

# Fort Taber~Fort Rodman Historical Association & Military Museum Newsletter

Spring 2012

*“Every Day is Veterans’ Day”*

## Coming Events

### **March 25**

Vietnam Veterans  
Memorial Sunday

### **April 28**

Exercise Tiger Service

### **May 12**

WWI Living History

### **May 31**

Memorial Day

### **June 9-10**

D-Day Re-enactors

### **June 24**

King Philip’s War  
Living History

### **July 13-15**

Roman Encampment

### **July 22**

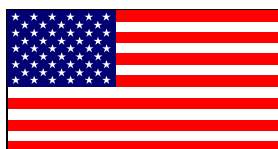
Revolutionary War  
Living History

### **September 16**

Car Show

### **November 11**

Veterans’ Day



*“The biggest little military  
museum in the country...”*

- *Scott Lang, former  
Mayor of New  
Bedford*

## **From the President**

Dear Friends,

Hello from all of us at Fort Taber~Fort Rodman Historical Association & Military Museum.

The organization continues to make significant gains in the community and its celebration of patriotic and military observances. An important event we were proud to be part of was the Zeiterion Theatre’s program commemorating the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Civil War. In what proved to be a rich week of Civil War history, the FT~FRHA, Friendly Sons of St. Patrick, along with the Whaling Museum presented the author Tom Craughwell who spoke of his book “The Greatest Brigade”.

The New Bedford Civil War Round Table held presentations with several speakers, and Vice President & Curator Bob Bromley spoke about area recipients of the Civil War Medal of Honor. The Military Museum had a display of Civil War artifacts in the Penlar Building during the week. The event culminated with a presentation of the musical play “Civil War Voices” which was also co-sponsored by the Association’s Military Museum. Currently there is a small display of Civil War artifacts at the Main Library in downtown New Bedford.

In other news, two new memorials now reside at Fort Taber Park. A WWI monument was moved

from Buttonwood Park to the entrance of the museum, and dedicated on Veterans’ Day 2011.

The city also moved a WWII memorial from Buttonwood Park, to a prominent area near the entrance to Fort Taber Park. It was dedicated on Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day, December 7.

Many activities are planned for 2012. New events include a Roman encampment in July, and a Corvette car show in September. Join us on our fast growing Facebook page to keep up-to-date with all the happenings, or just say hello and leave a comment.

Yours Truly,  
Joe Langlois, President

## **Museum Volunteers Named Men of the Year**

On December 25, 2011 the *New Bedford Standard -Times* ran an article profiling the work President Joe Langlois, Vice President and Curator Bob Bromley, and Treasurer Don Moss. The three volunteers were named New Bedford Men of the Year for 2011 for their efforts in creating the museum. You can read the article on the *Southcoast Today* web site.



**L-R: Joe Langlois, President; Bob Bromley, VP & Curator; Don Moss, Treasurer. Photo by Peter Pereria.**

### Museum Statistics

**2011 Total Attendance**  
6,480

**2011 Visitors from out of the Area**  
1,449 (22.4%)

**Aggregate (Since 2004)**  
41,629

**Total Volunteers**  
48

**2011 Volunteer Hours**  
5,896

**Donors**  
1,113

**Members**  
265



### **Fort Taber~Fort Rodman Historical Association & Military Museum**

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New Bedford, MA 02744

Phone 508-994-3938  
E-mail [info@forttaber.org](mailto:info@forttaber.org)

Open every day 1 – 4 PM

**Closed: New Years',  
Easter, Thanksgiving &  
Christmas**

We're on the Web!  
[www.forttaber.org](http://www.forttaber.org)



## Museum Addition Unveiling Ceremony



Photo by *David Oliveria*.

On May 31, 2011 the City of New Bedford unveiled the 1,860 square foot addition to the Fort Taber~Fort Rodman Military Museum. Renovations included a new formal entrance and lobby. WWII veteran and museum volunteer Ed McClean, along with other local veterans, had the honor of cutting the ribbon with then New Bedford Mayor, Scott Lang.

Since then, donations continue to pour in. Museum staff has been working overtime to keep up with all the new items to catalog and put on display. Our thanks go out to everyone for their support and patience during this time. We hope everyone has a chance to see the new space soon.



View from inside 1,860 square-foot annex.

## Annual Meeting - Changes to By-Laws

Our annual meeting was held in October 2011. The following officers were elected.

Joe Langlois – President.  
Bob Bromley – Vice President  
Don Moss – Treasurer  
Nancy Fontaine – Recording Secretary

Membership Chair and Historian will be appointed positions.

The Association has received approval from the Attorney General's Office to solicit funds from organizations and the public. A yearly financial report to the AG office is required, and as a result of

this, our financial records have been computerized.

A motion was made and approved that will move the date of our annual meeting from September/October to March/April of every year. This will satisfy the Massachusetts Attorney General's Office.

A motion was also made and approved changing the name of the organization to the Fort Taber~Fort Rodman Historical Association, Inc.

The annual meeting was held again on March 15, 2012. No new business was passed.

## Thank You for Your Support!

We have come a long way since opening our doors in 2004. Perhaps you have donated a photo, a medal, or a uniform that belonged to a loved one. We thank you, and look forward to continue being such a special place for veterans, their families and the community. We couldn't do it without our *all volunteer staff*, and the financial support of members and friends like you.

Please consider joining or renewing your membership today to help keep this "jewel in the south end" shining. Membership dues are only \$10 per year and 100% of your donation goes toward museum operating expenses such as utilities, insurance, and supplies.

As always, we remain grateful for your generous and continued support.

- Your Friends at Fort Taber~Fort Rodman Historical Association & Military Museum