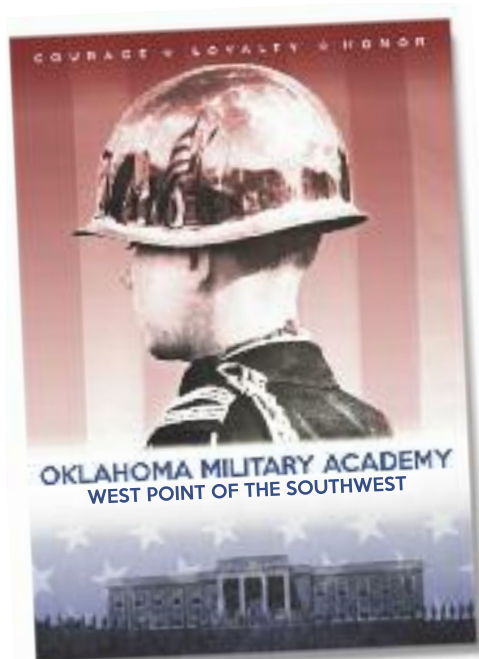


COURAGE LOYALTY HONOR • YESTERDAY TODAY TOMORROW



## OKLAHOMA MILITARY ACADEMY WEST POINT OF THE SOUTHWEST

The remarkable and magnificent story of the Oklahoma Military Academy is in production as a made-for-television documentary that will premiere at the upcoming OMA Alumni Reunion on June 6-7, 2014.

How do you explain to family and friends about your time attending OMA? How do you explain "Courage, Loyalty, Honor" and the core values developed during your time as a cadet? The OMA documentary -- *Oklahoma Military Academy: West Point of the Southwest* -- will help answer these questions, bringing alive both the history and life-long impact on those who attended the "West Point of the Southwest."

The documentary is made for all OMA Alumni to share with friends, family, children and grandchildren. The film will allow future generations to experience life at OMA, including special stories from former cadets that will be seen and heard for the first time during this special show.

*Continued on page 3*

## GIVING A HELPING HAND

When Al and Margaret Knight established the Alyson Marie Knight Memorial Endowed Scholarship, they created a legacy that will provide educational opportunity for RSU students today and for generations to come.

Long-time Tulsa residents, the Knights established the endowed scholarship in memory of their granddaughter, a high school honor student in Texas who died during a 2002 automobile accident. The scholarship is designed to recruit and retain talented students to RSU, and the couple has been especially interested in providing support for students who are working their way through school or who have faced adversity.

The Knights were familiar with RSU through their son, Jim, who attended its predecessor institution, the Oklahoma

Military Academy, in the late 1960s. They saw the positive difference OMA made for him and they hoped to provide that same opportunity to others.

"We're delighted to give a helping hand to RSU students because you can't succeed in this world without an education," Margaret said.

A long-time Tulsa attorney, Al followed in his father's footsteps with his law career. After high school, he sought an appointment to the U.S. Naval Academy, but was turned away due to his poor eyesight. During World War II, he served for five years in naval communication intelligence in Washington, D.C., while he simultaneously attended George Washington University Law School at night to earn his law

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## LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT



Bill Ramsay

On behalf of the OMA Alumni Association Board of Directors, here's hoping you have a fantastic New Year. Before you know it, June 6th and 7th will be here and College Hill will once again be host to many former cadets and families who will reconnect and remember our proud past.

OMA Cadets, regardless of the generation, have shared a kind of common experience, and

OMA alumni seem to have that deep-rooted sense of place and pride. But how do we convey our history? How do we make a connection with the younger generations? This year—at this coming reunion, we have found a way to make our proud history real with the premiere showing of *Oklahoma Military Academy: West Point of the Southwest*.

This is a reunion you will not want to miss! Our history will be brought to life on the screen in a made-for-television documentary under the leadership and expertise of OMA Alumnus and award winning producer/director/actor Shawnee Brittan '53, in partnership with Emmy

Award-winning RSU Public Television and John Wooley, the renowned writer and historian who authored the OMA book, *Voices from the Hill*.

The total cost to produce the documentary is \$134,500. \$60,000 of the total cost is being raised by the OMA Alumni and friends. Thanks to the generosity of Shawnee Brittan, OMA '53, and RSU, the remaining 55 percent of the total production cost has been provided. Every contribution is greatly appreciated.

Participation is the critical factor that will send a very powerful message about Courage Loyalty and Honor to the young men and women who watch this documentary and follow in our footsteps. All donors will be listed in the closing credits of the documentary.

I appreciate your support and I honor your continued involvement in our great Alumni Association. I hope to see you at our Reunion in June for the premiere showing of *Oklahoma Military Academy: West Point of the Southwest*.

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

Bill Ramsay, '61  
OMA Association President



## ALUMNUS' BUSINESS RECOGNIZED IN TULSA WORLD

OMA Alumnus Harry Poarch's company, Economy Lumber, was featured in the Tulsa World on September 4, 2013. Celebrating its 80th anniversary in April, the article focused on the company's tenacity and survivability through eight decades of sometimes tumultuous economic conditions, including the recent housing market downturn. Third and fourth generation family members are now active in the business.

