CMAAA Board Meeting — 2 May 2026

BUGLE QUARTERLY

Volume 36, Number 1 Spring 2026

From the President

My how time flies! Seems like just yesterday we were getting ready for the holidays and now the birds are chirping and daffodils blooming. The warm temperatures are almost enough to make one forget the huge ice storm that so many of us got to experience.

I'd like to give everyone a quick update on a couple of issues we're working on. The first is the negatives and photos that we've been discussing for some time. Dr. James Thomas and I visited with the Director of the Maury County Archives in their newly renovated and expanded facility. They have the capability to restore, digitize, and post the pictures on their website. We will still need volunteers to assist in the scanning of the material, but this is the most promising avenue we've encountered so far. I'll be discussing the plan with the CMAAA Board of Directors during our spring meeting for input and decision.

Another issue of interest is the CMAAA website. Let me begin by first giving a huge shout out to Pat Smith, Class of 1966, who has been gracious enough to host our website all these years. It's folks like Pat, who behind the scenes and with no fanfare, help support our organization. Thank you, Pat! Our goal is to update the site and with the help of the staff at Columbia Academy, make it available for generations to come. Mike Gilchrist and I will be meeting with CA staff to work through the logistics of a transfer.

I consider myself extremely fortunate to have attended CMA. Like most of you, I attended CMA during my formative years, developing lasting memories of sights, sounds, music, and feelings. The friendships made and nurtured since are lifelong blessings. Even though we're at a different stage in our lives, there are still many similarities and parallels. At CMA, our schedule was dictated by bugle calls, the anxieties of academic tests, and punctuated by the excitement of the weekends and holidays we were able to go home to visit family. Today, we look to our calendars for doctor appointments, physical exams, and the joy of having the kids and grandkids come visit. Whatever you have on your calendar, enjoy each and every day in some way, reach out and check on your friends, and...

CARRY ON!

Mike

Mike Glover
Class of 1974
CMAAA President

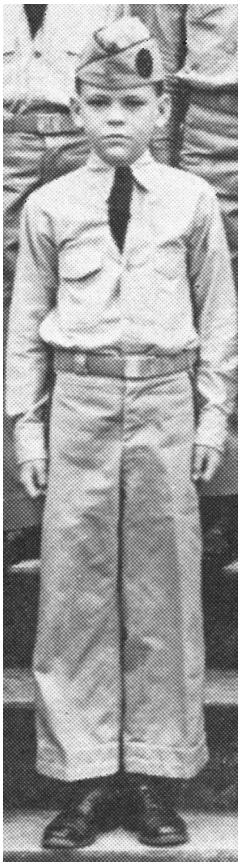
Columbia Academy is 2025 School of the Year

Columbia Academy was named the National Christian School Association (NCSA) 2025 School of the Year. The NCSA, which represents over 70 schools nationwide, opened nominations for the award in April 2025, with voting taking place in May. The School of the Year title was determined by a vote from member schools within the association, making this recognition particularly significant as it reflects the support and admiration of Columbia Academy's peers nationwide. As stated by the NCSA President Dr, Andrew Baker, "What shines brightest at Columbia Academy is not simply their academic achievement or impressive growth, but their unwavering commitment to forming students who reflect the heart of Jesus. This award is well-deserved, and the entire NCSA family celebrates with them. Their story is a testimony to what faithful teachers, engaged families, and mission-driven leadership can accomplish together."

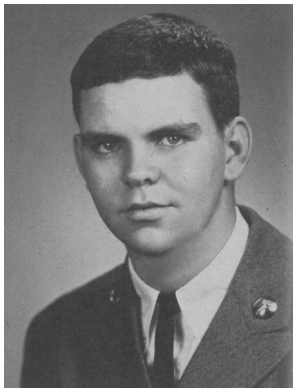
And Then There Were Four

Of all the Cadets that were part of the CMA Experience there are only four that attended CMA for 9 years. These cadets all began their CMA "career" in the fourth grade between the years 1956 and 1958. CMA only had a fourth grade class in its student body for four school years starting in the fall of 1955 and ending in Spring 1959. Take a look at how these Cadets changed over their 9 years at CMA.

