



# Marquis of Granby Jr. Ancient Fife & Drum Corps

Newsletter

May, 2010

## RECENT EVENTS

**The Marquis Bus is Gone.** Well, it's not actually gone. It's sitting in the Lampert's yard (and they just wish it was gone.) It's gone from useful service however, and the Board is now hard at work looking for a new bus and more importantly, looking for ways to pay for it. The Granby Community Fund has stepped up with a grant of up to \$10,000, so that leaves about another \$30,000 for us to raise through grants and a town-wide appeal for funds. It's going to be a huge effort, but we'll get there! Four decades of The Marquis have enjoyed the use of a bus and we're certainly not going to let that tradition fade into the sunset! Stay tuned and we'll update everyone as we get the plan in place to move forward. Also, please be aware that the web site now has a pay pal link to allow for donations via Master Card and Visa!



**Soy Candle Fundraiser** – Early indications from Mrs. Garcia are that this was a huge success! Look for a breakdown of the amount you earned for your Enrichment Account in the next few weeks.

**Little League Parade** – Our first parade of the season went off without a hitch, even though about half our Corps was out of town as it fell on spring vacation week! Nice to see "the new guy" in the drum line...even though he managed to bust a snare head (we were told he might be trouble.)



Importantly, we got to test drive one of our new potential Marquis Majors, when Zach stepped out front for the first time. Great job! Great job also to Taylor, who joined the Flag Line for his first Marquis parade ever. Hip Hip Huzzah!!

## Upcoming Performances & Events:



**American Warrior Homecoming & Lexington Muster** – May 1<sup>st</sup> The Marquis will head to Lexington, MA and the National Historic Battlefield to participate in the William Diamond Junior's Annual Muster, then returning to Connecticut in time to welcome our World War II Veterans back to Bradley Airport on their Honor Flight. Please note that all members ranked Marching Recruit and above will participate in the muster, while the performance at Bradley Airport will be for members ranked Private and above only (including the Flag Line.) We would like to include our Marching Recruits in the Honor Flight performance but are limited by the Transportation Security Authority with regard to who is able to receive clearance at the airport. They are very frightened by our muskets, which don't actually fire but apparently they are very scary nonetheless. Please check out the on-line calendar for details of the day.

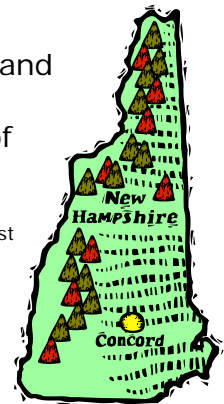
**Meals on Wheels:** The Marquis will continue to provide low cost and delicious meals on parade days for a nominal fee of \$5, with a \$10 limit in cost for each family (so if there are four Marquis members in a family, the maximum expense is \$10.) This seemed to work

well last year and helped us avoid long lines at fast food joints and overpriced junk food that makes everyone cranky. Where it did not work well was with members who were no-shows at the last minute for whom we had already purchased a meal. This meant the Marquis paid for meals that weren't consumed – or actually they were consumed, just not paid for. The impact of that ended up being several hundred dollars to our budget, which we really can't afford. This year it will work slightly differently:



1. Each member is expected to bring their money for their meal to the practice BEFORE the performance. The cost for each meal is \$5, and on days where we have multiple parades or performances, you will be fed more than once.
2. If you forget your money, or have not told us that you won't be there and then don't show up, you will be expected to reimburse the corps for the cost of any meals provided.
3. If you want to bring your own meal, please be sure to let us know you are doing that ahead of time so you won't be charged, and also be aware **it must be completely peanut free!**
4. To make this more convenient, we will be selling "meal plans" that will allow you to purchase either all of the meals for the entire planned parade season, or ten meals at a time.
5. A **special offer** is being extended whereby each member can buy a "season meal pass." The cost of the pass is \$100 and includes all meal charges for the season (except for the summer trip), including any additional performances above and beyond those already scheduled. Since we will probably add several more to the current schedule, this is a very good deal. It will also include your meals at the Nathan Hale Muster, which is an overnight and we usually gather \$15 per member for that. Families with multiple members have to option to pay \$200 for the season meal pass option. "Season meal passes" can be purchased anytime before May 1<sup>st</sup> from Mrs. Lampert.
6. The ten meal pass will be \$50, so there is no cost savings but still a convenience factor. Passes will be kept on the bus so they won't be lost.
7. Meals will generally be a generously sized wrap or sandwich, chips and/or a piece of fruit, a cookie or dessert item. Options will be veggie, roast beef, turkey or ham. Please let us know your preference ahead of time so that can be sure to make enough of whatever kind everyone wants, as we have a volunteer chef for the the first part of the summer. We will occasionally mix in other options like calzones or other things for a little variety. Later in the parade season, we'll be looking for volunteers to make the meals, but the Marquis will purchase all the ingredients.
8. You may use Enrichment Account funds to pay for your meals.
9. On mornings when we leave early, we will continue to offer breakfast items free of charge and will look to parents to donate bagels, muffins, etc.
10. Any questions? Please contact Mrs. Lampert

