The Knights of Columbus counts patriotism among its four principles. It is no surprise, then, that Knights were out in force this past Memorial Day. Communities across the United States saw Knights participating in Masses and other activities. Assemblies from Sanford, Maine, to Fort Worth, Texas made a showing at local parades.

Other councils, assembles and Squires circles held special ceremonies to honor veterans or those currently serving in the armed forces. Father Robert Kennedy Council 9458 in Milledgeville, Ga., hosted a service at the Georgia Veterans Memorial Cemetery; St. John Francis Regis Council 7914 in Hollywood, Md., held a ceremony that included an outdoor living rosary and Mass; and members of Immaculate Heart of Mary Council 9968 in Lexington Park, Md., placed U.S. flags on the graves of all veterans buried at their parish cemetery.

As frequent readers of this newsletter already know, patriotism is never in short supply at the Knights of Columbus. On a special occasion like Memorial Day, more K of C units than we could possibly list here paid their respects to veterans in ways as diverse as the people who make up our Order. -Patrick Scalisi

From Sand to School
Father Howard J. Lesch Assembly in Fort Walton Beach, Fla., awarded its annual Wounded Warrior Scholarship to Second Lt. Shannon R. Kay, who received the Purple Heart for wounds sustained in Operation Iraqi Freedom and the Silver Star for heroism in combat. The assembly annually awards a scholarship to a wounded soldier or their family.

Veterans Dinner
Father John P. Washington Assembly in Yorktown, Va., transported veterans from the Hampton VA Medical Center to a spaghetti dinner at Saint Joan of Arc Church. Past State Deputy James P. McCusker (2000-01), who presently serves as the Virginia Veterans Affairs Voluntary Service (VAVS) district chairman, delivered the event’s keynote address.

Military Families Night
Holy Name of Jesus Council 11886 in Kingston Mills, Ont., and the Catholic Women’s League co-hosted a dinner for the families of deployed military personnel. Twenty-three family members, including the spouses and children of active servicemen and women, enjoyed an evening of food and relaxation.

Grand Knight John Lazar and Deputy Grand Knight Paul Coppola of Our Lady of the Rosary Council 4428 in Deer Park, N.Y., bow after laying a wreath at the local veterans memorial. On Memorial Day, Knights and other civic organizations laid flowers at the veterans, MIA and fire department memorials.
Paula Devereaux, Samantha O’Leary and Kathryn O’Leary display some of the religious articles they collected for U.S. and Canadian troops serving in Iraq and Afghanistan. When Grand Knight John O’Leary of Cabot Council 6001 in Avondale, Nfld., received a request for religious articles for the troops, the three girls jumped into action. Council 6001 supplied rosaries for the cause and helped the girls collect 13 bags of religious articles. Also pictured are (from left): Genevieve Smith, Father Deodoro Cago, who blessed the items, Billie Smith, and Grand Knight O’Leary.

John Pisula (right), Knights of Columbus Veterans Affairs Voluntary Service (VAVS) coordinator for Broward County, Fla., stands with Kim Ramos and students from St. Bonaventure School following their “Hats for Heroes” drive. Knights and students collected more than 200 hats for veterans throughout Fort Lauderdale.

Indiana State Warden Phil Phipps presents Delores Maude with a photo of the K of C banner of Lt. Gen. Timothy J. Maude, to the Virginia VMA Medical Center. Several civic groups from the area, including Knights from Washington District 11, began raising funds to get the project underway. Knights contributed $5,000 toward construction costs and the installation of stained-glass windows. The chapel, which serves all faiths, was dedicated by Ret. Col. Edward Leonard of the U.S. Air Force.

Prayerful Place
After the Vancouver (Wash.) VA Medical Center dedicated an empty room at its facility for the construction of a hospital chapel, several civic groups from the area, including Knights from Washington District 11, began raising funds to get the project underway. Knights contributed $5,000 toward construction costs and the installation of stained-glass windows. The chapel, which serves all faiths, was dedicated by Ret. Col. Edward Leonard of the U.S. Air Force.

Military Shipment
Members of Ascension Council 7991 in Parksville-Qualicum, B.C., and parishioners at Church of the Ascension prepared care packages for Canadian soldiers serving in Afghanistan.

Joining the Corps
Georgia Knights provided an honor guard at a farewell Mass for Father Kevin Peek, who joined the U.S. Army Chaplain Corps. At Mass, Father Peek was commissioned by his brother, Father Joseph Peek, who serves in the U.S. Navy.