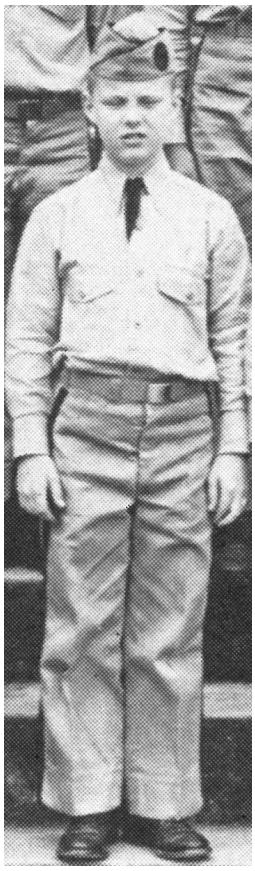
One other Alumnus, George Baulch, did start in the 4th Grade in 1956, but he got double promoted from the 10th to the 12th grade so he only attended CMA for 8 years.



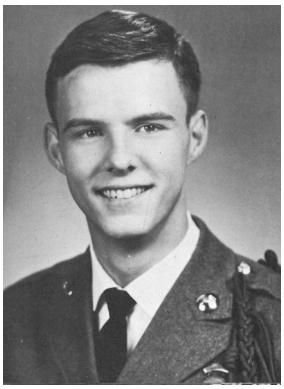
Burton Craig—4th Grade—1955-56



Burton Craig—Senior—1963-64



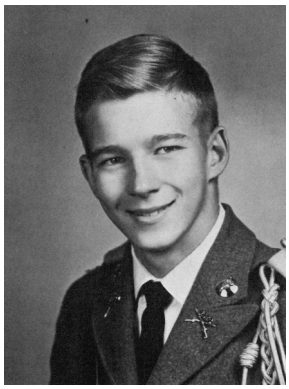
Jack Orman—4th Grade—1955-56



Jack Orman—Senior—1963-64

Jim Borum—4th Grade—1957-58

Sumpter Towles—4th Grade—1956-57



Sumpter Towles—Senior—1964-65

Jim Borum—Senior—1965-66

Thank you, Robin Salze, for providing this bit of information about the CMA Corps of Cadets.

Chance Encounter

Received from Tim Locke, Class of 1973...

A week ago, I had the most enjoyable reunion of sorts with my friend and fellow Mt. Pleasant CMA day-student, Al Hardison, after about 50 years of not seeing one another in person. The occasion was a trip I made to Denver to meet my new grandson who was born on November 29th. Less than a week later in December, Al and his family welcomed their own new grandson into this world in their town of Castle Pines. For two hours we talked of our life experiences inside and outside the borders of Tennessee and, naturally, could not put a dent in all the memory lane stuff there was to laugh about or share. Growing up in Mt. Pleasant in the 1960's and '70's was special; our CMA years were an added extra part of that. Hope our two respective grandchildren befriend one another themselves someday.

Tim Locke ('73) and Al Hardison ('72)

CMA ALMA MATER

On Columbia's western border,
Reared against the sky,
Proudly stands our Alma Mater
As the years go by.

Forward ever be our watchword,
Conquer and prevail,
Hail to thee our Alma Mater
CMA... ALL HAIL!

Board of Directors Meeting

The CMAAA Board of Directors will have its Spring Meeting on Saturday, May 2nd this year. All board members are asked to attend this meeting as there are several items to be discussed. Any alumni that would like to attend are also welcome. The meeting will be conducted in the Mess Hall at 10:00 that morning.

