

WASHINGTON ARTILLERY
VETERANS ASSOCIATION
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WASHINGTON ARTILLERY REUNION, 16 NOVEMBER 2004

DON'T FORGET, YOUR ANNUAL DUES ARE PAYABLE BY JANUARY 2005
CONSIDER BECOMING A MEMBER IN PERPETUITY

Oct 04



The Washington Artillery

WAVA NEWS

COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS FOR 2004

Audit: Bill Guarino (504) 682-2885
Awards: Pete Blackwell (504) 242-5625
Beverage: Pete Blackwell (504) 242-5625
Budget: Norvin Schexnauldre (504) 889-0837
Building Manager: Rene Jacques (504) 282-8307
Building Rental: Bill Guarino (504) 682-2885
By-Laws: Henry Pepper (504) 271-0634
Financial Advisor: Rene Jacques (504) 282-8307
Fraternal: Mel Hibbets (504) 283-6733
Historical/Americanism/Active
Bn. Liaison: Jacques Walker (985) 882-9973

Other Appointments:

Executive Secretary: Russell Mayeur (228) 255-7689

Legal: John Gniady (504) 454-1515
Legislative: Donald Burgess (504) 682-6441
Meetings: Bill Guarino (504) 682-2885
Membership: Anthony Pizzolato (504) 467-7036
Dennis Showalter (504) 251-0669
Parliamentarian: Henry Pepper (504) 271-0634
Publicity/Programs: Russel Madere (504) 831-8062
Social: Russell Mayeur (228) 255-7869
Telephone: Joseph Centanni (504) 733-1141

Recording Secretary: Nelson Ardoin (504) 738-9634

- *What's Inside!!!*
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- Upcoming Events
- Rental of WAVA Facilities
- **President's Message/Ancient and Honorable Artillery Company Visit**
- Dues/Membership Application

FROM THE PRESIDENT:

The active battalion and the entire 256th Infantry Brigade is now in Kuwait awaiting final orders for their mission in Iraq. We do not have a firm date when they will relocate; however, it will be in the very near future. You will be informed as events not classified are announced. The APO box will change after their arrival in theater and should be announced in the next newsletter for those of you who may want to drop a line to the unit.

The Ancient and Honorable Artillery Company of Massachusetts visit was a very successful one. The group of about 110 individuals had an event-filled schedule. The parade on Sunday, October 3rd, included the local Navy band and members of WAVA. It proceeded to the Washington Artillery Park right on time. The Ancients and a group of WAVA members and guests were present when they placed a wreath on the monument then attended mass at the St. Louis Cathedral.

The group also participated in the WAVA wreath-laying at Metairie Cemetery. The program included the singing of the National Anthem by Ms. Phyllis Treigle, invocation and benediction by Chaplain (COL Ret) Robert Hildebrandt, remarks by Mr. Frank Stewart, Chairman Emeritus of Stewart Enterprises, and Captain Commanding William O'Brien of the Ancients. Taps was sounded by Mr. Frank Zarba of The Ancients and he and Ms. Treigle led the assembled group in singing God Bless America. We were assisted in the wreath-laying by Mr. Stewart and Captain O'Brien.

Everyone attended a luncheon which followed at the Jackson Barracks Officers Club where WAVA members were guests of The Ancients. There was a short ceremony at the theater of the Jackson Barracks Museum. Mrs. Sherrie Pugh and her staff did an outstanding job in organizing the ceremony and publishing a program. The ceremony included the official loan of General Beauregard's saddle with LTC Casey Levy acting as master of ceremonies and COL (Ret) John Pugh making an outstanding and informative presentation on the history of Jackson Barracks and the museum.

A plaque and an autographed copy of the Powell A. Casey publication, "An Outline of the Civil War Campaigns and Engagements of the Washington Artillery of New Orleans," were presented by WAVA to The Ancients as mementoes of their visit.

I was privileged to represent WAVA at a military banquet that night. The event was exceptional, particularly the performance of the U. S. Marine Corps Band. The head table participants included PFC Jacklyn H. Lucas, 1st BN, 26th Marines, who received the Medal of Honor for heroic actions on Iwo Jima, 20 February 1945, when he used his body to shield the remainder of his squad from two grenades which landed in their area. Miraculously, one failed to detonate and the other caused wounds which required twenty-two operations. It was a memorable moment, particularly when he personally spoke with the band members and embraced several young marines. PFC Lucas is symbolic of Americans at their best.

