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Pawleys Island, South Carolina - July 4, 2011

FIRST ANNUAL PAWLEYS ISLAND FOURTH OF JULY EVENING CELEBRATION

Several hundred gathered to enjoy this special patriotic evening at Precious Blood of Christ's ball field next to the Parish Life Center. The event was sponsored by Knights of Columbus Council 11028 and Assembly 3272. The extensive program included a presentation of the Colors by the Carvers Bay High School ROTC members and the Knights of Columbus honor Guard, followed by the singing of our National Anthem by Rene Faiella with the accompaniment of the Pawleys Island Concert Band. Members of the audience stood and participated in reciting the pledge of allegiance.

Fr. Patrick Stenson of Precious Blood Catholic Church gave the invocation following which a member of the orchestra played Taps.

The program included musical selections including "King Cotton March", "Yankee Doodle Boy", "America the Beautiful", "Armed Forces Salute" and "Washington Post March". During the Band intermission, excerpts from our "Declaration of Independence" were read by 10 year old Chris Attias and was followed by 4th of July remarks from Rear Admiral Richard D. Milligan (U.S. Navy Retired). "A Salute to Veterans" by Col. James McMahan (U.S. Army Ret.) that recognized veterans in the audience who had served in WW II, the Korean Conflict, Vietnam War and current members serving in the Gulf Region.

The program resumed with musical selections "American Patrol", "Shenandoah" and "You're A Grand Old Flag", and a solo presentation of "God Bless the U.S.A" by Wiliam Wichawski accompanied by orchestra members Kyle Hughes on Guitar, Carson Palmer on Bass Guitar and Gary Mason on Drums.

A highlight of the evening was the presentation of a trophy by K of C Assembly Faithful Navigator Joseph Gabriel and Grand Knight Tom Dalton, of an American Eagle wrapped in an American flag to the program emcee Royal Elmendorf. The recognition was for his 40 years of service in the CIA after serving in the Vietnamese War. After retiring as an Associate Director of the CIA he settled in the Pawleys Island Community where he immediately became involved in assisting charitable organizations, served on the building committee for the Precious Blood Catholic Church for the new church building and the Parish Life Center. He was also among those who were instrumental in the formation of the Knights of Columbus Council in the Pawleys Island

The evening program concluded with a solo presentation of "God Bless America" by Renee Faiella accompanied by the orchestra that had the crowd on their feet singing, The orchestra's

final selection “Stars and Stipes Forever” brought the cheering crowd to its feet....all vowing to return next year for another Patriotic Evening.

