



## Massachusetts Grand Lodge of Freemasons Makes Major Gift for Bunker Hill Monument and Museum Rehabilitation

ON SEPTEMBER 29, 2003, National Park Service Deputy Regional Director Sandy Walter announced federal funding for a major rehabilitation of the Bunker Hill Monument and Museum and accepted a gift of \$500,000 from Grand Master Donald G. Hicks, Jr., of the Massachusetts Grand Lodge of Freemasons. Bunker Hill is the site of the first major battle of the American Revolution and is one of the most significant historic sites in Boston. Exhibits and interpretive facilities at the site are inadequate, and the 1843 monument needs rehabilitation work to provide improved accessibility and to preserve and protect the site for future generations.

Boston National Historical Park, in cooperation with the Charlestown Historical Society and the City of Boston, will develop an exhibit to tell the story of the Battle of Bunker Hill and its commemoration. The exhibit, "The Decisive Day: The Battle of Bunker Hill—Revolution, Monument, and Commemoration," will also tell the story of the Bunker Hill Monument and the history of the Charlestown community. There will be interpretive panels, historic artifacts, and an audio-visual display to aid in the presentation. The museum will be handicapped accessible with new accessible restrooms and a community meeting space. The gift from the Freemasons will provide the funds needed to enable the National Park Service to establish a museum of excellence in Charlestown.

The Freemasons have a long and continuous association with Charlestown, with the American struggle for freedom, and with the Bunker Hill memorial commemorations. One of Boston's foremost patriots, Dr. Joseph Warren, Grand Master of St. Andrew's Grand Lodge of Freemasons, became the first great national martyr in the fight for liberty when he was killed in the Battle of Bunker Hill on June 17, 1775. The fraternal organization of Freemasonry played an important part in the life of many other Revolutionaries leaders, including George Washington, Paul Revere, and John Hancock. In Massachusetts today, there are over 49,000 Freemasons and 280 local lodges.



*Boston National Historical Park Superintendent Terry Savage and Grand Master Donald G. Hicks, Jr., of the Massachusetts Grand Lodge of Freemasons hold the symbolic check representing the Masonic donation towards the new Bunker Hill Monument exhibit.*

King Solomon's Lodge of Freemasons, currently based in Somerville, Massachusetts, erected the first battle-related monument in 1794 to honor Warren. Charlestown Freemasons supported the creation of the Bunker Hill Monument, and in 1825 General and Freemason Lafayette, with the Grand Lodge, ceremonially placed the cornerstone of the Bunker Hill Monument. Succeeding generations of Freemasons have helped sustain the monument over the years.

With their generous gift, the Massachusetts Grand Lodge of Freemasons demonstrate the ongoing Masonic commitment to the commemoration of American patriots' sacrifice and to telling the important story of the great step taken towards the achievement of liberty in Charlestown.

—SEAN HENNESSEY

## Commandant's House Selected As The Junior League of Boston's 32nd Annual Decorator's Show House

THE JUNIOR LEAGUE OF BOSTON will host the 32nd Annual Decorators' Show House at the Commandant's House in the Charlestown Navy Yard. The Decorators' Show House, one of The Junior League of Boston's primary fundraisers, will feature 30 decorated spaces created by many nationally recognized interior and landscape designers. It will be open for special events and to the public from April 20 to May 27, 2004. Proceeds benefit The Junior League of Boston's community programs, which focus on the positive development of adolescent girls.

This year, the Decorators' Show House event will return for the second time to the Commandant's House in the Charlestown Navy Yard. During the first Decorators' Show House at this location in 1998, local and regional interior and landscape designers transformed the Commandant's House into a representation of a balanced union between historical and contemporary design. This year, The Junior League of Boston invited designers to reenergize the interior of this magnificent home.

"This year's Decorators' Show House will highlight New England's top interior and landscape designers while helping to raise awareness for The Junior League of Boston,"



said Bonnie Habermann, co-chair of The Junior League of Boston Decorators' Show House. "Our community programs focus on the positive development of adolescent girls. The Decorators' Show House directly benefits these initiatives, and we look forward to sharing the Decorators' Show House with the community," continued Jenn Buck, co-chair of The Junior League of Boston Decorators' Show House.

Built in 1805, the original architectural design of the house includes a Greek revival roof line and interior details, still evident despite many renovations. In 1976, the National Park Service acquired the Commandant's House and has sought to restore and preserve its worthy distinction as one of Boston's historical treasures.

