

# Date for 2004 Grand Reunion August 6 and 7, 2004



Volume 13, Number 3

Fall, 2003

## Military School Proposed 55 Miles East of Columbia

A few alumni of Virginia Military Institute propose to re-establish a traditional all-male military academy near Shelbyville, TN, 55 miles east of Columbia.

The organizing group, headed by Mike Guthrie, has signed a contract on the property and is presently working on financing. Mike is a Class of '77 VMI graduate.



**Mike Guthrie**

### Southern Military Institute

The new institute is called the Southern Military Institute and will be a 4-year college modeled after VMI. SMI will also seek to preserve elements of the southern traditions that once were part VMI and of The Citadel, as well as some of those of West Point.

The Shelbyville location is a hilly, wooded property that includes a bluff along the Duck River and a large farmhouse that could be converted into a lodge or classrooms.

### Columbia Heights

The property will be named *Columbia Heights* in honor of the Columbia Military Academy and Castle Heights. So that the school be referred to as the Southern Military Institute at *Columbia Heights*.

Guthrie said the curriculum initially would be geared toward qualifying graduates to become officers in the Army

Reserve and National Guard, although there is no connection between SMI and these services.

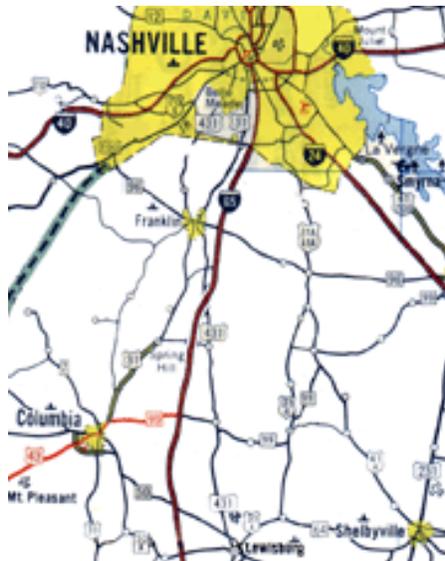
### Target: 1,200 Students

The SMI founders envision the enrollment eventually growing to about 1,200 cadets. Guthrie says it will probably be the fall 2004 before SMI begins admitting cadets and starts its first classes. He expects 30 students to be enrolled initially and more than 100 have expressed interest.

### No Federal Money

Guthrie said the school would not be accepting any federal or state funding, so administrators are confident they can keep the school completely independent.

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## Reunion Headquarters Moved to Richland Inn

The Alumni Board of Directors has made the Richland Inn in Columbia, headquarters for the Centennial Reunion August 6 and 7.

Having only 107 rooms available, attendees are encouraged to make reservations as soon as possible if they want to stay at the Richland. Other rooms, of course, are available in Columbia.

Details concerning the Friday afternoon Cocktail party and the Saturday night Banquet will appear in the next issue of the "Bugle" along with a Registration Form.

An effort will be made to post the an additional Registration Form on the CMA web site at: [www.cmaaa.com](http://www.cmaaa.com)

## Hall of Honor Committee Looks for Nominees

Hall of Honor Committee Chariman, Winston Elston, Class of '74 is accepting nominations for the CMA Hall of Honor.

Submissions should include a brief biography of no more than 500 words with special emphasis on the individuals dedication and service. A picture of the individual should also be submitted. Make sure it is not the original unless you do not want it returned. The name and address of the individual submitting the nomination should also be included.

An alumni may be nominated any number of times.

Winston Elston's address is; 2381 Virginia Pl. NE, Atlanta, GA 30305.

His e-mail address is: [winston5610@hotmail.com](mailto:winston5610@hotmail.com)

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The institute will be unique among colleges and universities, not only in its military and southern traditions, but also in the fact that it will be a small Christian engineering-science college and one of only three all-male colleges remaining within the United States.

Virginia Women's Institute (VWIL) in Virginia is currently the only single-gender 4-year military program remaining in the United States.

