



Pennsylvania Crusader

Since 1948

GRAND COMMANDERY OF PENNSYLVANIA
pagrandcommandery.org

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“Oh good, you’re still here...”

“Do not be overcome by evil but overcome evil with good”. We are encouraged to actively resist evil through good deeds rather than giving in to it. (Romans 12:21 KJV) Let us make better choices that add to the joy and appreciation of others. Seize opportunities that lead to greater good for all. Produce change that improve ourselves and influences others by our example. We cannot make change by wishing and hoping that things will get better. To affect change, we must act better, speak better, and decide to be better to become better.

We have great potential and the capacity to improve. Let us act on that potential and take action to change for the better. As a new Templar year begins we must set realistic and achievable goals and standards that we strive to achieve. Let us not make concessions by lowering the bar but increase our efforts to meet and exceed it. It is with pride and admiration that we can look back at the great strides, efforts, and actions we have taken to meet and exceed our goals and objectives. For all you do for your Commanderies and in support of our Grand Commandery I want to express my sincere pride and want to recognize and appreciate all those who have gone above and beyond to achieve success in our shared mission. Progress is made through consistent and persistent effort, and we must continue to improve.

Lady Rebecca and I have traveled and represented you at events and occasions throughout Pennsylvania, the Northeast Department, neighboring jurisdictions, and the Grand Encampment Triennial and Easter Sunrise Service. I would like to thank the Grand and Subordinate Officers for their support during these, and other events, such as Receptions and Official Visitations, Gettysburg Memorial Weekend, Wreath Laying Ceremonies, Conclaves, and Line Officers & Division Commanders Seminar, among the many other occasions we were able to attend. Your support, along with the support of the Division Commanders, Past Grand Commanders, and the Commandery Officers, has been outstanding. We are thankful for your gracious hospitality, extended courtesies, honest fellowship, and constructive feedback. We will continue to proudly and humbly represent, support, and serve you.

The Call has been published and is available from your Recorder as well as being posted on the Grand Commandery website (pagrandcommandery.org). In The Call you will find the information for attendance, meals, lodging, meetings, and schedules of events and activities that will take place during the 172nd Annual Conclave scheduled for May 30 - 31, 2025 at the Doubletree by Hilton Pittsburgh - Greentree.

For the Ladies, a separate Ladies event and luncheon are available. Lady Rebecca and the Conclave Committee have been diligently working to ensure this Annual Conclave is a successful, engaging, and fun event. Should you have any questions please feel free to reach out to me or Lady Rebecca.

Let us not forget those fellow Sir Knights who have laid down their swords and entered the Eternal Asylum. Please keep them and their families in your thoughts and prayers. Also keep in your hearts all those who serve this great nation. Continue to help, aid, assist, and provide support to those in need throughout our communities.

Referring to “binding up the wounds of the afflicted”, approximately 37 million adults in America have age-related macular degeneration, cataract, diabetic retinopathy, or glaucoma, all of which can cause visual impairment or blindness. Healthy choices and getting regular eye exams can help reduce a person’s risk of vision loss. May is Healthy Vision Month, and the American Academy of Ophthalmology encourages everyone to have regular eye exams to help preserve their sight.

Mother’s Day is observed every year on the second Sunday of May (May 11 th). It is a day for recognizing and celebrating all those who assume the role and responsibility as mothers.

Armed Forces Day is commemorated annually on the third Saturday of May, honoring the men and women of the United States Armed Forces. Let us pay respect and help raise awareness of the role that the military play in defense of our lives and freedoms. Armed Forces Week begins on the second Saturday of May and ends on the third Sunday of May.

Memorial Day is observed on the last Monday of May (May 26 th), and it is a day to honor and remember those men and women who lost their lives while in military service. It is a solemn occasion which people commemorate by visiting cemeteries, memorials, laying wreaths, and planting American flags honoring those who gave their last measure of devotion in defense of our nation. Many will wear a Red Poppy, which gained meaning as a symbol of remembrance by the World War I poem “In Flanders Fields”.

