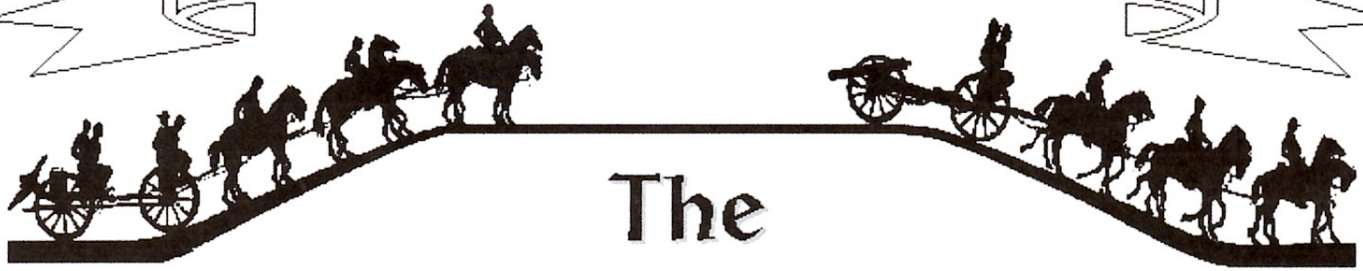


Reynolds' Battery L 1st NYLA



# The CANNONADE

The Official Newsletter of Reynolds' Battery L

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January 2008

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## Gone but not Forgotten



*Born:* February 6, 1956

*Place of Birth:* Malone NY

*Death:* December 14, 2007

*Place of Death:* Mountain  
Ash Drive Farmington NY

*Organizations:* Reynolds  
Battery L 1st NYLA





At 3:30am, Friday, December 14, 2007, David Suhr raised his final white flag. Wendi was at his side, playing the soundtrack to Gettysburg, and protecting him as he

history and every pull of the gun. He may be the first of us to fall, but he will never leave us. So now it is up to us to carry on the love that he has for us and for this

an introduction and then from Da I got a slight-smile, pat on the shoulder, and a shake of the head as he walked away. It is a moment that has happened a hundred times since and it is the moment that will never leave me.



I send hugs and love out to everybody,

**Krista Chapman**

Dave was what many of us younger members of the battery referred to as our Da. Dave was a great man. There was never a moment when you really didn't have some idea of where you stood with him.

I have known Dave for quite a few years and remember seeing him at his first event and his first parade before I had officially joined the battery.

Later he convinced me to finally join the battery and it was the best decision I've made in quite a while. I had the unique honor to be there to try to help Dave and Wendi where I could with their computer and reenacting as Da continued to battle cancer.

Da, I will never forget you or the happiness I could feel when I knew I made you proud. Say hi to the boys, the captain, and have a shot with Mr. O'Leary for me.

**Dan Dixon**

David and I went to school together and we both lived in Farmington Grove. No matter when or where I saw David (walking the dogs, out in the yard, at the Hess, anywhere) he always took the time to speak to me and we would talk and talk. Dave will always be remembered by me as one of

slipped away. He now joins his loved ones and the soldiers that have passed before him. He is in a place where his strength has been returned, his hands are good, and he can stand with the real boys of Gettysburg.

This morning, in our traditional fashion of a battle fought hard, but lost, Taps plays from Canandaigua to the Finger Lakes to Western New York. It is time to bow our heads in love, in life, and in remembrance to this great man.

Our hearts and prayers go out to Wendi, Dave's children, and family. I cannot ask us not to cry. But I do ask that we give Dave a send off in the proper Irish way that he would have wanted. Grab a beer, share a story, and lets all cry and laugh together, remembering that he will be with us for every living

troop.

I should do what I am asking of us all to do. Share.

Personally, Dave has been Da for Jodi, Sara, and I for years. A man that we have counted on and a man that has always been there. We will all walk and live a little differently now without him. But I know I shall continue on in the fashion that he would aspect, because of my love for him (and because of my fear that he will come back to kick my butt )

I remember the first time that I met Da. It was Waterloo weekend, when he first joined the troop. I was eating lunch, consisting of the traditional Chapman food of ketchup with fries, when he came up to me and made his first (of a million ) comments on my eating habits. The conversation ended with



the nice guys. When my mother-in-law told me that David died on Friday, I cried and cried - cancer has taken to much from so many. I would like to express my deepest sympathy to his mother, wife and children. Remember, when you want to see David, just look in your heart.

