

**COURAGE LOYALTY HONOR • YESTERDAY TODAY TOMORROW**



*The 2011 OMA Reunion saw the dedication of the OMA KIA Memorial where family members and friends came to pay tribute to the fallen soldiers.*

## **2012 REUNION PLANS ALREADY UNDERWAY**

### **PREPARE TO REPORT TO THE HILL JUNE 8-9!**

After the success of the 2011 Reunion, many alumni are asking, "What are you going to do next?" The OMA Board of Directors and the OMA Alumni Reunion Activities Committee are working hard to answer that question!

One of our main attractions will be the OMA KIA Memorial, which has recently been updated.

Dr. Danette Boyle, executive director of the OMA Alumni Association, remarks, "Have you ever seen something so remarkable or so beautiful that you tell everyone you meet to

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## **CADET HONORS OMA WITH SCHOLARSHIP ENDOWMENT**



*John Owens, OMA '65*

John Charles Owens enrolled at the Oklahoma Military Academy when he was 16 years old during mid-term of his junior year of high school. His memory of that first semester was one he has never forgotten.

"I am not sure which was worse, the record number of days below freezing that winter or the cultural shock I experienced, but my first semester was bad," Owens said.

Born and raised in Shawnee, Okla., John grew up hearing about the importance of attending a military school from his dad who had graduated from high school at Missouri Military Academy and had been the recipient of a music scholarship there.

Owens survived his first semester and went home for the summer. After some rest and relaxation, he came back for his senior year and freshman year in college. During his years at OMA, he lived in Downs Barracks and followed in his dad's footsteps with music. He played in the band and has the great memory of playing his dad's French horn.

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## LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT



Bill Ramsay

Dear OMA Alumni,

The New Year has arrived, bringing with it a time to refresh and rekindle relationships, send warming thoughts, and bring back fond memories of times shared together in the past along with sincere and caring hope for the future. This is also a time for our association to reflect on our accomplishments over the past year and to think about

goals for the year ahead.

Thanks to so many of you, the OMA Alumni Association has been very blessed this past year with the completion of the OMA KIA Memorial, an outstanding reunion, additions and improvements to the museum, contributions to our endowment programs, the launching of the mentoring program,

the development of a mission statement, and the excellent relationship we have with RSU.

As we look forward, I'm confident we will build on these accomplishments. As an organization, our ranks are made up of individuals - and it will take individual action to reach our goals. Whether it's finding more "lost Alumni," growing the mentoring program, making a contribution to a scholarship endowment, or helping to implement our mission and strategic plan - I encourage each of you to play a part.

Wishing you peace, health, love and joy in the coming year,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bill Ramsay". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the end.

Bill Ramsay, '61  
OMA Association President



## RSU UPDATE

Rogers State University continues to grow, experiencing record enrollment in head count and credit hours.

At the fall 2011 official reporting date, RSU had 4,632 students enrolled. That figure represented an overall 5.6 percent increase in headcount and a 5.8 increase in student credit hours, compared to the previous fall.

However, enrollment continued beyond the official reporting date and the total number of students at RSU crept toward 4,800.

"The academic and programmatic quality found at RSU continues to attract record numbers of students," said RSU President Dr. Larry Rice. "This serves as a testament to the

commitment made by our faculty and staff to provide students with an exceptional academic experience."

The campus on "The Hill" showed the strongest growth. This fall, the main campus in Claremore saw an official increase of 9.5 percent. Enrollment at Claremore was boosted by the fall opening of new student apartments that almost doubled the university's on-campus housing capacity.

As of press time, enrollment projections allude to sustained growth for the spring 2012 semester. Continued investment in admissions initiatives and campus facilities are expected to sustain growth during future years.



## 2012 OMA REUNION PLANS UNDERWAY

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go see it for themselves? That is how I feel about our OMA KIA Memorial. There is just something about looking at the names of our lost cadets on the memorial - standing in front of the campus, one of the most beautiful natural settings in the state of Oklahoma - which gives me chills each time I pass it. This is something our alumni simply cannot afford to miss."

The OMA Alumni Association hopes to exceed last year's record attendance setting a goal to welcome 400 alumni, family, and friends back to "the Hill."

Retired Major General Timothy Malishenko ('62) has been appointed 2012 OMA Alumni Reunion Adjutant and will soon be calling on alumni to help with this project. An Oklahoma native, Malishenko cites that his career in the military began at OMA and brought him to where he is today. The General said the lessons he learned at OMA gave him a foundation and a focus which has been instrumental in his personal and professional success. The standards that the academy impressed upon him in the very beginning of his life holds him in good stead, even today.

In addition to the opening reception, golf tournament, Ladies' Tea with First Lady Peggy Rice, pool and ping-pong tournaments, and the annual Saturday evening dance, we will be honoring the 2012 Distinguished Alumni Larry Lantow ('38) and Col. Joe Daniel ('69) and Hall of Fame inductee Randy Vierling ('63).

Make your plans now to attend the 2012 Reunion on "The Hill." Look for a registration form in this issue of the Guidon.

### OPERATION FIND-A-CADET

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

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

#### HOW DOES IT WORK?

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

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

*Good luck to all!*



## OMA ALUMNI SELECTS 2012 HALL OF FAME AND DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI HONOREES



**Mr. Randy Vierling, '63**  
**Hall of Fame**

A former president of the Oklahoma Military Academy Alumni Association, Randy Vierling said the institution provided him with preparation for a successful aviation career and created a network of friendships that continue to this day.

OMA roots run deep with Vierling, who graduated from OMA high school in 1961 and junior college in 1963.

