



# Knights of Columbus

## FOURTH DEGREE

*Patriotic degree of the Order.*

### ASSEMBLY 2420 November 2011 Newsletter

Here is the November 2011 Assembly 2420 newsletter. Hope everyone has a great and safe Veterans Day Weekend. Keep on praying and showing everyone how to be a Patriot.

- ✳ **Dues:** Dues for the 2012 year are now being collected. The Assembly dues are \$15 and can be brought to the meeting or sent to the Faithful Comptroller, SK Joe Morton at 282 Knox Creek Trl NW, Madison, AL 35757-6855.
- ✳ **St. John's Blood Drive** – last one was October 15<sup>th</sup>. I thank SK Joe Morton for his help. It was disappointing. Thirty potential donors showed up but only 21 units were collected (rejections, bad sticks). The next one will be December 17<sup>th</sup> from 9:30am to 2:30pm in the Parish Hall. I would appreciate any assistance. Please come down and donate.
- ✳ **Shelton Road Trash Pickup** – 4<sup>th</sup> Saturday of the Month, 9 am. Meet at Texaco at the corner of Madison Blvd and Shelton. This month's will be postponed to December 10<sup>th</sup> as many will either not be here or be busy with their family on Thanksgiving weekend. The December 24<sup>th</sup> trash pickup will be cancelled due to the Christmas weekend.
- ✳ **Bunco** after 5:30pm Mass on every 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of month, November 13<sup>th</sup> and December 10<sup>th</sup> in All-Purpose Room of Church Administration bldg. This is lots of fun and incredibly easy to learn. All invited so come and bring family (adults) and friends). Bring \$5 and a dish to share. The \$5 is used for cash prizes and as a fundraiser for the Assembly patriotic charities.
- ✳ **Rosary for Life** –Every Saturday at the Abortion Clinic, a Rosary (sometimes more than one) is said at 9am, often led by a priest. Please attend and show support. SK Juan Benjamin drives down there from the Church and leaves at 8am if you want to car pool. Show support for those who stay there all day to try and turn around the distressed pregnant women. It really feels great when lives are saved.
- ✳ **Color Corps:** Training and certification for the Color Corps/Honor Guard (CC/HG) is now mandatory. No more are scheduled in the near term for the Huntsville/Madison area. On Dec 3<sup>rd</sup>, Saturday from 9am-12, CC/HG training is being held at the Fort Payne (1.5hr drive) Our Lady of the Valley Catholic Church Social Hall, 2910 Gault Avenue North. Bring sword, service baldric and chapeau if you have them. Trying to go myself – carpool? – Call me in interested. If interested in joining the Color Corps, contact me (Faithful Navigator Dan Frische [dan.frische@gmail.com](mailto:dan.frische@gmail.com) , (home) 256-837-5885, (cell) 256-426-9986) or the Color Corps Commander (CCC) SK Jim Frank at [jim.frank@knology.net](mailto:jim.frank@knology.net) . The Madison Street Festival and the Falcon Invitational Track Meet CGs went very well and we received a lot of thank-you's and compliments. I know photographers were at the track meet. Can we get copies – from who? Did anyone take pics at the MSF – can get copies?
- ✳ **State Chairs** – The State KofC has openings for two State Chairs that they would like volunteers to fill. They are for the Special Olympics and for the Squires programs. Contact SK Jason Esteve if you are interested and he will obtain more information.
- ✳ **A 4<sup>th</sup> Degree Exemplification** was held on November 5<sup>th</sup> at Holy Spirit. Seven Brother Knights of our Council are now also Sir Knights of our Assembly. Please welcome and congratulate Sir Knights Seth Tolson, Jerome Villarreal, William Alvarez, Steve O'Neill, Tom Quartarone, John Copen, and Gerry Norris. I passed out Assembly cards to all but Sir Knights William and John. I will have those at this month's meeting. Sir Knight Danny Garcia and myself were part of the Honor Guard for the Exemplification. I was just notified that the next 4<sup>th</sup> Degree Exemplification will be February 18<sup>th</sup> in Birmingham. More info to follow.

