

CMAAA Board Meeting—April 18th



Volume 30, Number 1

Spring, 2020

From the President



Bellhops, Faculty & Friends:

I hope everyone enjoyed the holidays. This winter was rough, and I'm sure made holiday travel bad for a lot of folks. Spring is finally upon us and very welcome. At CMA, this was the time to finally get out of those wool uniforms and get into the comfy cottons. We were looking forward to finishing the school year and the excitement of Commencement Exercises.

I will be repetitive here as our focus is now on our 2020 Grand reunion, which is right around the corner. The 2020 reunion will be held again at the Marriott Cool Springs in Franklin, Tennessee August 6th-9th. For the Banquet Saturday night, I want to express the need for registration to be received by Noon on Friday in our registration room. We must give the Marriott a number for dinner attendees at that time. Please send your registration form, or contact Becky Moon (becsmoon@gmail.com) or me (frsalze66@gmail.com) to confirm your Saturday night Banquet attendance prior to the Friday deadline. We will have the FAB Nashville Beatles Cover Band perform after the Saturday night Banquet again this year. This is an additional expense and I encourage you to donate to help cover the cost of the band. Any donations that exceed the

cost of the band will be added to the funding for the CA Scholarship which our Association gives to a CA Graduate each year. The band will not perform until after dinner, Honor Group recognition, auction and all other activities are concluded. For those who want to get together after the activities and not listen to the band, our registration room across the hall will be available with tables and chairs all evening. If you have not planned on staying for the Banquet Saturday night, please reconsider. This is the highlight of our reunion weekend and helps make our reunion a success. In 2020 we begin celebrating the 50th reunions for the Classes from the 1970s with the Classes of 1970 and 1971 celebrating this year. As our older alumni become unable to attend our reunions, we will depend on the support from our younger alumni to help us move forward. If you are a member of the Classes of 1970 and 1971, please contact your Class Representative, identified on this page of the *Bugle*, and plan on joining us in August. I am also asking all alumni for the Decade of the 70s to make a special effort to join us this year.

Please remember, the CMA Alumni Association is for anyone who attended CMA for any length of time, graduate or non-graduate. We all shared the same experiences and have many of the same stories. Please contact you classmates and friends and encourage them to attend our 2020 Reunion and renew old friendships and share those stories.

Cordially,

Robin

Robin Salze
Class of 1966
CMAAA President

Special Invite to the Alumni that were in the Classes of 1970 and 1971

We have reached the time to have the 50th Reunions for the Classes from the last decade of CMA...the Decade of the 70's. It is hard to believe that we have reached the final decade of CMA Alumni, and that those alums are beginning to celebrate 50 years since their graduation. This year we celebrate the 50th Reunion Anniversary for the Classes of 1970 and 1971 and we encourage all alumni from those classes to make every effort to be part of this reunion. Please contact you class representatives, identified below, and make arrangements to be part of this reunion. This is your year to come back and see your old friends and share the many memories that you share. The campus is waiting on you, take this opportunity to honor your time at CMA.

Class of 1970

Charles Hoover
charles.hoover@corveva.com
100 Lydia Lane
Starkville, MS 39759
Phone: 662-562-2251

50 Year Reunion Contacts For 2020

Walter Keith
wk4@comcast.net
110 Suffolk Crescent
Brentwood, TN 37027
Phone: 615-406-9577

50 Class of 1971

Bill Payne
billpayne3@gmail.com
1017 West 2nd Street, Apt 9
Little Rock, AR 72201-2035
Phone: 501-313-6925

GRAND REUNION CMAAAA



Marriott

Reservation Process

Please make Reservations by 9 July

Via Phone (1-888-236-2427):

1. Ask for Reservations
2. Provide arrival/departure date
3. Reference the CMAAAA to get the special rate of \$139.
4. If they ask for a code to receive the rate, it is CMA.

Via Internet:

1. Click this hyperlink: [Book your group rate for Columbia Military Academy Alumni Association](#)
2. To go to the hyperlink, left click on it. This puts you at the CMA Reunion Room Registration page with the special \$139 per night rate.
3. Enter the check-in and check-out dates as well as the room information and click on Check Availability.
4. Verify the room information and rate on the next page and click Select.
5. Continue making reservations by following instructions on the next page.

