

# Knights Life



[www.kofc8157.org](http://www.kofc8157.org)

Holy Spirit Catholic Church – Duncanville, Tx,

## BK Tim Burns, Eagle Scout



Ben Burns recalled from his childhood how difficult it is to become an Eagle Scout. He wanted to do so when growing up in Mineral Wells. Then his family moved to Irving, the troop there was much more into camping and just having fun than service and achievement, and he eventually left scouting.

In 2010, the Burnses' special needs son, Tim, became interested in scouting after seeing a flier where he attended school, the Notre Dame School of Dallas. And when a friend decided to become a Scout, so did he.

And Tim indeed became an Eagle Scout as part of a troop earmarked for special needs people with his father serving as the Scoutmaster.

"We do everything every other Boy Scout troop does; we just do it on a little safer scale," Ben said. The only special dispensation was that Tim was allowed to continue pursuit of becoming an Eagle Scout after age 18; he's now 28.



*Ben, Tim, and Marilyn Burns*

"When we first started, I really didn't think Tim ever had a chance of making it. And he just kept plugging away, plugging away and kept knocking out requirements and merit badges."

Tim achieved the 21 required merit badges last March – he has 44 – just after the pandemic shut down many gatherings. Tim was among those finally honored at a ceremony in late February at the Circle 10 Council's John D. Murchison Center in Dallas.

"It was incredible," Ben said. "It was thrilling."

Ben and Tim became members of Council 8157 in March 2013, taking their major degrees together three years later. Ben was initially hesitant to accept the invitation from the late Andy Goza without having Tim join him. No problem, Andy said, since Tim met the age requirement.

During Tim's Eagle Scout journey, there were both harrowing and amusing moments along the way. Like the early camping trip near Athens when Tim decided at night he wanted to go home – and began making a walk that would have been about 100 miles.

“He made it about a mile from the campsite,” Ben said. “I found him sitting in the chapel. After that, he decided camping wasn't so bad after all ... but he did like hiking in the dark.”

During the test for the swimming merit badge, Tim did far more than swim to the bottom of the pool to collect one dive stick; he grabbed ones that were meant for other participants. He jumped from the water and yelled, “I won!”

In addition to the 21 merit badges – 13 that are required and eight other “electives” – an aspiring Eagle Scout must also plan and execute a final service project. Tim built wooden balances at the Soaring Eagle Center that he attends in DeSoto.

“I didn't think Tim would ever do it, but he came to me about a year before we were done and said, ‘Yeah, let's do this,’ ” Ben said. “Made them look real professional.”



Pete Perta, our Financial Secretary, wrote a recommendation letter for Tim on behalf of the council and attended the postponed awards event.

“It was a very moving ceremony hearing about

Tim's hard work, dedication and sheer determination to become an Eagle Scout,” Pete said. “After hearing how he has helped others in his troop to succeed, he's definitely a leader and an inspiration to others.”

## Farewell to Ernie



Sadly after surviving a long battle with COVID-19 and over two months hospitalization our brother Sir Knight Ernie Coy passed away on March 16<sup>th</sup> as his heart gave out. SK Ernie Coy was just a month away from his 82nd birthday. His wife Claudia has been by his side keeping him company but when both their houses in Duncanville and in Weatherford flooded from broken frozen pipes during the past winter freeze, she was taken in by Patty and Dan Murphy.

Sir Knight Ernie Coy joined the Knights in October 1988 and became a Fourth Degree member of Assembly 2799 in September 1996. He made a career as a Civil Servant working with AAFES in Dallas after being transferred from San Antonio where he was born on April 25, 1939. After his retirement he joined the Dallas County Sheriff's Department and retired again 5 years later. Ernie served as our council's Grand Knight from 1992-1993 and afterwards served as our Financial Secretary for many years. Ernie lived a full life and is survived by his wife of 20 years, 5 of his 6 children, 23 grandchildren and 30 great grandchildren.

Rest in peace brother Knight.

