

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

ASSEMBLY 1818

Volume I Issue V November 2025



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Greetings, Brother Knights:

I never served in uniform. I never marched into battle or saluted the flag from foreign soil. But I've stood beside the graves of those who did. Family, friends, and fraternal brothers whose courage shaped my life more than they ever knew. Each Veterans Day, I feel their absence like a quiet echo. There's an empty chair in my heart for every one of them. Neighbors and parishioners whose stories ended too soon, but whose legacies live on in the way we gather, pray, and remember. Though I didn't serve, I serve now in memory, in honor, and in faith.

That's why I wear the regalia of the Fourth Degree, the Patriotic Degree of the Knights of Columbus. In the Color Corps, we don't carry rifles. We carry swords not for war, but for ceremony. We stand at attention for every veteran and every branch, every flag-draped casket. We salute not rank, but sacrifice. We are the guardians of remembrance.

When I stand beside my fellow Sir Knights, I see more than uniforms, I see stories. I see families who gave everything. I see the quiet strength of patriotism rooted in faith. I see our Assembly 1818 living out its mission: to honor, to serve, and to never forget.

This Veterans Day, I invite you to pause, to pray, and to remember the empty chairs. Fill them with gratitude, with love, and with the promise that their sacrifice was not in vain.

We stand because they stood. We serve because they served. We will remember their sacrifice always.

May God bless you and your families.

Vivat Jesus!



SK George Barbiero



A Veterans Day Message from our Faithful Pilot

Veterans Day

Our pledge of Patriotism reaches out to our children, adults, government employees, law enforcement officers, military personnel and topped with the President of United States all living by a pledge to defend and protect our nation under God.

Millions of our fellow Military Americans are properly shaped and "honed" to live and die under the code of honor to defend and protect America and our God given rights. We, the living Patriots of our Knights of Columbus, stand among our veteran brothers to honor, lead and protect every corner of America from sea to shining sea!

Our Knights of Columbus routinely visit and honor the recently forgotten veterans buried among the other 33,000 veterans laid to rest at Sarasota National Cemetery. Imagine these deceased veterans among those honored and buried within America's other 157 national cemeteries of our fallen veterans. How great is God to direct Americans and America to help the world follow in his ways!

Now, times are testy here and abroad, we must come together regardless political leanings and strongly unite under our God as a beacon for all.

Living Veterans are our strength and will never be forgotten!

Happy Veterans Day

SK
Rick Anderson
Pilot, Assembly 1818
Veteran USMC

13th Annual Valentines for Veterans Dinner Dance

Hosted by: Bishop Charles McLaughlin
Assembly 1818, Knights of Columbus
February 14, 2026
San Pedro Activity Center, North Port
Doors open at 5:00 PM
Dinner served at 6:00 PM
Dancing & Ceremony Tributes until 9:30 PM
Tickets: \$35 per person

Dear Brother Knights, families, and friends,

We are honored to invite you to one of our most cherished traditions our 13th Annual Valentines for Veterans Dinner Dance, a heartfelt evening dedicated to celebrating love, service, and patriotism.

Held once again at the welcoming San Pedro Activity Center in North Port, this event brings together our community in support of those who have bravely served our nation. For just \$35 per person, guests will enjoy a delicious dinner featuring salad, ziti with meatballs, fresh bread, and dessert, accompanied by lively entertainment from BIG TIME ENTERTAINMENT. The evening will be filled with music, dancing, and meaningful ceremonial tributes.

This year, we are proud to honor three distinguished veterans whose service exemplifies courage and commitment. We will also pay tribute to all six branches of the United States Armed Forces, reaffirming our Assembly's deep respect for every man and woman who has worn the uniform.

Over the years, this event has become a cornerstone of our patriotic outreach, raising vital funds to support veterans in Sarasota County. Through your generosity via ticket sales, raffles, and our silent auction, we continue to help local veterans in need. Your presence and participation make a real difference.

To reserve your tickets, please contact:
George Barbiero
203-885-8238
gebarbiero@gmail.com

Let us come together in faith, fraternity, and gratitude to ensure no veteran is forgotten. Thank you for helping us make this evening a celebration of service, sacrifice, and love.

Fraternally yours,
Assembly 1818, Knights of Columbus

CALENDAR 2025-2026 Our Assembly is excited to present a calendar filled with opportunities for fellowship, spiritual growth, and service. We encourage all members to review the upcoming schedule and participate as actively as your time and talents allow. We look forward to seeing you there.

