

# THE POWDER BAG

**“THE CAMDEN LIGHT ARTILLERY ASSOCIATION INC.” NEWLETTER**

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Volume 14, Issue 1

[www.112FA.org](http://www.112FA.org)

January 2012

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**“The willingness with which our young people are likely to serve in any war, no matter how justified, shall be directly proportional to how they perceive the veterans of earlier wars were treated and appreciated by their nation.**

*George Washington*

**“Presentation and personality may open doors, but it takes character to keep them open.”**

*AR*

## ASSOCIATION OFFICERS

**Commander:** COL (RET) Tony Radice  
**Executive Officer:** 1SG (RET) Ed Powell  
**Adjutant:** 1SG (RET) Joe Scioli  
**Finance Officer:** CW4 (RET) Jack Elbersen  
**Logistics Officer:** CPT (RET) Marc Kantor

## THE CAMDEN LIGHT ARTILLERY ASSOCIATION

2001 Park Boulevard, Cherry Hill, NJ 08002-2778  
Phone: 302 252-1532 E-Mail: [coloneltony@comcast.net](mailto:coloneltony@comcast.net)

**Publication Staff:** COL (Ret) Tony Radice, CW4 (Ret) Jack Elbersen,  
Ginny Scioli and Susan Barrowman



## **COMMANDER'S COMMENTS**

**This is an article that I wish I would never have to write, but it's an article that I must write. On Monday 19 December 2011, Major Robert DiMedio passed away surrounded by his loving family and friends. Bob waited long enough to allow the people that mattered most in his life the honor and privilege of saying goodbye. His passing is like losing an arm. The wound will heal, but when you look, the loss will always be there. So many friends...so many stories. How do you begin to describe what made Bob so special to so many people?**

**My story goes back to 1971 when I was at the lowest point in my life and had no place to turn. Bob reached out and held onto me both personally and financially. He helped me to see that to care for someone else you had to care for yourself first. Can anyone refute the fact that the Officers Club in the Cherry Hill armory was not the result of Bob's generosity and love for the National Guard? Everyone who knew Bob knew how much he loved the military, not only for the discipline and structure, but for the friendships that he made and respected over the years. It was a privilege to serve with and for him.**

**If anyone needed to look for the definition of Husband, Father and Grandfather, they need look no further than Bob. He loved all three roles and demonstrated it all the time. The same could be said for friendships. He cared for his friends with a passion that only came from being of Italian descent. Bob has not died, he's just through with life and looking for another project to tackle.**

**He has answered his final role call and the world is less warm and less happy as a result of it. *"Arriverderci mio caro amico."***

*Col (Ret) Tony Radice*



## **SUMMARY OF THE JANUARY 4<sup>TH</sup>, 2012 MEETING**

The meeting was called to order by the XO at 7 PM. A quorum was present and the chaplain, Col Minchin, gave the invocation followed by a motion to accept the minutes of the December 2011 minutes of the meeting. The Finance Officer, CW4 Elbersen, reported that the association has \$2,968.05 in our bank account.

**Commanders Report:** The woman of the association were again thanked for organizing a wonderful Christmas party at the December meeting. It turned out to be a standing room only event.

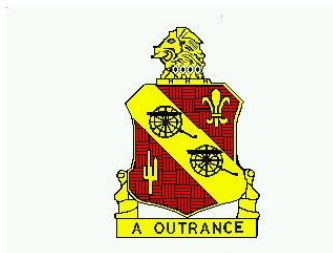
It was decided to send out our newsletter be e-mail for those members who have e-mail addresses and to send hard copy to those without e-mail capabilities. This will be done on a trial basis to determine if it is more cost effective.

The nominations and election procedure was left in the capable hands of CPT Strumpfer. This constitutional requirement will be addressed and satisfied at our February meeting. The installation of a new Commander will take place at our annual Dine Out on 3 March 2012. To date the only nominee for commander is 1SG Ed Powell.

Invitations for our Dine Out have been mailed along with request for AD's. The returns are slow coming back, but I am very optimistic that this event will be better and bigger than the previous ones with the help of our membership.

LTC John Ford and MAJ Bob DiMedio were remembered in our thoughts and our prayers along with the state of the New Jersey National Guard.

There being no more comments, issues or concerns the meeting was adjourned at 8 PM.



## **A SOLDIER DIED TODAY**

*In Memory of our dear departed comrades*

*Major Robert DiMedio*

*And*

*LTC John Ford*

*He joins the ranks of those who left, who once were by our side;  
We bow our heads this moment for a friend who passed away;  
Proud to have been with him through part of yesterday*

## **SHORT QUIZ**

**(Answers at the end of the newsletter)**

1. What North American city has the longest subway system?
2. How many instruments accompany someone singing *a cappella*?
3. Who did Arthur H. Bremer try to assassinate on May 15, 1972?
4. What author named his main character for Oliver Wendell Holmes?
5. How many times thicker than water is blood?
6. What strongman was the original 97-pound weakling?



