



Windsor Fife & Drum Corps

ANNUAL PARADE & MUSTER

Saturday, September 8, 2012

Parade at 11:00 am • Windsor Town Green



In Loving Memory of Fran Dillon, Director



Order Of March

1. Windsor Fife & Drum Corps - Windsor, CT
 2. Marquis of Granby - Granby, CT
 3. Gloucester Light Infantry - Chepachet, RI
 4. Deep River Juniors - Deep River, CT
 5. Milford Volunteers - Milford, CT
 6. Nutmeg Fife & Drum - Groton, CT
 7. Adamsville Ancients - Delmar, NY
 8. Connecticut Patriots - Plainville, CT
 9. Warehouse Point Seniors - Warehouse Point, CT
 10. Westbrook Seniors - Westbrook, CT
 11. Colchester Continentals - Colchester, CT
 12. Cromwell Grenadiers - Cromwell, CT
 13. Col. John Chester - Wethersfield, CT
 14. Colonial Musketeers - Hackettstown, NJ
 15. Connecticut Valley Field Music - Middletown, CT
 16. Windsor Fife & Drum Alumni
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Windsor Fife & Drum Corps

The Windsor Fife and Drum Corps was established in January 1985 as an organization designed primarily for young people to preserve the music and history of the 18th century. That year, the Corps marched in its first performance at Windsor's Shad Derby Festival and was awarded the first place trophy. It became the first of many top awards.

The Windsor Corps strives to establish an environment that encourages loyalty, friendship, teamwork, cooperation, leadership and a dedication to excellence among our members. We belong to several competitive associations and compete in the Junior Ancient Class, and have successfully won many championship titles over the years both as a group and in the individual classes.

The Corps is also a member of the Company of Fifers and Drummers Association, and has taken part in hundreds of musters over the years hosted by fellow fife & drum corps. In the twenty seven years since it's founding, the Windsor Fife & Drum Corps has performed in all of the New England states (except Maine), New York, Virginia, Florida, and Washington, DC. and has performed in over 1,600 parades, musters and competitions.

As we look forward to the future, the Windsor Fife & Drum Corps is proud to play a part in keeping the traditions of Colonial America alive through our music and to continue to offer a safe, supportive environment for today's youth.

Windsor Fife & Drum Corps

Roster 2012

Drum Major

Nicole Hotchkin

Fifers

Jessie Bladja

Kailey Bousquet

Amanda Burkhart

Rachel Kupec

Hannah LaBombard

Sara Ramos

Seneca Rasey

Sarah Toth

Beginner Fifers

Olivia Boehm

Hannah Chadeayne

Elizabeth Smith

Kelsey Smith

Snare Drummers

Bryan Bousquet

Heather Burkhart

Ethan Kupec

Chris Noell

Corey Wilson

Bass Drummers

John Benner

Connor Hotchkin

Dave McCarthy

Dan Rossi

Corey Smith

Beginner Drummers

Cameron Carvalho

Jonathan Waterman

Color Guard

Don Benner

Ed Cusson

Ann Dillon

Kirk Hotchkin

Lisa Hotchkin



We are always looking for new members!
Visit www.windsorfifeanddrumcorps.com for more information.

In Loving Memory of Francis Dillon, Director

May 17, 1945 — February 17, 2012



Fran Dillon loved Windsor, CT. And Windsor loved Fran. He lived here his entire life and was very proud of his town. When he was growing up, his father built and ran Bart's restaurant, a well-known Windsor landmark. Fran built his own legacy in this town 27 years ago by co-founding and directing the Windsor Fife & Drum Corps, and the Corps is still going strong today. He left an impression on the many kids who have passed through the Windsor Corps over the years and he made friends everywhere

he went. In his eyes, the Windsor Fife & Drum Corps was all about the kids. But to many people, his was the face of the Corps. Aside from his family, this fife & drum corps was Fran Dillon's pride and joy and he was sure to let everyone know it.

