



Volume 20, Number 1

Spring, 2010

## 2010 Reunion Activities Finalized, Golf Tourney & Banquet Relocated

The 106th anniversary of the founding of Columbia Military Academy is at hand. Scheduled for the first weekend in August, the Reunion will embrace all graduates and anyone who studied or taught at the school since its inception.

A departure from years past, Reunion headquarters this year will be the Embassy Suites Nashville South, 820 Crescent Centre Dr., Franklin, instead of Columbia. A special room rate is available to Alumni.

The semi-annual "Scramble" golf tournament (see Golf Registration on page 8) will initiate events the morning of Friday, August 6 at Stoneybrook Golf Course in Columbia. The \$60 registration fee covers Green Fees, Carts, Lunch and Prizes.

A "Welcome Reception" will be held Friday evening from 5:30 to 8:30. There will be a \$15 per person charge for room rental plus a cash bar. Embassy Suites will furnish the hors doeuvres

The general meeting Saturday morning, Aug. 7, will be at 9:30 a.m. in Old Main on the campus in Columbia and the CMA Museum will be open following the meeting and flag raising ceremony.

For the ladies, \$50 will cover Saturday's transportation to tour 2 and possibly 3 historic homes (including a mid-morning "tea" snack served in 1861 style). The bus will leave Columbia Academy at 9 a.m. for the tour. Ladies will return to the campus for the flag raising and recognition ceremonies plus lunch.

The Saturday night Banquet and dance will be held in the ballroom at the Embassy Suites.

Alumni can make reservations by calling Embassy Suites at; 615-515-5151 and referencing Columbia Military Academy Grand Reunion Block, Rate.

Internet reservations can be made by going to: [www.nashville-south.embassysuites.com](http://www.nashville-south.embassysuites.com)

Go to "Check Availability" in the right corner of the form and record your Arrival/Departure date. Then click "Go". Record number of adults and children and enter suite type preferences. Under "Special Accounts: Group Conven-

**"Reunion" continued on pg. 2**

## A History of CMA Part 5

by Woody Pettigrew, Class of '73  
The Final Decades

The transition from the Ragsdale administration to the Gilchrist administration included the appointment of Col. M. F. Gilchrist (CMA '34) as President of CMA and the appointment of Col. G. G. Edson as Vice President and Headmaster.

Col. Gilchrist had spent 4 years as a cadet at CMA and was the Graduate Cadet Major during the 1934-35 school year as a Post Graduate. The enrollment for CMA during the 1962-63 school year included 405 boarding students and 74 day students with another 65 boarding students on the waiting list. CMA was at full capacity in terms of

**"History" continued on page 2**

**50th Year Reunion Contacts for 2010**  
**1960**  
Ed Smith  
4201 Quail Springs Cr.  
Augusta, GA 30907  
daandcha@aol.com  
706-860-8332 (home)  
706-789-6466 (office)

**1961**  
Ron Nall  
2550 Meridian Blvd., Suite 300  
Franklin, TN 37067  
RonNall555@aol.com  
615-687-7722 (office)

**“History” continued from page 1** numbers of cadets that could attend the school. As the school moved forward, ground was broken for a new science building in November 1963; the building was completed in 1966.



**SNACK BAR . . .The Snack Bar in the new Science Building became a favorite place for Cadets in 1966.**

The decade of the 1960s continued the successes of the athletic and band programs. The school year 1964-65 was the first year CMA had an organized soccer team. The team played both prep school and professional teams. While the team did not have any victories during the year, it set the stage for a soccer program that remained at CMA for the duration of the school.

The 1964-65 Junior Varsity Football Team had an undefeated

season going 6-0, capping off its first perfect season since 1959. The highlight of the year was defeating arch rival Castle Heights Military Academy 13-6. The CMA band recorded an album in 1968 (on display in the CMA Museum.).

On February 10<sup>th</sup> 1968 the CMA Music and Military Departments presented the program “This Is America, Accent on Youth” at the War Memorial Building in Nashville. The theme of the performance was a statement of what American youth were really about during a time of confusion and unrest in the country (as opposed to the images of anti-war demonstrations in the streets). Major Ben Deutschman was the Band Director. The CMA Band



**CMA's first Soccer Team 1964 - 1965**

made trips to Washington, DC in 1968 and again in 1969 to march in the annual Cherry Blossom Festival. When the band arrived in DC in 1968 they learned that the Festival was cancelled due to race riots. While in their hotel rooms, band members could see smoke from fires across town. This was a frightening event for the cadets and a rumor spread that cadets were wearing their combat boots to bed in case they had to evacuate due to fire.

The return trip in 1969 was a great experience as the band got to march in the Festival, considered by some to be the most glorious parade the band marched in.

