



Knights of Columbus®

Mississippi State Council

2026 Resolutions

2026 Mississippi Jurisdiction
Knights of Columbus State Convention
Natchez, Mississippi
April 24–26, 2026

Resolution 01: Loyalty to Pope Leo XIV

WHEREAS, on May 8, 2025, at the Conclave following the death of Pope Francis, Cardinal Robert Francis Prevost was elected to the Chair of St. Peter as the 267th Bishop of Rome and Supreme Pontiff of the Holy Roman Church; and

WHEREAS, a native of Chicago, Illinois, His Holiness is the first Pope born in the United States, the first member of the Order of St. Augustine to be elected Pope, and the first to hold Peruvian citizenship, which he obtained after years of dedicated missionary service in that country; and

WHEREAS, in his episcopal motto, In Illo Uno Unum, words taken from a sermon of St. Augustine, the Holy Father expresses the teaching that we are all one in the one Savior, Jesus Christ; and

WHEREAS, in the early weeks of his pontificate, Pope Leo XIV has extolled the virtues of charity, unity, and fraternity—principles of the Knights of Columbus that also complement the spiritual heritage of the Augustinian Order;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Mississippi Jurisdiction of the Knights of Columbus pledges its constant loyalty to Pope Leo XIV as he leads the Universal Church as the successor of St. Peter and Vicar of Christ on earth; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the members of the Mississippi Jurisdiction of the Knights of Columbus will accompany Pope Leo XIV and support him through our prayers, invoking especially the maternal intercession of Mary, Mother of the Church, and the Sacred Heart of Jesus, as he leads the faithful with courage, clarity, and deep respect for the traditions of our Catholic faith.

Recomandation : Adopt

Resolution 02: Appreciation for Supreme Knight Patrick Kelly

WHEREAS, on March 1, 2021, Patrick Kelly began his service as the Fourteenth Supreme Knight, continuing the mission of Charity, Unity, and Fraternity established 144 years ago by our Founder, Blessed Michael J. McGivney; and

WHEREAS, Brother Kelly has dedicated his life has served both our Church and our Country, and has served our Order since joining in 1983 while attending Marquette University; and

WHEREAS, Brother Kelly has faithfully served as a Captain in the United States Navy, a Diplomat, State Deputy of the District of Columbia (2012–2013), Deputy Supreme Knight beginning in 2017, and has served as Supreme Knight since 2021; and

WHEREAS, Brother Kelly is a third-generation Knight whose family has served our Order since 1915; and

WHEREAS, Brother Kelly earned degrees in Economics and Law from Marquette University and a Master's degree in Theology from the Pontifical John Paul II Institute for Studies on Marriage and Family at The Catholic University of America;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Mississippi Jurisdiction pledges its loyalty and appreciation to our Worthy Supreme Knight Patrick Kelly for all he has done in the name of our Order and prays for his continued success in leading our Order to even greater achievements.

Recomadation: adopt as amended

Resolution 03: Honoring the Bishops of Mississippi

WHEREAS, His Excellency Bishop Joseph Kopacz was installed as the eleventh Bishop of the Diocese of Jackson on February 6, 2014, and faithfully serves the Diocese under the episcopal motto "Let There Be Light"; and

WHEREAS, His Excellency Bishop Louis Kihneman III was installed as the fourth Bishop of the Diocese of Biloxi on April 28, 2017, and faithfully serves the Diocese of Biloxi under the episcopal motto "The Lord Is My Shepherd";

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Knights of Columbus of the Mississippi Jurisdiction, inspired by the faithful service and leadership of Bishops Kopacz and Kihneman, pledge our continued allegiance, prayers, and service in support of our bishops and the mission of the Catholic Church in Mississippi.

