

GUILDON

SUMMER 2010

COURAGE LOYALTY HONOR • YESTERDAY TODAY TOMORROW

BEYOND THE CALL OF DUTY MEMORIAL TO HONOR OMA KILLED IN ACTION



This architectural rendering depicts the Oklahoma Military Academy Killed In Action Memorial, to be located between Meyer and Preparatory Halls.

Alumni Association President Randy Vierling's "Beyond the Call of Duty" presentation during the June 5th Alumni Luncheon struck a resounding chord with Reunion 2010 attendees.

Vierling shared with alumni and their guests, for the first time, a vision of the OMA Alumni Board to construct a granite memorial honoring more than 100 cadets who died during active duty in World War II, the Korean War, and the Vietnam War. The Oklahoma Military Academy Killed In Action Memorial will be located on the greenway between Rogers State University's two most historic buildings, Preparatory Hall and Meyer Hall.

These buildings are listed on the National Register of Historic Places and were the site of the first classrooms and barracks when the institution became a military academy in 1919.

MEMORIAL DEDICATION

OMA Reunion • June 4, 2011

Bob Wright, '53, a prominent architect from Oklahoma City, Okla., designed the Memorial. Wright's concept incorporates a pyramid shape with an eternal flame at the apex. Three sides will honor the fallen from the

three wars which occurred during the duration of OMA on The Hill. A fitting statement of purpose and the OMA seal will be emblazoned on the fourth panel.

Continued on page 6

OMA ALUMNUS LEW WARD TO BE INDUCTED IN OKLAHOMA HALL OF FAME



Lew Ward, OMA '50, was inducted as an OMA Distinguished Alumnus in 1993.

Oilman Lew Ward, who will be inducted into the Oklahoma Hall of Fame later this year, credits much of his success to the education he earned at the Oklahoma Military Academy (OMA).

Lew Ward, who was named an OMA Distinguished Alumnus in 1993, will be a member of the 83rd class of the Oklahoma Hall of Fame.

The announcement was made recently at the Gaylord-Pickens Museum in Oklahoma City. The class of six officially will be induct-

ed during the Oklahoma Hall of Fame banquet and induction ceremony Nov. 4 in Oklahoma City.

Other members of the class are: Kristin Chenoweth, of Broken Arrow; Robert A. Hefner III, of Oklahoma City; Edward F. Keller, of Tulsa; Judy Love, of Oklahoma City; and Michael C. Turpen, of Oklahoma City. They will join 635 others who have been inducted into the Oklahoma Hall of Fame since 1928.

Although Ward was born in Oklahoma City, his parents often traveled from town to town working in the oil patch during his childhood days. In 1946, he enrolled at OMA and thought his glamorous life as a cadet would soon begin. However, he learned there was more to a military academy than glamour and uniforms. The discipline, competition and camaraderie between cadets set the stage for a life of success.

"I credit much of my success in business, and in life, to my days at OMA," Ward says. "Before you learn how to give orders, you have to learn how to take them."

Each year, Ward and his wife attend the annual OMA Reunion on the RSU campus in Claremore.

The Ward family established the Lew and Myra Ward Scholarship Endowment, providing scholarships for today's students at RSU.

Ward attended two years of high school and two years of junior college at OMA, graduating in 1950. He continued his education at the University of Oklahoma where he earned a degree in petroleum engineering in 1953. He then joined the U.S. Army just after the Korean armistice was signed, and worked as a pipeline engineer in Okinawa, Japan, until 1955. He was a First Lieutenant when he was

discharged, returning to Oklahoma to work for an independent oil company in Tulsa and to marry his college sweetheart, Myra, an OU geology major.

Soon the young couple moved to Enid to work in her father's oil and gas lease brokering business. In 1963, he formed his own company, L.O. Ward Oil Operations. By 1964, his company had acquired a lease for the producing well and he has been an independent producer ever since.

"We learned the elements of leadership through the ROTC program at OMA, which have carried me well through civilian life and have applied in the business world," Ward said.

Today, his highly successful company is known as Ward Petroleum Corp. and is still located in Enid. Ward serves as chairman of the company. Operated by his son, William Ward, the company has amassed an enviable track record of innovation and evolution. The company is involved in virtually every phase of the oil and gas industry, and has focused on a variety of geographic regions, including South America and Russia.

Ward is also a registered professional engineer and a graduate of the Owner/President Management Program at Harvard University.

He is a member of National Petroleum Council and was president of the Oklahoma Independent Petroleum Association from 1979-80. He served as chairman of Independent Petroleum Association of America from 1995-97.

He was inducted into the University of Oklahoma College of Engineering Distinguished Graduates Society in 1999. He received Lone Star Steel's "Chief Roughneck" Award in 1999 for lifetime achievement in the oil and gas industry, and in 2009, he received the Trailblazer Award from the OU.

He has served as president of the Greater Enid Chamber of Commerce, Enid Rotary Club and American Business Club. The Chamber named him Businessman of the Year in 1988 and Citizen of the Year in 2006. He was presented the Governor's Arts Award and inducted into Enid Public School Foundation Hall of Fame, also in 2006.

The Oklahoma Hall of Fame banquet and induction ceremony will be held at Cox Convention Center in Oklahoma City. Tickets and table sponsorships for the event will go on sale in September. For more information, call (405) 235-4458 or visit www.oklahomaheritage.com.

