



The Golden Plume

District of North Carolina

September 2009



District Master's Message

Worthy Sir Knights and Brothers All,

I want to thank Former District Master and Past State Deputy, Sir Knight Ron Carney, for handling the Honor Guards at both the wake services and funeral services for FDM Joe Dick, along with the assistance of District Marshal SK Howard Brink, Former District Marshal SK Wayne Kleven and Color Corp Commander SK Pat Love. Also PSD SK Tony Petite and District Secretary SK Greg Ciesielski, for keeping everyone informed during this saddest of times. Unfortunately, I, the State Deputy and all of the State Officers were out of town at the Supreme Convention during this period. Finally, thank you all who participated in the services. I have been told that the response to the call was outstanding. I am sure there are some names I have missed, and I ask your indulgence and want you to know that your presence was greatly appreciated and a tribute to a man that was an exemplary Knight of Columbus. May he rest in eternal peace. Please, keep LeRae and the family in your prayers to find comfort during this difficult time.

With Joe's passing, a vacancy was created in the VAVS program at the Durham Veterans Hospital. Sir Knight Thomas DuPree, PFN of Bishop McGuiness Assembly #778, Raleigh has agreed to take over the responsibilities of the K of C Fourth Degree VAVS Coordinator at that hospital. Sir Knight Tom has been approved by Supreme to fill this vacancy. I am most grateful to SK Tom for stepping up and accepting the responsibility. I hope the four supporting Assembly's to the Durham facility will continue to give Tom the support they did to SK Joe Dick. This program costs an Assembly some money each month and should be supported financially as well as with manpower by all. Please do your share.

Once again we have completed a busy month for the Fourth Degree throughout the District. We have had Assembly Officer installations, dedication of a beautiful new church in Huntersville, the death and funeral of Former District Master and Past State Deputy, Joseph Dick. All of this during the months that are usually "slow" periods for the Honor Guards and Assemblies.

I have received all but ten (10) Annual Assembly Audits which were due August 1. If you have not sent copies to both the VSM and me, please do so immediately. There is no choice in submitting an audit, nor any other Supreme report. Blank copies are available on the Supreme web site if you can not find one in your reports booklet. If you have never been to the Supreme web site, maybe it's time to look and see what is available. It there to be used!

On Saturday, September 26, the Charlotte Diocese will host its annual Eucharistic Congress. FDM SK Ron Carney has again been working for the past year making plans with the diocese for the participation of the Fourth Degree. Please, do not disappoint Bishop Jugis and SK Ron. Make plans to participate. I'm am sure SK Ron has posted an article in this issue. Please read it, bring your regalia and enjoy the camaraderie of your Brother Sir Knights. (See Page 3)



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District Master's Report Continued



At this time, I hope that everyone is recruiting Third Degree members for the October 24 Exemplification in Durham. This will be the maiden voyage of the new Fourth Degree Ceremonial in North Carolina. Come and see the changes. We also have a tentative confirmation of attendance of our Supreme Master, SK Lawrence Costanza and his wife. And finally, our Honoree will be our Vice Supreme Master, SK Robert J. Singer. Let's make this class one of the larger ones for our District. More information elsewhere in this issue. (See Page 8)

It's time again to support our Wounded Warrior Leave program. I know the Vice Supreme Master has covered this as well in his article this month. This year there are more than ever young men and women who need to be sent home for the holiday season. I know times are hard, but these brave volunteers have fought for our freedom. Let's not disappoint them. They did not disappoint us!

Finally, on September 10, Bishop Burbidge, Bishop of the Diocese of Raleigh, will celebrate the 25 anniversary of his ordination to the priesthood. It would be fantastic if every Assembly would send a congratulatory note, letter or card to the Bishop in honor of this special occasion. Address them to the Bishop at the Chancery office as follows:

Most Reverend Michael F. Burbidge
Bishop, Diocese of Raleigh
715 Nazareth Street
Raleigh, NC 27606-2187

Thank you all for all that you do to promote Patriotism in our great state. Keep up the wonderful work of our Order. GOD BLESS AMERICA and God bless each of you, my Brother Sir Knights.

