



Knights of Columbus All Saints Council 9709 St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Community

The official Publication of the Knights of Columbus All Saints Council 9709

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STATE CONVENTION AWARDS

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Knight of the Year Mike Wrzesien

Selected from over 17,000 Knights across the state of North Carolina. Steve Becker also won this prestigious award last year.



Family of the Year Kent and Virginia Siefkes

Selected from over 130 councils across the state of North Carolina.



Supreme Life Award Presented to Steve Becker

Recognizes our Council's financial support for the purchase of a new ultrasound machine.

COUNCIL AWARDS

Joe McCarthy, Former District Deputy, Past Grand Knight, and Past Faithful Navigator and current State Warden was promoted to State Advocate at the State Convention. Joe is a dedicated supporter of the Knights of Columbus spending much of his free time supporting Knights activities and traveling between different councils throughout the State of North Carolina.



Jason Riddle
Rookie of the Year



David Payne
Golden Knight of the Year



Father Jairo
Priest of the Year

SK Tom Dupree
Fr. David McBriar
Lifetime Achievement
Award



COUNCIL AWARDS CONTINUED



RAFFLE TICKET PROGRAM

Brother Ralph Guenther receives a trophy for selling the most Raffle tickets for our Council. DGK David Payne spearheaded this event who also deserves appreciation since this year's ticket sales of 1,100 was one of the best over the past several years. The collected funds of \$5,500 will be split, \$2,750 to the State Council and \$2,750 to LAMB. The Council's pledge to donate our share to LAMB created a strong sales incentive.



FAMILY OF THE YEAR AWARD

Past Grand Knight Bryan Kozak and his wife Kathleen were selected FAMILY OF THE YEAR by our Council. Bryan, who was Grand Knight for the 2020-2021 fraternal year, guided our Council through a difficult Covid year by wisely taking a conservative leadership role as he recognized that our charitable activities would be curtailed, and fundraising opportunities limited. In spite of these challenges, and because of the drastic shortage of blood, Bryan did not hesitate to direct 8 Red Cross blood drives at St. Francis collecting almost 900 units during his tenure mostly by his own efforts while selflessly not soliciting much help from his brothers due to the dangerous Covid situation. Additionally, Bryan knew that people were suffering from the lockdowns, so he directed the Council to continue the Catholic Charity food drives to satisfy the critical need. By choosing the Kozaks as Family of the Year is testament to how much the Council recognized Bryan's dedication and support he received from his family.

Knight of the Month Award

Tony Rivezzo.



STAR COUNCIL AWARD

Presented to DD George Beserock for his assisting multiple Councils achieve this prestigious award.



MILITARY FAMILY SUPPORT



SUPPORT MILITARY FAMILIES--\$500

This 501c3 organization provides over one million care packages to military families specifically designed for servicemen and women. The Capital Spend Committee approved a request from SK Tom DuPree to spend \$500 for the SUPPORT MILITARY FAMILIES. The Council approved the request and on Friday, May 6th with the support of the McDonalds restaurant in Jacksonville, NC, a team of volunteers distributed the gifts to the families as they drove through the parking area. The gifts were prepared specifically for the children of military families which included jewelry, apparel, games and other fun toys. Helping to distribute the gifts were Denis Murray PGK 13236, Manny Comas GK 13236 with sons, Chris and Manny traveling a long distance from Greensboro, NC. Also, from our Council, Tom DuPree, Bill Quirk, Tony Rivezzo and representing the Columbiettes, Elaine DuPree.