- ✱ **Another Honorary Member:** Congrats to Sir Knight Bruce Jones on his Honorary Membership.
- ✱ **Broadsword** – The last Broadsword Men’s conference was great with a fantastic turnout. The next one is February 19<sup>th</sup> probably at Holy Spirit. More info to follow. I highly recommend attending.
- ✱ **KofC State Convention** in Florence – state officials there – both Council and Assembly – go and see what these are like and meet your state officials. I am planning on going along with others. Carpool?
- ✱ **Flag Retirement Ceremony** – usually held on a Saturday around Veterans’ Day (e.g. Nov 12<sup>th</sup>). However, we have very few flags to retire at this time so I am postponing it to a later date. We could do it on December 4<sup>th</sup> (just before Pearl Harbor Day) but I think it will be too cold and we still will likely not have many flags. Therefore, thinking of early spring (e.g. President’s Day, VE Day, Armed Forces Day). The ceremony will likely be at my house as I have a large firepit. We will also have a get together afterwards with beer/wine/food. I will first put a notice in the bulletin asking for flags to retire. I will ask if the flag retirement box can be placed under the mail slots in the Admin bldg.
- ✱ **Mystery Dinner Theater Play** – Remember the great one that Holy Spirit Council 764 put on last year? They are going to do another this year. It will be on Friday and Saturday, February 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup>. The play will also be performed in Florence at the Alabama KofC State Convention April 28<sup>th</sup>. They are seeking those who are interested in being actors. Depending on how many people want to participate, there may be some limited try-outs. All are welcome (at least 16 yrs old). There will be about 6 rehearsals, two in December, two in January and two in February. More information is provided at <http://www.kofc764.com/murdermystery.html> or you can contact Mike Rafferty at [mike.rafferty@kofc764.com](mailto:mike.rafferty@kofc764.com) or leave your name and contact info at the parish office by Nov 18<sup>th</sup>.
- ✱ **Veterans Day Parade:** There will be a Veterans Day Parade in Birmingham at 1:30pm. Received notice that there will be a KofC float and all SKs in full Regalia with swords are invited. Assembly will be at 10:30am in order to decorate the float first. The float will be the USS John F. Kennedy. The float position is Division 5, number 506. Meet on 9<sup>th</sup> Avenue between 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> Street N. I will check into the HSV Veterans Day Parade to see if we can and want to participate in it next year.
- ✱ **Netbooks for Chaplains:** As many of you have heard, there is a request for netbooks to send to Chaplains in Afghanistan so that wounded warriors can do Skype type video phone calls home to loved ones. They cost \$300 each and apparently someone picks up the shipping costs. Suggest a motion for contributing to this at the meeting so that it can be voted upon.
- ✱ **Flag for Youth Room:** Suggest a motion for buying a US (and state?) flag for the Youth Room.
- ✱ **Fundraisers** – Would like to sell flags (especially since we will be retiring flags) and I also have some other ideas to present at the meeting.
- ✱ **Prayers:** Please pray for Stan Drewnowski. Keep him and Dawn in your prayers. Stan is in HSV Hospital. He fell in his kitchen and has a brain hemorrhage. He is alert and can move but has a long recovery. Also pray for Jack Grant and his wife, Patty. Jack Grant passed on recently after a long fight with cancer. He was a member of our Council but had to move down to Birmingham for work. Both the Assembly and Council have signed up for a Mass to be said for Jack.
- ✱ I will likely be getting either or both my left knee and left hip replaced soon. They are going downhill fairly quickly but they are not sure yet which is worse. I got the Cortico-steroid shots into my knee and so far they have not helped much. If so, I will need help running the Assembly.
- ✱ **Assembly pitch:** If there are any suggestions for improving the 4<sup>th</sup> Degree Exemplification pitch (I’ve already made changes), let me know. I am also working on a presentation and poster board and will present these later. I will include it at the end of this newsletter.
- ✱ **Future activity suggestions:** I also included a list of suggested activities that we could do over this year (no, not all of them!). Please go through and pick some that interest you. I will include the list at the end of this newsletter.

