

COURAGE LOYALTY HONOR + YESTERDAY TODAY TOMORROW

2012 OMA ALUMNI REUNION WAS “BEYOND DESCRIBING”

The old saying, “words cannot describe,” comes to mind when trying to share highlights of the OMA Alumni Annual reunion, held June 8 and 9 on “College Hill.” Several alumni called the reunion “awesome” and others described it as “wonderful” and “great.” However, the one OMA Alumnus from the 1950s who had tears running down his face during the OMA KIA Memorial Ceremony expressed what everyone was feeling

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Major General Darrell Moore, USMC, keynote speaker at the OMA KIA Memorial Ceremony, is shown with OMA Alumnus Edwin Ramsey '37 and his wife, Raquel.



OMA PIONEER'S FAMILY SHARES HISTORY

The OMA Museum this summer enjoyed a visit from the granddaughters and great-great-granddaughter of S.M. Barrett, the last president of Eastern University Preparatory School and first OMA president. Pictured are granddaughters Jane Barrett and Jo Ann Oldham and great-great-granddaughter Hannah Hill along with RSU President Dr. Larry Rice. OMA Museum curator Gene Little '56 said talking with the family members provided a lot of new details about President Barrett and his years at OMA.

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LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT



Bill Ramsay

It was great to see so many Alumni and family back on "The Hill" for our 2012 OMA Alumni Reunion. We had a nice breeze for morning formation, during which ownership of the OMA Killed In Action Memorial was formally transferred as a gift to Rogers State University in order to properly maintain the Memorial, and to acknowledge the strong bond that exists between the University and the

OMA Alumni. We were honored to have Pryor native Major General Darrell Moore, USMC, deliver an outstanding keynote address.

Congratulations once again to RSU President Emeritus Dr. Richard Mosier, the recipient of the prestigious General William E. Potts Award, who delivered a memorable and heartfelt address at our awards ceremony. Special thanks and a salute go to Major General Tim Malishenko, USAF (RET), who did an outstanding job as our 2012 Adjutant.

As always, the RSU staff was superb in managing all of the events and activities.

Your Alumni Association Board of Directors continues to develop action plans for implementing the mission and strategic plan of the Association. As a result of the pictures of Lost Alumni sent out in The Telegram, the status of many former cadets has been determined. Please help us stay in touch by letting us know when your contact information changes. One of our primary goals this year is to find as many alumni as possible and to make sure our database is correct and up to date. We are excited about the plans for RSU to build a new Student Dining Hall, and look forward to helping to "make it happen."

Our Reunion for 2013 has been set for June 7th and 8th, and will be dedicated to all former cadets who proudly served and protected their country. So, make your plans accordingly and again reach out to your buddies to join you. We hope to see you then.



Bill Ramsay, '61
OMA Association President

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Claremore, OK

Mr. Tom Simpson, '66
Edmond, OK

Mr. Randy Vierling, '63
Edmond, OK

GUIDON

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OMA Alumni President Bill Ramsay '61 and 2012 OMA Reunion Adjutant Maj. Gen. Timothy Malishenko, USAF (RET) '63 finalize plans for the reunion.



Decade Commanders at the 2012 OMA Alumni Reunion are, from left: David Oldaker '70, Carlos Galzez '60, Norman Shaw '53, Robert Heatley '42, and Larry Lantow '38.



Claremore High School JROTC unit helps start off the Morning Formation by raising the OMA and United States flags.

2012 REUNION 'BEYOND DESCRIBING'

Continued from page 1

– overwhelmed with the memories tied to the people and experiences from their days at the Oklahoma Military Academy.

It was a beautiful day on "College Hill" when Maj. Gen. Darrell Moore, spoke at the OMA KIA Memorial Ceremony. Moore, who serves as Director of the Reserve Affairs Division, U.S. Marine Corps, was raised in Pryor where he resides today with his family. Maj. Gen. Moore articulated so beautifully the meaning and importance of the OMA KIA Memorial, which includes the names of 101 OMA Alumni who were Killed In Action during WWII, Korea and Vietnam.

A very emotional time during the ceremony was when the OMA Alumni 2012 Reunion Adjutant, Major General Tim Malishenko, USAF (RET) and OMA Class of '63, read the proclamation formally transferring the ownership of the OMA KIA Memorial to Rogers State University. RSU

President Dr. Larry Rice accepted the OMA KIA Memorial. He thanked all the OMA Alumni that contributed generously to build the Memorial and spoke eloquently about the institution's commitment to always maintain the Memorial. He described how this gift acknowledges the strong bond that has developed between RSU and the OMA Alumni.

