

State Deputy's Address 2025-2026

Worthy State Officers, Reverend Fathers, District Deputies, Grand Knights, and my fellow brothers in Christ:

It has been one of the greatest honors of my life to serve the Knights of Columbus and the Catholic community of South Carolina over this past year. Stand before you today, I am deeply humbled- and profoundly grateful- for the journey for the journey we have shared. From the outset of this term my vision was clear: to strengthen our foundation, ensure the long-term vitality of our Order, and leave this jurisdiction stronger than I found it.

Today, I can confidently say that the state of South Carolina is not only strong it is thriving. This success is not the work of one individual, but the result of united brotherhood—As Scripture reminder us in **Ecclesiastes 4:12**: "*Though one may be overpowered, two can defend themselves. A cord of three strands is not quickly broken.*" Together, we have advanced our sacred mission across the Palmetto State.

I. Exceptional Membership: "One Family at a Time"

Our jurisdiction remains one of the most vibrant in the entire Order. We have achieved **117%** of our annual membership goal, welcoming over **700 new Knights** into our ranks. Through your dedication and commitment, we have earned our fifth consecutive **Circle of Honor Award**, and on pace for our fifth straight Pinnacle award placing us as the **number 9 jurisdiction out of 75** in the entire Order. Additionally, I want to report that we have surpassed our goal in fourth Degree membership at 110%. Making South Carolina the only Jurisdiction in the SE. territory to reach this remarkable milestone.

This growth reflects our response to Christ's call. In **Matthew 4:19**, Jesus said, "*Come after me, and I will make you fishers of men.*" We have embraced this mission with incredible results:

- **Elite Council Performance:**
 - 29 councils hit 100% of their goal.
 - 9 councils are over 200%.
 - 4 councils are surpassed 300%
 - And 2 elite councils broke the **400% mark**- setting a standard of excellence for all.
 - 6900 Citadel at 400% in Charleston Lead by GK Eathan CIZAUSKAS in District 9 Lead by Don Tretola and Irmo council 6892 led by GK Howard Hughes (better known as Big Daddy) at 466.67% in District 10 Paul LaRosa. We are on pace for a record number of star districts.
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- **Individual Excellence:**
- **at the end of the 3rd quarter**

Our top recruiters exemplify the spirit of evangelization and fraternity:

#1 Brother agent **Brandon Chambers** as the number one recruiter in the state with 119 **new Knights**.

#2 Brother knight and chancellor, PGK of council 6892 Irmo Frank Rozonkiewicz with 22.

#3 Brother Agent Shane Goheen with 20.

#4 Brother Agent Micheal Sibila with 19.

#5 From Council 12263 in Bluffton the Member ship director John Boyko with 18.

- **Council Momentum:** Summerville Council 6629 welcomed 45 new Knights in a single weekend.
- Anderson council 8295 brought in 25 with over 80 men and families in attendance during their CUF degree.

II. Unwavering Charitable Impact: The Ultrasound Initiative

Our commitment to charity remains the Heartbeat of our order.

Echoing **Proverbs 31:8**, "*Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves,*"

"we have made a powerful impact across our state. This year alone raised over **\$314,000** and dedicated more than **42,500 volunteer hours** in service to others.

Our **Ultrasound Initiative** continues to be a defining mission:

- With 3 new machines installed this year in Seneca, Lexington, and Florence - South Carolina now has **36 machines** valued at over \$1.3 million. With one more just got approved in Anderson this April for a total of 37 Machines.
- Each machine represents protected lives, families supported, and hope restored. This is the tangible expression of our faith in action.

III. Faith in Action: Program Excellence

Our faith is the foundation of everything we do. As we are reminded in **James 2:18**: "*Show me your faith without deeds, and I will show you my faith by my deeds.*"

IV. This year, we strengthened our spiritual unity across the state by launching a statewide monthly rosary program, bringing together Brother Knights and their families in prayer. We also hosted a statewide Archdiocese of the Military Webinar and conducted FS informational nights- equipping our leaders and strengthening the operational excellence of our councils.

Brothers, what we have accomplished together is extraordinary- but more importantly, it is meaningful. We are building not just a stronger order, but a stronger church, stronger families, and a stronger future. And while taking pride in these achievements, we also recognize that our mission continues. The call to serve, to lead and grow remains before us.

Let us move forward with Faith, with unity, and with unwavering commitment- always remembering that what we do, we do for the glory of God.

Thank you and may God continue to Bless you all, the Knights of Columbus and the great State of South Carolina.

V. A Personal Word of Farewell

As I am preparing to represent South Carolina at the Supreme Convention in Denver this August, I must share that I will not be seeking a second term as your State Deputy. This was a difficult decision, but it is the right one for my family and for this office.

I am reminded of **2 Timothy 4:7**: "*I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith.*" I hand over a balance sheet of integrity and a jurisdiction of strength. I want to thank the retiring District Deputies and, most importantly, our wives and families, whose support makes this service possible. Brothers, as I pass the gavel, I have one humble request: **Ask one Catholic man to join the Knights of Columbus.** Let us continue to cast our nets wide, knowing that South Carolina's best days are still ahead.

Fraternally

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Knights of Columbus

South Carolina- State Deputy

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