

No Spring CMAAA Board Meeting



Volume 34, Number 1

Spring 2024

From the President



Greetings to all Bellhops!

Lots of Spring weather here in Tennessee. Our next Alumni get together at Reelfoot Lake is coming up in April (courtesy of Dudley Dolinger '73) and I'll be there (fishing) and hope to see many of you.

One of our recent efforts has been to sort out some of our historical artifacts. A few years ago, the Orman photographic studio in Columbia closed, and our Association obtained the negatives of all the pictures they had on file taken during the lifetime of CMA. Orman studios took most of our individual class pictures and we now possess them. We have stored those negatives and now will begin the process of sorting and scanning these. Once finished, our hope is to include them as part of a website hosted by Columbia Academy for those students who wish to research our history in years to come. By digitizing them we will not have to worry about decay and aging in storage of those negatives. If any of you old Bellhops want to assist us in sorting through these thousands of negatives, let me know and soon we will set up a committee to do this work. The negatives are now safely stored in Ragsdale Hall, and we have room to spread out and work.

Since we had no real issues to attend to this Spring, we will postpone our

Board meeting until the Fall in recognition of the distances some of us have to travel.

Finally, once again, let me thank Dr. Thomas and the staff of Columbia Academy for their support for this Association. The best way I think to thank them and preserve our heritage is a contribution to our Legacy Endowment. Contact me for any details there but our beautiful museum and our stately buildings will need your support in the years to come.

Until Our Next Formation,

Tom

Tom Carr
Class of 1975
CMAAA President
tkcarr@bellsouth.net

33 Years of Bugle Publications

This edition of the *Bugle* begins the 34th year for our quarterly newsletter. A lot has happened for our Association over that timeframe and the *Bugle* has been there to bring you the news of the Association, happenings of our alumni, reflections of our time at CMA, and notices on the losses in our ranks. COL Jim Bledsoe, '50, was the Association President and Jack Muth, '67, was the *Bugle* Editor. You can take a look at the first page of that inaugural *Bugle* on page two of this edition of the *Bugle*. While some of the Columns have changed, the *Bugle* continues to try to inform the alumni and respond to their demands. The *Bugle* is intended to serve the entire CMAAA and your participation and cooperation are appreciated.



CMA Endowment

CMA Alumni and Friends are encouraged to make donations to the CMA Endowment managed by Columbia Academy and to consider including the endowment in their estate planning. This endowment will be used exclusively to provide funds to preserve and protect the legacy of Columbia Military Academy. The goal is to (1) ensure the maintenance and up-keep of the CMA Museum for perpetuity, (2) preserve and protect the original buildings of the Columbia Arsenal and other buildings that were part of Columbia Military Academy, and (3) maintain the memorials and markers across campus that are dedicated to CMA and its alumni. To make a donation to the endowment, please send a check made out to Columbia Academy and annotated as a donation for the CMA Endowment to Columbia Academy, 1101 West Seventh Street, Columbia, Tennessee 38401. All donations are tax deductible and will result in the donor receiving a receipt from Columbia Academy that can be used when filing tax returns. This is a great way to contribute to maintaining the CMA Legacy for years to come.

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BUGLE NEWSLETTER

Volume 1, Number 1

—REVEILLE—

Summer, 1991

Esprit de Corps

Our institution may no longer be a fact, but its legacy remains intact!

NOW HEAR THIS— The introduction of this, Columbia Military Academy Alumni Association's **BUGLE** Newsletter, marks the beginning of a new era in our association. It represents the dedication our Advisory Council believes is justified by the overwhelming response to our October, 1990 survey.

Results of that survey indicate a strong interest in maintaining communications with fellow alumni at regular intervals, regularly scheduled reunions and locating fellow classmates. This newsletter intends to inform and respond to your demands.

Most respondents placed greatest emphasis on establishing a CMAA Museum, appointing an Advisory Council and honoring our Distinguished Graduates, respectively.

