



Council 8157 Holy Spirit Duncanville Texas



Knights Life

Edition 12 September 2012

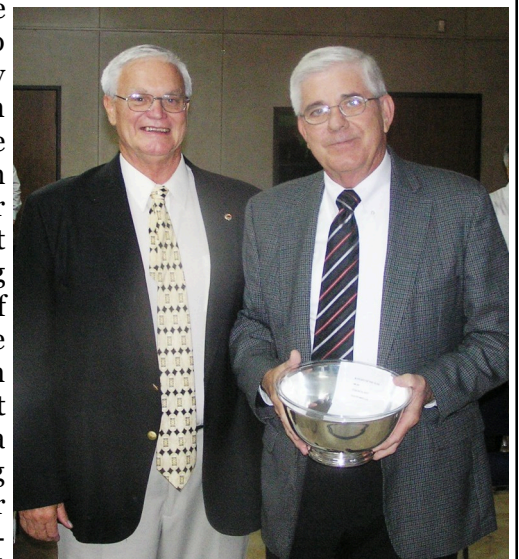


Remembering the Father of Two & the Brother to Many

David Briggs might not have known Pele from Picasso. But when he found himself coaching his two sons' youth soccer teams, he didn't leave things to chance. Son Jeff recalled, "He took time to read 'how to' manuals and soccer drill books to try to actually teach us the game instead of just sending us out there to kick the ball around. He went out of his way to educate himself so he could properly educate us, and it paid off." Soon after David died last April 16, some tales of his days coaching Jeff and the Colts and brother Chris' Duncanville Coyotes were among the remembrances of a dedicated parent, parishioner and Brother Knight. Those young Colts stayed together from the ages of 8 to 14, won three league championships and advanced to North Texas State Soccer's Tournament of Champions (winning the event once). Jeff said playing for his father wasn't difficult. "There were times I

felt singled out just because I thought he had to let the other players know I wasn't going to get preferential treatment," he says, "but he wasn't overbearing." David's knowledge of soccer allowed him to move on and become a respected referee, as Jim Finger noted after David's Rosary. Cedar Hill High didn't have a soccer team when David was there in the mid-1960s. He was a two-time football letterman (played wingback) and

ran track (won the 100-yard dash in the district meet as a senior). He also participated in FFA, the yearbook staff and drama groups. It's no surprise that David was the boys' winner of the senior class' Activity Award (in a graduating class of 35, by the way). After graduating in 1966, he headed directly into the Navy during the Vietnam war. He became part of the 25th Tactical Fighter Squadron stationed at Ubon Air Force Base in Thailand near the Laotian border. His respect for his time in the Navy was displayed every couple of weeks in recent years with the Knights; at the close of a general membership meeting or an officers-and-directors meeting, David made sure the Good of the Order included our servicemen and women. After his time in the military, David worked for the Santa Fe, Southern Pacific and Union Pacific railroads from 1970 through 2008. He became a parishioner at Holy Spirit in 1986 and a Knight soon after. We remember David as a tireless volunteer who was especially willing to help out if something needed to be built or cooked. He was preceded in death by his sister (Rebecca), his parents (Mollie and Arnold) and son Chris. He is survived by Jeff, grandchildren Chelsea and Shelby Briggs of Rockwall and Hallie Briggs plus great-grandchildren Angel, Javoni and Annalayah Briggs. The size of the gatherings at the Rosary, funeral service and subsequent luncheon back at Holy Spirit indicated how many people whom David touched in his life. As former long-time parishioner Margie Diersing put it, "God truly has an angel with Him."



Message from the Grand Knight

To all my brother Knights I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for the hard work you have done; especially all the hours working the tournaments at the ball park in Cedar Hill. Because of your hard work, it was my privilege to present to our church (Holy Spirit) a check in the amount of \$5,600 for the various church ministries. In addition, it was my honor to present checks to James Dean and Daniele Senato, (this year's scholarship winners) and checks to 4 seminarians all in the amount of \$500.00. This expenditure of \$8,600 was all made possible because of you i.e. these men they call Knights. Thanks you so much to all of you. May God bless us all.

