

**Washington Artillery  
Veterans Association  
Post Office Box 7584  
Metairie, LA 70010**



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*The Washington Artillery*

**DON'T FORGET,  
YOUR ANNUAL DUES WERE PAYABLE BY JANUARY 2011.  
CONSIDER BECOMING A MEMBER IN PERPETUITY!**

**April 2011**

**WAVA NEWS**

**Committee Appointments for 2011**

Active Battalion:	LTC Brian Champagne	(504) 394-1913
	MAJ John DiMartini	(504) 738 7472
	Ed Daigle	(504) 289 6965
Audit:	Joseph Taranto Chm.	(504) 834-3302
	Nelson Ardoin Jr.	(504) 738-9634
	Jim Ledet	(504) 887-2910
	Joe Centanni	(504) 733-1141
	Jay Hotard	(504) 339 3121
Budget/Treasurer:	Norvin Schexnaildre	(504) 889-0837
Sergeant at Arms:	Brian P. Champagne	(504) 394-1913
Charter Bylaws:	Joseph Taranto Chm.	(504) 834-3302
	Peter Breslin	(504) 466-3929
	Mike Escudier	(504) 455-1939
Secretary:	Russell Mayeur	(228) 255-7689
Financial Advisor:	Nelson Ardoin	(504) 738-9634
	Jay Hotard	(504) 339-2121
Fraternal:	Joe Centanni	(504) 733-1141
	Renda Besson	(504) 340-2987
Food/Beverage:	Ray Hartman Chm.	(504) 715-5704
	Joe Centanni	(504) 733-1141
	Joseph Whitman	(985) 249-2255
	Renda Besson	(504) 340-2987
Historical:	Glen Cangelosi	(504) 391-1174
	Jacques Walker	(985) 882-9973
Legal:	Peter Breslin	(504) 466-3929
	Mike Escudier	(504) 455•1939
	Joseph Taranto	(504) 834-3302
Membership:	John DiMartini	(504) 738-7472
Photographer:	Cecil J. (Buck) Robuck	(504) 231-3210
Newsletter:	Fred Muhs	(504) 236-3958

fmuhs@cox.net

**What's Inside!!!**

New start time for Meetings - 1800 hours  
 Dates of Meetings, Socials & Reunion  
 President's & Commander's Message  
 Officers and Board Members  
 Dues/Membership Application/New Members

Nominations:	Russell Mayeur Chm.	(985) 255-7689
	Jordan Jones	(985) 331-2093
	Joseph Whitman	(985) 249-2255
	Jay Castagnetta	(985) 285 8883
	Edward Daigle	(504) 289-6965
Parliamentarian:	Peter Breslin	(504) 466-3929
	Joseph Taranto	(504) 834-3302
Planning:	Jordan Jones Chm.	(985) 331-2093
	Nelson Ardoin Jr.	(504) 738-9634
	Russell Mayeur	(985) 255-7689
	Edward Daigle	(504) 289-6965
	Peter Breslin	(504) 466-3929
	Jay Castagnetta	(985) 285-8883
Programs/Publicity:	Jordan Jones	(985) 331-2093
Recording Secretary:	Jay Castagnetta	(985) 285 8883
Socials:	Joseph Whitman	(985) 249-2255
	Renda Besson	(504) 340-2987
	Ray Hartman	(504) 715-5704
Telephone:	Joe Centanni	(504) 733-1141
Website:	Jay Castagnetta	(985) 285-8883

# WASHINGTON ARTILLERY VETERANS ASSOCIATION



## WAVA NEWS



No. 11-2 To Perpetuate the Spirit of the Washington Artillery (The 1/141FA under many numeric designations). April 2011

### WAVA Officers

Ron Besson	President
Joseph Whitman	1st Vice President
Joseph Centanni	2nd Vice President
Russell Mayeur	Secretary
Norvin Schexnaildre	Treasurer

### Board of Directors

#### TERM EXPIRES - DECEMBER 2011

Edward Benezech, Jr. (Katherine)	(504) 341-2223
Edward Daigle	(504) 289-6965
John DeMartini (Sandra)	(504) 738-7472
Jordan Jones (Richelle)	(985) 331-2093
Russell A. Mayeur, Sr. (Eloise)	(228) 255-7689
Joseph Whitman (Nancy)	(985) 249-2255

