

Volume 35, Number 1

From the President



Greetings to all Bellhops!

It sure is Springtime in Tennessee! My scratchy throat and watering eyes are testament to that!

We have a couple of events coming up that you should know about. First, there is a CMAAA Board Meeting on March 29th, 2025. As always, we will meet Friday evening the 28th at Legends for Dinner in Columbia and then 10AM Saturday the 29th for our Board Meeting on Campus. All CMAAA members are invited. Hope to see many of you there.

Each year, classmate Dudley Dolinger '73, graciously allows us to stay at the Blue Wing Lodge at Reel Foot Lake. The area is beautiful, and we always have a wonderful time there with fellow classmates. This year the soiree is April 23-27 and if you want to go let me know and I'll get that to Dudley.

Also, don't forget our upcoming Grand Reunion September 18-21! We will honor the CMA classes of 1974 and 1975. If you are a member of either of those classes, we urge you to attend and celebrate the 50-year anniversaries of your graduation.

Finally, once again let me thank Dr.

Thomas and the staff of Columbia Academy for their support for this Association. The best way to thank them and preserve our heritage is a contribution to our Legacy Endowment. Our beautiful museum and our stately buildings will need your support in the years to come. Contact me for any details.

Until Our Next Formation,

Tom

Tom Carr Class of 1975 CMAAA President

Reminder to Pay your Dues to the Alumni Association

Since the Alumni Association does not send out notices telling its members to pay their dues at a specific time, the best thing to do to keep up with dues payments is to make your payment every two years in conjunction with the CMAAA Reunion. Many individuals do that and pay their dues as part of the registration for the reunion. Even if you are not going to attend the reunion, you can use the registration form to pay your dues. With annual dues being \$25, if you set yourself up to pay in conjunction with the reunion you can pay \$50 every two years and always know when you need to pay your dues. The Reunion Registration form, page 2 of this publication, provides the opportunity to pay your dues even if you are not attending the reunion. Simply fill out the top portion of the registration form and check the box that says "I Am Unable to Attend but have enclosed my \$50.00 for the next 2 Years Dues (\$25.00 per Year)".

CMAAA Board Meeting

Spring 2025

As noted in Tom's article, the next CMAAA Board of Directors Meeting will be at 10:00 Saturday, 29 March in the CA Cafeteria, fondly remembered as the Mess Hall. This meeting will provide the opportunity to conduct final planning for the 18-21 September Grand Reunion, as well as looking at the continuing activities of the Alumni Association. We need as many board members as possible to make the meeting and also welcome any Alumni Association members to attend as well. Dinner at Legends on Friday night as well.

Class Points of Contact for 2025 Reunion

Kay (Wetzel) Bircher, Mike Glover and Sandra (Hart) Hasler are the Class of 1974 contacts and Tom Carr and Becky (Algood) Moon are the Class of 1975 contacts for the 50th Reunion Classes as part of the 2025 CMAAA Grand Reunion.





2025 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 approximate fee per activity. We regret the price increase for the banquet but rising costs for food and inflation necessitated the increase. Please mail this completed form with a check (payable to CMA Alumni Association) for the total amount in an envelope to arrive no later than August 15th, 2025. If you have any questions, please contact Becky Moon at 804 Athenaeum Place, Columbia, TN 38401-3156 or (931) 626-5859 or e-mail her at: becsmoon@gmail.com

2025 Reunion Honorees

Alumni from the Decade of the 1960s

Please Indicate if you are part of that Group (Circle Above) Activities (Please Check All That Apply)

Grand Reunion Registration Fee (Required)(\$25.00 per Adult) x \$25.00 = \$
The registration fee is required regardless of how many or few activities registrants attend. It covers the Association's costs of (1) Promoting / orchestrating the Reunion plus goods and services, (2) Entertainment, and (3) <i>Bugle</i> Newsletter expenses.
Golf Tourney, Friday—Golf Registration Form will be provided in Spring 2025 Edition of the Bugle
Sporting Clays, Friday—Registration Form will be provided in Spring 2025 Edition of the Bugle
Welcome Reception at Marriott, 5:30—7:30 PM, Friday(No Additional Charge)
CMAAA Scholarship Fund Donation—Funding for Annual CMAAA Scholarship for CA Graduate\$
CMAAA General Membership Meeting, 10:00 AM, Saturday on Campus in Columbia(No Additional Charge)
Reunion Banquet/Dance, 6:00 PM, Saturday(\$65.00/Person)x \$65.00 = \$
Biennial Alumni Association Dues(\$25.00 per Year x 2 Years = \$50.00 per Alumni) x \$50.00 = \$

Mail Registration Form and Check made out to CMAAA to: Becky Moon, 804 Athenaeum Place, Columbia, TN 38401



Marriott Reservation Process

Please make Reservations by 4 September to get the Special Rate.