OMA ALUMNI ASSOCIATION 2010-2011 BOARD OF DIRECTORS SEATED



ABOVE: The 2010-2011 Alumni Association Board of Directors was seated during the June 5 Reunion meeting in the OMA Museum. Outgoing and incoming Board members are (front from left) Carlos Galvez, Larry Lantow, Willis Hardwick, Jack Harris, Gene Little, OMA Alumni Director Brandi Sutherland, (second row from left) Phil Goldfarb, John Wickstrom, RSU Vice President for Development Dr. Danette Boyle, Tom Simpson, Gerald Breeding, Don Hill and Bill Harris, (third row from left) Bill Ramsay, Warren Rodgers, Randy Vierling, Bob Hancock, Jim Elder, Bob Corlett, Tom Anderson, Jim Ellison, (back) Angel Beltran and Shawnee Brittan. (Frank Cochran, Bill Harris and Ellison were 2009 Board members. Galvez was appointed to fill Cochran's unexpired term.)

BELOW: Alumni Board officers are (from left) Vice President Phil Goldfarb, Secretary/Treasurer Larry Lantow and President Randy Vierling.

CURRENT BOARD

1930s

Larry Lantow

1950s

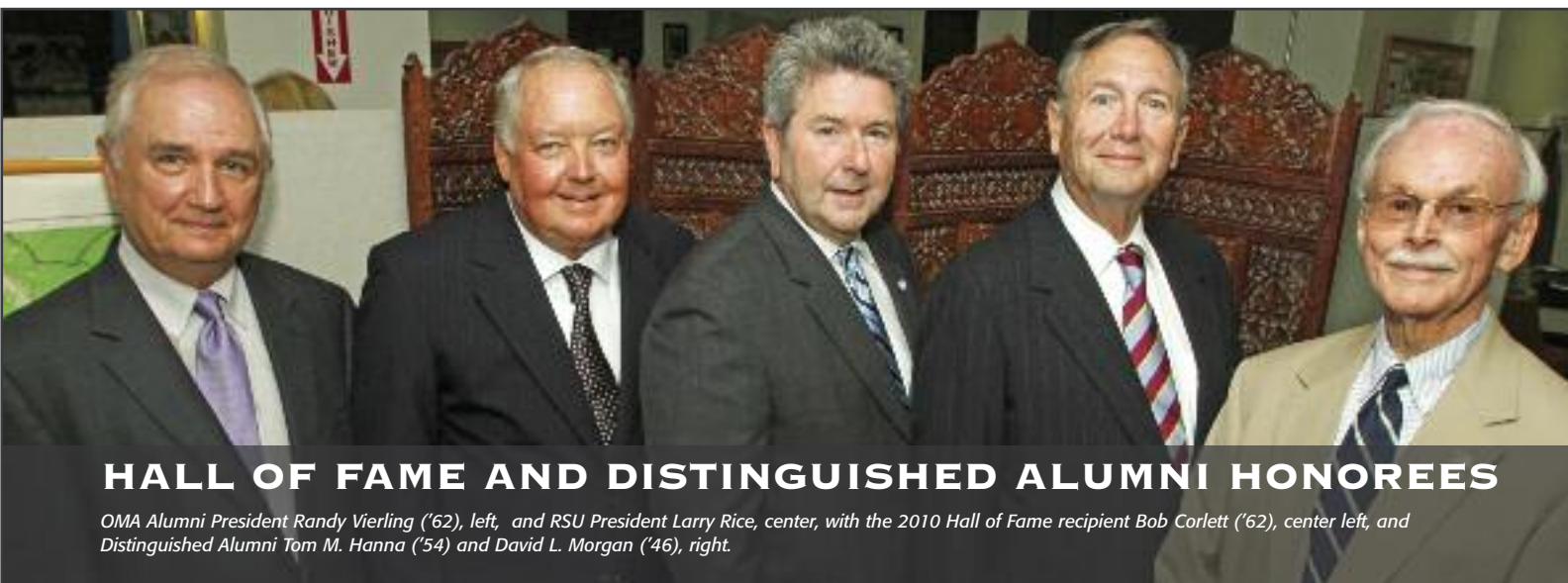
Tom Anderson
Gerald Breeding
Shawnee Brittan
Jack Harris
Willis Hardwick
Don Hill
Gene Little

1960s

Angel Beltran
Bob Corlett
Jim Elder
Carlos Galvez
Phil Goldfarb
Bill Ramsay
Warren Rodgers
Tom Simpson
Randy Vierling

1970s

Bob Hancock
John Wickstrom



HALL OF FAME AND DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI HONOREES

OMA Alumni President Randy Vierling ('62), left, and RSU President Larry Rice, center, with the 2010 Hall of Fame recipient Bob Corlett ('62), center left, and Distinguished Alumni Tom M. Hanna ('54) and David L. Morgan ('46), right.

RSU TO OFFER OKLAHOMA'S FIRST BACHELOR DEGREE IN MILITARY HISTORY



Dr. Ken Hicks, Head of the RSU Department of History and Political Science, updates the OMA Alumni Board on the status of the Bachelor of Arts in Military History. The University is also submitting an application to re-institute the Reserve Officers Training Corps (ROTC) on campus.

Rogers State University has announced it will offer Oklahoma's first bachelor degree in military history, advancing the education of the nation's armed services and drawing on its own history as a military academy.

The new Bachelor of Arts (B.A.) in Military History was approved in June by the University of Oklahoma Board of Regents, the governing board for RSU. The degree will be offered this fall, pending approval of the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education.

"RSU is proud and uniquely situated to be the first university in Oklahoma to offer a four-year degree in military history," RSU President Larry Rice said. "This new degree will provide a valuable national service by advancing the education of the officer corps, encouraging more students to pursue careers in the military and preparing the next generation to respond to national security challenges."

The Oklahoma Military Academy, often called the "West Point of the Southwest," operated at the present location of the RSU campus in Claremore from 1919 to 1971. Close ties between RSU and its predecessor institution continue to the present day, with OMA alumni supporting several current RSU initiatives, including providing scholarships for students.