This year's OMA Distinguished Alumni and Hall of Fame Ceremony that followed in the auditorium was described by one alumnus as "best ever" when Larry Lantow, Class of '38, and Joe Daniel, Class of '69, were presented with the Distinguished Alumni Awards. The prestigious OMA Alumni Hall of Fame Award was presented to Randy Vierling, Class of '63. Vierling was recognized for his extraordinary vision

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WRIGHT GIVES BACK TO HONOR OMA'S PERSONAL, PROFESSIONAL IMPACT



Ted Wright, '52

Orphaned as an infant following his parents' death, Ted Wright credits OMA with helping establish his path to success – and later in life, connecting him to his long-lost family.

Wright, along with two brothers and a sister, were sent to the Whitaker State Home in Pryor following the death of their parents. Ted's brothers and sisters were adopted, and all the children lost touch over the years.

Ted went on to graduate from the Oklahoma Military Academy High School in 1952. He then spent a year at Oklahoma A&M before returning to "The Hill" to attend junior college in 1954. Following college, he established a successful career in the pipe fabrication business.

In 1984, Ted's brother, Pat Thompson, contacted Dr. Danette Boyle, who then served as RSU's Vice President for Development, to help him find Ted. Boyle invited Pat to attend the 1984 OMA Alumni Reunion, where he spoke with many OMA Alumni asking about where Ted might be. Even though he had no luck finding him at the reunion, his story soon hit the local papers, which lead him to his lost "baby" brother, who was then living in Omaha, Nebraska.

The family was reunited and in 1985 Ted attended his first OMA Reunion. This was the beginning of a very long relationship with the OMA Alumni Association and Rogers State University. Wright gave \$1,000 that first year at the reunion to help with student scholarships. After that year, Ted continued to give very generously with his time and money as he helped establish the OMA '50s Endowment. He served on the RSU Foundation Board for many years and served as the chairman of the board for four years.

At the time, he and his wife Terry lived in Oklahoma City which provided Ted the opportunity to volunteer many hours at RSU.

Then in May 1998, he earned an associate's degree in Police Science from RSU1.

Wright was recognized as an OMA Distinguished Alumnus in 1995 and inducted into the OMA Hall of Fame in 2003. He spent a great deal of time helping to plan the annual OMA Reunions and served as one of the first adjutants for the annual reunion.

Wright has always remembered OMA as having a great influence on his life. "The faculty that taught me were excellent and I learned so many American values and the great importance of helping others succeed in life as many people have helped me," Wright said. "I always wanted to

help the students at RSU because the campus stands where OMA stood for fifty-two years. My years on that campus were some of my best ones ever," Wright said.

Ted and his wife Terry made the decision in 1990 to establish the E.W. and

Marcelle Luker Scholarship Endowment in memory of Terry's parents. They are also establishing the Marland McKinley Rogers (Ted's birth name) Scholarship Endowment. Ted and Terry have also included a generous gift in their will to further aid the endowment programs.

Wright now lives in Georgetown, Texas where he and Terry recently

celebrated their 55th wedding anniversary. Dr. Boyle, who now serves as Executive Director of the OMA Alumni Association, remarked while visiting with RSU President Dr. Larry Rice, "Ted Wright has been an active member of the OMA Alumni Association and volunteer for RSU for more than 20 years and a very generous donor. I am deeply grateful that he has cared so much about the future of the institution and leaving his legacy on "The Hill."



While attending OMA, Ted Wright was a staff member for the Guidon newspaper and played for the OMA basketball team.

LEAVING A LEGACY



Charles Bennett, (center) recipient of the Philip Milton Wilcox Memorial Scholarship, visited with Mark and Lisa Brown and their daughter, Nadine, during the annual Rogers State University Scholarship Banquet this spring.

The Brown family established the Philip Milton Wilcox Scholarship in 2011 to honor the life and service of Lisa's brother, Philip Milton Wilcox, who was an OMA alumnus.

Wilcox graduated from OMA in 1965 and enlisted in the Air Force, where he served until he was honorably discharged in April 1978 with the rank of Staff Sergeant. During the time Wilcox served, he was awarded two Air Force Commendation Medals. After he was discharged, Wilcox made his home in Oklahoma City, where he passed away in 2008.

