

THE PATRIOT'S CALL: *United in Faith & Freedom*

ASSEMBLY 1818

Volume I Issue XII July 2026



| | |
|--------------------------------------|--------------|
| Faithful Navigator Tony Hopfinger | 412-496-6776 |
| Comptroller George Barbiero | 203-885-8238 |
| Captain Darwin Reeck | 941-541-9657 |
| Admiral Tony Salvucci | 617-320-1759 |
| Purser Vinny Gelsomino | 815-409-2385 |
| Pilot Rick Anderson | 321-303-8172 |
| Scribe Joe Macarelli | 941-340-9477 |
| Inner Sentinel Chuck Woodrum | 304-282-8733 |
| Outer Sentinel Bill Blanchard | 732-841-6074 |
| One Year Trustee Richard Kunzier | 973-903-1226 |
| Two Year Trustee Kevin Szopinski | 630-277-1367 |
| Three Year Trustee Bernie Lanza | 941-441-8892 |
| Faithful Friar | Rev. Januszc |

“From His Heart to Our Brotherhood”

Last month I reflected on the joyful news of **Bishop-elect Emilio Biosca Aguero**. Although we now find ourselves at the close of June, I would be remiss in my duty and in my heart if I did not pause to honor this month dedicated to the **Sacred Heart of Jesus**.

For us as Catholic gentlemen, the Sacred Heart is more than an image or a devotion. It is the beating center of Christ's love **a love that sacrifices, protects, forgives, and strengthens**. As I carry the Sacred Heart on my shoulder, permanently marked as a reminder of His mercy, I am reminded daily of the call placed upon each of us as Sir Knights: **to lead with compassion, to serve with humility, and to love as Christ loved**.

In Assembly 1818, this month invites us to renew our dedication to the virtues that define the Fourth-Degree **charity, unity, fraternity, and patriotism** all flowing from the Heart of Jesus Himself. His Heart teaches us to be men of courage, men of prayer, and men who stand ready to serve our Church, our families, and our nation.

May these final days of this sacred month deepen our brotherhood, strengthen our mission, and remind us that every act of service large or small is a response to the love that first flowed from His Heart.

Most Sacred Heart of Jesus, have mercy on us.



Vivat Jesus!

SK George Barbiero

2026-2027 OFFICERS

| | | |
|----------------------|---|---------------------------|
| Faithful Navigator |  | SK Anthony H. Hopfinger |
| Faithful Comptroller |  | SK George Edward Barbiero |
| Faithful Captain |  | SK Darwin Reeck |
| Faithful Admiral |  | SK Anthony J. Salvucci |
| Faithful Purser |  | SK Vince W. Gelsomino |
| Faithful Pilot |  | SK Richard L. Anderson |
| Faithful Scribe |  | SK Joseph Macarelli |
| Inner Sentinel |  | SK Charles E. Woodrum |
| Outer Sentinel |  | SK William G. Blanchard |
| Trustee (1Year) |  | SK Richard A. Kunzier |
| Trustee (2Year) |  | SK Kevin P. Szopinski |
| Trustee (3Year) |  | SK Bernard Francis Lanza |



Assembly 1818 Celebrates the Installation of Its Officers

This month, Bishop Charles McLaughlin Assembly 1818 brought our fraternal year to a solemn and uplifting close with the **Annual Installation of Officers**, held in the peaceful Chapel of **Our Lady of Lourdes**. The ceremony reflected the dignity, patriotism, and fraternity that define the Fourth Degree.

As is our tradition, the gathering opened with the **patriotic singing of our National Anthem**, led with precision and respect. **Commander Marty Reis** guided the procession, accompanied by **SK Ed Farrell** and **SK Chuck Woodrum**, who reverently posted the Colors as the Assembly joined in song.

Father Saji began the ceremony with a beautiful prayer, invoking God's grace upon our Assembly and upon the men called to leadership. His words set a tone of faith, unity, and purpose.

SK Bernie Lanza, Faithful Navigator, offered words of welcome before introducing **SK Bob Marrah**, who once again officiated the ceremony with the solemnity and devotion for which he is well known. SK Marrah addressed each newly elected officer, speaking clearly to the **responsibilities, virtues, and sacred trust** inherent in their roles. Though not all officers were able to be present, stand-ins were appointed to fulfill the ceremonial obligations, ensuring that every position was honored.

A touching moment came as **SK Kevin O'Brien** presented the officer jewels to the wives in attendance, who then placed them around the necks of their husbands a gesture symbolizing shared commitment and family support. For those whose wives could not be present, **SK Marrah** bestowed the jewels with matching reverence and care.

The ceremony concluded with **Father Saji's blessing**, sending forth our officers with the protection and guidance of the Holy Spirit. Newly elected **Faithful Navigator Anthony Hopfinger** then formally closed the meeting and ceremony, marking the beginning of a new chapter in our Assembly's service to Church, community, and country.

