

COUNCIL OFFICERS

Grand Knight- Charles Hayes

Deputy Grand Knight-
John Catron

Chaplain-Fr. Ron Will CPPS

Chancellor- Ray Heitman

Financial Secretary-Gordon
Carmichael

Recorder-Leonard Archer

Treasurer-Roger Rohrer

Lecturer-Daniel Winkelman

Advocate-John Bitunjac

Warden-Bradley Carr

Inside Guard-
Mitchell Gerving

Outside Guard- Jean Paul
Mundungu Vushi

3Yr Trustee-
Ron McElhaney

2Yr Trustee- Joseph F. Still

1Yr Trustee- Mike Violett

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Knight Line

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Grand News: Honor to Serve

By: Charles Hayes

It has been an honor to serve
as your Grand Knight. Best
wishes to John Catron and I
hope everyone will support
him for the good of our

council. Thanks.

Chuck Hayes



David Still's Retirement from the Armed Services

On May 7, 2017 David B. Still retired after 20 years serving our country in the armed forces. David is a member of the Knights of Columbus Council 15126 at St. Francis Xavier Church in St. Joseph, MO. In August of 1993, at 18 years of age David enlisted in the US Army. After completing his basic training at Fort Benning, GA his first assignment in the infantry was Oahu, Hawaii. During his 3 years in Hawaii he was sent to Thailand on joint US and Thai military exercises. His next assignment took him to Fort Campbell, KY where he served for the next 5 years in a mortar platoon. During his time at Fort Campbell his unit was sent on various missions. David and his unit went to Egypt for 6 months on a peace keeping mission as a multi-national force of observers to make sure Egypt and Israel kept their sides of the Camp David Accord. After 8 years in the regular army David returned home and began working at the Missouri

American Water Company. He missed the spirit of service and dedication to our country and re-enlisted in the Missouri Army National Guard in late in 2004 as a crew chief for the AH-64 Apache Attack Helicopter. David's assigned post for weekends and summer camp was at Whiteman Air Force Base in Knob Noster, MO. The first mission sent David to New Orleans for security patrols and clean up after Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. His first combat deployment was from 2006 to 2007 to Camp Arifjan in Kuwait. From there he was sent forward to Bagram Air Force Base in Afghanistan. There he conducted depot level maintenance for an Arizona National Guard Apache unit. In 2013 David was again deployed to Afghanistan, this time to Shindad Air Force Base. While there he supervised and conducted maintenance on 4 Apache Attack Helicopters. After 13 years in the National Guard, David retired as a section leader, supervis-

ing a maintenance section, overseeing inspections and working on the Apache helicopters. David received his medal and certificates of service at a ceremony at Whiteman Air Force Base. His wife, Alex, was also recognized for her sacrifices and service as a military wife. All 6 of David's children were able to watch the ceremony, four were physically present at the base and David's two older sons viewed via skype. Logan, his oldest son, was serving in the Marines in North Carolina and his second son, Raine, viewed the ceremony on skype while serving at the Air Force Base in Lakenheath, England. David's parents, Frank and Phyllis Still were also at the ceremony. Frank is also a Knight of Council 15126.





Midwest Region of
the U. S. Fish and
Wildlife Service

*"The winner of the
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Welchert Named USFWS Midwest Region NWRs Biologist of the Year

On May 16, 2017, Darrin M. Welchert was awarded the Midwest National Wildlife Refuge System (NWRS) Biologist of the Year for Fiscal Year 2016. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Midwest Region (3) is comprised of over 55 NWRs and 8 states. This annual award recognizes professional excellence and outstanding achievements of an individual within the Region 3 National Wildlife Refuge System's Natural Resources and Conservation Planning Program during the previous fiscal year. The winner of the title this year demonstrated an impressive array of accomplishments in leadership, innovation, mentoring, and impact on conservation.