"The history of the Commandant's House is intertwined with that of the Navy Yard and reflects the cyclical nature of politics and world events," said Terry W. Savage, Boston National Historical Park Superintendent. "The work of The Junior League of Boston and its designers will invigorate the integrity of the house, strengthen Boston and its surrounding communities with the raised funds, and provide an elegant structure with which we will hold special events after The Junior League of Boston Decorators' Show House concludes."

—LAUREN GILLIGAN & LEX MACBETH,  
THE JUNIOR LEAGUE OF BOSTON

### About The Junior League of Boston

*The Junior League of Boston is an organization of more than 1,400 women committed to promoting volunteerism, developing the potential of women, and improving communities through the effective action and leadership of trained volunteers. Its purpose is exclusively educational and charitable. The Junior League of Boston is part of the Association of Junior Leagues International, which is comprised of 294 Junior Leagues in four countries. For more information on The Junior League of Boston, call 617-536-9640 or visit [www.jlboston.org](http://www.jlboston.org).*

## 228th Anniversary of British Evacuation Commemorated at Dorchester Heights

BOSTON NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK Superintendent Terry Savage, Chief of Interpretation Bill Foley, and Site Supervisor John Manson joined South Boston Citizens' Association President Michael Bare at Dorchester Heights on March 17 to commemorate the 228th Anniversary of the British Evacuation of Boston in 1776. Joining them were Boston City Council President Michael Flaherty, State Representative Brian Wallace, and Honorary Memorial Chairmen Bernard O'Donnell, John Hurley, and Kevin Delehanty.

The South Boston Citizens' Association, established in 1880, is the nation's oldest civic organization. Under the leadership of Mr. Bare, the association has led the way in assisting the National Park Service in its mission of interpreting and preserving the story of the significant role Dorchester Heights played in the early days of the American Revolution. The official Boston National

Historical Park handbook, *Boston and the American Revolution*, describes the action this way: "By occupying Dorchester Heights, General George Washington hoped to draw the British out of Boston. On the night of March 4, colonial soldiers, led by John Thomas, hastily fortified the frozen heights. The British Commander, Major General William Howe, attempted a full-scale attack on the position the following day, but a storm prevented him from reaching it. With the colonials now well-entrenched and threatening further action, Howe prepared to leave the town for Nova Scotia, taking with him many loyalists. On March 17, 1776, the British abandoned Boston, giving Washington his first major victory of the war."

The South Boston Citizens' Association, with the South Boston Historical Society, has also taken a lead role in preserving and interpreting the history of South Boston, which is celebrating the bicentenary of its

incorporation this year. Working closely with Boston Mayor Thomas Menino's staff and with President Ed Merritt and Vice President Jack Forbush of the local Mt. Washington Bank, the Association planned an ambitious schedule of commemorative events, including the placement of directional signs that lead visitors from the MBTA Broadway Station to the Dorchester Heights Monument.

The Association also honored Prince Hall, one of Boston's most prominent citizens during the revolutionary period, with a plaque on Castle Island (then Castle William) commemorating his initiation as a Freemason at the site on March 6, 1775. "Michael Bare has been an invaluable partner with the park," said Superintendent Savage. "He gets it. Rather than asking us what can we do for him, he asks how can he help us."

—SEAN HENNESSY



## “Human Spiders Spin And Spin”

*In that building, long and low,  
With its windows all a-row,  
Like the port-holes of a hulk,  
Human spiders spin and spin,  
Backward down their threads so thin  
Dropping, each a hempen bulk.*

IN THE MID-19TH CENTURY many famous people toured the new industrial sites throughout New England including Charles Dickens, Henry David Thoreau and Henry Wadsworth Longfellow. After a tour of the Charlestown Navy Yard’s Ropewalk, Longfellow wrote a poem called *The Ropewalk* that was published in 1859. His words described the workers spinning threads to create the “hempen bulk” or the rope. The Charlestown Navy Yard produced thousands of miles of hemp rope for all U. S. Navy ships from 1834 to the mid-1950s. Today the Ropewalk is not available for public tours; therefore, park rangers need to rely on descriptions left by the Ropewalk workers and visitors like Longfellow to tell the story of this important shipbuilding operation.

This spring park rangers will introduce the Navy Yard’s Ropewalk and ropemaking technology to third, fourth, and fifth grade students in a new education program designed by teachers and park staff called “Twisted Strands: Simple Machines and Ropemaking Technology.”