## About our Council

### Council Monthly Meetings

General Meeting every 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday 7:30pm  
Officer's & Directors every 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday 7:30pm

### Postal address and meeting location

1111 W Danieldale Rd. Room 221  
Duncanville Tx, 75116 USA  
972-298-4971

### KC District 86 - Assembly 2799

The council Officers listed below were officially installed for their 1<sup>nd</sup> term in office on July 7, 2020. Their term runs through June 2021

<b>Chaplain</b>	Fr. Steve
<b>Grand Knight</b>	Jorge Ruiz
<b>Deputy Grand Knight</b>	Eric Conner
<b>Chancellor</b>	Jim Russell
<b>Recording Secretary</b>	Mike Fitzgerald
<b>Treasurer</b>	James Smith
<b>Warden</b>	John Espree
<b>Inside Guard</b>	Efrain Ochoa
<b>Outside Guard</b>	Steve Reid
<b>Financial Secretary</b>	Peter Perta
<b>Advocate</b>	Russell Gully
<b>Trustees</b>	Tom Greco Jim Richardson Allen Reitmeier

### Service Program Directors

Awareness Committee	Jorge Ruiz
Concessions	Allen Reitmeier
Church Activities	James Smith
<b>Community</b>	<b>Dan Murphy</b>
<b>Family</b>	<b>David Dybala</b>
<b>Faith</b>	<b>Al Evans</b>
<b>Life</b>	<b>Mike Moloughney</b>
Youth Activities	Mike Moloughney
Knight Hands	Allen Reitmeier

Retention	Allen Reitmeier
Membership	Jim Kowalski
Council Activities	Jorge Ruiz
Disaster Preparedness	Wendell JeanPierre
Degree Team	Tom Greco
Sacramental Gifts	Keith Archer
Safe Environment	Jorge Ruiz
Health Activities	Lou Lemons

### Knights Life Newsletter

Our Newsletter is published quarterly at the end of the following months: March, June, September, and December. 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 will be available at the general meeting.

**Newsletter Editor and Publisher** Allen Reitmeier

### Newsletter & Website Writers

Jeff Miller, Allen Reitmeier, Jorge Ruiz

### Newsletter and Website Photographer

Allen Reitmeier, Jorge Ruiz, Leon Cornute

### Council Website

<b>Website address</b>	kofc8157.org
<b>Website Editor</b>	Jorge Ruiz
<b>Website Admins</b>	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](mailto:admin@kofc8157.org)

### Membership Rosters

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



## **Knight of the Month Jan 2021**



### **Gamaliel Hernandez**

Gamaliel was prepared to oversee logistics for the parish's Christmas Festival and will be ready to do the job given that the event was postponed because of the pandemic. He was born just over the state line in Hobbs, N.M., graduated from high

school in nearby Las Cruces and came to the Dallas area about 15 years ago. When growing up, his father was Catholic but not practicing and he and his siblings attended church with their mother, who was a Jehovah's Witness. It was later on, after regularly attending Mass with his brother and his wife, that he officially became Catholic. Gamaliel has helped out with Knight Hands and is a regular Hospitality Minister at Holy Spirit's Spanish-speaking Mass on Sunday afternoon. He and wife Mayra live in Dallas near the Duncanville line with their three children: Jose (15), Sophia (5) and Mayte (who will turn 1 on Feb. 14). They celebrated their anniversary just after New Year's. Gamaliel is currently a truck driver but also is a licensed AVAC tech and insurance agent.

## **Knight of the Month Feb 2021**



### **Rolando Sobalvarro**

Rolando is a native of Nicaragua who came to the United States in 1979 when revolution rocked his homeland and settled in New Orleans for the next 20 years. While there, he joined the Knights in

1990. He moved his family to our area in 1996 and he and wife Daysi (now married 45 years) became Holy Spirit parishioners in July 1997. He has a master's degree in actuarial science from the University of Wisconsin and retired two years ago. In November 2016, Rolando achieved Honorary Life Status in the KC's. Rolando's many contributions to parish life include regular involvement

organizing daily Masses and being a force behind the addition of the weekly Spanish-language Mass. He's big on racquetball, disc golf and hikes of at least seven miles through the Cedars Preserve five days a week. (During Holy Spirit's recent Holiday Hustle Fitness Challenge, he personally logged 281.5 miles!) The Sobalvarros live in Duncanville.

