

GUIDON

COURAGE LOYALTY HONOR • YESTERDAY TODAY TOMORROW

MAJ. GEN. DARRELL MOORE TO SPEAK AT THE OMA KIA MEMORIAL CEREMONY



Maj. Gen. Darrell Moore

Maj. Gen. Darrell L. Moore will speak at the OMA KIA Memorial Ceremony Saturday, June 9, during the OMA Reunion on the RSU campus in Claremore. The ceremony will begin at 9:15 a.m.

Maj. Gen. Moore currently serves as Director of the Reserve Affairs Division, U.S. Marine Corps.

Born in Tulsa and raised in Pryor, Moore graduated from the University of Oklahoma in 1976

with a Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration (economics) and was commissioned a second lieutenant. As a company grade officer, he served at Twentynine Palms, California; Okinawa, Japan; Kaneohe Bay, Hawaii; Headquarters Marine Corps; and the Pentagon.

As a field grade officer, he served as a company commander with 4th Maintenance Battalion, 4th Force Service Support Group from September 1991 to October 1993; as battalion commander, 4th Maintenance Battalion, 4th Force Service Support Group from October 1994 to October 1996; as commanding officer, 4th Force Service Support Group (Forward), Camp Pendleton, from September 2000 to

Continued on page 3

LEAVING A LEGACY: HURSELL BLACKBURN MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP ENDOWMENT



Hurshell Blackburn in 1928

The Hurshell Blackburn Memorial Scholarship Endowment was established in November 2011 by his daughters, Ann Armbruster of Oklahoma City and Patt Cameron of Claremore.

Danette Boyle, executive director of OMA Alumni, remembers the day vividly.

"Ann and Patt visited the OMA Museum and had the opportunity to look through old OMA yearbooks," Boyle said. "It was so special to see the looks on their faces as they found photos of their father."

This visit brought back many wonderful memories of Blackburn, who himself seemed to understand the value of a good education from a very early age. When he was only nine years old, he delivered newspapers and used the

Continued on page 2

INSIDE THIS EDITION

Remembering When: Shades of Soul, page 4

RSU Update, page 7

Top 10 "Must See" Items in the OMA Museum, page 10

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT



Bill Ramsay

Dear OMA Alumni,

I am happy to report that for the first time in many years a successful "mini reunion" was held in Oklahoma City on March 13. Good food with good friends was the order of the day. Many of those in attendance are planning to come to the June 8 and 9 reunion on The Hill.

Preparations for the 2012 OMA reunion in Claremore are fully underway! RSU staff and OMA Alumni volunteers are involved in the "OMA Calling Alumni Plan" and are reaching out to all former cadets—working to recruit as many former cadets as possible for the reunion. Letters have gone out to more than 300 newly found Alumni and again we expect many "first-time" attendees back to The Hill.

In addition to honoring our Hall Of Fame and Distinguished Alumni this year, we will also offer special recognition to the high school and college classes of 1942, 1952 and 1962 that are celebrating 70th, 60th, and 50th reunions this year. I am also pleased to announce that the 145th Army Band will be performing on June 9. In addition, we will be honored to have Major General Darrell L. Moore speak.

So—get yourself registered, book your hotel, and once again "Report to The Hill." I look forward to seeing you in June.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bill Ramsay".

Bill Ramsay, '61
OMA Alumni Association President

LEAVING A LEGACY

Continued from page 1

money earned to buy books so that he could go to school because his father could no longer afford to send him.

A 1926 graduate of Claremore High School, Blackburn attended OMA in 1927 and 1928 on an athletic scholarship, competing in polo, track and football. He loved his time at OMA and became a second lieutenant. He later transferred to George Washington University in St. Louis on a football scholarship, but had to give up his scholarship in 1930 because he could not find a job to pay his room and board (his scholarship only paid his tuition).

In 1932, he moved back to Claremore and become a carpenter, a trade his father taught him. He and his wife Lillian Wave Brasher lived and raised their family in Claremore, where Hurshell worked in his own carpentry and cabinet business. The last 15 years, he worked setting up OTASCO stores all over the Midwest. He died in January 1981.

