

Joining the Patriotic Degree

(Date Extracted from the Supreme Council Website)

Any Third Degree member in good standing, one year after the anniversary of his First Degree, is eligible for membership in the Fourth Degree. The primary purpose of the Fourth Degree is to foster the spirit of patriotism by promoting responsible citizenship and a love of and loyalty to the Knights' respective countries through active membership in local Fourth Degree groups (called "assemblies"). Certain members of the Fourth Degree serve as honor guards at civic and religious functions, an activity that has brought worldwide recognition to the Knights of Columbus. The following are some of the principles, programs, and activities of the 4th Degree.

Religiously Devoted, Patriotically Proud: 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. The Patriotic Degree allows knights to take this one step further. "Sir Knight" is more than a title. It's an honor.

Vision & Goals:

- **Standing Firm in Support of the Order:** Knights of the Patriotic Degree are dedicated to the personal development and continued honor of brother Knights. We are always there to offer leadership, guidance, and encouragement.
- **Proudly Serving the Country:** Knights of the Patriotic Degree glorify God by serving our communities and nations as though Christ were the one being served.
- **Unwavering Support of the Faith:** Knights of the Patriotic Degree hold unwaveringly to what is right and honorable, working to keep God in the civic arena, serving the life of the Church, and defending laws that recognize the sanctity of life and true religious liberty.
- **Honoring the Legacy of Knighthood:** The Color Corps is an elective division of the Patriotic Degree that presents a visible reminder of our service to the community.

Part of a Greater Good. Devotees of a Greater Purpose: For the Knights of Columbus, civic involvement comes in many forms. Each election year, the Knights of Columbus sponsors campaigns that urge citizens to vote, and provides rides to the polls.

Apostolic Visit of the Holy Father to the White House: During Pope Benedict's April 16 meeting with President Bush at the White House, 30 Fourth Degree Knights in full regalia provided an honor guard for the ceremony. It was the first time the Fourth Degree stood in formation for a pope and president at the White House.

Incarnation Dome: Fourth Degree Knights are raising funds to offset the cost of the Knights of Columbus Incarnation Dome at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, D.C.

Serving those Who Serve: Knights of Columbus members give time and money not only out of a sense of duty and respect but also out of a sincere desire to show thanks to those who safeguard our country and preserve the very thing we, as Americans, value most: our freedom.

Veterans Affairs Volunteer Service (VAVS) Program: Our military personnel voluntarily act as the protectors of our nations, standing on the front lines while keeping us safe behind them. The Knights of Columbus acknowledges this unselfish act of patriotism by promoting the "Serving Those Who Served" program.

Heroes Fund: Rising Above and Banding Together: Understanding the dramatic impact on countless families, the day after 9/11, the Knights of Columbus established the "Heroes Fund" to provide immediate assistance to the families of civil servants who lost their lives in the rescue and recovery efforts.

The Last Word - Grand Knight's Corner

Brothers,

As a new Grand Knight I believe one of the things I have been most surprised about are the number of emails I receive daily about Knight business, both Nationally and at the State Level. One of the most frequent types of emails is requests for prayers for Brother Knights or their families. What a wonderful and large network we have to support one another. I encourage all to take a quick moment when you receive these emails from Jim to say a quick prayer for our family. Another benefit of these emails is the introduction to and updates on the important programs the Knights are engaged in. I would like to take a moment here to give all an update on a very important initiative and ask for your contributions. The program is the "Culture of Life Fund", It was started a couple years ago at Supreme to provide 50% funding for ultrasound machines. Since then, 82 machines have been placed

in certified pregnancy centers in 32 States--none in Nevada. We are working to change that. Statistics show that 70-95% of abortion minded women choose life when they see the image of their baby. With Council 13842 at St. Rose of Lima Northern Nevada Councils are working with Supreme to get the 1st machine placed into the Crisis Pregnancy Center in Reno. Help us raise the first 50% so that Supreme will provide the remaining 50%. At our next meeting I will have additional information on the program along with contribution envelopes.

I also want to say Thank You all for the support of me and our Council and I look forward to working with you in the next half of our council year.

Fraternally,

Brad Jackson, GK