Col. James H. (Jim) Bledsoe, CMAAA President, appointed the Advisory Council in April with an equitable representation from all class eras. The council held its first meeting on the 27th of that month in Academy (Grace) Hall on the CA campus.

Jim presented the council a report on the CMAAA Membership Status, Survey Results and Financial Status. Most of the meeting was devoted to discussion of establishing the CMA Museum. For more information about the museum read the **MUSEUM REPORT** inside, scheduled to be a regular column in this newsletter.

Also a regularly scheduled feature is **RUFFLES & FLOURISHES** to recognize those Distinguished Graduates in our numbers. The number of those who have honored our legacy from beyond the gates of CMA is staggering to say the least.

You can always depend on a message of interest in the **COL. "JIM"** column.

Your Participation is Essential!

Much of the success of the **BUGLE** will depend on participation from all alumni sharing their views, submitting stories and photos of interest to the association, and playing an active roll in locating fellow alumni.

Find out who is being sought in the **A.W.O.L.** column. Checking your local directory, calling to confirm and reporting positive identifications to us, is part of the co-operative effort needed to make this a successful venture. Submit name, class and last known location of those you are interested in locating to this column. We will list as many as possible.

Discover who has been recently located in the **ROLL CALL** column. This will serve as evidence of the success of our efforts.

Submit your opinions on topics of interest to the association to the **SOUND OFF** column. Rebuttals may also be vented in this column.

Share your CMA historic information, fond memories, retrospective meanings or humorous campus tales in the **REVIEW** column.

Notices of class reunions, regional alumni gatherings and appeals may be submitted to the **ATTENTION** column.

The **SALUTE** column will be reserved for special thanks to alumni, faculty and others for their outstanding services or contributions to or on behalf of CMAAA.

Address all obituaries of alumni, faculty or their spouses to the **SILVER TAPS** column.

Make the **FRONT PAGE** by sending us photos and reports of recent reunions and other hot topics concerning our alumni.

All suggestions for improving the function of this publication are welcome. We believe that function to be:

- 1) A means of communication among all CMA alumni and faculty, to strengthen and maintain our unity and our heritage,
- 2) A means of reporting the association's activities and programs' progress,
- 3) A means through which CMA alumni can recommend projects to the association that improve our status.

The **BUGLE** is intended to serve the entire CMAAA. Your participation and co-operation will be appreciated.

— Jack Muth, Editor

Next Grand Reunion — Aug. 6-9, 1992

See Page 3

CMA Alumni Week at Saint George Island, Florida



This year's CMA Alumni invasion of Florida will occur on St. George Island the week of 7-14 September. Tex Tucker ('71) and Jim Law ('72) are once again organizing the trip and are asking for any and all CMA Alumni from any year join in the fun. The gathering will be at the Saint George Inn on Saint George Island, Florida and will also include a rental house or two, depending on the number of attendees.

The number of attendees will influence the cost but the cost is expected to be \$650-\$750 per person to cover the hotel and the house rentals. Since arrangements with the hotel and rental houses must be finalized by June 8th, all interested in attending should send a text to Jim Law at 865-388-1060 as soon as possible and let him know your name, CMA class, and number of people in your party. All reservations with Jim are due by June 1st with payment due by June 15th. The check should be made out to Jim Law and mailed to him at 1117 Oak Park Avenue, Maryville, TN, 37803-5734.

For those that want to arrive before the September 7th or remain after September the 14th, please let Jim know so he can make those arrangements. The costs for rooms for the additional days will be charged at the full price and will be added to the individual's total amount owed to Jim on June 8th.

These annual trips to Florida have provided a great opportunity for CMA Alumni to get together, relax and spend time getting to know each other better for a number of years. This is the second trip to Saint George Island and the expectation is that it will be a great time, as was evidenced by last year's invasion of the same location.