If Hyperlink does not work:

1. Go to this address:
www.marriott.com/events/start.mi?id=1567023461734&key=GRP
2. This puts you at the CMA Reunion Room Registration page with the special rate of \$139 per night.
3. Follow instructions as above.

Make this Reunion the one that you will attend. Come spend time with your old classmates and share some memories.

Support Your Association

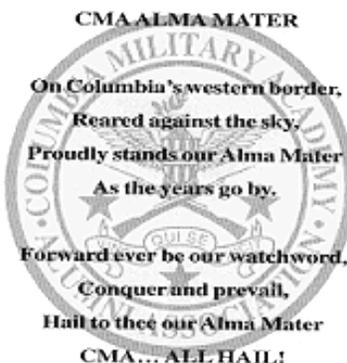
If you want to help your Association with some expenses the opportunity is right before you. We have the Beatles cover band, FAB Nashville, playing at the reunion after the banquet Saturday night. That is an added reunion expense and the Association could stand to have your help in deferring that cost. If you would like to make a donation to help with the expense, please mark the appropriate block on the Registration Form and include the amount in your registration payment. You can also help with our annual expense of providing the CMAAA Scholarship to a CA graduate each year. If you would like to specify a donation to the CMAAA Scholarship Fund you can do that on the Registration Form as well. Please consider helping the Association with these expenses.

Valedictorians and Salutatorians to be Recognized

This reunion's recognition group is those individuals that were the Class Valedictorians and Salutatorians. These cadets set the bar for academic excellence at CMA, demonstrating excellence in a demanding curriculum. Those that earned the honor each year were certainly exceptional in their academic endeavors.

Thanks to the yearbooks for the years 1953-1979 we know the Valedictorians and Salutatorians for those years. We encourage those from earlier years to indicate on your registration form if you were either honoree when a senior at CMA so you can be recognized.

Each Valedictorian and Salutatorian is encouraged to attend the 2020 Grand Reunion and be recognized during the banquet Saturday night.



GRAND REUNION CMAAAA

Schedule of Events

Thursday, August 6

- 1:00 PM: Early sign-in and registration in Marriott CMA Registration Room until 7:00 PM
Optional: Individual class activities and free-style group gatherings

Friday, August 7

- 9:00 AM: Registration in CMA Registration Room until 5:30 PM
8:00: Golf Tournament—Details in Summer 2020 Bugle
10:00: Sporting Clays Shooting Event, Nashville Gun Club, 1100 County Hospital Road, Nashville, TN
3:00: Board Meeting, Marriott Meeting Room
5:30 PM: Welcome Reception, CMA Registration Room
Optional: Individual class activities and free-style group gatherings

Saturday, August 8

- 9:00 AM: CMA Museum open until 2:00 PM except during CMAAA General Membership meeting
10:00 AM: CMAAA General Membership Meeting in CA Chapel
- Columbia Academy welcome and update
- Election of Board Officers
- Hall of Honor Inductions
11:00 AM: Flag Ceremony for Departed Cadets in Classes of '70 and '71
12:00 PM: CMA Reception and Tour at James K. Polk Home and Gardens
1:00: Individual class activities and free-style group gatherings
3:00 PM: Registration in CMA Registration Room until 6:00 PM
5:00 PM: Class Group Photos in CMA Registration Room
6:00 PM: Reunion Banquet / Recognition Ceremony / Dance at Marriott Ball Room

Sunday, August 9

- Optional: Individual class activities and free-style group gatherings, breakfast, worship, and departure as desired

Sporting Clays Shooting Event Set Up For Reunion



A now regular activity at the CMA Reunions is once again going to happen in 2020. Dudley Dolinger ('73) has again coordinated with the Nashville Gun Club to set up a Sporting Clays shooting event on Friday during the reunion for any CMA alumni and friends interested in participating. The event will start at 10:00 AM and will provide participants the opportunity to go to the gun club and go through the stations shooting at 50 sporting clays. The cost for the event is based on what equipment you bring. If you provide your own gun, ammunition, ear protection and eye protection (all required to have), the cost will be \$40 plus tax. If you need to purchase/rent any of the mentioned items, the price will increase accordingly and could make the total cost be \$75 if you needed the gun club to provide everything. All interested in registering for the shoot are asked to submit the registration form along with a \$25 deposit. Since total costs are dependent on individual needs, you should be prepared to make further payment at the gun club. If you would like to participate, please complete the registration form on page 7 and submit it to Dudley Dolinger at the address provided on the form by July 1st. Feel free to contact Dudley Dolinger at 615-476-1820 or at ddolinger@comcast.net if you have any questions. This event has proven to be a great time for all that participate. Join the group and shoot some clays!



