

SUMMER 2023

COURAGE ★ LOYALTY ★ HONOR



REPORT TO THE HILL



OKLAHOMA LEGACY
ALIVE AND WELL IN THE OMA MUSEUM

A NEWSLETTER FOR ALUMNI OF THE OKLAHOMA MILITARY ACADEMY

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT



Ken Colley '69

The West Point of the Southwest was an experience shared by 10,000 plus young men. They came from all over the world. Our time together was a life-changing event for every single cadet. So many of our fellow cadets served in all branches of the military. Through the RSU Guard Officer Leadership Development (GOLD) program, we are continuing the OMA legacy to serve our country.

Do you realize that OMA Alumni have never failed to continue to help when asked? Our alumni have always given to projects to assist Rogers State University in the support of higher education. Your contributions to the New OMA Museum have been a monumental success. Dr. Boyle, Dewey Wilson, and Carlos Galvez have shared many of our stories and experiences at OMA with numerous friends and families while giving tours of the OMA Museum.

I personally want to thank our RSU President Dr. Larry Rice for his continued support of the OMA Alumni. Also, a special thanks to Dr. Boyle, our Executive Director of the OMA Alumni Association, and the OMA Alumni Board of Directors.

On behalf of our 2023 adjutant, Carlos Galvez class of 1960, and our alumni board we would like you to see our new OMA museum and look forward to seeing you in September at the 2023 OMA Alumni Reunion.

In closing, Friday night at the reunion I am asking that you attend and share about an individual who was a good example or mentor to you while you were on "The Hill". It might have been a fellow cadet, an instructor, a coach, or a regular army cadre member. I am looking forward to seeing your smiling face.

With courage, loyalty, and honor,


Ken Colley '69
OMA Alumni Association President

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LETTER FROM THE EDITOR



Dr. Danette Boyle

ATTENTION OMA ALUMNI,

Let me start with a salute and another big thank you to all of you that contributed to the New OMA Museum. It is truly a first-class Museum, and we are having a huge number of visitors here to see it and use the Conference room. Thanks to the extraordinary work of OMA Museum Curator, Dewey Wilson, class of 1966 and Deputy Curator, Carlos Galvez, class of 1960 our visitors receive guided tours. It is beyond describing the many positive comments we hear. Your attendance at the 2023 OMA Alumni Reunion will mean you can see the Museum if you haven't or see it again. It will certainly be worth your time.

In addition, I am so excited to let you know that Friday afternoon at 4 p.m., Professor Curtis Sparling, Department Head and Assistant Professor for the Department of Technology and Justice Studies, alongside several students, will provide OMA Alumni with hands-on lessons on how to complete an obstacle course using a drone. He will also show you how to use coding autonomous flights through a second course. There will be a few 3D printers used to print drone components. Following the buffet dinner, you will have the opportunity to participate in "Open Mic" and share with your fellow alumni, family, and friends who your most important mentor was at OMA.

In closing, I want to thank RSU President Dr. Larry Rice for his continuing support that, in his words, "continue to preserve and share the spirit and legacy of OMA." Please **REPORT TO THE HILL** September 22 and 23 for the Reunion. Just call me at 918-343-6888 or 918-381-8764 and I will register you on the phone.

With All Good Thoughts,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Danette Boyle". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Danette Boyle
Executive Director OMA Alumni Association

ATTENTION OMA ALUMNI

***If you are not receiving my emails, please send your name
and any updated contact information to me.***

Email to dboyle@rsu.edu | Text to 918-381-8764 | Call me at 918-343-6888

THANK YOU

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2023 OMA ALUMNI AWARD RECIPIENTS

OMA Distinguished Alumni

Phil Alexander '67
 Darrell Jenkins '68
 Drew Shipley '64, posthumous
 Jack Wilkinson '67, posthumous

OMA Hall of Fame

JD Cribbs '64
 Carlos Galvez '60
 Col. Roy H. Hinman II, M.D. '71
 Dewey Wilson '66

OMA Perseverance Awards

Bill Harris '54
 Allen Lewis '61

OMA President's Award

Brack Jackson '69
 Dan Bolt '69
 Michael Kuehr '68
 Major General, U.S. Army (retired)
 Dr. James Patrick Knight '67
 Alfred Bishop 'Al' Knight, posthumous
 Margaret Knight, posthumous

Lt. General William E. Potts Award of Excellence

William (Bill) Ramsay '61

OMA Honorary Cadets

Dr. Bob Blackburn
 Pat Routh
 Marlene Hines, posthumous

"I grew up at OMA in the red brick house that used to be directly across from the Will Rogers Memorial. I had a real tank to play in as a young child and loved growing up at OMA during the late 50s and early 60s. I can personally attest that the renovated museum literally transports a visitor back to OMA during its hey days. The museum was curated with the utmost care and professionalism and you are to be congratulated. As chairman for our Board of Directors, I've found the facilities to be top notch. I'd encourage other organizations in our area to take advantage of the museums conference center for their next or upcoming meetings."

– Steve Robinson, Claremore Museum of History

LETTER FROM THE ADJUTANT



Carlos Galvez '60

Being selected as your Adjutant for the 2023 reunion is quite an honor. To guarantee the continued success of our Alumni Association, your attendance at this year's reunion is essential. We existed for fifty-two years, and our ranks accomplished a plethora of success in many areas of endeavor including military, business, the arts, and science. To acknowledge what we have achieved, we have been able to honor our past through the construction of the Granite OMA KIA Memorial, OMA Legacy Plaza, and most recently our state-of-the-art OMA Museum. The foregoing will remain relevant for decades to come keeping our legacy alive. In addition, with the efforts of many, we were able to get BOOTS back on the HILL through the Guard Officer Leadership Development (GOLD) program. Gentlemen this is our legacy!

Attending this year's reunion, I am sure, will rekindle many pleasant and trying memories of your stay on "THE HILL" which you can share with former cadets as well as family and friends. Though we grow older with each passing year, our Association can only achieve continued success if you participate. As in the past, the weekend will be filled with many activities which will add to your memories of OMA.

REPORT TO THE HILL! THE OMA LEGACY IS ALIVE AND WELL IN THE OMA MUSEUM!