Over the years, thousands of kids from the Windsor area passed through the ranks of the Corps and through the heart of Fran Dillon. He knew every member well and always pushed them to give their best. And they did so proudly. Under Fran's leadership, the Windsor Fife & Drum Corps was able to accomplish many great goals and form lifelong memories. Included in these are performances in Washington, DC; New York City; West Point; Fort Ticonderoga; the Eastern States Exposition; and four performances in Walt Disney World in Florida. Also under his leadership, the Corps was able to win 2 Northeastern championships, 4 Connecticut state championships, and many other regional recognitions.

Fran was an extremely patriotic person. He loved the American Flag, and the National Anthem was his favorite song. York Fusiliers and Amazing Grace were some of his favorite drum corps tunes. Carrying his espostoon and marching as the color guard commander, Fran was always found at the front of the Windsor Corps leading them down the street.

The Windsor Fife & Drum Corps would not be in existence today were it not for the tireless efforts and countless hours put in by Fran Dillon. It is with great honor that his family and today's members continue his legacy and march onward.





Memories of Mr. D from Members, Past and Present



“ I have so many fond memories from growing up in the Windsor Fife and Drum Corps. Starting at the age of 9 until I aged out at 21 it was my life. I remember taking a lot of camping trips and as a teenager, I remember the sweatshirt that Mr. D would wear to bring out the “crazy”. He had a name for it but unfortunately I cannot for the life of me remember what it was. Mr. D would sit in a chair near the camp fire and just say all kinds of silly things. Sometimes he’d have a couple of the younger kids on his lap, but he would always have all of us roaring with laughter until curfew. ”

— *Kim (Mottram) Letendre*



“ It was a long time ago, I think it was about 3 years after we started Windsor Fife and Drum. We were at the state competition and we had worked hard for a year because we were dying to win the performance championship (we kept winning the championship for how we looked, not for how we played). We were on stand, and Mr. Dillon was standing right in front of us on the other side of the ropes. As soon as we finished, all of a sudden I hear Mr. Dillon yell “YES!!!” and he throws his fist up in the air. The amount of pride he had in all of us was written on his face. I can’t even remember if we won, but Mr. Dillon always made us feel like winners and he would always, no matter how we did in competition, make us feel proud. ”

— *Jen (Hayes) Morris*



“ I have a couple of funny memories about Fran. The first one is being in Virginia for the Yorktown muster. We had gone out to eat on the bus and on the way back to the campsite, Fran got in the wrong lane. He opened the door to the bus, asked the guy in the car next to us “if he could cut in, he was from out of town.” The kids didn’t hear the exchange but we did and were hysterical.

The other one, again at a muster, this time the Old Guard in Washington D.C. There was a group of us who wanted to see some sites, so Fran loaded us up on the bus and off we went. We tried to get to the Mall area to see the monuments and Fran kept missing the turn off. We were in a rotary and it was like a movie, we kept going around and around on the rotary before we were able to get off and finally make it to our destination. What a memory!!! ”

— Dawn Soucy





“ What can I say about Mr. D that most of you reading this don't already know? There wasn't a person around that Mr. D wouldn't make friends with or help out, ok maybe a few who chose to do his “kids” wrong but hey, we always came first! He created a family where everyone fit in! It didn't matter what you had or where you were from. It did not matter what your troubles were you knew he would be there to catch you. I know for me when I stepped on that big white bus all that mattered was there! I had friends that were more like family, adults that loved us as their own and memories that have been made for a lifetime!

The camping trips, laundry mats, the bus is broken down ... again, bed time (that means you too), hurry up, now wait a minute, did you see the light pole there?, hey anyone want to go to McDonalds?, I am proud of you, good job, love you!!!!

