



## **KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS**

**Brief History of the  
Hilton Head Assembly  
Fraternal Years  
1992/1993 - 2009/2010**

**Sir Knight Lawrence E. Czokay  
December 15, 2009**

## ***To the Sir Knights of the Hilton Head Assembly 2280:***

This brief history of the Hilton Head Assembly is based upon my research from the large black books, weighing about 5 lbs. each and referred to as Minutes of the Assembly, which include all the minutes for the Fraternal Years 1992/1993 through 2009/2010. In addition, significant contributions have been made from my interviews and conversations with Sir Knights James Graham, Bob Bidwell, and Fred Schmitz. Fred was instrumental in retrieving the original meeting minutes from the archives.

When I began this research project to compile a brief history of the Hilton Head Assembly, my intention was to identify and report on at least one historical fact for each fraternal year since the first Assembly was called to order on May 21, 1992. While attempting to do so, it should be noted that all minutes up to Fraternal Year 2005/2006 were handwritten and difficult to read. Please forgive me for any names that may have been spelled incorrectly. I did my best with some handwriting that was a challenge to say the least. Contained in this brochure are facts that I have selected and presented as a representative sample for the Hilton Head Assembly. While there were many outstanding accomplishments made by each Assembly's officers and members for each Fraternal Year, the sample selected is only a glimpse of what may have happened during that year.

It is my hope that you will enjoy reading this history and learning a little bit about the Hilton Head Assembly 2280. May God bless all of those that have gone before us and who will come after us.

Special thanks to my wife Donna for typing and editing my work.

Respectfully,

Sir Knight Lawrence. E. Czekay, Faithful Scribe

## ***Dear Sir Knights and Ladies:***

First of all, I would like to sincerely thank our Faithful Scribe, Sir Knight Larry Czekay, for the effort he put forth in researching and compiling this Brief History of the Hilton Head Assembly. Without his dedication and hard work this document would not exist. For those of you who may wish to pass along this brochure to your families, below is a short summary of the Knights of Columbus, the different Degrees within the Order and what the Emblem of the Fourth Degree signifies.

Father Michael J. McGivney was the assistant Pastor at St. Mary's Church in New Haven, Connecticut and is the Founder of the Knights of Columbus, which dates back to 1882. The Connecticut state legislature on March 28, 1882 officially chartered the Knights of Columbus as a fraternal benefit society, formed to provide financial aid to members and their families along with assistance to the sick and disabled.

The patron of the Order is Christopher Columbus, whose first name Christopher means Christ Bearer and Columbus means Dove of Peace. There are four Degrees within the Order: Charity, Unity, Fraternity and Patriotism. Once obtaining the Fourth Degree of Patriotism, the title of Sir Knight is bestowed upon the member. Usually, the Sir Knights are seen at community or other major events and act as the visible arm of the Order. The regalia worn by Sir Knights include a tuxedo, chapeau, cape and the ceremonial sword, which symbolizes Christian Knighthood, and signifies reverence to the Roman Catholic Church, Eucharist, our country and freedom.

The emblem of the Fourth Degree is spiritually symbolic and consists of a Globe (God the Father, Creator of the Universe), a Cross (God the Son, Redeemer of mankind) and a Dove (God the Holy Spirit, Sanctifier of humanity). The colors of red, white and blue signify the colors of the country flag in which the Order originated and stresses Patriotism.

Vivat Jesus!

Joseph A. Ruoto III, Faithful Navigator

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## **FY 1992/1993 HIGHLIGHTS**

The first meeting of the Knights of Columbus Fourth Degree Hilton Head, South Carolina Assembly was called to order on May 21, 1992 at Holy Family Catholic Church. There were 25-27 members in attendance. The main purpose of the meeting was to present the officers who would be elected to lead the Assembly. The first officers elected were:

Faithful Navigator – James Collins  
Faithful Friar – Father Phillip Hamilton  
Faithful Admiral – Garrett W. Swenson  
Faithful Captain – J.B. Teaham  
Faithful Pilot – F. Murphy  
Faithful Comptroller – James Carlin  
Faithful Purser – C. Silbenz  
Faithful Outer Sentinal – Hubert McGinley  
Faithful Trustee – J. Pfeiffer  
Faithful Trustee – James M. Dudak  
Faithful Trustee – H. Quehl

