

# *The Meadowlands Patriot*

Msgr. Peter B. O'Connor Assembly #1543,  
First New Jersey District

Issue #252 February 2025  
Knights of Columbus

*Happy 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary!!!*

## Faithful Navigator's Message!



**F. N. David & Lady Sophie**

### Worthy Sir Knights,

As we all know the primary purpose of the Fourth Degree is to Foster the Spirit of Patriotism. One way to do that is to Celebrate Our Veterans. Celebrating Our Veterans is very important because it recognizes the Service and the Sacrifices of those who have served in the Military often putting their lives at risk to protect our nation's freedom. It provides an opportunity to show the Appreciation and Support we have for them by helping raise awareness about the challenges they face and to foster community support for them.

Below is a list of important holidays and events between February and June that honor our Veterans and Service Members:

#### **FEB. 3 – FOUR CHAPLAINS DAY**

On Feb. 3, 1943, four U.S. Army chaplains from different faiths

laid down their lives so that four others could survive the sinking of the U.S.A.T. *Dorchester*, which was struck by a Nazi torpedo during the Battle of the Atlantic.

#### **FEB. 9 – ANNIVERSARY OF THE U.S. VICTORY AT THE BATTLE OF GUADALCANAL**

Winning the Battle of Guadalcanal was a pivotal moment in the Pacific Theater of World War II for the United States. The battle marked the first time that U.S. forces mounted an offensive operation against Imperial Japan's captured territories – a streak that would continue throughout the remainder of the war.

#### **FEB. 28 – ANNIVERSARY OF THE U.S.-LED VICTORY IN THE PERSIAN GULF WAR**

After Saddam Hussein's Iraq invaded neighboring Kuwait, a U.S.-led coalition drove the invaders out. A subsequent campaign resulted in a rapid and decisive victory for Coalition forces that would restore Kuwait's independence and sow the seeds for future conflict in the region.

Many U.S. Veterans who were deployed at the time still suffer from the effects of exposure to toxic burn pits.

#### **MARCH 3 – NAVY RESERVE BIRTHDAY**

The Navy Reserve was formed in 1915 to support World War I.

#### **MARCH 13 – K-9 VETERANS DAY**

Official birthday of the U.S. K-9 Corps. The Army founded the K-9 Corps in 1942 during WWII to train dogs to help troops.

**MARCH 15-17 — ANNIVERSARY OF THE FIRST CAUCUS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION**

Only months after the end of World War I, Service Members of the American Expeditionary Force convened in Paris for the very first caucus of The American Legion. The beginnings of an organization that caters to Veterans and Service Members, and only six months later The Legion was officially chartered by Congress.

**MARCH 25 — NATIONAL MEDAL OF HONOR DAY** A day to honor the heroism and sacrifice of those awarded the Medal of Honor, the highest U.S. military award.

**MARCH 26 — ANNIVERSARY OF THE U.S. VICTORY AT THE BATTLE OF IWO JIMA**

The Battle of Iwo Jima was one of the bloodiest conflicts of World War II, standing out as the only instance where total U.S. casualties outnumbered Imperial Japan's losses.

The strategic value of the battle would later be questioned by officers and historians alike, but the iconic image of U.S. Marines hoisting an American flag atop a hill would prove to be a major boost to American morale in the waning weeks of the war.

**MARCH 29 — WELCOME HOME VIETNAM VETERANS DAY**

Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day was not established until 2017, decades after a costly war that sent ripples through American society and fractured millions of veterans' lives. Hundreds of thousands of Vietnam Veterans still live today, and many still suffer from the effects of lingering physical, mental, and

emotional trauma suffered so long ago.

**APRIL 5 — GOLD STAR SPOUSES DAY**

Every year, the U.S. Senate designates April 5 as Gold Star Spouses Day, honoring the partners of Service Members who made the ultimate sacrifice in the line of duty.

**MAY 1 — SILVER STAR SERVICE BANNER DAY**

Officially established in 2010, Silver Star Service Banner Day honors all those who have been wounded in battle or who are ill or dying as a result of their military service. Hundreds of thousands of Veterans live with physical wounds and psychological trauma caused in conflicts as old as World War II through the present.

