

PUBLIC CEREMONIES AND CELEBRATIONS COMMITTEE



from left: Keith Nelms, Claudia Curran, Joel Bohy, Co-Chair; Mary Fasano, Mark Merlino, Staci Bowen, Jim Maccone, Co-Chair not pictured: Tony D'Ambrosio

This Committee has the responsibility of organizing, coordinating and managing the celebrations sponsored by the Town of Concord. Celebrations for 2010 included: Honored Citizen Ceremony, March 14; Meriam's Corner Exercise, April 10; Dawn Salute April 19; Patriot's Day Parade, April 19; Memorial Day Ceremonies, May 31; Veteran's Day Flag Retirement, November 11. The observances are recorded in the photographs in this Annual Report.

HONORED CITIZEN

Each year since 1962, Concord has acknowledged the outstanding efforts of some very dedicated citizens at the Honored Citizen Celebration. The award to the Honoree is intangible --for the year of the honor, the citizen shall be the steward of the *Boston Post* Cane and is invited to lead the Patriots Day Parade. When not in ceremonial use, the Cane is on display in the Concord Free Public Library for all to enjoy.



Selection of the Honored Citizen is based upon significant volunteer service to the Town and/or fellow citizens. As a long time resident of Concord, Medal of Honor recipient Tom Hudner ably fulfilled this qualification with service on Boards, service as the Veterans Agent locally and at the State level and as an advocate for the men and women who have served and are serving their county and communities bravely.



MERIAM CORNER

This commemoration marks the assembly and actions of militia and Minuteman units that arrived at Meriam's Corner during the British retreat from Concord, April 19th, 1775. After the Regulars' withdrawal from the North Bridge, they began a retreat back to Boston. By the time the Regulars arrived at this spot at half past noon, there were reported to be about 1,100 Minutemen in the area from more than a dozen towns.



Middlesex County 4-H has been a loyal participant in Concord Ceremonies

DAWN SALUTE

Church bells at First Parish toll at 5:45AM to sound the alarm. “Dr. Prescott” arrives at the North Bridge after riding across the fields calling out the warning to towns and villages that the Regulars were on the march and that their destination was Concord. The Concord Minutemen fire salutes and the Concord Independent Battery fires several volleys from the field at the Old Manse.



The Concord Independent Battery staged the Town Cannon on Buttrick hillside at the National Park to participate in Dawn Salute.

PATRIOTS DAY

The Patriots’ Day Parade covers a route of approximately 2.5 miles. Participants include musicians, Minuteman companies, color guards, cultural and youth groups and dignitaries from neighboring towns, the State, the nation and several foreign countries with ties to Concord. At the North Bridge there is a ceremony to commemorate the engagement between the Minuteman companies and British troops with a wreath laying ceremony. The parade, in which the Honored Citizen

has a place of honor, continues across the North Bridge and returns to Concord Center.

MEMORIAL DAY

For some, beginning in 1775 and continuing today, responding to the challenge of citizenship has meant a period of service in the Armed Forces. More than 1,400 men and women from Concord went to fight in WWII and just about 300 each to Korea and to Viet Nam. Today, almost 1,000 veterans live in Concord. Memorial Day is Concord’s opportunity to honor the men and women who served our community and our nation in these wars.

FLAG RETIREMENT

The Flag Retirement Ceremony is traditionally held each year on Veteran’s Day and gives Concordians the opportunity to retire their American Flags in a respectful and appropriate manner. This year the Marshall was Mark Merlino who recently returned from deployment to Iraq. Mark’s family served as Flag Receivers.



Each year Concord Girl and Boy Scouts brush p on flag etiquette and assist the PCCC to fold and prepare hundreds of flags for respectful retirement on Veterans Day.

The Public Ceremonies and Celebrations Committee is grateful to the many who helped make the celebrations of 2010 so successful—Town officials, the staff of various Town Departments, CCHS Music, the VFW, the American Legion, the Concord Minutemen, the Concord Independent Battery, Middlesex County 4H Fife & Drum Corps and all participants. Once again, many thanks to the supportive people of Concord, Massachusetts.