Darrin Welchert joined Loess Bluffs National Wildlife Refuge as the Wildlife Biologist in November 2010. He holds a B.S. degree in Natural Resources with a major in Fisheries and Wildlife from the University of Nebraska - Lincoln and a M.S. degree in Wildlife and Fisheries Resources from West Virginia University.

He started his career as a volunteer intern and seasonal biological technician at the Seedskaadee National Wildlife Refuge in southwestern Wyoming in 1998. Darrin spent almost 10 years at the Aransas National Wildlife Refuge on the Texas Gulf Coast as a forestry technician, biological technician, and wildlife biologist from 2001 to 2010. At Loess Bluffs National Wildlife Refuge, Darrin is responsible for coordination and implementation of the refuge's biological program which includes habitat management planning, research and monitoring. In 2016, Darrin lead a biological program rooted in science and supported by collaboration with many federal, state, non-profit, and university partnerships. Darrin addressed challenges with wet prairie and massasauga rattlesnake management head-on while preparing a habitat management plan by engaging stakeholders and promoting sound science. His efforts addressed Loess Bluff NWR's habitat and wildlife man-

agement priorities across multiple objectives and linked refuge management actions to biology. Partners included US Geological Survey, National Wildlife Health Center, National Great Rivers Research and Education Center, Americorps, The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, and Missouri Western State University. Darrin is a highly respected biologist and is sought for his expertise on prairie massasauga, wetland management, and prairie restoration. As a key member of the Loess Bluffs work team, Darrin provided mentorship to many volunteers, students, interns, and biological technicians. His influence extended beyond the refuge through University committees, graduate advisor roles, and involvement with The Wildlife Society. Darrin is always a team player and works tirelessly to provide high quality scientific research and analysis while exemplifying fantastic leadership, mentoring, and a positive impact on conservation.

Officer Nominating Committee Report

The following slate of individuals is presented for nomination for the 2017-2018 Fraternal Year: Grand Knight – John Catron, Deputy Grand Knight – Joseph F. Marmaud, Chancellor – Ray Heitman, Recorder – Len Archer, Treasurer – Roger Rohrer, Advocate – John Bitunjac, Warden – Brad Carr, Inside Guard – Mitchell Gerving, Outside Guard

- Jean Paul Mundungu Vushi, Trustee 3-Year – Chuck Hayes, Trustee 2-Year – Ron McElhaney, Trustee 1-Year – Frank Still.

Election of officers will take place at the June 6th council business meeting. During this meeting the opportunity will be given to nominate additional candidates for these elected officer positions. Food and beverages will be provided following

this business meeting. Every member is encouraged to attend.

District Deputy Jay Pflugradt Jr. was elected as the new Faithful Navigator of St Joseph General Assembly Fourth Degree #569 at the meeting on May 22nd. Also elected as Assembly officers from Council 15126 were brother Knights - Dan Deatherage (Faithful Pilot), Len Archer (Faithful Scribe) and Gordon Carmichael (Faithful Comptroller).



St. Francis Xavier Council #15126

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[http://kofcknights.org/CouncilSite/index.asp?
CNO=15126](http://kofcknights.org/CouncilSite/index.asp?CNO=15126)

Newsletter deadline for articles and pictures is 10 days prior to monthly meeting. Email content to dwelchert@hotmail.com.

June Calendar of Events

Council Business Meeting at SFX
Tuesday, June 6 2017, 7:00 pm

Council Officers Meeting
Tuesday, June 20, 2017, 7:00 pm

1st Degree Hosted by Council #571
Thursday, June 22, 2017, 6:30 pm



FOOD FOR FAMILIES UPDATE

WING-DING funds were used to purchase 12 cases of PEANUT BUTTER and 10 cases of MAC & CHEESE for our House of Bread. This brings our donation total to 1109 pounds of food to our House of Bread. Thank you to all those members who have

donated either canned goods or who have made cash donations. We will now start collecting for the next year which begins on July 1, 2017. THANK YOU FOR ALL THE COUNCIL HAS DONE.

GORDON CARMICHAEL