Via Phone (1-888-403-6772):Book your group rate for Columbia Military Academy Alumni Association

- 1. Ask for Reservations
- Provide arrival/departure date
 Reference the CMAAA to get the special rate of \$169.
- 4. If they ask for a code to receive the rate, it is CMA.

Via Internet:

1. Click this hyperlink: <u>Book your</u> group rate for Columbia Military Academy Alumni Association

2. To go to the hyperlink, left click on it. This puts you at the CMA Reunion Room Registration page with the special \$169 per night rate.

 Enter the check-in and check-out dates as well as the room information and click on Check Availability.
 Verify the room information and rate on the next page and click Select.
 Continue making reservations by

following instructions on the next page.

If Hyperlink does not work:

- 1. Please call the number above to make reservations.
- 2. The hotel website is www.marriott.com/bnacs for gen-

Make this Reunion the one that you will attend. Come spend time with your old classmates and share some memories.

Sporting Clays Shooting Event In Planning For Reunion



We are trying to determine interest in having another Sporting Clays event during the 2025 Reunion. Dudley Dolinger ('73) has again agreed to head up the event but we need to determine the interest before he can make arrangements with the Nashville Gun Club. If you are interested in participating this year please get in touch with Dudley so he can determine if there is enough interest. Please contact Dudley at 615-476-1820 or at <u>ddolinger@comcast.net</u> and let him know if you are interested. Take out some of your frustrations on a Sporting Clay.

How About a Round of Golf During the Reunion



As in years past, the Association is looking at setting up a golf outing on Friday of the reunion weekend. The format and location are being discussed based on the anticipated participation level. Since we have had a difficult time getting enough participants to justify a golf course closing the facility for our group to play a shotgun start scramble type tournament, other formats are being considered, as well as an appropriate location. If you are interested in playing, please contact Bill Wade at englandclarkwade@bellsouth.net and let him know so he can begin to get an idea on the participation level. A decision needs to be made soon so if you would like to play a round of golf on Friday please get with Bill and let him know. If there is enough interest, more information and a registration form will be available in the Summer 2025 Bugle.

Please let Dudley and/or Bill know if you are interested in either of these events. They need to know the interest level.



Schedule of Events

Thursday, September 18th

- 1:00 PM: Early sign-in and registration in Marriott CMA Registration Room until 7:00 PM
- Optional: Individual class activities and free-style group gatherings

Friday, September 19th

- 9:00 AM: Registration in CMA Registration Room until 5:30 PM
- To Be Determined based on Interest: Golf Tournament—Details in Summer 2025 Bugle
- To Be Determined based on Interest: Sporting Clays Shooting Event, Nashville Gun Club, 1100 County Hospital Road, Nashville, TN
- 3:00 PM: Board Meeting, Marriott Meeting Room
- 5:30 PM: Welcome Reception , CMA Registration Room
- Optional: Individual class activities and free-style group gatherings

Saturday, September 20th

- 9:00 AM: CMA Museum open until 2:00 PM except during CMAAA General Membership meeting
- 10:00 AM: CMAAA General Membership Meeting in CA Chapel
 - Columbia Academy welcome and update
 - Election of Board Officers
- Hall of Honor Inductions 11:00 AM: Flag Ceremony for Depart-
- ed Cadets in Classes of '74 and '75 12:00 PM: Individual class activities
- and free-style group gatherings 3:00 PM: Registration in CMA Registration Room until 6:00 PM
- 5:00 PM: Class Group Photos in CMA Registration Room
- 6:00 PM: Reunion Banquet / Recognition Ceremony / Dance at Marriott Ball Room

Sunday, September 21st

Optional: Individual class activities and free-style group gatherings, breakfast, worship, and departure as desired

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:	

You Can Help Keep the *Bugle* Interesting and Fresh

This edition of the Bugle marks the beginning of the 35th year of publication of our quarterly newsletter. During that time the Bugle has gone through numerous changes and you can help the Bugle maintain its value by providing your stories, pictures, news updates, Then and Now write-ups, and information on CMA Family losses so it can be shared with the association members through the Bugle. Please provide anything that you think would be good for inclusion in the Bugle to the below address and help keep the Bugle moving forward. Let's keep it fresh and interesting for everyone.

