

## Maurice Klein

June 25, 1915 – November 16, 1978  
(State Deputy 1960 – 1963)



Maurice was born in Baltimore and learned to deal with challenges at an early age. Struck with polio as a child, he went through life with his right leg one inch shorter than the left, causing him to walk with a limp. He grew up with a Catholic education first at St. Mary's Star of the Sea in Baltimore, then Calvert Hall High School and then 3 years at Loyola. During his elementary school years he wanted so badly to be an acolyte but because of the sever limp was not given the opportunity for fear he might stumble on the altar steps while carry the Mass Book from one side of the altar to the other.

On the 4<sup>th</sup> of July, 1933 his luck changed when he attended a local community picnic and was introduced by his cousin to a lovely young lady named Margaret Leeds. He was 18, she 15. Two years later she changed her name to his when they married in 1935.

Maurice initially worked for a bank in Baltimore for two years but then President Roosevelt started a new organization called the Social Security Administration and Maurice joined on as one of their first employees. He worked his way up through the ranks and retired 35 years later as a budget analyst. When the World War II started, because of its importance, the government decided to break the SSA into smaller units and disperse them around the country. Maurice and Margaret were assigned along with 51 other employees to Louisiana where Margaret gave birth to their first child, Maurice Jr. Margaret affectionately referred to Maurice Jr. as her "Louisiana Purchase".

Even with the war, the SSA was growing and evolving, Maurice though needed in his job, wanted to join the Army and fight, but the bad leg again thwarted his plans and so he served patriotically as a volunteer coast watcher.

Maurice's family continued to grow eventually to ten children, 6 boys and 4 girls.

After the war, at the request of a friend, Maurice joined the Knights of Columbus at Patapsco Council and two years later transferred to Notre Dame Council which was closer to their home in the Govens area. Maurice went through all the degrees becoming a 4th Degree Knight. During the rest of his life as a Knight, Maurice went through the chairs at Notre Dame Council finally holding the position of Grand Knight from 1953 to 1955. This is the first year that the council moved into the building which they now occupy, which they had recently bought from St. Mary's Church in Govens. From Grand Knight, Maurice was elected State Secretary in 1955 and held that office from 1955 to 1958 and was subsequently elected State Deputy in 1960, serving in that office until 1963. Two of Maurice's proudest moments were when he successfully campaigned for the Supreme Convention to be held in Baltimore in 1965; and the reinstatement of the Charity Ball in 1962, which two years later was renamed the Columbus Day Ball and is now an annual tradition in Maryland.

Maurice lived his later years in Forestville where he finally succumbed to cancer at the age of 63. He was survived by Margaret and nine of their ten children, all still living in the Baltimore area. At 92 in 2006, Margaret resides at Oak Crest Retirement Center.