The new degree will prepare graduates for careers in the academic field of military history, the armed forces, law, public administration, journalism, security, intelligence or government, said Dr. Ken Hicks, Head of the RSU

Department of History and Political Science, which will offer the degree.

RSU already serves as a Service Member Opportunity College (SOC), a consortium of state colleges, universities and technical schools that provide educational opportunities to service members. RSU also operates a veterans affairs office.

In addition, RSU is presently completing an application for a unit of the R.O.T.C. on its campus in Claremore. RSU will also offer a minor in military history to students with other major areas of study.

"Several recent news articles have focused on the absence of military history in college and university curricula," Hicks said. "One of our goals is to help fill that void."

Hicks and his faculty colleagues discovered a high level of interest in the degree after administering surveys to RSU students; high school students in Claremore, Tulsa and across northeast Oklahoma; and area residents. The results of the surveys indicated that approximately 70 percent of all respondents have a family member who has served or is serving in a branch of the military. The surveys also indicated that many area students and residents are strongly interested in military history and follow accounts of present military issues in the news, he said.

Citing research, Hicks said that influential members of the nation's military leadership have advocated for a better-educated military and have advised members of the officer corps to pursue bachelor degrees.

RSU will join the ranks of prestigious universities in the U.S. offering military history degrees, including Duke University and the University of North Carolina.

Military historians at similarly prestigious institutions such as Temple University, Ohio State University and the University of North Texas reviewed the RSU military history degree proposal and offered their endorsements of the program, Hicks said.

Students who earn the military history degree at RSU may elect to apply for graduate programs in military history at institutions in surrounding states, such as Kansas State University and Texas A&M University.

For more information on the new RSU military history degree, call the RSU Department of History and Political Science at (918) 343-7687.



LEFT: OMA alumni, Jack Perritt ('67), Robert "Blaine" Jones ('53), Will Perry Ground ('49), and Harry Poarch ('53) were honored as "living recipients of the Purple Heart medal." CENTER: Homer Cliff Ford, State of Oklahoma Commander for the Military Order of the Purple Heart, was in attendance as Adjutant David Raper announced the presentation of OMA Museum plaques to honor Purple Heart Medal recipients. RIGHT: E. Robert Heatley ('43), a newly identified Purple Heart Medal recipient, was also a first-time Reunion attendee.

ADJUTANT PRESENTS PURPLE HEART TRIBUTE TO MUSEUM



Reunion Adjutant David Raper announced a special tribute to 48 known OMA cadets who received the Purple Heart Medal.

During the traditional Morning Formation at the Flag Pole on Saturday, June 5, Sue Stizza Harris and Dottie Trizza (family members of OMA cadets who were killed in action and received Purple Hearts), along with OMA Alumni Association President Randy Vierling, Gene Little, and Homer Cliff Ford, State of Oklahoma Commander for the Military Order of the Purple Heart, participated in the presentation of two Purple Heart plaques for display in the OMA Museum.

The Museum is located on the second floor of the former OMA Meyer Barracks, now Meyer Hall on the RSU campus.

Raper is himself a Purple Heart recipient. There are nine living recipients in the known OMA alumni ranks.

Raper shared with the audience the purpose and history of the Purple Heart medal. It was originally designed and commissioned by General George Washington and is awarded in the name of the President to those who have been wounded or killed in any action against an enemy of the United States, or as a result of an act of any such enemy or opposing armed forces.

The plaques include space for the names of additional recipients not yet identified.

OMA ALUMNI PURPLE HEART MEDAL RECIPIENTS

LIVING

Perry L. Ground ('49), WWII
E. Robert Heatley ('43), WWII
John Michael Higbee ('66), Vietnam
Harry H. Hoyt ('67), Vietnam
Robert Blaine Jones ('53), Vietnam
Jack Clayton Perritt ('67), Vietnam
Harry H. Poarch ('53), Vietnam
Edwin P. Ramsey ('37), WWII
Charles D. Raper ('65), Vietnam

DECEASED

Stephen Carl Beals ('64), KIA Vietnam
John Enoch Black ('66), KIA Vietnam
Bradley D. Bowers ('65), KIA Vietnam
Nolan B. Cargile ('39), KIA WWII
Lloyd F. Cathey ('42) KIA WWII
Michael Dale Casey ('66) KIA Vietnam
Walter E. Downs Jr. ('40), KIA WWII

John Culbertson Egger Jr. ('50), KIA Vietnam
Roger L. Fife ('45), KIA Korean War
William C. Gates ('45), KIA Korean War
George M. Hale ('37), KIA WWII
Jack D. Hodgden ('43), KIA WWII War
Frank C. Howk ('40), KIA WWII
Michael Dale Hyatt ('66), KIA Vietnam
Glen C. Johnson ('31), KIA WWII
Robert B. Lewis ('40), KIA WWII
Howard F. Liddell ('41), KIA WWII
Charles W. Locke ('34), KIA WWII
George Watson McDonough ('67), KIA Vietnam
Daniel W. McKinney ('47), KIA Korean War
Harry A. Patterson ('36), KIA WWII
Lionel Eugene Parsons ('61), KIA Vietnam
John T. Resler ('40), KIA WWII
William Donald Reynolds ('52), KIA Vietnam
James D. Scott Sr. ('32), KIA WWII

Drew Douglas Shipley ('64), KIA Vietnam
John Bonat Stizza ('59), KIA Vietnam
John Robert Stockdale ('66), KIA Vietnam
John T. Swais ('39), KIA WWII
James S. Trimble ('45), KIA WWII
Sam Richard Trizza Jr. ('63), KIA Vietnam
Bob F. Unverferth ('43), KIA WWII
Richard E. Vensel ('39), KIA WWII
Theodore Davison Ward ('67), KIA Vietnam
Elmer C. Weinrich ('29), KIA WWII
Victor D. Westphall III ('58), KIA Vietnam
William Robert Wilson ('67), KIA Vietnam
Craig Martin Yancey ('68), KIA Vietnam
Daniel Webster York ('65), KIA WWII

If you are a Purple Heart Medal recipient or know of a recipient who is not listed, please contact Brandi Sutherland at (918) 343-7773 or bsutherland@rsu.edu. Information will be verified.