His family has strong roots in the community with his brother, Dick Blackburn, serving as Claremore's fire chief for many years.

The decision was made during the daughters' visit to campus that the scholarship would be for student athletes, since Blackburn loved all sports, especially football. The endowment would ensure that other student athletes would be able to follow in his footsteps and complete their college education.

Over the years, many students have benefited greatly from Scholarship Endowments created by OMA alumni and friends.

"Thanks to the wonderful generosity of Ann Armbruster and Patt Cameron, students will benefit for generations to come," Boyle said. "Their father, Hurshell Blackburn, will be remembered and honored, with his legacy carried forward for generations to follow."

MAJ. GEN. MOORE AS OMA REUNION KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Continued from page 1

September 2002; as the Deputy Commander, 4th Force Service Support Group, from September 2002 to September 2004; as the Chief of Staff, 1st Force Service Support Group (Forward) in Kuwait and Iraq during Operation Iraqi Freedom; and as the Vice Chief of Staff, Marine Forces Reserve, and Officer in Charge, Force Units, from September 2004 until July 2005.

Upon his selection to Brigadier General in 2005, he was assigned as Commanding General, Marine Corps Mobilization Command, Kansas City, Missouri, serving as Commanding General from July 2005 until August 3, 2007. He then was assigned as Commanding General, 4th Marine Logistics Group, New Orleans, Louisiana from August 5, 2007 until September 13, 2009. He was then assigned as the Deputy (Mobilization), Marine Corps Combat Development Command, Quantico, Virginia from September 2009 until April 2010.

Maj. Gen. Moore also has earned a Master's Degree in Business Administration, a Law Degree from the University of Oklahoma, and a Master's in Law (labor law) from Georgetown University. He is a graduate of the US Army War College, Class of 2000.

He and his wife Donna have two children and five grandchildren.

OPERATION FIND-A-CADET

"Operation Find-A-Cadet" is now under way! This is a contest to see how many lost alumni we can bring back to The Hill. Prizes will be awarded to the three individuals who can find the most cadets.

Prize packages will include free events at the 2012 reunion such as: a Friday evening reception for two (\$50.00 value), Saturday events for two (\$60.00 value), Saturday evening activities for two (\$80.00 value), alumni golf for one (\$60.00 value), and pool or ping-pong tournament for one (\$10.00 value).

HOW DOES IT WORK?

- First, visit www.rsu.edu/oma/lostalumni.asp for a list of lost cadets.
- Second, obtain an address, email address, and telephone number or an obituary record or a Social Security Death Index number (SSDI) if the cadet is deceased.
- Third, submit your findings immediately to Dr. Danette Boyle at dboyle@rsu.edu. If more than one individual submits the same name, whoever sends it in first will get credit.

To qualify for a prize package, a minimum of five found cadets is required.

ENDOWMENT RECIPIENT: KRISTEN UNDERWOOD



Kristen Underwood with Norma and Jim Morrison.

Kristen Underwood is the recipient of the Jim and Norma Morrison Scholarship Endowment. Underwood is currently a sophomore in RSU's prestigious nursing program. She can certainly say her life revolves around RSU. She attends classes on campus and works part-time with RSU's Academic Computing Services. She tells us she tries to attend as many campus events as possible including plays, sports events and art festivals. Underwood chose RSU because she wanted an education that would help her achieve her goals of becoming a labor and delivery nurse and she was told that RSU offered "the best nursing program around." Underwood pushes herself to be successful in her classes but says she wouldn't have had the opportunity to be in the classes at all if not for her scholarship.

Jim Morrison and wife Norma established this endowment in 1999.

REMEMBERING WHEN: SHADES OF SOUL

The Shades of Soul, comprised of OMA students, won first place in the 1967 State of Oklahoma "Battle of the Bands."



