

SENATE RESOLUTION

8613

By Senators Fortunato and Padden

1 WHEREAS, The Knights of Columbus, founded in 1882 by the
2 venerable Father Michael Joseph McGivney, is the world's largest
3 Catholic fraternal service organization, with over 1.9 million
4 members and fifteen thousand councils worldwide; and

5 WHEREAS, The Knights of Columbus was instituted to serve working-
6 class and immigrant Catholics in the United States who faced
7 discrimination, unfairness, and exclusion from public life; and

8 WHEREAS, The Knights of Columbus were active during the Cristero
9 War, starting schools and hospitals and invigorating the spiritual
10 life of parishes between 1910 and 1930; and

11 WHEREAS, The Knights of Columbus initiated a campaign in 1951 to
12 lobby for the public adoption of the phrase "under God" in the United
13 States Pledge of Allegiance that eventually led the way to the
14 signing of the phrase into law by President Dwight D. Eisenhower on
15 Flag Day, June 14, 1954; and

16 WHEREAS, The Knights of Columbus are dedicated to living out the
17 mission of the Church through charitable, humanitarian, and
18 philanthropic works, contributing over 1.5 billion dollars to charity
19 in the past ten years alone; and

20 WHEREAS, The Knights of Columbus work to support refugees fleeing
21 violence and persecution in the Middle East including the rebuilding
22 of Karamles, a Christian village in Iraq that had been devastated by

1 ISIS, and construction of housing for Syriac and Chaldeans in Erbil;
2 and

3 WHEREAS, The Knights of Columbus are committed to supporting and
4 defending the Catholic faith and promoting Catholic education in
5 ninety-six Catholic schools in Washington state; and

6 WHEREAS, The more than seventeen thousand members of the Knights
7 of Columbus in Washington state in one hundred sixty-five councils
8 continue to serve their communities, parishes, schools, and our state
9 and nation with acts of charity rooted in the Catholic tradition;

10 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Washington State Senate
11 recognize and commend the contributions of the Knights of Columbus to
12 a strong civil society, for their work serving the poor and
13 vulnerable in our state and around the world, reflected in their
14 principles of charity, unity, fraternity, and patriotism.

--- END ---