

LORICA

A PUBLICATION OF ST. PATRICK PARISH, FRANKLIN PA



PATRIOTISM

A SAFEGUARD TO SECURITY, PROSPERITY, AND UNITY

Volume 2 May 2025



PATRIOTISM: *Our Christian Duty*

One Sunday morning, the pastor noticed a young boy standing in the foyer of the church staring up at a large plaque. It was covered with names and had small American flags mounted on either side of it. The little boy had been staring at the plaque for some time, so the pastor walked up, stood beside him, and said quietly, "Good morning." The little boy asked the pastor, "What is this with so many names on it?" The pastor replied, "It's a memorial to all the young men and women who have died in the service." Soberly, they just stood there staring at the large plaque. Finally, the little boy, with great big eyes, a trembling voice and shaking with fear asked, "Which service -- the 8:00 a.m. or the 9:30 a.m.?"

In this issue of Lorica we honor our Veterans and thank them for their valor, their selflessness, and for the sacrifices they have made for us and our country. Freedom is not free and the liberties we enjoy come at a hefty price.

When the first issue of Lorica Magazine came out in the Fall of 2024, it was well received. The publication has a twofold purpose. First, it informs parishioners about developments, events, and happenings around the parish. Secondly, this publication helps to build a sense of family and community in our parish by featuring parishioners and their stories and enabling us to get to know one another better.

It is my hope that this publication will serve to communicate our gratitude and support for our military personnel both past and present.

In Christ,

Rev. James C. Campbell

Rev. James C. Campbell



The virtue of patriotism, according to St. Thomas Aquinas, is affiliated with the virtue of piety and love of God; for a man cannot love God if he has not love for his neighbor. Patriotism is a love of God, a love of neighbor, and a love of country. Patriotism is an acknowledgement of the debt one owes to his or her country and finds expression in reverence, loyalty, and devotion.

The Catholic Church has always taught that to be a good Christian, one must also be a good and loyal citizen to one's country. St. Paul exhorted the Christians of his day to pray for those who govern, lead, and are in positions of authority (1 Tim. 2:1-3). Pope Leo XIII, in his Encyclical *Sapientiae Christianae*, taught that patriotism is an act of justice and that service to one's country, contributing to the common good, civic involvement, upholding law and order, and showing respect for government and its institutions are ways that a Christian fulfills the moral obligation of God's Natural Law. Building on this tradition, Archbishop Fulton Sheen taught that the greatest expression of patriotism is to bring our Christian faith to the public square.

Democracy depends on people of conviction expressing their views, confidently and without embarrassment. We strengthen our country intellectually if we uphold Christian principles and speak out forcefully about our Christian convictions. On the other hand, if we fail to do so and allow religion to be exiled from civic debate, we separate government from morality and citizens from their consciences. That is why citizens of faith must not think of religion as a purely "private matter," but rather as an expression of their Patriotism, their love of God and Country, which is a powerful force for good and a safeguard to our national security, prosperity, and unity.



THE MAN IN THE ARENA

It is not the critic who counts; not the man who points out how the strong man stumbles, or where the doer of deeds could have done them better. The credit belongs to the man who is actually in the arena, whose face is marred by dust and sweat and blood; who strives valiantly; who errs, who comes short again and again, because there is no effort without error and shortcoming; but who does actually strive to do the deeds; who knows great enthusiasms, the great devotions; who spends himself in a worthy cause; who at the best knows in the end the triumph of high achievement, and who at the worst, if he fails, at least fails while daring greatly, so that his place shall never be with those cold and timid souls who neither know victory nor defeat.

—Theodore Roosevelt
Speech at the Sorbonne, Paris,
April 23, 1910



A TALE OF LOSS

as *tears* go by

By Rev. James C. Campbell



A gentleman from the parish was recently hospitalized. The strength and vigor of his youth have dissipated with time and his memory has begun to fade. However, he relayed the following story about two boys growing up in Franklin, Pennsylvania, in the late 1950's. The boys' names were Johnny and Jim. They were the best of friends. Johnny, the son of a postmaster, was a year behind Jim in his schooling. Jim's father was a factory worker at the JOY plant in town. The friendship they shared was rarer than diamonds and more precious than gold. They hit it off immediately and became the best of pals. As they grew and matured, the two boys went hunting and fishing together and had a proclivity for the outdoors. One day, as they hiked through a wooded area on the outskirts of town, they took a break and sat down. They conversed about their childhood interests and their future endeavors, dreams, and plans. They made an oath to one another and promised to remain best of friends.

Throughout high school it seemed as though they would have no problem honoring the oath they had made and would be pals for the rest of their lives. The two boys were like peas and carrots. They were practically inseparable. They continued to hunt and fish together and, although younger in age, Johnny was one heck of a rifle shot and would always get the first deer.

While in high school they decided they would join the track team and proved to be two of the best runners in town. The boys continued their hikes

and would often take off and go for a run together. Jim, though not as skinny and lanky as his younger counterpart, managed to stay a step or two ahead of Johnny. Their time in high school seemed carefree. They worked diligently at their studies, and in the afternoons, they would exercise. They were good kids, and Johnny especially exhibited a sense of kindness and decency toward people that was rare for boys his age. On the weekends they'd run around together and attend dances at the local YMCA where they were known to cut a rug because of their superb dance skills. Afterwards they'd frequent the Pizza Villa owned and operated by Sam Sanfilippo.

