

Knights Life



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Holy Spirit Catholic Church – Duncanville, Tx,



Eric Christian Conner

The day Eric Christian Conner was born, the world became brighter. He lived a short life filled with much love for his fellowman. A loving soul, he never met a stranger and was known for his hugs and handshakes. Visiting this earth for the purpose of service, Eric welcomed every opportunity to support and help others, whether family, friends, strangers, church or community. He developed spiritual strength and built a tool

box of love shared with all he met. His most compelling acts of love included his unconditional acceptance of others whatever their plight or condition: skeptics, believers, the selfish and selfless. Each soul met with him in unity not in separation. He was a mystic in all relationships seeking common ground with the world.

As Knights we remember Eric as a constant contributor to Knights of Columbus functions. If you will recall, he seemingly constantly worked at the baseball and football concession stands for many years. He brought joy to those occasions with his laughter and corny jokes. Someone once said that he made up his own jokes (not very good ones, though). Whatever, there was always a good natured aura around Eric. Eric just plain loved to laugh. He worked at fish fries, cook-outs, and Knight Hand projects. He was a hoot and fun to be around. Eric's creative personality and vibration was irresistible and his wide smile was always contagious. Forever loved and remembered, Eric was a man with a heart of gold.

Eric Christian Conner passed away on May 24, 2023; he was born on January 1, 1967. His father, Nathaniel Conner, preceded him in death. He is survived by his mother,

Pat Holland Conner, brother and wife, Alexander Todd and Kim Conner and children. Rest is peace old friend.



Francisco Javier Hernandez

Some of the newer Knights might not know Frank Hernandez; but those who have been around for some time will have a hard time forgetting Frank's twinkly smile, his zingers and his sly pranks. Frank was a lovable, energetic Knight who contributed lots of his time to Knights of Columbus functions. Who can ever forget the opening tandem of Ed O'Brien, Bob Foster and Frank at the ballpark every Saturday morning? These three guys constantly and good naturedly gave each other a hard time with Frank often getting the best of it. Sadly Frank passed away on June 5, 2023 at the age of 86. Frank was a Mexican emigrant having been born on July 20, 1936 in Monterey, Mexico. He came to the United States for a better life and he has certainly provided that for his wife Rita (whom he married in 1959) and his three children. Frank accomplished this with a

distinguished career with General Motors where he worked for thirty years. He designed and made new tooling for new model cars for General Motor cars manufactured in Arlington. He was in the production tooling department. He was a sharp cookie. There were a few occasions when Frank couldn't work at the ballpark; and those times he spent with CERT (Citizens Emergency Response Team). He was also a member of Citizens on Patrol. And it is my understanding that he was a soccer referee and coach in his younger days. He also served as a Hospitality Minister for many years.

Frank is survived by his wife Rita and his children: Rita (Bill) Hernandez Heep, Ruth (Loren) Hernandez White and Francisco (Craig Burchfield), his grandchildren: Christopher (Pamela) Heep, Alyssa Heep (Aaron) Johnston, Brian White, and Elizabeth White, his great-grandchildren: Laila and Leo Heep, Sophia Gavin, Remi, and River Johnston, his brothers and sisters: Abigail Dominguez, Americo Hernandez, Oscar Hernandez, Artemio Hernandez, and Consuelo Jimenez.

Frank had a passion for travel, soccer, service to others, and loved to spoil his children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Frank was a high character guy and will be missed by many in his family and community. He will most certainly be missed by the Knights of Columbus. Rest in Peace, Frank

About our Council

Council Monthly Meetings

General Meeting every 1st Tuesday 7:00pm

Officer's & Directors every 3rd Tuesday 7:00pm

Postal address and meeting location

1111 W Danieldale Rd. Dining Room
Duncanville Tx, 75116 USA
972-298-4971

KC District 86 - Assembly 2799

The council Officers listed below were officially elected for their 1st term in office on June 7, 2022. Their term runs through June 2023

Chaplain	OPEN
Grand Knight	Mike Fitzgerald
Deputy Grand Knight	Marc Evans
Chancellor	Paul Ryan
Recording Secretary	Roberto Nieto
Treasurer	James Smith
Warden	Adan Luna
Inside Guard	Gamaliel Hernandez
Outside Guard	Russell LeRoy
Financial Secretary	Peter Perta
Advocate	Russell Gully
Trustees	Jim Russell
	David Dybala
	Dan Schneider

