



Knights of Columbus

Rev Paul Donald O'Toole Council #10819
2252 Woodruff Road • Simpsonville, SC 29681

May 2015

Prayer



Lord Jesus Christ, you call us to follow you as disciples.
Help us to respond wholeheartedly without counting the cost.
Lord Jesus Christ, you invite us to proclaim your gospel of hope and salvation here at home and to all nationals and peoples. Teach us to be faithful evangelists in word and in action.
Lord Jesus Christ, you have given us every spiritual and material blessing. Show us how to share our gifts with others, and inspire us always to follow your example of generous self-giving.
Gracious Lord, teach us to give with a joyous and grateful heart that we may provide hope, consolation, and pastoral care to your people and thus give glory and honour to your holy name. AMEN

Prayer Provided By: Sir Knight - Michael J. Amato

Knights of Columbus Paul Donald O'Toole Council #10819 Simpsonville, SC

May 2015

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

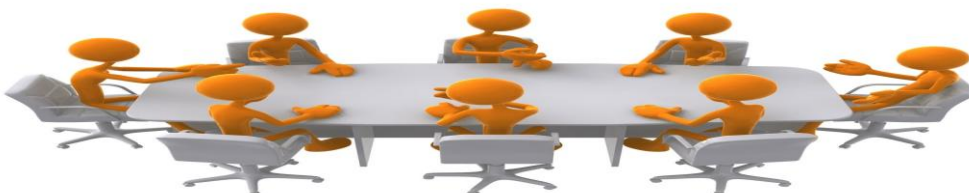
IN SERVICE TO ONE. IN SERVICE TO ALL.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
APRIL S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30	JUNE S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30	<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; align-items: center;"> <div style="text-align: center;"> <h3 style="margin: 0;">BMW Charity Pro-Am</h3> <p style="font-size: x-small; margin: 0;">presented by SYNEX CORPORATION</p> </div> </div>				2
3	4 Business Meeting Completed	5	6	7 CAR WASH Great Job Knight's Done in One Day	8 	9
10 Happy Mother's Day	11	12	13	14 BMW Golf Tournament 6AM - 3PM	15 Thu-Fri-Sat-Sun 6AM - 3PM	16 Armed Forces Day
17 BMW Golf Tournament 6AM - 3PM	18 7:00 PM Let's get Social	19	20	21	22	23 8:00 AM ROAD CLEAN-UP Meet 8AM SMMCC
24 Honor Guard Flag - War Vets 11AM Mass SMMCC	25 	26	27	28 7:00PM Rosary Honor Guard Silver Rose Ceremony	29	30 7PM Honor Guard 10AM Friday Night Saturday Morning
31 	Memorial Day	St. Philip Neri				





NEXT MEETING The next meeting will be **Monday June 1, 2015, 7:30 PM.**



The next meeting following, will be held on **Monday, July 7, 2015.** Join us and get involved in the many activities the Council and St. Mary Magdalene Catholic Church offer.

RECRUITMENT

Every month is Recruitment month for all of the Knights of Columbus Councils. Let's keep on asking our families, friends and others to join the Knights of Columbus



