



Volume 34, Number 2

Summer 2024

From the President



Greetings to all Bellhops!

I attended and had a wonderful time with old classmates at Reelfoot Lake this past April. I brought my son along and an old friend from college and we fished the heck out of the lake. Sadly, not too many fish were biting but we had a great time. My college buddy remarked to me what a great group of people that made up our group there. He felt right at home and thought that we were a classy bunch. Many thanks to Dudley Dolinger '73 for hosting us at the Blue Wing Lodge.

Bill Wade '68 did a great job representing the association and presenting the CMA scholarship to Preston Bolton this year. Preston's grandfather and great uncle both attended CMA.

This year's CMA Day will be on September 6th with a CMAAA Board meeting right after lunch. I plan to show our board the photo negatives we have saved and then we will begin to start the process of sorting through them again and scanning in digital format certain pictures showing our great history. If any of you would like to be a part of this process, then please let me know and we will set up times to go through the negatives and set them aside for

scanning.

In addition to our meeting and CMA Day, Dr. Thomas of Columbia Academy told me they plan to host a lecture about the Columbia Arsenal which of course later became our great Academy. I hope any of you who wish to attend will do so the night before on the 5th.

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

Make Plans to visit the CMA Museum



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

Award Ceremony

It is always great to hear news of current High School level Military Academies and the special events that happen at these schools. The latest such information comes from First State Military Academy (FSMA) in Clayton, Delaware.

FSMA conducted an Awards Ceremony on April 25th when several Cadets were recognized for their achievements. COL (R) Jim Dickinson, CMA Class of 1955, participated in the event handing out awards for the Military Order of the World Wars Medal of Merit to Cadet Sergeant Alexander McBride and the Reserve Organization of America Award to Cadet Sergeant Kashmiri B. Habibah.

Jim has a granddaughter that attends FSMA.



Cadet Sergeant Alexander Mc Bride



Cadet Sergeant Kashmiri B. Habibah

CMA Memories

Thinking about Columbia Military Academy and my three years there floods my soul with so many memories, all of them pleasant. I had a roommate who was forced to attend CMA, and that made him resentful. But I was given the choice, and it opened the door to one of the most memorable times in my life, from 1958 to 1961. In no particular order of importance, but as they occurred to me over some time, here are some of the things I remember.

I recall our marches into town along the sidewalk on West 7th Street, as we chanted loudly, "We don't smoke and we don't chew, and we don't go with girls that do.... We ain't got no girlfriends."

I remember break time mid-morning when we'd congregate in the basement outside the QM. Seems like nearly every cadet in school passed through that crowded den full of smokers and jokers in the short interlude between classes. I was abashed one time when Major Cauchon came along while I was puffing on a cigarette. I think that was during my senior year. I was ashamed because his look was one of disapproval or disappointment, and I held him in high esteem.

I recall our chapel times when Col. Ragsdale, Col. Gracey, Col. Wilhoite and other members of the faculty would speak to us, but I don't think I remember anything they said. I was too immature to take it in. It was in chapel where I learned how to catch flies. I wish I could remember who taught me that. You put your cupped hand behind the fly, getting as close as you can without scaring it off, and then scoop it up. The fly jumps backward when it takes off, and it'll jump right into your hand.

Do you remember getting your laundry from the QM? It was always wrapped in brown paper and tied up with strong string.

I had to look up Captain Kimery's name to remember, but I do remember him and his wife. They were always friendly and pleasant.

I don't know if you ever had to go to the infirmary, but I did a couple of times. Seems I had a tough cold once, and I enjoyed the cherry favored cough syrup Nurse Cosby gave me. I think it had codeine in it. It was delicious. Almost made going to the infirmary a pleasure.

Remember the heavy Pea coats during cold weather; the battalion formations on the quadrangle with roll

calls; and the checking off of every man's name in your company? And remember having to run to get there on time if you were a little late? I'm grateful that that required roll call taught me how to get dressed in a hurry.

I remember the heavy smell of chlorine in the pool under the gym. And I can still smell the oily scent of the armory, and the stained wooden floor. And I recall the dances in the gym, but I didn't know how to dance, except for a slow dance.

My first year, I met Sammy Hardison, and went to at least one party at his house. It was on West 7th, not too far from the campus. He had a T-Bird, maybe a '56 or '57 model, I think--a convertible coupe. And he invited me to ride with him out on Spring Hill highway. Scared me to death when the speedometer hit over a 100. I didn't ride with him again. Sammy died in Massachusetts at age 48.

