



# Pennsylvania Crusader

Since 1948

GRAND COMMANDERY OF PENNSYLVANIA  
[pagrandcommandery.org](http://pagrandcommandery.org)

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## August 2024

Sir Knights,

August is here and we are well into summer. I truly hope you have had the opportunity to spend time with your families, attend picnics, vacation, or just enjoy spending time together. If you have not already done so, take the opportunity to relax for a moment and recharge yourselves. Much remains to be done. As you may be aware, when we are “called off from labor”, many Sir Knights remain quite busy with various duties and responsibilities and our good work is never really done. As John Heywood penned the phrase in his book Proverbs “many hands make light work.” As we transition back to regular meetings and conclaves, I encourage you to foster and develop positive relationships with our fellow York Rite masonic bodies.

Your Grand Commandery officers and appointed committees continue to work diligently to address your concerns and promote initiatives related to education, communication, and values. Let us be ever mindful of our obligation to serve others. If you have ideas on ways to improve, share them with your Division Commander and Section Officer so that together we can decide what can be achieved with our available resources. Together we can make things better.

Countless Sir Knights have been working to prepare for the upcoming One Day Conferral in Stroudsburg at the Rimrock Masonic Center. Details are available on the PA Grand Commandery website. I hope to see you there to support and welcome our new fraters. Later in August, representatives from across the Grand Encampment jurisdiction will meet for the Triennial Conclave in Salt Lake City, UT where the business of the Grand Encampment along with the election and installation of Grand Encampment officers will take place. Pennsylvania Grand Commandery past and present officers will be in attendance, and we will proudly represent you and this jurisdiction.

As we move from summer to fall, two questions I’d like for you to reflect on by asking yourselves: 1) What efforts or steps have you made to address our tenets of feeding the hungry, clothing the naked, and binding up the wounds of the afflicted; and 2) If your commandery were to close tomorrow would your local community notice? Reflect on what impact you, as a Commandery and Sir Knight, have done which impacted your community. We can all do better

at caring for and supporting others not only through charitable donations, but by demonstrating to the world that Templars think and act on the needs of others.

Lady Rebecca and I would like to thank all the Sir Knights, their ladies and families, across the state that have welcomed us, and we look forward to seeing as many of you as possible.

Upcoming Events:

August 03 One-Day Conferral, Rimrock Masonic Center, Stroudsburg

August 16-22 Grand Encampment Triennial, SLC, UT

September 01 Holy Land Pilgrimage nominations due

September 06-08 Northeast Department Conference, Albany, NY

September 11 Flight 93 Wreath Laying, Shanksville

September 21-22 Central Reception/Gettysburg Memorial Weekend

October 19 Northeast Section Reception, Wilkes-Barre

October 26 Southeast Section Reception, Lancaster

Children are susceptible to a host of vision and eye problems such as injury, infection, and increased nearsightedness, to name but a few. August is Children's Eye Health and Safety Month, and the American Academy of Ophthalmology (AAO) provides information to the public that can help protect and preserve a child's eye health for life. Our children and grandchildren are the future. Help preserve and protect that future. <https://www.aao.org/>

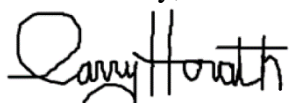
Purple Heart Day, also known as National Purple Heart Day, Purple Heart Appreciation Day, and Purple Heart Recognition Day is commemorated every year on August 7th. The Purple Heart Medal is awarded to U.S. military service members killed or wounded while in battle against an enemy of the United States. The Purple Heart is the oldest military award presented to American military service personnel. Take the time to recognize and appreciate active and former military personnel for their faithful service.

Anniversaries:

Franklin No. 44 – August 07, 1872

St. John's No. 8 – August 31, 1854

Courteously,



SK Larry D. Horath  
Grand Commander

## Associate Grand Prelate's Message

“Blessed is the one who does not walk in step with the wicked or stand in the way that sinners take or sit in the company of mockers, but whose delight is in the law of the LORD, and who meditates on his law day and night. That person is like a tree planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in season and whose leaf does not wither—whatever they do prospers.” Psalm 1:1-3

Dear Sir Knights,

This time of year, many casual conversations seem to be about the care and maintenance of growing things. Whether it is lawncare, tending a garden, or new landscaping, it seems like many people are concerned with mowing, weeding, watering, and the other tasks that come along with the summer season of growing.

This can be a useful example of how we can tend to our faith, after all is a healthy faith not more important than a manicured lawn. How much time and energy do we put towards weeding and watering the spiritual side of our lives? The answer for too many, myself included, is usually not enough.

I would encourage my Fraters to try thinking about this all too important aspect of our lives like we do the more mundane. After all, God is so often described as a gardener and how many important moments occur in gardens. From the Garden of Eden to the Garden of Gethsemane, like the people referenced in the Psalm quoted above, we grow and prosper in proportion to the care we receive. If we neglect ourselves, how can we expect to bear good fruit?

I wish that everyone have an enjoyable summer, restful and revitalizing, but do not forget to put the effort into tending the garden of your faith, and allowing yourself to be tended to by the one whom the women mistook for the gardener on the first Easter morning.

In Christ's love,  
Rev. SK Brandon P. Cooper, AGP



## From the President

We have learned over past decades that our efforts in funding pediatric ophthalmology research have been the primary reason that we have had fewer and fewer children with strabismus (crossed eyes) to treat. Our research dollars have helped develop new, non-surgical treatments for this problem, and additional research and endowment programs are all being funded as well by your faithful support.

Every donation will assist in making a tremendous difference in the lives of children by helping the Foundation to fulfill its mission.

Sir Knights, aside from his salvation, there is no greater gift for man on this earth than the gift of sight. Through your generous contributions, lives are being changed; research is being funded, which is allowing mankind to lead more fruitful and blessed lives.