



# The Council Communique

## COUNCIL 359 BLUE MASS 2019: A NIGHT TO REMEMBER

The Knights of Columbus hosted their **6<sup>th</sup> Annual Blue Mass** this past Spring. This year the celebration honored the distinguished life of service of **Captain Brian J. McNally USMC**, an **American Patriot**, who exemplified a life dedicated to volunteerism and service to his schools, community, state and country. Brian died in an automobile accident on May 20, 2018 in Pennsylvania as he was returning from a pre-deployment Marine exercise. He was also a member of the **New Jersey State Police** out of the Washington Barracks in Warren County. While working as a NJ Trooper, he continued his service with the USMC as a Captain assigned to command 3rd Battalion 25th Marines, Kilo Company a Marine unit in PA of 150 Marines.



Captain McNally was a 2006 graduate of **Morristown High School**, where he played football and lacrosse and was a member of the swim team, was awarded **Eagle Scout from Troop 34, Assumption Parish**. Brian was a lifeguard locally, a member of **Habitat for Humanity**, and co-President of the **Heritage Club at Morristown High**. He became a certified EMT at age 14 with the **Morris Minute Men** ambulance squad and, at age 16, a volunteer member of the **Morris Township Fire Department**.

The Blue Mass was a special celebration with several distinguished guests in attendance including **NJ Governor Phil Murphy** and **First Lady Tammy Murphy**, **State Attorney General Gurbir Singh Grewal**, **SSgt Erin S. Miller**, **Administrative Chief USMC**, **Colonel Pat Callahan**, **NJSP** and **Linda Callahan**, **Major Jim Ryan**, **Chief of Staff, NJSP**, and **Morristown Mayor and Mrs. Timothy Dougherty**. After the Saturday evening mass, 200 Knights, spouses and additional guests attended a dinner dance at Springbrook Country Club.

Colonel Pat Callahan spoke of the philosophy that the NJSP represents "one family," and he referenced the commitment of all of the State Police to each other, and to their families. Kevin McNally, also a Knight, spoke at

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### MARK YOUR CALENDAR

- 10/12 Abandoned St. Patrick's Cemetery clean-up, Hibernia, 9AM
- 10/14 October Business Meeting, Council, 7:30PM
- 10/14 First Degree, 5:45PM, Council, pre-register required
- 10/21 Blue Mass Committee Meeting, Board Room, 7:30PM
- 10/28 Social Meeting, Council, 7:30PM
- 11/8 2019 Blue Mass Appreciation Event, 6-8PM
- 11/11 Business Meeting, Council, 7:30PM
- 11/11 First Degree, 5:45PM, Council, pre-register required
- 11/18 Wine & Cheese/Columbus Celebration, Friends & Family invited, Council Club
- 11/20 NFL Sunday, Council
- 11/25 Social Meeting, Council, 7:30PM
- 11/28 Thanksgiving
- 12/7 Old Skool Christmas Party, Families, Children, Grandchildren all invited, Council
- 12/9 Business Meeting, Council, 7:30PM
- 12/9 First Degree, 5:45PM, Council, pre-register required
- 12/14 Army v Navy Football, Council
- 12/23 Social Meeting, Council, 7:30PM
- 12/25 Christmas, "Keep Christ in Christmas"

## HEAVY LIFTING FOR LOCAL CHARITIES

In June of this year, the **NJ CPA Association**, through Managing Director Ellen McSherry, offered to donate excess office furniture to local charities in the community. This offer reached two local charities very interested in taking advantage, but with no resources to coordinate a move of substantial office furniture.

**JBWS**, was one of these charities, which provides safety, support and solutions for abuse with private, confidential services for ALL survivors of dating, domestic, or partner abuse regardless of severity of the abuse, marital status, income, gender identity, or sexual orientation.

The other, **The P.G. Chambers School**, where “*discovering children’s unique potential*” is at the heart of their mission, inspiring them to provide the best, most comprehensive education and therapy programs for children with disabilities, from birth through 22 years of age and to help children lead full, productive lives, develop confidence in their own abilities, and engage fully and frequently in the community.

P.G. Chambers Director Patty Sly and the JBWS Director Diane Williams were very interested in replacing their own rather tired furniture at their facilities with the well-maintained NJ CPA offering. Overall, this represented over 100 pieces of furniture. When a local furniture mover quoted \$6,000 to move the furniture, Patty and Diane were very concerned.



*“It takes a community to tackle the issue of domestic violence and the Knights of Columbus have actively taken a stance to be part of that community of caring.”*

To avert this overwhelming cost, and to be able to take advantage of this exceptional office furniture, they decided to reach out to the local Knights of Columbus. Sir Knights Jeff Simon and Jim Koons of George Washington Council 359, with the encouragement of the Grand Knight, Mike Bannon, scoped the move quickly, and planned three specific furniture moves, two for JBWS and one for P.G. Chambers.