CMA Reception at Polk Home and Gardens During Reunion

We have a new event scheduled for this year's reunion and it is a great addition to our schedule of activities. Joe Fuller, Class of 1961, is sponsoring a CMA Reception and Tour at the James K. Polk Home in Columbia on Saturday after the General Membership Meeting in Columbia. Joe has worked with the Polk Home and the Chamber of Commerce to make this event happen and is sponsoring the event so there is no charge to the Association or to the reunion attendees that participate. There will be light hors' devours and a reception in the gardens followed by a tour of the home and grounds. Please be sure and indicate on the registration form on Page 4 if you plan to attend the reception. Joe needs to get a good count so he can make arrangements for the food and drink for the reception and let the Polk Home management know how many to expect. What a great venture...from Polk Hall to the Polk Home. Come celebrate the country's 11th President.

Reminder to Pay your Dues to the Alumni Association

Since the Alumni Association does not send out notices telling its members to pay their dues at a specific time, the best thing to do to keep up with dues payments is to make your payment every two years in conjunction with the CMAAA Reunion. Many individuals do that and pay their dues as part of the registration for the reunion. Even if you are not going to attend the reunion, you can use the registration form to pay your dues. With annual dues being \$25, if you set yourself up to pay in conjunction with the reunion you can pay \$50 every two years and always know when you need to pay your dues. The Reunion Registration form, page 4 of this publication, provides the opportunity to pay your dues even if you are not attending the reunion. Simply fill out the top portion of the registration form and check the box that says "I Am Unable to Attend but have enclosed my \$50.00 for the next 2 Years Dues (\$25.00 per Year)". Send in the form, along with a check for \$50 made out to CMAAA and your dues are good until the next reunion year in 2022. Dues are very important to keep the association going.

Golf Scramble For 2020 Reunion



As in years past, the Association is looking at setting up a golf outing on Friday morning of the reunion weekend. The format and location are being discussed based on the anticipated participation level. Since we have had a difficult time getting enough participants to justify a golf course closing the facility for our group to play a shotgun start scramble type tournament, other formats are being considered, as well as an appropriate location. More information and registration information will be available in the Summer *Bugle*. If you are interested in playing, please contact Randy Howell at Demingsboy1954@att.net or Bill Wade at englandclarkwade@bellsouth.net and let them know so they can begin to get an idea on the participation level.



MOVING?

STAY IN TOUCH...

Please forward your new address to:
CMA Alumni Association
804 Athenaeum Place
Columbia, TN 38401-3156

NAME: _____

GRADUATING CLASS: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____

STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

PHONE: (____) _____

E-MAIL: _____



Reunion Registration Form August 6th - 9th, 2020



Please Respond by July 15th, 2020

(Please Type or Print Clearly)

NAME (Last, First, Middle) _____ Class of _____
HOME STREET ADDRESS _____
CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____
HOME PHONE (____) _____ BUSINESS / CELL PHONE (____) _____
E-MAIL ADDRESS (Please Print Clearly) _____

- Count On Me to Attend the 2020 CMAAA Grand Reunion.
- I Am Unable to Attend but have enclosed my \$50.00 for the next 2 Years Dues (\$25.00 per Year)

Names of Others Accompanying me to the Reunion _____

I Plan on Arriving at the Marriott, Franklin at Approximately _____ AM PM, on _____ (Date)

2020 CMAAA Grand Reunion Activity Check List

Please check those activities and functions of interest to your party. In so doing, indicate the number of participants and approximate fee per activity. Please mail this completed form with a check (payable to CMA Alumni Association) for the total amount in an envelope to arrive no later than July 15th, 2020. If you have any questions, please contact Becky Moon at 804 Athenaeum Place, Columbia, TN 38401-3156 or (931) 388-9128 or e-mail her at: becsmoon@gmail.com

2020 Reunion Honorees Valedictorians and Salutatorians

Please Indicate if you were a Valedictorian or Salutatorian (Circle Above)
Activities (Please Check All That Apply)