**Cindy Harris**

There are no words to express my hearts thoughts. It seems like only yesterday that you and my brother Ralph were playing with the big boy cars and running them over the wall at the dirt track. But it wasn't yesterday and the two of you are now together again in Heaven. Thank you for taking over the brother roll in my life for the last 7 years. And most of all for the last 30+ years of wonderful memories. You will always be held dear in my heart.

**Jill Wirth**

May,  
My mother called me 12/16/2007 and read David's death notice to me. I am shocked to hear about his passing. My thoughts and prayers are with you and his family.

**Diane Depotie**

I graduated with Dave in 1974 from Red Jacket High School. I haven't seen him in several years as we now live in Oklahoma but he was a great guy and good friend to all. I'm saddened to lose a classmate so young. God Bless you Dave and your family.

**Kim Englehart Haskins**

Dave was a close family friend, as my mom is Paula and my aunt is Beth Herendeen. I

always thought Dave was a great guy, and passionate about life, and though I haven't seen him for a few years, this came as a shock to me, and he will definitely be missed. My condolences to his wife and to Aaron.

**Jen Edwards**

We were neighbors of Dave's from the time he moved to Mountain Ash Dr. until we moved to Texas in 1989. He was always a good neighbor & friend. We are so sorry to hear of his passing.

**Joe and Karen Augeri**



We are all going to miss Dave. He was a help to us in so many ways. He was a husband, comrade, big brother, teacher, historian, and most of all, a friend, to all who came in contact with him. He did not favor anyone.

I first met Dave at the Valentown living history event. He came in, with eyes wide open. Checking out everything and asking all kinds of questions. Next thing you see is, Dave showing us how well he learned. He took every chance he could to help out the "newbie" as they came in. He was a 'real' Reynolds' Battery Soldier.

He studied and looked up historical records of the original battery. Took his time to find any information he could on the battery. He found, transfers, death records, burial sites, even visiting cemeteries to take picture of some headstones of the original Reynolds' Battery soldiers.

He would stop as often as he could to a cemetery where he knew some of the boys were buried. Walk for hours to locate them, and then turn around, like someone was guiding him, to see the headstone he was looking for.

When in Gettysburg, Dave would stop at the first day's monument. Stop the truck. Get out the battery flag. While walking to the monument, there would be no wind blowing. As he would unfurl the flag, the wind would pick up strong enough the hold the flag outstretched for a picture, then die down as he put the flag back in the truck.

As Dave battled his illness, it got harder for him to be comfortable. Dave was in a lot





of pain. In July 2007, the battery was heading to Gettysburg for the 144<sup>th</sup> anniversary reenactment. As Dave left the house, he was in quite a bit of pain. The closer he got to Gettysburg, the better he felt. The spirits of Reynolds' Battery were helping Dave, as he helped all of us.

In Dave's last moments on earth, Wendi played the soundtrack from the movie, 'Gettysburg'. Wendi said, she thought he was sighting the piece and working the gun (#2 position, I'm sure). Wendi talked to Dave and told him everything would be OK, and he could let go when he was ready to see the boys of Reynolds'.

If any of you who visit Gettysburg, can say you feel the presence of the spirits of the boys who fought there, you can bet, when you visit Gettysburg next, one of those spirits you feel, will be Dave.

**Rick Lake**

Our loving comrade will be sorely missed by all who were in his life. We often don't realize how much someone touches our life until they are gone.

Dave touched so many lives, those who knew him well and those who met him once or twice on the battlefield. May God bless and keep Dave in his care, and bless and help those of us left behind to grieve his loss.

**Nicole Hederson**

One of my favorite memories of Dave was from this last Fort Niagara.

I had just arrived to the Fort and had run into just about everyone but our good Corporal. When I finally did see him, I went over to say hello and the response I got was, "I'm a little busy at the moment. I'll see you in a moment." And sure enough, a few minutes later, Dave came up and shook my hand and told me he had enough time to say hello.

I am truly happy to have met such a fine individual as Dave. He will truly be missed. I just happened to have another soldier fall in my family earlier this year. The weekend of Mumford actually. As it was said by his fellow soldiers at his leaving, "Soldiers never truly leave us. They just go on ahead to make

sure that the way is safe for the rest of us to follow." I just think Dave is making sure that the way is safe for the rest of us to follow him when it is time.

