



Pennsylvania Crusader

Since 1948

GRAND COMMANDERY OF PENNSYLVANIA
pagrandcommandery.org

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Sir Knights,

As you read this message, most everybody is focusing on the 4th of July celebrations. Independence Day, the 4th of July, is our Nations Anniversary commemorating the passage of the Declaration of Independence by the unanimous declaration of the thirteen United States of America in July 1776. We think of this as the day to celebrate the birth of the United States as an independent nation. This action severed the 13 American colonies political connections to Great Britain. So, as you enjoy the picnics with family and friends enjoying all the different and wonderful venues of foods, please remember how we came to hold this day in such reverence. Many sacrifices were made to birth and establish this great nation. Be proud of America, wave your flags, and enjoy the picnics, parades, and sporting activities. And let us never forget that living in a free country came at a price of untold numbers of men and women who gave their lives for this freedom we enjoy. We should always of proud to be an American and be equally proud to be a Knights Templar.

The Testimonial planning is progressing, and reservation forms are available through your Recorders and the Grand Commandery website. Detailed information is provided on the forms and website. Remember to put July 29th on your schedule calendar and join us for a great time.

On August 26th, 2023, we will once again be conferring all three Orders and in full Chainmail for the Order of the Temple, which is quite impressive and will leave an indelible impression on the candidates. The Samuel S. Yohe No. 81 will be our host Commandery for this very special conferral of Orders. Candidates are required to have a Request for a Courtesy Conferral in order to be admitted. Start time will be 7:30 AM with Registration, coffee and doughnuts being provided, and conclude after lunch with the Order of the Temple conferred in Ceremonial Uniform. This is a perfect opportunity to add more Sir Knights within our Commanderies.

Dates to remember:

July 1	NW Joint Conclave and Section Reception
July 8	Council of Deliberation
July 15	Rainbow Girls Grand Assembly
July 29	Testimonial for the REGC, Steel Club, Hellertown
August 18	Jobs Daughters, Elizabethtown
August 26	One Day Conferral of Orders, Rimrock
August 31	PCLO at the Barnhouse restaurant
Sept. 9-10	NEDC, Albany, NY
Sept. 10	Flight 93 Wreath Laying Ceremony
Sept. 15-17	Gettysburg Memorial Activities

Templar Knights in history:

Godefroy de Saint Omer, also known as Geoffroi or Godfrey, was a Flemish knight and a founding member of the Knights Templar in 1129. He is said to come from the family of the Lords of Saint Omer in Pas-de-Calais. According to legend, Godfrey and Hugues de Payens were so poor that between them they had only one horse, which gave rise to the famous image on the seal of the Knights Templar, of two men riding a single horse.

"This is the day which the Lord hath made; we will rejoice and be glad in it."
Psalm 118:24



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



Associate Grand Prelate's Message

Galatians 5:1

“It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery.”

July brings with it many things for which we can be grateful. There is the beautiful weather that we have this time of year, there are the summer vacations we may go on this month, there are the cookouts and celebrations that we share with friends and family, and there is the freedom we have in our nation. A freedom that has been hard won and even harder to keep.

As Sir Knights in the United States of America, we celebrate the Fourth of July as the day our forefathers declared their independence from England and set forth to gain the freedoms we now enjoy. We remember the sacrifice of these men - and all the men and women who have sacrificed over the last two and a half centuries - that we might continue to have these freedoms.

While our freedoms and our nation are not perfect, we are far better off than most of the world. We must remember and celebrate the fact that we are a free people. Many people around the world do not have the freedoms that we celebrate every year. We must thank those who have worked hard for our freedoms and strive to use our freedoms in the best and most responsible ways.

The only freedom that we have that is greater than the freedom of our nation is the freedom of our Savior. As Christian knights, we should ever remember that Christ came to save us and to set us free. This is not a freedom from chains or bondage, but a freedom from sin and death. A man can break chains or bonds. But what man can free himself from death?

The world is a slave to its desires and vices, going from one unfulfilling distraction to the next. But Christ has freed us from that. Some out in the world would say that Christians are bound by rules and restrictions that limit their fun and excitement - but is that true? If we are in Christ, we have freedom to determine our own lives in a way those bound by their desires cannot. While the “fun and excitement” that the world offers might seem entertaining, how destructive is it in the long run? How many people die every year trying to pursue this type of fun? How many people who have spent years pursuing their pleasures find themselves still depressed and hollow? This is what we are freed from.

Christ has freed us to live in Him and enjoy the life that He gives us. Not one that is wasted or hollow, but one that is lived fully the entire time we are on this earth. One that can be lived in youth as well as advanced age. One that is fulfilling and can be looked back upon in pride. One that prepares us not only to face the trials of this life but prepares us for life eternal.

Freedom is not free; it is hard won. Salvation is not insurance policy from hellfire, it is a license to live fully. To live not in some distant future life but right here and now.

Courteously,
SK Joshua Yorks, AGP