Also decided at this first meeting:

- \* Meetings would be held monthly on the third Thursday.
- \* Smoking would not be allowed at meetings.
- \* Installation of officers would take place on June 2, 1992, at 7 PM at Holy Family Church.
- \* Mass would be celebrated by Father Hamilton with a reception following in the Church Hall.
- \* Cost for the buffet dinner was \$7.00.
- \* 4th Degree Charter received and will be on display in both Reilly and Bennett Councils.
- \* Jewels for Assembly will be purchased.
- \* Frederick A. Losinski appointed first Color Corps Commander.
- \* By-laws and dues were discussed. Decided dues would be \$30.
- \* Purchase of Honor Roll plaque voted on and approved.
- \* Assembly received Cross of Columbus on November 14, 1992.

## FY 1993/1994 HIGHLIGHTS

### Officers:

Faithful Navigator – John B. Graham  
Faithful Friar – Father Phillip Hamilton  
Faithful Admiral – J.F. Collins  
Faithful Captain – James Carlin  
Faithful Comptroller – John Sesti  
Faithful Purser – James M. Dudak  
Faithful Pilot – Bob Bidwell  
Faithful Scribe – James W. Crump  
Faithful Inside Sentinel – C. Hillary  
Faithful Outside Sentinel – Hubert McGinley

### Key Accomplishments:

- \* Decided all candidates must have their own sword to be Knighted. Ad Hoc Committee created to seek opportunities for the Fourth Degree and to steer the group. James Carlin appointed to Chair this Committee.
- \* Decided that having flags on the alter would be up to the local parish priest.
- \* Plaque presented to John Chou, the owner of Jade East, for his support.

## **FY 1994/1995 HIGHLIGHTS**

### Officers:

Faithful Navigator – Robert Bidwell  
Faithful Captain – George Bellas  
Faithful Pilot – D.E. Smith  
Faithful Comptroller – James W. Crump  
Faithful Scribe – G. Burchard  
Faithful Purser – Steve Petro  
Faithful Inside Guard – John Chou  
Faithful 3rd Year Admiralty Trustee – John Sesti

### Key Accomplishments:

- \* Recruiting effort to be made at all Masses on December 14, 1995.
- \* Color Corps Commander requested that drill practices be held.
- \* Worked with Hilton Head City Government for a site to burn all torn US flags. This will be done on Flag Day with Sir Knights in attendance

## **FY 1995/1996 HIGHLIGHTS**

Officers:

Faithful Navigator – John Sesti

According to the minutes, the slate of officers were read aloud and approved. They were not listed in the minutes.

Key Accomplishments:

- \* Decided all motions at Assembly meetings must be recorded and logged.
- \* Third Degree reports will be included for the first time in the minutes of the Assembly.

## FY 1996/1997 HIGHLIGHTS

Officers:

Faithful Navigator – George Bellas

According to the minutes, the slate of officers was read aloud and recorded. As with the previous year, no list of officers was included in the minutes.

Key Accomplishments:

- \* Plaque was created to list all deceased Fourth Degree Assembly members. The plaque is displayed at Holy Family Church
- \* Honor Guard Wake service was established. It was decided that this honor would only be given to Sir Knights.
- \* One Assembly member previously reported deceased is alive!
- \* All officers required to wear socks to assembly meetings.

## FY 1997/1998 HIGHLIGHTS

### Officers:

Faithful Navigator – Steve Petro  
Faithful Admiral – George Bellas  
Faithful Captain – Joseph Capin  
Faithful Pilot – Robert Bayne  
Faithful Comptroller – Rich Regan  
Faithful Scribe – Fred Schmitz  
Faithful Purser – James E. Crane  
Faithful Inside Sentinel – T. Tranfo  
Faithful Outside Sentinel – Julian Wysocki  
Faithful 1st Year Trustee – George Bellas  
Faithful 2nd Year Trustee – Robert Bidwell  
Faithful 3rd Year Trustee – John Sesti

### Key Accomplishments:

- \* Proposal to change name of Assembly.
- \* Due to lack of quorum, it was tabled.
- \* Fourth Degree to assemble in Sun City when the Bishop comes to announce the site for a new church.