Members were: Jim Elder, drums; James Mobley, vocals; David Oldaker, bass; Rex King, lead guitar; Randy Hetherington, baritone sax; Kurt Lybarger, tenor sax; Jim Sussex, organ; John Saltzman and Tommy Mayes, trumpets.

It was 1967 and we were rehearsing for Cadet Capers. Our group was born of the "Lazy Day" when some of us jammed in my room in Downs Barracks. Others joined in (horns and saxes) and then there was James Mobley. He walked in and asked if he could sing. I told him we had no mike but if he could find one, he was welcome. That was the beginning of the "Shades of Soul."

When we finished our Capers performance, David Oldaker's mother came backstage and told us we "need to learn some more songs." (We only had four ready for Capers.) She then explained that there would be a battle of the bands the following Saturday at the Civic Center in Tulsa and she had entered us in the contest.

General Smoller was against our project until he was gently reminded by Mobley, me and some others that the publicity of an "integrated" group might be positive for the school and somebody mentioned the NAACP. That did it. We had permission as long as we had a faculty sponsor and Don Gill agreed to serve as our sponsor.

We threw together enough material for 30 - 45 minutes. Word of the event got around and most of the corps showed up at the civic center that night.

Our group was twice as big as the others so it made an impact. Our opener was the intro to "Mary Had a Little Lamb" breaking into "Midnight Hour." That got their attention and when the votes were counted, we won. That was a regional battle of the bands. The winner was to go to Oklahoma City

the following Saturday for the state contest sponsored by WKY-TV.

Ours was the last group to play because it was so big and we had to join two bandstands together to hold everybody. When the votes were in, we had won, taking the trophy and prize money of \$100.00 as the winner of the WKY State Battle of the Bands for 1967!

The trophy is in the museum and there is a picture of me presenting Smoller with the \$100 somewhere as well. The big deal was that there was a talent scout from Ted Mack's Original Amateur Hour in Oklahoma City, who invited us to submit a tape to the show to see if we would be selected for an appearance. We made the tape at KVOO on Brookside, submitted it and were chosen for an appearance to be in March 1967. They postponed us until April, then when they again pushed us back to May we had to decline due to graduation and the band scattering to all parts of the country. – Jim Elder



ROLL CALL: WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

■ **Bob Pool ('45)**, Pool had an early career working for Interstate Oil Pipeline, Co. in Shreveport, Louisiana, and later for IBM in Amarillo, Texas. He eventually landed in Teaneck, New Jersey working for Witco Chemical. Pool finally returned to Tulsa and, after a number of years, launched a business manufacturing and wholesaling insulated glass to the commercial market. In December 1979, Pool formed the company that is now known as Thermal Windows, Inc. The three decades of steady growth the company has seen since then has been attributed to his financial controls and product innovations. Bob and his wife, Carolyn live in Bayview, Texas.

■ **Glenn Wright ('53)**, Wright lives in Tulsa, Okla. and serves as Executive Director of the Tulsa Air and Space Museum and Planetarium, though in a recent interview with the Tulsa World, he says he wouldn't describe it as "work" at all. "It is an everyday experience of discovery that I share with wonderful employees and great volunteers... not to mention, I get to meet interesting people that walk through the door and see their expressions as they take in the F-14 sitting in the museum and the look of wonder as they enter the planetarium," he said. Wright is proud to say the museum and planetarium are an essential part of the community; it is the only place in Tulsa that tells the story so well of the roots of Tulsa's aviation history.

■ **Joe Seabourn ('68)**, After leaving OMA, Seabourn joined the U.S. Army. He was stationed in Fort Polk, Louisiana, before being dispatched to Vietnam in August 1969. His duties during the Vietnam War included firing 81MM motors during the night to help the Marines, serving as a door gunner crew chief

and finally as a Flight Engineer. His love of flying earned him several awards, including Best Flight Engineer (out of 160). He has four Bronze stars and 22 air wings, indicating more than 1,000 combat assault hours. Seabourn says of his time in the military, "I crashed four helicopters (while serving in the U.S. Army), the fifth of which should have put me on the Black Wall in D.C. I had too many flight hours and the Flight Surgeon would not extend my other two extensions so I was grounded. Per my leave orders, I left the area February 15, 1971. The helicopter I was scheduled to be on crashed that night at 8:00 p.m., leaving five men dead. I guess it was not my time." Since his honorable discharge from the Army, he has worked all over the world in the petroleum industry. Joe lives in Abilene, Texas.

