

**WASHINGTON ARTILLERY
VETERANS ASSOCIATION
POST OFFICE BOX 7584
METAIRIE, LA 70010**

DON'T FORGET, YOUR ANNUAL DUES WERE PAYABLE BY JANUARY 2006
CONSIDER BECOMING A MEMBER IN PERPETUITY

Aug 06



The Washington Artillery

WAVA NEWS

COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS FOR 2006

Active Battalion: John DiMartini (504) 738-7472
Audit: Nelson Ardoin (504) 738-9634
Awards: Russell Mayeur (288) 255-7689
Jay Hotard (504) 339-3121
Budget: Norvin Schexnaildre (504) 889-0837
Building Management: Rene Jacques (504) 598-7200
Dennis Showalter (985) 882-3835
Bulletin: Roger Bacon (504) 421-6358
Charter & By-Laws: Henry Pepper (504) 737-6246
Financial Advisor: Rene Jacques (337) 842-5047

Food/Beverage: Ed Harrell (504) 756-6805
Jim Ledet (504) 887-2910
Fraternal: Ronald Besson (504) 347-5026
Historical: Terry Donelon (504) 738-5682
Legal: John Gniady (504) 454-1515
Membership: Anthony Pizzolato & Bd. (504) 467-7036
Parliamentarian: Henry Pepper (504) 737-6246
Programs/Publicity: Rolla Schwartz (985) 340-7101
Social: Nelson Ardoin (504) 738-9634
Telephone: Joseph Centanni & Board (504) 733-1141

What's Inside!!!

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE: Many thanks to Charlene and Nelson Ardoin and their committee for a job well done in coordinating the seafood dinner social in May. We had 115 members and guests in attendance. The food was outstanding even though the St. Bernard caterer had lost his entire business due to Katrina.

Congratulations to the battalion for having successfully relocated to their temporary armory in New Orleans East on Michoud Boulevard near Almonaster Avenue.

Our annual reunion will begin at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, 21 November in the cafeteria of the Holy Rosary Catholic Church located at 3368 Esplanade Avenue, the same location as our May seafood social. This is a general membership meeting. Food and drinks will be provided and is open to all current and former members of the Washington Artillery. Please invite anyone you know. We look forward to seeing everyone.

The battalion will have several important functions on 16-17 September. The first is a wreath laying at the Washington Artillery Monument located in Metairie Cemetery which will begin at 9:00 a.m. on Saturday, 16 September. This is an annual event when we memorialize those heroes of the Washington Artillery who gave their lives in service to our country. This year, unfortunately, we will memorialize the loss of SGT Lee Myles Godbolt who is the first member lost in action since WWII. His mother, Denise Godbolt, will help with the wreath laying and unveiling of his name on the monument. We need to have a good turnout of WAVA for this solemn event. Please wear your red coats if you have one, black trousers, black shoes and socks and the artillery or red tie. Please notify me at 228-255-7689 or 504-919-8577 to confirm your attendance.

On Sunday, 17 September, the battalion will have a Welcome Home Heroes Celebration following their review. All activities will be held at Lafreniere Park in Metairie and will begin at 11:00 a.m. with their review followed by a celebration. This is a very big event which has been in the works for well over a year. The event has attracted numerous corporate and individual sponsors. Food will include fried catfish, hamburgers, hot dogs, jambalaya, red beans and rice, pasta, grilled chicken salad, gumbo and various forms of dessert. Beer, soft drinks and water will be plentiful. Several bands will play. There will be a Disney tent with an 18' Mickey balloon, fun squad, inflated bounce houses, popcorn machines, candy, snow balls, the Zephyr's Boudreaux and Clothilde, picture taking and much more. We expect 400 soldiers and their families, about 1,200 total, to be present. We need volunteers from WAVA on this day to help the battalion by serving food, directing car parking and many other details that they may need. Please call Norvin Schexnaildre at 504-666-2898 to coordinate your help.

FOR GOD AND COUNTRY, Russell Mayeur, President

COMMANDER'S UPDATE: The unit is finally operating full-time out of the armory located in New Orleans east, directly across the street from the Michoud Facility. Although we're moved in, there is still plenty of work to accomplish before the unit is organized the way we want it. The overall appearance has improved greatly from the first time we surveyed the building many months ago when we still weren't sure where our temporary unit would be located until the new armory is constructed at Jackson Barracks..