## **Knight of the Month Mar 2021**



### **David Scholl**

April 1 marked 33 years since David took his major degrees in northern California four months after joining the council at Holy Spirit parish in

Fairfield, California (located on North Texas Street, if the name of the parish wasn't enough of a coincidence). David's inspiration was the many KC's who cared for their brother Knight – Frank, David's father – when he dealt with lung cancer. Similarly, David's brother Knights were at his side constantly when he had a bone marrow transplant during his own seven-year fight with cancer that included a 100-day stay in isolation. David and wife Pat moved to DeSoto last year after he suffered a stroke. The move allowed them to be closer to the oldest of their three grown children, Dallas resident Kevin, and closer to their only grandchild. The couple's other two children, Patrick and Marie, are back in California. David and Pat have been married 27 years, meeting at a Pro-Life silent auction in Sacramento when they both bid on the same item. Who won? "We both did!" David said with a laugh. He graduated from Holy Spirit's school, from St. Vincent High School in Vallejo and from St. Mary's College in Moraga (there's a religious pattern here). He operated both a weekly newspaper in his hometown of Dixon, about 20 miles west of Sacramento, and a religious book and gift store. Since joining 8157, David has jumped in and helped out with our retention committee. The man likes to roll up his sleeves.

## First Ever Drive Through Fish Fry



Without a doubt, the turnout for our first ever drive through fish fry was a surprise to everyone there on Friday February 26, 2021. There was such an overwhelming response to the fish fry that it soon became apparent that we would be able to serve only those folks who had pre-ordered and pre-paid for their meals. That meant that many potential customers had to be turned away.



It seemed nothing could dampen the spirits and energy of the 23 Knights (plus two lady helpers) during the entire event. Maybe it was just a chance to get out of the house and be with the “band of brothers”. At any rate, everybody pitched in and did their share to make the event a success.

John Espree and Al Evans were the traffic control guys. Jose Montoya and Allen Reitmeier with some help from Efrain Ochoa cooked the french fries and

hush puppies. David Dybala and David Ybarra fried all the catfish. Robby Zabalan hauled the fish and fries and hush puppies from the cooking site into the kitchen area where Steve Reid, Cappie Wood, Mary Archer, and Eric Conner packaged the meals made up of catfish, hush puppies, french fries, coleslaw and a cookie



James Smith, Jim Russell, Keith Archer, and Peter Perta handled the administrative details of who gets meals and how many..



Chris Edwards and Trevor Edwards handed the meals to the customers as they drove through. The whole process worked very smoothly.

Thanks so much to: Jorge Ruiz, Jim Russell, Billy Calender, Chris Edwards, Dan Murphy, Jack



Ramsden, Larry Balagna, John Espree, Mary Archer, James Smith, Cappie Wood, Keith Archer, Steve Reid, Jeff Miller, Robby Zablan, Efrain Ochos, Roy Cormier, David Dybala, David Ybarra, Jose Montoya, Arthur Rodriguez, Allen Reitmeier, Al Evans, Trevor Edwards, and Peter Perta for the time and energy you expended on this Friday night to make the event a success. In total there were 23 Knights that worked this event plus two helpful ladies. We served approximately 175 meals. A special thanks to James Smith, Dan Murphy and Jorge Ruiz for organizing and supervising this entire event.

## Charles Turner Enjoying his new Home



“I thought I’d died and gone to heaven”, said Charles Turner after his first evening at the Villages of Dallas. It was a long, long journey for Charles and the Knights of Columbus from September of 2018 until March 25<sup>th</sup> 2021. In September of 2018 Charles broke both of his legs as he collapsed in his apartment in Desoto and after emergency surgery to repair and insert pins in his legs, Charles began rehab and that’s when the Knights of Columbus began assisting Charles on his road to recovery. At first it was driving him to various doctor appointments as he attempted to walk again. Although he was then and still is now able to maneuver himself around with the aid of a walker, he has never been able to walk again.