In honor of Harry Poarch's strong commitment to excellence, which is one of the qualities that so often exhibits itself in former OMA cadets, the OMA Alumni Association presented Mr. Poarch a commemorative framed portrait of the article, which can be read in its entirety by visiting [www.tulsaworld.com](http://www.tulsaworld.com) and entering "Economy Lumber" into the search feature.

Harry Poarch graduated from OMA Junior College in 1953. He has remained an active member of the OMA Alumni Association, was named an OMA Distinguished Alumni in 1997 and inducted into the OMA Alumni Hall of Fame in 2005.

## RSU GRAD FOLLOWED GRANDFATHER'S PATH TO COLLEGE HILL



*Savannah Evans and Harry Simpson, '65*

OMA Alumnus Harry Simpson and his family had more to celebrate at New Year's than just the holiday. Not only did Harry's granddaughter Savannah Evans receive her Bachelor of Science degree in Medical Molecular Biology from Rogers State University in December, but she was admitted to the Master of Science program in Biochemistry and Molecular Biology at Oklahoma State University for the Spring 2014 semester.

"Dee and I are really proud of what Savannah has accomplished at RSU," says Simpson, who graduated from OMA in 1965 and currently serves on the OMA Alumni Board. "It is sentimental that she got to go to the same school as I did. The curriculum is a bit different of course but we really think a lot of RSU."

Savannah's love for science began when she was seven years old and watched her first episode of "Bill Nye the

Science Guy." Over the years as her education expanded her mind and horizons, this love grew into a passion, especially in the areas of biology and chemistry. She would like to help foster this interest in science within other young hearts, especially within the children of the Cherokee Nation, of which she is a member.

"One goal of mine is setting an example for young Cherokee citizens who are fascinated by the sciences," she says. "I would like to encourage every child to be curious about science and to show them how remarkable a career in microbial forensics or agricultural biosecurity can be." Taking RSU's Biology of Microorganisms in her sophomore year helped Savannah set another goal. "I would like to be able to trace the lineage of an organism through generations," she explains. "Armed with this knowledge as a foundation, I could help determine if a plant pathogen had arisen naturally or if the pathogen was inserted by a malicious source."

Obtaining a Master of Science in Biochemistry and Molecular Biology from OSU will help Savannah move toward these goals and continue the extensive education and training she began at RSU. Savannah has received a scholarship from the National Institute for Microbial Forensics and Food and Agricultural Biosecurity (NIMFFAB) to complete her degree and she will be working at Ulrich Melcher's lab.

"I want to keep learning about subjects I find highly attractive and this seems the most fitting path for me to make a difference," Savannah says. "This will prepare me for the career I want: to be on the front lines of biological attacks, both natural and malicious."

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## OMA DOCUMENTARY

### Continued from page 1

*Oklahoma Military Academy: West Point of the Southwest* is being made possible by the partnership of the OMA Alumni Association and Rogers State University's Emmy Award-winning RSU Public Television. Under the leadership and expertise of award-winning producer/director/actor Shawnee Brittan '53, the OMA documentary will be even more true to life, as Mr. Brittan knows our story first-hand from his own OMA experience as a cadet. In addition, John Wooley, author of the OMA book *Voices from the Hill*, is writing the script. He has

researched OMA extensively and knows more history about it than almost any other single person.

The OMA Documentary will be powerful and emotional. We expect record numbers of Alumni and friends to attend the 2014 reunion to see the OMA Documentary on the big screen. This is one OMA Reunion you will not want to miss!

The OMA documentary will serve as a lasting legacy of OMA's illustrious history. If you are interested in supporting the cost to produce this historic film, please contact Dr. Danette Boyle at 918-343-6888 or [dboyle@rsu.edu](mailto:dboyle@rsu.edu).



## GIVING A HELPING HAND

Continued from page 1



degree. If this wasn't enough, he was also a member of the Law Review.

Following the war, he headed to Tulsa to begin practicing law for 15 years with his father and later established his own firm, Knight Wagner Stuart Wilkerson & Lieber, from which he retired in 2001 at the age of 80. Al contributed his time and expertise to many organizations over the years including the Executive Board of the National Cutting Horse Association, President of the Tulsa Junior Chamber of Commerce and so on.

On a personal basis, Al and Margaret met during a trial in which he was representing an Okmulgee hospital where Margaret served as a board member. "He won the lawsuit and won my heart," Margaret has always said.

The Knights have continued to value education for themselves and for their children, grandchildren and great grandchildren. Margaret holds the distinction of being one of the first female graduates from the University of Oklahoma Geology Department, where she was often the only woman in the class. Margaret also contributed to numerous organizations, including the Gilcrease Museum where she was President of the Volunteer group and was responsible for bringing that organization into the computer age by placing all their information into a database. She started the Service League in Okmulgee which contributed so much to the small town, such as creating a teen center.

Al and Margaret are doers, always giving of themselves and helping others. "They are incredible role models," remarked Jim.

