

MAY 28, 2008



CONTACT:

Name: SSGT Eric Sigillo

Phone 508 303 8010

Email: eksigillo@comcast.net

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

CANNO NADE ON THE COMMON

(Boston, MA – May 28, 2008) The loud cannon fire you hear in Boston Common, the oldest park in the country, announce the entrance of the Governor Deval Patrick, who will officiate ceremonies of the oldest chartered military organization in the Western Hemisphere, the Ancient and Honorable Artillery Company of Massachusetts. He will preside over the changing of the guard of this company which was granted a charter in Boston in 1638. The governor will congratulate Captain John Bradley, who has led the company for the past year, and accept his resignation. Jerome Sweeney, a resident of Boston, will receive his commission from the Governor, accept the halberd from his predecessor and begin his command as the 300th Captain Commanding.

-----MORE-----

300th Captain Commanding Jerome V. Sweeney II



Ceremonies begin promptly at noon on June the 2nd at Faneuil Hall and conclude at Boston Common.

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, 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 can find more information about the Ancients at www.ahacsite.org or by calling Brigadier General Emery Maddocks, Executive Secretary at 617 227-1638.

###