Jeff Miller has been the primary caretaker for Charles for the past two plus years ferrying him to and from doctor appointments and rehab sessions. Tom Greco was also instrumental in helping Charles with transportation needs and he often drove Charles to a doctor



appointment or to regular bridge games at the DeSoto senior center. During the past 2 year and three month, the Knights of Columbus have been Charles Turner's life support. During this time period Charles had additional surgeries, he suffered a heart attack and a slight stroke. All of these factors contributed to his reliance on the Knights of Columbus for survival. Charles has no family nearby. Many times Charles was encouraged to move to an assisted living facility; but he remained optimistic he would be able to recover and walk again and go back to living like he did prior to his injury. Many times during her visits to Charles' apartment to bring him the Eucharist, Mary Flusche, prodded Charles to seek help at an assisted living facility. As time went on it just became routine for Jeff or Tom or Allen Reitmeier or Linda Reitmeier to help Charles with the everyday chores of living. While Charles was not particularly fond of his situation, he was reluctant to move. In the fall of 2020, Charles realized and decided to seek residence at the Villages of Dallas – an assisted living facility in Dallas. So for the past 3 months efforts have been ongoing to move Charles and his belonging to the Villages of Dallas. His huge collection of baseball cards and wide assortment of collectable coins, his array of books and all his household goods had to be sorted into salable items or movable items.

On March 25th nine Knights (Jeff Miller, Dan Murphy, Jose Montoya, Efrain Ochoa, Mike Fitzgerald, Larry Balagna, Jim Ouimet, Allen

Reitmeier, and Jack Ramsden) showed up at Charles's apartment and moved all the goods he had selected to the assisted living facility and unpacked all those items and loaded the remainder of his household goods into a rental truck so that they could be displayed in an estate sale at Holy Spirit church grounds the following two days.



On Friday March 26<sup>th</sup> and Saturday March 27<sup>th</sup>, the estate sale was conducted in the Holy Spirit parking lot. Thank you Fr. Eugene for allowing us this location. Thanks also to Jorge Ruiz for arranging publicity for the event as well as Chris and Trevor Edwards for making the signage. Thank you Dan Keough, Jose Montoya, Efrain Ochoa, Tom Greco and Jeff Miller for your help at the estate sale. Nearly all items were sold with the remaining clothing items being donated to St. Vincent de Paul by Dan Keough.



Charles will now be able to exercise daily if he so chooses and can even enjoy pool time. He will receive his meals from the Villages of Dallas staff and he has already joined a bridge group so his social life has improved drastically. We conservatively estimate that, led by Jeff and Tom, we have expended about 704 man-hours supporting Charles these past 27 months. The Knights of Columbus will continue to support Charles during his stay at the assisted living facility, but now on a more limited basis. Father Eugene often reminds the Knights that faith without good works isn't worth much; so the hours spent supporting Charles were well spent. The Knights of Columbus wish Charles the best in the months and years to come.



## Another Completed Project by Knight Hands

On Saturday January 16<sup>th</sup>, 2021, ten Knights gathered at the home of Sara Vasquez to perform multiple tasks to repair her home.



Right away David Dybala, Russell, and David Ybarra tackled the difficult task of removing the rotted decorative protruding beams on the front of the home (six of them). In reality they cut off the offending beams and manufactured new end caps and now the front of the home looks brand new. Well done guys. David Ybarra also provides sandwiches and drinks for everyone – what a guy.



While this was going on, Russell Gully, Efrain Ochoa, and Dan Murphy were installing a new section of gutters on the back side of the home. They did a sparkling job and now the water will be diverted away from her living room wall.



The number one reason Knight Hands undertook this job was because Sara's siding above her garage doors was rotted and needed to be replaced. The 10" double lap siding was no longer available and so had to be milled in Reitmeier's garage.



Larry Balagna and Mike Fitzgerald took on the task of removing the old rotted siding and installing the new stuff. They worked like a professional team and without a single error had the new siding applied lickety split.



