



Volume 32, Number 2

Summer 2022

From the President



Greetings to all Bellhops!

I hope all of you are having a great summer and, COVID permitting, getting out and about.

At our last CMAAA Board meeting we approved the 2023 Grand Reunion to take place August 3-6 at the Cool Springs Marriott as it has the past several years. As we look to the future, we plan to continue to have Grand Reunions through the year 2029, which is the fifty-year anniversary of our last class. After that we will assess future reunions. We will continue to look for opportunities to meet in Columbia. With the current growth boom in Nashville, we believe it is only a matter of time until there will be sufficient facilities to meet there.

The second item we approved was the adoption of the Legacy Endowment. All of you will soon receive a formal letter from us detailing just what we are hoping to accomplish regarding this fund which will keep our museum open, fund our Columbia Academy Scholarships and help with maintenance of historic property in perpetuity.

Recently my wife and I returned from Europe where I was stationed twice while serving in the US Army. We visited Berlin for the first time in over 27 years and walked around the old Check

Point Charlie and stayed in what was formerly East Berlin. I thought about all the CMA grads who also served in Germany and were part of the effort that defeated communism and freed Eastern Europe from the tyranny of the former Soviet Union. Our school produced some great military and business folks for 75 years. That is the tremendous legacy that we hope to preserve.

I would ask that you carefully consider contributing the Legacy Endowment and perhaps include it in your estate planning. Personally, I have already done so.

Until Our Next Formation,

Tom

Tom Carr
Class of 1975
CMAAA President

Class Points of Contact for 2023 Reunion

We need Class Points of Contact for the Classes of 1972 and 1973 for the 2023 Reunion. Please contact Tom Carr if you can head up your class attendance.

50 Year Reunion Contacts For 2023

Class of 1972

50

Class of 1973

CMAAA Board of Directors Meeting Minutes 7 May 2022

Attendees

Tom Carr-President (75), Mike Glover-Vice President (74), Sandra Hasler-Secretary (74), Becky Moon-Treasurer (75), Skip Snow (55), Ron Nall (61), Charles Field (63), Mike Gilchrist (63), Gene Van Meter (63), Robin Salze (66), Bill Wade (68), Bobby Bain (72), Dudley Dolinger (73), Woody Pettigrew (73), Tricia Murphey-Brown (74), Winston Elston (74), Marshall Briggs (75), Bob Orr (76), Steve Watts (76), William Hickman (79), Buddy Fisher-Friend of the Board

Meeting Minutes

The CMAAA Board meeting was called to order at 10:00 AM on Saturday, May 7, 2022. The meeting began with a moment of silence in remembrance of Board members and fellow cadets who are deceased. The Invocation was given by Mike Gilchrist and Tom Carr led the Pledge of Allegiance. The Treasurer's report was reviewed by the Board and the balance in checking as of May 1, 2022 is \$36,409.29. Expenses from January 1, 2021 thru May 1, 2022 totaled \$20,836.84. Income January 1, 2021 thru May 1, 2022 (reunion reservations, dues, souvenir sales) was \$26,823.00. Estimated expenses from May 1, 2022 thru December 31 (3 more *Bugle* publications in 2022, CMA scholarship, Board Luncheon (2 mtgs @ \$200.00, Miscellaneous) totals \$3,100.00. Estimated income May 1, 2022 thru December 31, 2022

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Old Business

(dues and donations) totals \$250.00. Tom stated that our Association now has acquired 501(C)(3) sales tax exemption for purchases made within the state of Tennessee. We did not have this in place prior to this year, but now we do, so our Association will not be required to pay sales tax on items purchased. This will save us about \$2,000 at our next Reunion.

Woody Pettigrew then gave the Museum financial report. He stated that we have \$17,680.27 available as cash on hand. The budgeted income (which includes payback from the General Fund for the Memorial update) is \$7,900.00. The total budget is \$25,580.27. Budgeted expenses include rent (Oct. 2022-Oct. 2028), insurance (Oct. 2022-Oct. 2028) and Miscellaneous; totaling \$18,480.00. The amount available when expenses are deducted totals \$7,100.27. At this time, Woody said he sees no unforeseen circumstances that would require major repairs at this time. He also mentioned that this plan calls for maintaining the Museum expenses until October 2029.

