



Troy A. Mock
Grand Commander



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June 1, 2026

From the Desk of the Grand Commander

To: Elected and Appointed Grand Officers; Past Grand Officers; Division Commanders; Officers and Members of the Constituent Commanderies of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Pennsylvania

GENERAL ORDER NUMBER FIVE

RITUAL – ORDER OF THE TEMPLE, 5TH LIBATION OR ODE TO THE SKULL

I leave it to the discretion of the Eminent Commander of each Constituent Commandery as to whether this General Order is read in full or the provided summary is read at the next stated conclave. It is to be entered in full in the records.

Summary:
Sir Knights,

As part of each Constituent Commandery's inspection, the Eminent Commander is to recite in person and from memory either the 5th Libation or "Ode to the Skull" from the Order of the Temple to the Division Commander or his Adjutant. This is to be completed before the Division Commander submits his inspection report to the Section Officer (due no later than January 30, 2026). The definition of these passages is detailed in the full text of the General Order and should be referenced by Eminent Commanders when preparing for their recitations.

In Full:
Sir Knights,

I am directing that as part of the constituent commandery Inspection Process this Templar Year, the Eminent Commander must recite either the 5th Libation OR the "Ode to the Skull" from the Order of the Temple from memory. The Eminent Commander must recite either portion of the ritual in person to the inspecting Division Commander or his Adjutant.

If need be, the Eminent Commander may choose to select a time other than the Commandery's stated Inspection Date, however, if scheduling for another date, he must notify and get approval from the Division Commander before the Inspection Date.

For the 5th Libation, the Eminent Commander must recite the following from memory:

From the Ritual of the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar of the United States of America book, issued 2019 (Spiral bound or Purple Cover), or issued 1979 (Black Cover):

The Commanders part starting - at bottom of the page 141 thru the last sentence of the Commanders part ending on the bottom of page 142 which starts with "Let us attend to...".

The Rituals issued in 2019 do not contain cyphers. If you choose to use the Ritual issued in 1979, part of the 5th Libation is in cypher, and you will have to ask your Division Commander for assistance in getting the non-cypher text.

For the "Ode to the Skull", the Eminent Commander must recite the following from memory:

From the Ritual of the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar of the United States of America book, issued 2019 (Spiral bound or Purple Cover), or issued 1979 (Black Cover): Page 156.

The Division Commander will send a report to the Section Officer no later than January 31, 2027 showing the results for each Eminent Commander in his Division. The report form is attached to the General Order below.

Given under my hand and seal of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Pennsylvania this first day of June, in the year of our Lord 2026, A.O. 908.

Yours in Templary,

Troy A. Mock
Grand Commander

Attest:
Mark G. Mattern, PGC
Grand Recorder



Proficiency of Eminent Commander – 5th Libation/Ode to the Skull Date Submitted: _____

Division No.: _____ Division Commander: _____

Circle One in Each Box Below

Eminent Commander	Commandery	Date Tested (or X if Not Tested)	5 th or Ode Recited?	Recited from Memory – No issues	Recited from Memory – Issues	Did Not Recite from Memory	Reason if Not Tested
Example: John Smith	Philadelphia 2	11/1/25	5 th	✓			
1.							
2.							
3.							
4.							
5.							
6.							
7.							
8.							

Return to your Section Officer no later than January 31, 2027