

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

Assembly 1818



Special Edition August 14, 2025

Greetings Brother Knights:



Eighty years ago, on August 14, 1945, the news of Japan's unconditional surrender was announced, effectively marking the end of World War II. As we reflect on this anniversary, we are reminded of the profound sacrifices made by the "greatest generation."

In this spirit of patriotism and gratitude, our Assembly proudly participated in the monthly *No Veteran Forgotten Ceremony* on August 13th at the Sarasota National Cemetery where we honored those that gave their lives for our freedom. We also remembered The National Spirit of '45 Day. It was fitting that this month the ceremony was on the Feast Day of Blessed Michael J. McGivney, Founder of the Knights of Columbus as well.



This special edition of *The Patriot's Call* highlights these events and serves as a *Call* to all of our brothers to not only attend the *No Veteran Forgotten Ceremony* but to bring your friends, neighbors, and, most importantly, children when possible. By introducing our youth to this ceremony, we will instill in them a deep appreciation for the service and sacrifice of our nation's heroes, ensuring that the lessons of history and the *Spirit of '45* live on for generations to come.

Historical Background of Spirit of '45



What was announced: The Japanese government had officially accepted the terms of the Potsdam Declaration, which called for their unconditional surrender. This was the news that sparked jubilant celebrations around the world.

Who announced it: U.S. President Harry S. Truman announced the surrender to reporters at the White House at 7 p.m. in Washington, D.C. At nearly the same time, because of the time zone difference, Emperor Hirohito of Japan was recording a radio address to be broadcast to the Japanese people the following day. This broadcast was the first time most Japanese citizens had ever heard their emperor's voice.

Where it was announced: President Truman made his announcement from **the White House** in Washington, celebrations in public spaces across the United States and other Allied nations. Famously, the largest crowd in New York City's history gathered in Times Square to celebrate.



The Spirit of '45 is a National Day of Observance in the United States. The day was officially established by Congress in 2010 to ensure the sacrifices and accomplishments of that generation are not forgotten. While the surrender was announced on August 14, 1945 (in the U.S. and other parts of the Western Hemisphere), the formal signing of the Instrument of Surrender took place on September 2, 1945, aboard the battleship USS Missouri in Tokyo Bay. Some countries, including the United States, officially commemorate Victory over Japan Day (V-J Day) on September 2, while others, like the United Kingdom and Australia, observe it on August 15.



The Fourth Degree Knights of Columbus and the Spirit of '45

The Spirit of '45 seeks to highlight the values and traits associated with this generation, such as:

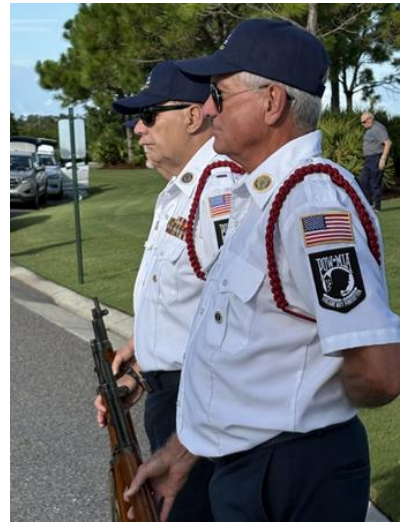
- **Personal responsibility**
- **Humility and integrity**
- **Frugality and grit**
- **Forbearance**



These principles align closely with the core values of the Knights of Columbus, particularly those of the Fourth Degree whose primary purpose is to foster a spirit of patriotism and encourage active Catholic citizenship. This commitment to patriotism and service to those who defend the nation makes the Fourth Degree Knights a natural ally of the Spirit of '45 movement, as they work to ensure the sacrifices of the "greatest generation" and all service members are honored and remembered. We wish to thank all of our Brothers who brought friends and family to this ceremony.

Faithful Pilot and Cemetery Activity Coordinator Rick Anderson reported that 21 Knights, 8 wives, and 6 friends participated this month to honor 36 veterans who did not have members of their own family present at their internment. We hope to see you next month on Wednesday, September 10th.









Honoring Blessed Michael McGivney: A Legacy of Faith, Fraternity, and Patriotism

Wednesday August 13 is the sacred feast day of Blessed Michael McGivney, Brother Knights across the world celebrated a parish priest whose vision gave rise to the Knights of Columbus and whose legacy continues to guide our Order in service to both Church and country. His devotion to the poor, the widowed, and the forgotten laid the foundation for a brotherhood rooted in charity, unity, fraternity and patriotism.

At the 143rd Supreme Convention, on Tuesday, August 5th over 2,000 Knights gathered in Washington, D.C, to recommit themselves to the ideals that Father McGivney cherished: defending religious freedom, strengthening families, and honoring the dignity of every person.

“Even after 143 years, Father McGivney remains our guide,” said Supreme Knight Patrick Kelly in his annual report. “We’ve gone further than he ever imagined not by our own strength, but by following where Christ has called us. And now, Christ is calling us to go even further. And we are ready.”

As Fourth Degree Knights especially know, patriotism is not just a principle, it’s a sacred duty. We serve our communities with reverence for God and gratitude for the freedoms we enjoy. Whether standing in honor guard, supporting veterans, or defending the values that built this nation, we carry forward Father McGivney’s vision with pride and purpose.

May his example inspire us to be faithful citizens and courageous disciples united in our mission, steadfast in our convictions, and always ready to answer the call.