



Knights of Columbus

Fourth Degree
Calvert Province

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September 27, 2020

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Vice Supreme Master
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From: Micheal W. Thumm, FM, FDD, PGK, PFN
Vice Supreme Master

To: Masters of the Calvert Province
Provincial Marshal, Calvert Province

Subj: Policy concerning dress options in Calvert Province for Sir Knights to assist at certain events

Worthy Sir Knights,

As we work on the continued fielding of the Official Dress Uniform, this policy is issued to address cases where the Color Corps with the Official Dress Uniform and Regalia* is not available for events such as wakes/viewings. In those cases, where at least four (4) sir knights in the Official Dress Uniform and Regalia are not expected, assemblies can ask their members to turn out dressed in a dark suit (black, dark grey or navy blue) and long tie with the Social Baldric worn over the tie, a PG-113 Lapel Pin, White Gloves optional, if all have them available. If at the time of execution, four (4) sir knights in the Official Dress Uniform and Regalia turn out, when not expected, those in suits should not be turned away, but rather allowed to participate. Also, sir knights in a dark suit and social baldric may serve as pall bearers.

Assemblies are not to use this dark suit attire with their members in any situation where a marching Honor Guard or Color Guard is required. That requirement will be filled by Color Corps members in the Official Dress Uniform and Regalia only. The Sir Knights participating in a dark suit are not authorized to use the Service Baldric or the Sword.

In the case of a wake service, there may be Sir Knights participating in the Official Dress Uniform and Regalia, and in dark suits. Sir Knights in the Official Dress Uniform and Regalia must be posted by themselves (if only one present) or two together. Sir Knights in dark suits must be posted by themselves (if only one present) or together. Please remember that Sir Knights in different attire are never to be posted together. When posting, as pairs or individual, salute (hand salute if in suit; sword salute if in the Official Dress Uniform and Regalia) either when just arriving with the Commander or the Marshal to assume the guard, or when rejoining the Commander or the Marshal to retire. Do not salute while in the guard position. If there is only a single guard, then that guard will be at the head of the casket.

For local events, other than a wake service, such as membership drives, all participating Sir Knights may be in the Official Dress Uniform or other attire appropriate for the event. If it is an event requiring a marching Honor Guard or a Color Guard, then only Color Corps members in the Official Dress Uniform and Regalia may participate.

If the Clergy desired to use Knights in Dark suits and wearing the Yellow Ceremonial Sashes (Third Degree/Council dress), that could be an acceptable alternative.

Processions will only be led by Color Corps in the Official Dress Uniform and Regalia for participation in Liturgical, Diocesan, District, Provincial, or Supreme events. Sir Knights in a dark suit, long tie with the Social Baldric worn over the tie, a PG-113 lapel pin and white gloves optional, if all have them available, may serve as line or row guards for a fourth/patriotic degree exemplification. Although not required

to become a Fourth Degree member, sir knights are encouraged to acquire the Official Dress Uniform and Regalia and to assist with color corps duties. At such time that enough sir knights have purchased the Official Dress Uniform and Regalia to cover these events, this policy will be discontinued.

* In the Laws and Rules of the Fourth Degree with amendments to and including the year 2017, the **Official Dress Uniform** is defined in Section 38 to include the blazer, trousers, necktie, black beret, plain white shirt, black socks and plain black shoes, official fourth degree lapel pin, incumbent medal of office and past and former miniature medals above left blazer pocket. Color Corps **Regalia** is defined in Section 40 as the official dress uniform with the addition of service baldric, sword, and white gloves.

Patriotically yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Michael W. Thumm". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal flourish at the end.

SK Micheal W. Thumm
Colonel, USMC, Retired
Vice Supreme Master

CC: SK Joe Murtha, FM/Provincial Secretary, File