



Pennsylvania Crusader

Since 1948

GRAND COMMANDERY OF PENNSYLVANIA
pagrandcommandery.org

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Greetings Sir Knights,

I sit here hardly believing how this past year has gone by so quickly. I sit here wondering how to express the emotions of this tour of duty as your Grand Commander. I sit here trying to figure how to say thank you for all that everybody has done this year. I sit here and am in awe of the honor and privilege it has been to be your Grand Commander. These 365 days and 60 thousand plus miles seem almost like a whirlwind. Lady Dottie and I have traveled extensively throughout Pennsylvania, the Northeast Department, and several states in the Mid Atlantic Department. We have been afforded your gracious hospitality and warm felt greetings during our visits everywhere we went. I sincerely offer my gratitude for the courtesies received. We have been able to spend time with old friends and have made so many new friends during our travels. We have thoroughly enjoyed this once in a lifetime experience.

May is a most important time in the Templar year for all of us. Our constituent Commandery's will have elected and installed the next Templar year's Officers; the Grand Line and other Grand Officers will be elected and installed; one Templar year ends and the new Templar year begins. I challenge and encourage all of you to work hard to be proficient with your duties as officers, proficient with your ritual, and work tirelessly to advance Knights Templary in Pennsylvania. Remember, it is important to be efficient and do things right, but even more important, to be effective and do the right things.

The Call has been published and posted on the Grand Commandery website. 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 171st Annual Conclave scheduled for May 17 - 19, 2024 at the Delta Marriott Hotel in Breinigsville. The Conclave Committee has been diligently working many long hours striving to ensure this Annual Conclave is a successful and fun event. There are a number of events and activities for the Ladies as well as the Sir Knights. Friday evening will be an Oldies but Goodies Theme, so dress like you did "back in the days of your youth". There will be music, dancing, silent auctions, basket raffles, and a very special event to honor our Past Grand Commanders and their Ladies. It will be an event you will want to attend. Of course, Saturday will be the Grand Commanders banquet.

I would like to thank the Elected Grand Officers for their support during Section Receptions and Official Visitations, Gettysburg, Easter Sunrise, Wreath Laying Ceremonies, Joint Conclaves, and Line Officers & Division Commanders seminars and many other events attended. The support of the Division Commanders, Past Grand Commanders and the Commandery Officers has been outstanding. This past Templar year has truly been an amazing journey made possible by you, the Sir Knights. You are the ones that have made this year such a wonderful and special time for me and Lady Dottie. Words alone cannot express the depth of appreciation for all you have done for Templary in general and this soon to be Past Grand Commander in particular.

Let us not forget those fellow Sir Knights who have laid down their sword for the last time. Please keep their families in your prayers. Also keep in your hearts all those who serve this nation and our great state. Continue to help, aid, assist and provide support to those in need throughout our communities.

So, in closing, I will simply say Thank you and God Bless each and every one of you for your friendship and support this past year.

Upcoming Events

May 17-19 171st Annual Conclave –Delta Marriott Hotel in Breinigsville

August 17-21 69th Triennial Conclave of the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar USA – Salt Lake City, Utah

Templar Knights in history: Hugues de Pairaud (b. 1244) was Jacques DeMolay's deputy and visitor of the Temple in France and Poitou. Unlike DeMolay and DeCharney, Hugues never recanted his testimonies and most likely remained incarcerated for the rest of his life. Hugues de Pairaud was still alive in 1321, when he was interrogated regarding the whereabouts of the Templar treasure.

" God is our refuge and strength." Psalm 46:1



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