The recipient of the Philip Milton Wilcox Memorial Scholarship, Charles Bennett, is an RSU junior pursuing

a bachelor's degree in Military History and an associate degree in Criminal Justice. He chose RSU primarily for its Military History program, but also to be near his family in Collinsville. When not studying and attending classes, Charles enjoys swimming, reading and volunteering at the Tulsa Air and Space Museum. After graduation, he intends to enter graduate school and would eventually like to teach at the college level so he can share his love of history with future generations. Charles is much honored to be the first recipient of this scholarship and looks forward to making his donors proud by exceeding expectations inside and out of the classroom.



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 alumni pay tribute to the fallen soldiers at the OMA KIA Memorial. Reflection shows Tom Simpson '66, Charlie Hatfield '65 and John Plumlee '63.



Longtime friends and OMA Alumni, Alex Adwan, '48 and Bob Heatley, '42, visit together while touring the OMA Museum.



OMA Alumni President Bill Ramsay visits with Roger Hamilton '68, who was a first-time attendee to the 2012 OMA Alumni Reunion.

LIST OF OMA REUNION FIRST TIME ATTENDEES

Jesse Cox, '67 Vanlue, OH	Jim Jones, '65 Katy, TX	Gary Warmack, '65 Oklahoma City, OK
David Farren, '71 Kansas City, MO	Craig Reynerson, '64 Rockwall, TX	James Wilkins, '70 Broken Arrow, OK
Roger Hamilton, '68 Santa Rosa, CA	David Sargent, '71 Oklahoma City, OK	Charles Wisdom, '65 Tulsa, OK
Vincent Howard, '83 Claremore, OK	Cleo Templin, '55 Norman, OK	

2012 Reunion Continued from page 3

that resulted in the building of the OMA KIA Memorial. The highlight of the ceremony was the presentation of the Lt. Gen. William E. Potts Award to RSU President Emeritus Dr. Richard H. Mosier. Dr. Mosier was responsible for the establishment of the OMA Alumni Association when he became president of Claremore Junior College after the closing of OMA. Dr. Mosier humbly accepted the award as

all those attending the ceremony gave him a standing ovation.

OMA Alumni traveled from all over the country to "College Hill" for the 2012 Annual Reunion. More than 275 alumni, families and friends were on the campus and met many old friends and made some new friends. Of those, 11 were first-time attendees. There were so many stories told about cadet life, and one family member noted that the stories just get better and better each year.

The 2013 OMA Alumni Reunion has been scheduled for



Dr. Richard Mosier, RSU President Emeritus, accepts the 2012 Lt. General William E. Potts Award of Excellence.



Left to right standing: 2012 OMA Alumni Adjutant Maj. Gen. Timothy Malishenko, USAF (RET) '63; OMA Alumni President Bill Ramsay '61; Hall of Fame honoree Randy Vierling '63; Distinguished Alumni honoree Joe Daniel '69; Executive Director of OMA Alumni Dr. Danette Boyle; RSU President Dr. Larry Rice. Seated: Distinguished Alumni honoree Larry Lantow '38 and Lt. General William E. Potts Award of Excellence honoree Dr. Richard Mosier, RSU President Emeritus.



Charles Emerson '56 is recognized at the annual alumni luncheon for thousands of hours he has devoted to the development of the OMA DVD.

June 7-8, 2013 on "College Hill." And once again, many OMA Alumni commented on how great the 2012 reunion was and made great suggestions to improve the upcoming reunion. The 2013 OMA Alumni Reunion will be "Dedicated To All OMA Alumni Who Proudly Served and Protected Their Country."

OMA had the largest percentage of their student body serve in the military than any other institution in Oklahoma.

OMA Alumni President Bill Ramsay said, "We want all

the OMA Alumni to start making plans now to be on 'The Hill' on June 7 and 8. To make this celebration great, we would like to have as many photos of our alumni in uniform as possible."

If you or your family have photos of OMA Alumni in uniform, please send pictures to Dr. Danette Boyle in the OMA Alumni Office.

RSU UPDATE

RSU ENTERS NCAA DIVISION II MEMBERSHIP PROCESS

The National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) announced that RSU has been approved for the Division II membership process. RSU President Dr. Larry Rice called the announcement a major milestone in the university's recent renaissance.

"The move allows RSU to better serve both our student-athletes and the university, while also increasing the national exposure for both the university and the communities we serve," Rice said. With its successful application for Division II Membership, RSU will now enter into a three-year transition period before earning full NCAA membership status. The Hillcats will continue as an active member of the Sooner Athletic Conference within the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA) for the 2012-13 school year.