- Grand Reunion Registration Fee (Required).....(\$25.00 per Adult) _____ x \$25.00 = \$ _____
The registration fee is required regardless of how many or few activities registrants attend. It covers the Association's costs of (1) Promoting / orchestrating the Reunion plus goods and services, (2) Entertainment, and (3) Bugle Newsletter expenses.
- Golf Tourney, 8:00 AM, Friday—Golf Registration Form will be provided in Spring 2020 Edition of the *Bugle*
- Sporting Clays, 10:00 AM Friday—Complete Registration Form on page 7 and submit to Dudley Dolinger with Payment
- Welcome Reception at Marriott, 5:30—7:30 PM, Friday.....(No Additional Charge)
- Band Donation—Help cover cost of Band; Donations in excess of cost will go to CAAA Scholarship Fund.....\$ _____
- CMAAA Scholarship Fund Donation—Funding for Annual CMAAA Scholarship for CA Graduate.....\$ _____
- CMAAA General Membership Meeting, 10:00 AM, Saturday on Campus in Columbia.....(No Additional Charge)
- CMA Reception and Tour at Polk Home and Gardens, 12:00 PM, Saturday.....(No Additional Charge)
- Reunion Banquet/Dance, 6:00 PM, Saturday.....(\$50.00/Person) _____ x \$50.00 = \$ _____
- Biennial Alumni Association Dues.....(\$25.00 per Year x 2 Years = \$50.00 per Alumni) _____ x \$50.00 = \$ _____

Mail Registration Form and Check made out to CMAAA to: Becky Moon, 804 Athenaeum Place, Columbia, TN 38401



Grand Reunion 2 Man Scramble Golf Tournament

Crossing Golf Course, 750 Riverview Drive
Franklin, Tennessee 37064
Friday, August 7th, 2018
Sign In: 7:30; Tee Times Start: 8:00
Open to all Alumni, Family, and Guests



Please Type or Print Clearly

NAME _____ HANDICAP _____
 FROM WHAT _____
 TEES _____

HOME STREET ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ ZIP _____

HOME PHONE (____) _____ PHONE (____) _____

E-MAIL ADDRESS (Please Print Clearly) _____

Requested Teammate: _____

**To Be Updated and Provided in the
Summer 2020 Edition of the Bugle**

**Registration Fee—\$55.00
Green Fee, Cart, Lunch and Prizes**

Notice to Golfers

Please respond with this completed form and your check payable to Bill Wade as soon as possible so he can make plans with the golf course. If you have any questions, call Bill at 615-838-9730 or e-mail him at: englandclarkwade@bellsouth.net
NOTE: Proper Golf Attire is Required.

**Make Check Payable to: Bill Wade
Mail Registration Form and Check to: Bill Wade, P.O. Box 1804, Brentwood, TN 37024**



Grand Reunion Sporting Clays Shooting Event

Nashville Gun Club
1100 County Hospital Road
Nashville, Tennessee 37218
Friday, August 7th, 2020
Registration/Sign In: 10:00



NAME _____ Class of _____

HOME STREET ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

HOME PHONE (____) _____ BUSINESS / CELL PHONE (____) _____

E-MAIL ADDRESS (Please Print Clearly) _____

**Pre-Registration Fee—\$25.00
Total Cost Dependent of Supplies Required**

Notice to Participants

Please respond with this completed form and your check payable to Dudley Dolinger **no later than 1 July** so he can make plans with the gun club. If you have any questions, call Dudley at 615-476-1820 or e-mail him at: ddolinger@comcast.net

**Make Check Payable to: Dudley Dolinger
Mail Registration Form and Check to: Dudley Dolinger, 59 Vaughn's Gap Road, Nashville, TN 37205**

Reunion Memories



2012—2018

Come Make Some This Year

The Ramblers

Editor's Note: The following two write-ups are what make having the Bugle so important to the CMA Alumni Association. Not because of the subject of the articles (though it is great), but because it shows that we all have the opportunity to recall some great memories by reading the Bugle. These two write-ups by Len Taliaferro and Joe Sullivan (thanks for the pictures) were in response to the article by Russell Thompson in the Winter Edition of the Bugle. It is great to see that alumni are enjoying the Bugle and using it to revive, and share, old memories. Thanks Russell, Len and Joe for sharing with the rest of us.

