

## Michael J. Mika Eighteenth District Master 2012-2016 (1942–20)

Michael J. Mika was born on November 20, 1942. He converted to Roman Catholic Church in 1956 and was baptized at Saint Michael's Church in Chicago. Mike quit school after his junior year to help support his mother and Brother. Upon turning eighteen, he enlisted in the United

States Army where he served for 21 years of which over ten of those years were with the United States Army Special Forces, the "Green Berets". He served two tours in Vietnam and one in Thailand.

In 1963 Michael joined the Knights of Columbus in Fayetteville, NC. He became a Fourth Degree member in March, 1968. In 1974, while on active duty, as a Sergeant Major assigned to 11 U.S. Army Reserve units in South Carolina, he moved to Columbia. He transferred his membership to the Bishop John England Council #724 and Bishop John England Assembly #1072 in Columbia,

Upon his retirement in 1981, Michael worked for the South Carolina Electric and Gas Company until 1987. He then moved to Chattanooga, TN., to work for The Electric Power Board. During this time, Michael served as District Deputy for 4 years, and then was designated at the Ceremonials Chairman at the Tennessee State Council.

In 1999, Mike moved back to South Carolina where he served as District Deputy and a Third Degree Conferring Officer. In 2012 and 2014, Mike was appointed the eighteenth South Carolina Fourth Degree District Master.

Mike married his wife Dee in 1962. They have three children and five grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren. During his military carrier, he was awarded numerous military honors including Bronze Star Medal, Meritorious Service Medal, Republic of Vietnam Cross of Gallantry with Palm and Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal with five stars.