## FY 1998/1999 HIGHLIGHTS

### Officers:

Faithful Navigator – Robert Bayne  
Faithful Captain – Bill Haberman  
Faithful Pilot – Ed Zerbe  
Faithful Admiral – Steve Petro  
Faithful Comptroller – Rich Reagan  
Faithful Scribe – Fred Schmitz  
Faithful Purser – Jim Crane  
Faithful Outside Sentinel – Julian Wysocki

### Key Accomplishments:

- \* Requirements for becoming Fourth Degree were discussed.
- \* Creation of a phone list for all members.
- \* New members from Cardinal Bernardin Council were discussed.
- \* Crisis Pregnancy Center dance scheduled for October 10th. All Sir Knights were asked to attend.
- \* Two \$500.00 scholarships are to be awarded to High School students.
- \* Sir Knights participated in Life Chain on October 4th in Beaufort.
- \* Father McCaffery requested that no swords be brought into the Church. Clarification is needed since swords are part of official regalia.

## **FY 1999/2000 HIGHLIGHTS**

### Officers:

Faithful Navigator – Rich Regan  
Faithful Admiral – Robert Bayne  
Faithful Friar – Father McCaffery  
Faithful Captain – Tom Hanahan  
Faithful Pilot – Jack Cavagnaro  
Faithful Comptroller – Linc Bryant  
Faithful Scribe – Fred Schmitz  
Faithful Inside Sentinel – Joe Stupinsky  
Faithful Outside Sentinel – Julian Wysocki  
Faithful 3rd Year Trustee – Robert Bayne  
Faithful 2nd Year Trustee – Steve Petro  
Faithful 1st Year Trustee – George Bellas

### Key Accomplishments:

- \* Sir Knights participated in ground breaking ceremony for St. Gregory the Great Catholic Church on September 3, 1999.
- \* Sir Knights needed when the new Bishop visits Holy Family Church.
- \* Possible changes to by-laws were discussed.
- \* September 1999 meeting cancelled due to Hurricane Floyd.
- \* Joint Christmas Party discussed for all three Councils

## FY 2000/2001 HIGHLIGHTS

Officers:

Faithful Navigator – Joseph Capin

The list of additional officers was not included in the minutes of the Assembly.

Key Accomplishments:

- \* St Gregory the Great Church was dedicated. Report was given by Rich Regan.
- \* John Sesti and Father McCaffery will discuss with other priests in the area what functions the Fourth Degree are involved in.
- \* Hilton Head will be hosting the Supreme Council Meeting on November 21st with the two Cardinals in attendance.

## **FY 2001/2002 HIGHLIGHTS**

### Officers:

Faithful Navigator – Thomas Hanahan  
Faithful Captain – Linc Bryant  
Faithful Admiral – Joe Capin  
Faithful Purser – Carl Fenstermarker  
Faithful Comptroller – Pat Falciglia  
Faithful Scribe – Fred Schmitz  
Faithful Pilot – Bart Bubnell  
Faithful Inside Sentinel – Rich Rochelle  
Faithful Outside Sentinel – Terry Conway  
Faithful 3rd Year Trustee – Joseph Capin

### Key Accomplishments:

- \* Master Ron Povero in attendance for Renewal of Obligations.
- \* Father McCaffery presented with his lifetime membership card.
- \* Assembly received Civic Award for work done in 2000-2001.
- \* Roster of all members will be updated.
- \* By-law changes and additions/deletions are part of the record and are included in the minutes of 2002.