May God continue to bless our Assembly, our officers, and all Brother Sir Knights who labor faithfully in the spirit of **Charity, Unity, Fraternity, and Patriotism**.

Vivat Jesus.





















No Veteran Forgotten Ceremony

We are pleased to announce that the **No Veteran Forgotten Ceremony** will be on:

Wednesday, July 8th, 2026.

We ask all participants to meet by 8:45 AM. We head to the Internment Shelter at Sarasota National Cemetery at 8:50 AM, with the service beginning at 9:00 AM. Please wear your assembly shirt, and invite your spouses, friends and neighbors to join us as we stand together to remember the legacy of those who made the ultimate sacrifice for our freedom.

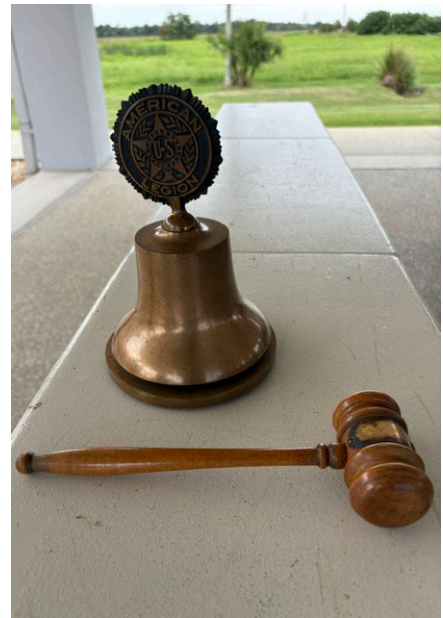
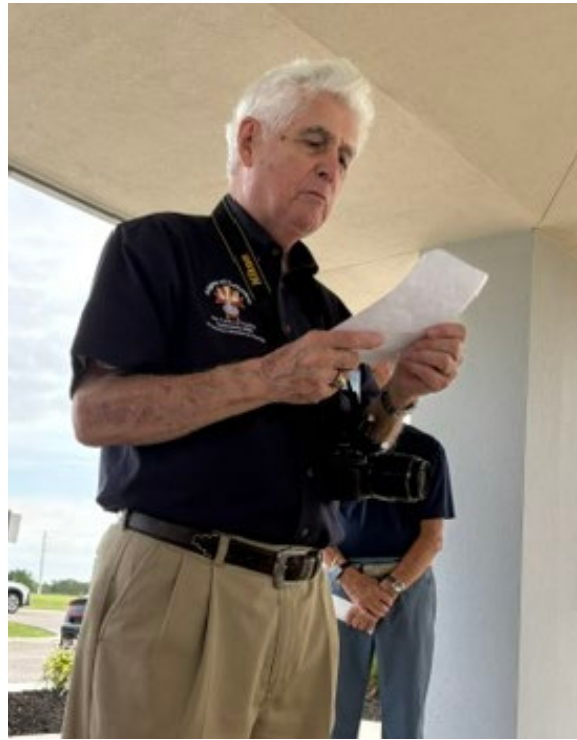


| RANK | VETERANS NAME | BRANCH OF SERVICE |
|------|---------------------|---------------------------|
| RM2 | Maurice Hill | US Navy – Persian Gulf |
| MM3 | Robert Burmeister | US Navy - Vietnam |
| PFC | Dale Dalton | US Army - Vietnam |
| CPL | Robert Hulstine Jr. | US Marine Corps - Vietnam |
| SP5 | James Wilson | US Army - Vietnam |
| | | |





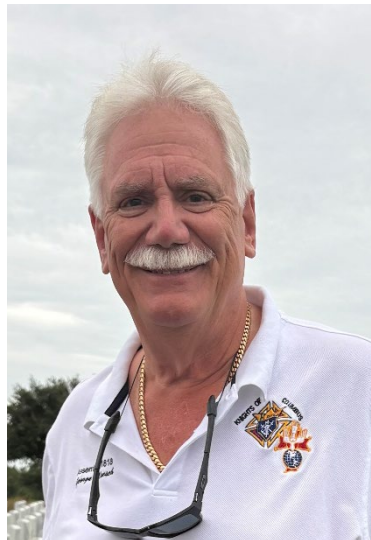




Honoring Commitment - As we begin a new month of fraternal service, it is fitting that we pause to honor the men whose dedication, discipline, and quiet strength continue to elevate the mission of our Assembly. The Color Corps stands as the visible arm of the Fourth Degree an embodiment of reverence, patriotism, and unity. Today, we joyfully recognize those Sir Knights celebrating their Color Corps anniversaries this month.

JULY COLOR CORPS ANNIVERSARIES

| Name | Years |
|---------------|-------|
| Steve Vacca | 1 |
| George Moesch | 1 |
| Darwin Reeck | 1 |





Knights on Bikes Venice Chapter

Knights on Bikes: Faith, Fellowship & the Open Road

We encourage you to explore this link for the latest information about Knights on Bikes.