### Physically Taxing Program

"The new cadets can expect to participate in forced marches, pugil stick fights, high-level entries into water, obstacle courses, rappelling, rock climbing and runs up to five miles," says SMI's website.

Young men of any race or creed desiring to place their name on the list to be contacted as potential cadets for the first class at SMI, may do so by submitting their name by contacting SMI HQ as directed in the admissions section of the prospective school's website at: [www.south-mil-inst.org](http://www.south-mil-inst.org)

### Character

"Honesty, integrity, courtesy and respect for all men and women regardless of race, position or economic standing will be taught and required," it says.

SMI is currently trying to raise \$500,000 in Tennessee and the mid-South area to open the school and set a goal to raise and additional \$1-million within 18 months." Private money and private foundations are the only source to maintain our freedom of choice and freedom of education and academic freedom," he says.

### Contributions Needed

Tax-exempt contributions can be made by calling the school's toll-free number (1-800-394-1699). Contributors can give a one-time gift, or can direct that a sustaining gift be made monthly. FAX and e-mail may also be used for this purpose and donations can additionally be made through web based PayPal.

### CMAAA Treasurer's Report

As of December 31, 2003

US BANK Balances

Certificate of Deposit: \$31,854.28

Checking Account: \$16,396.62

Please contact me at 931-388-9128 if you would like more detailed information regarding the association's finances.

Becky Moon

## Another '50s Mini Reunion in Green Valley Arizona

by Ed Willis '56

Once again, those former "Bellhops", now residing in Arizona, have held another reunion. On Saturday, Nov. 15th, the "gala event" was hosted at the home of Sandy & Gary Vaughn (CMA '58), in Green Valley, Arizona.

Those enjoying the festivities, included Rhoda & Ed Willis (CMA '56), Kathie & Jim Rusk (CMA '56), and David Mapes (CMA '56). Rhoda & Ed hail from Dewey, Arizona. Kathie & Jim Rusk hail all the way from Plainfield, Indiana. And, David Mapes hails from Tucson, Arizona.

An afternoon of "Southwestern flavors", including "out of this world" margaritas, corn chips, salsa, nuts, and

fresh veggies with dips, along with some hot hors d'oeuvres, was enjoyed by all.

To be sure, there was much reminiscing and socializing going on, along with the many "snap shots" that were being taken by at least three cameras! The event concluded when the entire group enjoyed an early evening dinner together, at a local Italian restaurant, in Green Valley!

Two things are for sure! This "reunion" was a huge success, and, nobody went home hungry! On behalf of those in attendance, we wish to extend a very special "Thank You" to our hosts, Sandy & Gary Vaughn! WELL DONE!!!



50's Mini Reunion... 1 to r, Ed Willis ('56), Rhoda Willis, David Mapes ('56), Sandy Vaughn, Gary Vaughn ('58), Jim Rusk ('56), Kathie Rusk

### "Whhhhaazzuupppp Dudes"

#### Odds and Ends from Here and There

Victor J. Doylida is looking for information on Ben Houston Jr., Class of '32. Ben was an Army infantry Captain with either the 101st or 82nd Airborne and was either captured or wounded June 15, 1944. Mr. Doylida believes Ben is a direct descendent of Texan, Sam Houston. He wants to know if Ben received any awards for gallantry and whether he continued his career in the Army or retired.

John B. Chenault, Class of '52, whose wife, Ann, died suddenly five weeks after attending the last CMA reunion, has remarried and is living in Lexington, KY. His new wife, Eleanor and Ann were great friends for over 40 years. Eleanor is the widow of one of John's pledge brothers at UK. He advises that he and C.A. Wilkins, Class of '52, are looking into the possibility of their class getting together for a mini-reunion in advance of the 2004 CMA Grand Reunion.

Nevin Williams, Class of '52, is looking for one of the old ROTC patches from the 1950's. His e-mail address is:

nevinco34@aol.com

Russell D. Thompson, Class of '55, traveled to Reno, NV and San Francisco, CA, with wife, Lucy, in October for the 35th yearly reunion of Hut 135, Bien Hoa Air Base, Republic of Viet Nam. Russell, a Lt. Col. (USAF Retired), served in Viet Nam with what he terms a "mixed bag" that included professionals, military leaders, pilots, lawyers and a former priest. Attendees included their old base legal office Vietnamese secretary/interpreter who now lives in CA. He reports that only one member of their unit has died.