Carlos Galvez '60

OMA Alumni 2023 Reunion Adjutant

OMA LEGACY



OMA KIA Memorial. (Photo by Andrew Nichols)



OMA Legacy Plaza



Guard Officer Leadership Development (GOLD) Program



A New Beginning OMA Museum

OMA MUSEUM VISITORS



Dr. Rice speaking at the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education Board Luncheon



Dr. Rice presenting award to the RSU Student Government Association President Victoria Middleton.



Hadlee and Millie enjoying the show while sitting on the wing of the plane.



Kenzie having a blast on the plane!



Rogers County TRIO students taking a break on the plane.

OMA MUSEUM VISITORS



Jim Beson '66 and wife Maura, Jim Tanner '67 and wife Cindy.



TRIO students posing in front of an exhibit while touring the OMA Museum.



OMA Museum Curator Dewey Wilson and OMA Museum Deputy Curator Carlos Galvez take Marines on a tour of the museum along with OMA Alumni Association student worker Katie Quantie.



Pocahontas Club visiting the OMA Museum.

LT. GEN. WILLIAM E. POTTS AWARD OF EXCELLENCE

BILL RAMSAY, Class of '61



For Bill Ramsay, receiving the Lt. Gen. William E. Potts Award of Excellence closes a circle that began nearly 40 years ago, when the award's namesake returned to Claremore to be inducted into the Oklahoma Military Academy Hall of Fame.

"I think that's the first OMA reunion I went to," says Ramsay. "I saw General Potts then, found out who he was, and learned about him. I know that his service to the country was enormous; it's humbling and rewarding to get an award that's named after him."

Ramsay believes that he's been to every reunion since then, "except one or two, when my granddaughters were born." Along the way, he's been one of the most active of all former cadets, serving two terms as president of the Alumni Association Board of Directors and working for many years with the OMA Museum, most recently as the volunteer leader for its extensive renovation. His dedication to the academy and its people is reflected in his being named a Distinguished Alumnus in 2014 and a Hall of Fame inductee in 2018.

When asked about his continued devotion to OMA, Ramsay notes that he's far from the only one.

"Ten thousand people went to school here," he says. "It's been over 50 years since the last graduation. And here we are, still involved. Why is that?"

"Well, for me, coming up here to take my junior year of high school over really turned my life around. I learned discipline. I learned study habits. I learned what the world was all about at a young age, which gave me a leg up when I went out into the real world."

For Ramsay, the real world – following high school graduation from OMA and a business management degree from the University of Tulsa -- included a 40-year career in telecommunications at Southwestern Bell, AT&T, and WilTel, where he received the WilTel Presidents Club Award on five separate occasions. When he retired, in 2007, he was Director of Global Wholesale Accounts for Verizon.

One of the first wave of teenage Tulsa rock 'n' rollers, Ramsay continued to perform as a musician as well, something he'd been able to do even as a cadet.

"I met some other guys [at OMA] who played, and they did let us play a little rock 'n' roll music," he recalls with a chuckle. "That was a redeeming factor, I thought, and we had fun doing it."

While pursuing his telecommunications career, Ramsay also devoted time and energy to such volunteer efforts and organizations as the United Way, Tulsa Chamber of Commerce, Rotary, Junior Achievement, and the Adopt-A-School program, in addition to the OMA Alumni Association – including, for the past few years, his work with the museum.

"Getting involved in the museum was a major deal," he says. "At the time, I didn't know how much I was going to be involved. Luckily, I had the right skills at the right place at the right time."

"That labor," he adds, "has been well-rewarding to me, to see what's come out of it and to see the people who are enjoying it. It's not just alumni, either. They're important, but it's also important that as time moves on, people are interested in seeing what was accomplished here by the cadets. We've had hundreds of visitors in the museum since we reopened in late September, and we're running the RSU freshman orientation classes through. The youngsters seem to enjoy seeing it."

And Bill Ramsay enjoys knowing that he had something to do with preserving and perpetuating the images of life on the Hill that he and his thousands of fellow cadets experienced. His continued involvement with OMA he believes, is a way of acknowledging its profound and lasting impact on him.

"OMA played a part in just about everything I did afterwards," he says. "The two years I spent at OMA molded my life."

"OMA has provided a solid foundation during my life and time as an active duty Army Officer and I strongly believe my success was greatly due to my time 'On The Hill'."

– Ron Lewis '70

OMA HALL OF FAME

CARLOS GALVEZ, Class of '60



During OMA's heyday, the school not only attracted cadets from across the U.S., but also from a variety of other countries all over the world. One of the latter was Guatemala native Carlos Galvez, who was sent to St. Joseph's Preparatory School in Muskogee at the tender age of seven and ended up taking his last year of high school and two years of junior college on the Hill.

How is it that a child from Guatemala ended up attending school on another continent?

"Really, it's kind of a simple story," says Galvez. "My dad was self-made; he was very successful in the automobile business, in dealerships. One of the elite things in a country like Guatemala was the ability to send your children abroad. That was a big plus. And because of the automobile connections he had with Detroit and the like, he met a lot of people who recommended schools.

"My two sisters went to Ursuline Academy in New Orleans. He sent me to St. Joseph's; there was a family in Muskogee that he knew, one that I could visit, and that's how I ended up there."

He recalls that the prep school was "pretty much a military environment – we wore uniforms and we'd drill." Later, he attended both the Ponca Military Academy in Ponca City and Wentworth Military Academy in Lexington, Mo., so when he arrived on the hill for his senior year of high school, the transition wasn't nearly as hard as it could've been. It was also lasting.

"I found that OMA was the place I wanted to graduate from," he says, "so I did one year of high school and then two years of college there. And everything I've tried to do in my lifetime is pretty much governed by what I learned in those three years."

Following his OMA graduation, Galvez enrolled at the University of Tulsa, where, he notes, "coming from a disciplined atmosphere and going independent into the university was

very difficult for me, and my grades suffered." So he made the decision to enlist in the Marine Corps, the service branch in which both of his brothers-in-law had served, and did a six-year stint before being honorably discharged in 1968. He re-enrolled at TU, going to night school and working during the day, for another year, graduating with a bachelor's degree in business administration.

From there, Galvez went to work in the pipeline-construction industry, and for the next 47 years his involvement with major projects took him to the Middle East, South America, Asia, Africa, and Alaska. Following his retirement, he used the expertise and knowledge gained from almost a half-century in the business to do consultant work in Canada.