And not to be outdone, Jack Ramsden went around the entire house caulking gaps and painting areas that needed touch up – and there were many places that needed a new coat of paint. Nice job Jack. That left me with no job other than to cheer everyone on – which I did. It was a fine Saturday morning endeavor and Sara was so impressed with the work we did. I, for sure, was extremely proud of the work we did and the guys who did it. It's a pleasure working with Knight Hands.

## Spring Little League Baseball

For those of you wondering if we will again be cooking hot dogs, hamburgers, chicken nuggets, nacho, Frito pies and so on, rest assured we are indeed having a spring little league baseball season. It has already begun. The first spring games were held on March 27<sup>th</sup> and games will continue until the end of May. Clint Farrell, president of the Cedar Hill Baseball Association, estimates there will be about half as many games as previous years – fewer teams signed up to play this year. He also said they are planning on having a Class A World Series this year as well.

Thanks to the baseball committee efforts (James Smith, Greg Warr, Jeff Miller, and Eric Conner) all is going well thus far. Thru April 12<sup>th</sup> of this spring we have had gross sales of about \$1,900.00. Thank you John Espree, Peter Perta, Russell Gully, Efrain Ochoa, Larry Balagna, Ken Rarick, Roy Seltenrich, Greg Hensrud (Allen's brother-in-law), and Russell LeRoy.



There are a total of 68 league and Southwest Classic games scheduled for the season plus an end of year tournament. Certainly we will need lots of help for the tournaments.

## Family of the Month Jan. 2021



### Jay and Karen Trapp

Jay and Karen will celebrate their 30th anniversary this August. They met through a mutual friend while Jay was

attending Purdue University in Indiana and Karen was studying at Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis (known to the locals as *oo-ey-poo-ey*). They have five children: Emma lives at home and works at the Duncanville library; Noah “flew the coop” as Dad puts it and lives in the Dallas area; Madeline recently earned her master’s in nutrition science from Texas Tech and lives in Amarillo; Isabel is a junior at Stephen F. Austin State University studying speech pathology; Abigail is a senior at Cedar Hill Prep Academy and trying to decide where to attend college. And yes, Jay says, they occasionally are mistakenly referred to as the Von Trapp family, as in the Austrian family portrayed in the film “The Sound of Music.” “That’s always good for a laugh,” Jay said, with a laugh.

## Family of the Month Feb. 2021



### Rod and Lynn Kinard

The Kinards are usually the go-to couple for the 5 p.m. Sunday Masses at Holy Spirit after in-person attendance was resumed late last summer. Lynn serves as the sacristan, performing the often unnoticed before-and-after duties. Rod typically serves as Hospitality Minister Captain, overseeing the health checks that allow congregants to occupy the pews safely. Rod and Lynn have

attended Mass on Sunday evenings for years, a holdover from the days when their five now-grown children were enrolled in the parish’s children’s faith formation. Rod is a Texas native while Lynn was born in South Dakota. They met in Oklahoma when he was attending Oklahoma State and have been married for 42 years. Rod joined the Knights in 2010, taking his first and major degrees all in one day, and has often put his analytical mind (he has a degree in radiation and nuclear technology) to good use in various logistical council projects. The Kinards live in Duncanville and have 10 grandchildren.

## Family of the Month Mar. 2021



### Mario and Becky Tiambeng

The Tiambengs, natives of The Philippines, arrived in Duncanville with their three children in 1978 from – where else? – Chicago. Mario was pursuing an English degree at DePaul University and Becky was attending Loyola University (yes, the same Loyola of Chicago that has given us an NCAA Tournament basketball team that’s followed by the amazing Sister Jean). They became parishioners at Holy Spirit, which was then only a few years old after being broken off from St. Elizabeth of Hungary parish. Mario has been omnipresent at Holy Spirit for years – assisting at Masses, teaching in children’s faith formation and overseeing the funeral ministry along with many other duties. (How many remember the year when he chaired the Fall Festival?) So it was no surprise when Father Joe Lee made Mario one of the parish’s two nominees for the first annual Bishop’s Award for Service to the Church in 2012. He joined the Knights in 1982, dropped his membership years ago for concern that he wasn’t active enough because of everything else that he was doing, and reentered in 2011. We’re glad he came back.



