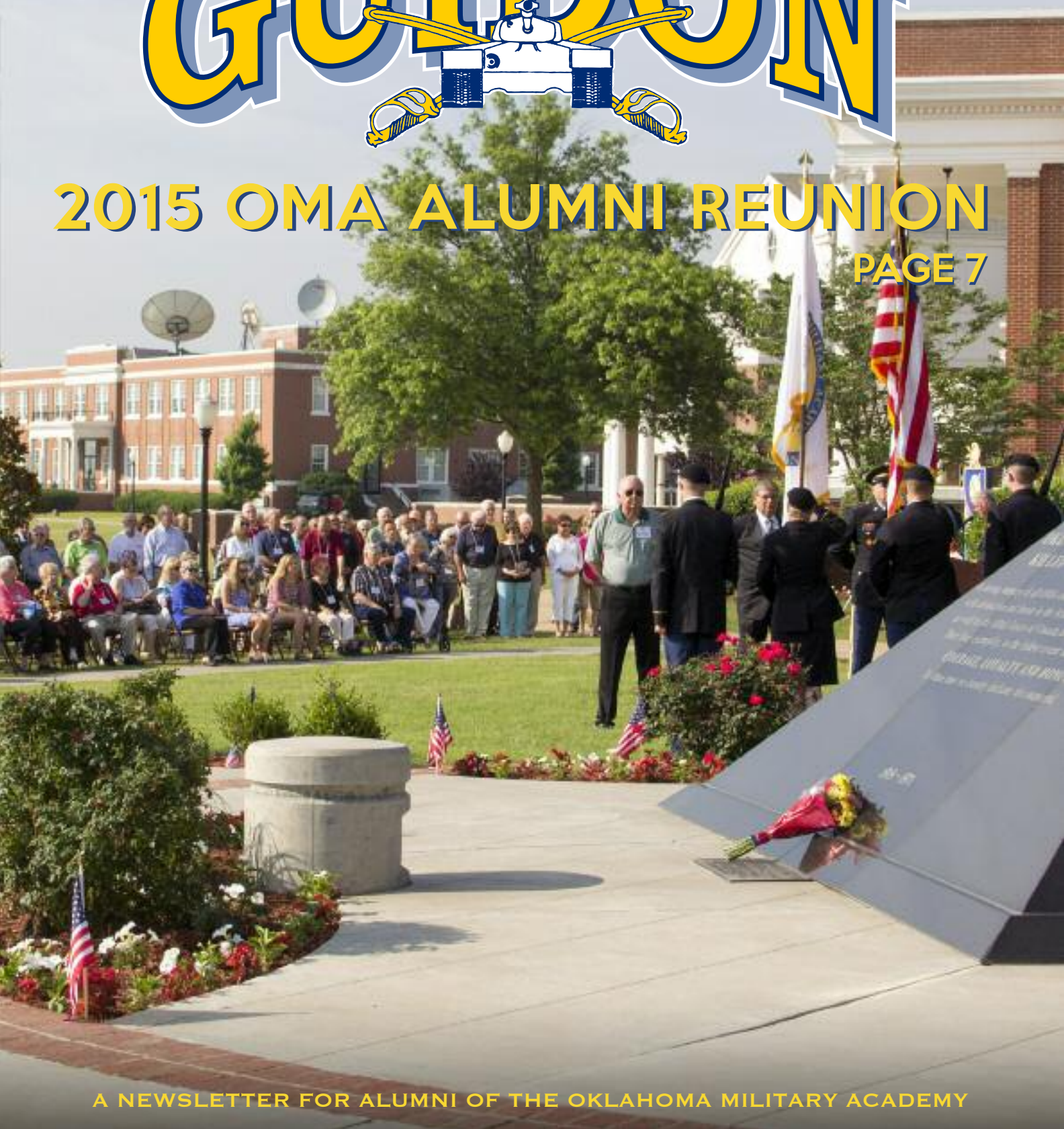


# GUIDON



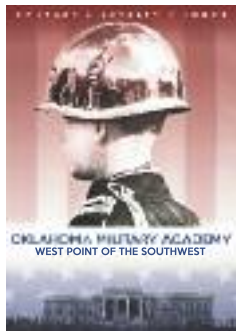
## 2015 OMA ALUMNI REUNION

PAGE 7



# FEATURES

Letter from the President	2
OMA Salute	2
Letter From the Editor	3
Attention OMA Alumni	3
RSU Aviation Partnership Reflects OMA's High Flying Heritage	4
Easley Inducted into Officials' Hall of Fame	4
Welcome Honorary OMA Cadets	5
OMA Corps Commanders 1920-1971	5
Tulsa Historical Society Opens OMA Exhibit	6
OMA Band Commanders 1921-1971	6
OMA Alumni Association Reunion 2015	7-13
Dr. Worth Gross Honored	14
Sound Off	15
GOLD Program Students Training	16
OMA Alumnus Solidifies Legacy with Scholarship Endowments	17
OMA Alumnus Inducted into Oklahoma Journalism Hall of Fame	18
OMA Documentary Wins National Honor	18



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## GIVING HAS NEVER BEEN EASIER

Our alumni have asked for more options in ways they can support OMA Alumni Association initiatives. Effective immediately, you can arrange automatic contributions to the OMA Alumni Fund, to BOOTS BACK ON THE HILL GOLD Student Scholarship fund, to the OMA Museum or to another OMA Alumni fund. With your permission, the OMA Alumni Office can coordinate to establish automatic credit card charges or withdrawals from your bank monthly, quarterly, annually or per your timeframe. Your gifts can be the amount you like, at the time you like, and once you approve, the OMA Alumni office will handle all the transactions.

