

# 2025 Reunion Registration Info—Pages 4 and 5



Volume 35, Number 2

Summer 2025

## From the President



Greetings to all Bellhops!

So, this will be my final letter to you all. After four years in office I will turn over my duties to Mike Glover '74 this fall at our upcoming Grand Reunion. That will happen, 18-21 September of this year.

Now, pretty much all our leadership has passed on to cadets from the 1970s as time has marched on. This year we will celebrate the 50-year anniversary of the classes of 1974 and 1975. However, we will honor the classes of the 1960s at our reunion. I hope to see many of you there for this reunion and I've been after my classmates from 1975 to come and be a part of celebrating the school that had so much of an impact on our lives and still does to this day.

We're on our way to the 50th anniversary of the last graduating class of CMA (1979) and after that we'll meet as desired in the years that follow.

Many alums met at Reelfoot Lake this year (April) courtesy of our esteemed alum Dudley Dolinger '73 and had a great time. I had to miss it but got pictures and enjoyed seeing old Bellhops having fun.

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 is to thank them and preserve our heritage is a contribution to our Legacy Endowment. Contact me for any details, 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

## We're Playing Golf

As further advertised on page 5, we will be playing golf at this year's reunion. The event will be at 8:00 AM on Friday, September 19th at the Bridge Golf Club in Franklin Tennessee. Please see the full details on page 5 and get registered with Bill Wade as soon as you can so he can make proper arrangements with the golf course.

## 50th Anniversary Class Points of Contact for 2025 Reunion

Kay (Wetzel) Bircher, Mike Glover and Sandra (Hart) Hasler are the Class of 1974 contacts and Tom Carr and Becky (Algood) Moon are the Class of 1975 contacts for the 50th Reunion Classes as part of the 2025 CMAAA Grand Reunion.

## Decade of the 1960s Cadets are Honor Group For Reunion

Each reunion celebrates the 50th Anniversary for the two classes that graduated from CMA 50 years ago. For this reunion, it is the Classes of 1974 and 1975. Those classes are working to get great turnouts for the reunion. Each reunion also designates a special group to be recognized during the banquet on Saturday night during the reunion. For this reunion, all cadets from the classes of the Decade of the 1960s will be recognized. This decade represented one of the largest enrollment decades for CMA and produced 1,073 graduates and post graduates, and countless others that attended CMA for some period of time during the decade but did not go on to graduate. We encourage all former cadets from the Decade of the 1960s to attend this reunion and be recognized for your contributions to the CMA History. Please annotate on the registration form that you are from that decade.

## 50 Year Reunion Contacts For 2025

### Class of 1974

Kay Bircher  
kwetzbi@aol.com

Mike Glover  
mdglove@yahoo.com

Sandra Hasler  
Sandhsl180@att.net

# 50

### Class of 1975

Tom Carr  
tkcarr@bellsouth.net

Becky Moon

# CMAAA Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

## Attendees

Tom Carr-President (75), Mike Glover-Vice President (74), Shayne Harris-Secretary (78), Becky Moon-Treasurer (75), Charles Field (63), Mike Gilchrist (63), Robin Salze (66), Douglas Townes (67), Jason Williams (67), Bill Wade (68), Howard Keltner (69), Bobby Bain (72), Jimmy Bane (72), Dudley Dolinger (73), Woody Pettigrew (73), Winston Elston (74), Sandra Hart Hasler (74), Marshall Briggs (75), Bob Orr (76), Jay Robins (76), Van McMinn (76), William Hickman (79)