Frank Salazar – Grand Knight



1st Degree Team is Certified

For Tom Greco, the evening of August 2nd was a culmination of years of dreaming and months and month of planning and preparing as Council 8157's 1st degree team was certified. It was certified during an actual installation of a new Knight – Edward Kely. Congratulations to the entire team on this momentous occasion.



Much time and practice was logged to accomplish what had been attempted twice in the past. Members of the team include Tom Greco (Team Leader), Bill Dover, Jim Richardson, David Dybala, Peter Perta, Al Alonzo, Andy Goza, Jim Russell, and Allen Reitmeier. Since its' inception the 1st degree team has already conducted two subsequent induction ceremonies while conferring the 1st degree of the Order on 13 new Knights – some from other Councils. Already this team has distinguished itself as the best in the area.

Roger Scott, Diocesan Deputy, sent along his congratulations by saying "thanks to all the team members for a great job". The presentation of the 1st degree ceremony is, in fact, very inspiring. The words are all memorized and spoken with passion and conviction. If you would be in attendance you could not help but be spell bond by the beauty and dignity of the presentation. Speaking of attendance, this writer would encourage all Knights to attend a 1st degree ceremony presentation by this team. It would not only lend support and encouragement to this team; but would also inspire you to practice the principle taught in the ceremony. Thanks to the leadership and dedication of Tom Greco, your Council now has again distinguished itself. Tom tells me he would still like to see more Knights join the 1st degree team; so if you have an interest in joining contact Tom.

Awareness Committee:

Editor- Allen Reitmier **Publisher**—Chris Kubin **Photographer**—Jim Kowalski and Bayani Alonzo **Writers**—Jeff Miller

Family of the Month

July—The efforts of the council’s Family of the Month

for July, Marce and Brenda Tebbe, were readily seen by many parishioners yet also out of sight from all but a few. The Tebbes planned and constructed



most of the props and decorations that made Deborah Garrison’s “SKY” VBS week come alive for the parish kids in the community center in late June. They built the six-foot plane that the youngest campers could sit in, the two-dimensional plane for use by the older kids, the 15-foot radar tower in the center of the gym floor, the “metal detection” entry way and provided materials for other aspects of the imaginative presentation. They also spearheaded the efforts to cook burgers and dogs for the wrap-up dinner. What wasn’t as noticeable was their labor among the KC’s who expanded the sprinkler system in the backyard of the rectory. They planned how to attach the new piping to the existing system (which was also installed by the council), purchased the materials – including almost 500 square feet of sod and two tons of fill dirt – rented a trencher and did the dirty work with some assistance from Allen Reitmeier and Jeff Miller. They returned to the scene of the grime three times afterward to roll the new sod and later helped satisfy Fr. Joe’s request for a vegetable garden and herb garden.

August—It was good to see David and Veronica

Ybarra, the Family of the Month for August, helping at the Fall Festival. They haven’t been able to make many council functions of late. David was scheduled to ascend from Chancellor to Deputy Grand Knight this past summer. But his KC plans and the couple’s lives changed last December, when they graciously invited Veronica’s parents – 102-year-old Amelia and 101-year-old Juan Rojas – to move into their Waxahachie home from El



Paso. (The Rojas attended Winter Welcome last January and occasionally join the Ybarras at 8 a.m. Mass, where David still ushers.) The Rojas, together since 1930, lived on their own in a small trailer until Amelia fell one day. “We said, ‘That’s enough,’ ”

David recalled. The couple’s belongings fit in one trip of a pickup truck. A few months later, Veronica retired from her government job after 33 years instead of 35 as planned. She’s their main caregiver for most of the day. After David gets home from work at Allied Marketing Group in Dallas, he assumes takes over – and on weekends. “So far, so good,” David said. “Of course, they’re slowing up.” David and Veronica frequently take them to Lone Star Park in Grand Prairie for racing and simulcasts. They’ve been featured both on ESPNDallas.com and on Channel 8. Said David: “They’re a great story. We’ll resume our lives when we resume our lives.”

