



THE POWDER BAG

THE CAMDEN LIGHT ARTILLERY ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

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April 2014



"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*

ASSOCIATION OFFICERS

Commander:	1SG Ed Powell (USA Retired)
Executive Officer:	MAJ Richard Tomasso (USA Retired)
Adjutant:	SFC Richard Zacamy (USA Retired)
Finance Officer:	CPT Marc Kantor (USA Retired) (interim)
Logistics Officer:	1SG Ed McCarty (USA Retired)

THE CAMDEN LIGHT ARTILLERY ASSOCIATION

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COMMADERS COMMENTS

It is with a sad heart to have to write this on 2 April 2014. The Unit lost one of our key fondering members, Jack Elberson. He has gone to the big Artillery Unit in Heaven. Jack was not only a member of this Unit, he was the Camden Light Artillery. He was our Finance Officer, Unit Historian, and all around good guy. He would help anybody with any situation at anytime. Without his help, the unit would not be where it is today. All you have to do is look at our Museum to see how dedicated, efficient and caring a person he was. Jack Elberson will be sorely missed. We are having a Memorial service for Jack at our next meeting on Wednesday 7 May 2014 at the Cherry Hill Armory beginning at 7:00pm.. All are welcomed to attend.

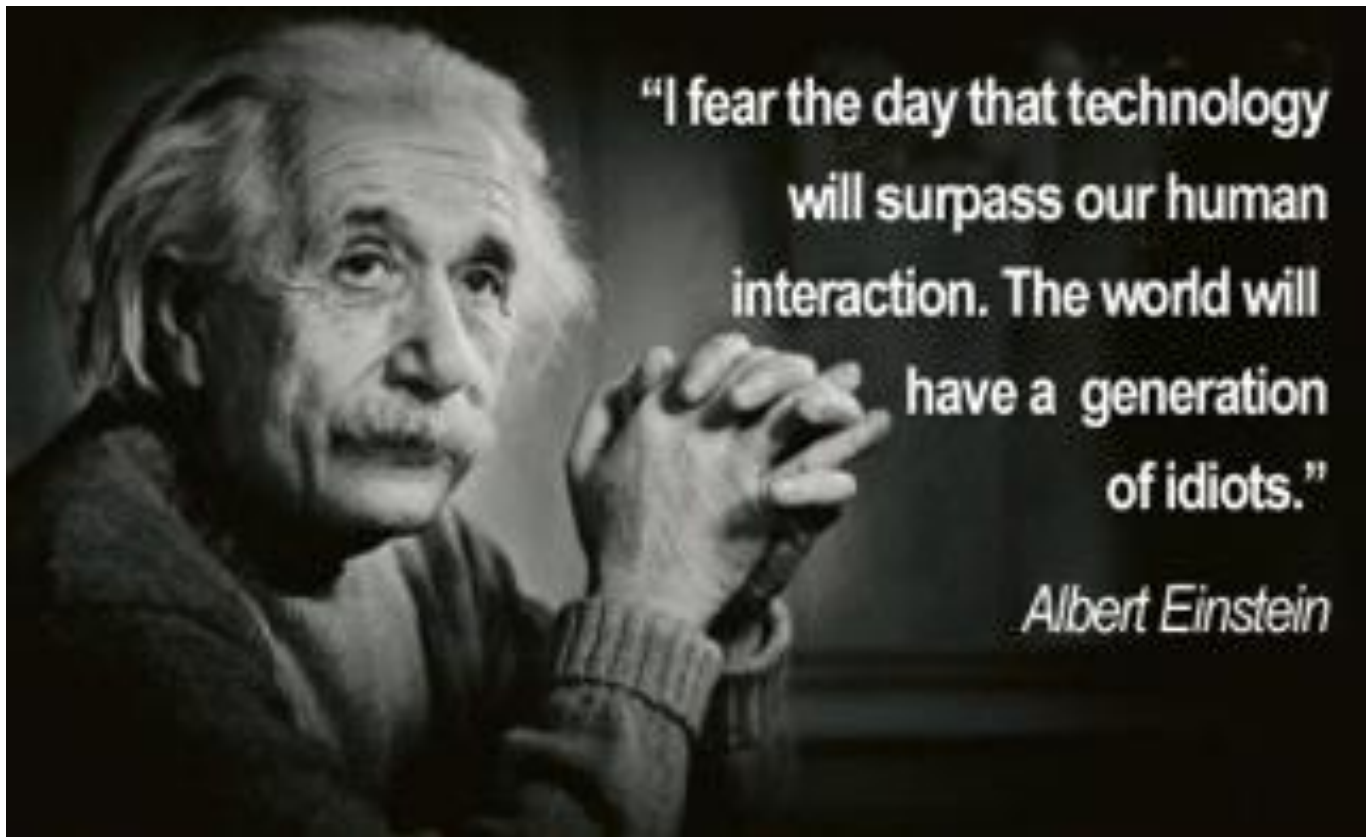
SUMMARY OF THE 2 APRIL 2014 MEETING

The meeting was called to order by the Adjutant at 1900 hours. All stood for the pledge of allegiance lead by the Commander. Roll call determined all officers were present and/or accounted for. The Adjutant led us in prayer as the Commander reported that Jack Elberson had died earlier that day. A moment of silence for our fallen comrade was observed. At this time there was no news concerning the cause of his death or arrangements. It will be passed on as the officers receive it. A Welcome new attendees and guests followed. A motion was made to accept the minutes of the March meeting and passed. The financial report and review of the Dining Out were tabled to be handled later. A day trip to Ft. Miles in Lewes Delaware is planned for the 26 April 2014; information will be sent out by e-mail. We are looking into getting a 'POD' to store some of the Units supplies in because of the leaks in the