During his time on the Hill, he was a member of the Saber Society, Chevron Society, Judges Bench, Honor Committee, Honor Court, MC Cadet Capers, and the Drill Team. He also was an Assistant Commander, speaker for Ambassadors of Americanism, delegate for the Oklahoma Youth Conference in 1961, Company Commander "C" Company, and Battle Group Adjutant (S-1). In addition, he lettered in track in 1959, received an Outstanding Cadet Identification Disc Merit Ribbon, an Athletic Ribbon, and was the Secretary/Treasurer of his junior college sophomore class.

Following graduation, Vierling made his entry into the aviation industry. In 1966, he began his professional flying career as a flight instructor/ground school instructor at TRAEX Aviation in Oklahoma City. He was hired by TWA in 1969 and later served as chief pilot for various companies, including Furr's Inc. in Lubbock, Texas. While in Lubbock, he established a Cessna dealership and Aircraft Service Co., which earned the National Business Aircraft Association commendation for excellence in service during the company's second year of operation. He later returned to TWA where he served as captain instructor/check airman, helping mentor pilot students to become successful at the company. He retired in 2002 from American Airlines, which had purchased the company the previous year.

Following his retirement, he remained an active pilot serving a number of companies and individuals, including Dorchester Capital and the owner of the NBA's Oklahoma City Thunder. He has served as an accident prevention counselor for the Federal Aviation Administration. Vierling has logged more than 27,000 accident-free hours during his more than four decades of flying.

In addition to his aviation career, he also has been active in his church, teaching Sunday School for college-age students and adults during the years. He has two adult children, his daughter, Tracy and his son Andrew, and one granddaughter.

Vierling says he is humbled by the Hall of Fame nomination.

"When I compare what the men named on our KIA Memorial have given, I have given nothing," he says.

"But I am glad to have been a part of building the memorial and advancing the mission of the OMA Alumni Association. The friendships I have made during this time are far more priceless to me than any honor I could receive."



**Mr. Joe C. Daniel, '69**  
**Distinguished Alumni**

A second-generation Oklahoma Military Academy alumnus, Joe C. Daniel ('69) credits his time on the Hill – three years of high school and two years in junior college – as influential to his successful military career of more than 40 years of active and reserve service.

Daniel followed the footsteps of his father, Major (Ret.) Gilmore C. Daniel, on the path to OMA. While the younger Daniel was a student, he was a member of the Chevron Society and the Saber Society. He also was honored as a member of the Dean's Honor Roll and received a Merit Ribbon. His prowess with firearms earned him designation as a rifle expert M-1 and captain of the rifle team.

"OMA helped me learn and obtain those qualities that I have needed to achieve my goals in life," Daniel says. "Honor, courage and loyalty have been key words in my life and have helped guide me during hard times."

Retired from active duty as a colonel in 2008, Daniel received numerous awards throughout his distinguished career, including the Defense Superior Service Medal upon retirement. During his career, he served in Germany, Panama, Korea, Bosnia, Kuwait, Iraq, Afghanistan, Qatar, Bahrain, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, Great Britain and Holland. He also served as a Department of Army Civilian, Dual Status Tech with more than 23 years of DOD service. In his final military post, he served as assistant division chief assigned to

Joint Staff J-1 Personnel Readiness Division from 2002 to 2008.

Outside of his military career, he served more than 15 years in state and local law enforcement. He also worked as an executive at a savings and loan and operated his own real estate appraisal company in Bartlesville.

Currently, Daniel works for the Office of the Secretary of Defense as the director of operations for civilian expeditionary workforce and recently completed a 10-month detail serving as human resource advisor to the Chairman of the Joint Chief of Staff's Afghanistan Pakistan Hands Program to prepare officers for working within the culture of that region.

Daniel has been married to his wife Susan for more than 26 years. He has three daughters and three grandchildren.

He remains proud of the OMA legacy and is working with the administration to explore reinstating ROTC to the Rogers State University campus.

"The history of this school has been second to none," Daniel says. "We have had a large core of outstanding OMA alumni over the years to be proud of. I'm proud to have attended a school my father attended."



**Mr. Lawrence Lee  
Lantow, '38**

**Distinguished Alumni**

Lawrence Lee Lantow used his Oklahoma Military Academy training to become a successful leader, both in the military and in the business world.

A 1938 graduate from OMA junior college, Lantow was active on campus, especially as a trombone

player in Capt. Kelly's marching band, concert band and symphony orchestra. The band was honored in 1936 with the opportunity to play on national radio. As a student, he excelled academically and was recognized with inclusion on both the president's and dean's honor rolls. He also was a master counselor of the Claremore DeMolay chapter.

In 1942, he joined the U.S. Army and went through basic training at Ft. Knox and later attended officer candidate school. He became an instructor at Ft. Knox and then a platoon leader, serving in France, Belgium and Germany during World War II. For his service during the Battle of the Bulge, he was awarded a Bronze Star.

In addition to Lantow, three of his brothers also served in the U.S. military. His brothers Bob and Norman also were paratroopers during WWII and dropped into France during the D-Day invasion. Both were killed in 1944 during separate battles. His little brother Bill followed his brothers' footsteps, serving as a Marine during the Korean War.

Following the war, Lantow left the military and began a long, fruitful career with Hope Lumber and Supply Co. in Tulsa, Okla. During more than 36 years with the firm, he worked his way up through the company and ended his career there as its vice president.

Lantow also has been active in the community, including more than 19 years with Project Get Together, now known as the Community Action Project of Tulsa County, helping low-income individuals and families with food, lodging, educational resources and health care.