To get information on how to get started, please contact:

**Dr. Danette Boyle, OMA Alumni Executive Director**  
**918-343-6888 | email: dboyle@rsu.edu**

## 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.

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This publication is issued by Rogers State University. A total of 2,300 copies have been printed at a cost of \$1.50 each. Rogers State University does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age, religion, disability, or status as a veteran in any of its policies, practices, or procedures.

**Editor:** Dr. Danette Boyle

**Assistant Editor:** Tammy Ryan

**Designer:** Kate Northcutt

**Printed August 2015**



## LET'S SET THE RECORD STRAIGHT



Phil Goldfarb

On occasion when I am introduced and mention that I went to OMA, the reply is "That is where the bad boys went." If that held true, those of us who were Presidents of the Alumni Association, Corps Commanders or cadet leaders (officers and NCO's) were the biggest bad boys of them all!

So, let's set the record straight. The biggest fallacy about our school is that most boys were "sentenced" to OMA by the judiciary system. That couldn't be farther from the truth. Sure, there might have been less than a handful over 52 years and 10,000 students, but in my experience these cadets did not last a semester or a year at most as they were routed out by the Corps of Cadets themselves. Do people say this about other military academies... West Point, Annapolis, Air Force, Coast Guard, VMI, NMMI, MMA or The Citadel? The answer is a resounding NO.

- Boys went to OMA to become men
- Boys went to OMA to acquire leadership skills
- Boys went to OMA to gain military training
- Boys went to OMA to play sports
- Boys went to OMA to learn how to fly
- Boys went to OMA to play in the band
- Boys went to OMA to play polo and to ride horses
- Boys went to OMA to secure an appointment to the Service Academies
- Boys went to OMA to learn the core values of life
- Boys went to OMA to improve their grades
- Boys went to OMA because their parents lived and worked out of the country

- Boys went to OMA to obtain a small classroom, great education
- Boys went to OMA to get a taste of discipline
- Boys went to OMA because their father or brother did before them
- Boys went to OMA as a step to eventually enter the military, most with commissions
- Boys went to OMA on scholarships in sports, academic, and military
- Boys went to OMA initially in order to get into a good college
- Boys went to OMA to develop a great foundation in life

So if and when anyone says this to you about being a "bad boy" ...set the record straight! Be proud of the school that you attended in your formative years. We have had leaders in every field and endeavor attend OMA. Did YOU gain any of these skills while at OMA? Did OMA change YOUR life for the positive in some way? Then how can you give back? Sure, monetary contributions in the form of scholarships and endowments in your name that will last in perpetuity on the Hill and help future students are great, but the next best way to support the school and our tradition is to attend a Reunion! With that being the case, I hope to see you on June 10th and 11th, 2016 in Claremore.

With Courage, Loyalty and Honor,

Phil Goldfarb HS '67, JC '69  
President  
OMA Alumni Association  
E-Mail: Phil.goldfarb@cox.net



## OMA ALUMNI SALUTE!

The contributions of two long-time supporters and board members of the OMA Alumni Association will be remembered. Gerald Breeding '55 passed away April 30, 2015 and Tom Simpson '66 passed away June 7, 2015. Breeding graduated from OMA high school in 1953 and junior college in 1955. In 1955, he was the Corps Commander. Breeding also was honored as a Distinguished Alumnus in 2008. Simpson graduated from high school in 1964 and junior college in 1966. He was honored as a Distinguished Alumnus in 2006 and served as president of the OMA Alumni Association Board of Directors from 2003-2004.

## LETTER FROM THE EDITOR



*Dr. Danette Boyle*

The 2015 OMA Alumni Reunion was one of the most important and memorable reunions we have ever had. We celebrated the OMA legacy with **BOOTS BACK ON THE HILL!** It was very rewarding for all who attended to see our own military students serving as the Color Guard at the Distinguished Alumni and Hall of Fame Ceremony on Saturday morning. Even better was having the students and SFC R. Wayne Guevara, RSU GOLD NCOIC, join us Friday evening at the Opening Reception

and Saturday for lunch.

So, to all of you who were able to return to The Hill, I salute you and send my sincere thanks and appreciation to you for bringing so many family members and friends for this year's extraordinary reunion. It was a reunion like I have never seen before! We had alumni from more than 20 different states. We had the oldest alumnus among our ranks, Dr. Worth Gross '35, and we also had one of our youngest OMA Alumnus, Charles Laster '71.

Perhaps the most significant happening at this year's reunion was that so many of you were able to spend time with classmates you have not seen in years and trade phone numbers and email addresses. Thanks to our president, Phil Goldfarb '69, we are increasingly able to find many lost alumni. As a result, many more alumni are attending for the first time, affording opportunities to connect with alumni from classes across the board.

It is impossible for me to mention all the wonderful happenings at this year's reunion or share all the fabulous stories told by alumni to other alumni. The best I can do is to share a huge number of pictures in the next few pages of our newsletter.

I am very honored and privileged to serve as your Executive Director. Words cannot describe how much I enjoy working with each of you and how important I believe it is to keep the OMA Alumni Association STRONG!

***Please mark your calendar now for the next alumni reunion, June 10 & 11, 2016.***

Danette Boyle

Executive Director, OMA Alumni Association

### ATTENTION OMA ALUMNI

- If you have an email address and are not receiving emails from OMA Alumni Association Executive Director Dr. Danette Boyle, please send your email address to her ASAP at [dboyle@rsu.edu](mailto:dboyle@rsu.edu). Important announcements are sent out that you do not want to miss.
- The OMA Museum is at the core of the OMA Alumni Association. Gene Little '56 does an outstanding job, but he needs some help! If you are interested in being an assistant curator or a volunteer for as little as one or two hours a week, please contact Dr. Danette Boyle ([dboyle@rsu.edu](mailto:dboyle@rsu.edu)) or Gene ([relittle@tds.net](mailto:relittle@tds.net)). The OMA Museum is one special place and the work is very rewarding and important. Your assistance would be most appreciated.
- The OMA flash drive (designed, conceived and maintained weekly by Charles Emerson '56) contains a complete history of OMA. From scanned copies of the *Vedette* to every cadet who attended with a link to their pages in the *Vedettes*, past *Guidons*, information about deceased cadets (with obituaries), OMA Presidents, all Corps Commanders and Band Commanders, father/sons and brothers who attended, Maurice Meyer information, Generals who attended OMA, Top 10 things to visit in the OMA Museum plus much, much more. If you want to know anything about OMA, you must have the flash drive! It can be ordered from the OMA Alumni Association. Contact Tammy Ryan at 918-343-6889 or [tryan@rsu.edu](mailto:tryan@rsu.edu) to order one. They are only \$15.

