



# Pennsylvania Crusader

Since 1948

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

**S.K. Joshua J. Nay, Grand Commander**

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## August 2025

Sir Knights,

July provided numerous opportunities to travel within our jurisdiction and represent our Grand Commandery. After an enjoyable Independence Day weekend, my family and I traveled to the PA Rainbow Girls Grand Assembly in Altoona, where we attended the informal opening on July 9th, followed by the formal opening and Family Fun Day at a local amusement park on the 10th. Those of you involved with Rainbow Girls or who have attended Rainbow events know that these young women perform their ritual exceptionally well. We could all learn something from them when it comes to executing precise movements! Two days later, we participated in the annual wreath laying at the Tuskegee Airmen Memorial in Sewickley. My sincere thanks to the Sir Knights of Allegheny Commandery No. 35 for honoring these deserving servicemen. Later that afternoon, your Grand Line officers and I represented our Grand Commandery at the Scottish Rite's Council of Deliberation in New Castle. Thanks to all who made the trip so enjoyable and for the hospitality and courtesies extended to us.

The following weekend, I attended PA DeMolay's convention outside of Allentown to represent our Grand Commandery. I was once again impressed with the leadership and dedication demonstrated by these young men.

Then, just a few days ago, more than 135 Sir Knights, ladies, and guests attended the Testimonial and Southeast Section Reception at the Joseph Ambler Inn. From the feedback we've received; everyone had a great time. Special thanks to SK Bob Burns, PDC, and Lady Deb Burns for all their efforts in planning and executing the event.

Now we can turn our attention to some exciting events coming up in August. Our Grand Officers look forward to seeing you in our travels!

Mark Your Calendars

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

Sept 5-6, 2025 Grand Encampment Northeast Department Conference, Albany, NY

Sept 11, 2025 Division 14 Joint Conclave, Danville

Sept 16, 2025 “Knightly Feast”, Wellsboro

Sept 20, 2025 Division 11 Reception, Gettysburg

Sept 21, 2025 Memorial Service, Gettysburg

Sept 26-28, 2025 Annual Conclave of the Grand Commandery of New York, Albany, NY

Commandery Anniversaries in August

Franklin No. 44 – August 07, 1872

St. John’s No. 8 – August 31, 1854

Courteously,



SK Joshua J. Nay  
Grand Commander



## Associate Grand Prelate's Message

“They shall not hunger or thirst, neither scorching wind nor sun shall strike them down, for he who has pity on them will lead them, and by springs of water will guide them.”  
— Isaiah 49:10

Fraters,

As the sun bears down with increasing intensity and the heat of summer weighs heavily upon us, I find myself drawn to the words of the prophet Isaiah—a promise of divine comfort in a world that so often saps our strength.

We know well the toll the heat can take. It drains the body, dulls the mind, and leaves even the strongest among us seeking shade, rest, and cool water. But physical heat is not the only burden that can strike a man down. Life has its own scorching winds—grief, loneliness, anxiety, temptation, exhaustion. These, too, can parch the soul.

Isaiah speaks to this deeper thirst. God, in His mercy, sees the suffering of His people and does not leave them to languish in the wilderness. He promises to lead them gently, like a shepherd, to “springs of water”—those deep wells of grace and peace that refresh not just the body, but the heart and spirit as well.

This is the great gift we have received as followers of Christ. But it is also the mission we are given as Christian Knights.

We wear the cross not for ornament, but as a banner of our calling. Just as the Lord guides His people to springs of water, we are called to walk alongside those who suffer and thirst, leading them by word and deed to the living water found only in Christ. Our labors—whether quiet acts of service or bold stands for truth—become signs that point to that eternal source of hope.

Fraters, let this summer be more than a season of sweat and sunburn. Let it be a holy reminder that we are not alone in the heat. And let it renew in us a sense of purpose. As we move into the dog days of summer, may we find renewed strength in the One who leads us beside still waters—and may we become, for others, heralds of His mercy.