He has been an active member of the Tulsa Executive Club, the Optimist Club and Junior Achievement. He served as director for the Oklahoma Lumbermen's Association, a board member of the Southwood Club, and various leadership roles for Eastside Christian Church since 1952.

Lantow and his wife Ola Mae have two daughters, Linda and Jeanne, six grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren.

## OMA ALUMNI REUNION • JUNE 8-9, 2012

SPECIAL RECOGNITION WILL BE GIVEN TO THE CLASSES OF 1942, 1952, AND 1962

# OMA REUNION 2012 REGISTRATION FORM

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Name of spouse (or other guest(s) attending) \_\_\_\_\_

## CLASS INFORMATION

Indicate year graduated or last semester attended \_\_\_\_\_ ☐ High School ☐ Junior College

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Work Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Cell Phone \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

## FRIDAY, JUNE 8, 2012

### OKLAHOMA MILITARY ACADEMY ALUMNI

#### GOLF CLASSIC & REGISTRATION

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

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

☐ Please arrange my foursome for me.

☐ My team members will be: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Persons

Total \$ Amount

### LADIES LUNCHEON

11:30 p.m. • The Pink House, Claremore, OK (Dutch Treat)

☐ Yes, I will attend

### LADIES TEA WITH RSU FIRST LADY PEGGY RICE

Time: TBA • President's Residence, RSU Campus

☐ Yes, I will attend

### PING-PONG/POOL TOURNAMENT

3-5 p.m. • RSU Centennial Center

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

### OKLAHOMA MILITARY ACADEMY ALUMNI REUNION OPENING RECEPTION

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

☐ \$25 per person

## SATURDAY, JUNE 9, 2012

### MORNING AND AFTERNOON REUNION ACTIVITIES

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

☐ \$30 per person

### RECEPTION, DINNER, AND DANCE

6 p.m. • RSU Centennial Center

☐ \$40 per person

☐ I would like to make a contribution to the OMA Reunion Fund/

OMA Alumni Association Fund.

**Total Amount Enclosed**

**Make checks payable to:** RSUF/OMA Alumni Association and return using provided envelope or mail to: OMA Alumni Office, 1701 W. Will Rogers Blvd., Claremore, OK 74017.

Please charge my ☐ VISA ☐ MasterCard

Account number \_\_\_\_\_ Expiration date \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

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



# 2011 SOUTH PADRE MINI REUNION: FUN IN THE SUN

*The annual mini-reunion in South Padre, hosted by Bud and Margaret Inhofe, Jim Knight, and Karen Moore was a time to remember!*



◀ Pictured clockwise from left: John Ross, Sylvia Ross, Carlos Galvez, Julie Galvez, Sylvia Couch, Art Couch, Colleen Lewis, and Allen Lewis.

▼ Dr. Larry Rice, Margaret Inhofe, Bud Inhofe, Peggy Rice, and Dr. Danette Boyle



▲ Craig and Laura Morgan



▲ Dr. Al Knight, Nan Knight, Karen Moore, and Jim Knight.



▲ Glen and Sue Burke



▲ Wade Medbery, Gen. Cliff Druit, and Bill Harris



▶ Norma and Jim Morrison



## LONG-RANGE STRATEGIC PLAN FOR OMA ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

A draft document regarding a long-range strategic plan for the OMA Alumni Association was presented to the OMA Alumni Association Board at its Nov. 10, 2011 board meeting by Timothy Malishenko ('62), the strategic plan committee chairman.

The purpose of the plan is to identify actions necessary to implement and sustain the OMA Alumni Association mission. Although the entire document is currently under review, a Mission Statement was approved by the board.

### **The objectives of the strategic plan are to:**

- Preserve the history, legacy and traditions of the Oklahoma Military Academy
- Sustain the (alumni) Association through annual OMA Reunion events at Rogers State University
- Sustain the Association by communicating with alumni and family members
- Sustain the Association membership by finding missing alumni and their families.
- Support the mission of Rogers State University and the Rogers State University Foundation
- Establish and support endowments and scholarship programs
- Implement and maintain a Student Mentoring Program

### **The Mission Statement approved by the board reads as follows:**

*"To maintain a lasting tribute to the history, courage, loyalty and honor of the Oklahoma Military Academy alumni through the permanent presence of the OMA Museum on the RSU campus.*

*To sustain the OMA Alumni Association, annual reunions, and communication to alumni and family members. To support the mission of Rogers State University and the Rogers State University Foundation."*

Those responsible for implementing this plan along with a plan of action for each objective cited above are a part of this strategic plan review.

Although currently under review by OMA Alumni Association Board members, any OMA alumnus who has

suggestions and/or recommendations is encouraged to submit them to the committee chairman, Timothy Malishenko, prior to the next board meeting on Thursday, Feb. 16, 2012.



## OMA NEEDS MENTORS LIKE YOU!



*Kylie Dent, medical/molecular biology major and Phil Goldfarb, OMA Alumni Association vice president and chair of the mentoring program committee.*

The RSU/OMA Alumni Mentoring Program is an opportunity to keep OMA alumni involved with students on the Hill. For the program to be successful, more volunteers are needed.

Concerned that this will take up too much of your time? Not so! It would simply involve exchanging a few calls or emails throughout the year.

Think you aren't qualified? Think again! We need mentors from every profession, including the military (RSU has the only military history degree in Oklahoma).

### **Reasons to sign up for the OMA/RSU Mentoring Program:**

- There is no cost to you.
- It's a way for OMA Alumni to give back to RSU.
- It's easy and won't take much of your time.
- It does not matter where you live... you can become a mentor from anywhere in the country!
- Helping and mentoring a student can be the most rewarding things that you have ever done!