Regarding Russell Thompson's article in the Winter edition of the *Bugle* about the country and western band that Vic Burnham et al put together. I did some digging starting with my sophomore year which is covered in the 1954 RECALL. I thought I remembered some annual pictures of that band but the only thing I could find was one photo in the 1954 annual of Jimmy Baker and Eddie Harrison plinking on guitars with the cutline saying "Ramblers." I don't know if Russell is thinking of someone else when he mentioned the name of Eddie Johnson or if he mixed up the name of Eddie Harrison. I definitely remember that Eddie Harrison, Jimmy Baker and Danny Pugh were part of the group. Pugh was an incredible saxophone player from Memphis, but he got into strings for the group. I think they



may have been called the CMA Ramblers. According to my annuals and my recollection, Russell Thompson was in the Class of '56 and his late brother Grant was my classmate in the Class of '56...dubbed by Vic Burnham as "the Class the Stars Fell On"...due in part to the musical talents of this group. I'm pretty sure the group did not get going until at least the fall of 1953 or maybe even as late as the spring of 1954. I think Grant and Russell roomed together

for maybe a couple of years before Russell moved out. Don't recall if he left North Johnson but Grant stayed in the northeast upstairs corner until we graduated...I think. I somehow seem to recall that Grant and Marvin Vernon roomed together in that room then Marvin moved on to room with my brother but I don't remember where in North Johnson they wound up. I was in the northwest downstairs corner room all four years at CMA.

Len Taliaferro, '56

They called themselves the "CMA Ramblers", and their photo is in the inside front and back cover of the 1954 RECALL (on the CMAAA website if you don't have your copy). I remember them well. They used to give shows in the Main auditorium. Dick Logan was a PG with my class of 1955. Very talented guitar and fiddle player. I remember seeing Dick Logan at one of our reunions years ago at the Saturn Union Hall. Way back in the 60's, I recall seeing Vic Burnham on national TV one night playing with a folk group on the show called "HOOTENANNY." Always wondered if he continued life as a professional musician.

Joe Sullivan, '55



Joe Sullivan's best shot at identifying the Ramblers from their individual photos...all in the 1954 RECALL

Left to Right
Sitting... Dick Logan (Sr.),
Vic Burnham (Soph.),
Standing... Rod Creagh (Sr.),
John Mitchell (Soph.),
Jim Baker (Sr.),
Ed Harrison (Sr.)

**CMAAA Board Meeting will
be at 10:00 AM on Saturday
April 18th in the Mess Hall.
All Alumni are invited to attend.
Board members... please
make plans now.**

The D.R. (Delinquency Report)

I attended CMA from 1950-52. I lived in North Black, first floor. We were a close bunch, mostly seniors. We had a lot of "bull sessions" and most were held in the room of McCarthy & Wilkins, Room 10 which faced the front walk near Captain Prickett's quarters. However, it was a large drop off at this point. One day during a bull session, I was sitting on the windowsill with the large drop-off underneath. I was safe as I was aware of the precarious position and took precautions. All of a sudden, Tom McCarthy pushed me as if to cause me to fall. I did not fall. But I cursed. Unfortunately, Coach Prickett was just passing by and he heard me. Demerits were in order and spring break was a week away. Coach Prickett, being a nice guy, recommended leniency. So, I received 20 demerits instead of the normal 50. Now how am I going to work these demerits of prior to Spring break? This is a special Spring break, as I am going to Mississippi (assuming I work my demerits off). Well, obviously the faculty did not want to be at the school during break so they did everything possible so I could work off my demerits. I recall picking up paper and rubbish from the campus. I marched several hours and my cadet company commander, Johnny Chenault, was the Officer of the Day and directed the marching of we delinquents. He decided some training was in order. So he gave us all of our marching commands on the wrong foot, and told us just to take another step and execute the order. We practiced that for a couple of hours and that training later came in handy for me.

At any rate, I did work off all the 20 demerits (there may have been some cheating by the Commandant's Office) and I was on the bus to Mississippi! I should note that I had had no demerits during either of my years at CMA except for this event. For some reason, I was lauded at graduation for completing the year with no demerits (although I had received 20)!

