

## Crew of 57 *Mayflower II – 1957-2023*



At the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary commemorating the replica ship that carried the Pilgrim exiles to the new world, John McDonagh, Executive Director of Plimoth Plantation, wrote “*The ship was an extraordinary gift from England in recognition of America’s support and friendship during and after World War II.*” After the war, English journalist Warwick Charlton was inspired by the Pilgrim story after reading William Bradford’s history. American Henry “Harry” Hornblower II incorporated Plimoth Plantation in October of 1947.

Henry Hornblower II was the pioneer in creating a living museum to “*show how the Pilgrims survived and what they accomplished in the early years.*” He and Warwick Charlton worked together across the ocean producing a legacy of the Pilgrim story as well as the replica ship that has inspired millions for decades.

In 1957, *Mayflower II* arrived in Plymouth harbor June 13. Her journey was at least 11 days shorter than the one the Pilgrims took. She was first opened to the public on Thanksgiving Day that year under the stewardship of Plimoth Plantation who recently invested in another restoration of this historic replica.



In this year’s parade, we honor the *Crew of 57* who made that commemorative voyage possible. England’s gift to America was also a commemoration of the *price of freedom*. The faith of the Pilgrims, coupled with the veterans willing to pay the ultimate price in defense of liberty in opposition to tyranny, will inspire thousands in this year’s parade!