In addition to helping students at RSU, this would also be a model for other universities and institutions to follow. The publicity of this program can take the OMA Alumni Association and RSU to a new level in student involvement and may help us find some lost alumni in the process.

Please consider participating in this noteworthy project. The results could be extraordinary.

Contact Megan Hurst at 918-343-6889 or email [mhurst@rsu.edu](mailto:mhurst@rsu.edu) if you are interested in signing up.

## ENDOWMENT RECIPIENT: WILSON SPRINKLES



*Wilson Sprinkles*

Wilson Sprinkles, a sophomore in RSU's prestigious medical/molecular biology program, is this year's recipient of the Verna J. Wright Scholarship Endowment which is sponsored by OMA alumnus Bob Wright and his wife Carolyn.

Originally from Porter, Okla., Sprinkles chose RSU because it is close to his family, but just far enough away to allow him to establish his independence. In his spare

time, he enjoys reading, cooking, singing, and spending time with friends, but also finds time to give back to his community. He participates in at least 20 service learning hours each semester.

Sprinkles has maintained a 4.0 GPA throughout his college career and is a member of the honors program. After he graduates from RSU, he hopes to attend medical school to become a primary care physician.

"I wish to give as much back to society as I have been given because without the support of my scholarships, I could not accomplish my dreams," he said.



*Dr. Danette Boyle, Executive Director of the OMA Alumni Association; John Owens; Dr. Bruce Garrison, Dean of the RSU School of Business and Technology*

## SCHOLARSHIP ENDOWMENT

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Owens has always remembered two special faculty members at OMA that impacted his life.

"Major Clyde F. Deaton taught my government class and I learned so many American values and the great importance of love for my country from him. Major Warren S. Kleinstein, my speech instructor, was always so supportive," Owens said. "He was very well liked by many students as evidenced by a dedication in the 1965 Vedette which reads, 'We dedicate the 1965 Vedette to the tireless, imaginative, cheerful, and witty Major Warren S. Kleinstein as he concludes his first decade of service to Oklahoma Military Academy and his 33rd year to the cause of education in Oklahoma.'"

Owens transferred to Oklahoma Baptist University after his freshman year. During that time he was classified 1-A, so he joined the Navy before being drafted. This was during the Vietnam War and he was stationed in San Diego for two years.

After completing his military service, Owens returned to Shawnee and pursued two life-long dreams of becoming a licensed pilot and joining his dad in the family business,

Owens Furniture. The years were good ones until his dad died in 1976. Owens took over the business and expanded it with much success until the oil bust of 1985.

He recalls, "The negative financial impact of the Oklahoma oil bust was sad as fewer and fewer people had the money to buy furniture and appliances, so I felt it was time to retire."

His life began a new chapter when he went to work in the Potawatomie County Sheriff's Office. His ability to fly served him well when a local citizen gave the Sheriff's office a plane and he was regularly called on to fly.

In 1991, Owens left the Sheriff's office and went to work for a jewelry business located in Shawnee and Oklahoma City. After three years, a friend recruited him to work in the industrial chemical business.

"I loved that job because I traveled the greater Oklahoma City area and all my customers became my good friends," he said.

Over the years, his work had always been a big part of his life and he was very successful. However he always found time for flying and riding a motorcycle, his other great love.

Owens left the chemical business as a result of health issues and began to devote a great deal of time to his interest in motorcycles. He owned a Honda Gold Wing and rode a great deal, often traveling long distances. He became an expert on the repair and maintenance of Gold Wing cycles and developed his own web site, Wingman26.com. The website included photos and instructions that made it very easy for other motorcycle operators to access and find answers to highly complicated repair and maintenance questions.

In addition to running the website, Owens volunteers two mornings a week at Gordon Cooper Technology Center, the John C. Bruton Aviation Center in Shawnee. His expertise in flying allows him to help the students working toward a career in aviation maintenance technology.

**"I want to help the students at RSU that now occupy the campus of OMA, where I spent some of the best years of my life."**

Owens never forgot the Oklahoma Military Academy and often visited the campus and attended annual alumni reunions. Over the years, he realized just how much his life had been positively impacted at OMA. After reading an article about a man that had left a substantial amount of his estate to build a facility for abused children, Owens decided he wanted to provide for a Scholarship Endowment in his own estate.

He contacted the OMA Alumni office at Rogers State University and began working with Dr. Danette Boyle. He made a trip to the campus to explore this idea and shared with Boyle his feelings and thoughts.

"I have lost my last family member and since I have no children, I want to give something back to this great state of Oklahoma and my community. I want to help the students at RSU that now occupy the campus of OMA, where I spent some of the best years of my life," he said.

Owens has provided substantial resources in his estate to establish a Scholarship Endowment in Business Administration at RSU. On a recent visit last October, John met with Dr. Boyle and Dr. Bruce Garrison, Dean of the RSU School of Business and Technology, to determine the scholarship criteria and learn about the student scholarship needs.

He recalls that recent visit, "I feel my life is complete now that I have made all the arrangements in my estate for this endowment. There are so many first-generation students at RSU that are exceptionally qualified for scholarships and have great financial needs. My dad went to military school on a music scholarship, so I know first-hand the difference a scholarship can make in the life of a student. I just want to help. I also want to thank the other OMA alumni that have established scholarship endowments, provided for one in their estates and encourage those that haven't to contact Dr. Boyle soon. It can make your life complete."

For information on how you can ensure the legacy of the Oklahoma Military Academy and establish a scholarship endowment with a gift now or as a part of your estate, please contact Boyle, Executive Director of the Oklahoma Military Academy Alumni Association at (918) 343-6888 or [dboyle@rsu.edu](mailto:dboyle@rsu.edu).



