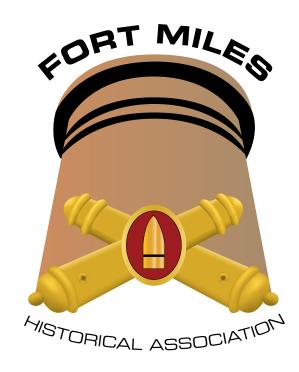


# THE

# SUMMER 2012



The Fort Miles Historical Association is a nonprofit group that has it's mission to preserve, protect, and defend all aspects of Fort Miles working with community and state stakeholders—and other interested parties. The FMHA also has it's goal to work as an active partner with the State of Delaware to develop the historical potential of Fort Miles.

















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#### From the Desk of the President By Dr. Gary Wray

Welcome to the Summer/Fall 2012 edition of the Fort Miles Historical Association Newsletter! I would like to thank our FMHA Board of Directors for their active and continuing support over the last year. In particular, I would like to thank Ted George, our outgoing Secretary of FMHA. Ted has been with us since the beginning (August 2003) and now that we approaching our tenth year, he thought it time to turn the Secretary duties over to another member. This position is one of our four leadership positions and if you are interested in working with us, give me a contact (gdwray@hotmail,com). If you are interested, be prepared to attend all BOD meetings, take minutes, maintain our membership directory and be able to give us at least ten hours per week on the average. Ted has been a valuable member of our leadership team, and is our resident expert modeler as he has done all of our diaorama the Tirpitz, U 858 and he just finished the Missouri model for our Museum. His counsel



The only photo of Battery Smith known to exist. Taken by Donald Hazen.

and advice to the organization has been extremely valuable over the last ten years, but he will continue as a FMHA member and a key docent guide in our Museum.

Thanks to the hard work of our Bunker Busters under the leadership of BOD John Roberts in getting our state of the art geothermal HVAC system in the Museum installed, our Board now meets inside the Museum the third Saturday of the month at 9am. Please refer to John's column in the Newsletter, but John's leadership has been critical to the design and installation of the state of the art geothermal system we now have in the Museum. Without it, the concrete floors were just too cold in the winter to allow meetings inside the Museum but with the new system, all is well! And the way the architects, the contractors, the Park staff and the team from FMHA worked together was seamless and very cooperative. We would also like to thank the City of Lewes and their staff and Mayor Jim Ford for allowing us to "piggyback" on their grant to do our system. The five partners worked together as a real team to make the geothermal system happen inside the Museum. I would extend an invitation to any and all FMHA members to attend our monthly BOD meeting and feel our new geothermal system in operation!

It has been a very busy time since our last Newsletter. I am happy to report that the Delaware Legislature has dedicated over \$200k to the Fort Miles Historic Area in Cape Henlopen State

Park for this year! This money will help us in planning the new Museum and roads and parking in the entire Fort Miles area. Both DE State Parks staff and the FMHA team have been actively working with the Becker Morgan Architects from Dover and the PRD group from VA for the interiors of the Museum. We will also be launching a new fundraising campaign in the Fall of 2012 (again under the leadership of Nick Carter and FMHA Vice President Bob Frederick) to raise the necessary monies for the Museum and the Historic Area, I would like to thank all members who have supported us in the past and we are going to ask for a bit more as we are getting closer and closer to the vision of the best WWII Museum inside a WWII facility in the US.

If you followed both the local and national news this past spring, you know that we were successful in getting a 16"/50 Mark 7 barrel from the battleship Missouri (BB-63) that was on her the day the Japanese surrendered in WWII. Thanks to our friends at Dahlgren Naval Weapons Center, we found out in the summer of 2011 that there were eight barrels left from the Iowa class battleships in storage at the St. Juliens Creek Annex of Norfork Naval Base in VA. Your FMHA Board quickly started the process to get one of the barrels for Fort Miles. Working with State Parks staff member Jim Hall, we wrote a logistical plan to get the barrel to CHSP and a financial plan to both move it and to maintain it. The USN accepted our plan and gave us six