The CMA Basketball Team for the school year 1968-69 was one of the best basketball teams in the history of the school. The spirit displayed by the team was one of “we may lose but we’ll never be beaten and we’ll never stop trying until we are number one”. While the season record of 14-8 does not appear special  
**“History” continued on page 4**

**“Reunion” continued from pg. 1** tion Code” enter “CML”. This code reduces the room rate. Then click “Continue” and your special room rates will appear. Select Suite Type and click “Continue” completing reservation information requested. Click on “Book Now” for your confirmation number.

All alumni attending must fill out the Reunion Registration Form found on page 5. Cadet Activities honored at this Reunion include Band members, Gold Star Drill Platoon members and Color Guard members.

If you cannot attend this year’s reunion, don’t forget to send a check for dues covering the next two years (\$20 x 2 = \$40). Your dues help fund the CMA “Bugle” newsletter.

# Academy Hall, Observations and History

by Winston Elston, Class of '74

*The following is a recent observation by one of CMAAA's Board Members regarding the condition and need for repairs evidenced by Academy Hall. An article concerning the adoption of a program by our Board for basic repairs can be found on page 8 of the Fall, 2009 Bugle.*

I recently visited CMA for a CMAAA (Columbia Military Academy Alumni Association) board meeting, touring one of the oldest buildings on campus, Academy Hall. Academy now named "Gracy Hall" in honor of Col. J.B. Gracy, long time Latin instructor, is sorely in need of repairs.

The school, currently named Columbia Academy, is operated by the Church of Christ, who kindly allows the Alumni Association access to the Hall and other buildings for board meetings and functions.

Dr. James Thomas, President of Columbia Academy, spoke to the CMAAA Board briefly about the plans to put a new roof on Gracy Hall.

This building dates from around 1890 (a stained-glass window says 1891) and was one of the structures erected when the Columbia Arsenal was built. It was originally the residence for the Commander of the Columbia Arsenal.

Dr. Thomas pointed out that the Gracy Hall was reroofed ten years ago, but that roof has not held up as well as one would have hoped. He has an estimate of \$52,000 for a new synthetic slate roof expected to last about 40 years, but that with the likelihood of other issues and contingencies it will probably exceed that figure by thirty-five percent or more.

He invited the CMAAA Board of Directors to look upstairs to get some idea of the work that will be needed to bring the building back into shape.

I joined the other members of the CMAAA Board of Directors in voting that the Alumni Association donate \$2,500 from the General Fund and \$2,500 from the Museum Fund toward the new roof.

Columbia Academy has applied for up to \$25,000 in grants from other sources and Dr. Thomas indicated that CA is going to do whatever it takes to get a new roof on Gracy Hall.

Columbia Academy was recently notified that they were selected to receive a \$25,000 grant from the state of Tennessee to help put a new roof on the building.

The first floor of Academy/Gracy has been patched cosmetically and looks elegant enough, but there are water stains on the ceilings. The second and third floors are the primary subject of this video, and they appear to be in shabby to terrible condition. They have been cleaned up to some extent, but the building needs and deserves a thorough restoration. If not for the enormously thick masonry walls, it would probably be beyond repair.

Almost every room in the building has a fireplace, and each fireplace has unique tile work and a beautiful mantelpiece. One fireplace features portraits of children in the tiles at the upper corners.

Some of the mill work has decayed badly, I imagine all the plaster on the upper floors will need replacing; much of it has already been demo'd to the framing. Speaking of framing, the arch in the room with the children's' portraits on the fire-

place needs repair as does the fire damage in the ceiling.

I did not chip at the joists with a screwdriver, but I did notice the floors felt unstable. Then again, I did not go out onto the "Crows Nest", either.

Realistically, I'd say the building needs (in addition to the new roof) a thorough rewiring, new plaster, windows, doors (there's an eight-foot high by eight-foot wide pocket door between the dining room where the buffet was set after our meeting and the rooms where we actually meet and eat), fire suppression, HVAC (though the weather is mild most of the year there), some new mill work, and plumbing. The masonry should be repointed and the front porch redecked. Assuming the interior framing is good, it will still be over a half-million to fix it up. I might be wrong, but restoration will certainly be a financial as well as a technical challenge.

On the other hand, this would be a great addition to the campus, an asset as potential reception space, possible faculty or guest housing, and a showplace for Maury County.

The intricacy of the architecture and the quality of the framing are exceptional. Close your eyes and imagine the original glory of this edifice.

Does anyone know of a source of funding for such repairs to a non-profit-owned building on the National Register of Historic Places?

I encourage any alumni who have never set foot in Academy/Gracy Hall as well as those who have never visited the Columbia Academy campus to take the opportunity to see the details and grandeur of the building. If it inspires donations to the Academy for preservation of the buildings, so much the better!

