



Knights of Columbus
F O U R T H
D E G R E E
Patriotic degree of the Order.

Msgr. Francis L. Sampson Assembly
Cedar Rapids, Iowa
JANUARY-FEBRUARY, 2016

From the Faithful Navigator

A SOLDIER'S TALE

My fellow Sir Knights, in keeping with our principle of patriotism, I would like to extend a personal story of a dear friend and fellow Army veteran that was buried earlier this week. In respect to his privacy and that of his family, I shall not use names.

During my teen years, I had the privilege to befriend another boy who would become a lifelong friend and a person of considerable character and bravery. At a fairly young age, he suffered through the unexpected sudden death of a younger sister and the following downward spiral of his mother's failed attempt to cope with this loss. His father was a long distance trucker and after some unspecified time quit returning home from his travels. My friend, now a very young teen, set out to find and reunite with his father. He succeeded in doing so, but after a short period, the father again disappeared. My friend was on his own; but was pretty self-reliant and subsisted by "stealing" milk from home delivery boxes and taking bread/rolls from early morning grocery store deliveries. He often slept on park benches until coming to the attention of authorities and subsequent placement in foster care. At this point, we met and became friends. He and another foster child endured mistreatment and denial of basic care until convincing DHS of their plight and then placement with a wonderful couple that raised my friend, as their own son, through high school.

He always desired to become a law enforcement officer and succeeded in completing Army MP School and subsequent assignment to Germany then Viet Nam. Service in Viet Nam was very dangerous and difficult (no understatement intended). He was stationed around Da Nang and exposed to constant engagements with the Viet Cong and North Vietnamese Army. Sleep was a rare welcome relief, so when a fellow GI offered to take his place on a patrol; my friend took advantage and got some rest. While on this patrol, his replacement's jeep was hit by rocket fire and that unselfish GI was killed. My friend never got over this tragedy and wrongly felt this man had "taken my number". This and other atrocious memories from Viet Nam, coupled with the debilitating chronic effects of Agent Orange, left my friend scarred and in an unending quest for emotional and physical relief. May he and all the souls of the faithful departed, rest in peace...There are far more victims of Viet Nam than those named on the "Wall".

Vivat Jesus,

Gene Tang, Faithful Navigator

Membership

Faithful Comptroller Russ Stocker has mailed out the 2016 dues notices a few weeks back. Please make payment as soon as you can. A reminder to all gentlemen Sir Knights; that payment of your Fourth Degree dues is a conditional membership **provided your 3rd Degree Council dues are current**. Please remit your Council dues timely to your Financial Secretary and take care of this.



Rest In Peace

The Assembly was saddened with the death of Sir Knight Edwin Gorius. Edwin was a member of Msgr. Lenihan Council #5544 and a proud member of the 4th Degree. An Honor Guard was presented at both Wake and Funeral Mass. He had worked many years at the University of Iowa Hospitals in the HVAC Dept. and proud to be a member of the Coralville Fire Dept for a number of years. The Assembly extends its deepest sympathies to his five adult children and families. ***Eternal Rest Grant unto Him, O Lord!***

Holiday Party

Members are reminded that our annual Holiday Party will be held Sunday, January 10 at the St. Jude Parish Center beginning at 5PM. This is a casual dress social with beverages being provided. Please bring a snack to share and if you want to partake in a gift exchange game, please wrap a gift item not to exceed \$15 value. Other games will be played as well so please come and have fun.

Exemplification

The next Exemplification in Eastern Iowa will be held in Davenport on Saturday, March 12 [See attached flyer]. We need to begin recruitment to add to our ranks. If you need new application forms, please contact the Faithful Navigator or Pilot. The fee is still \$70 and this Assembly does not require any further dues payment for the balance of the year joined.

UPCOMING CALENDAR

SUN Jan 10	Assembly Holiday Party 5PM @ St. Jude
TUE Jan 12	Council #11942 Business Meeting 7PM @ St. John XXIII
WED Jan 13	Council #5544 Business Meeting @ 7PM St. Jude
TUE Jan 26	Assembly Business Meeting 7PM @ John XXIII
TUE Feb 9	Council #11942 Business Meeting 7PM @ St. John XXIII
WED Feb 10	Ash Wednesday/Council #5544 Business Meeting @ 7PM, St. Jude
SUN Feb 14	Valentine's Day (Assembly Social / TBD)
TUE Feb 23	Assembly Business Meeting 7PM @ John XXIII

USS Iowa BB-61 "The Big Stick"

Over 7,000 Iowans toured the ship as a museum during the recent migration of Iowa football fans to attend the Rose Bowl. The State of Iowa donated considerable funds to her restoration and any resident of Iowa may tour this proud vessel free of charge in Los Angeles. Waterfront/Harbor.

