



Pennsylvania Crusader

GRAND COMMANDERY OF PENNSYLVANIA
pagrandcommandery.org

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My Fellow Fraters:

Greetings! We are now into the Summer Solstice and the throes of the July heat. This is a special time for our Nation, as we observe Independence Day on the Fourth of July. Take time out of your daily routines to enjoy the Holiday with friends and family.

It is also a time to reflect on the challenges and tribulations our Founding Fathers faced leading up to 1776 when a small group of Colonials (many of whom were Freemasons) sat down and composed the Declaration of Independence, the document that severed the ties with Great Britain and plunged our new nation into war. As descendants of these brave men and women it is up to us to continue to strive for freedom not only for ourselves but for others who are facing oppression and tyranny in far-off lands. Templary in Pennsylvania does not take the summer off, as your Grand Officers have been busy attending functions of DeMolay, Amaranth, Job's Daughters and Rainbow for Girls. These organizations help to prepare young men and women to take on the challenges of today's world and at the same time keep their membership grounded in Faith, Hope and Charity. We are marching in local parades, getting ourselves out in public for the first time in several years.

The Constituent Commanderies have been tasked with keeping up Our Basic Tenets—Feeding the Hungry, Clothing the Naked and Binding the Wounds of the Afflicted. Several Commanderies are already starting food and clothing drives. Especially now with the current economic state, the food drives for pantries and shelters take on a new level of importance. Supporting local, private no-kill animal shelters with donations of food, cleaning supplies, towels and sheets to be used for bedding and caring for the dogs and cats surrendered to these shelters is of high importance.

Although there is still time, the deadline for registering to attend the Testimonial on Saturday July 23, 2022 at the Gettysburg National Battlefield Museum is rapidly approaching. Please come out and join the Grand Officers and Ladies for a fun evening and tour the museum's collections while you're there. A reminder that there will be a One Day Conferral of Orders hosted by Reading No. 9 Commandery on Saturday July 30, 2022. The Conferral Teams have been working diligently to prepare for this event and give our Candidates a good rendition of being created Knights Templar. Information and registration for this event is available on the PA Grand Commandery website.

A thanks to the Commanderies that I and my party have had the opportunity to visit thus far for the hospitality and courtesies extended us. The turnouts have been great, and we look forward to resuming our visitations in September.

When we work together, great things are possible!

Courteously,
Sir Knight Harry Jude Smith, Right Eminent Grand Commander
Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Pennsylvania

Grand Prelate's Message:

Years ago, Harry Emerson Fosdick preached a sermon entitled, "Parking on Another Man's Nickel." Obviously, the sermon was preached years ago for where can you park for a nickel today? Everything is computerized now and you can use your phone but there are not many nickel spots anymore. But I believe his idea is still sound. You come to a parking place that has a meter. Someone else has already inserted a coin. Happily, there is still time on the meter. This must be your lucky day. You pull in and park on someone else's nickel, or quarter or whatever.

Fosdick went on to say that some of us go all through life parking on someone else's nickel. Particularly is this true of us who are born into this free land. Someone's already paid in blood, sweat and tears for our parking place. The temptation is to enjoy our good fortune without taking responsibility for those who come after us. As we celebrate this Fourth of July may many of us are giving in to the temptation to enjoy the benefits of citizenry while avoiding the headaches of civic responsibility. Ask yourself this: Is our community a better community because we live in it? Our city? Our state? Is the PTA stronger because we have a child in school? Can the United Way count on our support? And Sir Knights is Templary stronger and alive because of our active participation? These are not glamorous questions. These are simply the nuts and bolts of our citizenship.

A father showed his son a copy of the Bill of Rights. "Remember, son," he said, "On the back of every right, there is a responsibility." He was right.

Unfortunately to say, we continue to see our Grand Commandery and much of society operate the same way. So many folks are content to sit on the sidelines and let others do the work, to "park on someone else's nickel." We forget that we as Knights Templar we have been commissioned by the Lord himself: that it is our job to Feed the Hungry, Clothe the Naked and Bind the Wounds of the Afflicted.

So, as we celebrate the freedom that has been given to us by those who have sacrificed so much on our behalf, may we take the responsibility that has been given to us and may our land shine brighter because of who we are and what we do. Happy 4th!

Yours in Christ;
Sir Knight and Reverend A. Preston Van Deursen
Grand Prelate