MEMORIAL MASS

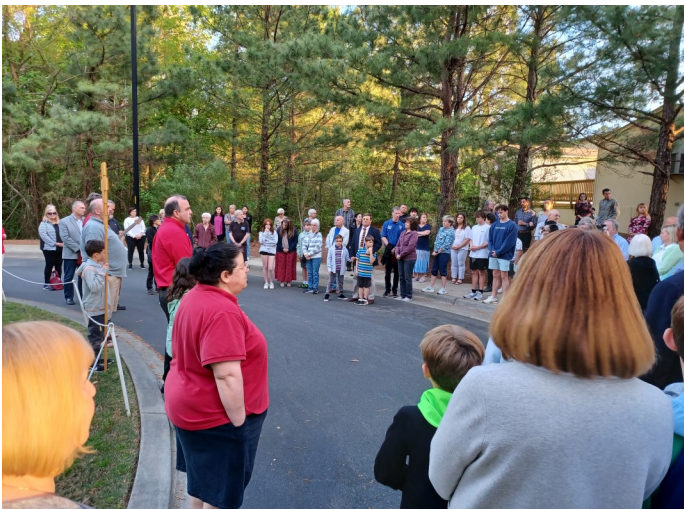


MEMORIAL DAY MASS

Our Council, in coordination with Monsignor Clay, honored the men and women who served in the military, and have since passed away, with a Memorial Day Mass on Monday, May 30th. During the Mass FN Jack McDonnell read the names of the deceased veterans who were added to the roll this year. The roll now contains over 800 names that have been collected at St. Francis over the past several years. Following the Mass, a military honor ceremony took place in Memorial Garden for SK Richard (Dick) Novacek who passed away on January 20, 2021. Kelsey Novacek, Richard's son, traveled to Raleigh from Washington, DC, to receive the honors. SK Dave Van Nett directed the ceremony as well as collecting the names of deceased veterans who were added to the roll this year.



STATIONS OF THE CROSS



Once again, our Council sponsored the Stations of the Cross on Good Friday. Parishioners were invited to attend the solemn ceremony, which occurred outdoors beginning in the TFS courtyard then continuing among the school buildings, pausing in front of St. Mary of the Angels Chapel, on through the labyrinth and concluding in Memorial Garden. Several Brothers, along with a few of their family members, conducted the prayers at each station. After Father Jim opened the service with a welcome and a prayer, PGK Michael Wrzesien began with the prayers for the 1st station, "Jesus is condemned to death." PGK Bob Weisenberger ended the trek with prayers of the 14th station, "Jesus laid in the tomb." From the first until the last station, the prayerful assembly of about 110 parishioners attended the event, which provided the nexus to begin the celebration of our Lord's promise, His Resurrection.

COFFEE AND DONUTS

Our Council was asked to host the Coffee and Donuts event on Sunday, April 24th to begin after the 9:00 am Mass. This was only the second Coffee and Donut undertaking in nearly two years, which had been stalled due to the Covid-era. Parishioners have always supported this occasion, so we were expecting a large turnout. A team of eight Brothers volunteered to portion-out the donuts, prepare the coffee, lemonade and all the ancillary items to ensure a successful affair. Sure enough, a large crowd descended on Fellowship/Clare Hall after Mass and nearly filled the room. Monsignor Clay, Father Jairo and Seminarian Cong Le also attended the social gathering.



Jason Riddle with daughter Evelyn



GREAT STRIDES WALK



GREAT STRIDES WALK FOR THE CYSTIC FIBROSIS FOUNDATION

On Saturday, May 14th, The Great Strides Walk was organized to support of the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation. Brother Mike Rock asked for volunteers from the Council to help during the Walk to handout drinks and snacks for the participants. Answering the call were Brothers Ron McGrath, Michael Ames, Pat and Karen Sauter, Joe Noonan and his grandson Dillon, and Tony Rivezzo. Mike Rock and his wife Mary Beth are extremely involved with the foundation. They created the Angelica's Angels, named after their daughter, to raise funds for the foundation. Amazingly, The Angelica's Angels raised \$10,000. By year end the CF Foundation is expected to raise \$210,000.



ROBOTIC PETS FOR VETERANS

Marine Corps Veteran Richard Hodgkin, who was a bit unsure at first about the robotic animals, eventually asked if he could have one. He promptly named it after a beloved pet he'd had many years ago, tucked it under his arm, and soon the Purple Heart recipient was sharing stories from when he was younger.



One resident took his robotic pet along with him to a medical appointment for comfort. "We used to have dogs at the house, and they would drive the neighbors crazy," he said. "At least I won't have to worry about them running away."

Salisbury VA director and Navy Veteran Joseph Vaughn watched as the Veterans interacted with the robotic pets and told stories of his own animals and how they make him feel.

"I have pets, and I know the love and joy they bring to one's life," Vaughn said. "I am excited that the CLC residents have the opportunity to receive these pets and hopefully it will bring a smile to their faces."



SK Tom DuPree delivers a check for \$500 approved by the Council to volunteers Doug Hamilton, Vicki Eatmon and Craig Doane

WARRIORS TO LOURDES



SUPPORT FOR WARRIORS TO LOURDES ORGANIZED BY SK TOM DUPREE

A group of U.S. military personnel will have an opportunity for prayer and healing this week in France during the Warriors to Lourdes pilgrimage sponsored by the Knights of Columbus and the Archdiocese for the Military Services, USA. The Order is also sponsoring a delegation from Ukraine to attend the International Military Pilgrimage. From May 10-16, pilgrims will participate in events including an international opening ceremony, Masses, visits to the healing baths at Lourdes, and a candlelight vigil that draws tens of thousands annually from more than 40 nations.

