

**Knights of Columbus Council 6419**  
**P. O. Box 22927**  
**Hot Springs, Arkansas 71903-2292**

**Knights of Columbus 6419**

**Volume 25, Issue 4**

**April 2013**

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# Knight Shift

**Hot Springs Council 6419**  
**Hot Springs, Arkansas 71903-2292**  
[www.hotsspringsknights.org](http://www.hotsspringsknights.org)



## Spring Charity Rummage/Furniture Sale Breathing Down our Necks!

It's upon us! Volunteers, front and center! We need you, men and women alike! With less than two weeks before the sale begins on Friday, April 12, we have so much to do, especially in **Reiter and Giompoletti Halls**. Thanks to several faithful ladies, who've already given many hours of service, **Spirit Hall** is in reasonably good condition already. The ladies involved are simply amazing with their cleaning, scrubbing, attractive organization, creativity, laundering, pressing, etc., etc. The furniture, with the help of another lady, **Evelyn Enderlin**, is pretty much in place in Giompoletti Hall, where most of the nicer furniture has been placed. Evelyn has a sharp eye for grouping furniture in an appealing manner: Sofas, other seating, coffee tables, end tables, lamps, etc. But we have MUCH cleaning to do in both furniture buildings. And we still need to do some arranging, especially in **Giompoletti Hall**, and ALL of the pricing.

The ladies who've already given so much of themselves and their time are **Sue Wood, Liz Sass, Dawn Thompson, Martha Lockwood, Mildred Giompoletti, Carol Andrews, Carol Koch, Karen Gibbons, Gwen DeGruccio, Sue Stephens, Judy Kirton, and Carol Cook**. The men regulars are **Gil Gibbons, Joe Giompoletti, Bill Thompson, Don Sass, Bob Koch, Dennis Wood, and Stan DeGruccio**.

**Knight Shift** is published monthly by Knights of Columbus Hot Springs Council 6419 Editor, **Jim Lockwood**

Joining in the transfer of furniture from **Reiter Hall to Giompoletti Hall on March 18 were Leonard Buccholz**, who has played a major role in collecting donations, his grandson **Trevor**

(who became a Catholic at the Easter Vigil Mass), **Bob Kortenber, Julian Post, Ed King**, Ed's son **Chase** and Chase's friend **David**. Thanks to all of these for amazing dedication to the cause!

We need volunteers essentially every day beginning with Monday, April 1. (Let's not think of it as being April Fool's Day.) We also hope to have lunches, beginning April 8. At present the Morning Circle from St. John's Church has committed to serving a lunch on Friday, April 19. Any other offers? If so, please inform **Martha Lockwood** at 525-7022 or 282-7027.



## Strained Council Finances

The council is very proud of its buildings and its grounds. Of course so much work from so many people have gone into making it what it is today. It's clearly a source of pride for a lot of members. That said, in addition to ongoing hard work, it takes a lot of money to maintain them, more than brought in by annual dues, the \$3000 from each of two rummage sales, and the

....continued, p. 2

## Grand Knight's Report



Although you cannot tell from the recent weather, spring has arrived. This is the time we focus on the sacrifice made and the salvation given by our risen Savior, Jesus Christ. Spring brings forth Holy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter Sunday. We see life in the daffodils popping up in the neighborhood, the sound of birds chirping in the early morning, and the flowering buds of the plum trees. Yes, this is the time of rebirth—renewing the spirit—and focusing on the new life given to us.

Our council officers are soon up for election. If you would like to serve in a officer capacity, please inform **Dennis Bosch**, chairman of the nominating committee. You can reach Dennis at [Dennis.bosch@dennisbosch.org](mailto:Dennis.bosch@dennisbosch.org) or by calling 617-2557.

We are so proud of brother knights and all the hard work they have contributed during the winter months. **David Meyers** did an outstanding job with the Baby Bottle Campaign. Our council presented Change Point Pregnancy Center with a gift of \$5,500 raised with the distribution of the baby bottles for donations from parishioners of St. John's and St. Mary's Churches and Mercy Hospital chapel. These dollars will help save unborn babies from abortion. Our knights had previously donated an ultrasound machine to Change Point with the belief that each sound of a heartbeat and picture of an unborn baby would influence pregnant women to carry their babies to full term, thereby preventing the destruction of new life.