The battalion conducted its first drill out of this armory over the first weekend of this month. The overall consensus about the new unit is good, despite the distance some have to drive to get there. There is much more room in individual offices and there is plenty of storage space throughout the building. The new modular furniture has already started to arrive and its installation began on 7 August. The real story though is the incredible work that our full-time staff and those on EAD orders have done throughout Operation Task Force Gator. The entire staff, from our mechanics in overdrive trying to fix vehicles to the administrative staff working through reams of reports and updates, is putting in overtime trying to get the battalion back to pre-Katrina. The hard part is that the unit never had a chance to recover from re-deployment. Despite all the pressure and strain associated with current events, the unit continues to persevere and make incredible progress on all fronts. I am very pleased with the level of effort across the battalion.

WASHINGTON ARTILLERY VETERANS ASSOCIATION



WAVA NEWS



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No. 06-2 To perpetuate the spirit of the Washington Artillery (The 1/141st FA BN under many numerical designations). Aug 2006

Russell A. Mayeur, Sr.	President
Nelson Ardoin, Jr.	1 st Vice President
Dennis Showalter	2 nd Vice President
Russel Madere	Secretary
Norvin Schexnaildre	Treasurer

TERM EXPIRES DECEMBER 2006

Ronald Besson (Barbara)	347-5026
Joe [REDACTED]	733-141
Jin [REDACTED]	10
Hen [REDACTED]	46
Norvin Schexnaildre (Loyce)	889-0837
Dennis Showalter (Jan)	(985) 882-3835

WAVA OFFICERS

TERM EXPIRES DECEMBER 2007

Nelson Ardoin, Jr. (Charlene)	738-9634
Roger A. Bacon (Betty)	454-3481
Terry Donelon (Catherine)	738-5682

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

TERM EXPIRES DECEMBER 2008

Ed. P. Benezech, Jr. (Katherine)	341-2223
John DiMartini (Sandra)	738-7472
Ed Harrell	756-6805
Rene' C. Jacques	(337) 842-5047
Russell A. Mayeur Sr. (Eloise)	(228) 255-7689
Rolla Schwartz (Diane)	(985) 340-7101

ANNUAL DUES

Please check your name label for the status of your dues. ANNUAL DUES FOR 2006 WAS DUE THIS PAST JANUARY. PAST-DUE AMOUNTS MUST BE PAID IMMEDIATELY. CONSIDER BECOMING A MEMBER IN PERPETUIY, A ONE-TIME INVESTMENT. Membership/dues form is on page 4.

WAVA MEETINGS/SPECIAL EVENTS 3rd & 4th Quarters 2006/1st Quarter 2007

September 16 th	Active Bn Memorial/Wreath Laying
September 17 th	Active Bn. Review & Welcome Home Heroes Party
September 19 th	General Membership Meeting
October 17 th	Board Meeting
November 21 st	Annual Reunion/Social
December 4 th	Annual Meeting/Board Election
December 19 th	Board Meeting/Election of Officers
January 16 th	Board Meeting
February 20 th	General Membership Meeting
March 20 th	General Membership Meeting

PLEASE MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR ALL MEETINGS AND EVENTS. Meetings will be held at the home of the Delta Lions, 1725 Hickory Ave., Harahan. See page 3 for more information.

ASSOCIATE MEMBERS: Spouses are encouraged to join as associate members. They meet at 7:00 p.m. at the Delta Lions Home on the third Tuesday each month. . Please pass this information on and encourage your spouse to attend and become an associate member.

WASHINGTON ARTILLERY REUNION

The third annual Washington Artillery reunion will be held at 7:00 p.m. on **Tuesday, 21 November** at the Holy Rosary Catholic Church. We had a great turnout in 2004 and everyone is encouraged to participate again this year. Katrina interrupted our plans for the 2005 reunion so this one is especially important. Now is the time to begin contacting former unit members and alerting them to the reunion. Spouses are invited and encouraged to participate.

If you have a name, address and/or telephone number of a former WA member please call Roger Bacon at 504-421-6358 with the information and those individuals will receive a personal invitation.

TAPS/ THE LAST CAMP

Donald Kaiser	20 April 05
Leon Lipps	April 2006
Raoul C. Favret	5 August 2006

FROM THE PRESIDENT:

The annual election for a third of our Association Board of Directors took place on December 1st. I am pleased to announce that three new board members were installed on that date: Nelson Ardoin, Donald Burgess and Russel Madere. The election was very close, with one and two votes separating the next two nominees.