When I peruse my '61 annual, I remember the teachers. But I don't need the annual to recall Maj. Moore. He tried to reach me with the Gospel when I first got there, but I didn't pay him much mind. He was quiet, unassuming, sincere; a nice man.

I'll never forget Maj. Cauchon. He was my favorite at CMA. He was confident, intelligent, accomplished, with talents for music, leading the band, and teaching physics; and he knew chemistry, math, French and Spanish. If I remember correctly, he left CMA a few years after our graduation to attend Brown University on a math scholarship. He was quite an accomplished man and an excellent teacher. I believe he died in 2010 in Florida.

And I'll always recall Capt. Gunn's biology class, especially on the day he was teaching about bird reproduction. He didn't go into detail, and I was ignorant on the subject, so I asked him, "How do birds...you know...do it?" I was referring to the actual physical process. He must have thought I was joking because what he said was, "Are you serious, Trotter?" Naturally, the class laughed, and I was embarrassed.

I remember Capt. Towles, and the tale told about some cadet drawing a white line on the chalk tray which he tried to pick up. That practical joke--if the story is true--led to a pop test that the whole class failed. The test I remember in his chemistry class had to do with the thickness of a drop of oil on the surface of a dish of water. I can't remember if I got it right, but I bet Ralph Cover did.

Capt. Jobe was certainly a memorable teacher. I think it was one of Oates boys who said you didn't want to sit in the

front row in his class.

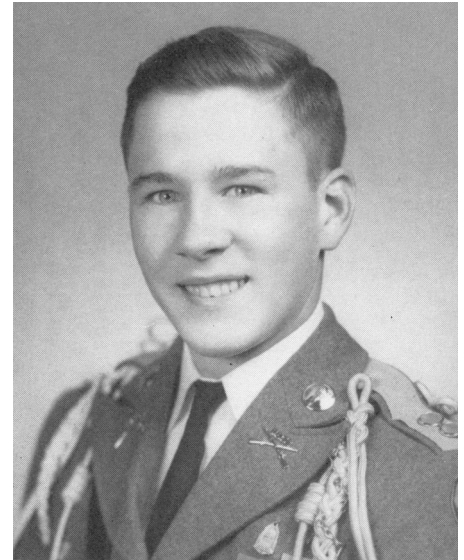
Col. Hatcher was a terrific guy. He was firm, and scary to a lot of guys. I had the pleasure of overhearing a conversation he had with Mrs. Hatcher one Friday evening. She had come into the office and asked him whether he wanted to go out to eat or go to a movie. His answer: "Yes."

Col. Gracey taught Latin, and I had him for my second and final year of the language. I didn't know until years later of his proficiency in Latin and wish now I had gotten deeper into it.

Of course, Maj Pickett's geometry class was great because I enjoyed math. And senior English with Maj. Thomas was a challenge, but a challenge worth facing.

The last thing I'll mention is those spit-shined boots and shoes we liked to show off. I've looked for a pair of black cordovans because I'd like to spit-shine a pair. But they're so much higher than \$60 these days, I guess I'll have to pass.

CMA was great. I loved it, and I thank God for every day I spent there and the wonderful guys I met and got to know. I was greatly blessed with those memories; I still am.



Bob Trotter, CMA Class of 1961



A Second Book

Jim Rusk, '56, and his wife Kathie recently published their second book titled "What Have We Done?" The book is a story about their transition from his military career to owning and operating a resort in northern Minnesota. They bought the Northern Lights Lodge on Bear Island Lake in Ely, Minnesota. This is a something of a follow-on to their first book, "Love You," in which they chronicled 365 days of their military career when they were separated during his deployment to Vietnam.

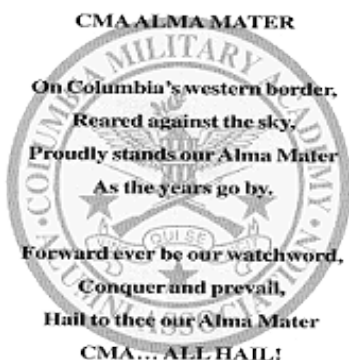
You can see details on the book and order at the below link:

https://www.amazon.com/What-Have-We-Done-challenges-Northwoods-ebook/dp/B0D2JD5N4J/ref=sr_1_1?crid=3Q1TC4DCPO34F&dib=eyJ2IjojMSJ9.vjG6plqJf6rsxJodDN2vtbz9UTR5w7pKp3KiIXGuSrA.QgmU2caxy_IZMYCdJcTkzqPsh0B07ha2vhiw73aMKU&dib_tag=se&keywords=Jim+Rusk+with+Kathie+Rusk&qid=1714420149&s=books&sprefix=jim+rusk+with+kathie+rus%2Cstripbooks-intl-ship%2C370&sr=1-1

Friendly Get Together



Don Ershig, Terry O'Donnell, Tom Colvert and Dave Clark, all from the Class of 1965, get together at Tom's house and share old stories and memories.



