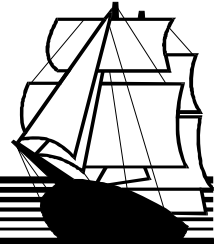


MARINER



K N I G H T S O F C O L U M B U S

Volume 26, Number 1

March 2013

SERVING OUR CHURCH AND COMMUNITY

2012-2013 Council Program entry: Selling Christmas trees and building a fraternity

(Project Lead, SK Geoff Smith)

Council 8600 has been selling Christmas trees for more than 25 years. The pricing of our trees outsells three of the nearby competitors and more than any other council in District 14. The success of our program is attributed to the quality of the trees we select, scheduling and outstanding customer service. The planning begins in early August when our Christmas Tree Committee selects the type and size of trees and continues until the last tree is off the lot. Over the past 10 years we have sold, on the average, more than 750 trees each Christmas season. In a few recent years, we have sold more than 800 trees with less than four trees unsold.

Our Christmas Tree Sales Program involves more than 70 percent of our membership. In 2012, we scheduled 397 knights in 54 shifts and grossed more than \$52,000 in sales. Our net profit was more than \$24,000. This project is one of our largest fund raisers. Over the past 10-year period (2003-2012), we grossed more than \$520,000 in Christmas tree sales with a net profit of more than \$240,000. More importantly, this project gets the most of our knights involved and creates an atmosphere of fun and fellowship.



NOTE: See more Christmas tree sales photos on Page 10.

This project, held at St. Mary of Sorrows Historic Church, is a legacy project for our council. The grounds to the Historic Church, built in 1858 by the area farmers and Irish railroad workers, is where Clara Barton ministered and comforted a very large number of wounded and dying soldiers during the Civil War,

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Grand Knight's Message



Brother Knights,

March is the time for spring, for baseball, for cleaning up the yard. It is also the time when the State Council requires all 168 councils in the state to highlight one project accomplished in each of our service areas (Youth, Family, Council, Community, Church and Culture of Life). This issue of the *Mariner* focuses on what we have reported to the State Council for fraternal year 2012-2013. I hope you enjoy reading about our highlights and viewing the pictures related to these events.

More important than whatever we have accomplished, in March we begin the season of Lent, where for 40 days Catholics throughout the world devote themselves to deepening their relationship with Him. Imagine the scope and beauty of all the Catholics in this world, over one billion in this world, seeking the Lord and asking Him to renew each of us as individuals and communities of faith.

(Continued on Page 2.)

Grand Knight's Message

(Continued from Page 1)

I hope that journey is bringing you happiness this season of Lent.

This March is also unique. A new Holy Father will be selected to lead and protect our Church. Please continue your prayers for our Church as we say:

O Lord Jesus Christ, Supreme Pastor of Your Church, we thank You for the ministry of Pope Benedict XVI and the selfless care with which he has led us as Successor of Peter, and Your Vicar on earth.

Good Shepherd, who founded Your Church On the rock of Peter's faith and have never left Your flock untended, look with love upon us now, and sustain Your Church in faith, hope and charity.

Grant, Lord Jesus, in Your boundless love for us, a new Pope for Your Church who will please You by his holiness and lead us faithfully to You, who are the same yesterday, today and forever.

Amen.

Fraternally,
R. David Lopez (Dave)
grandknight@kofc8600.org

Form #100 Belongs in All of These Places

- Briefcase
- In Your Pocket
- Near Your Phone
- Glove Compartment
- Everywhere You Go!



**SIGN UP A
NEW MEMBER
TODAY!**



KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

In Memorium



Sir Knight Wait Chatterton Johnson
"Bud"
August 13, 1930 - February 1, 2013

Afterglow

I'd like the memory of me
to be a happy one,
I'd like to leave an afterglow
of smiles when life is done.
I'd like to leave an echo
whispering softly down the ways,
of happy times and laughing times and
bright and sunny days.
I'd like the tears of those who grieve,
to dry before the sun,
of happy memories that I leave
when life is done.
Your life was love for your family true,
you did your best for all of us, we will
always remember you.