NOVEMBER 2025

- **Tue, Nov 4** – Officers Meeting @ 2:00 PM (LOOL)
- **Tue, Nov 11** –Veterans Day Mass @ Noon (SNC)
- **Wed, Nov 12** – SNC @ 8:30 AM
- **Thurs, Nov 20** – Assembly Meeting @ 6:30 PM
 - Rosary @ 5:30 PM - Dinner @ 5:45 PM

DECEMBER 2025

- **Wed, Dec 10** – SNC @ 8:30 AM
- **Tue, Dec 9** – Christmas Assembly Dinner Meeting
- **Sat, Dec 13** – Placement of Wreaths @ SNC @ (TBD AM)

JANUARY 2026

- **Sat, Jan 3** – Removal of Wreaths @ SNC @ 8:00 AM
- **Tue, Jan 13** – Officers Meeting @ 9:00 AM (LOOL)
- **Wed, Jan 14** – SNC @ 8:30 AM
- **Thurs, Jan 15** – Assembly Meeting @ 6:30 PM
 - Rosary @5:30 PM - Dinner @ 5:45 PM
 - *Renewal of Obligation*
 - *Guest Speaker Presentation*
- **Thurs, Jan 29** – Color Corps Drill Practice @ 2 PM (SP)

FEBRUARY 2026

- **Wed, Feb 11** – SNC @ 8:30 AM
- **Sat, Feb 14** – Valentine for Vets Dinner/Dance
 - Starts at 5:30 PM San Pedro Social Hall

MARCH 2026

- **Wed, Mar 11** – SNC @ 8:30 AM
- **Thurs, Mar 19** – Assembly Meeting @ 6:30 PM
 - Rosary @ 5:30 PM - Dinner @ 5:45 PM
 - *Missing Man Table Remembrance*
- **Thurs, Mar 26** – Color Corps Drill Practice @ 2 PM (MC)

APRIL 2026

- **Wed, Apr 8** – SNC @ 8:30 AM
- **Tue, Apr 14** – Officers Meeting @ 9:00 AM (OLOL)
- **Thurs, Apr 16** – Assembly Meeting @ 6:30 PM
 - Rosary @ 5:30 PM - Dinner @ 5:45 PM
 - *Presentation of Slate of Officers*
- **Thurs, Apr 30** – Color Corps Drill Practice @ 2 PM (OLOL)

MAY 2026

- **Sat, May 23** – Placement of Flags @ SNC @ 7:30 AM
- **Wed, May 13** – SNC @ 8:30 AM
- **Thurs, May 21** – Assembly Meeting @ 6:30 PM
 - Rosary @ 5:30 PM - Dinner @ 5:45 PM
 - *Election of Officers*
- **Thurs, May 28** – Color Corps Drill Practice @ 2 PM (OLOL)
- **Sat, May 30** – Removal of Flags @ SNC @ 7:30 AM

JUNE 2026

- **Wed, June 10** – SNC @ 8:30 AM
- **Thurs, June 18** – Award Presentation & Dinner @ 6:00 PM (OLOL)

Knights on Bikes Faith, Fellowship & the Open Road

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

[Knights on Bikes Venice Chapter](#)





Assembly 1818 Extends Appreciation to SK Bill Blanchard and the Knights on Bikes



We extend our wholehearted thanks to Sir Knight Bill Blanchard for his inspiring presentation at our October monthly meeting. Bill and fellow Knights Ron Doorrenbos and Derek Baiz are proud members of our Assembly and participate actively in the unique ministry of the Knights on Bikes. This special brotherhood blends faith, fraternity, and the open road.

Bill shared a compelling history of the Florida chapter, highlighting its deep involvement with the Diocese of Venice and its sacred duty of escorting the Silver Rose. This powerful symbol of life and devotion to Our Lady of Guadalupe travels from parish to parish across Mexico, the United States, and Canada. Due to overwhelming interest, the Silver Rose remains at each church for only a few hours before continuing its pilgrimage. The adoration and coordination required for this journey reflect the Knights on Bikes' unwavering commitment to honoring life and spreading the message of faith.

Bill spoke passionately about the charitable works supported by the Knights on Bikes as well. These include fundraising rides, parish outreach, and participation in pro-life initiatives. Their efforts span toy drives, rides for vocations, support for local councils, and national events such as the "March for Life". The Knights' presence at prayer services, community events, and diocesan celebrations brings visibility and vitality to our shared mission as Knights of Columbus.