A special thanks to **Joe Kanopsic** for his work on the highly successful St. Patrick's Day dinner. Approximately 100 dinners were served, bringing in a profit of \$350-\$400 to the council. Thanks to all who contributed in the kitchen, with the decorations, ticket sales, and also to Vali Barron and the Celtic Band who provided a collection of lovely Irish music. We know now that Joe can serve up delicious corned beef and cabbage.

Thanks also to **Mark Layton** for chairing the two Lenten fish fry events following the evening Stations of the Cross devotionals at St. John's Gym. And thanks to **Lennie Didier**, who substituted for Mark at the time of the birth of Mark and Stephanie's new son, and chief cook **Joe Giompoletti, Larry Stamps, Zack Nehus, Bill Thompson, Stan DeGruccio, Joe Dierks, Tom Gilleran, Ed King, Wally Marroy, Doug Bolwerk, Joe Kanopsic, Julian Post, Dick Smith**, and ticket collector, **Jackie Smith**. A special note of thanks to **Zack** and his wife **Stephanie**, who prepared desserts for both fish fries. And, finally, thanks to **Newton White** and

.....continued, p. 2

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**Grand Knight's article, continued.....**

to **Vickie Stanley** for their promotion of both events and to those who sold tickets following the Masses.

We welcome three new council members: **Greg Bishop, Steve Longinotti, and Charles Pavlovich!** Let's make sure they know they are welcomed and let's put them to work. We need a few more members exemplified before June 1 to reach Star Council level. If you have anyone in good standing with the Church who would like to join our Order, please notify **Joe Kanopsic** (262-5829), **Conrad Stein** (321-1361), or **Newton White** (622-0191).

On April 1 there will be a Second and Third Degree Exemplification in Conway. Let's contact all our First Degree members and encourage them to move up the ladder to full membership.

Of major importance to our council charity work is the spring rummage/furniture sale scheduled for April 12-13 and 19-20. We will need all hands on deck for this one! *[see article, p. 1].*

Upcoming on April 25-27 is the Arkansas State Knights of Columbus Convention in Jonesboro. **Delegates are Newton White and Bob Koch.** Alternates are **Dennis Bosch and Stan DeGruccio.**

The Ascension of Christ celebration on May 9 is a Holy Day of Obligation, and the Feast of Corpus Christi will be June 2./**Newton White, Grand Knight**



**Fourth Degree—Footnotes**

Six new members joined our Assembly with an Exemplification conducted in the basement of Sacred Heart Church in the Village on March 16. Congratulations and welcome to **William "Andy" Anderson, Mark Chunn, Gerald Hawley, Steven Dunne, Charles Cook, and Robert Long.** **Father Babu Rao Bat-tula**, pastor of St. John the Baptist Church in Malvern, was also brought into the Assembly two weeks earlier. So all together, we have added seven more member to our Assembly. The most recent six were accompanied by **Grand Knight Newton White, Bob Koch, Joe Palmere, and Don Sass.** As always the Village knights did a fantastic job. Thanks to all.

**Liz and I**, with the help of **Jamie Lockwood**, decorated the hall for our St. Patrick's party on the 17th; **Martha Lockwood and Liz** put in place the flatware for the tables. **Joe Kanopsic** as chairman and host carried out his responsibilities so well that he most likely has secured the same role for the next St. Patrick's Day party. The food was fantastic!

Our next meeting will be at 6:30 p.m. on April 18, a social at Don Juan's Mexican Restaurant on Albert Pike at Airport Road. Come join us and bring your wives! Third Degree members are also encouraged to join us./**Don Sass, F.N.**

**Council Finances, continued**

miscellaneous much smaller amounts generated by various dinner occasions, pancake breakfasts, etc. Perhaps it's time to share some ideas on good possibilities for fundraisers, omitting consideration of scheduled Bingo nights (which have already been considered and rejected). We do need to generate more income to meet council needs. Do YOU have a suggestion?

