



Francis B. Kerr 3rd District Master 1958 – 1962 (1920-2005)

Francis B. Kerr was born in Charleston on January 24, 1920. He was the son of Basil R. and Anna T. Kerr of Charleston. He graduated from Bishop England High School in 1935 and received the Bachelor of Economics from Catholic University of America in 1939, at the age of 19. Mr. Kerr enlisted in the United States Army during World War II. After being discharged in 1946 as a Master Sergeant he returned home to his wife Evangeline (Bouvette Kerr). They have had six children, eighteen grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren.

Francis Kerr a well-known and recognized Charleston businessman. He managed the Palace Theater on King Street during the 1940's and early 50's. He owned and operated Kerr Realty Company during the 1970's. and Stadium Sales, a concessionaire business for the Pittsburgh Pirates Charleston Franchise, The Citadel and Bishop England High School. Over the years he owned and operated several other businesses including The Palms Motel and the retail stores Carnival Corner and Collectors Corner.

Mr. Kerr was well known for his community activities as well as his work with the Catholic Church and school related activities. He was elected Grand Knight of the Knights of Columbus Rev. P.N. Lynch Council #704 in 1952. He also served the South Carolina State as District Deputy. He was appointed Master of the 4th Degree of the South Carolina District in 1954 and served two terms until 1958. Francis Kerr involvement on the South Carolina District Exemplification Team cannot be overstated. He organized the original team in 1950 and ran the District Team as team captain for over 50 years; making the Team well respected in the DeSoto Province. During those 50 years, he was most renowned for his powerful and moving presentation as a District Exemplar.

He was known for his involvement in area wide schools during the 1950's and 1960's in the Thanksgiving Day Relay Races on the Battery. Mr. Kerr was one of the initial organizers of the Bishop England Triple B Association and had for many years led and participated in youth basketball leagues, school pageants and student booster clubs.

He served as one of the first Lay Lectors in the Diocese of Charleston following Vatican II. His involvement in his church activities had ranged from service on parish councils, successful building committees, head usher and actively supporting priest and nuns throughout the Catholic Diocese.

He died April 25, 2005