In addition to the board meeting, there will be a dinner gathering at Legends on Friday night for anyone that has come to town for the board meeting or anyone that would like to join with the group for dinner and fellowship. If you would like to attend the Friday night dinner, please let Robin Salze know so he can make arrangements with the restaurant. You can reach him at this email: frsalze66@gmail.com.

Use Your Board of Directors to Influence CMAAA Activities

Everyone is encouraged to review the last page of the *Bugle* and see who is on the CMAAA Board of Directors. These representatives are there to support you and advance the Association. If you have suggestions or items that you want brought to the Board's attention, you can work that through any one of the Board members.

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: _____

CMA Endowment Growing

Help Preserve CMA's Legacy

As has been mentioned in previous *Bugles*, the administration of Columbia Academy, in conjunction with its Board of Directors, established a Columbia Military Academy Endowment. 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 upkeep 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. This endowment is accounted for separately from the other endowments at Columbia Academy and the CMA Alumni Association receives an accounting of the funds each year. This endowment was established with an initial investment of $10,000 that was provided by an anonymous Columbia Academy alumnus. That initial gift was made in honor of all CMA alumni, faculty and staff, especially those who served our country in the military, and most especially, those who gave their lives for our country. As of May 2025, the amount in the endowment had grown to $55,697. The hope is that this endowment will grow and provide a sound financial basis to preserve and protect the legacy of CMA. 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. We ask that all alumni and friends of CMA consider a donation or bequest to the CMA Legacy endowment.

SILVER TAPS

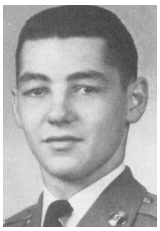
Allie D. Hendricks, Class of '50

Allie Dale Hendricks, 94, passed away February 14, 2026, in Moses Lake, Washington. Dale was born May 3, 1931, in Columbia, Tennessee to Jon Allie Hendricks and Mary Lucinda (Harmon) Hendricks. When Dale was 6 years old, upon the death of his parents, he and his three siblings were sheltered in a Christian Orphanage Home in Spring Hill, Tennessee. Dale attended CMA for two years graduating with the Class of 1950. Dale served three years and nine months in the Air Force. Upon being discharged, Dale started working for Dan Dunn, pumping gas and running the wrecker business for Dunn Auto. Dan and Dale farmed together and raised a lot of hay. He and Dan served on the rodeo board together, and they ran the Dunn Auto Parts Business together for 54 years. Dale loved his horses and mules; he spent time in the Methow Valley, hunting, fishing and packing with his horses and mules up into the "High Country." Dale was preceded in death by his beloved wife of 49 years, Donna. He was also preceded in death by his parents and his sisters Rena and Helen Elaine and his brother, Fred. Dale leaves behind, daughter Pam Hendricks and son David (Joan) Hendricks, two granddaughters, Britney Dayle Hendricks and Taylor Ray Hendricks.

Dale Hendricks

Allen Whittington, Class of '53

Allen Kenneth Whittington, Jr. (Ken) of Tunica, Mississippi, passed away January 27, 2026. He was born on August 27, 1935, to parents Betty Van Deren Kirtley Whittington and Allen Kenneth Whittington, Sr. After grammar school in Tunica, he attended CMA for four years, graduating with the Class of 1953. After attending the University of Mississippi, he joined the United States Army and was stationed in Germany for two years. Ken began a lifelong career in Tunica with his family business, Whittington Feed and Flour. Thereafter, he began the agricultural component of Whittington Wholesale, which he faithfully led for over sixty years. Ken was an active lifelong member of the First Baptist Church in Tunica where he served as deacon as well as other leadership roles. Additionally, he was a member of the board of directors of Covenant Bank, Employer Support for the Guard and Reserve, Tunica Ag Expo, Tunica Institute of Learning and Tunica Main Street. He was also an active member of American Legion Post 17 Tunica, Boy Scouts of America and the Tunica Rotary Club. His many passions included bird hunting, playing tennis and water skiing. He is survived by his wife of forty-seven years, Rebecca Shaheen Whittington; daughters Shae Whittington Uden (Jim), Nicole Whittington Shannon (Daniel), and Elizabeth Whittington Johnson (Michael); eight grandchildren; brothers Richard Whittington and James Whittington; sister Betty Van Deren Whittington Meek and seven nephews.



