. Including both cemeteries, over 20000 graves were flagged in one hour with all honor and respect.

Sir Knights, it was an awesome sight to see the flags on all the graves honoring our veterans. To some degree seeing the completed job must have been comparable to Francis Scott Key seeing the Battle Standard flying as the smoke cleared. In this case, the volunteers did their task, trucks and cars cleared the field of honor and a sea of flags honoring our veterans were present.

Did you miss this opportunity? Next Flagging will be the Friday before Memorial Day 2023!



## **VET FEST WAS A BIG SUCCESS**

### **AT A VERY HIGH LEVEL, THIS IS WHAT THE KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS DID**

1. You helped us raise over \$120,000.00 [raising our total to \$620,000.00] to assist Stop Soldier Suicide; combat this awful epidemic.
2. You helped us mobilize an army of caring and compassionate people who threw their whole selves at the day
3. You helped us create an atmosphere of joy that facilitated a respite for grieving families, bonding between civilian and military communities, and a sense of accomplishment through action by 1,000 attendees;
4. You helped us demonstrate what civic service means to our next generation;
5. You helped us create an atmosphere where those who were candidates for the 22-a-day, could get help;
6. You helped us create an atmosphere where those who have struggled could talk openly with others, breaking down the terrible stigmas surrounding mental and emotional health.

Again, your gift was very powerful and we greatly appreciate your passion and compassion!

Brian DiSabatino

CEO

Edis Corporation