Toward the end of high school, Jim's father found himself out of a job. Going to college seemed out of the question for Jim, so he left Franklin and joined the U.S. Air Force. That same year, in 1963, he returned home and began work at CPT Co. (Chicago Pneumatic Tool Company) where he'd continue to work for the next 14 years. A year later, Johnny headed off to college and pursued a degree in Biology and Environmental Science with the hope of attaining a master's degree and pursuing a career with the State or National Parks. He was remembered by his childhood teachers as one of their brightest and most promising students. After finishing his undergraduate degree, it seemed as though nothing could derail his hopes and dreams. The tall skinny kid from Franklin who distinguished himself by his kindness and his amiable nature had grown up, but he hadn't grown old. His sense of adventure never left and his enthusiasm for life never grew cold. However, it

AND LASTING FRIENDSHIP

wasn't long after his graduation that Johnny received a letter in the mail from the Selective Service System. Opening the letter, he read the word, "Greeting." It was a formal notice, a "draft notice," informing him of his obligation to report for a pre-induction physical examination and potential induction into the United States Military. It was as though the world around him had stopped. He stared at the words on the page. At the age of 21, Johnny was faced with the reality of leaving everything and everybody he had ever known to fight in a war an ocean away. However, Johnny told his sister Janet that his country had given him a lot and he wanted to give back.

As expected, Johnny passed his physical exam with flying colors and showed great promise as a soldier. He was offered a commission as a junior officer with the rank of Second Lieutenant, but he declined and entered as an enlisted soldier. He quickly rose to the rank of Private First Class. The day arrived for his deployment and he, along with other young men from across the country, made the long trek across the ocean. While stationed in South Vietnam he wrote home to his family, and it was as though nothing had changed. He was the same boy that they had known and loved. He described the beautiful countryside and the lovely people who lived there. He lamented how the situation had complicated their way of life. Lastly, he mentioned that he felt no ill will toward any of the people.

Shortly after Johnny wrote home, many of the soldiers stationed in the province of Quang Ngai fell sick with malaria. Johnny and six of his American comrades managed to stay healthy. As a result, the seven of them, accompanied by a group of South Vietnamese soldiers, were charged with keeping night watch over a nearby bridge. On May 21, 1969, the area came under attack by hostile forces. The South Vietnamese soldiers fled, leaving the seven Americans behind. Five of the men were killed outright and the other two were injured before gunships arrived and rained down carnage on the enemy combatants, pushing them back. The Medevac helicopters landed and evacuated the soldiers along with the bodies of the fallen. The soldiers were taken to a Mobile Army Surgical Hospital. Johnny Logue was pronounced dead due to

multiple fragment wounds and massive blood loss. His mother Prudence and his father John were informed of their son's passing, and Johnny's body was brought home where he was honored with a Mass of Christian burial at St. Patrick Church. He was given full military honors. In addition to his family, a large crowd was present that day. Among the people in the crowd was Johnny's childhood friend, Jim Bell.

Many of you may be familiar with old Jim. He served as a police officer in Franklin for 20 years until his retirement in 2000. Jim turns 80 this year. At the time of this writing, he lies in a hospital bed after undergoing a medical procedure, his body filled with cancer. As he related the story of his friendship with Johnny Logue, his voice cracked, and his eyes filled with tears. He said, "When Johnny died, a part of me died with him. I took it very hard, and I still do."

**Nature's first green is gold,
Her hardest hue to hold.
Her early leaf's a flower;
But only so an hour.
Then leaf subsides to leaf.
So Eden sank to grief,
So dawn goes down to day.
Nothing gold can stay.**

Nothing Gold Can Stay / Robert Frost, 1924

Several times a year for the past 56 years, Jim has gone to the cemetery to care for the grounds around Johnny's grave. If the little flag is tattered, he replaces it. He gets down on his knees and says a prayer for his old friend. Before he leaves, he stands at attention and salutes his buddy whom he lost but has never forgotten. Johnny Logue died, in his own words, "to give back to a country that has given so much" to him. His friend Jim Bell hopes to be around a little longer, but admittedly he has grown old. The one thing that hasn't changed is the love in his heart and the strength of that bond and friendship that he forged with his pal Johnny Logue so many years ago. It will forever stay gold.

A LIGHT IN THE DARKNESS

The Electrifying Life of Dan Drayer

by Sue Hilton

When Dan Drayer told me that he had seven siblings and that he was number two and the oldest boy, I suggested that he must have had lots of chores.

"Oh, Susie, did I ever have chores!" He took care of feeding the stoves, had to handle the overnight buckets as there was no indoor plumbing until he was nine, built and weeded the garden, shoveled snow or cut grass and more. "But I never had to cook," he laughed.

I was talking with him for a story for this magazine, and he was puzzled. He said his life was fairly dull. But his stories were far from it.

After high school, going right to work was the only thing that made sense. "I learned right away that there was no money if you didn't earn it." He went to work as a machinist, but in a few years was drafted into the U.S. Navy. It was while he was in Vietnam serving on the ammunition ship the USS Kilauea that he had this amazing experience.