Service Program Directors

Awareness Committee	Jorge Ruiz
Concessions	James Smith
Church Activities	James Smith
Family	Open
Faith	Al Evans
Life	Mike Moloughney
Youth Activities	Mike Moloughney
Knight Hands	David Dybala
Retention	Paul Ryan

Membership	Jim Kowalski
Council Activities	Open
Disaster Preparedness	Open
Degree Team	Tom Greco
Sacramental Gifts	Keith Archer
Safe Environment	Russell LeRoy
Health Activities	Robert Nieto
Lecturer	Open

Knights Life Newsletter

Our Newsletter is published quarterly. The Newsletter is delivered electronically to your email address and is posted on our website. If you would like to receive a paper copy, they are available at the general meeting.

Newsletter Editor and Publisher Allen Reitmeier

Newsletter & Website Writers
Allen Reitmeier, Jorge Ruiz, Marc Evans, Dan Murphy

Newsletter and Website Photographer
Allen Reitmeier, Jorge Ruiz, Leon Cornute, Arthur Rodriguez.

Council Website

Website address kofc8157.org
Website Editor Jorge Ruiz
Website Admins Jorge Ruiz

Email Communications

Emails are sent to our members on a regular basis. Make sure you add the email address below to your contact list so our emails do not go to you junk/span folder.

Email address: admin@kofc8157.org

Membership Rosters

A full member ship roster is available in paper form to all Knights in good standing at the general meeting

Knight of the Month Apr 2023



John Espree

John is the guy that comes toward you with an outstretched hand and a big smile. Maybe it's because he grew up in Louisiana or maybe it's the way he's adopted the habit after working in outside truck parts sales for 35 years...but it is a welcoming attitude toward his fellow man. You'll find John using his welcoming attitude serving as Usher at Mass, at any Knights activity or at any other Parish activity Bonnie, his wife, volunteers him to support. John has a blended family of a son, two daughters, and two grandkids (ask John about his new granddaughter, Catalina Grace Garza born this April and watch him smile!) John and Bonnie moved to Duncanville in 2010 and joined the Knights in 2012 (where he says he is "a happy Indian"). John asked that we help him pick up any trash left behind after Mass..."it's a shame so much stuff is left behind." I've also been told John likes playing with Hot Wheels...

Knight of the Month May 2023



Mario Luna

How are you going to fix that?!! Mario is a commercial carpenter who has worked 11 years at Tarrant College Northeast Campus and is an expert at imaging "how to fix" whatever challenges

him day to day. Mario has four adult children, three in the Dallas area and one in Corpus Christi. He grew up in Corpus Christi but has lived in Red Oak/Dallas for 48 years, attending 11a.m. Mass at Holy Spirit for the past two years. Mario was invited to join the Knights by Ramon Presas two years ago during Easter Holy Week and "the Spirit convinced me to help others". Mario's favorite thing about the Knights is the brotherhood he feels around the other Knights. Mario has helped out the Ball Park concession stand, fish fry and most recently at the Knights State Convention registration desk. Back to that "imagining how to", Mario's hobby is building things...from picture frames to a baby bed shaped like a crescent moon (Really! Ask Mario to see the photo!)

Knight of the Month Jun 2023



John Owen

Cooking at St. Joseph's



On June 4, 2023, our Knights under the guidance of Community Director Dan Murphy cooked and served our famous barbecued lunch for the residences of St. Joseph's in South Dallas. This an event we have been doing twice a year for the past 20 years. The very experienced crew of 20 Knights and wives met up at church around 9AM to pack-up the new grill, sort out the food and other required items before heading off to St Joseph's to begin preparation for a noon luncheon for the 86 residences and 10 staff members along with a hand full of visiting families.



Once at the residence the group broke out into teams to prepare for the meal with. David Ybarra leading the cooking crew along with Jose Montoya and Art Rodriguez, Jack Ramsey, and Adan Luna. The kitchen crew, lead by Efrain Ochoa and the Archers

prepared the vegetables and drinks. The rest of the group lead by Grand Knight Jim Russell, John Espre, and Larry Balagna prepared the serving area.



