PRESS RELEASE

May 20th, 2004 at the STATE HOUSE (3rd floor-Senate/Reception Room)

170th Anniversary of the Death of the Marquis de La Fayette, the American Revolutionary War Hero and the French General and Politician.

On Thursday May 20th, 2004 at 12:00 noon at the State House, the Massachusetts LaFayette Society will host a commemorative event, co-sponsored by French-American organizations throughout New England, celebrating the 170th Anniversary of the Death of the Marquis de La Fayette, the American Revolutionary War hero and the French General and Politician.

This event will be the occasion to show the strength of the historical ties between America and France and to reassert our common democratic values.

The event will be hosted by M. William P. DUNHAM, Jr, President of the Massachusetts LaFayette Society. National anthems will be sung by Les Petits Chanteurs of the Ecole Bilingue/International School of Boston and comments will be read by head of School, M. Ray HOLIDAY. A prayer in memory of General La Fayette, of John L. Armstrong, Past President of the Massachusetts LaFayette Society, will be said. This will be followed by the Governor's Proclamation for LaFayette Day in Massachusetts and by remarks by Special Guest, M. Thierry VANKERK-HOVEN, Consul General of France in Boston.

12:30: wreath laying by LaFayette Plaque in Doric Hall
12:40: prayer by the LaFayette Plaque in Boston Common

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