Vivat Jesus

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## CALENDAR

- ✱ November 10<sup>th</sup>, Thursday, 5:30-7pm – St. John’s Star party – Council serving food for ID drive
- ✱ November 10<sup>th</sup>, Thursday, 8pm – Assembly 2420 meeting delayed ½ hour for Star party
- ✱ November 11<sup>th</sup>, Friday – Veterans Day
- ✱ November 12<sup>th</sup>, (every Saturday morning at 9am) – Rosary for Life at Abortion Clinic
- ✱ November 13<sup>th</sup>, (2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of month after 5:30pm Mass) – Bunco
- ✱ November 17<sup>th</sup>, KofC Council Fraternal meeting
- ✱ November 19<sup>th</sup>, Saturday – Rosary for Life at Abortion Clinic
- ✱ November 24<sup>th</sup>, Thursday – Thanksgiving
- ✱ November 26<sup>th</sup>, (4<sup>th</sup> Saturday) – Trash Pickup on Shelton Road – Postponed to Dec 10<sup>th</sup> due to holiday
- ✱ November 26<sup>th</sup>, Saturday – Rosary for Life at Abortion Clinic
- ✱ December 1<sup>st</sup>, Thursday – Council meeting
- ✱ December 2<sup>nd</sup>, Friday – 1<sup>st</sup> Friday of the month devotion
- ✱ December 3<sup>rd</sup>, Saturday – 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday of the month devotion and Men’s Spirituality meeting
- ✱ December 3<sup>rd</sup>, Saturday, 9am-12pm – CG/HG training at Fort Payne OLV Social Hall
- ✱ December 3<sup>rd</sup>, Saturday, 7pm – Knights Night Out at Carrabas – RSVP to John Horch
- ✱ December 7<sup>th</sup>, Wednesday – Pearl Harbor Day
- ✱ December 8<sup>th</sup>, Thursday, 7:30pm – Assembly 2420 meeting
- ✱ December 10<sup>th</sup>, Saturday – Rosary for Life at Abortion Clinic
- ✱ December 10<sup>th</sup>, Saturday – Trash Pickup on Shelton Road – Postponed from November
- ✱ December 15<sup>th</sup>, Thursday – Council Fraternal meeting
- ✱ December 16<sup>th</sup>, Friday – 4:30pm to close – Galaxy of Lights – Council directing traffic, taking money
- ✱ December 17<sup>th</sup>, Saturday – Rosary for Life at Abortion Clinic
- ✱ December 17<sup>th</sup>, (3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of even month) – St. John’s Blood Drive
- ✱ December 22<sup>nd</sup>, Thursday – Winter begins
- ✱ December 24<sup>th</sup>, Saturday – Rosary for Life at Abortion Clinic?
- ✱ December 24<sup>th</sup>, Saturday – Trash Pickup on Shelton Road – Cancelled due to holiday
- ✱ December 25<sup>th</sup>, Sunday – Christmas
- ✱ December 31<sup>st</sup>, Saturday – New Year’s Eve
- ✱ February 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup>, Friday and Saturday – Council 764 Mystery Dinner Theater
- ✱ February 18<sup>th</sup>, Saturday – 4<sup>th</sup> Degree Exemplification in Birmingham.
- ✱ February 19<sup>th</sup>, Sunday – Broadsword Men’s conference probably at Holy Spirit
- ✱ April 28<sup>th</sup>, Saturday – KofC State Convention in Florence

### ASSEMBLY 2420 Officers (Period of Office: July 1<sup>st</sup> to June 31<sup>st</sup>)

<u>Office</u>	<u>2011-2012 Officer</u>
<b>Faithful Navigator</b>	Dan Frische
<b>Faithful Captain</b>	Jim Frank
<b>Faithful Comptroller</b>	Joe Morton
<b>Faithful Admiral</b>	John Horch
<b>Faithful Pilot</b>	Jason Esteve
<b>Faithful Purser</b>	Bill Moeller
<b>Faithful Scribe</b>	Miguel Rodriguez
<b>Inner Sentinel</b>	Juan Benjamin
<b>Outer Sentinel</b>	Danny Garcia
<b>1st yr Trustee</b>	Kevin Rodriguez
<b>2nd yr Trustee</b>	Charles Wesolowski
<b>3rd yr Trustee</b>	Pat Haas
<b>Faithful Friar</b>	Deacon Skip Graf (appointed)
<b>CC Commander</b>	Jim Frank (appointed)

## KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS 4<sup>TH</sup> DEGREE (PATRIOTISM) DESCRIPTION

If you've been a 1<sup>st</sup> Degree member of the Knights of Columbus for at least 1/2 year, and are a Third Degree Knight in good standing, it's time for you to consider reaching even further with your faith. It is time to consider the Fourth Degree. You have all the qualifications necessary for advancement to the highest level of membership in the Knights of Columbus, the Fourth Degree.

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### INTRODUCTION

The Knights of Columbus first met on October 2, 1881 and were incorporated on March 29<sup>th</sup>, 1882. Only three degrees were created at that time. The Fourth Degree was later established on February 22, 1900 on the Principles of Patriotism – love and devotion to ones' country. There are presently about 325,000 members of the Fourth Degree in approximately 3,000 Assemblies. The Fourth Degree Assembly is established separately from the Council and can be tied to several Councils. It has similar officers as the Council (with different titles). Members of the Council are referred to as "Brother Knights". Members of the Assembly earn the title "Sir Knight".