OMA KIA MEMORIAL

CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE



Major General Tim Malishenko ('62), USAF (ret.), chair, KIA Memorial Dedication Committee. Malishenko was inducted into the OMA Hall of Fame in 1997.

"While we already honor these men -- some of them personal friends of ours -- with a dedicated section in the OMA Museum, it was decided that we could possibly best honor them, and at the same time perpetuate the legacy of OMA for future generations, by constructing a Memorial of some kind, a wall of honor if you will," Vierling told the gathering of nearly 350 alumni, family and friends.

"We know that around 2,500 OMA alumni served in active military duty in their lifetimes. Of that number, just over 100 are known to have been Killed In Action. As of today, we have 104 documented," Vierling said.

During the presentation, the faces and names of the KIAs were shown in a slideshow while Vierling narrated.

"These men, some who once walked the hallowed halls of OMA beside us, gave their all, gave their lives, so we could pursue our lives, our dreams.

"Most of our goals have been achieved. Most of our dreams realized ...," he said. However, Vierling said the construction of the KIA Memorial, slated to be dedicated at the Reunion 2011, is perhaps one of the "most noble of goals, one of the greatest dreams we could accomplish in our lifetime, both individually and as an association.

"I believe the OMA Killed In Action Memorial can truly reflect our appreciation to these men and their sacrifice. It will be funded by OMA alumni who are able.

"In my mind, this will be the greatest legacy the Oklahoma Military Academy Alumni Association can establish. The perpetual flame on the memorial will burn long after the last OMA cadet has gone on to be reunited with those who gave it all."

The goal for the construction of the memorial and the establishment of an OMA KIA Memorial Endowment is \$125,000. Gifts and pledges are arriving daily in support of this project.

"I believe this project definitely speaks to the hearts of OMA cadets. And I want to thank each and everyone who

have given. I know they have done so with a sacrificial spirit. We are moving forward, finalizing the design plans, and will let everyone know when construction begins.

"I have appointed a fellow cadet who has distinguished himself as a career military man, Major General Tim Malishenko, USAF (ret.), to head up the Memorial Dedication Committee. He will be working closely with the Alumni Board and Dr. Danette Boyle and her staff in the RSU Office of Development as we move forward with plans for a dedication ceremony at the OMA Reunion in 2011," Vierling said.

Five other alumni will serve on this committee:

1930s: Larry Lantow

1940s: (To be identified)

1950s: Tom Anderson

1960s: David Raper (to be appointed adjutant for the 2011 Reunion) and Jim Elder

Funds provided for the memorial will pay for its construction, with the balance of contributions invested in a KIA Memorial Endowment. A portion of endowment earnings will benefit the OMA Museum, scholarships for RSU students, and maintenance of the memorial.

OMA alumni are encouraged to support the KIA Memorial effort. See the enclosed brochure and KIA Memorial gift card for further information.



MEMBERS OF SIX YEARS OF ATTENDANCE CLUB
RECOGNIZED AT REUNION



J.D. Cribbs ('64) and Bill Abergro ('64) raise their hands to be recognized among the 52 OMA alumni who attended a full six years.

Brandi Sutherland, OMA Alumni Director, unveils a plaque listing the names of an elite group of alumni – those who attended a full six years. B. G. Jones ('64) made the presentation. The plaque will be displayed in the OMA Museum in Meyer Hall.

OMA SIX YEARS OF
ATTENDANCE CLUB

IN HONOR OF CADETS WHO ATTENDED THE
OKLAHOMA MILITARY ACADEMY FOR SIX YEARS

William Abrego 1959-1964	James Cribbs 1959-1964	Joseph Fish 1964-1969	Carroll Huff 1960-1965	Feegeebie Parrish 1956-1961	Robert Smith 1938-1943
George Barlas 1948-1953	Gene Crose 1951-1956	James Flanagan 1927-1932	Raymond Jennings 1935-1940	Leon Penn 1938-1943	James Spurrier 1933-1938
Angel Beltran 1961-1966	Johnnie Davis 1960-1965	George Gahring 1937-1942	B. G. Jones 1959-1964	Charles Raper 1960-1965	William Stone 1937-1942
Frank Borglund 1931-1936	William Drew 1957-1962	Pete Goltra 1963-1969	Richard Jones 1959-1964	Gary Rastelli 1957-1962	Charles Taylor 1959-1964
James Bowen 1930-1935	Max Durkee 1957-1962	Roger Hamilton 1963-1968	Victor Locke 1930-1935	John W. Russell 1938-1943	Clyde Warr 1938-1943
Phillip Brasier 1960-1965	Ron Eells 1952-1957	Gary Haney 1952-1957	LeRoy Manuel 1936-1941	Robert Shackelford 1960-1965	Phillip Way 1959-1964
Larry Burton 1958-1963	David Ellenburg 1966-1971	Bill Harned 1961-1966	James McGinnis 1966-1971	George Shaffer 1960-1965	Chance Whiteman 1961-1966
Paul Carroll 1962-1967	Carl Eschbach 1960-1965	Charles Hatfield 1960-1965	Harry Moore 1953-1958	Harry Simpson 1960-1965	Jimmy Wilson 1962-1967
Walter Casey 1938-1943	Larry F. Fields 1962-1968	Emery Hickman 1933-1938	George Orcutt 1937-1942		

REUNION 2010



A large group of alumni, representing the 1930s through 1971, gathered on the Sarkeys Terrace following the 2010 Alumni Luncheon.