Reelfoot 2024



Former Cadets at Reelfoot (Left to Right): Mike Glover ('74), Lee Turnage ('71), Jim Law ('72), Shayne Trousdale Harris ('78), Glenn Wong ('69), Jim Bryan ('71), Tex Tucker ('71), Tom Norris ('73), Sharon Sims Hartnett ('74), Donna Ryland ('73), Bobby Bain ('72), Mildred Graham Dolinger ('76), Dudley Dolinger ('73)

The last weekend in April saw the annual CMA Alumni invasion at Reelfoot lake. Dudley and Mildred Dolinger welcomed the crew consisting of Mike and Sarah Glover, Lee Turnage, Jim and Elaine Law, Shayne Trousdale Harris, Glenn and Winnie Wong, Jim Bryan, Tex Tucker, Tom Norris, Sharon Sims Hartnett, Donna Ryland, Bobby and Kathy Bain, Tom Carr and his son Charlie and an Army friend Wayne. A weekend of good fellowship and great food.

Do You Remember? - May 1974 -

The CMA Class of 1974 graduated 50 years ago this May. A quick review of the 1974 Recall provides the following reminders:

1. Frank Williams was Battalion Commander
2. Rifle Team was Number 1 in the State of Tennessee and the Mid-South.
3. Company Commanders were Ed Lawing, Frank Varnado, Mike Glover and Martin Phillips.
4. Roger Bedford, captain of the Wrestling Team, advanced to the Regional and State Tournaments.
5. Chuck Cobb was selected as Mr. CMA.
6. Paul Francis was Class Valedictorian.
7. A.C. Howell wrapped up his time at CMA as Geometry and Mechanical Drawing Instructor as well as being the Commandant.

CMA Alumni Association Scholarship Awarded



Columbia Academy conducted its Graduation Exercises on May 18th this year. Bill Wade, '66, was on hand to represent the CMAAA and present the annual CMAAA Scholarship to this year's recipient, Preston James Bolton. Preston attended Columbia Academy for 9 years and has ties to CMA in that his Grandfather, Ray Holcomb graduated from CMA in 1973 and his Great Uncle, Hal Holcomb, graduated from CMA in 1970. He will be attending Freed-Hardeman University in the Fall and majoring in Finance.

COLUMBIA MILITARY ACADEMY
Columbia, Tennessee 38401

<u>GENERAL COSTS: Effective 1969-70 school year</u>	<u>SENIOR SCHOOL (grades 9-12)</u>	<u>JUNIOR SCHOOL (grades 6-8)</u>
Tuition, room, and board for school year.....	\$ 1895.00	\$ 1795.00
New Uniform complete.....	\$ 287.50	\$ 287.50
Tennessee sales tax on uniform (4%).....	\$ 11.50	\$ 11.50
Student activity fee (PAID BY ALL CADETS).....	\$ 50.00	50.00
Carrying charges for monthly pay plan.....	\$ 15.00	\$ 15.00
TOTAL.....	\$ 2259.00	\$ 2159.00

*ACCIDENT INSURANCE: \$15.00 annually (see below).

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MONTHLY PAY PLANS

<u>CADET WHO MUST PURCHASE NEW UNIFORM</u>	<u>SENIOR SCHOOL</u>	<u>JUNIOR SCHOOL</u>
With application...(not refundable).....	\$ 50.00	\$ 50.00
August 1st: Room reservation fee.....	\$ 150.00	\$ 150.00
September 1st: payment.....	\$ 459.00	\$ 359.00
Eight monthly payments of \$200 each (Oct.-May).	\$ 1600.00	\$ 1600.00
TOTAL.....	\$ 2259.00	\$ 2159.00

CADET NOT REQUIRING NEW UNIFORM

With application...(not refundable).....	\$ 50.00	\$ 50.00
August 1st: Room reservation fee.....	\$ 150.00	\$ 150.00
September 1st: payment.....	\$ 360.00	\$ 260.00
Eight monthly payments of \$175 each (Oct.-May).	\$ 1400.00	\$ 1400.00
TOTAL.....	\$ 1960.00	\$ 1860.00

NOTE: All monthly payments are due on the first of each month, October 1 through May 1.