## Meeting Minutes

The CMAAA Board meeting was called to order at 10:00 am on Saturday, March 29th, 2025. The meeting began with a moment of silence in remembrance of Board members and cadets we have recently lost. Tom Carr read the list of alumni: Marion A. Hooper, Robert H. Goodall, Carter H. Witt, Howard J. Nason, John Scott Gregory, James L. Gobble, William J. Carden, Thomas L. Pittman, John W. Hubbard, James D. Rainey, Timothy H. Sands, Clarke T. Reed, Walker McGinnis, Jr., Joseph Syler, Jack P. Morgan, F. Willard Morris, Howard Whitaker. Tom gave the Invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Becky Moon gave the Treasurer's report. The balance in the checking account as of March 26, 2025, is \$42,106.27. Projected expenditures for 2025 are \$14,000.00. Estimated income for 2025 is \$16,000.00. Woody Pettigrew gave the Museum report. Cash on hand is \$15,964.00. Budgeted income of \$7,900.00 from payback for memorial update that the museum paid. Total budget through the life of the lease is \$23,864.00. Budgeted expenses from October 2025 - October 2028 for rent, insurance and miscellaneous total \$10,560.00. Total available at the end of 2029 is \$13,304.00. Woody went on to say if we forget about the payback from the General Fund for the Memorial update then we still have \$5,404.00, which he believes is enough to feel comfortable about the Museum standing for the next 5 years. He does not anticipate any major expenses unless we have issues with the HVAC. The roof and everything else appear to be in decent shape. Woody stated he would like to make a motion, and Tom Carr approved the motion. Woody proceeded to say; in a

Board meeting several years ago we had a vote that the General Fund would pay back the \$7,900.00 to the Museum account for the Memorial update on the quadrangle. Based on the numbers, Woody does not believe the Museum will need the \$7,900.00 and he would like to propose the \$7,900.00 remain in the General Fund. The motion is to forgive the payback of the loan. Mike Glover asked the question, long-term what is the status of the Museum after 2029? Woody explained that when the Association no longer maintains the Museum, the Endowment Fund is set up to help to take over to maintain the Museum. Woody stated our last lease payment would be in October 2028, and it is accounted for in the budget. Tom Carr reminded us that upon dissolution of the Association all monies in the General Fund and Museum will go to the Endowment Fund, and the number one priority for the Endowment is to first take care of the Museum, second for the scholarships and lastly the historic buildings. Becky Moon seconded the motion. All approved. Motion passed to forgive the \$7,900.00 payback from the General Fund to the Museum.

Tom Carr talked to the Board members again about the importance of Legacy Endowment Fund. He encouraged us all to think about the Endowment Fund and include it in our personal estates. CMAAA is looking to raise \$500,000.00 for the Endowment Fund. If we can raise that much it would be enough to cover the cost of maintaining the museum, at least, in perpetuity. That is enough money that we could take the interest and make it work. Tom said he suspects once the Association is over Columbia Academy will not charge us rent on the building, and as far as he can tell the school has no plans for the building other than for it to remain a museum. The Museum is in decent shape right now, but it does need money to operate, and it is more likely to be taken care of if the money is there from CMAAA. Tom asked us to think about the Endowment Fund and talk it over with other classmates.

Tom Carr reported that Columbia Academy is on Spring Break this week and there is no official school report this meeting. A CMA Day is in discussion and information will be coming soon on the specific date and time. Tom added that if you have not participated in CMA Day, he highly recommends it. It is a lot of fun and a wonderful thing to do.

Mike Gilchrist commented on the changes made as you come through the front gate. Mike informed us that Co-

lumbia Academy is getting ready to start renovations on Academy Hall. The Business Office will be moving to Academy Hall on the 2nd floor. Mike added that the school is growing so fast they have more students than they know what to do with.

Tom made a motion to approve the minutes of the September 6, 2024, Board Meeting, including the Treasurer's Report and the Museum Report. A second was made, and the minutes were approved.

## Old Business

Tom Carr stated the 2025 reunion is coming up and we will be honoring the 1974 & 1975 classes. The reunion will continue to be at the Marriott but with a later weekend date due to renovations at the hotel. There was a great turnout 2 years ago and we are hoping for the same this year. The Marriott did run out of rooms for us in 2023. MAKE YOUR RESERVATIONS EARLY! Tom said he has been in communication with Steve Watts regarding auction items. If anyone produces any items to add for the auction bring them to the reunion to be part of the auction at the banquet.

The reunion will be September 18th – September 21st. We will have the same setup as previous years. There is a link to access the Marriott's website directly to make your reservation. Woody Pettigrew asked the group if anyone had tried the link to make sure it works. Tom Carr said he tried the link, and it does work, but you need to be on a computer. We were able to get a nice rate on the rooms. It did go up, but this is the first increase since 2014/2016. The price of the room does include breakfast.