We encourage our members to consider joining this worthy group, whose motto—"In God We Trust and Ride"—is lived out in every mile they travel. Their preaching, camaraderie, and dedication to service are a testament to the power of faith in motion.

Thank you again, Sir Knights Bill, Derk, and Ron for your involvement in this worthy brotherhood and for reminding us that the road to charity and fraternity can be paved with purpose, prayer, and horsepower.



A Satisfying Thank You to Bob and Diana



We'd like to extend our heartfelt thanks to Bob O'Brien and Diana Hopfinger for the delicious culinary delights they provided for our October monthly meeting. Bob's brownies were decadent, and Diana's sloppy joes reminded us of mom's home cooking. Their generosity and culinary talents added a special touch to our gathering. Not a single crumb was left.



Honoring Our Newest Fourth Degree Sir Knight: Joseph Ferreria...



At our October monthly meeting, Assembly 1818 proudly recognized Joseph Ferreria for his official advancement to the Fourth Degree of the Knights of Columbus. Joe was exemplified at the most recent ceremony held at Our Lady of the Angels Church in Lakewood Ranch and received his Worthy Sir Knight Certificate a testament to his commitment to patriotism, fraternity, and faith. Congratulations, Sir Knight Joe!

Upcoming Fourth Degree Exemplification – Wildwood, FL:

All paperwork has been submitted for the next Fourth Degree Exemplification, scheduled to take place at St. Vincent de Paul Catholic Church in Wildwood, Florida. We are honored to present the following candidates:

- Our Lady of Lourdes: Thomas Hankard & Michael Mauti
- Mt. Carmel: Thomas McDermitt
- Epiphany Cathedral: Brendan McCoy, Gerard Scannell & Jorge Hidalgo

Looking Ahead: January 31, 2026 – Tampa, FL:

We're blessed to announce that the following exemplification will be hosted at St. Mark the Evangelist Church in Tampa, Florida on January 31, 2026. We encourage all eligible Third-Degree Knights to consider taking this next step in their journey. Marty Reis and I are available to assist with forms and guidance. Reach out when you're ready.

Stay Connected:

Reminders will be sent periodically to keep our Councils informed and engaged. Let's continue to grow our ranks and honor the legacy of the Fourth Degree.

For questions or to begin your application:

- George Barbiero: 203-885-8238
- Marty Reis: 209-480-6043

Together we will exemplify the values of Charity, Unity, Fraternity, and Patriotism.

Upcoming Events: Join Us in Fellowship and Service

Please mark your calendars for the upcoming monthly meeting of Assembly 1818. The meeting will be held on **Thursday, November 20th 2025**, at **512 Substation Road, Venice, Florida**. The schedule for the evening is as follows:

MARK YOUR
CALENDAR!

- **5:30 PM:** Rosary
- **5:45 PM:** Dinner
- **6:30 PM:** Meeting

Upon arrival, a **Prayer List** will be available for sign-up. In the spirit of Christian charity and brotherhood, please add the names of those in need of our prayers when you sign in. Through our collective prayers, we can offer support and solace to those who are suffering or in need of divine grace. We will also be holding a **50/50 drawing**, so come prepared to participate!

The **No Veteran Forgotten Ceremony** will take place this month on **Wednesday, November 12th, 2025**. 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.



No Veteran Forgotten Ceremony

This month we would like to share the list of Veterans we honored



SP4	Kenneth Hurley	US ARMY
2ND LT	Richard Palmer	US ARMY
SP4	Michael Perryman	US ARMY
SP4	Albert Grove	US ARMY
AB	Scott Ritchie	US AIR FORCE
AZC	Leonard Grier	US AIR FORCE
IC3	Richard Steinle	US NAVY
SGT	Charles Laucks	US ARMY
DN	Donald Voltz	US NAVY
PFC	Arthur Wright	US ARMY
SP4	Randolph Cooper	US ARMY
PFC	Manoug Anusbigian	US ARMY
TSGT	James Sullivan	US AIR FORCE
SP4	Richard Rouse	US ARMY
AA	Richard Sciarrone	US NAVY
PVT	Stanley Evans	US ARMY
SA	George Hoffman	US NAVY
SPC	Gerald Byers	US ARMY
PFC	Geraldine Fleischer	US ARMY
FTM2	William Sabin	US NAVY

Love of Country: A Catholic Duty of Patriotism



Patriotism

Patriotism is a virtue. It is the love of country grounded in gratitude and responsibility. It calls us to participate in civic life, uphold justice, and care for the heartfelt all while preserving our Catholic values. Service uplifts others through self-giving and humility. As citizens and Knights of Columbus, we carry a sacred obligation to love and serve our country, not blindly, but faithfully through truth, charity, and principled action.