VJ

The Chaplain's Corner

The Process of Reconciliation



As part of the human condition, we realize that we are susceptible to the power of sin in our lives. As Catholics we are blessed with the sacrament of reconciliation. It is a concrete sign of the forgiveness of our sins by Jesus, and it helps us to get closer to God by removing the sin that gets between us and a healthy relationship with God. There are four parts to rite of the sacrament of reconciliation:

Contrition. As penitents, we need to approach the sacrament with a contrite heart. A contrite heart is sorrowful for the sin committed, and because it loves God, it resolves to avoid the sin in the future. If we are truly sorry for the sin we have committed, we will have a change of heart that will enable us to become true followers of Christ and His teachings. In essence we become like Jesus, who is our model of how we should live our lives.

Confession. The Holy Spirit convicts us of our sin, and this results in a heartfelt sorrow for the sin committed. Confession is an outward sign that the sorrow within us is genuine. Confession of our sin is a sign that we are sincere as we humbly approach the Lord's healing touch in the sacrament. Confession can be a difficult thing to do, but in doing so; we take our sin to Jesus and ask for the grace of not committing the sin again. We also experience healing of the hurt that has been caused in us because of the sin. Psychologists say that healing of inner hurts begins with a verbal expression of our

deeply hidden inclinations and problems. This is also true in the sacrament of reconciliation where in exposing our inner heart to God's loving mercy, we face up to the truth about ourselves. In doing so, we receive spiritual guidance and encouragement from the priest who demonstrates for us God's love, concern, and forgiveness.

Act of Penance (satisfaction). A true sense of sorrow for what we have done will lead us to acts of penance or satisfaction for the sin that we have done. We demonstrate our desire to turn away from our sinful ways by repairing any harm that has been done by the sin. The priest will assign a penance to fit the penitent. These acts of penance should not be viewed as burdens, but rather as an opportunity provided to us by God to repair the harm committed. By performing these prayers, good works, etc., it helps us to put the sin behind us, and get us on the road to following the Lord again.

Absolution. The priest's words of absolution are the prayer to God by the church for the sinner. These are a visible sign of God's love for us and of His forgiveness. These words reassure us that we have been truly forgiven by God. The words also remind us of the joy felt in Heaven when a repentant sinner returns to God.

(Continued on Page 7.)

FROM OUR YOUTH COMMITTEE DIRECTOR . . .

2012-2013 Youth Program entry: A diversity of projects to build future leaders

(Project Lead, Steve Morales)

Being the Youth Chair for the Knights of Columbus Council 8600 affords me the honor of interacting with various organizations that look to the Knights for support. These organizations include the Cub Scouts, Boy Scouts and Venture Scouts of America, Youth Ministry; altar servers and the Squires and Squire Roses. Each of these groups have been active this past fraternal year in our local community with projects that earn them badges and help them attain goals put before them.

One of these groups that I happen to work closely with because I am the chief Squire counselor is the



Council 8600 Squires and Squire Roses receive certificates.

Columbian Squires circle 3992. The Columbian Squires was started about 11 years ago as a way for young catholic teens to be part of an organization that reinforces strong moral values, develops strong character and provides for positive leadership responsibilities. Currently our membership age range is a good mix of 10 to 18 years of age, and they attend our meetings which is once a month.

This past fraternal year the Squires Circle 3992 started out with a service project by taking part in the setup and cleanup of the Seminarian Picnic at St. Mary's Historic Church on August 4 for the seminarians of the Arlington Diocese. Over 30 seminarians attended plus their

family members. Part of the Squire's project was to meet every seminarian, learn a little about them and report back to the membership their findings. As a result of this service project the membership made a motion and voted to support two seminarians each to receive \$250 toward their vocation.

A circle activity that the Squires and Squire Roses organize is the annual children's Christmas party held in December in Farrell Hall. This past year, 11 tables were set up with various arts and crafts for the children to create a Christmas ornament, picture, jewelry, paper airplane, flowers and or buttons to wear. The Squires and Squire Roses decorated the room and Christmas tree with festive ornaments and played Christmas music while the children and parents ate hotdogs, chips, cookies and brownies and washed it down with soda for the kids and coffee for the parents. Even Santa was there to hand out sugar canes and go over the kids' Christmas lists.

This year the Squires also supported St. Mary of Sorrows in its annual drive of adopting a child for Christmas. The Squires purchased several items on a list of items needed and also participated in the annual Thanks-

(Continued on Page 8.)



