Knights of Columbus
Fr. Nicholas J. Habets, Assembly 1505
1236 Prosperity Rd.
Virginia Beach, VA 23451-9287

The Flag, Sword, and Cross Newsletter

1 September 2026

From the Faithful Navigator…

Faithful Sir Knights,

Thank you for all that you do for family, church and your fellow Knights.

Please welcome new Sir Knights to our order who just completed their exemplification last Saturday in Petersburg: Keith Weems, Levi Drake, Jose Diaz and Gabriel Botello.

And please take time to thank PFN Glenn Rodriguez and PFN Stan Schnell for their awesome leadership on the monthly veterans' birthday celebrations and bingo games at the Jones and Cabacoy Vets Care Center. We appreciated their efforts and we awarded them "Sir Knights of the Month" at the last meeting.

If you can help this month or simply join in the fun, we have Knights Night at the Tides on the 5th where our Color Corps will participate with local assemblies to present the Colors, and our own SK PFN Joe Burns will sing the National Anthem.

On Saturday the 12th, we are participating in the National Day of Service at Albert G. Horton Jr. Memorial Veterans Cemetery, Suffolk. Please come out to help with headstone cleaning and grounds beautification to honor the service and sacrifice of our fallen veterans.

Also, the Assembly has been assisting Fr. Habets Council with the assessment of their Santa Maria float and trailer with hope that it can be restored and put back into service. Initial assessments are looking favorable, and you can expect to hear more about its progress. This can be a good thing for the Assembly. We struggled with being the visible arm of the Knights when we changed uniforms. And we encountered parades, like the annual NATO parade, where the Color Guard was squeezed among large floats and large bands and did not get noticed. Between getting the Santa Maria float back into service and our continual increasing the number of Sir Knights in Official Regalia Dress (ORD), we will strive to improve our visibility.

As usual, we have completed several events as reported herein. And please note more events are upcoming – so mark your calendars. Vivat Jesus!

Wayne Phelps, FN
Assembly 1505

Past Faithful Navigator Dinner – Our assembly held our Past Faithful Navigator Dinner on Saturday 22 August 2026. This event was to honor our Immediate Past Faithful Navigator Mike King and all PFNs. Eleven PFNs were in attendance. State Deputy John Knox and Regional Marshal Ed Nettleton were present. In all, 60 SKs and ladies attended.

Knights Night at the Tides - Kempsville council will have a fraternal event of "Knights Night at the Tides" on Saturday, 5 September 2026 at the evening baseball game. This is for Knights and their families. Tickets will be made available to council and assembly members and their families for $5.00 each. Father Habets and members of other local assemblies will provide a Color Guard and PFN Joe Burns will sing the National Anthem.

Please let Faithful Navigator Wayne Phelps (waynephelps@yahoo.com) or Faithful Captain Tom Wenthe (thomaswenthe@hotmail.com) know if you would like tickets.

Virginia November General Election – We have a General election on Tuesday 3 November 2026. Early in-person voting began 18 September. In addition to electing U.S. Congressional Representatives, and a Senator, we will also vote on three ballot initiatives, which are summarized below:

https://ballotpedia.org/Main_Page

https://ballotpedia.org/2026_ballot_measures#List_of_state_ballot_measures

Type	Title	Subject	Description
LRCA	Remove Constitutional Same-Sex Marriage Ban Amendment	Race and ethnicity issues; Family-related policy; LGBTQ issues; Constitutional rights; Sex and gender issues	Repeal the provision defining marriage as between one man and one woman and prohibit the state from denying a marriage license to two adult persons based on sex, gender, or race
LRCA	Right to Reproductive Freedom Amendment	Constitutional rights; Abortion policy	Provide a state constitutional right to reproductive freedom, defined as "the right to make and effectuate one's own decisions about all matters related to one's pregnancy"
LRCA	Voting Rights Restoration for Felons Upon Release Amendment	Voting rights for persons with criminal convictions; Constitutional rights	Provide that persons convicted of felonies have their voting rights restored upon release from incarceration

Chaplain's Appreciation Dinner – We will gather on 23 October 2026 to honor and thank our military Chaplains and local priests for their service to our service members and their families. Our event is at the Columbian Club with the Social beginning at 6 PM and dinner about 7:10 PM. This is a potluck event (no tickets). Please plan to attend. The Faithful Pilot will provide guidance on food needed.