Advanced education was an expectation for their children - Grover, Alfred Jr. M.D., Mary, Jim Ph.D., Margo M.D. and Gwen M.D. -- all have enjoyed successful careers and become business leaders and more. The daughters say that it was their parents who gave them the vision to become physicians. In the early 1970's, women physicians were very

## ALYSON MARIE KNIGHT SCHOLAR SAMANTHA SPRINKLES



Porter, Oklahoma is famous for its peaches, and it recently sent a very special one to College Hill. Samantha Sprinkles is an RSU freshman and a valued part of the student work force at the OMA Alumni Office. She is also a 2013-2014 Alyson Marie Knight Scholar.

Samantha knew that her path to getting a good job included getting a college education, which has been made possible for her by university scholarships and financial aid.

"I wanted to get an education so I could get a good job to better my life," Samantha says. "I am deeply grateful to the Knight family for establishing this scholarship endowment, which is helping me pursue my dreams."

In high school, Samantha graduated as salutatorian of her senior class. Because of Porter's rural location,

commuting to college was not an option for her, but the cost of living on campus would have been a financial burden. Thanks to the Alyson Marie Knight Scholarship and financial aid, Samantha has been able to live and be active on campus.

While this fall may have been her first semester away at college, this is not Samantha's first time to venture beyond Porter's borders. Along with her church group, she helped in the clean-up efforts following the devastating tornadoes in Joplin, Missouri and Moore, Oklahoma. It is this desire to help people that prompted Samantha's decision to pursue a bachelor's degree in Elementary Education at RSU.

Samantha began working for the OMA Alumni office in Fall 2013. "We are so happy to have Samantha here working in our office," said OMA Alumni Executive Director Dr. Danette Boyle. "She has so many of the qualities that OMA sought to instill in cadets that she fits in perfectly."

rare. "People often asked me how did I ever get into medicine," Margo said. "I can't take credit for it," and then added, "Mom and Dad suggested the career and then gave my sister and me encouragement and support that we could do it!" All of the children remarked how very fortunate they were to have such wonderful parents.

The Knights have quietly given to the University for years, and they credit OMA Alumni Association Executive Director Dr. Danette Boyle for her stewardship.

"Danette told us about the needs of the school and showed how our gifts help the students in a way they couldn't get help otherwise," Al said. "We could see the impact and were glad to help." Their scholarship support started with a relatively modest \$600 check and has

steadily grown the endowment, which today stands at more than a half-million dollars.

"We kept giving because whenever the school said they would do something, they always did it and they made sure that our wishes were carried out," Margaret said.

Boyle said the entire Knight family has been supportive of OMA and RSU throughout the years, including Jim who helps host the South Padre Mini-Reunions each year.

"Al and Margaret are making a real and meaningful difference in the lives of our students through their scholarships," Boyle said. "And we're deeply appreciative to their children for their continued support that has helped strengthen the OMA Alumni Association."

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## RSU UPDATE



### **NEW RSU PRYOR CAMPUS TO BOLSTER REGIONAL EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITY, WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT**

Rogers State University celebrated the opening of a new Pryor campus at MidAmerica Industrial Park that will bolster educational opportunity and support workforce development in northeastern Oklahoma.

The two-story, 38,400-square-foot building was dedicated during a Jan. 7 ceremony at MidAmerica Industrial Park, which built the facility on the university's behalf. The \$10 million construction project, along with its accompanying 83-acre site, represents the single largest gift in the university's history.

"The new RSU-Pryor campus is a game changer for higher education in this part of Oklahoma," said RSU President Dr. Larry Rice. "Thanks to MidAmerica's generosity, RSU will be able to better provide educational

opportunities to Mayes County and neighboring communities. We look forward to continuing our work with the park's employers and our other community partners to meet the region's educational needs for generations to come."

The building opened for operation on Jan. 2, with the first classes held Monday, Jan. 13. More than twice the size of the previous facility, the new RSU campus features classrooms, computer labs, science labs, library, student lounge, food service and dining facilities, bookstore, meeting rooms and a 150-seat auditorium to be used for classroom use and the general public.

### **RSU FACULTY MEMBER COAUTHORS MILITARY HISTORY TEXTBOOK**



A new textbook coauthored by Rogers State University Assistant Professor David Ulbrich traces the history of American warfare from colonial times through the recent conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Ulbrich said that he wrote "Ways of War" with coauthor Matthew S. Muelbauer to fill a niche in military-history education. A medium-length U.S. military history textbook,

"Ways of War" is a survey-level account of American warfare and military leaders in their cultural, technological, diplomatic and political context.

The book is available in both hardback and paperback editions from Routledge.