Ken Whittington

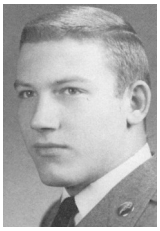
John N. Bethshares, Class of '56

John "Jack" Neil Bethshares, 87, passed away on Tuesday, January 20, 2026 at Huntsville Hospital. He was born March 7, 1938, to James Clifford Bethshares and Grace Senter Bethshares, who preceded him in death. He was born in Lewisburg, Tennessee, and attended school there and at CMA where he attended one year, graduating with the Class of 1956. He also attended the University of Oklahoma and the University of Tennessee. While living in Tennessee he competed and was a Champion Skeet Shooter and also was the Owner and Manager of the Dr. Pepper plant. He and his family moved to Decatur in 1974, where he became the Owner and Manager of the Sundrop Bottling Company and the Double Cola Plant in Huntsville. He is survived by his wife, Martha Sie Orr Bethshares; daughters Susan Johnson (Newell), Elizabeth "Lizzy Bethshares, and Amy Orr (Arthur); brother Jim Bethshares; four grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

Jack Bethshares

Jerry Lee Damson, Class of '56

Jerry Lee Damson, 86, passed away on December 20th, 2025. The only child of the late Mr. and Mrs. Harry Lee Damson, he was born on January 24, 1939, in Huntsville, Alabama. He attended East Clinton Elementary School until eighth grade. He then attended CMA for five years, from eighth grade through twelfth grade. After many miles of walking around the bull ring for disciplinary action, and a handwritten letter to his twelfth-grade teacher in hopes of a passing grade, he graduated from CMA in 1956. A salesman at heart, he began selling cars in 1960. He opened his first used car lot in July of 1961. Upon being drafted into the United States Army, he attended Army cook school at Fort Dix, New Jersey. He was stationed at Fort Hood, Texas for ten months as a cook, where he prepared three meals a day for 2,300 troops. On February 11, 1963, he married his sweetheart, Butch Kohler. Their love and devotion to each other has been an example to everyone. During their 61 years of marriage, they successfully raised two kind, loving, and compassionate children. A successful businessman with a clever sense of humor, quick wit, a teacher of life lessons, and a heart of gold, he loved his family with his whole heart and was most proud of them. He is survived by his two children, Deke Damson (Danielle) and Susan Damson Park (Bruce); six grandchildren; and ten great grandchildren.



Jerry Damson

Harry N. White, Class of '56

Harry Noel White passed away on April 21st, 2017 in Wilmington North Carolina at the age of 78. He attended CMA for three years, graduating as the Salutatorian of the Class of 1956. The then attended the United States Military Academy at West Point, graduating with the Class of 1960. Seven years after graduation, Harry married Patricia Anne Curran. Patti gave birth to Michelle, Noel and Chris, in close succession. Tragedy struck when Patti died in 1971 from an auto accident. Meanwhile, Harry's future bride, Mary Grace, was single-parenting three children—Julie, Mike and John—since the combat death of Richard Nash McInerney, USMA Class of 1960, in Vietnam in 1967. Merging these families in 1972 produced lots of love and a six-pack of responsible citi-

Harry White

- Continued on Page 5 -

- Continued from Page 4 -

zens. The military portion of Harry's career covered 20 years of education and Ordnance career courses, Airborne, and Ranger schools. Commands included tank company and platoon units with the 4th Infantry Division and the maintenance company supporting the 1st Brigade of the 101st Airborne Division in Vietnam. Ordnance assignments included fluid physicist at Harry Diamond Labs, R&D coordinator at the Army Materiel Command, instructor within the Ordnance Department at USMA, assistant project manager for Selected Ammunitions at Picatinny Arsenal, maintenance advisor to the Saudi Arabian Army, and chief of the Materiel Development Evaluation Division, also at Picatinny Arsenal. In 1980 he retired as a lieutenant colonel. The civilian portion of his career included both commercial and defense orientated programs jobs in several small technology companies. For the next 17 years Harry was totally retired and living in Wilmington, NC. Harry and Mary Grace had nine grandchildren. They kept themselves busy playing lots of golf and tennis, all the while raising two spring spaniels and staying involved with family and friends.