September—A peek inside Holy Spirit’s gym anytime from July to

the final weekend of September provides a hint of who was named the council’s Family of the Month for September. Jack and Teddie Anderson are the unofficial first family of the parish’s rummage sale during the annual Fall Festival. Teddie is the chairman of the sale and comes to the gym just about every weekday. Jack, who joined the Knights in 2002, accompanies Teddie to the community center a couple days a week. Teddie has been involved with the rummage sale since the couple joined the parish in its earliest days. Jack is a California native who spent almost five years in the Air Force, got his bachelor’s degree from Arizona State and his master’s degree from East Texas State (now Texas A&M-Commerce). He and Teddie met here in Duncanville at a Parents Without Partners meeting during which she became somewhat contentious; he was so impressed with her spunk, he asked her out. They were married a few months later, 38 years ago this December. They later adopted multiple children and also lovingly allowed others to come live with them for various periods of time. One Holy Spirit pastor suggested they post a sign out front: “Anderson Inn.” And now Holy Spirit’s dedicated team of rummage volunteers has all but become part of the Anderson family, too.



Fall Festival Time



“Heavy lifting” is an apt phrase both figuratively and literally when describing the Knights’ involvement at the parish’s annual Fall Festival held during the final weekend of September. And that’s nothing new for this group. It starts months before the first hot dog is tossed onto the grill, when the rummage group looks to the KC’s for constructing the physical foundation of the sale set-up in the gym. That’s far from an easy task – to get all of those tables and clothing racks to accommodate the maximum amount of materials – but it was done right by the Knights years ago,

and the institutional knowledge now goes a long way. And from the time that the gym was set up to receive items, Knights were the primary delivery people during the coming months who gladly picked up large or bulky items and found spots for them on the ever-crowding gym floor. On the Thursday evening before the Festival began, KC’s put together the outdoor stage for musical entertainment. And who was among the dozen or so Knights in attendance that night? Our “long distance brother,” Martin Svatek. He and Kathleen just couldn’t stay away during the big weekend. Friday meant a full day (8 a.m. until dark full) of additional preparations. That included construction of the midway booths and tents, setting up the cookers, putting together the kids’ games, setting up the bingo room and taking care of the weekend’s electrical needs. Back in the community center kitchen, KC’s were getting started preparing the Saturday night dinner plus other culinary items that would be sold over the next two days. That all happened Friday in anticipation of a possibly rainy Saturday, and



did it rain. But the Knights and the other Festival volunteers bulled ahead, simply thanking God for the opportunity to get together and provide for the good of the parish. The KC’s were, of course, responsible for the grilling station, but brothers Knights were also hard at work all over the grounds tending to areas like the Saturday morning breakfast tacos, the games and were among those who displayed their musical talents. This year’s Festival was a testament to the always well-organized Knights also having to think on their feet; when the stage required a new roof given the weekend’s events, KC’s got

that done while on the go. And after the last game was played and the last rummage item sold, Knights were present in strong numbers to tear down the rummage infrastructure and disassemble the midway and the stage. Another task well done by the “church’s strong right arm.”



Knight of the Month

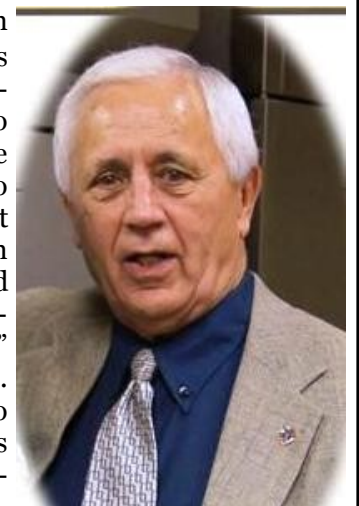


July—Allen Reitmeier was named the council’s Knight of the Month for July, following his fifth ultra-successful season of supervising operations of 8157’s concession stands during the Cedar Hill Baseball Association’s spring play. He estimated Knights put in 300-350 man-hours at the stands. Allen does the scheduling and stocking of the stands, duties that he was familiar with when he assumed the responsibility from Ross Musso shortly after joining the council in 2007. Allen had been a division president for Palm Harbor Homes. “I had to staff these factories – 500 people, get them to do the right things at the right times,” he said. “There’s a mission, a job you have to get done. Get the resources there to make it happen.” The scheduling often involves last-minute changes based on the number of games, which Allen quickly got used to. And when equipment fails during a shift? “One time a freezer died, and all the ice cream melted,” he said. “I got a little panicky. That doesn’t bother me anymore.” Allen, the council’s Knight of the Year for 2009-10 also initiated our Knight Hands program and oversees its good works. He and wife Linda rarely take “down time,” and that’s usually to travel and see their three daughters, one son and seven grandchildren. As Linda aptly put it, “He never does anything 50 percent.”