OLD FRIENDS, NEW FACES GREAT CADET SEARCH SETS NEW GOALS FOR REUNION 2011



LEFT: Norman Shaw ('53) and wife Joan pose with friends during the Saturday evening Alumni Banquet in the Centennial Center.

RIGHT: Bill and Judy Denney, along with Richard and Alice Hudson and Delores Emerson, at the Friday Night Alumni Reception.

Reunion 2010 brought 175 alumni, and many more family members and friends, back to The Hill in Claremore, Okla., now the home of Rogers State University, on Friday and Saturday, June 4-5.

Among that number were at least 28 new faces. Many of these new attendees came as a result of the ongoing Great Cadet Search. Efforts to locate "lost OMA alumni" – led by Alumni Association Vice President Phil Goldfarb ('69) and

OMA Museum Curator Gene Little ('56), with the assistance of OMA historian Charles Emerson ('56) and OMA Alumni Director Brandi Sutherland – have added nearly 300 new names to the active alumni base, which now stands at approximately 1,500 members.

Goldfarb said the continuing success of this project depends largely on the help of current alumni.



"I believe we need to have the current alumni redouble all of the efforts that Gene, Brandi and I pursued this year. We need to put significantly more emphasis on using their help and skills to find our buddies as we still have the potential to double current active memberships," Goldfarb said.

Defining who is an OMA alumnus is a good place to start. When calling people over the last year, it has become apparent that many former cadets do not realize they are considered OMA alumni.

"Some (we have contacted) thought you had to graduate high school or junior college. We need to emphasize who is an OMA alumnus: any individual who attended OMA for one semester or more and completed his cadet 'rabbit' period in good standing," Goldfarb said.

The process of confirming alumni status is simple. Once an individual has been identified by name, his OMA attendance can be confirmed by transcript and/or yearbook records. The next step takes more effort. Moving that name and individual from "lost" or inactive status to active alumnus status requires current contact information, including an address, phone number, and email.

The benefits of being an active alumni member include periodic updates from the association through the newsletter

(*Guidon*), reunion invitations, and notification of other activities through email and letter correspondence.

"Perhaps one of the greatest benefits of being an active alumnus goes beyond the opportunity to reconnect with friends from one's days as a cadet," Little said. Active alumni status gives former cadets an opportunity to be part of an ongoing effort to share the legacy of the OMA experience with a new generation, while supporting RSU and its educational mission.

BE A PART OF THE GREAT CADET SEARCH FOR REUNION 2011

A list of active alumni and the working list of "lost alumni" are available on the OMA Alumni Association web page at www.rsu.edu. If you recognize a name, know where someone may be located, or have current contact information, you may contact the person yourself and give them information regarding the OMA Alumni Association, or call Brandi Sutherland at (918) 343-7773 or bsutherland@rsu.edu.



Three members of the class of 1938 were in attendance. Larry Lantow, Samuel "Max" Barrett, and Ray Weems (not pictured) were recognized during the Alumni Luncheon. Lantow was as the oldest alumnus in attendance.



A member of the 395th Army Band provided the poignant sound of Taps as Reunion attendees memorialized the passing of alumni members within the last year.



The raising of the flags at Morning Formation.

2010 REUNION RECAP



Hugh Miller ('53), 2009 Hall of Fame honoree, visited with RSU President Larry Rice.



Reunion Adjutant David Raper ('65) introduces Alumni Association Vice President Phil Goldfarb ('69). Goldfarb emceed the first-ever OMA Trivia contest.



Reunion Adjutant David Raper ('65) welcomes alumni to the Morning Formation at the Flagpole.



Decade Commanders Alex Adwan ('48) and Samuel "Max" Barrett ('38).



Salute! Morning Formation flag salute.



A highlight of this year's ceremony was a drill presentation by Claremore High School Navy Junior ROTC cadets.



Dennis Kiefer ('63) has become a tradition at the Morning Formation, playing "Amazing Grace" on the Highland Pipe.



Seven former OMA faculty/staff members attended the reunion. They are (standing from left) Don Gill, Gary Easley, Don Wofford, former student teacher, B. G. Jones, Clarence Cowan, and (seated from left) Bob Cone and Elwyn Issacs.

SEE MORE REUNION PHOTOS

More Reunion photos can be viewed at the Rogers State University website, www.rsu.edu. Click on the "flickr" at the bottom of the homepage.



Peggy Rice, wife of RSU President Larry Rice, hosted the annual OMA Ladies Luncheon, where she entertained wives, friends and guests of alumni.



Two of the newest OMA Alumni Board members, Willis Hardwick ('56) (left) and Shawnee Brittan ('53).



Reuniting for the first time since the late 1940s, cadets Calvin Bard ('47) and Barran Tucker ('48) take part in Reunion activities. This was Bard's first time to attend an OMA Reunion. He made a special trip from his home in Texas to visit with Tucker.



Sixty-four golfers participated in the OMA Golf Tournament at Heritage Hills Golf Course.

Team members tying for first place were (left photo) Rick Ward, Ric Gatlin, Pat Jordan, Ron Peters, (center photo) Victor Rogers, Mike Posten, Bob Corlett and Jack Short.

Third place team members were Tim Bart, Kelly Diven, Marty Schoenthaler and Rand Berney.