> Woody Pettigrew 101 Sansberry Lane Madison, AL 35756



SILVER TAPS

Sandra Gayle Jones Fly, Staff

Sandra Gayle Jones Fly, 86, retired educator, and former longtime resident of

Columbia, died Sunday, February 2, 2025, at Williamson Medical Center. Born August 22, 1938, in Jackson, TN, she was the daughter of the late Carvel H. Jones and the late Sue Nell Pirtle Jones. Mrs. Fly earned



Sandra Fly

her Associate's degree from Columbia State Community College, went on to receive her Bachelor's degree from UT Nashville, and then obtained her Master's degree from Middle Tennessee State University. On December 23, 1956, she married Richard Wayne Fly, who preceded her in death on March 12, 2019. She worked as secretary for Columbia Military Academy from 1958 till 1972 and then taught at Highland Park Elementary from 1972 till 2002. Mrs. Fly was a member of First United Methodist Church. She is survived by her sons, Mark Wayne (Mary Lynn) Fly and John Richard (Julie) Fly; and four grandchildren. In addition to her husband and parents, she was preceded in death by a brother, John C. Jones.

Clarke T. Reed, Class of '46

Clarke T. Reed-businessman, Mississippi civic leader, and a key architect of post-World War II South-

ern politics-died on December 8, 2024, at his home in Greenville, Mississippi. He was 96. Born in Alliance, Ohio on August 4, 1928, Clarke Thomas Reed was the son of Lyman and Kathryn



Clarke Reed

Reynolds Reed. Raised in Caruthersville, Missouri, from the age of six months, Clake was educated in local public schools before attending CMA, graduating in 1946. Fascinated by flight-one of his great regrets was being too young to fly combat missions in World War II-he joined the Air Force ROTC at the University of Missouri, where he earned a degree in economics in 1950. He moved to Greenville, in the Mississippi Delta, where he became, in the words of The New York Times, "one of the ablest businessmen in the South." With a CMA classmate, Barthell Joseph, he founded the firm of Reed-Joseph International, an innovative agricultural equipment business that also pioneered the American use of Belgian deterrence technology to keep predatory and dangerous birds away from farms and airports-an enterprise he brought to the United States after reading about the business in Belgium and then flying to Europe to buy the company. In 1957 he married Julia Brooks, known as Judy, a native of Nashville and the child of a prominent Belle Meade family. Longtime chairman of the Mississippi Republican Party and informal power broker whose reach extended to the highest levels, Clarke was an important political force in the years of Richard Nixon, Gerald Ford, Ronald Reagan, George H.W. Bush, and George W. Bush. He hired college students who became governors and United States senators; he helped change the course of at least one presidential campaign, stopping Ronald Reagan's momentum against President Ford at the 1976 GOP convention. Clark and Judy had three children: the writer Julia Evans Reed (1960-2020); Reynolds Crews Reed (1968-2019); and Clarke Thomas Reed, Jr., who, with Mrs. Reed, survives him. He is also survived by granddaughters Brooks Henke (Bryan) and Evans Reed; nephew Brooks Corzine (Frannie); and two great grandchildren.