# OKLAHOMA MILITARY ACADEMY ALUMNI ASSOCIATION REUNION

JUNE 6-7, 2014 | ROGERS STATE UNIVERSITY | CLAREMORE, OK

## FRIDAY | JUNE 06

- 8:00 a.m. **REUNION REGISTRATION**  
Meyer Hall, OMA Alumni Office and OMA Museum
- 9:00 a.m. **ALUMNI GOLF CLASSIC**  
Heritage Hills Golf Course 18 Hole Tournament
- 11:45 a.m. **Shotgun Start Begins**  
**Golf Lunch**  
*Lunch is also available for alumni and guests not participating in the Golf Classic.*
- 11:30 a.m. **LADIES' LUNCHEON**  
*Hosted by RSU First Lady Peggy Rice*  
President's Residence, RSU Campus  
*Reservation required with maximum 40*
- 3 - 4:30 p.m. **POOL AND PING PONG TOURNAMENTS**  
RSU Centennial Center
- 5:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. **REUNION OPENING RECEPTION**  
RSU Centennial Center Ballroom

## SATURDAY | JUNE 07

- 8:00 a.m. **REUNION REGISTRATION**  
Meyer Hall, OMA Alumni Office and OMA Museum  
*Coffee and donuts*
- 9:30 a.m. **MORNING FORMATION AND CEREMONY HONORING OMA'S RECENTLY DECEASED ALUMNI**  
Will Rogers Auditorium
- 10:00 a.m. **RSU GUARD OFFICER LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT (GOLD) PROGRAM**  
Will Rogers Auditorium
- 10:15 a.m. **DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AND HALL OF FAME CEREMONY**  
Will Rogers Auditorium
- 11:30 a.m. **ALUMNI LUNCHEON**  
*Premiere showing of **Oklahoma Military Academy: West Point of the Southwest***  
**ICE CREAM SOCIAL AT OMA MUSEUM**  
Meyer Hall, OMA Museum
- 5:30 p.m. **RECEPTION AND DINNER**  
RSU Centennial Center Ballroom

# OMA REUNION 2014 REGISTRATION FORM

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Last date attended \_\_\_\_\_ ☐ High School ☐ Junior College

☐ **First-Time OMA Reunion Attendee** I served in the \_\_\_\_\_ Branch of Service.

Name of spouse/guest(s) \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

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

## FRIDAY, JUNE 6, 2014

Number of Persons \_\_\_\_\_ Total \$ Amount \_\_\_\_\_

### Oklahoma Military Academy Alumni Golf Classic and Registration

Heritage Hills Golf Course • 9 a.m., Shotgun Start (Guests and spouses welcome)

☐ 18 holes - \$60 (includes lunch) ☐ Golf lunch only \$10

☐ Please arrange my foursome for me.

☐ My team members will be: \_\_\_\_\_

### Ladies Luncheon Hosted by RSU First Lady Peggy Rice

11:30 a.m. • President's Residence, RSU Campus

☐ \$20 per person (Reservation required with maximum 40)

### Ping-Pong/Pool Tournament

3-4:30 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 7, 2014

### Morning and Afternoon Reunion Activities

Registration begins at 8:00 a.m. • OMA Alumni Office and OMA Museum in Meyer Hall

☐ \$30 per person **NO CHARGE FOR ANY ALUMNUS ATTENDING HIS FIRST REUNION.**  
(includes coffee, donuts, lunch, packets, ice cream social)

### Reception and Dinner

5:30 p.m. • RSU Centennial Center

☐ \$40 per person

☐ I would like to make a contribution to support the production of the *Oklahoma Military Academy: West Point of the Southwest*. All gifts for the documentary above the \$60,000 goal will be used for scholarships for students enrolled in the RSU Guard Officer Leadership Development (GOLD) Program.

☐ I would like to make a contribution to help support the OMA Alumni Association.

### Total Amount Enclosed

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

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

☐ Please charge my ☐ VISA ☐ MasterCard ☐ Discover ☐ American Express

Account number \_\_\_\_\_ Expiration date \_\_\_\_\_ Security Code \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

*Refund policy: Reunion 2014 registration refunds will be made only if the OMA Alumni Office is notified no later than 5 p.m. on Friday, May 30, 2014. For additional information, please call the OMA Alumni Office at 918-343-6888, 918-343-6889 or email dboyle@rsu.edu.*



## OMA ALUMNI SELECTS 2014 HALL OF FAME AND DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI HONOREES



**The Honorable James O. Ellison, '46**

### Hall of Fame

James O. Ellison graduated from high school at OMA in 1946. He attended the academy under a work scholarship program by which he received credit on tuition in exchange for work performed in the mess hall. He states that this arrangement, coupled with the school's education and military training, developed a sense of responsibility shared by other OMA graduates.

Upon graduation, Ellison attended the University of Missouri for a year before transferring to the University of Oklahoma where he received dual bachelor's degrees in political science and law in 1951.

He served on active duty with the U.S. Army for two and a half years until his discharge in 1953. He later became a member of the 45th Infantry Division, Oklahoma National Guard, where he served from 1955 through 1963.

Upon his release from active duty in 1953, Judge Ellison opened a one-man law practice in Red Fork, Okla., with his wife Jody acting as his secretary. He continued as a solo practitioner until 1955 when he joined Byron Boone and eventually became a senior partner in the law firm of Boone, Ellison and Smith with the addition of L.K. Smith as a partner. The firm grew in size and reputation into a major Tulsa law firm.

In 1979, Ellison was nominated by Senator David Boren and appointed by President Carter as U.S. District Judge for the Northern District of Oklahoma. He served in that capacity as both active and senior judge until 2005 when he became an inactive U.S. District Judge.

