



THE CONCORD INDEPENDENT BATTERY, INC.
Post Office Box 1804, Concord, Massachusetts 01742

March 1, 2018

Dear Members and Friends of the Battery,

Throughout our history the Concord Independent Battery has participated in ceremonies commemorating the founding of our nation, remembrances of citizens gone before us and honoring those who have served and continue to serve our country. This past year was no exception as your Battery was present at over ten events.

As customary, the Battery began the year in the cold of February when members gathered in the Gun House to begin sessions of drill and equipment maintenance. These tasks form the basis for our performance during the year ahead and are conducted under the skilled direction of our officer corps. This continued commitment by active members exemplifies their unselfish contributions of service to others.

In March and April the Battery was active in the Town of Concord's Honored Citizen ceremony, Meriam's Corner Exercise, Patriots Day Parade and Dawn Salute from Buttrick Hillside on April 19th. Concord's recognition of public service was evidenced again at Honored Citizen and the ceremonies in tribute to the cause of liberty cannot be over stated. We are proud to be a part of these community traditions.

This past May our Battery was requested by the Massachusetts Fallen Heroes Association to assist in honoring the sons and daughters of the Commonwealth who gave their lives since September 11, 2001 in service of the United States. On Saturday May 27th we assembled with both cannon at the Fallen Heroes monument in Boston and took part in a tribute to those lost in the continuing battle against terrorism. On Memorial Day in Concord the Battery paid respect to those at rest in St. Bernard and Sleepy Hollow cemeteries. Memorial Day activities included opening the veterans march to Kenny Dunn Square and cannon echo from Heywood Meadow at the conclusion of the Concord Center reading of the roll of honor.

During the Summer, the Battery was requested by the Commander of the USS Constitution to provide an exchange salute during her turn around cruise in Boston Harbor. We assembled at Fort Independence Boston on October 20th and both cannon fired a return salute to the world's oldest commissioned vessel as she passed before us. The sights of the day were simply fantastic and our unit's performance absolutely superb.



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November's Veterans Day at Sleepy Hollow Cemetery continued the Battery's tradition of honoring past and present day Concord military. The annual Flag Retirement Ceremony was extremely well attended by the public who heard our firing at its loudest and best. November also was marked with sadness at the passing of long associate member Al Magurn. At his family's request, we prepared a grave side volley in memory of Al and his constant support.

Medal of Honor recipient and Battery advocate Captain Thomas Hudner passed away in November. We proudly provided horse drawn escort service for Captain Hudner from the Dee Funeral Home to Holy Family church prior to his wake and viewing. We were extremely grateful to have been chosen for this duty and of our association with him. May he rest in peace.

In an era which continues to see declining interest in community and fraternal organizations, I am excited to report our Battery remains strong. We are most fortunate to have so many members, associate members, contributors and friends who provide us with support. We must also recognize the aid of the Town Public Ceremonies Committee, Old Manse staff as well as those who help maintain the Gun House grounds in all seasons. Recent donations include a painting of the Battery in action by a local artist which will be displayed at our Annual Luncheon on April 16th.

I cannot adequately express my thanks to all active members of the Concord Independent Battery. Your continued commitment and dedication has enabled us to grow as an organization. Please accept my sincere thanks.

James E. Finigan
President, Concord Independent Battery Association