

BATTALION



REVIEW

1st Co. Governor's Foot Guard

860-522-1337



July 2015

www.governorsfootguard.com

GFG and GHG Attend AHAC June Day

SSG Michael C Chiaro



CPT Ted Samolik, LTC Chris Cain, MAJ Roger Conley, and LT Kevin McCrewell pose for a photo before the June Day parade.

Photo courtesy of MAJ Roger Conley

On Monday, 1 June, members from both companies of the Governor's Foot Guard along with members of the Governor's Horse Guard made their annual road trip to Boston for the Ancient and Honorable Artillery Company's *June Day* celebration.

Every first Monday of June, the AHAC of Massachusetts celebrates the election of their new officers with a march through the streets of Boston, a battalion parade of historical militia units in Boston Common, and a memorial necrology service.

Preceding the step-off of the parade, lunch was provided by

the AHAC in their Faneuil Hall meeting room and museum. With the AHAC taking the lead, all the militia units of the Centennial Legion stepped off Congress Street at 13:00 and marched directly toward Boston Common. Newly elected Major Commandant Mark Boudreau led the 1st Company GFG officers, Color Guard, and drumline.

Continued on next page

Continued from previous page

Arriving at the Common, all militia units assembled for the "Drum Head Election", a recreation of the AHAC's first election of officers highlighted by a ceremonial exchange of spontoons between sergeants and accompanied by deafening salutes from the Massachusetts National Guard's howitzers.

The Honorable Charlie Baker, Governor of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, addressed the entire formation praising the AHAC for their efforts in keeping alive the military history of Massachusetts and thanking them for the pride they bring to the State. After a Pass and Review before the AHAC Command officers, the entire formation marched out of the Common to Copley Square where the members of the AHAC promptly entered historic Trinity Church for their memorial service.

Once dismissed, members of all units returned to the Westin Hotel and changed into either formal Dress Blues or Dress Mess jackets for the AHAC's lavish evening banquet. The dinner was, as usual, spectacular and punctuated throughout the evening by several formal toasts and speeches by honored guests and dignitaries. Although the AHAC festivities last well into the late evening, our Company had to return to our bus immediately following dinner for the trip home, satisfied that once again we represented our State with dignity and honor.



Members of the Foot Guard, under the command of MAJ Mark Boudreau, attend the June Day activities of the Ancient and Honorable Artillery Company of Massachusetts on Boston, MA on 1 June.

Photo courtesy of CPL Emma Sherman



Members of the Foot Guard, under the command of MAJ Mark Boudreau, march in the New Britain Memorial Day Parade on 30 May.

Photo courtesy of Janet Dexter



Members of the Foot Guard, under the command of MAJ Mark Boudreau, march in the Fourth of July Parade in Columbia.

Photo courtesy of Janet Dexter

Hartford Celebrates St. Patrick's Day

MAJ Bob Nearine

On the first day of spring, 21 March, it was snowing. However, the weather pundits from CBS, NBC, and Fox News swore (or affirmed) that the snow would be over about midnight, well in advance of Saturday's St. Patrick's Day parade.

Unfortunately, it didn't happen, and when the First Company left their armory at 1030 hours (well fortified with hot coffee and doughnuts), it was still snowing, and snow it did for the next hour or so. Former Air Force meteorologist, Loren Schave, blamed it all on technology; in the good old days, meteorologists took sightings, read weather maps, and made forecasts. "We didn't need Doppler," he said.

From all reports, there was a large and enthusiastic audience (although the *Courant* reported that it was lighter than last year). Even so, despite the cold (the sun did come out, finally), it was a fine day for the Irish.

After the parade, marchers and friends gathered at the High Street Armory for corned beef and cabbage sandwiches, prepared by the First Company's kitchen crew; Dickey Welch, Mike Infantino, and John Flanagan. Doggy bags for home stayers were in evidence, and it was reported that there were no left overs after the festivities ended. Too bad, since there was a drill on the following Monday.



The Foot Guard, under the command of MAJ Christopher Cain, march in the Hartford St. Patrick's Day Parade on 21 March.

Photo courtesy of Lori Macsata



The First and Second Company Governor's Foot Guards led by MAJ Christopher Cain and MAJ Richard Greenalch, respectively, march in the Victory Parade held on 12 April honoring the University of Connecticut Women's Basketball Team's 10th NCAA tournament win.

Photo courtesy of Susan Gozzo Andrews (2GFG)

UConn Women Champions Again

MAJ Bob Nearine

Gino and the UConn women did it again, and for the tenth time. National champions, and time for a celebratory parade. They had one Wednesday on the Storrs campus, but this one was in Hartford, a time for all to celebrate. There was a large crowd—estimated by the media at 20,000, but somewhat smaller than last year's turn out. Next year should be even better.

The crowd was enthusiastic, the First Company Command and band had a good turn out, and at least in the world of women's basketball, all was well in the world, or at least in Connecticut. Go Huskies!

Students from Hartford High Schools Receive Foot Guard Scholarships

MAJ Mark Boudreau

The following students were nominated by the guidance staffs at their respective schools for scholastic achievements, strength of character and involvement in the school and community to receive the First Company Governor's Foot Guard High School Scholarships this year. These students all graduated from their respective high schools during June.