Tex and Jim ask that you make plans now to attend and be sure and get you information and money to Jim as soon as possible, no later than June 8th so they can finalize the arrangements. This is a great time for CMA Alumni each year and all are encouraged to join in the fun.

A Great Find for the CMA Alumni Association



As you may remember, a few years ago we did a search for an old CMA Flag but were not successful. As a result, we had a new one made, based on pictures of old flags. Someone recently found and donated the two flags that are pictured here. I am not sure who found them, but they were placed in the CMA Museum and we now have them. You can tell from the pictures that they are in bad shape and are too fragile for cleaning. We are trying to determine the best way to preserve and store/display these great flags. More to follow...



The emblem on the flag says "ROTC".

You Can Help Keep the Bugle Interesting and Fresh

This edition of the *Bugle* begins the 34th year of publication of our quarterly newsletter. During that time the *Bugle* has gone through numerous changes and you can help the *Bugle* maintain its value by providing your stories, pictures, news updates, Then and Now write-ups, and information on CMA Family losses so it can be shared with the association members through the *Bugle*. Please provide anything that you think would be good for inclusion in the *Bugle* to the below address and help keep the *Bugle* moving forward. Let's keep it fresh and interesting for everyone.

Woody Pettigrew
101 Sansberry Lane
Madison, AL 35756

Do You Remember?

50 Years Ago
Spring 1974



After a record 84 days in orbit, the crew of Skylab 4 returns to Earth on February 8th.

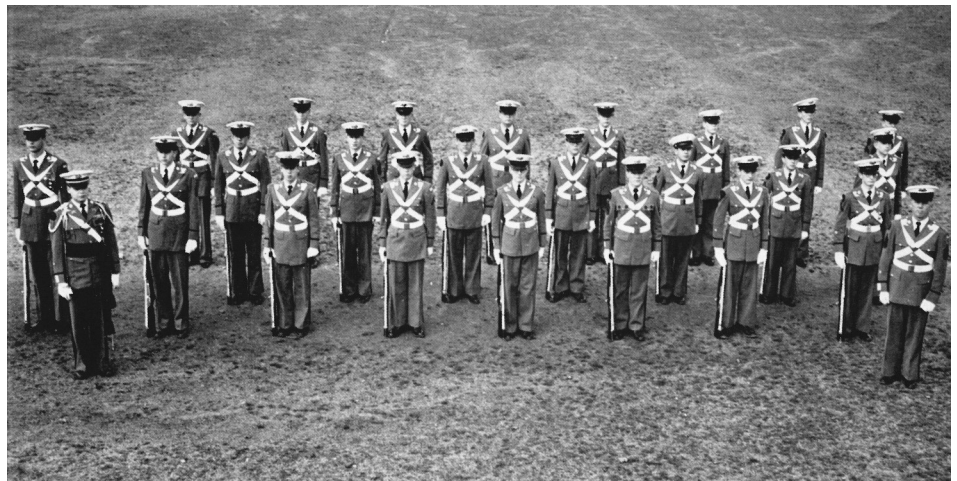
The five month oil embargo by most OPEC nations against the United States, Europe and Japan, which caused the 1973 oil crisis, ended on March 18th.

An enormous tornado outbreak strikes the central parts of the United States, killing around 319 and injuring about 5,484 on 3-4 April.

Carrie, the debut novel by Stephen King, was published on April 5th.