months to get the job done. We created a fundraising committee and asked local USNA graduate Nick Carter to chair it to which he agreed. The committee then sat about in the fall and winter of 2011 to raise the necessary \$115k to finance the barrels move to DE by the Lockwood Bros of Hampton VA. After much work and effort, over 80 folks (including two little brothers who gave nine dollars!) donated generously along with grants from Sussex County Council, the General Motors Foundation, Norfolk Southern RR, SPI Pharma, the Coast Defense Study Group and many others, the barrel began its trip to DE in late March, 2012. It went by Norfolk Southern RR to Little Creek VA where it was taken by barge to Cape Charles VA, picked up again by Norfolk Southern and taken up the DelMarVa peninsula to Harrington DE. It was then moved to Georgetown DE and on April 16 it was welcomed by a hugh ceremony on the town green organized by Southern DE Tourism Dept under Scott Thomas and James Diehl with much help from the Georgetown CC. A week later it was moved by rail to Fort Miles by the Delaware Coast RR as thousands lined the 15mile track from Georgetown to Lewes and in an elaborate ceremony on April 28, 2012 Secretary Collin O'Mara broke the customary bottle of champagne over the barrel to welcome its arrival to Fort Miles!

Now we need to raise the additional monies to bring the remaining four other necessary parts of the "puzzle" (the girder on which the barrel rests, the slider in which it recoils, the yoke at the breech and the breech itself) to finally put the static display of the 16" and place her outside the Museum. All the pieces have been located at Dahlgren and have been promised to FMHA but now we need to raise the funds (somewhere in the range of \$80k) in the fall and spring of 2012/13. We hope that our membership will again support us in our quest so when we are completed with the Missouri Barrel Project (www. savemissourigun.org) we will have the best and last static display of a 16"/50 Mark 7 in the world! Our display will take about two years to finish and once done it will reside outside our Fort Miles Museum.

Our efforts to save Barrel #371 also became noteworthy and others followed our lead to save two other barrels including the state of AZ (barrel #387) and National Fish and Wildlife in Cape Charles (barrel #393). The

remaining other five barrels have also been reviewed for placement by several other interested parties. Our efforts were profiled in the recent edition of The United States Naval Institute Proceedings (www.USNI.org) "Naval History" magazine "WWII Big Guns Rescued" p. 66(August 2012) and the recent report of the Coast Defense Study Group (CDSG). Again, this was a great team effort between FMHA, DE State Parks, and the local community. One of the interesting things about the Missouri barrel is that it has been

donated by the US Navy to the State of DE so we all own it! What a great piece of American History to have within our state borders! The very barrel the Japanese delegation had to walk past to surrender to the Allies in WWII!

We are getting closer and closer to the opening of our new Museum under the leadership of FMHA with the active cooperation of DE State Parks. It is our plan to begin to open the Museum

in the fall of 2012 one day a month with the Museum operated by FMHA docents. And for that we need more docents! If you would like to become a docent for the Museum, please give me a call at 302-645-0753. Our next event will be August 25, 10-4 and if you would like to work with us during that day please give me a call or contact me at gdwray@hotmail.com. We will have at least eight "stations" for Museum interpretation and we would like at least three docents trained for each station. We also have a need for more Bunker Busters to work inside the Museum and if you are interested in that please contact John Roberts.

So, as you can see, it has been a busy time! We have been recognized for our hard work by the DE Department of Tourism in December 2011 when Fort Miles was selected as one of the 12 most historic places in Sussex County! We have become one of the stops on the Delaware Historic Trail and have been written and photographed in the recent publication "Delaware Historic Trails: Landmarks and Legacies" which we now have for sale in our Fort Miles Museum Gift Shop. We have much to do to get our Museum and the Fort Miles Historic Area completed, and we will be asking for your continuing support, but we are much nearer where we want to be than we were even just last year thanks to the hard work and effort of many folks, including the work of the Bunker Busters!

Finally, under the leadership of BOD member Bob Fellows, our Wall of Honor continues to grow. We now have two WHO in the Museum, one for those who have contributed to the Missouri Barrel Project (see the photo included in this Newsletter) and the other two (soon to be three) for our Fort Miles WHO. Both walls continue to grow



and if you would like to contribute to either Wall, fill out the application form inside the Newsletter or contact Bob. These monies go for the Missouri Barrel Project and to the continuing improvements made inside the Museum by the Bunker Busters.

So, that is about it. As we approach our tenth year, I look back on what we have done as a group and I am really proud of all of our efforts. I would like to thank the staff of DE State Parks and the leadership of Chazz Salkin, for allowing us to work as close partners with them to improve Fort Miles. Working together, we have taken a dark and musty abandoned bunker and a few rundown old Army barracks and have turned them into, in the state of Delaware's view, one of the 12 most important historical sites in the state! No small feat and an accomplishment for which all can be proud! I know that Lee Jennings would be pleased with our efforts in continuing his vision of making Fort Miles the best Museum inside a WWII facility in the country and the Fort Miles Historic Area a destination inside the wonderful State of Delaware.