Courtney Hulsey, CA's Director of Development, gave the CA report because Dr. Thomas was unable to attend the meeting. She welcomed everyone and said that the school is doing very well. There are 69 students planning to graduate at the end of the month (May 21). Congratulations to CA's 2022 Mr. and Miss Columbia Academy; Harrison Diles and Caroline Graham! Harrison has plans to attend the Air Force Academy. There is another student, Meg Duvall, who is a sophomore and in the Air Force Academy. She said that enrollment for both campuses next year is looking encouraging; there is actually waiting lists for most grade levels due to increased interest in attending CA. They presently are doing construction on Vest Hall (Lower School) to add five more classrooms. Also, they are adding additional fourth grade classes due to increased enrollment. CA is also exceeding in sports; softball is going for their third straight championship. Connor Hixson is going to UT Knoxville to run track. The fence has been repaired and painted. She stated that CA is very appreciative for the help given by our Association to see this project through completion.

A motion was made to approve the Minutes from the October 16, 2021 meeting. Steve Watts made the motion, Ron Nall seconded the motion and the minutes were approved by the Board.

CMA Day will be announced when a date has been decided. In the past, our alumni have been invited to participate in CMA Day activities, including a football game in the evening. Dr. Thomas explained to Tom that their football schedule for the upcoming year is very different; most of their games will be away, leaving us only two available dates; one possibly conflicting with the Grayton Beach trip and the other falling on Labor Day weekend. There was discussion of changing the date to the weekend of our spring Board meeting and possibly taking in a baseball game instead. Tom will discuss options with Dr. Thomas and send out possible dates for this event.

Mike Gilchrist was asked about any updates concerning photos. He said he is still working with David White and discussing ways to make digitalized photos easier to access for CMA graduates, possibly on our website. Tom shared his concerns about the website and that there may need to be changes made to it so that it would be more secure and less likely to be hacked.

Tom explained to the Board that the 2023 Grand Reunion will be held at the Marriott again. There was a meeting with the manager and it was decided that the contract deal that was offered was quite good, considering that our numbers are continuing to dwindle. The cost of the banquet will remain the same. Mike Gilchrist emphasized that the Marriott has tried to be very accommodating. Our hope is to eventually move the reunion back to Columbia; but at this time Mike doesn't know of a venue large enough to allow for our planned activities. Tom made a motion to approve the Marriott Contract for the 2023 Grand Reunion, there was a second, and the Contract was approved. Our 2023 Grand Reunion will be Aug. 4 - 6.

New Business

Tom used the SWOT Analysis to discuss the importance of our CMAAA Legacy Endowment and to help identify our organization's Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats. The first point being Strengths; the biggest strengths we have as an organization include our members, our relationship with CA, the monuments that have been built, the Museum, the contribution of scholarships to deserving students; these are all outstanding legacies that we, as an association, have established. The second point is Weaknesses and, our

weaknesses as an organization are our resources. We don't have adequate resources in place to maintain the perpetuity (for the next 30+ years) of things we have built that are making such a difference and leaving a great legacy to the students of CA. The next point is Opportunities. We still have a pretty good alumni association, number wise. Tom stated that we have an opportunity to put together a structure into which we can put funds to help maintain the historical things we want to leave behind, including the scholarships. The last point is Threats; the most obvious threat our association has is time. We are a "closed system". There's only so many of us and over time we won't be here. Tom said he feels that most of us would want to leave something behind (a piece of us) for future generations, for those who will be taking care of this nation. Tom asked the Board if this is something we would wish to pursue; setting this endowment up and asking for the donations. Bill Wade inquired how this would be different from the current endowment we now have in place. Tom explained that this endowment would cover more things; we would still use the current endowment, but alter some of the terms. The original endowment, which was established Oct. 2013, with a total of \$10,000, was just to cover upkeep of the buildings. The change to the terms would include the historical preservation of other things, like the fence, Museum, and the scholarship. CA would not be able to use the funds for anything other than what is seen as historical preservation. Becky Algood made a point that presently the scholarship is funded by the CMAAA general fund. As long as we are financially able to continue providing funds for the scholarship, it will come from the general fund. Eventually, our association will be non-existent, and when this happens, the funds will be drawn from the endowment.