#### TERM EXPIRES - DECEMBER 2012

Ronald Besson (Barbara)	(504) 347-5026
Peter Breslin (Peggy)	(504) 466-3929
Joe Centanni (Lupe)	(504) 733-1141
Jim Ledet (Susan)	(504) 887-2910
Norvin Schexnaildre (Loyce)	(504) 889-0837
Joseph Taranto	(504) 834-3302

#### TERM EXPIRES - DECEMBER 2013

Nelson Ardoin, Jr. (Charlene)	(504) 738-9634
Jay Castagnetta	(985) 285-8883
Brian Champagne (Denise)	(504) 394-1913
Ray Hartman (Eva)	(504) 715-5704
Jay Hotard (Betty)	(504) 339-32121
Jacques Walker (Jill)	(985) 882-9973

#### Traffic Note

The N. Claiborne Ave. Bridge is scheduled to be out of service May 17 (Meeting & Seafood Social). Alternate routes include using the St. Claude Bridge, Florida Ave. Bridge, or I-510.

#### Annual Dues

Please check your mailing label for the status of your dues. Annual dues for 2011 and previous years are payable immediately. Consider becoming a member in perpetuity. Membership/dues form is attached herein.

#### WAVA MEETINGS/SPECIAL EVENTS

1<sup>st</sup> thru 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarters 2011

March 15th	General Membership Meeting
April 19 <sup>th</sup>	Board Meeting
May 17th	General Membership Meeting/Seafood Social
June 21st	General Membership Meeting
July 19th	Board Meeting
August 16th	General Membership Meeting
September 20th	General Membership Meeting

#### Please Mark Your Calendar for All Meetings and Events

Beginning with the April 19th meeting, WAVA will hold its meetings at Jackson Barracks in the 1/141st Armory located at the entrance to Jackson Barracks on N. Claiborne Ave. Meetings will start at 1800 hours with our meal served on the first floor of the Armory followed by the meeting on the second floor in the WAVA Room. Socials and special events will be held there also unless noted otherwise. In such a case the location information will be found in the newsletters as final arrangements are made

#### NEW MEMBERS

Members in Perpetuity: Addison R. Thompson  
Bob Hildebrandt

#### Information for State Miniature Medals

Contact: Ms. Sherrie Pugh, Phone#: 318-290-5201  
Address: Military Library Bldg # 496  
3rd Street, Camp Beauregard, Pineville, LA 71360  
Payment: \$10 each Cash or Check Payable to "Archives"

#### Available Miniature Medals:

- Louisiana Distinguished Service Cross
- Louisiana Legion of Merit
- Louisiana Cross of Merit
- Louisiana Commendation Medal
- Louisiana Distinguished Civilian Service Medal
- Louisiana War Cross
- Louisiana Emergency Service
- Louisiana General Excellence Medal
- Louisiana Longevity Award

All other awards are ribbons (regular size) and can be obtained from Ms. Judy Williams at the Jackson Barracks.



## WAVA moves into the “WAVA Room” at Jackson Barracks

On April 19, 2011 the Washington Artillery Veterans Association (WAVA) held their first Board Meeting in the WAVA Room located in the 1/141 Armory. The Armory is part of the post Katrina, reconstructed Jackson Barracks in New Orleans, LA. Entrance to the Armory is from the North Claiborne Ave. gate. Plans for the furnishing of the WAVA Room are ongoing and will continue over the next few months. The drive to the Barracks should add some old memories to the monthly meetings. Everyone should come see this new facility and attend the meetings.



## President's Message

WAVA Members and Associates,

It is an exciting time to be a member of WAVA. We have a new home at Jackson Barracks. We are located in the active battalion's (1/141st FA BN) armory. We have begun the process of purchasing equipment so we may better serve WAVA members and soldiers of the Active Battalion.

Our seafood social is planned at this location for May 17, 2011 and we need your help in making it successful. We have a great menu and the cost is minimal at \$15.00 per adult and \$7.50 for children.

Please confirm your attendance early, in order for us to order food and drinks. Parties of 10 or more may request a reserved table. The social is an opportunity to visit old friends, meet new ones and to visit a new beautiful Jackson Barracks. Bring the kids and a friend. Make it a family affair.