## RSU AVIATION PARTNERSHIP REFLECTS OMA'S HIGH FLYING HERITAGE

A private pilot ground school at Claremore Regional Airport began in May thanks to a newly formed partnership between Rogers State University, RSU Public TV and Tulsa Aviation Group.

Known as RSU Aviation, the ground school is a noncredit program designed to prepare participants for the FAA knowledge examination, which is required for a private pilot license. The RSU Aviation private pilot ground school is a six-week program with classes held 6-8:30 p.m. each Monday and Wednesday.

The RSU Aviation partnership harkens back to the years when OMA operated an Aviation Department at OMA starting in 1932. OMA Aviation operated in conjunction with The Spartan School of Aeronautics and the U.S. Department of Commerce. The program started with four cadets under the direction of Capt. John Carroll, who served as chief instructor utilizing a single engine biplane. The students received flight

instructions and ground school training in conjunction with their regular academic work.

By 1933, the "Flying Cadets" were operating out of the Will Rogers Airport in Claremore as one of the few junior colleges in the nation to offer these courses. All shop and minor repair work was taught in a fully equipped aviation shop on the Hill. In 1935, a new native stone and steel hanger at the airport was designated for the OMA Aviation Club and 21 cadets were enrolled.

Three years later, OMA was the only military junior college in the nation to have a fully approved ground and flying course under the U.S. Department of Commerce and owned

its own hanger, shops and airplanes. The cadets even formed a society that year called "The Escadrille." The aviation department at OMA lasted until 1947 and was reinstated for one year during 1970-1971.



---

## EASLEY INDUCTED TO OFFICIALS' HALL OF FAME



OMA Cadet Gary Easley '59

Gary Easley '59

The Oklahoma Officials Association inducted four members into its Hall of Fame on July 25, 2015, including OMA Alumnus Gary Easley '59 of Claremore. Selection to the Hall of Fame is made by the OOA Executive Board each spring.

Easley, who attended OMA on a basketball scholarship in Junior College from 1957-1959 returned to the school after receiving his college degree and coached baseball and football as well as teaching history and social studies from 1965 to 1971 on The Hill. In addition, he was the faculty sponsor of the O Club. Congratulations to another OMA graduate who has accomplished so much in his life.

# WELCOME HONORARY OMA CADETS

During the recent 2015 Reunion, the OMA Alumni Association was honored to recognize several family and friends as Honorary OMA Cadets. These individuals have been stalwart friends to OMA and are helping maintain the institution's legacy for generations to come. Please join us in honoring the following Honorary OMA Cadets.

- Lisa Brown, Sister of Philip Milton Wilcox '65 (deceased)
- Bonnie Gooch, Brother of Michael Casey '66 Killed in Action in Vietnam
- Bonnie Jordan, wife of Patrick Jordan '63 (deceased)
- Dr. Raquel Ramsey, wife of Col. Ed Ramsey '37 (deceased)

- Mary Lee Spinks, daughter of Colonel Lee Gilstrap Professor and Coach at OMA, (deceased)
- Dottie Trizza, wife of Sam Trizza '63 Killed in Action in Vietnam
- Carlene Webber, Executive Director of the RSU Foundation

Previously recognized as Honorary OMA Cadets: Dr. Ken Hicks, RSU Professor and Department Head of History and Political Science at RSU; Dr. Danette Boyle, Executive Director, OMA Alumni Association; Dr. Richard Mosier, RSU President Emeritus.

## OMA CORPS COMMANDERS 1920-1971

At times they were called Senior Captains, then Squadron Commanders, Brigade Commanders, or Battalion Commanders, but the leaders of the Corps of Cadets each year was the Corps Commander. These men wore the diamonds and stood front and center commanding the troops.

Thanks to the investigative work of Charles Emerson '56, Gene Little '56 and Phil Goldfarb '69 we have compiled a list of the Corps Commanders from the first school year of 1919-1920 until the last year of 1970-1971. This list is on

the OMA flash drive with links to each individual. For most years, there were either one or two Corps Commanders but in 1952 there were five and in 1953 there were four!

In addition, on the OMA KIA memorial we have 101 alumni who gave their lives for our country. Five of these men were Corps commanders. They were: Walter E. Downs Jr. '40 KIA WWII, Frank L. Brown '45 KIA Korea, John B. Stizza '59 KIA Vietnam, Sam R. Trizza '63 KIA Vietnam, and William R. "Bill" Wilson '67 KIA Vietnam.

