



Knights Digest



Union Council 4504

Vol. 34 No. 3

UNION, N.J.

November, 1992

THE PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

by Dr. Donald R. Kennon*

October 12, 1992, will mark the 500th anniversary of Columbus discovery of the Americas. But it will also celebrate the 100th anniversary of the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America. Those two events have much more in common than most Americans realize. The Pledge of Allegiance was written for the occasion of the 400th anniversary of Columbus Day and the celebration of the World's Columbian Exposition in Chicago. Both events were designed to assert the positive patriotic sentiments of the American people. Both were designed to demonstrate to the world that the United States, only 27 years after a bloody Civil War, was "one nation indivisible." And finally, both events were designed to boldly assert that the government of this nation was a "republic" whose far-sighted purposes encompassed "liberty and justice for all."

Congress authorized the grand 400th anniversary celebration of Columbus' discovery of the Americas by establishing the colossal World's Columbian Exposition to be held in Chicago in 1892. A committee of educators and civil leaders planned a National Public School Celebration of Columbus Day to mark the exposition. Chaired by Francis Bellamy, a former Baptist minister and a member of the editorial staff of *The Youth's Companion* magazine, the committee planned for celebrations in every public school to center around the flag. Bellamy composed and address to the flag published in the magazine, and he lobbied Congress to declare Columbus Day a national holiday. Largely through his own efforts a lengthy list of political leaders lent their support: including President Benjamin Harrison, former President Grover Cleveland, Henry Cabot Lodge, Theodore Roosevelt, John G. Carlisle, Roger Q. Mills, and Joseph W. Bailey. Congress passed a joint resolution empowering Pres. Harrison to proclaim the 400th anniversary of Columbus Day a national holiday with "suitable exercises



in the schools."

The Presidential Proclamation signed July 21, 1892, set aside October 21st as a general holiday to honor Columbus and "the great achievements of four completed centuries of American life." The proclamation further called for appropriate school observations on that day. "Let the National Flag float over every school house in the country, and the exercises be such as shall impress upon our youth the patriotic duties of American citizenship."

As Bellamy planned the program for these school exercises, he wrestled with the composition of suitable pledge to the flag to be recited by every student in the public schools. One flag salute had been in general use, but Bellamy found it inadequate. He shut himself up in his office one August night and in two hours composed the 23 words that became the pledge of Allegiance. He decided to make it a pledge of allegiance rather than a salute because of the memories of the Civil War. A pledge was a stronger and more positive expression. Instead of "the flag," Bellamy chose "my flag" for emphasis. In a brief, rhythmic, and easily memorized statement, Bellamy encapsulated the fundamental meaning of the nation:

"I pledge allegiance to my Flag and to the Republic for which it stands: one Nation indivisible, with Liberty and Justice for all."

The phrase "one Nation indivisible" harkened back to the hard-won lessons of the Civil War, while, "Liberty and Justice for all" admirably expressed the ideals of the Declaration of Independence and the American Revolution. Minor modifications to the Pledge were made in 1923 and 1924 by the First and Second National Flag Conferences, when "my Flag" was changed to "the Flag of the United States (1923) of America (1924)." The Pledge was officially recognized by Congress in 1945 when by Public Law 287 it became our national Pledge of Allegiance. In 1954 following a suggestion made by Rev. Peter Marshall the words "under God" were added after "one nation" in an act signed by President Dwight D. Eisenhower.

Francis Bellamy never sought to capitalize on his authorship of the pledge. It was published anonymously in *The Youth's Companion* and the author did not copyright his creation. "I have the happiness of realizing that I once, in my young manhood," he later wrote, "contributed to my Country an easily remembered symbol of patriotism which has become historic and has been in many millions of individuals a spur to their love of Country."

When you stop to consider what the words to the Pledge of Allegiance mean, you can see why it has become our ultimate expression of patriotic sentiment. First and foremost is the Flag itself, the very symbol of all that the United States has been and what it can be; then the "Republic for which it stands," a phrase that calls to mind the Constitution of the United States and the creation of our national government. "One nation under God, indivisible," recalls the Civil War fought to preserve our republic and to extend the blessing of liberty to those to whom it had too long been denied. The final phrase, "with liberty and justice for all," speaks to the noblest ideals of the American experience, always inspiring and representative of the best our nation strives to attain.

*Dr. Kennon is Chief Historian United States Capital Historical Society
Photographic credit—Jack Rottler

Knight Digest

This bulletin is published monthly except August, by, and in the interest of Union Council 4504, Knights of Columbus. Entered as third class matter April 23, 1958 at Post Office, Union, N.J.