**FRIDAY BEFORE MOTHER'S DAY IN MAY — MILITARY SPOUSE APPRECIATION DAY**

Military Spouse Appreciation Day is a day to appreciate the sacrifices made by Military Spouses, many of whom are expected to shoulder the responsibilities of the home without the support of their significant other. Military Spouses contribute to the mission first and are a vital component of troop morale. Spouses are often required to pick up and move at a moment's notice, which makes holding a stable career that much more difficult for them. **MORE>**

Our website:

[www.kc4d1543.org](http://www.kc4d1543.org)

**MAY 8 — ANNIVERSARY OF VICTORY IN EUROPE DAY**

After the death of Adolf Hitler and the fall of Nazi Germany, U.S. Service Members serving in the European Theater of World War II found themselves wondering if they would be returning home – or sent to fight an increasingly desperate and debilitated Imperial Japanese Army.

**THE LAST MONDAY IN MAY — MEMORIAL DAY**

Memorial Day remembers all those who died fighting in America's wars. The federal holiday is thought to have originated not long after the end of the American Civil War, but in 1971, was officially dedicated as it is today.

**JUNE 6 — ANNIVERSARY OF THE D-DAY LANDINGS AT NORMANDY**

The Anniversary of D-Day remembers the first time U.S. and Allied Forces set foot on Nazi-controlled Europe. The resulting battle is still one of the world's largest operations to ever take place, and eventually proved to be a critical victory for the Allies.

**JUNE 7 — ANNIVERSARY OF THE U.S. VICTORY AT THE BATTLE OF MIDWAY** The Battle of Midway proved to be a major turning point in the Pacific Theater of World War II, catastrophically impairing Imperial Japan's Navy and ensuring American naval and air superiority for the remainder of the war.

**JUNE 12 — WOMEN VETERANS DAY**

Women Veterans Day honors the growing number of women serving in the U.S. Military as well as the sacrifice of Women Veterans going

back to the American Revolutionary War.

**JUNE 14 — FLAG DAY AND THE FOUNDING OF THE U.S. ARMY (ARMY BIRTHDAY)** June 14 marks the official adoption of the United States flag in 1777 by the Second Continental Congress as well as the foundation of the Continental Army. After the American Revolution, the disbanded Continental Army was reorganized into the U.S. Army.

**JUNE 22 — ANNIVERSARY OF THE U.S. & ALLIED VICTORY AT THE BATTLE OF OKINAWA**

On June 22, 1945, U.S. and Allied Forces declared victory over the Imperial Japanese Army. The battle was the costliest of the Pacific War and paved the way for an invasion of mainland Japan that would ultimately never occur because of the Atomic Bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

**JUNE 27 — PTSD AWARENESS DAY**

The VA estimates that between 10 and 20 percent of Veterans who served in Vietnam, the Persian Gulf, and the Wars in Iraq and Afghanistan suffer from post traumatic stress disorder. PTSD Awareness Day recognizes the hundreds of thousands of Veterans still suffering from the mental and emotional toll of their service while encouraging treatment and research.

Vivat Jesus!

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### Supreme Master's Message



As January unfolds, there is much to look forward to this year, but first, I need to take a backward glance, which I had the opportunity to do at the beginning of the month when I reviewed the membership reports. The Fourth Degree only succeeds because of great leadership in the field.

Without dedicated leaders on the state level, the Fourth Degree cannot build for our next 125 years. In particular, I am very proud of the following District Masters, who at midpoint of the fraternal year, have already exceeded 50% of their annual growth goal:

- Reynald Guadalupe (Philippines 20) 113%
- Adolfo Buquia (Philippines 12) 95%
- Eleunesto Dumagan (Philippines 18) 84%
- Giovani Hyppolite (Texas 5) 56%
- Blake Krass (Texas 6) 56%
- Arnie Terrell (Georgia) 55%

Please join me in congratulating these outstanding leaders!

It's hard to believe that it is now only a month until the 125th Anniversary of the Fourth Degree at St. Patrick's Cathedral in New York City! As of today, more than 1,000 banquet tickets have been sold, and we are closing in

on 500 registered candidates. In other words, we are exactly at the same number of Brother Knights who gathered on February 22, 1900, at the birth of the Fourth Degree in New York City! I expect by the time sales close our attendance will have exceeded that of 1900! Thank you to all the dedicated leaders who have promoted this historic occasion!

Following the anniversary, the next big moment in the history of the Fourth Degree will be the publication of the Revised Exemplification of Patriotism, which will be available to all districts beginning February 23, 2025. Now is the time to keep the momentum going by turning your attention to hosting anniversary celebrations in your own districts by participating in the 125 for 125 Challenge, where each district is challenged to conduct a single exemplification with either a class of 125 candidates or a class equal to 125% of your annual intake goal! I know you can do it, and I already know that several of the Worthy District Masters named above are presently planning their 125 for 125! Together, let's strive to have a memorable anniversary year by laying the foundation for our next 125 years of serving as the visible arm of the Knights of Columbus!