RSU has also been approved for membership in the NCAA's Heartland Conference, comprised of schools located in Oklahoma, Arkansas, Kansas and Texas. Starting in the fall 2013, RSU will play a Heartland Conference schedule in all sports as it completes Second Year Candidacy. Upon completion of Year Three of the membership process, which is the provisional year, the Hillcats will gain full NCAA membership and become

eligible to compete for NCAA Division II Championships beginning as early as 2015-16.

RSU has enjoyed rapid growth in sports sponsorship since the launch of athletics in 2005. In the past year alone, Hillcat men's and women's basketball teams both advanced to the NAIA Elite Eight rounds, while the baseball teams played in the national championship game in June. During the last seven years the Hillcats have won 67 percent of their athletic competitions, claimed four conference championships, produced 11 NAIA All-Americans and made nine national tournament appearances.

DID YOU KNOW?

- RSU is now one of five nationally accredited Emergency Medical Services programs in the State of Oklahoma and the only one in northeast Oklahoma.
- 87% of RSU EMS students pass the National Registry Exam, compared to the national pass rate of 64%.
- RSU boasts one of the highest EMT-Intermediate pass rates in Oklahoma.

WHEN OMA WAS KING...

As Rogers State University begins a new era of athletic competition as a candidate for the NCAA Division II, the university's student-athletes follow in a tradition of excellence established during the OMA years, specifically during the late 1930s. Highlights from that era include:

- The 1938 and 1939 varsity polo teams were ranked No. 1 in the nation for two consecutive seasons.
- The 1938 polo squad dominated competition that included the University of Oklahoma and Texas A&M, outscoring opponents 236 to 85 during the 23 consecutive victories that opened the season. A year later, the team went 26-1.
- During 1937 and 1938, the varsity football team recorded two consecutive undefeated seasons. In those two seasons under Coach Murl A. "Tuffy" Cline, the teams

outscored opponents 347 to 46, including 11 games where they held opponents scoreless.

- The 1937-38 academic year also showed strong athletic competition with the rifle team going 8-2, defeating opponents including Michigan State and Wentworth Military Academy.
- The boxing team went 4-1 and included AAU State Champion and Golden Gloves finalist Herman Colston at 147 pounds.
- The basketball team went 19-6, which included a string of 17 consecutive victories; and the school fielded both tennis and baseball teams for the first time in several seasons.

PHILLIPS NAMED VP FOR DEVELOPMENT



Maynard Phillips

Rogers State University has announced Maynard Phillips has joined the university as its Vice President for Development overseeing all university fundraising initiatives, planned giving, endowment, scholarships and alumni programs.

Before joining the university in July, Phillips most recently served as a Senior Principal and Resident Campaign Manager for Jerold Panas, Linzy & Partners, a Chicago-based firm that is a national leader in fundraising campaigns and financial resource development. He managed capital campaigns, specializing in the higher education and healthcare industry.

Phillips has previously worked in fundraising at Eastern Oklahoma State College Development Foundation and Lubbock Christian University. Before entering the development field, Phillips had more than two decades of management experience in the insurance and retail sectors.

"At a time when state support for higher education continues to decline, it's critical for public universities to

reach out to the private sector in order to maintain high levels of service while keeping college costs affordable," said RSU President Dr. Larry Rice. "Maynard Phillips brings to RSU an exceptional background in both fundraising and management, which I believe will serve the university and its constituents well as we move forward. I am excited for RSU friends and supporters to have the opportunity to work with Maynard."

A native of Tushka in southeastern Oklahoma, Phillips and his wife Debra are relocating to the Claremore area.

"RSU is experiencing an exciting era right now with record enrollments during the past decade and new academic programs on the horizon," Phillips said. "There is a palpable sense of the dynamic growth at each of the three RSU campuses, and it's an honor for me to work with the university's alumni and friends to help advance this great university."

DID YOU KNOW?

The OMA Museum Yearbook Collection contains all OMA Yearbooks except 1922 and 1926. If you have one of these missing yearbooks that you would like to contribute to the museum, please contact Danette Boyle at the OMA Alumni Office at (918) 343-6888.

RECENTLY FOUND OMA ALUMNI SINCE JUNE 2012

To help preserve the legacy of the Oklahoma Military Academy, the Alumni Association is seeking to reconnect with "lost alumni." If you have any information on any "lost" alumni, please contact the OMA Alumni Association.