The concept of this new program evolved after a teacher institute last August focusing on the Navy Yard’s resources and shipbuilding technology. Nineteen teachers participated in this “Parks As Classroom” funded experience and offered their expertise toward the development of this new program. Five teachers—Noreen O’Connell, Carol Airasian, Katherine Hickcox Hillson, Karen Woodland, and Marilyn Zavorski—are participating in a focus group working with park staff to further develop this new program. The teachers identified how the Navy Yard’s technological resources fit Massachusetts’ learning standards for Science and Technology; therefore, they suggested a program focusing on simple machines connected to the Ropewalk. Their students will participate in the pilot programs this spring and provide feedback from the students on their experiences and what they learned.

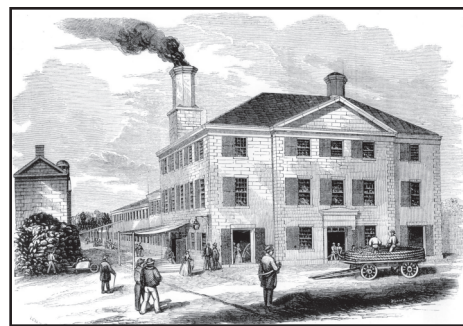
During the on-site visit, students will learn about ropemaking technology through

the discovery of simple and complex machines. The students will make rope using simple and complex machines and tools. They will search for other simple machines in the Navy Yard and on the ships *USS Cassin Young* and *USS Constitution*. Unfortunately, they will not be able to go inside the Ropewalk due to safety hazards, but they will explore the exterior of the Ropewalk. Using historical photographs, park rangers will identify the different machines and technology needed to make the miles and miles of rope for all U.S. Navy ships from 1834 to the mid-1950s.

With the teachers’ expertise and the students’ feedback, Boston National Historical Park will be able to offer a new and exciting program to introduce elementary students to the historical significance of the Charlestown Navy Yard. After their visit, the students will write about their visit to the Navy Yard like Henry Wadsworth Longfellow did in 1859.

For more information on this new program and other education opportunities at Boston National Historical Park, contact Education Specialist Sheila Cooke-Kayser at (617) 242-5688 or e-mail [sheila\\_cooke-kayser@nps.gov](mailto:sheila_cooke-kayser@nps.gov).

—SHEILA COOKE-KAYSER

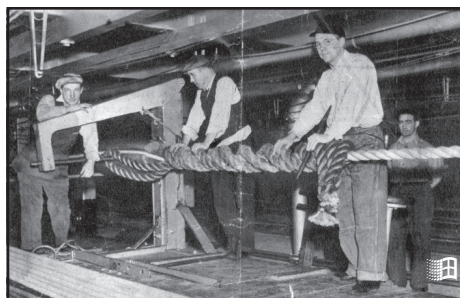


*The Ropewalk as it appeared at the time of Henry Wadsworth Longfellow’s visit during the 1850s. (BOSTS-9510)*



*Until the 1950s, ropemaking required a facility as long as the rope being made. This ca. 1936 view of James Lee on one of the traveling carts gives an indication of the length of the Ropewalk, which made rope in lengths up to 200 fathoms (1,200 feet). (BOSTS-9541)*

## Ropemaking in the 1930s

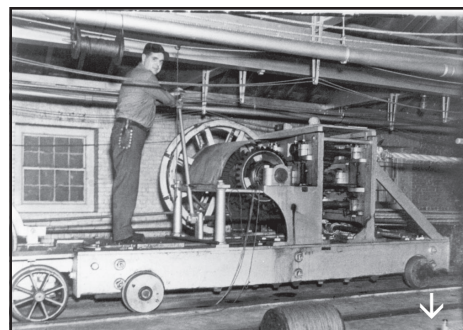


*This series of photographs by Leslie R. Jones appeared in the Rotogravure Section of the Boston Herald on Dec. 26, 1937.*

*(1) George Cadigan, Frank Hogan, and George Morse prepare the rope for the twisting process.*

*(2) John Driscoll operates the rope-laying machine, which does the actual twisting of the hempen strands.*

*(3) Rope of all sizes is loaded for shipment to the Navy in all parts of the world.*





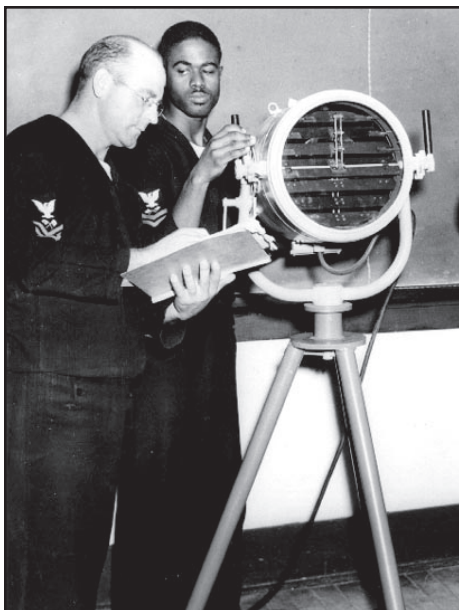
## Veterans of USS *Mason* (DE-529) Featured in Tommy Hilfiger Entertainment Film