#### News From the Publicity Committee

By Bob Fellows

FMHA Board members were tasked by President Gary Wray to present "The Story of Fort Miles" DVD to as many local schools as possible, focusing on 4th and 5th grade social studies and history classes.

Eagles Nest Christian School. studying Delaware history. questions were asked about Fort Miles in this one hour program. A summer field trip was suggested.



A Wall of Honor Inductee Ceremony was conducted on April 28, 2012 at 3pm in Battery 519. Highlighting this event was recognizing the Wiker family for their support in providing a beautiful walnut podium and story journal. The journal contains pictures and stories from veterans and loved ones that brings the pavers to life. The podium was designed, built and donated by LifeTek Solutions, located in Blue Bell, PA. Mr. George Wiker, CEO, On March 29, 2012 I presented this and his design team assembled this program to the 4th grade students at beautiful podium to hold the journal The while honoring our veterans in our timing was perfect, as the class was Fort Miles museum. This podium uses



5 vertical walnut supports to represent the five branches of our military forces. Glass book shelves with stainless steel supports between the posts bring them together as a unified assembly. Our sincere Thanks go out to the whole Wiker family for this "over the top" tribute to our veterans and loved ones.

The City of Lewes donated the portrait of Army General Nelson Appleton Miles to the Fort Miles Living History Museum on Wednesday, April 25, 2012. This painting owned by the city and displayed by the Lewes Library for more than 20 years. Thanks to the efforts of FMHA board member, Jack Goins, this beautiful oil painting will hold a prominent place in our planned living museum. Well done, Jack!





#### JAPANESE WING MOUNTED GUN

Through the generosity of Chief Collins of the Selbyville Police Dept., we were given a .20mm wing mounted gun. Located outside a VFW for years and saved from the scrap heap of history. Preliminary investigation reveals it to be a type 99-2 wing mounted gun exclusive to the Imperial Japanese Navy. It was used on almost every airplane at the time. Should be a easier restoration than the Flak most interesting. continues.....

#### A Big Thank You to Our Legislators

The Fort Miles Historical Association Board of Directors would like to thank the Delaware Legislature for their help and assistance in securing funding for Fort Miles in this years legislative session. In particular we would like to thank Sen. Robert Venables for his help in securing \$165k in the Bond Bill for planning purposes in the Fort Miles Historic Area. This assistance will help us and Parks to plan our roads and Museum development this coming year. We would also like to thank Senator Harris B. McDowell III and Representative Dennis Williams of the Joint Finance Committee (and, in particular Senator Dave McBride)

for our first Grant in Aid which we will use throughout the year on projects for FMHA. In addition, several dedicated legislators monies from their Community Transportation Fund (CTF) to road improvements in Fort Miles. Those representatives (and we think there will be more) who contributed funds are: Dave Wilson, Gerald Hocker, Harvey Kenton, Daniel Short, George Bunting, and Robert Venables. Again, many thanks to those DE legislators who are actively helping Fort Miles!

# **"Bits" From the Bunker Busters**By John Roberts and Joe Kosaveach

Folks, it has been very busy around Fort Miles. Our skilled and dedicated volunteers have been working hard around the Fort. We've even been expanding our ranks, and we have four additional volunteers showing up regularly. There have been days where we've had nearly twenty volunteers working.

#### Cantonment area:

We now have electrical power on all of the buildings in the cantonment area. Futhermore, we have repaired the damaged rafters, etc, in both T603 and T604, along with the final removal of all post war additional materiel. The interior walls were painted, and we've replaced several of the windows. These became suitable quarters for our female reenactors, as nice as the ones the men stay in! We have more to do, such as more windows, knocking out blocked up window openings, stripping old flooring material, etc., but these buildings have come a long way from last year. They can now be displayed, and are no longer boarded up evesores.

