

State Deputy Daniel 'Danny' Lechner, Biloxi

State Secretary Dr. Peter Sukanek, Oxford

State Treasurer Gerald 'Jerry' Schmuck, Gulfport

> State Advocate David Scott, Madison

> State Warden Jim McCraw, Jackson

Immediate Past State Deputy Larry Tabor, Biloxi

State Chaplain Father Charles Nutter, Gautier

Send Council, assembly and circle news and announcements by the 10<sup>th</sup> of each month to:

Fred Middleton 4322 Bloombury St. Southaven, MS 38672 fredmiddleton@comcast.net 662-449-0053

On the Web

# Report Deadline Nears

Two reports are due before the end of the Fraternal Year June 30:

Form SP-7, the Columbian award application (2 Councils of 59 have submitted);

Form 2863, the RSVP application (only Councils that support a seminarian are eligible).

Several Councils have not submitted forms for the following:

Form 185 Report of Chosen Officers (3 Councils not reporting);

Form 365 List of Service Program Personnel (12 Councils not reporting);

Form 1295 Semiannual Audit Report (6 Councils not reporting);

Form 1728 Survey of Fraternal Activity (2 Councils not reporting).

Any council not knowing if a particular form has been submitted may contact State Program Chair Noel Aucoin at noel.aucoin@ngc.com; 228-392-4092 or 228-327-2951 (cell).

There is still time to qualify for Star Council (June 30 Supreme deadline). Just make sure that copies of Form 100 are submitted in the next few days.

# The Magnolia Knight

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# A Word from the State Deputy The Efforts of Many Make Us More Than Just Another Organization

By Danny Lechner

As I end my term as your State Deputy and we end our Supreme Fraternal

year, I would like to thank all the State Officers, Committee Chairmen, District Deputies, Councils, Council officers, 4<sup>th</sup> Degree and my Brother Knights for their hard work this past year. Without your effort, we would just be another organization. Together, we have accomplished a lot.



I would also like to congratulate all newly elected and reelected State, Council and Assembly officers.

We have come a long way this year and made great strides

in the realization of our potential. The coming year will be filled with many obstacles. But, with God's help, we will overcome those obstacles, and rise to new heights.

My Brothers, I ask you to support our newly elected State Deputy, Dr. Peter Sukanek, and make this year one that will go down as the best year in Mississippi Knights of Columbus history.

Thanks for allowing me to serve you.



Pascagoula Msgr. P. J. Carey Assembly 0561 and Council 1605 recently supplied 100 Rosaries and cards to the Navy ship, USS Makin Island, LHD-8. The ship is in the final stages of construction at Northrop Grumman Shipbuilding- Gulf Coast and will be homeported in San Diego. Some hand-made Rosary's also were provided by Council member Billy George of Moss Point St. Joseph's Parish and Key Higginbotham of Pascagoula Our Lady of Victories Parish. On hand for the presentation were (from left) RP3 Jason Cooper; RP1 Roderick Chase; Deacon Candidate and Former Master Mike Gilly; Commander David Tubley, Command Chaplain; and Lt. Commander Rean Enriquez, Catholic Chaplain

# State Newsletter

#### The Magnolia Knight

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# Aucoin, Gates Take on New State Duties

Noel Aucoin and Elvis Gates, who served as State Program Director and Vocations Chair for the Diocese of Biloxi, respectively, assume new responsibilities for the 2009-10 Fraternal Year.

Incoming State Deputy Peter Sukanek appointed Aucoin State Membership Director and Gates State Program Director. They assume their new duties July 1.

Noel, who succeeds Bill Waggoner, who was elected State Warden in April, attends Sacred Heart parish in D'Iberville and is a member of Fr. Patrick McAlpine Council 9094. He joined the Knights in 1997 and has served in many capacities, including Grand Knight. On the state level, he has been chaired State Vocations, State Public Relations and State Church Activities and served as Editor of the Magnolia Knight and State Program Director.

He is a Past Faithful Navigator of Assembly 3007 in D'Iberville and has received the honor of Sir Knight of the Year along with 4th Degree Family of the Year for the Mississippi Jurisdiction. Noel currently serves as Faithful Admiral and is District Marshal for the Southern District.

He has been married to his wife Patty for 29 years and they have two children Jessica, 22, and Drew, 21. Noel is the Scheduling Manager for the Coast Guard Deepwater Pro-

## Supreme Recognizes Two Mississippi Families

William and Kathy West of Starkville Fr. John P. Egan Council 6765 and James and Dorothy Rivero of Tylertown Fr. Patrick Quinn Council 11956 received the Supreme Family of the Month award for April.

The following Councils submitted nominations for April: 802, 898, 1908, 2134, 2180, 4898, 5556, 5654, 6765, 6872, 7120, 7211, 7910, 9124, 9543, 9673, 10216, 10443, 10499, 10901, 11956, 12271.



Gates

gram at Northrop Grumman Ship Systems.

Gates is a member of Long Beach St. Vincent de Paul Council 4898, which he joined as a student at the U. of Southern Mississippi in 1983 and where he is the current Grand Knight.

Elvis was Grand Knight at the time of the Hurricane Katrina hit devastation. He held meetings at his home to rally the Council to take the needed steps to help the parish and the Council recover from this severe storm. As the president of the council's "Home Corporation," Elvis signed the documents purchasing the Long Beach Skating Rink that was then refurbished and served as the "lifeboat" church, parish elementary school and Council home in Long Beach for St. Thomas the Apostle Parish.

