



Journal of Vexillology

June

N°13

2001

FLAG DAY WEEKEND AT FORT INDEPENDENCE

The next meeting of NEVA will be held at **4:00 p.m.** on **Saturday, June 16th, 2001** at **Fort Independence, Castle Island** at the end of Broadway in South Boston, Massachusetts. See directions.

Fort Independence, formerly

Castle William before the American Revolution, is the site of the first salute rendered to the US Flag by a British Man O' War after the Revolution. Dave Martucci will give a few remarks about the flag that received the salute and

display a picture of it. A display of U.S. State flags will be flying there.

Call Dave at 845-2857 (or email vex@vexman.net) if you need a ride. He will see if he can find someone from your area to share with.

Memorial Day Cards from Students

Outside of Augusta, Maine there is a facility that started life after the US Civil War as the Soldier's Home. Here, veterans of that conflict were cared for, especially after getting older. Many of them were buried on the grounds of this facility. Today, it is a US Veteran's Administration Hospital known as Togus.

One of the many programs run by Togus is an outreach by Veterans who go to grade school classes and explain what it was like to serve their country. The students, in return, often write expressions of their thanks to the veterans for their presentation. Recently, since it was just before Memorial Day, Students in Mrs. Smith's class in Gouldsboro, Maine sent their

DIRECTIONS TO CASTLE ISLAND

From the North

- ☞ Take route I-93 into Boston
- ☞ Drive through downtown Boston on I-93
- ☞ Take Exit 15, Columbia Road exit
- ☞ Stay to the left on the exit ramp
- ☞ Take a left onto Columbia Road
- ☞ Drive .2 mi to the rotary
- ☞ Take 2nd exit off rotary onto William J. Day Blvd.
- ☞ Follow William J. Day Blvd. to the end at Castle Island
The water (Old Harbor) will be on your right all the way to Castle I.
It is about 2.5 miles from Exit 15 to Castle Island

From the South

- ☞ Follow route I-93 (Southeast Expressway) towards Boston
- ☞ Take Exit 15, Columbia Road exit
- ☞ Take a right onto Columbia Road
- ☞ Drive .1 mi to the rotary
- ☞ Take 2nd exit off rotary onto William J. Day Blvd.
- ☞ Follow William J. Day Blvd. to

the end at Castle Island

The water (Old Harbor) will be on your right all the way to Castle I.

It is about 2.4 miles from Exit 15 to Castle Island

From the West

- ☞ Take route I-90 (Mass Pike) to the end
- ☞ Stay to the left and take the I-93 exit
- ☞ Go to the right on the exit ramp
- ☞ Follow signs for I-93 South
- ☞ Follow I-93 south to Exit 15, Columbia Road exit
- ☞ Stay to the left on the exit ramp
- ☞ Take a left onto Columbia Road
- ☞ Drive .2 mi to the rotary
- ☞ Take 2nd exit off rotary onto William J. Day Blvd.
- ☞ Follow William J. Day Blvd. to the end at Castle Island
The water (Old Harbor) will be on your right all the way to Castle I.
It is about 2.5 miles from Exit 15 to Castle Island

From the East

- ☞ Swim west!

Memorial Day Cards from Students

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own home-made Memorial Day cards to the Vets at Togus.

Without exception, these cards feature the American flag as a basic design. The centerfold of

this issue of the *Journal* features Mrs. Smith's own card and ten of the student's con-



Thank-you For serving our country; for giving more than we can know. We will never let ourselves Forget; and will continue to teach our children to remember.

Mrs. Smith
Gouldsboro, Me.



Happy Veterans Day



tributions. We included the inscriptions inside the cards as well. (Our favorite is Kirk's "Thank you for risking your life and coming to the school.") They are an excellent example of patriotic folk art in the United States.



To a Veteran who fought bravely in combat. Thank you

Thankfully, Mike



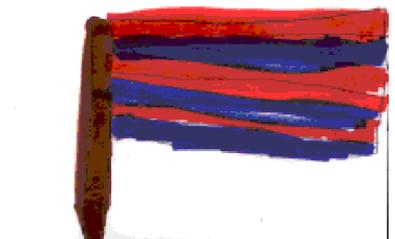
Dear Veteran
Thank you for
helping to keep America
a safe and free country
meagan steele



Thank you, Veterans for standing up for our country and also for making this country a free one.

Thank you,

Adam





Dear veteran,
Thank you for risking
your life and coming
to the school.

From,
Kirk



Dear Veterans,
Thank you for making
our world safe, happy and free.
I am proud that you did.

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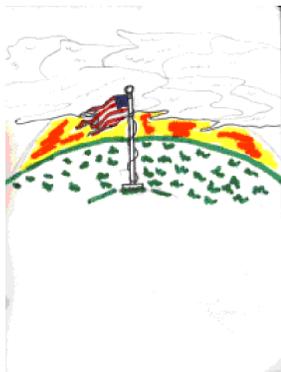
From,
Kelsey
Lynn
Machean

Any comments on these
cards by readers are welcome
and will be forwarded to the
Vets at Togus.