**New Recruits
Always Wanted.
Help Us Help Ourselves**

Let's *get* Social

Monday, May 18th, 2015 at 7pm - 9:30pm
Location: SMMCC Parish Center



Come join your fellow Knights in good food and Friendship

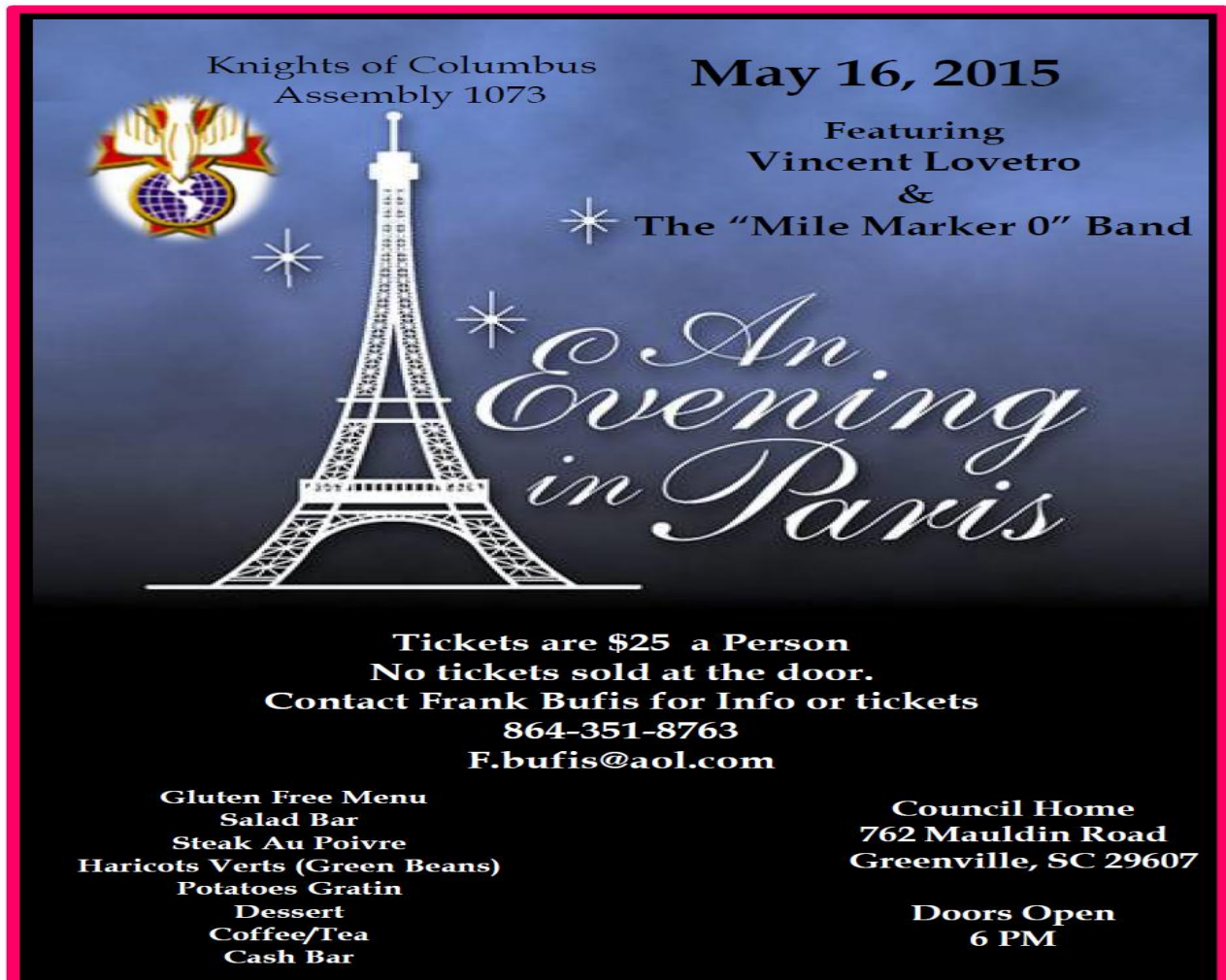
SOCIAL



A Rather Proud, Grateful, Serene and Content Grand Knight Robert J. Felton Shares a Huge Smile as Recipient on Behalf of Knights of Columbus Council 10819 of the 2014 – 2015 Inter Council Competition Distinguish Award



Brother Knights – Please give due consideration to supporting Knights of Columbus Assembly 1073 and Council 1668 as they present *“An Evening in Paris”*



Knights of Columbus
Assembly 1073

May 16, 2015

Featuring
Vincent Lovetro
&
The “Mile Marker 0” Band

An Evening in Paris

Tickets are \$25 a Person
No tickets sold at the door.
Contact Frank Bufis for Info or tickets
864-351-8763
F.bufis@aol.com

Gluten Free Menu
Salad Bar
Steak Au Poivre
Haricots Verts (Green Beans)
Potatoes Gratin
Dessert
Coffee/Tea
Cash Bar

Council Home
762 Mauldin Road
Greenville, SC 29607

Doors Open
6 PM

CAR PARKING IN PROGRESS

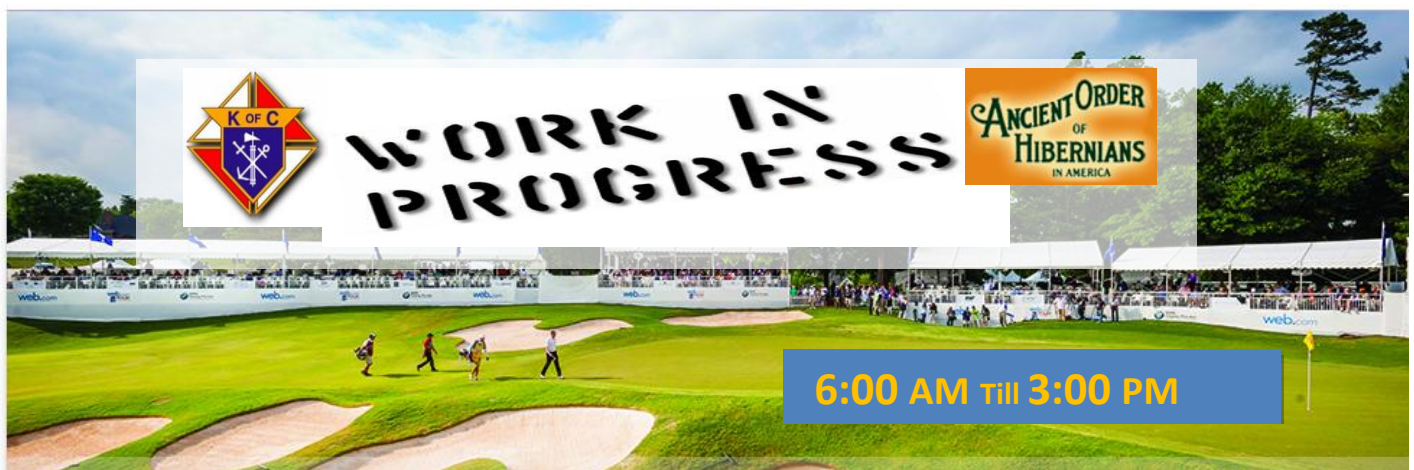
Thursday, May 14th Friday, May 15th,
Saturday, May 16th & Sunday, May 17th



WE NEED ELEVEN (11) KNIGHTS PER DAY TO HELP WITH CAR PARKING AT THE TOURNAMENT.

