

WASHINGTON ARTILLERY  
VETERANS ASSOCIATION  
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**DON'T FORGET, YOUR ANNUAL DUES ARE PAYABLE BY JANUARY 2007**  
**CONSIDER BECOMING A MEMBER IN PERPETUITY**

Jan 07



*The Washington Artillery*

### What's Inside!!!

Dues/Membership Application  
President's Messages  
Ladies' Auxiliary  
Officers and Board Members  
Taps

## WAVA NEWS

### COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS FOR 2007

Active Battalion: John DiMartini (504) 738-7472  
Audit: Ed Benezach, Jr. (504) 341-2223  
Dennis Showalter (504) 251-0660  
Awards: Jay Hotard (504) 339-2121  
Budget/Treasurer: Norvin Schexnauldre (504) 889-0837  
Building: Roger Bacon (504) 421-6358  
Ron Besson (504) 347-5026  
Charter/Bylaws: Henry Pepper (985) 693-4834  
Corresponding Sect.: Russell Mayeur (288) 255-7689  
Financial Advisor: Rene Jacques (504) 729-8155  
Food/Beverage: Jim Ledet (504) 887-2910  
Charlene Ardoin (504) 738-9634  
Fraternal: Ron Besson (504) 347-5026

Historical: Jacques Walker (985) 882-9973  
Legal: Mike Escudier (504) 455-1939  
Peter Breslin (504) 466-3929  
Membership: John DiMartini (504) 738-7472  
Newsletter: Roger Bacon (504) 421-6358  
Parliamentarian: Henry Pepper (985) 693-4834  
Programs/Publicity: Rolla Schwartz (985) 340-7101  
Recording Secretary: Jacques Walker (985) 882-9973  
Socials: Jim Ledet (504) 887-2910  
Telephone: Joe Centanni (504) 733-1141  
Anthony Pizzolato (504) 467-7036

## INCOMING PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:

I would like to thank our 2005 & 2006 President, Russell Mayeur, for his efforts to keep WAVA working during the most recent times. This has not been an easy task to accomplish, but he has dedicated much time and effort to accomplish the mission. I would like to also thank Roger Bacon for his dedication to duty in helping accomplish the many tasks given to him. I would be remiss if I failed to acknowledging the many hours of work by our Treasurer, Norvin Schexnaildre. He has maintained the books and records, reported to the membership our financial status and invested our funds with wisdom and business acumen. It is apparent by talking with any of the aforementioned individuals that the Washington Artillery and WAVA are dear to their hearts. May we follow their example and make our organizations stronger and more cohesive in efforts and directions.

I promise to give you my best effort and implore you for help, guidance, wisdom, shared thoughts and participation. An organization such as WAVA needs the involvement of the membership to succeed; one individual cannot do it by himself. So, if you have not been active in the past, why not get involved now and help us continue the Spirit of the Washington Artillery? I hope to share with you dreams and programs that can make us a stronger unit. We will continue to meet at the Delta Lions Club in 2007 on the third Tuesday of each month with some exceptions for Social gatherings. Join us for a year of making some changes and improving our organization. I need your help and support for the upcoming year and ask you to get involved.

We have lost several members in 2006 and our prayers are with their families. Your membership dues for 2007 are due and we hope that will become part of your family budget. Any member having information for the Board of Directors of WAVA is encouraged to speak to a board member.

Nelson J. Ardoin Jr.  
2007 President

## OUTGOING PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

As I write this report reflecting on my last two years as President of the Washington Artillery Veterans Association there are many thoughts that come to mind. It was a beginning of a two year tour that I will remember for the rest of my life. At that time we were involved in the Kids for Kids Program that the battalion started for the benefit of the children of Iraq. Norvin Schexnaildre and his committee did a fantastic job of collecting clothes, shoes, school supplies and monetary contributions that resulted in thousands of dollars to pay for mailing and the purchase of sports equipment for the children.

At that time, membership in the Association was increasing, we were getting good attendance at our meetings and we had an exceptional social which was chaired by then 1st Vice President, Nelson Ardoin. Then, along came "Katrina" which changed the world in which we live. The wind, combined with approximately ten feet of water, caused us to lose the use of our building, everything on the first floor and a section of the roof. But, the worst part was the damage to the homes of many of our members.

It was at a time during when the active battalion was serving in Iraq and beginning to plan for deployment back to this country. Many of the soldiers lost their homes and instead of getting back to their families they were put on State active duty to help out in the rescue and recovery of victims of the hurricane. After gutting their homes, many of our members had to relocate to other areas of the state and even some, throughout the country. (Continued on page 4)



# WASHINGTON ARTILLERY VETERANS ASSOCIATION



## WAVA NEWS



Page 2

No. 07-1 To perpetuate the spirit of the Washington Artillery (The 1/141<sup>st</sup> FA BN under many numerical designations). Jan 2007

|                     |   |                                |
|---------------------|---|--------------------------------|
| Nelson Ardoin, Jr.  | n | President                      |
| Jim Ledet           |   | 1 <sup>st</sup> Vice President |
| Jacques Walker      |   | 2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice President |
| Russell Mayeur      |   | Secretary                      |
| Norvin Schexnaildre |   | Treasurer                      |

