



The Big Chigger

News, Rumors & Unresolved Issues Afflicting City Troopers Everywhere



Troop Celebrates Unveiling Of Historical Roadside Marker

On Saturday, 5 June — on the eve of the commemoration of D-Day — First City Troopers, their families and friends filled the sidewalk and street in front of the Armory to celebrate the official unveiling of a roadside marker designating the Troop's 120-year-old Armory as an historic structure recognized by the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission (PHMC).

The inscription on the marker reads: *“First Troop Philadelphia City Cavalry. Founded 1774 as a militia named the Phila. Light Horse, the Troop has served in every major U.S. conflict since then.”*

After noting some of the Troop's major accomplishments and distinguished members, it concludes: *“Now a unit of the Pa. Army National Guard, this armory has been the Troop's home since 1900.”*

Kicking off under a bright noontime sun with the National Anthem and an invocation by Chaplain G. Clayton Ames, members of



A large crowd of Troopers, families, friends and passers-by watch the unveiling of a roadside marker designating the Armory of First Troop Philadelphia City Cavalry as a historic structure.

the Active Roll provided a mounted escort and full-dress Color Detail which lent an air of solemn dignity to the proceedings. The meaning and nature of the event was highlighted by presentations given by Honorary First Sergeant Francis Brinton Jacobs, II,

No. 1838, Captain Jason Patrick Wall, No. 2458, and by Honorary Captain Dennis Joseph Boylan, No. 2117.

Ms. Nancy Moses, Commissioner of
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Armory Reawakening As Pandemic Concerns Wane



In late May, Non-Active Trooper William Frederick Forbes, No. 2329, (left) ushered members of the Colonial Society of Pennsylvania in an Armory tour. The group included Honorary Sergeant David P. Kollock, No. 1806 (standing next to Non-Active Forbes) in a rare visit to the Armory.

After more than thirteen months of quiet imposed by the COVID-19 pandemic, the Troop Armory is finally coming back to life.

During the pandemic there were days when, as in a ghost town, one might expect tumbleweeds to roll across a drill floor devoid of cars or human activity of any kind.

Going into the Adjutant's Office was like entering the Maytag repairman's office. One found a low-key tempo punctuated only occasionally by raspy exhortations issued by

Honorary Quartermaster William “Bucky” Buchanan, Troop No. 2103, holding court in the NCO Club up on the mezzanine level.

Now that the pandemic seems to be on the run, the Armory is quickly awakening. On May 26th the Colonial Society of PA held a social meeting in the Officers' Quarters.

More than sixty members who are descended from settlers who were in any of the colonies prior to 1700, enjoyed an open

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Under the new roadside marker, Honorary First Sergeant Francis Brinton Jacobs, II, No. 1838, and Captain Jason Patrick Wall, No. 2458, exchange congratulations.

Celebrating The Unveiling Of The Troop's Historical Roadside Marker

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Following the ceremony, Troopers, family members and friends gathered around PHMC Commissioner Nancy Moses for a photo in the entrance to the "Old Fortress."

the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, completed the presentations by delivering the Keynote Address.

The mounted Escort Detail was led by Stable Sergeant Bennett Todd Opitz, No.



Many Visitors Touring The Armory Again As Pandemic Concerns Wane

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bar, succulent "Bonner d'oeuvres" and good fellowship.

The assemblage of "Colonials" contained a robust number of City Troopers led by event organizers, Non Active Quartermaster Andrew Richard Sullivan, No. 2289 and Non Active Trooper William Forbes, No. 2329. They also enjoyed touring our newly renovated museum which now dominates the entire second floor of the Armory.

May 28th saw members of the Ingersoll family receive a private museum tour conducted by Honorary Captain Dennis Joseph Boylan, No. 2117.

The Ingersolls, descendants of former Troop Captain Robert S. Ingersoll, Jr., No. 1376, were delighted to view the portraits of "Captain Bob" painted by his stepson, R. Pemberton "Black Nick" Fox, and of World War I hero Harry J. Ingersoll, No. 1112.

In fact, they helped settle a mystery around the Harry Ingersoll portrait by identifying the artist of the portrait as Harry's sister, Anna Ingersoll.

2425, carrying the Stars and Stripes, and was accompanied by Danish Boyer Scholar Marius Sick Nielsen, No. 2488, carrying the Markoe Standard, festooned with the Troop's many Battle Streamers.

After welcoming friends, guests and fellow Troopers, Captain Wall pronounced that: "today we are here to celebrate a very special moment that commemorates the proud history of the First Troop Philadelphia City Cavalry.

This attractive historical marker represents the history of our organization and honors the service of the

2500 men who have worn our uniform, including the ones who will be deploying in the next couple of weeks."

The Captain described the Troop as "part of a special community of citizens who have voluntarily chosen a profession of service to defend our lives and way of life. Though a small portion of the population, we are mighty, and our city and country stand behind our actions. We look forward to welcoming our courageous brothers back from deployment with open arms."



Left: Honorary Captain Dennis Joseph Boylan, No. 2117, informs those assembled about "Old Glory," the special American Flag that has flown over Normandy, above the USS Arizona, atop Mt. Suribachi, at Ground Zero in New York City and for today, at the FTPCC Armory. Above: After the ceremony, participants and guests assembled in the Ball Room for traditional cocktails and collation.

The 28th also welcomed scores of Troopers and their spouses back to the Armory for the 40th Anniversary of the Troop's 1975 ride to Cambridge, Massachusetts to commemorate the escort we provided to George Wash-

ington when he assumed command of the Continental Army in 1775. For this event members came from as far away as Virginia and Florida while one joined via Zoom from England.



Honorary Captain Dennis Joseph Boylan, No. 2117, explains the significance of silver battle rings on our guidon to descendants of former Troop Captain Robert S. Ingersoll, No. 1376.