EDITOR.....Gary Hornig

ADVERTISING

Barney Capriglione, PGK.....964-3143

COUNCIL OFFICERS

Chaplain.....Rev. Leonard E. Dembow
688-1232
Grand Knight.....James R. O'Connell
(201) 762-1065
Deputy GK.....Raymond Fluet
381-9513
Chancellor.....Robert M. Wozniak
Warden.....Ernie Santorelli
Fin. Sec.....Frank Dickerson PGK
Recorder.....Raymond A. Pruszkowski
Treasurer.....Patrick J. Sheridan
Inside Guard.....Robert J. Jarman
Outside Guard.....Andre G. Veilleux
Trustee.....Michael W. Gasser PGK
Trustee.....Robert J. Pfarr PGK
Trustee.....Donald J. Pfarr PGK
Program Dir.....Michael Carr PGK
Membership Dir.....Rob Genovese
Advocate.....James C. Conlon Esq.
Lecturer.....John L. Esposito
Col. Club Pres.....Rich Pipala
Swim Club Pres.....John Peters

MONTHLY MEETINGS

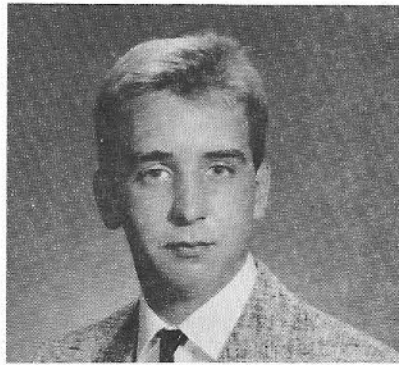
1st Mon. Council Officers
2nd & 4th Mon. Regular Meetings
3rd Mon. Swim Club
1st Wed. 4th Degree Officers
2nd Thurs. 4th Degree Color Corps
3rd Wed. 4th Degree Regular
4th Wed. Council Committees
4th Thurs. Columbian Club

Council Fund Raisers

On November 15th from 2 P.M. - 6 P.M. Union Council #4504 will be serving an all you can eat Spaghetti Dinner with free soda. Beer may be purchased for 50 cents a glass. The cost is \$5.00 per adult and \$2.50 per child but not more than \$17.00 per family. This fundraiser will support the Pro Life Billboard and other council activities.

Brothers, mark this day on your calendar - Bring your family - Tell your relatives and friends - Lets make this a very successful day. Contact Pat Sheridan 688-0106 or John Peters 964-6869 for tickets.

KNIGHT of THE MONTH November, 1992



Michael Herrighty, III

Our Knight Of The Month for November 1992 is Michael Herrighty, III. Mike lives in Union and is a communicant of St. Michael's Parish.

Mike became a third degree member of our council just two years ago, but since that time he has become a very active member. This year he is a director on the Columbian Club Board and is an assistant to the bar manager. He also serves as a bartender. He has been the leader in improving many areas of the bar. Mike's ideas and actions can be seen with the addition of three new TV's in the bar, the dart game, and the successful new satellite TV. system. Mike's dedication to our council can be traced back to his family roots for he is a third generation member of our council. He is also a member of our council softball team.

Mike works for FS Plumbing and Heating as well as being partners in his own business California Automatic Design which installs car stereos and alarms. Mike's hobbies include skiing and using his computer. He also enjoys restoring Volkswagens and belongs to a local Volkswagen Club. He is a sport enthusiast and enjoys rooting for the N.Y. Rangers.

Union council is pleased to congratulate Michael Herrighty III as our Knight Of The Month for November 1992.

NEW YEAR'S EVE PARTY

December 31, 1992

\$70 a couple

Prime Rib Dinner and
Open Bar

For reservations call:

**Bob Sugzda 851-8182 or
Rich Pipala 964-7592**

More information will be
in next months digest.

Grand Knight's Column

Jim O'Connell



In November, Union Council holds its annual Memorial Mass and communion Breakfast. This event is for us to remember our

Brother Knights who have past on to be with our Lord. As each Brother Knight knows, the primary purpose of the Knights of Columbus is to help us prepare for this final event of our lives by assuring that our families will be properly cared for. But there are other ways that the Knights care for the families of our departed brothers.

The first way, unfortunately, occurs soon after our Brothers passing. It is our Memorial Service for a Deceased Brother. At the request of the family, either directly to the Knights, or through the arrangements of the funeral director, a group of our Brothers perform a prayer service at the wake of our departed brother. About two years ago, primarily through the efforts of Brother Art Weber, we organized a group of volunteers that have committed themselves to attend each wake service. Although this group is small, compared to the size of our council, they are a very dedicated group of men. If any member would like to help by participating in this important council function, please let Art know.

Another way our council supports our departed brothers families is through invitations to council events. Each year, widows of our departed brothers are invited to our annual family picnic and to a special event held in their honor. Also, if a brother's widow has dependent children, then there is a standing invitation to our youth activities events, such as the Halloween and Christmas parties.

These are but a few of the ways that the Knights support the families of our departed brothers. But these aren't the only ways. If a Brother knows of a widow in which we may be of some help, please let me know.

I'm looking forward to seeing you at the Memorial Mass and Communion Breakfast.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Nov. 2.....First Friday
Nov. 8.....Communion Breakfast
Nov. 15.....Spaghetti Fund Raiser
Nov. 22.....Blood Drive
Dec. 4.....First Friday
Dec. 14.....Christmas Dinner Meeting
Dec. 20.....Childrens Christmas Party
Dec. 31.....New Years Eve Party

