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# KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

IN SERVICE TO ONE. IN SERVICE TO ALL.

*ST. ANGELA MERICI COUNCIL NO. 14617  
MISSOURI CITY, TEXAS*

## THE KNIGHT RIDER MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

www.kofc14617.org

### GRAND KNIGHT'S REPORT



My Brothers,

I hope you all had a Happy New Year and I can't wait for our 2010 activities to get going. We have several coming up in the next 2 months. The Free Throw contest will be Jan 16th at Baines MS. Contact Brother Victor to help. We have a bunch of kids signed so he can use your help. Also we have the Super Bowl Briskets the first week-end of February. We have Aeros night on the 10th and finally Clergy Appreciation Night is on January 29th at the Stafford Center. We still have room for 4 people so contact Brother Ron Frerich and get a seat. Tickets are \$40 each.

Our February meeting will be an open social meeting. The meeting will be conducted for the Good of the Order by our Worthy Lecturer Deacon Kevin and will be an entertaining and informative program. Please plan on attending and your wives are also welcome. Anyone can attend as it is an open meeting. Be there for mass and we will have our meal and meeting after mass.

Also just as a reminder, we will hold our Quarterly Corporate Communion on Saturday March 6th at the 5 PM mass. After mass we are going to Spring Creek Barbeque and have a family dinner in the rear dining room they have in the restaurant. So after mass, go and pass through the serving line (dinner is Dutch Treat) and join our council and guests in the back for an evening of family fun. Hold some tables for our families as they don't reserve the room on weekends. Again I really encourage all to attend Corporate Communion. Even if you are not a Saturday mass family it is very important that you try to attend with your council. It is always a great feeling to attend mass with your Brothers. And it is a great recruiting tool when gentlemen in the parish see us all together with our families worshipping together. So save the date.

I want to thank everyone for attending our January meeting. It was great! The hall was packed and we were sitting down the hallways. It was the best turnout we have ever had for a meeting and I was very proud of you all. May I say we impressed our Worthy DD with the crowd. He commented several times about how our council is the star in the District. That is all because of your efforts and participation. I hope we can continue the trend and I can't wait until we get our building up so we can have enough room to really have a crowd and have space for everyone to join in.

What a year we have planned. We will need all of you to be there and help. As we move into the new facility we will have many more missions to support the parish. The council will step up whenever asked, and will be there to move chairs from the PLEX, to set up and even cut the grass. I can't wait to cut the grass on the new church property!! One of the main things you may consider is contacting one of our committee chairs and volunteering to join their committee. Get involved. **CONT'D PGE 10**

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## LETTER FROM THE SUPREME KNIGHT

12/7/2009

### A Troubling New Development Appears in American Politics

by Carl Anderson

(Zenit.org) — For decades, Americans have been subjected to the arguments of certain Catholic politicians who argued that while “personally opposed” to unjust policies like abortion, they were nonetheless unwilling to “impose” that view on the rest of the country.

The argument was disingenuous, premised on the fact that somehow a “Catholic” conscience had to be put to the side in the public square.

Now, the very people who argued that they couldn't bring their private conscience into a secular public square are poised to use the law to impose a particular view on their fellow Catholics.

By working and voting to include abortion coverage in health care legislation, several Catholic politicians stand at the precipice of being the deciding votes in forcing a particular immoral view on their fellow Catholics, by forcing them to fund abortion through their tax dollars.

While professing that they cannot impose their conscience on anyone else, these politicians seem to have little hesitation about imposing a political view ‘one they claim to oppose in principle’ on the consciences of their fellow Catholics.

#### Far from Kennedy

Catholic politicians willing to forsake their own consciences and impose a directly anti-Catholic view on others have come a long way from the legacy of American history's highest profile Catholic statesman, John F. Kennedy, who while discussing his role as a Catholic and candidate for president said: “If the time should ever come and I do not concede any conflict to be even remotely possible” when my office would require me to either violate my conscience or violate the national interest, then I would resign the office; and I hope any conscientious public servant would do the same.”

And while some might consider that Catholic politicians have disagreed with the public policy recommendations of their bishops in a variety of areas, the key is this: Many issues are prudential and open to reasonable disagreement; but the inalienable right to life in the context of abortion is not ‘it is fundamental and it may not be compromised.

As Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger, now Benedict XVI, noted about Catholic politicians in 2004: “Not all moral issues have the same moral weight as abortion.”

He added: “While the Church exhorts civil authorities to seek peace, not war, and to exercise discretion and mercy in imposing punishment on criminals, it may still be permissible to take up arms to repel an aggressor or to have recourse to capital punishment. There may be a legitimate diversity of opinion even among Catholics about waging war and applying the death penalty, but not however with regard to abortion.”

#### Unjust Law

Catholic politicians must now consider the effect of national legislation mandating Catholic cooperation in abortion. In his famous pro-life encyclical, “Evangelium Vitae,” Pope John Paul II said: “The passing of unjust laws often raises difficult problems of conscience for morally upright people with regard to the issue of cooperation, since they have a right to demand not to be forced to take part in morally evil actions.”

He said further: “Christians, like all people of good will, are called upon under grave obligation of conscience not to cooperate formally in practices which, even if permitted by civil legislation, are contrary to God's law. Indeed, from the moral standpoint, it is never licit to cooperate formally in evil.

“This cooperation can never be justified either by invoking respect for the freedom of others or by appealing to the fact that civil law permits it or requires it. Each individual in fact has moral responsibility for the acts which he personally performs; no one can be exempted from this responsibility, and on the basis of it everyone will be judged by God himself.” (74)

It is doubly ironic that a law that would force millions to violate their conscience by paying their taxes and would entangle thousands of Catholic physicians, nurses, hospitals and charities in the evil of abortion is being considered at precisely a time when the majority of Americans “in greater and greater numbers” are increasingly becoming more pro-life.

Catholic public officials in Washington have the power to prevent this moral tragedy from happening. They should not hesitate to do so.

Carl Anderson is the supreme knight of the Knights of Columbus and a New York Times bestselling author.

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## NEWS FROM STATE

### LICENSE PLATE PROGRAM

#### *Put the Knights of Columbus and One Nation Under God on Your License Plate!*

The Knights of Columbus is an organization of Catholic men who serve others and have fun! We should be proud to proclaim our faith and our order; just as we might our alma mater or sports team, after all we are on the same team. With a K of C License plate we proudly proclaim that we are a Knight, a Catholic and that America is **"One Nation under God!"** Brothers we can do all of this for a net of \$8.00. Yes a license plate will cost you \$30.00 however \$22.00 of that goes to our Infirm Priest Fund. Therefore we urge every Knight and especially those of you in Leadership positions to purchase a license plate and tell the world who you are.

These plates may be purchased for automobiles or trucks. They are also available with the handicapped logo if necessary. If you desire personalized plates, they are available for an additional \$40 annually.

There is not any reason for not having Knights of Columbus plates on your vehicles! Order yours today!

#### **To order your Knights of Columbus license plates go to:**

1. [www.texas.gov](http://www.texas.gov)
2. Under ONLINE SERVICES click on - Order Specialty License Plates
3. In upper left corner click on - Order Specialty License Plates
4. Follow the instruction on the page.

Hurry!!! Let everyone know that you are proud to be a Knight of Columbus.

## NEWS FROM STATE

### 1st and Major Degree Schedule

Once a candidate completes the First Degree ceremony on the lesson of charity, he is considered a Knight of Columbus and can participate in all council activities. First Degree members are encouraged to attain the Second and Third Degrees (major degrees), which teach the lessons of unity and fraternity. Upon taking the Third Degree, a member receives full honors of Knighthood and is "Knighthooded."

Privileges of Third Degree membership include the ability to serve as a local council officer, and admission to state and Supreme Council business meetings. First and Second Degree members can attend the state and Supreme Council meetings, but they are not allowed in the business sessions.

Schedule upcoming 1st and Major Degrees through the Events Calendar

## INSURANCE NEWS

### YOUR BUSINESS BELONGS HERE

Do you know that the Knights of Columbus can offer you IRA's and Keogh Plans (U.S.), as well as RRSPs (Canada)? Do you know enough about them to decide whether or not they fit into your financial picture?

I would like you to answer three questions:

Are you, like most people, interested in saving money?

Do you find it difficult to save under common saving methods?