Presently we have a kitchen leak that must be corrected as well as a much-needed vent hood replacement over the kitchen stoves. The insurance company recently informed council members that the present hood fails to meet specifications and, because of that, is adding several hundred dollars to each insurance billing. **Joe Giampoletti** is currently

.....continued bottom, next column



**A Message from Deacon George Sanders:  
Safe in His Arms**

Seeing the world from a child's eyes can be confusing. In his infinite wisdom (which was incomprehensible to me at the time), in order to make sure that we kids always got our booster shots, my dad chose to take us to the doctor each year on his birthday. Because of this, we always dreaded July. When the awful day arrived, we would go to the doctor's office, wait our turns (usually fidgety and crying, or at least whining). Then, when our number was finally called, my dad, my sister and I slowly walked into the office where the doctor and his nurse were preparing the implements of torture next to the big green leather chair, where the "lethal injection" was to occur.

When the time for excuses was over and I had dutifully offered in a very gentlemanly manner to allow my sister to go first (that never did work), my dad sat down in the chair and asked me to climb up and sit in his lap. He would then wrap his strong, hairy arms around me and tell the doctor we were ready. You know the rest. Who says boys don't cry?



Over the years I have reflected on this poignant childhood memory. It's amazing how smart our parents get as we grow older. My dad loved us kids. No one, and I mean no one would have hurt either of us without a terrible price being paid. My dad was a man's man. Before we were born, he was a professional boxer and served in the Army Air Corp as a PT instructor during WWII. He was the kind of guy that would look you in the eye, speak straight to you, saying what he meant and meaning what he said. When I was a kid, he told me that I should never start a fight but that I would never walk away from one either. He knew what he was talking about. I know now why they call those of his era the "Greatest Generation."

Not many years ago, a time when I felt somewhat lost, confused and questioning where God was in all of this, I remembered my booster shots and suddenly it all made a lot of sense. You see, although I couldn't really understand why we had to do it all the time, I realized that nothing bad could have happened to me when I was in my father's arms. I felt an incredible sense of calm and peace when I realized that often life's waters are troubled and shifting and bad things seem to be happening to us. But one thing I can know for sure. As long as I am in my Father's arms, no one ever can touch me. He won't allow it! It may seem as if all hell is breaking loose and what you are going through really hurts....but if it were not for your ultimate good, your Father, who is holding you in his mighty arms, would not have brought you here. No one loves you more than he does. Trust him. Press into him. When things get tough and you don't understand why life has become unfair or painful, climb up into his arms. And maybe when you get as old as I am, you will also grow (as I did) to see that your Father really does know what he is doing.

**Council Finances, continued**

searching for a good-condition used hood at a reasonable cost. A new one costs around \$8,000! As the old saying goes, "It's always something." Our chief council expenses are centered around building and grounds maintenance, insurance, utilities, and taxes.

Our Charity Fund is in good shape. But, except for the twice-a-year contribution to the council, those monies are not for council use. We must remember that the Rummage Sale has always been billed as a fundraiser for charity, and that is the very reason that our donations and our income over the past several years have grown. Donors, including many non-Catholics, are well aware of our charitable endeavors, and they have come to respect our work.

concluded, p. 3

- Tom & Barbara Gilleran
- Scott & Sessie Hrdlicka
- Bob & Mary Ann Fiedler
- Zack & Stephanie Nehus
- Randy&Marty Schnoebelen
- Bob & Sandy Kortember
- Mark & Stephanie Layton
- Mike & Mary Schnaufer Sr
- Joe & Mildred Giampoletti
- Stan & Gwen DeGruccio
- Bill & Dawn Thompson
- Leonard & Miriam Didier
- Mike & Nancy Schnaufer Jr
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- Carol Ecklund
- Kenn Heithaus
- Tony & Mary Shields
- Mike & Kathy Tucker
- Bob & Carol Koch
- Peter Gallaher
- Julian & Kay Post
- William Spielvogel

