



*The Golden Plume*  
*District of North Carolina*  
*January 2012*



Worthy Sir Knights and Brothers All,  
Vivat Jesus!

## District Master's Report

Happy Healthy and Prosperous New Year! It seems like only a short while ago we were ushering in 2011 and here we are at the dawn of another year. I hope you all enjoyed a wonderful Christmas. Once again we have celebrated the birth of the Christ child. Our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Hopefully, we can all continue the spirit of the season throughout the New Year.

Most of you are aware of the passing of the District Marshal on December 12, 2011. I have not only lost my Marshal of four years but a very close and dear friend. I thank you all for your prayers and ask that you keep Penny and the family in your prayers during this most difficult time.

I also thank the Color Corps Commanders, Sir Knights Walter Kulla, PFN and Tom Thompson, PFN, of Assembly's 3253 and 779, for coordinating the Honor Guard's at both the funeral home and the mass. The turn-out of Sir Knights in regalia was outstanding and greatly appreciated by the Brink family. Thank you all.

On a happier note, it was my sincere pleasure on 12/17/11, to present the VAVS Provincial Volunteer of the Year Award to Sir Knight Thomas W. DuPree, Jr., the District VAVS Representative to the VA. It was a further distinct pleasure to notify Sir Knight DuPree of his selection as the Supreme Council VAVS Volunteer of the Year. These are very prestigious awards when you consider that nominations are made from all Master's and then Vice Supreme Masters. Congratulations Sir Knight Tom for a job well done! Please see SK Tom's message elsewhere in this issue.

As you will note for the Vice Supreme Master's message this month, there are two distinct messages. The first is the formation of new Assembly's. Where are the men that have contacted me seeking information? Wouldn't you rather serve your parish than several? Let me hear from you.

The second message concerns the support for the Catholic Chaplains Scholarship Fund. As you are aware, an initial donation came from the October Exemplification Mass. I would suggest that if all Assemblies, along with the Council donate \$100 each, NC would certainly meet their goals. We all win with this program. Last month's issue of the Golden Plume (December 2011), has the Supreme Master's letter and the Vice Supreme Master's letter outlining the program. Please give some serious consideration to supporting this program.

Rushing up are the Right To Life marches to be held as below. Please make an effort to have some presence at each one, with or without regalia!

**Charlotte** - Friday – January 13 - March begins at the Charlotte Diocesan Center at 12:00 noon. Please arrive no later than 11:30 am so we are ready for a noon start.

**Raleigh** – Saturday – January 14 – March begins from Nash Square, across from the State Capital at 1:00 PM. Please arrive no later than 12:00 noon.

**Washington, D.C.** – Monday – January 23 – Concelebrated mass by both Bishops of NC at 11:30 am in the Basilica, then the rally and march.

**There are a number of parishes which will have transportation to these events. Check locally for availability.**

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## District Master Continues...



- **North Carolina Bi-Annual District Meeting – Saturday, March 24, 2012 – 10:00AM, Kernersville – Holy Cross Catholic Church, 616 Cherry Street, Kernersville, NC,** Hosted by Assembly 3017. This meeting is required by the Fourth Degree By-Laws. Please plan to arrive between 9:30 am and 9:50am so we can start promptly at 10:00 am. **Please notify me by email, including the Assembly number, of the number of members who will be attending as there will be a light lunch served after the meeting.**
- **Regional Fourth Degree Exemplification – Saturday, April 21, 2012, 12:00 noon, Waynesville, NC at St. John the Evangelist Catholic Church, 234 Waynesville, NC.** Candidate fees, as set by Supreme is \$70, observers fee for the luncheon following is \$12 per person. Candidate fee covers the degree certificate, social baldric, Fourth Degree pin and luncheon. 40 candidates are required to hold this Exemplification. Space is limited so get your applications in early to the Master. If your Assembly has candidates, please, have an Assembly representative accompany him to the event.