He was rated as an electrician but his chief knew he had worked as a machinist, so when the machine shop needed help, they sent for Dan. A boiler maker asked him if there was any way he could fix a damaged valve stem. Dan told the startled worker that not only could he fix it, it was possible that he had made that actual part – if not that particular one, then at least a few hundred just like it. He flipped the piece over and there stamped on the part were the letters JI – Jarecky Industries, the very shop Dan had worked in. He made the repair and soon the part was operating as needed.

Dan worked again for Jarecky after his discharge, but in a few years, following his marriage to Debbie Berry in 1974, he wanted to set out on his own



Stories
of hope and humility

...not only could he fix it; he'd made a few hundred just like it.

as an electrician. "We worked as a team to get this business off the ground. I went for some more training and Deb went to work at the bank." Drayer Electrical Service became a trusted and thriving company, serving private homes, the government, businesses, schools, and churches. The company continues to be a leader in the region. In 2014 Dan handed on the reins to his son Jon, but he still stays busy with the day-to-day workings of the business.

Our conversation went on to family stories of the four children, his adventures throughout his 25-year tenure as a

Boy Scout Leader, his four trips to Merida to work with the Mission of Friendship, participation with the Marriage Encounter community, and his volunteer work at the church and school, and Dan had me laughing along with him. Not one of his stories was boring in the least.

He spent his life as an electrician, but it is his Christian witness that had the most electrifying effect. He is a light in the darkness.



When it became clear that their only remaining choice was to bail from the C-87 cargo plane, the five crew members helped each other into their packs. None of them had ever jumped from a plane before, let alone in a snow storm somewhere above the Himalayas.

Co-pilot Harold McCallum thought quickly back to his life-long desire to become a pilot. He learned to fly starting as a very young man on a grass strip near Quincy, Massachusetts, where he grew up. When he was old enough he enrolled in the National Guard and was eventually assigned to the India-China-Burma WWII combat theatre in March of 1943. This flight, seriously jeopardized by high winds, icing on the wings, a scrambled message from the ground and then engine failure, was his 13th mission. The men made plans to reconnect by

Quincy Air Force Officer Is Believed To Be Lost In India

Less than 24 hours after the mother and sweetheart of Flight Officer Harold J. McCallum, 27 Hancock court, Quincy, purchased an engagement ring with the money that he had sent, they received word that he was "missing in flight" somewhere in the Asiatic area.

A pilot in the ferry command of the United States Air Force, Flight Officer McCallum is believed to have disappeared during a flight over India, as it was from that country that his mother heard from him a few days before his disappearance.

Officer McCallum, who is 24 years old, is the son of Mrs. Gracie B.



calling out and firing shots and then, one by one, leapt from the plane. It was November 30, 1943.

McCallum, known as Mac, was knocked unconscious from the impact but awoke long enough to wrap himself in his parachute silk before falling back to sleep. When he woke in the morning, he realized he was high on a precipice. He called out and fired his pistol and was heard by two of the crew members who had landed nearby. Rappelling down the mountainside, he was reunited with two of the men, who, like Mac, weren't seriously injured. They decided to walk downhill to see if there was a way to any civilization.

A few days later they came upon a Tibetan who gestured for them to follow him. They walked about 75 miles, weak with hunger and thirst, into a village where they were greeted with mistrust by a crowd who didn't seem friendly. Mac fired his pistol over the heads of the people, who then responded by bringing stew and rice. They were given rudimentary directions and continued on their way. On day five they were reunited with the other two crew members, one of whom had suffered a broken shoulder. This journey would eventually take 52 days, traveling through both

friendly villages where they were given food and rest and clothing, and hostile areas where they were beaten and abused.

After a grueling journey, through challenging weather and almost impassable terrain, the men arrived in Jorhat base in Calcutta, where they were given a hero's welcome and intensely questioned by commanding officers about their experience. The date was January 20, 1944.

While still in Calcutta, Mac met an Army nurse, Estelle Belnak, and they married. The couple returned to the United States and Mac continued his work as a commercial pilot. After living in several other locations, the McCallum family moved to Franklin where Mac took a position with Joy Manufacturing, serving as the chief pilot. They joined St. Patrick Parish, enrolled their children in the school and lived the remainder of their lives here.

Mac wrote the story of his Tibet adventures, publishing "Tibet: One Second to Live" in 1995. Another book about this amazing episode in history is titled "Jump to the Land of God" by William Sinclair.

Tom Mitchell

In January of 1991, Tammy Mitchell was being evacuated from the Turkey Air Force base when she and their five children were living with husband Tom when Desert Storm began. After many tense hours of waiting and then a frightening flight accompanied by fighter jets, she arrived in Philadelphia only to learn that her connecting flight was happening soon and in a building far away. Suddenly she was overcome with anxiety and panic, and just as suddenly a man in a white suit appeared and offered to help her. She doesn't know why she trusted him, but soon she and her children were loaded into a white van and deposited quickly at their gate. She believes that this man was her guardian angel sent to assure her that all would be well.