Sir Knights at RDU airport are getting ready to deliver box lunches to 25 **Warriors to Lourdes** from Fort Bragg as they begin their journey to France: David Payne, Joe Noonan, Ashley Grauel (Tom's granddaughter), Jim Rispoli, Tom DuPree and Elaine DuPree (taking the photo).

FOOD DRIVE



OUR LADY OF THE ROSARY FOOD DRIVE--MAY 9th

Twice a year the generous parishioners of St. Francis conduct a food drive for OLR in Louisburg. With this year's drive, Fr. Marlee and his staff deeply appreciate the 5,500 pounds of food and \$6,000 cash donation for his church where 24% of the parishioners live under the poverty level. Our Council helps with this charitable undertaking by picking up a truck from CPO to stage at St. Francis, then with full capacity drive to OLR's food pantry and finally to help unload the truck. The delivery team was comprised of GK Steve Becker, truck driver, DGK David Payne, co-pilot, and Brothers Ralph Guenther and Mike Rock.



SPECIAL OLYMPICS



SWIMMING SPECIAL OLYMPICS--2022

After a three-year hiatus, The Swimming Special Olympics, which is held at the Triangle Aquatic Center, was put back into action. No doubt, the council missed the Olympics but especially so with the athletes who treasure this part of their lives. To some degree it was still restricted because instead of a two-day swimming competition, it was compressed into one day, Saturday, June 5th. However, a Bowling competition was held on Sunday. As in the past, the athletes strived to compete, and the award ceremonies were joyous with our brothers and their wives volunteering to help make this day so successful. It is such a heart-warming experience to see these athletes celebrate, whether they come in first place or win a participation award, on how they literally jump for joy while they receive their medals. Parents and friends eagerly capture these moments with their phones and cameras. Sheriff Deputies from across the state helped by placing the medals on the winners. Our commitment to the Special Olympics will continue as Deputy Grand Knight, David Payne handed over the council's responsibilities to Brother Jason Riddle who will ensure that our council will remain an active supporter.



INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS



LEADERSHIP TEAM FOR 2022-2023 FRATERNAL YEAR

Grand Knight
 Chancellor
 Recorder
 Treasurer
 Lecturer
 Inside Guard
 Program Director
 Trustee 2
 Community
 Retention
 Adopt-A-Highway
 RSVP

David Payne
 Troy Chaput
 Omar Bashi
 Mark Baumgartner
 Mike Wrzesien
 Akuro Adoki
 Tony Rivezzo
 Bryan Kozak
 Mike Rock
 Sean Flanagan
 John Dziadul
 Ron McGrath

Deputy Grand Knight
 Financial Secretary
 Chaplain
 Advocate
 Warden
 Outside Guard
 Trustee 1
 Trustee 3
 Life Director
 Membership
 Special Olympics
 Director of Parish Life

Shawn Bayle
 Sean Flanagan
 Open
 Jason Riddle
 Antonio Lopez
 John Dziadul
 Bob Weisenberg
 Steve Becker
 Kent Siefkes
 Shawn Bayle
 Jason Riddle
 Mike Wrzesien



A PLACE AT THE TABLE



A PLACE AT THE TABLE

The council has made a commitment to provide continuous financial and volunteer support for A Place at the Table. The primary factor that deserves our support with this 501c3 organization is **People in need can enjoy a free meal without compromising their dignity.** Those who do not want a handout can earn their free meal by helping out with different tasks, washing dishes, cleaning tables, whatever is needed. In order to cover business expenses its founder and CEO Maggie Kane, relies on the following: paying customers, corporate and personal donations and volunteers. On Saturday, June 11th, four brothers volunteered to work the 12:00 to 3:00 pm shift. GK Steve Becker washed dishes while Joe McCarthy, Michael Ames and Steve Murray kept the tables spotless.