We will have a table set up if you wish to join WAVA as a member or associate member. An application is included in this newsletter and under the Calendar tab of the website.

TRY US  
Ronald R. Besson  
President, WAVA

## Service Connected Disability of Less Than 50%

NGAUS strongly supports S.344 and H.R.533 that would allow retired members with service connected disability ratings of less than 50% to collect military retired pay and VA disability pensions concurrently. Our disabled retirees deserve the important pay benefit and recognition that this legislation would provide.

Take The Following Action:

By using the "Write to Congress" feature on the NGAUS Web site at [www.ngaus.org/writetocongress](http://www.ngaus.org/writetocongress), you can IMMEDIATELY e-mail your elected representatives. A sample letter is included in our "Write to Congress" feature. You can e-mail the pre-written message or edit the sample letter as you desire. This is the quickest and most effective method of expressing your views to Congress. Also, contact your friends and family and urge them to "Write to Congress" as well. For more in-depth information and background visit our web site at [www.ngaus.org](http://www.ngaus.org). Please direct any questions concerning this issue to Pete Duffy, NGAUS Deputy Legislative Director at 202-454-5307 or email at [pete.duffy@ngaus.org](mailto:pete.duffy@ngaus.org).

Visit the WAVA website:  
[www.washingtonartillery.org](http://www.washingtonartillery.org)



## Commander's Comments

Redlegs,

The past few months have been spent closing out the requirements from the deployment. Most of the equipment that was shipped from Iraq is now staged at Camp Shelby waiting to be inspected then shipped to Jackson Barracks. Our weapons and other sensitive items have been recovered and are awaiting inspection as part of our unit post-deployment re-set. We have also started with our normal IDT weekend training schedule. The first weekend was conducted in March at the Morial Convention Center in New Orleans as part of our Yellow Ribbon Training. This training is designed to inform M-Day Soldiers and their families of the myriad of benefits that they are entitled to as veterans. These benefits are all encompassing covering the physical and mental aspects of life after deployment. These benefits are also available to the Soldier's spouse and children. Yellow Ribbon Training is designed so that the Soldier's entire family can participate and express the changes that they have encountered as a result of the deployment. It seems to have been especially beneficial to the children who were recognized for their courage and sacrifice while their Soldier was deployed. A second Yellow Ribbon event was held in April at the Sheraton Hotel in New Orleans for those families who could not attend the first event. I attended that event with my family and found that it gave "closure" to the deployment for many families. This is a great program that needs to remain as part of the post deployment transition for Soldiers.

In April, the 256 Infantry Brigade conducted a Change of Command in Lafayette at the University of Louisiana. COL Ball, former Washington Artillery Commander and WAVA member, relinquished command to COL Jacques Thibodeaux. It was a beautiful event set on the ULL Football Field. Bravo Battery did an exceptional job providing a Salute Battery and display howitzer. It was great to hear the thunderous report of the howitzers once again. WAVA also held its first meeting in the new Washington Artillery Armory on Jackson Barracks. This is the first meeting in the St. Bernard area since Hurricane Katrina. The building committee did a fine job getting the WAVA Room prepared for this historic event.

On May 22, 2011 at 1300 hours, the Washington Artillery will conduct a Change of Command Ceremony between MAJ Steven M. Finney, the current Battalion Executive Officer and me at Jackson Barracks. At the time of the event, I will have been in command for 52 months. It has been the pinnacle of my career and I am humbled to have served in such a distinguished organization. My twenty four years in the Washington Artillery will come to an end that day however I can think of no better Soldier to hand over the reins. MAJ Finney has been a great Executive Officer, loyal confidant and best of all; my friend. He will continue to grow and shape the battalion in his image so I know great things lay ahead.

I have been re-assigned to the Louisiana Joint Forces Headquarters J-6 position and look forward to taking all of the great lessons that I have learned through my years in the Washington Artillery and applying them there. I will continue to remain active in WAVA; an organization which has provided me great mentorship because it is comprised of the best that this nation has to offer. This will be my last report as the Commander of the Washington Artillery and I bid you all farewell.

TRY US!  
LTC Brian P. Champagne

