



# Washington Artillery Veterans Association



## WAVA Newsletter - April 2014

No. 14-4 To Perpetuate the Spirit of the Washington Artillery (The 1/141FA under many numeric designations)

### WAVA Officers

Jay Castagnetta	President
Ronald Besson	1st Vice President
Joseph Whitman	2nd Vice President
Russell A. Mayeur, Sr.	Secretary
James Copeland	Treasurer

### WAVA Board of Directors

#### Terms Expires - December 2014

MAJ John DeMartini (Sandra)	(504) 738-7472
James Copeland	(504) 669-9684
Russell A. Mayeur, Sr. (Eloise)	(504) 919-8577
Joseph Whitman (Nancy)	(985) 249-2255
LT Anthony LaNasa, III	(504) 452-0358
Fred Muhs (Pat)	(504) 236-3958

#### Terms Expires - December 2015

Ronald Besson (Barbara)	(504) 347-5026
Michael Kreutz	(985) 898-6339
MSG Craig Rosenquist	(318) 416-7594
Norvin Schexnauldre (Loyce)	(504) 889-0837
Ernest Guerra (Patsy)	(985) 661-1284
Russell Mayeur, Jr. (Judy)	(228) 586-1194

#### Terms Expires - December 2016

Jay Castagnetta (Heidi)	(985) 285-8883
Ray Hartman (Eva)	(504) 251-0386
Charlie Bauer, Jr.	(985) 809-1223
Addison Thompson	(504) 279-2278
Emile Henriquez	(985) 788-4547
Flemming Ragas	(504) 606-8127

### Annual Dues

Please check your mailing label for the status of your dues payment. Annual dues for 2014 and any previous unpaid years are payable immediately.

Consider becoming a member in perpetuity and dispense with the yearly renewal. Membership and renewal dues form is attached herein.

#### **What's Inside!!!**

**New start time for Meetings, see page 2**  
 Dates of Meetings, Socials & Reunion  
 President's & Commander's Message  
 Dues/Membership Application/New Members

### WAVA Committee Appointments

Active Battalion:	LTC Kenneth Baillie	(504) 715-7001
	CSM Mathew Drees	(504) 418-5704
Audit:	James Copeland	(504) 669-9684
	Flemming Ragas	(504) 606-8127
Awards/Recognition:	Norvin Schexnauldre	(504) 666-2898
	Ernest Guerra	(504) 450-1284
Budget:	Jay Castagnetta	(985) 285-8883
	James Copeland	(504) 669-9684
Contact Roster:	Jay Castagnetta	(985) 285-8883
Finance:	James Copeland	(504) 669-9684
	LTC Kenneth Baillie	(504) 715-7001
	Donald Schwarzenbach	
Fraternal:	Russell Mayeur, Jr.	(228) 586-1194
	Norvin Schexnauldre	(504) 666-2898
Historical:	Dr. Glen Cangelosi	(504) 391-1174
	John Fleming	(504) 887-8195
Legal/By-Laws:	Joseph Taranto	(504) 834-3302
Membership:		
WAVA	Ernest Guerra – Chm.	(985) 661-1737
	Addison Thompson	(504) 279-2278
Active BN	MSG Errol Williams, Jr.	(337) 423-6118
Newsletter:	Fred Muhs	(504) 236-3958
	<a href="mailto:fmuh@cox.net">fmuh@cox.net</a>	
Nominations:	Russell Mayeur, Sr., Chm.	(504) 919-8577
	Russell Mayeur, Jr.	(228) 586-1194
	Anthony LaNasa, III	(504) 452-0358
Parliamentarian:	Joe Taranto	(504) 834-3302
Photographer:	Eloise Mayeur	(504) 722-0378
	Fred Muhs	(504) 236-3958
Planning:	Jordan Jones, Chm.	(985) 331-2093
	James Copeland	(504) 669-9684
	Ron Besson	(504) 458-6559
	Fred Muhs	(504) 236-3958
Programs/Publicity:		
Recording Secretary:	Jeffrey Bohne	(504) 975-7010
Socials:	Ray Hartman	(504) 251-0386
	Joseph Whitman	(985) 249-2255
	Renda Besson	(504) 340-2987
	Jeffrey Bohne	(504) 975-7010
	Parris Andrews	
	Anthony Ethridge	
	Charles Ross	
Telephone:	Norvin Schexnauldre	(504) 666-2898
	Mike Kreutz	
Website:	Jay Castagnetta	(985) 285-8883