## **FY 2002/2003 HIGHLIGHTS**

### Officers:

Faithful Navigator – Linc Bryant  
Faithful Captain – Rich Rochelle  
Faithful Comptroller – Pat Falciglia  
Faithful Purser – George Reilly  
Faithful Scribe – Pat Kelley  
Faithful Pilot – Hal Weiland  
Faithful Inside Sentinel – Joe Mendoni  
Faithful Outside Sentinel – Terry O'Neill

### Key Accomplishments:

- \* 10th Anniversary of Hilton Head Assembly.
- \* Terry O'Neill reported on the Amber Alert Program and how to establish it in Beaufort County. South Carolina was one of 22 states to adopt it.
- \* Reception for our Faithful Friar who is retiring to be held at Holy Family Church December 29th.

## **FY 2003/2004 HIGHLIGHTS**

### Officers:

Faithful Navigator – Rich Rochelle

No list of other officers found within the minutes. Additionally, minutes between November 2002 and June 2003 are missing or were not recorded in the record book.

### Key Accomplishments:

- \* Rosary celebration to be held in October.
- \* Membership drive was created.
- \* Creation of a Fourth Degree Newsletter was discussed.
- \* Announced that we are the second largest Assembly in South Carolina.

## FY 2004/2005 HIGHLIGHTS

### Officers:

Faithful Navigator – Bart Bubnell  
Faithful Captain – Jack Cavagnaro  
Faithful Admiral – Rich Rochelle  
Faithful Pilot – Jim Murname  
Faithful Comptroller – George Reilly  
Faithful Scribe – Ernie Gallinari  
Faithful Purser – Jim Filentrout  
Faithful Inside Sentinel – Herb Williams  
Faithful Outside Sentinel – Tom Donnelly  
Faithful 3rd Year Trustee – Bart Bubnell  
Faithful 2nd Year Trustee – Linc Bryant  
Faithful 1st Year Trustee – Joseph Capin

### Key Accomplishments:

- \* Plaque presented to the Assembly for the outstanding work done in connection with Call Home for the Holidays Program.
- \* Proposal that we, as an Assembly, purchase swords for any new Fourth Degree members.
- \* \$100.00 donated by the Assembly for the new Veterans Park on Hilton Head Island.
- \* \$7,000.00 collected for Christmas Phone Cards.
- \* Master Richard Koehler presented Lifetime Membership Award to Sir Knight Tom Hanahan.
- \* Master Richard Koehler presented Excellence Awards to Sir Knights Bart Bubnell and Rich Rochelle.

## **FY 2005/2006 HIGHLIGHTS**

### Officers:

Faithful Navigator – Jack Cavagnaro  
Faithful Friar – Monsignor Martin T. Laughlin  
Faithful Admiral – Bart Budnell  
Faithful Captain – James Murname  
Faithful Comptroller – Bob Killenberger  
Faithful Scribe – Bob Oppenheimer  
Faithful Purser – Richard Beauchamp  
Faithful Inside Sentinel – Gary Peal  
Faithful Outside Sentinel – Herb Williams  
Faithful Trustee – Rich Rochelle  
Faithful Trustee – Linc Bryant  
Faithful Trustee – Robert Bidwell

### Key Accomplishments:

- \* Faithful Navigator will split the Color Corps Commander into two positions to reduce their duties.
- \* Faithful Navigator recognized Frank A.Ventre as lifetime member.
- \* Noted that we are the third largest Assembly in South Carolina with membership of 171.
- \* Flag pins become part of official regalia
- \* Assembly membership has grown to 194.

## **FY 2006/2007 HIGHLIGHTS**

### Officers:

Faithful Navigator – Jim Murname  
Faithful Admiral – Jack Cavagnaro  
Faithful Captain – Gary Peal  
Faithful Pilot – Pat Gilmore  
Faithful Scribe – Jerry Grubb  
Faithful Purser – Terry O'Neill  
Faithful Inside Sentinel – Tony Caruso  
Faith Outside Sentinel – Bill Weyeneth  
Faithful 3rd Year Trustee – Bart Bubnell  
Faithful 2nd Year Trustee – Rich Rochelle  
Faithful 1st Year Trustee – Mike Mika

### Key Accomplishments:

- \* \$11,000 collected for Phone Cards for Christmas Veterans Program.
- \* A showcase of Fourth Degree Memorabilia has been completed. It will move from Council to Council to be on display. Special thanks given to Sir Knight Lee J. Sturm for his efforts. This joint effort extended from 2005/2006 through 2006/2007.
- \* Discussions held concerning placement of the American Flag inside the Church.