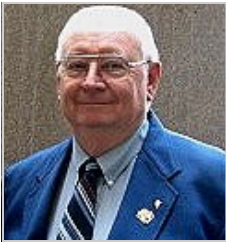
**Information will be posted on the State Council web page shortly.** It is being re worded and updated.

- Once again, the Knights of Columbus, led by the Fourth Degree, has made tremendous contributions to the **Wounded Warrior Program**. Please see the article elsewhere in this issue by our FVSM concerning the outcome for 2011 donations. Thank you all for your participation and support for these men and women of our Armed Forces. Freedom is not free!

As always, thanks you for all that you do for your church, community and the Order. May God bless you and your family members.

SK Bob Grabasky, Master  
Knights of Columbus Fourth Degree  
North Carolina District





Worthy Master's  
and all Sir Knights',



# Vice Supreme Masters Message

I hope everyone had a very Merry Christmas and have your sights on a very healthy and prosperous New Year. Activities have almost stopped throughout the Province for the holidays, but now is the time to get cranked up again if we intend to meet the membership goals set by Supreme.

We have not yet met the goal for new Assemblies in the Province. I ask each District Master to attempt to institute a new Assembly in his District during the next six months. There are several possibilities in each of our Districts. All you have to do is inquire of the possibility. Remember, it only takes 30 members to form a new Assembly.

The most recent Membership Report received from Supreme is for the month of November. This Report shows our Province has only achieved 24% of its membership goal for this fraternal year. Supreme's goal is 1,892 new members for the Province. We have brought in a total of 452 new members as of November 1, 2011. This means we need to bring in three times this amount in the final six months. It can be done. No, it will be done. The end result will be the effort made by each District Master. I have confidence in each of you. Make your personal contacts with the Faithful Navigators and ask them to stress the need for new members. The Fourth Degree liaison member needs speak at Council meetings to talk up the Patriotic Degree and recruit these new members. Provide the Councils with information concerning the location, time, date, expense and schedule for the Exemplification. Follow up with contact to the Grand Knight.

Please focus on the ongoing program of the Military Chaplain Scholarship Fund. I am happy to report that I now have received donations from each District in our Province.

We need to obtain \$20,000.00 from each State jurisdiction. It is a five year program asking for \$4,000.00 per year from each jurisdiction. This will provide the \$1,000,000.00 seed money to the Military Archdiocese USA toward expenses for training seminarians. The Department of Defense has 800 positions for Catholic Chaplains but there are currently only 280 filled to serve all of our Armed Forces. The program asks participating Dioceses to provide half the tuition for the seminarian, and after Ordination, the new Priest serves the participating Diocese for three years and then enters the military for a three to five year term. He can then elect to return to the Diocese or remain in the military. Remember this is a combined effort by everyone, i.e. State Councils, Assemblies, Councils, Auxiliaries, and personal donations. Please give this program a prayerful response.

Make checks payable to "Knights of Columbus" and put "Military Scholarship" in the memo section on check. Send your checks to me at: Gary L. McLain, VSM, 36 Currant Ave, Middleburg, FL 32068.

I will provide a spread sheet to each State Deputy of all donations and forward the checks to Supreme for deposit on a monthly basis. This successful program will help our Church and those serving our Country in the Armed Forces. I know I can count on your generosity for this program.

The next Fourth Degree Exemplification is scheduled for February 4, 2012, in Bonita Springs, Florida. This will be the third Exemplification in Florida for this fraternal year. There will also be an Exemplification on February 25, 2012, in Columbia, South Carolina. I hope to see two large classes for these Exemplifications. It takes everyone's help to fill these classes, so let's get out there and recruit.

The Survey of Fraternal Activity is now due and each Assembly is required to fill out a Report. There are no exceptions. As noted on the bottom of the Report the original is mailed to Supreme Council Department of Fraternal Services with copies to the Vice Supreme Master, Master and Assembly File.

Once again I wish each of you a healthy and prosperous New Year.