Recomadation to Adopt

Resolution 04: Honoring the United States Armed Forces

WHEREAS, the Knights of Columbus has a long and proud history of supporting the men and women of the Armed Forces of the United States; and

WHEREAS, many active members of the Knights of Columbus are or have been members of the Armed Forces; and

WHEREAS, the men and women of the Armed Forces risk their lives to ensure the safety and freedom of the people of the United States;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Mississippi Jurisdiction of the Knights of Columbus expresses its sincere appreciation and gratitude to the dedicated men and women who have served and those currently serving and those who are serving the Armed Forces of the United States;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the members of the Mississippi Jurisdiction of the Knights of Columbus will continue to pray for the safety and well-being of the men and women serving and those who have served in the Armed Forces.

Recomadation to Adopt as Amended

Resolution 05: Appreciation for Supreme Director Jeffrey Crouch

WHEREAS, Supreme Director Jeffrey Crouch has honored the Mississippi Knights of Columbus State Convention with his presence; and

WHEREAS, Brother Jeffrey Crouch as a Supreme Director of the Knights of Columbus, provides dedicated leadership, guidance, and support to the Order throughout our jurisdiction and beyond; and

WHEREAS, Brother Jeffrey Crouch exemplifies the ideals of Charity, Unity, and Fraternity, and his presence adds greatly to the spirit of this Convention;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the delegates of the Mississippi Knights of Columbus State Convention, assembled in Natchez, Mississippi, April 24–26, 2026, express their sincere appreciation to Supreme Director Jeffrey Crouch for honoring this Convention with their presence;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this Convention extends to them our heartfelt gratitude and a cordial invitation to return to the Jurisdiction of Mississippi whenever they are able to do so.

Recomadation adopt as amended

Resolution 06: Appreciation to the Host Councils of the 2026 State Convention

WHEREAS, the 2026 Mississippi Knights of Columbus State Convention is being held in Natchez, Mississippi, April 24–26, 2026; and

WHEREAS, the Councils of District 7 have graciously accepted the responsibility of hosting this Convention; and

WHEREAS, Council 1034 Natchez, Council 8054 McComb, Council 7915 Brookhaven, and Council 17364 Crystal Springs have spent the past two years planning and coordinating the many details necessary to ensure the success of this Convention; and

WHEREAS, the members of these councils, along with their families and volunteers, have demonstrated outstanding dedication, hospitality, and fraternal spirit in welcoming the delegates and guests of this Convention;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the delegates of the Mississippi Knights of Columbus State Convention extend their sincere appreciation and gratitude to the Councils of District 7 for their generous efforts and warm hospitality in hosting this Convention;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this Convention expresses its heartfelt thanks to all members, spouses, and volunteers whose time, planning, and dedication have contributed to the success of the 2026 Mississippi Knights of Columbus State Convention.

Recomadation; Adopt

Resolution 07: In Memory of Deceased Brother Knights

WHEREAS, the Knights of Columbus is founded upon the principles of Charity, Unity, and Fraternity; and

WHEREAS, during the past year, our Order has suffered the loss of devoted Brother Knights who labored faithfully in the service of God, Church, and Country; and

WHEREAS, these Brother Knights served their councils and communities with dedication and commitment to the ideals of Father Michael J. McGivney;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the delegates of the Mississippi Knights of Columbus State Convention pause in respectful remembrance of our departed Brother Knights;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we commend their souls to the loving mercy of Almighty God and extend our prayers and deepest sympathy to their families and loved ones;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we pledge ourselves to continue the work they began, faithfully carrying forward the mission and ideals of the Knights of Columbus.

Recomadation : Adopt

Resolution 08: Distribution of Knights of Columbus Specialty Car Tag Proceeds

WHEREAS, the Mississippi Legislature created a specialty automobile license tag promoting the Mississippi Jurisdiction of the Knights of Columbus, with proceeds from the sale of such tags going to the treasury of the Mississippi State Council; and

WHEREAS, the use of the proceeds from the sale of such tags is determined by resolution adopted at the State Convention;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the proceeds received by the Mississippi State Council from the sale of Knights of Columbus specialty automobile license tags during the 2026–2027 fraternal year shall be distributed as follows:

One-half to the Bishop Gerow Priest Education Fund to be distributed equally between the Diocese of Jackson and the Diocese of Biloxi at the 2027 State Convention; and

One-half to the Bishop William R. Houck Mississippi Retired Religious Fund to be distributed at the 2027 State Convention.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that each member of the Knights of Columbus in the Mississippi Jurisdiction is encouraged to support these worthy causes and to promote the Knights of Columbus by purchasing a Knights of Columbus specialty automobile license tag.

