Letter from the President

Dear fellow Alumni,

Woodrow Wilson was President, World War I was coming to an end, the 19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution guaranteeing women the right to vote was passed and the first scheduled U.S. Airmail service had begun just a year before. A new device, the rotary dial phone, was just coming into use. The year was 1919 and this was the year the Oklahoma Military Academy was established on College Hill in Claremore, Oklahoma. That was 100 years ago, and now with over 10,000 Cadets having passed through its hallowed halls and generations of military, civic and industrial leaders trained by this incomparable institution, plus countless contributions in both time and treasure made by its Alumni Association over the years. It’s time to celebrate!

The emphasis for this Centennial year will be on the proud history of OMA and the theme “100 years of Excellence.” We will look back on the incredible past of OMA and our traditions and also to the future as we continue to support the Guard Officer Leadership Development (GOLD) program and other projects on the RSU campus. This is how we leave an indelible mark on our campus that will remain through the next century.

Your Alumni leadership will be working hard all year to make the 2019 Centennial gathering a reunion that is truly memorable and one you can’t miss when it is held June 7-8, 2019. But that can only happen with your support.

I ask you to begin plans now to attend this once in a lifetime celebration of the 100th Birthday of an institution that so profoundly affected all of our lives. Like OMA, we’re not getting any younger. Our ranks are getting smaller and we need each of you involved to make this a truly memorable celebration.

Respectfully,

Randy Vierling ’63

PS: Kudos to past President Phil Goldfarb, all of his committee Chairs and countless community volunteers and Boy Scouts for making Reunion 2018 something that deeply touched many lives and will not soon be forgotten. Also, a special thanks to Dr. Danette Boyle and her excellent staff.
LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

Having THE WALL THAT HEALS and the Congressional Medal of Honor Recipient Melvin Morris made the 2018 OMA Alumni Reunion one of the very best ever! Please accept my sincere thanks to the more than 400 OMA Alumni, OMA Honorary Cadets, family members, friends, military students and staff who attended, especially to those that traveled from 22 different states.

Our best estimates indicated we had more than 5,000 in attendance between June 7-10 to see THE WALL. We held special ceremonies to honor the more than 58,000 soldiers Killed in Action in Vietnam, including 21 OMA Cadets Killed.

Thank you so very much to all THE WALL THAT HEALS Committee Chairs, the more than 150 volunteers, including many Boy Scouts and Scout leaders, RSUTV, RSU Physical Plant Staff, RSU Security Staff, RSU PR Staff, and RSU Food Services for your extraordinary efforts, patience, and tenacity to facilitate all the many parts to bringing THE WALL THAT HEALS to the OMA Alumni Reunion on the RSU Campus. And thanks to the hundreds of generous OMA Alumni, friends, corporate sponsors and all others who contributed to the cost of THE WALL THAT HEALS/GOLD Program Scholarship fund, resulting in raising more than $55,000 for scholarships for our military students.

Thank you so much to those of you that have emailed me or called to share how much you enjoyed the reunion and THE WALL THAT HEALS. I will share some of your comments in this edition of the Guidon.

With All Good Thoughts,

Danette Boyle
Executive Director OMA Alumni Association

I grew up near Military City USA, San Antonio, Texas. My father served in WWII in the Army Air Corps. But the military never really touched me until I married my husband, Clark D. Webb. He was an Army brat, OMA Cadet graduate, and then served in the Army during Vietnam in our first years of marriage. As I have attended year after year the return to the annual celebrations on “the Hill,” I have come to appreciate even more my country and the patriotism of all who have served to make this nation free. The people we have met who were part of that history and help us remember the importance of that history have really meant something to me. The additional benefit of meeting new friends that are now dear to our hearts as we come each year and participate in the Ladies’ Luncheon on Friday, the gathering fellowship and dinner on Friday night, the ceremony Saturday morning, the Saturday luncheon and entertainment, and the Grand March are all icing on the cake. I thank Dr. Danette Boyle and RSU President Dr. Larry Rice and his wife Peggy for the incredible leadership and hospitality through the years. I commend their dedicated hard work to remember the legacy of OMA and to move forward in the future with Rogers State University. – Terry Webb
CELEBRATION FOR THE 100 YEARS OF OMA