ALMOST 60 YEARS after the end of World War II, the virtually unknown story of the African-American men who served on USS *Mason* (DE-529) will be celebrated in the feature film, *Proud*. The film is a project from fashion icon Tommy Hilfiger's new production company, Tommy Hilfiger Entertainment (THEntertainment)

The Charlestown Navy Yard is especially significant to *Mason's* story, since the ship was built and commissioned here in 1944. The film is the first project from THEntertainment, a new business venture Hilfiger launched last year. Boston National Historical Park and several other partners are working to arrange a preview of the film in Boston later this year.

Launched at a time of racial segregation in the armed services, USS *Mason* successfully escorted six convoys across the Atlantic. Despite a letter of commendation from the commander of one convoy citing the crew's bravery, the sailors of *Mason* received no formal recognition.

After years of struggling to be recognized, the surviving crewmembers of USS *Mason* received their commendation from President Bill Clinton in 1994. In 1995 author and filmmaker Mary Pat Kelley published the seminal *Proudly We Served*. The book highlights USS *Mason's* military service based on previously uncovered naval records, pho-



SM2 Lorenzo A. DuFau receives instruction as a signalman from SM1c Ernest V. Alderman at the Norfolk Naval Training Station, Virginia, on January 3, 1944, during training for *Mason's* crew. (National Archives 80-G-214544)



Members of the original USS *Mason* crew gathered on board USS *Constitution* at the Charlestown Navy Yard for a reunion in 1994. Included are Lorenzo DuFau (third from left) and James Graham (center, in white jacket), both principle characters in the film *Proud*.

tos, and oral history interviews conducted with the men who served. A companion documentary was also released. Later that year, Boston National Historical Park sponsored a reunion for the crew of the ship and hosted a reception in their honor.

Now with the release of *Proud*, an even wider audience will learn about the heroic exploits of USS *Mason* and her crew. The movie, based on Kelley's book and the documentary, focuses on the young men in combat and the difficulties they faced in carrying out their duties. The main character Lorenzo DuFau, portrayed by veteran actor Ossie Davis, was a signalman on *Mason* whose great courage went unnoticed by his country and unappreciated even by his own son. As DuFau awes his grandson and his two friends with stories about his experiences, they imagine themselves as DuFau and his friends, James Graham and Gordon Buchanan, experiencing war, love, good times, and discrimination. Captivated by the *Mason's* incred-

ible story, these three young men plan to reunite the veterans and lobby the government to publicly recognize their service to our country.

The overlooked stories of African-American men who served the country at a time when the idea of "separate but equal" was law perhaps now can be appreciated alongside the stories of other World War II veterans. This movie depicts the strength, courage, and character of young Americans, and it speaks to the importance of not letting the current generation forget the pioneering spirit of those who have come before them. With the screening of *Proud* in Boston, the men of USS *Mason* will publicly receive credit not only for their naval service but also for their contribution to breaking down stereotypes and racial injustice. Hopefully, people will recognize *Mason* as an important part of American history.

—HOLLY SMITH & SANDRA BENTIL



Members of the crew of USS *Mason* (DE-529) gather on her fantail behind their captain, Lt. Cmdr. William M. Blackford, during her commissioning ceremonies at the Charlestown Navy Yard on Mar. 20, 1944. (National Archives 80-G-218856)

## USS *Cassin Young* (DD-793) Eighteenth Annual “Commemorative Sea Trials”

ALTHOUGH USS *Cassin Young* (DD-793) was built at San Pedro, California, the ship is typical of the 14 *Fletcher*-class destroyers constructed in the Charlestown Navy Yard during World War II. USS *Cassin Young* was commissioned at the end of 1943 and first saw action in the Pacific in early 1944. The ship took part in the liberation of the Philippines, rescued survivors from the stricken carrier USS *Princeton* (CVL-23), and screened the American force that sank four Japanese carriers in the battle of Leyte Gulf. Off Okinawa, the destroyer survived two separate kamikaze hits in which 23 crewmembers were killed.

USS *Cassin Young* was recalled to service in 1951 and underwent modernization at Boston on several occasions during the next decade. The destroyer’s commissioning pennant was finally hauled down and the ship was placed in reserve at Norfolk on April 29, 1960.