Henry M. Bennett, Class of '58, and wife, Joyce, visited with B.G. Brown, also Class of '58, in Seabrook, TX in May. The group ate seafood and talked old times at CMA. Brown works for N.A.S.A. but is trying to slow down a bit. Bennett encouraged him to attend the 2004 Grand Reunion.

Bert Self, Class of '72, is trying to get in touch with Coach Jones daughter, Vivian. Bert's e-mail address is: [bbself@austin.rr.com](mailto:bbself@austin.rr.com)

# SILVER TAPS

## Dr. S. Laws Parks, Class of '35

Dr. S. Laws Parks, McKendree Village, Hermitage, TN, died of emphysema Oct. 28. He was 87.

Dr. Parks is survived by daughter, Bobbi Umbach and son-in-law, Ken Umbach; daughter Ellen Bourne and son-in-law John Bourne; grandchildren Trey Riley and



Dr. S. Laws Parks

wife Julie; Julie Burnette and husband Bryan Burnette; Amy Phillips and husband Caleb Phillips; great-grandchildren Brigit and Mia Riley and Noah Phillips. He is also survived by sister-in-law Barbara Bunn. His wife, Esten Perry Parks, died in January.

The CMA Class of '35 graduate retired from Greensboro College, Greensboro, NC, as business manager-treasurer and lecturer in economics and business administration.

He graduated from Athens College and in 1974 received an honorary LLD degree from the same school.

His career included business administration posts in colleges in KY and TN.

He was a member of Corinthian Lodge number 414 in Nashville, a life-long Methodist, he served as a Minister in the Tennessee Conference. At Mount Pisgah UMC in Greensboro, a Sunday school class was named for him. He was in the Couples Class at Belmont United Methodist Church, where he was a member.

He was buried at Woodlawn Cemetery, Nashville.

## Dr. John O. Williams, Class of '45

Dr. John Orlando Williams died at Maury Regional Hospital in Columbia, TN, August 21.

Dr. Williams earned his medical degree from the Univ. of Tennessee and did his post graduate work at St. Thomas Hospital.

He was in family practice in Mt. Pleasant for 30 years and later practiced in Co-

lumbia for 10 years.

John received the Silver Star for gallantry in action as a Marine Second Lieutenant during the Korean War.



Dr. John O. Williams

Survivors include five sons, John Orlando (Kay Kay) Williams, III and David Walton Williams, both of Columbia, Carl Nicks Williams of Charlotte, NC, Lee Clement Williams of Franklin and Thomas Allyn Williams; a sister, Jane Williams Kay of Apalachicola, FL; 16 grandchildren and a number of nieces and nephews.

He was buried in Arlington Cemetery, Mt. Pleasant, TN.

## M.S.U. Scholarship Honors Dick Wiggers, Class of '41

Richard G. "Dick" Wiggers, Class of '41, was honored on his 80th birthday with the establishment of a scholarship in his name at the College of Business and Industry at Mississippi State University.

An initial gift in the amount of \$10,000 by James C. Galloway, Jr. along with a pledge of another \$10,000 from the "friends of Dick Wiggers" made the scholarship possible.

Wiggers, a longtime insurance executive and resident of Columbus, MS gave James his start in insurance.

"Not only has Dick Wiggers enjoyed a

wonderful career in insurance, he gave me the opportunity to join him in the business and to do the same," says Galloway. "Hopefully, this scholarship will aid in 'paying forward' the opportunity to a deserving MSU student pursuing a career in the insurance industry."

The Richard Wiggers Endowed Scholarship is an open fund in the Mississippi State University Foundation and may be increased through additional contributions. The scholarship will be awarded on an annual basis to a student majoring in risk management and insurance.