## **FY 2007/2008 HIGHLIGHTS**

### Officers:

Faithful Navigator – Harold Wieland  
Faithful Admiral – Jim Murname  
Faithful Captain – Pat Falciglia  
Faithful Pilot – Bill Weyeneth  
Faithful Comptroller – Terry Conway  
Faithful Scribe – Ed Kamenski  
Faithful Inside Sentinel – Tom Algje  
Faithful Outside Sentinel – Larry Czekay  
Faithful 3rd Year Trustee – Jack Cavagnaro  
Faithful 2nd Year Trustee – Bart Bubnell  
Faithful 1st Year Trustee – Rich Rochelle

### Key Accomplishments:

- \* Attempted but failed to have Exemplification held on Hilton Head Island.
- \* Honor Guard needed for the Bishop's Blessing Ceremony for the new Elementary School at St. Gregory's.
- \* Received a Certificate of Appreciation for our Save our Soldier Program.

## **FY 2008/2009 HIGHLIGHTS**

### Officers:

Faithful Navigator – Patrick Falciglia  
Faithful Friar – Reverend Robert Morley  
Faithful Admiral – Harold Weiland  
Faithful Captain – Bob Killenberger/Joe Ruoto\*  
Faithful Pilot – Ken James  
Faithful Comptroller – Richard Rochelle  
Faithful Purser – Tom Algie  
Faithful Scribe – Ed Kamenski  
Faithful Inside Sentinel – Joe Gariti  
Faithful Outside Sentinel – Jack Politch  
Faithful 3rd Year Trustee – Jim Murname  
Faithful 2nd Year Trustee – Jack Cavagnaro  
Faithful 1st Year Trustee – Bart Bubnell

- \* Sir Knight Bob Killenberger passed away during his tenure as Faithful Captain. Sir Knight Joe Ruoto was elected to the position.

### Key Accomplishments:

- \* Minutes will be posted on the Reilly Council Website [kochhi.org](http://kochhi.org).
- \* Guidelines for wearing Fourth Degree regalia has been issued and will be posted on website.
- \* Last four year holiday calling card total contributions have reached \$50,000.00.
- \* Hilton Head Assembly name will be changed to the Monsignor Martin T. Laughlin Assembly upon his passing.
- \* Welfare Committee to make phone calls, home and hospital visits started.

## FY 2009/2010 HIGHLIGHTS

### Officers:

Faithful Friar – Rev. Ronald R. Cellini  
Faithful Navigator – Joseph A. Ruoto III  
Faithful Admiral – Pat Falciglia  
Faithful Captain – Ken James  
Faithful Pilot – Joe Gariti  
Faithful Comptroller – Rich Rochelle  
Faithful Scribe – Larry Czekay  
Faithful Purser – John Klinger  
Faithful Inside Sentinel – Ray Landry  
Faithful Outside Sentinel – Ed Krepfle  
Faithful Trustee – Jack Cavagnaro  
Faithful Trustee – Jim Murname  
Faithful Trustee – Hal Wieland

### Key Accomplishments:

- \* New committees formed: Heritage, SK Reach-out, Education and Annual Mass/Brunch.
- \* Sir Knights Robert Killenberger, James Collins (Assembly's 1st Faithful Navigator), Carlino Lagomarsino and Walter "Pete" Greene went to their eternal reward this year.
- \* SK Bart Bubnell led the Phone Home Campaign collecting \$12,000 for our troops. We have collected over \$63,000 since this began several years ago.
- \* SK Larry Czekay compiled a brief Assembly history for the first time and it was published and the file saved for future use.
- \* Initial seed money of \$100 approved and sent to the new Bluffton Assembly 3198, which is composed primarily of Cardinal Bernardin Council Fourth Degree Sir Knights.