God bless you all,
SK Robert J. "Bob" Grabasky, District Master



One Nation Under GOD



Eucharistic Congress

The Diocese of Charlotte will hold the Annual Eucharistic Congress at the Charlotte Convention Center on September 25th and 26th. An evening of Sacred Music and a presentation takes place on Friday evening the 25th, beginning at 7 p.m. The Nocturnal Adoration of the Eucharist begins at 10 PM in St. Peter's Church. The Eucharistic Procession with Bishop Jugis carrying the Presence will leave St. Peter's Church, Saturday, the 26th at 9 a.m. and will process along a three-quarter mile route to the Convention Center. An Hour of Adoration follows. The participants will then be split into five tracts for presentations that speaks specifically to their needs.

During the day, while the presentations are being made, The Eucharist will reside in the Adoration Chapel. Priests will be available for Reconciliation in a specified area. Vendors of Religious articles, music and literature will occupy another area. Along with the latter there most probably will be religious and lay societies offering information about their mission to those who may be interested.

What does this mean to we Knights?

Well the Fourth Degree will participate in the overnight Adoration at St. Peter's. The men in regalia will lead the procession, and escort the Bishop carrying The Eucharist. Sir Knights will provide an honor guard for the procession for Benediction and the closing Mass; serve as guides for the priests to the distribution places for Communion reception; as escorts for the Benediction visits to the children's tracts; and throughout the day as guards at the Adoration Chapel. In summary we need as many Sir Knights in regalia as we can get. Some will need to be there early on Saturday morning for the procession and Benediction. Adoration Guards will be needed from after Benediction to the closing Mass time. Then we will need an Honor Guard of at least 44 men for the Mass and Communion distribution.

We will have a room on the second floor of the Convention center to assemble in and to store our gear. Room 206 has been assigned to us. We will use it as our reporting post as well.

The time frames are as follow:

Saturday Morning Knight's Adoration at St. Peter's (Tuxedo's & baldric, 6AM to 7AM) (4 minimum)

Saturday Morning Procession: Report no later than 8:30 a.m. (Regalia)

Bishop's Guard 4 carriers, (Tuxedo & baldric) (4 Guards Regalia)

Honor Guard will lead procession to convention.

Benediction Procession/Adoration Chapel: Report no later than 9:30 a.m. (Regalia)

Closing Mass: Report no later than 3:30 p.m. Forty-four in Regalia for Communion distribution

Some of you have already stepped forward and offered your services. The Maggie Valley Assembly asked for and was given the honor to carry the Canopy in the procession. I thank them for that.

This is a vey important item for us:

Saturday Morning Knight's Adoration at St. Peter's (Tuxedo's & baldric, 6AM to 7AM)

I'm trying to arrange a Pre-Procession breakfast at either the Council home of Council 770 Charlotte or a nearby restaurant so that the attendees at the Adoration period can "meet to eat". I hope that will give many men an incentive to fill St. Peter's for the Hour of Adoration. It hasn't been arranged in time for this newsletter's deadline. When it is I'll get the information to the Navigators and the Financial Comptrollers.

I hope to see you there.

Ron Carney PSD FDM





Senator Albert J. Ellis Assembly # 1541

Sir Knight of the Month



In recognition of his many outstanding accomplishments,

Sir Knight Joseph P. Normandeau, PFN

is enthusiastically awarded Senator Albert J Ellis Assembly's Sir Knight of the Month for the month of July 2009. Sir Knight Joseph has served the Order for over 56 years and has faithfully executed all elected offices in the Assembly. In his most recent billet as Faithful Comptroller, Sir Knight Joseph meticulously oversaw the administration of all Assembly records and, with the special trust and confidence of the District Master, conducted the Installation of Officers for three Assemblies in North Carolina. His dedication to the Order, his Assembly, and his fellow Knights, along with his commitment to Charity, Unity, Fraternity, and Patriotism, make Sir Knight Joseph P. Normandeau truly deserving of this award.

Kenneth S. Fischler

Faithful Navigator, Assembly #1541

I Concur and Select SK Normandeau as the District Sir Knight of the Month for September 2009.