## **Rediscovering America's Godly Heritage**

**Morality has always been a key factor in how a country's future unfolds. Values and principles have a major role in the decisions people make and how they behave in a society.**

**In 1963 the Supreme Court removed prayer from public schools. Noted historian David Barton made a revealing study on the American time period of 1963-1993. He noted an alarming social trend. Consulting Human and Health Services and the Census Bureau's statistics, he noted the following information about the thirty-year period:**

**Single-parent households increased by 25 percent.**

**Birth rates for unwed teenage girls increased by 300 percent.**

**The cases of teens having gonorrhea increased by 400 percent.**

**The number of violent crimes committed increased by 600 percent.**

**These statistics are a disturbing profile of what happens when God is left out of our society and illustrates the heavy toll it takes on our culture.**

### **BACK PEW**

**A pastor's wife was expecting a baby, so he stood before the congregation and asked for a raise. After much discussion, they passed a rule that whenever the preacher's family expanded, so would his paycheck.**

**After 6 children, this started to get expensive and the congregation decided to hold another meeting to discuss the preacher's expanding salary. A great deal of yelling and inner bickering ensued, as to how much the clergyman's additional children were costing the church, and how much more it could potentially cost.**

**After listening to them for about an hour, the pastor rose from his chair and spoke, "Children are a gift from God, and we will take as many gifts as He gives us." Silence fell upon the congregation.**

**In the back pew, a little old lady struggled to stand, and finally said in her frail voice, "Rain is also a gift from God, but when we get too much of it, we wear rubbers."**

**The entire congregation said, "Amen."**



## **FAMILY SUPPORT REMINDER**

It is important to remember that we still have soldiers on Active Duty in a combat zone and those that have returned who have not been able to forget they were there. It's also appropriate to remember the families they left behind.

## **THE WAR IN AFGHANISTAN**

**(This is the final set of short comments on Wars fought beginning with the American Revolution through the Iraq War)**

The Taliban militia was driven from Kabul in November 2001, but two years later large sections of Afghan territory remained in the grip of local militias. Soldiers gathered in the mountainous Konar and Nurestan provinces of Eastern Afghanistan, engaging in high-altitude offensive action called Operation Mountain Resolve. It was launched in November 2003 to route out fighters loyal to the Taliban, Al Qaeda, and the renegade Afghan militia leader and “global terrorist” Gulbuddin Hekmatyar. But the odds were steep, as the local roads were treacherous and civilian authority was limited. Helicopter was the preferred mode of transportation. Wahhabism, an unusually rigid form of Islam, is the dominant religion. In light of these factors, and its proximity to the Pakistan border, the area was sometimes referred to colloquially by American troops as “Enemy Central.”

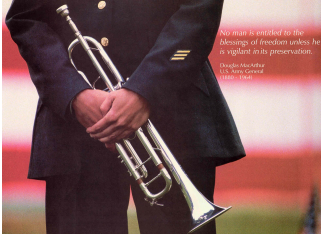
## **NEVER FORGET THAT**

A Veteran – whether Active Duty, Retired, National Guard or Reserve – is someone who, at one point in his life, wrote a blank check made payable to the United States of America for an amount of “up to and including my life.”

“No one should pass an American in uniform without saying, “Thank you, we are grateful.” Always mindful that they are prepared to risk all of their dreams so that all of us can reach ours.”

*Former Secretary of Defense William Cohen*

## **TO ALL OF OUR FALLEN COMRADES**



**Each of us has a bank. Its name is TIME. Every morning, it credits you with 86,400 seconds. Every night it writes off, as lost, whatever of this you have failed to invest to good purpose. It carries over no balance. It allows no overdraft.**

**Each day it opens a new account for you. Each night it burns the remains of the day. If you fail to use the day's deposits, the loss is yours. There is no going back. There is no drawing against the "tomorrow." You must live in the present on today's deposits. Invest it so as to get from it the utmost in health, happiness and success!**

## **ANSWERS TO THE SHORT QUIZ**

1. New York
2. Zero
3. George Wallace
4. Sir Arthur Conan Doyle
5. Six
6. Charles Atlas

## **REQUEST YOUR INPUT**

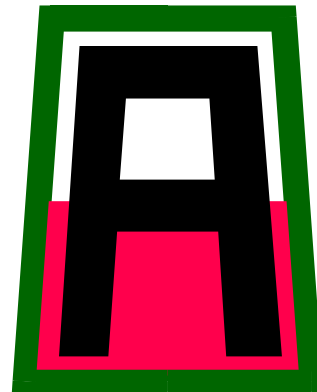
**I would like to remind you that this is your newsletter. You are cordially invited to submit any information you think appropriate for the good of the command to the Commander (e-mail address on the first page of this newsletter) to be edited for inclusion in the following month's publication.**

***I WAS A SOLDIER – I AM A SOLDIER – I WILL ALWAYS BE A SOLDIER***



**Your membership expiration date is on your mailing label (just like a magazine subscription). It's your reminder to pay your dues.  
Dues are \$20 per year. Send checks to:**

**Camden Light Artillery Association Inc.  
National Guard Armory  
2001 Park Blvd.,  
Cherry Hill, NJ 08002-2778**





## **OUR MISSION**

- To promote close association, friendship, understanding and cooperation between all member of the association.
- To foster and preserve the spirit, traditions and solidarity of the Field Artillery
- To provide various communicative means for keeping all members aware and involved in association developments.
- To conduct such social activities as may provide for a continuing close relationship and camaraderie among the membership
- To develop and maintain historical records on the lineage of the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion 112<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery ancestors and it successors.
- To promote and support the provisions of the constitution of the United States of America.
- To provide community service to local civilian and military communities in time of need.

## **WEB SITE**

**www.112FA.org**

## **E-MAIL ADDRESS**

**112FA.CLA@gmail.com**

## **FACEBOOK PAGE**

our name on Facebook is

**CAMDEN LIGHT ARTILLERY**