Class reps for 1974 – Kay Bircher, Mike Glover, and Sandra Hasler. Class reps for 1975 will be Becky Moon and Tom Carr.

Robin Salze announced he is going to personally mail an invitation to everyone that registered in 2023 and invite them to the 2025 reunion to try and help our attendance.

Woody Pettigrew reminded us that this year we are honoring the classes of 1974 and 1975, but our honor group will be those cadets from the decade of the 1960s.

Tom Carr talked about the negatives from Orman Studio. They are on the second floor of the Administrative Building. Tom said he has not been up there to sort through them – so again that is something he wants to put out

- Continued on Page 3 -

there for anyone wanting to sort through the negatives. Tom has been in touch with a guy from Student Life who will charge \$1.00 for each scan. Some Board members are working with a couple of classmates and people in and around Columbia on gathering photos of CMA campus activities. Tom is still planning to work with Columbia Academy to create a secure CMA link from their website where all CMA pictures we collect will be uploaded to our secure link.

CMA merchandise will be available for purchase at the reunion.

### New Business

Bill Wade is the contact person if anyone is interested in playing golf during the reunion weekend. Bill is trying to get a group to come out and play this year. He has reserved sixteen tee times set for Friday morning the 19th starting 8:00 am at the Bridges Golf Course. Bill's deadline to get the tee times filled is August 1st. The cost to play is \$100 per person. The cost includes eighteen holes of golf, a cart and lunch. Bill shared that every year someone will say, after the tournament I wish I knew about it I would have played. A notice will be in the June *Bugle* and watch for it to be in your email when you get your *Bugle*. If you have any questions regarding the tournament contact Bill Wade.

Dudley Dolinger will be the contact person for anyone interested in shooting sporting clays. Anyone is welcome to come. Spouses/sons/daughters. In 2021, Columbia Academy students participated and that was a wonderful time at the Maury Gun Club. Dudley does not know where the event will take place this year. He is waiting for a response on how many are interested in the event. He said he can always get in the Nashville Gun Club, which is a phenomenal facility, or the Maury Gun Club. The cost to secure your spot is \$25.00. Dudley is looking for good participation this year. The event was canceled in 2023 due to rain.

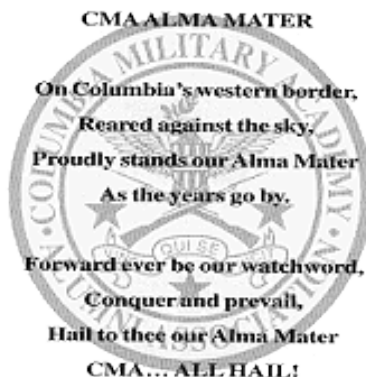
New officers for 2025-2026 will be voted on and announced Saturday, September 20th during the General Membership Meeting. The term for the officers will be 4 years taking us to 2029. After the 2029 reunion it will be like a month-to-month rental and decisions will be made on what we want to do next. If there is enough of us left with interest in keeping it going, then we will do it!

Mike Gilchrist has a nominating committee, and he will be in touch to ask if current officers want to stay in their positions or if the committee needs to find someone new. All nominees will be voted on at the reunion. First during the Board meeting and the following day at General Membership Meeting on campus.

Several ideas on ways to keep the reunions going after 2029 were mentioned during the Board Meeting. Few of the suggestions were to have mini reunions or have something planned on CMA Day and combine the two events. Tom reminded us that if we have an Association there must be officers that serve. Certain rules must be followed. If we get to the point that no one wants to be a board officer, we will have to shut the association down. When it comes time to shut it down, all the monies will go to Columbia Academy and the Endowment Fund. We will need to notify the IRS and tell them we are done and close the charter. It cannot stay an open Association without having all the elements done.