# Geothermal heat pump system for Battery 519:

This has been a long time coming, and it is now operational! Thanks to an outstanding and collaborative relationship between FMHA, the engineering firm that designed the system, the installation contractor and his subcontractors, the PP&D division of DNREC, and Parks, this was performed with few challenges. There are 14 closed loop wells behind Battery 519, and 4 closed loop wells in front of the south gun room, all drilled to a depth of 300 feet, and the interconnecting manifolding is at a depth of at least 6 feet. This is sufficient well capacity for the entire building. Inside, are installed 3 geothermal heat pumps with a dehumidification option to allow for efficient moisture removal without cooling the building. There are enough wells for 5 units, and when we raise the capital, we'll install two more at the north end. Right now, we have full conditioning for the south two thirds of the Battery. The equipment is cleverly hidden, and air is distributed through ductwork designed after the original system installed in 1943. We're now drier than ever, and this equipment is far quieter than the basement dehumidifiers we've been using previously. No more cold winters inside the battery! On an additional note, we have an energy recovery ventilator to exchange the air in this very tightly sealed building. For the first time, probably ever, this building smells fresh and clean.

# Additional lighting and electrical upgrades:

The north gun room is now very well illuminated, and our mines and diorama are on display in that room. We've also been eliminating all problem areas, and soon, we'll have an electrical survey performed and a final electrical inspection, finalizing this project. I'd like to thank Joe Johnson and Tim Phillips as our licensed electricians for help with these issues.

#### South Gun Room sound system:

Our sound system is now fully operational! We have installed in a small MP3 player, a sound file carefully crafted by Jeremy Birnbaum, and extracted from our 1935 training video of our 12 inch gun being fired at Fort Saulsbury. Jeremy also installed the speakers and amplifiers for this setup, and it is operated through a period correct firing lanyard. Pull the trigger, and BOOM! It's been a huge crowd pleaser! Parks brought in an expert to certify our system is safe for public consumption. Watching the faces of visitors when we hand them the trigger is worth all the effort to bring this to life. We're all very pleased to see Lee Jennings vision come to pass for this project.

#### 12 inch gun barrel bore cleaning project:

After the operation of the geothermal system commenced, we had a lot of hot, humid air come rushing down the gun barrel. Also, our visitors wanted to look up the barrel, and, quite frankly, the interior was far from pretty.

Our volunteers spent several hours removing rocks, sand, old pieces of lumber, etc., from the bore of this gun. We proceeded to build a swab out of plywood discs, burlap bags, wire brushes and conduit, and got 70+ years worth of grease and dirt out of the rifling! We're about 90% complete on this part of the project. To cap it off, so to speak, we've installed a 12 inch polycarbonate (riot shield material) tampion to the interior of the barrel. Now the barrel is sealed. and a much more interesting sight to our visitors. Not to mention, it keeps the birds and other airborne wildlife out of the building.

#### The North Entrance Project:

We completed this one in time for our April event. Now the north gun block door is the main entrance to the museum. Visitors now have access to the entire building, and the expressions when they turn the corner and look at how far away the south gun room really is never fails to please. We have a boardwalk from the door to the edge of the pavement. No more walking through all that loose

sand! We have a hard surface all the way into the building. The attention this feature has generated is tremendous, and whenever we break for lunch at the north end, outdoors, we get dozens of questions about Fort Miles and what we're doing to breathe life back into it.

#### South Bifold Door Project:

After a few months, this project is finally completed. These doors originally isolated the dry and conditioned battery from the outdoor environment of the gun rooms. We have faithfully reproduced these doors from the original plans right down to the bolts and screws, and attached them to the walls of the bunkers using the original anchors in the concrete. No redrilling whatsoever was needed. These doors are faithful reproductions of the originals, but I seriously doubt the originals were built with this level of craftsmanship! Alas, we'll never know, as the original doors were removed and destroyed decades ago.

### Center Entrance Cable Trench restoration:

There's a trench in the concrete floor of the center entrance originally used to provide electrical power and fuel oil to the interior of Battery 519. The concrete covers for this trench are badly deteriorated. Unfortunately, we've had to remove all of these covers destructively, their condition was that bad! However, thanks to our crew, we've been able to salvage the steelwork and use it in the new covers. We're casting these in pairs, and within no time, this former eyesore will be restored to its original condition. It will also allow utility access to the parking lot behind the bunker, for lighting, security, or any other needs.

# Missouri Paver Stand and another stand for regular pavers:

Thanks to our crew, we know have a stand for the pavers bought by people who donated for the Missouri barrel move. It,Äôs located in the north gun room, and is painted sky blue. We also have a new stand for our regular pavers, as the two we have are nearly full. Thanks to all the donors who have bought pavers, as this is our primary revenue stream for funding our Bunker Busters. Keep ,Äòem coming, folks, we need all the help we can get!