Walker McGinnis, Jr, Class of '65

Walker McGinnis, 77, of Huntsville, Alabama, died peacefully Wednesday,

December 11, 2024, at the Hospice Care Center at Redstone Village. Walker attended CMA for three years, graduating with the Class of 1965. Walker went on to graduate from Rhodes College. A beloved



Walker McGinnis

educator, coach, and warker werden community leader, Walker dedicated over 40 years of his life to serving the students and families of Huntsville City Schools. Throughout his career, he held various roles including Principal of Chapman Middle School, Assistant Principal at Whitesburg Middle School and Grissom High School, and a coach who inspired countless young athletes. His unwavering commitment to education and leadership left an indelible mark on the community. He was known for his kindness, integrity, and dedica-

SILVER TAPS

Continued from Page 4

tion to his students, who held him in the highest regard. In 2014, Walker was elected to the Huntsville School Board and served 7 years representing District 4. He was also a national speaker on Special Education and regulations, and in 1998, he compiled the Huntsville City Schools Section 504 Resource Guide. Walker was honored as the 2006 Outstanding Administrator by the Alabama Association of Foreign Language Teachers. He had a deep love for his country and cherished his time in the U.S. Army Reserves, achieving the rank of Major. Walker was preceded in death by his father, Colonel Eugene McGinnis, and his mother, Lillian Hood McGinnis. He is survived by his loving wife, Jeaneen Brown McGinnis; his son, Walker (Jay) McGinnis, and daughter-in-law, Mikelyn McGinnis; his daughter, Donessa Gattis, and son-inlaw, Clayton Gattis; his sister, Elizabeth Deckert; and nephew, Kevin Deckert. He was also deeply cherished by his four grandchildren who brought him immense joy.

Joseph A Syler, Class of '65

Joseph A. Syler, Sr., age 76, passed away on February 11, 2024. He was

born August 18,1947 in Detroit, Michigan, the beloved son of the late Mary and George Syler. He attended CMA for one year as a member of the Class of 1965. Joseph married his beloved wife Loretta on April 17,



Joseph Syler

1982. Joseph's passions included rooting for University of Michigan football and all Detroit sports teams. He took pride in his southern heritage, was a huge fan of classic country music as well as Bluegrass. He was an enthusiastic member of the N-SSA (North-South Skirmish Association) for nearly 40 years, founding the 14th Tennessee Infantry in 1974. Later he would become a member of the 6th Wisconsin Infantry, and the 1st Michigan Infantry. Reading and studying Civil War history was one of his favorite things. He had a deep love for his dog, Bogey and his grand-dogs. Many summers were spent at the family cottage in Caseville, where he loved being on the beach surrounded by family, He was a member of Scenic Country Club where playing golf brought him great joy. Joseph dedicated

over 30 years of his life to Valenite Corporation before finding fulfillment in his retirement as a Utica Community Schools bus driver, a job he truly adored. He also found solace in birdwatching and feeding birds in his yard.

Jack P. Morgan, Class of '70

Jack Peirpoint Morgan Jr., age 72, passed away at his home on January 21,

2025. Jack was born on September 22, 1952, in Columbia, Tennessee, the third child of the late Jack and Martha Hill Morgan. He attended CMA for four years, graduating with the Class of 1970. After

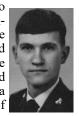
He attended CMA for four years, graduating with the Class of 1970. After graduation, he joined the Jack Morgan

U.S. Navy. He served his country for six years. During his time in the Navy, he was able to study electronics, radar, and electricity. These skills were the foundation of his lifelong career as an electrician. He was employed in the family business, Morgan Brothers Electric. He left for a time and worked at Nissan in Smyrna, Tennessee. He returned to Columbia and worked for a time at Morgan Brothers. He later became an independent electrician. Jack was a believer in Jesus and often had conversations about Him with his siblings and others. Jack had a generous, kind heart, and often tried to help those less fortunate than he. Survivors include Jack's two daughters, Amber (Ryan) Marx and Katie (Jordan) Gibby, and two grandchildren. He is also survived by his sister, Lynn (Donald) Steinfeldt and brother Bob (Elizabeth) Morgan, seven nieces and one nephew. He had three great nieces and four great nieces in law and ten great nephews. Jack had many cousins, some he knew well, and some he never met.

F. Willard Morris, Class of '71

Forest Willard Morris, Jr., 73, of Iuka, Mississippi, died on Sunday, February

18, 2024, at Tishomingo Community Living Center. Willard was of the Baptist faith and enjoyed going to services when he was able. Willard attended CMA for two years as a member of the Class of 1971. As a teenager, w



he began working as a **Willard Morris**

butcher, and over time, he became one

of the most well-known meat-cutters in Tishomingo County. Outside of his butcher job, he was also a master carpenter. He loved woodworking and found joy in building things for his family and friends. He was also a talented cook and grilled the best burgers. Willard is survived by his children, Sabrina Austin (Chris) and John Morris (Melanie); five grandchildren; four great-grandchildren; three nieces; and one nephew. He was preceded in death by his parents, Dora and Forest W. Morris, Sr.; and his sister, Elizabeth Jones (Connie Ray).

