



An honor guard from Cardinal Richard Cushing Assembly in East Detroit, Mich., looks on as a veterans memorial is dedicated at Sacred Heart Cemetery in Roseville. The assembly partnered with Catholic War Veterans Post #1346 to purchase the memorial, which was blessed by Auxiliary Bishop Michael J. Byrnes of Detroit.



U.S. Army Capt. Andrew Adcock (second from left) presents Grand Knight Rene Bodin (center) of St. Francis of Assisi Council 9543 in Madison, Miss., with a U.S. flag that flew in Afghanistan. Upon his return from a yearlong deployment to the Middle East as deputy chief of public affairs for Joint Sustainment Command in Afghanistan, Adcock, a council member, presented the flag to fellow Knights. Also pictured are: State Master Larry Roberts, Bill Amadio and Johnny Biggert.

Standing Up for Veterans

Seaside Council 17 in New London, Conn., donated \$550 worth of clothing and toiletries to “Stand Down — Connecticut Cares,” a program to assist needy veterans at the Connecticut Veterans Home in Rocky Hill.

Sweats for Soldiers

K of C units from throughout Oregon donated 216 new sweatpants and 58 hospital scrubs to U.S. soldiers serving in Afghanistan. The clothes will be distributed to military field hospitals for use by wounded soldiers.

Golf Tournament

Mother Teresa of Calcutta Council 12181 in Draper, Utah, hosted a golf tournament Sept. 24, 2011, to benefit the new Fisher House in Salt Lake City. With the cold weather fast approaching, Knights organized the tournament in six weeks, attracting a number of corporate sponsors, as well as 144 players. The event also featured lunch and a talk by Chief Warrant Officer Jerrold Patterson of the Utah National Guard, who served three tours of duty

in Afghanistan. Fisher House provides free housing for the families of military personnel who are being treated at military and VA medical centers.

Dinner for Troops

John F. Kennedy Council 2952 in Hammond, La., traveled to the Camp Shelby Joint Forces Training Center in Hattiesburg, Miss., to feed the troops there. With donations from the council and local businesses, Knights cooked and served 460 barbecue chicken dinners for the Missouri National Guard Military Police Battalion, which is scheduled for deployment this year.

Stand Down Event

Pope John XXIII Council 6250 in Charleston, S.C., participated in the 9th annual Stand Down Against Homelessness event. Knights and other volunteers provided food, shelter, clothing, health screenings, VA and Social Security benefits counseling, referrals, and a variety of other services to homeless or needy veterans.



Maryland Knights unload new wheelchairs for distribution to veterans at various VA medical facilities in Maryland and Washington, D.C. The Maryland State Council donated 110 wheelchairs through the Global Wheelchair Mission for patients at five VA facilities. Prior to their distribution, the wheelchairs had to be unloaded and made ready by K of C volunteers. Pictured are (from left): Sean Kelly of St. Katharine Drexel Council 14011 in Frederick, Jim Campbell of Mount St. Mary's College Council 1965 in Emmitsburg and Bill Traube of Our Lady of the Valley Council 11703 in Middletown.



A Patriotic Burden

New Mexico Knight carries cross 630 miles in honor of Father Emil Kapaun

by Joseph J. Kolb, Catholic News Service

For some, Father Emil Kapaun may be a footnote in a conflict many have come to know as the “Forgotten War.” But for John Moore of Gallup, N.M., the Korean War chaplain’s heroic exploits deserve the attention of congressional and Vatican officials in a movement to have the Kansas priest honored with the Medal of Honor as well as sainthood.

For his part, Moore, 61, embarked on a 630-mile pilgrimage Sept. 11, 2011, from the National Cemetery in Santa Fe to Pilsen, Kan., Father Kapaun’s rural hometown in the Wichita Diocese. Moore arrived the morning of Nov. 11, 2011 — Veterans Day.

At his destination, Moore delivered a handmade wooden replica of the cross that has come to represent

Father Kapaun, the Army chaplain who saved the lives of dozens of soldiers and died as a prisoner of war in Pyoktong, North Korea, on May 23, 1951. The model of the cross was designed by a fellow prisoner of war, Gerald Fink, a Jew who came to respect and love the diligent priest before his death.

Averaging 15.75 miles of walking per day, Moore — who is a member of Fray Marcos Council 1783 in Gallup — said he only had three days of rain and heavy wind during his trek. Among the most grueling parts of the journey were the mountains of New Mexico and the lack of shoulders on some roads in Oklahoma and Kansas that wreaked havoc on his feet.

At one point, Moore lost his footing and fell, scraping his knees and face. The fall caused the large wooden cross, which he carried attached to a backpack, to fall on top of him. Moore said later that both he and the cross needed slight repairs.

Moore said he became aware of Father Kapaun after reading a small article about the priest in the *Knights of Columbus* magazine, *Columbia*, last year and quickly became immersed in the saga of a man who served his



A Fourth Degree honor guard looks on as John Moore of Gallup, N.M., completes his 630-mile walking pilgrimage to Pilsen, Kan., to deliver a replica of the wooden cross that has come to represent Father Emil Kapaun, a military chaplain who died in the Korean War.

country and men in the most deplorable of conditions.

Father Kapaun was among the first wave of American troops to arrive in South Korea after it was attacked by the communist North in June 1950. He never shirked his responsibility to provide comfort, religious services (often conducted on the hood of a Jeep) and guidance to his troops, even under heavy enemy fire.

It didn’t take long for the priest’s bravery to be recognized. He received a Bronze Star in August 1950 when he rescued a wounded soldier in the midst of heavy enemy fire. Then, on the frigid night of Nov. 1, 1950, Father Kapaun was captured after attempting to rescue some of his men.

Father Kapaun’s life in the POW camp was one of deprivation, but he always performed his spiritual and life-sustaining responsibilities with compassion and a smile. Unfortunately, he died at the camp in May 1951.

Despite numerous testimonies confirming his bravery, the Medal of Honor — the nation’s highest military honor — has eluded Father Kapaun. In recent years, there has been a groundswell to have the medal bestowed to

him posthumously. Meanwhile, his cause for canonization was formally opened June 29, 2008.

“I often think about all of the people he christened and married and what he did for his troops,” Moore said of his inspiration when his trek became difficult or lonely.

Quick to recognize the efforts of Moore is Hershey Miyamura of Gallup, a Medal of Honor recipient and a former POW. Miyamura, who has read about Father Kapaun, agrees that the priest deserves the medal. He also feels Moore’s efforts go above and beyond the call.

“It is quite an honorable deed what John is doing,” Miyamura said. “I feel it is important to help the father’s family get him the medal, but it also brings awareness to the public

of what we did in Korea.”

Miyamura said the value of what Father Kapaun did was immeasurable for the troops. He added that he did not have a chaplain in the POW camp where he was imprisoned for nearly two years and recognizes the indisputable contributions Father Kapaun would have made.

“I saw so many young men die because they just gave up,” Miyamura said. “We needed to keep our faith, and for them to have Father Kapaun among them would have been so uplifting for morale.”

Moore said the cross is made from an alligator juniper tree from Heber, Ariz., and was constructed by Mark Chavez, a retired Albuquerque firefighter.

“I don’t want any recognition for this, I just look at myself as the donkey carrying Christ,” he said. “And anytime you do something for a veteran, you do good.”

For more information about the effort to have the Medal of Honor awarded to Father Kapaun, visit frkapaun.org/medal.html. ♦

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