**Sponsors**

**April Birthdays**

- 1 Jim Reiter
- 2 Bart Newman
- 4 Jimmy Bolt
- 12 Don Sass
- 14 Brian Charles
- 14 Joe Petruk
- 16 Evan Archer
- 17 Robert Bournwal
- 22 Paul Enderlin
- 22 Vincente Gonzalez
- 25 Nolan Bramlett
- 26 Joe Kanopsic
- 27 Mark Chunn
- 29 David Meeks
- 29 Leonard O'Donovan

**Council Finances, concluded**  
So, other than the nominal twice-a-year contribution to the council, we cannot depart from our stated mission.

**Pray for our Sick**

Please pray for the following council members, wives/relatives, and council friends who struggle with health problems: **Dick Smith, George Callahan, Tony Pultz, Beverly Priest, Lorraine McManus, John Andrews, Jo Ann Schnoebelen (Randy's mother scheduled for March 4 surgery), Jerry Hawley (Arkadelphia), Bob Kortember, Lee Myers, Frankie DeGeorge, Hayley Glory, Stephen Stoddard, Valerie Poe, Deacon Dave Briselden, Rick Sands, Conrad Stein, Jolene Sharkey, Jim and Anita Maguire, DeDe Robbins, Sue Marshall, and Laura Mazzia,**

**April Calendar**

- 7 Second and Third Degree Exemplification, Conway
- 11 Council Meeting, 6:30 p.m.
- 12-13 Charity Rummage/Furniture 19-20 Sale (see article, p. 1)
- 18 Fourth Degree Dinner Social, Don Juan Mexican Restaurant, Albert Pike at Airport Rd., 6:30
- May 8 Charity Golf Tourney, Belvedere Country Club (see article, p. 5)

**From Our Insurance Agent**

Buying insurance is something that's easy to put off until tomorrow. And with the busy lives we all lead, tomorrow can easily become next week, next month, or even next year. For the sake of those you love, don't let that happen. I consider it my fraternal obligation to make sure that every Knights of Columbus member has the opportunity to protect his family with the Order's top-rated insurance products. I'll work with you to put in place a plan that will help your family when that help is most needed.

We all know someone whose health, instantly and seemingly out-of-the-blue, changes. You may think that can't happen to you. Think again. And keep in mind that no one will ring a bell warning you that your health is about to change. Medical technology has turned many diseases previously termed "death sentences" into very treatable conditions. What medical advances haven't changed, however, is that being diagnosed with one of these diseases will dramatically affect your ability to purchase life insurance coverage. Don't wait until it's too late.

Your Knights of Columbus insurance program is second to none. Knights of Columbus life insurance represents for Catholic families a safety net that's unsurpassed, and I'm proud of that. I'm also concerned. Why? Because so many of our brother knights have no life insurance with the Order. I suspect that, for many of them, tomorrow has become next week, next month, or next year. Don't be one of them. Don't wait for the bell to ring. It won't ring.

I'm at 501-204-9486. Call me. Let's talk.

**Randy Schnoebelen, FICF  
Field Agent**

A Brother Knight helping protect you and your loved ones!



**Financial Assistance for Change Point**

The first-ever Baby Bottle Campaign at St. John’s and St. Mary’s Churches and Mercy Hospital chapel, led by council member **David Meyers**, is a success story worth telling. Many parishioners at these three churches took home a baby bottle in which they, over a period of four weeks, would deposit loose change—and bills and checks as it turned out, resulting in a total of \$5500. On March 4 David and the council members pictured below presented a check in that amount to **JoAnn Carter**, Change Point Pregnancy Care and Parenting Resource director, to help offset the costs of operating the program.