Sheila Balagna entertained the residences in the gathering room with her piano and singing skills. Precisely at noon the feast began with all the residences being seated and served restaurant style. The always efficiently run serving line crew consisted of Rolando Sobalvarro, Efrain Ochoa, Adan and Norma Luna, Mario Luna, Jim Russell, Ed Obrien, and Jeff Miller. Another team of Keith and Mary Archer, Frances Miller, Mary Russell, Russell and Theresa Leroy, and Larry and Sheila Belagna helped assist the staff members serving the residences and passing out Mike Fitzgerald's famous cookies for dessert. Once again the residence staff, lead by Sister Carolina, was very grateful for the Knight's generosity in providing both lunch for the residences but also for the time spent talking with the residences, many of whom have very little outside contact. One of our own Knights, Leo Mattingly, was very excited to see us and have an opportunity to tell all his new friends about our council and how proud he is to be a part of it. This year I would also like to especially thank Frances Miller, Adan and Norma Luna, and Mario Luna who came and helped at this event for the first time. They all jumped right in and participated fully. Overall, another great and worthwhile Knight's event serving our community while developing camaraderie among our members.

Patron Saint of Knight Hands

On March 21st and 22nd, 2022, a number of Knight Hands gathered to build the pedestal for the newly arrived statue of St Joseph in the courtyard. Shortly thereafter the imported statue of St. Joseph was placed on this pedestal and remains there today for adoration by the parish community. (The actual story is in the newsletter archives dated April 2022 – Edition #49).



Sounds simple enough until you actually get on the job. These seats, first of all, weigh like a gabillion ton. Plus the steel dowels securing the seat risers and seat tops all had to line up perfectly. Leave it to David Dybala to figure this all out – which he did without error. Once the concrete base was dry, four Knight Hands, (David Dybala, Jack Ramsden, Dan Murphy, and Allen Reitmeier) proceeded to glue the steel dowels into the base and risers and then glue steel dowels between the risers and the seats.

Getting all the steel dowels lined up was a bit tricky; but in the end every piece fit together just fine. Father Eugene has told the Knights of Columbus that they have a reserved seat anytime we want it at the statue of St. Joseph.

After spending a good amount of time with St. Joseph, it seems only fitting that Knight Hands adopt St Joseph as the patron saint of Knight Hands. And so it shall be. Well done men.

You will notice the statues in the church courtyard have seats in sort of a semi-circle so folks can sit while praying. Father Eugene asked if Knight Hands could build a base and install the newly imported marble seats. The seats are exactly like the ones already in the courtyard.



Family of the Month Apr 2023



**Dan and
Pat
Murphy**

Dan is that guy with the wry smile that is serving in just about any way our Knights Council decides to serve the community. Actually, Dan is our Knight's Community Director, meaning he coordinates services outside of the Parish like serving special food treats to St. Joseph nursing home residents, Seminarians at UD, Police and Fire Departments around the Parish. Dan has been a Knight since 2000 and served as our Grand Knight in 2003. Dan is a Dallas Jesuit graduate, a retired Navy pilot, earned an MBA and a degree in Oceanography. Pat is a retired hospice nurse. Dan and Pat have lived in Duncanville since 1998 when they moved back from Florida. Dan and Pat serve as Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist at Mass. Pat also serves as an EM for the homebound, delivers Meals on Wheels and is on the ACTS Core which shepherds the spiritual retreat ministry at Holy Spirit.

Family of the Month May 2023



**Jeff and
Frances
Miller**

Jeff has been in the communications business for a life time, in semi-retirement he is

still a freelance writer for the Texas Catholic, Texas Monthly, the Associated Press plus does some local pro-team game summaries (for the Rangers, Mavs and Stars). Jeff's also written a book named Teammates For Life which documents how the Auburn football team members have remained connected in activities and association for over 50 years. Jeff even wrote these illustrious articles for our Knights for many years! Jeff joined the Knights in 1997 at the invitation of previous Grand Knight Bill Chaco and became a 4th Degree Knight along with Larry Balagna. As a Knight, Jeff has served as Recorder, Chancellor, and Deputy Grand Knight...working to live the Knight's title of being the 'strong right arm of the Church.' Jeff lives in accord with James 2:26, "I will demonstrate my faith to you from my works" so he serves our Parish as a Lector, Come Follow Me volunteer and 50th Anniversary committee volunteer. Jeff's wife, Francis, may be even more active than Jeff in Parish service now that she has retired from a 20-year career as an administrator for an outpatient emergency care provider. Francis now serves on the Holy Spirit Finance Committee, Outreach Homebound ministry and delivers Meals on Wheels (and Jeff helps where he can). Jeff and Francis are models of "Teammates For Life" here at Holy Spirit!

Family of the Month June 2023



**Jack and
Juanita
Ramsden**

Welcome New Knights



**Leobardo
Ortiz
2023**



**Carmelo
Gonzalez
2023**