Tom continued the discussion stating that there are two parts to what he is proposing: the modification of the existing endowment to include the other items, and the letter for the campaign. Tom is asking for help constructing a letter to send out and he's looking for volunteers to form a committee for this sole purpose. He is wanting to state in this letter that this will be the last time the association will be asking for money, other than for the Reunions. Three people volunteered to help with this: Mike Gilchrist, Steve Watts, and Robin Salze.

Future reunions: After looking locally for a venue, the 2023 Reunion will be at the Marriott in Franklin; but the hope for the 2025 Reunion is to host it in Columbia, based on what is built in Columbia in the future, and the numbers of those attending. Tom is thinking that by the 2025 Reunion, it may consist of a dinner and be a one day event instead of three.

An alumnus has graciously offered to up the scholarship with personal family funds from \$1,500.00 to \$5,000.00, with the understanding that it continues as long as he's willing to give it. Tom put forth the motion to up the amount of the CMA scholarship for this year to \$5,000.00. The motion was moved by Winston Elston and it was seconded and approved by the Board.

Bill Wade volunteered to give the scholarship award to the chosen student on May 21st.

Robin Salze made a request for as many of the 70's folks to register for the Reunion and support the Association. Please support our organization by paying the registration fee and attending the meeting Saturday morning and the banquet Saturday night. Bill Wade stated that there may or may not be a golf tournament at the next reunion. It all depends on the turnout. It's so important to have the support of all of our alumni!

Closing

Having no further business to discuss, Tom Carr gave the closing prayer and the meeting was adjourned at 11:40 AM.



Sunrise



CMAAA Scholarship Presentation



Bill Wade, CMA Class of 1968, presented the 2022 CMAAA Scholarship to Eden Elizabeth Carnahan at the Columbia Academy Graduation Ceremony on May 21st. Eden is the daughter of John and Carol Carnahan and hails from a long line of CMA alumni. Her family members having attended CMA include: Harry Williams, Dr. John O Williams, John Williams, Nicky Williams, Lee Williams, Jerry Ray Parks, Joe H Parks, Robert Seay Parks, William Benjamin Thomas, William Locke Thomas, and William Alexander Thomas.

The CMAAA Scholarship recipient is selected by the Columbia Academy Scholarship Committee. Criteria for the award includes but is not limited to: 1) the recipient having a CMA connection (in this case -11 ancestors), 2) being scholastically college capable - Eden is a Suma Cum Laude Graduate of CA, 3) being interested in a service oriented career- Eden will be attending Lipscomb University in Nashville, Tennessee to enter the School of Nursing, 4) the recipient should represent a CMA and CA student through leadership, service, responsibility, truth, discipline, loyalty, honesty, duty, patriotism, and integrity. Eden has shown her eligibility for this award throughout her attendance at Columbia Academy. Her activities included: Best Buddies Club, CA Student Ambassador, CA Varsity Cheerleader, Pep Club, HOSA Club, and Interact Club. She was the recipient of the 2021 Bull Dog Cheer Award, and she is the reigning CA Homecoming Queen. Eden is active in her church youth and mission programs, and is a National Honor Society and ACT 30 Plus Club member.

Open Letter to Fellow CMA Alumni

I will spare you the opening line of *David Copperfield*.

This newsletter is filled with old men's peans to how Columbia Military Academy molded them into their destiny as civic, military, and business leaders. It gave them lifelong friends, discipline and direction, a wonderful education, and an ethos around which to build their life.

I do not doubt those things are true. I concede that they are largely true for me. But my story is a bit different.

In small river towns in the early 1960's, people left the keys in their car, their doors, even their firearms, unsecured. Who would fault an enterprising youngster who could exploit this for his entertainment? Sadly, some did find fault and I found myself remanded to the Junior School at Columbia Military Academy. It was 1966. I was 12.

For five years, I remained refractory to whatever the whole 'discipline' business was about. In the beginning, I was not so much defiant as that I just didn't get it. The Commandant's Office and Ragsdale Hall were like Kafka's Castle. Each year my awkward perplexity hardened further into resentment. I was not sure what was wanted, but I clearly didn't have it. I didn't care for the chosen. And, the chosen didn't care for me.