Big Al says we need eleven (11) volunteers each day from 6 AM to 3 PM. He has indicated 11 Men continuously, Split Shifts are OK - as long as there is continuous coverage of (11) Volunteers all the way through 6 AM – 3 PM

NOTE: There will be a Light Breakfast and Lunch Provided Pending upon Your Volunteer Hours



K of C

WORK IN PROGRESS

ANCIENT ORDER OF HIBERNIANS IN AMERICA

6:00 AM Till 3:00 PM



St. Mary Magdalene Catholic Church Knights of Columbus Council 10819 announces that three members recently attained 2nd and 3rd Degree Exemplifications.

On Sat., 4/18/15, Jim Schuler, Billy Rodgers and Jason Roberts received their 2nd and 3rd exemplifications at St. Paul Catholic Church in Spartanburg. A total of 24 Knights attained the 2nd Degree while a total of 40 Knights attained the 3rd Degree, from many of the SC Upstate Councils.

There are four degrees within the Knights of Columbus. Each Degree ceremony imparts a lesson on the Order's core virtues and guiding principles of **Charity, Unity, Fraternity and Patriotism.**

Brother Knights from Council 10819 that attained the 2nd and 3rd Degrees Saturday April 18, 2015 are:

Jason Roberts, Billy Rodgers and Jim Schuler



Left to right – Jim Schuler, Billy Rodgers, Jason Roberts

The Knights of Columbus 2nd Degree Ceremony introduces a Knight to the **2nd Guiding Principle – Unity.** Members of the Knights of Columbus are united in the body of Christ, ritualized and embodied in their full participation in the Catholic Church. Their loyalty to Christ and the unity which each Knight encompasses is realized through their commitment to one another and their local, regional, and global church.

The Second Degree helps Knights realize their true potential as Christian brothers and the sacred power of unity.

The Knights of Columbus 3rd Degree Ceremony introduces a Knight to the **3rd Guiding Principle**

– Fraternity.

Upon taking the Third Degree, a member receives full honors of Knighthood and is "Knighted."



Left to right – SK Ron Searl, Jim Schuler, Jason Roberts, Billy Rodgers and SK Jim Alford





FOOD DRIVE HUGE SUCCESS - THANKS TO ALL!



Daniel Wilson Chris O'Donnell Len Krolak Tom Farrell, Dennis



L/R Len Krolak, Dennis, Chris O'Donnell Daniel Wilson Tom Farrell



Great Men Doing Great Things



Society of St. Vincent de Paul

This is an international Catholic organization that seeks, in a spirit of justice and charity, to help those who are suffering. Members strive to achieve the Society's goal by visiting the needy and their families and to offer financial and/or spiritual aid.



Thanks to Knights
And Others For
Stapling Item List
To Bags



Thanks to Knights
And Others For
Passing Out Bags After
Masses



ST. VINCENT DEPAUL SOCIETY MINISTRY AND KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS TEAM UP FOR ST. VINCENT DEPAUL ANNUAL CHARITY GOLF TOURNAMENT

On May 4, 2015, the annual SMMCC St. Vincent DePaul Society golf tournament was held at Fox Run Country Club. Sir Knight Bill Schrichte organized the tourney as a Council 10819 Charity Project. All proceeds from the tournament went to the St. Vincent DePaul Society to assist with helping them in their charitable work with the poor and needy people in the Greenville area.



ST. VINCENT DEPAUL SOCIETY LADY VOLUNTEERS
SIGNING IN GOLFER/SIR KNIGHT DAVID FORTNEY

A full course group of 67 golfers competed in four golfer teams and were treated with a super-hot dog/brat lunch and door prize event after the tournament. Each golfer donated their entrance fee and donated their mulligan money, while many local businesses and friends of the St. Vincent DePaul Society sponsored holes to donate additional funds toward the tournament proceeds.

Each year the tournament raises and donates over \$8,000 to the St. Vincent DePaul Society.

Fox Run Country Club donated the use of their facility toward this most worthy cause.

Family of The Month

APRIL

James O. And Pauline Alford



Knight of The Month

APRIL

Frank R. Benedetto



GOOD OF THE ORDER

If you know of any Brothers who are sick or in distress, please contact me (Bob Felton) via email lrrplt@charter.net so that we may remember them in our prayers.

Let's also remember in our prayers all Brothers who passed away in the past year and all our deceased Brothers, that they may Rest In Peace and that their families have Peace within their Memories.