Lorre Phillips Bernardo

Soon after graduating from the Spencer Hospital School of Nursing, a Catholic facility, Dolores (Lorre) Phillips volunteered as an Army nurse and found herself on the West Indies Island of Trinidad in 1944. She was 22 years old. In the mornings she cared for leprosy patients and in the afternoons she worked with the German prisoners of war. They taught her how to make sour meatballs and how to play cribbage, a game she enjoyed the rest of her life. She achieved the rank of Lieutenant. The local priest introduced her to fellow soldier Sebastian (Sam) Bernardo. They married and raised their four children in Franklin at St. Patrick Church and School. Their daughter Francine Bernardo Jackson is a faithful member of the parish.

Rich Supak

Rich Supak was stationed in Colorado Springs during his stint in the Army, and one day some of his buddies decided to hike Pikes Peak. They packed their backpacks with canned goods to enjoy at the top. Two of the fellows turned around part way, but Rich and two others made it to the peak. Hungry and cold, they opened their packs to discover that the guy with the U. S. speaker (that is a government issued can opener) had not made it up there. All that food and no way to get into it! He will never forget the view from the top of the mountain. The scenery was spectacular and so was the café that sold hot dogs and chips. U. S. Army – always prepared! At least most of the time! His Divine Providence? That snack bar at the top of Pikes Peak!



Stories of Divine Providence

Divine Providence consists of the dispositions by which God guides all his creatures with wisdom and love to their ultimate end.

- Catechism of the Catholic Church 321

George Ingham

George signed up for the Army when he was feeling a bit directionless after leaving college. The only person he told was his girlfriend Susi. They communicated through letters, and as their relationship grew, George believed that she would become an important part of his future. He proposed from Korea via a letter, she accepted the same way, and they began to plan their wedding by mail. As he believed he should join Susi in her Catholic faith, he formed a friendship with a chaplain and started the process to join the church. He enjoyed his instruction sessions and was soon ready for the sacraments. He and Susi married when he was home on leave and before he left for 1-1/2 years in Vietnam. They have had a long faith-filled life together.



Dennis Reinsel

Parishioner Dennis Reinsel was in the Oakland Army Terminal in California awaiting transport to Vietnam when the men were assigned various tasks while they waited. Denny was sent to sweep another room, and then sat down and fell asleep in front of the television set. When he awoke he was panicked to learn that the flight had already left and that he was reported AWOL. Proving he was not AWOL, he was assigned a second flight which he made sure to make! When he arrived in Viet Nam, he was stationed in a much better location than he would have been otherwise. He believes that his nap was the Divine Providence that guided him to a much safer tour of duty.



Frank Judy

Frank Judy left for the U.S. Navy in the same week as his sister Constance left home to join the religious life at the Monastery of St. Joseph in St. Marys. Frank would joke that his mother complained that her two best cow milkers were abandoning her at the same time, but she was proud of them both. During his service, Frank felt drawn to get to Mass as often as he could, and he believed his sister's vows and her faith kept him close to the church. Frank was there when she made her first vows and took the name Sr. Margoretta. Frank and his wife Gloria have remained dedicated to his sister and to the church throughout his service and through his work as a Chaplain long after his enlistment ended.



The Folded Page

Up in a quaint old attic / As the raindrops patter down / I sat paging through an old schoolbook / Dusty, tattered, and brown.

I came to a page that was folded down / And across it was written in childish hand: / The teacher says to leave this for now / 'tis hard to understand.

I unfolded the page and read / Then I nodded my head and said / The teacher was right: / now I understand. There are lots of pages in the book of life / That are hard to understand / All we can do is fold them down and write: / The teacher says to leave this for now / 'tis hard to understand.

Then someday – maybe only in heaven – / we will unfold the pages again / read them and say / the teacher was right, now I understand

A *Perpetual* Brotherhood

THEN...

The Catholic War Veterans organization was founded in 1936 as a Catholic service organization for World War I veterans. St. Patrick's Catholic War Veterans Post 1741 was organized on April 27, 1954. The membership at that time was comprised mostly of World War II and Korean veterans. Joseph P. Connell, a World War I veteran, was the first commander. One of the first projects of the charter members was to erect a memorial altar at St. Patrick Cemetery complete with a 12-foot crucifix. It was dedicated on Memorial Day, May 30, 1956.

If you have served in and have been honorably discharged from any branch of the United States military, you are eligible to become a member of the Catholic War Veterans and can contact Rich Supak at 814-437-3385 for more information.

NOW...

Today the 17 members, mostly Vietnam, Iraqi Freedom, and peace-time veterans, are largely concerned with the affairs of veterans and have a visible presence in the Franklin community.

