Potomac Assembly # 2204
Sir Knight of the Year Nomination
Fraternal Year 2017-2018

Sir Knight Herbert Ray Duff

Assembly Name and Number: Potomac Assembly 2204

Faithful Navigator: Sir Knight Charles Coates, 2PGK.

Part One: Nominee Information

Name of nominee: Sir Knight Herbert Ray Duff

Spouse's name: Renee Duff

Year he joined the Fourth Degree: 2006

Name of his home Council: Mount Vernon Council 5998

Name of his home parish: Good Shepherd Catholic Church

Part Two: Basis for Nomination

Devotion to and Involvement with his Family:

This Sir Knight is a wonderful husband and father and a devoted Catholic. He has been married to his lovely wife Renee for 47 years. They have a son Troy who is married and has a son just graduated from kindergarten. Ray is also one of the stalwarts in his Church. He is a Eucharistic Minister, a leader and teacher in the RCIA program, and is the liaison to the Youth Activities, Funerals, and the Altar Server program. Prior to joining our Assembly, he was the charter Grand Knight in Council 14141 in Millington, TN. He also served as the State Recruitment Director and was responsible for new Councils and Assemblies in the state of Tennessee. Ray and Renee make a wonderful team. Whenever there is a social or function, they will both be leading the way. They are always in the forefront setting up tables, organizing food, and making everyone fell welcome. They are a tremendous asset to our Church and Assembly. Young families in the parish often seek out their guidance for finding their way forward in a Catholic relationship.

Active Involvement in his Assembly:

Ray is very active in the Potomac Assembly and has led a variety of social, color corps and honor guard activities during the course of this fraternal year. He has been the Color Corps Commander since 2014 and as such has set up and participated in Color Corps certification courses and made sure we were all fully trained and qualified in our duties. He has worked to ensure that we have many opportunities to meet our Patriotic responsibilities. His previous color guard experiences in the military and his understanding of the Knights of Columbus drill procedures as outlined in Supremes' Color Corps Drill Manual has led to extraordinary results. Our Color Guard and Color Corps participation in the Alexandria President's Day Parade has won a 2nd and a 3rd place award in the Color Guard/Honor Guard categories the last two years. (The Army's Old Guard marching units have won these years. This is pretty tough competition.) He sets the example for the team to follow and when new members join the team, he volunteers to mentor them through the training process. On

numerous occasions, he either has been the senior guard or carries the National Flag. Ray also manages all the excess regalia. He brings multiple sets to all the Color Corps events and makes sure that the regalia is clean and wrinkle free. He also makes sure everyone has the correct pin for the occasion and it is all worn properly.

Ray continues to donate his time, resources, talent, and labor to support various events and activities sponsored by Good Shepherd Catholic Church and the Mount Vernon Council # 5998. He leads the Patriotic Rosary each first Saturday. He has established a rotation among the churches that are part of the Assembly and has worked hard to grow this devotion. During one of the rotations, we linked up with the Boy Scouts of the Basilica of Saint Mary. The Scouts provided some of the leaders for the decades of the rosary and after completion of the Patriotic Rosary we moved outside and SK in regalia worked with the Scouts on a flag retirement ceremony. We were able to retire over 45 old, dirty, and torn US flags.

Active Involvement and Commitment to his Church and his Community:

Ray is very active in his council activities. He is a regular bingo caller for the Mount Vernon bingo nights. Through his leadership, the council raised over $100,000 dollars for charity this last year. His leadership in other activities of the council and Home Corporation are greatly responsible for their success. For the Color Corps, he has coordinated viewings, funeral masses, and burials. This has been a very bad year with 9 deaths of SK or family members so far. Under his direction, the Color Corps has provided the family support during their very difficult time. In other activities, he has led support for our Bishop for Confirmations and special Masses such as the Corpus Christi procession, special feast day celebrations such as the Irish Hooley on Saint Patrick's Day, the dedication of the Trinity Dome at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception (part of a 65 SK Color Corps), the Annual Memorial Mass for the Archdiocese for the Military Services, the Annual Benefit for the Archdiocese for the Military Services, and the Pilgrimage for the Sea Services at the National Shrine of Elizabeth Ann Seton, He also had a contingent at the Columbus Day Celebration in Washington D.C. Color Corps and Honor Guard participation has increased by over 25-percent. This is largely due to Ray's ability to build confidence in others and reminding them that active Catholic citizenship is the norm, not the exception in supporting our church, priests and bishops.

He can always be counted on to give good solid advice and all of us look to him to keep us moving forward in support of our Church, Assembly and Council, parish, and community. He does not seek recognition for his many contributions and good works, he just continues to show up and lead the way. His leadership, hard work, and wisdom truly set him apart as a Sir Knight who sets a sterling example for all of us to follow.

For his dedicated service to his Church, his family, the community, and the Knights of Columbus, it is my distinct pleasure in naming Sir Knight Herbert Ray Duff as the Sir Knight of the Year for Potomac Assembly 2204. Furthermore, I strongly encourage you to select him as the Virginia District Sir Knight of the Year for Fraternal Year 2017-2018. SK Ray is most deserving of the award.

Submitted by: SK Charles Coates, 2PGK, Navigator, Potomac Assembly 2204

Date: June 7, 2018