Woody reminded us in 4 years this will be an emotional event, and we should all prepare for the hardest Board meeting we have ever had because there will be people on both sides of this decision. We need to acknowledge it is going to be a significant emotional time, and a tuff day. Woody also talked about the *Bugle* publications. 161 people receive the *Bugle* by mail. At the next board meeting we need to discuss the plan to stop mailing out the hard copy of the *Bugle*. Look at three more editions and give the notice the hard copies will stop. Woody wants to do right by the group that said they needed the hard copy and wants to reach out to them before making the motion before the Board. Becky Moon added when we started the *Bugle* in the 1990s technology was a mystery to our elder graduates. This is not the issue it used to be.

Tom asked if we had any more new business. Mike Glover gave the closing prayer, and the meeting adjourned.



## Submit Your Story for Inclusion in a Future Edition of the *Bugle*

As time goes by it is important that we do everything we can to keep the *Bugle* relevant and interesting to the alumni. History has shown that the readers really enjoy fellow alumni sharing stories of their time at CMA. The stories that are told during the CMA Reunions are priceless and should be shared throughout the Alumni Association. There are great stories that are the kind of things that alumni enjoy reading in the *Bugle*. These stories will be run in the *Bugle* and, depending on the number of stories received, may be consolidated and bound as a "Collection of CMA Memories". All alumni are encouraged to provide their favorite memory/story from CMA to be included in this collection. The memory/story can be whatever length is necessary. This section is another way for CMA alumni to share experiences through the *Bugle*. If you have a memory/story you would like to share with other alumni please submit it to Woody Pettigrew at the below snail mail address or you can e-mail it to [wpettigrew@knology.net](mailto:wpettigrew@knology.net).

Woody Pettigrew  
101 Sansberry Lane  
Madison, AL 35756

## MOVING?

### STAY IN TOUCH...

Please forward your new address to:

**CMA Alumni Association  
804 Athenaeum Place  
Columbia, TN 38401-3156**

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

GRADUATING CLASS: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY: \_\_\_\_\_

STATE: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

E-MAIL: \_\_\_\_\_



# Reunion Registration Form Sep 18th - 21st, 2025

Please Respond by August 15th, 2025

(Please Type or Print Clearly)



NAME (Last, First, Middle) \_\_\_\_\_ Class of \_\_\_\_\_

HOME STREET ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

HOME PHONE (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ BUSINESS / CELL PHONE (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

E-MAIL ADDRESS (Please Print Clearly) \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Count On Me to Attend the 2025 CMAAA Grand Reunion.

☐ I Am Unable to Attend but have enclosed my \$50.00 for the next 2 Years Dues (\$25.00 per Year)

Names of Others Accompanying me to the Reunion \_\_\_\_\_

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

## 2025 CMAAA Grand Reunion Activity Check List

Please check those activities and functions of interest to your party. In so doing, indicate the number of participants and approximate fee per activity. **We regret the price increase for the banquet but rising costs for food and inflation necessitated the increase.** Please mail this completed form with a check (payable to CMA Alumni Association) for the total amount in an envelope to arrive no later than August 15th, 2025. If you have any questions, please contact Becky Moon at 804 Athenaeum Place, Columbia, TN 38401-3156 or (931) 626-5859 or e-mail her at: becsmoon@gmail.com

### 2025 Reunion Honorees

#### Alumni from the Decade of the 1960s

Please Indicate if you are part of that Group (Circle Above)

*Activities (Please Check All That Apply)*

☐ Grand Reunion Registration Fee **(Required)**.....(\$25.00 per Adult) \_\_\_\_\_ x \$25.00 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

The registration fee is required regardless of how many or few activities registrants attend. It covers the Association's costs of (1) Promoting / orchestrating the Reunion plus goods and services, (2) Entertainment, and (3) *Bugle* Newsletter expenses.

☐ Golf Tourney, Friday—Golf Registration Form will be provided in Spring 2025 Edition of the *Bugle*

☐ Sporting Clays, Friday—Registration Form will be provided in Spring 2025 Edition of the *Bugle*

☐ Welcome Reception at Marriott, 5:30—7:30 PM, Friday.....(No Additional Charge)

☐ CMAAA Scholarship Fund Donation—Funding for Annual CMAAA Scholarship for CA Graduate.....\$ \_\_\_\_\_

☐ CMAAA General Membership Meeting, 10:00 AM, Saturday on Campus in Columbia.....(No Additional Charge)