Howard Whitaker, Class of '71 The Rev. Dr. Howard W. (Doc) Whita-

ker died on January 27th 2025 at the age

of 71. Born in Jackson, Mississippi in 1953, the son of a surgeon father and public health nurse mother, Howard Wilson Whitaker, III, grew up in Savannah, Tennessee. Starting in Junior School in 1966, he attended CMA for five years "



"Doc" Whitaker

graduating with the Class of 1971. He raised eyebrows and rolled eyes with an "Open Letter to Fellow CMA Alumni" in the Summer 2022 Bugle. He was proud of his time "behind the iron fence," but admitted the lessons he learned were far from those expected. After CMA, he was educated at American University, Episcopal Theological Seminary in Kentucky, and Wesley Theological Seminary. He was the author of A Pastoral Commentary on Dissociative Disorders, as well as articles, letters, reviews, and sermons in professional publications. Doc's career included stints as a photo journalist, police officer, mechanic, pastor, therapist, truck driver, hospital administrator, bookseller, beekeeper, and serial entrepreneur. His first job out of college was in the Baltimore City Police Department. He lasted two years. The experience rattled him so thoroughly that he operated a garage and wrecker service in the mountains of Western North Carolina for the next seven years. He married, had children, and could have led a quiet, redeemed life. But God draws straight with crooked lines. He migrated back to church in his 30s, being ordained as an Episcopal priest in 1988. He was an early Direc-

SILVER TAPS

Continued from Page 5

tor of St. Timothy's Farm & Mission, Barnes Mountain, KY, and served on diocesan staff for the Bishop of Lexington. He worked with Southern Empowerment Project and Appalachian Peoples' Service Organization. He emerged in 1994 as Director of Clinical Pastoral Services in Chattanooga, TN, providing trauma care for individuals and families, as well as clinical interim ministry for congregations. He taught the required parenting courses for Georgia's Lookout Mountain Judicial Circuit for 16 years. With Georgia Homestead, he helped develop that state's first in-home therapy to families in imminent danger of losing custody of minor children. He arrived in New Jersey in 2001 with the American Red Cross following the World Trade Center attacks, serving rotations as Chief Chaplain for the New Jersey Family Assistance Center at Liberty Park. After a sabbatical as an over the road truck driver, he returned to New Jersey and served eight years as Director of Pastoral Services at Greystone Park (State) Psychiatric Hospital. After leaving Greystone, he continued to commute north, doing clinical interventions in churches in the mid-Atlantic region for another decade. In retirement. he grew quieter. From his Scottsboro, Alabama office, he continued to see a few clients, kept a commercial apiary, and operated a used bookstore. He enjoyed his local anonymity. When prying minds inquired of Mz. Kay, "What does he do?" she would slyly reply, "He brings me coffee in the morning." Occasionally, he would deploy as a towboat chaplain for Seamen's Church Institute working inland waterways as far as Joliet and Mobile, typically for deaths and

traumas. He is survived by his wife and business partner, Kay Elaine Hamrick (Mz. Kay); two children from his first marriage, Ben Whitaker and Eva Whitaker, and their mother, Rosalie Smith Whitaker; a sister, Cheryl Whitaker McFarland; grandchildren; and a host of former clients, patients, and parishioners.



Please let Woody Pettigrew know if you hear any news on the passing of former Cadets and Faculty members so it can be included in the *Bugle*. Silver Taps, while sad to read, is a key portion of the *Bugle* to help keep our association updated on our friends and faculty.

Woody Pettigrew 101 Sansberry Lane Madison, AL 35756 wpettigrew@knology.net BUGLE QUARTERLY is published quarterly by the CMA Alumni Association. First Class postage paid in Columbia, TN. POSTMASTER: Please forward address changes to CMA Alumni Association, 804 Athenaeum Place, Columbia, TN 38401-3156.

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