Shown (from left) are Chief Squire Counselor Steve Morales, Seminarian Scott Sena and Chief Squire Kelvin Robinson.

2012-2013 CULTURE OF LIFE ENTRY: DOING OUR PART TO HELP END ABORTION IN AMERICA

(Project Lead, SK Art De Los Santos)

Legalized abortion in the United States continues to be the scourge of the Nation and has resulted in the death of over 52 million unborn children. It has also resulted in the physical, emotional, psychological or spiritual injury of an estimated 36 million women and roughly the equal number of men, plus additional family members affected by the abortions, professional medical personnel who helped perform them, and politicians and others who have supported keeping abortion legal.

During January 2013, Council 8600 took a three-level approach to help end abortion in America by donating significant funds to a pro-life home for those involved in a crisis pregnancy (The Paul Stefan Foundation), by funding transportation costs and participating in March for Life in Washington, D.C., and by volunteering human resources to support the Life is Very Good Morning Rally/Mass at the Patriot Center at George Mason University.

The Paul Stefan Foundation is a pro-life home for those involved in a crisis pregnancy. The foundation was inspired by Our Lady of Guadalupe and it extends its caring arms to lovingly assist young women and their pre-born babies by providing homes of safe haven where they will receive the spiritual, physical, emotional and psychological support and nourishment necessary for their further growth and development. Council 8600 has provided the Paul Stefan Foundation significant funding over the last 4 years. On January 15, 2013, the CEO of the Paul Stefan Foundation, Randy James, was presented a \$5,000 check to continue the mission of the foundation. The funding came from the council's 2012 Christmas Tree Sales. In 2012, the Paul Stefan Foundation helped 19 women and 14 babies.

The March for Life is an annual pro-life rally protesting abortion held in Washington, D.C., on or around the anniversary of the United States Supreme Court's decision legalizing abortion in the case Roe v. Wade. Each year the march draws around 250,000 participants. Each year, St. Mary of Sorrows sends about 50 marchers or more who are transported to the rally site by motor coach funded by Council 8600. The cost for the motor coach is about \$1,000. For the 2013 March for Life on



One of the youths at the Youth Mass wore this T shirt. (See more Culture of Life photos on Page 9.)

January 25, St. Mary of Sorrows again sent more than 50 marchers, which included members of the Knights of Columbus. We also had four knights who participated as marshalls.

In recent years, the amount of teenagers attending the March for Life has grown significantly. As the number of young people participating in the March for Life increases, so does the need for opportunities for them to come together to pray and to be inspired in their commitment to the respect for life. For the 2013 campaign to end abortion, the Arlington Diocese decided to hold a Life is Very Good Mass and Rally for young people at George Mason University. George Mason University is less than five miles from St. Mary of Sorrows, and Council 8600 was asked to coordinate the volunteers needed to support the Mass and rally event. Over 6,000 people attended the morning rally and Mass and over 30 volunteers from St. Mary of Sorrows (including 15 knights) signed up to support the event as ushers during communion, information distribution and water distribution.



2012-2013 COMMUNITY PROGRAM ENTRY: PROVIDING GROUP HOMES FOR PERSONS WITH INTELLECTUAL DISABILITIES

(Project Lead SK Tom McFarlane)

Marian Homes Inc. is a nonprofit organization started by Knights of Columbus St. Mary of Sorrows Council 8600. Marian Homes Inc. sole mission is to own and maintain group homes in Virginia for persons with intellectual disabilities.

The council purchased its first home in the Brecon Ridge subdivision of Fairfax in 1998. The home, named Marian House, is currently the residence for five women who live in a family environment as productive members of their community. Full time care for the residents is provided by Chimes of Virginia, a well-established provider of 24/7 services to people with intellectual disabilities in Virginia.

With the resounding success of its first group home and in recognition of the overwhelming need of this type of housing in Northern Virginia, Marian Homes Inc. purchased a second home in the Greenbriar subdivision of Fairfax in April 2011. That house, named Regina House, has become the residence for four adult men who started moving into the house in August 2011. A fifth resident moved into the house in October 2011, after completion of Marian Homes conversion (with the help of a KOVAR grant) of the garage into a wheelchair accessible bedroom and bathroom. Both houses comply with state and county licensing requirements and residents are selected based on procedures established by the Fairfax County Community Services Board.