Ascension Day (Thursday, May 29 th), also known as the Feast of the Ascension is a Christian observance that takes place on the fortieth day of Easter. It celebrates Jesus’s ascension into heaven. According to the bible, after his crucifixion on Good Friday, Jesus was resurrected from the dead on the third day, Easter Sunday. For 40 days after his resurrection, Jesus appeared to his disciples a number of times, teaching them how to spread the word of God. At the end of the fortieth day, Jesus spoke to his disciples on the Mount of Olives, telling them to wait in Jerusalem for the Holy Spirit, and then he ascended into heaven.

For the hospitality, generosity, and fellowship shown to Lady Rebecca and me we are truly thankful. It is our sincere honor and privilege to serve you and our Grand Commandery. May God’s grace be with you all.

Follow us on Instagram: @larryhorath_pa_grandcommander

Anniversaries:

Allen-Beauceant No. 20 – May 2, 1860

Hermit No. 24 – May 23, 1867

Yours in Templar Service,



SK Larry D. Horath, Grand Commander

Mountain Commandery No. 10, Good Friday Order of the Temple. 22 new Sir Knights.



Associate Grand Prelate's Message

Esteemed Sir Knights of Pennsylvania,

In this early May, as we find ourselves in the midst of the Easter season, I greet you with a heart full of hope and a spirit buoyed by renewal. As we prepare to begin a new Templar year, let us remember that Easter is far more than a single day marked on our calendars. Rather, it is a blessed season—an enduring 50-day celebration that begins on Easter Sunday and culminates at Pentecost.

All too often, the true essence of Easter is overlooked, its profundity diminished as the colorful eggs and playful bunnies fade into memory. This extended season is a divine gift that allows us to not merely commemorate one triumphant day in the life of our Lord but to immerse ourselves in the lasting victory of His resurrection.

As the Gospel of Matthew reminds us, “He is not here; for He has risen, just as He said” (Matthew 28:6). This declaration is not just a momentary exclamation; it is an invitation to continuously dwell on the profound mystery and joy of our Savior’s triumph over death.

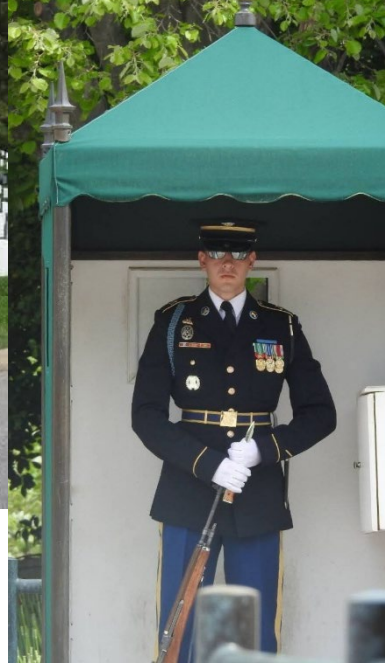
Indeed, our faith teaches us that the truly significant accomplishments in life are rarely achieved in a single day. As Knights, we are called to the disciplined practice of daily devotion. Each day provides us with precious opportunities:

- **Opportunities to Deepen Our Faith:** Like the early disciples who journeyed with Christ long after His resurrection, we must nurture our spiritual lives with continual prayer, study, and reflection.
- **Opportunities to Improve Our Work as Templars:** Our order stands as a beacon of courage, honor, and service. It is through the diligent, incremental efforts of each day that we build and sustain our legacy.
- **Opportunities to Help Our Fellow Man:** The message of Easter is one of hope and redemption - a call to extend compassion and assistance to those in need. Every small act of kindness contributes to the grand tapestry of His love in our world.

Let us therefore embrace this extended season of Easter with renewed vigor, allowing the enduring celebration of Christ’s resurrection to transform our lives and guide our actions. May we each commit to the daily work of deepening our faith, enhancing our service, and uplifting our brothers and sisters, so that together we continue to manifest the true spirit of our sacred mission.

In His everlasting grace,
Rev. Brandon P. Cooper, Associate Grand Prelate

Arlington National Cemetery, Tomb of the Unknown Soldier Wreath Laying





Easter Sunrise Service at the George Washington National Masonic Memorial







And of course, you have to take time to enjoy the things around you. Stop and smell the roses, or enjoy the ice cream.

