



# KNIGHTLINE

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WEEKLY NEWS FOR KNIGHTS AROUND THE WORLD

*This week, the two nations where Knights of Columbus councils first were formed both celebrate their independence: Canada on July 1 and the United States on July 4.*

*Check out these fun facts about the Catholic connections to the U.S. national holiday and learn what defines the patriotism of the Knights below.*

## Patriotism, independence days and the K of C

*What does patriotism mean? Where and when do Knights celebrate independence days?*

It's a time to celebrate patriotism – which has been one of the four principles of the Knights of Columbus since the Fourth Degree was established in 1900.

For the Knights, faith and patriotism go hand in hand. [READ MORE](#)



## Celebrating Canadian Knights' historic patriotism

*A look back on Canadian Knights' World War II efforts in celebration of Canada Day*

The first Canadian Knights of Columbus council – Montreal Council 284 – was founded only 30 years after that country became an independent nation. Since then, Canadian Knights have proudly adhered to the principles of charity and patriotism, which is exhibited by their service during World War II.

Nearly 1.1 million Canadians served on the frontlines in Europe, Northern Africa and the North Atlantic, as well as in the Pacific, from the war's start to its end in 1945. Meanwhile, thousands of Canadian Knights volunteered to serve their country in defense of freedom. [READ MORE](#)



## How Knights added "Under God" to the Pledge

*Patriotism and faith compelled Knights to petition U.S. government to make addition in the early 1950s*

The Pledge of Allegiance has undergone several revisions since it was initially written back in 1892 by Baptist minister Francis Bellamy. The last significant change came in 1954 during the midst of the Cold War, when President Dwight Eisenhower signed a congressional resolution adding the words "under God."

This revision would have never happened without advocacy by the Knights of Columbus. [READ MORE](#)

## Eight ways the K of C defended religious freedom



*A look at some of the ways Knights of Columbus have defended religious freedom around the world*

The Knights of Columbus was founded at a time in U.S. history when Catholics faced harsh discrimination and were frequently looked down upon as morally and socially inferior. Throughout its history, the Knights has stood up for religious liberty as guaranteed by the First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution.

The Knight's fight for religious liberty has taken many forms – from 19th-century efforts to dispel suspicions that Catholics could not be faithful citizens due to their loyalty to the pope, to current support for Christians and other religious minorities in the Middle East. [READ MORE](#)

### Knights and the Korean War

Last week marked the 70th anniversary of the beginning of the Korean War. Check out the story of the Knights who contributed to helping South Korea – counted among brother Knights were Dr. Chang Myon, the first ambassador of the Republic of Korea to the U.S. and Brigadier General John T. Corley, who commanded a battalion consisting of Black soldiers during a period of segregation within the military. [READ MORE](#)

### DON'T MISS THIS PODCAST on men and leaders of the Church

Jonathan Reyes, the Knights of Columbus' senior vice president for Evangelization and Faith Formation, joins guest host Peter Herbeck, vice president and director of Missions for Renewal Ministries, to look at how men can be leaders in the Church on this recent episode of Catholic podcast *Kresta in the Afternoon*. [LISTEN](#)

### And here's more on Father McGivney's life-saving intercession

in the life of 5-year-old Mikey Schachle. Mikey's dad, Dan, discovered Father McGivney's story when he became a life insurance agent for the Knights of Columbus.

"Once I read about Father McGivney and why he set us up, it was really eye-opening to me," said Dan, now the general agent for the Knights' insurance program in Tennessee, Kentucky and the eastern half of Arkansas, overseeing the work of 16 agents. "It was love that drove him to start the Knights of Columbus."

[READ MORE](#) • [WATCH THE STORY OF MIKEY'S MIRACLE](#)

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### Knights of Columbus and the great American pastime

*K of C members have played baseball from the start – here's a look at how K of C-sponsored baseball leagues helped Catholics in America*

America's first professional baseball team, the Cincinnati Red Stockings, formed in 1869. It would take another 13 years before Father Michael J. McGivney and parishioners at St. Mary's Church in New Haven, Conn., founded the Knights of Columbus. At that point, Major League Baseball wasn't established, but baseball was already the nation's game.

At the time of the Order's founding, Catholics were not held in high-esteem, often taking the most dangerous jobs for little pay. They were also seen as papists, loyal only to Rome, not as patriotic American citizens. But on the baseball field, it was about your skills, not your religion. [READ MORE](#)