During his legal career, Ellison served as Trustee of the following entities: Hillcrest Medical Center; Columbia College, Columbia, Mo.; University of the Ozarks, Clarksville, Ark.; and the Mary C. Alexander Trust.

He received the Rogers State University Constitutional Award in 2000.

About the Hall of Fame award, Ellison said, "What makes this a significant and unique honor is the knowledge of the long line of OMA cadets who left this Hill to serve their country in many ways; a great number of whom lost their lives in that service. I remember them each time I come back. All honor belongs to them."



**Mr. Phil Goldfarb, '69**  
Hall of Fame

Phil Goldfarb attended OMA from 1966 to 1969, graduating high school in 1967 and Junior College in 1969. For his last year at OMA, he was a Cadet Captain and was the Adjutant for the Corps of Cadets. He then graduated from Oklahoma State University with a

bachelor's degree in biological sciences and attended graduate school at the University of Oklahoma where he majored in pharmacy and business. After pharmacy school, he fulfilled his active military commitment at Fort Sam Houston, Texas in the Medical Service Corps where he was an Administrative Officer at Brooke Army Medical Center, retiring as a Captain, USAR.

In 1975, he began his business career with Bristol Myers, where after five years he became the youngest District Manager in the company's history with sales and marketing responsibilities over four states. In 1988, he started with a small medical communications company and in a 10-year period, help build it from 50 employees to 1,200 employees and sales of \$5 million to \$250 million before assisting in taking the company public. After five years as a public company, it was bought by Cardinal Health, which today is ranked 19th in the annual Fortune 500 survey. He worked for the company for five additional years before retiring as Vice President of Operations in its Healthcare Marketing Services Division.

After retirement, Phil started his own healthcare consulting company, was the founding and current president of the Jewish Genealogical Society of Tulsa, and served as a board member and officer of the Sherwin Miller Museum in Tulsa. He has written articles and lectured extensively on various topics in genealogy.

As a Board Member, Secretary-Treasurer and Vice President of the OMA Alumni Association, he spearheaded the Finding Lost Alumni Project, which has resulted to date in the location of more than 1,300 living "lost alumni" and more than 950 deceased "lost alumni." He recently assisted the new Military History Museum in Broken Arrow, Okla., with its opening as the Preparator and Curator.

He and his wife Lisa have been married for 38 years and the couple has two children and two grandchildren.





### **Mr. Wade Medbery, '53** **Distinguished Alumni**

Wade Medbery attended school in his hometown of Clinton, Oklahoma until 1949 when he enrolled at Oklahoma Military Academy, where he graduated from high school in 1951 and junior college in 1953. While at OMA, he participated in sports and many other activities, listing his favorite as the drill team

due to their many demonstrations in support of sporting events as well as many parades.

Following Medbery's graduation from OMA, he remained in the US Army Reserves until he was commissioned in 1957 in Armor. He retired in 1984 after 31 years as a Lieutenant Colonel. He served in major management positions in the Army for his last 14 years.

After his retirement from the Army, Medbery spent 1988 in Boston, serving as general manager of a diesel manufacturing company and helping with their reorganization efforts. Then he spent 1989 and most of 1990 in Palestine, Texas, where he served for a year as city manager. Beginning in September of 1990, he worked under contract as the manager of a space experiment for the US Army Intelligence Agency in Fort Huachuca, Arizona until he fully retired in 1992. During his years in management, Medbery was a working member of the Chamber of Commerce and the Rotary Club in Palestine, Texas. Upon full retirement, he and his late wife Barbara began travelling full-time throughout the United States.

In 1999, Medbery was elected to the Board of Directors for the OMA Alumni Association and served as president from 1999-2001. He worked with other Alumni to improve the museum, provide input for yearly reunions, and help search for alumni not known to the active roster. He was also instrumental, along with P.D. (Bud) Inhofe, in establishing the South Padre Island Mini Reunion in 1999, which has been held every fall since and has become a beloved OMA Alumni tradition.

Concerning his award as OMA Distinguished Alumni for 2014, Medbery states he is humbled by the nominations for this honor: "The best part of my attendance at OMA was the friendships made that I still maintain today."



### **Mr. William Ramsay, '61** **Distinguished Alumni**

Bill Ramsay graduated from high school in 1961 after spending two years at OMA, achieving the rank of Master Sergeant. He later graduated from The University of Tulsa with a bachelor's degree in business management. Bill began his 40-year career in

telecommunications at Southwestern Bell, working in the mailroom while attending college. After graduation, he held many different positions in Oklahoma and in St. Louis including sales, technical support and marketing. He then joined AT&T at the time of the breakup of the Bell System. In 1986, Bill was hired by WilTel, a subsidiary of The Williams Companies in Tulsa at the time of the rapid growth and development stages of WilTel and WorldCom. During this time, he worked with a team of executives in planning and executing several acquisitions, along with negotiating large domestic and international customer contracts. The company was ultimately acquired by Verizon, and he retired from there in 2007 as Director of Wholesale Accounts, responsible for a sales and technical support group with an annual revenue base of \$300 million, including several top 10 global accounts. Since leaving Verizon, Ramsay has been developing a portrait and event photography business, and has also been engaged in the development of an internet marketing company.

