



Pennsylvania Crusader

Since 1948

GRAND COMMANDERY OF PENNSYLVANIA
pagrandcommandery.org

S.K. Harry J. Smith, Grand Commander
smithhjktpa@gmail.com

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



November 2022

My Fellow Fraters:

Wow! Hard to believe but my term as your Grand Commander is halfway over! It seems like yesterday I knelt before the Altar and the Prelate put his hands on my head in prayer that I may have a successful year.

So, how are we doing? The turnout for various events, Wreath Laying's, Gettysburg, Receptions and the Testimonial has been phenomenal given current circumstances. I could not be more pleased and humbled that so many Sir Knights, ladies and Friends of Freemasonry have come out in support of our efforts. Your generosity toward Pennsylvania DeMolay in the purchase of Challenge Coins and donations of funds have been overwhelming. Your support of my personal cause, no-kill private animal shelters, has made the efforts worthwhile and allows me to have good memories of our shelter dog, Charlie Bear.

Visitations to Commanderies have also been well-attended. The work that you're doing to support Our Basic Tenets to Feeding the Hungry, Clothing the Naked & Binding Up the Wounds of the Afflicted, will provide for so many families, individuals and animals this year. You all have taken this to heart and are showing great results, of which I could not be prouder! If your Commandery has not yet taken up the tasks of collecting foods and clothing to benefit local food banks and shelters, now is the time to do so. Let's show everyone what Knights Templar represent and what we are capable of doing!

When taking on "Binding Up the Wounds of the Afflicted", always remember that many times people carry around wounds which cannot be seen; the affliction of mental illness. At times it can be difficult to address this obligation, however Past Grand Commander Benjamin Beynon gave us the means to do so. Sir Knight Ben talked about greeting individuals with a smile, telling them "Hello", holding a door open for another to enter or exit, providing a lending hand to one who may be having difficulties. These are examples of simple gestures that can go a long way toward making someone's day a little better.

Unbeknownst to you, that individual might be going through a difficult time in their lives. Your simple gesture, a Random Act of Kindness, might be all that person needs to turn his or her day around. Especially during this time of year when we are offering thanks for our families and friends, please do not forget those less fortunate. Open the doors of your Asylums and invite the public in to share in our Thanksgiving celebrations. Let us spread the Light of Knights Templar for all the world to see our good works.

When we work together, great things are possible!

Courteously,

Sir Knight Harry Jude Smith, Right Eminent Grand Commander
Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Pennsylvania

Grand Prelate's Message

Bob Perks is an author and member of the National Speakers Association. He writes this story of a father and daughter in their last moments together. Over the public address system, they had announced that the daughter's plane was ready to depart. They stood near the security gate and hugged. Finally, the father said, "I love you. I wish you enough."

She in turn said, "Daddy, our life together has been more than enough, your love is all I ever needed. I wish you enough too, Daddy."

They kissed and she left. The older man walked over to a seat in the area where Perks was seated. Perks could see the man wanted and needed to cry so he tried not to intrude on his privacy but the man welcomed him in by asking, "Did you ever say goodbye to someone knowing it would be forever?"

"Yes, I have," Perks replied. Saying that brought back memories Perks had of expressing his love and appreciation for all his dad had done for him. Recognizing that his days were limited, he took the time to tell him face to face how much he meant to him. So, Perks knew something of what this man was experiencing.

"Forgive me for asking, but why is this a forever goodbye?" Perks asked

"I am old," said the man, "and she lives much too far away. I have challenges ahead and the reality is, the next time back will be for my funeral."

Perks asked, "When you were saying goodbye, I heard you say, 'I wish you enough!' May I ask what that means?"

The old man began to smile. "That's a wish that has been handed down from other generations. My parents used to say it to everyone." He paused for a moment looking up as if trying to remember it in detail, he smiled even more.

"When we said 'I wish you enough,' we were wanting the other person to have a life filled with just enough good things to sustain them," he continued and then turning toward Perks he shared the following as if he were reciting it from memory.

'I wish you enough sun to keep your attitude bright.

I wish you enough rain to appreciate the sun more.

I wish you enough happiness to keep your spirit alive.

I wish you enough pain so that the smallest joys in life may appear bigger.

I wish you enough gain to satisfy your wanting.

I wish you enough loss to appreciate all that you possess.
I wish you enough 'Hellos' to get through the final 'Goodbye.'
He cried and began to walk away.

Sir Knights, do we have enough? As we enter this Thanksgiving season may we take stock of all the gifts we have been blessed with. May it inspire us to do something for others who are not as fortunate as we. May we continue our Grand Commander's theme: to clothe the naked, feed the hungry and bind up the wounds of the afflicted, especially those afflicted at this time of year with loneliness. May the love which comes from family, friends and Templary ever sustain us. May we be ever so grateful this Thanksgiving and Holiday Season! I wish you enough!

Courteously,

Sir Knight and Reverend Preston A Van Dursen, Grand Prelate
Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Pennsylvania