During his international travels, he launched such public-service projects as the creation of a welding school in Choba, Nigeria and the adoption of an orphanage in Santa Cruz, Bolivia.

"Poverty and substandard conditions are rampant in Third World countries," he says. "To remedy some of these deficiencies, we were instrumental in constructing water systems to serve small villages. [We] created local trade schools, and on many occasions assisted the local schools in obtaining supplies. Functioning in these types of surroundings is often not easy but can be quite rewarding when others benefit from your efforts."

He's continued his volunteer work in the United States, attaining the rank of commander in the Tulsa Auxiliary Police, mentoring high school students in the Junior Achievement program, and, currently, serving on the OMA Alumni Association board of directors.

Of the latter, he says, "The amazing thing to me is that I'm 83 years old, I spent three years on the Hill, and here I am, still involved with something that happened so long ago. It had an impact on me that I'll cherish for the rest of my life."

"Congratulations on the expansion of the Rogers State University student nursing program in partnership with St. Francis hospital, located in Tulsa."

– Hugh Miller '53

OMA HALL OF FAME

DEWEY WILSON, Class of '66



Even before he graduated from OMA's junior college in 1966, Dewey Wilson loved military history. And once his own 22-year career in the service ended, he began finding ways to enlighten others about the topic he found, and continues to find, endlessly fascinating.

"I was in AWACS at Tinker Air Force Base my last six years in the Air Force, and right after I retired I got together with some guys who were doing military living history, where you dress up in period uniforms and present yourselves to the public," he says. "I kind of came up with the idea of forming a World War II color guard, and when the 45th Infantry Division Museum had ceremonies on Memorial Day and Veterans Day, we'd all wear the World War II combat uniform for Europe, like the 45th wore, and do a color-guard presentation.

"Also, this group did displays of World War II military memorabilia, and each member had his own stuff. We'd set up tables in different places – a couple of times we did it over at Crossroads Mall in Oklahoma City – and we'd be in our uniforms. One of our members had a Jeep, and I remember at one of our displays he actually had his World War II Jeep parked right in the middle of things. It made for a good presentation."

Wilson readily cites his time on the Hill as a factor in his continued drive to bring military history to life for others. With a chuckle, he also mentions being influenced by "all the good war movies" back in the '50s, when he was growing up.

"I'll tell you what the big thing was, though," he adds. "My father was a combat soldier in World War II over in Europe, in the Italian campaign, and I always had a lot of respect for him. He never did talk about the war much, but I knew he'd been over there, and I wanted to honor him and other World War II veterans."

Wilson found more opportunities to do that back in 2015, when he was approached by fellow OMA alumnus Phil Goldfarb.

"It was at a reunion, and Phil said, 'Hey, Dewey, would you like to volunteer to work at the museum and help out [then-curator] Gene Little?'" he recalls. "I thought about it and then I said, 'Yeah. Sure.' So I went up and assisted Gene for about a year and a half. Then, in December of '16, Gene decided to step down. The next thing I know, I get an email that says, 'By the way, you're the new curator' – which was fine with me. I'd never really done that, but I learned as I went along.

"I've really enjoyed being curator," he concludes. "It brings back a lot of memories when I'm working around here, looking at all the artifacts and everything."

Wilson retired as an Air Force master sergeant, and some of the best memories he has of OMA involve another master sergeant – a cadet master sergeant named Bruce Dougherty, his roommate on the Hill.

"My last year I was on color guard, and he was the color sergeant," remembers Wilson. "One of our duties was to fire the howitzer at reveille and retreat, which we did as two-man teams, in shifts. It was a lot of fun. One day, when I wasn't on duty to fire the howitzer, he said, 'While you're in formation, I want you to take note that I'm putting a tennis ball down the barrel.' And sure enough, when he pulled the lanyard, that tennis ball went in flames right off into the lake back of the campus."

Although he may not always share that particular memory when he gives tours of the newly refurbished museum, Wilson continues to enlighten and educate visitors on military history, especially as it relates to OMA.

"This school is a legacy, and a big part of Oklahoma history," he says. "A big part. Fifty-two years and 10,000 men. People need to know that. A lot of great people came through here, people greater than me.

"Working at the museum is a passion of mine," he adds. "I want this museum to be great. And it is."

Conference room in honor of OMA Alumnus J. Jay Hines '58 and his wife Marlene.

"Very nice!! Love the new sound and technology in the OMA Museum Conference Room!"

– Bill Biard

(Bill's comment after attending another Will Rogers Memorial Museum Board meeting. Bill is a board member and also owner of the Hammett House in Claremore.)

OMA HALL OF FAME AWARD

COL. ROY H. HINMAN II, M.D. Class of '71



As the founder of the medical-service organization Island Doctors, Roy H. Hinman II, M.D. personally oversees health professionals in 34 offices throughout the state of Florida – in addition to maintaining a full slate of patients himself. As a member of the U. S. Army Reserve

until 2014, when he retired with the rank of colonel, he served three combat tours in Iraq as well as seeing duty in Germany, Korea, Kuwait, Nicaragua, Panama, Saudi Arabia, Ecuador, and the Dominican Republic.

Not a bad resume for a man who laughingly refers to himself as an “albatross” who was around for the demise of three different ROTC programs back in his high school and college days.

“I was at Oklahoma Military Academy for two years, as a junior and senior in high school, and I was in the last class,” he notes. “Of course, we closed out the Oklahoma Military Academy ROTC program. I continued for the next two years at [OMA’s successor institution] Claremore Junior College. It had the same professor of military science that had been at Oklahoma Military Academy, so they continued with the military program at Claremore Junior College for the next two years, and then they closed that down. So essentially I helped close out Oklahoma Military Academy’s ROTC program, and then the Claremore Junior College ROTC.”

He wasn’t finished, either. After graduating from junior college at CJC, he went to the University of Tulsa to finish his four-year degree, prior to being commissioned in the Army. TU offered Air Force ROTC, not Army, but Dr. Hinman got permission to enroll in the program.

“I finished the Air Force ROTC, the fourth-year course, and then they shut that program down,” he says with a chuckle. “When it was all said and done, I had to go to Oklahoma State University to be commissioned.”