**Jason Abel**

Dave Suhr was our first connect to Reynolds' Battery. When we walked around Mumford in 2005, our first stop was Reynolds' battery and were instantly introduced to Dave, who gave us an unconditional welcome and a well informed history and tour. It wasn't until 2006 that we were able to "try out" the experience at Mumford--as soon as we arrived--Dave was there with clothes for us to put on--directed Kevin to the gun, introduced me to Wendi--and they spent the rest of the afternoon with us--we had the first of the hot-dog lunches together. Kevin, with Dave at his side, put him on the gun--it was over, we were in.

I know that if not for Dave and his knowledge and love for the Civil War Re-enactment, his availability to answer all the "repetitive" questions, Wendi and her unselfish generosity of





clothes, food, whatever she had we were welcome to use, Kevin and I would not have had the fortune to belong to this Battery--and come to have known a really great person who we respected and liked very much.

I would have never found out that my great-great-great Uncles served in this Battery; Henry Stone and William Stone. Dave had all the history in his book and I have been doing research genealogy on them ever since--Thank you Dave!!!!

**Nina B**

I am so sorry to hear about Dave. I know we will all miss him. Just this morning I was cleaning out my old yahoo e-mail folder and I came across the first e-mail I received from Dave welcoming Nina and I to come visit the battery and that he was hoping that we would join up with "a very special and dedicated group of re-enactors." The following weekend we came to Mumford to join in and Dave took us under his wing and

helped us to get ready for the days activities. Nina and I will miss him very much.

**Pvt. K. Bentley**

Dave,

I will miss you immensely and the battlefield will miss one of its most fervent customers. You have served the public, our group, and each individual with a passion that most people never experience in any area of life; and our lives were better for it. Your heart touched us all, whether it was through your sarcastic comments or gestures, or through your devotion to us younger people in the group. You helped us feel at home, especially from someone who personally knew no one coming into the group. I am a better person and reenactor for having known you and I will cherish the times that we spent together.

Greatfully Yours and Forever In Your Debt,

**Patrick McMillan**

Friend, teacher, historian, lantern maker, recruiting officer, artificer, drinking buddy, round maker, tower, artist, smithy apprentice, fellow Zouave...

Thank you David. I know you will remain close to us and keep us all safe on the field. Remember the time at Rose Hill we were chasing each other across the battlefield! I will truly miss you.

**Smithy**

I've been spending the last few hours thinking about the time that Haley and I were lucky enough to spend with Dave. We will always - always - be grateful for his friendship (and his undying patience with my many questions, most of which were repeats from the previous event :-). From the moment we first became involved with the Battery, Dave and Wendi took us under their collective wing and opened their hearts (and Wendi's tent, luckily for Haley) to us and made us feel like we'd always been there. All I can say is, what a joy to have known him - he will be sorely missed. There will never be an event we will attend, a Civil War show we will watch, etc., that we won't think of him. And no matter who is standing across the gun from me, I will always see Dave pointing his two fingers at his eyes, and then at me, letting me know that he's keeping an eye on me. Godspeed, my friend.

**Karen Aavik**



When I think of David, I think of the happiness that he brought to Wendi's life. I remember one of the first times he came out with Reynolds' Battery and Wendi and I were still tenting together. It was Rose Hill, I think. The battery was all line up in front of our fly for a formation. Wendi and I marveled at the good looking group that we had, but her eyes just sparkled a little more when we got to David. If ever there were soul mates, it would be David and Wendi.



Dearest David,  
I would like thank you for joy you brought to my friend's life. You taught her how to love and how to be a better friend. Thank you for the times you just laughed when Wendi and I had our secret conversations with just a look or a few code words. Thank you for the love and kindness you showed me, just because I was her friend. We will take care of her while you are apart.  
I love you,

**Becky**

I would first like to thank my best friend Rick. For years I have marveled at his dedication to the Battery and wondered if I would ever have the opportunity or the time to give it a try. Enter Dave and Wendy.