August—Tom Greco, Knight of the Month for August, has been the primary force behind the establishment of the council’s new Degree Team. Tom has been driven to accomplish this since taking his first degree in November 2007. “I found the words so meaningful and inspiring,” he said. “I told myself, ‘Some day, I want to do that.’ ” This effort is an outgrowth of Tom’s duties as the council’s membership director, a position he said he accepted in conflict with his personality as a “flaming introvert.” That began a parade of trips to degree ceremonies. A little more than two years ago, Tom was invited by Council 8417 at St. Joseph’s in Waxahachie to serve as back-up warden on its degree team. Since then, he has been instrumental in communicating with Supreme on what it would take to form a team and then recruited the members. In June 2010, he was involved in 8157’s Knight in a Day ceremony. “I’m blessed with a wonderfully dedicated crew who have made the months of practice and preparation a real joy,” he said. Tom joined the Knights at the suggestion of Bill Dover, membership director at the time. Tom and wife Helen Beggane joined the parish in 1983, and Tom soon after became involved in the music ministry at the 5:30 Mass and has also been a reader.



September—If you’re looking to judge the commitment to our order of Jim Kowalski, September’s Knight of the Month, simply check the man’s odometer. He’s usually on the road three or four nights a week fulfilling his duties as assistant diocesan deputy for membership. From Bonham south to Corsicana, Greenville west to Grand Prairie. “In six months’ time, I’ve visited all 52 councils,” Jim reported (while driving home from Ennis one night). He has been assistant diocesan deputy for two years and membership director for about five. Jim is a two-time Grand Knight at 8157 and Knight of the Year both here (in 1988) and at his original council, 3593 in Oak Cliff. He became a Knight in 1962 at the urging of his new father-in-law. Jim and wife Lillian met in 1960, at a Catholic singles function, and were married on Thanksgiving Day 1962. Why that specific date? He can’t recall: “I guess we were thankful,” he said with a laugh. They have three sons, one daughter and five grandchildren. Jim, his sister and his mother boarded a train in 1949 in Milwaukee and moved to Dallas. He graduated from Forest Avenue High School in 1952 and then began his working career. His resume includes 11 years as a KC field agent. “I’ve been everything except a district deputy,” he said, “and that’s too much politics.”





Knights' got things a cookin'

There's been a lot of cooking going on since the last Newsletter publication. On "Blue Moon" Friday, August 31st, a number of Knights ventured to the Holy Trinity Seminary at the University of Dallas in Irving, to cook for the Seminarians there. Those Knights were: Frank Hernandez, Ed O'Brien, Marce and Brenda Tebbe, Mike Fitzgerald (who also cooked and brought 200 cookies) Andy Goza, Pat May, Al Alonzo, Jorge Ruiz, Ray Rivera, Jim Richardson, and Allen Reitmeier. While the Knights show their support for these young seminarians by cooking them a meal every year, it is always a pleasure to see and intermingle with such a fine group of young men. Each and every one of them thanked the Knights for the meal, never a harsh word was spoken, and they were polite to a fault. The four hours spent preparing and serving these young men was uplifting to all who participated. This year there were 72 seminarians from Holy Trinity (this number thankfully grows larger each year), and this year they were joined by 17 seminarians from Redemptoris Mater.



Our hope and our prayer is that all these young men will be priests one day – from what this writer saw and heard during this cook-out that could very well be the case. If you want to be inspired and encouraged, come join the Knight's at the next Seminarian cook-out. Watch your e-mails and this publication. On September 9th lots and lots of Knights participated in the first pancake breakfast of the year. While there were a lot of Knights helping, we needed every one of them because we had a large crowd, prompted by a pulpit announcement by Fr. Joe. With the gym being used to prepare for the Festival rummage sale, space was at a premium. What this writer was most happy about was to see new Knights helping at this event.