That began an Army career that saw him serve some five years active duty as a cavalry officer and continue with the Army Reserve, even as he traveled to the Dominican Republic

and began medical school.

An armor major, Dr. Hinman switched to the medical corps in 1992, a year after he opened his first Island Doctors Office, because he wanted to be deployed to Iraq. He was.

“On two of my Iraq tours, I served with combat-arms units, and they treated me as one of their own because I’d walk in there with tanker boots on,” he recalls. “I went to a tank unit – I was a full colonel then – and a captain asked, ‘Why are you wearing those, sir?’

“‘I taught heavy weapons as an instructor at Fort Knox, at the advanced camp,’ I told him. ‘Have you been there yet?’

“‘No, but I’m going!’

“‘In an earlier life, you would’ve seen me there,’ I said. ‘That’s why I’m wearing tanker boots.’

“Okay, sir.”

In a much earlier life, Hinman would’ve been found on the Hill, along with his fellow cadets, all of them attending OMA with the realization that the West Point of the Southwest was, irrevocably and unfortunately, on its way out.

“The very last semester, when it became locked down that nobody was going to save us, and OMA was going away no matter what happened, things did get a little bit loose,” he remembers. “I can specifically remember being able to keep my dog on campus. Somehow, we were able to sneak this German Shepherd in, and I don’t know if we were keeping him on the roof, or in billets, or what, but I had my dog on campus, and he stayed with me quite a while.”

But even though the academy was in its last days during his time there, it taught Dr. Hinman lessons that continue to inform his life. “It was defining,” he says. “The motto of OMA: Courage. Loyalty. Honor. That was like a drumbeat, driven into your consciousness. And it was driven so far into your consciousness that it became part of your persona. If you bought in – and I did, hook, line, and sinker – it all made sense. And it became a part of who I am.”

Dr. Rice and Dr. Boyle,

We had our Will Rogers Memorial Foundation board meeting in the OMA conference room on June 15th and everything worked perfectly. About half of members attended in person and the rest by zoom. The quality of video and sound was great. No computer issues with sharing the screen. I could see everyone sitting at the three tables and hear everyone. Thought you would like to know that you and RSU did a fantastic job not only renovating the museum but installing the correct equipment. Thanks for letting us use the room. Good public relations!

– Tom Volturo

OMA HALL OF FAME

J.D. CRIBBS, Class of '64



For the greater part of his life, James D. Cribbs and the military have been inextricably intertwined. A career Army intelligence officer, he retired as a lieutenant colonel in 1994 and spent his next decade in Washington, D.C., working as a defense contractor.

All of that followed six years of military training on the Hill, where he graduated from both high school and junior college, leaving the latter as a Battalion Commander, Superior Cadet, and Distinguished Military Student, among other honors.

After graduating with a B.A. from the University of Oklahoma (later, he'd receive an M.A. in business from Central Michigan University), Cribbs spent a year in law school at the University of Tulsa and then went into the Army for his mandatory military service, serving 15 months in Viet Nam with the 101st Airborne Division before returning home.

"When I got back to Tulsa," he recalls, "I had the obligatory two-year reserve service, and my dad hooked up a job for me as an aide to General Leslie Lane, a top-flight insurance salesman who had been one of [the famed World War II Army unit] Merrill's Marauders. He became a role model of mine."

At the time, Cribbs was working in the family business, selling industrial supplies with his father, another of his role models. But, he says, when the U.S. Army contacted him about rejoining, "I could see a path toward providing for myself."

General Lane, his role model, probably played a part in his decision to re-enter the military. His years on the Hill definitely did. "Being at OMA taught me that I could work with some degree of efficiency in a very structured substrata of society," he says. "I didn't really see myself taking over my parents' business, because I wasn't my father. So I said yes to the Army and went down to Fort Benning, and right after mandatory combat arms training, I was designated as a military intelligence research officer. From there, I went to Fort

Holabird, Maryland, and became a special agent for Army intelligence – a plainclothes assignment."

He believes that the attention to appearance he learned as a cadet helped him convincingly carry out that job.

"When you attended classes at OMA, probably 60 percent of the time, you had to wear a tie, your shoes were going to be shined, that sort of thing," he explains. "I was a badge-carrying plainclothes special agent for Army intel, assigned to New York City, doing background investigations, pounding up and down midtown. I wore a tie. My shoes were shined. I didn't look like I was totally out of line with the [people in the] midtown corporations – and that's the area where I worked."

He also served with the Eighth, Second, and Twenty-fifth Infantry Divisions; the U.S. Forces Korea Combined Field Command; the Defense Nuclear Agency; and on multiple assignments with the Defense Intelligence Agency before retiring from active duty.

OMA, he says, provided a foundation for not only his service, but also his life – even though he admits that his first semester on the Hill was one of his greatest challenges.

"But then you got through the rabbit period, the initiation, and things got a little better. It wasn't awful, and my grades were okay, so I said, 'Let's do it again.' Now, I knew how to shine my shoes and that kind of thing – and it got better. Another year, and it got better again. And so, eventually, within that six years, when I became a senior cadet, I said, 'It can't get any better than this.'"

Looking back, Cribbs says that his induction into the OMA Hall of Fame means "one hell of a lot, given my personal misgivings about my abilities" during his six-year stint as a cadet.

"After all these years," he adds, "that I might be favorably remembered with those many other cadets who went ahead of me and in many instances gave their last full measure of sacrifice, or suffered debilitating combat wounds, is more than I ever expected or might deserve."

OKLAHOMA MILITARY ACADEMY MUSEUM AND CONFERENCE ROOM

Schedule your next meeting or event with us!

- Zoom capabilities
- Catering services available
- OMA Alumni will provide tours upon request



To reserve the conference room, schedule a tour or for questions please contact:

Danette Boyle at 918-343-6888 or dboyle@rsu.edu | Jamie Frederick at 918-343-6889 or jfrederick@rsu.edu

OMA DISTINGUISHED ALUMNUS

DARRELL JENKINS, Class of '68



Darrell Jenkins was born in Tulsa, Oklahoma on March 28th, 1947. He began his time at the Oklahoma Military Academy in the Fall of 1963 and, after spending five years at OMA, he graduated in 1968. Darrell then attended college at Northeastern State University for two years.

