



Pennsylvania Crusader

Since 1948

GRAND COMMANDERY OF PENNSYLVANIA
pagrandcommandery.org

S.K. Joshua J. Nay, Grand Commander

josh.nay@gmail.com

Editor: SK Mark G. Mattern, PGC email: grandrecgcktpa@gmail.com



July 2025

Sir Knights,

Your Grand Commandery officers and committee members continue to work to improve your experience as Knight Templars in Pennsylvania. Just a few examples include:

- The Leadership, Development, and Training Committee is working with our Drill, Tactics, and Ritualistic Matters Committee to update the Manual of the Sword by replacing sketches with photographs. They are also developing a website with videos of movements to aid in learning the various mechanics. These new and updated tools should also help Sir Knights earn the forthcoming Sword Proficiency Bar (stay tuned for General Order No. 6!).
- Our Youth Activities Committee is strengthening relationships with the five Masonic Youth Groups in our state. They plan to develop and share a calendar of opportunities for us, as Sir Knights, to attend officer installations and other ceremonies beginning this fall and support Masonic youth in Pennsylvania.
- Your elected Grand Commandery officers have already begun planning for Sectional Workshops, which will replace the former Line Officers' Seminar. By making these regionally based, one-day events, we believe it will increase the number of Sir Knights who attend and benefit from in-person training opportunities.

While our work continues, I hope you can refresh and relax over the next couple of months. Fortunately, the summer often brings a slower pace to things and fewer Masonic commitments. Of course, there are always events to attend if you're interested. Be sure to check out the list below of upcoming events and gatherings happening over the next couple of months.

Speaking of events, whenever we gather together for section receptions, joint conclaves, and other events, please consider bringing your commandery banner to display. I would love to see the beautiful and varied banners that are usually only seen in our asylums. Of course, please keep your banners safe! If your banner is not fit to travel, let it stay where it is.

Mark Your Calendars

July 9-13, 2025 Rainbow Girls Grand Assembly, Altoona

July 12, 2025 Tuskegee Airman Memorial Wreath Laying, Sewickley (assemble 8:45am)

July 12, 2025 PA Council of Deliberation, New Castle (1:15-4:00pm)

July 19, 2025 PA DeMolay Convention, Breiningsville

July 27, 2025 Testimonial Dinner & Southeast Section Reception, North Wales (2:00-5:00pm)

Aug 1-2, 2025 Grand Encampment York Rite Leadership Training, Philadelphia

Aug 16, 2025 One Day Conferral of Orders, Stroudsburg

Aug 23, 2025 Central Section Reception, Williamsport

Commandery Anniversaries in July

Constans No. 33 – July 24, 1868

Mt. Calvary No. 67 – July 10, 1890

Lady Kathy and I wish you a safe and joyous Independence Day and a wonderful summer!

Courteously,



SK Joshua J. Nay
Grand Commander



Associate Grand Prelate's Message

It is A Time to Celebrate Liberty

Beloved Fraters:

This summer we are in the year of preparation for the 250th Anniversary of the Declaration of Independence and the formation of a new nation. There are many things to be accomplished before the events of next year begin. I am looking forward to the variety of celebrations which will fill up our calendars throughout 2026. I hope you are too.

Before we light the sparklers and firecrackers or pack the picnic baskets, it is important for us to focus on the concept of liberty. Our American experiment of a democratic republic has had its successes and failures. The men who gathered in Philadelphia were an amazing group with many talents. Unfortunately, regional rivalries forced them to limit their understanding of the liberty they were seeking. It has taken these 250 years to expand the definition of liberty to include categories of people that those privileged founders left out in their concept of liberty.

At that time many did not consider those in slavery to be even human beings. Women were also treated as less than men in so far as their enjoyment of liberty. Thankfully, as the years have passed, we have learned to widen the boundaries of liberty to include all Americans.

Today we, much our fore-parents before us, must defend our liberty from all who would seek to limit it, whether they be inside or outside our borders. As Americans we have a good heritage. We pray that God will continue to bless the United States of America and continue to work in us that which is pleasing in God's sight.

Courteously yours,

Rev. & SK David A. Eichelberger

Associate Grand Prelate

****SPECIAL NOTE****

Sir Knights, make sure to check out the Summer edition of the Knight Templar magazine. There are some great pictures of the Easter Sunrise Service, a very nice article by SK Steven Flinn about the 172nd Annual Conclave, and toward the back a picture and mention of a Sword of Merit that was presented at Nativity Commandery No. 71 back in December at their Christmas Observance.



Congratulations to the fourteen candidates who received the Order of the Red Cross at Hospitaller No. 46 in Lock Haven!

The Sir Knights of Allen-Beauceant No. 20 in Allentown at their June Conclave.



On behalf of our Grand Commandery, SK Mark Whited, DC1, and officers of Kensington-Kadosh No. 54 in Bristol, present an Educational Foundation grant to a deserving student.



The Sir Knights of Samuel S. Yohe No. 81 in Stroudsburg were joined by Grand Commandery officers at their June Conclave.

The REGC had the pleasure of attending the June conclave of his home commandery, Mary No. 36 in Philadelphia.



The REGC's first official visit was to St. John's No. 4 in Philadelphia, along with other Grand Commandery officers.



Most Excellent Companion Eric C. Stahley, MEGHP and the S.K. Joshua J. Nay, REGC having a serious discussion at the Grand Holy Royal Arch Chapter June Quarterly in York. Could it be about the best ice cream in the area?

S.K. Kenneth G. Kriebel, PC, was presented with his Past Recorder Certificate and award of Thanks for his service as Recorder of Damasus Commandery No. 95. The presentation was made by S.K. Jerome J. Phillips, EGJW.





A few more Knights Templar Education Foundation Scholarship checks being presented by S.K. Troy A. Mock, VEDGC.



