



# Pennsylvania Crusader

Since 1948

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

**S.K. Thomas C. Helm, Grand Commander**  
[drtom4250@gmail.com](mailto:drtom4250@gmail.com)

Editor: SK Mark G. Mattern, PGC email: [grandrecgcktpa@gmail.com](mailto:grandrecgcktpa@gmail.com)



## April 2024

### *Greetings Sir Knights,*

This is the month for Installation of the new Officers in our Commanderies across the state. I congratulate all the Sir Knights who are being installed in the Line. I like to think the bar has once again been raised and challenge the incoming slate of officers to meet the challenge and continue to raise the bar of excellence. I also congratulate and thank those new Past Commanders and Officers of the line for all their work and effort this past Templar year. But alas, your work is not done. I challenge you now to SERVE as a mentor to other Sir Knights, SERVE on a committee to help your Commandery, SERVE wherever needed for Templary. I have seen many of you doing your jobs and serving your Commandery. I am truly humbled by the amount of work, effort and expertise Pennsylvania's Sir Knights demonstrate. You have too much experience to not serve and give back to your fraters and this wonderful organization.

To those who joined us in Alexandria at the 94th Easter Sunrise Service in Alexandria, I thank you. It was truly a spectacular and moving weekend. Of course, there is the Hotel with the Hospitality Suites and other activities including the Saturday evening Banquet. The Laying of the Wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier at Arlington National Cemetery is a truly humbling and special event. Joining me this year in laying the wreath were all veterans: Sir Knight John March, REPGC, Sir Knight Dave Barlieb, Jr. GJW and Sir Knight George March, PC and former Tomb Guard. On Sunday we marched, by state, up the hill to the Washington Memorial where a Devine Service was held with the view of the Potomac as a beautiful backdrop. This entire weekend is an amazing and moving event. All Knights Templar's should experience this event and you can bring your wives to share this very special weekend. I promise you this event will remain a highlight of your Masonic memories.

When we think of Easter, of course many think of Easter egg hunts, baskets full of goodies and sharing a meal with our families. And this is all fun and good, but I offer you a few more thoughts to keep in your minds and prayers at this very special time of year for Christians the world over. December with Christmas celebrates the Word being translated into living flesh, bringing to us the message of eternal salvation. April is the month we celebrate the Resurrection of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Good Friday is when He became the Pascal Lamb, paying the penalty by sacrificing His blood for our sins. On Easter we celebrate our Lord's triumph over death. **Hallelujah, He has Risen!**

I remain always praying for you, your families and loved ones and for Knights Templary. Please be safe in your daily trials and travels. Enjoy and find peace in serving mankind. In Jesus' wonderful name, Amen.

### Upcoming Events

April 11	Ladies Appreciation Dinner – Hermit # 24
April 12-14	Connecticut Annual Grand Conclave
April 14	Forward Planning Meeting
April 26-28	Maine Annual Grand Conclave
May 4	Spring Reunion Valley of Allentown
May 11-12	New Hampshire Annual Grand Conclave
May 17- 19	171st Annual Conclave – Delta by Marriott Hotel, Breinigsville

**Templar Knights in history:** Payen de Montdidier was related to the Counts of Flanders and is a founding knight of the Knights Templar. He established a Preceptory at Oxford, England because of strong support from Queen Matilda. The Queen, wife of Stephen I, King of England (1135 - 1154) and a niece of Baldwin I of Jerusalem and Godfrey of Bouillon made Oxford one of the richest and most important centers of Templar's in England. Payen de Montdidier established a Preceptory at Temple Guiting near Cheltenham.

**"And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving on another, even as God in Christ forgave you." Ephesians 4:32**



In His Service,  
S.K. Thomas C. Helm  
Grand Commander

