



# Pennsylvania Crusader

Since 1948

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

**S.K. Joshua J. Nay, Grand Commander**

[josh.nay@gmail.com](mailto:josh.nay@gmail.com)

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



## February 2026

Greetings, Sir Knights.

I'll start by apologizing for getting this month's issue out so late. Not only was the end of January a busy time but it led right into Masonic Week, which I've just returned from.

I'm happy to share that we held our Grand Commandery leadership's annual conference on February 1<sup>st</sup>. Originally planned to be in-person, we moved it to a virtual format when the forecasted weather was looking ominous. It's a good reminder that our Grand Commandery has GoToMeeting accounts that **your commandery** can use to host a virtual conclave when needed. If the weather is problematic or if you want to give members who have moved out of the area the opportunity to attend a conclave, consider hosting one virtually. For more information about using one of our GoToMeeting accounts, contact our Grand Recorder.

This is a good time of year to recognize the deserving Sir Knights of your commandery. In addition to thanking them publicly or in a conclave for their contributions, consider recommending them for the [Illustrious Knight of the Triangle](#) (IKT) award managed by our own Grand Commandery. Nominations can also be submitted for Grand Encampment awards, including the [Knight Commander of the Temple](#) (KCT, for Sir Knights) and [Companion of the Temple](#) (COT, for ladies and non-Sir Knights). Finally, we are able to recognize up to two Sir Knights with the [Knights Templar Cross of Honor](#) (KTCH) at our Annual Conclave each year. Nominations for the KTCH need to be in my hands **no later than Tuesday, March 10<sup>th</sup>** for consideration.

Finally, as of this writing, the Grand Commandery's Traveling Sword is still at York-Gethsemane Commandery No. 21 in York. The next opportunity to claim it is at York-Gethsemane's conclave on Tuesday, February 24th. Good luck!

Courteously,

SK Joshua J. Nay  
Grand Commander

## Mark Your Calendars

Feb 28, 2026 – Northeast Section Reception, Ashland, PA

Mar 14, 2026 – Northwest Section Reception, Ambridge, PA

Apr 4-5, 2026 – Easter Sunrise Weekend, Arlington/Alexandria, VA

Apr 11, 2026 – Southwest Section Reception, Canonsburg, PA

May 29-31, 2026 – 173rd Annual Conclave, King of Prussia, PA

## Commandery Anniversaries in February

Reading No. 9 – February 7, 1854



## Associate Grand Prelate's Message

*Remember your leaders, those who spoke to you the word of God; consider the outcome of their life, and imitate their faith. Hebrews 13:7*

Fraters,

As we enter the month of February, our nation pauses to remember individuals whose lives and examples helped shape a more just, more hopeful world. I think especially of George Washington, Abraham Lincoln, (I would include the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. having just been honored in late January.) These men differed greatly in background, temperament, and circumstance, yet each rose to meet the moral demands of his time with courage, restraint, and a deep sense of responsibility to something greater than himself.

Whether or not they held formal Masonic membership, each embodied principles that the Craft has long sought to cultivate integrity, humility, perseverance, and a willingness to sacrifice personal comfort for the common good. More importantly still, each grounded those virtues in an explicit moral vision shaped by Christian faith and Scripture. Their lives remind us that faith is not merely confessed with the lips, but proven through action, especially when action is costly.

Washington understood leadership as stewardship. He resisted the temptation of power, choosing instead the harder path of restraint and service. Lincoln bore the weight of national suffering with profound seriousness, refusing easy answers and speaking often of divine judgment, mercy, and the moral law that stands over nations and individuals alike. Dr. King, drawing deeply from the prophets and the Gospels, insisted that justice, love, and reconciliation were not optional ideals, but divine commands that demanded faithful obedience even in the face of violence and hatred.

The Epistles to the Hebrews instructs us not simply to admire our leaders, but to *consider the outcome of their way of life and imitate their faith*. That distinction matters. Admiration alone changes nothing. Emulation, however, transforms both the one who imitates and the community shaped by that imitation.

For us as Sir Knights, this month offers more than an opportunity for remembrance; it presents a summons to reflection. What was it about these men that makes them worthy of honor generations later? Where did they show moral courage when silence would have been safer? How did they hold together conviction and charity, firmness, and humility? And perhaps most uncomfortably, where are we being called to embody those same virtues in our own lives?

Each of us has our own heroes, parents, pastors, mentors, teachers, or faithful friends, whose quiet examples shaped us more deeply than public monuments ever could. Take time this month to name those figures, to give thanks for them, and to ask what their lives still teach you. Then ask the harder question: *Who is watching me?* What habits, convictions, and acts of faith am I modeling for those who will come after?

The measure of our reverence for heroes is not found in words or ceremonies, but in whether we allow their example to refine our own character. May we, by God's grace, become men whose lives are worth remembering—not for our own glory, but for the good of those we are called to serve.

Fraternally and faithfully,

Rev. SK Brandon P. Cooper, AGP



A joint conclave of Huntingdon Commandry No. 65 and Constans Commandry No. 33 held in Huntingdon. In attendance were Sir Knights from Division 6 and the Central Section.





Congratulations to the Sir Knights of York-Gethsemane Commandery No. 21 on reaching 100% Life Membership in the Knights Templar Eye Foundation! Through your generosity, you are helping to Bind the Wounds of the Afflicted – in this case, very deserving children.



Sir Knights of Division 11 conferred the Order of Red Cross in Gettysburg on January 28<sup>th</sup> and made four new companions. Well done, Sir Knights! Welcome to our new members!



The Sir Knights of St. John's No. 4 and Lady Rhonda Whited, COT, prepared a meal at the Gift of Life Howie's House in Philadelphia. Howie's House provide lodging and support for families with loved ones awaiting organ transplants at Philadelphia area hospitals.  
Thank you for Living our Values and for Feeding the Hungry!



Nativity Commandery No. 71, supported by Sir Knights from around the region, conferred the Order of Malta on two candidates. Congratulations to the new Knights of Malta and to the conferring team!





Crusade Commandery No. 12, stationed at Orangeville, conducted their annual clothing drive and gathered 25 bags of gently used clothes to be distributed to local charities. Thank you for helping to Clothe the Naked, Sir Knights!

**Send photos of your commandery conclaves and events (along with a caption) to the REGC ([josh.nay@gmail.com](mailto:josh.nay@gmail.com)) for inclusion in**