**continued on page 7**

**“History” continued from page 2**

on the surface, the year included a 10 game winning streak and culminated with the CMA Team capturing the Mid-South Championship, defeating McCallie for the championship during the tournament in Knoxville, Tennessee.

made in September 1968 to allow females to enroll as day students in the Junior School (grades 6-8) beginning in September 1969. That decision was followed-up with a decision in November 1969 to allow females to be accepted as day students in all grades beginning with

ensuing. This event is considered by some as the beginning of the end for CMA. While the Cadets did not feel the immediate impact of that



**Col. Gracy**

**Col. Wilhoite**

**1968-69 Basketball Team that won the Mid-South Championship.**

Due to health reasons in November 1968, Col. Gilchrist was designated President Emeritus for the remainder of the 1968-69 school year. Col. G. G. Edson, who had been at CMA since 1962, assumed the duties of Headmaster and Acting President. Col. Edson resigned in August 1970 and Col. E. B. Hatcher was named the Columbia Military Academy President at that time.

The climate for boarding schools began to decline in the 1960s. Communities all over the South began establishing private day schools and the more expensive boarding schools began to falter. Popularity for the military profession began to wane and there was a direct impact on military schools.

CMA was a victim of these circumstances and some local leadership in Columbia wanted CMA to become a day school. In an effort to build enrollment, the decision was

the 1970-71 school year. Female students were not required to take ROTC but did have the option to do so.

The year 1972 was significant to the school and to the Cadets even though it is fair to say that the Cadets were not aware of the changes that would occur based on the events of that year.

The undergirding that had been in place since the school formed in 1904 was removed in 1972 when Congress relinquished its interest in the property and the entire physical plant was deeded to the Columbia Military Academy Government Board for \$10,000. The Bill to make this change had been introduced by Congressman William R. Anderson (CMA '38) and Senators Howard Baker and Bill Brock.

Without the government interest in the property, it could be used as collateral for the debt that was

event and were not aware of the financial challenges facing CMA, the leadership was working diligently to maintain CMA in an increasingly difficult environment.

CMA lost its two longest serving faculty members in 1972 and 1973. Col. J. B. Gracy, who had been at CMA since 1928, retired at the end of the 1972 school year. He had served as a Latin and English Instructor and as Headmaster during his years at CMA. Col. Gracy left CMA in 1942 to serve in World War II as a Marine Corps Major, and returned to his duties as Headmaster in 1946. He is one of two faculty members that had a building (Academy Hall was re-dedicated as Gracy Hall) named for him. Col. C. C. Wilhoite, who had been at CMA continuously since 1931, passed away in 1973 after 42 years of service to the academy. He had served as a Spanish, German, Algebra and Math Instructor and as Principal during his years at CMA. His continuous tenure with the school lasted longer than any other individual's and represents a devotion to the school, its principals, and, most importantly, the Cadets that very few could match. Col. Wilhoite's pallbearers were representatives from his beloved CMA Corps of Cadets.

**continued on page 6**



**Reunion Registration Form  
August 6 and 7, 2010  
(Please type or print clearly)**



**Please Respond by August 1, 2010**

**106th Anniversary**

NAME (Last, First, Middle) \_\_\_\_\_ Class of \_\_\_\_\_

HOME STREET ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

HOME PHONE (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ BUS. PHONE (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

E-MAIL ADDRESS (please print) \_\_\_\_\_

Count On Me To Attend The 2010 CMAAA Grand Reunion.

I Am Unable to Attend but have enclosed my \$40.00 for the next 2 years Dues (\$20.00 per Year).

Names of Others Accompanying me to the Reunion \_\_\_\_\_

I Plan on Arriving at Embassy Suites, Franklin at Approximately \_\_\_\_\_ AM PM, \_\_\_\_\_ Date

**2010 CMAAA Grand Reunion Activity Check List**

Please check those activities and functions of interest to your party. In so doing, indicate the number of participants and appropriate fee per activity. Please mail this completed form with a check (payable to CMA Alumni Association) for the total amount in an envelope to arrive by August 1, 2010. Thanks for your help. If you have any questions, contact Becky Moon at 804 Athenaeum Place, Columbia, TN 38401-3156 or (931) 388-9128 or e-mail her at: athenae@bellsouth.net