Nevin Williams, '54



Then and Now

Gene Van Meter, Class of '59

Gene's older brother, Jim Van Meter, started at CMA in 1955. He attended 4 years and graduated Class of '59 with honors as a platoon commander in band company. Gene started as a freshman in the fall of 1959 as a very young 13 year-old. The friends Jim had made, who were now seniors, took Gene under their wing, especially Roger Adams, and kept him from getting too many demerits (he got enough on his own). He spent four years at South Black with a different roommate every year, one even left at Christmas break. After taking a retest in trig on graduation weekend he graduated with the class of '63 as a First Sargent. Having enough of formal education and with the draft looming he joined the Navy in the fall of 63. After four years at CMA he breezed through boot camp and "A" school. He was assigned to the USS Princeton, a WW2 aircraft carrier with a wooden flight deck that had been converted to carry 24 helicopters and a battalion of Marines. The Princeton earned 5 battle stars during the Vietnam war and Gene was on board for the first two of those. Discharged the day he turned 21 he got a job with the phone company as a lineman, but he always wanted to fly airplanes so he went to work at Bowman field in Louisville as a line boy servicing airplanes and taking flight lessons when he could afford them. It took almost two years, but he got his private license and at that point he could apply to the G.I. bill and it would pay for 90% of the rest of his flight training. So off he went to Ft Worth to complete his training once again servicing airplanes to pay for room and board. After about a year he had all the basic ratings, commercial, instrument and flight instructor. His first flying job was in Henderson, Ky where he flew charter, did flight instruction, swept floors, pumped gas and met his future wife, Becky. In 1971 he moved back to Bowman Field and got married. In July of 73 he was hired to be the co-pilot on a new Beechcraft King Air, owned by a company called Extencicare. They were getting out of the nursing home business and into owning hospitals. They soon changed their name to Humana and he would stay with them for the next 40 years. In



1978 he got the highest rating available, Airline Transport Pilot and his first jet type rating. In the 1980's Humana was big into heart transplants. The call would come in, usually late at night after a car wreck, the aircraft would be loaded up with the transplant team plus an igloo cooler for the heart and off they would go. These were time critical flights, usually about two hours maximum, so priority was given to the plane over all air traffic. Then back to Louisville and the doctors would go to work. By 1990 Humana had sold all the hospitals and had gone strictly to health insurance. In 1990 they entered in a partnership with Baylor University to provide medical supplies, along with doctors and nurses to the people of Romania after the fall of Ceausescu. In the ten years the program went on, he got to visit every airport in Romania a lot of times as the first U. S. registered aircraft to ever land there. In 2013 the company decided to enact an age 65 retirement policy for the pilots and CEO. Gene was 67 at the time, so this provided a graceful way to exit from a job that was hard to walk away from. He had amassed over 18,000 flight hours, had flown the Berlin corridor, two ex-presidents, Regan and Carter, two former first ladies, Barbara Bush and Rosalyn Carter and the former leader of the Soviet Union, Mikhail Gorbachev. He has thoroughly enjoyed his retirement. Next year he and Becky will celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary. Their son, two grandchildren, and two great grandchildren all live close by, and grandson Matt now flies for Humana. It does not take much imagination to see how Gene would have ended up without the education he received in the classrooms, barracks and bullring of CMA and for that he will always be eternally grateful.



Becky Moon, Class of '75

Becky was 11 years old in the spring of 1969. Her parents informed her that Columbia Military Academy was going to enroll girls in the fall semester and they thought it was a "good" opportunity for her. Even at 11 years old she didn't remember her life without CMA. Stories about the school and visits from former cadets were common. Her grandfather, Aubrey Wright, had been

an instructor at CMA for 22 years (1918-40); her uncle, William Wright was a 1938 graduate; and her father, Major Reuben Algood, was the Professor of Military Science and Tactics (PMST) from 1952-54. The fact that Major Algood was posted to CMA is the "reason" Becky's here ... he met her mom, Alice Wright, while living in Columbia. Becky knew attending school there was going to be different than going to the Sunday afternoon parade or seeing the cadets march into town or hearing "Bell Hop" yelled across the theater. But she didn't know that her most treasured and lifelong friends and relationships would have their genesis on that campus. Girls were day students and their experiences unique in the military prep school environment. She graduated in the spring of 1975 well prepared for college and life's challenges. Her parents had a wicked or ironic sense of humor because for 6 years they sent her to a basically all male institution and then proceeded to enroll her in an all-female college - Mississippi University for Women. It was not an easy transition for Becky but with the help of her best friend from CMA, Cathy Cooper (CMA '75) and the CMA graduates that were close by at Mississippi State, she survived. After graduating MUW with a political science and economics degree she moved to Washington DC and worked on Capital Hill. She kept her roots close to home and worked for US Senator John Stennis of Mississippi and a couple of US House members from Mississippi and Tennessee. She met some remarkable people ... from US Presidents to obscure foreign country representatives. Several times she was a guest of CMA graduates that had settled in and around the DC area. Her most memorable CMA friend from DC was William R. Anderson, Class of 1938. "Bill" was a US Naval Academy graduate, Commander of the USS Nautilus and former TN Congressman. Becky's grandfather had been one of his instructors at CMA and for both of them that was enough of a connection. After living in DC for 5 years Becky was ready