I am honored to serve as Chairman of the Centennial Committee in celebration of the Oklahoma Military Academy’s founding 100 years ago. A sobering fact is that our alumni association has been in existence almost as long as OMA existed. Think about that for a minute. OMA was in existence from 1919 until 1971, a total of 52 years. The Oklahoma Military Academy Alumni Association has been in existence in its current state almost as long as OMA was open and nearly as long as it has been closed. Notice I used the word, “closed” as opposed to saying, “ceased to exist.” OMA will not cease to exist until the last of the alumni have passed away.

It is remarkable that we have operated nearly 50 years after OMA closed and even more remarkable as to what the OMA Alumni Association has achieved in that time. We have transformed from a largely social organization into one that has significantly contributed to Oklahoma higher education and one that is leaving an enduring OMA legacy at Rogers State University. We can all take pride in knowing that we have risen to the occasion and helped enable deserving students obtain a college education. I am unaware of any like alumni organization that has continued as long or that has willingly contributed as extensively.

I urge each of you to think of our upcoming Centennial Celebration as yet one more milestone on our unfinished journey in building the OMA legacy. As our membership numbers dwindle, our spirits need to remain high until the last of us answer the final roll call. Please consider becoming a continuing part of our legacy by donating either your time or your money to our worthy and noble cause.

Please join us for next year’s reunion in celebrating our 100th anniversary and our remarkable journey.

Mike Kuehr
Major General, USA (retired)
Class of 1968

2018-19 OMA ALUMNI ASSOCIATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Mr. Ken Colley ’69
Mr. William (Bob) Corlett ’62
Mr. Joe Daniel ’69
Mr. Jim Elder ’67
Mr. Rob Fisher ’68

Mr. Carlos Galvez ’60
Mr. Phil Goldfarb ’69
Mr. Barry Grabel ’64
Mr. Allen Lewis ’61

Mr. Gene Little ’56
Mr. Curt McMenamy ’64
Mr. James Morrison ’52
Mr. David Oldaker ’70

Mr. Bill Ramsay ’61
Mr. Bill Shaffer ’65
Mr. Harry Simpson ’65
Mr. Steve Smith ’65

Mr. Randy Vierling ’63
Mr. Clark Dean Webb ’61
Mr. Dewey Wilson ’66
Mr. Darrell Wooster ’62
The year 2019 marks the 100th year anniversary of the founding of Oklahoma Military Academy. World War I, sometimes called “The War To End All Wars” or “The Great War,” had ended on the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month just one year earlier in 1918. During the War, there was talk about America’s future military preparedness and the need for military schools across the nation. What about Oklahoma? Only a state since 1907, what was the legislature doing to be prepared?

The Army Reserve Officer Training Program was organized when President Wilson signed the National Defense Act of 1916 and Oklahoma A&M (now Oklahoma State University) became the first Oklahoma ROTC college in 1916 followed by the University of Oklahoma in 1919.

The new Rogers County Representative H. Tom Knight, who is often referred to as the “Father of Oklahoma Military Academy,” introduced a bill when Oklahoma’s Seventh Legislature convened in January 1919 (just two months after the end of the WWI) that would establish an institution called the Oklahoma Military Academy on the grounds of the former Eastern University Preparatory School.

Although there was much of the usual wrangling as the bill (initially called “The West Point Bill”) made its way through the House and Senate in less than two months, it was signed into law on March 10, 1919 by Governor J.B.A. Robertson.

Oklahoma Military Academy was recognized by the United States War Department and was the first Junior ROTC Program in the State of Oklahoma. In addition, it was the first state high school military institution established by any state in the nation.