**2010 Reunion Honorees**

*Check all that Apply*

Band Member

Gold Star Drill Platoon

Color Guard

**Activity Fees**

- Grand Reunion Registration Fee (Required) .....(\$15.00 / Adult; \$30.00 / Couple) \_\_\_\_ x \$15.00 = \$\_\_\_\_\_
- The registration fee is required regardless of how many or few activities registrants attend. It covers the association's costs of 1. Promoting and orchestrating this affair plus goods and services, 2. the Hospitality Room at the Embassy Suites, 3. Hall Rental and entertainment and 4. Bugle Newsletter Expenses.
- Golf Tournament, 8 AM, Friday \$60.00 Complete "Golf Form" pg. 8 and make Check to Randy Howell.
- Welcome Reception hors d'oeuvres, 5:30 to 8:30 PM, Friday (\$15.00 per person) \_\_\_\_ x \$15.00 = \$\_\_\_\_\_
- CMAAA General Meeting, 9:30 AM, Saturday on Campus in Columbia. . . . .(No Additional Charge)
- Deli Luncheon in CA Cafeteria, Noon, Saturday. . . . . (\$9.00 per Person) \_\_\_\_ x \$9.00 = \$\_\_\_\_\_
- Ladies Historic Bus Tour, 9 a.m. Saturday from CA. . . . (\$50.00 per Person) \_\_\_\_ x \$50.00 = \$\_\_\_\_\_
- Reunion Banquett/Ballroom, 6:00 PM, Saturday. . . . . (\$40.00 per Person) \_\_\_\_ x \$40.00 = \$\_\_\_\_\_
- Biennial Alumni Association Dues. . . . . (\$20.00 per Year x 2 = \$40.00 per Cadet) \_\_\_\_ x \$40.00 = \$\_\_\_\_\_

**Total = \$ \_\_\_\_\_**

**For Room Reservations Call:**

Embassy Suites Nashville South  
820 Crescent Centre Dr.,  
Franklin, TN: 1-615-515-5151  
Use Code: "CML" for discount.

**(Please make check payable to CMA Alumni Association**

**and Mail to: Becky Moon**

**804 Athenaeum Place  
Columbia, TN 38401-3156**

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The Rifle Teams at CMA continued to be successful for the duration of the school's existence. The 1973-74 Rifle Team was the number one rifle team in Tennessee and in the Mid South. Overall, the team had the best record in CMA's history, coming in first place in every match it competed in.

Col. Hatcher resigned as President at the end of the 1974-75 school year but remained at CMA as an instructor. K. L. Barton (CMA '53) succeeded Col. Hatcher as President and remained with the school until January 1976. Upon his departure, Col. Hatcher accepted the responsibility of Acting President/Headmaster until John Varnell assumed the position of Headmaster/President later that year. Mr. Varnell was with the school until September 1977 when he resigned and Col. Richard Fly, who had been at CMA as an instructor and as headmaster of the Junior School since 1958, took on the President/Headmaster roll. Col. Fly would remain with the school until its transition to Columbia Academy.

The Military Weekend activities conducted April 28<sup>th</sup> – 30<sup>th</sup> 1978 marked the "End of an Era" for Columbia Military Academy.

The enrollment in ROTC had dropped below the minimum requirements and CMA dropped its military status during its final parade during the Military-Alumni weekend. As a result of these events, the school name was changed to ColuMbiA Academy. The capitalization of the letters in ColuMbiA was done as shown because the school still wanted to be known as CMA. Army Master Sergeant Michael Sutton, who was with the ROTC department at the time, removed the American Flag during the last retreat ceremony



**The Arms Room in 1967 featured the WWII M-1 Garand**

and maintained that flag until August 2006 when he presented the flag to the Columbia Military Academy Alumni Association during its reunion. (That flag is now on display at the CMA Museum.) With the military program gone from the school, the school operated in 1978-79 as a day school primarily with plans in place to phase out the boarding students.

During this school year there were 275 students in grades K through 12. Even during these times the CMA students maintained their pride in the school and its programs. The last CMA football team, for the fall of 1978, had a great year with an overall record of 9-2, including winning the Lions Bowl Championship. With

an offense gaining a total of 4,410 yards throughout the season and a defense that allowed only 4.2 points a game, the Bulldogs had a great final season.

On January 12<sup>th</sup> 1979 the CMA Government Board deeded the property to the Operating Board setting the stage for the final transition of CMA. On June 7<sup>th</sup> 1979 the CMA Operating Board of Directors resigned in total and a new Board was elected. This new Board made up of members of the local Churches of Christ assumed the responsibility for the indebtedness (over \$850,000) and the operation of the school. The new school, Columbia Academy,

**continued on next page**



**The 1978 CMA football team prided itself on a 9 and 2 season.**

**continued from preceding page**  
 opened in the 1979-80 school year; the transition of Columbia Military Academy was complete.

Columbia Military Academy stood as a great military school for 74 years. During that time over 15,000 cadets from 38 states and 11 countries attended the school.

The motto of Columbia Military Academy, "Vincit Que Se Vincit" (He Conquers Who Conquers Himself), was instilled in the young men, and in the latter days of the school, young women who made up the Corps of Cadets and who were the life of and reason for Columbia Military Academy. The echoes of their voices and the memories of the marching feet will be impressed for all time in the hearts and minds of all who were privileged to be a part of Columbia Military Academy.