## WAVA Meetings & Special Events

April 15 Board Meeting  
May 20 General Membership Meeting and Seafood Social  
June 17 General Membership Meeting

### Please Mark Your Calendar for All Meetings

WAVA holds its meetings at Jackson Barracks in the 1/141 Armory. Enter the north gate from St. Claude Avenue and drive toward, the now closed, N. Claiborne Avenue gate to get to the 1/141 Armory.

**1700 hours - WAVA Room opens for refreshments**

**1730 hours - Evening meal is served**

**1830 hours - Meeting starts**

Socials and special events will be held there also, unless noted otherwise.

### New WAVA Members

Lifetime Honorary Member: Carl Sampson

Perpetual Member:

Member:

Perpetual Associate Member:

Associate Member:



### Taps

**Joseph (Bo) Centanni**  
**COL (Ret) Robert Williams**

### E-Mail Verification Effort

Attention, WAVA Members and Associates, with operational e-mail addresses. We are doing a sweep through our list of e-mail addresses on record in hopes of catching any errors or omissions in our list.

To aid this effort, we are asking that you send an e-mail message to [fmuh@cox.net](mailto:fmuh@cox.net) simply stating the full name of the WAVA member(s) and/or associate(s) that use the e-mail address, of the reply. We can then update our list with this new and/or correct information. Thank you for your help and participation in this effort.

## WAVA President's Message

**To WAVA members and associates, friends and families.**

In these comments I'd like to address three separate issues. First, and foremost, reaching out to our extended Washington Artillery veterans; the Spring Seafood Dinner; and finally the opportunity to serve you and WAVA.

If there is a legacy of my time, as a leader of our organization, that I'd like to be most remembered for it is of our efforts to reach out to ALL of our veterans who served in the Washington Artillery, at one time or another, for as little as a day or an entire lifetime, from Private to Lieutenant Colonel or even higher. COL Brian Champagne always liked to identify the Washington Artillery as a cradle to grave organization. Quite simply he was referring to the opportunities to maintain association with the unit from first enlisting, serving your time, ending your time in service whether due to contractual completion or retirement then having an opportunity to belong to our own veterans association and perpetuating the spirit of those acquaintances and friendships nurtured through years of service.

WAVA has always had a strong representation of the WWII and Korean era soldiers. The Vietnam era has always been well represented but I always believed it should be even better. And the soldiers of today's battalion are joining in flocks. It is my desire that we reach out to every possible soldier who served in the Washington Artillery with open arms and welcome them back. After all, they are family. Forget the personality conflicts. You'd be surprised at just how easy that really is. Set aside your personal differences and come home. The things being accomplished today are unparalleled in the areas of our history, outreach and supporting the active battalion while maintaining our purpose and identity as a veterans group. If you know of any Washington Artillery veterans who may have an interest in belonging please try to have them contact us to become a member or drag them to one of our meetings or social events. Or better yet, invite them to come to the armory and visit the WAVA Room and Washington Artillery Gallery recently completed. I will be here every Tuesday and Thursday and always have time to welcome new members and show them around OUR facility. There is always time to rekindle old friendships and maybe fill a void in their life since leaving the 'Old Command'.

