



Pennsylvania Crusader

Since 1948

GRAND COMMANDERY OF PENNSYLVANIA
pagrandcommandery.org

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September 2024

Greetings Sir Knights,

I hope you had the opportunity to enjoy yourselves over the summer and, being refreshed, are ready to resume our labors. September is here and we actively re-engage in serving our Commanderies and communities. During the One Day Conferral on August 3rd, all three Orders were conferred at Samuel S. Yohe Commandery No. 81 stationed at Stroudsburg. I proudly thank all the Sir Knights who helped organize and took part in the conferrals for their time and service to Templary. To the new Sir Knights, a hearty welcome and I want to encourage you to become and remain active in your local Commandery. Take the opportunity to learn more about this glorious fraternity: what we are about, what we do for others, and what values we embrace.

As Grand Commandery Historian, SK Jerry Hamilton PGC is compiling biographies of past and current Grand Commandery officers. This living history project will help establish and preserve our history for generations to come. I want to recognize and thank SK Hamilton for his initiative and willingness to serve our Grand Commandery.

The 69th Triennial of the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar saw the election, appointment, and installation of Grand Encampment officers. These officers and information for the now 70th Triennial can be found on the website: www.usagekt.org. This month your Grand Line Officers will represent you at the Northeast Department Conference of the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar. We will have the chance to learn about forthcoming new programs and initiatives and will share these with you.

Take a moment to reflect on why you chose to join Templary and be prepared to share those reasons with others. We are often approached with the question of "What is Templary?". I believe it is safe to say that we all joined this fraternity to become better men. Generally, based on our tenets, we are united in benevolent causes for the greater good, to support each other, and to make a positive impact in our lives and the lives of others. These positive qualities are extended to all and will make you a better person and impact those lives you have touched. For all the efforts you make in support of our tenets, I thank you and encourage you to maintain and expand these efforts in the Lord's service.

Upcoming Events:

September 1 Holy Land Pilgrimage nominations due

September 6-8 North East Department Conference, Albany, NY

September 11 Flight 93 National Memorial

September 21-22 Central Reception/Gettysburg Memorial Weekend

November 8-10 Line Officer/Division Commanders Seminar in Elizabethtown

Statistically, one in six Americans aged 65 and older have a vision impairment that cannot be corrected with glasses or contact lenses. As you may be aware, the risk of eye disease increases with age, yet many older adults neglect to see an ophthalmologist for proper diagnosis and treatment. To emphasize the need of taking care of our eyes as we age, the American Academy of Ophthalmology (AAO) has designated September as Healthy Aging Month to raise awareness of the signs and symptoms of vision loss, including steps to help seniors. For more information: <https://www.aaof.org/eye-health>

Labor Day is a federal holiday celebrated on the first Monday of September every year. It observes and honors the American labor movement and pays tribute to the social and economic contribution of the workforce toward society in general and recognizes individual worker's rights. Have a safe and enjoyable holiday weekend.

Patriot Day, also known as the National Day of Service and Remembrance, is observed on September 11th each year. Owing to its significance, many simply refer to Patriot Day by its date: September 11th, or 9/11. As you may recall, on Tuesday, September 11, 2001, 19 Islamist extremists hijacked 4 planes in a series of attacks orchestrated by Al-Qaeda, resulting in 2,977 people being killed and thousands more being injured. Among those killed were hundreds of police officers and firefighters carrying out rescue efforts. Given the opportunity, join us at the Flight 93 Memorial in Shanksville to honor those who lost their lives on that day.

Wife Appreciation Day, also sometimes known as National Wife Day, is celebrated every year on the third Sunday of September. It is a day for fortunate spouses to show their wives how important they are, and how they make their lives better. Our wives are the pillars of the family and are always the first to help and support us, as they often have to be strong for everyone. If possible, show your wife or significant woman in your life that she is appreciated every day in every way.

