

Wexford People News

Wednesday October 12 2011

U.S. guests lay wreath at Barry Statue



Members of the Ancient and Honorable Artillery Company of Massachusetts Armory Faneuil Hall Boston, Massachusetts, under the leadership of Captain Paul J Covell, Captain Commanding, laying a wreath at the Barry Memorial on Friday morning, welcomed by Cllr Davy Hyatt, Mayor of Wexford.

ALMOST 100 MEMBERS of the Ancient and Honorable Artillery Company of Massachusetts visited Wexford last week to commemorate Commodore John Barry.

The U.S. visitors laid a wreath at the John Barry statue in Crescent Quay which was given as a gift to Wexford by the American people in the 1960's.

Commodore Barry who was born in south Wexford is regarded as the 'Father of the American Navy'. The visitors were accompanied by members of the Irish Naval Service who provided a guard of honour during the wreath-laying ceremony. The Ancient and Honourable Artillery Company is the third oldest chartered military organisation in the world.

Established as a citizen militia to defend the northern British colonies, it evolved over the centuries into an honour guard and social and ceremonial group in Massachusetts.

The late US President, John F. Kennedy was enrolled as a member in April 1956.