Elvis and his wife of 17 years, Melissa, have a daughter, Alicia, 12. He has been a State Farm Insurance agent since joining the company in 1985 in Hattiesburg.

# 7 Knights Scheduled For Ordination as Deacons

Seven Knights of Columbus members of the Diocese of Biloxi are scheduled to be ordained as Permanent Deacons on June 22 at Biloxi's Nativity Blessed Virgin Mary Cathedral.

These members include:

David Hughes (Rosemary), Immaculate Conception, Laurel Council 2180, Former District Deputy.

Mike Gilly (Karen), Our Lady of Victories, Pascagoula, Moss Point Msgr. P.J. Carey Council 1605, Former Master.

Eddie Renz, (Karen), Our Lady of the Gulf, Bay St. Louis Pere Le Duc Council 1522, Past Grand Knight.

Mike Harris (Mary), Our Lady of the Gulf, Bay St. Louis Pere Le Duc Council 1522.

M.J. Landry, (Darlene), Blessed Seelos, Biloxi Council 1244.

Frank Martin (Sharon), St. Ann, Hurley, Moss Point Msgr. P.J. Carey Council 1605.

Buddy Vancourt (Gayle), St. Thomas, Long Beach St. Vincent de Paul Council 4898.

A 4<sup>th</sup> Degree Honor Guard also has been requested for the First Mass of Former Master Mike Gilly at Our Lady of Victories Church, downtown Pascagoula, at 11 a.m., June 28.

#### **Pro-Life Action**

## Providing Transportation for Those In Need

June is the time for us to think about doing things for our brothers and sisters in Christ.

Those retired members and any Knights who will be out for the summer from their regular school-year duties may want to think about doing this: registering your name with your church office or with your Council officers to say that you would be available for at least a part of the summer to provide transportation for the elderly, disabled or parishioners who are alone and unable to drive, when they are in need of medical care.

In many instances, these people have vehicles available for their use but are unable to drive themselves to meet these appointments. You might not even have to use your own car to do this, but you would be providing a badly needed Christian service for them - and you might even make a loyal new friend in the process. (Submitted by Raymond Cole.)

#### The Magnolia Knight

# Biloxi Council 1244 Honors Families, Knight of the Quarter





Family of the Month and Knight of the Quarter awards were presented at a dinner hosted by Biloxi Council 1244.

Grand Knight Mike Arguelles presented Family of the Month awards to the Jerry Gollott Family (January, top left); Fred Jr. and Harry Steinwinder Family (February, top right); and Fr. Anthony 'Tony' Arguelles Family (March, bottom left). Br. Jerry serves as Council Recorder; Br. Harry is Financial Secretary; and Fr. Tony is Chaplain, as well as Pastor of Nativity Blessed Virgin Mary Cathedral, the seat of the Diocese of Biloxi. His family is the flock of devout parishioners who support Nativity church and school activities which temporally and spiritually benefit the diocesan community.

Knight of the Quarter honors were bestowed on Br. Charles Simon (bottom right), celebrating his 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary as a Knight, having joined the Order on April 16, 1939. Charley has distinguished himself in numerous fraternal, community and church activities, faithfully holding important Council posts, including serving as the Council's 33<sup>rd</sup> Grand Knight during the late 1950s.

Perhaps Charley's most significant achievement was spearheading the construction effort for the Council hall. (*Submitted by Joe Ravita, Council Publicity Chair.*)

### Rene Davidson: Field Agent of the Year

Rene Davidson of Biloxi has been in<br/>the life insurance industry for 45Gau<br/>Spr<br/>years, since 2005 as a Knights of<br/>Columbus Field Agent. He was rec-

ognized at the State Convention in April as the Field Agent of the Year.

He joined the K of C staff five months before Hurricane Katrina destroyed the Gulf Coast in 2005.

"Fourteen

Davidson

months later, my wife (Brenda) and I moved back into our home and started life all over again," he says.

Rene services Bay St. Louis Council 1522, Gulfport 1693, Moss Point 1605, Picayune 6872, Gulfport 7910, Gautier 9124, Biloxi 9409, Ocean Springs 10499, Gulfport 11541, Pascagoula 12166 and the Sea Bee Base in Gulfport 12271.

"Working as an agent for the Knights of Columbus is most rewarding," says Rene. "I enjoy recruiting members into one of the finest organizations in the world.

"Visiting each Council and each member to show them the wonderful products the Knights have is also special for me."

Rene became a Knight in 1967 in Louisiana, moving his membership to West Biloxi Council 9409 in 2000. He has served as Chair of the People with Intellectual Disabilities drive two years and is serving his second year as Faithful Navigator of D'Iberville Assembly 557.

He is a Marine Corps veteran of the

**ar** Korean War and a graduate in Business Administration from Loyola University and completed Life Underwriter Training Council Fellow (LUTCF) classes.

He is an usher and a Eucharastic Minister and serves on the Parish Council at Our Lady of Fatima Parish in Biloxi.

Rene and Brenda have five children: Lynn, Cindy, Alysia, Kim, Rene Jr. and Warren.

# Brandon Is A Top Gun

Brandon St. Paul Council 10216 was inadvertently omitted as a Top Gun Council recognized at the State Convention and included in the May issue of *The Magnolia Knight*. We regret the oversight.