Bill has been involved in civic and community activities for many years including the United Way, Chamber of Commerce, Rotary Club, Junior Achievement and the Adopt-a-School program. He has also been very active in the Oklahoma Military Academy Alumni Association, serving as President of the Board of Directors for the past three years. Bill and his wife Deann reside in Tulsa and have three children and four grandchildren.

### **DID YOU KNOW?**

- The OMA Yearbook gets its name "Vedette" from the days of the horse cavalry. The French word vedette is a mounted sentinel or outpost who has the function of bringing information, giving signals or warnings of danger, etc. to a main body of troops.

## OMA WAS 'INSTRUMENTAL' FOR WARNOCK HARWELL

In the Fall 2013 issue, we featured the story of how Warnock Harwell, OMA Class of 1943, was able to get a scholarship to attend Oklahoma Military Academy during the Great Depression. The story ended with Harwell's meeting a very special young lady named Gloria Kelley. Here, in Harwell's own words, is how that meeting affected the rest of his life ...

*After Saturday morning inspection I would go to Marshall's Drugstore to meet Gloria. We ate lunch and then went to a movie. There were three movie theaters in Claremore. I would always let her choose the one to go to. It didn't matter to me as long as we could hold hands in the dark.*

*One Saturday after the movie, I told Gloria that I could not see her next Saturday because the band was going to some town for a parade. She said she didn't know that I was in the band and asked me what instrument I played. When I told her the trumpet, she started laughing and said her father played the trumpet too. Her father was Captain Kelley, the OMA Music Director. Then we both laughed.*

*For a little extra money I cleaned rifles in the armory before Saturday morning inspection for a quarter. The assigned rifle of the cadet would pass inspection or I would return the money. I never had to return a quarter.*

*There was a large metal garbage can for trash on the second floor of the barracks. One night after taps, someone rolled it down the steps. It made a loud noise. The building officer in charge of barracks called all cadets to stand in the hall by their rooms. He asked the guilty person to step forward but no one did. After 10 minutes we were dismissed. I never did know who did it but it never happened again.*

*Captain Kelley was a heavy smoker. He always had matches in his pocket. The band members gave him a cigarette lighter for his birthday. Not long after that, the band was on a trip for a parade in a small town. The country road was hilly with a lot of trees. The bus came to a railway crossing. The bus driver stopped and looked both ways before crossing. Then we heard a loud train*



Warnock and Gloria Harwell, 1943.

*whistle. That was a close call and shook everyone up. Captain Kelley lit a cigarette and threw the new lighter out the window. He then went back to using paper matches.*

*I remember my first equitation class for jumping. The instructor said that when you approach a jump to put the horse in a trot and lean forward on the neck. My horse was named Peg. The jump pole was low at one foot. Peg stopped in front of the pole but I went sailing over the pole head first. The instructor helped me up from a pile of straw. He was laughing and said, "Nice jump Harwell".*

*One of my cadet friends told me his father had a jewelry store. He could get me a pamphlet on engagement and wedding rings which was a big help. It had pictures with all prices. I*

*selected a nice set that was in my price range. I paid it off in three months. His father let me have it at his cost. I gave the engagement ring to Gloria for Christmas. She was thrilled. I told her the wedding ring would come as soon as I was a Second Lieutenant.*

*In my last year as Captain of the five man rifle team, we won the Randolph Hearst Trophy. It was the first and only time OMA ever won. It is on display in the OMA museum.*

*On the opening day of the Oklahoma City State Fair, the band marched down the main street. Then we were given free time. One of the booths had a fortune teller. She told me that I would soon get married and have six children. When I told my friends, they started calling me Daddy.*

*Graduation day was in May, 1943. The guest speaker was General George Davis. Captain Hamilton, OMA President, told me that he would meet the general at the foot of the hill with a mounted escort. I would be in charge of the escort. At the top of the hill we were inspected, complimented and dismissed.*

*The auditorium had a large crowd of friends and relatives. My parents were sitting with Captain and Mrs. Kelley with daughters Gloria and Jean. During the ceremony, each cadet walked across the stage when his name was called. I was the only one in boots and spurs. The audience clapped a little louder.*

## EPILOGUE

*After graduation from OMA, we were required to enlist in the army. My orders were to report to the officer training school at Fort Riley, Kansas. The course was for three months. The graduation ceremony was on the morning of August 26, 1943. Family and friends were invited. Gloria was there to see me commissioned as Second Lieutenant, U.S. Army. That afternoon we were married in the post church.*

After serving in World War II on the Pacific Front, Harwell worked for the armed forces in both the military and civilian realms before his retirement in 1983, by which time the couple lived all over the United States and was in Japan for 3 years during the occupation and then had been sent as far away as Germany. When the last OMA President,

Colonel John Horne was joined by former OMA cadets and Kelley's family and friends in establishing a scholarship endowment in Harwell's father-in-law's name (the Captain P.H. Kelley Scholarship Endowment), the Harwell's faithfully and generously contributed to it. Then after Harwell retired and the couple moved back to Oklahoma, they established the Warnock D. and Gloria Harwell Scholarship Endowment, with "first preference given to veterans and students who have ambition to get an education but are hindered by their great financial need or physical handicaps." No matter how far he traveled or how successful he became, Harwell never forgot what it was like to truly want a good education and how good it felt that someone was willing to help make that happen.