Constitution Day as well as Citizenship Day is observed every year on September 17th. September 17 to 23 is officially designated Constitution Week. It is a period of celebration, and appreciation, and allows citizens to learn more about their rights and responsibilities. Constitution Day commemorates the formation of the United States Constitution which was signed by 39 out of 55 delegates at the Constitutional Convention in Philadelphia on September 17th, 1787.

National POW/MIA Recognition Day is a day of observance that honors those who were prisoners of war (POW) as well as those who are still missing in action (MIA). It is observed here in the United States on the third Friday in September which is Friday, September 20, 2024. Take a moment to reflect on the service and sacrifices all of our veterans and active military have made, especially those who have still not returned home.

On the fourth Monday of September, (September 23, 2024) every year National Family Day is observed. It is a day for families to spend quality time together, share a meal to talk about their days and their lives so that they can support each other, and become closer. Our families support us in so many ways and deserve our attention and appreciation every day.

Anniversaries:

Mountain No. 10 – September 20, 1855

Baldwin II No. 22 – September 13, 1866

Packer No. 23 – September 26, 1866

Dieu Le Veut No. 45 – September 17, 1872

Trinity No. 58 – September 28, 1881

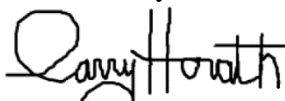
Potter No. 69 – September 24, 1890

Gettysburg No. 79 – Sept. 25, 1899

Savona No. 89 – September 26, 1913

Thank you for all you do for Templary. May the Lord's Grace be with you all.

Courteously,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Larry D. Horath". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "L".

SK Larry D. Horath
Grand Commander

Associate Grand Prelate's Message

To all valiant knights of Pennsylvania wherever dispersed:

From the Gospel according to St. John in the 3rd chapter: Jesus said to Nicodemus: “No one has gone up to heaven except the one who has come down from heaven, the Son of Man. And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the desert, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, so that everyone who believes in him may have eternal life.” For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him might not perish but might have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through him.

The month of September (14th) holds one of my favorite feasts of the church year: The Exaltation of the Holy Cross. This important feast of the church commemorates for us the cross itself, the very sign of our salvation, and for all valiant and magnanimous knights the sign we wear! The feast, known throughout the church as The Triumph of the Cross, or Holy Cross Day, or Holy Rood Day, causes us to remember three significant events of history. First, the finding of the true cross attributed to Saint Helena (the mother of Emperor Constantine), the dedication day of the Church of the Holy Sepulchre on Mount Calvary, and the return of the true cross to Jerusalem in AD 629.

Around the year AD327 excavations were being made to discover the true location of Calvary and to lay the foundation of the Church of the Holy Sepulchre which remains the honored site of the crucifixion, the preparation of the body of Our Lord, and the Edicule which covers the burial shelf of Jesus. This structure may well be the most sacred place for Christians. I've included a photo here from the last KT Holy Land Pilgrimage I led. Within the structure of the church, spanning several stories, you can walk to the lowest level of the ancient cistern where St. Helena claims to have found the true cross, and to the highest levels containing the rock of Mount Calvary. Another photo here included is the marking spot at that lowest level of the church.



As we contemplate the symbolism of the cross, and the centuries of pilgrims who have gone to that very spot to venerate that cross, let us all remember our connection to it, and the value it has imparted on us. By being lifted up on that instrument of cruelty and death, our savior Jesus Christ won for us the victory over sin and death. Through faith we gaze upon his body hanging on the cross we gain the assurance of this pardon, this remission of sin, this promise of life eternal in a paradise prepared for His people. So, like the thief on the cross next to Jesus, let us too ask with profound faith “Jesus, remember me when you come into your Kingdom!”

Lift high that great symbol of our salvation and worship him who upon that tree gained for all flesh redemption. Nothing of this world can destroy us, because those words recorded by John are most true, that He came into the world that we would be saved through him!

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

Grand Encampment of Knights Templar USA New Website Address

<https://usagekt.org/>

Make sure to take a few moments and check it out. If you have links on any website or document, make sure to update those links.