

December 2006 Knight Lite Article
By Joe Ramirez Membership Director
November 15, 2006

By the time you read this message, Thanksgiving will be past and the Christmas season will be well on its way. We have a lot to be thankful for and I hope that each and every one of you and your families enjoy the best of the season.

To keep everyone up to speed we currently as of November 15, 2006 have signed up 307 new members so far this fraternal year. Perhaps not where the membership chairman wants to be but you know what, we will work on it together and figure out how to offer every catholic gentleman the chance to be part of the largest catholic fraternal organization in the world.

I want to thank all of you for your efforts thus far and especially those of you that have recruited new members. I want to thank my membership team who has been working so hard on recruiting and our retention chairman who along with several of our district deputies, diocesan directors and membership specialist spending countless hours on the phones and writing letters to try and save some brother Knight's from dropping out of such a great organization and you grand knight's who work with the councils day in and day out thank you. Thank you also to our Worthy State Deputy Michael Gaspers for giving me the opportunity to work with each of you as membership chairman for the Iowa jurisdiction.

With that said I would like to share with you a story of my Experience of a Lifetime with the Knights and how it has impacted my family. I think this in one of many wonderful stories out there about Brother Knights and their experiences. I hope that you will plan to share some of your stories with me and the rest of your brothers in future conversations and communications.

First of all I really am thankful for the wonderful family I have beginning with my wife. My wife has supported me through these years and continues to support my efforts as a catholic and as a knight. Cheryl was very instrumental in helping us with and through the state convention this past May.

My daughter whom I love very deeply and am so proud how hard she worked to receive her Masters Degree at St Ambrose in Davenport over a year ago. Malinda works very hard in her job today with young adults who need the extra care to get on the road to success and I know as she grows with her job her success in life will also grow.

My son Joe Jr. whom again I'm proud to say he's my son and he's a Knight by choice. Just three years ago 2 days before he began his military career I overheard him tell his mother that he would like to join the Knight's. I quickly got on the phone and called Brother Knight Dave Knoblach (St John's Cumming Council, now Norwalk), who brought his degree team down to Christ the King (we had no degree team at Christ the King at the time), to have a first degree that brought in two knight's, my son and Deacon Chuck Putbrese. I thank Dave and his brother knights to help in such a short notice but you know that's what Knights do and certainly Dave and his brothers came through.

Time passed by and just this past fall before coming home on leave my son called and told me that he would be home the next two weekends so could I please see if I could arrange for him to receive his second, third and fourth degree? A tall order but it so happened that Marion Iowa was having a second and third degree the first weekend and the Peosta Council was having a fourth degree the following weekend. It was like a dream come true, and you know those long drives back and fourth from Des Moines to Marion and back and Des Moines to Peosta and back the following weekend really gave us some time to talk and reflect and become closer as an entire family.

My son now awaits deployment overseas and will be gone over the holidays and we pray for his safe return as well as the safe return of all of our troops who protect us and are the reason why we live in this great country of ours. So please pray for our troops that they stay out of harms way so that they too can come home and be with their families very soon.

From our family to yours may each of you receive God's grace and have a safe holiday season and I hope to see many of you at our up coming state family meeting where we can share ideas and success stories in our lives. For those of you that won't be attending the state family meeting in December I hope that you will send a story so that we can share with others.

Vivat Jesus,

Joe Ramirez
State Membership Director