Ronald Liles, '62
Louisville, Texas

John W. Russell, '43
Wagoner, Oklahoma

Jim Tice, '55
OKC, Oklahoma

Roy E. Anderson, '67
Arlington, Texas

Anson T. Woods, '48
Shattuck, Oklahoma

Charles J. Barnes, '71
Springfield, Missouri

Edwin Smith, '60
Branson, Missouri

Jeffrey L. Swafford, '66
Jupiter, Florida

Robert L. Dean, '49
Arcadia, Oklahoma

Walter D. Lloyd, '53
Tulsa, Oklahoma

George L. Rodgers, '67
Friendswood, Texas

David T. Tuley, '68
Ada, Oklahoma

J.M. LePree, '66
Edmond, Oklahoma

SALUTE TO MATT BRAUN, A WESTERN HERO



Matt Braun, '53

Matt Braun ('53), lives in the countryside of Connecticut, a long way from western Oklahoma where he was born. Raised among the Cherokee and Osage tribes, he was a fourth-generation westerner, steeped in the tradition and lore of the frontier era. His great-grandfather founded a ranch in western Oklahoma and once survived a shootout with three horse thieves.

To a great extent, Braun is a man born out of his time. Like his ancestors, he has spent the majority of his life wandering the mountains and plains of the west. He has always felt more comfortable in a wilderness setting, and his books display a remarkable understanding of frontiersmen.



He found his way to OMA, becoming a graduate of both its high school and junior college. While at OMA, Braun participated in football, boxing, saber society, student senate and fencing. A 2002 inductee into the OMA Hall of Fame, Braun frequently comments to his friends, old and new, how much he values his OMA education.

During his military service, he served as a company commander in the 64th Tank Battalion. After serving in the U.S. Army, Braun became a journalist and then an author of western novels.

His heritage, as well as his contribution to Western literature, resulted in his lifetime appointment by the Governor of Oklahoma as a Territorial Marshal.

Braun has lived in a remote section of the Connecticut mountains

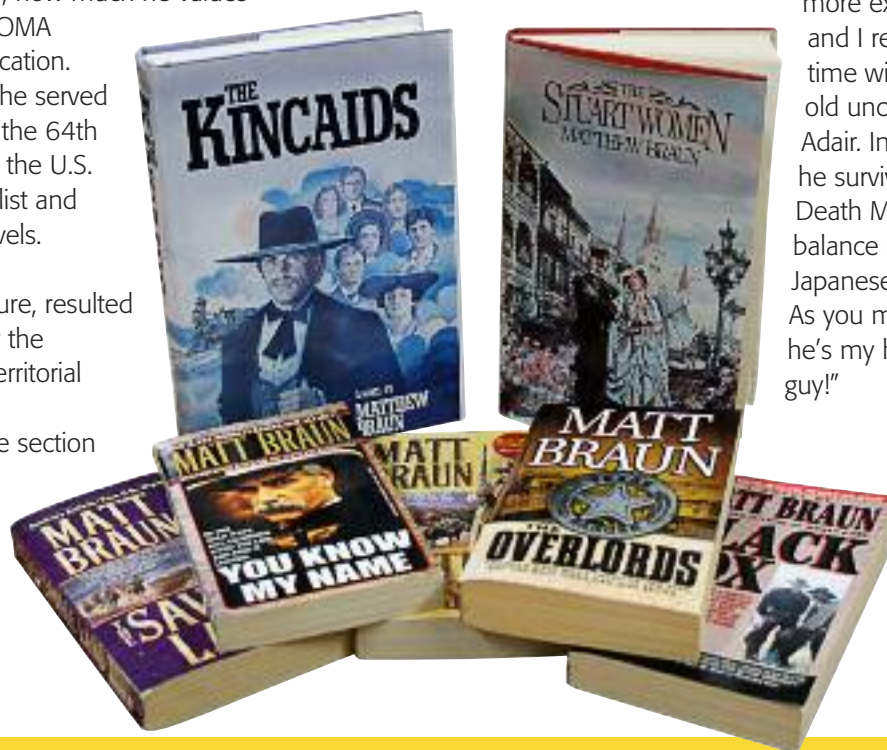
Braun's extraordinary career has seen him earn the following accolades and achieve these milestones:

- 56 published novels and books
- More than 40 million copies in print worldwide
- Published in fourteen foreign countries
- Winner, Owen Wister Award for Lifetime Achievement
- Winner, Western Writers of America Golden Spur Award
- Winner, Festival of the West Cowboy Spirit Award
- Lifetime appointment as Oklahoma Territorial Marshal
- Critical acclaim for his non-fiction book, "How To Write Novels That Sell"
- CBS six-hour miniseries adapted from the novel, "Black Fox"
- TNT movie adapted from the novel, "One Last Town"

with his wife, Bettiane for many years. He continues to travel the western U.S., gathering source material for his novels.