Marian Homes focuses on the quality of life of its residences, consistent with the Knights of Columbus emphasis on the whole person. Our residents work, play and go to church in the local community. All residents have outside the home activities in local restaurants, schools and daycare centers, or in educational or vocational training settings. All our activities are designed to foster independence, as they help each individual develop socially, spiritually and emotionally.

Marian Homes Inc. was established by Council 8600 to address the question asked by parents or loved ones of intellectually disabled adults: "What will happen to my son or daughter when I can no longer care for them myself?" Marian and Regina houses provide an answer to that question. The sister of a 60-year-old resident of

Regina House recently expressed her concerns about placement of her brother at Regina House and then admitted those concerns were minimized when she understood the Knights of Columbus were involved. She told us "Regina House has helped her brother settle down, he eats with his "family," he catches his bus to work and is a lot more relaxed overall."

Marian Homes is administered by a 15-member all-volunteer board of directors, all of whom are members of Council 8600. The board is responsible for financial matters, fundraising and home maintenance. With no salaries, benefits, corporate taxes, utilities or other normal administrative expenses, almost all funds donated to Marian Homes are directed to maintenance of the current houses and to the accumulation of monies to purchase another house. The Commonwealth of Virginia has announced a decision to close four of its five "Training Centers," the institutional settings for the intellectually disabled. This decision increases the need to establish more neighborhood settings for the intellectually disabled and makes Marian Homes Inc. a unique organization with the Virginia Knights of Columbus, more important in the near future.

Fundraising initiatives for Marian Homes had varied over the years. In our infancy, the board focused on annual dinner/galas, which were successful but grew to be repetitive. Over the past few years, Marian Homes has partnered with Group Cruises Unlimited, a business begun by a Council 8600 member. Marian Homes has sponsored two group cruises, originating out of Baltimore to ports of call along the North American eastern coast and Bermuda. Those two sailings have netted Marian Homes almost \$35,000. Marian Homes, benefits from support of the St. Mary of Sorrows parish community and, of course, our parent Council 8600, which has typically donated about \$10,000 annually. The other important partner of Marian Homes is KOVAR, which has provided interest free mortgages for both properties and awarded grants in support of construction projects at both houses.

2012-2013 CHURCH PROGRAM ENTRY: OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE

PRAYER PROGRAM

(Project Lead SK Virgil Villapando)

St. Mary of Sorrows and Council 8600 was honored to have the image of Our Lady of Guadalupe for over two months. In close coordination with the Pastor, the council displayed her image nearly continuously in the Sanctuary. Over 4,000 parishioners and visitors viewed the icon and had the opportunity for private prayer. In addition, the icon was displayed, discussed, and prayed before during a Council 8600 First Degree exemplification. Five new brother knights joined the order and, along with over 25 assembled brother knights, were edified on the beauty and significance of the icon and of Our Lady.

Our Lady's image was first displayed at a council meeting on July 17, 2012, and the Rosary was recited. The number of knights in attendance at the council meeting was 45. She then established residence at Grand Knight David Lopez's home until July 20. Beginning with the Vigil Mass on July 21, Our Lady was displayed at the front of the lector's podium in the sanctuary at the Parish Center (the primary parish location where Holy Mass is celebrated). On Friday, July 27, our Pastor (Father James Barkett) conducted the Exposition of the Eucharist and the Guadalupe Marion prayer program was also conducted with over 50 knights and family members in attendance. The image remained at the front of the lector's podium from July 20 until after the morning Mass of Saturday, September 15, where it was viewed and prayed before by thousands of parishioners.

September 15 was a special day for the parish because it was the Feast day for St. Mary of Sorrows and the pastor had specifically requested the icons presence during this solemn time. Over 400 parishioners were in attendance at this special Mass and over 100 parishioners were consecrated to Jesus through Mary according to St. Louis Den Montfort, including over a dozen knights. Following this event, Our Lady re-established residence at the grand knight's home until September 18. On the evening of September 18, Council 8600 hosted a First Degree exemplification and she was in our presence during the complete exemplification where five new brother knights were joined to our or-

der. After the exemplification, Our Lady established presence at the home of Brother Tom Silva (former church director), and she remained there until Sunday, September 30. On October 1, Our Lady was transferred to Mount Vernon Council 5998. The image of Our Lady of Guadalupe was in the possession of Council 8600 for 77 days, during which it was venerated in many different solemn venues: daily and Sunday Mass, during a Marion Prayer Service, during a Rosary service, during a First Degree exemplification, and finally, during a special celebration of the Feast Day of St. Mary of Sorrows.