The academics were wasted on me as well. I know now that I was neurologically inaccessible any subject requiring sequential learning—math, languages, most science. By the second week every year, I was hopelessly lost and never recovered. My inability to grasp and retain anything only confirmed that I was, at the very least, foolish and ungrateful for the opportunities laid before me. I was a disappointment. Several frustrated faculty had no qualms using stern, frequently public words to tell me these things. Without the filter of adulthood, cadet leaders told me worse. Let's not even start about how bullying runs down the food chain. Five years is a long time in adolescence.

Despite their best intentions, CMA divines, good men like Colonels Gracy, Hart, Edson, Thomas, *et al.*, could never engage me. But there were some who could and did.

I liked words and sounds and rhythms. Walker McGinnis taught me that I could write words down on paper. Mel Black taught me that I could make those words come out of my mouth. John Rose diverted my attention with Anglican clergy poets—Swift, Donne, Herbert, plus T.S. Eliot—who would collectively come to guide my life more than anyone could have imagined. These instructors gave me the first and only “A” grades of my young academic career. Very few followed until graduate school. Everything else was Cs and Ds.

Ben Deutschman dug ancient, uncased Stromberg-Carlson sound components out of his closets. They were sparking, shocking, smoking beasts with vacuum tubes, exposed wiring, and huge transformers. These became my first quality stereo. The only “old Jewish guy” I had ever met, he filled me with exotic stories of Cleveland, Philadelphia, and New York City; circus bands, artists, and recording studios. Did you know that on the very day of my birth, a reluctant Frank Sinatra first sat down in a studio with Nelson Riddle and restarted his career? To tag along with this man to the Nashville symphony offices or to ASCAP was a trip to another world. Even now, when I sit for a performance of the Buffalo Philharmonic, he is right behind me. My son is named Benjamin.

The lovably cantankerous ‘Momma (Pearl) Murrell,’ LPN, had a daughter who returned to college mid-life for her doctorate in Special Education. I became the daughter’s thesis project. Teacher, therapist, fierce advocate, parent. Jesus saved my soul, but Vivian Coffey (Tomlin) saved my life.

There was the retired, regular Army Colonel battling late-stage cancer, who painfully tutored me in step-by-step algebra when the regular faculty refused to waste any more of their time. A West Pointer, the Army may have passed on William Booth, but he didn’t pass on me.

It was an old insider, who in a drunk confession, called my father late one hot summer night in 1970 to explain the real reasons I had been passed over for military promotion going into my senior year. It had little to do with me. This was the way the world really worked. Lesson learned, again.

In fact, it wasn’t the CMA Pantheon, but the detoured, misfit, closeted, failed, drunk, broken, and has-beens who taught me the most about character, courage, dignity, and honor. These were the real heroes. It was a theme which would present itself often in my life.

Yeah, there were a few friends. All you need is three or four. Through my junior and senior years, we would sit on the floor of a corner room in North Johnson. Smoking, possibly drinking, maybe worse. We could watch the commandant and elderly night watchman patrolling the campus. We were discards who raised each other the best we knew how.

Teenage experiments in alcohol and pharmacology were aided by similar cells at Castle Heights and Harpeth Hall. Black-market trading flourished. A Tennessee Driver’s License at the time was little more than a small form printed on grey green card stock. A little skill with an IBM Selectric, a razorblade, and a Xerox machine could produce credible fake IDs encased in plastic. (I copied a lot of band music on the machine in the business office.) As it turned out, alcohol and pot were way too discoverable by their odor. Parents’ medicine chests and bedside tables were ripe for discreet harvest. Eventually, we moved on to blotter acid. Stick it in a book; carry it in your wallet. Shakedown could never find it. They didn’t even know what they were looking for. Apparently, Janis and Jimi didn’t want our company in the hereafter; we all survived.

When bullshit is the only thing you have, you become a master. Despite abysmal SATs and laughingstock grades, I weaseled my way into American University. Some pretty non-standard reference letters from Coffey, Rose, and Deutschman undoubtedly helped. Bored with college, I graduated in two and a half years and ended up—wait for it—on the Baltimore City Police Department. Amazingly, I carried the handcuffs on my belt rather than wearing them on my wrist. This was decades before David Simon’s *The Wire*, but you get the idea. Two years of inner-city Baltimore scared me so badly that I ended up running a garage and wrecker service in the rural North Carolina mountains for the next seven years. I spat in the woodstove. I married. I had children. The story should have ended there with a quiet, re-deemed life.