Since 1978, USS *Cassin Young* has been at Boston National Historical Park in the Charlestown Navy Yard, where the National Park Service and many dedicated volunteers maintain it as a living memorial to the thousands of men and women who built, repaired and served on Navy ships throughout American history.

In October 1986, the National Park Service, with the support and encouragement of



USS *Cassin Young* (DD-793) leads USS *Constitution* as the two vessels return to the Navy Yard after their rendezvous with USS *Chafee* (DDG-90) on October 11, 2003. (U.S. Navy photo)

the United States Navy, United States Coast Guard and a host of supporting veterans’ groups, launched an idea to once again call USS *Cassin Young* into service. This time the mission would be to pay tribute to the men and women who made countless contributions and sacrifices on both the home front and the war front.

Once a year *Cassin Young* would sail into historic Boston Harbor under full dress, crewed by volunteers of World War II, the Korean Conflict and Vietnam War era, to salute the birth of the United States Navy. The “sail,” of course, was to be more ceremonial than operational. The ship would be tugged out and back during the annual event.

The term “Commemorative Sea Trials” was chosen because in the U.S. Navy, newly

commissioned ships are taken out on Sea Trials or Shakedown Cruises to test the ship’s seaworthiness. To honor the 228th birthday of the United States Navy this year, USS *Cassin Young* was joined by USS *Constitution*, the oldest commissioned warship afloat in the world, on October 11, 2003.

The two ships rendezvoused off Castle Island in Boston Harbor with USS *Chafee* (DDG-90), which was recently constructed at Bath Iron Works in Maine. USS *Chafee* is the 40th Navy ship of the *Arleigh Burke* class of guided missile destroyers and is named after late U.S. Senator, Secretary of the Navy, and Rhode Island Governor, John H. Chafee. The captain of USS *Chafee*, Commander John W. Ailes, is the grandson of the man who served as captain of USS *Cassin Young* during World War II.

When *Constitution* and *Cassin Young* reached Castle Island, they proceeded to do an about face and lead the new destroyer into port, but first “Old Ironsides” fired a powerful smoke-filled salute to the Navy for its 228th birthday. As the smoke filled the sky, spectators on Castle Island were able to see three generations of naval power join together as the three ships sailed back into the Boston Harbor.

—SEAN HENNESSEY  
& SN ANTHONY TORNETTA,  
USS *CONSTITUTION*

### USS *Constitution* Museum Receives Award

THE USS *CONSTITUTION* MUSEUM is among six recipients of the National Awards for Museum and Library Service. The award, among the country’s highest honors, is given for extraordinary social service provided by museums and libraries.

Among the programs cited is a comprehensive outreach program in which the story of USS *Constitution* is brought to classrooms nationwide. “*Old Ironsides*” *Across the Nation* brings museum staff and members of USS *Constitution*’s active-duty Navy crew, along with a replica of the ship’s gun deck, to cities throughout the country, providing a glimpse of life at sea to people outside of Boston. Museum staff conducts teacher workshops and distributes the Museum’s award-winning curriculum, *All Hands on Deck: Learning Adventures aboard “Old Ironsides.”* Now in its third

### Park Readies for 2004 Democratic National Convention

THE CITY OF BOSTON has been selected as the Host City of the 2004 Democratic National Convention from Monday July 26 to Thursday July 29, 2004. A fixture of American politics, the convention is a nominating body that Democrats, Republicans, and most third parties have used for over 160 years to choose their candidates for President and Vice President of the United States. As the ultimate campaign rally, the convention gathers together thousands of party leaders, rank-and-file members, celebrities and media from across the country. This is the first time a major party has held their convention in Boston.

Convention activities traditionally open on Saturday with a media party hosted by the

year, the program has reached more than 55,000 people during visits to eleven cities.

—STEFFANIE EVANS  
USS *CONSTITUTION* MUSEUM

city for approximately 25,000 people. On Sunday, the city hosts over 50 separate delegation parties. The opening gavel goes down on Monday, with the nominating speeches on Wednesday, and the convention finishes with the roll call and candidate’s acceptance speeches on Thursday. Past conventions have drawn 35,000 delegates, media, and guests. Countless special events—from small receptions to major productions—take place throughout the week.

The primary site of the convention is the Fleet Center on Causeway Street, located approximately one-half mile from the Charlestown Navy Yard and one-quarter mile from other National Park Service sites in Boston. Special events have been proposed for several sites in Boston National Historical Park and Boston African American National Historic Site.