roof. We are checking with the Station Commander to determine feasibility. LTC Leo Solomon (USA Retired) received his St. Barbara Medal and there were 10 members present. The Unit received a letter from COL Ernest Darpino (USA Retired) thanking us for the Medal for Leo and how it was handled. The 112FA Sports Club will meet on 26 April 2014 at Range 14 at Ft. Dix at 9:00am. Saturday, 17 May 2014, is the date of our next Armed Forces Day Brunch to be held at the Lamp Post Diner in Gloucester Township near Camden County College located at 1378 Little Gloucester Road. Their website is www.lampostdiner.com if you need directions. Time to be announced at the next meeting in April.

The meeting was adjourned at 1943 hours followed by refreshments.



QUOTE OF THE MONTH



HOW TO REPORT THE DEATH OF A RETIREE

(Taken from the Jan-May 2014 Echoes)

Contact the Department of the Army Casualty and Mortuary Affairs Operations Center anytime by calling 1-800-626-3317. You will be immediately referred to a local Casualty Assistance Center who will report the death to the Defense and Finance and Accounting Service to stop retired pay and to initiate the survivor benefits process. When reporting the death, please provide the retiree's:

- . Full Name
- . Social Security Number and/or Service Number
- . Date and place of birth
- . Retired rank
- . Retirement date
- . Disability rating
- . Circumstances surrounding the death
- . Next of kin information
- . Copy of statement of service (last DD Form 214 or NGB Form 22)
- . Copy of the death certificate

TRI-CARE ENDS WALK-IN ADMIN SERVICES AT 189 FACILITIES

Tri-care military health plan service centers will end administrative walk-in services in the United States on April 1, 2014. While the 189 facilities will stop taking walk-ins, beneficiaries can accomplish any administrative task on-line by phone. The change will not affect any Tri-care medical benefits or health service. Beneficiaries can get more information and sign up for updates at <http://www.tricare.mil/tsc>.

QUESTION/ANSWER COLUMN

Question: I have been retired for awhile now. My wife and I are thinking about selling the house and downsizing to a more scenic location. Is there any easier way than to Google to find out what the tax consequences are for retired pay in a different state?