Amina Huric attended Bulkeley High School's Teacher Preparation and Humanities Academy and will be attending the University of Connecticut this fall to study special education. During her high school career, Amina was on the school's honor roll for all four years and served on the student council as vice-president, was a member of the Key Club and the National Honor Society. She played soccer and basketball and was recognized as the most improved player on the team in 2012. Out of school, she participates in the Bosnian American Youth Association of Hartford and volunteers at soup kitchens through the Key Club at school. Amina will be the first member of her family to attend college.

Keyla Scott attended Weaver High School's Culinary Arts Academy and will be attending Southern Connecticut State University to study nursing. She was a member of the National Honor Society and was recognized as a Governor's Scholar. She also played softball and hopes to continue playing in college. When not in school, Keyla volunteered with the Blue Hills Civic Organization and the Summer Youth Employment Program.

Danay Marie Alvarez-Melendez attended the Hartford Public High School's Law and Government Academy and will be attending American International College in Springfield, MA to pursue a degree in nursing, following her interest in being in the medical profession and her passion for helping people and to follow in the footsteps of her uncle and older sister. Danay was on the Honor Roll every year in high school. She also served on the student council, one year serving as co-treasurer and one year on the senior prom planning committee. She received recognition for her work during internships and on summer jobs. She also volunteers at her church and with the Urban League of Greater Hartford.

The First Company Governor's Foot Guard congratulates these exceptional Hartford students on their achievements and for being recommended for the Foot Guard scholarship and sends their best wishes as they pursue their chosen fields of study.



The Color Guard, under the command of SFC Ray Hite, presents the colors at the Talcott Mountain Music Festival's 'Celebrate America' concert on 3 July at the Performing Arts Center at Simsbury Meadows in Simsbury.

Photo courtesy of Pat Boudreau



Members of the Foot Guard, under the command of MAJ Mark Boudreau, march in the Old Home Day Parade in East Hampton on 11 July.

Photo courtesy of Pat Boudreau



Foot Guarders In The News

MAJ Bob Nearine



March 11, and it almost seems as if spring is here; snow is melting, birds are chirping, and even the idiots are flourishing. But I digress. Twenty-three A & A members and friends gathered at Windsor's *Tunxis Grill*, located on the bank of the Farmington River, across from the local fire station, and in a facility that according to our tour guide (Dennis Conroy), used to be a florist shop. The food; chicken, corned beef (ugh!) ,and fish was plentiful, and extremely tasty; enough for a second meal if you wanted to doggie bag it. Liz, the manager was extremely helpful, even in the presence of her father, Rich Gatewood.

Before the meal started, Dennis Conroy presented George Sloan with a pot of Irish shamrocks for his wife Charlene. This was to thank her for delivering Dennis's keys which had apparently been lost, stolen, or simply misplaced (by whom, was not disclosed).

It being the month of the Irish, Jim Throwe (BG, USA, Ret) provided an Irish invocation, while Inspector John Flanagan (recently arrived from sunny Florida) read off the birthdays for March. A moment of silence was omitted for our absent snowbird brothers; Rocco Laraia, Frank Castro, John O'Connell, and probably I J Zembrzusi (BG, USA, Ret). You remember last year's photo of that crew along side a wooden fish?

The session was closed with an opportunity for Commandant Chris Cain (another host) to speak; he declined to thunderous applause.



Virtually every child looks forward to Easter and to the opportunity to interact with the Easter Bunny. For some kinds, its the Easter egg hunt' for others the religious activities or perhaps Easter dinner.

For the children of national guard and militia members, the big event is "Breakfast with the Easter Bunny." Usually held on a Saturday preceding Easter at the Broad Street Armory, this year the event was transferred to the Air National Guard Readiness Center at Bradley Field, because of water damage to the armory. Water damage was a major problem in Connecticut this year because of the build up of ice dams on roofs across the State.

The program, which was sponsored by the Connecticut National Guard Service Member and Family Support Center, included crafts, activities, and the opportunity to be photographed with the Easter Bunny. In addition, breakfast consisting of scrambled eggs with cheddar cheese, assorted bagels with butter and

cream cheese, coffee, tea, white and chocolate milk, fruit salad, orange juice, pancakes, and assorted cold cereals was served to approximately 400 youngsters and their parents.

Volunteer cooks and Bunny-helpers included Dicky and Linda Welch (who put the whole cooking operation together), John and Joan Flanagan, Mike Infantino, Bob Butler, Mark Boudreau (our Commandant), Mark Torres, John and Cammy Ferreira, Marty Klukas, Rich Gatewood, and Lee Fongemie.



Members of the First Company Governor's Foot Guard and their families prepared breakfast for the families of Connecticut National Guard members at the Windsor Locks Readiness Center on 4 April.

Photo courtesy of MAJ Mark Boudreau

Continued on next page



Continued from previous page



To those of you from the Bay State (Dickey Welch and perhaps others of that ilk), Happy Evacuation Day (17 March)!



Question: What is Rocco Laraia's favorite uniform?