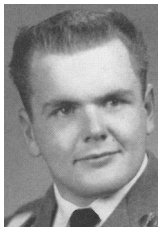
Everette Hatcher, Class of '57

Everette Milton Hatcher, a devoted husband, father, grandfather and great grandfather, passed away peacefully in Memphis, Tennessee, on February 22, 2026, following a courageous journey with Alzheimer's disease. He was 86 years old. Everette was a proud graduate of CMA, attending for three years and graduating with the Class of 1957. He then earned both his undergraduate degree and MBA from Memphis State. A lifelong resident of Memphis, Everette's life was defined by his unwavering faith in God and his profound love for his family. He was a pillar of Bellevue Baptist Church, where he worshiped for over 50 years and served on the finance committee. His commitment to Christian leadership extended into the community, where he served on the board of Evangelical Christian School (ECS). In his 65 years of marriage to his beloved wife, Jane, Everette built a legacy of joy and togetherness. Sunday afternoons were the heartbeat of the Hatcher family—filled with Jane's cooking, football, Capture the Flag, go-karts, and horses. These traditions, along with annual family beach trips, created a lifetime of memories for his entire family. Everette was preceded in death by his eldest child, Everette Milton Hatcher III. He is survived by his devoted wife, Jane Hatcher; daughter-in-law Jill Hatcher; daughter Beth Hatcher Sayle (Brian); daughter Vicki Hatcher Parks (Robert); daughter Nancy Hatcher Daniel (Mark); fourteen grandchildren; and 18 great-grandchildren.

Everette Hatcher

Anthony Egan, PG, Class of '57

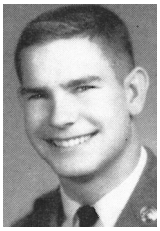
Anthony (Tony) Paul Egan, Jr., passed away peacefully in the early morning hours of January 4, 2026, in Venice, Florida. Tony was born on June 24, 1937, in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, to Anthony and Eleanore Egan. A graduate of North Catholic High School, Tony played varsity football and sang in school musicals. He then attended CMA for one year as a Post Graduate with the Class of 1957. During that year, he played football, was a member of the track team and was the Intramural Heavyweight Boxing Champion. He later attended Temple University. Tony served honorably in the U.S. Army for 23 years and retired from the National Guard as a Major. He also enjoyed a successful 29-year career with Bayer Corporation, earning numerous top sales awards. In 1958, Tony met the love of his life, Miriam Agnes Nell. They were married on May 30, 1959 and embarked on the grand adventure of raising ten children. Tony served as head coach of the Haddonfield Midget Football program for 28 years, coaching the Fire Company baseball team for 18 years, and was one of the founders of Haddonfield's youth wrestling program. In retirement, Tony loved Florida and was thankful to share a quiet, lovely life with Miriam in Venice. They remained active in their faith at Our Lady of Lourdes and Epiphany Catholic Churches, both singing in the choir with Tony serving as cantor. Tony was preceded in death by his devoted wife, Miriam Agnes Nell; his sons Patrick Michael Egan and Michael J. Egan; his parents, Anthony P. Egan, Sr. and Eleanore M. (Hughes) Egan; his brother Thomas Egan; and his sister Susan Pealer. He is survived by his brother Jim Egan; sisters Marilou McGovern and Ellie Toff; and his children: Miriam Dunn (TJ), Tony Egan III, Colleen Egan, Maureen Springfield (Vic), Patrick Egan (Tracy), Erin Egan, Kelley Egan, Terrance Egan (Toni), Tara Egan and eleven grandchildren.