—SEAN HENNESSEY



## Profiling Bila: The Park's Explosive Detection Dog

IT'S BEEN JUST OVER A YEAR since Bila, the two-year-old yellow lab, joined Boston National Historical Park from her home in Slovakia. (In Slovakian, "Bila" means "white," which attests to her very light-colored coat.) Raised abroad for a year, Bila hails from a long line of Labrador Retrievers that are bred and raised specifically for police work. Transferred for a short time to an importer's kennel in Connecticut, Bila met her handler, Park Ranger Kevin Mulligan, for the first time last Christmas.

After acclimating for about a week with her new family in Beverly, Massachusetts, (including her best pal Murphy, the black lab at home) Bila accompanied Kevin to the ten week explosives detection course, sponsored by the Port Authority Police K-9 training center in Newark, New Jersey. During their training, Kevin and Bila stayed at the Sandy Hook Unit of Gateway National Recreation Area.

From January through March, the explosive detection course required 400 intensive hours, including such diverse activities as training Bila to recognize the scents present in explosives; searching buildings, vehicles, luggage, and aircraft; learning how to search in different environments (trains at Grand Central Station, aircraft terminals, office buildings, and schools); and experiencing the typical response scenarios (working around escalators, elevators, helicopters, and other working dogs.) In addition to training with Bila, Kevin studied explosives/IED (Improvised Explosive Device) recognition, problem-solving, canine first aid, and grooming techniques.

Since graduating last March, Kevin and Bila have responded to nearly fifty calls for use/service. These calls have varied from pre-visit sweeps for visiting VIPs—such as Secretary of the Interior Gale Norton; Vice President Dick Cheney's family; and General Peter Pace, Vice Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff—to more routine calls involving checking unattended packages, luggage, and vehicles throughout the park.

Other notable sweeps have included ensuring the safety of the visitors, pier, and USS *Constitution* for the turnaround cruises, checking the seating and USS *Cassin Young* for the *South Pacific* performances, clearing Faneuil Hall before the Democratic Presidential Candidate Debates, and assisting with security for the Super Bowl Parade. Kevin



and Bila have conducted additional sweeps for special events at local parks, such as Lowell, Salem Maritime, Adams, and Minute Man.

In addition to working with National Park Service staff, Kevin and Bila have worked with the U.S. Secret Service; U.S. Coast Guard; U.S. Park Police; Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms & Explosives; Naval Criminal Investigative Service; Army Criminal Investigation Division; and the Boston Police. While Kevin was training with other handlers, Bila was happy to make the acquaintance of her fellow working dogs: Bam Bam, Boomer, Logan, Herbie, and Jake.

Kevin and Bila have also participated in several community outreach events, including a school demonstration in New Jersey, marching as the Grand Marshall team in the Save-A-Dog parade in Bedford, participating in the Charlestown Against Drugs March, and giving a lecture/demonstration to a group at the Seasonal Law Enforcement Academy at UMass-Amherst.

In canine training circles, the rookie year for a handler and an explosive detection dog is recognized to be an intense growth year in the partnership (not unlike the first year of marriage!), in which each learns how to recognize and respond to the other's cues by instinct. For Kevin, closely observing Bila during their daily training sessions has made him even more sharply attuned to her physical cues when detecting the explosive scent.

In a similar way, Bila is better now than she was a year ago at listening to Kevin's commands. Each of them has also learned to work around each other optimally in the physical spaces where they detect for explosives.

The daily training, necessary to maintain and continually sharpen Kevin and Bila's explosive detection skills, relies on having other rangers hide training aides in buildings, vehicles, and luggage throughout the park and then having Kevin and Bila locate them. Kevin is especially grateful to his colleagues and supervisors for their assistance in keeping the level of training realistic and high.

When she detects the training aid, Bila sits and looks at Kevin to alert him. Bila's reward for finding the training aid is playing with the rolled-up white towel that Kevin takes from his pocket and throws to her. No matter how familiar this routine, Bila never tires of the game.

Recently, Kevin and Bila recertified as an explosives detection team through the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey. During the testing process, they had to search a warehouse, luggage, vehicles, and an aircraft to locate several training aids (explosive materials) that were hidden in these locations. The Boston NHP canine team performed at the top of their testing group.

To commemorate Bila's first year of government service and to inform the public of her mission, Kevin distributes a popular trading card with Bila's picture and mini-biography. If you happen to see Kevin and Bila on duty together, be sure to ask for one. For questions about the Explosive Detection Canine Program at Boston National Historical Park, contact Park Ranger Kevin Mulligan at [kevin\\_mulligan@nps.gov](mailto:kevin_mulligan@nps.gov).