Answer: *Dress blues, tennis shoes, and a light coat of oil.*



In April, we hosted the Second Company, Governor's Foot Guard and the First Company, Governor's Horse Guard following a "symbolic" drill at the Broad Street Armory. Since the computer apparently ate the original draft of these comments to include names, dates, and other specifications, these comments are reported from memory (poor, and getting worse).

Cooking was supervised by Mike Infantino and the entrees were chicken cordon bleu for the 2nd Foot, and roast pork for the Horse. For both occasions, the desert was cheesecake with fruit topping. The quality of both meals can be attested to by the fact that there were no leftovers available for the upcoming Monday drill.



At the 27 April meeting of the First Company's Officers Association, the following Association officers were elected; they will take office at the time of the spring dance.

President: CPT George Peterson

Vice President: CPT John Flanagan

Secretary: LT Wayne Donahue

Treasurer: MAJ Dick Welch



The 8 April meeting of the Ale and Agricultural Society of Central Connecticut was held at *Figero's Restaurant* in Enfield (located just off I-91, and around the corner from cheap Massachusetts gasoline. Hosts were John Petronella and John Flanagan. Twenty members and friends were in attendance, and the meal was a good one. Other details were eaten by the computer, and cannot be reconstructed at this time.



As it happens, the staff convertible is expected to be available for at least one more season. In consequence, members desiring a ride either in a parade or at another GFG event should contact the owner (rjnear@cox.net) at least 24 hours prior to the event. Without requisite notice, be prepared to send your uniform to the cleaners for the removal of dog hair.

Seats are assigned on a first come, first served basis. The car seats three normal sized (!) Foot Guarders in addition to the driver.



We all know about the C & C Travel Agency (*You give us money and we take you for a ride*). Well, C&C principal Dennis Conroy has branched out into another area; "cooking!" before, and sometimes after Monday drills. Dennis can be found in the Officers and EM Lounge whipping up hamburgers, hotdogs, and other goodies along with onions, peppers, and mushrooms. Stop in to enjoy a pre-drill treat and hear and see Dennis in action.



Another bumper sticker, probably owned by a single member of the Horse Guard: *I Only Take Orders From My Horse.*



May's A & A luncheon was held at an old favorite; the *Skyline Restaurant*, on Route 75, in Windsor Locks. Our hosts were John Green and inspector John Flanagan. Thirty hungry members were in attendance

Continued on next page

Continued from previous page



including past commandants John O'Connell and Rocco Laraia, honorary captains Dave Gay (MG, USA, Ret), Jim Throwe (BG, USA, Ret), I J Zembruski (BG, USA, Ret), and Bob Moeller (CSM, USA, Ret).

Jim Throwe started the festivities with the reading of a poem attributed to singer and song writer Willy Nelson (although neither the subject nor the text can be repeated here). He continued with a very appropriate invocation, and with a request for a blessing for all of our troops wherever they are serving today.

Food service commenced with the serving of a salad, rolls and butter, and pasta. This was followed by the main course which was ordered from the menu. Here particular favorites seemed to be veal parmigiana and baked scrod. Both the quality and quantity of these servings was evidenced by the large number of doggie bags which left the restaurant.

The meal ended with coffee, ice cream sundaes, and inspector Flanagan's reading of the month's birthdays. Next month, we return to the Officers and Enlisted Members Club at the Broad Street Armory.



Thanks go to CPT (Hon) Vincent Palmeri (COL, USA, Ret) for his donation of a complete set going back to around 1968 of the *Military Collector & Historian*, the journal of the Company of Military Historians, along with a number of other publications dealing with weapons and militaria collecting. These were trucked into the museum by CPT (Hon) Lew Vasquez, assisted by his retired Marine brother, "Gunner" Joe. Vasquez (CW3, USMC, Ret).



At it's 14 May bimonthly meeting, Connecticut Department Senior Vice Commander, Paul Spedalieri presented Post 1771 with several membership awards (prior to their formal presentation at the State Convention to be held later this spring. Among the awards was a 100% membership award which was presented to Senior vice Commander John Flanagan, and a Post Commander's 100% membership pin which was presented to legionnaire Sar Phouthasack for his efforts in virtually doubling the Post's membership.



June's A&A luncheon was held at the Connecticut Officers and Enlisted Members Club on 10 June with members Jim Throwe (BG, USA, Ret) and Bob Moeller (CSM, USA, Ret) as hosts in attendance. The short ribs and the shrimp scampi were excellent.

Many old friends were in attendance; Dave Gay (MG, USA, Ret), George Demers (BG, USAFR, Ret), Nate Agostinelli (BG, CT, Ret), Dan McHale (BG, CT, Ret), and past commandants John O'Connell and Dennis Conroy (Rocco didn't make it this time).

BG Throwe gave an inspiring invocation, while Inspector John Flanagan read the list of June birthdays (but not the ages of the individuals identified).



Many of you will remember MAJ Phil Kennedy; long time treasurer, IRS Agent, and occasional bear hunter. Phil's granddaughter, Madison, an Avon High School and University of California graduate has always been a swimmer and an aspiring Olympian. Swimming has been part of her life since the age of four.

