

## History of Council 7968



It was during the fall of 1981 that a Fourth Degree Knight called Thomas Lovito was approached by District Deputy Bob Truno, from Pensacola, about starting a Knights Council in Crestview. The search was on for 30 Catholic men from within Crestview's small number of parishioners who would be interested in joining.

The search was successful and the application was submitted to the Supreme Council. On January 31, 1982 this group of men received a Charter from the Supreme Council which officially established Our Lady of Victory Council 7968 of the Knights of Columbus. The first business meeting convened at 7 pm on February 15, 1982 in the rectory office of the church. At that meeting, the council decided to meet on the second and fourth Wednesday of each month.

Brother Ron Irlbeck moved that the council initiate a corporate communion on a monthly basis. The tradition began in March 1982. The first two members inducted by the new council were Joseph J. Remkus and Jerry L. Brown. On March 1, 1982 Council 778 in Pensacola conducted their induction.

At the meeting of June 9, 1982, Brother Ted Thomas made a motion that the Council take over the church bingo and that "...the entire membership, through work, support the bingo activity." When Brother Don Widmaier seconded the motion another tradition began. Bingo was conducted using the National Guard Armory facility at a cost of \$400 per month.

### Original Council Officers

Grand Knight Tom Lovito  
Deputy Don Widmaier  
Chaplain Fr. Anthony Kiem  
Financial Secretary Joe Scheid  
Treasurer Moses Crain

Chancellor John O'Brien  
Recorder John Yanora  
Advocate Ted Thomas  
Warden Gerald Bergschneider  
Inside Guard Don Wallman  
Outside Guard Ken Woodard  
Lecturer Don D'Lusky  
1st Year Trustee Ron Irlbeck  
2nd Year Trustee Bob Willis  
3rd Year Trustee Joe Fellenz

In an effort to reduce costs and secure a permanent home for the Knights, a charter member-- Jerry Bergschneider, spearheaded a move to purchase a facility. His wife, Yvonne--a real estate agent, located a building for sale at 701 East Highway 90. The cost--\$45,000. Five knights volunteered to underwrite the mortgage loan; they were: Tom Lovito, Ron Irlbeck, Don Widmaier, Jerry Bergschneider and Joe Scheid. In four years, the 30-year mortgage was paid off.

Soon thereafter, the knights realized they had outgrown the facility and agreed to expand it. In 1989, Joe Scheid, Jerry Bergschneider, Roy Troglin and Joe Fellenz underwrote a new mortgage of \$62,000. That 30-year mortgage was paid in full in 1993. The knights assisted in the construction. The remodeled facility is so well equipped and centrally located that, in addition to the normal use for Knights' functions, it is rented to the town community in general.