Congratulations – Congratulations to our new Sir Knights, Exemplified in Petersburg, VA on Saturday 29 August 2026! Our new Sir Knights are Keith Weems, Levi Drake, Jose Diaz and Gabriel Botello. Congratulations!

Left to right: Sir Knights Keith Weems, Levi Drake, Faithful Admiral Mike King (PFN), Jose Diaz and Gabriel Botello

Jones and Cabacoy Vets Care Center - DVS (Department of Veteran Services) formerly VAVS – Our assembly visits the Jones and Cabacoy Vets Care Center in Virginia Beach to play Bingo with the residents the first Tuesday at 10:30 AM, and on the last Thursday for a birthday celebration at 2 PM. If you would like to participate, contact PFNs Glenn Rodriguez (gboy23454@gmail.com or 757-635-0061) or Stan Schnell (swschnell@cox.net or 757-618-7793).

Sir Knight of the Month for August – Faithful Captain Tom Wenthe presented the Sir Knight of the Month award to PFNs Glenn Rodreguiz and Stan Schnell for leading monthly birthday celebrations and bingo events at the Jones and Cabacoy Vets Care Center. COVID-19 had disrupted the birthday outings with the VA Hospital in Hampton, VA in past years. PFNs Glenn and Stan have redirected our efforts by coordinating two monthly visits at the recently established care center to spend quality time with our veterans.

PFN Glenn Rodreguiz and Faithful Captain Tom Wenthe

Birthday Wishes to…

Happy Birthday to our brother Sir Knights born in September:

Robert Abbate
Robert Aggen
Bella Ah-Hing
Dennis Atkins
Father Eric Baffour
Alberto Caboteja
Felipe Clamor
Andres Demarchena
Monsignor Frederic Elkin
Thomas Famulari
Robert Kincl
Phillip Meyer
Thomas Morwick
Timothy Murphy
Lyndon Remias
Brian Savage
Jeffrey Uthe
George Webb
Scott Weigel
Paul West

Father McGivney Guild - The Father Michael J. McGivney Guild promotes the cause for Father McGivney's for sainthood. Father McGivney was beatified on Oct. 31, 2020. Membership in the Guild is free and open to all. Members receive a quarterly newsletter and are remembered in a weekly Mass offered for their intentions. Follow this link: https://www.fathermcgivney.org/en/index.html

From the Color Corps Commander…

Color Corps Requests:

We are still looking for Sir Knights with ORD to participate in the Color Guard. CCC Joe Burns has been asked to coordinate this event. We need 9 Sir Knights - 6 flags, lead guard, trail guard, and Commander/Marshall. We are also required by the Tides to purchase at least 20 tickets at $16 each. If you wish to participate in the Color Guard or purchase tickets to support the CG, please contact CCC Joe Burns at "commander@kofc1505assembly.org".

Official Regalia Dress (ORD) – Assembly members not currently owning the ORD are encouraged to consider purchasing the ORD. The ORD makes the 4th Degree more visible to the community / public. Having the ORD allows you to participate more fully in church and patriotic events in the Honor Guard and Color Guard of the Color Corps.