**Marquis Summer Trip to New Hampshire** – Deposits have been placed and the campsite is reserved for our summer trip! More details will be released soon, along with the preliminary itinerary, but the trip will include a week of camping, swimming, tubing on the rivers, hiking, sightseeing and either a train ride through the Green Mountains or up the Cog railway to the top of Mount Washington. Remember, the full amount of the trip is due by July 1<sup>st</sup>



**Newsletter Help Wanted!** We're going to try something new here. Marquis members will be encouraged to write the monthly history lesson in the form of an essay, which should be submitted to Mrs. Lampert by

the last Wednesday of the month. Topics can be suggested and approved, or you can ask for ideas (we have plenty.) In December, the Marquis Board will vote on the "best" history lesson of the previous year and the author of that essay will receive a \$100 contribution to their Enrichment Account. Please email Mrs. Lampert to let her know you would like to submit something and she'll let you know which month you can have.

**Private Music Lessons Are Here!**- The Marquis is coordinating private music lessons twice a month for one more month. If you are "stuck" in terms of making progress, or just want some extra attention to help you improve your musical talents, you are welcome to participate! There is a \$25/month fee to participate (which needs to be paid in advance at the first practice of each month) and members will be slotted in for either a private or semi-private lesson at predetermined time slot to last between 30 and 60 minutes, depending on your skill level. All lessons are on Tuesday evenings at the Lampert house, and the schedule has been posted to the on-line calendar. Please contact Mrs. Lampert if you are interested in participating. Private lessons are currently available for snare drummers and fyers. If you are a bass drummer and are interested in private lessons, please let Mrs. Lampert know and we can try to schedule extra 1:1 time following the Saturday morning lessons. If you have signed up for these lessons be sure to show up! Otherwise we end up with instructors sitting around with no students, and there are no refunds for no-shows.

**Leadership Classes are underway!** We kicked off this year's series with a class that helped us all understand the 3 Main Styles of Leadership. If you were not able to join in this time around, the program will be offered again next winter.

**Marquis Website** – Is now updated! Please check out our new page on the Bus Capital Campaign!

### **Parents Corner –**

**Marquis Parent's Meeting** – Thanks to all of the parents who stayed to discuss the summer trip, parade schedule, fundraising, open board positions, new meal ticket options, and the challenges of getting to parades without a bus. We understand that lives are busy and appreciate your attention and willingness to participate!

We hold parent meetings just four times each year and this is your opportunity to hear what's going on! The next parents meeting will be July 21<sup>st</sup>. We'll update you on the status of the Bus Capital Campaign and also go over last minute details for the summer trip to New Hampshire.

**2010 Parade Season Chaperones** – The schedule is listed below and is on-line as well. If you are able to chaperone for a parade (or a few) please let Mrs. Lampert know ASAP so she can fill in the slots for the season as soon as possible. If you have never chaperoned before, there will be a brief training session during a practice in late May to cover the main points you'll need to know.

**Changes to the Marquis Board of Directors** – At the Board meeting in February, the following new Board positions were confirmed:

- o Mr. Jahn was confirmed as Business Manager *and* Treasurer.
- o Mrs. Garcia was confirmed as the new Ways & Means Chairperson.
- o Mrs. Bigus & Mrs. Wineman were confirmed as our new Co-Enrichment Coordinators.
- o Mrs. Puskar was confirmed as our new Secretary.

Please be aware that Mrs. Lampert's two year term as the Marquis Director is coming to an end. This means the Board will need to either re-confirm her as the Director or select a new Director. If you have comments or concerns about this, please contact a Board member to discuss.