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TO BE ADDED TO SEPTEMBER PAYMENT

*ACCIDENT INSURANCE: \$15.00 OPTIONAL. BUT VERY DESIRABLE. Reimbursement up to \$500 for all medical expenses incurred as a result of an accident, on campus or elsewhere. Coverage includes holidays away from school. Limit of payment for dental bills and/or dental X-rays is \$50.00. COVERAGE REQUIRED FOR CADETS PARTICIPATING IN ATHLETICS OF ANY KIND.

NOTE: STUDENT ACTIVITY FEE covers admission to all scheduled entertainment in school auditorium, social functions in student center and gymnasium, all athletic events, formal and informal dances, on-campus movies, school paper, and annual.

Ever wonder what it cost for you to get your CMA education. The above shows the costs for boarding students or the 1969-1970 school year. By the time the 1972-73 school year rolled around the total had increased to \$2,795.75. For a little perspective, the 2024-2025 cost for a military high school today (Fork Union Military Academy in Virginia) is \$46,750.

SILVER TAPS

Marshall Cranford, Class of '54

George Marshall Cranford, age 87, passed away on April 5, 2024. Marshall was born on April 24, 1936, in Lewisburg, Tennessee, the only child of Boyd Hunter and Mary Virginia Talley Cranford. His family moved Mt. Pleasant, Tennessee in Maury County when he was a child. He attended



Marshall Cranford

CMA for three years, graduating with the Class of 1954 and returning for a 4th year as a Post Graduate in the Class of 1955. He played varsity football and was an Honorable Mention for the 1954 All Mid-South football team. Marshall graduated from Tennessee Polytechnic Institute in 1959 as a Distinguished Military Graduate in the ROTC program and was commissioned as a 2nd Lieutenant in the US Army. Completing US Army Ranger School, he was recognized as a sharpshooter and jumpmaster. He retired in 1962 as 1st Lieutenant, Infantry Unit Commander in the 101st Airborne Division. After his Army service, Marshall joined Blair, Follin, Allen, & Walke insurance brokerage firm. He honed his expertise and became a Chartered Life Underwriter. Over the next 25 years, Marshall excelled in sales and management roles within the firm. In 1984, he founded his own insurance company: G. Marshall Cranford and Associates. This venture allowed him to shape his own path in the insurance industry. During his career in insurance, he won many awards, including Life Member of the Million Dollar Round Table. He was a lifelong member of the Churches of Christ. Throughout his life, he served as Sunday School teacher, Deacon, and in many other capacities. He had many interests throughout his life, but education was chiefly among them as a supporter of his alma mater CMA and later Columbia Academy. He attended as many CMA Alumni Association and CA events as his health would permit. Marshall was predeceased by his loving wife of 45 years, Frances Jackson Cranford, and his parents. Those left behind to cherish his memory are, daughter and son-in-law, Christy and Kevin Hamilton, grandchildren, Hunter Marshall Hamilton and Lady Frances Hamilton, and cousin Bill Dodson.

W. Richard Hayes, Class of '57

William Richard Hayes, age 83, of Knoxville passed away December 26, 2023. Born September 19, 1939, in Mount Pleasant, Tennessee, Richard attended CMA for 5 years, graduating with the Class of 1957. He then attended and graduated from the University of Tennessee, Knoxville, where he



Richard Hayes

was a member of the varsity Swim and Dive team and Sigma Alpha Epsilon fraternity. Richard later gained the rank of 1st Lieutenant in the US Army and was a gunnery instructor at Fort Sill, OK, before returning to Knoxville in 1965. Richard's business career started in Knoxville with Plasti-Line, followed by Benco Plastics. He joined Creswell and Co., a distributor of appliances and electronics, in 1975 and finished as President. In 1991, Richard formed his own company, Till-Hayes Co., distributing award products in the southeast from which he retired in 2020. He was a member of Cherokee Country Club for over 50 years where he had many golf, tennis, and bridge friends. He was preceded in death by his parents, William Lewis and Eva Mae Hayes, and daughter, Mary Catherine Kane. Richard is survived by his wife of 63 years, Sally Clark Smith; sons William Richard Hayes, Jr. (Anne), and Robert Whitfield Hayes, and seven grandchildren.

James R. Downey, Class of '58

James Richard "Jim" Downey III, 84, of Boyce Louisiana, passed away February 20, 2024 at his residence.

