

Boston Post Cane Presentation



Ethel Edna Tilley was presented The Boston Post Cane on December 15, 2018 at a ceremony at the Fremont Town Hall.

In 1909 the Boston Post newspaper distributed 700 painstakingly designed walking canes made of ebony imported from Africa and crowned with 14-karat gold. Our cane is engraved with the inscription, "Presented by the Boston Post to the oldest citizen of Fremont". The canes were

presented in varying measures of ceremonial pomp, to the oldest living male of those municipalities. Since then, for over a century, the canes have been handed down to the next oldest survivor in those towns, in what has become a venerable Yankee tradition. Women were added to the list of cane recipients starting in 1930. Edna is the 16th woman in Fremont to be awarded the prestigious cane which has been awarded to the oldest resident of the Town of Fremont since 1909.

Ethel, who likes to go by Edna, was born in Ramsgate, England, in 1918 and turned 100 years old this year. She immigrated to the US with her mother and sister when she was 8 years old. Her father worked for 3 years in America before their family joined him and settled in Everett, MA. Edna met her husband Charlie at the Country Road Church in Chelsea. They later married in the same church, while Charlie was home on leave during his service in World War II. After the war, they moved to Saugus where they raised their two children Geraldine and Robert.



At 40 years old, Edna fulfilled her lifelong dream and became a teacher. Together with her husband, Edna remodeled the first floor of their home and opened the Country Kindergarten. Her kindergarten became a nursery school and daycare center serving hundreds of children for 22 years. She retired from teaching only to go back to work 2 years later, at the US Department of Agriculture Forest Service in Durham, NH. Throughout her life, Edna also served as a

Sunday school teacher, a Sunday school superintendent, a factory worker, and a key-punch operator at a bank. Additionally, Edna taught dance classes with her husband before he passed away in 1996.

Today, Edna lives in Fremont, NH. She loves to paint, and she gives away items she makes to friends and family. She has four grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. Her family describes her as kind, generous and pure in heart.

Former Cane Holder Ellen Horsburgh moved from Fremont in 2018.

Wreaths Across America



The Wreaths Across America event was again spearheaded by Gerry Tilley and the People's United Methodist Church. This annual ceremony takes place on the second Saturday in December.



Governed by a Board of Directors, it's mission, **"Remember, Honor and Teach"**



is carried out in part by placing wreaths on Veteran's Graves and Town Monuments during the holiday season. Teaching young and old the cost of freedom is an essential part of the goals of the Wreaths Across America Program.

Precisely at noon (EST) on the second Saturday in December, holiday wreaths are laid from the Atlantic to the Pacific to honor those who have served and are currently serving in the Armed

Forces of the United States of America.

The United States of America was founded on the ideals of Freedom, Justice and Equality. Our Nation stands as a shining beacon of liberty and freedom to the world.



We thank those who gave their lives to keep us free. We shall not forget you. We shall remember.

“The wreath before you represents our commitment as a United America to remember the fallen. It symbolizes our honor for those who have served and are serving in the armed forces of our nation and to their families who endure sacrifices every day on our behalf. To our young people, we want you to understand that the freedoms you enjoy today are not free but have come with a cost that someday you may have to pay yourself. As a nation standing together, we can **defeat terrorism, eradicate hatred, and end injustice**. Thanks to our veterans, we have the freedom to do just that.”

~Pastor Frank O. King (US Army Veteran)

Fremont Veterans Dennis Buteau and Tom McGall laying the wreath on the Veteran's Monument at the Fremont Town Hall.



Our most heartfelt Thank You to the men and women of our Armed Forces for their service, dedication and commitment.

Thank you to the many volunteers who make these special events come to life!
Special thanks to Tom McGall, Pastor Frank King, Gerry Tilley, Nick Ferro, and Fremont Boy Scout and Girl Scout Troops for their contributions to the 2018 Ceremony.



“Freedom is never more than one generation away from extinction. We didn’t pass it to our children in the bloodstream. It must be fought for, protected, and handed on for them to do the same, or one day we will spend our sunset years telling our children and our children’s children what it was once like in the United States where men were free.”

40th United States President Ronald Reagan

Photos courtesy of Amy Bean Photography