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*******FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE*******

ANCIENT AND HONORABLE ARTILLERY COMPANY TO JOIN PLYMPTON CELEBRATION



Ancient and Honorable Artillery Company of Massachusetts marching in Boston last week as part of their change of command ceremony. Photo by Barton Hyte.

Captain Commanding John E. Bradley announced that the Ancient and Honorable Artillery Company of Massachusetts (Ancients) will march in Plympton 300th Anniversary Parade on June 23rd. Local Plymouth area members of the Company include Col. William Raabe and Capt. Daniel May. Capt. May, the immediate past Captain Commanding, will be in charge of the company for the parade.

The Ancient and Honorable Artillery Company of Massachusetts is the oldest Chartered Military Company in the Western Hemisphere, chartered in 1638, and predated in the world only by the Honorable Artillery Company of London (1537) and the Vatican Swiss Guard (1506).

First organized as militia for the protection of settlers following the landing at Plymouth, the Ancients have been a continuous presence in Massachusetts since 1638. The Company, whose headquarters and public museum are at Faneuil Hall, has seen its members deployed in every conflict in the nation's history, from the Bunker Hill to Yorktown, the War of 1812, the Civil War, both World Wars, Korea, Vietnam, Desert Storm and today, in Iraq.

John F. Kennedy, in addition to James Monroe, Chester Alan Arthur, and Calvin Coolidge, were all Ancients and Presidents of the United States. Seven members of the Company are recipients of the Congressional Medal of Honor, the nation's highest military decoration.

Still vibrant today, the Ancients membership represents a diverse group of individuals, committed to camaraderie and honoring both present and past sacrifices made to protect our freedom. The Ancients participate in numerous memorial and charitable activities throughout the year. You may find more information about the Ancients at www.ahacsite.org or by calling Brigadier General Emery Maddocks, Executive Secretary at 617 227-1638.