## PLANNING FOR ESTATE DISTRIBUTIONS

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

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

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



## TAPS

★ **ARMSTRONG**, Isaac W. "Ike" ('41), Duncan, Okla., passed away October 27, 2011. After serving with the U.S. Army during World War II, he attended Oklahoma Baptist University. Armstrong retired from Halliburton in 1977, after 24 years of service as Senior Field Coordinator in Inventory Management.

★ **BEELER**, Byron D. ('41), Bradenton, Fla., passed away June 22, 2011.

★ **BOYNTON**, Fred W. ('36), Columbia, S.C., passed away October 21, 2011. He attended the Citadel after leaving OMA. In 1943, his entire Citadel class was drafted and he began a distinguished 28-year career in the Army. He served in World War II, the Korean War and the Vietnam War and won many medals. He retired at Ft. Jackson in 1971. In 1972, he began to work for the S.C. Commission on Higher Education, from which he retired in 2002.

★ **BURNS**, Harry K. ('45), Largo, Fla., passed away June 7, 2011.

★ **DOERNER**, Phillip G. ('54), Edmond, Okla., passed away October 14, 2011. After spending his High School Senior year and two years Junior College at OMA, he attended OSU where he received a degree in geology and went on to work for Schlumberger Well Services as an engineer. In 1985, he retired from Schlumberger and moved to Lake Eufaula where he enjoyed fishing, hunting, and spending time with family.

★ **DRAKE**, Robert L. ('54), Prescott, Ariz., passed away June 7, 2011.

★ **MAUST**, Ronald W. ('61) passed away August 10, 2011. Maust was a "first shirt" at OMA and was also a member of the Academy's drill team. He graduated from OMA in 1961 and enrolled in Oklahoma State University where he completed his bachelor of science degree in economics. He retired in 2000 from a career in the private security services industry.

★ **MICHAEL**, James F. ('52), Green Valley, Ariz., passed away October 2, 2011.

★ **MILLER**, R.B., Jr. "Ben" ('52), Madill, Okla., passed away August 25, 2011. After leaving OMA, he went into Army service at the age of 17 and stayed with the Army for 25 years. Ben served in WWII, Korea and Vietnam. His Army career was his life. He lived to serve his country in whatever country he was sent.

★ **POTEET**, Bruce ('64), Idabel, Okla., passed away July 30, 2011. After graduation from OMA, he attended Northeastern Oklahoma State University where he received his bachelor's degree. He worked several years in the family-owned business, Otasco, and also owned and operated the Big-T Tastee Freeze in Idabel. Poteet began working for the Oklahoma Department of Human Services in 1990 as a social worker. In 2004, he began his final position as information systems services coordinator.

★ **REED**, Welch E. "Gene" ('42), Stillwell, Okla., passed away May 10, 2011. After attending OMA, he proudly served his country in the Army-Air Force. During this time he received the Philippine Liberation Ribbon and Good Conduct Medal. Reed began working alongside his brother Quentin and their mother Sara at Reed's Hardware in 1946 and continued until his death.

★ **SMART**, Bruce D. ('50), Gig Harbor, Wash., passed away June 15, 2011.

★ **VANCE**, Leland S. ('45), Evergreen, Colo., passed away November 20, 2011. After attending OMA, he attended the University of Oklahoma. He was honorably discharged from the U.S. Army after serving in the Korean War and went on to work in the oil industry until his retirement in 1990. He worked as an independent lease broker until the age of 80.

★ **WILKINSON**, Jack M. ('67), Fayetteville, Ark., passed away October 3, 2011.

*Due to our recent efforts to find "lost alumni," we have also updated our records for the following individuals:*

★ **BENDER**, William R. ('62) passed away June 28, 2002.

★ **BOISSEAU**, Ronald A. ('54) passed away April 1, 1998.

★ **BROWN**, Edward M. ('37), West Haven, Conn., passed away September 24, 2010.

★ **BROWN**, Louie W. ('42), Okmulgee, Okla., passed away November 1, 1987.

★ **BURNHAM**, Allen ('41), Pueblo, Colo., passed away August 1, 1981.

★ **CALDWELL**, John C. ('40), Durant, Okla., passed away October 27, 2000.

★ **CAMMACK**, Paul J. ('39), Tulsa, Okla., passed away February 24, 2004.

★ **CAMPBELL**, Jack M. ('44), Bellevue, Texas, passed away October 17, 1995.

★ **CARTER**, William T. ('53) passed away December 30, 1983.

★ **CHAPPELL**, William D. ('44) passed away October 1, 1977.

★ **CLAY**, Garland ('31) passed away June 1, 1977.

★ **CLAY**, Henry ('62), Cleveland, Okla., passed away June 28, 1944.

★ **CLIFT**, Robby B. ('62), Hughes, Okla., passed away August 19, 2000.

★ **COMBS**, William A. ('54), Hot Springs, Ark., passed away May 3, 1988.

★ **COX**, Eugene, B. ('46) passed away February 1, 1974.

★ **DAILY**, Roger I. ('45), Houston, Texas, passed away October 1, 2003.

★ **DAVIS**, Gordon L. ('47), Randle, Wash., passed away April 28, 2005.

★ **DICKEY**, Theodore J. ('49), Ketchum, Okla., passed away December 13, 1989.

★ **DILLARD**, James H. ('42) passed away December 1, 1978.

★ **DITTO**, Robert R. ('46) passed away November 5, 2009.