At our most recent meeting GK Robert Felton called for prayers for the Good of the Order:

Paul Felton, Father Robert, Charlie Beyer, Carl Swanson, John Bays family, Joe and Joanne Mattioli, John Henderson, Ligia Espodola, Terry Bays, Pam Schook, Joan Mendelson, repose of the souls Sheila Robertson and Carol Daily



"I am the vine, you are the branches..." John 15:5



John 15:1-8

Some of our Protestant brothers and sisters often speak about being born again, having a personal experience of Our Lord Jesus. Often at revival meetings, an altar call is given. "Come forward as a witness that you are claiming Christ as your redeemer." Then the long lines coursing through the aisles move forward to the stage to make public their dependency on the Lord. Sometimes we may be asked, "Have you accepted Jesus as your personal savior?" For some Catholics, this may be a question that is too personal, too intense, too emotional, and perhaps too uncomfortable a question. This uneasiness is somewhat paradoxical.

Catholics make it a weekly, and sometimes daily practice of leaving their pews, proceeding to the altar, and receiving the body and blood of Jesus Christ, the, most radical, direct, and intense expression that Jesus Christ is indeed our personal savior. Sometimes we may overlook how extreme our belief in the real presence of Jesus in the Eucharist may look to our brothers and sisters who are separated. It is our way of saying that our personal savior is truly found in the Eucharist, "body, blood, soul, and divinity under the appearance of bread and wine." In the Eucharist, we recall and remember the saving mystery of the passion and death of Jesus, and this mystery becomes our food, our sustenance for our life journey of faith. Jesus becomes part of us and we become part of him.

The reception of Holy Communion makes little sense if we don't intend to affirm that Jesus Christ is our personal savior. "You are my food and drink/you are my flesh and blood." And we come forward, a procession of witnesses, testifying that there is nothing deeper or more personal than acknowledging Jesus as our way, our truth, our life. He is the one who is our savior, our redeemer, our healer, our brother, our friend, and our very sustenance.

In our Gospel, Jesus speaks of our close union with him, he the vine and we the branches, as we draw life from him. He seeks full union with us, so in love with us is he. He promises that we will live in him and he will live in us, just as he lives in loving unity with his Father. "I am the vine, you are the branches. You who live in me and I in you, will produce abundant fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing." "Live on in me as I do in you." If we believe that, we believe that Jesus Christ is indeed our personal savior, and we are born again, and again and again and again.

***Laudetur Iesus Christus, *(Latin for Praised be Jesus Christ)**



Michael

Sir Knight - Michael J. Amato has been asked and has agreed to provide a Prayer and an Article each month and we are Blessed to have him and his peers collaborate to share with Brother Knights as we move ahead.





Knights of Columbus

Rev Paul Donald O'Toole Council #10819
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**PUBLICITY
INTAKE & PREP**

For someone developing a visual story, the most important thing to ask is

'What is the story you really want to tell?'

Answering that can mean working through these questions:

**NEED MORE SPACE
PLEASE USE OTHER SIDE**



What is the issue/event/moment/Context/Date?

If needed, who are the characters? List name(s) of people in each photo and what is the photo showing

Who is primary contact for more information? Name: _____ Phone: _____

THANKS! PREPARED BY: _____ DATE: _____

TAKE PHOTO OF THIS SHEET AND TEXT OR MAIL TO:

JIM BENTZ AND FRANK BENEDETTO

JIM BENTZ EMAIL: JIMSTRINGBENTZ@GMAIL.COM TEXT (610) 517-0057

FRANK BENEDETTO EMAIL: FBENEDETTO@AOL.COM TEXT (518) 275-2300



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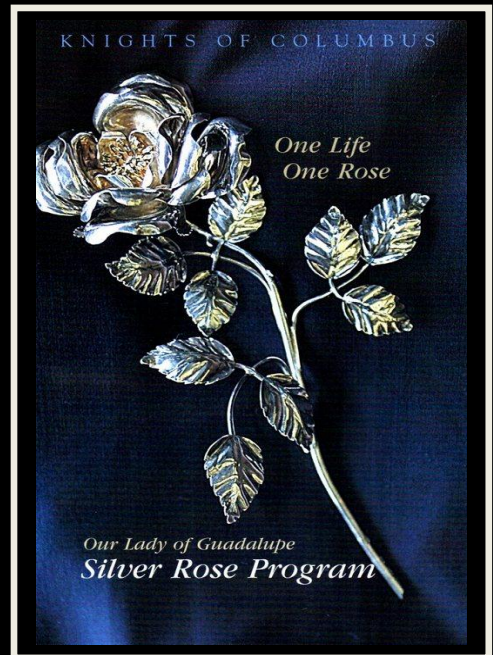
**KNIGHTS
OF COLUMBUS**
IN SERVICE TO ONE. IN SERVICE TO ALL.

Knights of Columbus

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ROSARY

Thursday May 28, 2015 AT 7:00 PM
Honor Guard Silver Rose Ceremony
St. Mary Magdalene Catholic Church



The 2015 Silver Rose Program <http://www.runningoftherose.org/en/>



DIOCESE INFORMATION IS JUST A CLICK AWAY

<http://sccatholic.org/>



ROMAN CATHOLIC
Diocese of Charleston

The Catholic Diocese of Charleston comprises the entire state of South Carolina with Charleston as its See city. Founded in 1820, it is one of the oldest Catholic dioceses in the United States.