It was probably Teresa of Avila who said God draws straight with crooked lines. At age 33, I ended up in seminary.

I have now been an Episcopal priest in clinical practice for well over 30 years, serving in office, hospital, and parish settings. I consult for religious

issues in psychiatry. I am a pathologist. I work with things like trauma, religious psychopathology, personality disorder, religious abuse, self-injury, suicide, murder, and misconduct.

In the 20 teens, I ran consultations with churches on the east coast. In the 20 aughts, I was department head of a large state psychiatric hospital where I served on the governing body, taught, and chaired the ethics committee. Before that, I maintained a successful private practice and consultancy for most of a decade. Somewhere along the line, I completed a doctorate and collected a trunk full of clinical certifications. I taught court mandated divorcing parenting classes for 18 years. I helped develop early in-home family therapy interventions for at risk children. I taught on the conference circuits for chaplains and psychiatrists. I deployed with the American Red Cross for the 9/11 World Trade Center attacks and another NGO for the Tri-State Crematory incident.

I am a worker priest and poor peoples’ pastor. Theologically, I skew toward Hebrew prophets and the Sermon on the Mount. I am looking at my fourth generation of bishops and their retinues, and my third generation of psychiatrists. I have past or present alliances with the Religious Coalition for Reproductive Choice, Integrity USA, and organized labor—including the Industrial Workers of the World.

I do not write to sing *old lang syne*, nor to whine, or settle scores. I only wish to mark this down. This: I am not unique. Not all bellhops grew up to play golf, join civic luncheon clubs, and follow SEC football. We will probably not join you to shoot sporting clays at reunions. There were a lot of us who did not fit the mold at the time, and we do not fit the mold now. We represent CMA as much as the rest of you. I am grateful for my time behind the iron fence. I doubt I would have survived my local public high school. But, gentlemen: bless your antagonists, for they make you who you are.

Doc Whitaker is a bookseller and beekeeper in Scottsboro, Alabama. He and Ms. Kay are both retired. Returning to his river rat childhood, he serves as a towboat chaplain with the Seamen’s Church Institute for the Tennessee Valley and upper Tenn-Tom Waterway.



2012 Reunion—Sights to Remember from 10 Years Ago



The CMAAA Board at work.



5 of 29 Golfers who took on the Nashville Golf and Athletic Club course.



Enjoying the CMA Museum.



Harvey Ershig, '59, had the winning bid for a Cannon Ball from the CMA front gate during the auction.



Don Kimbrell, Robin Salze and Suzanne Salze make it happen.



Alums from the Decade of the 70s get together for dinner Friday night.



Dinner-Dance at the Embassy Suites.



Flag Ceremony honoring lost Alums from the Classes of '62 and '63.



Mike Gilchrist, Randy Howell, and Don Kimbrell lead a rendition of the Alma Mater.



Teacher Lyle Hampton and Student Bill Patrick, '73, share a moment.



CMA's youngest alums from classes '74-'79 gather for a group picture.



CMA Alumni who served with Military Aviation were recognized during the General Membership meeting.



Bill Wade, who graduated from CMA and later returned to teach, had the winning bid for a CMA stained glass window at the auction.



Columbia Academy President welcomes Alumni back to campus.

Then and Now

Mike Gilchrist, Class of 1963

Mike Gilchrist was born into a military family and was an Army "Brat" from birth. As many know, Mike's parents were Colonel Malcolm F Gilchrist and Mrs. Mary Gilchrist and Mike was the younger of their two sons. Mike's early childhood was spent in New York, Washington DC, Japan, California and Pennsylvania. His most formative years were spent growing up in Northern California as his father had four assignments there. It was while they were in Pennsylvania that Mike's father decided that his two boys were going to attend military school and not just any military school but the one he attended growing up in Columbia Tennessee - Columbia Military Academy. Mike's brother preceded him to CMA and graduated in 1960 and went on to West Point. Mike then entered CMA in the Fall of 1960 coming from California and a school that was unaccredited