### OMA CORP COMMANDERS 1920-1971

1919 - 20	Albert Eltinge Streeter	1941	William E. Potts	1952	Robert C. Smith	1960	Benson Frank Landrum
1921	Franklin D. Peters	1942	Harold C. Lloyd	1953	K.D. Anderson	1961	Feegeebie Parrish
1924	Roy Holbird	1943	Ben F. Boyd	1953	Ronald Mack Brown	1961	Ronald N. Williams
1925	Ben Bradley	1944	R.M. Waggoner	1953	Phil E. Daves	1962	Robert A. Benningfield
1927	Charles R. Barnard	1945	Frank L. Brown	1953	William R. Green	1962	William R. Corlett
1928	Roy Coleman	1946	Jimmie H. Blair	1954	John S. Harris	1963	Sidney L "Pat" Patterson
1929	Roland Corey	1947	Robert M. Stover	1954	Burt J. Rosson	1963	Sam R. Trizza
1930	Charles H. Maxey	1947	William O. Dillon	1954	Lewis a. Rockwood	1964	James D. Cribbs
1931	Bryan J. Watson	1948	Joel W. Potts	1955	Tom Anderson	1965	David Raper
1932	Wheeler Eagle Brock	1948	Robert M. Stover	1955	Gerald L. Breeding	1966	Dan W. Stowers
1933	Murrel Jackson	1949	Perry L. Ground	1955	Rob Roy Routh	1967	William R. Wilson
1934	Julian R. Blever	1949	Charles W. Van Pelt	1956	Dean Bradley	1968	John Ridling
1935	Worth M. Gross	1950	Robert M. Gomez	1956	Willis Hardwick	1968	Allen Benson
1936	John Clayton Jacobs	1951	George R. Killam	1956	Gene Little	1969	Ronnie E. Madera
1937	Clarence E. Jeffress	1951	Ira A. Eaker	1957	Donald T. Lemon	1969	Bradley Klar
1938	John J. McCafferty	1952	Robert L. Kinney	1958	Robert F. Warren	1969	Brack Jackson
1939	John E. Home	1952	Robert S. Orcutt	1959	Daniel R. Dickinson	1970	Larry D. Grable
1940	Rodney D. Ross	1952	Mack R. Palmer	1959	John B. Stizza	1970	David Oldaker
1940	Joel A. Owens	1952	Henry L. Shackelford	1960	Billy W. Bell	1971	John Malone





*Phil Goldfarb, president of the Oklahoma Military Academy Alumni Association, speaks to the assembled crowd for the May 16 opening of the OMA-themed exhibition at the Tulsa Historical Society. Others joining for the panel discussion were, from left: Gene Little, curator of the OMA Museum in Claremore; John Wooley, who has written two books on OMA's history and the script for the award winning documentary, "Oklahoma Military Academy: West Point of the Southwest"; and Dr. Danette Boyle, Executive Director of the OMA Alumni Association.*



*Phil Goldfarb, president of the Oklahoma Military Academy Alumni Association, visits with OMA alumnus David Morgan, Jill Abraham Burns and her mother Dolores Abraham about an OMA-era photo of the late Louis Abraham, Jr., who attended the school from 1942 to 1945. Burns and Abraham brought the framed photo to the May 16 opening of the OMA exhibition at the Tulsa Historical Society. At the event, they met Morgan, who was a classmate of Louis Abraham.*

## TULSA HISTORICAL SOCIETY OPENS OMA EXHIBIT

On May 16 (Armed Forces Day), Oklahoma Governor Mary Fallin and Tulsa Mayor Dewey Bartlett recognized OMA on "Armed Forces Day". That day, the Tulsa Historical Society opened its exhibit focused on OMA's unique history. During the opening event, there was a standing-room-only viewing of the award-winning documentary "Oklahoma Military Academy: West Point of the Southwest"

followed by a panel discussion about OMA that included Dr. Danette Boyle, John Wooley, Gene Little '56 and Phil Goldfarb '69. The OMA Exhibit will be open until March 2016 in the Tulsa Historical Society's first floor gallery. If you are in Tulsa during this time, stop by the THS located at 2445 S. Peoria Avenue and check out the exhibit!

## OMA BAND COMMANDERS 1921-1971

What would the Corps of Cadets be without the incredible OMA Marching Band? Research was done by OMA Alumni Charles Emerson '56, Gene Little '56 and Phil

Goldfarb '69 and we have compiled a list of the Band Commanders from 1921-1971. This list is also included on the OMA flash drive with links to each individual.

1921	Barney Hendrickson	1935	Wilton C. Westbrook	1948	Billy L. Tedlock	1961	Lonnie S. Eales
1922	Barney Hendrickson	1936	Joe S. Strickler	1949	Billy L. Tedlock	1962	Charles L. Wilson
1923	Clinton C. Cornelison	1937	Dean H. Corbett	1950	Jerry L. Sizelove	1963	William K. Abrego
1924	Jesse H. Hendrix	1938	John E. Horne	1951	Jerry L. Sizelove	1964	Carl L. Eschbach
1925	Jesse H. Hendrix	1939	John A. Tatroe	1952	Phil E. Daves	1965	Carl L. Eschbach
1926	Claude L. Eurtan	1939	Donald Ruggles	1953	Don R. Martin	1966	Jim Elder
1927	Max R. Corey	1940	Clyde A. Pulse	1954	Don Bateman	1967	Randy Heatherton
1928	Max R. Corey	1942	William E. Tipton	1955	R.E. Little	1968	Bill Green
1929	Max R. Corey	1943	James W. Strubar	1956	Gary G. Haney	1969	Billie G. Williams
1930	Max R. Corey	1944	P.G. Wilson	1957	Gary G. Haney	1970	Lonnie Stevans
1932	Paul Weidenheimer	1945	P.G. Wilson	1958	Charles H. Williamson	1971	Lonnie Stevans
1933	Bill Bruce Barry	1946	Dick Hunt	1959	Malcome L. Jones		
1934	Joe Bruce Eagleston	1947	Alvin L. Levin	1960	Feegeebee Parrish III		

## OMA ALUMNI ASSOCIATION REUNION 2015

### ‘BOOTS BACK ON THE HILL’ BROUGHT MORE EMOTION, ALUMNI PRIDE, FELLOWSHIP AND LOYALTY THAN EVER BEFORE

The *esprit de corps* was especially high on “The Hill” during the 2015 Reunion!