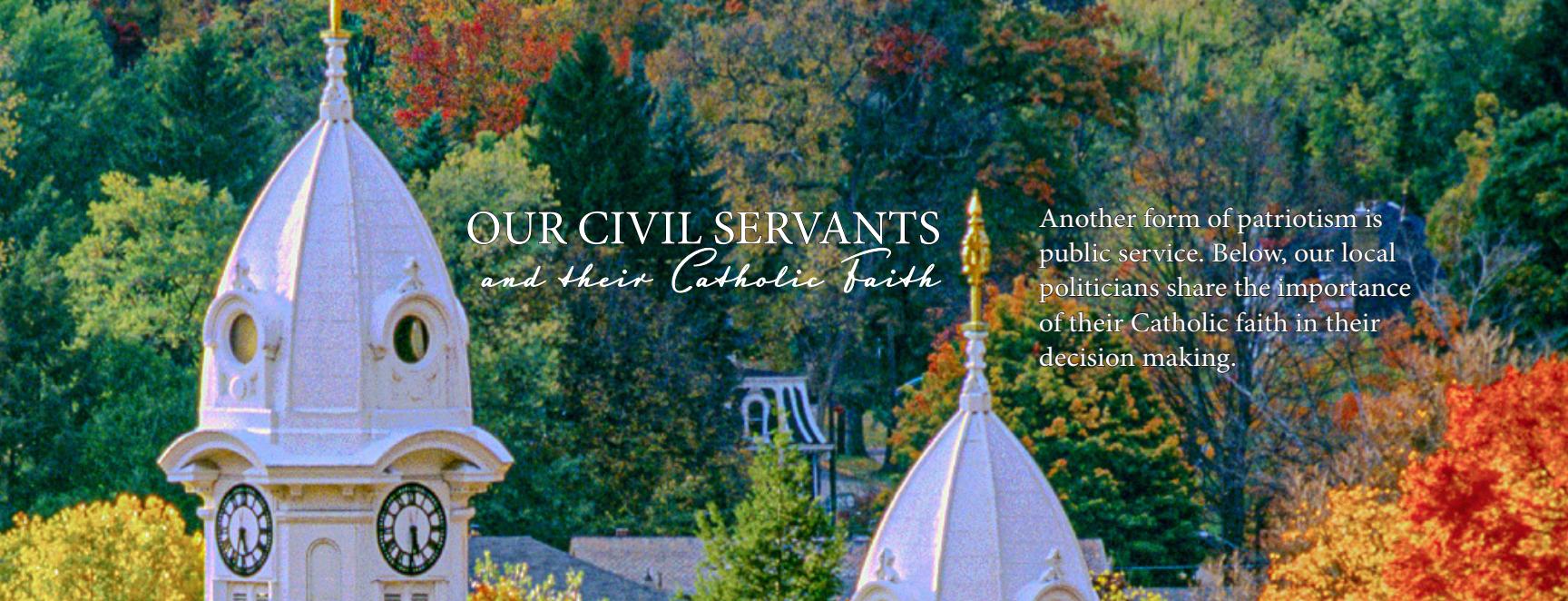
Member activities include:

- Placing over 400 flags on veterans' graves for Memorial Day and removing them after Veterans Day.
- Participating in all Memorial Day activities including Mass at St. Patrick Church, ceremonies at the 13th Street Bridge and the Franklin Cemetery, as well as the memorial service in Franklin's South Park where, for over 20 years, Commander Richard Supak has read the name of every Venango County veteran who has passed away during the previous year.
- Assisting at the "Wreaths Across America" project at St. Patrick Cemetery led by the Knights of Columbus.
- Helping at VFW bloodmobiles.
- Co-sponsoring the Warren County DAV fishing trip for veterans from homes and area hospitals.

Donations of money and time are made to the Butler and Pittsburgh VA Medical Centers and the Erie Soldiers' and Sailors' Home. They also contribute their time helping with various St. Patrick Church functions and projects.

For the past 13 years, Supak has served as an advisor for the Erie Soldiers' and Sailors' Home having been appointed by the governor as the Catholic War Veterans' representative..





OUR CIVIL SERVANTS *and their Catholic Faith*

Another form of patriotism is public service. Below, our local politicians share the importance of their Catholic faith in their decision making.

STATE SENATOR SCOTT HUTCHINSON

Hutchinson expressed his gratitude and humility at the chance to serve his country in public office. He stated, "The Catholic Church provides a moral framework that shapes my philosophy of society and guides my political choices. The starting point for it all is the inherent dignity of individuals. We are all children of God. Likewise, no government can guarantee a 'problem free' world. We are a fallen, broken mankind whom God still loves unconditionally. That being said, good government requires a virtuous citizenry. All of us, no matter the job, career, or station in life, need a bedrock of faith to constantly remind us that our only true Hope is Jesus Risen." Sen. Hutchinson spends "time alone in contemplation, reflection, and prayer—for guidance, for understanding, and for forgiveness."

STATE REPRESENTATIVE R. LEE JAMES

James comes from a family with a strong military background. His family includes four generations who have served in the Armed Forces. "This is what inspired me to become a state representative, as well as an active member of the community," said Rep. James. He grew up in the Catholic Church where he "gained valuable insight on the teachings of morality, charity, justice and respect for human life. It was important to him "to live a Christian life by participating in the sacraments, obeying the moral law, and accepting the teachings of Christ and His Church." His parting words were to encourage our youth to consider public service and its rewarding experience of helping others.

COUNTY COMMISSIONER KEN BRYAN

Bryan mentioned his childhood. "I am blessed with having been raised by devout Catholic parents... whose Catholic values gave me the foundation needed to develop my personal relationship with Christ throughout my life. These core values helped me during my most turbulent times while serving in the military and throughout my career." He believes, "It's what a person does...for the good of others that defines true character." As an elected official, Commissioner Bryan feels the responsibility to use his "Christian values and beliefs" to serve the entire community.