JUNE SOCIAL PICNIC



FRATERNAL YEAR-END PICNIC

A SOCIAL EVENT TO SAY "THANK YOU" TO WGK STEVE BECKER AND TO SAY "GOODBYE" TO FR. JAIRO





GRAND KNIGHT'S MESSAGE

Brothers, we had a busy second quarter and close out our fraternal year. We're well into the Durham Bulls season and the participation has been very good the first half of the season. We appreciate some new brothers who have not served before getting into the mix. Also, we completed five weekly visits to pray for the unborn during the "40 days for Life". We supported Brother Mike Rock with his Cystic Fibrosis walk, and MaryBeth and Angelica raised over \$10,000 for the cause – what a terrific commitment on their part! As we did just after the start of the fraternal year, we had a very well attended BBQ, which also gave us a chance to say goodbye to our beloved chaplain, Father Jairo. What a great celebration and event we had that night (as well as the one we helped put on at the parish on June 12)! We also had great socials at Chow restaurant and at Milton's Pizza. Credit Brother Rock and Rivezzo for all their hard work in putting on the BBQ and the socials this year. In fact, thanks to all the volunteers who helped with the BBQ. We also had a great turnout for the Memorial Day Mass, presided by Msgr Clay, where we were able to read the latest names of our fallen Veterans. In addition, we were able to give rightful Military Honors to our departed brother Dick Novacek, in a very touching ceremony, attended by his son Kelsey! He told us he really appreciated the way we honored his father. Thanks to Dave VanNett and Jeff Rohman for organizing these events.

We were able to return to covering awards ceremonies for Special Olympics for the first time in three years. I know we all missed being able to do this for such a long period of time, but this year we had the opportunity to cover Swimming on Saturday and Bowling on Sunday. It was a pretty "warm" day for the swimming, but the day was very successful. We had great participation by our brothers and several spouses. I would like to thank Brother Jason Riddle for all his great work in coordinating the weekend – where everything went off without a hitch. Also, we did our quarterly highway cleanup and had the opportunity to serve at A Place at the Table – both events went very well. The same weekend we had a really nice installation of our new officers!

The other great thing this quarter was the awards we received at the state convention. We received the Unity state award for all the programs we put on this year. Also, we received two other big awards – Brother Kent and Virginia Siefkes received Family of the Year for all the great work they did with coordinating the donation, match by Supreme, and purchase of the Ultrasound machine by Birthchoice. This machine will be dedicated on July 14th, with Bishop Zarama there to bless the machine. Just think how many lives will be saved with this machine! Congratulations also to Kent and Virginia, as our council also won the SUPREME Life Service Award, for all our efforts on the Life initiative. Two outstanding awards for all their contributions leading Culture of Life for the council! They were able to join us on Friday night to receive the Family of the Year award, and I presented the Life award to the council at our June meeting. In addition, Brother Mike Wrzesien was voted State Knight of the Year – Mike and Jan were able to join us on Saturday night and Sunday to receive this award! Mike has done such a great job across so many areas in the parish and council – along with brother Bayle has led the lector ministry, is on the prestigious Pastoral Council, has led our Durham Bulls fundraising initiative for several years, past Grand Knight and Faithful Navigator (4th degree). He brings a wealth of enthusiasm and has been a trusted advisor to the other officers for so many years. Congratulations also goes to our Council Golden Knight of the Year, David Payne, Rookie of the Year, Jason Riddle, and our Priest of the Year, Father Jairo! They all did so much for the council this year, and was happy to recognize them during our June council meeting.

We were also able to recognize Brother Tom DuPree with the David McBriar Lifetime achievement award, representing his efforts as a Knight over all the years he has been a Knight. Tom, being Past Grand Knight, Faithful Navigator, State VAVS representative, has volunteered countless hours on LAMB and for our Veterans, and I can't think of a better brother to receive this award. Congratulations Tom on winning our banner council award!!! It was beautiful to have Elaine on hand to be able to give the award to Tom.

Finally, I just want to thank the council for believing in me this year and electing me as your Grand Knight. We have accomplished so much this year with all the activities we've done: the Ultrasound initiative to buy a \$37K ultrasound machine for Birthchoice, Durham Bulls and raffle ticket fundraising sales, being able to gift a total of \$18,000 across so many charitable causes, consistent with our Catholic faith, our great participation in our socials, and finally tightening our bonds with Msgr. Clay, and the rest of our parish. I could not have done any of this without the help and full support of my leadership team, and especially our Deputy Grand Knight, and now newly elected Grand Knight, David Payne, as well as to the brothers in the council. Thanks to all of you for everything you've done to support me this year. I know we're in excellent hands with our new leadership of GK David, DGK Shawn Bayle, and our new Chancellor Troy Chaput, as well as the rest of the new leadership team! Good luck in 2022-2023!