Any Knight can help at future pancake breakfasts; either setting-up, cooking, serving or cleaning. Look at the calendar of upcoming events for dates. Some parishioners think the Knights make "tons" of money at these events. That is simply not the case, but it is true that we create fraternity between Knights and create a friendly atmosphere where all who attend can enjoy time together as a faith family and have a delicious breakfast at the same time. On September 16th once again the Knights were cooking at the Community Center for a large group; this time it was in appreciation for all the work and dedication of the catechists of the parish. Deborah Garrison was in charge of the festivities; but the Knights did the "heavy lifting" in regard to cooking and serving breakfast to all who attended. For sure, the Knights cooked all the food Deborah had bought for the event. Thanks to Andy and Susan Goza, Frank Salazar, Frank Hernandez, Allen Reitmeier, Doug Skierski, Jack Ramsden and Tom Greco for helping make this event a success. We'll be doing it again next year I'm sure.

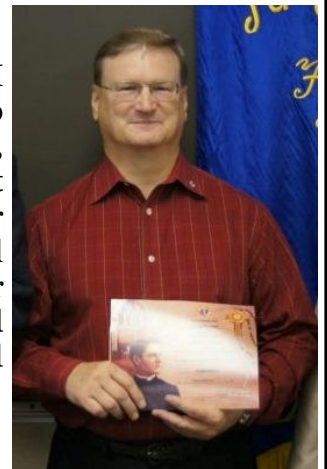


New Members to the Council



JAMES DEAN joined his father, Larrie, in the council shortly before heading off for his freshman year at Texas Tech. He graduated from Midlothian High last spring with Distinguished Honors (GPA of 4.79), was on the tennis team's top doubles pairing and already socked away 12 hours' college credit. He was a captain of Holy Spirit's altar servers and always warmly greeted parishioners, even as the church was emptying out after Mass. His college parish is St. Elizabeth's in Lubbock near the campus. James chose Health Exercise and Sport Sciences as his major, plans to also get his master's degree from Tech and become a physical therapist.

DOUG KARPAN lives close enough to Holy Spirit that he can walk on over. "I love listening to the bells," he said. He enjoyed a similar experience growing up on the family farm in Rhineland, Texas, near St. Joseph's Catholic Church, which is called the "Cathedral in the Cotton Patch." Doug is an Air Force brat and graduated from high school near Seattle. He spent four years in the Air Force himself before spending about 30 years involved with CAD technical work for engineering firms. A parishioner since 1988, Doug is the coordinator for altar servers, a Eucharistic Minister a lector, has been involved in RCIA and also contributes to the Sacred Art Committee. "It's good working with good people," he noted.

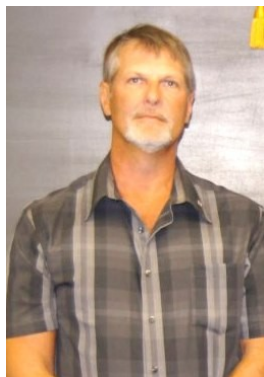
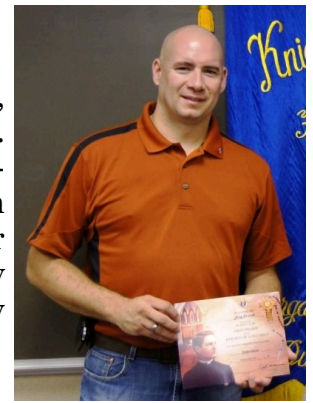


JACK RAMSDEN officially retired June 30 following 24 years running a machine shop in Dallas – and almost immediately found "full time work" joining wife Juanita as regular rummage organizers in advance of the Fall Festival. So he can't yet say how it feels to be retired. Jack is a graduate of South Oak Cliff High and attended Stephen F. Austin and UT-Arlington. The Ramsdens are involved in multiple parish ministries. They went through RCIA together in 2009 and have helped out there, too. Jack likes to go about his business quietly but rolls up his sleeves when he does. The Ramsdens live in Duncanville and, between them, have four grown children and six grandchildren.

JORGE RUIZ and wife Kathie moved to Texas from New York in 1981 and began attending Holy Spirit about two years ago. Jorge grew up in New York after emigrating from Ecuador at the age of 12, which reunited him with his parents and six siblings. He graduated from the New York High School of Printing in Manhattan soon after meeting Kathie and taking her to the prom – at the Empire State Building. He runs his own graphic design business and produced the attractive bulletin inserts that promoted the recent Fall Festival. Kathie is a psychotherapist in private practice. Married 34 years, they have three grown sons.



