

Kapaun Memorial Fund Update - We Did It

In the early spring of 2025, the Kansas state legislature passed, and the governor signed into law a bill authorizing a memorial to Chaplain Emil J. Kapaun be placed in the capitol in Topeka. No taxpayer funds were to be used for this project. All funds needed were to be raised through private donations, approximately \$250,000. One of the reasons this bill passed was that the Kansas State Council of the Knights of Columbus pledged our support for the memorial.

Then at our Kansas Knights of Columbus state convention in May of 2025, we launched a campaign to raise the funds necessary to make this dream a reality. We hoped to act quickly while momentum was strong, so we set a goal to raise the funds in one year.

Well, we did it, at this year's convention, exactly one year later, we announced that we have the funds needed to complete this project. Thanks to your prayers and generous financial support we are moving forward with our dream of placing a memorial to Father Kapaun in our state capitol.

I can't thank you enough for your belief in this project. Your hard work, prayers and generous financial support are the reason we were able to accomplish our goal. Next steps include finalizing the design for the memorial and nailing down the exact location for the memorial in the capitol. As these steps are completed, I pledge to keep you updated on our progress.

God has blessed our work and may He continue to bless you, this project and the Knights of Columbus.

Michael J. Grothoff

Immediate Past State Deputy and member of the Kapaun Memorial Fund Committee