Bishop Guglielmone The Most Rev. Robert E. Guglielmone was ordained and installed as the 13th Bishop of Charleston on March 25, 2009, in the Cathedral of St. John the Baptist. His motto is "Walk Humbly With Your God".

[Writings, Statements](#) and [Video](#). [Calendar](#)



Bishop Robert E. Guglielmone

[Full Biography](#)

NOTE ON DUES

ATTENTION- BROTHER KNIGHTS!!! -- IF YOU'RE BEHIND ON DUES...

LET'S WORK IT OUT . SEND A NOTE TO SIR KNIGHT, RON SEARL, FINANCIAL SECRETARY, EMAIL HIM AT the_jedi_knight1@hotmail.com OR CALL HIM AT **864-268-4023** HE WILL WORK THINGS OUT.



Knights of Columbus Council 10819 receives two awards for its 2014 good works, at a State awards ceremony in Columbia, on April 16, 2015.



**Much Thanks
For All Who Helped.**



Sir Knight Bill Toth receives both awards for 2014 - **County of the Year** and **2014 District 3 Award Winner**. Sarah Lyles of Adopt-A-Highway presented both awards.



Adopt A Highway – **ROAD CLEAN-UP Scheduled SATURDAY, May 23, 2015 8 AM AT SMMCC PARKING LOT**

Brother Knights:

WE NEED AS MANY ABLE BODIED VOLUNTEERS TO HELP BY PICKING UP TRASH ALONG A MILE + STRETCH OF WOODRUFF RD.

Please Join SK Bill Toth & Crew. SATURDAY, May 23, 2015, 8AM -- MEET AT SMMCC PARKING LOT



Catholic radio speaks to those who want to hear Good News

Tune into Catholic radio on **WCKI 1300 AM** (Upstate) On Wednesday afternoon March 25, 2015, Knights of Columbus Council 10819 visited with Gary Towery and Michael Brennan and learned about the operations of the radio station and the necessary caring and sharing of the great works of the Knights of Columbus in our church and in our community. We had an excellent meeting and will be working with them in many ways in the future





3rd Annual Operation Hope Poker Run

Saturday, September 12, 2015

A Benefit Poker Run for Motorcycles and Cars



OPERATION HOPE
P O K E R R U N
Benefiting Intellectually Challenged Children
Simpsonville Knights of Columbus Council 10819



Open to All Vehicles Two, Three or Four Wheels.

Net proceeds are donated to charities that benefit intellectually-challenged children such as:
The Washington Center School, The Meyer Center and The Greenville Disabilities Board.



More Info From Bob DiCapite at Next Meeting We Continue to Look For Sponsors
If You Know of A Person or Business Interested in Being a Sponsor
Please Contact Bob by Email at mandbdec@gmail.com or Call him 864-286-9219



F.Y.I.
Things worth knowing

Knights of Columbus Council 10819
Memorial Day Supplement to Newsletter
originally published in Observance of Memorial Day Monday, May 28, 2007
We are pleased to share for this year. Compliments of Sir Knight Frank R. Benedetto

***“Memorial Day –A Reflection
On Honor, Sacrifice and Duty”***

See Copy at the end of this Newsletter





Honor Flight



**Please Look For Special Picture Edition of Newsletter
next week on the recent April Honor Flight and our own
Sir Knight Charles E. Beyer**

NAVY GUNNERMATE 3rd Class 1943-1947 North Atlantic - Europe

St. Mary Magdalene Catholic Church

MILITARY SUPPORT MINISTRY



OFFERING SPIRITUAL AND MATERIAL SUPPORT TO ALL SERVICE MEMBERS AND THEIR FAMILIES

May 2015

The St. Mary Magdalene Military Support Ministry announces directly before the beginning of the 11:00 AM Mass on Sunday, May 24, 2014, it will place a Flag at the Altar as a Memorial Day Sunday Reflection on Honor, Sacrifice and Duty. Parish Community will be asked to pause and give personal time during the presentation of colors and a performance by St. Mary Magdalene Choir.

ASSEMBLY 1073 MEMORIAL DAY SERVICE

Sunday, May 24, 2015 *starting at 3:00 pm* **Richard Cortese** is the Event Chairman for this event Co-Chair: **Martin Riley** Co-Chair: **David Abbott**

Join us as we honor our fallen comrades and our deceased veterans and brother knights We will have a small ceremony at our Veterans Wall to include the addition of some names and stars. Hamburgers and such will be served after the ceremony.