Recomadation: Adopt

Resolution 09: Assignment of Delegates to the Supreme Convention

WHEREAS, the Mississippi State Council is allotted three (3) Insurance Member delegate placements and three (3) Associate Member delegate placements to the Supreme Convention of the Knights of Columbus; and

WHEREAS, the meetings, activities, and networking opportunities experienced during the Supreme Convention are crucial to the development and knowledge of the State Officers in their current and future positions as leaders of the Mississippi State Council; and

WHEREAS, it is the desire of the Mississippi State Council to establish a clear and consistent process for assigning these delegate positions;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that two (2) of the three (3) Insurance Member delegate placements to the Supreme Convention shall automatically be assigned to the Immediate Past State Deputy and the current State Deputy;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the remaining four (4) delegate placements shall be offered, with the right of first refusal, to the remaining members of the State Council in the following order: State Secretary, State Treasurer, State Advocate, and State Warden;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that if any delegate placements remain unfilled after being offered to the members of the State Council, those placements shall be filled by nomination from the floor and election by the delegates of the State Convention;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that alternate delegate positions for the Supreme Convention shall be filled by nomination from the floor and election by the delegates of the State Convention.

Respectfully Submitted:
Guy Heying, Immediate Past State Deputy

Co-authored by:
Jordan Roy, PGK
Pere Le Duc Council #1522
Bay St. Louis, Mississippi

Recomadation :Adopt

Resolution 10: Thomas R. Zettler, Sr., Mississippi State Deputy Emeritus.

Whereas Council 802, Knights of Columbus has been an integral part of the Catholic Community of Meridian Mississippi founded on the principle of charity, unity, and fraternalism.

Whereas because of the unselfish generosity of his time, talents, and resources of Brother, Sir Knight Thomas R. Zettler, Sr., that has contributed to the success of our Order, on the Council, State, and Supreme levels, it is incumbent upon us to recognize his dedication to our order.

Whereas Brother Zettler entered our Order on May 1st, 1959, until his death on December 1st, 2025, , for a total of 66 years, 7 months.

Whereas during his tenure as a devoted Knight he served as Grand Knight of Council 802, along with various offices, including Financial Secretary, Faithful Navigator of Assembly 1251, District Deputy, Mississippi State Deputy, 1993 to 1995, all state offices and chaired many state committees.

Whereas Brother Zettler took his patriotic duties seriously serving twenty years in the United States Navy where he retired as Lieutenant Commander, as a Purple Heart recipient, honored with the Meritorious Service medal and the NAM Gold Star along with his long-time devotion to The Knights of Columbus Fourth Degree.

Whereas Brother Zettler practiced the principles of our order daily with his involvement in Church activities, an avid pro-life supporter, visitation with the sick and elderly, Scoutmaster, involvement in all Council activities.

Whereas he was a devoted father of ten children, grandfather to multiple grandchildren and great grandchildren, and the loving husband to his supporting Wife, Jo Anne.

Therefore, be it resolved, he be honored with the title, Mississippi State Deputy Emeritus, and from this day forward be known as Thomas R. Zettler, Sr., Mississippi State Deputy Emeritus.

Francis A. Polizzi

Robert J. Leo.

Submitted by: Francis A. Polizzi, PGK

Second, Robert J. Leo, PGK

Council 802, Knights of Columbus

Adopted by Council February 17, 2026, unanimously

Recomadation - Send back to State with the recomadation to name an awaard shuch as Family of the year so his naam and works can contune live on