# Shelving in both the north and the south store rooms in Battery 519:

Thanks to the crew, these two rooms are no longer full of random stuff. Everything is organized, off of the floor, and easy to find. And, we now have a lot more space in these fairly small rooms. These units are very sturdy, and should be able to hold at least 2-3 tons of items. On another note, we discovered these rooms were not only used to store parts and tools for the

con't on page 7

email

state

zip

Have you ordered your Paver yet? For the

For the "Wall of Honor" at the Fort Miles Museum LEWES, DELAWARE

Now you can support the new Fort Miles museum, receive a tax deduction and have your name or that of a loved one honored on a handsome brick paver. Each engraved paver will be prominently displayed in Battery 519, America's first WWII museum at an actual military site.

More than 10,000 visitors each year will see your paver, and we will send a tribute card to whoever you designate, telling them of this special honor.

The tax-deductible cost for each paver is just \$200, including delivery and installation in a well-lighted entrance area. This first phase of the "wall of Honor" will accommodate just 500 pavers and orders are being accepted on a first-come basis. Be sure to reserve your paver now by returning the form below.



#### **About Fort Miles**

America's first on-site WWII museum is located on the Atlantic Ocean at the mouth of the Delaware Bay, where massive armament was secretly installed during WWII to turn back possible invasions by German naval forces and protect the key port of Philadelphia.

Prominently displayed at the museum is one of Battery 519's two 12 inch cannons, large enough to propel a shell 17 miles, as

well as searchlights powerful enough to light the beach of Cape May, NJ. Visitors can also climb a coastal tower and tour an actual "cantonment" where soldiers lived and worked - an active city of 2,500 men and women. The coastal towers along the Delaware shoreline were the "eyes" of Fort Miles - strategically placed to triangulate readings if enemy ships were located. Your donation to the "Wall of Honor" helps support the Fort Miles museum.

YES, I want to purchase a paver at the Fort Miles Museum. All donations are tax deductible. Enclosed is my check made payable to: the Fort Miles Historical Association. for paver(s) **Engraving Instructions** LIMIT 3 LINES OF 16 CHARACTERS PER LINE- spaces, punctuation & symbols count as characters phone name street city

Send orders to: FMHA Wall of Honor c/o Horizon Philanthropic Services P.O. Box 802 Lewes, DE 19958 Questions? Call 302.644.0107

# Donations brought the Missouri's 16" barrel home...

...help us finish what we started.

	Yes, I would like to support t Missouri Project!	the USS	
	Enclosed is my/our tax-deductible gift of:		
	☐ \$100 Ensign	☐ \$1,000 Captain	
	☐ \$250 Lieutenant	☐ \$5,000 Rear Admiral	
	☐ \$500 Commander	☐ \$10,000 Admiral	
your name(s) as you wish to be listed		phone	
street		city	
state	zip email		

Cut along this line and mail to the address below: Fort Miles Historical Association PO Box 52 Lewes, DE 19958

Donors of \$500 or more will be given an on-site memorial paver and \$1,000 or more will also receive a certificate for framing.

Thank you for supporting the USS MISSOURI PROJECT and to help preserve the last remaining cannon from an important iconic American battleship.

#### Fort Miles Historical Association Board Members

Merlin BeilTed GeorgeJoe KosaveachJohn RobertsBev DaleckiJack GoinsBrian LindsayDr. Gary WrayBob FellowsJoe JohnsonDan LyonsBob Fredrick

#### **Campaign Leaders**

Nick Carter, Chair Joe Johnson William H.J. Manthorpe, Jr. — Capt., USN (RET) Dr. Gary Wray 12 inch guns, but were also the storage areas for side arms used by the soldiers stationed inside. For safety's sake, the soldiers needed to disarm once inside. Having a pistol go off inside the powder room would not have been a good thing...

#### And a hearty thanks to our crew!

Thanks go out to Harry Winn, Bob Fellows, Bob Wheatly, Fred Noll, Joe Kosaveach, Jack Hliva, Steve Tarantolo, Dan Brown, Joe Johnson, Tom Anderson, Mike Hills, Rick Ackerman, Tim Gladden, Tim Phillips, Don Hattier, Gary Wray, Merlin Beil, Mark Stanzilis, Pat Bragdon, Don McCauley, and a whole host of others! If I forgot you, I do apologize deeply! The work these folks have done for us is nothing short of remarkable.

