

Danvers celebrates Patriots Day with health crisis in mind

DANVERS — The Danvers Historical Society hosted a Patriots Day procession on Monday, April 20, with the Danvers Alarm List Company, Operation Troop Support and the Danvers Police Department, and it looked a little different this year.

With driving one of the few things that can be done while social distancing during the coronavirus pandemic, many volunteers from each organization came together to drive in the procession.

There were stops at specific cemeteries, where the Danvers Alarm List re-enactors fired a volley with their muskets to commemorate Revolutionary War heroes who died for their country on April 19, 1775. Everyone wore masks or other face coverings and stood several feet apart.

Once the ceremonies were finished, a Danvers Police D.A.R.E. vehicle led a Patriots Day convoy of other vehicles through many Danvers neighborhoods. Surprised homeowners came out to wave, oncoming cars pulled over to honk and bicycles rang their bells to help celebrate the occasion.

Coming together on a state holiday, commemorating Revolutionary War heroes and honoring health care workers during this pandemic all made for a memorable day.



JAIME CAMPOS/Staff photo

Danvers Alarm List Company member Henry Rutkowski offers a moment of silence by removing his hat while wearing latex gloves due to COVID-19 at the Rebecca Nurse Homestead in Danvers in observance of Patriots Day.



Courtesy photo

Members of the Danvers Alarm List follow social distancing guidelines while taking part in a Patriots Day ceremony in town.



JAIME CAMPOS/Staff photo

Danvers Alarm List Company's Martha Driscoll walks away after placing a wreath at Col. Israel Hutchinson's grave in observance of Patriots Day. Col. Hutchinson fought in the Battle of Lexington on April 19, 1775.



JAIME CAMPOS/Staff photo

Danvers Alarm List Company members, all standing several feet apart with their faces covered, fire a salute at Porter's Burial Ground in observance of Patriots Day in Danvers.



JAIME CAMPOS/Staff photo

Danvers Alarm List Company members walk past Rebecca Nurse's gravesite at the Rebecca Nurse Homestead in Danvers.