**Sources:**

- CMA History Book
- History of Columbia Military Academy
- Minutes from CMA Board Of Directors Meetings
- CMA Recalls, 1964-1979
- CMA Catalogs, 1962-63 School Year through 1972-73 School Year

**continued from page 3**

There are other buildings on campus in need of repairs and preservation work; it may be too late for Frierson Hall, named for one of the first cadets enrolled in CMA in 1905 and who died as a hero in Juvigny, France in 1918.

If you would like to help preserve this great old building that was so central to Columbia Military Academy, you can make a donation directly to Columbia Academy. Checks should be made to Columbia Academy with "Academy Hall/CMA" noted in the memo. All gifts are tax deductible and should be mailed to Columbia Academy, 1101 West 7<sup>th</sup> St., Columbia, TN 38401.

Donors will be recognized on a permanent plaque to be placed in Academy Hall with the following giving levels:

- \$1000 or more – Platinum**
- \$500 - \$999 – Gold**
- \$250 - \$499 – Silver**
- Under \$250 – Other benefactors**

**VINCIT QUI SE VINCIT**  
 ("He conquers who conquers himself", the CMA motto)

**"Whhhhaazzuupppp Dudes"**  
*Odds and Ends from Here and There*

Capt. Herman L. Yeatman's wife, Faye, died Feb. 17. Many of his students, this editor included, rank Capt. Yeatman as one of our top 5 all time English instructors.

Ron Nall, Class of '61 and his wife Annie want everyone to know their son, Maj. Christopher Nall, is home from Iraq. His unit, from Ft. Richardson, AK, arrived home Feb. 25.

Woody Pettigrew, '73, Bill Wade, '68, and Marshall Cranford, 54, attended the CA appreciation dinner held on campus in Vest Hall March. 27.



**CMA RETREAT CEREMONY**

**MOVING?**

**STAY IN TOUCH...**

*Please forward your new address to:*

**CMA Alumni Association**

**804 Athenaeum Place**

**Columbia, TN 38401-3156**

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

GRADUATING CLASS: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY: \_\_\_\_\_

STATE: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

E-MAIL: \_\_\_\_\_



**'56 FORD SUNLINER.** . . Robin Wilkinson, Class of '52, sends along this picture of his favorite car as a new vehicle back in 1955. He remembers that gas sold for 17¢ a gallon (occasionally 13¢ during a "gas war"). As a band member he represented CMA at Cotton Carnival Parades and the school played a concert at Court Square in Memphis on one occasion.

**Embassy Suites Reservations**

**Hotel:** Call: 1-615-515-5151

**Internet:**

1. [www.nashvillesouth.embassysuites.com](http://www.nashvillesouth.embassysuites.com)
2. Go to "Check Availability" in right corner, supply arrival/ departure date
3. Click on "Go"
4. Supply number of adults/ children for suite
5. Enter Suite Type Preferences
6. Under Special Accounts: Group/ Convention Code, Enter "CML"
7. Click on Continue
8. Columbia Military Academy Grand Reunion Group Rate will appear
9. Select Suite Type
10. Click on Continue
11. Complete reservation info
12. Click on Book Now for confirmation number



**Grand Reunion  
Scramble Golf Tournament**  
Stoneybrook Golf Course, 119 Stoneybrook Road  
Columbia, TN



**Friday, August 6, 2010**  
**Assembly Time: 8 a.m.; Tee Time 8:30 a.m.**  
**Alumni, Spouses & Guests**  
**(Please type or print clearly)**

**Entry Cut-Off date: July 20, 2010**

NAME (Last, First, Middle) \_\_\_\_\_ Class of \_\_\_\_\_ HANDICAP FROM WHAT \_\_\_\_\_ TEES \_\_\_\_\_ (Age) \_\_\_\_\_

HOME STREET ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

HOME PHONE (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ BUS. PHONE (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

E-MAIL ADDRESS (please print) \_\_\_\_\_

**\$60.00 Tournament Fee**  
**Covers Green Fees, Carts, Lunch and Prizes**

**Notice to Golfers**

As usual, we expect a large turnout for this event. However, our field of players is limited. Please respond with this completed form with your check (payable to Randy Howell) as soon as possible. If you have any questions, call Randy at 931-486-1058 or e-mail him at: [randy.howell@cna.com](mailto:randy.howell@cna.com)  
Note: Proper golf attire is required.

Make check to: Randy Howell  
And Mail it to: 600 Charles Lane, Spring Hill, TN 37174



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## SILVER TAPS

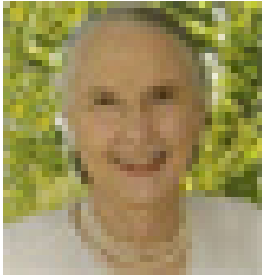
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### **Alice Algood, Friend of CMA, wife of Col. Reuben C. Algood**

Alice Wright Algood, 84, wife of Col. Reuben C. Algood, CMA PMS&T instructor, died March 16.

