



# THE HISTORY OF MAINE IN THE KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

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## Chapter THIRTY FIVE : Philip J. Legere, So. Portland 1961-1963

Our 32'nd State Deputy, Philip J. Legere, Jr. was born September 16, 1918 at Portland, Maine as one of nine children of Philip J. Legere, Sr. and Marie L. Hamanne Legere. He was graduated from Cheverus High School. While at high school he was active in athletics, being on the football, baseball and basketball teams for three years. He was captain of the basketball team in his senior year and was named on the All Catholic New England High School Team that year. The same year Cheverus was State Champions in football and also won the Telegram League, which was considered the tops in baseball. He received a football scholarship at St. Ansel College but had to drop out after a short time due to the depression. Phil also played semi-pro basketball and baseball throughout the state, and also did some coaching.

On September 27, 1941 he married Corinne W. LaBerge at Holy Cross Church, South Portland. They have two children; Carolyn Jeanne, a student at Westbrook Junior College in Portland and Paulette Marie who attended Cathedral High School in Portland.

Phil was 15 years old when he joined Circle No. 66 Columbian Squires in 1933, and he continued until 1938. He served in most of the circle offices and as a counsellor for three years. He is only the second man to rise from the Squires and become a State Deputy. He then joined the Cheverus Council No. 2344 Knights of Columbus in 1938 and worked through the chairs, serving as Grand Knight in 1943. During this year he entered military services and was succeeded as Grand Knight by his father, who held the office for three terms.

Brother Legere served three years in the Navy during World War Two, two years of which was aboard a destroyer as a radar operator second class with a rating as petty officer, all of which was in the Pacific area.

Brother Legere joined the Custom Service and rose to Deputy Collector. Whenever his employment moved him to a new location he would transfer his membership to a local council. In 1948 he served as Lecturer of Fort Fairfield Council No. 1753, at the same time serving as State Co-chairman of Youth. Having been transferred to the customs office in Calais he served three years as a District Deputy from 1949 to 1952. His next office was State Publicity chairman for three years. In 1955, while still a member on council No. 149 in Calais, he was elected state Treasurer and the following year was transferred back to Cheverus Council and was re-elected State Treasurer. He held the office of State Secretary four years from 1957 to 1961. In 1961 he was elevated to the office of State Deputy at Poland Spring.

Brother Legere joined the Fourth Degree at Bangor in 1951 and was a member of the Sebastian Rasle Assembly of Portland.

During his terms as State Deputy, the Auburn council No. 5358 was formed.

## FOURTH DEGREE MASTER #10: Robert Ouellette 1955-84 Brunswick

Following his three terms as State Deputy from 1952 to 1955, Robert J. Ouellette was appointed as District Master and served in that office from 1955 to 1984. This was a total of 29 years as District Master of Maine.

**STATE CHAPLAIN 1953 TO 1967: Rev. Daniel J. Haggerty**

**Bishop of the Portland Diocese: Most Rev. Bishop Daniel J. Feeney 1955-69**

**State Convention for 1961 was held in Poland Spring on May 27-28, 1961**

**State Convention for 1962 was held in Portland on June 2-3, 1962**

**State Convention for 1963 was held in Portland in May, 1963**