

First Supreme Knight Among Those Honored in Civil War Memorial

On Oct. 14, the State of Connecticut dedicated a Civil War monument to the Ninth Regiment Connecticut Volunteers at Vicksburg (Miss.) National Military Park, along the bank of the Mississippi River.

Sgt. James T. Mullen, who would later become the Order's first supreme knight, was among the 845-member Union regiment of Irish ancestry that mustered during the fall of 1861 in New Haven. In its most significant conquest, under the leadership of Gen. Ulysses Grant, the Ninth Regiment was part of a Union campaign that laid siege to, and ultimately captured, the Confederate fortress city in the summer of 1863. The victory gave Union forces command of the



Sgt. James T. Mullen, who would become the Order's first supreme knight, is featured prominently on a new monument to the Ninth Regiment of Connecticut Volunteers in Vicksburg, Miss.

Mississippi River, a significant turning point in the war.

In 1862, without adequate forces to conquer Vicksburg, the Ninth Regiment had been part of an effort devised by Gen. Thomas Williams to dig a canal for

Union ships to bypass Vicksburg and its artillery. The failed project, conducted in summer's heat and humidity, cost the Union Army 250 troops — 153 from Mullen's "Irish Regiment" — who died from heat stroke, malaria, dysentery and related illnesses.

The 10-foot-tall, 13,500-lb. granite monument features portrait etchings of several members of the Ninth Regiment, including Sgt. Mullen. The Knights of Columbus Supreme Council contributed \$10,000 for the monument project, which

was headed by Robert Larkin, a Knight from Cheshire, Conn. Larkin's ancestor, Pvt. John Marlow, was a member of the Ninth Regiment who died in the first attempt to seize Vicksburg. ❖

MAINE STATE COUNCIL PRESENTS GIFT FOR ORDER'S MUSEUM



Maine State Deputy Gerald J. Martin (center) presents Deputy Supreme Knight Dennis A. Savoie (center right) with the painting *Ships of Columbus* for permanent display at the Knights of Columbus Museum. Current and past state officers have made a pilgrimage to the museum each year for six consecutive years. *Ships of Columbus* will be on display at the States Gallery, which features gifts from state councils.