BRYAN

JAMES

HUTCHINSON

The Next Generation of *Patriots*

ST. PAT'S YOUTH GROUP LEAVES AN IMPRESSION ON SNOW, SAND & HEARTS

On a crisp November day, a line of children stood at attention. They were uncharacteristically quiet and still, their breath crystalizing in the cold air. The winter sun illuminated the rows of tombstones surrounding them. The children's eyes were bright with anticipation. A row of men stood before them, uniformed and solemn. One by one, the children stepped forward, wreaths in hand, as a distinguished voice read the names aloud: "Coast Guard. Army. Marine Corps. Space Force. Air Force. Navy." In unison, the crowd bowed heads in silent respect. Then, their formal duties fulfilled, the children broke ranks to resume their normal exuberant chatter. The assembled families dispersed with stacks of wreaths to decorate the graves of the honored Veterans peppering the landscape of St. Patrick Cemetery. The wreath-laying ceremony was spearheaded by the Franklin Knights of Columbus (with help from the Catholic War Veterans) as part of "Wreaths Across America," an event held annually on Veterans Day weekend. In 2024, the St. Patrick Youth Group participated in this important occasion.

Introducing the St. Patrick Youth Group

The wreath-laying was one of many successful activities organized as part of St. Patrick's new Youth Group for school-age parish children. In August

2024, parish mothers Beth Wachob and Sarah Merkel, along with their daughters, participated in an adventure-filled parish pilgrimage to New York City and were eager to promote more opportunities for young parish families to join in fun and fellowship. They had witnessed the popularity of the monthly Lego Club led by parishioners Kait Justice and Emily Holoman, and believed that youth group activities would be well received. They volunteered to organize regular Youth Group activities for the coming year, with help from Allison Hartle and Katie McNulty. Subsequent Youth Group activities have included a pool party, an outing to a pumpkin patch & corn maze, an All Saints' Day party, bowling, caroling for the homebound, brunch at St. Thomas More House of Prayer, and ice skating. The youth group outings have been blessed by participation from numerous fun-loving fathers and mothers eager to pitch in with snacks, entertainment and logistical help.

Youth Group Purpose and Goals

Father James Campbell, who enthusiastically supported formation of the youth group, stated, "Families don't just pray together, they do everything together; it is the same with our church family. We cry together at funerals, we celebrate together at

"It was fun to see Fr. James bowling because he is the priest!"

-Kollin Oniboni, 11

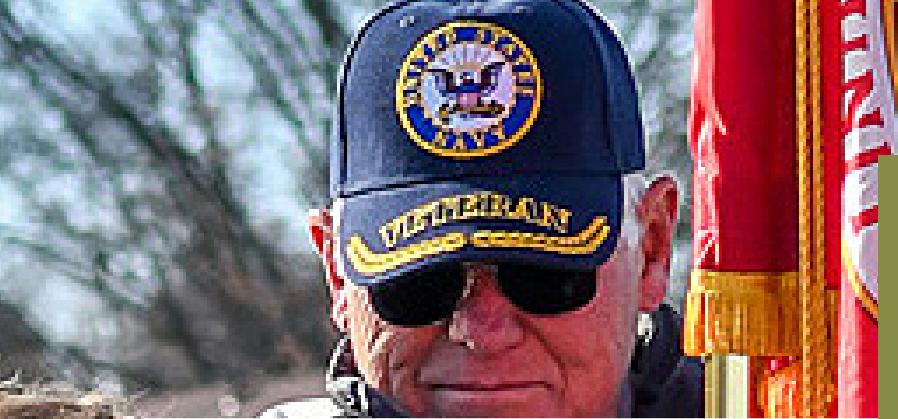
"It's good to be friends with other kids from church because I like having fun with them during faith formation and youth group!"

-Anderson Justice, 6

"I like being friends with other kids from church because they love Jesus like me."

-Caroline Wachob, 6





At the invitation of the Knights of Columbus and Catholic War Veterans, the Youth Group joined in ceremonials for "Wreaths Across America." James Kolesar is shown hanging a wreath to commemorate a branch of the Armed Services.

weddings, we're with people as they grow old at nursing homes, we're with them every step of their lives. When we look at young people, these are their developmental years. Religious education teaches them about God, but Youth Group helps them see the face of God through our actions -- our time spent together, building spiritual friendship."

Several St. Patrick parents noted that they hope the youth group activities will help their children form friendships with other Catholic kids whose families who hold similar values. According to one parent, "Every Catholic parent prays that their child will remain close to God as they grow. Anything we can do now to give them positive associations with the

St. Patrick Youth Group by the *Numbers*

10

Events held between Summer 2024 and Spring 2025 (a total of 13 planned)

28

Average number of kids participating in each event

32

Total number of families who have participated in at least one event

58

Number of kids at the most popular event (Christmas caroling)

church and parish life will only help in that goal." One parish father noted, "When I was growing up, my dad always told us that God comes first, family comes second, and school/friends/sports come after. Making church-based activities part of our social life helps us to keep God first in everything we do."