Tony Egan

Jack W. Chaffin, PG, Class of '62

Jackie "Jack" Wade Chaffin, age 80 of Gallatin, Tennessee went to heaven on July 10, 2024. He was born on August 13, 1943 in Mount Pleasant, Tennessee to Richard and Edith (Skillern) Chaffin. He was a graduate of Cumberland High School and then attended CMA as a Post Graduate with the Class of 1962. He then went to Vanderbilt University for a year and was a multi-sport athlete while there. He finally landed at Western Kentucky University and played baseball there. He was drafted out of high school by the Pittsburgh Pirates. In 2021, he was inducted into the Nashville Amateur Baseball Hall of Fame. Jackie was a member of Hendersonville Church of Christ for over 40 years and was a deacon for 25 years. Jackie enjoyed a long, distinguished career in the insurance consulting industry, consulting with community banks across Tennessee. He was Vice President of Earl R. Whaley and Company for almost 50 years. He and Brenda enjoyed trips and company functions with his coworkers. He always had a smile on his face and his kindness and compassion for others was unmatched. He loved his family more than anything. Preceded in death by his loving wife of 50 years, Brenda Milligan Chaffin; his parents, Richard and Edith Chaffin; his in-laws, Hoyte and Nell Milligan; and his brother, James (Jim) Chaffin. Survived by a son, Eric (Kyndra) Chaffin; a daughter Shannon (Shane) Starks; 5 grandchildren; a great-grandchild; and his sister-in-law, Edna (Tootsie) Chaffin.



Jack Chaffin

James W. Borum, Class of '66

James W. Borum, Age 78, and resident of Columbia, Tennessee, died Thursday,

- Continued on Page 6 -

SILVER TAPS

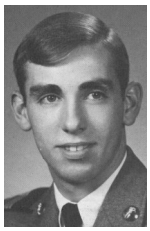
- Continued from Page 5 -

February 19, 2026 at his residence. Born May 20, 1947 in Columbia, he was the son of the late James W. Borum, Sr and the late Jeanne Quarterman Cooper. Jim attended CMA for 9 years, graduating with the Class of 1966. Jim is one of only four cadets to attend CMA for 9 years and is a member of the last 4th grade class that CMA had. He joined the U.S. Army in November 1966 and served a total of 25 years of service, including Vietnam and 2 tours in Iraq. Jim was preceded in death by his parents and his step-father Newsom Cooper and is survived by his sister, Catherine Cooper Walker (Ron) of Bloomington, Indiana and step-sister, Mary Ann Cooper Moore of Nashville, Tennessee.

Jim Borum

Gary H. Spencer, Class of '68

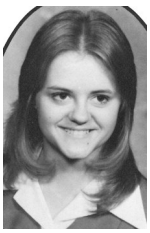
Gary Hollan Spencer passed away on Friday, the 13th of February. Gary was born on October 3, 1949, in Florence, Alabama. He attended CMA for two years graduating with the Class of 1968. He then attended and graduated from the University of Alabama as a member of Kappa Sigma Fraternity. He started every day of his life with these words, which he had in his phone as a daily calendar reminder, "Every day I will meditate on what is lovely, pure and just". Gary and his wife, Kathleen, were married in March of 1985 and had their only child, Maggie, in January of the following year. He believed that he and Kathleen were truly soul mates. Gary had three other children, Gary, Nora and Hope. Gary was a family man above all and loved to golf. He said he could not wait to see the golf courses in heaven. Gary leaves behind his loving family: his wife Kathleen, his son Gary and his daughters Maggie, Hope and Nora, along with grandchildren Vivian, Jackson, Morris, Lucy, Harrison and Campbell.