Catholic Roots in American History

Did you know that Charles Carroll, the only Catholic signer of the Declaration of Independence, wrote that “without morals, a republic cannot subsist”. Our faith was present at the beginning, quiet but firm. In defending religious liberty, supporting charitable works, and promoting good citizenship, the Sir Knights of the Fourth Degree carry this legacy into the future.

Faithful Citizenship in Today’s World

We honor our country by:

- Voting with a well-formed conscience
- Advocating for religious freedom and the dignity of life
- Praying for our leaders and military
- Serving veterans and their families
- Teaching our youth the values of integrity, sacrifice, and courage

Let patriotism be more than a flag on the lawn. Let it be the beating heart of a Sir Knight’s vocation.

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.

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Name	Date	Age
Michael Iacampo	1	93
Howard Schneider	3	84
Ronald Balaze	6	87
Joseph Dela Penna	6	84
Richard Maier	6	88
Robert Rueger	6	89
Paul Cacciatore	8	74
Darwin Reeck	8	78
Martin Reis	13	76
Jeffrey Curtis	18	59
James Worth	19	79
Andres Soriano	20	52
Donald Maselli	24	92
David Warren	24	82
Albert Gutierrez	25	71
Deacon Epimaco Roca	29	69

NOVEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

Name	Years
Valentine Marquez	48
Robert Keating	46
John Gallagher	36
Russell Ballagh	28
Rev. Robert Cannon	24
Bernard Keefer	24
Bernard Louis Sponsel	24
Albert Gutierrez	19
Harold Lloyd Jr.	19
Michael Renzulli	19
Anthony Salvucci	18
Ricardo Sanvictores	18
Ronald Juaire	16
Paul Cacciatore	16
Edward Farrell	15
Gregory Walsh	14
Paul Patterson	13
Robert Smith	13
Louis Magyar	12
Louis Gianopulos Jr.	10
Robert Heidenreich	9
John Dean	9
Rev. Anthony Armstrong	8
Robert Rueger	7
Amado Varona	7
Frank Bertoni	5
Armand Padula	5
Jean Milord	4



Sir Rick Miller	Connie Smith
Susan Crews	Jerry Smith
Kathy Lanza	Pam Russell
Laura Miller	Jim Russell
Katherine Block	Ed McManus
Mike Fusco	Tim Kunzier
Rob Wucki (Dad)	Eddie Buglione
Olivia Wolak Russo	Cristina Blanchard
Linda Montemarano	John Murray (Passed)
George J. Barbiero Sr.	Eric Santiago
Nancy Mehos	Sir Peter Spagnuolo
Sister Stacey Hanrahan (Passed)	Ginny Spagnuolo

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.



You're Invited

Assembly 1818 Christmas Party

SATURDAY, 12.13.25

Cocktails at 5:00 pm — Dinner at 6:00 p.m

Venetian Golf & River Club

Laural Rd, Venice, 34275

Dinner Includes One Entrée Below plus Vegetable

Chicken Marcella w/ rice \$24

Penne Carbonara w/ rice \$18 (add Chicken \$5)

Beef Tenderloin Medallion w/ potato \$35

Onion Crusted Salmon w/ rice \$28

Vegetarian w/ rice. \$18

Business Casual Dress

RSVP with Name of Attendees and Dinner Selection

by 12.4.25 to Anthony Hopfinger

412.496.6776 or ahhopfinger@gmail.com

HISTORY OF THE FLAG



The United States flag is the third oldest of the national standards of the world — older than the Union Jack of Britain or the Tricolor of France.

The Second Continental Congress officially authorized the flag in Philadelphia on June 14, 1777. This date is

celebrated as Flag Day across America.

The flag was first raised at Fort Stanwix in Rome, New York, on August 3, 1777. It was first under fire three days later in the battle of Oriskany, August 6, 1777. The flag features thirteen stars and stripes, each representing one of the original thirteen states established from the former colonies. The colors of the flag may be thus explained — the red is for valor, zeal and fervency; the white for hope, purity, cleanliness of life, and rectitude of conduct; the blue, the color of heaven, for reverence to God, loyalty, sincerity, justice and truth.