"The God who gave us life, gave us liberty at the same time." Thomas Jefferson

I wanted to become more involved in the Church and closer to God. As part of this, I investigated the Knights of Columbus, then joined and have been glad I did. I became more a part of the Church community and now serve the Lord and his Church more fully. In turn, this helped me to become closer to God. I heard that the 4<sup>th</sup> Degree had to do with Patriotism but knew little more than that and that some of them wore funny uniforms and marched in events. The Fourth Degree, being based on Patriotism seemed to have little to do with serving God so I was hesitant about joining. However, I had such a good experience with the Council that I joined and again was glad I did. Although initially I did not know much of the Fourth Degree and did not think it had much to do with God and Church, I have since found out otherwise and I am proud to be both a Brother Knight and a Sir Knight.

I found that the 4<sup>th</sup> Degree is an important part of the Knights of Columbus. The 4<sup>th</sup> Degree Assembly focus' the majority of their activities on the principle of Patriotism. As you went through the first three degrees you were shown the KofC compass. It has four corners, three of which you are familiar with; Charity, Unity, and Fraternity. The 4th degree and 4th corner of the compass is 'Patriotism'. We are proud of our devotion to God and country and believe in standing up for both. Fourth Degree Knights remind the world that Catholics support their nation and are among the greatest citizens.

Every citizen must consider himself personally engaged in a continuing, day-to-day effort to create a better understanding and appreciation of his country's ideals. We can do this through words and deeds to stimulate pride in our heritage, understanding of our way of life and knowledge of our basic form of government. In short, promoting Patriotism. Fourth Degree members are united in their dedication to patriotism enlightened by the Catholic Faith. The patriotic spirit of every KofC member can be enhanced if he joins the 4<sup>th</sup> Degree. I don't expect every 3<sup>rd</sup> Degree to become a 4<sup>th</sup> Degree member but I want each to have the knowledge to make an informed decision.

The dictionary defines a patriot as one who "loves his country and zealously supports its authority and interest". Several presidents have made some great patriotic statements including President Franklin Roosevelt's prayer on D-Day: "For these men are lately drawn from the ways of peace. They fight not for the lust of conquest. They fight to end conquest. They fight to liberate. They fight to let justice arise, and tolerance and good will among all people. They yearn but for the end of battle, for their return to the haven of home. Some will never return. Embrace these Father, and receive them, thy heroic servants, into Thy Kingdom." President Kennedy was a Knight. In his Inaugural Address, he stated that our rights come from God, not from the state. He reminded us that on earth, God's work must be our own. And he

challenged us to ask not what our country can do for us, but what we can do for our country. Pope John Paul II during his homily in the US in 1995 stated: “there can be no life worthy of the human person without a culture – and a legal system – that honors and defends marriage and the family.” And children, he said, “need not only material support from their parents, but more importantly a secure, affectionate and morally correct family environment.” This family environment is supported by a morally correct living environment of which patriotism is a large part.

US citizens are losing respect for our flag. I see people not standing up, not taking off hats, not saluting, not making way, etc. for the flag. This made me sad and disappointed when I was in the Color Guard during the Madison Street Festival. We need to fight and counteract this apathy and lack of education and respect. We need to make Americans proud again of their flag and country. The flag is a symbol of our national unity. It is the spirit of our undying devotion to our country. It stands for the best that is in us – loyalty, character and faith in democracy. It is a symbol of the USA. Just as I see apathy occurring with our flag and country’s ideals, I see it also occurring at Church. Respect and love of our country is tied in with respect and love of our God and Church. Let us change our near reverential admiration of material success and return to spiritual and ethical values. Let’s go back to the old fashioned way of patriotism, a devotion to the principles and ideals upon which our country was founded. Listen to the Star Spangled Banner and what it says.

## **WHAT THE KNIGHTS DO**

I have found that the Knights provide the opportunity to change lives for the better (including our own), save lives (such as working to close down abortion clinics and to convince women that there are much better options), help build up the Church (helping the pastor, supporting vocations, being an example to others to convince them that they should join the Church), discern our vocations (the many Knights programs and activities help ones to determine what God's call for them is), and to develop leadership skills (not just in the Knights but out in the world) by holding office and by being good, moral examples of what a Christian and citizen should be.

Following is some information I obtained from various 4th Degree Pamphlets that may better state what I’ve said. I can distribute copies of these pamphlets to those who want them.

For most men who follow Jesus, there comes a time when duty extends beyond our own lives, beyond how we lead our families, and into how we serve our fellow man. That's what the Knights of Columbus is all about. And for those who are called to take it one further, the Fourth Degree is the way.

Fourth Degree Knights are integral to the preservation of the Order. Fourth Degree Knights glorify God by serving our communities and nation as though Christ were the one being served. We foster patriotism by teaching personal responsibility in civic affairs, working to honor and protect symbols of national pride, honoring veterans for their service and sacrifice, and facilitating voter turnout on election days. Fourth Degree Knights are also dedicated to the honor of brother Knights including honoring those who are no longer with us.

