



Knights of Columbus Newsletter

Reverend Robert F. Houlihan S.J

Council 10937

Highlands Ranch, CO

Special Newsletter, August, 2013

Our Financial Secretary, Josh Tracy Killed In Clear Creek Accident

This special newsletter, in place of the regular monthly newsletter, is a tribute to Josh Tracy who died in a vehicular accident in Clear Creek on Monday, July 29th. Josh became our council's Financial Secretary when he received his appointment in July. Following are tributes, sentiments, stories and pictures honoring Josh.

Josh Tracy
1975 – 2013
Born To Eternal Life

**A KNIGHTS TRIBUTE TO
A GIANT OF A MAN**

Josh – A Little History

Joshua Elmo Tracy, or Josh, was born in Anaconda, Montana on April 5th, 1975 and grew up in Billings.

Josh went to Skyview High School in Billings, MT, Carroll College in Helena, Montana, and the University of Phoenix. He held a BA in Accounting and Business Administration with an emphasis in Finance Management, an Economics Business Degree and an MBA in Technology Management.

While growing up Josh liked anything to do with sports.

Josh worked for Standard and Poor's Compustat in 1998 and 1999, then Merrill Lynch from 1999 through 2005 and most recently was the Senior Staff Accountant for Isle Corporation.

Josh became a Knight in June of 2011 and just recently received his 4th Degree. You saw Josh at our Fish Fries, Spaghetti Dinners, Pancake Breakfasts, the Peach Sale and Denver Rescue Mission. Josh was also our Financial Secretary, taking over this position in July.

When Josh wasn't doing his Staff Account thing for the Isle Corporation, he motivated high school football players as a coach at Chaparral High School.

Josh was diagnosed with stage 2 brain cancer in February of 2011 and completed his treatment in April of that same year.



Grand Knight Tribute



Joe Musso (jmusso2460@gmail.com)

Josh – A Confidant, Right Hand Man and Friend

- Josh was my confidant.
- Josh was my right hand.
- Josh had my back.
- Josh was my friend.

If Josh wasn't volunteering at the high school, he was volunteering at the church. Josh gave !! He gave joy, he gave friendship, he gave warmth and he gave integrity. When Josh spoke to you, he looked at you, I mean really looked at you. He had my attention and I had his. He respected who he was speaking with and they in turn would offer respect to him.

That is how Josh became important to this Council so quickly, with honor and trust. If Josh said he was going to do something, he did it. He had no interest in doing it partially, he did it completely. Whether it was volunteering or business, he wanted it done correctly, honorably and trustfully.

And that is why I will miss him so deeply. Josh will be fine. We know he is in God's arms and is safe and well. It is me and you who I feel sad for. We will miss his company and the sincere joy he spread. It was a contagious joy and a bright eye to a brighter soul. We will miss that. We miss him for the work that was unfinished and still to be completed together, and for the words on the tip of my tongue still unsaid, until the next time we meet.

I will miss my friend. I finally understand how blessed I am to have had him shape and inspire me.

In Peace,

Joe Musso



Past Grand Knight's Tribute



Paul Sciera (psciera@q.com)

Josh – Overcame Many Trials

Sir Knight Josh Tracy

Life is uncertain and holds no guarantees. We all know what our final destination will be but not when we get there.

We will always have trials on our journey. The mark of a successful life is how we deal with our trials. Josh reached his final destination way before what we all think was his time. He overcame many trials in his life and handled them with a smile. I will miss that smile.

Josh has always been ready to help anyone who needed help. To me Josh was a friend that I was just getting to know and I looked forward to our future friendship. As a friend no one could ask for better. I will miss his friendship.

Brother, Sir Knight Josh Tracy, was an outstanding example to his brother Knights and his journey has ended before he could do the many things that he had planned to do.

I am sure that he is at peace with God and doing what God has planned for him. Life is a precious gift given to us by God. It has taught me just how precious it is when a friend such as Josh is suddenly taken away. Cherish each day and everyone you know for they are our precious gifts to sustain us on our life journey.

Rest in peace my brother, and thanks for the gift knowing you has given me.

God Bless,

Paul Sciera



Deputy Grand Knight Tribute



Gary Mayfield (fmayfield@3h20.net) (303-770-3949)

Josh – A Really Good Friend

I didn't know Josh that long but I will really miss him. He was a very good friend.

Gary Mayfield



Treasurer Tribute



Dennis Cullen (dscullen2@comcast.net)

Josh – A Privilege to Work With

It was also my privilege to work closely with Josh as Treasurer these last couple of months. I will truly miss him, but know he has gone to the love of Christ.

Dennis Cullen

Church Director Tribute



Jay Calvarese

(Reconciliation Dinner, Christmas and Easter Parking, Seminarian Support, Beer and Brats, Adoration, Donuts)

Josh Becomes a 4th Degree Knight

It was my privilege to become a 4th Degree Knight with Josh this past April. Here are pictures of that happy day. I feel blessed to have gotten to spend the whole day with him. Josh would have gone far in the Knights.