Pictured, l to r; Dr. Ed Duette, Professor and Chair, Insurance/Finance and Economics, MSU, Richard G. (Dick) Wiggers, Class of '41, and James C. Galloway Galloway-Chandler-McKinney Insurance, Columbus, MS, who established the Richard G. Wiggers Risk Management and Insurance scholarship at Mississippi State University.

## Robert F. Dean Sr., Class of '47

Robert F. Dean Sr., 75, of Blytheville, died at his home last month.

Survivors include his wife Dorris; three daughters, Amy Stone Dean Gardner, Kimmerly Dean-Files and Elaine Carol Dean; a son, Robert Dean Jr.; and three grandchildren, Houston File, Lane Gardner and Caroline Dean.

Funeral services were conducted at the First Baptist Church Sanctuary in Blytheville, with burial following in Elmwood Cemetery.

continued on next page

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# SILVER TAPS

## Avrom M. Hirsh, Class of '50

Avrom Milton "Bunch" Hirsh of Cordova, TN, retired general manager for Wilson Hotel Management Co. and employee of Wal-Mart, died April 1, at Baptist Memorial Hospital-Memphis with burial at Temple Israel Cemetery. He was 70.

He was a member of Temple Israel, a past president of Memphis Hotel Association and an Air Force veteran serving in Japan during the Korean War.

At C.M.A. Bunch played in the Band and roomed downstairs in South Black. All his buddies will miss him, says Cecil Little, Class of '50.

The husband of Dorothy Sandler Hirsh, he leaves a daughter, Halle Hirsh Goodman of Memphis; a son, Douglas H.E. Hirsh of Cordova; a brother, Robert E. Hirsh of Germantown, and four grandchildren.

## Truett R. Bayles, Class of '54

Truett R. Bayles of Florence, AL, died Jan. 12.

Truett received his BA in 1957 from Vanderbilt University where he played baseball.

He was a lieutenant in the U.S. Army, serving in France, Lebanon and Turkey.

He worked for Reynolds Metals Co. for 30 years. An avid hunter and fisherman, he was a member of First United Methodist Church.

Survivors include two sons and five grandchildren.

## Joseph M. Luton Jr., Class of '54

Joe Luton, Class of '54, died May 13 of heart failure following a surgical procedure at a Fairfax County, VA hospital. The

procedure was successful and Joe was laughing and joking with his daughters, Kara and Kelly, according to his wife, Aurelia. Two hours later he went into cardiac arrest and died.

Joe graduated from the University of Oklahoma and instructed pilot training at the University of Illinois. In September or '61 he was hired by United Airlines. He retired from United in July of '96 aft a 35 year career. During his last six years, he flew the 747-400 to Narita, Japan our of New York.

An avid sailor, Joe and Aurelia sailed the Chesapeake Bay as well as the Florida Keys. He was a licensed Coast Guard boat captain. He served as a Commodore of the Spring Cover Yacht Club in 1983.

He enjoyed coaching Little League football and baseball for Fairfax County, VA, being inducted into the Fairfax County Football League Hall of Fame.

He was a member of the Sons of the Confederacy, Maj. Gen. Fitzhugh Lee Camp 1805.

Joe was also a member of the Oklahoma Air National Guard and he served on the National Air Safety Committee who chose pilots who went above and beyond their careers to save someone or to cause someone's survival.

Joe celebrated his 40 wedding anniversary last February and is survived by his wife, Aurelia S. Luton; daughters, Kara Luton Bowman of Woodford, VA and Kelly Luton of Lake Ridge, VA; and a brother, Frank E. Luton of Stone Mountain, GA.



Joseph M. Luton

BUGLE QUARTERLY is published quarterly for a \$3.00 portion of member's annual dues, by the CMA Alumni Association. First Class postage paid in Columbia, TN. POSTMASTER: Please forward address changes to CMA Alumni Association, 804 Atheneum Place, Columbia, TN 38401-3156.

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Inactive associates are encouraged to become active. Active associates are encouraged to share in this publication's success by providing current or past information of interest to the association. Photos, cartoons or other illustrations are always welcome and appreciated.

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