Take the number of years you have been working times your average salary. What percentage of that income have you saved so far? How much will you save in the future?

If your answers bother you, I would like the chance to sit and talk with you (and your wife, of course) about our alternatives – annuities and tax-sheltered savings at highly competitive interest rates. You need not look anywhere else but your own Order for your financial needs. Other institutions bombard you with ads for business at this time of the year. We just keep doing what we have been doing since Father McGivney founded the Order – taking care of our members and their families. Call me today. I want to hear from you. Call Leo Lowdermilk at 832) 338-6269 or (800) 460-2706.



## COUNCIL NEWS

- At our January meeting we presented Brother Matt Sasso with Knight of the Month for January. Brother Matt is active in the parish and was particularly recognized for his work on the parish Family Picnic that was such a success and great event. All who worked on that project should be very proud of your efforts. [See picture below](#)
- At the January meeting our DD Brother Gary presented the council with its 2010 Quick Start Award. This is the second year in a row we have received this award and it is presented for our council meeting its State Charity goals by the end of the year. [See picture below.](#)
- Also at the meeting, Brother Jerry Tomasello and Gary Bentz received their ACE-Wings Award from Brother Gary. This award is given to Knights who participate in at least 5 Pro-Life events during the year. As our council is active with the Foundation for Life and VA Hospital visits, this is an award that our entire council should work to receive. ACE stands for Pro Life without **A**pology, without **C**ompromise, and without **E**xception. A beautiful pin with the tiny feet of a 10 week old unborn child in the center. We all should work to win this award.
- And lastly we welcomed 3 new Brother Knights to our council and presented them with their certificates and a council hat. They are Brother Mark Ockenfels, Steve Plake, and Robert Townsend. Welcome these new Brothers to our council and get them involved. We are now a council of 61 members and growing. Again remember the best recruiting tool we have is YOU!! [See picture below.](#)



Our Knight of the Month for January Brother Matt Sasso

DD Gary Blanchette presents council with the 2010 Quick Start



Bro. Jerry received his ACE Wings Award for his work in the Pro-life area.

Our newest Knights Brothers Mark, Steve and Robert receive their First Degree Certificates at the January meeting. Congratulations



## FATHER JOHN'S CORNER



Brother Knights,

As your Chaplain, Supreme reminds me that I am to try and assist all my brothers spiritually as we grow in our call as disciples, and as brother Knights. I want to share with you an article I came across. I hope it speaks to you too.

“We have just celebrated the great feast of Epiphany. It always amazes me that the churches are totally packed for Christmas Masses, but for Epiphany, its back to normal. I look for an answer to this dilemma.

One aspect of the answer might be that Christmas allows us to look back while Epiphany demands that we look forward. Christmas allows us to go to Bethlehem, gaze at the an innocent baby with his virginal parents, hear the angels sing, and experience the simple joy of shepherds – it's warm, it's beautiful, it touches us for a moment, and then we can go on with our lives.....

Epiphany, on the other hand, calls us to follow the star, to make a pilgrimage, and more profoundly, to “be the star” that leads others to the Messiah and King. It challenges our faith and it calls us to make response to the truth of Bethlehem.”

We all need to remember that Christmas and Epiphany are one. To think about Christmas only historically without Epiphany's challenge to be witnesses of Christ's presence diminishes the splendor of human dignity. We must be that star.

As Knights of Columbus we are guided by the principles of Fraternity, Charity and Unity. We have the task before us. It is making real the call of Epiphany. How do you and I plan to witness to the truth that Christ has come and nothing can ever be the same? How will we individually and as a Council make known that the **Light** has come to break into the darkness?

As always the first place is in our family. The table of the Lord is your kitchen table. It is there that the bread of our lives is broken and the wine poured out for one another. It is in our homes that we live Eucharist. What are your plans for your family this coming year to make known the truth of Epiphany? How will you make real the truth that Christ has come and nothing can remain the same?

May the blessings of Christ Jesus fill you as we begin this New Year!