OMA Centennial Chronicles will be a series of stories in forthcoming Guidons leading up to the Centennial Reunion on June 7 & 8, 2019 – Phil Goldfarb ’67, ’69
LETTER OF APPRECIATION

To the OMA Board of Directors, OMA Alumni Association, RSU President Dr. Larry Rice and Dr. Danette Boyle:

Thank you for another fantastic OMA Alumni Association Reunion! It was obvious that you had spent untold amounts of time organizing all the activities and events! All of your efforts in bringing “THE WALL THAT HEALS” to College Hill didn’t go unnoticed! We were always amazed at your dedication in keeping the OMA Alumni Association a vibrant and living organization. We know all of the OMA Cadets whose names are meticulously etched on THE WALL (among the more than 58,000 others) who “Gave It All” would be so grateful to have it on the campus of College Hill to pay tribute to them.

Thank you to the OMA Alumnus that nominated our brother, Captain Michael Casey, to be a recipient of the Hall of Fame award! Just to be nominated was an honor. To be chosen to receive the award filled our hearts with gratitude and joy! When the lovely plaque was presented posthumously to Michael’s brother-in-law Colonel Bill Moore, it was difficult to contain the sense of gratefulness and pride we felt. Michael would be so appreciative and honored. With tears in his eyes, he would say, “Thank You!” To have his photo displayed along with the other high-achieving former cadet recipients is indeed an honor!

Thank you RSU First Lady Peggy Rice for hosting the “Seas the Day” Ladies Luncheon! This was the perfect time to enjoy your hospitality and beautiful home. The table settings and center pieces were elegant, and the seafood was delicious! It was nice to share a meal with former OMA Cadets’ wives, relatives and friends.

The opening reception is a perfect time to renew friendships and make new ones. The meal prepared by RSU’s chef and his team of workers was delicious! Those former cadets were still pretty good at following drill orders! Thanks for entertaining us, we loved it!

A special thanks for allowing my sister Joyce and me to pay tribute to our brother at THE WALL Ceremony. It was an opportunity to share a bit of information about him others didn’t know.

Thank you for including photos and names of the 21 Cadets that lost their lives in Vietnam in the Guidon and on poster collages. They were so special and handsome! We noticed their names on front of the podium during the outside Special Ceremony, so touching! It was great seeing the photos provided by the OMA Vietnam Veterans! What an awesome group!!

David Raper’s opening comments about THE WALL and the names on it were humbling. Thank you for schooling us in the proper way to salute our USA flag! Good job!

It was an extraordinary honor to hear Medal of Honor recipient Melvin Morris speak about how he used his military skills to find and retrieve his commander’s body while being injured three times by enemy fire! His heroism was above the call of duty! We salute and thank you! A GREAT AMERICAN HERO!

Thank you for giving the RSU and SWOSU GOLD Program students a vital role in the Reunion! Their young military spirit is to be admired! Having them there on campus was the “bright light” on “the Hill” for two days!

B.G. Jones and wife Julie, thank you for your dedicated time and effort with the revival of the Grand March, saber table, and KIA memorial table, such beautiful tributes! It was an honor to represent my brother in the Grand March! I know he would want to “school” me in how to march military style! He would be so grateful and proud! The GOLD Program students holding the sabers were striking! I know it brought back sweet memories to the Alumni Cadets!

The Tulsa favorites music entertainment was a time to dance, visit or just sit back and visualize the rewarding and fabulous 2018 THE WALL THAT HEALS Reunion!

This was an ideal time for our family and friends to be together to remember Mike. His helicopter pilot, Bob Botnen, especially enjoyed being there. He spoke of the friendliness of the atmosphere and the professionalism he witnessed throughout the two days of his visit at the RSU campus.

With Admiration & Respect,

Captain Casey’s sisters
Joyce Moore and
Bonnie Gooch, OMA Honorary Cadet
Mitch Reed and Grady Lowrey, Military Order of the Purple Heart, recognizes RSU as a Purple Heart University.