■ **H.M. Spencer ('71)**, After leaving OMA, Spencer attended Southeastern Oklahoma State University in Durant, where he worked as an undergraduate research assistant on projects with the National Institute of Health and NASA. In 1978, he entered active duty as a first lieutenant in the Army Chemical Corps. Over the next decade, he was stationed at Fort Sill (Oklahoma), Fort McClellan (Alabama) and Fort Polk (Louisiana). In 1987, he began a career working for the Pentagon. Though he was initially given a position as a tech advisor and instructor, he quickly rose through the ranks. When he retired in 2001, he worked in the Immediate Office of the Secretary of Defense. Since 2006, Spencer has been working with Aberdeen Proving Ground in Maryland as the Operations Research Analyst for Intelligence and Information Warfare Systems and lives in Bel Air, Maryland..



PLANNING FOR ESTATE DISTRIBUTIONS

Have you considered including a gift in your estate to establish a scholarship Endowment?

Many Oklahoma Military Academy Alumni are choosing to establish scholarships or add to those already established, to honor their lives and/or in memory of a family member, to further the traditions of the Oklahoma Military Academy. By doing so, you will ensure a legacy of learning for many generations to come.

If you are interested in more information on estate planning, establishing a new scholarship, or funding an existing scholarship, please contact Dr. Danette Boyle at 918-343-6888 or email dboyle@rsu.edu.

OMA REUNION 2012 REGISTRATION FORM

Name _____ Last date attended _____ High School Junior College

Name of spouse (or other guest(s) attending) _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Home Phone _____ Work Phone _____

Cell Phone _____ E-mail _____

FRIDAY, JUNE 8, 2012

Number of Persons _____ Total \$ Amount _____

OKLAHOMA MILITARY ACADEMY ALUMNI GOLF CLASSIC & REGISTRATION

Heritage Hills Golf Course • 9 a.m., Shotgun Start

18 holes - \$60 (includes lunch) Golf lunch only \$15

Please arrange my foursome for me.

My team members will be: _____

(Dutch Treat)

LADIES LUNCHEON

11:30 p.m. • The Pink House, Claremore, OK

Yes, I will attend

LADIES TEA HOSTED BY RSU FIRST LADY PEGGY RICE

2 p.m. • President's Residence, RSU Campus

Yes, I will attend *(Reservation required with maximum 40)*

PING-PONG/POOL TOURNAMENT

3-5 p.m. • RSU Centennial Center

Ping-Pong - \$10 per person Pool - \$10 per person

OKLAHOMA MILITARY ACADEMY ALUMNI REUNION OPENING RECEPTION

5:30-7:30 p.m. • RSU Centennial Center

\$25 per person

SATURDAY, JUNE 9, 2012

MORNING, NOON AND AFTERNOON ACTIVITIES

Registration begins at 8 a.m. • OMA Museum in Meyer Hall

\$30 per person

(includes rolls, juice and coffee at Registration and lunch followed by the ice cream social)

RECEPTION, DINNER AND DANCE

6 p.m. • RSU Centennial Center

\$40 per person

I would like to make a contribution to the OMA Reunion Fund/OMA Alumni Association Fund.

I would like to make a contribution for the Dinner/Dance Band.

Total Amount Enclosed

Return the registration form using the enclosed envelope or mail to: OMA Alumni Office, 1701 W. Will Rogers Blvd., Claremore, OK 74017.

Make checks payable to: *RSUF/OMA Alumni Association.*

Please charge my VISA MasterCard Discover

Account number _____ Expiration date _____

Signature _____

Refund policy: Reunion 2012 registration refunds will be made only if the OMA Alumni Office is notified no later than 5 p.m. on Friday, June 1, 2012. For additional information, please call the OMA Alumni Office at 918-343-6888, 918-343-6889 or email dboyle@rsu.edu.