- ★ **DUNLAP**, Roger A. ('62), Oklahoma City, Okla., passed away February 10, 2009.
- ★ **FARMER**, Robert A. ('50), San Leandro, Calif., passed away May 17, 2002.
- ★ **FOWLER**, Ronald L. ('50) passed away February 14, 2003
- ★ **GARRETT**, Joe P. ('52), Sacramento, Calif., passed away April 8, 2000.
- ★ **GILMORE**, Steven C. ('62) passed away October 7, 2002.
- ★ **GRESHAM**, William C. ('40), Grand Prairie, Texas, passed away September 12, 1995.
- ★ **GRIFFIN**, Billy D. ('49), Dallas, Texas, passed away February 6, 2007.
- ★ **HABERLEIN**, Jack H. ('39), Antonito, Colo., passed away April 9, 2000.
- ★ **HALL**, Warren H. ('43), Lewisville, Texas, passed away January 15, 2010.
- ★ **HALLAWAY**, Roger ('52), Harris, Texas, passed away September of 1985.
- ★ **HEBERT**, James ('52), San Diego, Calif., passed away February of 1979.
- ★ **HISEY**, Richard E. ('41), East Lansing, Mich., passed away October 2, 2005.
- ★ **HOGUE**, Gale W. ('52), Benton, Wash., passed away April 1, 2002.
- ★ **HOOPER**, James E. ('55), Walnut Creek, Calif., passed away July 28, 1991.
- ★ **HORTON**, Richard E. ('62) passed away December 9, 2004.
- ★ **HUGHES**, Huber C. ('41), Wichita, Kan., passed away December 4, 1996.
- ★ **HUTCHINSON**, Charles F. ('42), San Antonio, Texas, passed away March 15, 1997.
- ★ **JOHNSON**, Ernest H. ('41), Weatherford, Texas, passed away February 11, 2002.
- ★ **JONES**, Malcome L. ('59) passed away February 1, 1974.
- ★ **KINNEY**, Robert L. ('52) passed away January 1, 1955.
- ★ **KRAMER**, Edwin S. ('46), Chandler, Ariz., passed away February 22, 2011.
- ★ **LAWYER**, Gene "Jesse" ('41), Dallas, Texas, passed away December 15, 1994.
- ★ **MAPES**, Roy ('31), Houston, Texas, passed away July 1, 1982.
- ★ **McNATT**, Arthur A. ('59) passed away July 23, 1994.
- ★ **MEYER**, Henry H. ('58), Grapevine, Texas, passed away September 19, 2002.
- ★ **MURRAY**, George C. ('40), Austin, Texas, passed away April 6, 2003.
- ★ **NICHOLS**, John R. ('52), Isabella, Okla., passed away October 30, 2010.
- ★ **NOBLE**, Jack ('52) passed away November 2, 1990.
- ★ **NOBLE**, Lamar C. ('43) passed away March 1, 1961.
- ★ **OSBORN**, Robert B. ('47), Austin, Texas, passed away May 10, 2009.
- ★ **PHIFER**, William J. ('43), Rockledge, Fla., passed away November 16, 2001.
- ★ **PHILLIPS**, Wayne ('52), Wagoner, Okla., passed away September of 1979.
- ★ **PORTH**, George D. ('42), Lakeland, Fla., passed away April 1, 1987.
- ★ **REED**, Marvin C. ('40), Austin, Texas, passed away January 7, 2009.
- ★ **REID**, John L. ('52) passed away April 1, 2001.
- ★ **RICHARDSON**, James E. ('54), Bakersfield, Calif., passed away February 13, 2002.
- ★ **RIDER**, Charles R. ('52), Los Angeles, Calif., passed away December 7, 2010.
- ★ **RUCKER**, Wayne N. ('43), Claremore, Okla., passed away October 1, 1986.
- ★ **SAWYER**, Wesley A. ('40), Sacramento, Calif., passed away July 22, 2010.
- ★ **SEABOLT**, William A. ('41), Clayton, Ga., passed away December 29, 2003.
- ★ **SMITH**, John D. ('36), Tulsa, Okla., passed away October 25, 2003.
- ★ **STEPHENS**, Guy R. ('62), Atoka, Okla., passed away January 17, 2007.
- ★ **ST. JOHN**, Van M. ('59) passed away September 1, 1994.
- ★ **STRAIN**, Lewis S. ('40) passed away January 1, 1971.
- ★ **TAIT**, William D. ('49), Seattle, Wash., passed away June 11, 2008
- ★ **TEMPLE**, Edward A. ('55), Huntington, Texas, passed away May 22, 2011.
- ★ **TYSON**, Peter B. ('40), Midland, Texas, passed away August 1, 1987.
- ★ **VAN WINKLE**, Jerry C. ('42) passed away August 15, 1988.
- ★ **VAUGHAN**, Gary J. ('57), Oklahoma City, Okla., passed away May 27, 2008.
- ★ **WADE**, Billy D. ('51), Ada, Okla., passed away October 30, 2005.
- ★ **WAGGONER**, Robert M. ('44) passed away May 31, 1983.
- ★ **WARREN**, Richard L. ('40), Sunnyvale, Calif., passed away December 13, 2004.
- ★ **WATSON**, John A. ('59) passed away October 14, 1998.
- ★ **WEBB**, Franklin R. ('58), Okay, Okla., passed away March 28, 2011.
- ★ **WEEDN**, Roger D. ('63), Ft. Smith, Ark., passed away May 13, 2011.
- ★ **WEEMS**, Ray O. ('38) date unknown.
- ★ **WETMORE**, Jerry ('52), Oklahoma City, Okla., passed away December 1, 2006.
- ★ **WHITE**, Malcolm M. ('54) passed away October 1, 1972.
- ★ **WILSON**, Charles H. ('58), Skiatook, Okla., passed away February 1, 2008.
- ★ **WRIGHT**, Bradley L. ('57), Anaheim, Calif., passed away August 17, 2010.
- ★ **WYRICK**, William E. ('43), Columbia, S.C., passed away December 17, 2006.
- ★ **YOUNG**, Richard M. ('50), Lawton, Okla., passed away February 19, 1991.