Vivat Jesus!  
Supreme Master Michael McCusker

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Worthy Sir Knights,

I hope all is well and your Assemblies are moving forward towards achieving Star Assembly.

Gentlemen, the District Team continues to strive for a perfection in our Exemplification. However, as we all know perfection applies only to our Heavenly Father.

The District Team, Executive Secretary, District Marshal, District Webmaster, Membership Chairman, and Ad Journal Chairman dedicates a significant amount of time to compiling the necessary paperwork and logistics for the Exemplification.

As previously discussed, we have established deadlines for Candidates, Dinner Reservations, and Ad Journal submissions. The deadline for Candidates and Dinner Reservations submissions and payments is April 7, 2025, which coincides with our final meeting before the Exemplification on April 27th.

Furthermore, the deadline for Ad Journal submissions is Monday, March 24, 2025, while the deadline for payments for those advertisements is April 7, 2025, as previously mentioned.

These deadlines are in place to streamline the process, alleviate

confusion and workload for the Chairman, and ensure the accurate processing and recording of Candidates, Dinner Reservations, and Ad Journal advertisements.

The District Team is committed to ensuring that these advertisements, Candidate Application, and Dinner Reservations reflect the expectations and preferences of the District and Assemblies.

We kindly request your cooperation in adhering to these deadlines. Should you have any inquiries, please do not hesitate to contact me.

"Where there is hatred, let me sow love.  
Where there is injury, pardon.  
Where there is doubt, faith."

Jim DeLuccia, MFD  
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To submit photos or articles for the next issue, please send email to:

SK Charles Schumacher, PFN at:  
[info.kc4d1543@gmail.com](mailto:info.kc4d1543@gmail.com)  
**before the 30<sup>th</sup> of this month.**

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**Send your newsletters and event notices to the F.N. at [d\\_newlin@yahoo.com](mailto:d_newlin@yahoo.com)**

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Did you send your dues to Worthy Comptroller Neal McGarrity yet? His address is 814 Ninth Street, Secaucus, NJ 07094. Make checks payable to "Knights of Columbus".

You can also pay at the meeting!

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**DATES TO REMEMBER**

Thursday, February 13<sup>th</sup> at 8 pm  
Membership Mtg.- 194 River Rd  
at Queen of Peace KofC Hall

February 22<sup>nd</sup> at St. Pat's, NYC  
125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary & Exemplification



**Basketball Free Throw at Sacred Heart School in Lyndhurst**

**ST. PATRICK'S DAY FUNDRAISER**

Saturday, March 8, 2025, 6:00 PM

Sacred Heart School Cafeteria

Corned Beef Dinner - Irish Music - BYOB

50/50 Raffle - Drawing at 8:00 p.m.

Gift Baskets Auction

Tickets for the dinner \$30 for Adults \$10 for kids

12 and under and will go on sale shortly.

In conjunction with this major fund raising event, the parish is requesting donations for gift baskets that will be auctioned off that night. If you're interested in donating a \$25, \$50, or \$75 basket, please drop it off at the Parish Center. If you'd like to contribute new items to make up a gift basket, you can also drop them off at the Parish Center. If you have any questions, feel free to call Sabina at 862-249-1186. Thank you for your generosity which will contribute to the success of this fund raising which will benefit Sacred Heart Parish.



**Fr. Francis joins the Life Chain Rosary at Immaculate Conception Church**



**More Life Chain at ICC**



**Knights of Columbus**

The Queen of Peace Knights of Columbus will be conducting their **Annual Baby Bottle Drive** for

the benefit of agencies that provide counseling, care, and nutrition for mothers in need and their babies this weekend. They ask that you consider taking one, filling it with your loose change, and bringing it back to Church before or on Sunday, February 23. If you have any questions, you can talk to one of the Knights.

The Knights will be at the Church next weekend for our **Membership Drive** looking for men ages 18 and over to join them in their charitable outreach programs of Faith, Family, Life, and Community. If you know of anyone, a son, nephew, grandson, whom you think would benefit by becoming a member of the Council, or anyone who is a former member, talk to any of our Parish Knights in the back of the Church. Membership is free for a year, and all one has to do is click on this link this link, [www.kofc.org/joinus](http://www.kofc.org/joinus) and fill out the Electronic Form 100, enter the Council number of 3428 and the promotional code of BlessedMcGivney. For more information about the Knights, call 201-988-0183.