RSU UPDATE

SPRING ENROLLMENT FIGURES INCREASE FOR RSU CAMPUSES

Rogers State University has announced a record spring enrollment of 4,297 students, which included increases at its Claremore, Bartlesville and Pryor campuses. Total enrollment was up 2.8 percent overall when compared to spring 2011 enrollment.

One of the most notable trends to emerge from the latest enrollment figures is growth of the number of credit hours students are taking when compared with the increases in student enrollment during the past decade.

Students were enrolled in 46,144 credit hours this spring, which represents a 3.7 percent increase from the previous spring semester. When comparing the current semester's credit hours to the spring 2002 figures, this represents a 64 percent increase in the number of credit hours students are taking at RSU. During that same time frame, RSU's enrollment grew 51 percent from 2,847 students in 2002 to 4,297 this spring.

These two elements, when taken in combination, show RSU is cultivating an environment where students are immersing themselves in the college experience by carrying larger course loads, said RSU President Dr. Larry Rice.

"These strong enrollment figures show that RSU continues to attract students at record numbers, while also attracting students who are serious about their studies and are committed to earning college degrees," Rice said.



The new baseball/softball facility will include concessions, restrooms, grandstands and a ticket booth with a paved entry plaza.

NEW ATHLETIC FACILITIES TO OPEN THIS YEAR

Another major change on Rogers State University's campus includes the reintroduction of intercollegiate athletics, which has boosted campus spirit and connection to the university.

To support Hillcat student-athletes, the university is undertaking two major athletics facilities projects this year:

a baseball/softball multi-purpose facility and a renovation of Soldier Field to include a fieldhouse for soccer, cross country and intramural athletics. Funded through a student facility fee along with private donations, the \$4 million improvement project will benefit six of RSU's 10 athletic programs.

The first of the two new projects to be completed will be an 8,000-square-foot baseball/softball facility to include concessions, restrooms and new grandstands. The first floor includes concessions and restrooms for patrons as well as two dressing rooms for umpires and multiple storage areas. The second floor features separate press boxes for baseball and softball, coaches' offices and a donors' suite with indoor and outdoor seating. New grandstands with stadium seating, a ticket booth and a paved entry plaza. Construction is ongoing, even with home games returning to the baseball/softball complex earlier this month. Final construction is expected to be completed in April.



The Soldier Field renovation includes artificial turf, locker rooms and training facilities for soccer and cross country, as well as, concession stand and public restrooms.

The university also is completing a major renovation of Soldier Field to include a regulation-sized soccer pitch with artificial turf, which was the most cost-effective way to provide a field to withstand daily practices, regular matches and student events on the field.

The north end of Soldier Field will feature a 9,000-square-foot facility with locker rooms and training facilities for soccer and cross country. The fieldhouse will feature concession stands and restrooms for fans, as well as facilities for campus intramural athletics for the general student body. The Soldier Field projects will be completed by late spring with a public dedication planned for this fall.

RSU is committed to building a winning athletics tradition the right way – teaching young men and women to compete on the field while exemplifying high moral qualities in all that they do. As evidence of this, RSU has been recognized with the NAIAs Champions of Character Five-Star Award that recognizes an institution's commitment to building strong character among its student-athletes.

RSU SCHOLARS BANQUET

MARCH 8, 2012

The RSU Scholars Banquet is always a very special opportunity for donors to have a wonderful dinner with their scholarship students and get better acquainted. Photos provided by York Events Photography.



◀ Pictured clockwise from far left: Mark Brown, Charles Bennett, Lisa Brown and daughter Nadine Brown. Bennett is the recipient of the Phillip Milton Wilcox Memorial Scholarship.

▼ Bill Harris ('54) and Ashley Garhart. Garhart is the recipient of the Bill B. and Dena D. Harris Scholarship Endowment.



