



# GRAND COMMANDERY OF KNIGHTS TEMPLAR FOR THE STATE OF NEW JERSEY

MAY 2026 MESSAGE  
SK GEORGE R. SAUNDERS REGC

Sir Knights,

The days are getting longer, the weather is getting warmer, signs that summer is not far away. Green grass, sandy beaches and vacation plans entice us to slow our daily paces and enjoy the outdoors. Life was not always so idyllic, however. Before the industrial revolution, summer meant longer work hours. The production of everything, especially food, was much more labor intensive. On a farm, summer meant working from “sun up – to – sun down”, planting, tending and later harvesting the crops.

Ascension Day celebrates the literal, bodily, ascension of Jesus into heaven. This signaled the successful end to His earthly ministry and His return to heavenly glory. It symbolized His elevation by the Father, who accepted Jesus in honor and give Him a name above all others. The ascension enabled Him to prepare a place for us in Heaven and set the means for his return.

Memorial Day is the day set aside to remember and honor all the men and women who have given their lives in service to our country. Whether their sacrifice was during a deployment overseas or in training, whether the injuries were visible or not visible, whether the death occurred instantly or years later, the sacrifice is the same. They are not forgotten, their memory lives in the hearts of their family, in the place they occupied as a parent or child, now empty; in the memory of friends and they live in the hearts of the comrades with whom they served. The greatest disservice we can show those who have sacrificed everything is to forget them. We must not forget the sacrifice of these men and women, and that of their families, if only on Memorial Day.

Grand Commandery official visits are in full swing. The Official Inspection is a good time to see your Grand Commandery officers and a great time to support the other Commanderies in New Jersey. We are small in number. If we don't support each other, who will?

Yours in Christ

SK George R. Saunders

Right Eminent Grand Commander