by the state. He must have gotten a lot more out of that school than he thought because when he was tested for placement in classes at CMA he found that he was in classes with the top members of the class - Charlie Field, Jarvis Aldridge, Harold Smith and Billy Anderson to name a few. He was at first extremely homesick being so far from home but he soon got over it thanks to many of the upper classmen in his dormitory, Moore Hall - Truck Dotson, Cliff Tanner, John English and Bob Bass all provided encouragement but his roommate, Oz Finne, had the biggest impact on him as he kept such a positive attitude about the school which had a profound effect on Mike. Mike learned about discipline very early at the school. 1960 was a very interesting year for baseball, his favorite sport to play and watch. His favorite team, the Pittsburgh Pirates, was in the World Series that year and while he couldn't watch the games he did know how the series was going. In the final game against the Yankees the Pirates were matching them through the game. The instructor sitting at Mike's table in the dining hall was Major Jobe. He was listening to the game on a transistor radio and Mike, sitting in the middle of



the table, heard the winning home run that won the game and series for the Pirates. Mike immediately jumped up and yelled out "Go Pirates go". Well you could have heard a pin drop as the entire hall went silent. As any cadet knows this was a no-no. That was his first trip to the Commandant's office where he was "invited" to "discuss" the incident with Col Hatcher and Maj Barnett. As it turned out most of the "conversation" was with Maj Barnett with Col Hatcher trying to hold back his laughter. For this "failure in decorum" he was "awarded" five demerits. After a five hour march behind Whitthorne Hall on the hill Mike decided breaking the rules was definitely not worth the "tours" penalty. Following in his brother's footsteps Mike was assigned to the Color Guard working with Bill Hart, John Gregory, and Dudley Porter. John and Mike became great friends and because Mike lived so far from the school he went home with John to Kentucky during several vacation times. Friendships made at CMA were beyond anything you could ever imagine and that Mike valued as one of the greatest benefits of the school. Mike became the Color Sergeant his senior year and again followed in his brother's footsteps winning the Mid South Invitational Competition at Vanderbilt as his brother's Color Guard had done three years earlier. Mike also had another "showdown" with school administration when his father became President of the school in his senior year. His father wanted him to move home when they moved back to CMA, but Mike wanted to stay in Moore Hall with his cadet "brothers". Well Mike prevailed with assistance from his mother who told his father it was best to let Mike stay with his friends. Mike never regretted that decision. Friendships that what it's about.

Following CMA, Mike had decided to attend the Citadel in South Carolina. After being accepted on an early acceptance to the school Mike was approached by Col Edson about attending The University of the South at Sewanee, Tennessee. He visited the school and was encouraged to apply. He did and was accepted. Mike at this point was considering law as a profession and he had to make a decision. Mike decided on Sewanee and ended up being

counseled by Maj Shelton, the PMS at the time, about his decision. It made no difference, Mike stuck with his decision. He enrolled in the Air Force ROTC program at Sewanee. He was offered an Air Force contract in his junior year and after turning it down his father made a quick trip to the school to "encourage" him to accept the contract. His father pointed out that he would graduate and immediately be drafted as the war in Viet-Nam was getting bigger. The next day Mike signed the contract sealing his future for a least five years following his graduation. That year was also a very significant point in Mike's life as he met the absolute love of his life, Shannon Sloan, who was very far "out of his league" which many of his friends pointed out. Two years later Mike asked Shannon to become his wife and she said yes. They were married in 1968 following Shannon's graduation from Memphis State. Their 52 year adventure started as they decided that the Air Force was not a bad job. Through assignments with the Army, NASA and SAC Headquarters, Mike and Shannon set up homes in 14 different places. After 24 years and jobs encompassing command, flight control and advising generals Mike and Shannon decided it was time to move on to their next stage of their adventure. As Mike had two assignments with NASA they decided to see if Mike could leverage his work with going to work at Marshall Space Flight Center.