Peace,

Fr. John



## DEPUTY GRAND KNIGHT'S REPORT



My Brothers

Happy New Year! With the holiday season behind us we are now beginning the second half of our fraternal year and what better way to start off than with our Super Bowl Briskets. As we did last year, sales of the briskets will take place after each mass during the month of January. This is a major source of raising funds for our council so if you have not signed up to help sell after mass, remember you still can help in selling them to friends, co-workers and others outside our St. Angela Merici parish. If you enjoyed the smoked turkeys this past Thanksgiving, you will love these Super Bowl Briskets which now has become a staple in our council programs.

Other activities to look forward to during the month of January include our council's second annual Free Throw Contest to be held on Saturday Jan 16<sup>th</sup> at Baines Middle School. We have a good group signed up and Brother Victor needs help with judging, rebounding, score keeping etc. It's a lot of fun watching these kids shoot free throws so if you can help please contact Brother Victor or even just come buy to support these young athletes.

During the weekend of Jan 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup>, after each mass, we will be handing out Roses for Life lapel stickers in support of Pro Life., a beautiful way of expressing our beliefs as Catholics and member of the Knights of Columbus for the innocent unborn.

As declared by our Supreme Council, this fraternal year this is the Year of the Priest and on Friday Jan 29<sup>th</sup> at the Stafford Center there will be the Galveston/Houston Diocese's Clergy appreciation dinner honoring all clergy throughout our dioceses. We currently have fun and great group of 40+ members and wives planning to attend. If you would like to attend don't wait too long...last year they ran out of space and turned people away! Ticket prices (reservations) are \$40 and can be purchased through Brother Ron Frerich.

I would like to thank you for your support this year and look forward to the other activities coming our way.

Your Brother in Christ

Jerry

**GET INVOLVED. JOIN ONE OF OUR COUNCIL COMMITTEES AND BECOME ACTIVE IN THE COUNCIL!!!!**



## DISTRICT DEPUTY'S REPORT



Worthy Brothers,

I hope and pray that your Christmas and New Year were a blessed one. As we get back into the groove of our jobs and other duties I ask you to resolve that you will be able to spend some time being active with your brother Knights this year. We have so many great opportunities ahead to be examples to others by our acts of charity, unity and fraternity. January 29th we will show our unity and solidarity with the Clergy in the Diocese as we honor them with our annual Clergy Appreciation Night. We will have the opportunity on January 10th to show our fraternity as we are all invited to Knights of Columbus Night with the Houston Aeros. Please get with your program director or me to get all the details. We can also show acts of Charity this time of year as we call or visit some of the many sick, hospitalized or shut-in brothers or widows in our area. Remember the charge at our first degree that Charity is not always about gifts of money, your time is a valuable gift as well.

For all of you First Degree members, I would like to extend an invitation to attend a Major Degree (2nd and 3rd) on Sunday, February 21st in Rosenberg. This will be the closest major degree in the area for the next few months so please avail yourself to this great opportunity. If you would like to attend, please get with your Financial Secretary and he can take care of the rest.

As I close, I would like to ask one more favor of you for the remainder of this fraternal year; please try to recruit a catholic gentlemen to join our fine order. We have so many fine men in our parish just waiting to be asked so please just take a minute and talk to them about the benefits of being a Knight of Columbus.

May God bless you and your families,

Gary Blanchette DD#75

### Council Officers Information

Grand Knight -	Gary Bentz	gsbent@flash.net	281 778-9632
Deputy GK	Jerry Tomasello	jtomasello@rectorseal.com	281 778-7022
Chaplin	Fr. John Rooney	rjrmerici@entouch.net	281 778-0400
Chancellor	Matt Leyden	mleyden@comcast.net	281 208-4593
Recorder	Fernando Hess	fehess2@gmail.com	
Advocate	Tim Alcorn	tpalcorn@yahoo.com	
Lecturer	Kevin McCarthy	mollkev@aol.com	
Warden	Rene Broussard	tandpfan@aol.com	281 565-6661
O. Guard	Mark Montalbano	mmontalbano@entouch.net	
O. Guard	Jerry Bishop	jcbishop@msn.com	
In. Guard	Matt Sasso	sassofamily@entouch.net	281 778-7703
In. Guard	Victor Villarreal	vvillarreal12@sbcglogal.net	
Trustee 1 yr	Randy Yackley	ryackley@hotmail.com	
Trustee 2 yrs	Wes Kubesch	weskub@hotmail.com	
Trustee 3 yrs	Ed Petru	epetru2921@aol.com	
Treasurer	Mark Dixon	markdixon12@hotmail.com	281 778-3433
Financial Sec	Ron Frerich	rjfrerich@earthlink.net	
Membership Dir	Colin Kiernan	cmkiernan44@comcast.net	281 499-4067
Insurance Agent	Leo Lowdermilk	leo.lowdermilk@kofc.org	800 460-2706

### JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

Jan 2- Clarence Mallett, Jan 10—Tino Cabello, Jan 14—Gerald Elshout, and Jan 17—Steve Lucchesi

### Our Prayers Are With You



Please remember the following in your prayers:

The following family and friends who are fighting some form of cancer: Jared Goolsby, GK Gary Bentz, Janet Frerich (Ron's sister), Raymond Tabor (Chris Agostinelli's Uncle), Bill Copenhaver, Marty Adrian, Sam Tramonte, Bill Lackey, David Harris, Phil Adamczak (Colin Kiernan's Brother in Law), Barbara Blandford, Jeanette Hottman, Dale Strasser and Elvin Bethea.

Sue Bishop (Jerry Bishop's sister in law) who is battling severe GI problems. Jim Hamilton, Rosie Ingle, Carlota Hess, Hayden Agostinelli, and Carson who has severe sinus infections.

Our Men and Women in uniform both living and deceased especially Gabriel Machado deployed in Afghanistan and Corp. Casey Owens

Our Holy Father and all of the clergy especially Fr. Roy for his back procedure The innocent unborn. St. Angela Merici Parish. The intentions of all our Brother Knights.



- Jan 6— Regular business meeting at the church office after 7 PM mass.
  - Jan 10—KC Night with the Aeros. At Toyota Center at 7 PM.
  - Jan 12—AGH Chapter meeting at Council 3077 at 7 PM.
  - Free Throw Contest at Baines MS. Contact Brother Victor to help.
  - Jan 19—4th Degree meeting at St. Basil Council 4204
  - Jan 20—Officers meeting at the church office after 7 PM mass.
- Jan 29—Clergy Night at Stafford Center. Tickets still available. Contact Bro. Ron Frerich.
- Jan 31—Major Degree in Sealy. For information contact Brother Colin.

# January 2010

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3	4	5	6 Regular business	7	8	9
10 KC Night at the Aeros	11	12 AGH Chapter meeting	13	14	15	16 KC Free Throw Contest
17	18	19 4th Degree meeting	20 Officers' meeting	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29 Clergy Night	30
31 Major Degree						

- Feb 3—Social meeting. Open to all members and family after 7 PM mass at the church office.
- Feb 4,5,6 & 7—Super Bowl brisket cooking and clean up at St. Laurence and delivery at church office. Schedule TBA,
- Feb 9—AGH Chapter meeting at Council 3077 at 7 PM
- Feb 16—4th Degree meeting at St. Basil Council 4204
- Feb 17—Regular monthly business meeting after 7 PM mass at the church office.
- Feb 21—Major Degree in Rosenberg. Please contact Brother Colin for information.

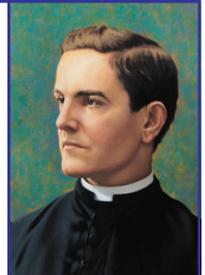
# February 2010

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3 Social meeting 7:30 PM	4 Brisket cooking	5 Brisket cooking	6 Brisket cooking & clean up
7 Brisket delivery	8	9 AGH Chapter meeting 7 PM	10	11	12	13
14	15	16 4th Degree meeting	17 Regular business meeting 7:30	18	19	20
21 Major Degree	22	23	24	25	26	27
28						



## HAPPY NEW YEAR

**May 2010 be filled with many blessings for our families, our council, and our growing parish. We ask these things in Jesus' name with the intercession of our Patron Saint Angela Merici and the venerable servant of God Father Michael J. McGivney.**





## COUNCIL PHOTOS - CASA HOME TOUR

On December 11th and 12th, the Child Advocates of Fort Bend held their annual Christmas Home Tour in Sugar Land. People come from all over the area to visit several beautiful homes that are decorated with amazing Christmas decorations. This is their main fund raiser for the year. The CAFB is an organization that supports neglected and abused children in the Fort Bend County area. All of their funds come from donations and so the success of this annual event is vital to their program. Our council has been asked to assist each year with parking vehicles and directing people to the show homes. This was particularly key this year as one of the homes was at the end of a long narrow road and presented many parking problems. Again our Knights stepped up and filled all of the 3 hour slots on both days. It was a little cold but the people came out and the event has again netted over \$ 220,000 for the organization. Below are a few pictures of some of our Knights that volunteered. Great job Brothers. We'll be there again next year!