“For you created my inmost being: You knit me together in my mother’s womb...” This Scripture is the heart of most Christian views throughout the world regarding the question of when life begins. Catholics and many other Christians believe that a new life and a new soul begin at the moment of conception. Hot

**From left: Stan DeGruccio, Zack Nehus, Grand Knight Newton White, Charlie Cook, and Baby Bottle Chairman David Meyers**

Springs Knights of Columbus Council 6419 continues to help support with a monthly \$200 contribution to Change Point. <http://www.changepointcenter.com>

The mission to educate young women and men regarding the sanctity of life began 25 years ago with the creation of Change Point in Hot Springs. Since 1988 the work of Change Point has documented more than 2,211 innocent lives saved from abortion. **Many future lives will be saved as a result of the ultrasound machine donated to Change Point in April of 2012 by the local Knights of Columbus Council together with the Supreme Council in New Haven, Connecticut.** (The Supreme Council will contribute half of the ultrasound cost to any Knights of Columbus council.)



**Grand Knight Newton White and David Meyers with Change Point Director JoAnn Carter**

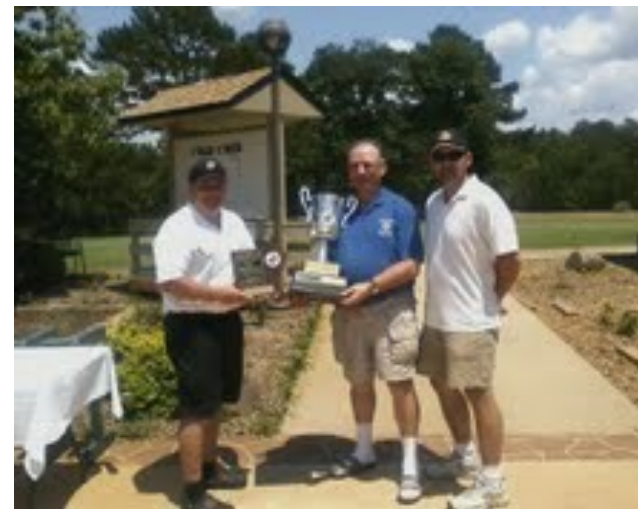


**New Fourth Degree Members (from left) Jerry Hawley, William “Andy” Anderson, Robert Long, Steve Dunn, Mark Chunn, Charles Cook [see Fourth Degree article, p. 2]**

**State 1913 Knights of Columbus Golf Challenge Set for May 11**

O.K., Council golfers, it’s time to commit yourself to keeping possession of the trophy that has graced a special shelf in our *Giampoletti Hall* for the last two years. As a matter of fact, thus far it has been in place there since the golf challenge began two years ago. So it’s a matter of council pride. Don’t let us down. Don’t let your council down. Involve yourself in this “win-at-all-cost” event set for May 11 at beautiful Belvedere Country Resort here in Hot Springs. Other councils are securing their teams now; we must do the same. We would like at least four four-man teams to join the struggle to maintain our honor and our dignity. The tournament format is a four-Knight scramble. No handicap is required. Each team should have an “A” player, who is an all-around golfer, A “B” player to help the A player, and a “C” and “D” player, who are good putting around the greens. Golfers 70 and over will play from the forward tees.

Form your teams and provide tournament chairman **Hans Purkott** the name of your captain. Many four-knight teams are anticipated to compete in the 2013 contest. Don’t miss this once-a-year full-filled charity event. Obviously, the more teams we have from our council, the better our chance of retaining the trophy at least another year. Join in the fun and make new knight friends from councils all across Arkansas. As in the past all of the \$60 registration beyond expenses (green fees, prizes, and lunch) will be donated to continue our support of our Arkansas seminarians. Call or write **Hans Purkott today**—501-623-8263, cell 617-9439 or e-mail [Hdpurkott@aol.com](mailto:Hdpurkott@aol.com).



**Council 6119 brings home championship once again, May 11, 2012: (from left) Greg Speas, Team Captain Hans Purkott, Frank Janaskie. (not present, Larry Martin**



# TO BE RECOGNIZED

## President Obama to award Medal of Honor to family

BY ROY WENZL AND TRAVIS HEYING  
The Wichita Eagle

Emil Kapaun, a priest from Kansas celebrated for his actions during the Korean War and in a North Korean prisoner of war camp, will be awarded the Medal of Honor by President Obama. It is the nation's highest military award for bravery.