▲ Sue Harris and Kerri Stewart. Harris is the recipient of the John B. and Sue E. Stizza Scholarship Endowment.

CADETS ENJOYED GREAT FOOD AND MEMORIES AT THE OMA OKLAHOMA CITY MINI REUNION

MARCH 13, 2012

► Joe Leslie and Shawnee Brittan

▼ Buddy Reinauer and Robert Orcutt



▲ John Owens

TAPS

★ **BENNETT**, John B. ('48), Oklahoma City, Okla., passed away November 13, 2011. John served in the U.S. Army during the Korean Conflict, then he attended and graduated from OSU Tech. John was most notably a proud letter carrier for the U.S. Postal Service, authored three fishing books and was a fishing lure design patent holder.

★ **BESHEARS**, Arthur F. ('41), North Little Rock, Ark., passed away March 3, 2012. After attending OMA, he transferred to Oklahoma State University and graduated with a bachelor's degree in marketing. He served in the U.S. Army during WWII in the field artillery and as a battery clerk. After the war, he worked in the oil and gas field until retiring in the 1990s.

★ **BREHM**, Neville M. ('37), Tulsa, Okla., passed away December 5, 2011. After graduating from OMA, he attended Oklahoma A&M and the University of Oklahoma. He later served in the U.S. Army Air Corps in WWII, where he was stationed in India for four years. He was the owner of Poteau Steam Laundry and Cleaners and for 10 years before retiring, headed Poteau's Oklahoma Employment Agency.

★ **DOST**, William F. "Coach," Lakeview, Ark., passed away December 8, 2011. Coach attended the University of Tulsa and played in the 1943 Sugar Bowl. After the Sugar Bowl, he enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps to serve in the South Pacific during WWII. Returning from war, he finished his education and entered a long career of teaching and coaching. Dost had two tours of coaching and teaching at OMA, the last being from 1966-1971. He was inducted into the University of Tulsa and New Jersey Athletic Hall of Fame. He was an All-American swimming champion, holding the national record for 1943 in the 40-yard freestyle.

★ **HELBING**, James R. ('67), passed away December 1, 2011. He was retired as a site manager from G.W. Systems in Missouri. He was a U.S. Army Veteran having served in the Panama Canal region during the Vietnam era.

★ **LARSON**, Larry L. ('54), McAlester, Okla., passed away January 5, 2012. After attending OMA, he later graduated from Tulsa Central High School. He started his career in the mail-room of Loffland Brothers Drilling in Tulsa in 1957. He worked in the home offices for five years and in 1963, he moved to Louisiana to become the office manager. He returned to Tulsa in 1969, where he became assistant to the administrative vice president. In 1988, he became manager of the U.S. Land Operations. He continued to work in drilling until his retirement and was involved in every major oilfield in the United States during his career.

★ **McFARLIN**, Tommie A. ('62), Claremore, Okla., passed away February, 2012. He was a graduate of Claremore High School, OMA and Oklahoma State University of Agriculture and Applied Science and earned a master's degree from the University of Southern California. He served his country for 27 years in the U.S. Army as an aviator, serving two tours in Viet Nam and retired in 1992 as a Colonel. Tommie and his wife retired to Claremore where they enjoyed living in the home he built.

★ **MERVELDT**, LeRoy. ('43), El Reno, Okla., passed away March 2, 2012. After serving in the Navy during WWII, he attended the University of Oklahoma and worked with his father Herman in El Reno Construction and H. Merveldt & Son Farming and Ranching. He started Merveldt Irrigation in 1973. He loved fishing with his late wife at Lake Texoma, where he had a second home.

★ **MITCHELL**, Joseph D., III ('56), Papillion, Neb., passed away December 28, 2011. After graduating from OMA, he also graduated from Eastern New Mexico University and was a veteran of the U.S. Air Force.