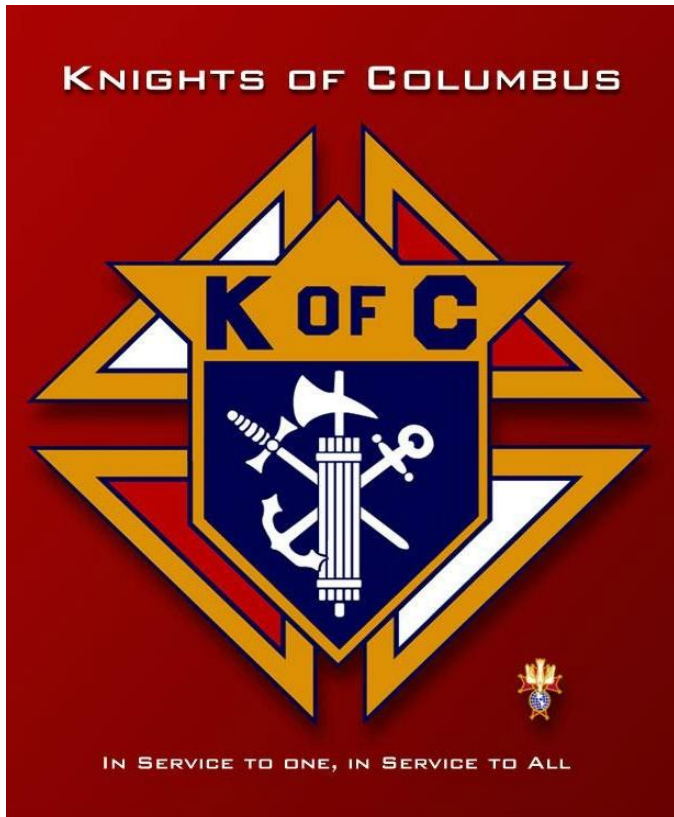
Location: COUNCIL #1668 762 Mauldin Road Greenville, SC 29607 864
MSGR. ANDREW K. GWYNN - 1668 GREENVILLE, SC US





Once again Congratulation's Brother Knights ...

...I am Thrilled, Honored, Pleased and Proud as Your Grand Knight to receive this Award on Behalf of The Council and The Good People such as you representing the Knights of Columbus everyday in every way.



KNIGHT'S INSURANCE AGENT Brother Knight Chuck Cendrowski

Our new Insurance agent has been making the rounds. He is Brother Chuck Cendrowski. Please contact him (Old and New members) for any of your insurance needs. He can be reached **Office:** 864-365-8591 **Mobile:** 864-787-2127 **Fax:** 877-860-2911 or email him to set up an appointment at chuck.cendrowski@kofc.org All of this will help our Council.



Fraternally yours in Christ,
Robert Felton, Grand Knight
Knights Of Columbus Council 10819

May 2015



MEMORIAL DAY



BEACH LANDING: D-DAY INVASION



KOREAN WAR: FIGHTING AT INCHON

SACRIFICE AND DUTY

A REFLECTION ON HONOR,



MONUMENT: IWO JIMA



On Monday, May 28, 2007 Americans across this nation and citizens located around the world will pause throughout the day to observe Memorial Day. Since its first official observation on 5 May, 1868, when it was called Declaration Day, it has been a day of remembrance for those who sacrificed and died in our nation's service. And while it was originally dedicated to honor Civil War soldiers, we know it today as a celebration in memory of all who have fought for and defended our right to freedom.

In 1968 the observation of this day was established to be the last Monday in May. Today it remains a time of observation to honor and to respect those who fought to protect the liberties that our Founding Fathers proclaimed with certainty in the Declaration of Independence and that were thoughtfully and carefully framed in the Constitution of the United States. In his proclamation to set aside this day in 1868, General Logan instructed there to be thoughts to ***"...cherish tenderly the memories of our heroic dead who made their breast a barricade between our country and its foes"***.

To those who died securing peace and freedom; To those who served in conflict to protect our land, and sacrificed their dreams of the day to preserve the hope of our nation -keeping America the land of the free for over two centuries - we owe our thanks and our honor. It is important to not only recognize their service but to respect their devotion to duty and to ensure that the purpose for which they fought will never be forgotten.

From the soldiers who fought bravely during the American Revolution to the men and women of today's Armed Forces, America's fighting forces, have responded bravely to this nation's call to duty. Both on the battlefield and in their assurance of readiness, members of the nation's military remain bound to their duty. For more than 200 years, America's Armed Forces have been the surest guarantee that Freedom will continue to ring across this land –



From Sea to Shining Sea!

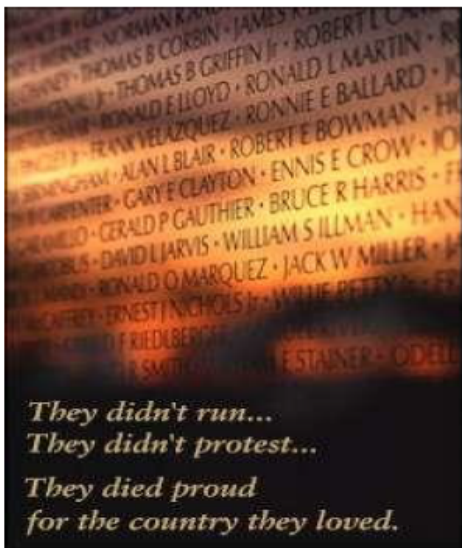
"WHEN YOU GO HOME,
TELL THEM OF US AND
SAY,
FOR THEIR TOMORROW,
WE GAVE OUR TODAY.

