

NEW HAMPSHIRE KNIGHT TEMPLAR NEWS



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May 2026

*Among the changing months, May stands confest
The sweetest, and in fairest colors dressed.*

— James Thomson

Christ is risen! Truly risen! The joy of the Resurrection should renew us all in body and spirit. We are midway between the start of Spring and the first day of Summer. While we can't put our coats away just yet, we do enjoy warmer and brighter days and the appearance of green shoots and buds everywhere. Speaking of green, the *Celtics* confounded the experts and are off to an excellent start in their quest for a nineteenth championship banner. The *Red Sox* stumbled badly out of the gate and experienced a wholesale shakeup of field management. Already on Kenmore Square is heard the familiar cry, "We'll get 'em next year."

This month will start off with a very special event, the celebration, on Saturday evening, May 2, of the Two Hundredth Anniversary of Mount Horeb Commandery No. 3 in Concord. Our Right Eminent Grand Commander, Sir Knight Arthur W. Stauff, K.T.C.H., will preside over a ceremony rededicating the Commandery and join the Sir Knights in a Table Conclave, a first for such an event in New Hampshire to your editor's knowledge.

Last month, the Business Session of the Annual Conclave of the Grand Commandery was convened in Concord, following the Grand Convocation of Grand Chapter and the Grand Assembly of Grand Council. We had a productive session, preparing for the installation of our new Grand Commander and other Officers and laying the foundation for the coming Chivalric Year. The new Uniform Manual was adopted and the issue of the Templar apron finally put to rest.

The Annual Grand Conclave of the Grand Commandery will reconvene Saturday, May 9, at 1:00 p.m., in the New Hampshire Masonic Center, 1505 Elm Street, Manchester. The Grand Chapter Convocation and Grand Council Assembly will be that morning. The Grand York Rite Banquet is Friday evening, at 7:00 p.m., preceded by a Social Hour, also at the New Hampshire Masonic Center. The Hospitality Suite at the nearby Hampton Inn, 21 Front Street, Manchester, will be open from 2:00 to 5:00 p.m. Friday afternoon for those arriving early. The Banquet is open to the public and is always a fun evening of good food, fellowship, and charity. All Sir Knights are encouraged to attend the Grand Banquet and Conclave.

Last month Grand Commander Stauff traveled to Cromwell, Connecticut to attend the Annual Conclave of Connecticut Grand Commandery. As many of you know, Sir Knight Stauff is a native of Waterbury, Connecticut and his sojourns there are always a fun homecoming. He was accompanied Sir Knights Peter J. Noddin, K.T.C.H., Very Eminent Deputy Grand Commander, Kenneth A. Colpaert, Sr., Eminent Grand Captain General, and Earl W. Cole, Jr., K.T.C.H., Right Eminent Past Grand Commander. On this occasion, Sir Knight Vincent A. Cowie, K.C.T., your editor's predecessor as Northeastern Department Commander and long-serving Grand Recorder of

Connecticut Grand Commandery, was honored by the award of the first Grand Commandery Meritorious Service Medal in Connecticut. Sir Knight Cowie was a great role model and mentor and he and Lady Lori remain treasured friends of your editor and Lady Virginia.



S.K. Kenneth D. Roach (center), newly installed R.E. Grand Commander of Connecticut, with (left to right) S.K.s Colpaert, Cole, Stauff and Noddin.



S.K. Cowie displays his Meritorious Service Medal. Looking on are S.K.s David W. Studley, K.G.C., R.E. Grand Treasurer of the Grand Encampment and Steven J. Chiappalone, K.T.C.H., R.E. Grand Commander of the Grand Commandery of Connecticut.

Our intrepid sojourners next traveled to Freeport, Maine, to attend the Grand Conclave of the Grand Commandery of Maine. Your editor was not informed whether they took the opportunity to visit the world famous L.L. Bean stores there. Sir Knight Cole, Most Excellent Grand High Priest and Most Illustrious Grand Master also attended the Grand Convocations of Grand Chapter and the Grand Assemblies of Grand Councils in Connecticut and Maine, which

were occurring concurrently with the respective Grand Conclaves. It can no longer be said that New Hampshire doesn't travel.



S.K.s Cole, Noddin, Stauff, and Colpaert in Freeport, at Maine Grand Conclave.



S.K.s Cole and Colpaert, Most Illustrious Grand Master and Very Illustrious Deputy Grand Master respectively at the Grand Council of Maine. Companion George L. Herbolsheimer, Most Excellent Grand High Priest of Massachusetts, looks on.

In anticipation of next month's observance of the bicentennial of New Hampshire Grand Commandery, a commemorative breast jewel has been commissioned. It is closely modeled on the one created to mark the centennial. The jewel is available for purchase at the price of \$20.00. The observance will take place in the New Hampshire Masonic Center, Manchester, Saturday, June 13, next. It will

commence with the Order of the Temple at 1:00 p.m. A banquet will follow. A reservation and order form is on the New Hampshire York Rite Home Page, <https://nhyorkrite.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/04/GC-Bicentennial-Flyer.pdf>.



Commemorative Bicentennial Jewel.

Saint Johns Sunday is June 28. As is customary, the Grand Commandery will provide an escort for the Grand Lodge of New Hampshire in Ringe. If you are interested in assisting in that duty, please contact Sir Knight Samuel A. Varjabedian, samvarjabedian@gmail.com. Sir Knights near the Seacoast may wish, instead, to attend services at Saint John's Church in Portsmouth.

Courteously,

Thomas X. Tsirimokos

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York Rite Calendar -- <https://nhyorkrite.org/calendars>