The star (an ancient symbol of India, Persia, and Egypt) symbolizes dominion and sovereignty, as well as lofty aspiration. The constellation of the stars within the union, one star for each state, is emblematic of our federal constitution which reserves their individual sovereignty except as to the rights delegated by them to the federal government.

The symbolism of the flag was thus interpreted by Washington: “We take the stars from heaven, the red from our mother country, separating it by the white stripes, thus showing that we have separated from her, and the white stripes shall go down to posterity representing liberty.”

In 1795 after Vermont and Kentucky were admitted to the Union, the number of stars and stripes was increased to fifteen. As other states came into the Union it became evident there would be too many stripes. In 1818 Congress enacted that the number of stripes be reduced and restricted henceforth to thirteen, representing the thirteen original states, while a star should be added for each succeeding state. That law is the law of today.

The name “Old Glory” was given to our national flag on August 10, 1831, by William Driver, a sea captain of Salem, Massachusetts. One legend has it that when he raised the flag on his brig, the Charles Doggett, he said: “I name thee Old Glory.” The flag debuted at the

Battle of Brandywine on September 11, 1777. It first flew over foreign territory January 28, 1778, at Nassau, Bahama Islands; Fort Nassau having been captured by the Americans in the course of the war for independence. The first recorded salute to the flag by a foreign nation occurred when French Admiral LaMotte Piquet off Quiberon Bay acknowledged it on February 13, 1778.

The United States flag is unique in the deep and noble significance of its message to the entire world — a message of national independence, of individual liberty, of idealism, of patriotism. It symbolizes national independence and popular sovereignty. It is not the flag of a reigning family or royal house, but of nearly three hundred million free people welded into a nation, one and inseparable, united not only by community of interest but by vital unity of sentiment and purpose; a nation distinguished for the clear, individual conception of its citizens alike, of their duties and their privileges, their obligations and their rights.

It incarnates for all mankind the spirit of liberty and the glorious ideal of human freedom — not the freedom of unrestraint or the liberty of license — but a unique ideal of equal opportunity for life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness, safeguarded by the stern and lofty principles of duty, of righteousness and of justice, and attainable by obedience to self-imposed laws.

Floating from the lofty pinnacle of American idealism, it is a beacon of enduring hope to the oppressed of all lands. It floats over a wondrous assemblage of people from every racial stock of the earth whose united hearts constitute an indivisible and invincible force for the defense and succor of the downtrodden.

It embodies the essence of patriotism. Its spirit is the spirit of the American nation. Its history is the history of the American people. Emblazoned upon its folds in letters of living light are the names and fame of our heroic dead, the fathers of the republic who offered upon its altars their lives, their fortunes and their sacred honor. Tales of national honor and glory cluster thickly about it. Ever victorious it has emerged triumphant from many great national conflicts. The flag was present at Saratoga, Yorktown, Gettysburg, Manila Bay, Chateau-Thierry, Iwo Jima, Normandy Beaches, Inchon Landing, among other locations. It bears witness to the immense expansion of our national boundaries, the development of our national resources, and the splendid structure of our civilization. It prophesies the triumph of popular government, of civic and religious liberty and of national righteousness throughout the world.

The Knights of Columbus have played a significant role in the history of the American flag. They adopted the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States on Columbus Day, 1893, and later amended it to include the words “under God” in 1951. The Knights of Columbus proposed this amendment, which Congress approved in 1954. The organization’s efforts to promote the flag and its significance have been a part of its mission since its founding in 1882.



ASSEMBLY 1818 APPOINTED POSITIONS



Color Corp Commander	Martin Reis 209-480-6043
Cemetery Activity Coordinator	Rick Anderson 321-303-8172
Meeting Communications Coordinator	Michael Cleary 941-445-7580
Membership Chairmen	Martin Reis 209-480-6043 George Barbiero 203-885-8238
Retention Chairman/Bereavement/ Birthdays /Anniversaries	Charles Woodrum 304-282-8733
Valentines For Veterans	Tony Hopfinger 412-496-6776 Mike Milak 941-380-7248 Martin Reis 209-480-6043
Football Commissioner	Richard Kunzier 973-903-1226

Gear Up, Brothers

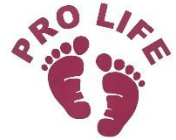


Looking to show your Knights of Columbus pride? You may purchase shirts and caps at *Designer Tees* located at 565 Paul Morris Dr, Englewood. They may be reached at 941-272-8672. If you're looking for a wider selection of Knights of Columbus merchandise, including a variety of accessories and apparel, 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.