Answer: Of course there is. With one click on the State Fact Sheet page of MyArmyBenefits(<http://MyArmyBenefits.us.army.mil>), you can look up the state taxes on military retired pay for any of these United States. But that's not all!!! There are all kinds of information available about the location you may choose, such as what sorts of benefits are available (e.g. lifetime hunting and/or fishing licenses for next-to-nothing (if not actually free). There are also the state resource locators, they will alert you to what military installations are located in the chosen state with phone numbers for important things such as medical clinics, PXs, and finance offices and for VA facilities.

ACTIVITIES

Armed Forces Day Brunch is scheduled for Saturday, 17 May 2014, at the Lamp Post Diner. Additional information will be forthcoming by email. (www.lampostdiner.com)



FROM THE MASTERS AT AUGUSTA NATIONAL

AUGUSTA, Ga. – We interrupt the pimento-cheese sandwiches, ball-skipping at the 16th and solemn walks around Amen Corner to pose a philosophical question: When finally after 46 years you meet the man to whom you owe all the happiness and joy you feel blessed to have enjoyed for most of your life, how long of a hug is long enough?

Clebe McClary wasn't sure, so as the embrace intensified, Billy Casper (past Masters Champion) leaned in and whispered, "DON'T LET GO TILL YOU WANT TO LET GO."

So right there in front of dozens of patrons, in the shadow of the iconic oak tree behind the Augusta National clubhouse, McClary and Casper hugged . . . and hugged . . . and hugged.

"We hugged for five minutes," said Casper, who choked back tears. But McClary? He didn't even try to hold 'em back. He cried like a baby, which was not so conspicuous because as the scene played out, so, too, did the emotions of so many others let loose.

"We all just cried our eyes out," said Julia Cervantes, one of Casper's 11 children.

On any day, Casper is a wonderful story, a righteous man with a keen sense of human kindness. But on this cool, breezy Masters day, his story was even more wonderful thanks to a reunion with McClary, who told everyone how Casper had saved his life. It was 1968, the height of the Vietnam War, and Casper, in the prime of his golf career, was off to Japan to play some offseason tournaments.

While he was there, did he want to visit some wounded American troops, who had been convalescing from Vietnam? Casper said yes, because, well, that's his warm-hearted nature. "I was recently asked by a man what I want to be remembered for," Casper said. "I told him, 'I want to be remembered for how I loved my fellow man.' "

That day at a hospital in Japan may have shown Casper at his warmest because when he looked over at a bed and saw a young man who had been wounded to a point where he could barely be recognized, the golfer moved closer. A doctor told him not to bother, that Marine 1st Lt. Patrick Cleburne "Clebe" McClary "was ready to die," said Casper, but something made him approach the man.

"I will never forget that day," said McClary, who on March 3, 1968 had been wounded during his 19th reconnaissance mission in Vietnam. McClary lost his left arm and his left eye and laid in that bed that day thinking one thing. "I'd given up," he said. "I wanted to die, and I'd have died right there if not for him."

Casper, by 1968 a two-time U.S. Open champion and one of the most prolific winners on the PGA Tour, sensed McClary's hopelessness as he approached the man.

“He put his arm around me, leaned in and said, ‘God could use you today. Don’t give up,’ ” McClary said. “Then he thanked me for what I had done for our country and said, ‘God bless you.’ ”

Somehow, McClary found the resolve to fight. Somehow, he survived, left that hospital in Japan, and settled in his native South Carolina, near Myrtle Beach. Years went by and he often wondered about this gentle golfer who had brought out the fight in him, but there was nothing more than that. “I mean, I didn’t know golf from polo,” McClary said.

But one day more than a year ago, McClary was down at his beach house talking with a neighbor, a guy named Jay Haas, telling him his life story. The left arm and left eye had been lost in 'Nam, and his life should have been ended in a hospital in Japan, if not for a golfer. With that, Haas’ ear perked up. “I said, Who was the golfer?” He said, "Billy Casper. Do you know him?"