Starting from the OMA flag-raising at the campus entrance, the camaraderie remained at high levels through the closing reunion events. Words cannot describe alumni excitement during the ceremonies, luncheons, golf tournament, dinner and dancing.

Another huge success was the debut of the OMA Alumni Command Voice Contest at the Friday evening opening reception. All alumni, family members and friends were initially silent, but burst into continued laughter as they watched more than 20 contestants use their best command voices.

When the Guard Officer Leadership Development (GOLD) Program students presented the Color Guard at the Distinguished Alumni and Hall of Fame Ceremony, there were both smiles and tears in the eyes of OMA Alumni and guests. “BOOTS BACK ON THE HILL” was better than our organizers could have ever imagined.

The OMA Alumni Association is a unique phenomenon and grows stronger each year. Though we sadly mark the

passing of alumni each year, we are fortunate to re-connect with many new alumni in recent years. A principal goal of the OMA Alumni office is to help you find your “lost” classmates and help get them to the reunion so all alumni can once again share *esprit de corps* on “The Hill.”

The enduring strength of OMA Alumni and the OMA Alumni Association is quite evident in recent reunion themes, which has included the OMA Museum, the OMA history book, “Voices From the Hill,” the OMA KIA Memorial, the award-winning documentary, “Oklahoma Military Academy: West Point of the Southwest,” and the return of student-soldiers to campus (“Boots Back on the Hill”). All of these tremendous milestones have been made possible through the OMA Alumni Association and its wonderful alumni.

OMA alumni are an extraordinary group, and the reunions are remarkable for their power to reconnect you to a group that shares OMA's unique heritage.

Plans are already underway for next year's reunion to be held June 10-11, 2016. Mark your calendars today, and we hope to see you there!



OMA alumni, family and friends take time to visit during the 2015 OMA Alumni Reunion Luncheon.





Joe Borden '60, was so excited to return to the hill for his first ever OMA Alumni Reunion that he flew here in his own plane.



Pictured from left to right: Tom Hargis, Tom Thomas and John Helbing, all class of 1967. The three of them have maintained their friendship since they left OMA! Tom Thomas was present at the 2015 Alumni Reunion for the first time ever.



**Back Row:** David Raper '65, Dr. William Daugherty '65, Jim Tanner '67, Tom Thomas '67, John Helbing '67, Tom Hargis '67 and Steven Chapman '65.

**Front Row:** Harry Simpson '65, Ben Barker '65, Monte Campbell '65, Johnnie Davis '64, Bill Shaffer '65, and Charles Hatfield '65



RSU Guard Officer Leadership Development (GOLD) Program students (L to R): Dartanion Tilley, Kaytlin Sullivan, Logan Gear and Klinton Wheeler.



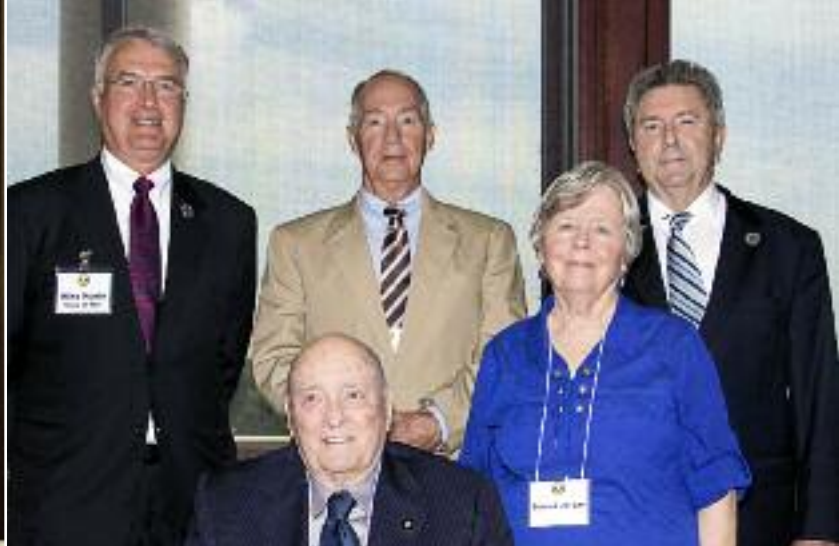
Pictured: First Lady Peggy Rice, Dr. Raqui Ramsey and Dr. Larry Rice.

"I immensely enjoyed meeting old and dear friends and making new ones during the 2015 OMA Alumni Reunion which was an outstanding success! I was thrilled to be made Honorary Cadet. Ed was applauding as he watched from above our own Guard Officer Leadership Development (GOLD) cadets. I am also so excited that a documentary, *Never Surrender: The Ed Ramsey Story*, is being made to honor Ed. It was a day full of good times and great memories. – Dr. Raqui Ramsey





*2015 OMA Alumni Reunion Adjutant Mike Kuehr '68.*



**2015 OMA Alumni Hall of Fame Recipients**

*Pictured: Adjutant Mike Kuehr '68, Dr. William Daugherty '65, RSU President Dr. Larry Rice, Senator Gene Howard '43 and, accepting the award for Patrick Jordan '63 (posthumous), Jordan's wife Bonnie Jordan.*



**2015 OMA Reunion Distinguished Alumni Recipients**

*Pictured: Shawnee Brittan '53, Robert Dean '48, Bruce Cobb '63, Frank Landrum '60 and Harry Simpson '65.*



*Platform guests at the 2015 OMA Alumni Association Reunion Distinguished Alumni and Hall of Fame Ceremony seated in front of the Governor's Own 145th Army Band.*





*The Governor's Own 145th Army Band performs at the 2015 OMA Alumni Association Reunion Distinguished Alumni and Hall of Fame Ceremony.*



*Pictured in front of the OMA KIA Memorial: Dennis Webb '71, Tom Anderson '55, Dr. Ted Hine '43 and David Raper '65*