In 2012 Madison moved to Charlotte, NC, where she trains with Swim MAC Carolina at the Mecklenburg Athletic Club. She was named to her second Pan American Games team and will compete in July in Toronto. Last year she won three medals and helped the 200 meter free style relay team set a world record in Qatar.

So where does she go from here? Kennedy says she is still improving and having fun, "If I'm still improving, who's to say I have to stop?" There's no age limit in this business.

Grandpa Phil would be proud.





First Company Governor's Foot Guard Pre-Veterinary Scholarship recipient Alyssa McDonagh (2nd from the right) is shown here with her parents Gary and Paula McDonagh and MAJ Roger Conley at the University of Connecticut College of Agriculture, Health and Natural Resources and Ratcliffe Hicks School of Agriculture Scholar's Night banquet held on 26 March at the University of Connecticut in Storrs.

Photo courtesy of MAJ Mark Boudreau



The Foot Guard, under the command of MAJ Mark Boudreau, marches in the Wethersfield Memorial Day Parade on 23 May.

Photo courtesy of Pat Boudreau



The Color Guard, under the command of SFC Ray Hite, combines forces with the Manchester Regional Police and Fire Pipe Band and marches in the Bunker Hill Parade in Charlestown, MA on 14 June.

Photo courtesy of Ms. Janet Dexter



From left to right at the changing of command ceremony, MRC volunteers are MAJ Ronald Buckman, CPT Richard Gatewood, CPT (Hon) Katherine McCormack, CPT George Peterson, and SSG Robert Handschumacher.

Photo courtesy of CPT (Hon) Katherine McCormack

Foot Guarders in Florida

Here is the southern command with our newest member Jan Augustine (left), who recently moved to Port Charlotte.

Also in photo, CPT Frank and Constance Castro, LTC Rocco and Cora Lou Laraia, CPT Rich and Linda Pelletier, and LTC John and CPT Laura O'Connell.

Photo courtesy of LTC John O'Connell



Attention Foot Guarders:

CPT (Hon) Bob Butler

As all members of the 1st Company Governor's Foot Guard are aware, the former "EM" club is now operating under a different set of parameters. The club is now open to all members; enlisted men and women as well as all officers. The club along with serving beer, wine, and mixed drinks as well as soda and water also offers hot dogs, hamburgers and sandwiches. Our coffee is always available. Thus far the club has drawn a good crowd at every meeting and is operating successfully.

At this time we would like to give the club a name. We are asking all to submit what you think would be a great name for our club. It could be named after a former Commandant or any famous military person, or possibly name it after a famous battle or any significant historical event or a well know location. Lets all give this some thought and come up with a name for our club. Please do not submit the "Yard Goats" as your choice.

Please submit your thought for a name to MAJ Dickie Welch or CPT (Hon) Bob Butler or LTC Dennis Conroy or SGT Mike Infantino or CPT Marty Klukas.

Whoever submits the name that is picked will receive a surprise gift.



The Color Guard, under the command of MAJ Roger Conley, presents the colors at the installation ceremony for Foot Guard chaplain CPT (Hon) Damaris Whittaker at the Center Congregational Church in Hartford on 14 June.

From Left: MAJ Roger J. Conley, CPT John Ferreira, PFC Carolyn Lang, PVT Natisha Handschumacher, LT Wayne Donahue, SSG Mike Chiaro.

Photo courtesy of Mrs. Yvette Cain



In The Spotlight

MAJ Bob Nearine

Spotlight On PFC Carolyn Lang

Carolyn is one of the most positive individuals I have interviewed over the last twenty years. While she respects the historical past, her focus is on moving forward. Since you can't repeat history, you can only build on it, and that is what Carolyn wants to do.

Born in Concord, Vermont, the family lived across the line in Dalton, NH. When she was ten years old the family moved to Enfield, Connecticut. With an older brother and an older sister, she was the baby of the family. Carolyn attended public schools, and graduated from Enfield High School in 1971. She went on to work at Aetna as an engineering training and education specialist, Carolyn met her husband Michael Lally. They have four children; twin daughters Karyn and Barbara, daughter Aimee, and son Christopher. The couple also has nine grandchildren.

BR: How did you get interested in the Foot guard?

Carolyn: It was at the 2013 Big E Connecticut Day parade that I first saw the Foot Guard in action. My husband and I are friends with Fred and Lori Macsata and went to Connecticut day to support Fred. I was impressed by the marchers, the band, the uniforms, and by the fact that they had women members. Being a member of the former Enfield Sabers Drum and Bugle Corp, I felt the Foot Guard would give me an opportunity to march again. While I didn't know much about the Foot Guard, and had never been a soldier, I felt that joining would allow me the opportunity to honor soldiers, the state and this nation. I have really enjoyed being able to honor my Father, Calvin Lang. He was a Navy man, serving on the USS Ticonderoga during the Second World War. I will never forget the time I was allowed to carry the US Navy flag at a color guard detail. I was incredibly moved and just knew that my Dad would be so proud.

BR: As a new Foot Guarder, why did you get involved with the Christmas Party?