- Continued on Page 9 -

to return south and raise her family. She took a decade or so “off” to be a classroom mom, boy scout and girl scout mom, and a most enthusiastic soccer mom. She returned to the “outside of the home” workforce in 1994 and is currently working for her 6th different member of congress. She serves as Field Director for Tennessee’s Fourth District Congressman. While she understands there are those that do not have fond memoirs of CMA for valid reasons of their own but as she said earlier there has never been a time when she did not have CMA in her life. She drives by the campus most every day and has a flash of memory. She says that sometimes it is a sadness for those we’ve lost but the memory is always with a gratefulness and a respect that she had the opportunity and privilege to be a part of the Corps of Cadets and the Long Gray Line.

CMA Memories September 1954—May 1959

Do some of you old boys remember the Cuban Cadets returning from vacation with Cuban cigarettes? They were much too strong for American taste. The Cuban slang term for them was “Little Deaths”. We referred to them as “Coffin Nails”.

Ma Cannon’s Pies...The Best!

Blocker’s barber shop, housed in the basement under the Office. A warm place and a warm welcome from Mr. Blocker the Barber.

The Library was a good place to spend cold Saturday mornings between Barracks Inspection and 2nd Mess. A warm and comfortable place to read.

It was difficult to be a chronic bully as a boarding Cadet. There were too many opportunities for a victim to retaliate with shaving cream in the bully’s shoes or a spoonful of sugar in the bully’s bunk bed. They usually left after a semester or two.

One night during study break as we walked up the concrete steps to the Peep Inn door, a Cadet called “Speedy” Gonzales a “sp...”. That was about the worst name you could call a South American Cadet. I heard a sound behind me, and as I turned around I saw the unfortunate bully wanna be flat on his back on those steps. Speedy was standing over him and said “If you call me that again I will

hurt you.” Speedy was a weight lifter and wrestler with the build of a concrete block. I hope he made it through the Cuban Revolution and is living somewhere in Florida. He was a good boy.

Winter afternoons were a good opportunity to visit the cooks’ break room off the kitchen and try to beat Popeye or Old Buck at checkers. Occasionally I would even win a game. Those guys were good.

Cadets going to town for afternoon leave would usually visit the Polk Theater for a movie. It was just over a mile from the front gate to the box office and could be walked in about 15 minutes. If it was raining or you were running late and had the extra money, there was always a Linnville Taxi parked at the front gate. They would transport us to town for 25 cents per Cadet when the cab was full. By “full” I mean 7 or 8 boys. The price was right, but the trip would result in scuffed shoes and a wrinkled uniform.

The three or four formal dances a year were great. Held in the gym, it was an opportunity to meet and dance with pretty girls whether or not you had a date yourself.

Weekly grades posted outside the Mess Hall.

Delinquency notices posted nightly outside the Commandant’s Office.

I never understood why the official term for Bullring was “Penalty Tours”. We didn’t tour anything unless you mean marching around the Quadrangle for an hour.

Mess Hall tables seated a Faculty Officer at one end and two Cadet Officers or Non-Coms at the other. Between them were five Cadets on each side. The food was good. We had fried chicken for lunch every Sunday. My first two years I was seated right in the middle and by the time the platter got to me the only chicken left was a wing. I ate them and now they are my favorite piece.

My mind is failing and my memory is slipping away, but I still remember clearly all the Spanish cuss words we learned from the South American Cadets those many years ago.

So many memories. What fine boys and faculty. What a wonderful school!