☐ Reunion Banquet/Dance, 6:00 PM, Saturday.....(\$65.00/Person) \_\_\_\_\_ x \$65.00 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Biennial Alumni Association Dues.....(\$25.00 per Year x 2 Years = \$50.00 per Alumni) \_\_\_\_\_ x \$50.00 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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



# GRAND REUNION CMAAAA 2025



## Marriott Reservation Process

**Please make Reservations by 4 September to get the Special Rate.**

**Via Phone (1-888-403-6772):** Book your group rate for Columbia Military Academy Alumni Association

1. Ask for Reservations
2. Provide arrival/departure date
3. Reference the CMAAA to get the special rate of \$169.
4. If they ask for a code to receive the rate, it is CMA.

**Via Internet:**

1. Click this hyperlink: [Book your group rate for Columbia Military Academy Alumni Association](#)
2. To go to the hyperlink, left click on it. This puts you at the CMA Reunion Room Registration page with the special \$169 per night rate.
3. Enter the check-in and check-out dates as well as the room information and click on Check Availability.
4. Verify the room information and rate on the next page and click Select.
5. Continue making reservations by following instructions on the next page.

**If Hyperlink does not work:**

1. Please call the number above to make reservations.
2. The hotel website is [www.marriott.com/bnacs](http://www.marriott.com/bnacs) for gen-

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

## Sporting Clays Shooting Event In Planning For Reunion



We are trying to determine interest in having another Sporting Clays event during the 2025 Reunion. Dudley Dolinger ('73) has again agreed to head up the event but we need to determine the interest before he can make arrangements with the Nashville Gun Club. If you are interested in participating this year please get in touch with Dudley so he can determine if there is enough interest. Please contact Dudley at 615-476-1820 or at [ddolinger@comcast.net](mailto:ddolinger@comcast.net) and let him know if you are interested. Take out some of your frustrations on a Sporting Clay.

## How About a Round of Golf During the Reunion



As in years past, the Association is planning a golf outing on Friday of the reunion weekend. We will be playing as individual foursomes that can play any format they desire. Tee times will begin at 8:00 on Friday, September 19th at the Bridge Golf Club in Franklin, Tennessee. The cost for the outing is \$100 per person which includes greens fees, cart, range balls and a sandwich and drink after the golf. This will be limited to the first 16 players that register with Bill Wade and provide the \$100 deposit. If demand requires, Bill will work with the course to get more tee times. Please make your reservations with Bill as soon as possible, **BUT NO LATER THAN AUGUST 31ST**. Mail your check made out to Bill Wade to the below address. Please include the check, player's name and phone number..

Bill Wade  
1710 East Main Street  
Murfreesboro, TN 37130

You can also reach Bill by phone at:  
615-838-9730

# GRAND REUNION CMAAAA 2025

## Schedule of Events

### Thursday, September 18th

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

### Friday, September 19th

8:00 AM: Golf at the Bridge Golf Club in Franklin, TN. See information on this page.  
9:00 AM: Registration in CMA Registration Room until 5:30 PM  
**To Be Determined based on Interest:**  
**Sporting Clays Shooting Event, Nashville Gun Club, 1100 County Hospital Road, Nashville, TN**  
3:00 PM: Board Meeting, Marriott Meeting Room  
5:30 PM: Welcome Reception, CMA Registration Room  
Optional: Individual class activities and free-style group gatherings

### Saturday, September 20th

9:00 AM: CMA Museum open until 2:00 PM except during CMAAA General Membership meeting  
10:00 AM: CMAAA General Membership Meeting in CA Chapel  
- Columbia Academy welcome and update  
- Election of Board Officers  
- Hall of Honor Inductions  
11:00 AM: Flag Ceremony for Departed Cadets in Classes of '74 and '75  
12:00 PM: Individual class activities and free-style group gatherings  
3:00 PM: Registration in CMA Registration Room until 6:00 PM  
5:00 PM: Class Group Photos in CMA Registration Room  
6:00 PM: Reunion Banquet / Recognition Ceremony / Dance at Marriott Ball Room

### Sunday, September 21st

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

## Spring Fling at the Blue Wing



**Colonel Ragsdale addressing morning Chapel Service at CMA sometime between 1940 and 1942.**

Douglas Hansen, Class of 1967, provided the original photo of Colonel Ragsdale addressing the Corps of Cadets and a morning Chapel Service at CMA. His father, Harvey Hansen, Jr., Class of 1942 was the first of their family to attend CMA and was a great admirer of Colonel Ragsdale. He was followed by James Hansen, Class of 1944 and Nikolas Hansen who attended for one year, both of whom were Douglas's uncle. Douglas then attended for 2 years, graduating with the Class of 1967.