The Chaplain's Corner

(Continued from Page 3)

The sacrament of reconciliation then reminds us of our goal of conforming ourselves to Christ so we can grow in service to our neighbor and to God. During Lent I encourage you to take advantage of the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

FROM OUR YOUTH COMMITTEE DIRECTOR . . .

(Continued from Page 4.)

giving Day food basket drive that supplies Thanksgiving Day dinners to local families who don't have the resources to celebrate the holiday. They also volunteered to support the church in its Friday soup supper offered during Lent. They helped with setup, serving and cleanup. When the church reached out to the Squires to be the cleanup crew after the annual White elephant sale, the Squires responded with all members present and cleaned up the hall in eight hours. For their efforts, the Squires received a \$500 donation.

Participating in a diversity of projects, the Squires develop skills decision-making, delegation of responsibility, project development, administration, public speaking, public relations, record-keeping, financial responsibility, and program promotion. These tools come in handy when the Squires take on a big project to support like the Northern Virginia Therapeutic Riding Program (NVTRP).

NVTRP is a nonprofit organization dedicated to enriching the lives of children and adults with disabilities, youth-at-risk and veterans through the challenging, physically-active sport of horseback riding. Horseback riding has been shown to be one of the most beneficial forms of recreation for people with all types of disabilities. The

Squires have been supporting this organization since 2011 and continue to support them by raising funds through such activities as pancake breakfasts, door to door donations and taking opportunities to be hired by the church to provide grounds clean up after major events.

Currently there are six individuals riding who are in need of financial support to continue. The annual cost for six riders to participate in the program is roughly \$14,000. Some of the benefits of this therapy include improved posture and sitting balance, increased verbal interactions with staff and peers, decreased aggression, improved overall mood, and increased strength and flexibility. While on horseback, parents, friends and staff are amazed at how quickly riders adapt to the physical, emotional and social challenges of horseback riding. It is a joy to watch. The money raised by the Squires of circle 3992, will allow for two riders to receive six lessons through the summer months in 2013. I'm very proud of my Squires for the work they have put in this year and look forward to the new fraternal year. Because of the Squires work on this project they received the Brother Barnabas Award which is given out by Supreme Council for 2011- 2012.



Children's Christmas Party at Farrell Hall, St. Mary of Sorrows.

2012-2013 CULTURE OF LIFE



The whole gang that volunteered to help.



Volunteer Joe Boyle.



Youth Mass ushers (from left) are DGK Fidel Rodriguez, GK Dave Lopez, Virginia De Los Santos, and Director of Culture of Life Art De Los Santos.



Bishop Loverde processing into GMU

Photo at right, the cross on the altar at George Mason University Patriot Center.



CHRISTMAS TREE SALE PHOTOS



FAMILY BINGO FUN DAY: A BIG HIT

2012-2013 FAMILY PROGRAM

(Project Leads, Brothers Fidel Rodriguez and Richard Cardenas)

For the first time, Council 8600 launched four Bingo events during fraternal year 2012-2013. Each Bingo event was designated as a Family Bingo Fun Day to attract families and to benefit worthy charities in our area. Prior to establishing the Family Bingo Fun Day, the Grand Knight David Lopez consulted with our pastor, Father Barkett, who gave final approval.

Early in the fraternal year we established a Bingo committee to coordinate the myriad of logistical activi-



ties and identified procedures to execute a Bingo event. The committee included a brother knight, a practicing attorney, who reviewed all Virginia regulations to ensure our activity was in compliance with state law. The committee developed a management plan and standard operating procedures (SOPs) for the event. The management plan framed the organization, milestones, resources



requirements and quality control measures that Council 8600 has followed for each event with great success. The SOPs provide specificity on roles and responsibilities of key positions for running the Bingo games, procedures for obtaining gift cards/certificates, running finances and preparing an after action report after each event.

