

FY2009 Annual Report

PUBLIC CEREMONIES COMMITTEE

The Public Ceremonies Committee (PCC) coordinates Wayland's observance of Memorial Day, supports our Veterans Day program, and recognizes events, persons and projects of importance to the Town. Serving as PCC members for the 2008/9-year were Richard Brisk, John Dyer, Brendan Place (student member) and Richard Turner, chair.

Veterans Day, November 22, 2008: For Veterans Day the PCC held a brief ceremony at the Wayland Veterans Memorial to honor our nation's veterans: welcoming remarks by Chairman Richard P. Turner; the wreath was laid by Veterans Agent John Turchinetz assisted by Jackson Turner. Former Selectman Brian O'Herlihy read each of the 39 names on the monument of Wayland men who died while serving.

In advance of the annual town meeting the PCC renamed its award as the Lydia Maria Child Award for Outstanding Public Service. In this way we shall honor each year this little known and nearly forgotten Wayland resident for the significant national role she played advocating equal rights for all regardless of race, gender, religion or national origin.

Town Meeting, April 13, 2009: For Article Two at Annual Town Meeting the PCC awarded the Lydia Maria Child Award to six citizens (George Harris, Betty Salzberg, Tom Sciacca, Linda Segal, Michael Short and Molly Upton) for their various efforts in enabling transparency on important matters for town residents. Each honoree was presented with a certificate and a book on the lifelong efforts by Lydia Maria Child for equality and justice along with an accompanying DVD.

Memorial Day, May 26, 2009: Early ceremonies were held at St. Zepherin's Cemetery, the World War II memorial, South and North Cemeteries, and the Wayland Veterans Memorial where United States, Massachusetts, Armed Services and POW flags had been installed by the Veterans Memorial Committee. At veteran's graves, the Girl Scouts, coordinated by Kathy Hodge and Veterans Agent John Turchinetz, placed US flags prior to the ceremonies.

The parade stepped off from Wayland Middle School at 11:00 AM for the Memorial Day service at Lakeview Cemetery beginning at 11:30 AM. There, PCC Chairman Richard P. Turner welcomed all, followed by comments of Selectman Vice-chair Joseph Nolan and State Representative Thomas Conroy. Rabbi Neal D. Gold of Temple Shir Tikva gave the invocation. Keynote speaker, Captain Victor M. Beck, USNR, spoke about "the meaning of Memorial Day". James Burkley, chair of the Veterans Memorial Committee awarded the third annual Freedom Prize to Wayland High sophomore, David Ryan, whose essay on sexual orientation in the military was selected as the best paper from among over two hundred.

Wayland High School Band, conducted by Joseph Oneschuk, and the Middle School Band, conducted by Dianne Muffitt, provided music. The High School Band featured America The Beautiful. The Band's Drum and Bugle Corps played echo taps with distinction both at the early services as well as the main ceremony.

Included throughout the day were town guests and participants from the Wayland VFW and American Legion. Commander Reverend Arthur Strafus gave the closing prayer. Escorts from the Wayland Police and Fire Departments ensured a safe event. Girl Scouts provided refreshments at the Middle School. The PCC is deeply grateful to all who made the 2009 parade and ceremony successful events.