Nicole Stuart receiving the Hall of Fame award on behalf of her father, Ronald W. Maust '61 (posthumous).


2018 OMA ALUMNI REUNION

Hall of Fame Recipient Bill Ramsay '51 and OMA Alumni President Phil Goldfarb '69.

2018 OMA ALUMNI REUNION

2018 HOF Recipients Charles Emerson '56 and Willis Hardwick '56.

Col. Bill Moore accepts Hall of Fame award from President Phil Goldfarb on behalf of his brother in law OMA Cadet KIA, Captain Michael Casey '66 (posthumously).

Nicole Stuart receiving the Hall of Fame award on behalf of her father, Ronald W. Maust '61 (posthumous).

Mitch Reed and Grady Lowrey, Military Order of the Purple Heart, recognizes RSU as a Purple Heart University.

Michael Caldwell, Chief Operating Officer for the Congressional Medal of Honor Foundation, interviews Congressional Medal of Honor Recipient Melvin Morris during a fireside chat at the Saturday luncheon.

WE EXTEND OUR DEEPEST THANKS TO

Morgan Stanley

FOR THEIR GENEROUS SUPPORT THAT BROUGHT
MEDAL OF HONOR RECIPIENT MELVIN MORRIS
TO THE OMA ALUMNI REUNION AND FOR SPONSORING THE REUNION LUNCHEON

Morgan Stanley
Sponsor of the
CONGRESSIONAL MEDAL OF HONOR FOUNDATION
Hosted by:
Jack Graves and Mark Spaeth, Morgan Stanley Financial Advisors

Hays Gilstrap, Class of ’62, and OMA Honorary Cadet Mary Lee Gilstrap Spinks accept the 2018 OMA Alumni President’s Award on behalf of their father, Lt. Colonel Lee Gilstrap (posthumous), who was a longtime OMA faculty member and coach.

President Phil Goldfarb ’69 presents the 2018 OMA Alumni President’s Award to Becky Howey accepting on behalf of her father OMA Coach Red Rogers (posthumous).
2018 OMA Alumni Reunion Adjutant David Raper ’65 presenting Phil Goldfarb ’69 a special OMA Salute for his exemplary service as OMA Alumni Association President 2014-2018.

Recognition of the 2018 OMA Honorary Cadets, Julie Jones, Pat Elder, Deann Ramsay and Julie Galvez.

OMA Alumni President Phil Goldfarb ’69 presents Scout Jack Schultz special recognition award for outstanding work for THE WALL THAT HEALS.

Bobbie Joyner, Jim Joyner ’58, B.G. Jones ’64 and OMA Honorary Cadet, Julie Jones.

Grand March entrance led by Carlos Galvez ’60, OMA Honorary Cadet Julie Galvez, Jim Elder ’67 and OMA Honorary Cadet Pat Elder.

First Place Winning Team in the 2018 OMA Alumni Golf Classic. Left to right - Mike Kuehr ’68, Lonnie Chambers ’66, Don Wofford, Corey Chambers and Gary Easley ’59.
As always, the Reunion was well organized and executed. Having THE WALL THAT HEALS on “the Hill” honored all Vietnam Vets, especially OURS. I have attended many OMA reunions and this stacks up as one of the best.

- Bill Harris ’54
J. Jay Hines ’58, presented a generous gift to Danette Boyle at the Reunion to establish the J. Jay and Marlene Hines Scholarship Endowment for the RSU Guard Officer Leadership Development (GOLD) Program in honor of his late wife, Marlene Hines.

J. Jay Hines ’58 and daughter-in-law Elizabeth Hines in the Grand March.

C. J. Masters ’69 and Sara Masters at the Saturday night dinner dance.

Danette Boyle, Peggy Rice, Mary Mosier, Dr. Raquel Ramsey, Karen Boyarsky and Rhonda Spurlock at the Ladies Luncheon.

Terry Webb, Colleen Lewis, Norma Morrison, Dr. Raquel Ramsey, and Hoytanna Benigar at the Ladies Luncheon.

