



# Pennsylvania Crusader

Since 1948

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

**S.K. Larry D. Horath, Grand Commander**

[larryhorath@gmail.com](mailto:larryhorath@gmail.com)

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



## February 2025

“Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity!” Psalms 133 (KJV)

Greetings Sir Knights,

This typical statement of accord so often heard refers to the fact that when brothers or fraters live in unity, it brings glory to God. To live in unity is to be devoted to supporting and communing with others to uplift the community, share support, and pray together. When we are unified, we demonstrate to the world that we embrace our tenets as representatives of a Christian brotherhood. What are you doing for others? Let us remember that we, as a whole, are judged and evaluated by others through the actions of each of us as individuals. Therefore, we must act according to the principles we swore to uphold as Knights and Soldiers of Christ. Take a moment to pray for those suffering around this great nation and abroad in a spirit of unity and support.

February is the month in which we honor our presidents as leaders of this great nation. February 14<sup>th</sup>, Saint Valentine’s Day also provides the opportunity to honor significant others in our lives. We owe a debt of gratitude to those who significantly contribute to what we do as Knights Templar in so many ways. We should honor these special people in our lives every day, but Valentine’s Day gives us the opportunity to go beyond by honoring them and demonstrating our deep appreciation for all their support. Let us remember and celebrate what we are able to accomplish due to their love and care. Lady Rebecca and I want to wish all, especially the ladies and significant others involved in our Grand Commandery, a very Happy Valentines Day.

As many blue lodges, chapters, and commanderies have planned and scheduled conferrals, I encourage you to take the opportunity to recruit in your many travels. As many of us already do, rededicate your efforts to provide any needed help and support to your local lodges and chapters with their conferrals. Contact your Eminent Commander or Division Commander to help with the planning, organizing, or conferring of our Orders. Membership is always a concern, and I challenge every Sir Knight to replace themselves by petitioning at least one new member this year.

Take the time and make the effort to present a program on Templary at one or more of the masonic meetings you attend with their permission and when appropriate. Should you be asked by someone interested in learning more about Templary, put together a brief answer that outlines what Templary is and offers to its members. Be prepared for any follow-up questions. Remember, you represent to the world what being a Knight Templar means. To assist you, brochures, petitions, and relevant information are provided for your use on the Grand Commandery website:

<https://pagrandcommandery.org/orders-publications/>.

Contact a current member who has not been to a conclave in some time and invite them to join you. If possible, offer to provide transportation if they are no longer able or comfortable driving. Let us focus on educating all Sir Knights in the many aspects of Templary in general and their asylums in particular. We have much to offer and share with qualified candidates. If you need assistance let someone know. Together we can and will do better.

Age-Related Macular Degeneration (AMD) is the leading cause of blindness among older Americans, but AMD can be managed. February is AMD Awareness Month, and the American Academy of Ophthalmology reminds us that people living with AMD can save their vision thanks to recent treatment advances, but early detection is a critical first step.

Black History Month, also known as African American History Month, begins on February 1st. This month we honor the historical achievements and contributions of African Americans. "If you can't fly then run, if you can't run then walk, if you can't walk then crawl, but by all means keep moving" - Martin Luther King Jr.

Groundhog Day, February 2nd, is a day when Punxsutawney Phil is said to predict the weather. This annual ritual is conducted in the early morning when the groundhog emerges and if he sees his shadow and returns to the hole, that means there will be six more weeks of winter. However, if the groundhog does not see its shadow, and stays out of its hole, it means that spring is near and will arrive early. Punxsutawney Phil's accuracy rate is roughly 40%. Better than some other weather reporting.

Presidents Day is a federal holiday celebrated annually on the third Monday of February, Monday, February 17th. Although it was originally a day to celebrate the lives of George Washington and Abraham Lincoln, many use it now to honor all US Presidents, past and present.

Anniversaries:

Reading No. 9 – February 7, 1854

Upcoming events:

Feb 06-09, 2025 – Masonic Week – Arlington, VA

Mar 22, 2025 – NW Section Reception -- Brookville

Mar 29, 2025 – SW Section Reception -- Pittsburgh


April 18, 2025 -- Good Friday

April 19-20, 2025 -- 95th Annual Easter Sunrise Service – Alexandria (info: usagekt.org)

May 29, 2025 – Ascension Day

May 30-31 – 172nd Annual Conclave – Doubletree Greentree Hotel – Pittsburgh

Yours in Templar Service,



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. Luke: Now about eight days after these sayings he took with him Peter and John and James and went up on the mountain to pray. And as he was praying, the appearance of his face was altered, and his clothing became dazzling white. And behold, two men were talking with him, Moses and Elijah, who appeared in glory and spoke of his departure, which he was about to accomplish at Jerusalem. Now Peter and those who were with him were heavy with sleep, but when they became fully awake, they saw his glory and the two men who stood with him. And as the men were parting from him, Peter said to Jesus, "Master, it is good that we are here. Let us make three tents, one for you and one for Moses and one for Elijah"—not knowing what he said. As he was saying these things, a cloud came and overshadowed them, and they were afraid as they entered the cloud. And a voice came out of the cloud, saying, "This is my Son, my Chosen One; listen to him!" (ESV)

"The Lawgiver, The Prophet, The Messiah " revealed in the dazzling shadow of the most high atop Mt. Tabor confirms the fullness of Jesus Christ. They did not dream this! Luke is careful to note that they were 'fully awake' and saw this sight, and this glory. The transfiguration of Jesus for many Christians holds this place in the lectionary at the end of the great season of light, Epiphany. It is here that we take the next step of our faithful journey into a penitent season of Lent, and we draw ever closer to the Lord's passion.

But this experience, this revelation is important. The veil was lifted for Peter, John, and James as they saw the glory of God rest upon the person of Jesus, who will fulfill all that was spoken about him.

Unlike Moses, who veiled himself before the people, because of the glory of God, this revelation

dispelled any doubt for the disciples that Jesus truly was the fulfillment of the Law, completion of the prophecies, and the savior of his people Israel! He pulled back the veil and would lead this people into the kingdom without end.



Now, the modern experience of this mountain is difficult to describe. It is tall, with a danger winding road (and pretty fast driving taxis), and a spectacular view all around. At the top, build on the foundations of a Byzantine church from the fifth century and a Crusader church from the 12th century stands the current church completed in 1924. Still visible are the older foundations, and so much more. Mt. Tabor has been a pilgrimage site since the 4th century. It is always fun to note to the pilgrims on the KT Holy Land Pilgrimage that man will continue to do things even when Jesus says no... as there are small chapels to the right and left of the entrance of the church, permanent tents perhaps as Peter wanted to erect for the three!

As we begin our Lenten preparations, let us be ever mindful of the fulfillment of all things in Jesus Christ, and that in him we have been told everything we need to know. He has pulled back the veil to reveal the glory of God, and he will lead us into that promised land, prepared for us in his eternal kingdom.



4th Century Baptismal Font at Mt Tabor

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