SK Robert J. Grabasky, Master



Vice Supreme Master's Newsletter

September 2009



I just returned home from attending the largest Exemplification, I have ever witnessed. This was in Naples, Florida. The Exemplification was held on Saturday, August 29, 2009. There were **278** Candidates, two of which were Bishops and 12 other Clergy. The Bishop of Venice, Florida and the Arch Bishop of Nassau, Bahamas both received their Fourth Degree at this time. The banquet was also the largest I had witnessed, with 840 attending.

I want to personally congratulate DM Gary McLain and especially the Degree Team, who put on the First New Fourth Degree in the DeSoto Province, Gary Nolan, Supreme Ceremonial Director was also in attendance. Gary agreed with my thoughts that the team did a Superb job with this New Degree. All of the candidates were very pleased and excited with the new degree.

I now encourage every District in our Province to hold several Degrees, this year, and strive for excellence in each Degree. I have witnessed every team in the Province operate and they all have the capability to excel with the New Degree.

I also encourage all Fourth Degree Sir Knights to come to an Exemplification and witness this new degree, I am sure you will be impressed. There are already several Exemplifications scheduled, try to attend one. Here are the scheduled degrees - Sept. 19th Myrtle Beach, South Carolina; October 10th Savannah, Georgia; October 24th Durham NC, November 7th Atlanta, Georgia; November 28th Orlando, Florida and Columbia, South Carolina (Date not yet set).

Each Sir Knight should be working on signing up new Members for these Exemplifications. Remember that for the fraternal year 2008/2009, the DeSoto Province made their Membership Goal.

Another goal for each District is to start as many new Assemblies as possible. If any Sir Knight is traveling over 25 miles to attend a Fourth Degree Meeting, they should be working on getting a new Assembly started nearer their home. It only takes 30 Members to start a new Assembly.

I will be attending the Annual Vice Supreme Master's Meeting in New Haven CT on September 28 & 29. Soon after that I will hold a DeSoto Provincial Meeting to bring each District Master up to date on our new goals and expectations for the fraternal year.

A program that is very dear to my heart, The Wounded Warrior Program is off to a great start. I have received contributions from both South Carolina and Georgia Assemblies. I encourage each Assembly to solicit contributions in their parishes to assist in sending EVERY WOUNDED WARRIOR in the two hospitals, which serve Wounded Warriors from every state, home for the Christmas Holiday. Last year we served 239 Wounded Warriors and from the news regarding the wounded and killed in Afghanistan and Iraq, there will no doubt more than last year to send home this year. All checks should be made out to the MOPH (Military Order of the Purple Heart), as they are a 501c3 Tax Status and therefore all donations are tax deductible. Over the past two years we have collected over \$110,000 by the Knights of Columbus. My goal this year is \$75,000. I am sure that it will take this amount to meet our goal of EVERY WARRIOR home for Christmas.

I also want to remind all that this is the Year of the Priest. Every Assembly should offer a prayer for our Priests, at every meeting. Talk to your Priest and find out what his needs are. I am sure each Assembly can help their priests. I heard a Priest make a statement once that the Knights of Columbus were extremely generous for Seminarians, but some are forgotten after they become a Priest. Let's not let this happen. It is our duty to support our Priests and Bishops, both financially and also with our manpower and prayers.

Again I want to offer my assistance to any Sir Knight or Assembly that needs my help. I live for the Knights of Columbus and am truly happy in being able to help any Brother in need.

Looking forward to meeting many of you during this years Exemplifications.

Fraternally in Christ,

SK Robert J. "Bob" Singer, Vice Supreme Master
DeSoto Province.

Wounded Warriors Need Our Help





September 11th, 2009

We have less than one month and counting to get the word out all across this great land and into every community in the United States of America.

The Program:

On Friday, September 11th, 2009, an American flag should be displayed outside every home, apartment, office, and store in the United States. Every individual should make it their duty to display an American flag on this eighth anniversary of one of our country's worst tragedies. We do this to honor those who lost their lives on 9/11, their families, friends and loved ones who continue to endure the pain, and those who today are fighting at home and abroad to preserve our cherished freedoms.

In the days, weeks and months following 9/11, our country was bathed in American flags as citizens mourned the incredible losses and stood shoulder-to-shoulder against terrorism. Sadly, those flags have all but disappeared. Our patriotism pulled us through some tough times and it shouldn't take another attack to galvanize us in solidarity. Our American flag is the fabric of our country and together we can prevail over terrorism of all kinds

Action Plan:

So, here's what we need you to do .

