

## Michael Sierco

January 6, 1926 - October 5, 2005  
(State Deputy 1972 – 1974)



Born in Kearny, N. J., Michael was a combat veteran who served in the U.S. Army during WWII in the European Theater. After service to our country, with an eye for symmetry and design, he entered the School of Architecture of the Catholic University of America in Wash. D.C. While there, he directed the Intramural Basketball program and passed the exam to become a Certified Basketball Official. He remained active as a basketball referee for 40 years in the Southern, Atlantic Coast and Mason—Dixon Conferences. Mike is enrolled as a Life Member of the Basketball Hall of Fame

Mike graduated with a Bachelor of Architecture Degree, Cum Laude in 1954. His scholastic record was so outstanding that he was elected to the Blue Key Honor Society and was listed in the "Who's Who in American Colleges". He had a distinguished career in the field of architecture for 43 years.

Some of Mike's notable architectural accomplishments included his home, library of Trinity College, Mullen Library and Kean Hall at Catholic University, St. Bernadette School, Holy Cross School, Mother Seton School, Stone Ridge School, Our Lady of Sorrows Church, the mini-mall stores and car wash in

Bowie and the K of C Hall in Bowie. Mike later worked for the VA as Chief of the Architectural Division for the entire central United States, with management oversight for projects ranging from 12 to 240 million dollars in size, and later as the VA's Arbitrator for Disputes. Mike retired in August of 1997.

Mike met Mary Joseph Schmitt who was also a student at Catholic U. working for accreditation as a registered nurse. They fell in love and were married on October 11, 1958. Their marriage was blessed with five children, three girls and two boys: Rosemarie, Mary Joseph, Kathleen, Frederick and Michael. The Sierco's made their home in Sacred Heart Parish in Bowie, where Mike served on the Parish Council, was a lector and President of the Holy Name Society.

Mike joined Sacred Heart Council No. 2577 in 1961 and three years later the council paid him the highest honor by electing him Grand Knight in 1964. This was the beginning of the council's rise from a small, unheralded council to a large, extremely active one. Membership was Mike's main goal and on St. Patrick's Day, March 17, 1965, he held an exceptionally well organized open house with the State Deputy as the principal speaker. State Deputy McFarland was so impressed that he placed Mike on the State membership team for the 1965-66 terms.

Mike went on to be a District Deputy from 1966 thru 1968, State Advocate, State Treasurer and State Secretary. In 1972, he was elected the 32nd State Deputy of Maryland. His administration was dedicated to social action, juvenile services, the aged, the handicapped and mentally retarded, drug abuse and the Right to Life. He had a 70% net gain in Columbian Squires Circles, the highest in the Order. Mike's administration saw the first March for Life activated in the Nation's Capital and his call, "Let us go in peace to love and serve the Lord" resounded through all of our councils.

As State Deputy, Mike was the first member of Sacred Heart Council, the first resident of Prince Georges County and the first man of Italian descent so honored. As a matter of fact, in 1974 the Sons of Italy of Prince Georges County Lodge No. 2228 honored Mike as the Italian-American of the Year. Mike's finest hour as

State Deputy was the magnificent 75th Anniversary Week of the State Council held from March 24th to March 30th, 1974 - from the opening Anniversary Mass on Sunday to the concluding Anniversary Banquet on Saturday, every event, of which there were seven, was a splendid success.

Mike attained the Fourth Degree in 1969 when he became a Sir Knight in the St. John N. Neumann Assembly Fourth Degree, in Bowie and served as the perennial toastmaster at all Fourth Degree Exemplification Banquets in the Archdiocese of Washington District. After his term as State Deputy, Mike stayed involved in State Council activities, becoming Chairman of the State Scholarship Committee, and recognized as the Honoree at the State Convention in 1983. Mike was a member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars.

At the time of his passing, Mike was given full military honors and interred in Sacred Heart Chapel Cemetery in Bowie, Md., leaving behind his widow, 5 children and spouses, 8 grandchildren, 2 great grandchild and 1 sister and her family.