

United States Field Artillery Association – Traditions of Saint Barbara's Day

On current calendars, the Feast of Saint Barbara falls on the 4th of December.

The United States Field Artillery Association recognizes the tremendous value of Saint Barbara's legacy, particularly the celebrations and awards associated with her name. Such activities and recognition bring the field artillery's venerable history to mind, but they have another, more significant function. They establish a standard of excellence for aspiring Redlegs and Marines. More than any other event in the life of Field Artillerymen, Saint Barbara's Day offers an opportunity to enhance professional commitment and underscore lofty standards of excellence. That's why celebrations associated with Saint Barbara must be examples of excellence in planning and performance.

Today, more and more units use the military ball or dining-out format to recognize the vital roles spouses and families play in the lives of field artillery Soldiers and Marines. Whatever the format, the objectives of the celebrations must remain the same:

Enhance professionalism.

Create an atmosphere of camaraderie among Field Artillery Soldiers/Marines and their friends, and cohesion within units.

Promote the profession of arms.

Such occasions call for ceremony, tradition and good fellowship. They provide an opportunity for gunners to meet, enjoy rituals, hear speakers of distinction, discuss subjects of military and national importance and honor those in their midst who have achieved standards of excellence.

Saint Barbara Awards

Honorable Order of Saint Barbara

The Honorable Order of Saint Barbara recognizes those individuals who have demonstrated the highest standards of integrity and moral character; displayed an outstanding degree of professional competence; served the United States Army or Marine Corps Field Artillery with selflessness; and contributed to the promotion of the Field Artillery in ways that stand out in the eyes of the recipient's seniors, subordinates and peers alike.

Ancient Order of Saint Barbara

The Ancient Order is reserved for an elite few whose long-term dedication to the Field Artillery has embodied the spirit, dignity and sense of sacrifice and commitment epitomized by Saint Barbara. It recognizes the select few who stand above their brethren of the Honorable Order in terms of conspicuous, lifetime service for or on behalf of the United States Army Field Artillery or Marine Corps Field Artillery. The Ancient Order is the more distinguished of the two levels of the Order of Saint Barbara.