Former Kansas Congressman Todd Tiahr of Goddard called The Eagle on Friday and sent a note he had received from an officer in the Pentagon about preparations for a White House ceremony April 11. Tiahr later posted the letter on his Facebook page, which said that Kapaun also will be honored April 12 at the Pentagon.

Obama is expected to present the medal to Kapaun's sister-in-law, Helen, and her children. The president called Helen Kapaun at her Bel Aire home in December to tell her the news.

Helen Kapaun, 83, has said for years that if her brother-in-law ever was awarded the Medal of Honor, she would not go to the ceremony but would ask her children to go in her place.

"But you kind of have to go when you're requested" by the president of the United States, she said.

An announcement was expected later this month from the Pentagon and the White House about a possible Medal of Honor ceremony. But the news became public after Tiahr's Facebook post.

Sen. Pat Roberts and Rep. Mike Pompeo both called The Eagle after the Facebook posting to say that Kapaun deserved the honor.

In recent months, Roberts said, he had described to his "close friend" Defense Secretary Leon



Courtesy of Col. R. A. Skeehan

AT  
KANSAS.COM/  
KAPAUN

- More stories about Father Emil Kapaun
- See photos of his childhood, his life as a priest and his military career
- Letters and sermons written by Father Kapaun
- Videos of the soldiers who served with him



**ABOVE:** On Oct. 7, 1950, less than a month before he was taken prisoner, Father Emil Kapaun celebrates Mass using the hood of his jeep as an altar. Kneeling is Kapaun's assistant, Patrick J. Schuler.  
**LEFT:** The U.S. Army's Medal of Honor.

Courtesy of U.S. Army

that he first met Kapaun in a prison camp in February... great loss, not only to the

## KAPAUN

From Page 1A

Panetta the many heroic acts of Kapaun, and urged him to urge Obama to bestow the award. Roberts, Pompeo and Sen. Jerry Moran said in a news release Friday night that Panetta has recommended that Kapaun receive the medal.

Pompeo said in recent months he met twice with White House staff, telling the story in some detail, urging the award be made. Both Pompeo and Roberts said Friday that they have urged officials to hurry in making a decision because they want Kapaun's surviving — but aging — POW friends to see the ceremony in person.

"He agreed with that," Roberts said of Panetta. "I don't know how anyone could disagree with that once they hear the story."

Pompeo said, "I urged the White House to move as quickly as possible so people who are getting a little older will be able to attend the ceremony. Apparently, now we are closer than ever."

Pompeo said he was not happy that Tiahr posted the Pentagon letter. He said Tiahr had worked hard to help Kapaun's cause but that the White House should have

been allowed to make the announcement, given that it's Obama's decision on whether Kapaun is awarded the medal.

Wichita Diocese officials said Friday they could not comment on Friday's developments, saying any statements would have to come from the Pentagon or the White House.

### 'That's great'

The Pentagon is expected to invite several of Kapaun's fellow former prisoners of war to attend the ceremony. They survived horrific conditions in the prison camp after they were captured in the first battles against the Chinese Army in late 1950, shortly after China entered the Korean War.

All of these soldiers, now in their mid- or upper 80s, have lobbied for more than 60 years to persuade the Army to award Kapaun the Medal of Honor.

They also have lobbied the Roman Catholic Church to elevate him to sainthood. The Vatican recently completed an extensive investigation and is considering the matter.

Soldiers like Mike Dowe, William Funchess, Robert Wood, Robert McGreevy and Herb Miller, most of them Protestants, have spent decades writing letters or giving interviews describing repeated acts of bravery by Kapaun.

They said he repeatedly ran through machine gun fire, dragging wounded soldiers to safety during the first months of the war.

They said his most courageous acts followed in a prisoner of war camp, where Kapaun died in May 1951. They said he saved hundreds of soldiers' lives using faith and the skills honed on his family's farm near Pilsen.