*Rob Fisher '68 and his wife Vickie enjoy the 2015 OMA Alumni Reunion Luncheon.*



**OMA Class of 1955**

*Pictured: Edward Smith; James Burt, III; Tom Anderson; Vernon Mudd; Rob Routh*

"... thank you for the unexpected honor of being selected as an Honorary OMA Cadet. I deeply appreciate it and the beautiful certificate with my name meticulously printed on it. I love it! It is being framed and will be displayed beside a photo of Mike. I know Captain Michael would be so happy and proud of me! He loved OMA, the little "West Point of the Southwest." It made him a young man of honor, loyalty and courage." – *Bonnie Gooch*





*GOLD Program Students.*



*Pictured: Dan Bernardy '71 and Charles Laster '71. Charles Laster, entered OMA Fall of 1969 at the age of 13 and is believed to be OMA's youngest cadet. Do you know of anyone who was younger? If so, email Dr. Danette Boyle at [dboyle@rsu.edu](mailto:dboyle@rsu.edu).*



*Virginia and Sam Anthony '70 visit with Dr. Danette Boyle, Executive Director of the OMA Alumni at the Alumni Reunion Dinner Saturday evening.*



*Kathleen Cordell and Dan Bolt '69 relax after enjoying a good meal at the 2015 OMA Alumni Reunion Saturday evening dinner.*





*SFC Wayne Guevara, Phil Goldfarb '69 and Bob Corlett '62 during the presentation of the American flag.*



*Jim Morison '52 and his wife Norma.*



*Billie Williams '69 and his wife Jennifer relax for a moment at the Saturday evening dinner at the 2015 OMA Alumni Reunion.*

**"I give credit to OMA for many of my successes and forming and outlining my life and for that I will always be grateful. I am a nationally certified nurse, a charge nurse in the emergency department at UCSD, chairperson for the disaster committee and trained by FEMA in Anniston, Alabama regularly. Also, I was honored to be UCSD's "Emergency Department Nurse of the Year" in 2014. Early recognition as a rabbit and staying on the Dean's list paid off in the long run! Courage, Loyalty and Honor – never forgotten!" – Thomas R. Crisman '71, RN, BSN, CEN**





*Gene Little '56 and Alex Adwan '48 take time out of the 2015 OMA Alumni Reunion to visit.*



*Monte Campbell '65 spends time in the OMA Museum looking through the yearbooks.*



*OMA Alumni Executive Director Dr. Danette Boyle, Joanna Champlin and Shawnee Brittan '53.*



# Save the Date!

## 2016 OMA ALUMNI REUNION JUNE 10-11, 2016

For early registration, call Dr. Danette Boyle  
918-343-6888 or email [dboyle@rsu.edu](mailto:dboyle@rsu.edu).

**2016 OMA Alumni Reunion theme  
will be announced soon!**





*OMA Cadet Worth M. Gross '35*



*Dr. Worth Gross receives the first OMA Alumni Association President's Award. Pictured: Dr. Worth Gross '35, Phil Goldfarb '69, and Mrs. Charlotte Gross.*

## DR. WORTH GROSS HONORED

Dr. Worth Gross '35, who will turn 99 years old in September, was honored as the oldest living OMA Alumnus during the 2015 Reunion.

During the Saturday luncheon, Dr. Gross was honored with the inaugural OMA Alumni Association President's Award, which recognizes alumni or friends whose life and legacy deserve acknowledgement. Dr. Gross was celebrating the 80th anniversary of his Junior College graduation.

A longtime Tulsa physician, Dr. Gross attended the reunion with his wife Charlotte and other family members. He received a standing ovation from all attendees during the luncheon.

Born in Orr, Oklahoma, Dr. Gross was raised in Lindsay in south central Oklahoma. In a recent interview, Dr. Gross said that he didn't have much say in attending OMA. He said his father, who was also a physician, dropped him off on The Hill for his junior year in high school.

While most recall the infamous OMA Rabbit period with some amount of pain, Dr. Gross said he was unphased by the introduction to military life.

"The Rabbit period didn't bother me," he said. "I had some friends and family who had been in the military, so I knew what was coming."

During his four years at OMA, he graduated from high school in 1933 and then junior college in 1935. While on "The Hill", he served as the Cadet Senior Captain, which was what the Corps Commander was called at this time.

Cadet Senior Captain Gross, whose nickname was "Ellsworth," was also the Vice President of his Sophomore Class (called the First Class at the time), a member of the Saber Society, played football and baseball, and was on the rifle team as a rifle marksman and a pistol marksman.

Dr. Gross completed his undergraduate degree from the University of Oklahoma and earned his medical degree from Northwestern University in Chicago in 1942.

The day after Pearl Harbor, Dr. Gross wrote a letter to volunteer in the Navy while he was still a medical student. The Navy, in its infinite wisdom, told him to wait until he graduated medical school before starting his military service. So, immediately upon graduation as a new, young doctor, he joined up and completed a one-year internship at the U.S. Navy Hospital in San Diego, California.

He then served two years in the Southwest Pacific with the first Marine Division during WWII as a battalion surgeon.

Dr. Gross went on to complete his orthopedic residency, served an additional five years in the military, and eventually settled in Tulsa in 1953. In Tulsa, he worked primarily at St John's and Hillcrest hospitals, where his focus was caring for polio patients before the introduction of the Salk vaccine. He later earned a reputation as one of the area's foremost surgeons for spinal procedures.

During his distinguished medical career in Tulsa, he served as a president of the Tulsa County Medical Society in 1962, and he was named the Doctor of the Year in 1984.

Dr. Gross says his OMA training instilled strict discipline in him and that it has been crucial to his lifelong success.

"I really enjoyed OMA's military discipline and I appreciated the straight-shooting approach they took to dealing with people," he said. "I took that same approach to being straight-forward when I dealt with my patients, and they appreciated that no-nonsense approach. I credit OMA for helping instill directness and straightforward honesty when dealing with others."