Fly an American flag of any size on 9/11. Honestly, Americans should fly the flag year-round, but if you don't, then at least make it a priority on this day.

Thank you for your participation. God Bless You and God Bless America!

The Question

WVSM and SK Bob,

While in New Bern on August 30th, I was asked if Frequent Flyer Miles can be donated to the Wounded Warrior program. I don't know the answer. Do you or can you find out? If yes, maybe we can get it into this month's news letter.

SK Bob Grabasky, Master

The Answer

Worthy DM and SK Bob,

The airlines will not allow Frequent Flyer Miles to be used at Christmas time. I was offered unlimited miles from one airline, but our program is for Christmas leave only.

SK Bob Singer, VSM



FORM 4's

Worthy Sir Knights, in the past I have been able to view the Supreme web site and obtain missing Form 4 information for candidates. I no longer have this luxury and therefore, incomplete submissions will be returned for correction. This delay could cause a candidate to be disqualified if I do not have it back in time. To avoid this, it is the responsibility of the Assembly Faithful Navigator and Faithful Comptroller, that ALL information is on the form.

Items that have been missing in the past are:

- Membership Numbers
- 1st Degree Date
- Citizenship questions
- New or Present Assembly Number and Location (Sponsoring Assembly)
- Signature of Financial Secretary and Council to which the candidate belongs
- Applicant Signature
- FN and/or FC Signatures

LEGIBILITY COUNTS! If it is difficult to read, print above the name. Certificates are made for each candidate and each time we have a dozen or more that are incorrectly spelled. Most because I can not read the names.

Finally, I **MUST** receive, at minimum, the top two copies. I have the responsibility to submit the top or original to Supreme with my report. The second copy is for my records should there be a discrepancy.

There will not be ANY refunds after the cut off date unless there is an extreme hardship or I have made an error and not responded to a request for refund prior to the cut off date. Remember, there are only two of us working the lists and we are as careful as possible, but errors are made.

Thank you all for your help.

DM Bob Grabasky
DS Greg Ciesielski



Knights of Columbus

FOURTH DEGREE

Patriotic degree of the Order.

Exemplification Information



Date - October 24, 2009

Where - Sheraton Imperial Suites,
4700 Emperor Blvd · I-40 at Exit 282 (Page Road) · Durham, NC 27703

Cost is **\$119.00** per night (+ tax) with 2 complimentary Breakfast buffet coupons included.

Cut off date for reservations is October 2, 2009 and the phone number is 919-941-5050

Candidates fee **\$70.00** to include Baldric, pin and banquet ticket. This fee is set by the Supreme Council.

Ladies Luncheon 12:00 noon. Ladies luncheon Fee - **\$23.00**

Ladies Luncheon menu will be Grilled Chicken Salad, rolls and butter, Apple Pie, coffee, tea.

Mass at 4:30 PM. Bring your regalia!

Banquet 7:00 - 9:00 PM . Guest ticket for banquet **\$47.00**.

Banquet menu: Chef Salad, Roast Loin of Pork, Green Beans, Oven Roasted Potatoes, Chocolate Layer Cake, bread and butter, coffee and tea.

Honoree will be **Vice Supreme Master Sir Knight Robert J. Singer, PSD, FDM**

Form 4's and Assembly checks made payable to **“Master's Fund”** as soon as possible. Please have all Observers, Wives and Guests names and money to the Master no later than October 10th please. Neatly print all names. No ladies luncheon or banquet reservations will be accepted after October 15th 2009.

Send to District Master Robert J. Grabasky; 608 Pleasant Dr., Greensboro NC 27410

Personal, Council and Assembly Ad's for the Exemplification booklet are **\$50.00** per half page and **\$75.00** for a full page. Ad's go to District Secretary Greg Ciesielski, 333 Miller Blvd, Havelock NC 28532 or lilski@ec.rr.com. Checks are made payable to **“Robert J. Grabasky, PSD”** and mailed to the District Master's address above.

“Recruit Candidates now and lets make this the largest class ever!”
God Bless America!