### **Reminder to Pay your Dues to the Alumni Association**

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



The long weekend of 23-27 April was the latest venture to the Blue Wing Hunt Club at Reelfoot Lake, Tennessee. Dudley and Mildred Dolinger once again hosted a group of CMA Cadets and spouses for the annual gathering. Plenty of great food and fellowship over the course of the weekend, including the ever-pleasing Crawfish Boil provided by Tom Norris. Attendees this year included (kneeling left to right) Mike Glover ('74), Sarah Glover, Kathy Bain, Shayne (Trousdale) Harris ('78), Bill Patrick ('73), Tex Tucker ('71) and Dudley Dolinger ('73); standing left to right Bobby Bain ('72), Glenn Wong ('69), Winnie Wong, Woody Pettigrew ('73), Elaine Law, Tom Norris ('73), Sharon Norris, Jim Law ('72), Norm Andersen ('73), Patti Andersen, Kent Simpkins ('71), Mildred (Graham) Dolinger ('76) and Donna Ryland ('73).

### **Important Notice on *Bugle* Newsletter Mailings**

In an effort to reduce operating costs for the CMA Alumni Association, we are looking at eliminating the hard-copy mailings of the *Bugle*. The *Bugle* is currently available in three different ways: (1) it is posted on the website at CMAAA.com, (2) it is e-mailed to individuals on the e-mail list, and (3) it is mailed in hard-copy to individuals on the snail mail mailing list. For those that are currently receiving it via hardcopy, if you would like to start receiving it via e-mail, please contact Woody Pettigrew at the addresses below, provide an e-mail address, and he will get you on the mailing list. That also will work for anyone who is not currently on the e-mail mailing list for the *Bugle*. If you are not currently receiving an e-mail with the quarterly *Bugle* attached, please contact Woody and provide him an e-mail address and he will get you on the mailing list. The last mailout of the hardcopy will be with the Winter edition of the *Bugle*.

Woody Pettigrew  
101 Sansberry Lane  
Madison, AL, 35756

### **CMAAA Scholarship Awarded During Columbia Academy's Graduation Exercises**



Bill Wade, CMA Class of 1968, awarded this year's CMAAA Scholarship to Columbia Academy graduate Carter Thomas Kimes. While at CA, Carter was involved in the Best Buddies Club, the National Beta Club, was a blood donor with Blood Assurance and graduated as a Cum Laude Honor Graduate. Carter is serving in the Tennessee Army National Guard and will conduct Basic Training and Advanced Individual Training at Fort Sill, Oklahoma, followed by going to Fort Sam Houston, Texas where he will specialize as a Combat Medic. Upon completion of his initial military training, Carter will return home to Tennessee, where in the Spring of 2026 he will be attending Middle Tennessee State University.



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# SILVER TAPS

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## Joseph M. Briggs, Class of '47

Joseph M. Briggs, Jr., passed away on March 1, 2025, four days shy of his 96th birthday. He was born on March 5, 1929 in Columbus, Ohio to the late Joseph M. Briggs, Sr. and Lorene E. (Terhune) Briggs. Joe graduated from CMA with the Class of 1947 and attended Miami University and Ohio State University before joining his father in the Briggs Insurance Agency in 1953 in Columbus. His career with Briggs Insurance and Real Estate lasted nearly 60 years although he is probably more well remembered by his friends as a professional ski instructor, enthusiastic tennis player, golfer and avid trumpeter with the Shrine band for many years. He had an interest in archaeology that started at age six when he first collected Indian artifacts in freshly plowed fields just south of Columbus. This hobby led to a lifelong interest in Indian lore and customs and later on to Egyptian culture and ethnicity. His framed collection of Native American flint tools and arrow heads had been a focal point of his life and his home. Preceding him in death was his loving wife Kay (Bramel) Briggs. Joe will be deeply missed by his daughter, Lori Lorene Briggs, her loving longtime partner, Darren Herring. Joe is also survived by his first wife, Rosemary (Harroun) Stewart, the mother of their son: Joseph M. (Molly) Briggs III, his brother, J. Richard (Marilyn) Briggs, MD, grandchildren Sarah Williams, Brian Joseph Briggs and great grandchildren, Grant, Rachel and Eleanor Williams. Joe would like to be remembered as an "old Indian chief" who was always happy and pleased to pass on whatever he remembered.