—KEVIN MULLIGAN



*Bila proudly wears her badge as an explosive detection dog as she poses with her handler, Park Ranger Kevin Mulligan.*

## BNHP News Notes

- Our condolences to Administrative Officer **Peter Promutico**, Park Ranger **Richard Tourangeau**, Contracting Specialist **Stanley Radomski**, and Deputy Superintendent **David Brouillette** on losses in their families during the past year.
- Our condolences to USS *Cassin Young* volunteer **Al Lawton** on the death of his wife **Teddi**, who passed away in July 2003 after a long and very difficult illness. Teddi was herself a park volunteer and was an expert on the Commandant's House.
- Boston African-American NHS and the Museum of Afro-American History mourn the death in October 2003 of **Ruth Batson**, the pioneering community leader and civil rights' activist who worked for school equality in Boston since the 1950s. Her commitment to bringing Boston's Black History to public attention and her personal donation in the 1960s (along with the late Henry Hampton) to purchase the African Meeting House is what led to the formation of the Museum and Boston African-American NHS.
- Congratulations to USS *Cassin Young* volunteer **Henry "Hank" Overlock, Jr.** who received an award from the Historic Naval Ship's Association and a certificate of merit from Secretary of Interior Gale Norton for his long-term commitment to volunteerism.
- Supply Clerk **Vinnie Mottola** and Automobile Mechanic **Tony Scopolletti** retired in October 2003 after many years of government service. Vinnie was one of the earliest Boston NHP employees, while Tony came to the park following the closure of Naval Air Station South Weymouth.
- Another long-time Navy Yard and park employee, **Ed Melanson**, retired in Jan. 2004.
- **Jason Rindfleisch** joined the Maintenance Division as its new Gardner Work Leader in November 2003. Jason previously worked for Minute Man NHP.
- **Angel Bracero** transferred from Saugus Iron Works NHS in November 2003 as a laborer in the Maintenance Division.
- **Jim Dalelio** joined the Protection Division from the Department of Homeland Security in November 2003 as a dispatcher.
- Park Ranger **Maryrose Grossman** left the park in September 2003 to accept an archivist position at the John F. Kennedy Library.
- Chief of Cultural Resources/Historian **Marty Blatt** successfully organized and coordinated a workshop on History in the NPS that preceded the annual meeting of the Organization of American Historians (OAH) in Boston in March. As the first NPS historian to serve on the OAH Executive Board, Marty was active on the organizing committee for that meeting. Several park sites, including the Old South Meeting House and the Old State House, hosted well-attended events during the OAH meeting.
- A new Request for Proposals for the leasing of Hoosac Stores has been released. Proposals are due on May 24, 2004.
- As part of Black History Month, Boston African-American NHS sponsored a dramatization for the life of Harriet Tubman by the New Africa

## New Commanding Officer for "Old Ironsides"

In July 2003, Boston National Historical Park welcomed to the Charlestown Navy Yard Commander Lewin C. Wright, 68th Commanding Officer of USS *Constitution*, the oldest commissioned warship afloat in the world. "We are delighted to have Commander Wright onboard," said Superintendent Terry Savage. "Lewin is ushering in a new era of cooperation and partnership with park managers, and we couldn't be more pleased."

Commander Wright graduated from Brandeis University in Waltham, Massachusetts, and was commissioned through Officer Candidate School in September 1985. His first assignment was to USS *Vancouver* (LPD-2), homeported in San Diego, California, where Commander Wright served as Electrical Officer and Electronic Warfare Officer from June 1986 to May 1989. His next assignment was to USS *Buchanan* (DDG-14), also in San Diego, where he served as Navigator from July 1989 to March 1991.

Following duty on *Buchanan*, Commander Wright reported ashore to the Navy Recruiting District, San Francisco, California, where he served as an Officer Recruiter from May 1991 to October 1992. After completing the Surface Warfare Officers Department Head Course, he reported to USS *Lewis B. Puller* (FFG-23) in Long Beach, California, serving as Operations Officer from June 1993 to January 1995. Commander Wright then reported to the Pre-Commissioning unit for USS *Robin* (MHC-54) at the builder's yard in New Orleans, Louisiana. Upon the ship's delivery in January 1996, he served as Executive Officer until May 1998.

From June 1998 to June 1999, Commander Wright was a student at the Army Command and General Staff College in Leavenworth, Kansas, where he completed Joint Professional Military Education phase one. Additionally, he earned a Masters Degree in Business Administration from Benedictine College in Atchison, Kansas.

