



Michael W. Telesco, PSD Eighth District Master 1976-1980 (1924-2013)

Michael W. Telesco was born on October 5, 1924, in New York City, NY to Joseph and Philomena Telesco. He married Phyllis Polk of Charleston, SC in 1944. They had one son and two daughters, seven grandchildren, and five great grandchildren.

Mike served in the US Army during both World War II and the Korean and Vietnam conflicts. He held twenty-three decorations and service awards, two of which were for Meritorious Service and were cited by the President of the United States.

After twenty-five years of military service, Mike retired and was employed by the Department of the Army as an Operations and Training Officer for the US Army Reserves. He was also appointed as the Supervisory Staff Administrator of a major Army Command. After Twenty-one years of service, Mike retired and was awarded for his "Superior Civilian Services" with the highest Civilian Award by the Department of the Army.

Mike Telesco joined the Knights of Columbus at St. Raymond Council #811 in New York City. Mike received his Fourth Degree in February 1969 with the Rev. P. N. Lynch Assembly #1071 in Charleston. He is a Past Grand Knight of the Fr. Ronald P. Anderson Council #8900 in North Charleston. He is also the Past Faithful Navigator of the Rev. P. N. Lynch Assembly #1071. He served two terms as a District Deputy.

In 1976, Mike Telesco was appointed as the eighth South Carolina Fourth Degree District Master. He served two terms serving through 1980. During his term he established the District Awards Program that is still in effect today. He also established two new Assemblies.

In 1982, Mike was elected South Carolina State Deputy and served for three terms. Six councils were established during his term. He served as the State Ceremonial Chairman for twenty-five years and served as the Columbus HOPE Foundation Chairman for many years.

Mike Telesco's impact on the South Carolina State Council during his many years of service cannot be overstated. For over 25 years, Mike Telesco was a dynamic council for all the State Deputies and District Masters, in addition to the millions of dollars raised by the HOPE Foundation. In 2003, in recognition of Mike Telesco's fifty years of service to the Knight of Columbus, the South Carolina General Assembly (the House of Representative and Senate) passed a joint resolution of recognition and declared him the "Godfather" of the Knights of Columbus of South Carolina. (Thanks for this initiative goes to then State Deputy and futured District Master Roosevelt Cumming.)

Mike Telesco was a communicant of Immaculate Conception Catholic Church in Goose Creek, SC, and a member of the Immaculate Conception Council #11991.

He died July 3, 2013.