Brothers Jerry, Cory, and Matt



Brothers Paul and Colby



Brothers Colby, Matt and Paul



Brothers Fernando, Ron, and Paul

**Remember:** If you participate in any Knights of Columbus events or activities and have pictures, please forward them to Gary Bentz at [gsbent@flash.net](mailto:gsbent@flash.net) so we can have them for our Council records and also so that they may be published in the newsletter.



## UPCOMING ACTIVITIES AND VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

**Council Program Activities and Committees:** Our various standing program committees are forming, meeting, and planning our upcoming events for the year ahead. If you want to be a part of the selection and planning of activities for our council in the areas of Church, Council, Community, Family, Youth, Membership or Pro-Life, contact the director listed and sign up today. They need your help.

## GRAND KNIGHT'S REPORT—CONT'D FROM PAGE 1

### THE POWER OF PRAYER

Brothers. There is something I've been wanting to say to you all but to be honest I wasn't sure I could make it through it without being overcome with emotions. So I've decided to try and write my feelings down so I can share them with you all. When I was diagnosed back in late August, I have to say I was scared, I was confused, I was wondering "Why me Lord?". And I was concerned about my family and of course our council and whether or not I could keep up with everything. All of this was a lot to deal with in a short period of time. But the Lord knew what I needed. We had planned our motorcycle ride to the Rockies for months. I was determined to go but I knew if MD Anderson needed me to come in I would have to cancel the trip. We were scheduled to return on Monday Sept. 21 late in the evening. So I was waiting to hear from the hospital for a first appointment date. When she called she said the next available was Sept, 22! Thank you God. So we went and it was a great gift as we had time to relax and talk and pray and listen to what God was trying to tell us. And although this was a great relief, it was still a difficult situation. But when all of you stepped up and put me in prayer, and so many from the council and parish came to me and told me you were praying for me everyday, it had an amazing effect. It gave me such peace in my heart and comfort knowing everything would be alright. It's a feeling that I really can't describe to you. I was put on the AGH Chapter prayer list, and the State prayer list. So that's around 100,000 Brothers praying for me. I received blessed water from Lourdes and from Mother Mary's fountain near her home in Ephesus. I have received many cards and notes where many are praying for me. All of this has meant so much to Sally and I. I even have a list of Brothers who have volunteered to drive me to the hospital every day for my treatments. What a blessing to be a Knights of Columbus. Our theme "In Service to One, In Service to All" has never had such a meaning before. It has personalized everything our Order stands for. What really has brought all of this to the point where I wanted to write it down was the First Degree Exemplification I attended at St. Basil Council on Dec. 21st. We were honored to have 3 candidates become Knights that evening and the ceremony seemed to move me more than usual. While I was listening to the words about our Order's principles of Charity, Unity and Fraternity it occurred to me just how blessed we are as Knights. And how blessed it was for these new Knights and all of our new Brothers to be in our Order. One of the things we know is we are always there to help a Brother or his family in a time of need. You recent Knights may not realize what this can mean. I really didn't until now and I've been in the KCs for 40 years. But the power of your prayers has made such a difference in my life. It is the reason my treatments and results are going so well. No one at Anderson has used the word "Miraculous", but they have said "Amazing". Pretty close for an Oncologist. I figure God is curing me because He's probably tired of hearing my name all the time when you all pray for me! So remember what it can mean to be a member of our Order. The power of prayer is so comforting and important. My prayer for each of you is that you NEVER need our prayers for yourself or any member of your family. But if you ever do, take comfort in knowing that the Knights are there for you. And it makes an incredible difference in your life and your family's. May God bless you all in 2010. Thank you all so much. Gary