ROLL CALL: WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

1940s

Walter McCabe ('46) –

Bethesda, Md.; 64 years in re-connection with The Hill; in reasonably good health, although, a lifetime non-smoker, had a bout with lung cancer, now behind me, nerve damage to my feet and hands from chemotherapy; My wife and I explored the Amazon and Japan last year, and five weeks in Europe, Ukraine and Russia, to see the Russian scientists with whom I worked on the disarmament projects a decade ago. After OMA: '46-'49: Active duty Special Agent, Army Counter Intelligence Corp, Berlin; '49-'52: Georgetown University, School of Foreign Service; 53-'78: US Foreign Service in Berlin, Monrovia, Khartoum, New Delhi,

"(Enjoyed) connecting and sharing experiences with others. I did not see any close friends from the 1943 class. I enjoyed it very much and hope to return. I was impressed with Rogers State and hope they continue to grow." – **Paul Rooker ('43)**, first-time Reunion Attendee, now living in Stillwater, Okla. After OMA: Navy 1945-46; Animal Science Degree 1949, Oklahoma A&M, Rural Adult Education OSU Masters 1961; taught Veterans Agriculture, Depew, Okla., and McCloud; Oklahoma Extension Agent (Rural-Development), Choctaw County; High School Principal, McCloud; Upward Bound Assistant Director, Oklahoma Baptist University; Gordon Cooper Vo.Tech (Secondary Principal, Asst.

I thought the reunion was a great event and both my wife, Joanna Champlin, and I look forward to attending next year." – **Shawnee "Lucky" Brittan ('53)**, Oklahoma City, first-time Reunion attendee.

"It was a great time. I did reconnect with a couple of old friends and with my past. It made me realize how important that time was for me. It was a great marker and signpost in my life. The college looks great, although has changed a lot. It was also very meaningful to renew memories of my older brother who was killed in action in 1950." –

Frederick E. Gates ('53), Parsons, Kan., first-time Reunion attendee. After OMA, attended college at Oklahoma University and pledged Sigma Chi; graduated from Tulsa University in 1956; worked at Gates Hardware until going to McCormick Seminary in Chicago from 1963-1966; ordained in 1966 as a minister in the Presbyterian Church (USA); earned Masters in Religious Education in 1968 from Tulsa University; served churches in Oklahoma, Iowa, Minnesota and Kansas, retired 1996; married Sharlyn Drews in 1984, together have five children, 11 grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

Jane Johnson passed away, 2007; three children and three grandsons (one from each of my children). One daughter, Cynthia, and a son, Stephen, live in the New York City area; another daughter Melissa lives in Arizona. Twenty-three-year-old grandson Andrew recently returned home after 18-month tour in Afghanistan with the U.S. Army where he earned his third stripe.

"The most outstanding part was coming back to OMA, RSU and Claremore 52 years later. I did connect with old friends but not as many as would have liked. My impression with RSU was very positive. I think they have built a fine University and done an excellent job of trying to maintain the OMA legacy. I really appreciate their efforts and those of all the people associated with putting the reunion together." – **Thomas E. Murray II ('58)**, first-time

Reunion attendee (known at OMA as Tommy Too Murray), The Villages, Fla. After OMA, United States Military Academy (USMA) at West Point, graduate, 1962 as a Second Lt. in the Field Artillery; attended artillery basic course, Airborne and Ranger School; Ranger buddy was Jim Joyner, OMA classmate of three years.; served in the 101st ABN Division, attended flight school and became an Army Aviator; 20-year Army career, two tours in RVN and two in Germany; 20 more years in Aerospace/Defense marketing, retired 2002.

1960s

"This last reunion was my first. It was absolutely wonderful getting to see some guys I went to school with so long ago. What I was absolutely blown away by

One of (the OMA Alumni Association Board of Directors) main goals for this upcoming year is to complete the KIA Wall of Honor and have it ready for the 2011 reunion.

– Shawnee "Lucky" Brittan ('53)



Lahore, Teheran, Ottawa, Stockholm, London; '78-'80: Chairman, Inter-Departmental Committee on Foreign Crises; '79-'80: President/CEO Bon Wit Plaza; '81-'88: President/CEO American International Investments; '89-'96: Chairman/CEO MacShell (Bahamas)Ltd., Joint US-Russian inspection of former Soviet ICBM manufacturing facilities for conversion to peacetime use. Other: President, Kappa Alpha Phi professional Foreign Service fraternity; Ruling Elder, National Presbyterian Church ('60 to date).

Superintendent, Counselor); retired as High School Counselor, McCloud, 1985; farmed, five Children showed cattle 13 years; All have college degrees; sold the farm, moved to Stillwater, Okla., 1994; love to travel, wife Pauline and I will be married 63 years in September; good health for our age.

1950s

"I was very honored to have been selected to serve on the OMA Alumni Association Board of Directors. I am very impressed with Rogers State ...

Vernon T. Hands ('55) – Pelham, N.Y.; retired 2004 after 26 years in the oil industry in Texas and Oklahoma, 17 years in financial services in New York City; following OMA High School, attended University of Tulsa with degree in petroleum engineering; between high school and college served 2 years in the U.S. Army at Ft. Lewis, Wash., assigned to 4th Division Artillery HQ (Trng). Married 46 years; wife Elizabeth

was the campus. It is so beautiful that I think it ought to be listed as a must see attraction for Claremore on any tourist lists that exist. I was also pleased to see Markham and Meyer barracks still standing and so beautifully maintained. (The OMA Museum, too.) I was treated so nicely also by the staff that I felt like a real celebrity. I had just finished several weeks of radiation treatments for cancer and was really weak but I hope I am in better shape to be able to come back again next year." – **Ralph Cliff ('63)**, first-time Reunion attendee, Bentonville, Ark.; Bachelor and Master degrees in Speech and Drama, University of Arkansas, acted on stage in regional theaters, moved to Los Angeles in 1981, acted on television shows *Dynasty*, *Dallas*, *Murder, She Wrote*, *Saved By The Bell*, etc. I moved back to Bentonville in 1998, worked as Deputy Jailer at the Benton County Jail for 10 years, retired a couple of years ago.