Finally, Fourth Degree Knights maintain a leadership role on important moral issues, recognizing that what a man stands for, defines him. We are in a time when too few Christians are prepared to speak up for what they believe. Fourth Degree Knights hold unwaveringly to what is right and honorable. This means working to keep God in the civic arena. It means supporting and defending laws that recognize the sanctity of life and true religious liberty. And, of course, serving the life of the Church. Fourth Degree Knights are committed to building lives of character. The need for strong role models has never been greater. If the sanctity of life, family values, and true religious freedom are to survive, democratic nations need greater commitment from people of faith. Fourth Degree Knights make that commitment. We are the pinnacle of Knighthood. We live, serve, and protect the Truth.

"A Man's Country is Not a Certain Area of Land, of Mountains, Rivers, and Woods, but it is a Principle. Patriotism is Loyalty to that Principle."

"Great Things Have Been Done for Love of Country. But the Greatest Things Have Been Done for Love of Country and God."

The KofC 4th Degree is committed to the preservation of the Church, the Order, and the many nations where Knights serve. We stand where Christ would have us, as examples of His presence in the world. Fourth Degree Knights act on what is right and honorable by:

- Supporting and defending truth in the public arena.
- Protection of faith in civic life, such as the American examples of "One Nation Under God" in the Pledge of Allegiance (the Knights got this in the Pledge) and "In God We Trust" on currency.
- Funding, restoring, and serving in Church initiatives and events.
- Supporting the culture of life.

Fourth Degree Knights lead and serve our brother Knights by:

- Conducting educational programs.
- Honoring Knights and our families during times of tragedy and loss.
- Encouraging active participation in important programs of the Order.
- Sponsoring Squires Circles and scout troops.

Fourth Degree Knights model and foster patriotism in many nations by:

- Teaching personal responsibility in civic affairs.
- Taking publicly visible leadership roles on important national and moral issues.
- Facilitating voter turnout on election days.
- Training and encouraging youth to be engaged citizens.
- Working to honor and protect the flag.
- Participating in national holiday celebrations.
- Honoring veterans for their service and sacrifice.

## **SOME THINGS THE FOURTH DEGREE HAS DONE AND DOES**

The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United State originated on Columbus Day, 1893. It contained no reference to Almighty God, until in New York City on April 22, 1951, the Board of Directors of the Knights of Columbus adopted a resolution to amend the Pledge of Allegiance as recited at the opening of each of the meetings of the Councils and Assemblies to add the words "under God" after the words "one nation". In 1952, a number of State Councils adopted resolutions recommending that Congress be petitioned to have this amendment made nationwide. The Supreme Council then adopted a resolution urging that the change be made. Copies of this resolution were sent to the President, the Vice President and the Speaker of the House of Representatives and to both Houses of Congress. It was received favorably and the resolution was adopted by both Houses of Congress, and it was signed by President Eisenhower on Flag Day, June 14, 1954. The Knights have also defended the amendment numerous times in challenges that have gone up almost to the Supreme Court (the Supreme Court has refused to hear the challenges effectively supporting the amendment).

Years ago, civil rights were hard fought and are still being fought. Civil rights flow from an even more basic right, the right to life. Deliberately killing the innocent with abortion and euthanasia is wrong. Redefining when life starts does not justify this. Too many Catholics say and know what is right but are not following through. We need to try and change this by example. Our 4<sup>th</sup> Degree Assembly protests at Abortion Clinics and raises money to buy ultrasound machines to try and change this. It has been found

that when prospective mothers see the life forming in them, they often change their mind and do no abort. We also participate in the yearly Walk For Life and the twice yearly 40 Days For Life events.

We get memorial Masses said in honor of deceased Knights and their families. These have included Mark Richards, Sam Santori, Gene Wegner, Sam Campis, Bob Hyland, Jack Grant and Charles Wesolowski's Dad. We also donate Chalices or other needed religious items in deceased 4<sup>th</sup> Degree Knights names. We perform Honor Guards when requested at funerals, wakes, and weddings in Regalia. For instance, we have provided Honor Guards at the Dedication of St. Joe's Church, St. John's new Parish Hall, Father Sexton's 50<sup>th</sup>, and the CHS Blessing Mass and Dedication. We perform as Color Guards in front of parades and at special events in Regalia including the Madison Street Festival and the FALCON Invitational Track Meet.

We perform Flag Retirement ceremonies to allow people to dispose of their flags in a respectful and dignified manner – usually on Veteran's Day.