Gary Spencer

Peggy (Nance) Cole, Class of '77

Peggy Jo (Nance) Cole, 66, passed away on 15 February 2026. She was born February 7, 1960 to her parents, the late Ollie Claude Nance and Betty Jo Nance. She grew up in Mt. Pleasant and attended CMA for 1 year, graduating with the Class of 1977. She then attended Columbia State Community College, earning her associate's degree in radiologic technology. She worked for Dr. James Wiseman and Williamson Medical Center throughout her medical career. She loved traveling, being creative, watching horror films, reading, spending time outdoors, cooking, and, most of all, spending time with her grandchildren. She showed tenacity and strength throughout her life, especially during her battle with cancer. In addition to her parents, she is preceded in death by her brother, Nicky Neal Nance. She is survived by her son James Kenneth Brashears II (Tiffany), daughter Lauren Ashley Baud (Samuel), two grandchildren as well as many other family members and friends.



Peggy (Nance) Cole

BUGLE QUARTERLY is published quarterly by the CMA Alumni Association. First Class postage paid in Columbia, TN.
POSTMASTER: Please forward address changes to CMA Alumni Association, 804 Athenaeum Place, Columbia, TN 38401-3156.

CMA ALUMNI ASSOCIATION OFFICERS
Mike Glover '74, President
Mike Gilchrist '63, Vice President
Shayne Harris '78, Secretary
Becky Moon '75, Treasurer
Kay Bircher '74, Assistant Treasurer

CMAAA BOARD OF DIRECTORS
Nelson Snow '55; Jerry Sands '58; Ron Nall '61; Harold Smith '63; Eugene Van Meter '63; Dan Duke '65; Billy Akin '66; Doug Townes '67; Bill Wade '68; Howard Keltner '69; Bobby Bain '72; Jimmy Bane '72; Dudley Dolinger '73; Woody Pettigrew '73; Tricia Brown '74; Winston Elston '74; Sandra Hasler '74; Marshall Briggs '75; Barry Crotzer '76; Robert Orr '76; Steve Watts '76; Allison Ward '78

HONORARY BOARD MEMBERS
John Bass, '53; Charles Field, '63; James Thomas, CA President

PAST PRESIDENTS
Jim Bledsoe* '50; Ed Hessel* '47; Pitts Hinson '67; Robin Layton* '74; Bill Hart '62; William H. Raiford '55; Don Kimbrell* '53; Mike Gilchrist '63; Robin Salze '66; Tom Carr '75

HALL OF HONOR INDUCTEES
MSG Robert F. Allen; William Anderson; Maj. John G. Bass; Prentice J. Bennett; COL William P. Binks; COL James H. Bledsoe; BG Frank Blazey; ADM William F. Bringle; James M. Dunnavant; Phillip Fikes; Meade I. Frierson; Robert B. Gilbreath; Nathan G. Gordon; Col. J.B. Gracy; Mariemma Grimes; Billy Gunn; GEN Hugh P. Harris; Col. E. Blythe Hatcher; COL Martin D. Howell; Lee James; Gov. Paul Johnson; Robert T. Martin; Joseph R. Mitchell; LTG William E. Odom; Thomas F. Paine; James M. Peebles Sr.; Col. C.A. Ragsdale; Col. Clyde C. Wilhoite; Aubrey B.T. Wright; CAPT William D. Young

BUGLE QUARTERLY is an official service of, for and by the CMA Alumni Association in support of our unity and our heritage. Comments concerning its content and function are welcome from all active associates. Inactive associates are encouraged to become active. Active associates are encouraged to share in this publication's success by providing current or past information of interest to the association. Photos, cartoons or other illustrations are always welcome and appreciated. Please address all correspondence, articles, photos, etc., for publication to:

BUGLE QUARTERLY
Woody Pettigrew
101 Sansberry Lane
Madison, AL 35756
or
wpettigrew@knology.net

CMA ALUMNI ASSOCIATION
BUGLE QUARTERLY
804 Athenaeum Place • Columbia, TN 38401-3156