“My” Mr. D, as I claimed him for my own, was a constant in my life, he watched me grow. I can remember the look of pride on his face when I graduated high school and again when I got married and even more so when I had my children! Mr. D loved me, always, no matter where I was in my life or what I was doing! There was never a time I doubted that, though life does get busy and time goes by. However each parade I was able to attend started with the biggest and one of the best hugs in the world, followed by a snuggle at the bus with him saying each time “My Katie”. I miss him each day and only wish we could be granted more time with those we love! I can only imagine how busy he must be now watching over all of us “kids”! ”



— Kate Ferris-Morrell

“ We have so many wonderful memories! It’s difficult to choose just one so we’ll say thanks, Fran, for introducing us to the Windsor Fife and Drum family and being a good friend. It’s been a family activity for one or all of us for many years. All the trips to Disney, Washington, DC, camping at musters and Wakonda were all the more fun for having an extended family with us. Cherry Hill, NJ, will always and forever be associated for us with the corps bus trips but in particular the one (before the days of cell phones) when we were the “advance” group and paced the floors of the barracks in



Arlington, VA, until the “wee small hours of the morning” waiting for the bus from Cherry Hill. Ultimately it turned out to be a great trip. With sincere thanks and love, ”

— Charlotte and Russ

“ Mr. D was the best director we could have ever asked for. He was always proud of us, and encouraging us to be better. I remember at all our competitions he’d give the best pep talks, even if we didn’t win he would tell us he thought we were the best in his eyes because we put in our best effort. When we lost a competition we could count on Mr. D to make us feel better once we got on the bus, he’d tell us we did our best and that’s all he could ask for. It was nearly impossible to stay upset about losing after talking to him and seeing his smiling face still so proud of us, and the hugs he always gave us were definitely helpful too. He really believed in us, which for me at least, gave me a lot of confidence going into competitions. He made signs for all the competitions we won and hung them up proudly. Going into the Northeastern Competition a few years ago he thought we had it in the bag and made the sign before we even got to the competition. We ended up missing out on 1st place but knowing that he thought so confidently that we could do it kind of made it feel like we still did win. We all miss Mr. D like crazy, but knowing that he’s still watching over us proud as ever with all the performances we do helps, and I hope we can keep making him proud in the future. ”



— Sarah Toth

“ He will always be “Mr. Dillon” to me.

In some dusty corner of my brain, I know his first name was “Fran” but I would no sooner have called him “Fran” than call the President “Barry” or call the Queen “Betsy”.

Maybe it was his regal bearing or military efficiency. Maybe it was his grace under pressure.

I was in the Fife and Drum Corps with Mr. Dillon for 6 ½ years – first “that other” Corps, then the Windsor Fife and Drum Corps.

Mr. Dillon taught me that it is possible to scowl and smile at the same time. You don’t expect “gruff” and “lovable” to live together like “ebony and ivory” or “peanut butter and chocolate” but, somehow, he conveyed both in equal measure. He was a master at inspiring loyalty pride and dedication in those around him.

I have so many memories ... from bus rides and parades, from camping trips and competitions, from musters and McDonalds stops.

On some level, I had a sense of how hard he worked for the corps and us kids, but it didn’t really click in until I attended the Corps’ steering committee meetings as the drum representative. The board discussed/argued/debated every detail for FOUR HOURS while I got sick eating too many pretzels.



Mr. Dillon presided, heard all viewpoints and made decisions.

As a teenager in my typical teenager bubble during those years, I showed up, marched and tried not to lose my jabot. Mr. Dillon (and the other leaders) made sure the rest was cared for. He made us feel protected, safe and important.

Then we all moved on, finished high school, went to college or careers, launched into our lives. A new crop took our place. He nurtured all of us. We are strong (and a little more musical and coordinated) because of him.

I saw him a few years ago ... at Radio Shack, I think. We spent a pleasant 5 minutes catching up. He asked me about my dad and mom and sister. I asked him about the latest in Corps news.

As our conversation wrapped up, I said, “It was nice seeing you, Mr. Dillon.”

“Fran. You can call me Fran.”