Nona Wilson, Donna Williamson and Mary Mosier at the Ladies Luncheon.

Lee J. Norman’68 and Patti Norman.

Jane Burns, June Holloway, Ronald Gooch, OMA Honorary Cadet Bonnie Gooch, Col. Bill Moore and Bob Botnen.

Sandra and Curt McMenamy ’64 enjoying the Saturday night dinner dance.
2018 was by far the best Reunion ever. THE WALL THAT HEALS was a good draw for a few former cadets but an excellent draw from cities around the state. As I was walking around, I heard people talking of their gratitude that they were able to see THE WALL. Really, very few people by percentage have seen THE WALL in DC if you consider the millions of people living in the United States.

I feel strongly that we can outdo ourselves with our 100th year Reunion on June 7-8, 2019. It will be a very special and one-time Reunion. Thanks to those on the Board who put so much effort into the Reunion. Wish I didn’t live 1,300 miles away so I could help more. - Curt McMenamy ’64
Danette & OMA Alumni,

Thank you for the incredible effort put forth in hosting THE WALL THAT HEALS at Rogers State University. From the incredible volunteers, including the plentiful Boy Scouts, to the responsiveness of everyone on campus, we couldn’t have envisioned more perfection as we planned for the last two years.

Thousands came to honor the 58,318 on the panels. Your alumni will never forget your classmates lost. Your passion and attention to our display made that possible.

Tim Tetz
Director of Outreach
Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund
OMA CADETS KIA IN VIETNAM
“Those Who Gave It All”

A HIGHLIGHT OF OMA VIETNAM VETERANS
GOAL CHASER: PORTER MAN COMES ONE STEP CLOSER TO BECOME A PHYSICIAN

By CHRISTY WHEELAND News Editor
Reprinted courtesy of Wagoner County American-Tribune

Note: Wilson Sprinkles is an RSU graduate and former student worker for Dr. Danette Boyle. His sister Samantha continues in her brother’s footsteps as a student worker in the OMA Alumni office.

When Porter Elementary teacher Pebble Moore asked Wilson Sprinkles in kindergarten what he wanted to be when he grew up, he was quick to say, “a doctor.”

That lofty goal announced some two decades ago is getting closer to becoming a reality. Sprinkles, now 26, has been accepted to the Oklahoma State University College of Osteopathic Medicine in Tulsa. He begins studies through the OSU-COM Bridge Program, a five-year curriculum program, July 2.

“I am so excited about this opportunity and can’t wait to be Dr. Sprinkles!” Sprinkles said in making the announcement on his social media page. “I’m so thankful that God made a way!”

Even more excited for the opportunity is Sprinkles’ mom, Peggy Sprinkles.

“It’s amazing!” Peggy told the American-Tribune. “I know he is capable of doing anything, and I always encourage him. But how often do you hear of a small town boy getting as far as he has in such a short time?

“From the get-go he has wanted to be a doctor. I am so proud of him!”

Sprinkles is a 2010 graduate of Porter Consolidated School. He obtained a Bachelor of Science in Biology from Rogers State University in 2014 and a Master of Science in Biomedical Science from Oklahoma State University in May. Sprinkles was a member of the RSU Honors Program as an undergraduate and was lauded in 2014 for having the Outstanding Research Project in the RSU Biology Department. He is also a member of the national Alpha Chi Honor Society.

During his Master’s studies, he conducted scientific outreach projects with 4th and 5th graders at Eugene Field Elementary in Tulsa.

The Porter native conducted an internship with the OU/TU School of Community Medicine in 2013 and he volunteers to fill prescriptions at the Neighbors Along the Line free clinic in Tulsa.
2LT Logan Gear, a 2017 Rogers State University graduate and standout member of its GOLD program, has returned to College Hill, again in a leadership role for the program.