Carolyn: I got involved in the Christmas party simply because I was asked by Rich Gatewood to help him out. The idea to give children's toys instead of grab bag gifts for ourselves came to me because of my love of community outreach. We were able to bring several bags of toys to Gary Craig at WTIC and actually got some great airtime in the process. A win win situation!!

Through my church and the Women's Bible Study group that I led for ten years I had many opportunities to do outreach projects from raising funds for "Alex's Lemonade Stand", an organization that works to find a cure for childhood cancers, to "Hope for Haiti" sewing baptismal gowns and raising funds to send to this extremely poor country. (Haiti is the second poorest country in the Western Hemisphere). When the opportunity came to do relief work in Haiti after the devastating earthquake of 2010, I was able to go there for two weeks to bring food, medicine, clothing and hope to the devastated families in Carrefour, Haiti. I was the ground coordinator for my team's trip and had the responsibility of food purchases in the

Continued on next page



Continued from previous page



Dominican Republic, and getting it, our 98 bags of supplies, and four relief workers over the border and into Haiti.

BR: How can the Company improve itself?

Carolyn: Through our activities. For example, when I serve on the color guard, we are representing not only the first Company, but the State and the Nation as well. We let the community see that we are a service organization, as well as a military organization. That's why I participate in parades, and the color guard details. All of these activities give us community visibility. One thing I think we should be doing, is getting involved with the local schools. We present academic scholarships to the three Hartford high schools, and to the UConn School of Agriculture. The band also does some joint concerts with selected school children which I think this is fantastic!! I would like to see us do more with school children. These kids will be our future Foot Guards. I would love to invite the public to see the museum that has been put together here at the Armory.

BR: What do you like most about the Foot Guard?

Carolyn: The marching. And also the fact that I feel accepted and protected by the other members of the Command.

BR: And what do you like the least?

Carolyn: Tensions over the events of the past. I think we should spend more time planning for the future, and not ruminating over the events which have shaped our present existence.

BR: Where do you see the Command ten years down the road?

Carolyn: Hopefully, we will be still here and much larger. We have such a rich history to focus on and not the events of the immediate past.

BR: Where do you see yourself in ten years?

Carolyn: Still here, and hopefully promoted (laughs).

BR: If you could do it over again, what would you do differently?

Carolyn: Although I have a general philosophy that "you are right where you are supposed to be" I do wish that I had joined at a younger age. I have worked hard, raised my kids, owned and operated both a sports bar (The Penalty Box Cafe) and an Irish pub and restaurant (Durty McDuff's Public House) with my husband, and learned in that process, that about ninety-nine percent of the people you meet are good people. I believe that is a good lesson to learn and to live by.

BR: What's your connection to (Past Major Commandant) Bob Burnham and his Family?

Carolyn: During our years of Bar and Restaurant ownership, Major Burnham's sons Bobby and Tom were regulars. I believe Tommy met his wife Joan at The Penalty Box Cafe. Tom just told me at the last medals ceremony that his son wore one of our old Penalty Box T-shirts at his graduation party. Sweet memories.....

BR: Do you have anyone you would call a mentor?

Carolyn: I would like to thank Fred Macsata for his constant encouragement. Rich Gatewood, Roger

Continued on next page

Continued from previous page

Conley, Chris Cain and John Green always made a point to stop by the EMC to say hello when I sat there week after week waiting for my paperwork to go through. Mark Boudreau, as assistant color Sergeant, always made sure that I was aware of upcoming details and was sure to make me feel like I was an important member of all details. I would like to suggest, however, that a formal support system be set up for each new recruit, with a mentor actually assigned. This might help us retain more of our new recruits.



BR: Anything else?

Carolyn: It is a real privilege to be able to serve the State of Connecticut in the capacity of membership in this very important Historical Unit. I hope to leave a footprint of pride and accomplishment here after I am gone.



Foot Guarder is Veteran of the Year by the Town of Cromwell

*CPT (Hon) Bob Butler
Photos courtesy of CPT John Ferreira*

The Merchants Association in the town of Cromwell announced that this year they selected two residents of that town to be awarded the Town of Cromwell Merchants Association “**Veteran of the Year**” award for 2015. One of those residents is a member of the 1st Company Governor's Foot Guard.

Honorary Captain Salvatore Orlando was honored for his service to our country in both World War II and the Korean War. CPT (Hon) Orlando was further commended for his service as a Certified Military Honor Guard member with the *DeNino – Shelto* American Legion Post #1771, which is named after two former Foot Guard Commandants.

CPT (Hon) Orlando was presented with a plaque in honor of his thirty plus years of military service and a *Quilt of Honor* designed and made by members of the Cromwell quilting club.

Congratulations to Honorary Captain Sal Orlando and thank you for your military service.