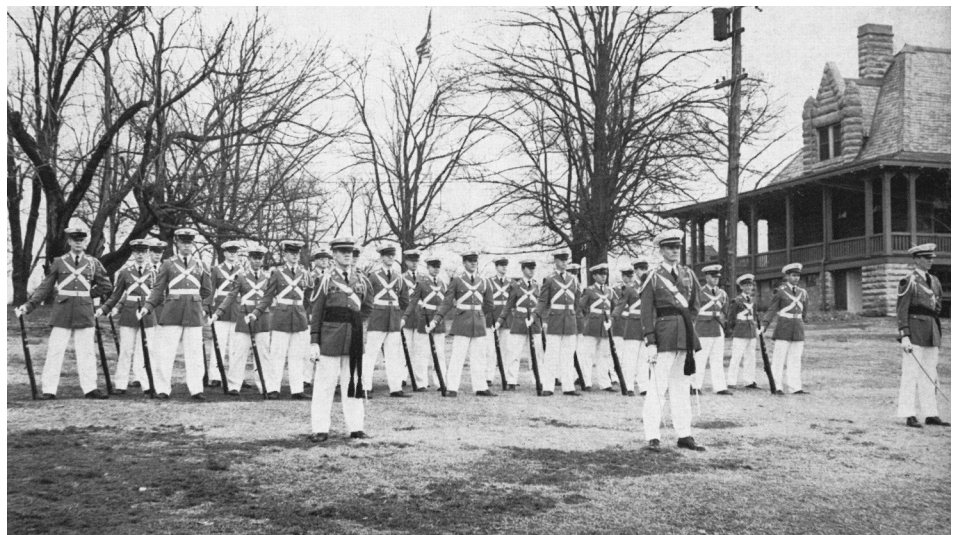
At CMA, Cadet Major Chuck Cobb was named Mr. CMA, the highest honor that could be received at CMA. Chuck was the Battalion Executive Officer, President of Hi-Y, voted Most Likely to Succeed by the Senior Class and was the Class Salutatorian.

Drill Team Champions—1955 and 1956



Above: The 1955 Gold Star Drill Platoon.

Below: The 1956 Gold Star Drill Platoon

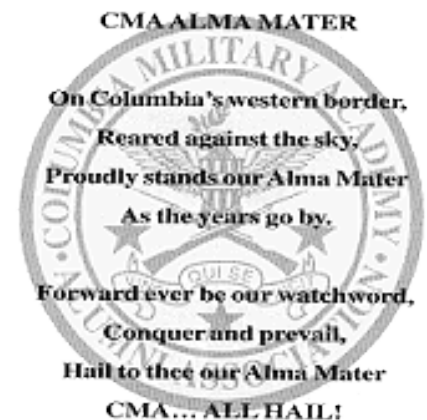


The Winter 2023 edition of the *Bugle* highlighted the CMA Football and Basketball teams that were Mid South Champions. Continuing the winning tradition during that time period, the CMA Gold Star Drill Team won back-to-back Mid-Soth Drill Team Championships against College and Military School Drill Teams from all over the Mid-South in both 1955 and 1956. Congratulations to those Cadets that made this happen.

Make Plans to visit the CMA Museum



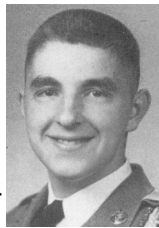
If you have not visited the CMA Museum, make plans to do so. Memories!



SILVER TAPS

Clyde C. Wilhoite, Class of '53

Clyde Courtney Wilhoite, 88, passed away Sunday, Feb. 11, 2024, at the Flo and Phil Jones Hospice House. He was born June 22, 1935, in Columbia, Tenn., to the late Clyde and Josephine Anderson Wilhoite. Clyde attended CMA for six years, graduating with the Class of 1953. His further education was at Vander-