Completed Events:

- Funeral Honor Guard for SK FDD/PGK Richard Conrad in Cape Charles on July 31 - HG: Faithful Captain Thomas Wenthe, PFNs Frank Green, Glenn Rodriguez, Dave Wemhoff, Earl Reid, John Cochran and Mike King. PFN Glenn Rodriguez presented the American Flag to the US Air Force Honor Guard members who performed Military Honors
- Chalice Ceremony for SK FDD/PGK Richard Conrad in Cape Charles on July 31 - Navigator: PFN Mike King; Chief Lecturer: Dan Shaunessey; Poet: PFN John Garcia; Chalice Bearer: PFN Glenn Rodriguez; Commander: PFN Frank Green
- Honor Guard for PFN Dinner on August 22 - 3 Sir Knights participated (PFNs were not asked to participate): Faithful Captain Thomas Wenthe; Faithful Pilot Chris Miele; Faithful Scribe Steve Coughlin; PFN Joe Burns led the National Anthem and God Bless America

Upcoming Events:

- Regional Color Corps Event - Presentation of the Colors at the Norfolk Tides game on September 5. PFN Joe Burns will sing the National Anthem. We need SKs with ORD to participate in the Presentation of the Colors. We also need to purchase 20 tickets at $16 each. This may be Sir Knights, family members, friends, etc.
- Western Branch Outpatient Clinic Ribbon Cutting Ceremony on **September 8** at 11:00 am. Assembly 2184 will be Presenting the Colors. SK Randy Vis is coordinating. Contact Randy if you plan to attend.
- National Day of Service on Saturday, September 12th (organized under the U.S. Dept. of Veterans Affairs) at the Albert G. Horton Jr. Memorial Veterans Cemetery in Suffolk, from 10am to 1pm. Participants are requested to arrive by 9:30am. Volunteers are invited to participate in a coordinated headstone cleaning and grounds beautification event honoring the service and sacrifice of our nation. Sir Knight Scott Weigel will lead it. Please contact Scott at nanscotw@verizon.net by Wednesday, September 9.
- October 23 - Color Guard and Honor Guard for Chaplain's Appreciation Dinner
- November 7 - Special Olympics Fall Championships Opening Ceremony - Regional Color Guard and Honor Guard
- 11 November - Veteran's Day Parade – Virginia Beach ocean front

Fourth Degree Event Attire and Lapel Pin - SKs need to be aware of appropriate attire and lapel pins for official Fourth Degree Events. Our nice dinner events like the PFN dinner and the upcoming Chaplain's Appreciation Dinner are this kind of event. If you have the ORD, that is the attire for the event - no baldric, beret, gloves, or sword (unless participating in CG/HG for the event). The NSDU is appropriate if you don't have the ORD - dark suit, white shirt (no button-down collars or cuffs), black dress shoes and socks, and conservative tie. As for lapel pins, only the PG113 pin (the Fourth-Degree Pin) should be worn on the lapel. If you are a sitting officer, you may wear your

current jewel of office (council or assembly) - the ribbon should be under the collar. If wearing the service baldric, shorten the ribbon behind the collar so the jewel will rest above the baldric.

Father Habets Assembly 1505 Calendar

September ~

3 VAVS BINGO – Jone & Cabacoy Veterans Center – 10:30 AM
7 Labor Day
12 National Day of Service - Albert G. Horton Jr. Memorial Veterans Cemetery, 9:30 AM
21 Assembly Officers Meeting – Columbian club – 6:30 PM
23 Assembly Business Meeting – Columbian club – 7 PM
25 Vet's Birthday Celebration - Jone & Cabacoy Veterans Center – 2:00 PM

Looking Ahead:

October ~

1 VAVS BINGO – Jone & Cabacoy Veterans Center – 10:30 AM
3 Virginia State council Fall Quarterly Meeting - Henrico, VA, host is Council 14129
12 Columbus Day
17 Honor Flight
23 Chaplain's Appreciation Dinner – 6 PM
26 Assembly Officers Meeting – Columbian club – 6:30 PM
28 Assembly Business Meeting – Columbian club – 7 PM
30 Vet's Birthday Celebration - Jone & Cabacoy Veterans Center – 2:00 PM