During a recent visit with Dr. Danette Boyle, Executive Director of OMA Alumni, he said, "A writer's life is solitary and seldom newsworthy. I just finished a book of short stories, all of which are set in the American West. This is the 56th book since I was first published in 1972. Somewhat

more exciting, Bettiane and I recently spent time with my 95-year-old uncle, William Adair. In World War II, he survived the Bataan Death March and the balance of the war in a Japanese prison camp. As you might imagine, he's my hero. Quite a guy!"



FATHERS AND SONS THAT ATTENDED OKLAHOMA MILITARY ACADEMY

The Oklahoma Military Academy's legacy extended beyond just one generation.

Below are a list of the fathers and sons who both attended OMA during its more than five decades of service.

Joe V. Adair, '27
Son: Joseph J. Adair, '66
Son: William A. Adair, '68

Dr. Clyde W. Beson
OMA Instructor 1960-1971
Son: Clyde W. Beson, '63
Son: James L. Beson, '66
Son: John R. Beson, '68
Son: Joe L. Beson, '70

James L. Bowman, '34
Son: James L. Bowman, '66

Ralph B. Brainard, '35
Son: William M. Brainard, '68
Son: R. Bryan Brainard, Jr., '67

Maj. Gilmore C. Daniel, '38
Son: Joe C. Daniel, '69

R.H. Frank, '46
Son: Robert T. Frank, '69

Earl H. Hargis, '42
Son: Tom Hargis, '67

Jack R. Hedge, '36
Son: Jack R. Hedge, '66

Jack W. Jessup, '43
Son: J.W. Jessup, '67

Robert L. Lawrence, '38
Son: Robert L. Lawrence, '68

Col. Joseph W. Long, '39
Son: Robert P. Long, '66

Jack W. McMichael, '41
Son: J. William McMichael, '68

Robert C. Peck, '39
Son: Robert C. Peck, '66

Lt. Col. James R. Porta, '43
Son: Stephen K. Porta, '67

Elmo W. Tanner, '35
Son: James P. Tanner, '67

Robert L. Templeton, '37
Son: Michael L. Templeton, '66

Dr. Wilfred C. Wright, '44
Son: Duff R. Wright, '66

Lawrence F. Yates, '37
Son: Lawrence E. Yates, '66

Wayne H. "Beef" Redding, '20
Grandson: Ronald W. Redding, '68

If you know of any other father/son/grandson combinations, please let us know!

TAPS

★ **BOWERS**, Madison J. ('50), Tulsa, Oklahoma, passed away May 3, 2012.

★ **CLINE**, Charles ('43), passed away June 13, 2012.

★ **FIELDS**, Glenn E. ('40), passed away July 1, 2012.

★ **GASKINS**, Ronald C. ('53), Lawton, Oklahoma passed away June 30, 2012

★ **HUDMAN**, George D. ('53), Scottsdale, Arizona, passed away June 28, 2012.

★ **JOHNSON**, James H. ('46), Oklahoma City, Oklahoma passed away May 29, 2012

★ **KELLEY**, John T. ('48), Houma, Louisiana, passed away May 1, 2012.

★ **SNEDDEN**, Michael B. ('53), Vinita, Oklahoma Passed away September 7, 2012

★ **TURNER**, Fred G. ('52), McAlester, Oklahoma, passed away June 18, 2012.

★ **WAHL**, Elmer H. ('48), Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, passed away May 1, 2012.

★ **WEEMS**, Ray O. ('38), Afton, Oklahoma, passed away May 20, 2012

★ **WHINERY**, Don ('62), Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, passed away May 21, 2012

★ **WILLIAMS**, Arthur B. ('43), Mesquite, Texas, passed away July 6, 2012



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ALL GAVE SOME – SOME GAVE ALL
HONORING ALL OMA ALUMNI WHO SERVED AND PROTECTED THEIR COUNTRY
IN TIMES OF WAR AS WELL AS PEACE

OMA REUNION
JUNE 7-8, 2013

For more information, please contact the OMA Alumni Office at 918-343-6889, 918-343-6888 or email dboyle@rsu.edu