## NOTES FROM THE OMA ARCHIVES

### "Fifty-One Years of OMA History Reviewed"



**Gene Little, '56  
OMA Museum  
Curator**

*As a starting point for 2012, I would like to remind All Alumni Families how Oklahoma Military Academy got its start. The following article is taken from the "Last Guidon," Volume 26, No. 5, printed on Thursday, May 27, 1971:*

OMA's history begins in 1909 when the Administration Building was erected to accommodate Eastern University Preparatory School, which flourished for seven years. The onset of World War I left the school virtually deserted for the next two years when so many young men went off to war.

In 1919, the school was changed to Oklahoma Military Academy, a four-year high school. In 1923, the Oklahoma Legislature enacted Senate Bill 209 to add two years of junior college to Oklahoma Military Academy.

The value of OMA in 1923 was estimated at half a million dollars, whereas estimated value in 1971 is 10 million dollars. The first major buildings erected were Meyer Barracks, 1920, named for Maurice Meyer, the first Oklahoma soldier killed in France in World War I, the mess hall, Porter Officer Hall, named for Porter Officer, constructed in 1925 and enlarged in 1965 and Markham Barracks, 1927, named for Baird H. Markham and the Infirmary Building constructed in 1927.

Bushyhead Fieldhouse and Will Rogers Auditorium were built nine years later in 1936. Pershing Rifle Range was completed in 1947, and the Visitors Center was added in 1950.

Baird Hall, housing the library and several classrooms was built in 1951. The Engineering and Speech Arts Building, called the Business and Applied Arts Building, was completed in 1956.

Four years later, Downs Barracks, 1960, named for Walter E. Downs, Jr., an alumni casualty of World War II, was added; and in 1962, Thunderbird Student Union Building was constructed honoring the war dead of Oklahoma's famous 45th Division.

Ledbetter Barracks was constructed in 1964; and a major classroom building, Loshbaugh Hall, 1967, was erected to accommodate increased enrollment.

1968 marked the beginning of further change when the Academy put instructors in street clothes. Although

co-educational night school started in 1957, it was not until 1968 that OMA opened its doors to women, allowing them to attend day classes. But it wasn't until 1969 that OMA hired its first women instructors.

One of the most outstanding parts of the history of OMA is its sports history. In 1931, came the first in a line of champion football teams. Coached by Murl Cline, OMA went to post season play. Again in 1938 OMA went all the way with an undefeated season, with victories including NEO, Connors and Arkansas University. Once again, the coach was Murl Cline. In 1938, the OMA polo team was ranked No. 1 in the nation with a record of 23 straight wins. One year later, in 1939, the polo team was tops again with a 26-1 season; the football team had a 9-1 year; and the junior college basketball squad won 17 in a row. The polo team of 1942 also went undefeated. Wrestling and golf were added in 1942.

World War II ended the sports at OMA for five years with only intramural play. OMA added boxing in 1949 and promptly won three state titles in a row. Track began in 1952 at OMA, and bowling was started in 1957. 1965 saw the return of a champion football team under the direction of Red Rogers. The cadets went to the Shrine Bowl in Savannah, Ga., that year. OMA won the conference 64-65 title in basketball; also in 1964, OMA won the conference title in baseball. OMA high school had their best record in football in 1967 with an 8-2 season. 1969 saw OMA win the regional golf championship, and in 1971, OMA was represented by Steve Mancino as the regional champion in golf.

Several student organizations have formed since 1923. These include the Saber Society, 1929, the Debate Club, 1941, OMA Ham Radio Club, 1959, Phi Theta Kappa Fraternity, 1961, Student Association, 1970, and the Future Teachers Association, 1971.

For two decades horses played an eventful part in OMA's history. The cadets played polo at the Rogers County Fairgrounds; and in 1933, the famous humorist, Will Rogers came to OMA and played polo with the cadets. In 1938, the cadets were the national champions. Cadet cavalymen were also trained on horseback.

***This article was printed in its original form and contains a few historical errors. The following corrections should be noted:***

- The Saber Society was formed in 1927, not 1929.
- The Chevron Society, which was not mentioned in the article, was a notable student organization formed in 1932.
- Maurice Meyer's status as "the first Oklahoma soldier killed in France in World War I" is not confirmed. Sergeant Meyer served with distinction as an officer of the 90th Division during the St. Mihiel campaign in France during World War I and was wounded by German shrapnel on September 23, 1918. He died the following day and was accorded a hero's funeral in Tulsa on May 3, 1922.





*Rogers State University has reaffirmed its commitment to the OMA Alumni Association by providing new space within the OMA Museum for activities related to the museum and alumni relations. Pictured here are the OMA Alumni Association and Museum Staff, from left: Megan Hurst, Administrative Assistant; Gene Little, OMA Museum Curator; Dr. Danette Boyle, Executive Director of the OMA Alumni Association.*

## Come Visit the OMA Museum

Don't wait until the next reunion to visit our museum! We now have a full staff in the OMA Alumni Office and museum most days of the week, including Dr. Danette Boyle, Executive Director; Megan Hurst, Administrative Assistant; and Gene Little, OMA Museum Curator.