"I have a lot of memories from OMA and have spent numerous evenings perusing old Vedettes. Thanks to all those that gave me a quality education at OMA, especially John Fusselman of the English department who taught me to love the English language." – **Mark Engskov ('67)**, first-time Reunion attendee, Woodburn, Ore. After OMA: University of Arkansas, bachelor of science, education; taught junior high school and traveled in Europe; career change, moved to Seattle, Wash., 1973; banking and electronic firms, joined the Boeing Company, 1978; Lived in Puget Sound area most of career, obtained an master of business administration, finance, 1983;

managed Boeing accounting, cost policy, and business management organizations, joined union relations organization, became a senior manager at the Boeing Twin Aisle Airplane division in Everett, Wash.; retired 2008 after 30 years. Wife Gail and I moved to Woodburn, Ore., built a home overlooking the Oregon Golf Association home course; spend days playing golf or pickleball, and trying to stay fit between wine tastings at the many wineries in the Willamette Valley. Gail spends time volunteering at a local hospital and at a Salem, Oregon-based group that provides support to troops stationed overseas.

Gus Gustafson III ('67), Dripping Springs, Texas; CMG Sales & Marketing Group. First-time Reunion attendee.

"I was deeply touched by my first attendance to an OMA reunion, especially the Purple Heart ceremony. I have very fond memories of my time there but none more so than when I was playing football under Coach Bob Cone and Gary Easley. As I recall we set a high school record for wins that year and several of us who were seniors, got to play in the North South High School All-Star game. I made a lot of great friends and learned many life lessons. There were six of us who all came from Africa (our fathers were in the oil business and must have thought that this was a good place for us to finish school). They were right, of course. We still stay in touch with each other. Please, I wish to commend Dave Raper and Brandi Sutherland, for all their hard work and also to commend the staff at RSU for not only allowing these reunions

I wish to commend Dave Raper and Brandi Sutherland for all their hard work. I also would like to commend the staff at RSU for...recognizing the many contributions made by the cadets of OMA.

– Jack C. Perritt ('67)

but also in recognizing the many contributions made by the cadets of OMA. Thank all of you." – **Jack C. Perritt ('67)**, first-time Reunion attendee, Kerens, Texas; Enlisted in Marine Corps, two tours in Vietnam, 1968-69; graduated from Abilene Christian University, worked for Dallas Police Department 31 years assigned to undercover narcotics and tactical firearms training; Officer of the Year, 1986, Greater Dallas Crime Commission; married, one son also a police officer in Carrollton, Texas; last nine years, Executive Director of Operations for Strike International, tactical firearms training company for military and law enforcement personnel.

1970s

Harold Michael "Mykl" Spencer (71) – Bel Air, Maryland; Senior Operations Research Analyst for Intelligence and Information Warfare Systems, Aberdeen Proving Ground, Md.; studying for doctorate of business administration, University of Phoenix (2011); retired lieutenant colonel, Immediate Office of the SECDEF, 2001. One of the last OMA cadets – graduated OMA High School, 1970; attended OMA Junior College and Claremore Junior College until 1972; earned bachelor of

science in Chemistry, Southeastern Oklahoma State University, Durant, Okla.; commissioned 2nd Lt., USA Chemical Corps, 1975; earned master of arts, International Relations, Salve Regina University, Newport, R.I., 1998. Planning to attend South Padre Mini-Reunion in the fall.

GUIDON TODAY

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TAPS

★ **BOERSMA**, John A. ('45), 82, Blackwell, Okla., passed away Feb. 5, 2010. He attended Northern Oklahoma Junior College in Tonkawa, and owned J.K. Boersma Beverage Co., retired 1981. He was Blackwell Citizen of the Year in 1997.

★ **CLYDESDALE**, Thomas R., Jr. ('66), 62, Reno, Nev., passed away April 24, 2010. He attended the U.S. Naval Academy, and moved to Lake Tahoe. He was a top producer for Coldwell Banker and purchased it in January 1991. He also owned Rapsallion Seafood House and Grill in Reno. He established Village Realty Inc., and was known for his philanthropic work.

★ **COFFEY**, Thomas R., Jr. ('54), 73, Tryon, Okla., passed away June 23, 2010. He attended Oklahoma A & M College and in served the U.S. Army Medical Corps in Germany from 1958-1959.

★ **COLBERT**, Murray D. ('44), 84, Shattuck, Okla., passed away June 23, 2010. He served in the Army until 1946, and was former editor/owner of the Northwest Oklahoma Newspaper in Shattuck.

★ **COX**, Patrick A. ('70), 60, a machinist, passed away Jan. 20, 2010.

★ **HAZELRIGG**, Allan R. ('45), 83, Shawnee, Okla., passed away April 24, 2010. He served in the U.S. Army during World War II. He was an MP stationed in Tennessee, and was recalled to duty in 1950 where he served as an MP at Ft. Chaffee, Ark., during the Korean War. He later attended OU then worked for his father, S.R. Hazelrigg Trucking Company in Seminole, Okla. He moved to Oklahoma City and worked at Rocket Freight Lines as terminal manager, retiring 1989.

★ **HINDS**, William H., Sr. ('39), 91, Tahlequah, Okla., passed away May 18, 2010. He attended Northeastern State University, and served in World War II as a B-29 Bombardier with the U.S. Army Air Corps, then the U.S. Army Reserves, including a recall to active duty during the Korean War. He entered the family business, opening Hinds Department Stores which became a fixture in downtown Tahlequah for over 60 years.