He was quickly offered a job in the Space Shuttle Program training Astronauts on experiments being flown in the Shuttle. Unfortunately a stoppage in the program for two years cost Mike his job offer. With CMA in his rear view mirror Mike never thought the friendships made there would have an impact at this phase of his life. Well it did as Mac McNoldy, a graduate of CMA, Class of '67 offered Mike a job to be the account manager in his company's office in Nashville, Tennessee. At this point in his life Mike had accepted Christ in his life through Shan-



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non's encouragement. She never gave up on him and her unconditional love was the greatest gift to Mike. He accepted the job and moved back to Columbia, where Shannon and Mike's adventure started. Mike's father, Col Gilchrist, was very sick during this time and Mike was able to be close by during the last 18 months of his life. His father died in November 1991. Two weeks after his father's death NASA reached out offering Mike the same job he lost 18 months earlier. He believed at this point that the Lord had intervened in his life allowing him to help his father during the last 18 months of his life. After a family discussion Mike accepted the job and started to work at Marshall Space Flight Center in January 1992. He told his boss on the first day that he would work for the next 20 years for them. He worked as an instructor, Director of Simulations, and Training Lead for International Training on both the Space Shuttle and International Space Station. On the many trips he was accompanied by Shannon as their adventure continued. In January 2012, he told his bosses he was retiring and in October 2012 he and Shannon started phase 3 of their life adventure traveling and clearing parts of their bucket list. Shannon and Mike had two wonderful sons, Lane and Jack. Lane followed in his father's footsteps by making a career in Air Force Space Command following his graduation from the United States Naval Academy. Following graduation from college, Jack followed in his Mom's career of being a teacher. He soon decided that he wanted to follow his heart and become a minister. Both boys have wonderful families and have given Mike and Shannon three loving and amazing grandchildren.

In 2020, Mike and Shannon's glorious adventure ended as Shannon passed away from heart disease. Mike says that while he knows the Lord and Shannon are watching over him, the support given him during the last two years by CMA friends Charlie Field, Harold Smith, Gene Van Meter, Robin Salze, and their wives along with many others make him realize the blessing that Columbia Military Academy has had in his life.

George Stuart, Class of 1973

The fall of 1969 saw George and several other young men from Haywood County Tennessee come to Columbia to attend CMA. George started his stay in South Johnson Hall. He would attend CMA for 4 years. By his junior year, he was very involved at the Armory and was the assistant to the S3. His senior year saw him rise to Deputy Battalion Commander. He was named Most Military and Mr. CMA. After graduation in 1973, he attended The University of Tennessee at Knoxville majoring in Agriculture with plans to return to Stanton to run his family farm. He became a brother at Lambda Chi Alpha fraternity and became very involved in various activities there. In the spring of his sophomore year, he sought employment in Knoxville to not have to work on the farm in the summer. He found a job at McMillin Clothing Company. He found that he enjoyed this job a great deal and thought it would be a good career for him. He stayed at McMillin Clothing until it closed and then went to work at M.S. McClellan and Company at their store, also on the strip. He worked there for the rest of his college time and afterward. In 1983, wanting to live in a larger city he moved to Atlanta for a job as a clothing salesman at Muse's at Lenox Square. He moved from a salesman to store manager before leaving Muse's in 1994. He moved to another local clothier, Guffey's of Atlanta, where he found a place to stay for the rest of his career.

The staff and customers at Guffey's have become family and he does many jobs in the small company. His favorite job has become tuxedo rentals, where he gets to introduce many young men to the store and make sure that they become longtime customers. He has been involved in the Young Careers group at The High Museum of Art, The Equal Rights Campaign and Georgia Equality groups. He has found a spiritual home at Second Ponce de Leon Baptist Church, where he is on the Welcoming Committee and on the Personnel Committee. He is still working and currently resides in East Point, GA.



SILVER TAPS

John Johnson, Class of '52 (PG)

Colonel John Carl Johnson (U.S. Army retired), 88, peacefully passed away at home with his wife, Nancy, by his side on April 3, 2022. He was born September 23, 1933 to Ellen and Ernest Johnson in Memphis, TN. After graduation from Central High School in Mem-



