



THE POWDER BAG

THE CAMDEN LIGHT ARTILLERY ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

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May 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)
Logistics Officer:	1SG Ed McCarty (USA Retired)

THE CAMDEN LIGHT ARTILLERY ASSOCIATION

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COMMADERS COMMENTS

I want to take this opportunity to thank everyone who attended our last meeting on May 7th which was also the Memorial Service for Jack Elberson. Two of his sisters and other members of the family attended. After a 'flag folding' ceremony was performed by the NJ Army Honor Guard, a US flag was presented to two of Jack's sisters and a nephew, who represented another sister in South Carolina. A fourth sister was unable to attend. Thank you to the those that brought refreshments who helped set up the room and clean up afterwards.

Our Armed Forces Day Brunch on May 17th was held at the Lamp Post Diner. We had a good turn out. Everyone loved the food and attention to service. We will probably return to the Diner in September for our Patriot's Day Brunch.

Just a reminder, please remember to submit your suggestion for naming the museum in Jack's honor by our June 4th meeting.

I want to thank Al DeMasi for running the 112FA Sports Club for the past several years. He has stepped down and Ed McCarty will be taking over the position.

Thanks to everyone for your well wishes, cards, and phone calls due to my recent illness and short stay in the hospital. I am on the mend and feeling better each day. Hope to see you at our next meeting on Wednesday, June 4th at 7:00 pm.

SUMMARY OF THE 7 MAY 2014 MEETING

A special meeting of the staff, called by the Commander, was held at 1730 hours for the purpose of filling the Financial Officer's position left vacant by the passing of Jack Elberson. This position will be held by Marc Kantor until general elections are completed at the end of this year. The action was voted on and supported by the entire staff.

The regular meeting was called to order at 1904 hours by the Adjutant, followed by the Commander leading the meeting in the Pledge of Allegiance. The Chaplain led us in a prayer. Bill Baker was on the sick call list. Minutes of the April, 2014 meeting were read and approved. The Financial Report was read and approved. The Armed Forces Day brunch is to be held at the Lamp Post Diner in Gloucester township. The 112FA Sports Club announced the next meet will be sometime in June, 2014. Al DeMasi has stepped down from running the 112FA Sports Club and Ed McCarty has taken over the position. The membership was asked to submit a name for our museum in the memory of Jack Elberson. Funeral requests forms were made available to the membership for the purpose of have all information ready available in time of need.

A Memorial Service was held in the memory of Jack Elberson. About 90 people were in attendance including members of Jack's family. The Commander asked if anyone would like to make any comment regarding Jack. Several people, which included those who worked with Jack, his neighbors, some of our membership and friends commented on their memories of Jack. One of Jack's sisters spoke to the membership. The commander called attention and the NJ Army Honor Guard came forward, folded the flag, saluted the picture of Jack, and taps was played. Afterwards

three flags were presented to two sisters and one nephew. At the end of the service the Commander asked the family and neighbors to tour the museum that Jack had started. Refreshments were provided. The meeting was adjourned at 1958 hours.

QUOTE OF THE MONTH

Henry Ford

"Any man who thinks he can be happy and prosperous by letting the Government take care of him; better take a closer look at the American Indian."

ACTIVITIES

MEETING:

The next monthly meeting will be held at the Cherry Hill National Guard Armory on Wednesday, 4 June 2014 starting at 7:00pm.

112FA SPORTS CLUB:

The next meet will take place at Range 14 at Ft Dix, NJ. Date and time to be announced.

BG GEORGE BLYSAK



Retired U.S. Army Gen. George Blysak and his wife Fran brought checks totaling \$1,600 from his friends to the Wounded Warrior Project in honor of his recent 71st birthday.

General's friends donate \$1,600 to Wounded Warriors

By TAYLOR ASHLEY
Correspondent

PORT ORANGE - His friends call him "The General," and after 35 years and 8 months in the U.S. Army, most of them in the National Guard, it seems fitting.

And what do you buy a retired brigadier general who's celebrating his 71st birthday? Nothing, according to retired Gen. George Blysak.

"At 70, what could I possibly say that I needed, or wanted, for my birthday?" Blysak asked.

So, when his wife Fran, 70, was sending out invitations for his 71st birthday gathering with close friends from the community, she requested that instead of a gift they bring a check made out to the Wounded Warrior Project on behalf of The General.

And his friends rose to the occasion, bringing a total of \$1,600 in checks.

"It was overwhelming," Blysak said. "I had no idea that she had organized this. I didn't know what to say, and anyone who knows me knows that's never the case."

On Saturday morning, The General and his wife drove up to the Jacksonville office where they dropped off the checks.

"It was a very emotional experience for us and I'd like to give credit to the community who donated to the Wounded Warrior Project," said Fran Blysak.