Funeral services were held Saturday at Zion Presbyterian Church. Burial followed in Friendship Cemetery in Culleoka.



**Alice W. Algood**

She was a CMAAA Torch bearer and played a significant role in preservation throughout the nation, and specifically in Tennessee, as President of the Association of Preservation of Antiquities (APTA), President of the Tennessee State Museum Foundation, a member of the Tennessee Historic Commission, and was currently Chairman of the Tennessee Governor's Residence Foundation. She was appointed by President Ronald Reagan and confirmed by the Senate of the United States to a 10-year term on the National Museum Services Board.

Active for many years in the Republican Party, she believed in the clarity and wisdom with which the Founding Fathers provided the citizens of the United States a system of good governance. She was Tennessee's Republican National Committee Woman, Vice-Chairman of the Republican Party in Tennessee, and a delegate to three National Republican Conventions.

She was a member of the Maury County Planning Commission, and in 1997 was awarded the Lucille Queener Courtney Community Service Award. She collaborated on several books concerning Maury County, most recently the Historical Society, "Historic Maury County: People and Places."

### **Henry R. Thompson, Class of '44**

Henry Ripley Thompson, age 83, of McCrory, AR died February 20, at the White County Hospital. Mr. Thompson was born October 13, 1926 to Vance Maynard Thompson, Sr. and Elizabeth Greer Thompson of McCrory. After graduating CMA, he attended Vanderbilt University, until he was called to serve in World War II.

After the war, Mr. Thompson was Vice President of M.D. Thompson & Son Co., started by his grandfather, M.D. Thompson in the early 1900s. He was active in the business with his father, brother, and later nephews and great-nephews.

He served on the Board of Directors of Bank of McCrory as Vice-Chairman and Vice President, and served as interim President in 1989, retiring in 2007. He was instrumental in the bank developing its own information Technology System as well as being involved with investments and personnel. He served for many years as a director of the Woodruff County Conservation District; was a member of the McCrory United Methodist Church and McCrory Rotary Club.

An avid golfer, Mr. Thompson was a member of Cypress Creek Country Club and Memphis Country Club. Mr. Thompson was predeceased by his parents, one brother, Vance Maynard Thompson, Jr., one sister, Elizabeth Thompson Russell and his loving wife of 47 years, Lucy L. Thompson. He is survived by two brothers, John Greer Thompson, Sr., of McCrory, William Hadley Thompson of Telluride, Co., one sister, Ruth Thompson Trammell of Nashville, TN, sister-in-law, Barbara Thompson of Memphis, TN., wife Anne Thompson of Heber

Springs, AR., 13 nieces and nephews, 25 great-nieces and nephews and a host of friends. The family is grateful for his caregivers, Elaine Dunbar and Billy Slone, The McCrory Family Clinic and the Woodruff County Health Center.

He was buried at Fakes Cemetery in McCrory. Pallbearers included his nephews, honorary pallbearers the Board of Directors of Bank of McCrory, John Hudson and Charles Cannon.

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**James Louis Ellis, Class of '45**

James Louis Ellis or "Lou Ellis" 82 of Glasgow died Friday, October 23, 2009 at the Medical Center in Bowling Green,

KY. Born February 1, 1927 in Cadiz, KY, his parents Luther and Lois Ellis brought Lou to Glasgow when



**Lou Ellis**

he was 3 years old. Lou attended high school at Columbia Military Academy before going to the Navy during World War II. He attended Centre College in Danville, KY where he played football.

Since 1957 Lou operated his photography studio on the public square. His photography specialty was wedding photography, portraits, passports and photo restoration. Lou loved his work.

He is preceded in death by his parents Luther and Lois Ellis, his wife of 38years Beatrice Nunie Ellis and a son Adam Forrest Ellis.

Survivors include his children Vicki Ellis of Albany, NY, Teri Fulkerson of New Castle, PA, Craig Ellis of Glasgow and Alison Weaver of Arlington, WA; three grandchildren  
**continued on next page**

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# SILVER TAPS

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Annelise, Beatrice and Elise and a special friend and caregiver Sheri Eubank of Glasgow.

Graveside services were October 27, at the Glasgow Municipal Cemetery.

There was a Celebration of life service October 27, at the Cumberland Presbyterian Church.

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### **William Driver Shippen, Class of '47**

Retired Lt. Col. William Driver Shippen, Sr., age 80 of Cleveland, GA, passed away on November 18, at his residence.

Mr. Shippen was born in Mississippi County, AR on January 25, 1929 to the late Herbert Truman and Marguerite Driver Shippen. He was a veteran of the U.S. Marine Corps, having served in Vietnam and the Korean War. He retired as a Lt. Col. Mr. Shippen was a member of The Rock of Cleveland.

