



CELEBRATING OUR INDEPENDENCE



Members of Genevieve of Paris Council 13397 in Thibodaux, La., prepare child identification kits during their community Independence Day celebration. Knights and Veterans of the Vietnam War teamed to provide free ID kits, which can help parents locate missing children as quickly as possible.

Hot dogs, fireworks and...the Knights of Columbus?

In many communities in the United States and Canada, the Order has become a traditional component of Independence Day and Canada Day celebrations. Knights in regalia are a common sight at parades and festivals, while many councils construct floats for their local celebrations.

Brunswick Assembly in **Southport, N.C.**, led the North Carolina State Independence Day Parade for the fifth consecutive year; **William Naddeo** of **Cardinal Samuel Stritch Council 4661** in **Brooklyn, N.Y.**, served as grand marshal of the 103th Independence Day Parade sponsored by the Knights of Columbus of Long Island; and **Father J. D. McNeill Council 9025** in **North Rustico, P.E.I.**, entered a float in the North Rustico Canada Day Parade in support of local farming and fishing.

Some Knights found nontraditional ways to celebrate Independence Day. **Genevieve of Paris Council 13397** in **Thibodaux, La.**, provided child identification kits to families at no charge. Meanwhile, **St. Patrick Council 10925** in **Moreno Valley, Calif.**, dedicated a flagpole and monument in memory of the council's deceased members. Following the dedication, the council hosted a barbecue, and members watched the community fireworks together.

Over the years, Knights have led many struggles in support of their native countries. Knights are active in politics, support their armed forces and, in United States, fought to add the words "under God" to the U.S. Pledge of Allegiance. It is only fitting, then, that members of the Order were out in force to further demonstrate their patriotism on Independence Day and Canada Day.

-Patrick Scalisi, associate editor-Columbia

Donation to Veterans

Juan Pablo II Assembly in Miami donated 200 t-shirts and 300 disposable razor blades to the Miami VA Hospital.

Veterans Cookout

Members of Archbishop Fitzmaurice Assembly in Wilmington, Del., and their families prepared a cookout for 60 residents and staff of the VA Hospital Nursing Home in Elsmere. Veterans enjoyed a menu of hot dogs, hamburgers, pasta salad and more.

Home Provisions

St. Jude Assembly in Port Charlotte, Fla., collected personal care items for patients at the Jacobson State Veterans Home.

Plaque Donated

Resurrection of Our Lord Council 11871 in Farmingville, N.Y., donated a bronze plaque honoring veterans to Church of the Resurrection. Father Malcolm Burns, council chaplain and a veteran himself, dedicated the plaque with help from Knights and parishioners.



District Master Howard Gaffney displays a bottle of the Nebraska State Council's own brand of bottled water. Knights began marketing their own brand of spring water, proceeds from which support disabled veterans as well as other local and state endeavors.



Members of the Philippine Army bring the gifts to the altar during an appreciation Mass hosted by Maria Cristina Council 3343 in Iligan City, Mindanao. Knights sponsored the event in honor of the 111th anniversary of the founding of the Philippine Army and to thank the country's armed forces for their service.

Praying Together

Shepherd of Ars Council 6028 in Hacienda Heights, Calif., hosted a council rosary in solidarity with the St. Thomas the Apostle Round Table at Camp Victory, Iraq. Knights in both countries prayed for an end to conflict in the Middle East. Since starting the program, Knights in other councils around the United States have joined Council 6028 in this prayer initiative. The St. Thomas Round Table is sponsored by St. Paul Council 11634 in Colorado Springs, Colo.

COURTESY OF THE SOUTHERN NEBRASKA REGISTER, DIOCESE OF LINCOLN