Several WAVA members and guests participated in the Monday, October 4th cruise on the Creole Queen to the Chalmette Battlefield for a wreath-laying. It was a beautiful day to be on the river, particularly the view of the antebellum homes on Jackson Barracks. The ceremony was professional with yet another wreath being placed at this monument.

I urge everyone to not only attend the Second Annual Washington Artillery Reunion on Tuesday, November 16th, but to become active in locating and inviting former members. There is no obligation or cost for the reunion. Please make a concerted effort to find your long-lost comrades whom you probably haven't seen for decades. If you will pass on their information to the president at 454-3481 or 421-6358 they will be sent a written invitation.

MEMBERSHIP: New Member in Perpetuity: **Eugene Ladriere** who was recommended by Russell Mayeur.

NAME TAGS: Russell Mayeur is coordinating the purchase of WAVA name tags to be worn on special occasions. It is artillery red with a tiger crest, your name as you would like it to read, either "Member" or "Life Member" and New Orleans, LA. The cost is \$10.00. Contact Russell to order.

LADIES AUXILIARY: Meets at 7:00 p.m. at the WAVA building on November 16th. Please pass this information on and encourage your spouse to attend and become an associate member.



WAVA NEWS

Roger A. Bacon	President
Russell A. Mayeur, Sr.	1 st Vice President
Rene' C. Jacques	2 nd Vice President
Nelson Ardoin, Jr.	Secretary
Norvin Schexnaildre	Treasurer

WAVA OFFICERS

TERM EXPIRES DECEMBER 2004

Ed. P. Benezech, Jr. (Katherine)	271-5150
Melvin L. Hibbets (Helen)	283-6733
Rene' C. Jaques	282-8307
Russell A. Mayeur Sr. (Eloise)	(228) 255-7689
Edgar D. Wragge Jr.	282-5811
Ray Zerino	278-8677

T
Jo
B
D

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Henry L. Pepper Jr. (Marilyn)	271-0634
Norvin Schexnaildre (Loyce)	889-0837
Jacques Walker (Jill)	(985) 882-9973

TERM EXPIRES DECEMBER 2006

Nelson Ardoin, Jr. (Charlene)	738-9634
Roger A. Bacon (Betty)	454-3481
Donald G. Burgess (Emily)	682-6441
Jay Hotard (Betty)	488-3121
Russel R. Madere, Jr. (Melissa)	831-8062
Anthony Pizzolatto (Monica)	467-7036

WAVA MEETINGS/SPECIAL EVENTS

4th Quarter 2004/1st Quarter 2005

November 16th	General Meeting/Reunion
December 4 th	1/141 Family Read. Gp. Xmas Party
December 6th	Annual Meeting/Board Election
December 21 st	Board Meeting/Election of Officers
January 18 th	Board Meeting
February 15 th	General Meeting
March 15 th	General Meeting

ANNUAL DUES

Please check your name label for the status of your dues. **ANNUAL DUES ARE NOW PAYABLE BY JANUARY, 2005 FOR THOSE WHO ARE NOT MEMBERS IN PERPETUIY.** Membership/dues form is on page four.

1/141 FAMILY READINESS GROUP CHRISTMAS PARTY

WAVA members are invited to attend the Christmas Party given by the Family Readiness Group which will be held on Saturday, December 4th from 1:00 – 4:00 p.m. at the Washington Artillery Armory facing St. Claude Avenue.

WASHINGTON ARTILLERY REUNION

The second annual Washington Artillery Reunion will be held at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, November 16th at the WAVA building. There was a good turnout last year. Everyone is encouraged to

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.

OFFICIAL PROXY BALLOT

To cast a proxy ballot, please detach this portion of your newsletter. After indicating your choices, print your name, sign in the spaces provided and mail the ballot to: WAVA, P.O. Box 7584, Metairie, LA 70010 in time for it to be received prior to December 1, 2004. VOTE FOR SIX. Unsigned mail-in ballots will not be included in the tabulation.

Ed. P. Benezech, Jr. _____ Rene' C. Jacques _____ Other _____
John H. Gniady _____ Russell A. Mayeur, Sr. _____
Edward M. Harrell _____ Rolla F. Schwartz, III _____
Melvin L. Hibbets _____ Edward D. Wragge, Jr. _____

Please mark an "X" next to the nominees selected. SIX MUST BE CHOSEN. If you choose to select a member or members not listed, write their name(s) in the space(s) provided. Ballot must be signed.

PRINT NAME _____ SIGNATURE _____

WAVA MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION AND DUES FORM

NAME _____

SEND APPLICATION 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: _____