Organizing a Youth Group: Logistical Factors

The organizers of the Youth Group met with Father James in early fall to develop a schedule of activities for the coming year. With a budget of approximately \$3,000, they planned to host one activity per month, with the parish covering the cost of admission and lunch or snacks for the participants. The budget was based on estimates of 25 children participating in each event, but in a welcome surprise, that number was surpassed in several of the events. Events were marketed on Facebook, in the bulletin and in the Mass announcements, and families were asked to RSVP using sign-ups in the back of the church and online. Organizers for the Knights of Columbus "Wreaths Across America" project and the St. Patrick Elementary Boys' Basketball Tournament generously donated the proceeds from their events for future Youth Group activities, and Bella Cucina restaurant sponsored the Youth Group in a February Cheers Night.

"It was funny to see Father James at the beach instead of being at church!"

-Henry Holoman, 9

"It's good to be friends with other kids from church because then they aren't strangers anymore."

-Karter Oniboni, 6

"The Youth Group activities are so much fun and give us opportunities to spend time together."

-Aniella McNulty, 12





Welcome!

Georgia O'Neil and
Breezann Kline

Georgia O'Neil and her daughter Breezann Kline were welcomed into the Church at the Easter Vigil. Breezy received the sacraments of Holy Baptism, Confirmation and the Holy Eucharist. Georgia made a profession of faith, was Confirmed, and received her first Eucharist. Breezy's godparents are DJ and Melissa Persing. Sponsoring the pair for Confirmation was Georgia's husband Terry O'Neil who joined the church last year. Deacon Richard O'Polka and Beth Wachob worked with the pair during their formation.

Said Georgia, “Being welcomed into the church and receiving the sacraments of Confirmation and the Eucharist was very sentimental and beautiful. I look forward to continuing my walk in the Catholic faith.” Daughter Breezy echoed her mom’s thoughts. “I’m just feeling very happy.”





FINAL SALUTE

Funeral Directors give Veterans a Proper Sendoff

Franklin is blessed with the presence of three Catholic funeral directors to serve grieving families in their time of need: Jubal Kelly, Supervisor of Gardnier-Warren Funeral Home and Owner of Liberty Custom Monuments; Tim Hartle, Owner-Supervisor of Hartle Funeral Home; and Adam Guthrie, Owner-Supervisor of Huff-Guthrie Funeral Home. Lorica interviewed the three to learn about the care and special honor they provide to Veterans and their families in moments of grieving and loss.

Tell us about how you got into this business. What about it interested you?

JUBAL: I grew up in a small town and the funeral director in town was “the guy” – he had a cool job, he helped people. I was always drawn to that, even at a young age. I wanted to do something where, at the end of the day, I helped somebody. I opened Liberty Monuments as a continuation of what I’ve been doing at the funeral home for 15-20 years.

TIM: I always liked to help people. We all come from different paths, but we're all people and we all deserve respect in death. When someone's mother or father dies, it still means the same to each of us and it's a hard thing. And when you're able to help someone at a time like that, it's very gratifying.

ADAM: When I was seven, my mom moved into a funeral home, and part of our rent included cleaning it. I spent countless hours there, always following the funeral director around. From an early age, I knew this was my calling—I wanted to dedicate my life to serving families in their time of need.



Jubal Kelly



Tim Hartle



Adam
Guthrie

The theme of this magazine issue is Memorial Day. Have you done funerals for Veterans, and if so, how do they differ from other services?

In my career, I've done probably 1,000 services for Veterans. We're fortunate locally because we call the VETS Honor Guard and they do a very distinguished military-style service. Every honorably-discharged vet is also entitled to a grave marker paid for by the government.

How does your Catholic faith influence the way you carry out your profession?

I was raised Catholic and served funerals as an altar boy. I've always worked in strong Catholic funeral homes, so I'm educated in the ceremonials. The more you do it, the more you realize the importance of the funeral Mass. If you have the Catholic faith, you can understand all the different elements of the funeral Mass: the incense, blessing the casket with holy water. You understand the symbolism. I've always geared more toward the tradition and the formality. I can't imagine doing anything other than a Catholic funeral Mass for my mother. Anything else wouldn't show her the respect she deserves.

Catholics need to have a serious discussion about their own burial wishes. A lot of people make offhand comments like "just put me in a pine box," and they don't mean that. Even if they don't want a big viewing, they need to think about their wife and kids and grand-kids. Viewings are not for the deceased, they are for the living. People may not want a big funeral Mass, but I see a real connection between the reverence and gravity of the Mass, and the sense of closure and peace for the family.

Every veteran, if they're honorably discharged, is entitled to military honors. Depending on the dates of service and the type of service that the veteran had, some are entitled to more. We fold and present the U.S. flag to the family. The VETS Honor Guard play taps and have the 21-gun salute. We're able to live in a free country because of them, and we're all grateful for the sacrifices they and their families have made.

I was raised Catholic. My faith has made me want to be a good person and try to see the good in people. It makes me accountable to myself for how I treat people. Regardless of what faith a person is, I think everyone deserves the respect and dignity to be able to grieve the loss of their loved one.

All Catholics should consider funeral pre-arrangements. It makes a lot of sense to prepare for "one day." We prepare in life for everything. If you're going to get married, you might plan for 3-6 months to have everything right that day, but we have to put similar details together for a funeral usually in only a few hours. I think it makes a lot of sense to sit down with your family and let them know what your wishes might be, and even to come to the funeral home. Even if someday you move away, those wishes are still down in writing for the family. This alleviates potential family problems within the family after a funeral.