Our first Bingo event took place on October 7, 2012, and the charity selected to benefit from it was the Archdiocese for the Military Services, USA (AMS). Their mission is to provide the Catholic Church's full range of pastoral ministries, spiritual services, and care to those in the United States Armed Forces. The AMS is responsible for more than 1.5 million men, women, and children. Bingo notifications were provided at church, after each Mass and in our church bulletin. A total of 86 parishioners participated in our first Bingo; however, 134 tickets were sold. We received 46 gift cards/certificates, thanks to the generosity of local merchants and donations from council members and parishioners. A total of 23 gift card prizes were awarded in 16 games played. For being our first bingo, our parishioners and their families were very supportive and receptive to the event, participated in all games, and had a wonderful time. Our council provided a variety of soft drinks, coffee, tea, cookies and candy to attendees. At the end of the Bingo, attendees agreed that we should continue the

(Continued on Page 13.)

Habemus Papam!!!!



Pope Francis I

Christmas Tree Sales

(Continued from Page 1)

primarily from the Battles of the Second Manassas and Chantilly. The area where the trees are sold is part of the cemetery grounds with gravesites dating back to the mid to late 1800's. Through this historic past, the program brings the Church and our community together. Some of our customers, community and parish families, have purchased our trees for a quarter of a century. Some of our customers who were youngsters in the early years, are now bringing their own children to select a tree.

At this event, we display with a descriptive banner, the Knight's good works and charities to demonstrate our principles of unity and fraternity. For example, from the net profit of our sales in 2012, we will be able to donate \$12,000 to Marian Homes Inc, a 501(c)3 organization we established more than 10 years ago for the purpose of providing group homes for persons with

intellectual disabilities. In 2013, we will also be able to provide \$5,000 to the Paul Stefan Foundation, a home for unwed mothers who decided against abortion.

Our Christmas tree sales program is an all "hands-on board" type of project. Our Council members, who are no longer able to provide the physical demands of selling trees, assist with advertising, obtaining permits, and collecting and counting the daily proceeds from our sales.

The best part of this program is the fellowship of working together side-by-side with fellow knight's and forging and sustaining long lasting friendships. For example, the Friday after Thanksgiving has become a reunion day. Current and former Boy Scouts, college students, former knights of our council and current council members, unload and setup close to 800 Christmas trees. We then enjoy great fellowship. This has been a great tradition year after year.

Family Bingo Fun Day

(Continued from Page 2.)

Family Bingo Fun Day event. This past December, Past Grand Knight Dave Sharp provided a check for \$1,000 to the Archdiocese for the Military Services at their annual fundraising event in Washington.



The second Bingo event took place on January 13, 2013, to benefit The Car Ministry. Its mission is to accept donated cars and trucks and putting them in good working condition, including passable Virginia safety emission tests, for the purpose of giving them to the poor, the needy and those in full-time Christian work. Bingo event notifications were provided at church after each Mass and in our church bulletin. As a result, a total of 168 attended our second Bingo and 189 tickets were sold. We received 37 gift cards/certificates, thanks to the generosity of local merchants and donations from council members and parishioners. A total of 20 gift card prizes were awarded in 18 games played. By having an excellent turnout our parishioners and their families had an opportunity to have a great time and enjoy all the new games we played. The highlight of the games was the “Elimination” game, where all started playing standing up and were eliminated as soon as they had a number called in any of their bingo cards. All families, guests and even the council volunteers enjoyed the game. Our council provided a variety of soft drinks, coffee, tea, cookies and candy to attendees. This past January, a check in the amount of \$1,700 was sent to The Car Ministry.

Our council Family Bingo committee is already preparing for our third and fourth bingo, sched-

uled for April 14 and May 19, 2013. These events will benefit the St. Mary of Sorrows Pre-School Scholarship Program and the Sisters of La Sallette, respectively.

Council 8600 is proud to be part of an event that allows us to give all we can by promoting our core principles of charity, unity and fraternity. We provide funds from proceeds received at our Bingo to those charities that have a common goal of helping the needy and the poor. We provide brother volunteers an opportunity to unite and assist in preparation, planning and implementation. In the end, our brother volunteers, our parishioners and guests socialize in a healthy environment that benefits the order and helps the community. We hope to continue these tradition in future fraternal years.



NOTE: See more Bingo photos on Page 14

BINGO FAMILY FUN DAY PHOTOS

(Continued from Page 13)



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