

A Eulogy for Robert Wood

December, 2015

On behalf of all the Knights of Columbus and their families we pass on our sincerest condolences to you, Kathleen, and your entire family.

As time marches on, we mournfully let Colonel Robert H. Wood, Sr., redeploy to his heavenly post and the rewards that he has so richly and splendidly earned. He will always be remembered as a magnificent gentleman, an American icon, yet humble with an incredible heart and unwavering faithfulness. To any of us Brother Knights who served with him while he was the Grand Knight or the Commander of the 4th Degree Color Guard or the 4th Degree Faithful Navigator or any of the myriad of Officer positions of leadership he held in the Knights of Columbus he was fondly referred to as not just a Colonel but “The Colonel.” To become a Colonel requires all the right stuff—courageousness, decisiveness, dedication, endurance, fortitude, honor, integrity, passion, patriotism, poise, professionalism and valor. The Colonel was the epitome of all of these attributes and then so much more. The Colonel made many sacrifices along with his family and missed quite a few holidays & weekends whenever duty called. The Colonel unpretentiously led by example never expecting anyone to do anything he would not do himself. The ultimate leader.

Without question, when The Colonel led with what was right in his heart we would follow him anywhere. Now The Colonel has been called to his ultimate duty.

A few years back, as we conducted a Color Guard for fellow Brother Knight & PGK Jack Goetz who passed suddenly just days after learning of an incurable illness, The Colonel called us all in, and like a QB in a huddle or a doting Father or big brother, he looked at each of us eye to eye & heart to heart to remind us of keeping our affairs in order and up to date and not take any moment of life for granted. We are going to miss his leadership, but we will never forget his shining example and we will carry on his legacy as long as each of us is able. Our current Color Guard Commander & GK Tom Hirn and I have the privilege and honor of wearing the purple and red capes that he wore and graciously passed on to each us respectively. We will don them always with all the dignity, pride and honor we can muster.

All of us Knights and anyone and everyone who knew The Colonel will continue to hope and pray that someday we will follow his lead all the way to heaven!

Thank you Colonel Wood!! Note-- the scenic mountain painting by another Robert Wood in the Hall will remain as our reminder and tribute to The Colonel and his legend.

- PGK Carl P.