Haas smiled, then made it his mission to reunite McClary and Casper. The Masters would offer the perfect opportunity. Casper, the 1970 champion, would never miss the pilgrimage. Neither would Haas, who competed 22 times at the Masters and whose son Bill is a regular participant these years and whose uncle, the irrepressible Bob Goalby, won in 1968.

The first chance fell apart Monday when rain washed out the day’s action at Augusta National, but on Tuesday the story unfolded to perfection. Haas met McClary up behind the clubhouse, found Goalby, who tracked down Casper and then . . . well, it is said that Augusta National is a magical place, and here was proof positive that it is.

“You never know what effect you’re going to have on another human being,” said Cervantes, who watched the emotions unfold alongside her mother, Shirley, other family members, Haas and Goalby.

When finally the long, emotional hug was over and the pictures were taken, Casper and McClary had so much to say to each other. Forty-six years is a long, long time, but the Marine told the golfer that he had thought of him often. The golfer nodded, because he felt similarly.

McClary told Casper that he was proud of his life. Not because of the Silver Star or Bronze Star or the three Purple Hearts that he had been presented. It wasn’t for the book he had written, “Living Proof,” either. No, he was proud because he had heeded Casper’s advice to stay strong and find faith in God.

But make no mistake about it: “You’re the reason he’s living. He was ready to die,” one of McClary’s friends said to Casper.

McClary, a motivational speaker who has given talks in all 50 states, smiled, wiped away tears, and nodded his head. “My guardian angel,” he said, pointing to Casper.

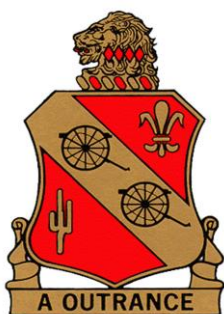
As they stood side by side, Casper and McClary threw long, satisfied looks out over the greenest landscape known to man. “A special, special place, but you need to see more of it,” Casper said, and McClary nodded. He was going to walk Augusta National, but McClary had to have one more

hug and a promise from Casper that if the Hall of Famer were ever in Pawleys Island, S.C., he had to stop in.

Casper agreed, then McClary started on his walk. But before he did, the former Marine reached into his pocket and handed his business card to someone standing nearby. It read: “I’m just a nobody, that wants to tell everybody, about somebody, that can save anybody.”



Jay Haas (left) arranged for Billy Casper (middle) and Clebe McClary (right)



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.

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 1st Battalion 112th 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

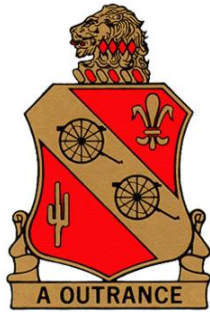
our name on Facebook is

CAMDEN LIGHT ARTILLERY

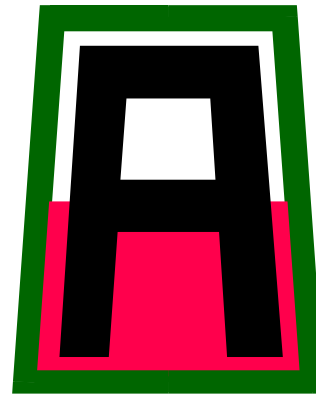
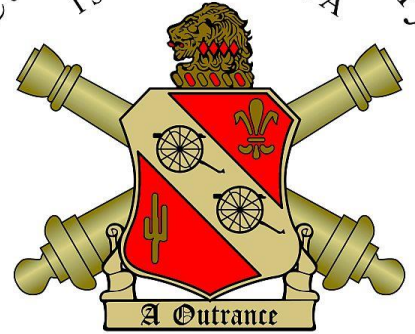
"We must reject the idea that every time a law's broken, society is guilty rather than the lawbreaker. It is time to restore the American precept that each individual is accountable for his actions."

Ronald Reagan





Camden Light Artillery
1st BN 112th FA





2010 Afghanistan - M777
(courtesy-SPC Gallegos via COL(Ret) George Bannon)