-The Kohima Epitaph

The lives of the men and women who fought in America's battles, and who served their country in support of the military, made significant sacrifice in fighting for the freedom and liberty that we enjoy today. Too often we fail to remember those who gave their life, or those whose life today bears the scars as a lasting memory of that sacrifice and commitment. But there are many who remember vividly as the lives affected were sons, daughters, friends, co-workers and neighbors – and that their unselfish sacrifice was made with the assurance that life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness required the ultimate service to their nation.

In a very moving letter, Abraham Lincoln expressed the respect and consolation of a nation and his own compassion to Mrs. Bixby, who lost five sons in combat during the Civil War. Mr. Lincoln's letter expressed the compassion that he felt with the honor due the fallen soldiers:

Dear Madam: I have been shown in the files....that you are the mother of five sons who have died gloriously on the field of battle. I feel how weak and fruitless must be any words of mine which should attempt to beguile you from the grief of a loss so overwhelming. But I cannot refrain from tendering to you the consolation that may be found in the thanks of the Republic they died to save. I pray that our heavenly Father may assuage the anguish of your bereavement, and leave you only the cherished memory of the loved and lost, and the solemn pride that must be yours to have laid so costly a sacrifice upon the altar of freedom. A. Lincoln



In the Revolutionary War more than 25,000 lost their life in this initial pursuit of freedom that they believed in but could not have fully comprehended at that time. In the Civil War almost 600,000 gave their lives as the very foundation of this nation was challenged from within its own boundaries; WWII claimed the lives of more than 400,000; and scores of others gave their life in wars in Korea and in Vietnam. And America continues to realize the never-ending sense of duty that our Armed forces have as they serve our nation throughout the world. In each instance, without regard to politics or the popular opinion of the moment, soldiers have picked up their arms to begin the awesome task of fighting for our freedom and to push back the threat to those freedoms when made by others throughout the world.

In 1776, America's Founding Fathers declared the intent for this new nation to be independent and free – ***WE hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their creator with ...rights... (of) Life, Liberty, and the pursuit of happiness...*** And, to this day whether out of commitment to this Declaration or to their duty to defend these rights from encroachment, our Armed Forces fight to preserve this nation for all that call it home.

Early in the War for Independence, Captain Nathan Hale was captured by the British and executed as a spy. His dying words - ***"I only regret that I have but one life to lose for my country"*** - echo the sentiment that seems to exemplify the resolve of America's soldiers who go forward into battle to protect and to defend the rights and freedoms that each of us enjoy today. Nathan Hale held strongly to a vision of America as free and strong – and thankfully so do the men and women who continue to serve in American's Armed Forces.



During the Revolutionary war the Stars and Stripes flew high as a symbol of freedom and provided inspiration as Francis Scott Key inscribed the words to the Star Spangled Banner. And, while we remember so vividly the first verse, it is the third verse that I believe honors the soldiers who fought so bravely for that flag and who stand ready to defend it today should the nation call for their service.

***O thus be it ever, when free men shall stand;
Between their loved homes and war's desolation;
Blessed vict'ry and peace, may the heaven rescued land;
Praise the power that hath made and preserved as a nation;
Then conquer we must when our cause is just;
And this be our motto, In God is our Trust.....***



Our flag is truly a symbol of the freedoms that we fight so diligently to protect. From Key's vision of bombs bursting through the morning air to the courageous memory of Marines raising the flag at Iwo Jima - The American Flag is a symbol of freedom that we celebrate and hold sacred. Let it also remind each of us of the sacrifice made by men and women throughout our nation so that this flag could stand tall. And, let us not forget that we will ever see it wave as a nation of free people because of the lives that we honor each Memorial Day.

In his speech at Gettysburg, Abraham Lincoln's words focused on the loss of life during the Civil War and the higher cause for which the lives were given, but they ring true as a reminder for today... ***that from these honored dead we take increased devotion to that cause for which they gave the last full measure of devotion...that this nation under God shall have a new birth of freedom, and that government of the people, by the people, for the people....should not perish from this earth.*** Lincoln's charge was to ensure that the cause to which each soldier gave their life would not be lost, and that this Union, which he himself had given an oath to preserve, protect and defend, would grow ever stronger.

During the Civil War, Walt Whitman observed soldiers on both sides as they fought for their beliefs and suffered the pain, tragedy and death of war. Whitman's observations regarding the real mechanics and loss in War express truth that many of us can not truly realize today as no one except the soldier can really know the pain and agony that our fighting forces experience during battle. ***"Future years will never know the seething hell and the black infernal background of...the ...War. The real war will never get in the books."***





During WWII, as soldiers were preparing to land at beaches around France and to begin the push necessary to stop the threat of Nazi control, these words echo the hope that the world placed in the defenders of our freedom – then and now:

“... on these craft hang the future of Europe and the course of history. In the hands of these men, free men everywhere have placed their hope for today and prayer for tomorrow.”

Theodore Roosevelt conveyed the thoughts of the world in his words to the nation during a time of concern and uncertainty about the future: ***“..with confidence in our armed forces, with the unbridled determination of our people, we will gain the inevitable triumph – so help us God.”*** And with the uncertainty of battle ahead, and with doubts of whether they would live to see tomorrow, America’s military remained committed to their duty and to the battle that had to be fought to achieve the desired victory.