### CAPTAIN P.H. KELLEY

Warnock Harwell was not the only cadet who was greatly influenced by the life of Captain P.H. Kelley. Kelley served as music director at Oklahoma Military Academy from 1933 to 1952 and the marching bands, orchestras, and drum and bugle

corps under his leadership were outstanding and greatly in demand for parades and other civic events around the community. Therefore it is not surprising that a group of former cadets formed the Captain P.H. Kelley Scholarship Endowment in his honor in the 1990's.

Captain Kelley's list of personal musical accomplishments is impressive and lifelong. His musical

talent manifested itself when Captain Kelley learned to read music and play the trumpet as a boy. A 32nd Degree Mason and a member of the Akdar Shrine, he was an active participant in the shrine's band. He also played with the Tulsa Symphony Orchestra and with several dance bands, most notably Bob Wills and the Texas Playboys, with whom appeared in the 1941 movie *Go West Young Lady*. His love for teaching extended even beyond Oklahoma Military Academy and he taught private lessons throughout his life, first at the Bennett music store in Tulsa and then in Long Beach, California where he and Mrs. Kelley lived at the time of his death in January, 1959. Captain Kelley was buried with full military honors in Los Angeles, California.

### COACHING LEGEND 'RED' ROGERS PASSES AWAY

Legendary Oklahoma football coach Clifford "Red" Rogers passed away in December at the age of 95. Coach Rogers helped guide OMA to a national junior college runner-up title in 1963 and guided Bixby and Jenks High Schools to prominence during the 1960's and 1970's. His overall high school coaching record was 148-63-8.

## MARK YOUR CALENDARS

### RSU FIRST ANNUAL MILITARY HISTORY DAY

**APRIL 1, 2014**

For more information, contact the  
OMA Alumni Office at 918-343-6888



# MILITARY HISTORY MUSEUM OPENS IN BROKEN ARROW

A new Military History Museum opened up in November at 112 N. Main Street in Broken Arrow, OK with a strong emphasis on Oklahomans in the military and a mission statement of: "Promoting Patriotism through the Preservation of Military History." The Preparator/Curator for the Museum was Phil Goldfarb '69. According to Goldfarb: "This museum promises to be the preeminent military history museum in Oklahoma covering all wars from the Civil War to the current war in Afghanistan and containing over 3,000 military artifacts." The Museum also contains a media room, research library containing over 2,000 books, and a museum store.

Goldfarb made certain that OMA was well represented in the museum, including a description of OMA's history, a



copy of the Instrument of Surrender penned by Dallas Meade '28, a story about WWII hero and OMA Alumni, the late Major Blaine Imel '41, along with a self-sketch drawing of Imel's landing of his Corsair aircraft on the USS Bunker Hill, and a story and statue of Hannibal, the West Point mascot who was broken and ridden into the 1948 Army-Navy football game by Walter Price, OMA '44 and USMA '50.

OMA attendees to the VIP Open House included Bill Ramsay '61, Gene Little '56, Carlos Galvez '60 and Barry Grabel '64. "I can see a lot of synergy between the Military History Museum, OMA Alumni, OMA Museum and the Military History Department at RSU. This is why I got involved," said Goldfarb.

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## SPEAKING OF ESPRITS DE CORPS



*Pictured First: Don Gish, '37 and George Caudill, '37.  
Pictured Second: Bob Caudill, '61, Margret Dugan-Caudill, Georgia Zoellner-Gish and John Gish, '64.*

Like many cadets over the decades, Donald Gish journeyed far from his hometown in 1935 to attend Oklahoma Military Academy. But he wasn't the only young man from Hobart, Okla., to travel to the far northeast corner of the state that year. His best friend, George

Caudill, also made the trek north. Both young men graduated in 1937 and returned to Hobart, but their connection to OMA would reemerge 30 years later when their sons, Donald D. Gish '60, John Zoellner Gish '61 and Robert "Bob" Caudill '61, all attended OMA.

John Gish relates that he and his brother and George's son Bob weren't the only ones from the family who became part of the OMA tradition. "There were seven cadets who attended together out of two families. My mother's brother, John Edward Zoellner, graduated from OMA in 1940," he said. "And George Caudill's nephew, Richard "Dick" Dugan, graduated in 1962."

Everyone in the group grew up within a ten-mile radius of each other, but it was the bonds created almost 300 miles away on College Hill in Claremore that helped cement the connection between these two families for a lifetime, creating yet another example of the esprits de corps OMA cadets hold so dear.