Darrell served in the military as a Captain and was active in the Army Reserves for 12 years. He has been a Real Estate Developer for 50 years. Darrell and his wife, P. Kae, have a son, Allen. They have also been blessed with a grandson, Paxton Jenkins, and a great-granddaughter, Parker Jenkins.

Darrell has many fond memories of OMA that left a considerable impression on him. Some of the best ones involved his time on the OMA Drill Team and traveling to the events the team participated in together. Darrell was also involved in Bowling, the Saber Society, New Cadet Detail, Cadet Capers, was on the Vedette staff, and was in the top ten percent of his military class. Although Darrell stated his

greatest challenge at OMA was adapting to the way of military life, he remembers the rabbit period as a good character-building experience. He developed lifelong friendships at OMA and learned important lessons during his time on "The Hill". According to Darrell, one of the most valuable lessons he learned was the ability to interact with people of varied backgrounds and ideologies.

Darrell has been active in his community, serving on the Board of Directors for the Tulsa Boys Home and helping to build a home for a school teacher through a program called Home for Habitat. He has been a member of the National Homebuilders Association since 1971 and is also involved locally with the Tulsa Homebuilders Association. Darrell was elected to the OMA Board of Directors for a three-year term in 2022.

The virtues established by the Oklahoma Military Academy of Courage, Loyalty and Honor have remained important to Darrell throughout his lifetime. He stated that being recognized by his peers for the Distinguished Alumni Award is very gratifying for him.

OMA DISTINGUISHED ALUMNUS

PHILIP ALEXANDER, Class of '62



Philip D. Alexander was born February 25, 1947 and grew up on a farm in Bartlesville. He fell in love with the idea of joining the military after hearing stories about being a tail gunner from his Sunday school teacher. That idea became more attainable when Phil began attending the Oklahoma Military Academy in 1962.

During Phil's time at OMA he was active on the Drill Team, Saber Society, Honor Court and Color Guard. Phil has many fond memories of OMA including Cadet Capers, shop class with Major Howard Shirk, modifying the old hearse with Bruce Daugherty for the cheerleaders to use, the camaraderie of the corps of cadets and all the valuable life training.

After Phil completed his studies at OMA's Junior College in 1967, he was commissioned into the US Army the following year. Phil spent 2 years serving in Korea on active duty as an engineer. He then served in the reserves for 15 years with the rank of Captain. Phil also attended Oklahoma State University during this time, where he received his bachelor's and master's degrees. Phil taught for three years at Kiamichi

Vo-Tech and then spent 25 years as an instructor at Oklahoma State University – IT in Okmulgee teaching automotives. He has obtained certifications in a variety of automotive fields, including the prestigious title of Certified Master Diagnostician with Toyota and General Motors. Phil started his own business after retiring from teaching. All Electric LLC, Aviation Unlimited, and Sound Unlimited were all businesses he owned. In addition, Phil holds a commercial pilot's license and is a certified flight instructor.

Phil and his wife, Debbie, have been married for 51 years and have one daughter, Julia, a son-in-law, Shane, and two grandsons. Phil is very active in his church; he has taught Sunday School in the past and is currently serving on the board. Phil volunteers his time designing and building Audio Visual systems for churches and auditoriums.

While recalling his early reluctance to get involved with the alumni association, Phil was overcome with emotion as he spoke about what this honor means to him. He added, "OMA played a significant role in who I am now. Although I don't think about it every day, I live 'Courage, Loyalty, and Honor' daily."

OMA DISTINGUISHED ALUMNUS

DREW SHIPLEY, Class of '64, posthumous



Drew Shipley was born on March 28, 1946, and grew up in Miami, Oklahoma. His time on the hill began in January of 1962 and he soon became a member of the OMA Radio Club. Shipley graduated from OMA in the Spring of 1964. He immediately joined the army and was in "B" Company, 1st Battalion (Mechanized),

50th Infantry.

Corporal Shipley began his second Vietnam tour of duty on September 1, 1967. He was part of the 1st Cavalry Division (Airmobile) in "Operation Pershing" on the coastal Bong Son Plains in Binh Dinh Province, Vietnam. Shipley led his squad in an ambush patrol on December 10th, 1967. His company came under heavy fire from the village of Truong Lam and he was killed in action. Shipley was awarded the Silver Star for his heroic actions that day and was posthumously promoted to Sergeant. In addition to the Silver Star, his awards and decorations include the Purple Heart, National Defense Service Medal, Vietnam Service Medal, Vietnam

Campaign Medal, and Combat Infantry Badge. Sergeant Shipley exemplified the OMA credo of Courage, Loyalty and Honor. He was laid to rest in the Grand Army of the Republic Cemetery in his hometown of Miami, Oklahoma.

Sergeant Shipley's former Company Commander, Dick Guthrie, wrote, "He could show flashes of insubordination, but few rivaled him in the field-craft." Guthrie reminisced about Corporal Shipley and 2 other squad leaders, both being Sergeants, preparing their men for the battle that led to Shipley's death. He said of the other 2 squads, "Both of them were led by Sergeants, but neither order was as crisp or well thought-out as Shipley's had been." On May 2, 2013, the Company B Barracks of the 1st Battalion, 50th Infantry Regiment, Fort Benning, Georgia, was named Shipley Barracks in honor of Sergeant Drew Shipley. Dick Guthrie accepted the Dedication Certificate on behalf of Shipley and his family.

OMA DISTINGUISHED ALUMNUS

JACK WILKINSON, Class of '67, posthumous



Jack M. Wilkinson Jr. was born on November 7, 1947 in Tulsa, Oklahoma. All four years of high school, starting in 1962, as well as his first year of college, in 1967, were spent at the Oklahoma Military Academy. Jack attended the University of Oklahoma for two years after leaving OMA. He then served as a Weapons Platoon Leader in Vietnam. With his father, Jack co-owned Monarch Asphalt Industries and had a successful career in the asphalt industry.

Jack participated in the Chapel Foundation, Choir, Cadet

Capers, the Honor Court, DeMolay, and the Saber Society during his time on "The Hill." He was also the Guidon Editor, Chevron Society Vice President, the High School Drill Team Commander, and was part of the Honor Committee. Jack received a promotion to the position of Sergeant Major during his final year of high school at OMA.