The Board of Directors met On December 16th to elect officers for 2004. They are also listed on page two.

Committee assignments for 2004 are shown on page one. There are a few new committee assignments and one, the membership committee, has co-chairmen. Membership will be a high priority. We plan to be proactive in the pursuit of new membership. You can help by making contact with your former comrades and asking that they consider becoming a member of WAVA.

We are planning two socials at our home on May 18th and September 21st. Our annual reunion of active WAVA members and former and current active battalion members, is tentatively scheduled for November 16th. Please mark these and other special activity dates on your calendar without delay.

Harry McEnery III and William Crockett, new Members in Perpetuity, are being added to our plaque. Lewis Bonner and Harry Bartlett are new associate members. We welcome you to WAVA.

Please share this newsletter with your spouse or any other person you may want to sponsor to become part of a ladies' auxiliary unit of WAVA. See page two for information and page four for the information form to be sent in for planning purposes. We hope to see them at the January meeting.

For GOD and country, Roger Bacon

CHANGE IS INEVITABLE: EMBRACE IT AND SUCCESS IS YOURS by MAJ Jordan Jones, Cdr., 1/141

Since the last WAVA meeting I attended, the 1/141st FA BN has experienced a few changes that I'm sure WAVA would like to know about. As the saying goes, "the only thing constant in the Army is change." That couldn't be any truer today.

One week prior to my first drill as the new commander I learned that our plan to conduct a live-fire exercise at Camp Shelby had to be changed due to the Chief of Staff's requirement that every soldier be provided the opportunity to vote in the gubernatorial election Saturday morning. Going to the field to fire didn't make much sense considering the distance traveled, the time required to properly perform pre-combat checks (PCC) and inspections (PCI) and the reduced time actually spent firing. There were a number of other logistical factors that also needed to be considered, but ultimately, I didn't want to chance a safety violation or accident or reduce the quality of training to standard simply for the sake of pumping rounds down range. With that said, our leaders did an excellent job of immediately adjusting the training plan and executed the new one like the true professionals they are.

The December drill wasn't much different. We had to make more changes to the training schedule and in the process tasked battery leadership to prepare for a totally revised additional training assembly (ATA) format on short notice. Once again, our leaders rose to the occasion and performed very well.

So, where are we now? Our entire '04 training schedule had to be revised because, like we anticipated, our battalion will participate in a Joint Readiness Training Center (JRTC) rotation at Ft. Polk June 6-20, 2004. The entire training schedule changed because we were planning to conduct a number of live-fire exercises in preparation for annual training. Due to us going to the JRTC instead, we probably won't fire a single round until November of 2004. We will still conduct our Advanced Field Artillery Tactical Data System

(AFATDS) new equipment training (NET) at the end of August, however, that fielding doesn't require firing.

The JRTC rotation will require the entire battalion's participation. The difference is that we won't be operating in the same configuration and performing the same missions you'd expect from an FA battalion. We'll be doing what our brothers in OIF are doing, mostly infantry tactics. Bravo will go as a pure PALADIN battery and Alpha and Charlie will go as Motorized Rifle Companies. They will be riding around in up-armored HMMWVs in contrast to Paladins. We'll probably take elements of HHB and SVC battery and plus-up the firing batteries.

Since the 30 BDE isn't quite sure how they are going to accomplish their mission in the JRTC "box," and we were originally suppose to model our preparation after their example, we'll end up determining our own template via lessons learned from units in OIF and from the Center for Army Lessons Learned (CALL). More interestingly, the observer/controllers (Ocs) tasked w/evaluating the 30th's performance don't know how PALADIN Battalions are employed.

There's nothing like a good challenge, and we've got plenty. In light of all the personnel changes and major change in mission, our soldiers and leaders have demonstrated an unrepentant desire to excel and learn skills not previously available. Worse case scenario is that we'll have to use lessons learned from our JRTC rotation in the event that we'd get called to active duty in the future. The best case scenario is that we'll never have to use these soon to be newly acquired skills anywhere, but are just that much smarter and better prepared!