The Knights on Bikes ride as visible witnesses of our Catholic faith, carrying the Cross into every community they touch. Guided by the Holy Spirit and strengthened by the Sacred Heart of Jesus, these brothers bring prayer, charity, and courage wherever the road leads. Their mission is simple yet profound: to serve the Church, defend the vulnerable, and shine the light of Christ through every mile. As pilgrims of the open road, they remind us that discipleship is a journey and they choose to ride it boldly, faithfully, and with hearts anchored in the Gospel.

Milestones of our Brother Knights - This month, we extend our warmest wishes to those brothers observing a birthday, and we also recognize those who are celebrating an anniversary of their commitment to the Fourth Degree.

JULY BIRTHDAYS

| Name | Date | Age |
|-----------------------|------|-----|
| Salvatore Vergona | 3 | 81 |
| Charles J. Donelson | 4 | 77 |
| Rnard T. Keefer | 12 | 74 |
| Russell J. Ballagh | 14 | 75 |
| Leonard P. Chudzinski | 14 | 74 |
| Robert B. Crowley | 15 | 93 |
| Patrick J. Keigher | 16 | 87 |
| Harold C. Lloyd | 16 | 88 |
| Ronald D. Doorenbos | 18 | 68 |
| John J. Gallagher | 19 | 74 |
| George V. Meekins Jr. | 22 | 84 |
| Daniel J. Phillips | 26 | 79 |
| Leon R. Alvarez | 28 | 74 |
| John w. Staas | 28 | 84 |
| Jorge Hidalgo | 30 | 44 |

JULY ANNIVERSARIES

| Name | Years |
|-----------------------|-------|
| Kenneth P. Conroy Jr. | 58 |
| Dr. Victor Deloach MD | 14 |
| James J. Connor | 13 |
| Thomas D. Davis | 9 |
| Charles F. Deroo | 2 |
| Thomas P. Festa | 2 |
| Edward W. McManus | 2 |



Prayer Request

| | |
|-----------------------|----------------------------------|
| SK Rick Miller | Susan Leary |
| SK Armand Padula | Tim Kunzier |
| SK Mike LaVecchia | Margaret Jagenow |
| SK Ed McManus | Meradith Sanford |
| SK Derek Baiz | John Dowd |
| SK Jim Martin | Lynne Froemiller |
| George J Barbiero Sr. | Linda Waldt |
| Mark Hanrahan | Janice Turek |
| Liliana Grace Russo | All Knights of Columbus Brothers |
| Presley Love | Father Jay's Sister |
| | All Children to Return to Church |
| | |
| | |
| | |
| | |
| | |

This prayer list is a testament to our commitment to one another, a space where we can place the names of our fellow knights, cherished family members, and dear friends. Whether facing health issues or grappling with personal challenges, each person needs our heartfelt prayers.



ASSEMBLY 1818 APPOINTED POSITIONS



| | | |
|---|--------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Color Corps Commander | Martin Reis | 209-480-6043 |
| Cemetery Activity Coordinator | Rick Anderson | 321-303-8172 |
| Membership Chairman | Steve Vacca | 954-655-1110 |
| Retention Chairman Bereavement /Birthdays Anniversaries | Charles Woodrum | 304-282-8733 |
| Sir Knight Veterans Gala Chairman | TBA | TBA |
| Football Commissioner | Richard Kunzier | 973-903-1226 |
| Welfare | Vinny Gelsomino Deacon Rich | 815-409-2385 914-388-4389 |
| Admissions Chairman | TBA | TBA |
| Knights on Bikes | Bill Blanchard | 732-841-6074 |
| Newsletter & Webmaster | George E. Barbiero | 203-885-8238 |

Gear Up, Brothers



Looking to show your Knights of Columbus pride? You may purchase shirts and caps at *Designer Tees* located at 565 Paul Morris Dr, Englewood. They may be reached at 941-272-8673. If you're looking for a wider selection of Knights of Columbus merchandise, including a variety of accessories and apparel, be sure to visit at [Knights Gear](#) online. They offer a range of items to help you display your dedication to the Order. Finally, for our esteemed Color Corps members, uniforms may be purchased directly at [Knights of Columbus | Supply Room](#) and [Home - Knights of Columbus Supplies](#)



Council Updates & Family and Pro Life News



Below you will find the websites for each of the third-degree councils that contribute to our Assembly. Although each Council is unique, they all share the core values of charity, unity, and fraternity. We encourage you to explore each website as well as Deacon Rich's *Family and Pro Life News*.



[Click here](#) for Council 7997 San Pedro.



[Click here](#) for Council 15821 Our Lady of Mount Carmel.



[Click here](#) for Council 9924. Our Lady of Lourdes.



[Click here](#) for Council 7052 Epiphany Cathedral.



[Click here](#) for the monthly *Family and ProLife News Briefs* from Deacon Rich.