### TERM EXPIRES DECEMBER 2007

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

### WAVA OFFICERS

### TERM EXPIRES DECEMBER 2008

|                                  |          |
|----------------------------------|----------|
| Ed. P. Benezech, Jr. (Katherine) | 341-2223 |
| John DiMartini (Sandra)          | 738-7472 |

**VACANT--TO BE FILLED AT MARCH GEN. MEMBERSHIP MTG.**

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

### TERM EXPIRES DECEMBER 2009

|                               |               |
|-------------------------------|---------------|
| Ronald Besson (Barbara)       | 347-5026      |
| Joe Centanni (Lupe)           | 733-1141      |
| Jim Ledet (Susan)             | 887-2910      |
| Henry L. Pepper Jr. (Marilyn) | (985)693-4834 |
| Norvin Schexnaildre (Loyce)   | 889-0837      |
| Dennis Showalter (Jan)        | 251-0669      |

### ANNUAL DUES

Please check your name label for the status of your dues. ANNUAL DUES FOR 2007 IS NOW DUE. PAST-DUE AMOUNTS MUST BE PAID IMMEDIATELY. CONSIDER BECOMING A MEMBER IN PERPETUIY, A ONE-TIME INVESTMENT. Membership/dues form is on page 4.

### TAPS/THE LAST CAMP

Thomas P. Breslin Dec. 25, 2006  
Former Commander, Washington Artillery

### WAVA MEETINGS/SPECIAL EVENTS

1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarters 2007

|  |                                   |
|--|-----------------------------------|
| January 16 <sup>th</sup>                           | Board Meeting                     |
| <b>FEBRUARY MEETING CANCELED DUE TO MARDI GRAS</b> |                                   |
| March 20 <sup>th</sup>                             | General Membership Meeting        |
| April 17 <sup>th</sup>                             | Board Meeting                     |
| May 15 <sup>th</sup>                               | Social/General Membership Meeting |
| June 19 <sup>th</sup>                              | 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 and will begin at 7:00 p.m.**

### WASHINGTON ARTILLERY REUNION

While the Board has not officially selected a date for the 2007 annual reunion, it is our intention to have a bigger and better one this year to bring together old comrades. Even with the problems associated with the hurricane, we still had a good turnout this past November. Now is the time to contact those with whom you have served and invite them to participate once the date is established.

**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.**

### SPECIAL ELECTION TO BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Due to a recent resignation there is a position on the Board of Directors for the term expiring in December 2008. This will be filled at the next regularly scheduled general meeting on March 20, 2007 since the February meeting has been cancelled due to Mardi Gras. Nominations will be taken from the floor and members present in good standing will vote via ballot that night.

## FROM THE PRESIDENT:

The annual election for a third of our Association Board of Directors took place on December 1<sup>st</sup>. 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 16<sup>th</sup> 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 18<sup>th</sup> and September 21<sup>st</sup>. Our annual reunion of active WAVA members and former and current active battalion members, is tentatively scheduled for November 16<sup>th</sup>. Please mark these and other special activity dates on your calendar without delay.

Harry Scenery 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 1/141<sup>st</sup> 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 30<sup>th</sup>'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 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup>, with the dedication on the 29<sup>th</sup>. 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 \_\_\_\_\_

(Home)

(Business)

SPOUSE'S NAME \_\_\_\_\_

E-MAIL ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

DATES OF SERVICE \_\_\_\_\_

UNIT (BN) \_\_\_\_\_ BTRY(S) \_\_\_\_\_

DATE OF BIRTH \_\_\_\_\_

RECOMMENDED BY : \_\_\_\_\_

**CHECK AS APPROPRIATE**

ANNUAL DUES (\$15.00) \_\_\_\_\_

NEW MEMBER (\$15.00) \_\_\_\_\_

ASSOCIATE MEMBER (\$15.00) \_\_\_\_\_

MEMBER IN PERPETUITY (\$150) \_\_\_\_\_

CHANGE OF ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

DATE \_\_\_\_\_ CHECK NUMBER \_\_\_\_\_

FOR MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE ONLY

APPLICATION REVIEWED \_\_\_\_\_ APPROVED \_\_\_\_\_ DISAPPROVED \_\_\_\_\_

CHAIRMAN'S SIGNATURE \_\_\_\_\_ COMMENTS \_\_\_\_\_

: \_\_\_\_\_

**OUTGOING PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3)**

**The year 2006 was a time for healing. People were getting settled in their new homes while others continued to rebuild theirs. Thanks to the Delta Lions Club, we found a place to hold our monthly meetings. The battalion has relocated several times and now occupies a facility on Michoud Boulevard. They had an outstanding review in September in Lafreniere Park, followed by a family picnic.**

**The Adjutant General has put out a request for volunteers to help out at Jackson Barracks, not to gut houses which many of us have had lots of experience doing, but to work with the crew in the museum and library to salvage many of the artifacts that were damaged by the storm. If you can volunteer one day a week, or a few hours a week, call me at (504) 919-8577 and I will put together a team to helm them out.**

**In closing, I want to extend to you my best wishes for a healthy, happy and prosperous new year.**

FOR GOD AND COUNTRY, Russell Mayeur, 2006 President