Jack and his wife, June, made their home in Fayetteville, Arkansas. Together they had 1 son, Brian, a daughter, Elizabeth, and one grandson Jerod Wilkinson.

Jack passed away on October 3, 2011 in Fayetteville and his wife followed him less than two years later in 2013.

Thank you for all your support of the Oklahoma Military Academy Alumni Association and Museum. Much of our success is attributed to extraordinary supporters like you.

**To make a contribution by check,
please make payable to the RSU Foundation**

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**For additional information or to make a credit card
contribution by phone, please contact:**

Danette Boyle at 918-343-6888 or dboyle@rsu.edu



Dewey Wilson '66, Dale Covington '54, and Carlos Galvez '60 at the 2023 Oklahoma City Mini Reunion.

ATTENTION OMA ALUMNI

FIVE GOLD STUDENTS WERE ABLE TO LIVE ON CAMPUS AND TAKE SUMMER CLASSES BECAUSE OF YOUR GENEROSITY!

I am deeply grateful for your generosity in covering my dorms and classes this summer. Your support has lifted a tremendous burden, and I can't thank you enough. I look forward to seeing you all at the OMA reunion in September.
Thank you!

- Elizabeth Carlson

I am writing to express my deepest gratitude for the immense support and generosity the OMA has shown me by covering the cost of my college dorm for the summer semester. This has relieved a significant financial burden and allowed me to focus entirely on my academic pursuits during this crucial time. Looking ahead, I am eagerly anticipating the upcoming fall semester and the OMA reunion in September! With renewed enthusiasm and motivation, I am excited to continue my educational journey at Rogers State University and pursue becoming an officer in the Oklahoma Army National Guard. Your investment in my education has impacted my life and will have a lasting influence on my future endeavors. Thank you once again for your unwavering support.
Sincerely,

- Blake Novar

I am very appreciative of the help that has been provided to me. Thank you from the bottom of my heart, I am very grateful for the opportunity that has been given to me to aid in my success. Words cannot describe how blessed I am to have people to fall back on when I am in need, and it has completely boosted my morale in terms of confidence and my drive to complete my degree. Thank you again, and I look forward to seeing you this fall at the OMA Reunion.
Thank you greatly,

- Henasie Roberts

I wanted to convey my sincere appreciation for the wonderful help you have given by helping to pay for my dorms and tuition this summer. Your kindness has had a big impact on my educational career, allowing me to focus on academics worry-free and lifting a huge financial weight. It is absolutely admirable that you are so dedicated to helping students like myself. I truly appreciate the opportunities you all have given me and I will work hard to take advantage of them fully. Once again, I want to thank you for your amazing help!
Sincere regards,

- David Defranc Ponce

I would just like to thank you for the support that you have given me as well as to the other candidates and friends. Your generosity in paying for our dorms and summer classes will no doubt boost us further towards our goals to become officers and degree holders. I thank you again for the support and I can't wait to see everyone at the 2023 OMA Alumni Reunion to repay in whatever way I can.
Thank you.

- Ruben Morales

OKLAHOMA BOYS STATE DELEGATES REPORT TO THE OMA BOARD

2023 Oklahoma Boys State Governor Damien Guo, Lieutenant Governor Smith Mangum, and Oklahoma Boys State Director Corey Brooks speak at the June 1 OMA Alumni Association Board of Directors meeting.



OKLAHOMA MILITARY ACADEMY MUSEUM



THIS EXHIBIT
COURTESY OF
THE OKLAHOMA
MILITARY ACADEMY

OMA LEGACY

ALIVE AND WELL IN THE OMA MUSEUM

OMA ALUMNI REUNION | SEPTEMBER 22-23, 2023



2023 OMA ALUMNI REUNION SCHEDULE

September 22-23

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 22

8:00 a.m.

REUNION REGISTRATION CHECK-IN

Meyer Hall, OMA Museum

9:00 a.m.

ALUMNI GOLF CLASSIC

Heritage Hills Golf Course 18 Hole Tournament

Shotgun Start Begins

11:45 a.m. - 1:45 p.m.

GOLF LUNCH

Lunch is also available for alumni and guests not participating in golf.

11:30 a.m.

LADIES' LUNCHEON

Hosted by RSU First Lady Peggy Rice

OMA Museum Conference Room, RSU Campus

Reservation required with maximum 60

1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

TOURS OF THE NEW OMA MUSEUM

Meyer Hall

4:00 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.

RSU PROFESSOR CURTIS SPARLING DRONE PRESENTATION

Dr. Carolyn Taylor Center

5:30 p.m.

REUNION RECEPTION AND BUFFET

Dr. Carolyn Taylor Center Ballroom

"Open Mic", Alumni can share who their most important mentor was at OMA!

Golf carts available to assist Alumni

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 23

8:00 a.m.

REUNION REGISTRATION CHECK-IN

Meyer Hall, OMA Alumni Office and OMA Museum

Coffee and pastries

9:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.

TOURS OF THE NEW OMA MUSEUM

10:00 a.m.

ALUMNI CEREMONIES

Will Rogers Auditorium

- Honoring OMA's Recently Deceased Alumni
- Distinguished Alumni and Hall of Fame Awards
- Lt. General William E. Potts Award of Excellence
- Color Guard presented by the RSU Guard Officer Leadership Development (GOLD) Program Military Students

11:30 a.m.

ALUMNI LUNCHEON

Dr. Carolyn Taylor Center Ballroom

- Comments from Dr. Larry Rice
- OMA Perseverance Awards
- OMA Honorary Cadets and Presidents Awards
- Remarks and Comments by Ken Colley and Carlos Galvez

TOURS OF THE NEW OMA MUSEUM

Available between the Alumni Luncheon and Dinner

5:30 p.m.

RECEPTION, DINNER, GRAND MARCH AND DANCE

Music provided by the area's best DJ.

Dr. Carolyn Taylor Center Ballroom

CLAREMORE HOTEL INFORMATION | Please make your reservations early to ensure availability.

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MEMORIAL DAY

DEWEY WILSON, Class of '66

OMA Museum Curator, Dewey Wilson OMA Class of 1966, along with other local military personnel and veterans, the local American Legion and the 2023 Boys State delegates honor the men and women who sacrificed their lives while serving in the United States Military during Memorial Day services on "College Hill".