Arthur Fisch, '52

Robert Fisher, '68

Hays Gilstrap, '63

Donald Gish, '60

John Grove, '65

Russ Labrum, '71



Charles Laster, '71

Mark Lester, '69

Ken Martin, '61

Ronald Morris, '59

Kale Parman, '61

Patrick Protiva, '66

## 2013 FIRST TIME OMA ALUMNI ASSOCIATION REUNION ATTENDEES



Michael Ray, '69

William Rule, '68

James Stauss, '63

David Stenhouse, '67

Rollo Venn, '45

Jerry Webb, '58



Jack White, '67

Fred Williams, '69

Charles Williamson, '58

Ray Yagher, '69



## RAMSEY LEGACY PRESERVED IN GOLD PROGRAM



Rogers State University students owe a debt of gratitude to the legacy of the late Lt. Col. Ed Ramsey '37 for helping establish an endowment supporting the Guard Officer Leadership Development (GOLD) program recently established by RSU and the Oklahoma National Guard.

Widely known for his role as a guerilla leader behind enemy lines in the Japanese-held Philippines during World War II, Ramsey was hailed as a hero by generations of Filipinos.

A 1994 inductee into the OMA Alumni Hall of Fame, Ramsey became the leader of a force of 40,000 guerilla fighters intent on regaining the Philippines from Japanese rule. Among his exploits, he led the last mounted U.S. Army Horse Cavalry charge in Bataan on January 16, 1942, for which he received the Silver Star. His medals and awards also included the Purple Heart, Bronze Star, and the Distinguished Service Cross pinned on him by Gen. Douglas MacArthur. Ramsey also received a number of military awards from the Philippine government, including the Legion of Honor (Degree of Commander) and the Cross of Valor.

Ramsey told his story in the 1990 book, *Lieutenant Ramsey's War*, co-authored by Stephen J. Rivele. The book was excerpted in *Reader's Digest* and remains in print to this day, as part of the series *Memories of War*, published by Potomac Books, Inc.

Following the war, Ramsey completed his law degree at the University of Oklahoma Law School, was Far East Representative of Hughes Aircraft Co. in Japan, and later was president of Ralph M. Parsons Electronics Co., as well as his own companies in Taiwan and later the Philippines. This is where he met and married his second wife, Raquel, in 1979. He also lobbied Congress to fulfill its wartime promise of benefits for Filipinos who fought

for the U.S. in WWII, and he was made a Green Beret, among many other honors.

Ramsey passed away on March 7, 2013 and was interred with full military honors at Arlington National Cemetery on June 28, 2013.



*Ed and Raquel Ramsey*

Since his passing, Dr. Raquel Ramsey has been instrumental in working with the OMA Alumni Association in establishing an endowment at RSU that honors Ed Ramsey's remarkable career and legacy.

Thanks to the Ramsey family's support, future generations of RSU students will benefit from the unique preparation that only a military-based education can provide. They will follow in the footsteps of Colonel Ramsey and other OMA graduates.

## GOLD UNEARTHED ON RSU CAMPUS

The OMA Alumni Association is pleased to announce to its alumni that the Oklahoma National Guard will soon establish a **Guard Officer Leadership Development (GOLD)** Program at Rogers State University. The program is expected to be in place this fall.

The GOLD program is patterned after the regular Army's Reserve Officer Training Corps (ROTC). The program was founded with the belief that the National Guard's officer corps would benefit from a college education, and these programs were designed to supplement a college

curriculum. For many months, the OMA Alumni Association worked with Dr. Ken Hicks, department head of RSU's Military History and Political Science Department, and RSU Administration to help bring this program to Claremore. OMA Alumni Executive Director Dr. Danette Boyle feels so proud to see the culmination of this extraordinary effort. "We are so excited about the GOLD program," she says. "For the first time in many years, we will soon have young men in uniform on 'The Hill'."



# 2014 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!*



◀ Art Couch, '56 and his wife Sylvia.

▼ Bert Rosson, '54 and Carlene Webber.



▲ Carlos Galvez, '60 and Billie Williams, '69.



▲ Bud Inhofe '50, Dr. Larry Rice, Margaret Inhofe and Peggy Rice.



▲ Mary Lee Spinks and Sue Harris.



▲ Sue Burke and Julie Galvez.

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

2014 SOUTH PADRE  
MINI REUNION:  
**FUN IN  
THE SUN**

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 15



▲ *Bill Harris '54, Art Couch '56 and Clark Webb '61.*



▲ *Jim Morrison '52 and Dr. Danette Boyle.*



▲ *Dr. Larry Rice, Karen Moore, Jim Knight '67 and Peggy Rice.*

▼ *Gerald Menees '64 and Nancy Menees.*



## GUIDON

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

Send correspondence and address corrections to: OMA Alumni Office, Rogers State University, 1701 W. Will Rogers Blvd., Claremore, OK 74017-3252.

**Executive Director:** Danette Boyle, [dboyle@rsu.edu](mailto:dboyle@rsu.edu),  
918-343-6888, 918-381-8764

**Administrative Assistant:** Lorrie Jackson, [ljackson@rsu.edu](mailto:ljackson@rsu.edu), 918-343-6889

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**Editor:** Dr. Danette Boyle **Assistant Editor:** Lorrie Jackson **Designer:** Kate Northcutt  
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