As a proud member of Veterans Funeral Care, Huff-Guthrie Funeral Home is committed to going the extra mile for the veterans we are honored to serve. We have conducted countless veteran funerals, ensuring they receive the military honors they rightfully deserve, typically presented by the VETS Honor Guard. In addition to these tributes, we offer unique programs dedicated to honoring our nation's heroes.

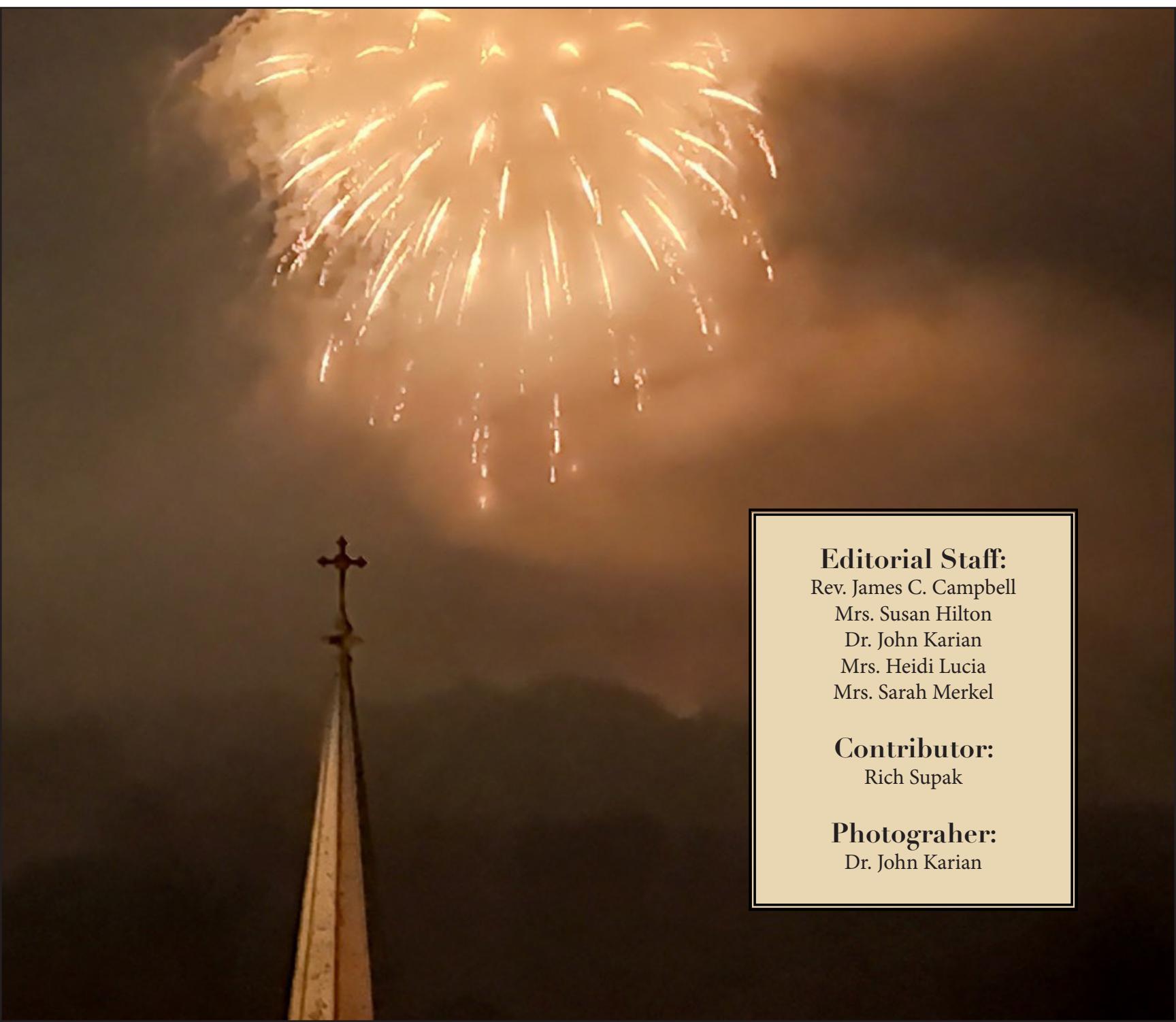
Compassion and Service – Rooted in Catholic teachings, Huff-Guthrie Funeral Home is committed to caring for those who are grieving. We strive to serve every family with compassion, dignity, and respect, ensuring that their loved ones are honored in a meaningful way—regardless of financial, religious, or social status. Our mission is to provide comfort and support to all who walk through our doors, just as faith calls us to do.

What should Catholics consider when thinking about their own funeral and burial wishes?

All Catholics should consider pre-planning their funeral arrangements as an act of care and responsibility. Making these decisions in advance eases the burden on loved ones, allowing them to focus on remembrance rather than stressful logistics. Securing cemetery plots, selecting meaningful readings and music, and outlining personal preferences ensures that your wishes are honored and provides peace of mind for both you and your family.

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