Also, thanks to the Park for supporting this wonderful endeavor.

It's the result of a deep passion for something important to our history.

Something to keep in mind as you go through Fort Miles: Thanks to the concerted efforts of our volunteers, every dollar we spend generates about ten dollars worth of results. There aren, Äôt many bargains like this out there these days. As you can see, we make your donations count for as much as we can! Visitors are constantly amazed when they visit that our crew is 100% volunteers, and we're doing all this amazing work on a shoestring budget. So, keep those dollars coming, it's our desire to be as busy as we can, and this helps tremendously.



Digging wells and trenches for the Geothermal unit



The North Entrance Project



12 inch gun barrel bore cleaning



Missouri Paver Stand and another stand for regular pavers



# Thinking about joining the FMHA?

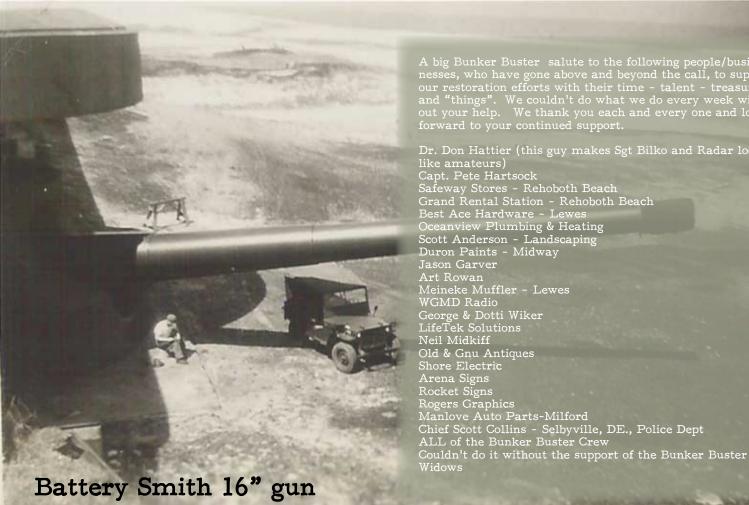
Help us preserve, restore and protect this remarkable site--become a member of the Fort Miles Historical Association simply by filling out the form below and mailing it with your check to the address listed below.

Name:			
Address:			
City:, State Zip:			
Phone: ()			
Email:			
Please check one:			
<ul> <li>General level, (life member) \$1,000.</li> <li>Colonel level, \$500.</li> <li>Major level, \$250.</li> <li>Captain level, \$100.</li> <li>Small Business \$75.</li> <li>Dual/Family \$20.</li> <li>Individual \$15.</li> <li>Student \$10.</li> </ul>			
Enclosed is my check in the amount of: \$			
Make Checks payable to:			
Fort Miles Historical Association Dr. Gary Wray, President 120 E. Wild Rabbit Run			
Lewes, DE 19958			
Cut along this line if only mailing one application			
We are also seeking volunteers to learn how to give battery tours, and/or run our Sperry searchlight. Our goal is to have a substantial group of members that can assist the Fort Miles staff with tours and other related programs. Volunteers will receive all the training and informative materials needed. So, if you've taken a battery tour and feel it might be something you would like to help with, fill out this bottom form, and mail it to Dr. Gary Wray at the address just above. If you would like further information, please call Dr. Wray at 302-645-0753.			
□ Yes, I would like to become a volunteer!			
Name			
Address			
Phone			

Email \_



Fort Miles Historical Association 120 East Wild Rabbit Run Lewes, DE 19958



A big Bunker Buster salute to the following people/businesses, who have gone above and beyond the call, to support our restoration efforts with their time - talent - treasure and "things". We couldn't do what we do every week without your help. We thank you each and every one and look forward to your continued support.

Dr. Don Hattier (this guy makes Sgt Bilko and Radar look Dr. Don Hattier (this guy makes Sgt Bilk like amateurs) Capt. Pete Hartsock Safeway Stores - Rehoboth Beach Grand Rental Station - Rehoboth Beach Best Ace Hardware - Lewes Oceanview Plumbing & Heating Scott Anderson - Landscaping Duron Paints - Midway Jason Garver Art Rowan
Meineke Muffler - Lewes
WGMD Radio
George & Dotti Wiker
LifeTek Solutions Rogers Graphics
Manlove Auto Parts-Milford
Chief Scott Collins - Selbyville, DE., Police Dept
ALL of the Bunker Buster Crew