Jay Calvarese

Community Director Tribute



Bob Luckner (bobluckner@yahoo.com) (303-809-5942 C)

(Adopt-a-Highway, Tootsie Roll Drive, Bicycle Drive, Fr. Woody's, Denver Rescue Mission)

Josh Working at the Thanksgiving Baskets Event



Bob Luckner

Council Director Tribute



Leonard Leyba (Lenrd2001@yahoo.com)

(Family Social Hour, Monthly Pancake Breakfast and Burritos, Peaches, Fish Fry)

Josh – A Friend In Heaven

I've been a Knight for over 7 years and have many brothers and friends but I never walked into a room or meeting where Josh was that he didn't make an effort to personally greet me. I will miss Josh. I now have another friend in Heaven.

Family of the Month – June (posthumously)



Josh Tracy

It is our pleasure to announce Josh Tracy as Family of the Month for June. Josh has donated countless hours to our council along with his recent appointment as our Financial Secretary. Josh's willingness to give back comes from his mother's (Marilyn) strong faith by continued volunteering through liturgy readings at Sunday Masses.

Leonard Leyba

Family Director Tribute



Bill Hensen (wmhens@msn.com)

(Spaghetti Dinners, Take Dad to the Ball Park, Family Hikes, Air Force Football, Christmas Party)

Josh Cooking Spaghetti



Bill Hensen

Fourth Degree Tribute



Chris Kennedy

Josh - Never Sought the Spotlight

Josh was only in the council for a short while but he made quite an impact on the council. From when he first joined the council Josh looked around at what needed to be done and quietly just got the work done. Josh never put himself forward for recognition and never sought the spotlight. Josh quietly did what needed to be done with a smile and a happy disposition. Josh you will be missed.

Chris Kennedy

Membership Director Tribute



Roger Giudici (Rogerguidici@comcast.net)

Josh at our Membership Drive



Pro Life Director Tribute



Mike McGinnis (michaelmcginnisco@comcast.net)

(Ultra Sound Project, Walk for Alternatives, Pro Life Rosary, Right to Life Mass)

Josh - A Contributor

Dear Josh

Thank you for being who you were, a cheerful, enthusiastic, giving, friendly, and thoughtful person. As a Knight you contributed much to the council and to our Parish. Working with RCIA, you brought many closer to God. As a Chaparral football coach you contributed much to the growth of our youth. Your many other contributions in your life have enriched the lives of many individuals. We are so thankful for you and we know that your happiness now far exceeds any we can ever imagine.

Mike McGinnis

Public Relations Director Tribute



Herb Engler (Herbe805@gmail.com) (303-770-3949)

Josh - A Prince of a Man

As we were watching the evening news on Monday, August 29th, we remarked about the tragic accident that was reported in Clear Creek. No names were mentioned so we had no idea who was involved. Little did we know how that news report would affect our lives in the coming days.

The next morning, Gary called to tell me that Josh had died in an accident in Clear Creek. Only then did I make the connection. After talking with Joe, we

decided to cancel the regular publication of the August Newsletter in favor of a special publication as a tribute to Josh's memory.

On that Monday, I really did not know Josh very well. I had solicited his bio for the July newsletter, so I knew that much about him. And, our paths crossed in meetings and council/parish events. However, after soliciting comments from his Brother Knights, reading and re-reading and organizing this special tribute, I now feel that I know the true depth of the man we called Josh, A Giant of a Man. My conclusion is that he was a prince of a man, of genuine moral and Christian character, a person who would be a privilege to call a friend, one who contributes fully to growing our society in a Christian way, one whose integrity could never be questioned. In other words, he was one of the really, really good ones, one that will surely walk and talk with and praise our God in Heaven.

It was an honor and a privilege to put this tribute together to the man called Josh.

Herb Engler

Youth Director Tribute



Dennis Thumann (dthumann@aol.com)

(303-790-7990)

(Free Throw Contest, Soccer Shoot out, Scholarship, Financial Planning for Youth)

Josh – A Cancer Survivor at The Relay for Life



Josh – Joyful at being able to attend the Relay For Life

Josh was at the Relay For Life a short 72 hours before God called him to his heavenly reward. Although I knew Josh from the Knights, as he was always the first to volunteer when I needed help with a youth event, I didn't really get to know him until he came and visited with me between Masses when I was recruiting for Relay for Life.

We talked about his battle with cancer, about his work career and his excitement for attending his first Relay. He registered both his mother Marilyn and himself for the event.

As Josh and Marilyn were leaving the Relay, I stopped and talked with them briefly, they both expressed their joy with attending the Relay for the first time and anticipated attending them in the future. I know that next year, I will only need to look to the sky to see Josh's smiling face looking down on us.