**The 2010 Preliminary Performance Schedule is here! Updates will be included each month and the schedule is also posted to our on-line calendar where you will find detailed info on departure times, what to bring, etc.**

**Marquis Hotline: 860-604-5070**  
**(call for last minute updates to attendance changes)**  
**Mrs. Lampert's email: Director@MarquisofGranby.org**

**<http://www.marquisofgranby.org/Calendar.html>**

Date	Event	City	State	Depart	Est Return
Saturday, April 24, 2010	Little League Parade	Granby	CT		11:00 AM
Saturday, May 01, 2010	William Diamond Jr Muster	Lexington	MA	7:30 AM	6:00 PM
Saturday, May 01, 2010	American Warrior Homecoming	Bradley Intl	CT	6:30 PM	9:00 PM
Saturday, May 29, 2010	Memorial Day Parade	N Haven	CT	8:15 AM	2:00 PM
Sunday, May 30, 2010	Memorial Day Parade	Ledyard	CT	10:30 AM	4:00 PM
Sunday, May 30, 2010	Memorial Day Parade	New Britain	CT	3:30 PM	9:00 PM
Monday, May 31, 2010	Memorial Day Parade	Granby	CT		
Monday, May 31, 2010	Memorial Day Parade	Simsbury	CT	12:30 PM	3:00 PM
Saturday, June 12, 2010	Gaspee Days Parade	Warwick	RI	6:00 AM	6:00 PM
Sunday, July 04, 2010	4th of July Parade	E. Longmeadow	MA	8:00 AM	1:30 PM
7/13-7/17, 2010	Fyfe & Drum Camp	Ivoryton	CT		
Saturday, July 17, 2010	Deep River Ancients Muster	Deep River	CT	8:00 AM	6:00 PM
Saturday, July 24, 2010	Nathan Hale Muster	Coventry	CT		
Sunday, July 25, 2010	Nathan Hale Muster	Coventry	CT		
Sunday, August 08, 2010	Marquis Summer Trip				
Monday, August 09, 2010	Marquis Summer Trip				
Tuesday, August 10, 2010	Marquis Summer Trip				
Wednesday, August 11, 2010	Marquis Summer Trip				
Thursday, August 12, 2010	Marquis Summer Trip				
Friday, August 13, 2010	Marquis Summer Trip				
Saturday, August 14, 2010	Marquis Summer Trip				
Saturday, August 28, 2010	National Muster	Westbrook	CT		
Friday, September 10, 2010	The Big E	W Springfield	MA	3:30 PM	
Saturday, September 11, 2010	Windsor Fife & Drum Corps	Windsor	CT	9:30 AM	
Friday, September 17, 2010	The Big E	W Springfield	MA	3:30 PM	
Friday, September 24, 2010	The Big E	W Springfield	MA	3:30 PM	
Saturday, September 25, 2010	Founders Day Parade	Lee	MA	8:30 AM	
Sunday, September 26, 2010	Mum Festival	Bristol	CT	11:30 AM	
Sunday, October 10, 2010	New Haven Columbus Day	N Haven	CT		
Sunday, November 07, 2010	Veterans Day Parade	Enfield	CT	11:45 AM	
Thursday, November 11, 2010	Veterans Day Parade	Springfield	MA	11:15 AM	
Sunday, November 14, 2010	First Church Performance & Coffee	N Granby	CT		

## History Lesson – Memorial Day

The celebration of Memorial Day represents different things to different people. The day itself is always celebrated on the last Monday of May each year, and since it is a United States federal holiday most people have the day off. Having a day off, especially one that for most people means “a long weekend” is a big deal, and since this particular long weekend comes right as spring is ending, Memorial Day weekend is often regarded as a celebration of the beginning of summer. It is often this particular weekend when pools are opened, lawn furniture comes out of storage and women start wearing white shoes. All of those things are good and welcome ways to welcome the summer, but here at the Marquis of Granby we are preparing for something else.

The first Memorial Day was celebrated in 1865 by liberated slaves at a mass grave for Union soldiers who had died while being held captive. Events of that day included a parade with thousands of freed black and Union soldiers, followed by patriotic singing and a picnic. People in the north were impressed by the way the south had honored their dead, and the following year, the village of Waterloo, NY began their annual observance. In the years that followed and with the support of a few key people, the idea caught on.