★ **VANCE**, Leland S. ('45), Evergreen, Colo., passed away November 20, 2011. "Philo" attended OMA, and then graduated from Classen High School and later from the University of Oklahoma, where he was a member of Sigma Alpha Epsilon. After his honorable discharge from the U.S. Army after serving in the Korean War, he went to work as an oil scout for Champlin Oil. In 1960, Leland opened the Denver office for Beard Oil, where he continued to work until retirement in 1990. He worked as an independent lease broker in the area until age 80.

★ **WHITFIELD**, Terry I. ('71), Vinita, Okla., passed away November 19, 2011. He attended Grove High School, where was a talented football player. His talents on the field earned him a scholarship to OMA. He also enlisted in the Army National Guard.

★ **WOOSTER**, Charles C. ('35), Lindsay, Okla., passed away November 24, 2011. He was employed by Haliburton Company in Duncan until he started his own welding business. As the oil field boomed, he moved his family to Lindsay in 1946. He ran his business until he was 79 years old.

Due to our recent efforts of the Find Lost Alumni campaign, we have updated our records online. Please go to www.rsu.edu/oma/lostalumni.asp

TOP 10 “MUST SEE” ITEMS IN THE OMA MUSEUM

MEYER HALL, ROGERS STATE UNIVERSITY

1. OMA KIA PHOTO AREA AND PURPLE HEART PLAQUES

After visiting the OMA KIA Memorial, come to the OMA Museum to view photos of each man who made the ultimate sacrifice for our country in WWII, the Vietnam War and the Korean War. We also have plaques recognizing OMA Alumni who have been awarded a Purple Heart.

2. HALL OF FAME AND DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI PHOTOS



The Oklahoma Military Academy Distinguished Alumni Award was first presented in 1983. The award recognizes those alumni who have distinguished themselves in their professional or military careers and in service to their community by participation in the Oklahoma Military Academy Alumni Association or in the activities of Rogers State University.

The Oklahoma Military Academy Hall of Fame was established in 1984 as a way to honor and pay tribute to those individuals who have attained high achievements in professional endeavors or notable personal accomplishments at the local, state or national level. Members of the Oklahoma Military Academy Hall of Fame exemplify the highest standards of the Academy and its motto: Courage, Loyalty and Honor.



3. U.S. CAVALRY'S LAST CHARGE – ED RAMSEY



Lt. Col. Ramsey, a 1937 graduate of Oklahoma Military Academy (OMA), fought much of World War II behind enemy lines, barely surviving. Ramsey was a young lieutenant in the U.S. Cavalry stationed in the Philippines at the beginning of World War II. When the Japanese invaded the Philippine Islands, he was thrown into the war. He soon found himself cut off from his own forces during the thick of the fighting. He ultimately became the leader of a force of 40,000 guerilla fighters intent on regaining the Philippines from Japanese rule. In his 1990 book, “Lieutenant Ramsey’s War,” Ramsey credited his survival to the training he received at OMA. “It was at OMA that I learned properly to ride (horses),” Ramsey wrote. “Our Bible was the cavalry’s two-volume ‘Horsemanship and Horsemastership.’ It taught me how to train the horse and train myself, and then the two of us together until we were a unit.”

4. CADETS TO GENERALS PHOTOS

The 10 U.S. generals who were once academy cadets, including retired Lt. Gen. William E. Potts—our highest ranking cadet, are honored in the OMA Museum.

5. FIRST OMA PRESIDENT COL. STEPHEN M. BARRETT & PRESIDENT TAFT



William Howard Taft, former 27th President and Secretary of War, visited OMA on February 21, 1920. After a short speech to the Cadet Corps, President Taft and Col. Barrett spent most of the afternoon drawing up rules and regulations for the Academy. We have a display in the museum commemorating this meeting.

6. JIM LEE BARKER 1989 SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE

Barker was elected to the Oklahoma House of Representatives and served his district in eastern Oklahoma for 16 years. He ran for Speaker of the House in 1983 and served as Speaker of the 101-member House for an unprecedented four terms.

Regarding his four years at OMA, Barker once said, "Any success that I have had in business and politics I credit to my fellow cadets, staff and faculty during my four years at OMA. They expected and received the very best from each of us both physically and mentally. They pushed us to the limits of our ability."