May the Lord keep you in peace, and may your steps be guided by His light.

Sincerely and Fraternaly,  
SK Rev. Brandon P. Cooper  
Associate Grand Prelate

SK Christopher D. Reed, DC, Div. 11, and Sir Knights of York-Gethsemane Commandery No. 21 hosted a recruitment event at the York Fair on Saturday, July 19<sup>th</sup>.



At the Rainbow Girls' Grand Assembly in Altoona



(L to R) S.K. and M.E. Comp. William D. Johnston, MEGS, S.K. and M.E. Comp. Eric C. Stahley, MEGHP, S.K. and Comp. Kenneth B. Shinn, Senior Grand Master of Ceremonies, Amelia Shinn, Philadelphia Rainbow Assembly No. 35, Victoria Shinn, Grand Chaplain (now Grand Charity) of Pennsylvania Rainbow Girls, and S.K. Joshua J. Nay, REGC.

Tuskegee Airmen Memorial in Sewickley



PA Scottish Rite Council of Deliberation in New Castle



(L to R) S.K. and M.E. Comp. Eric C. Stahley, MEGHP, S.K. and M.P. Comp. Mark D. Gall, MPGM, III. Walter F. Wheeler, SGC, Scottish Rite, NMJ, R.W. Bro. Larry A. Derr, RWGM, III. Keith E. Parkinson, Deputy for PA, S.K. Joshua J. Nay, REGC.



S.K. Roger B. Early, EGG, S.K. Joshua J. Nay, REGC, and S.K. Sean M. Tomasic, REPGC, EGT

PA DeMolay Convention in Breinigsville



S.K. and PA DeMolay's Co-Director of Alumni, Seth C. Anthony, S.K. and M.E. Comp. William D. Johnston, MEGS, and S.K. Joshua J. Nay, REGC.

Testimonial and Southeast Section Reception



S.K. Joshua J. Nay, REGC, Lady Kathy, COT, and Master Jack



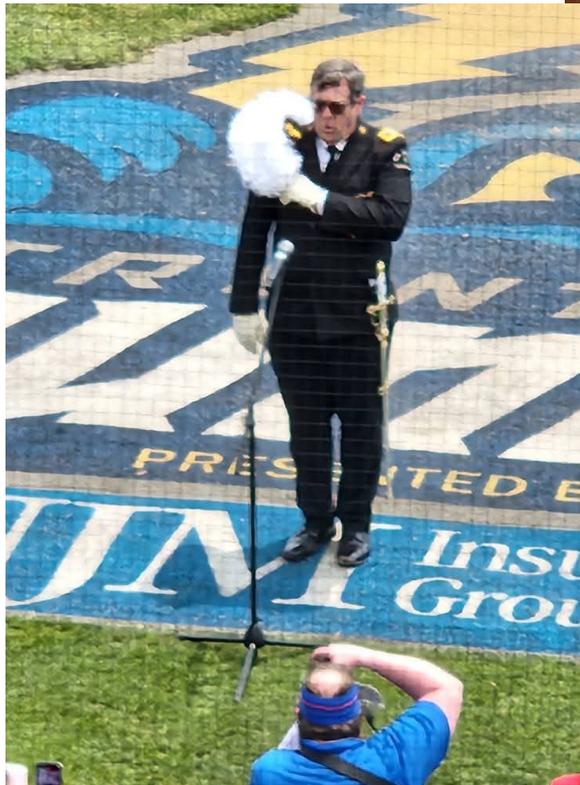




St John's Commandery No. 4 Family Day at the Trenton Thunder



Presenting the United States flag.



S.K. Lawrence Hicks, PC,  
singing the National Anthem.



The Grand Commander throwing out the first pitch. Still waiting on the call for a strike or a ball.



S.K. Joshua Nay, REGC, Lady Kathy, COT, Master Jack (yeah that title isn't going away any time soon Dad), S.K. Mark H. Whited, DC, Div. 1, and Lady Rhonda, COT.