



## Knights of Columbus Fourth Degree Korean & Vietnam War Census Program



**Objective:** The Fourth Degree will conduct a census of the membership to establish a record of service in the Korean and Vietnam Wars.

**Purpose:** Following the World Wars, the Order documented war service by its members. The results of these efforts are recorded in the archives at the Blessed Michael J. McGivney Pilgrimage Center. Similar efforts were not conducted following either the Korean or Vietnam Wars.

**Significance:** The Korean War commenced in 1950, making the approximate minimum age of surviving veterans ninety-one. Similarly, the approximate minimum age of surviving Vietnam veterans serving from 1965-1973 is 68-76.

**Considerations:** Both the Korean and Vietnam Wars marked a significant departure in how troops served and returned from war, as service was no longer for the duration. Gone were the hero's welcome on return. Vietnam veterans in particular returned to a hostile and divided nation, where they were either overlooked or criticized for their service.

**Execution:** Assemblies working in conjunction with their assigned councils will conduct a census of their membership using the attached form. Where possible, documented service of deceased members will be recorded. Guidelines for the census will be forthcoming.

**Qualifications:** Inclusion in the census shall be limited to veterans meeting the requirements established by Congress for the Korean and Vietnam Service Medals, *to wit* 25 June 1950-27 July 1953 for Korea and 3 July 1965-28 March 1973 for Vietnam.

**Timeline:** The program will culminate with a Mass at the National Basilica of the Immaculate Conception on Saturday, April 26, 2025, in recognition of the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the end of the Vietnam War (April 30, 2025). Following Mass, the Supreme Officers and Board of Directors with an escort of a 4<sup>th</sup> Degree Honor Guard will lay wreaths at the Korean and Vietnam War Memorials. Certificates recognizing service will be delivered to surviving veterans via their councils.