Dear Veteran,
Thank you for keeping our
country free and safe. (America)

Ashley



Dear Veterans,
Thank you
helping to keep
American a free and
safe country.
Keith

Minutes of the NEVA Meeting held 5/13/01 at the Portsmouth Navy Yard Museum, Kittery, Maine.

Attending: President Carl Gurtman, Secretary/Treasurer Dave Martucci, Tom Hale, Robert Lloyd Wheelock.

On motion by Gurtman, 2nd by Hale, the minutes of the 11/19/2000 meeting were accepted as written.

The treasurer reported \$206.24 in hand as of 5/13/01. On motion by Gurtman, 2nd by Wheelock, the treasurer's report was accepted as written. Dues were then received from Gurtman and Smith. A letter from the FRC was read.

It was determined a quorum was present.

Since we erred in setting Mother's Day for a meeting, the members present felt another meeting would be in order. It was decided to meet on Flag Day Weekend, Saturday, June 16, 2001. Hale offered to set up the meeting at Fort Independence on Castle Island, South Boston. He said he has been working there and that he will see to it a display of US State flags will be up for that date.

A discussion was held regarding the need for a membership brochure. On

motion by Martucci, 2nd by Gurtman, it was voted to design a brochure.

The latest copy of *INFO-FLAV* and the first issue of the VAST newsletter were shared.

A question was raised as to what is the format for standard display on a flag chart. Equal hoist? Equal length? Equal area? Some other criteria? It was agreed the question needed further study.

What do the members want in our meetings? It was agreed that we should try to determine the answer to this question.

Gurtman reported on the different flags used at the Shipyard. A bigger US Flag is hoisted on holidays by the DoD (Department of Defense) Police, formerly raised by the US Marine Corps contingent that used to be based there. The POW/MIA flag is also flown. Admirals and other officials fly their rank flags when they are visiting or stationed there. The "Energy Efficiency Flag" is also flown, as is the Naval Reservists flag showing an Eagle and a gearwheel. In the past, a Savings Bond flag was flown. Building 86 is the site of the signing of the 1905 Treaty of Portsmouth ending the war between Russia and Japan; The Navy and marine Corps flags are flown there now. The table flags of Russia, USA and Japan that were used at the time are on display at the museum. Other flags on the base are the Naval Sea Command Flag, Qualified in Submarines flag (blue with silver dolphins and gold anchor), and the 100% Reenlistment flag. When subs are in the base's harbor they fly the US Ensign, Jack, Commission pennant and Commendation pennant. When the subs are 'enclosed' for the season, the flags are flown at the guard post protecting the sub. When the subs depart, they 'shift colors' by striking the Jack, and moving the Ensign from the stern staff to the mast. There was a special Jack used this past year and also in 1976. In the past, the Navy Battalion flag (blue with a white diamond bearing a blue anchor) and the USMC Guidon were

also seen on the base.

Gurtman volunteered to write a letter of thanks for the use of the facilities on the base.

The Election of Secretary/Treasurer was held. Dave Martucci was renominated and elected unanimously.

Wheelock handed out sheets showing designs for a new flag for St. Eustatius and a sheet showing the flags of the provinces of Ecuador. He also showed an enlargement of the George Cross from the flag of Malta.

Hale brought up the National Veterans Flag that was shown in a recent NAVA NEWS. He suggested a different design, 5 horizontal stripes, white (Army), dark blue (Navy), red (Marines), light blue (Air Force) and white (Coast Guard) with some sort of gold emblem combining symbols of the different services, a sword (Army), anchor (Navy), eagle (Marines), wings (Air Force) and life preserver (Coast Guard). He said he is considering some recognition of the Merchant Marine Service but since they never served under military discipline, maybe not. Martucci suggested maybe the best Veterans flag is the World War II era Service flag of white with a red border and a central blue star. Hale saw a different New Hampshire flag on TV but it went by so fast he couldn't accurately describe it. Basically it was light blue and had no wreath around the seal. He also distributed a chart he made up of all of the Flags of the US State of Georgia and discussed aboriginal and Northern Territory (Australia) flags. He showed some flag books he purchased recently. Meanwhile, the members looked through the museum's flag books, including a copy of Preble's book on the US Flag from the 1870s.

On motion by Hale, 2nd by Gurtman, it was voted that Martucci will carry the NEVA credentials to the 19th International Congress in York, England. Gurtman will prepare the credentials.

Meeting adjourned at 3:55 pm. A tour of the museum and of the base ensued.

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The views of individual authors are their own and do not reflect the views of NEVA.