Dr. Gross and his wife, Charlotte, have been married for 73 years. Charlotte will turn 99 in January 2016.



*1st Place winners David Raper '65 and SFC R. Wayne Guevara (GOLD NCOIC)*



*2nd Place winner Rob Frank '69*



*3rd Place winner Brack Jackson '69*

## SOUND OFF. . . COMMAND VOICE CONTEST HELD AT REUNION

The First OMA Alumni Sound Off...Command Voice Contest was held during the Friday opening reception at the reunion. Participants included OMA Alumni, a GOLD program cadet as well as the GOLD program NCOIC.

There were ten commands that each participant had to give which included:

"Get out of Bed A Company," "Present Arms," "Order Arms," "Parade Rest," "Right Shoulder Arms," "Order Arms," "Forward...March," "At Ease," "Battalion...Attention" "Pass in Review," and "Dress Right... Dress."

Judging the contest were two former Corps Commanders: Tom Anderson '55 and Gene Little '56 along with two former Corps of Cadets Adjutants: Carlos Galvez '60 and Phil Goldfarb '69.

Voting was based on Voice Inflection/Projection, Distinctiveness (enunciation and clarity), Voice Inflection (pitch and tone) and Command Presence.

### The winners were:

**1st Place:** (Tie) David Raper '65 and  
SFC R. Wayne Guevara (GOLD NCOIC)

**2nd Place:** Rob Frank '69

**3rd Place:** Brack Jackson '69

The contest proved to start the reunion on a high note with everyone having a great time either participating or watching the contestants, and it was certainly the highlight of the opening reception. For those who do not attend, you might want to ask about the ducks who decided to march along the outside of Centennial Center to the cadence!



# GOLD PROGRAM STUDENTS TRAINING



- 1) Candidate (Specialist) Kaytlin Sullivan enters the water at the Muskogee Swim and Fitness Center wearing full combat gear while conducting Water Survival Training during the 2015 Annual Training at Camp Gruber.
- 2) Candidates from GOLD Programs at Rogers State University, East Central University and Southwest Oklahoma State University conduct Water Survival Training in order to build confidence to overcome obstacles in any environment at the Muskogee Swim and Fitness Center. Combat Water Survival Training teaches soldiers to stay afloat while wearing full combat equipment and how to waterproof their equipment before maneuvering across great distances of open water.
- 3) Candidate (Specialist) Keaton Holland and an assigned partner carry a waterproofed poncho raft across undulating terrain towards Greenleaf Lake at Greenleaf State Park in Muskogee.
- 4) Candidate (Specialist) Dart Tilley enters the water of Greenleaf Lake with a poncho raft in preparation for the 1,200 meter open water swim.
- 5) Candidate (Specialist) Keaton Holland conducts a seat-hip rappel from a 30 foot platform (Building 2300) at Camp Gruber. Candidates learn to construct a rappel seat and master other techniques while building confidence to overcome the challenge of obstacles in order to complete their missions.
- 6) Candidate (Specialist) Logan Gear conducts a seat-hip rappel from a 30 foot platform (Building 2300) at Camp Gruber. Candidates conduct as many as three rappels to build confidence and proficiency. This training is normally limited to soldiers attending the U.S. Army Air Assault School but is afforded to candidates of the GOLD Program staffed by Rappel Masters, Special Forces and Ranger qualified instructors/mentors.





## OMA ALUMNUS SOLIDIFIES LEGACY WITH SCHOLARSHIP ENDOWMENTS



Students at Rogers State University will have two new scholarship opportunities this fall thanks to Jack Harris, a distinguished alumnus of the Oklahoma Military Academy.

Harris established the Jack E. Harris Trust to provide funds for the establishment of two scholarship endowments prior to his death in November 2014 with the assistance of Dr.

Danette Boyle, the Executive

Director of the OMA Alumni Association, and the RSU Foundation. The endowments are the single largest gift from an individual in RSU's history.

"Jack Harris was a tremendous friend to the Oklahoma Military Academy Alumni Association, and he and his wife Allie were incredibly supportive of RSU's initiatives to improve the lives of Oklahomans through education," said RSU President Dr. Larry Rice. "We are honored we can fulfill his request to provide scholarships that support deserving RSU students for generations to come."

The Allie L. Harris and Jack E. Harris Scholarship Endowment and the C. Earl Harris and Irene Harris Scholarship Endowment will be available to students beginning in the fall. Each scholarship gives first preference to students with majors in the School of Business and Technology and second preference to students with majors in the Schools of Mathematics, Science and Health Sciences.

While the first scholarship honors the memory of Harris and his wife, the second honors the life and memory of Harris's parents, whom he credited with supporting his decision to attend OMA.

"Neither one of them had a formal education," Harris said of his parents in a March 2006 interview. "They were common folks and wage earners. They did without so much to give me a chance in life; I was very proud of them. And I know they would be proud to know that their legacy included not only providing an education and better life for me, but providing an education for generations of deserving students to come. It's payback time."

Harris began attending OMA in 1951 during his junior year of high school and stayed through his junior college. As a cadet, Harris rose through the ranks, becoming the third-highest ranking cadet and the Commander of B Company. He also led his fellow cadets to earn the Outstanding Company Award in 1955.

After graduating from OMA, he earned a degree in accounting and business marketing from the University of Tulsa. He began his military service career in 1958, attending flight school and serving as a Captain in the U.S. Army. In 1962 he was assigned to the German European Theater as Company Commander of the 2nd Recon Squadron. He also served with the 14th Armored Cavalry in Germany alongside three fellow OMA graduates. He later married Allie, his wife and life-long companion.