It's time for our Annual Spring Seafood Dinner. If it is anything like last years it will be one for the books. An application for the event, along with all of the details is attached to this newsletter. It is important you make your reservations early on. We have a lot to do in planning these events and the earlier we know how many guests are attending the better the event. This year's event is Tuesday, May 20<sup>th</sup>, 2014. The WAVA Room will open at 5PM. Food will be served at 6:30PM. The price is still

just \$15.00 a person. All beverages are provided. Please rsvp to Ron Besson as soon as possible. His address and phone are on the application and his email address is: [mrbeson1936@gmail.com](mailto:mrbeson1936@gmail.com). I look forward to sharing quality time with old and new friends alike and “sucking a few heads and pinchin’ tail”.

Finally, I wanted to take this opportunity to thank the committee members for selecting me as WAVA’s Office Manage. I look at this as another opportunity to take our association to the next level. There will be a lot of work to do and I can promise you this, I will give my all to insure this work is completed as professionally and quickly as is physically possible and there are instructions so anyone can work within the systems we set up to better manage the WAVA programs.

I will be at the WAVA Room every Tuesday and Thursday. I will also be at the WAVA Room one day of every drill weekend. Additionally, since I gave WAVA two days a month in the past I will continue to do that by also being in the room every other Wednesday. This schedule will be posted on the website calendar for any who have an interest.

I do understand the trust which has been placed with me and again, I thank all involved for the opportunity to serve.

**Try Us!**

**Jay Castagnetta**  
President, WAVA

#### **Battalion Commander’s Comments**

Dear friends and WAVA Family,

We had another great weekend April 4-6. Our Soldiers, as always, did a job that I can only describe as magnificent. Their training, Esprit De Corps, and motivation led them to shoot the first coordinated illumination mission since about 2004. The effect was fantastic, and the pride and accomplishment that the Soldiers felt was well placed. I was able to see the missions from the hill as well as from the gun line, and as always, I was filled with pride at the skill, attention to detail, dedication, and motivation of the fine Soldiers of the Tiger Battalion.

We are ramping up for this year's Annual Training and it looks to be another full training schedule as our Soldiers complete a second round of certification and qualification. Everyone is functioning well in their assigned duties, and we are training hard to keep our edge. I say it often, but it bears saying again. I know that the men and women of our

battalion are among the best Soldiers anywhere, I am very proud of them all, and I appreciate every one of them and what they do for our great battalion.

As we get into Annual Training, I will appoint a board to plan this year's St. Barbara Celebration. I will pass the details on to you all when we know more. Please begin to think about any nominations you have for the Honorable Order, The Ancient Order, and the Artillery Order of Molly Pitcher; it is not too early to get those working.

As always, I want to reiterate that I truly appreciate the ongoing support and friendship of WAVA and all that they do for the Active Battalion. I remain humbled by the awesome responsibility that has been entrusted to me, and I look forward to another great Annual Training.

**Kenneth T. Baillie**  
LTC, FA, LAARNG  
Commander  
1-141 Field Artillery  
Washington Artillery

**"Try Us!"**

### **WAVA “Meeting” and Seafood Social Tuesday, May 20<sup>th</sup>, 2014**

Get your reservations in early to make sure you get a seat at the tables. The reservation also assures that you will have all the seafood you care to eat! 50/50 tickets will include a chance to win the Big Buck\$ as well as some of the unannounced door prizes. Please use the reservation form in this newsletter to place your reservation early.

Children under 12 years old, eat free.

**Doors open at 6 pm  
Seafood served at 7 pm**

*See you there, pinching tails and  
sucking heads!*

## WAVA Lifetime Honorary Member Carl Sampson

At the recent “In the Company of Heroes” dinner in November of 2013, Carl Sampson was assigned a seated with the WAVA members at the World War II Museum honoring outstanding members of the military. Carl had been severely wounded in Iraq in 2003 and is still recovering from severe head wounds to the left side of his head and face. The road to recovery has been long and bumpy but Carl’s will to live has kept him on course. Carl’s wounds have hampered his memory to some degree but during his time at the table with the WAVA members, he was quite taken by the WAVA red coats. Carl told his wife repeatedly, he wanted to get a coat like the WAVA members were wearing.