Learn more about Rep. Barker at the OMA Museum, where you will find a display dedicated to his service.

7. WILLIAM J. DAUGHERTY-HELD 444 DAYS AS HOSTAGE IN IRAN

Don't miss our display honoring William Daugherty. As an outstanding OMA cadet and honor student, he was the school's nominee to the U.S. Naval Academy, Annapolis. He served eight years in the U.S. Marine Corps with enlisted and commissioned service. He also completed flight school and flew combat missions in Vietnam.

He completed a B.A. in social science at the University of California, and a Ph.D. in government from the Claremont Graduate School. Daugherty was subsequently recruited by the CIA. During his first CIA duty tour, he was taken hostage in 1979 while stationed at the American Embassy in Tehran, Iran. He

was among 52 hostages held prisoner for 444 days. His awards include the State Department's Medal of Valor, the CIA Exceptional Service Medal, the Foreign Service Association's W. Averill Harriman Award and a two-time recipient of the CIA Exceptional Performance Award.

8. INSTRUMENT OF SURRENDER WWII HAND LETTERED BY DALLAS MEADE OMA CLASS OF 1928

Among the memorabilia and personal effects donated by many prestigious OMA alumni in the OMA Museum in Meyer Hall, you will find a small tribute to a lone cadet named Dallas Meade, '28. Meade penned one of the most significant documents in U.S. military history – the "Instrument of Surrender," which effectively ended World War II when it was signed. The only known reproduction of the signed copy of this historic document resides in the OMA Museum, thanks to his brother Robert Meade ('51), who donated it for safekeeping in 1995.

9. COL. JOHN HORNE OMA'S LAST PRESIDENT



As the only former OMA cadet to serve as OMA president, Col. John E. Horne holds a special place in the school's history. Come to the museum to see a photo of Col. Horne as an OMA cadet, which truly brings to life the saying, "Send us a boy that we may make a leader for the future of our nation."

10. TYPICAL CADET ROOM IN THE 1940S



The highlight for many visitors to the museum is our mock dorm room, complete with cadets in uniform reading their Rabbit Manuals.



OMA Alumni Office
1701 West Will Rogers Boulevard
Claremore, OK 74017-3252

NON-PROFIT ORG
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
CLAREMORE, OK
PERMIT NO. 185

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

OMA ALUMNI SAY GOODBYE TO FRIEND AND SUPPORTER



Mary Hammett Hamilton

Mary Hammett Hamilton died suddenly in January, shortly after learning she had cancer. A native of Claremore, Hamilton received an undergraduate degree from Oklahoma State University-Tulsa after attending Rogers State College. She started her career at Rogers State College as director of Alumni Giving and Alumni Support.

In 1993, she began a long service to the American Red Cross, where she was instrumental in many initiatives, and joined Goodwill Industries in 2011.

Danette Boyle, Executive Director of the OMA Alumni, remembers her as an excellent employee. "She loved the OMA Alumni and spent a great deal of time helping to find the lost alumni and working to bring them back to the campus," says Dr. Boyle, "Mary had a special talent of organizing events and was responsible for elevating the level of quality of the annual OMA Reunion."

GUIDON

GUIDON is a newsletter published for alumni of Oklahoma Military Academy by the OMA Alumni Office of Rogers State University.

Send correspondence and address corrections to: Danette Boyle, *GUIDON*, Rogers State University, 1701 W. Will Rogers Blvd., Claremore, OK 74017-3252.

This publication is issued by Rogers State University. One thousand, seven-hundred copies have been printed at a cost of \$1.29 each. Rogers State University does not discriminate on the basis

of race, color, national origin, sex, age, religion, disability, or status as a veteran in any of its policies, practices, or procedures.

Editor: Dr. Danette Boyle, dboyle@rsu.edu, (918) 343-6888

Asst. Editor: Megan Hurst

Designer: Kate Northcutt

Printed April 2012