**Joe Briggs**

## L. Lackey Rowe, Jr, Class of '57

Lester Lackey Rowe died of Alzheimer's disease at Tore's Home in Brevard on Dec. 8, 2024, in the care of Four Seasons Hospice and Tore's staff. He was born on June 12, 1938 in Union City, Tennessee, the son of Lester Lackey Rowe Sr. and Helen Miller Rowe. He grew up all over the south, including Alabama, Arkansas, Kentucky



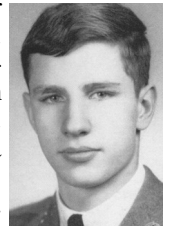
**Lackey Rowe**

and Mississippi, but he always returned to Memphis with his dog Red. Red, a present on his 6th birthday, stayed with the family for 18 years. As an only child, Lackey was given all the things most children think they want like a pony, cars, attention and support. After a long string of schools, he attended CMA for two years, graduating with the Class of 1957. After CMA, he joined the Marine Corps Reserves for eight years and trained at Parris Island. He attended Memphis State University, now University of Memphis, and spent several months in Mexico City as a foreign scholar. He then attended and graduated from the University of Mississippi with a bachelor's of science degree in psychology. After graduation he joined the Peace Corps where he served in the Philippines as a math tutor. Lackey then entered the University of Mississippi Law School, graduating with a law degree in 1966. He had a reputation for his liberal stance on all matters political and/or controversial in Mississippi. In 1966 he married Andromache Castanis from Columbus, Mississippi. He was admitted to the Mississippi Bar and was hired as a staff attorney with the Lawyers Committee for Civil Rights Under Law in Jackson. As a civil rights lawyer, he tried cases all over the state of Mississippi assisted by prominent lawyers from across the United States who came to work with the Lawyers Committee. In 1969, he joined the U.S. Equal Opportunities Commission, working in Memphis and St. Louis. His later employment included real estate and human resources director for Marriott Hotels in New Orleans, Minneapolis and Nashville. He also worked as human resources director at The Peabody Hotel in Memphis. He and Andromache had two daughters, Helen Rowe (1967-2011) and Nicole Rowe Heroux (1969- present). He was divorced in 1991 and in 1994 married Jean McKnight Rowe. They lived in Memphis until 2005, when they retired to Brevard. He was active in the NAACP and the Unitarian Universalists of Transylvania County and an avid writer of letters to newspapers in Memphis and Brevard. He is survived by his wife Jean Rowe; daughter Nicole Heroux; granddaughter Alexis Hunt; great-granddaughter Gabrielle Hunt; stepsons Michael J. Rickard (Julie Jeannine Rickard) of Fayetteville, Arkansas and Kenneth C. Rickard (Amy Hobby Rickard); and step-grandchildren Eli Rickard

and Sophie Berger of Fayetteville. He died with a huge debt of gratitude to lawyers who practiced in Mississippi in the 1960s and who are still fighting for racial equality. If his life stood for anything, it was "equal justice under the law" and abolishing racial discrimination. This is how he wanted to be remembered.