phis, Tennessee in **John Johnson** 1951, John attended CMA for one year as a Post Graduate with the Class of 1952. He was the Winner of the 1952 Post Graduate Medal and qualified for the U.S. Military Academy, U.S. Naval Academy, U.S. Coast Guard Academy and Naval Reserve Officers' Training Course (ROTC). He chose the U.S. Military Academy, West Point, NY and was a graduate of the West Point Class of 1956. Colonel (then LTC) Johnson was awarded The Distinguished Service Cross for extraordinary heroism in action in the Republic of South Vietnam. He was awarded the Silver Star for conspicuous gallantry in combat while serving as Senior Advisor, 15th Regiment, attached to the 21st Infantry Division, Army of the Republic of South Vietnam. He also earned the Bronze Star Medal, 3 Purple Hearts, Legion of Merit, The Meritorious Service Medal, Republic of Vietnam Distinguished Service Medal, and numerous other decorations for his repeated bravery and extraordinary leadership. After retiring from the Army after 26 years of distinguished military he championed "Jobs for Vets" for the State of Oklahoma; worked as a legal administrator; was a teacher/counselor for disadvantaged youth at the Guthrie Job Corps; and was owner-operator of an automobile repair shop. In 1998 he retired to a life of chasing big bass across the great state of Oklahoma, east Texas and Florida. He enjoyed a full life in which he did things his way with few regrets. John is survived by his wife, Nancy, and son from his first marriage, John Kevin (Betty) Johnson; two grandsons; and five great-grandchildren; Second wife, Sylvia, and her children, Scooter, Carol, and Tony (June) Valukas. He was preceded in death by his parents, Ellen and Ernest Johnson; first wife, Priscilla Hamil Johnson; step daughter, Margie Valukas; and step grandson, Harold Abbott.

SILVER TAPS

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Tom Templeton, Class of '55

Thomas McKelvey Templeton of Raphine, Virginia died on June 6th, 2022, following a lengthy illness. He was a son of the late Dr. Loyd Templeton and Virginia McKelvey. A native Tennessean, Tom grew up in Memphis and attended CMA for two years, graduating with the Class of 1955. He



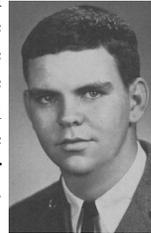
Tom Templeton

attended Rhodes College and earned a B.S. degree from Memphis State University. During the early 1980s, Tom and his family moved to Massanutten, Virginia where he served as Area Manager for multiple AmeriGas sites in the Shenandoah Valley. In an outstanding career Tom came to oversee plant operations throughout the Shenandoah Valley and retired in 2000 as No. 1 Manager of the Year, the company's highest award. In his retirement to loved nothing better than embracing the mountains that encircled his world, digging in the dirt, planting for harvest, cook and canning, riding horses, doting on his dogs, and loving his family. He loved the Methodist Church and grew up on the Methodist Hymnal and sang in the choir of every church he attended. Not known to many, Tom was an abstract artist. He was a painter who did not take his talent too seriously, but who maintained a studio room for creative work. He is survived by his wife of 15 years, Barbara Bowers. He leaves his three children by his first wife, Barbara Ann Boyd Templeton, who died in 1993; daughter, Irene Templeton Smith (Tommy), son Paul Boyd Templeton, and daughter Ann Thomas Mon-

in (Noel); as well as a brother, John Templeton and Sister, Virginia Stokes.

Burton Craige, Class of '64

Frank Burton Craige passed away at his home in Cashiers, North Carolina on June 22, 2022. Raised in Columbia, Tennessee, he attended CMA for nine years, graduating with the Class of 1964. He then attended Memphis State University where he earned his degree in advertising and was a member of the Sigma Alpha Epsilon fraternity. After graduation he remained in Memphis where he met the love of his life, Leslie. They married in 1970 and shortly thereafter moved back to Columbia when Burton took a job with the American Wood Council. In 1978 Burton and his family moved to Atlanta where he began his thirty-year career with Southern Progress Corporation. He had a distinguished career with Southern Living Magazine and was the founding publisher of Coastal Living Magazine. After retiring in 2008, he and Leslie sought a coastal life and moved to the water's edge in Point Clear, Alabama. In 2021 he moved to Sapphire, North Carolina to be closer to family. He is survived by his wife, Leslie and his three children, Emily Craige Gately (Brian), Frank Burton Craige VI (Rachel Oxford) and John Craige (Nele Schlafke) and nine grandchildren. He is also survived by his sister, Mary Moore Hoover, nephew Robert Craige Hoover (Ceri Givans) and their son Luke Craige Hoover.



Burton Craige

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