Dennis Thumann

I'm Angry

Part of me is angry ... anger is part of the grieving process. Have you ever been angry and you don't know at who or why. I am cranky. And I am angry NOT because this news has kept me up at night, NOT because I can hardly work, Not because of my concern for his family, Not because I now need a new Financial Secretary.

And I am not angry at anyone or anything. I am angry for opportunities missed, I am angry for opportunities yet to come and now not to come.

Friday night at Relay for Life he asked me what I was doing on Saturday. He knew darn good and well what he was doing Saturday, he was getting' himself a new truck. I told him I was playing golf and asked him if he could play, well you know what the answer was.

He showed us all that truck on Sunday morning at the pancake breakfast and we were all so happy for him. But I am still angry. He never got to take me for a ride in that truck.

Maybe next time.

Joe Mussa

Josh – A Provider of Faith Formation

Josh was a committed participant and provider of faith formation at Pax Christi for the past five years. His presence, his friendly personality, his happy disposition, and the God-given gifts he shared will be greatly missed.

Josh was a sponsor in RCIA for Marc Zarlengo in 2009-2010 and served as a sponsor for Tim Morgan in 2012-2013. Josh also was an RCIA Team member from 2010-2013. As such, Josh came to every session and ministered as a catechist and small group facilitator. He also provided the hospitality of a parishioner who loved people, and had a great sense of humor! Josh also was present for every RCIA Rite (at least 6 per year) and assisted with a Friday night –Saturday night yearly retreat. As a team member, Josh came to monthly team meetings, training sessions, and attended a three-day Institute for RCIA team members provided by the *North American Forum on the Catechumenate*.

Josh became a catechist for Generations of Faith in 2011. In 2011-2012, Josh was a catechist for 6th graders for two different groups, during the 2nd Sunday afternoon session and the Monday evening session. In 2012-2013, Josh ministered as a catechist for Senior High young people during the 1st Sunday afternoon session and during the 2nd Sunday afternoon session, Josh ministered as a catechist for Junior High young people. As a catechist, Josh participated in three 2-hour Catechist Training sessions prior to catechizing, and participated in seven monthly 2-hour formation sessions in theology and methodology for the two years he ministered as a catechist.

God's peace, *Debbie Vasicek*

Josh – A Gentle Giant

I was honored to have been a friend of Josh for quite some time now. His Mother and I were heavily involved in RCIA together and we considered each other as family.

Josh was one of the special ones. When the defecation hit the rotary device with the brain tumor, he took it in stride and was a living example of how to face adversity and death with a smile because he knew that no matter what happened, God was walking with him in his struggle. He honored me with a hug every time I saw him, and he always wanted to know how I was doing -such is the way of a good man and a brother.

My daughter Madison, loved him in Generations of Faith. She liked his way of teaching and the simple relative stories he brought to the classes. She was crushed with the news of his untimely death.

I too do not fear for his future because I know he is with his heavenly Father, it is those of us who remain that I fear for. Those of us who suffer the loss of a gentle giant and a great man of God. Go in peace my brother.

Keith Haley

Josh – A Model Knight

I always looked to Josh as a model Knight dedicating his life to charity, unity, fraternity and paternity. Below are some examples: He was a catechist for Generations of Faith and on the RCIA team. I taught GOF with Josh for the last couple of years. Josh would teach 2-3 classes for each month's session. Most people complain about teaching one. He went over and above the call of duty to ensure that the 5-6th graders and 7-8th graders or the high schoolers always had a catechist. I admired him for his sacrifice and commitment. He didn't have to help, but he always did....CHARITY

I am not sure how many years Josh was involved in RCIA but it was a bunch. Again, Josh would give freely of his time and talent to catechize the candidates. He went through the 9-10 month process each year and rarely missed a session. He was the sponsor for many new candidates and an authentic example of a good catholic man.

Josh worked with local area high school sports teams (Machbeuf and Chaparral) coaching and assisting young athletes with football, basketball and baseball games, tournaments and practices. He would drive all over the Denver metro area helping these schools. Again, he was an inspiration to me because he set the bar for helping others....CHARITY.

Josh was a frequent helper for many of the KoC events and always a smiling face to greet you. I remember working with Josh plowing snow, making breakfast, during the fish fries, spaghetti dinners and reconciliation dinners for visiting priests. Josh was the new Knights of

Columbus' financial secretary. He helped out with many other events; those are the ones that I attended. I always loved talking with him about how busy he was and what activities he was doing at the time. He was always upbeat and it gave me the fuel to want to do the same....UNITY and FRATERNITY.

God Bless your soul Josh, I will miss you here on earth but I look forward to seeing all of the activities that you are helping with in heaven...I am sure your soul won't be still. You lived a good life and you were a good example for many.

Alan Brown