In the early days it wasn't called Memorial Day, but rather Decoration Day. It was celebrated differently in the North and South by a country that was still divided by the bitter wounds of the American Civil War which ended in 1865. For many years those in the Northern states would gather to honor men who had fought on the side of the North and won, but people in the Southern states would gather to mourn the loss of those who fought on the side of the South. For a while, few people seemed to agree on who was most appropriate to honor but gradually people came to understand that regardless of which side of the Civil War people had fought, ultimately our nation emerged united. Everyone agreed that the memories of all soldiers were to be given equal respect, and eventually this day of mourning was declared a national holiday.

Here in the United States there are many big events that take place over the course of Memorial Day weekend. Parades are held throughout towns and cities and many cemeteries decorate the gravesites of their fallen military with American flags. That is because while traditions vary from town to town, Memorial Day is most importantly about honoring those men and women who have died in military service to our country. This is also why the parades on Memorial Day often end with or include ceremonies at a local cemetery.



Why do we bother? Honestly, wouldn't it just be easier to sleep late and goof off all weekend, instead of marching in parades and standing at attention during long speeches? Why do people and organizations like the Marquis of Granby choose instead to devote the weekend to something as simple as remembering? Well, it's an important question to answer.. so we're going to try here.

First of all, we set aside the time to remember because otherwise, it's just human nature to forget. Think about it for a minute. How many times in the past week have you forgotten where you put something, or to follow up with some commitment you made because you didn't write it down? How many times did your parents remind you to do something or did you remind them? It's very, very easy to forget, especially when it comes to things that you have no first hand memories of.

On the other hand, while forgetting is very easy, remembering is very important. Can you recall the consequences of not remembering something recent? Forgetting homework that was due? Forgetting someone's birthday? Having someone forget yours? The result of not remembering in the short term is that you will either end up in trouble of some sort, or you may end up hurting someone's feelings. Over the long term, the consequences are much greater.

In an effort to speak to this topic let me point out just two very famous quotes that are very relevant. The first is attributed to George Santayana<sup>1</sup>;



**“Those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it.”**

What Mr. Santayana was saying is that unless we remember the lesson, we will continue to make the same mistakes over and over again. Stopping to remember the sacrifices of wars fought is one very important way that we remind ourselves of the heavy burden which ensues anytime we enter into such conflicts. So while each of us may or may not personally know of someone who has died in the many wars this country has fought, we can still understand and learn the lesson offered by that experience to our nation. Memorial Day is a time to reflect on those sacrifices, to appreciate what they have meant to our long and growing history, and to honor the lives lost in sometimes brutal efforts to win our freedoms.

The second quote is attributed to William Butler Yeats<sup>2</sup>;

**“Why should we honour those that die upon the field of battle? A man may show as reckless a courage in entering into the abyss of himself.”**

Yeats was speaking not only to the importance of the lesson learned, but in danger to all humans, including present day humans, that comes from focusing only on oneself. Individually, none of the men and women we honor from our past could have succeeded in past wars fought. Together however, they moved our country forward to the freedoms we enjoy today. In a similar way, here at the Marquis, we continue the cause of patriotism by looking out for not just ourselves, but for our entire country. Our entire country *needs* to stop and remember both the lessons and the sacrifices. It benefits us as individuals, and it benefits us together as a nation.

The Marquis of Granby is unique in our ability to help in that particular effort as it is central to our cause. The presentation of our Corps, and the way in which we keep alive the ancient military music and traditions, directly enhances the dignity of these public celebrations. It promotes patriotism and a sense of our nation’s history. It is why we foster discipline, precision, dignity and excellence in performance.

This is also why Memorial Day weekend tends to be the “biggest” weekend of the year for us. We will march in more parades than any other time during the year. Throughout the weekend the Marquis of Granby will be front and center, offering our skills and enthusiasm to a call that is well worth our response. As individuals we show up throughout the year to learn and practice. On Memorial Day weekend, and in other parades and performances that will follow throughout this year, we will pull together to meet united a continued call for remembrance in this nation.

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<sup>1</sup> George Santayana was a Spanish-born American author of the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries.

<sup>2</sup> William Butler Yeats was an Irish poet who lived from 1865-1939.