DOUG SKIERSKI has long been involved in community service organizations, and he joined the Knights to continue that kind of service among Catholic men. He moved from Illinois to the Dallas area when he was 10 years old and graduated from Newman Smith High in Carrollton. He got his bachelor's degree from the University of Texas, attended law school at SMU and is a founding partner of Franklin Skierski Hayward LLP. He specializes in commercial bankruptcy and litigation. Doug lives in Cedar Hill and has two sons, James (14) and Casey (11).



KEN STRUCK is a Chicago native who came to Texas 33 years ago and apparently likes it. Wife Diane similarly traveled south from Wisconsin. They met 30 years ago when working at the same company in Grand Prairie. They've operated their own business, "A Beautiful House," for 17 years. Ken said he enjoys getting to know his customers while on the job. "It's a very fulfilling job," he said. The couple has three grown children along with six granddaughters. The Strucks own land in central Tennessee and plan to retire there in four or five years.

JAMES VU was a 9-year-old living in Vietnam when he was simply told to "get on the boat," and his life changed dramatically. James, his mother and four siblings sailed off in the overloaded craft while bombs landed in the water. "I think if I was older then, it would have been more traumatic," he said. The family settled in the United States; his father somehow found them six months later. He's an anesthesiologist, having graduated from Louisiana-Lafayette and med school at LSU-Shreveport. He and wife Nycole have two children, Dylan (18, a freshman at Saint Louis U.) and Kim (16, a junior at Canterbury Episcopal in their hometown of DeSoto).



ERASMO ZAPATA—Business brought him from Minnesota to Texas 14 years ago. But forget trading in a parka for flip flops; he found the bigger transition to be going from small-town Barnesville to big-city Dallas. "I'd always lived in the country," he said. "but the city has more advantages, more opportunities. I'm used to it now." Erasmo is self-employed, running a company that provides sprinklers, irrigation and drainage. He attended a couple of colleges in Minnesota but left before finishing to come south. He's now studying at Northwood and planning to follow that with law school. Erasmo has lived in Duncanville for three years. He and wife Mary met a gym about nine years ago. Son Erasmo Jr. is 14 years old, and they have a daughter on the way.

****Upcoming Events****

- Oct. 16 Meeting of the Officer and Directors in Room 221. ALL Knights are welcome. See where new ideas are “hatched” and discussed for presentation to the whole Council
- Nov. 6 Election Day and general meeting of the Council. Vote and then don’t miss this important meeting of our Council. Your input is needed.
- Nov. 10 Benefit cook out at the VA Hospital in Lancaster. If you have a desire to honor veterans who are in the hospital, join your fellow Knights at 9:00am at the Community Center back door. We’ll be cooking burger and hot dogs with all the fixings.
- Nov. 10 Major degree (2nd & 3rd) presented at St Francis of Assisi Council 7099 in Grapevine. If you are interested in advancing in the Order, contact Tom Greco to get set-up for this degree ceremony.
- Nov. 11 Pancake breakfast. Help out if you can. Come early (6:30am) and help set up and cook.
- Nov. 17 Corporate Communion. We encourage everyone to participate in Mass and Holy Communion together with the Color Guard in attendance. This will be at the 5:30pm Saturday evening Mass. There will be a dinner after – details to follow.
- Nov 20 Meeting of the Officers and Directors
- Dec 4 Regular general business meeting of the Council. Be there to keep up to date.
- Dec. 9 Another pancake breakfast. All are welcome to eat and/or help prepare and serve.
- Dec 18 Meeting of Officers and Directors
- Jan 8 Regular business meeting. First one of the new year. Come and see what’s going on in your Council
- Jan 19 **Appreciation Dinner. This is for all Knights and their significant others. This is NOT just for those who worked at all the events. This is for everyone to celebrate a year of “good works” by the Knights of this Council. Come enjoy a catered dinner (no charge), beverages (adult even), music, and all the conversation you can put up with. Don’t miss this gala affair. It will start after the 5:30pm Saturday night Mass in the gymnasium at the Community Center. Dress is business casual. Watch for reminders.****

Help give babies
a healthy start –
and a healthy
future.