In September 1999, Commander Wright reported to USS *Samuel Eliot Morrison* (FFG-13), homeported in Mayport, Florida, where he served as Executive Officer until December 2000. He then reported to the staff of the Chief of Naval Operations, Washington DC,

Company on February 17, 2004, at the Old West Church. It was an excellent dramatization that was very well attended.

- Replacement of the slate roof on Building 28 was completed in January 2004.



in February 2001, where he served as the Section Head for strategy for the Director, Surface Warfare Division (N76). Commander Wright assumed command of USS *Constitution* in July 2003.

Commander Wright is authorized to wear the Meritorious Service Medal, the Navy Commendation Medal (three awards), and various other awards and decorations.

"I am honored to be the 68th Commanding Officer of USS *Constitution*," Commander Wright told *The Broadside*. "I feel it is my job to carry on the traditions of the men and women who came before me. If people leave with a better appreciation of the dedication, skill and hard work it requires to serve in the Navy and in the Boston Navy Yard, then I have succeeded."

"The Navy Yard is a *destination*. You can spend an entire day here, from touring *Constitution* and the Museum, to USS *Cassin Young*, the Bunker Hill Monument and the Navy Yard Visitor Center. This is really a place where you can bring the entire family—and everything is free!"

"Working in a National Park is one of the most unique experiences I have encountered. It offers a wealth of historical resources, a great opportunity to partner in special events, and a chance to expand the Navy Yard as the most popular sight on the Freedom Trail."

—JO2 MATTHEW CHABE,  
USS *CONSTITUTION*

- **Celeste Bernardo** completed her assignment with the USS *Constitution* Museum in September 2003 and has transferred to the Harpers Ferry Center. Her duty station will be located in the Regional Office in Boston.



UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE  
BOSTON NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK  
CHARLESTOWN NAVY YARD  
BOSTON, MA 02129-4543



**THE BROADSIDE**  
SPRING 2004

## Our 30th Anniversary Year

### Park and Navy Attend Career Day at Medford High School



ON MARCH 9, 2004, Boston National Historical Park Deputy Superintendent David Brouillette and USS *Constitution* Commanding Officer Commander Lewin Wright spent an hour with 50 juniors and seniors from Medford High School talking about their careers and the opportunities that exist in their respective organizations. This program was one of many presentations leading up to graduation meant to give students career paths to think about and to receive advice from business and community leaders. Considering the long question period, there was a lot of interest in the Navy and the National Park Service, including from a grandson of one of the park's USS *Cassin Young* volunteers.

—DAVID BROUILLETTE

*Medford High School Guidance Counselors Barbara Davis (left) and Peter Bruce pose with Commander Lewin Wright and Deputy Superintendent David Brouillette.*

#### Did you know ...?

That the first monument to the Battle of Bunker Hill was erected by the King Solomon's Lodge of Freemasons.

THE BROADSIDE, the information bulletin of Boston National Historical Park, is produced twice a year by Boston National Historical Park, Charlestown Navy Yard, Boston, MA 02129-4543. Contributions are welcomed from all employees of the park and its cooperators. Except as otherwise credited, all photographs are by NPS staff or from park archives.

Public Affairs Officer – Sean Hennessey  
Managing Editor – Stephen Carlson  
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Staff Photographer – Richard Tourangeau

For further information, visit the park's web site:

<http://www.nps.gov/bost>

### *The Broadside* Resumes Publication

AFTER AN ABSENCE OF A YEAR, *The Broadside*, the information bulletin of Boston National Historical Park, has resumed publication. It will be published twice a year and feature articles and photographs of interest to the staffs of Boston National Historical Park and Boston African American National Historic Site, their many cooperating partners, and their extended family of friends. Because of the new semi-annual schedule, information on forthcoming events can be found on the park's web site and in the Interpretive Division's newspaper, *Boston Town Crier*, which is distributed at the park's Downtown and Navy Yard Visitor Centers.

*The Broadside* was one of the first publications produced by the staff of Boston

National Historical Park, its first issue being published in the summer of 1975. It continued until mid-1981, then was discontinued until the summer of 1990. Since then, it has appeared regularly until last year, when it was suspended due to a variety of circumstances. Its resumption is a recognition of the value that the publication has to the park and its extended family. "*The Broadside* reaches a wide audience and has become a journal of record for the park," said Superintendent Terry Savage.

*The Broadside* welcomes contributions of articles and photographs from park employees and cooperators. Submissions should be made to Sean Hennessey, Public Affairs Officer.