



On Thursday 4th October, 68 members of the Ancient and Honorable (*spelling intentionally American*) Artillery Company of Massachusetts visited HMS Victory in order to present an American flag to the ship that had been flown on USS Constitution on the 29th September, Nelson's birthday. The flag, which was accompanied by a certificate signed by the Constitution's Commanding Officer, was handed over to Lieutenant Commander John Scivier, Victory's Commanding Officer by the captain Commanding the Honorables, Captain John Bradley. In response to this generous gift, a naval white ensign, flown on Victory on the 4th July will be presented to the Commanding Officer and crew of the Constitution when Lt Cdr Scivier officially visits Boston in November to conduct a liaison and fact finding visit with Victory's American counterpart.

Lieutenant Commander Scivier: 'It was a great honour to be able to accept this flag from the Ancient and Honorable Artillery Company and USS Constitution. HMS Victory has a long standing relationship with Constitution and the chance to exchange flags further reinforces that special bond. We have come a long way from the turbulent and confrontational period in the early nineteenth century when these two ships were fighting for opposing navies. From those times, we have become firm friends and strong allies and these flags symbolise that bond. I very much look forward to the chance to formally present our ensign to the CO of Constitution. This event also signifies the start of a special relationship with the Artillery Company, whose members it was a pleasure to receive onboard for this presentation'