## Wendell C. Bennett, Class of '61

Wendell Clark Bennett, Jr., age 81, of Mt. Pleasant, Tennessee passed away on February 19<sup>th</sup>, 2025, after a long battle with cancer. Clark was born on September 15, 1943, in Montgomery, Alabama. He moved to Columbia in 1948 with his parents, where his father, Dr. Wendell C. Bennett, practiced medicine and



**Clark Bennett**

was among the first medical staff at what was then Maury County Hospital. Clark always held fond memories of going on house calls with his father, as well as the pair setting trot lines in the Duck River down the bluff from their family home on Riverside Drive. He attended CMA for four years, graduating with the Class of 1961 and then attended MTSU where he studied chemistry. After working for a chemical company in Cleveland Ohio, he returned to Columbia to work for Hooker Chemical (later Occidental Chemical). Always a curious and resourceful man, he and a co-worker patented a process for successfully treating the wastewater produced by the plant's operations. He retired after many years, finally assisting in the wind down with the closure of the plant. He was a talented musician, teaching himself to play the banjo at age 11. Family gatherings always featured Clark and his other musically inclined siblings sitting in the middle of the room entertaining everyone, generally with a classic bluegrass tune. He was an avid reader, maintaining his curiosity about the world we live in until the time of his passing. He was a wonderful joke and storyteller, excellent cook, and took great pride in keeping his yard in top shape. He was very artistic and creative, often making amazing cards for Valentine's Day and other special occasions. He had a soft spot for stray dogs, Porsche automobiles, and St Jude Children's Research Hospital. Without fail,

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# SILVER TAPS

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he always bought the largest pre-packaged assortment of fireworks available every Fourth of July. He is survived by his wife of 32 years, Sonya Marty Bennett (who he a adoringly called Blondie), her sons Matthew Buttrely (Emily) and Jesse Buttrely (Claudia), siblings Esther Lee Burks Davenport (Doug), Jimmy Bennett, Mary Jane Schifani ("J"), and George Bennett (Kimberly), sisters-in-law, Dolly Bennett and Linda Bennett, as well as his grandson, Alex Buttrely. He also leaves many loving nieces and nephews. He is preceded in death by parents Wendell C. and Flora Mae Bennett, and adoptive mother Mamie Jones Bennett, sister Julie Bennett Kaufman (Fred) and brother John C. Bennett.

## Milton A. Umsted, Class of '67

Milton "Mick" Arthur Umsted, III died May 10, 2025, in Cabot, Arkansas, at the age of 76. He was born in Newport, Arkansas on October 15, 1948, the son of Milton Arthur Umsted, Jr. and Virginia (Hinkle) Umsted Castleberry. Mick was raised in Newport and then attended CMA for one year (his junior year) **Mick Umsted** as a member of the Class



of 1967. He went on to receive his associate's degree in hospitality. On July 12, 1969, Mick married Shirley Ann Rhodes, with whom he had been in love since he was a young teenager. Mick lived his life to take care of others, never leaving his wife's side when she was sick. He was often a father figure to his daughters' friends, offering help or sup-

port without even being asked. Mick enjoyed managing restaurants in Osceola, Arkadelphia, Blytheville, and Searcy, before he realized his true passion for sales. He had the personality and charisma that allowed him to sell anything to anyone. He sold business machines across the state at Royal Business Machines and Arkansas Copier Center. Mick is preceded in death by his wife of 39 years, Shirley Ann (Rhodes) Umsted; his brother-in-law, Kenneth Castleberry; and his parents. He is survived by his daughters, Elizabeth (Jason) Bunch and Andrea Kopchick; and two grandchildren; his loving sisters, Jamie Castleberry, Betty (Larry) Young. He will also be dearly missed by his sister-in-law, Nancy (Darrell) Fountain; his five nieces and nephews; and many other friends.

## Russell T. Clark, Class of '70

Russell Thomas "Rusty" Clark, a native of Huntsville and resident of Bay Minette Alabama, died March 30, 1996. Rusty attended CMA for one year, graduating with the Class of 1970. He was a sales associate with Brazeal and Harris Real Estate, Inc. He was Central Baldwin County Rookie of the Year of the Baldwin County Realtors Association and was past president of the Bay Minette Jaycees. Survivors included his wife, Sharon Mahoney Clark; two sons, David Michael Clark and Sean Thomas Clark; two daughters, Mullaney Bridget Clark and Meagan Elizabeth Clark; his mother, Bettye Jane Clark; and brother Randall Holt Clark Sr.



**Rusty Clark**

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