



Pennsylvania Crusader

Since 1948

GRAND COMMANDERY OF PENNSYLVANIA
pagrandcommandery.org

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Sir Knights,

As summer begins to draw to a close and we look toward the coming of fall, I am reminded once again of just how blessed we are to live in this great Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. Soon, the leaves will begin to change. The mountains and valleys will come alive with brilliant colors, and the beauty of Pennsylvania will be on full display. But there is something even more remarkable about Pennsylvania than its beautiful scenery.

Pennsylvania is a land of history.
Pennsylvania is a land of courage.
Pennsylvania is a land of freedom.

This Commonwealth stands at the very heart of the American story. Philadelphia hosted both the First and Second Continental Congresses. In that great city, our founders gathered, debated, prayed, and ultimately took the courageous step of declaring American independence. The Declaration of Independence was adopted in Philadelphia in 1776, beginning a new chapter in the history of mankind. And Pennsylvania did not simply witness the birth of our nation. **Pennsylvania helped fight for it.**

Pennsylvania men stood in the ranks of the Continental Army. Pennsylvania provided soldiers, supplies, money, industry, and determination to the cause of independence. Valley Forge, Brandywine, Germantown, York, Philadelphia, and so many other places across this Commonwealth bear witness to the sacrifices made for the freedoms we enjoy today.

Right here in our own historic **Bedford County**, we find another chapter of American history.

During the Whiskey Rebellion, President George Washington personally led a large force of militia into western Pennsylvania to uphold federal law and restore order. It was an important moment in the early history of our young republic—a reminder that freedom also requires responsibility, unity, and respect for the rule of law.

Sir Knights, when we travel across this Commonwealth, we are traveling across **sacred ground of American history**. We pass places where great men walked. We stand where decisions were made that changed the world. We live among the legacy of men and women who sacrificed so that we could live free. As Knights Templar, we have a responsibility to remember that legacy. We must be strong men.

We must be men of character. We must be men of courage and conviction. Above all, we must be men of God. Our faith teaches us that freedom is not something to take for granted. It is something to cherish, something to protect, and something to pass on to those who come after us.

This year, as America celebrates 250 years of independence, let us remember the words, sacrifices, and courage of those who came before us. Let us remember the Constitution. Let us remember “We the People.” Let us remember the men and women who wore the uniform and stood between our freedoms and those who would take them away. Let us remember that our nation and our Commonwealth are not simply places on a map. They are part of our inheritance.

Sir Knights, the story of Pennsylvania is the story of America. It is a story of faith, courage, sacrifice, perseverance, and freedom. Now it is our turn to write the next chapter. Let us leave our children and grandchildren a Pennsylvania and an America that is worthy of the sacrifices of those who came before us. Let us protect our faith. Let us protect our families. Let us protect our Constitution. Let us protect our freedoms. Let us never be afraid to stand for what is right.

May Almighty God continue to bless the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Pennsylvania and every Sir Knight who stands ready to defend what is right. May He bless this great Commonwealth. May He bless our veterans, our military, our first responders, and all who defend our freedoms. May God continue to bless the United States of America.

Deus Vult!

In His Service,
Troy A. Mock, REGC



“Spes Mea in Deo Est” or “My Hope Is In God”

Associate Grand Prelate's Message

To all valiant knights of Pennsylvania wherever dispersed:

We begin this month of October with a reading from the 10th chapter of the Gospel according to St. Luke: "The seventy-two returned rejoicing, and said, "Lord, even the demons are subject to us because of your name." Jesus said, "I have observed Satan fall like lightning* from the sky. Behold, I have given you the power 'to tread upon serpents' and scorpions and upon the full force of the enemy and nothing will harm you. Nevertheless, do not rejoice because the spirits are subject to you, but rejoice because your names are written in heaven."

We can do a lot! Seriously, think about all that you have done, in every facet of life, for the sake of Christ Jesus and your faith in Him. Now, spend a few more minutes considering what you've been able to do in His name while wearing His cross upon your commandery uniform!

We must never underestimate the value of this great opportunity. To pledge ourselves to His service, we engage in that great undertaking in all that we do. Some of us preach from pulpits, others do small but powerful deeds, some just by their quiet presence speak volumes of their faith! Although we sometimes think our contribution is small when compared to the deeds performed by the earliest disciples of Jesus, it is truly a contribution of which we cannot know the fullness. Surely, we're not casting out demons in our day to day spreading of the Gospel, but we are a powerful force in the faith.

Now, do more! If, by a quick review of what you have done, and the normal living out of our life in faith you can recognize your role in the kingdom, you can certainly do more with intention. Be present with others. Put on your uniform, not with pride in yourself, but with conviction for the Lord and His work which is set before you. This amazing opportunity we have to gather and pray together is a most effective form of evangelism that today's society is forgetting so quickly.

Next, after evaluating your own contribution, gathering with other Sir Knights to pray and work, now step up to more! Take an officer's role, guide a new member, put on that uniform and find a way to share your faith by being visible, for in small ways is found the fulfillment of the obligation you so fervently pledged!

Finally, there is an accountability in commandery we must all hold dear. As fellow knights of our Lord Jesus Christ we have bound ourselves together as brethren with a purpose. We cannot rejoice in our deeds, few or numerous, but only that by our faith in Him who died for us, Jesus Christ our Lord, our names are written in heaven! Walk in faith with each other, correct our wrongs, and lead our fellows to be the very best servant of Christ we can be.

So, pack up, and move out in strength against this world which seeks to destroy us! Take nothing but faith and you will do mighty deeds. Then, when our day comes to an end, we rejoice in the precious gift of the cross, by which heaven's gates will open wide for those whom He loves!

Blessings to you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit! AMEN.

The Rev. Dr. S.K. Nathan Corl Minnich
Honorary Past Grand Commander & Associate Grand Prelate

Flight 93 Memorial Wreath Laying



S.K. Troy A. Mock, REGC, with the Sir Knights and Grand Council Officers assembled.



The ladies at the Flight 93 Memorial



Gettysburg Memorial Weekend



S.K. Troy A. Mock, REGC, with the REGC of Maryland and Sir Knights assembled for an unofficial wreath laying at the Friend to Friend Memorial.



The official memorial service at the asylum of Gettysburg Commandery No. 79.



The Chapter Quarry Degree in Bedford, PA.



A joint conclave and feast at Ossea Lodge in Wellsboro, PA



The stated conclave of Huntingdon Commandery No. 46



S.K. Richard Brown presented with the Illustrious Knight of the Triangle.



S.K. Mock was presented with a nice Templar plaque during his visit to Huntingdon Commandery



The Northwest Section Joint Conclave in Butler, PA



S.K. Brian L. Daniels, PDC receiving the Sword of Merit for donations to the Knights Templar Eye Foundation
 Pictured (r to l) S.K. Roger B. Early, VEDGC, S.K. Troy A. Mock, REGC, S.K Brian L. Daniels, PDC,
 S.K. Jason R. Oudit, PC, EC, Beaver Valley Commandery No. 84



S.K. James H. Houston, PC, EC, Franklin Commandery No. 44, receiving the Knight Templar Holy Land Pilgrimage jewel and certificate.