In the prison camp, he shaped roofing tin into cooking pots so prisoners could boil water, which prevented dysentery. He picked lice off sick prisoners. He stole food from his captors and shared it with his starving comrades.

Most of all, Kapaun rallied all of them, as they starved during subzero temperatures, to stay alive. When their future seemed hopeless, he persuaded them to hope. Hundreds died in the camps, but hundreds more survived.

"I am very pleased it is finally happening, and happening while some of the folks who knew him under the trying circumstances in the North Korean prison camp in that first winter are still alive to give testament to his achievements," Dowe said Friday from his home in the Houston area.

"That's great, I've been anxiously waiting, I am so glad to hear that," Funchess said.

Funchess said on Friday

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This article appeared in the February 23 issue of *The Wichita Eagle*. It was sent to our council by Kenn Heithaus of Wichita, formerly of Hot Springs, where he was a member of Council 6419. He continues to receive a copy of *Knight Shift* each month. This is a very interesting account of a Kansas priest, a Catholic chaplain in the Korean Conflict, during which he died as a war prisoner. His heroism and selflessness has resulted in a proposal to the Vatican to begin investigation leading to sainthood. The article is concluded on the following page.

Please see **KAPAUN**, Page 8A



that he first met Kapaun in a prison camp in February 1951. By that time, Funchess had not had a drink of water in three months — he'd eaten snow to stay alive. He came across a bearded scarecrow of a man bending over a fire, which was prohibited by the camp guards.

The man was melting snow in a drinking cup and handed it to Funchess.

"It tasted great," Funchess said.

"Later, I saw him (Kapaun) crossing a barbed wire fence, sneaking in at great risk to himself to tend sick and wounded enlisted men in a different compound."

In the following months, after guards began abusing Kapaun for defying their brainwashing classes, Funchess, Dowe and others nearly came to blows with Chinese guards, risking their lives to protect Kapaun, who had become sick and was now regularly abused by the guards.

"I had greatest admiration and respect for Father Kapaun, and it was indeed agony when the Chinese came and physically removed him from my room, and took him on top of the mountain at the end of the camp," Funchess said. "I had a pretty good idea what was going to happen."

"When I heard he had passed on, I knew it was a

great loss, not only to the Catholics in our camp but the non-Catholics. All of us loved Father Kapaun."

Dowe said the Chinese prison camp guards murdered Kapaun in May 1951 by isolating him in a hilltop building where the starving and enfeebled Army chaplain had no way of getting water or food. He said they did so because Kapaun openly defied the camp guards after they tried to brainwash him and other prisoners into denouncing their country.

Kapaun also violated camp rules by praying rosaries with other prisoners. By the time he died, other prisoners said, Protestants and men of other beliefs were praying the Catholic rosary with Kapaun and were openly resisting the brainwashing classes.

Tiahr had spent years working on legislation to enable Kapaun to be awarded the medal. There were restrictions at the time that specified that the medal had to be awarded for heroics that had happened only a few years before. Pompeo, Roberts and Moran finally got that legislation passed in December 2011.

Tiahr said Friday that his most significant regret about his nearly 20 years in Washington was failing to see the medal awarded while he was still in Congress.

### A farmer's son

Kapaun was a farmer's son from Pilsen in Marion County; he became a priest and served in the Catholic Church in his hometown for a few years before he joined the Army as a chaplain during World War II.

He saw no combat and came back to Kansas as a small town priest for a few years after that war. Bored with civilian life and feeling a calling to serve soldiers, he rejoined the Army as a chaplain and was stationed with the 8th Cavalry regiment in Japan in 1950 when North Korea invaded South Korea. His regiment was one of the first units to reinforce the badly outnumbered and outgunned South Korean Army and the few American military units already in Korea.

Kapaun Mount Carmel High School is named after him. The seed money that started the school came from Kapaun's surviving POW friends, who came out of the camp in 1953.

Those friends immediately began to describe his bravery to the newspapers and wire services. And they immediately began to lobby for sainthood, and for the medal Obama will hand to his family 60 years later.

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