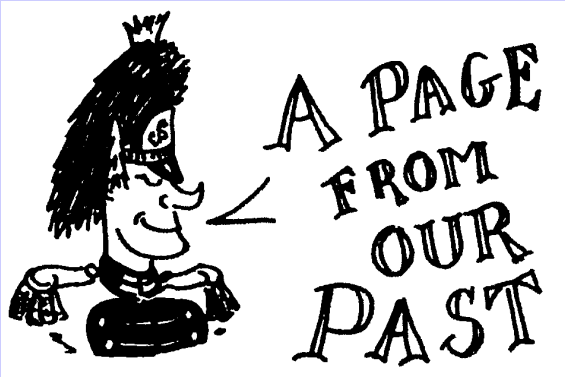
The Color Guard presents the colors at the Association of the U.S. Army Spring Dinner and Awards Meeting held at the Aqua Turf Club in Southington on 17 April.

Photo courtesy of GEN Sar Phouthasack

The Foot Guard Band Performs With The Cromwell Middle School

The Cromwell Middle School Band, under the direction of Ed Shank, was selected by The First Company Governor's Foot Guard for a special performance on 22 April 2015 in the Cromwell Middle School auditorium. Proceeds from the concert helped fund instrumental music at the school.

Each year, The First Company Governor's Foot Guard selects only two Connecticut middle schools to perform with them in concert. The Cromwell Middle School 8th Grade Band was proud and honored to have been chosen.



Our Johnny Reb

Captain James C. Pratt

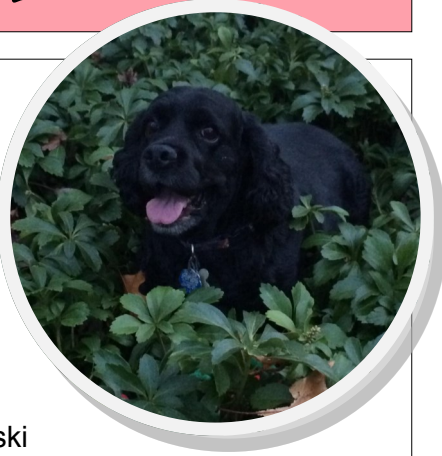
MAJ Loren Schave

Captain Pratt was born in Hartford, on March 17, 1838 on a farm on upper Windsor Avenue. After two years of high school life, his health failed. He then went to Louisiana, where he regained his health completely. He served in the Civil War in the Confederate Army, and was taken prisoner in 1863. He remained in prison until March 1864, when he was paroled for one year, to be spent in Connecticut, reporting to the provost sergeant once a month.

He enlisted in the Foot Guard, on October 21, 1867. He served in every office in the command, except that of orderly sergeant, which he skipped to become captain and first lieutenant. He was honorably discharged as captain in 1891. He re-enlisted at once, and had to sign his application and go before the membership committee just like any new recruit. He was appointed corporal a second time in January, 1898, and, after forty-seven years in active service, was a sergeant.



Riley's Corner



This is Belle as she tries to hide in the packasandra. She is a beautiful little cocker spaniel.

MAJ Stanley Sobieski



The First Company Governor's Foot Guard Color Guard led by NCOIC SFC Russ Scull participated in the Graduation Ceremony for the Eastern Connecticut State University class of 2015 that took place at the XL Center in Hartford, CT.

Photo courtesy of MAJ Mark Boudreau


 ★ **MAJ Bob would like some help in writing Foot Guarders**
 ★ **In The News. Your contribution could be in the form of**
 ★ **short articles about Foot Guard activities, antidotes about**
 ★ **Foot Guarders, quotes of the day, or anything you may**
 ★ **think would be of interest to others. Anyone and**
 ★ **everyone could make this feature continue to be one of**
 ★ **the most popular parts of the Battalion Review. Please**
 ★ **consider jumping in and helping to make the November**
 ★ **issue of the Battalion Review a memorable edition.**
 ★ *****


Band Notes




Band Manager SSG Terri Camilleri

From 1 March 2015 through 30 June 2015 the band participated in the following events:


History Day
 New Britain, CT
 May 2015
 OIC CPT Carlson



Griswold 200th Anniversary Parade
 Griswold, CT
 16 May 2015
 OIC MAJ Boudreau


Wethersfield Memorial Day Parade
 Wethersfield, CT
 23 May 2015
 OIC MAJ Boudreau


Simsbury Memorial Day Parade
 Simsbury, CT
 25 May 2015
 OIC MAJ Boudreau



The Band will participate in the following events during the next 6 months:


Elizabeth Park Concert
 Hartford, CT
 1 July 2015


Niantic Parks and Rec Concert
 Niantic, CT
 5 August 2015


Rochambeau
 Hartford, CT
 19 September 2015



The Foot Guard Band, under the command of CPT David Carlson, performs in Elizabeth Park in Hartford in their concert 'In Honor of Our Veterans and Their Families' on 1 July.

Photo courtesy of Mrs. Pat Boudreau

Niagara Falls In A Bus Not A Barrel

Article and photos courtesy of LTC Dennis Conroy

We loaded and boarded the bus at in the Poquonock Park and Ride lot on Tuesday 23 June 2015 at 0715 and departed for Niagara Falls, Ontario Canada. Making the trip were the Laraias, Sloans, Sebastian Donahue and wife Marion, the Kleczewskis and Janice Zimnoch, the Ferrerias, their friends the Peckhams, Abe Grillo and Joanne, and Karen and I.

