



THE CONCORD INDEPENDENT BATTERY, INC.

Post Office Box 1804, Concord, Massachusetts 01742

March 14, 2017

Dear Members and Friends of the Battery,

This past year our Battery achieved a new level of enthusiastic participation at an increased number of ceremonies and events. At the completion of extensive winter training and drill, April 9th began with live test fire from the Old Manse Field on Monument Street. The Battery color guard and gun crews were also active that day at the Town of Concord sponsored Meriam's Corner exercise. Patriots Day began early with active members harnessing horses and making all preparations for cannon salutes during the celebration of our nation's initial stand against tyranny. The Dawn Salute from Buttrick's Hillside greeted the town on the morning of April 19th as we commemorated the stand that the forefathers had taken two hundred and forty one years before.

The Battery's role in honoring veterans and their families expanded during this past May. We were selected to pay tribute to all lost in service to the country since September 11, 2001 by the Massachusetts Fallen Heroes Association as they dedicated the remembrance monument constructed on Atlantic Avenue in Boston. On May 27th, gun crews fired in conjunction with the Massachusetts National Guard artillery and all members performed with great competence and skill.

Memorial Day in Concord required a two pronged Battery maneuver. As formal visitation to honor those at rest in the Town's cemeteries had been discontinued, we assigned gun crews to St. Bernard and Sleepy Hollow cemeteries while simultaneously participating in the Town sanctioned ceremony from West Concord's Rideout Field. Our members level of commitment sustained us during the extended Memorial weekend.

At the request of Governor Charles Baker, the Battery assembled on June 1st and welcomed the USS Mesa Verde to the Port of Boston after lengthy overseas duty. Transportation was enhanced by the efforts and presence of the Massachusetts State Police in similar manner to services they rendered on May 27. Gun crews fired from an outstanding location at Fort Independence, Castle Island, Boston. The Battery received thanks in the form of a citation from Governor Baker.

"To excite and encourage an ardent love of country and a generous public spirit."
www.ConcordBattery.org



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After well attended November drill sessions the Battery resumed activities at the Town of Concord Veterans Day Ceremony on November 11th. Assignments were given to both gun crews and cannon fire was heard with great report throughout Sleepy Hollow Cemetery as we concluded formal activity for 2016.

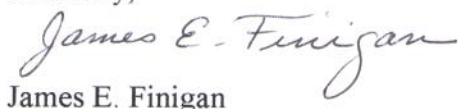
Sadly, we must note the passing in 2016 of great members and associates. Our sentiments were extended to the families and friends of John Whitney, Jim Elson, Chief Dick Ryan and Mary Lawrence. All had contributed their time and talents in many ways to the Battery and they will remain in our thoughts.

As we consider the future and with guidance from the Board of Directors, the Battery has initiated a membership drive and will continue this critical endeavor on a yearly basis. We are conducting a review of horse availability and are exploring several approaches to ensure our history of horse drawn artillery. The financial support provided by active and associate members continued at a steady rate this past year and we are most grateful. This support has allowed us to maintain all operations. Both cannons were inspected by borescope method and certified completely operational this past year. We have signed a five year extension of our contract with the Town of Concord and look forward to long term harmonious relations.

2017 activities are currently being scheduled. We anticipate participation in all Town of Concord events including Honored Citizen, Meriam's Corner, Patriots Day Parade, Memorial and Veterans Day ceremonies. We also will respond to an invitation to attend the Massachusetts Fallen Heroes Re-Dedication on May 27th. We will review and respond to an invitation to open the Parade of Sails Boston with cannon salutes from Fort Independence on June 17th,

I express my thanks to all active and associate members for your contributions. The number of behind the scenes duties completed by so many cannot possibly be discussed at this writing but I am most appreciative of your actions. Volunteerism may be on the wane nationwide but you contrast that by your continued commitment and dedication to our Battery.

Sincerely,


James E. Finigan