Jeff and Jim also secured a local army of K of C volunteers including John Murphy, Ken, Kevin, KJ and John Kramer, Pat Burke, Peter O’Hagan and son Pete, Bill and Kevin Kostyak, Tim Brunnock, Mike Ferguson, Ed Thornton, Scott and Nick Giammarino, Frank Vesce, Doug and Matt Halberg, Vinnie Nasilli and Mike Bannon. Special thanks go out to Pete O’Hagan, John Murphy, Joe Powell, Jim Koons, and Jeff Simon, for providing their trucks and labor to supplement all of these equipment rentals. In each move, the Council provided or sponsored the needed trucks, hand trucks or furniture dollies needed to complete the move.

In three subsequent trips this army of volunteers moved 42 pieces of furniture including file cabinets, desks, chairs, training tables and 40 executive chairs to JBWS and the P.G. Chambers School.



## A NIGHT TO REMEMBER (CONTINUED)

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the event, and referenced the incredible outpouring of support the family received from the **US Marine Corps** and the **NJ State Police** as being instrumental in assisting the family with this tragedy.



A large committee of committed Knights organized the event; between Fund-Raising, planning the Dinner Event and Mass the dozen or so Knights were committed to having another successful Fund Raiser. \$7000 was donated during the event to charities selected by the McNally family including **Brian McNally Scholarship/Morris Educational Fund, Survivors of the Triangle** and **Morris 200 Club**.

Over 200 local businesses supported the event with exceptional support and major sponsorship from **Hackensack Meridian Health System**.

## HEAVY LIFT (CONTINUED)

(Continued from page 2)

"We are most grateful to NJ CPA for the furniture and the Knights for making the move happen! As a non-profit, we make the most of our resources when organizations like the Knights donate their time and manpower," said Sly. Williams said, "We were able to replace our outdated furniture with professional and modern chairs, desks, and tables because of the generosity of these Knights. It takes a community to tackle the issue of domestic violence and the Knights of Columbus have actively taken a stance to be part of that community of caring. Thank you!"

These three significant furniture moves represent the kinds of exceptional support the Knights of Columbus provides, to serve amazing charities like these, and the causes they support: ending Domestic Abuse, and Education for Children with special needs. Our thanks go out to the Knight volunteers for this wonderful commitment of their time and support!



## MESSAGE FROM THE GRAND KNIGHT

With pride, we present this first issue of *The Council Communique*.

Special thank you to **Brother Knight James K. O'Hern** for his crazy ideas and actions to make this Newsletter a reality.

In our modern world it is simple to focus on electronic communications.

But, we are here to serve all our members and desire to keep our extended Knights' families informed as well.



It is my honor to serve you, our members, and families, just as it is for you to serve our Faith, families and communities. Our Council Leadership is dedicated to you as well.

The George Washington Council 359 now boasts **nearly 500 Knights and their families**. In the past several years we have completed a major renovation and upgrade to our building. The Council at 13 South Street is a truly beautiful facility which is a tribute to the era of the late 1800's when it was originally built.

We continue to become more and more active with a variety of activities, both member and family oriented. This past **Old Fashioned Christmas Party** boasted a Victorian Santa and over 30 children and grandchildren under 10 years singing carols. All of our events and activities focus on our primary goal of **supporting our Council charities**. This Columbian Year, ending in June 2019, **our membership donated a record of over \$65,000** to charities including Parishes, Service, Veterans, Youth and Cultural organizations.

If you have any needs or questions please contact me at 973-886-1412; **GrandKnight@Koc359.org** or via mail at our return address.

**Vivat Jesus!**

**SK Michael G. Bannon**



## PROFILE OF A KNIGHT

In both Morris Plains and Morristown, **Rowland V. Lucid, Jr.** has faithfully lived by the principles of a Catholic gentleman through his faithful service to the Church, community, Knights, neighbors, friends, family, and as an Officer of the Court. As a long-time member and elder of the Council we recognize his lifetime of commitment to serve and foster the principles and ideals of the Knights of Columbus. As Advocate, his ongoing counsel and guidance have bolstered the George Washington Council's ability to advance the impact of our organization's work to benefit the needy and our local communities.

From Jersey City to Morris Plains, the Holy Name parades, Communion breakfasts, Sodalities, altar serving, christenings and wakes, all of the rituals and influences of a church and a culture have formed Rowland into the well-respected, Irish American Knight that he is today. His life-long education at the hands of the **Dominicans, the Sisters of Charity and the Jesuits** only strengthen his foundational beliefs in Faith, Family and Country. He has spent a lifetime living up to those ideals of service-first before self, and he remains one of our most respected counselors in and around our community.



