

New Ross Standard

Wreath Marks 50 Years Since JFK Inauguration

ARTILLERY COMPANY OF MASSACHUSETTS VISITS NEW ROSS



Members of the Ancient and Honorable Artillery Company of Massachusetts at the ceremony last Friday. INSET: Tim Costello, Tom Lynch and Sam Cherone making a presentation to vice chairperson of New Ross UDC Paul Crowdle.

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Tuesday October 11 2011

TO MARK the fiftieth anniversary of the late President Kennedy's inauguration, members of the Ancient and Honourable Artillery Company of Massachusetts travelled to New Ross last Friday for a poignant wreath-laying ceremony.

Some 96 members of the Company, of which the late US President was an honorary member, were accompanied by members of the Irish Naval Service who provided a Guard of Honour for the commemoration.

Having arrived from a similar ceremony at the John Barry memorial in Wexford, they were welcomed to New Ross by Leas Cathaoirleach Paul Crowdle who told the crowd that New Ross is proud of its heritage, treasured ancestry and especially of the Kennedy Family.

'An important day in your calendar is July 4. Every year since 1776 a member of your company reads the Declaration of Independence from the balcony of the

old statehouse. The Cathaoirleach and Commander Martin Counihan from the Irish Navy.

During the ceremony the Town Council was presented with a carving of JFK created by Sam Cherone, which will now hang in the Council Chamber, while the Company, the third oldest chartered military organisation in the world, was presented with a watercolour painting of the JFK statue by artist Maeve Doherty.

Memorial coins and the Town Council's crest were among the mementos handed out to those present to mark the occasion, while the Band of the Southern Command performed Amhrán na bhfiann, the Star - Spangled Banner and The Last Post to complement the ceremony, before the Company travelled to Dublin to meet with the President in the Aras. Declaration of Independence which gave rise to the US Constitution is based on the Magna Carta which was written and co-signed by William Earl Marshall of Pembroke, and the founder of the town of New Ross,' he said pointing out the historical ties that bind the two communities.

Saying it was an honour to represent the Company, Lieutenant Commander Paul J Covell, explained that New Ross left such a lasting impression during his last visit that he decided to return with his fellow Ancients to perform this ceremony.

'During my time in this town people have been very warm and hospitable,' said Commander Covell, before laying wreath at the monument together with the Leas

- *ELAINE FURLONG*