

# Siena Post Dispatch

A Monthly Publication of Siena Council No. 8596  
Knights of Columbus P.O. Box 271, Dundee, IL 60118  
April, 2006

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## Grand Knights Message

### A Tribute to James Winstead G. K. February 4, 1946 – March 14, 2006



(l – r) SK Don Miller, SK Dan Biggins,  
SK Fred McCarthy and SK James  
Winstead G.K. – 4<sup>th</sup> Ceremony – Marmion  
Academy, Batavia, IL – October, 2005

This April's Siena News Letter is being dedicated to the memory of S.K. James Winstead, who was our Siena Council's faithful Grand Knight until his unexpected death on March 13, 2006. Jim was a loyal, hardworking, and faithful brother of our council. Now he is sharing God's loving grace with the other faithful knights that have gone before him, and is with us in spirit.

I remembered when I first met Jim a few years ago, at an Otter Creek school function where his wife, Cindi, was a teacher. My first impression of him was that he thoroughly enjoyed life and was very much a family man. At that time I didn't know Jim was a member of the Knights of Columbus. When I became a Knight a little over two years ago, I was quite surprised to see Jim was a member. He provided me guidance and direction as a new Knight in our council. We became closer friends because our membership in the same council, or should I say now brothers of the greatest fraternal organization in the world. Jim & I shared common goals as members of Siena Council.

Even though Jim appeared to be apprehensive about being our Grand Knight, I knew he was the right person for the position. He demonstrated and thoroughly performed the tasks of the Grand Knight position up until the Lord took him from us. Jim was totally dedicated and persevered in fulfilling the obligations and duties of being our Grand Knight.

Now, as the designated Grand Knight, I pray and hope that I can continue to perform the duties of the office as Jim would have done and be of service to my fellow brother Knights.

As a tribute to Jim, I have asked the brothers of our council to share their memories or thoughts about him and to have them published in April's news letter. The following are

thoughts and memories about our departed brother:

“I don’t know who recruited S.K. Jim Winstead; I wish I had been the one. Whoever did it deserves a super job well done. We have been blessed with a number of excellent grand knights over the past few years, but Jim was special. I know of no council member more dedicated to revitalizing (as he put it) our council. Whether it was seeking ideas from members, blood donors, hosting a summer picnic, and even his not so good idea of offering an incentive to become a knight, Jim was always thinking and trying different ways of getting the K. of C. message out. If you needed something done, he pitch in, never worrying about how many were not there to help. Seeing the amount and the length of service he had given to our blood drive, I offered to find him a replacement to run them. He wouldn’t hear of it.

Physically a big man, he was a larger than life personality among us. When I talked to members of other councils at his wake, the common theme they repeated was his warmth and hospitality, at our first degree ceremonies. They said he made them feel welcome. Personally, I remember his dumb and funny jokes. It seemed he had at least one to tell at every meeting. If that weren’t enough, he would send an email with another one. Jim’s zest for life was obvious. He was a gift from God to all who knew him. I miss him greatly. He was a huge loss to each and every one of us. Jim, you did well. Rest in peace, my friend”

### **S.K. Fred McCarthy**

“I have a fond memory of spending a Saturday afternoon with him last summer afternoon with him last summer for the Altar Server picnic. This important to him and he did all of the prep work.....the shopping and the hauling. Just a few servers and their families came as well as Father Dave but it was a real success thanks to Jim’s enthusiasm and his big heart”

### **S.K. Hank Schmalen**

“We didn’t know Jim long, but it doesn’t take long to feel very deeply about this fine man. At the moment Jim caught of you, he flashed his arms and welcoming smile. He energized off of making others happy with his goofy jokes and emails. He had a great sense of humor. But far greater than that, he genuinely cared and was sensitive and compassionate to other people. As our Grand Knight, we will remember Jim most in how he put people at ease and brought the best out of others. His greatest asset was in encouraging fellowship...not just between Knights...but their families as welcome He is a huge loss to all that knew him. We he artfully miss him!

### **Terry and Fran Kreplin**

“I know that I speak for all of the brothers at St. Margaret Mary council when I say that we miss Jim. His humor and easy manor really made you want to be around him. Perhaps the most impressive thing was his love of his family, his love of his church, and his love of the Knights. Anyone that spent even a few minutes around him could tell that those were the things that mattered in his life. He was a shining example of Knighthood, and what the Knights meant.

I personally fell privileged to have been able to participate with Jim in the degrees both at Siena, and St. MM. Working with him on the October major degree, as well as the numerous 1<sup>st</sup> degrees that did together e was the consummate professional, and again a great example for those new members that he helped to initiate.

In closing, I don’t think I will ever forget the 1<sup>st</sup> degree that we did in February at St. MM came to observe as it was the 1<sup>st</sup> time that we conducting the new degree. We were significantly delayed as we waited the arrival of a candidate. People were getting tense, and Jim, in his easy manor and bad attempt at Irish brogue, decided it was the perfect time to tell the story how Paddy and his Irish tavern

buddies were going to overthrow France. That perhaps the best 5-minutes of the evening, and it certainly eased the tension. The day Jim passed away, a cousin of mine sent that story in an email, and I immediately flashed back to that night in February and laughed.

We'll miss you Jim!

Vivat Jesus,

**SK Dan Schneider, and all the Brothers at St. Margaret Mary Council**

I want to express a sincere thanks to the brothers that expressed their memories and thoughts of SK Jim Winstead. May his soul rest forever in God's grace.

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### **Fourth Degree Exemplification**

There will be a fourth degree ceremony that will be conducted on Saturday, April 29, 2006 at the Purple Hotel, Lincolnwood, Illinois. The hotel is located at the intersection of Touhy and Lincoln Ave. If you're a 3<sup>rd</sup> degree Knight and have been for over one year, this opportunity to advance to a Sir Knight.

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### **Degree Team**

Jim was a key member of the degree team, which has created a vacancy. In March's newsletter, a request was made to welcome any brothers, who would like to be a participant in this all important team. If you are interested in joining this prestigious team and serving our council, please call Don Miller at (847) 426-9552 or email me at don miller [7351@sbcglobal.net](mailto:7351@sbcglobal.net).

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### **Keep Christ in Christmas Magnets**

It has been proposed by SK Hank Smalen that the council consider purchasing 600 magnets for the upcoming Christmas season. The magnets cost is \$1.00 ea. or \$600.00. The magnets would be sold for \$3.00 ea. The motion was tabled for Publication, and will be presented again at April's business meeting for a vote.

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**HAPPY BIRTHDAY**

- Rev Max J. Striedl Jr**
- SK James Merva**
- Robert Costello**
- Richard Corbett**
- Thomas Fraser**
- James Clarke**
- Christopher Reedy**
- Ion Nicolaescu**
- Miacael Wyatt**
- Kenneth Danyluk**
- Steven Shafer**
- SK James Cury**
- Daniel Schroder**
- SK Robert Zarrillo**

### **Coming Events**

**Officer Meeting - April 6 7:00 PM**

**Business Meeting - April 10 7:30 PM**

**4 TH Degree Exemplification - April 29, 2006**

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