Survivors include his wife: Louise Shippen, Cleveland; sons: William Driver Shippen, Jr. MD, Clarksville, TN, Frank Adams Shippen, Beaufort, SC and Alan Gray Shippen Covington; sisters: Delia Shippen Partlow, Blytheville, AR and Elizabeth Shippen, Osceola, AR; grandchildren: Melissa Shippen, William Shippen III, Ryan Shippen, Vicki Seal, Richard Elliott, Mark Elliott, Mike Elliott, Cheryl Lewis and Lisa Short.

Memorial services were held at Saturday, November 21, from the Chapel of Barrett Funeral Home with the Rev. David Crowe officiating.

Online condolences may be made to the family at [barrettfh.com](http://barrettfh.com).

Barrett Funeral Home of Cleve-

land was in charge of arrangements.

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### **Joseph Richards Sr., Class of '48**

Joseph William Richards Sr., 78, of Chattanooga, TN, passed away Oct, 20, in a local hospital.

He was born Dec. 7, 1930 in Glasgow, Ky., to the late Dr. Clifton and Georgia Williams Richards.

After graduating from CMA he attended Vanderbilt University from 1948 to 1950, served in the United States Airforce from 1951 to 1954 during the Korean War, and in 1956 graduated from the George Washington University.



**Joseph Richards**

Mr. Richards volunteered at the Community Kitchen, Innerfaith Senior Services, and with Contact of Chattanooga, Chattanooga.

He was a National Bank Examiner from 1956 to 1966 at which time he began with Suntrust Bank where he retired after 27 years of service.

Mr. Richards joined First Baptist Church of Chattanooga in 1966 and was a member of the Courtney Parks Sunday School Class. He also served for many years as a Deacon.

His sisters, Margaret Johnston, Doris Follis, and brother, John Richards preceded him in death.

Survivors include his wife of 47 years, Martha Richards; son, Joseph William "Bill" Richards Jr. and his wife, Karen; daughter, Amanda Margaret Richards; grandsons, Austin William Richards and Jacob Joseph Richards, all of Chattanooga.

The family would like to thank the following people for their special

care and concern for Mr. Richards: Dr. Derek Holland and the many oncology caregivers at Memorial 400 East, Hospice of Chattanooga Unit at Memorial Hospital, caregivers, Evelyn Turner and Fannie Stanton.

Funeral services were held Thursday at 10 a.m. in the East Brainerd Chapel with Rev. Terri Lowe officiating.

Honorary pallbearers were the Courtney Parks Sunday School Class.

Burial followed at Oak Hill Cemetery in Cartersville, GA., at 1 p.m.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to Hospice of Chattanooga, First Baptist Church of Chattanooga, or the Community Kitchen.

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### **Edgar Wilson Evins, Class of '49**

Edgar Wilson "Eddie" Evins, age 77, passed away quietly Thursday, January 14, at Baptist Hospital in Nashville, TN

He spent his last days on earth exactly as he wished; surrounded by the people he loved - devoted wife, adoring family and a few close friends sharing memories and stories. A self-described "country banker" for the better part of his life, Eddie packed a whole of a lot into his 77 years, living fully, loving deeply and laughing often.



**Eddie Evins**

He was blessed to come from a large family and considered both Lebanon, TN and Smithville, TN as childhood homes. After graduating CMA, he attended David Lipscomb College and the U.S. Naval Acade-

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# SILVER TAPS

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my before serving in the U.S. Navy as ship photographer for the USS Hornet and the USS Leyte.

Following his overseas tour, he returned to Tennessee to study business at UT Knoxville, where his blood turned deep orange and his passion for the Vols became his permanent trademark.

Eddie grew up in a prominent DeKalb County, TN political family as the grandson of James Edgar Evins and nephew of Congressman Joe L. Evins. Eddie served with his good friend and fishing buddy Hudley Crockett on Buford Ellington's first gubernatorial campaign.

Governor Ellington later appointed him to the Tennessee Boating Board and to the Tennessee Game and Fish Commission (predecessor of the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency) where he rose to the position of Chairman.

When Hudley Crockett decided to run for political office in 1970 taking on long-time US Senator Albert Gore, Sr., he turned to his friend Eddie to manage his race. Eddie also served as Treasurer for Crockett's 1974 gubernatorial race against Ray Blanton.

A native DeKalb Countian, Eddie was the President of the DeKalb County Bank for 30 years and served as a County Commissioner. He operated Sligo boat dock on Center Hill Lake, co-owned the Wilson County Fair in Lebanon, TN, (a position he proudly inherited from his Great-Uncle A.W. McCartney) and was a partner with his best friend Charlie Doak in a small service station in Lebanon.