We hold Bunco games as a fundraiser on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday after 5:30pm Mass for Patriotic causes such as raising money for the Catholic High School flag pavilion (\$3000), contributing to the Huntsville War Memorial now being built, paying for memorial Masses, supporting pro-life organizations, Care Packages to Troops overseas, providing scholarships, etc. It also provides a Church community and Knight fraternal opportunity.

Trash Pickup on Shelton Road – 4<sup>th</sup> Saturday of each month (usually). The Fourth Degree has assumed responsibility for keeping a section of Shelton Road clean. This is important in helping the community and only takes about ½ an hour.

The Fourth Degree runs a Red Cross Blood Drive on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of every even month at St. John's Parish Hall to support the community. Please come out and donate. There are a lot of hurting people out there who need blood.

Since all Fourth Degree Assembly members are also Council members, we naturally assist the Council in their activities also.

#### **4<sup>th</sup> DEGREE REQUIREMENTS (TYPICAL)**

For a 4<sup>th</sup> Degree Exemplification, there are several requirements. First, a Form 4 must be filled out. Ask a 4<sup>th</sup> Degree member, particularly the Faithful Navigator or the Faithful Comptroller for one. It requires the signatures of the Assembly's Faithful Navigator, Faithful Comptroller, and the Council's Financial Secretary. The Financial Secretary checks the records and ensures that the candidate has been a 1<sup>st</sup> Degree Knight for at least 6 months (waivable by Master), and is a 3<sup>rd</sup> Degree Knight in good standing. He has records of when the candidate made his 1<sup>st</sup> Degree for the Form 4. The Exemplification costs \$70, and in addition to becoming a Sir Knight, the new member receives a 4<sup>th</sup> Degree Social Baldric and a 4<sup>th</sup> Degree Lapel Pin. A banquet coupon is also included. **The checks and filled out / signed Form 4 are due to "Master, Knights of Columbus" by DD Month YY** Degree candidates must wear a black tux to the ceremony with black bow tie, must wear laid down (normal type) collared shirt (no winged collars) with no ruffles, black cummerbund, black footwear and no gloves. Military personnel may wear dress uniforms instead. If a candidate does not have a tuxedo, coat and tie are acceptable to the banquet only. Tickets for candidates wives, 4<sup>th</sup> degree members and their wives, and all other guests are \$25. These checks, for additional guests should also be made payable to "Master, Knights of Columbus" and kept separate from the exemplification fee. Candidates must submit their requests for and payment for guest banquet tickets at the same time they submit their exemplification fee. No Forms will be accepted or tickets sold on the day of the exemplification. Extra information can be obtained from the District Master who is in charge of the Fourth Degree Exemplification: Worthy Master Mack "Eddie" Lipscomb. Home:

251-443-7517, cell: 251-604-7131 [mackelipscomb@bellsouth.net](mailto:mackelipscomb@bellsouth.net) Mack E. Lipscomb, PSD, Fourth Degree Master, Alabama, Bienville Province, District of Alabama, 6510 Belle Bayou Drive, Theodore, Alabama 36582.

## **COLOR CORPS**

The Color Corps is an elective division of the Fourth Degree, whose distinctive presence in parades, wreath-laying ceremonies, and Catholic functions is a visible reminder of our service to the community. The tuxedo, chapeau, cape, and sword worn by the Color Corps were inspired by 19th century naval uniforms, with different cape colors representing nine different program ranks. The ceremonial sword symbolizes Christian Knighthood, and represents reverence and respect for the Eucharist and the Pope, bishops and hierarchy of the Church, and displays publicly his willingness to protect his Church and priests, as well as his country and freedom. Color Corps members wear the colors with pride, knowing they represent the very best of the Knights of Columbus. The Assembly Color Corps has the honor and privilege of wearing on our lapels, chapeaus, and capes, the sacred symbol of the Most Blessed Trinity. Those who wear the 4<sup>th</sup> Degree emblem indicate that they are committed to conduct themselves honorably as Christian gentlemen in their private and public lives, as well as acting patriotically for the good of their nation. This should always remind us to live a Christian life, and that we should never dishonor the emblem and what it represents. The emblem has a red cross which is the same cross that the Crusading Knights wore on their capes long ago. The red, white and blue are the colors of the US Flag. The dove symbolizes both the Holy Spirit and Peace.