The D-Day invasion claimed the lives of many American and other Allied fighting forces. A memorial at the American Cemetery overlooking Omaha Beach contains this inscription:

**These Endured All And Gave All That
Justice Among Nations Might Prevail and
That Mankind Might Enjoy Freedom and
Inherit Peace.**



Further into the cemetery, an inscription dedicated to the memory of those who fought to control the beaches of Normandy serves as a permanent reminder of the gratitude and respect for the Allied soldiers. These words also provide a lasting memory to the sacrifice made by Americans throughout this nation’s history to preserve and protect our Freedom. It reads:

**This Embattled Shore, Portal of Freedom, Is Forever Hallowed by the Ideals, Valor,
Sacrifices of Our Fellow Countrymen.**

During the Korean War, soldiers fought to defend a country and a people that they did not know. These soldiers answered the call of duty and defended, for all of us, the rights of Freedom against an enemy that is represented today by those who want to tear down our liberty and to destroy the freedom that has been preserved to this day by those who have fought to defend it.

The freedoms that were defined in the Declaration of Independence were made possible by those individuals who were willing to lay down their life for the pursuit of freedom and the belief that liberty was a right of all men. During the Civil War, Lincoln’s Proclamation thatinspired those whose freedoms were stolen from them and by the end of the war more than 200,000 black soldiers and sailors had joined to fight for a future that they believed was possible. And many times since then our freedom has been guaranteed by the resolve of the armed forces who have refused to turn from the foes of liberty that would set themselves against this Nation, its Allies and the foundation of Godly principles upon which it stands.

On September 11, 2001 The United States of America was, for the second time in its history, attacked by an act of war that was unprovoked and cowardly. Our resolve was tested, and we demonstrated to the world that our passion for freedom and liberty will never be lost in the midst of a confused and misdirected plan of enemies throughout the world. Our military forces were once again called upon to protect our country from an enemy that is entrenched in hatred and bias against our country and the freedom for which it stands.



President Bush proclaimed the intent and the resolve of this nation to bring defeat to the enemy that attacked our nation with these words of assurance...

... we're going to find those evil-doers, those barbaric people who attacked our country and we're going to hold them accountable, and we're going to hold the people who house them accountable; the people who think they can provide them safe havens will be held accountable; the people who feed them will be held accountable."

To those who died, to all of those who fought, we owe the honor of our respect for delivering to us Freedom upon nothing less than the commitment of their life and the willingness to lose it, for that defense.

Harry Truman once said; **"I think I know the American Soldier..... He does not want gratitude or sympathy. He had a job to do. He did not like it. But he did it. And how he did it. Now he wants to come back home and start again the life he loved....."**



Ablaze, the USS Arizona slips beneath the waters

And I echo his sentiment, with respect for those who withstood the rigors and threats of battle, if for just a time, to provide each of us with the opportunity for life. And while the loss of life did not deter them, the thought of liberty and freedom was sufficient to see them march on to the fighting objective. I am sure that Mr. Truman's words describe each of the soldiers who have given their service to America for more than two-hundred years. And it is each of us who owe them the respect for what they did, the honor for their service, and the commitment to support their comrades should duty call.



So let us pause with respect and honor on this Memorial day to remember those who fought, for those who gave their life, and for those who willingly stand ready today to do the same, without question, when the defense of freedom calls on them. We owe each of them the highest regard, respect, and honor – and the assurance that their commitment to this Nation's freedom will never be forgotten.



In each instance, when called upon to defend the rights of this Nation to enjoy the liberty of freedom, the American soldier has responded courageously – whether it was WWII and rallied by support around the world, or in Vietnam during a time of disruption and confusion among the people of our nation, or even today when the war in Iraq provokes similar confusion and disagreement among the citizens. It is imperative that each of us show our respect for the soldiers who fought and to remember the sacrifice made by each for it is their dedication to duty that will ensure each call to duty is responded to with the assurance of victory over every threat to our freedom.

Our land has been truly blessed and honored with Veterans who have given their lives to ensure that we have the freedom to enjoy the blessings given to us by God and assured in Liberty by the vision of our Founding Fathers. Lee Greenwood sings a particularly sentimental song with the assurance that...he would gladly stand up and defend [America] today. God Bless the USA! And today, as we should each day, we say God Bless those who have given of their lives to make America strong and to those who remain prepared to fight for our country today.

"No arsenal, no weapon in the arsenals of the world, is so formidable as the will and moral courage of free men and women. - - - Ronald Reagan

The men and women who serve, and who have served, in the Armed Forces are no less committed to protecting our nation than were the men who signed The Declaration of Independence. Their final words declare that **"... 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."** Our Armed Forces continue to maintain that same standard of commitment and honor that was declared more two centuries ago.

On this Memorial Day – pause to reflect on just what has been given, and sacrificed so freely, so that Freedom could ring across this great land.



Arlington National Cemetery

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Lee Greenwood".