RSU GOLD DINING OUT FORMAL DINNER

The GOLD (Guard Officer Leadership Development) Program Military students hosted their annual Dining Out formal dinner and program on April 13, 2023. The RSU GOLD students are solely responsible for organizing and planning this event. The Guest Speaker of the evening was RSU's History and Political Science professor Dr. David Bath.



GOLD student Elizabeth Carlson presents Dr. David Bath a Certificate of Appreciation and gift for speaking at the 2023 GOLD Dining Out dinner.



OMA Alumni enjoyed visiting with GOLD students at the 2023 GOLD Dining Out dinner and program. Pictured: Dewey Wilson and wife Nona, Philip Alexander and wife Debbie, Carlos Galvez and J. Jay Hines.

OMA ALUMNI BOARD

Congratulations to Joe Daniel, Barry Grabel, Allen Lewis, John Lingenfelter, David Oldaker, and Steve Smith for being re-elected for a new three-year term.

Also, congratulations to our officers for the next year as confirmed by vote at the June 1 board meeting: Ken Colley-President, Rob Fisher-Vice President, and Barry Grabel-Secretary.

SPECIAL LUNCHEON AND OMA MUSEUM TOUR

Dr. Rice and Dr. Boyle hosted a special luncheon on June 5 in the OMA Conference Room. OMA Museum Curator Dewey Wilson and OMA Museum Deputy Curator Carlos Galvez led the guests on a tour of the museum before lunch.



OMA ALUMNI SALUTE

**RSU PRINT SHOP | RSU PHYSICAL PLANT
RSU COMMUNICATIONS & MARKETING DEPARTMENT**

Thank you for all you do to support the OMA Alumni Association!



Dear Darrell and members of your family,

I was shocked and saddened to learn of your father's death this past Saturday, April 8, 2023, when I called, and Mark Little answered his phone. Gene Little will definitely be missed by those of us who knew him well and regarded him as a good friend.

I first met Gene in the Fall of 1951, when we were students at the Oklahoma Military Academy in Claremore, OK. At the time, I was a High School Junior and Gene was a High School Sophomore. I graduated from OMA Junior College in May 1955, and Gene graduated from OMA Junior College in 1956. Thereafter we went our separate ways. Later, your Dad entered the Navy and I went into the Army.

Gene was an excellent OMA Cadet – a straight-shooter who set a good example for all cadets. He had an immaculate appearance in uniform, was well-respected and became the Band Commander the year I graduated. The following year, he became one of the Corps Commanders.

It wasn't until I retired from the Army and Gene and your late mother, Charlotte, moved to Inola, OK that we resumed our friendship. I attended my first OMA reunion in 2003. Your Dad became the OMA Museum curator, and for twelve years in that capacity did an absolutely outstanding job. He and your Mother were a great team and contributed untold hours of their free time working to better the museum, which in my opinion became a fantastic attraction.

While Gene and I served on the OMA Alumni Association Board, Gene always provided a steady hand, combined with common sense and good judgment. He was a definite asset to the OMA Alumni Association Board, on which I served for six years with him; he served longer.

Although we celebrate his life, we grieve his passing. It hurts to lose him and no doubt it hurts for him to leave us without future days together. Our grief is genuine. Though death will be followed by resurrection, it is still an earthly enemy that robs us of time with our loved ones; and their time with us.

My best wishes, thoughts, and prayers are with you and your family during your bereavement.

Sincerely,

Tom Anderson '55

REMEMBERING GENE LITTLE

Gene Little attended the Oklahoma Military Academy from 1951-1956. He graduated from junior college in 1956 as the Corps Commander. Gene served as the OMA Museum Curator from 2003 until December 31, 2016. Gene became the curator in 2003 shortly after he moved back to Oklahoma. Along with his wife Charlotte, they spent countless hours helping to renovate the Museum from top to bottom to best display OMA Memorabilia which included items donated from OMA Alumni. Gene was also instrumental in efforts to secure pictures and provide frames for photos of all OMA alumni who were KIA during WWII, Korea and Vietnam as well as the displays for Distinguished Alumni and Hall of Fame honorees. Gene also has the honor along with Jim Morrison '52 as being the recipient of the OMA Alumni Associations prestigious three awards: Distinguished Alumni in 2008, Hall of Fame in 2016 and the General Potts Award of Excellence in 2011.





DISCOVERING MY OMA HERITAGE

by Troy Gerard

Growing up in southern California, my family made a life-altering decision in the summer of 2004—we packed our belongings and relocated to Oklahoma. Little did we know about the deep-rooted ties that bound our family to this unfamiliar state until we settled in Inola, a mere fifteen minutes away from a captivating family heritage story waiting to be unveiled.

Driven by curiosity, my father and I embarked on a journey to uncover the extent of our “family ties” in Oklahoma. We began by looking up various descendants linked to my great, great grandfather, William Talma Gerard, son of William Payton Gerard and Laura Salina Cantrell. Through our research, we stumbled upon numerous mentions of William’s brother, Ronald E. Gerard, in local publications like the Claremore Messenger and Claremore Progress. Ronald emerged as a local hero of the Great War and a beloved band teacher, responsible for starting the first school band in Claremore, practiced in the “dome” of and performed at his own graduation at Eastern University Preparatory School in 1915 which was later named the Oklahoma Military Academy. His commitment to music education endured for 44 years, as he taught band at Drumright High School and the University of Tulsa. Today, Ronald E.’s uniform is proudly displayed at the Drumright Historical Society Museum.

Unveiling our connection to the Oklahoma Military Academy was merely the tip of the iceberg in our genealogical expedition. W.T.’s nephew, Desmond Harold Gerard, followed in the footsteps of his uncle Ronald, excelling at OMA by graduating with honors in 1933. Prior to his time at the academy, Desmond showcased his musical talents as a member of the Drumright high school band, achieving national recognition under the guidance of Ronald E. Gerard. Astonishingly, our research led us to Sergeant Major Rick Gerard, Ronald E.’s grandson, who now leads The Hellcats Show band at West Point Military Academy.

