Westwood Resident Leads International Goodwill Tour of Croatia

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CPT Nicholas Schiarizzi of Westwood Led the AHAC in many wreath laying ceremonies and hosted many foreign dignitaries in Croatia

By Eric Sigillo, Neighbor

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(Ancient and Honorable Artillery Company with members of the Honorable Artillery Company of London, UK outside Chapel of Christ the King in Zagreb) (AHAC Faneuil Hall)

(Mr. Zrinko Petener, National Security Adviser (left) receives replica of Old North Church Lantern on behalf of the President of the Republic of Croatia,
Kilonda Grabar-Kitarovic from Captain Nicholas Scharizzi (right). Hotel Esplanade. Zagreb, Croatia. (AHAC Faneuil Hall)

- (Members of the AHAC of Massachusetts with members of the Honorable Artillery Company of London at War Memorial, Mount Srd. Dubrovnik). (AHAC Faneuil Hall)

- (Little League Croatia North Champions Zagreb Red Sox shirts with logo) (AHAC Faneuil Hall)

- (CC Nicholas Schiarizzi (center) with Zagreb Red Sox Little League team and coaches.) (AHAC Faneuil Hall)

- (Captain Commanding Nicholas Schiarizzi (center) and Adjutant Colonel Kenneth P. Wisniewski III (right) render honors. Milna Allied Military Cemetery. Island of Vis.) (AHAC Faneuil Hall)

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In the spirit of international goodwill and to recognize the sacrifices for liberty and freedom, the Ancient and Honorable Artillery Company of Massachusetts (AHAC) headquartered on the 4th Floor of Historic Faneuil Hall traveled to Croatia. Led by Captain Commanding Nicholas Schiarizzi, Sr. of Westwood Massachusetts, the company lay wreaths at several significant memorials and also hosted many dignitaries and government officials during this multi-day overseas trip. While in Zagreb, the company met with its sponsored Little League Team.

After a memorial service at Chapel of Christ the King at the entrance to Zagreb's Mirogoj Cemetery in Zagreb, over 100 members of the company lay a wreath at the Monument to Victims of the Homeland War 1991-1995.
For over one hundred years this Company has represented the Commonwealth and Nation on numerous overseas trips. In keeping with this tradition of International Goodwill the Company met with its' sponsored team…the Zagreb Red Sox. This team became the 2019 Little League Croatia North Champions! Coaches, parents, and children enthusiastically greeted members of the company during this visit.

The 311th Annual Fall Field Day Banquet Dinner was held by the company at the Hotel Esplanade in Zagreb. US Ambassador the Honorable William Robert Kohorst and other dignitaries including Mr. Zrinko Petener, National Security Advisor to President of the Republuc of Croatia, Kilonda Grabar-Kitarovic, Madam Dunja Bujan, Head of the Bilateral Defense Department, Rear Admiral Ivo Rafinelli, Commander of the Croatian Navy, Vice Rear Admiral Robert Hranj, Director of Croatian General Staff, UK Ambassador to the Rep. of Croatia, Andrew Dalglish and Defense Attache US Embassy, COL Robert Mathers were greeted by the Captain Commanding and members of the Company.

A wreath laying ceremony was held at Milna Allied Military Cemetery on the Island of Vis where 49 soldiers of the United Kingdom and the Commonwealth and 29 U.S. soldiers died during the Second World War.

At the War Memorial located at Fort Imperial on Mount Srd above Dubrovnik, the "Ancients" were accompanied by members of the Croatia Army to render honors to the patriots who lost their lives during the defense of Dubrovnik. The memorial, at the top of Mount Srd, stands as a reminder and symbol of the supreme sacrifice to those who defended the city.

For additional information about the Ancient and Honorable Artillery Company please visit: www.ahac.us.com or call 617.227.1638