However the scenario unfolds, I can say without hesitation that our soldiers and leaders will rise to meet these challenges and excel with an unwavering success for which they are well known. TRY US! Thunder 6

WE HEARD FROM: John Wilkinson, a Member in Perpetuity, who has given an annual donation to WAVA for many years. This year John sent in a \$100 check. This will help in defraying rising operating costs and decreasing investment income. We thank John for his generosity.

RENTAL OF WAVA FACILITIES

The WAVA hall is available for rental with the sponsorship of an active WAVA member at extremely low rates. If you have a need for a facility for yourself or friend for a wedding, meeting, party, dinner, etc., please consider our home. In addition to the social rental, the Board of Directors has authorized a search for a permanent lease of the approximately 5,400 sq. ft. on the second floor of our building. The area is in good shape and upgrade requirements are negotiable. Point-of-contact for building scheduling is William "Bill" Guarino, (504) 682-2885.

WORLD WAR II MEMORIAL DEDICATION

On May 29, 2004, fifty-nine years after the war, the citizen soldiers of "The Greatest Generation" will finally be recognized with the dedication of the WWII Monument on the Mall in the Nation's Capitol. Some members of WAVA, including Russell Mayeur and Mel Hibbets, are planning to attend. Other official events will be on May 27th and 28th, with the dedication on the 29th. It is free and open to the public. If interested, contact either Russell at 228-255-7689 or Mel at 504-283-6733 ASAP for information on hotels and room rates.

REMINDER: Artillery red sport coats are available at The Smart Set, 536 Oakland in Metairie. Contact Beverly Hailey at 504-833-1757. The cost is \$75 plus shipping charges. Larger sizes may cost slightly more.

WAVA MEMBERSHIP/DUES APPLICATION

NAME _____

Send to:

ADDRESS _____

SECRETARY: WAVA
P. O. Box 7584, Metairie, LA 70010

PHONE _____

CHECK AS APPROPRIATE

(Home) (Business)

ANNUAL DUES (\$15.00) _____

SPOUSE'S NAME _____

NEW MEMBER (\$15.00) _____

E-MAIL ADDRESS _____

ASSOCIATE MEMBER (\$15.00) _____

DATES OF SERVICE _____

MEMBER IN PERPETUITY (\$150) _____

UNIT (BN) _____ BTRY(S) _____

CHANGE OF ADDRESS _____

DATE OF BIRTH _____

RECOMMENDED BY: _____

DATE _____

CHECK NUMBER _____

FOR MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE ONLY

APPLICATION REVIEWED _____ APPROVED _____ DISAPPROVED _____

CHAIRMAN'S SIGNATURE _____ COMMENTS: _____

COMMANDER'S UPDATE: CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3:

We are currently at 54% strength which is incredibly low, however, it's not due to lack of effort to improve our numbers. There is a lot of time and effort going into trying to retain the quality soldiers we have, as well as attempts to reach out to a variety of sources in hopes of growing our battalion to an acceptable level again. In addition to daily operations and adjustments to missions from higher headquarters, the unit is preparing for our annual Pass in Review scheduled for 17 September in Lafreniere Park. The Charlie Battery and Service Battery Guidons will be retired during the review since the battalion will transition to a unit of action (UA). There will be a Hero's Welcome and Family Day Activities with bands, plenty of food, activities for the kids, etc. that directly follows the Pass in Review. We also plan to make a small presentation on stage to thank all of the many contributors and give plaques to the major contributors. The wreath laying ceremony will occur at the Metairie Cemetery, as usual. However, the difference this year is that the entire battalion will be present and we'll place another wreath in memory of SGT Godbolt. Denise Godbolt and family are scheduled to attend. This should be an unforgettable event.

I'd like to thank all of the volunteers who have put in countless hours working to prepare for the celebration associated with the Pass in Review. If they were paid for their time and effort they'd all be rich. The battalion will reap the rich rewards of their efforts, and for that we are all thankful.

Although the brigade will transition to a UA and we'll lose Charlie and Service Batteries, we'll gain Golf Company and keep our Paladins until the army can provide us with the M105s. Most, if not all, of the Soldiers from Service Battery will become members of Golf Company. The Soldiers from Charlie have already started filtering into Alpha and Bravo Batteries. There is no future date available to tell us when we'll get the new guns. The battalion will conduct its first live fire exercise in Camp Shelby in October.

God bless the Soldiers and families of this great battalion.

TRY US!" Thunder 6

LTC Jordan Jones