Tom Mulcahy, driver extraordinaire, piloted the Constitution Coach up I-91 to I-90 then straight through to upstate NY and on to Canada. The first stop was just the other side of Albany around 1000 hours for a lite breakfast. Once we re-boarded the exciting game of bus bingo was underway. The three games of varying value took some 90 miles to complete. After that, things sort of settled down to napping and watching the countryside roll by.

The route took us over I-290 and I-190 to the Robert Moses Parkway into Niagara Falls, NY. As we crossed the Niagara River Bridge from Grand Island, Roc Laraia pointed out the fire boat spray off in the distance – it turned out to be the mist rising from the basin of the Niagara Horseshoe Falls.

The tour took us through Niagara Falls, NY, across the famous Rainbow Bridge to the Canadian border customs station where all passengers de-bussed and passed through inspection. It took all of 20 minutes. Some seemed disappointed with the lack of a strip search.

As we crossed Rainbow Bridge, the American Falls and Canadian Falls were visible to our left and then up the escarpment to the Oaks Hotel where we all had fall view rooms and a night of do your own thing.

Wednesday had us having an early breakfast and boarding our bus around 0900 for the excursion to Old Fort Niagara at the mouth of the Niagara River as it emptied into Lake Ontario. Some of the group toured the fort and watched as the costumed guides fired a three pound cannon ball into the Lake. The Fort was built by the French and has been held by the French, British and now is in US hands and the NY Parks Department.

While at the Fort, six from the group decided to forego the tour and sat at a picnic table and discussed various topics from basketball to “art appreciation”.

Following the visit to Fort Niagara, the bus took us through Niagara-on-the-Lake in wine country and on to the Butterfly Conservatory, then to a souvenir trading post before returning to “The Falls” where some of the group boarded the *Hornblower* for a boat trip in front of the American Falls and into the misty basin of the Canadian Horseshoe Falls. Most of us were awed by the power and volume of water plunging into the basin no more than a hundred yards or so from the boat. The thundering sound of the water crashing into the river and the spray in our faces was invigorating to say the least. After the boat ride a few of us walked along the river to the inclined railway for the trip up the escarpment back to the hotel; taking pictures with “The Falls” in the background, and just people watching. Our last evening was an “on your own”. Some went to the casinos and others took in the color light show at the falls.



A group discussion at Old Fort Niagara. In the foreground: Josephine Inafantino, SGT Mike's wife, and CPT (Hon) Sebastian Donahue.

In the morning we boarded our bus and made a stop at the duty free shop for some no tax bargains and then headed to US Customs across the Rainbow Bridge before heading home arriving back in Poquonock at 1730 on Thursday evening.

Marching Season Begins

MAJ Bob Nearine

It's marching season, and in celebration of Memorial Day, the Command participated in several parades and ceremonies. First, was a trip to Willington to celebrate that Town's 350th birthday on 16 May.

Next came the Wethersfield Memorial Day parade held on the twenty-third. This was followed by a ribbon cutting ceremony in Bristol on 24 May to kick off the establishment of a Special Guerrilla Unit National Monument to honor the thousands of USA-trained Laotian forces, primarily Lao Hmong troops who, from 1960-75 gathered intelligence, fought the North Vietnamese along the Ho Chi Minh Trail, served as jungle fighters, and rescued countless American airmen downed behind enemy lines. Tens of thousands of these fighters lost their lives aiding the US and its allied forces during this fifteen year period.

Among the participants were SGU National Monument committee members **CPTs (Hon), Bob Butler, Carl Venditto**, and Committee Co-chair **Sar Phouthasack**.

Also participating were the Foot Guard Honor Guard Firing Party consisting of:

CPT Bob F. Butler: Squad Leader

CPT Sal Orlando: Riflemen

CPT John F. Flanagan: Riflemen

M/SGT Max R. Covell: Riflemen

SFC Mike Infantino: Riflemen

SGT Fred F. Miodowski: Bugler

Participating Color Guard members included:

MAJ Mark Boudreau

1LT Kevin McCrewell

1LT Wayne Donahue (Color Guard Sword)

LTC Dennis Conroy

MAJ Roger Conley

CPT Frank Castro (Color Guard Sword)

SFC Russell Scull (State Flag)

SFC Ray Hite (American Flag)

PFC George Lange (GFG Flag)

On 25 May, the official Memorial Day, the Command marched in a Simsbury parade and participated later in a "Tariffville - based cookout" hosted by Commandant Mark Boudreau and his wife Patricia.



The Foot Guard, under the command of MAJ Mark Boudreau, marches in the Griswold 200th Anniversary Parade on 16 May.

Photo courtesy of Janet Dexter



Members of the Foot Guard, under the command of MAJ Mark Boudreau, participate in the ground breaking ceremony for the Laotian SGU Viet Nam Memorial in Bristol on 24 May.

Photo courtesy of Janet Dexter

Prize Drill Held

MAJ Bob Nearine

Prize Drill was held at the High Street Armory on 18 May. While the traditional military competitions were omitted this year, a number of awards were presented.