The Color Corps is optional. If it is not joined, Regalia is not necessary. Following are the equipment needed with typical prices. If you shop around, you may get some of these cheaper. There are several companies that sell Knight Regalia including Lynch & Kelly and the English Company. They can be found on line. Note that much of this can often be found on the internet used for much cheaper. I bought some of my Regalia used on line for cheap. NOTE: There are some cheap poor quality Chinese made knock-offs of the KofC sword so make sure that you look at the on-line pictures closely. Note that older swords have the head of Columbus facing a different direction or if very old have an eagle on the head. The KofC prefers the newer versions for standardization but allow older swords. Also note that some of the older Chapeaus may have an emblem on both sides or on the left side. Only the newer ones with the emblem on the right side are acceptable. Some of the older capes have the emblem on both shoulders. This is also no longer acceptable. It must be only on the left shoulder. Also note that when buying shoes, make sure that the bottoms are leather so that they swivel easily during marching. Rubber soles are a lot harder to swivel making them hard on knees.

Full Regalia package - \$450

Tux: Can be bought used at a rental place or on-line for considerably less. I got mine for \$99.

Cape: \$105

Chapeau: \$100

Chapeau Carrying Case: \$35.

Chapeau Rain Cover: \$7.00

Sword: \$125

Sword Carrying Case: \$25

Sword Baldric: \$22.00

White Gloves: \$5.00

## THINGS WE COULD DO

Would like to be more active this year (and in the future). We should try to establish a calendar of events and determine how much each will cost (if any) and budget them. Below are some suggestions. I would like all 4<sup>th</sup> Degrees to go through these and pick out some that they would like to participate in and tell or send their ideas to me. Any other suggestions are also welcome.

Earn Patriotic Service Award and Civic Award- We did win the Civic Award last year and would like to win both this year.

4<sup>th</sup> Degree Scholarship Awards

We may sell US Flags to help parishners after we retire their flags and to raise funds for charities.

Present on history subjects including Declaration of Independence, Constitution, Bill of Rights, Monroe Doctrine, Federalist Papers, Star Spangled Banner, Pledge of Allegiance, Gettysburg Address. Note that some of these can be obtained for free from the Knights.

Create a display and presentation on the evolution and history of the American and Alabama Flags, the above documents, etc. Could present to St. Johns and other schools.

Continue helping the Council – possibly a joint fund-raiser

Participate in public recognition to Medal of Honor recipients at Bridge St – last one Aug 28

Contact to Help: North AL Vets and Fraternal Organizations Coalition.

Silver Rose Honor Guard, Mass, etc.

Order Abortion banners, posters, etc. and post.

Form and sponsor a Columbian Squire group to provide role models for youth to pattern their lives after and to be leaders. Order a Columbian Squires Inquiry Kit.

Have someone available at destitute veterans' funerals to accept the US Flag during the ceremony.

Honor local servicemen (e.g. Chris Garcia, John Grimes, John Beck?, Schwerts?, Gracier?)

Help veterans and their families.

Help the families of servicemen overseas.

Expand monthly newsletter to include b'days and anniversaries, patriotism stories and history, etc.

Invite guests to speak to "Know Your Community". This would be an informal open house. We could open these up and invite others such as the Boy Scouts or other youth groups. Some suggestions for invitees are local historians, the Chamber of Commerce, the Board of Trade, the City Clerk, City Development or Planning Commissioner. It would be interesting to find out what some of these offices do and are doing.

Garden of Life Maintenance

Honor Guards for Funerals, Wakes, Weddings, Church Dedications, etc.

Pallbearers

Help at Baccalaureate Breakfasts.

Send rosaries to Servicemen overseas (quiet, light versions)

Supply books on Constitution, Flag, etc. to Libraries including framed copies of them.

Present on the Constitution, Flag, etc to the schools, youth groups, etc.

Have a annual Right to Life Mass possibly with an Honor Guard.

Take part in the KofC Essay Contest on "The Responsibility of the Catholic Citizen in a Free Society." (Ages 8-12). Compositions based on a theme taken from Church writings. 500-750 words. Deadline March 30. Judging during April. \$100-\$350 in Savings Bond or equivalent cash.

Another KofC Essay Contest on "Why President Kennedy's Words Still Matter." with a similar prize.

This would be based on his Inaugural Address.

Organize letters to Representatives and Congressmen on issues such as Abortion.

Organize a "Get out and Vote". Free posters from Supreme on this. Get people to register – find out how people can register and publicize it. Help old folks, vets, homebound, etc. get to polls. Get sample ballots and educate public on use of voting machines. Display in Church bulletin boards, school, etc.

Send "Resolution of Condolence" certificates framed in response to the death of a member or a member's family. Pay to have a number of memorial Masses said in the deceased's name. Donate a Chalice or

other religious item (what is needed) in their name to the Church engraved with the deceased's name and the Assembly. Supply the deceased's family with an "In Memorium" certificate stating what has been done in his name.