Clyde Wilhoite

bilt University, Denver University, Delta State University and Memphis State University (now University of Memphis). He served eight years in the United States Air Force with additional education including the Air University, Basic Instructor Training and the Extension Course Institute. He had been a member of the First United Methodist Church in Jonesboro since 1977, serving there as chairman of the education committee, member of the administrative board, member of the finance committee and as a greeter at the chapel service. He worked in personnel, human resources and hospital administration for 43 years. His hobbies included photography and umpiring baseball and softball for 36 years. He umpired baseball from youth, college and semi-pro. He had a membership in the National Association of Umpires and Babe Ruth League and also served as an assistant state commissioner for the Babe Ruth League. His umpiring began in Denver, Colo., in 1958. He umpired in the American Legion District tournaments and Babe Ruth League district, state and regional tournaments. Clyde is an inductee into the Jonesboro Baseball Boosters Wall of Honor. His memberships included the Kiwanis Club of Jonesboro where he served as president and division lieutenant governor; the Society for Human Resource Management, achieving certification as a professional in human resources; and the Arkansas Healthcare Human Resources Association where he served as president. He had been a member of St. Bernard's Auxiliary since 1999, serving as the Auxiliary's first male president and for three years as treasurer. He served for a number of years on the CMA Alumni Association Board of Directors. He was preceded in death by his wife, Alice Maddux Wilhoite, a brother, Marion Wilhoite, and a sister-in-law, Brooks Fiscus. He is survived by

his children, Martha Wilhoite and Van Wilhoite; sister, Susan Wilhoite Hunter; brother, Andy Wilhoite (Debbie); sister-in-law, Dorothy Wilhoite; two grandchildren; and several nieces and nephews.

Lawrence W. Zimmer Jr., Class of '53

Larry Zimmer, 88, known as the "Voice of the Buffaloes" for 42 seasons with the University of Colorado football and basketball programs, passed away peacefully on January 20, 2024, surrounded by his family. Born Nov. 13, 1935 in New Orleans, Louisiana, Larry attended CMA for two years,

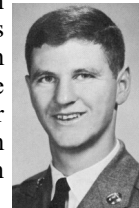


graduating with the **Larry Zimmer** Class of 1953. He then attended Louisiana State University before transferring to the University of Missouri, where he graduated with a bachelor's degree in journalism in 1957. He then served two years on active duty in the United States Army, earning the rank of 1st Lieutenant and was awarded the Army Commendation Medal. In the summer of 1966, he relocated to Michigan and began broadcasting for the Wolverine football, basketball and hockey teams. In 1971, he was hired by KOA sports to do the play-by-play for CU football and the color commentary for the Denver Broncos. He would spend the next 19 seasons doing the analysis for Bronco games, and then took over for the next seven as play-by-play man. One of the major highlights of his broadcasting career took place in 1980, as he joined the CBS crew that broadcast the 1980 Olympic Games in Lake Placid. He became best known as the "Voice of the Buffaloes," calling every game between 1971 and 1981. In 1982, CU strayed away from KOA but the Buffs returned to KOA in 1985 and Zimmer was back "home" after spending three years handling the play-by-play chores for Colorado State. After retiring as KOA's sports director in 2004, he shifted into the analyst role on football broadcasts. Larry was involved in either play-by-play or commentary duties for 50 college football seasons, 42 for CU, and 26 seasons with the Denver Broncos among his many other assignments throughout a seven-decade broadcasting career dating back to his

college days at the University of Missouri. He started out as an analyst on Bronco games in 1971 and took over the play-by-play duties for Super Bowl XXIV in 1990 through the '96 season, working a total of 122 preseason, 394 regular season and 20 postseason games for a total of 536 games combined, including four Super Bowls. In 1992, he was awarded the Honorary C" for his contribution to Colorado Athletics, and in 2005, he was the recipient of the Forever Buff Award from the Alumni C Club. He was inducted into the Broadcast Pioneers of Colorado Hall of Fame in 2009, the Colorado Sports Hall of Fame in 2010, the CU Athletic Hall of Fame in 2012 and the Colorado Snowsports Museum Hall of Fame in 2013. He was also a five-time winner of both the White Stag Award for Excellence in Ski Journalism and the Colorado Sportscaster of the Year Award; he was the Colorado Broadcaster of the Year in 1996. In 2009, he was the recipient of the 14th annual prestigious Chris Schenkel Award, named in honor the long-time play-by-play man for ABC Sports; it recognizes a sports broadcaster who enjoyed a long and distinguished career broadcasting college football at a single institution. To date, only 28 announcers have been presented with the award. Larry is survived by his wife of 51 years, the former Brigitte Bastian; son Lawrence III (Linda); daughter Tracey Robb (J.C.); and a granddaughter, Shannon Robb.