For the past couple of years, Wendy has been gracious enough to take my daughter Hayley in during a couple events. She was immediately hooked. I was glad she had an awesome time, and a safe place to be. Last year Rick invited my son Cory and I to participate at Gettysburg. Now I was hooked. However, the selling point was when Dave realized my nervousness with being the new kid on the block and assured me that all would be well. I knew he was telling the truth when he commented that Hayley was a wonderful young lady. Just as Dave has been a great comfort to all of you, he was the same to me and mine. He was a gentleman and a teacher to each of us. He will be remembered for sure. Thanks also to all of you for adopting us into your family

and for being so inclusive. Rick said you were all good people and he to has told the truth, however, .... what about this Dixon guy?

Wendy, our prayers of comfort and healing go to you and your family. May you somehow feel Gods comfort in all this. Know that we are with you.

**John Brugger**

I won't ever forget his quirky smile, or the way his mouth twitched when he was thinking about something. Kinda weird, I know, but hey. He was a great friend and a wonderful teacher, and he was never afraid to admit he was wrong, as long as you could prove it. I wish he had been able to go to the 145th Gettysburg.

**Karen Haas**



Although I have many great memories of Corpl. Suhr, I think the best can be summed up as such. Artificer Suhr and Artificer Shivers, and the still. That little scenario highlights everything Dave tried to be.

May the wind always be at you back and the sun upon your face and may the winds of destiny carry aloft to dance with the stars

**Johnny Depp**

**Nelson**



Field Hospital

December 18

My Dearest Sally,

Know that I am well and doing fine. The surgeons and stewards are making sure that my health keeps getting better every day. Doc even comes down from our Camp every now and then to make sure that the surgeons aren't taking to good of care of me.

Mr. Baronich came down to see me a few days ago with some bad news. It seems that one of our good Corporals has passed away. Corporal Dave Suhr left us for Heaven Friday of last week. I guess he had been quite ill and Doc was having a rough time figuring out what he had. I am happy to say though that Dave's wife, Miss Wendi, was with him as he went to see God. Corporal Suhr will truly be missed by all of us. Mr. Suhr was a great help to me when I first joined the Battery. He



supplied me with my camp box as well as proper poles and a ridge support for my tent. He was a skilled carpenter on top of being one of our Artificers' before he was promoted to Corporal. I am happy to say that I knew such a fine man.



I think I can get permission to go up to our camp in a few days and attend the Battery send off for Mr. Suhr. Father John should have a nice sermon prepared. From what I understand, Miss Wendi will take him back home for burial at the family plot tomorrow and we in the Battery will have a small ceremony to say farewell. After the sermon, I think those in the Battery that are Irish will be giving a tradition Irish salute to Mr. Suhr. I am not sure what that will entail but if it involves the

Irish, it will be a send off to remember! I think Mr. Suhr would have wanted that. As my Grandfather always used to say, we should not mourn those who leave us. We should be happy in knowing that our departed are in a better place and with God. I actually met a man for a place called Taiwan. He said it was a small island off the coast of China. According to Chi-Te's customs, it is not appropriate for the members of a deceased family to cry. It is believed that the spirit of the deceased will want to stay and comfort those who are mourning. If the spirit stays, it will not move into the next life and be bound to stay in the Earth Realm for eternity. I know in the Jewish Faith, there is no such thing as Hell. How one lives there life determines how closely one sits to the All Mighty in Heaven. I am sure no matter what we believe, Mr. Suhr is in a much better place and is not suffering from his ailments.

Yours always,

**Private Jason Abel**





Death is only the beginning,  
The beginning of the sadness  
For the one you lost,  
The beginning of the joy,  
Because their suffering has  
ended  
The beginning of the  
memories,  
That will never die,  
And the beginning of a new  
life,  
For the one who has past on,  
And the ones to carry on

**By :**  
**Emily Lake**

**To my Reynolds' family,**

I want to thank you all for everything that you have done for me not only this last week but for the whole year. You all meant so much to David and I know that he looks down on us and smiles. You have all gone above and beyond the call of duty, the

luncheon after the calling hours was great. David's mom had not met most of you before that Saturday but she now understands why he thought so much of you all. Thanks for the donations that you put together for us and

the Secret Santa idea that you came up with. I know that if David had been able to be here he would have loved the idea, no matter how much he grumbled about it. I know all of you have told me to call if I need anything that also goes for you, if you need anything please don't be afraid to call even if it's to talk. I love David very much and miss him a lot



and I know you all will too, but remember he will always be with us.

Love,  
**Wendi**