Faternally,

SK Gary L. McLain, PSD, FDM,  
Vice Supreme Master, DeSoto Province





## Wounded Warriors

The Knights of Columbus response to the Wounded Warrior Program, to send the Wounded Warriors home for Christmas, totaled \$881,29116. This is an all time record for the Knights assistance with this extremely important program. This could not have happened in a better year as the total funds raised for this program fell short, due to the economy situation. Some of our normal large contributors were the Real Estate Assn. and the Home Builders Assn. They both suffered a terrible business year, very few homes sold and fewer built.

The KofC help made it possible for the Military Order of the Purple Heart to send 399 Wounded Warriors home for Christmas this year.

I had the opportunity to meet some 35 Wounded Warriors at a Fund Raiser in New Bern, N.C. These Warriors volunteered to be present to thank donors for their generosity. The Knights of Columbus was pointed out as the Largest Contributor to this Program.

Brother Knights, I cannot tell you, in words, what your response to this program has meant to me. I have never been so proud to be a Knight and a Brother to all of you.

Here's hoping with the withdrawal from Iraq, our casualties will not be so high in 2012, but we still have Afghanistan, which seems to be even a greater danger to our Military Men & Women.

Again Thanks for all your help. Keep these Wounded Warriors in your prayers.

God Bless You All.

SK Robert J. "Bob" Singer, PSD, FDM, FVSM  
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Wilson, NC 27896-1326  
[rjskofc@nc.rr.com](mailto:rjskofc@nc.rr.com)  
(252) 237-8007



## Giving Back to Our Heroes



Greetings My Brother Knights!

I hope your Christmas was a joyful celebration. Wishing you a New Year filled with rewards for your time and talents in support of our Veterans and their programs. 2011 was a challenging year for many. My hope is that 2012 will turn out to be a pleasant year for all.

The results for the Coat Program for Veterans will be available in the February newsletter. We made our second delivery to the Durham VA Medical Center. Our next major initiative will be sending Veterans to the 32nd Annual National Wheelchair Games in Richmond, VA. These games will be from June 24-July 1, 2012. The support we provided for the last three years for Veterans of Durham VA Medical Center was transportation to and from the games and the hotel accommodations for the week stay at the games. For additional information, please go to [www.richmond.va.gov](http://www.richmond.va.gov) Please contact your local VA Medical Center (recreation therapy department) to offer the Knights support in providing funding to send Veterans to the games from their facilities. This program gives the Veterans who participates:

### **“Benefits to the mind”**

The purpose of the National Veterans Wheelchair Games is to provide veterans with physical disabilities an introductory experience to a variety of wheelchair sports, and expose them to the numerous organized wheelchair sports and recreation activities available nationwide. In doing so, the Games serve to encourage veterans to become aware of their abilities and potential while promoting a spirit of healthy activity and camaraderie.

### **“Benefits to the body”**

The National Veterans Wheelchair Games clearly demonstrate the therapeutic value of sports and competition. As presenters of the event, Paralyzed Veterans and the VA are committed to improving the quality of life for veterans with disabilities and fostering better health through sports competition. While past Games have produced a number of national and world-class champions, the event also provides opportunities for newly injured veterans to gain sports skills and be exposed to other athletes who use wheelchairs.

### **“Benefits to the spirit”**

Since the Games began in 1981, thousands of disabled veterans have enjoyed the health benefits provided by sports participation and have revitalized the spirit of competition within themselves.” ([www.richmond.va.gov](http://www.richmond.va.gov))

Reporting of Assembly and Council activities in support of our Veterans, through volunteer hours and monetary donations are due to me December 31st, 2011. Please provide your information to the FN of your respective Assembly. Each Council has been assigned by Supreme to an Assembly. Vice-Supreme Master, SK Gary L. McLain, DeSoto Province has requested a detailed accounting of your support and involvement including Wounded Warrior participation. The FN will forward the consolidated report to my attention. This information will be used to report NC support of Veterans to Supreme. Please complete this request no later than Saturday, January 28, 2012. I thank you in advance, for your support, of this request.