★ **JACKSON**, Grantham W. ('40), 89, Ardmore, Okla., passed away June 24, 2010. He attended Oklahoma A & M College, entered the U.S. Army in 1941. A Technical Sergeant in the 417th Bombardment Group of the Army Air Corps, he and his

group were in the battles of the Bismarck Archipelago, New Guinea, the Southern Philippine liberation, Luzon and western Pacific. His honors included Bronze Star and the Good Conduct Medal. After the military, Grantham became the Wholesale Distributor for Mobil Oil and Gas in Ardmore and retired in 1994 after 41 years.

★ **LUTZ**, Richard H., Jr. ('68), 62, Jones, Okla., passed away March 8, 2010.

★ **MARSHALL**, Gene "Slim" E. ('49), 80, El Reno, Okla., passed away April 12, 2010. He was a successful cadet who commanded the Drill team while at OMA and entered the Army as 2nd Lt. during the Korean War. He entered the family business, Marshall Chevrolet in El Reno. He excelled as a computer programmer and systems designer in Houston, and made the move to the technical field. He helped resurrect a struggling aircraft company, Navion Aircraft Corp. His work is seen in the design of Navion's plane control and instrument layouts. He was owner and operator of Sunset Bowl until retirement, 2004.

★ **McCLAIN**, Ken D. ('49), Fort Collins, Co., passed away Jan. 22, 2010.

★ **MOORE**, Howard W., Jr. ('44), 82, Tulsa, Okla., passed away Feb. 6, 2010. After service in the Navy he served 30 years for the Tulsa Fire Department, retiring as captain, 1980. He spent many years as Fire Marshall at St. Francis Hospital and earned three degrees in Fire Safety and Fire Technology.

★ **MOTTER**, Robert T., Jr. ('43), 86, Muskogee, Okla., passed away June 11, 2010. He served in the U.S. Army during World War II. He also owned Motter Book Binding Company and was Exhibits Chairman for the Oklahoma Library Association for many years. (He attended Reunion 2010 in June).

★ **PARKER**, Bill J. ('44), Oklahoma City, Okla., passed away July 1, 2009.

★ **PRICE**, Jerry L. ('53), 74, Tulsa, Okla., passed away June 27, 2010. Jerry worked as a car salesman.

★ **WEBB**, William M. ('50), 79, Rockledge, Fla., passed away May 29, 2010. He earned a Bachelor of Arts from the University of Tulsa and was inducted into the Cape Canaveral Chapter Hall of Fame for his work as a member of the National Contracts Management Association.



OMA ALUMNUS TO BE INDUCTED INTO OKLAHOMA MILITARY HALL OF FAME

Lt. Col. Edwin P. Ramsey, an alumnus of the Oklahoma Military Academy, the predecessor institution of Rogers State University, will be inducted into the Oklahoma Military Hall of Fame on November 11.

The Oklahoma Military Hall of Fame induction ceremony will be held at 6:30 p.m. at the Gaylord Center on the campus of Oklahoma Christian University in Oklahoma City.

Lt. Col. Ramsey, a 1937 graduate of Oklahoma Military Academy (OMA), fought much of World War II behind enemy lines, barely surviving. For his courageous actions and leadership during the war and since, he was inducted into the OMA Hall of Fame in 1994.

OMA operated from 1919 to 1971 in the present location of Rogers State University in Claremore. The military academy was known as "the West Point of the Southwest."

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. He fought off disease and many setbacks during his time in the Philippines, but his determination

paid off when U.S. soldiers reclaimed the islands and Gen. Douglas MacArthur made his famous return. Gen. MacArthur praised Ramsey and said that he was there only "by the grace of God and your good work."

In his 1990 book, "Lieutenant Ramsey's War," Ramsey wrote about his experiences in World War II in graphic detail. He credited his survival of the war 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."

Ramsey left active duty as a Lt. Col. of Cavalry AUS (Ret.). His medals and awards include the Purple Heart, Bronze Star, Silver Star with Oak Leaf cluster and a Distinguished Service Cross. He also received several military awards from the Philippine government including the Legion of Honor (Degree of Commander) and the Cross of Valor.

In 2001, he was honored by being made a member of the 1st Special Forces Regiment – the Green Beret.

Tickets for the Oklahoma Military Hall of Fame banquet and ceremony are \$45. Reservations and tickets are available by calling (405) 425-5032.



Planning for Estate Distributions



Have you considered including a gift in your estate or will for the OMA Museum or to establish a Scholarship Endowment?

If you are interested in more information on estate planning, establishing a new scholarship, or funding an existing scholarship, please contact Dr. Danette Boyle, RSU Vice President for Development, at (918) 343-7773 or email dboyle@rsu.edu.



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ALUMNI ACTIVITIES MOVE SOUTH ON OCT. 3-5 WITH OMA MINI-REUNION IN SOUTH PADRE



Bud Inhofe ('50) and wife Margaret traveled north to attend Reunion 2010. The Inhofes, along with Jim Knight ('67), will host the annual OMA Alumni Mini-Reunion Oct. 3 through Oct. 5 in South Padre, Texas.

Come one, come all!

Reunion Schedule

Sunday, October 3rd (5:00 p.m.):

Reception at the home of Bud and Margaret Inhofe.
A shrimp and oyster feast will follow at Blackbeard's.

Monday, October 4th (4:30 p.m. – 6 p.m.):

"Cocktails at Sunset" hosted by Jim Knight

Tuesday, October 5th (6 p.m.):

Dinner at Gabriella's Restaurant

If you want the OMA Alumni Office to assist with reservations, please respond no later than Sept. 16. For information, contact Brandi Sutherland, (918) 343-7773, email bsutherland@rsu.edu, or fax (918) 343-7892.

