



VICE ADMIRAL GEORGE C. DYER - ANNAPOLIS CHAPTER #21
MILITARY ORDER OF THE WORLD WARS
 and
 UNITED STATES NAVAL ACADEMY CHAPTER
NATIONAL EAGLE SCOUT ASSOCIATION
 proudly present
MASSING OF THE COLORS 2009



Your organization is cordially invited to participate, by Color Guard, Standard Bearers, and/or group representation, in the **41st Annual Massing of the Colors** to be held

~~at the U.S. Naval Academy Chapel in Annapolis on Sunday, November 8th, 2009 at 2:30 PM~~

NB: After 40 years hosting this event (with a singular security mandated exception following 9/11/2001), "due to a scheduling error," USNA has had to deny use of the historic Naval Academy Chapel.

**at Annapolis High School Auditorium {2700 Riva RD, Annapolis, MD 21401}
on Sunday, November 15th, 2009 at 2:30 PM.**

This traditional ceremony honors the flag of our country as well as those, living and deceased, who fought to gain and preserve our freedoms. The ceremony is also designed to instill and foster patriotism and love of country in the youth of our nation so they may carry on the proud traditions venerated here.

Armed services, veterans organizations, social and fraternal orders, patriotic societies, law enforcement agencies, and organized youth groups have taken part in this ceremony in the past. Over the past ten years, an average of well over 100 Color Guards have participated each year.

This ceremony is open to the public so your family, friends, and neighbors are more than welcome to attend. Young people of all ages are especially welcome to witness this stirring ceremony.

Please excuse the lateness of this invitation. Due to ongoing events both at home and around the world, we needed to delay finalizing the site for this year's ceremony. **While we made every effort to hold the 2009 Massing of the Colors in the historic Naval Academy Chapel on Academy grounds, emerging scheduling problems have required a shift to an alternate location which is Annapolis High School.**

To make the necessary plans for the proper conduct of the ceremony, we ask you to confirm your group/unit's participation not later than Friday 13 November by registering on our

Massing of the Colors 2009 Web-Site

which is still graciously hosted by USNA-NESA

http://www.usna.edu/NESA/MOWW-NESA_MoC/MoC-hp-09.html

(Note: The above URL is CASE SENSITIVE and uses an underscore!)

***** MAKE SURE TO READ ALL REQUIREMENTS & CHANGES FOR COLOR GUARDS ON THE 2nd PAGE! *****

After scanning the site for any information you may desire, you can simply TAP on the link

"CLICK HERE to Register"

and enter the information appropriate to your group. Within three (3) minutes, you should receive an e-mail confirmation of your registration. As an additional bonus to electronic registration, by having the e-mail address of a Point of Contact (PoC), we can let you know of any further developments (ex: the current need to change sites). Alternatively, you can simply e-mail your registration information to

MoC.Annapolis@verizon.net

(Note: The above e-mail address is NOT CASE SENSITIVE!)

making sure to include the information appropriate to your group:

***PoC Name, PoC USPS Address, PoC e-mail Address,
 Name of your Group, Number in your Party***

We hope that you will help continue this long standing patriotic tradition and join us at ~~the historic and beautiful Naval Academy Chapel~~ **Annapolis High School** for this memorable occasion.

To assist in your preparation for the ceremony, instructions for participants are listed on the 2nd page of this letter. If you have any questions, please contact

Ellan W. Thorson

Commander VADM Dyer-Annapolis Chapter #21 {AKA: the USNA Chapter}

call 410-268-9249 or 410-279-3648 or send e-mail to **EllanWT@aol.com**

call 410-757-6618 or send e-mail to **MoC.Annapolis@verizon.net**

Enclosure (2nd page)

MASSING OF THE COLORS 2009

INSTRUCTIONS FOR COLOR GUARDS

- 1.a Color Guards, their escorts, and accompanying members of each unit or group should ~~be dropped off as near as practical to Academy Gate 3 (Maryland Ave) while drivers should proceed with their vehicles to the Navy-Marine Corps Memorial Stadium for parking.~~ *An Annapolis City shuttle bus should be available on the half-hour to bring the drivers back to the intersection of King George ST & MD AVE (near Gate 3 the USNA Chapel) so that they may also participate.* **park together in the Annapolis High School parking lot and move towards the entrance of the main doors for check-in and to receive their march-in order.**
- ~~1.b An exception to the above will be any car with both valid DOD stickers and a driver with a valid DOD photo-ID. These vehicles may enter the Academy through any gate, drop off their passengers in the area across from the chapel, and proceed to the area across from Alumni Hall for parking. Drivers with valid "handicapped tags or permits" should find adequate parking near the Chapel on the Academy.~~
- 2.a Color Guards will assemble and form-up ~~along Chapel Walk in the area directly across the street from the Naval Academy Chapel~~ **in front of the main entrance to Annapolis High School (look for the ushers).** In the event of inclement weather, Color Guards will assemble in ~~the basement of the Chapel~~ **inside the school along the main hallway as directed by the ushers.** Each Color Guard shall have a representative report to the Formation Marshall in the assembly area for the order of march not later than 2 PM
- 2.b It is understood that each Color Guard unit will carry the U.S. flag and other colors appropriate to their group or sponsoring organization. Other members of the Color Guard sponsoring organization should not accompany Color Guards in their march into and out of the Chapel. There will be ample seating for other members of the sponsoring organization within the Chapel.
3. No weapons of any type, either real or replica, are permitted inside ~~the Naval Academy Chapel~~ **Annapolis High School.** This includes ceremonial swords and sabers as well as rifle shapes. *Especially to all Scouts: Even though you have tote'n-chip, no knives please.*
4. Procession of the Colors will begin promptly at 2:30 PM. All units should start their procession so as to maintain a ten pace interval between other Color Guards.
5. Upon approaching ~~the Chapel~~ **any entrance at Annapolis High School,** Flag and Standard Bearers will dip flag-poles to avoid hitting the entryway overhead.
- 6.a Flags & standards should remain in the vertical position (in carry-holders if you have them) while Color Guards should remain covered and at attention during the entire procession as well throughout the opening ceremonies (including the Pledge of Allegiance and the singing of our National Anthem).
- 6.b When the command "order colors" is given, flags & standards should have their pole bottoms placed upon the floor and Color Guards should un-cover and be seated.
***** Note: Color Guards will re-cover later for the recessional march. *****
7. All participants, including Color Guards, should bow their heads during prayers, remove their covers and be seated during the main ceremony.
8. At the end of the main ceremony, Color Guards will be given the command to "carry colors" at which point they should re-cover for the recessional march.
9. Following all ceremonies you are invited to ~~the Officer's and Faculty Club~~ **gather outside (weather permitting)** for refreshments. Certificates of Participation will be available ~~at the USNA Officers & Faculty Club~~ **along with refreshments.**
- ~~10. At any time following the Massing of the Colors, a shuttle will be available at Gate 3 at 15 minute intervals taking drivers back to the Navy-Marine Corps Memorial Stadium to retrieve their vehicles. Such units should arrange exit through Gate 3 and meet with their drivers.~~

Ellan W. Thorson

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