

Grand Commandery of New York

July News



John Scott
Grand Commander

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Sir Knights,

Blessings and best wishes to you.

Kenneth I. Sussman

August 24, 1949 – June 8, 2025

It is with great sadness that I announce the passing of Kenneth Ira Sussman, age 75, on June 8, 2025. Sir Knight Sussman was our Right Eminent Grand Commander during the Templar year 2013-2014. He leaves his beloved wife, Margaret, and children Lauren, Jonathan, and Rachel to mourn and remember him. I ask you to please keep Ken's wife and family in your prayers during this most difficult time. Be comforted in your sorrow by the knowledge that our departed Brother was a Christian and, therefore, these words of our Savior are most fitting: "I tell you the truth, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life and will not be condemned; he has crossed over from death to life." John 5:24.

"Our brother was a true and courteous Knight and has fallen in life's struggles in full knighthood and with his armor on prepared for knightly deeds." His earthly pilgrimage has ended and "wilt thou, O Father, be indeed Emmanuel -- God with us. May the lamp of thy love dispel the gloom of the dark valley, and he be enabled by the commendation of thy Son to gain admission into the blessed asylum above."

A Templar Memorial Service in honor of our departed Brother was held on June 21, 2025. I thank the Sir Knights who participated in this service.

I had the pleasure of participating in St. John's Day at the Masonic Care Community on June 21st. I thank the Sir Knights who also participated by marching in the parade and joining me in Tompkins Chapel for the Investiture. The Grand Commandery was well represented at this event.

I also had the pleasure of representing the Grand Commandery at the Grand Commandery of Pennsylvania Annual Conclave which was a very enjoyable event. I want to thank Sir Knight Earl Wilkinson for representing our Grand Commandery at the Vermont Grand Commandery Annual Conclave and Sir Knight Dennis Davis for representing our Grand Commandery at the New York Council of Deliberation Session. I had a planned family obligation that prevented my attendance at these events. It is comforting to know that there is always someone willing to assist.

As our Commanderies are at recess for the summer, I want to remind you all to take advantage of every opportunity to participate in civic functions. The next opportunity that comes to mind is Independence Day which commemorates the ratification of the Declaration of Independence by the Second Continental Congress on July 4, 1776, establishing the United States of America. This festive day is traditionally celebrated with local parades, community picnics, fireworks, and other public gatherings. Please look for possibilities where the Sir Knights of your Commandery can attend in uniform. Always remember that our Class A uniform is our best advertisement and membership marketing tool.

Finally, I remind you again that the 212th Annual Conclave of the Grand Commandery of New York will be held at the Crowne Plaza Desmond Hotel, 660 Albany Shaker Rd., Albany New York 13501 on **Friday, September 26, 2025, through Sunday, September 28, 2025**. Full information on the Conclave has been distributed to all Commanderies, Zone Commanders, and many others. If you have not received General Order No. 5, the preliminary schedule, and the meal reservation form with hotel reservation, please ask your recorder or contact me directly (scottydawg2000@aol.com). It is my hope and expectation that, at this Annual Conclave, each Commandery will be represented by their own Commander, Generalissimo, and Captain General. It is also my wish that there will be in attendance every Past Grand Commander, Zone Commander, Deputy Zone Commander, Grand Representative, and my fellow Sir Knights. This is your Grand Commandery, and I look forward to greeting each one of you and thanking you personally for giving me the opportunity to serve as your Grand Commander.

And now, until my next message, I leave you in the grace and favor of the Lord.

Courteously and in His service,

S. K. John W. Scott, R.E.G.C., K.C.T.

Grand Prelate's Corner

As we enter July, may we find strength and guidance in God's Word, seek opportunities for growth and service, and embrace the joy of His presence—knowing that His love and grace are always with us.

I would like to share with you a thought from a Christian author, Adewale Onagbesan. He states: "Everything that God created is mysterious because of its deeper meaning of them. God created the heavens and the earth, trees, animals, man, day and night, and all that you can think of. Unto one of these creations is the mystery of time and season. There is a mystery to every day, month, and year that a man spends and lives for. There are Twelve (12) months in a year, and the month of July is the 7th month. There are mysteries about this month known as July. As the 7th month, the number connotes several deeper meanings in the scripture. It represents – completion, divine perfection, and fulfilment. Also, the Bible mentioned that God rested on the 7th day after His creation activities (Gen 1, 2:1-2). In Lev.25, the Bible talks about God's intention to grant freedom to the Israelites from slavery by creating a sabbath year every 7 years. So, this month of July is a month of divine freedom and deliverance. It is a month of spiritual power.

The month of July is a month of Hope because Prov.24:16 says that a just man that falls seven times, shall surely rise up again. The month of July is a mysterious month for you to connect to insights and intuitions from God; a month to seek and hold on to the truth; meditate and seek divine wisdom. In the book of Revelation, the Bible talks about the 7 churches, 7 angels, 7 seals, 7 trumpets, and 7 stars. Also, there are 7 perfect spirits of God, 7 days a week, 7 wonders of the world." God does know how to make perfection and freedom, does he not?

Sir Knights. Enjoy your summer! Live to enjoy the jubilee of God.