The Wounded Warrior Project is a veteran's service organization that offers a variety of programs, services and events for wounded veterans of military actions following the events of 9/11, including combat stress and recovery programs, family support, transition training programs, food, clothing and cash.

ARLINGTON NATIONAL CEMETERY

Courier Post, May 11, 2014

Here are seven seldom known facts about the people of Arlington National Cemetery:

- (1) For decades an area south of the cemetery was home to thousands of former slaves. They began filtering into the capital area shortly after Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation. Hundreds settling near Arlington House - Freedom's Village was born and thriving with a school, hospital and church until disbanded about 1900, the land eventually included in the cemetery. Some 3,200 unmarked contraband graves remain.
- (2) Among the more infrequent of headstones at Arlington are those with gold lettering against the white marble. There are 403 which signify that the buried service member received the highest valor award – a Medal of Honor.
- (3) When John F. Kennedy was assassinated his younger brother, Robert, urged that the grave be adorned with a simple white cross. He was overruled by his brother's widow, Jackie. After Robert was assassinated five years later, he was laid to rest near his brother, the grave marked with a simple, white wooden cross. The same now adorns the nearby grave of Edward "Ted" Kennedy. They are the only wooden crosses in the cemetery.
- (4) Among 16,000 civil war dead buried at Arlington, including several hundred confederate soldiers, is the son of cemetery founder Montgomery Meigs. LT. John Rogers Meigs died in a skirmish in October, 1864. His father later had him re-interred at Arlington beneath a tomb depicting in statuary the LT.'s death scene, his body laying in mud amid trampling hoof prints of confederate horses.
- (5) Amid the head stones – covered hills of Arlington – is one bare but for three graves representing two generations and two wars, one is the grave of General John Blackjack Pershing who led US Forces in WWI. Nearby are two grandsons, John W. Pershing an army veteran who died in 1998 and Richard W. Pershing, killed in the Vietnam War in 1968.
- (6) There are seven service members depicted in the iconic Marine Corps' Memorial, showing the flag rising on Iwo Jima, are buried at Arlington. Two, Ira Hayes and Rene Gagnon, survived the battle and to see the memorial built just outside the cemetery. The third, Michael Strank, was killed in combat six days after the immortal Associated Press photo that inspired the statue was taken.
- (7) A rare group at the cemetery are the 184 victims of the 9/11 attack on the Pentagon. They are represented as co-mingled, unidentified remains buried under a Memorial. There are individual graves nearby. One person who remains who was never identified was a three-year old girl aboard American Airlines Flight #77 that struck the Pentagon. The site is in a distant southeast corner of the cemetery several hundred feet from the Pentagon. It is unique in Arlington to be buried so close to where death occurred, cemetery officials say.

Union Army Private William Henry Christman became the first to be buried at Arlington on May 13, 1864.

BG STEVEN FERRARI



BG Steven Ferrari on left

BG Steven Ferrari, Director of Veterans Healthcare Services for the NJ Department of Military and Veterans Affairs, welcomes a new bus for the transport of military personnel at the Paramus Veterans Home this April. He thanked the many donors for their generous contributions that made this possible. The local American Legion post and members from the surrounding community were recognized.

BG Ferrari was the BN EXO 1-112FA and is currently the Deputy Commanding General - Support, 42nd Infantry Division.



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 considered for inclusion in the following month's publication.

Memberships have a calendar year expiration. All dues are payable January 1.

Dues are \$20 per year.

Mails 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

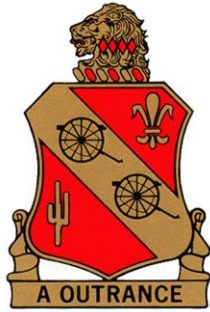
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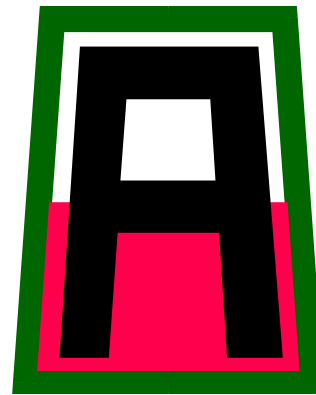
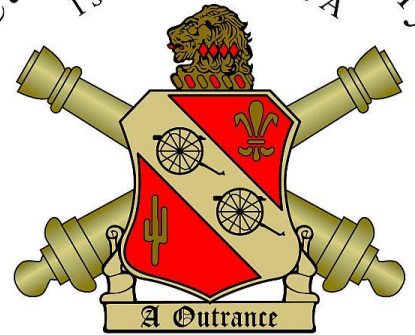
our name on Facebook is

CAMDEN LIGHT ARTILLERY





Camden Light Artillery
1st BN 112th FA





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