The museum collects, preserves, and exhibits items relevant to the school's history including a recreated typical cadet room and a bust of Lt. Gen. William E. Potts—the highest-ranking alumnus of OMA. While visiting the museum, you can also stop by the OMA Killed in Action Memorial which

stands in front of Meyer Hall and honors the more than one hundred OMA cadets who paid the ultimate sacrifice for their country.

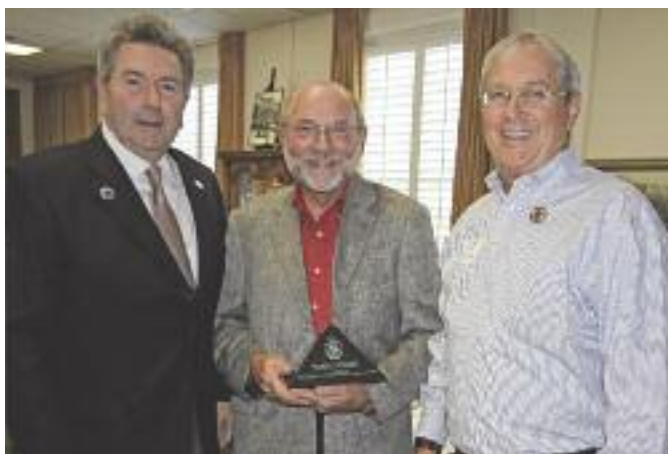
Museum hours are Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. (excluding holidays). Parking is available in front of the flagpole or behind the building. Call 918-343-6889 before you come, and museum staff will roll out the red carpet for you!

## OMA now a member of the Oklahoma Museum Association

The Oklahoma Military Academy Museum at Rogers State University has joined ranks with some of Oklahoma's finest attractions as a member of the Oklahoma Museum Association. OMA is the primary provider of training and information to Oklahoma's 500+ museums, historical societies, historic sites, zoos and botanical gardens, historic houses, living history museums, tribal cultural centers, and other related entities.

In September 2011, RSU was honored to host the Oklahoma Museum Association's annual conference, during which many representatives from member organizations across the state visited the museum in Meyer Hall. Now that we are listed on the Oklahoma Museum Association's website, we look forward to welcoming many more visitors to our beautiful museum.

For more information regarding the Oklahoma Museum Association, visit their website at [www.okmuseums.org](http://www.okmuseums.org).



*Dr. Larry Rice, RSU President; Leonard Szopinski, Director of the RSU Physical Plant; and Bill Ramsay, OMA Association President*

## OMA KIA Memorial Update Complete

Granite slabs on three sides of the OMA KIA memorial have been replaced, making the names listed easier for visitors to read. OMA Alumni thanks Leonard "Lenn" Szopinski, director of RSU Physical Plant, for the vast amounts of assistance he has provided in overseeing the renovation process.

Since coming to RSU in 2003, Szopinski has embraced his role as director of all building and grounds maintenance on campus. In addition to his supervision of the OMA KIA Memorial, he has also been involved in many other large projects such as the renovation of the Centennial Center, the erection of RSU's new student housing, the remodeling of several buildings on campus, and the current renovation of the athletics facilities.

## CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

## ROLL CALL: WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

### 1940s

■ **Calvin Bard ('47)**, After serving in the U.S. Navy, Bard served as a consultant to pharmaceutical companies for several years. However, it was in the then-new field of applied clinical nutrition that he found his niche. After obtaining a master's degree, he gave lectures in the U.S., and finally in Europe where he lived comfortably until retiring in the spring of 1982 and returning to the States. He has acquired a lifetime of achievements including: a war time member of the United States Navy, a Fellow of the American Council of Applied Clinical Nutrition, a member of the Kiwanis Club and a licensed pilot.

He has six children, 17 grandchildren, and five great-grandchildren.

■ **Alex Adwan ('48)**, Adwan attended OMA from 1945 to 1948 before serving with Oklahoma's 45th division in the Korean War. He graduated from the University of Oklahoma in 1950 with a degree in journalism and worked for Oklahoma newspapers and United Press International for 60 years. His last position was as editorial page editor, senior editor, and columnist for the Tulsa World. In 1995, he received the Oklahoma Press Association's Beach Musselman Award for "outstanding contribution to newspaper journalism" and was recently honored as a Tulsa Press Club Media Icon. Adwan was

named an OMA Distinguished Alumnus in 1990 and was voted into the OMA Hall of Fame in 2002. Adwan now lives in Tulsa with his wife, Teresa.

### 1960s

■ **Ralph Clift ('63)**, After attending OMA for five years, Clift transferred to the University of Arkansas in the fall of 1964 as a sophomore. He began acting professionally in the 1970s and made it to Hollywood in 1981, where he stayed for 18 years. He returned to Bentonville, Ark., in 1998 and worked for 10 years as a Detention Deputy Sheriff for Benton County before retiring.

Clift said he regretted not returning to OMA for his sixth year but is very happy to now be an active

member of the OMA Alumni Association. A "lost alumnus" for many years, Clift was finally located in 2010, attended the 2010 Reunion, and was the first alumnus to give a substantial gift to the OMA KIA Memorial fund.

■ **Jay B. "Pete" Goltra ('69)**, After attending OMA from 1964 to 1969, Goltra graduated from Oklahoma State University's School of Business in 1971.

He was recently awarded the Award of Merit from the Shriners International, which is one of the highest honors a Shriner can achieve. Goltra has been recognized for his outstanding achievements and contributions to his community. He now lives in Tulsa with his wife, Debbie.

### GUIDON

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

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

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