As our exploration continued, it became apparent that each of William Talma’s siblings had a connection to OMA. Effie Gerard, the sister of W.T. and Ronald, married Joe Knox and sent their son, Joe Knox Jr., to OMA. Bessie Gerard, Ronald’s eldest sister, married Samuel Dunn and sent several of their sons to OMA. The pinnacle moment of our discoveries happened when I turned to the advertiser’s page of the 1920 edition of the OMA’s Vedette. There you’ll find an advertisement for the Gerard Bakery, which was owned and operated by none other than Laura Salina Gerard; W.T. and Ronald’s mother. In addition to the bakery, the Gerard family owned a renowned bed and breakfast known as “the Gerard House” or “the White House,” boasting 22 outward-facing rooms and a town-favorite restaurant, as documented in archived articles from Claremore newspapers.

Fast forward 100 years, and both my father and I find ourselves working at Rogers State University, walking the very halls once graced by these extraordinary men who made sacrifices for our country. We embrace our historical connection to Claremore and OMA, faithfully upholding their legacy by preserving their remarkable story. My brother chose to honor our lineage by naming his son William Talma Gerard, while I found love and married a baker named Laura, a beautiful parallel to our family’s rich history.



Troy Gerard, RSU Instructional Designer and Dr. Tom Gerard, Assistant Professor in the Department of Business



DAYS ON THE HILL

by Gary Easley '59

As a cadet at OMA beginning in 1957 through graduation from the Junior College Division in 1959, I feel very fortunate to have had the opportunity to attend OMA on a sports scholarship. I had several professors, military instructors, and coaches that gave their leadership that I admired and respected. After continuing my education and entering the teaching and coaching field for 35 years I tried to carry on those lessons learned from them.

The OMA Museum tells the story of over 10 thousand cadets who attended OMA from 1919 to 1971. Those who attended OMA learned respect, good study habits, and time management that would aid them throughout their life.

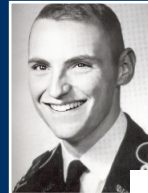
Some of the fondest memories of OMA besides the rabbit period included bivouacs, Federal Inspections, Saturday field problems, Sunday parades, and all the team sports programs.

Someone asked me some time ago if attending OMA helped me to succeed in life. Well, if you look back at your life and the memories make you smile, then I would consider it a success. I still think about the 'Days on the Hill' in Claremore at the 'Old West Point of the Southwest', during my time as a cadet and later as a teacher and still smile.

The new OMA Museum preserves and exhibits items relevant to the school's history. Do not miss seeing this when you attend the next OMA Alumni Reunion on 'The Hill' in Claremore.

GUESS THE CADET

Can you match the OMA Board of Directors member with their cadet photo? If so, the first five people to call Danette Boyle with the correct information will receive **FREE REGISTRATION** to the 2023 OMA Alumni Reunion Friday Reception and Buffet.



1.) PHILIP D. ALEXANDER

2.) KENNETH C. COLLEY, PRESIDENT

3.) JOE DANIEL

4.) JIM R. ELDER

5.) ROB FISHER, VICE PRESIDENT

6.) CARLOS E. GALVEZ

7.) PHIL GOLDFARB

8.) BARRY GRABEL, SECRETARY/TREASURER

9.) J. JAY HINES

10.) DARRELL G. JENKINS

11.) ALLEN L. LEWIS

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14.) JAMES MORRISON

15.) DAVID OLDAKER

16.) BILL D. POTEET

17.) BILL RAMSAY

18.) BILL SHAFFER

19.) LEE SHERO

20.) STEVE SMITH

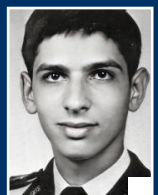
21.) JIM TANNER

22.) RANDY VIERLING

23.) CLARK DEAN WEBB

24.) DEWEY WILSON

25.) DARRELL WOOSTER





REMEMBERING COL. EDWIN P. RAMSEY

by Raqui

Dear Family & Friends,

Death Leaves a Heartache No One Can Heal

But Love Leaves a Memory No One Can Steal

That is the sentiment I feel as I remember that unforgettable day when My LOVE WAS GONE FROM ME: The RAINBOW came and I knew He was with me FOREVER!

So I chose to remember his valor and sacrifice through these photos as he fought in WWI leading the Last Cavalry Mounted Charge in U.S. Army History and as Commander of the East Central Luzon Guerilla Area (ECLGA) and together with other American Guerillas received the Distinguished Service Cross from Gen Douglas MacArthur on June 13, 1945, amid the devastation in Manila.

THE PSHS paid TRIBUTE TO HIM with this poster.

CGM Recipient Celestino Almeda visits him at Arlington National Cemetery

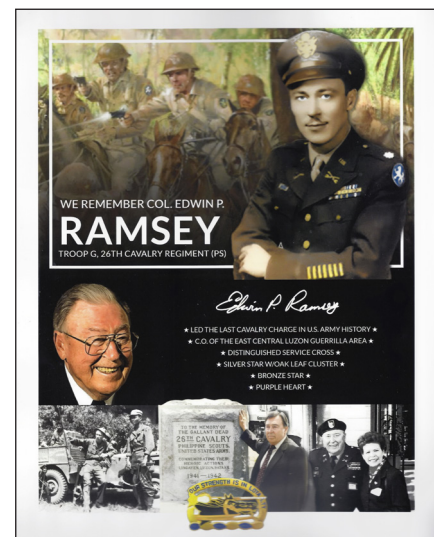
I also chose the Song "FROM LES MISERABLE" from Colm Wilkinson.

BRING HIM HOME

God on high
Hear my prayer
In my need
You have always been there
He is young
He's afraid
Let him rest
Heaven blessed.
Bring him home

Bring him home
Bring him home.
He's like the son I might have known
If God had granted me a son.

The summers die
One by one
How soon they fly
On and on
And I am old
And will be gone.
Bring him peace
Bring him joy
He is young
He is only a boy
You can take
You can give
Let him be
Let him live
If I die
Let me die
Let him live
Bring him home
Bring him home
Bring him home.



Thanks for holding me through the years, giving me Strength,
Hope, and Love
and as Ed looks from above
I know I can continue my journey
because you are all there beside me...

Love and prayers,
RAQUI



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GOLD student Blake Novar reading "Voices from the Hill" by John Wooley