Color Guard to lead parades and other events.

Organize a "Display the Flag" drive around significant patriotic holidays. The Flag stands for Freedom, Strength and democracy and represents our country's people and their ideals. Flying the flag shows respect for the nation and all it stands for. Distribute the pamphlet "Rules for displaying the flag of the United States" free from Supreme (#1536).

Start a "Street of Flags" program.

"Pause for the Pledge" program asks every person to stop whatever they are doing at 7pm EST on Flag Day to say the "Pledge of Allegiance". This is sponsored/coordinated by the National Flag Day Foundation, 418 S. Broadway, Baltimore, MD 21231 (410-563-FLAG). We could distribute the "Pledge of Allegiance" flyer of the Knights out.

Veterans Assistance – aid families of servicemen during their deployment. Contact VA Volunteer service program.

Volunteer at VA hospitals and health care facilities.

Send Christmas cards and other greeting card to vets at hospitals and to service members stationed around the nation and the world.

Honor the military in the community to thank them. Can give out Patriotic Service Awards (#839).

Place national flag at graves of deceased veterans, particularly those who were members of the KofC.

Publish history of religious and historical landmarks in our area and organize tours of them (e.g. for youth groups).

Display and distribute patriotic materials at fairs, rallies, and school or church-sponsored events.

Contribute religious history books to parochial school libraries, public libraries or church libraries.

Make and update a historical and pictorial history of our Council and Assembly and display prominently for all to see. I understand Sir Knight Danny Garcia has a great start on this. Could put some of this in the monthly newsletter.

Urge young people to interview older relatives to learn and record their historical memories (e.g. Depression, World Wars, etc.) as these memories should be preserved.

Present Flags to churches, parochial and public schools, local libraries, law enforcement centers, town halls, etc.

Donate to historical shrines for creation and maintenance. (e.g. war Memorial being built downtown).

Promote interest in historical events being conducted in our area.

Donate historical items on local or national history to private and public schools, libraries, etc. (e.g. Constitution, Federalist Papers, Monroe Doctrine, Declaration of Independence, Bill of Rights).

Sponsor a program about the lives and contributions of famous men and women in history, particularly locals.

Take active role in preserving older buildings and home in community. Contact local historical society for info on how.

Award special scholarships or certifications of recognition for students of history and civics.

Encourage publication of articles or pamphlets on your communities history and progress.

Sponsor youth trips to local historical monuments.

Present free US Flag posters (#994) (frame them) to schools, homes and local businesses. Also can get from Supreme free copies of the Declaration of Independence (#1583).

Order and distribute "Knights Love America" decals (#1509) (0.25 each).

Find out who our Charter Members are and present them with certs (#1456-4)(0.25).

Supreme Assembly Certificate of Merit – present to all Past Faithful Navigators.

Send care packages to overseas servicemen (note: Council and Assembly are already doing this through "We Care" program).

Get and show the KofC video "Made For Life" on pro-life to the Catholic School kids.

Contribute to the Ultrasound machine buying program because when a pregnant woman sees a real-life picture of the baby developing and moving within her, she often decides not to have an abortion.

August 8-16 is Family week. Sponsor a weekend family retreat. Have an outdoor rosary or Mass before a family (or Church) picnic. Sponsor a Memorial Mass for deceased members of the Council and Assembly. Sponsor some family events such as going to old folks homes, cleaning up a local park, help Church outdoor work.

Help out with Meals on Wheels and St. Vincent de Paul.

Volunteer with the CASA Winterization Project.

Volunteer with the Habitat for Humanity project.

Award a Family of the Month cert (#1843 or 1843A) – Does not have to be a Council/Assembly family.

Host family sports competitions (e.g. tug of war, volleyball, horseshoes, softball, etc.)

Create an Assembly display board that we can set up and show at a booth or along a parade or at the Madison Street Festival and other events (or periodically in the vestibule to interest new members).

Some organizations that we can contact or help or donate to follow. I have information on all of these.

Military, Veterans & Patriotic Service Organizations of America.

AMVETS Charities.

Military Chaplains Association of the USA

Ministry to the Armed Forces and Veterans Affairs Chaplaincy

Cadence International

AdoptaPlatoon soldier Support Effort

Archdiocese for the Military Services, USA

D.A.R.E. America

Honor Flight, Inc.

Mission to North America (PRJC)

National Conference on Citizenship

National Fatherhood Initiative

National Society of the Sons of the American Revolution

Paulist National Catholic Evangelization Association

Prisoner visitation & Support committee.

Wounded Warriors Family Support, Inc.