On December 18, 2011, I was honored to receive from the DM, the DeSoto Province 2011 VAVS Volunteer of the Year Award. On December 23, 2011 that Supreme announced me as 2011 K of C VAVS Male Volunteers of the year. I am humbled by these recognitions and want to express my thanks to each of the Councils and the Assemblies who support the Durham VA Medical Center. Without their support, this award would not be possible.

I am looking forward to working with the Assemblies and Councils of NC to support our Veterans at the four VA Medical Centers of North Carolina.

As we reflect upon our blessings this year, we should not forget those who have given so much.

Vivat Jesus,  
SK Thomas (Tom) W. DuPree, Jr  
NC District VAVS Representative VA





## District Sir Knights of the Month

Congratulations to the following Sir Knights as being selected as the January 2012

North Carolina District Sir Knights of the Month:

*Central Piedmont Assembly No. 3158  
PO Box 1969 Concord, North Carolina 28026*

**SK Art Fitzgerald, PFN** of Assembly 3158 in Concord, has given countless hours to the Assembly through a variety of endeavors. Art took the lead in organizing a committee to measure the interest in establishing a new Assembly three years ago in the Piedmont area. The Assembly was chartered and Art was elected its first Faithful Navigator. He has led our Assembly by supplying a focused vision, outstanding organizational skills and keen attention to detail.

Art is a member of a small committee that organizes the annual St. Patrick's Day Parade in Charlotte. This is a Knights' fundraiser and the visual showcase of Sir Knights during the parade is impressive. This parade is recognized as one of the largest and best organized St. Patrick's Day Parades in our part of the country.

He chaired the Host Committee for last year's Exemplification in Charlotte. Knights throughout the state complimented the work of the Assembly during the weekend. He has been our Faithful Commander for Honor Guards since the Assembly's inception and membership and the number of Sir Knights in regalia has grown rapidly.

Art is not above getting his hands dirty once membership starts an activity. He can pour a beer at the St. Patrick's Day Parade with the best. He also drives a school bus at the Charlotte Motor Speedway for an Assembly fundraiser and boasts a clean record by most accounts! In all seriousness, working closely with so many Sir Knights in a variety of ways has garnered him great respect and set a precedent for the type of leadership expected of the officers in our Assembly.

It is not in Art Fitzgerald's character nor in the principles of the Knights of Columbus to expect recognition for the efforts of membership as we perform good works for the community, support one another and show pride in our devotion to God and country. However, our Assembly would like to formally thank and recognize this Knight, a gentlemen, a friend and a leader, for all of his past and future efforts on behalf of the Knights of Columbus.

Fraternally,

SK Terrence Sippel, FN  
Sal Cawa, PFN





## District Sir Knights of the Month

Congratulations to the following Sir Knights  
as being selected as the January 2012

North Carolina District Sir Knights of the Month:

*Fr. Kenneth I. Parker Assembly, No. 1820  
New Bern, North Carolina 28561-3903*

In recognition of his many outstanding accomplishments and contributions,

### **Sir Knight Jean Claude “Kit” Lalonde**

is enthusiastically recognized as the Fr. Kenneth I. Parker Assembly North Carolina District Sir Knight of the Month.

Sir Knight Lalonde is a member of the 4th Degree Color Corps. He is also a valuable asset to the Assembly’s yard sale initiative. Kit is a contact person for the area in which he lives for the pick-up of donated items for the yard sale. This is not easy work and Kit is always ready when called upon to pick up donated items, using his personal vehicle for that purpose. Monies from the sale of these donated items go to support not only St Paul Church and School but also many local organizations, such as the Eastern Carolina Pregnancy Information Center and Religious Community Services. Kit is always lending a helping hand around the K of C Hall, as well, doing all types of work necessary to keep the building in tip top shape.

His dedication to the Order, his Assembly, and his fellow Knights, along with his commitment to Charity, Unity, Fraternity, and Patriotism make Sir Knight Jean Claude Lalonde truly deserving of this award.

SK James Whetzel,  
Faithful Navigator  
Fr. Kenneth I. Parker Assembly No. 1820  
New Bern, NC

Submitted by Richard Tomasik Faithful Captain