Ernest Henegar ‘59

SILVER TAPS

Joseph M. Henry, Class of 45

Joseph Marion “Pat” Henry, Jr. passed away on November 19, 2019. Pat was born on August 13, 1928, to Joseph M. Henry, Sr. and Eugenia Cherry Henry. He is a descendant of the Henry family who owned and operated Melrose Plantation where he went to live with his grandmother Cammie Henry, at the age of 12. It was home until he married and moved to Natchitoches. He attended CMA, graduating with the Class of 1945. After graduation, he attended LSU and earned a BS degree and an LLB from the LSU School of Law in 1951. While at LSU he was a member of Kappa Alpha Fraternity. Upon completion of law school, he served two years in the U.S. Air Force and graduated from the Office of Special Investigations School in Washington, DC and then served as a First Lieutenant at the American Embassy in London, U.K. He returned to Natchitoches in 1953 where he was active in real estate, finance, banking, and the stock market. He also served briefly as an Assistant District Attorney. He soon learned that finance and business were his passions and founded May Company and Friendly Finance which later became Henry Companies. He was elected to the Board of Directors of Exchange Bank in 1970 and remained active with management serving as Senior Chairman until April 2016. Mr. Henry was preceded in death by his parents. He is survived by his loving wife of 62 years, Juanita Barberousse Henry; children Taine Henry Carrozza (Bob) of Dallas, Texas and J. M. “Joe” Henry, III (Chrissey) of Natchitoches; and four grandchildren.



Pat Henry

Sam B. Crockett, Jr. Class of ‘62

Sam Baker Crockett Jr., of Nashville, passed this life on Monday, January 6th, 2020 at Richland Place in Nashville at the age of 75. Mr. Crockett was born in Nashville to the late Sam B. Crockett Sr. and Margaret Stephens Crockett. He attended CMA for four years graduating with the Class of 1962. During his life he worked in security with Metropolitan Nashville Airport Authority and was a



Sam Crockett

SILVER TAPS

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member of Woodmont Baptist Church as well as the Al Menah Shriners. Mr. Crockett is survived by a host of cousins and extended family members.

Phil Clinton, Class of '72

James Philip "Phil" Clinton died unexpectedly at the Jackson Madison County General Hospital on January 4, 2020 at the age of 65. A proud Tennessean, Phil was born on September 26, 1954, in Brownsville, to John Clinton and Ruby Funderburk Clinton. He attended CMA for 3 years graduating with the Class of 1972. After CMA he graduated from Memphis State University in 1977 and the Tennessee School of Banking at Vanderbilt University in 1985. After graduating college, Phil was President of BALC, an automobile and equipment leasing company and Vice-President of Brighton Bank in Brighton, TN. He then served as Vice-Chairman and CAO of INSOUTH Bank for 22 years and Sr. Vice-President of Independent Southern Bancshares, Inc for 37 years until the time of his passing. Phil was an active trustee, elder, treasurer, and Sunday school teacher of the First Presbyterian Church in Brownsville, TN. He was an avid fisherman, hunter, and classic car aficionado. Phil is survived by his loving wife of 28 years, Elise Higginbotham Clinton, of Brownsville, TN and by his three sons: Bradley Andrew "Drew" Davis (Emma), John Philip "Jay" Clinton and William Pickard "Will" Clinton. He is also survived by his brother, J.D. (Mary Susan) Clinton



Phil Clinton

of Naples, Florida, as well as his sisters, Sue Clinton Stokely and Gloria Clinton of Brownsville, and Joy Clinton (George) Rasco of Sarasota, FL. He is also survived by a host of nieces and nephews, his mother-in-law Emily Higginbotham, and his beloved dog Sparky.

Christy Herrmann, Class of '78

Christy Haynes Herrmann, 59, a resident of Ringgold, Georgia, died peacefully at home January 9, 2020. Born in Abingdon, Virginia, Christy lived there with foster parents until age two and a half. Adopted by new parents, she moved to Rural Retreat, Virginia, until 1963, when the family made a permanent move to Columbia, Tennessee. She attended CMA for 3 years, graduating with the Class of 1978. She then attended Middle Tennessee State University before joining the U.S. Navy. Following honorable discharge, she started a career in the hospitality industry lasting 35 years. For the last 20 years, she was employed at the Hampton Airport Inn, which provided much satisfaction through meeting people and caring for them. She loved the compliments she would receive. Christy was a member of Mount Pisgah Baptist Church. She loved her friends, neighbors, and her dogs. She was preceded in death by her father, Gary Herrmann. Survivors include her mother, Phyllis Herrmann, and brother, Bret Herrmann, Columbia, Tennessee; and foster siblings, Linda Trusty and John Davis of Lakeland, Florida, and Charles Davis of Virginia.



Christy Herrmann

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