Harris received an honorable discharge after seven years of service. He returned to Oklahoma to work for Texaco, and in 1969, he was named the Vice President of First National Bank in Marlow. He later became a self-employed businessman, owning 23 Sonic Drive-In restaurants in Alabama, Kentucky, and Tennessee. After his parents died, Harris sold his restaurants in order to start the Black Angus Cattle Ranch near Kansas, Okla.

While living in eastern Oklahoma, Harris was appointed by Governor Frank Keating and Governor Brad Henry to serve as Chairman of the Delaware County Conservation District. Additionally, he was recognized as one of 18 outstanding individuals working to promote Oklahoma conservation.

In 2004, Harris received the OMA Distinguished Alumni Award, and in 2007 he was inducted into the OMA Hall of Fame. Harris also served on the OMA Alumni Association Board of Directors as well as the RSU Foundation Board of Directors. Boyle praised Harris's dedication to his alma mater and to RSU.

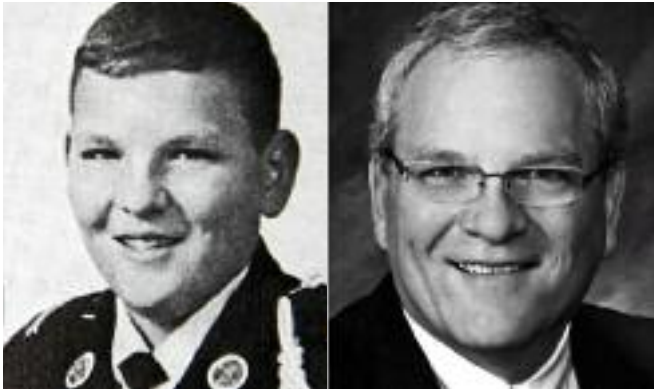
"It was my honor to work alongside Jack Harris for many years as he supported the OMA Alumni Association, and he was incredibly passionate about preserving the OMA legacy through RSU's mission," Boyle said. "It truly touches my heart that we will be able to impact the lives of many RSU students through these historic scholarship endowments that Jack and Allie established through their estate."

Kevin Martin and Pastor Doug Carey, trustees of Harris's estate, said in a joint statement:

"We were close to Jack and Allie, and knew of their love for Rogers State University. They truly believed in 'giving back' and helping others. In addition, they were both dedicated Christians, and understood the importance of assisting and serving those who were willing to demonstrate not just their need, but their willingness to 'Pay It Forward.' It is our prayer that those deserving students who receive assistance from the Harris Scholarship Funds will follow Jack's example to the utmost: Love God, Love America, Love RSU, Love Serving and Love Giving Back...both now and in the future."

For more information about making a planned gift, contact Dr. Danette Boyle at 918-343-6888.

## OMA ALUMNUS INDUCTED INTO OKLAHOMA JOURNALISM HALL OF FAME



*OMA Cadet Robby Trammell '69*

*Robby Trammell '69*

OMA alumnus Robby W. Trammell, who serves as the news director at The Oklahoman and NewsOK.com, was inducted into the Oklahoma Journalism Hall of Fame in April.

Trammell attended OMA from 1966 until 1969. He was raised in Inola, and his father, Bob Trammell, was the high school chemistry instructor and coach at OMA from August 1965 until May 1969. Bob Trammell also served as Mayor of Inola and was included in the 1965-1966 yearbook under "New Faces at OMA!"

Long before becoming news director, Robby Trammell was an award-winning investigative reporter. More than 30 years ago, Trammell exposed bid-rigging by Seminole County commissioners through an investigation that established the foundation for a federal law enforcement investigation that followed. Ultimately, that investigation led to Oklahoma's largest public corruption scandal, with some 240 county commissioners and suppliers being convicted or pleading guilty to kickback-related charges.

Trammell, 62, was part of an investigative team that exposed abuses within Oklahoma's workers' compensation system and corruption within Governor David Walters' election campaign that ultimately led to Walters' indictment. Trammell also was one of the key reporters involved in investigating individuals responsible for the Oklahoma City bombing.

While earning his bachelor's degree at University of Central Oklahoma, he worked full time covering Edmond for The Oklahoman. He was reporter and managing editor of the Seminole Producer for 15 years and led The Oklahoman's Tulsa bureau in 1987-1990. He has a master's degree from the University of Oklahoma and is the current president of the Oklahoma Press Association.

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## OMA DOCUMENTARY WINS NATIONAL HONOR



The documentary, "Oklahoma Military Academy: West Point of the Southwest" earned a top national award for excellence this spring.

The documentary, which was produced by RSU Public Television in conjunction with the OMA Alumni Association and RSU, earned a Silver Telly in the documentary category during the 35th annual Telly Awards honoring outstanding local, regional and cable

programs, video and film production. Winners represent the best work of the most respected advertising agencies, production companies, television stations, cable operators and corporate video departments.

The silver award represents the highest recognition from the Telly Awards, and this marked only the fourth time RSU Public TV has earned the distinction.

Premiering at last summer's OMA reunion, "Oklahoma Military Academy: West Point of the Southwest" tells OMA's unique story. The film features the narration of national award-winning journalist Bill Kurtis and was written by author John Wooley, who has written two books on OMA's history. OMA 1953 graduate Shawnee Brittan, winner of multiple international cinema awards, served as the documentary's producer/director.

The OMA story told during the film is powerful, emotional and at times humorous. The documentary features dozens of former OMA cadets as they share their stories about life on The Hill including a rare 1991 interview with one of OMA's famous cadets, actor Dale Robertson. The production features newly uncovered film footage and photographs.

More than 2,500 OMA graduates served in the United States Armed Forces in World War II, the Korean War, and the Vietnam War. More than 100 OMA cadets gave their lives for their country.

Copies of the OMA documentary are available for purchase through the OMA Alumni Association Office.



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If making your own reservations, please mention that you are with the  
**OMA Alumni Reunion Group**. For more information, contact  
Dr. Danette Boyle at 918-343-6888.

