



Knights of Columbus
Father Philip Grant Assembly 3272
Georgetown – Pawleys Island, SC

1633 Waverly Road
Pawleys Island, SC 29585



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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July 5, 2012

**KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS SECOND ANNUAL PAWLEYS ISLAND FOURTH OF JULY
EVENING CELEBRATION – A SALUTE TO OUR NATION AND OUR MILITARY**

More than three hundred gathered to enjoy this special patriotic evening saluting our nation and our military. Sponsored by Council 11028 and Assembly 3272 of the Knights of Columbus, the event took place in the Parish Life Center (PLC) of Precious Blood of Christ Catholic Church. Sir Knight Roy Elmendorf, emcee of the celebration, noted in his opening remarks, “We are here on the 236th anniversary of the signing of *The Declaration of Independence* to say, ‘Happy Birthday, U.S.A.’, to commemorate the sacrifices of our men and women in uniform and thank you for your service, and to hear some patriotic music and reflect on the blessings of freedom that we all share in the United States of America.”

The extensive program started with a presentation of the Colors by the Marine Corps League, Midway Fire Department and the Knights of Columbus Honor Guard. Following this, Blake Graham, a student at Coastal Carolina University, with the accompaniment of the Pawleys Island Concert Band (directed by Carson Turner), led the participants in singing the National Anthem. Sir Knight Clem Thoennes, Faithful Navigator of Assembly 3272, spoke of the role of the Knights of Columbus in having “under God” inserted in the Pledge of Allegiance and then led the attendees in its recitation.

Fr. Patrick Stenson of Precious Blood of Christ Catholic Church gave the invocation following which members of the orchestra played Taps. Kate Attias, an eight year old student at St. Michaels Grade School in Garden City, gave a moving recital of the Gettysburg Address.

Following Blake Graham’s singing of the Battle Hymn of the Republic, the Pawleys Island Concert Band performed two segments of musical selections, among them: *Thunder March*, *William Tell Overture*, *Alexander’s Ragtime Band*, and *Americans We*.

During the band intermission, Georgetown County District 6 Councilman Bob Anderson, and Rear Admiral Richard Milligan (U.S. Navy Retired) shared their reflections on the significance of the 4th of July to Americans. *A Salute to Veterans* by Col. Jim McMahan (U.S. Army Retired) recognized veterans in the audience who had served in WW II, the Korean Conflict, the Vietnam War, current members serving in the Gulf Region and all service men and women who have served in other capacities and locations.

<http://kofc3272.org>



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The second segment of the Band's concert included a rousing *Armed Forces Salute* during which veterans of the different services stood to be recognized for their service. This was followed by a solo presentation of *God Bless the U.S.A* by Blake Graham. It was a solo for only a brief moment as members of the audience rose and sang along in a spontaneous display of love of country.

A highlight of the evening was the presentation of the *2012 Patriotism Award* by Knights of Columbus Council 11028 Grand Knight Victor Diaz. Diaz and Faithful Navigator Clem Thoennes presented the award, an American eagle wrapped in an American flag, to Sir Knight Jim McMahon, recognizing his long service to church, country and community. McMahon's military service spanned 28 years with a brief civilian interlude. From ROTC to commissioned officer, from service as a military intelligence officer to assignment to the Pentagon on the Chief of Staff's Directorate, from the Pentagon to London where he led a division of the Joint Intelligence Center for NATO's Commander in Chief at the height of the Cold War, Col. McMahon served with distinction.

In 1998, McMahon and his family moved to Pawleys Island and became parishioners of Precious Blood of Christ Catholic Church. He has served his parish and community in too many ways to cite. To name a few, he served on the church building committee, worked with the design committee for the Parish Life Center, has coordinated PLC activities, and helped start Father Pat's Kitchen. An active member of the Knights of Columbus, he served two terms as Grand Knight and as District Deputy for three years.

As the evening drew to a close, Elmendorf encouraged attendees to put a contribution to the *Wounded Warrior Project* in one of several jars on the ticket table "because it is their sacrifice that has made this celebration possible." The evening program concluded with the band's final selection, *Stars and Stripes Forever*. It brought the cheering crowd to its feet....a clear indication that they will return next year for another Patriotic Evening.

With more than 1.8 million members, the Knights of Columbus is the world's largest Catholic lay organization. It provides members and their families with volunteer opportunities in service to the Catholic Church, the community, families, and young people. Knights of Columbus members last year set records by providing more than 70 million hours of charitable service and more than \$154 million in donations to charitable causes. During the past decade, the K of C has donated more than \$1.36 billion to charity, and provided nearly 640 million hours of volunteer service in support of charitable initiatives.



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SK DIAZ AND THOENNES, MCMAHON PATRIOTISM AWARD



SK Elmendorf introducing Kate Attias