
KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS, Mother Seton Council #5427

79 Pascack Road, Township of Washington, NJ 07676

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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WORLD WAR II VET VITO TRAUSE

Township of Washington, NJ, June 15, 2020–

Knights of Columbus Mother Seton Council #5427 of the Township of Washington held a Memorial Day Fundraiser in honor of brother knight and World War II veteran, Vito Trause. Council member George Kuzma came up with the idea of selling lawn signs to honor Vito and his fellow veterans. One sign is a classic picture of a smiling Vito in his Army sweatshirt, wearing his trademark Army cap, with the American Flag in the background. The other is a picture of American Flag waving in the sky.

Kuzma said, "I will tell you, his passion for Memorial Day was unparalleled. He said often, Memorial Day is the most sacred day because it honors 'Guys that gave their life for the freedom we have today.' His wish, year after year, was that more people would come out on Memorial Day to pay their respects to those who gave their life for us. Vito often reminded his pals, 'You don't know what freedom is until you lose it.'"

The project was a big success, raising \$6,000 for the Vito Trause Scholarship Fund. Many residents had their flags displayed on front lawns throughout the Township for the virtual Memorial Day parade. The signs can still be purchased and donations can be made at Vito.givesmart.com.

Attached is a picture of the Trause home with the signs proudly displayed. The young patriot is Sophia Kuzma, George's daughter, one of many young people in town who knew and loved Vito.

The Knights of Columbus was founded in 1882 at St. Mary's Church in New Haven, Connecticut, by Fr. Michael J. McGivney. It is the world's largest Catholic fraternal organization with nearly 1.9 million members worldwide. It is also one of the most active charitable organizations in the United States. In the past year, the organization has raised more than \$4.4 million for Christian and other religious minority refugees in the Middle East. The Knights also set new records in fiscal year 2018 for charitable giving with donations of \$185.7 million and 76.7 million hours of hands-on service to charitable causes. In calendar year 2019, Mother Seton Council contributed \$68,785 to charities and awarded \$4,000 in scholarships.

Applications for membership in the Knights of Columbus are welcome from qualified individuals. For more information call 201-664-0422, or go to our website, www.kofc5427.com.