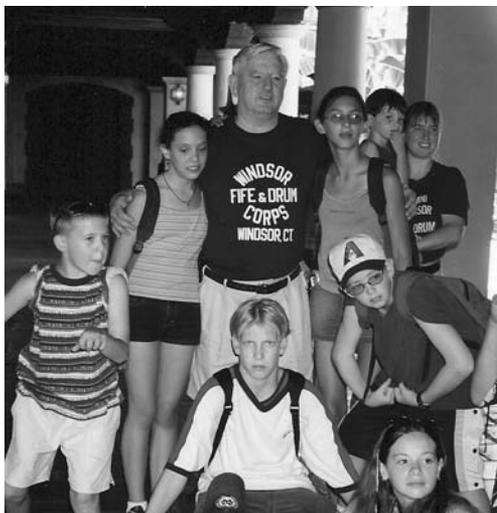
Not likely. Thanks for everything, Mr. Dillon.”

— John Beck, Bass Drummer 1979-1985



“My favorite memory of Mr. D was when I was about 13 or so. I had decided that I wanted to quit drum corps and I had told my mother, hoping that she would tell Mr. D for me. But she insisted that if I wanted to quit I was going to have to be the one to tell him. So at one of our Thursday night practices I gathered my courage and asked to talk to him. Somehow (I’m still not quite sure how) he roped me into staying for the rest of the season. It might seem like a bit of an unimportant event, but that “rest of the season” turned into 7 more years (so far). I’ve now been in Windsor F&D for literally half my life; I’ve spent my summers marching in parades, my Thursdays practicing at L.P., and my vacations at Wakonda. I have grown up so much and met people I love like family, all because Mr. D somehow convinced me to stay.”

— Nicole Hotchkin



“It was always about the kids.”

— Rose Horan

“I do have a favorite story! I’ll never forget the “Supplies” joke! When I was younger, a bunch of us in the corps went to an old western theme park near Fort Ticonderoga. We were riding on a train that was being attacked by “bad guys” and I jumped up and said “Supplies!” Still makes me laugh to this day!”

— Kurt Burkhart

“I knew Fran for 32 years and considered him a good friend. We marched together in countless parades and musters and had endless discussions about the corps. I was always impressed with how dedicated he was to the corps and how much time and effort he put into making it work. He loved kids and was a father figure to the hundreds of them who passed through the corps. Even years after they had left the corps, alumni would come back for the annual muster to see “Mr. D.” Many of them still repeat some of his famous jokes. Remember “suplize”? He will be deeply missed.”



— As Fran would always close his bulletins and letters:

In the ancient spirit.

Don Benner



*Bless the drum and bless the fife
As they play the songs of life.
Brave musicians boldly led
As ancient armies marched ahead.
Into danger, risking all
To keep alive their battle call.
So keep us marching, drum and fife.
As we face our storms and strife.
Give us courage every day,
Remember why it is we play:
Beat the drum to make us strong
To choose the right when faced
with wrong.
And pipe our hearts to look above
When vision dims the dreams of love.
So give us hope and keep us true
Until our marching days are through.
Then let your rhythms guide our feet
To muster on God's golden street.*

—Rev. Timothy Haut



Thank You

The members of the Windsor Fife & Drum Corps would like to extend our sincerest thanks to all of our friends in the fife and drum community. As you can imagine, it has been a difficult season. But at every turn we were met by someone offering their kind words and condolences to us. Special tributes to Mr. Dillon were offered at Windsor town functions, competitions, musters and parades. It is wonderful to know we have the ongoing support of so many as we march forward and continue on the way Mr. Dillon would have expected.

The Dillon family would also like to extend their thanks to the fife and drum community as well as to those in the Windsor Corps. Without all of your dedication, insight, kind words and hard work, this season would have been all the more difficult. Thank you.



We're Looking for New Members!

Fife - Snare - Bass - Color Guard

Membership is open to kids ages 8-21, and you do not need to be a Windsor resident to join. Many of our current members are from area towns. No previous musical or marching experience is necessary. Weekly instruction is provided in your choice of fife, snare or bass drum.

We're also currently recruiting adults and older teens to march in our color guard.

Come visit one of our Thursday rehearsals!

6:00PM - 8:30PM

L.P. Community Center

599 Matianuck Avenue

Windsor, CT 06095



www.windsorfifeanddrumcorps.com