Onnie Rex Coker, Class of '66

Onnie Rex Coker, 75, became totally healed and had a sweet reunion in Heaven with his family on February 5, 2024. He was born on August 10, 1948, in Amory, Mississippi to the late Woodie LaOnnie Coker and Margaret Patterson Coker. Rex grew up in Monroe County and attended CMA for two



Rex Coker

years, graduating with the Class of 1966. He went on to further his education at Ole Miss where he obtained a Bachelor of Science in Public Administration. He served twenty-one and a half years in the Mississippi Army National Guard and he was a patriot through and through. Rex was a hard worker, in addition to serving in the

- Continued on Page 6 -

SILVER TAPS

- Continued from Page 5 -

Guard, he worked at the Sunflower Food Store in Amory, at area Walmart stores for ten years, as well as a maintenance worker for several nursing homes. He also served as a City Clerk and Alderman Ward 3 for the city of Amory. He married the love of his life, Gloria Myatt Coker on August 11, 1974, and together they were blessed with two children and their spouses as well as five grandchildren, whom he adored. Rex was supportive of the grandkids and loved them dearly. Despite the loss of his children over the past ten years, his faith in God had only strengthened. He was a kind man, fun loving and real people person. His faith in Jesus was evident to all that knew him, as he loved helping people and serving others. A longtime member of Meadowood Baptist Church, he loved his Sunday school class members and his church family. Rex liked to listen to Church Hymns and just fellowship with his fellow Christians as well as the friends he worked with over the years. He was involved with the Kiwanis of Amory as well as the Municipal Clerk's Association. Rex was passionate about giving to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital as well as The American Cancer Society. In his downtime, he liked to cook, go Scuba Diving whenever possible and attending anything supporting Ole Miss. His favorite thing to say was "Hotty Toddy!" Above all, he was proud to serve his community and raise his family. There is no doubt that this sweet man has been welcomed into Heaven by so many that went before him. He is survived by his wife and best friend, Gloria Myatt Coker; son-in-law, Mike Entrekin; daughter-in-law, Kelly Coker Dabbs (John); sister, Margaret Hendrik

(Joe); stepsister, Judy Larkin Coleman; sister-in-law, Virginia Sparks; brother-in-law, Greely Myatt (Sonin); five grandchildren; and several nieces and nephews. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his son, Chris Coker; daughter, Dr. Emily Entrekin; stepfather, Paul T. Larkin; brother, Edward Coker (Rose); sister, Mary Pierce (Thomas); step-sisters, Mary Ann Scott and Carol Jane Reed; step-brothers, Paul Larkin, John Larkin and Jim Larkin.

Daniel J. Mueller, Class of '72

Daniel Jerome Mueller passed away on 6 January 2024. Dan was born on July 27, 1954, to the late Dr. Alfred Mueller and the late Margaret (Coleman) Mueller in Okinawa, Japan while his father was serving in the military. Dan grew up in Jackson, Tennessee and attended CMA for three years, graduating with the Class of 1972.

He made the move to Fulton, Missouri in the late 1970's. He was employed by the Fulton State Hospital as a security aide, where he retired after 20 years. In his spare time, Daniel loved to listen to rock and roll music and eating out any chance he could. He enjoyed taking trips to the gun range with his son-in-law and spending time with family, but the thing that brought the most joy to his life was spending time with his granddaughter Brenli. Dan will be lovingly remembered by his daughter, Amanda Williams (Stan); sisters, Meg Huffines (Bill), and Molly Elliott (Sam); brothers, Billy Mueller and Charles Mueller (Kathy); grandchild Brenliana, and numerous nieces and nephews.



Dan Mueller

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