

## **BERNARD J. ZELLER, SR.**

October 27, 1928 – April 13, 1998  
(State Deputy 1980 – 1982)



Bernard J. Zeller was born in Fullerton, Maryland and was the eighth child of twelve of Mart G. and Mary E. (Comes) Zeller. He graduated from St. Joseph Grammar School in Fullerton and Loyola High School. Bernie became a machinist apprentice at the Black and Decker Company where he became a skilled machinist. His next move was to the Westinghouse Electric Corporation and eventually he became a manufacturing engineer. Bernie studied the subject in the evenings at McCoy College of the Johns Hopkins University. He served as President of the Westinghouse Veterans Employee Association, Baltimore Chapter.

On April 15, 1950, he married Dolores M. Mantini in St. Katherins' Church in East Baltimore. Their marriage resulted in seven children: Judith (deceased), Deborah, Cynthia, Bernard, Jr., Susan, Mary and John.

Bernie took his First Degree in Cardinal Gibbons Council #2521 on December 14, 1960. He took his Second Degree on February 8, 1961 and his Third Degree on April 26, 1961. Bernie got his big break in the council when he was appointed Lecturer by Grand Knight Richard C. Bumsted. He had an outstanding year as Lecturer. He served as one of the exemplifiers on the council's First Degree team. He was subsequently elected Warden, Chancellor, Deputy Grand Knight, and in 1973 was elected Grand Knight. He spent four years working on the council's 50th Anniversary which was February 8, 1974. A full week of activities plus a gold covered history book were part of the golden anniversary.

Bernie served as District Deputy, Secretary to the State Deputy, Editor of the State Bulletin, State Treasurer, State Secretary and at the State Convention in 1980 was unanimously elected State Deputy. Bernie took for his theme, Pope John Paul II's call "Come and Follow Me".

Nellie J. Gray, the President of the March for Life, was the guest speaker at the 1981 State Convention. The ceremonials of the Order were completely revised in 1981. On Sunday, October 12, 1981, the new Third Degree was exemplified at Mt. Savage Council No. 1058. Since the Order was 100 years old on March 29, 1982, the State Council had a full week of Centennial Celebration. First, Second and Third degrees were exemplified throughout the state, the Chapters and Assemblies held special events, special ceremonies were conducted at the grave sites of Past State Deputy William J. O'Brien, Jr. and Former Supreme Director John A. Flanigan. A banquet was held at the Hilton Hotel in downtown Baltimore and the week ended with the Founders' Day Mass at the Cathedral of Mary Our Queen.

When Bernie left the office of State Deputy, a testimonial dinner and dance was held in his honor at the Forum. His wife Dolores did not share in Bernie's success as State Deputy because she died when he was State Secretary on February 5, 1979.

Bernie joined the Fourth Degree on February 28, 1971. He served Archbishop Francis P. Keough Assembly as Comptroller, Pilot, Captain and Navigator and from 1976 until 1980, he served as District Marshal.

Berne died on Easter Monday, April 13, 1998. A Fourth Degree Honor Guard led by Master Andrew C. Bauer, PSD stood watch at his bier on Wednesday and Thursday and escorted the casket at the Funeral Mass at the Immaculate Heart of Mary Church on Friday April 17th. His sons, son-in-laws and a grandson were pallbearers. Bernie had nine grandchildren and ten surviving brothers and sisters. Former State Chaplain Joseph C. Simmons was one of the concelebrants of the Mass and performed the ceremonies at the grave site in Parkwood Cemetery.