When his brother, Dan (a Shell Oil distributor at the time) came up with the notion of tying a country

restaurant in with a handful of interstate-based gas stations, Eddie was instrumental in the creation of one of the greatest stories ever told: Cracker Barrel Old Country Stores and served for 30 years on the board of director until he retired as a Founding Director.

More important than his business acumen, Eddie was a servant at heart. He was a Co-founder and original Board Member of Friendship Christian School and a Sunday school teacher at College Street/College Hills and Alexandria Churches of Christ.

Eddie spent his last 23 years at his true passion; helping those battling addictions find the path to God and recovery.

He was instrumental in the establishment and daily operation of the College Street Fellowship House.

A Christian by faith and a gentle soul Eddie is best remembered for his caring heart and his passion for giving. To say he found his greatest joy by helping those in need would be an understatement.

In addition to passages from the Bible and the Big Book, one of his favorite quotes which remains on his wall today reads: "Life should NOT be a journey to the grave with the intention of arriving safely in an attractive and well preserved body. But rather to skid in sideways, totally used up, worn out and screaming Wow what a ride!" If anyone lived life in this way, it was Eddie Evins.

He is survived by wife, Gloria Jean Evins; son, Edgar Wilson Evins, Jr. and wife Kim Grayson Evins; a daughter, Karlen Rose Evins and stepsons, Chadwick

Jackson Hayes and Ashley Barrington Hayes.

He also leaves behind two loving granddaughters, Tiffany Taylor Evins and Shannon McCartney Evins; and two step-grandchildren, Grayson and Jack Propst. He is further survived by his three siblings, William Jackson Evins, Jr., Myrtie Ann Evins Doak and Danny Wood Evins.

Additionally he leaves behind former wife and mother of his children, Nancy Alley Evins and former daughter-in-law, Pam Gattis Farmer.

Donations can be made to: Friendship Christian School (Pete Merriman Scholarship Fund), the College Hills Church of Christ (children's program) or the College Street Fellowship House.

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**Donald Mitchell, Class of '58**

Mr. Donald Mitchell, 70, passed away on Friday, December 18, in Shreveport, LA, after a hard fought battle with cancer.



He was buried at Forest Park Cemetery.

**Donald Mitchell**

He was born July 15, 1939 in Shreveport, to Ruby Anna and Chester Arthur Mitchell. After graduating CMA, he attended and graduated from the University of Mississippi, where he was an avid Ole Miss football fan. A lifelong resident of Shreveport, he owned Mitchell's Drug Store. Mr. Mitchell was preceded in death by his parents, Chester and Ruby Mitchell.

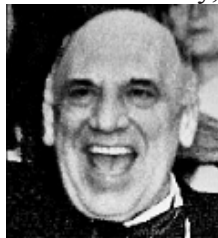
Left behind to cherish his memory are: a loving and devoted  
**continued on next page**

# SILVER TAPS

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 wife of 53 years, Jo Ann Mitchell; children, Donald Holland Mitchell and wife, Yolanda of Haughton, LA and David Scott Mitchell of Dallas, TX; twin brother, Ronald Mitchell and wife of Shreveport, LA; sister, Gloria Melba Snyder; grandchildren, Anna Mitchell, Joseph Mitchell, James Mitchell, John Mitchell, Ashley Mitchell and Jacob Mitchell. Pallbearers were Don Mitchell, Scott Mitchell, Joseph Mitchell, Ronald Mitchell, Brad Armstrong, Russ Walker, George Nelson and Roger Davis. Honorary pallbearers will be Stan Horton, James Mitchell, Jonathan Mitchell and George Abdo.

## John Donnelly Gruber, Class of '68

John Donnelly Gruber, a beloved and respected member of the Nashville, TN community, passed away while spending an evening with his family on the night of January 2, at the age of 59. John was born in Kingsport, TN, December 12, 1950 to John and Alta Lea Gruber where he was raised



John Gruber

along side his two sisters, Karen and Constance Irene. After graduating CMA he graduated Memphis State, where he was a member of the Sigma Alpha Epsilon fraternity, Johnny's charisma and passion for people allowed him the company of great friends throughout his life.

He began his family in Louisville, KY, with his lovely wife Nancy DeWitt and shortly thereafter resettled in Nashville, TN. His time in Nashville was highlighted by extensive involvement in community organizations ranging from coaching the athletic teams of his children to serving as President of the Father's Club at Montgomery Bell Academy, and serving 3 years on the Board of Directors at Hillwood Country Club. John is survived by his sisters, his wife and three loving children, Brandon DeWitt Gruber, Chase Taylor Gruber and Allie Davis Gruber.

Though he may have left us sooner than we had hoped his laughter will reverberate through our memories forever.

Honorary Pallbearers were Tommy Glogower, Barry Goodman, Andrew Hogin, Steve Butler and Ron Early.

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