This fall, Gear returned to RSU in a full-time capacity with the GOLD Program to ensure its officer candidates are prepared for the Accelerated Officer Candidate School (AOCS) while maintaining good standing with RSU and the Oklahoma Army National Guard (OKARNG) as they work towards their chosen degree. In this capacity, Gear oversees the administrative and logistical needs of the program, leads physical training sessions, teaches military science classes and labs along with Sergeant First Class Alfred Butanda, and maintains communications between the OKARNG GOLD Program, the Oklahoma Military Academy (OMA) Alumni, and RSU faculty and staff.

In 2016, Gear became the first RSU GOLD student to successfully complete AOCS with the U.S. Army National Guard and was commissioned as a second lieutenant in the OKARNG on 11 September 2016.

After graduating from RSU in May 2017 with a Bachelor of Arts in Public Administration, he completed the Engineer Basic Officer Leadership Course (EBOLC), an intense 20-week program that provides all newly commissioned engineer officers with the technical and tactical knowledge and skills essential to success as a platoon leader, graduating the course in October 2017.

He is currently an Engineer Platoon Leader of 2nd Platoon (Engineer Support Platoon) of Bravo Company Engineers in Muskogee out of the 545th Brigade Engineer Battalion. He is working on his Master of Public Administration at the University of Oklahoma’s Tulsa Campus where he is also a graduate research assistant in their Schusterman Center Library.

Gear said he is honored to return to the RSU GOLD program in a leadership role to help OKARNG GOLD students stay on track towards earning a college degree while also preparing the next generation of citizen-soldiers to assume leadership roles within the OKARNG. He also praised the strong support from the OMA Alumni, who stepped up and provided much needed scholarship and operational support for RSU GOLD when budget setbacks a few years ago jeopardized the Program’s longevity.
OMA Museum Honored with Authentic Movie Posters

Through the generosity of Shawnee Brittan, ’53, the museum now displays three authentic posters of noted movie star Dale Robertson, class of 1940. Robertson was the star of the popular 1950s TV series “Tales of Wells Fargo” that was sponsored by 20-Mule Team Borax.

Wine to Toast Past Cadets

The last known living cadet will have the privilege of opening the wine and drinking a toast to all the former now deceased cadets. You can see the bottle of wine featured in the photo when you visit the OMA Museum. The question remains: who will be the last living cadet?

Remembering “Bud” Inhofe

Perry D. “Bud” Inhofe, ’50, passed away August 10. Bud and his wife Margaret founded the OMA Alumni South Padre Mini Reunion and hosted it every year for more than 20 years. A special memorial service is being planned for September 17 in South Padre. Please contact Danette Boyle in the OMA Alumni Office for details by calling 918-343-6888 or emailing dboyle@rsu.edu.

Missing Yearbooks

We are missing the following OMA yearbooks: 1922, 1924, 1926. If anyone has one or knows where we can get one, please contact Danette Boyle in the OMA Alumni Office for details by calling 918-343-6888 or emailing dboyle@rsu.edu.
2018 RSU GOLD PROGRAM STUDENTS

Rhett Ables
Joshua Eldridge
William Heath

Jacalyn Honeywell
Dylan Huffman
Shawn McCrary

Jake Norum
Jerrod Quindt

Raymond Smith III
Trey Weiesnbach

For more information on supporting a scholarship or establishing a scholarship endowment for the GOLD Program, please contact Danette Boyle at 918-343-6888 or email dboyle@rsu.edu.

SAVE THE DATE

OMA CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION
2019 OMA Alumni Reunion
June 7 - 8, 2019
OKLAHOMA MILITARY ACADEMY ALUMNI

MINI-REUNION

Hilton Garden Inn

RATES PER NIGHT: | Standard Room/$89 • Partial View/$99 • Suite/$140
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To ensure you get the discounted rate, please mention you are with OMA Alumni Reunion Group.
Please request the special rate (available until September 9) if you plan on arriving early or staying later.

For more information, contact Dr. Danette Boyle at 918-343-6888.

OCTOBER 9-11, 2018