First Company Perfect Attendance:

16 Years MAJ Roger J. Conley
12 Years MAJ Mark A. Boudreau
11 Years SFC Russell L. Scull, II

GFG Long Service Medals:

45 Years: MAJ Robert C. Lehmann
MAJ Robert J. Desjardins
MAJ John Statham
SFC Steven P. Jainchill
40 Years: SFC Thomas J. Mulcahy
SSG Thomas J. Donza
35 Years: CPT Thomas J. Satalino
30 Years: CPT Rudolph A. Foldvary
CPT Patrick Reidy
CPT James S. Tashjian
25 Years: SSG Abele F. Grillo
20 Years: MAJ Roger J. Conley
CPT Barry L. Levy
SSG William J. Cullina
SSG Philip A. Prisk
15 Years: MAJ Mark S. Boudreau
CPT Kevin G. Cormack
SGT Brian C. Perchal
10 Years: 1LT Kevin C. McCrewell, Sr
CPL Cindy McGrath
5 Years: SFC Raymond T. Hite
CPL Bryan E. McEntee

The George A Tule Bandsman of the Year Award:

SGT Timothy F Winn

The Robert A. Burnham Medal of Merit:

MAJ Richard T Welch
MAJ Bernard S Krukoski

In addition to the medal presentations, the band under the direction of CPT David Carlson presented a concert of popular and military music, and accompanied the Command in the traditional pass in review.



On Saturday 9 May 2015, members of the First Company Governor's Foot Guard Band, under the direction of CPT David R Carlson performed the opening ceremonies for CT History Day held at Central Connecticut State University.

Photo courtesy of MAJ Mark Boudreau



Thanks to all who contributed to the July 2015 **Battalion Review**.

Special thanks to **MAJ Bob Nearine**, without whom the Battalion Review would never come to fruition.

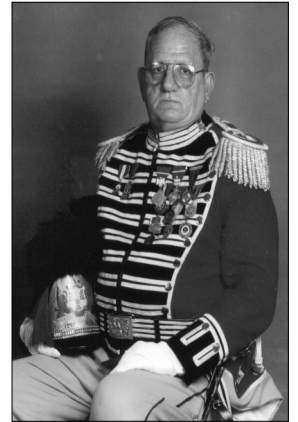
Thanks to **MAJ Mark Boudreau**, **LTC John O'Connell**, **SSG Michael Chiaro** and **CPT (Hon) Bob Butler**, and, of course, **MAJ Loren Schave** and **SSG Terri Camilleri** for their ongoing contributions. Thanks also to all the contributing photographers.

Gwynn Kane

In Memoriam

LTC William R. Oefinger, 67 years old, passed away after battling cancer for one year. Bill was known for wearing many different hats. He was Chief of Police at Manchester Community College for many years, retiring in 1995. Bill was also very active in the Governor's Foot Guard where he held the office of Major Commandant. In addition, he was in the Masonic Order Friendship Lodge in Manchester, where he was a member since 1977, twice serving as Grand Master.

He leaves behind his loving wife and best friend of 46 years Suzzanne (King) Oefinger; three children James Oefinger, Andrea (Oefinger) DeLaire and her husband Anthony Delaire, and Mark Oefinger; as well as 3 grandchildren, Cheyenne Long Chase, Natalie DeLaire and Devin DeLaire.



Walter J. Golec, 84, of Enfield, entered peacefully into eternal life on Monday July 13, 2015. He was the beloved husband of the late Ismerinka (Mandzak) Golec. Walter was born on 27 Aug. 27 1930 in Putnam, CT, son of the late John and Sophie (Gowac) Golec. He resided in Enfield for the past 56 years.



Walter served his country proudly with the U.S. Army and was a veteran of Korean War. Prior to his retirement in 1985, Walter was employed with the State of Connecticut for almost 25 years.

Walter was a former member of the First Company Governor's Foot Guard, a very active parishioner and trustee of St. Adalbert Church, a member of the John Maciolek Post 154 American Legion, Enfield, and an avid golfer and member of Grassmere Country Club.

Walter is survived by his son, three daughters, six beloved grandchildren; and two cherished great grandchildren.

Memorial donations in his memory may be made to St. Adalbert Church, 90 Alden Ave., Enfield, CT 06082 or to the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society, 3601 Eisenhower Ave., Suite 450, Alexandria, VA 22804.

Henry H. ("Jerry") Fisher passed away 28 May 2015, aged 82, of cancer.



He was a basketball standout and held a soccer scoring record at Trinity-Pawling School. He graduated from Washington & Lee University, where he was a member of Sigma Nu. Jerry served in the 503rd Airborne Infantry Regiment, 11th Airborne Division, and made numerous non-combat jumps, including a winter exercise in Alaska.

Jerry worked for Arrow Hart/Cooper Industries for almost 30 years, and for the Connecticut Air National Guard. Jerry was a member of the Governor's Foot Guard, Old Guard, 1892 Club, and Greater Hartford Bow Tie Swap Club. Jerry was predeceased by his wife of 47 years, Lynne Fisher, and is survived by his daughter and family, and son and family.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests memorial gifts to Washington and Lee, Trinity-Pawling or the American Cancer Society.



JULY 2015

1st Co. Governor's Foot Guard
P.O. Box 1771
Hartford, CT 06144-1771