*“Rowland’s tenure as a member and Chair of the VNANNJ Board of Trustees helped shape the evolution of the Organization from a community-based home care agency to a cutting edge and highly regarded health care operation...”*

Emigrating from Jersey City for the remarkable wilderness of 1954 Morris County, Rowland brought a flair for the spoken word which benefited him throughout his personal and professional life. Rowland's ability to connect with people, to empathize with them, to understand their hurts and needs have served him well through his career as an advocate. He is recognized as being a stalwart defender of men, women and families in need; an unwavering ally of individuals who find themselves without adequate means to defend their person and their cause.

Following his education at **St. Virgil's, Bayley Ellard, St. Peter's College and Boston College Law**, Rowland has represented thousands of clients in northern New Jersey, but particularly in his adopted town of Morristown.

Many a hard-pressed working man or woman have come to Rowland with little if anything to offer in recompense, never to be turned away. Rowland was for many years the voice of the underprivileged as he served as the **Public Defender in Morris**



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## OUR FOREFATHERS' LEGACY, OUR PRIDE: COLUMBUS CLUB OF MORRISTOWN

A Catholic presence was established, front and center, in Morristown when on April 6<sup>th</sup>, 1887 the **Young Men's Catholic Association** at 13 South Street was born. In the Spring of 1898, the site was incorporated as the "**Columbus Club**," under the direction of one its first Trustees, Reverend Edward J. Ellerd. The Columbus Club was founded as a separate entity from the Council, with a charter to care for the building and its facilities. Financing for the purchase was made through Knights purchasing bonds at the then steep cost of \$100 each.

By the turn of the 21st century membership began to dwindle. This historic local fraternity had become a very small council, with little to no growth potential in sight. Fortuitously, in 2014 that Board of Trustees repurposed itself with an interest to revitalize and craft a new vision for the next 100 years of the Council, one that would take it through the next 100 years! To the delight of many, a major renovation was begun in 2014.



*Club Trustees circa 2014*

The new Trustees could see the potential for this classic location, and in late 2014 they began phase one of the project: full restoration of the building's exterior and the Council Chamber, set to be revised, repainted, and a new ceiling exposed. This new leadership team included Paul Walker, President, who appointed a new Building Committee with specialized construction and logistics capabilities, made up of Joe Alesso, Frank Cecala, who we hold in fond memory, Tony Gervasio, Joseph Lee (GK 2014-2016), Jerry McBride and Tom De Poortere (GK 2012-14). This team set out to hire an Engineer to draft the specifications for the exterior rehabilitation, including restoration of stained glass windows and interior woodworking, replacement of the historic "YMCA" sign, scheduling significant masonry repairs around the building, replacement of the ceiling, and addition of all new lighting. After extensive "blood, sweat, tears, and a lot a love", this first phase of the restoration was completed in 2015.

See our next Issue of ***The Council Communique*** for Phase 2 of the Building Restoration.

## PROFILE (CONTINUED)

**Township.** His desire to be of service transcended his personal practice as he toiled for over forty years as the legal representative and **Board member of the Visiting Nurse Association**, an agency he measurably helped to expand from its humble beginnings to its present highly respected stature. Rowland has served for years as a voice of the Word in his role as **Lector at Assumption Church**. His ministry to his Church coincided with his ideal of memorializing and celebrating the accomplishments of his fellow Irish brothers in an annual **All-Souls Mass for deceased members** of the **Friendly Sons of St. Patrick**, which he has expanded into a beloved annual Memorial.

Whether his activities as an advocate, a church member, a Knight, or a partner in faith and fellowship, nothing has prevented Rowland from being a wonderful **father** to two daughters, three grandsons and one granddaughter, the **elder of a large extended family**, and the fierce friend to countless local residents, parishioners, and fellow Knights. All of us who have had the privilege to meet him, to speak with him, to learn from him, to be blessed by his wit and storytelling, are ever-so appreciative of that winning smile, those twinkling blue eyes, the ready and steady hand of friendship he offers to us all. We are all so grateful to Rowland and we look forward to many more years of his sage guidance and warm, hospitable camaraderie.

## George Washington Council 359

The Knights of Columbus, George Washington Council #359 proudly boasts a Catholic presence in Morristown, New Jersey since 1898. We are the 359th Chartered Council of the Knights of Columbus which now includes over 16,000 Councils.

Today the nearly 500 Knights of the George Washington Council strive to "Give More Than We Take" in good acts and charitable giving for our God, Parishes, families, Nation, neighbors and communities.

Learn more about our local presence and information on becoming a Knight at:

***[Membership@KoC359.org](mailto:Membership@KoC359.org)***

***[Info@KoC359.org](mailto:Info@KoC359.org)***

***[GrandKnight@KoC359.org](mailto:GrandKnight@KoC359.org)***

***[KoC359.org](http://KoC359.org)*** on the Web

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**Join Us Now:**



**Knights of Columbus**

**George Washington Council 359**

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