Those conversations were overheard by the WAVA members and WAVA officers put in motion a plan to give a red coat to Carl in addition to making him an Honorary Member of WAVA. Pictured below, is Carl receiving his Honorary Membership and Carl proudly wearing his red coat. The coat was presented by LTC Kenneth Baillie, commanding officer of the Washington Artillery Battalion. Jay Castagnetta, WAVA president, presented the Lifetime Honorary Membership certificate to Carl in the presence of his wife Kelly.



## New WAVA Board Member Sworn In

At the March WAVA meeting, MSG Craig Rosenquist was voted in by the members and sworn in by Russell Mayeur to fill the vacancy on the Board due to the death of Joe Centanni.



## National Guard Commanders Rise in Revolt Against Active Army; MG Rossi Questions Guard Combat Role.

The battle between the regular Army and the National Guard, which we all knew would blow up one of these days, has blown up. On March 11<sup>th</sup>, at 3:30 in the afternoon, the spokesman for the 54 state and territorial Guard commanders, Kentucky Adjutant General Ed Tonini, raised the standard of revolt against the active duty leadership who had, he said, “slammed their minds shut” on any compromise. Meanwhile, much more quietly, and with many caveats, the regulars have broken a 13 year taboo: In an exclusive interview with Breaking Defense, Army Quadrennial Defense Review director MG John Rossi questioned aspects of the Guard’s much lauded combat performance since 9/11.

More on this matter can be found at <http://breakingdefense.com/2014/03/national-guard-commanders-rise-in-revolt-against-active-army>

The reason for this submission to our newsletter is to encourage our membership to join the Louisiana National Guard Enlisted Association [www.langea.org](http://www.langea.org) or the Louisiana National Guard Officer’s Association [www.ngala.org](http://www.ngala.org) . When you sign up for LANGEA you can sign up for The Call. This will provide you with prepared letter which all you have to do is sign and they will be sent directly to your congressional delegation so they know how you feel about the issues at hand.

By joining these organizations you will be placed on their newsletter mail lists which will keep you informed on issues ranging from force structuring, new equipment,

veterans benefits, medical benefits programs, and much, much more. By joining these organizations you will be adding to the already swelling ranks of members who carry a strong voice in Washington whether it be a voice of satisfaction with the work in DC or a voice of reason for our political leaders to use in the fight against actions not unlike the one discussed above. The fees to belong to these organizations are minimal when you compare the benefits of belonging to those of not belonging.

### Capital Improvements to the WAVA Room and “The Washington Artillery Gallery”

If you have not been to a meeting lately and have not seen the new furnishings and decorations in the WAVA Room and the area immediately outside the WAVA Room (now called The Washington Artillery Gallery), make plans to stop by and take a look. In the mean time, look over these pictures to get an idea of what is going on.



Then



And Now



Washington Artillery  
Veterans Association  
Post Office Box 7584  
Metairie, LA 70010

Return Service Requested



*The Washington Artillery*

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*Annual Dues Are Payable in January, 2014 - Please check address label for your Dues Status  
Consider Becoming A Member In Perpetuity!*



**WAVA Seafood Social - Tuesday, May 20, 2014**

**1/141<sup>st</sup> FA Bn Armory, Jackson Barracks**

**Doors open at 6 pm - Food served at 7 pm**



**Menu**

Boiled Crawfish, Corn, & Potatoes Fried Shrimp, Oysters, & Catfish

Jambalaya, Potato Salad, & Bread Pudding Beer & Soft Drinks

Cost: Adult - \$15.00 Children under 12 - Free

Number of people in your party: \_\_\_\_\_ Total Amount: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Check No. \_\_\_\_\_

Make checks payable to WAVA. Please send check as early as possible to facilitate planning.

Parties of 10 or more may request a reserved table.

I/We will attend: \_\_\_\_\_

Prefer seating with: \_\_\_\_\_

**Mail this form and check to:**  
(Make check payable to WAVA)

**Ronald Besson**  
1500 Avenue F  
Marrero, LA 70072  
(504) 347-5026