Jim was born at Fort Bragg, North Carolina and accompanied his parents to Germany in 1948 as part of occupation forces. He returned to the United States in 1953 and attended



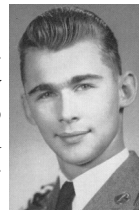
Jim Downey

CMA for two years, graduating with the Class of 1958. He enlisted in the US Air Force that same year. After three tours to Vietnam where he was a helicopter mechanic, he cross-trained into Ground Safety for his four remaining years until he retired from the Air Force in 1978. He then graduated from Northwestern State University in 1983 and started civilian life working as the safety coordinator for Pinecrest State School in

Pineville, Louisiana. After six years, he transferred and started working as a surveyor for the Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals, inspecting Medicare and Medicaid facilities, hospitals, and nursing homes. He retired again in 2001 and then worked part-time for the Louisiana Board of Wholesale Drug Distributors. He was a volunteer for CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocate) for children. Occasionally, he wrote gibes for cenlapatriots.org (search Jim Downey). He was preceded in death by his parents, James Richard Downey, Jr. and Thisbe Chandler Downey and son-in-law, Donald Neal Baldwin. He is survived by his wife of 65 years, Diann Schefer Downey; daughters, Jennifer Marie Downey Baldwin and Deborah Marie Downey; two granddaughters; and three great grandsons.

Raleigh A. Bates, Class of '59

Raleigh Aubrey Bates, 83, passed away on May 10, 2024, in Trussville, Alabama. Born on September 23, 1940, in Brunswick, Georgia, Raleigh's formative years were shaped by his education and service to his country. He attended CMA for three years graduating with the Class of



Raleigh Bates

1959, laying the foundation for his future endeavors. In service to the United States Air Force from 1965 to 1968, Raleigh was stationed in the Philippines, where he dedicated himself to duty with honor and distinction. Following his military service, Raleigh pursued his academic aspirations, earning an electrical engineering degree from the Florida Institute of Technology in 1973. While he spent the majority of his professional life in this field, Raleigh's entrepreneurial spirit led him to explore other ventures, including a stint as a home inspection business owner in the Atlanta, Georgia area. At the time of his retirement, he applied his skills as a database creator, leaving a legacy of innovation and expertise. An avid wildlife photographer, he captured the beauty of the natural world through his lens, immortalizing fleeting moments in time. His love for travel manifested in adventures aboard his RV, where he explored new landscapes and forged lasting memories with loved ones. A skilled woodworker,

- Continued on Page 6 -

SILVER TAPS

- Continued from Page 5 -

Raleigh found solace in the artistry of crafting, transforming raw materials into works of beauty and utility. He nurtured a special fondness for the hummingbirds that frequented his backyard, ensuring they were always well-fed and cared for. Additionally, he embraced the thrill of kayaking and reveled in the serenity of nature's waterways. His commitment to his interests was surpassed only by his devotion to his family, who held a cherished place in his heart. Raleigh's legacy lives on through his beloved wife, Victoria H. Bates; his daughter, Melissa Bates DeHollander; his sons, Raleigh Alexander Bates (Christine) and Edward Lee Bates (Genie); and his four cherished grandchildren.

William S. Wilson, Class of '68

William Sherwood "Bill" Wilson, Jr., 74, passed away on Thursday, April 11, 2024, in Columbia, Tennessee. Born March 31, 1950, in Tuscaloosa, Alabama to the late William S. Wilson and Dorothy Dunkin Wilson, he grew up in Maury County and attended CMA for one year, graduating with the Class of 1968.



Bill Wilson

He married the love of his life, Glenda Mabry Wilson, on January 25, 1969. Bill and Glenda shared 55 wonderful years together and were blessed with their three children. Over the years, Bill worked at Monsanto, The Tennessean, and Landscape Management Company. He was a former deacon at Friendship Baptist Church and a member of Porters Chapel United Methodist Church. He

will be remembered for his faithfulness to God, lighthearted spirit, and deep love for his family and friends. Bill is survived by his wife, Glenda; son Derek (English) Wilson; daughter Jessica (Jason) Bolton; sister Virginia Jones; nine grandchildren; and many nieces and nephews. In addition to his parents, Bill is preceded in death by daughter Wendi Dawn Wilson; three sisters, Mary Hellen Woody, Nancy Mitchell, and Sherry Walker; and a brother, Tommy Wilson.

Frank A. Shippen, Class of '72

Frank Adams Shippen, 69, passed away February 5, 2024. Frank was born July 16, 1954 and attended CMA for 3 years, graduating with the Class of 1972.



Frank Shippen

Please let Woody Pettigrew know if you hear any news on the passing of former Cadets and Faculty members so it can be included in the *Bugle*. Silver Taps, while sad to read, is a key portion of the *Bugle* to help keep our association updated on our friends and faculty.

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