



Volume 21, Number 2

Summer, 2011

THE HEYDAY OF CMA

By: Charles "Buz" W. Dooley
Class of '52

Our facility began in 1888
At the creation of an arsenal so great.
Sixty-seven acres of landscape so cool
Utilized for training until converted to school.

In 1904, it was time to do more
The Columbia Arsenal converted to a cadet corp.

Columbia Military Academy became its name
Education and military was the hallmark for fame.

A campus so beautiful and facilities so bright
Going to military school became a delight.

The rigors and discipline went with the site
Hard work was required with all of your might.

Self-discipline to earn as lessons you learn
The kind of growth for which all young men yearn.

The day began with a reveille call
Made by a bugler to communicate with all.

Out of the bunk and on to the floor
To start a new day to excite a lot more.

From mess hall to chapel and classes so great
Of course after inspections, one must not be late.

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REUNION CLASS OF '61 . . .Left to right, bottom to top: Row 1: Larry Pitts, Jackson, MS; Chris Aloia, Winder, GA; Ron Nall, Murfreesboro, TN; and Bob Trotter, Ripley, MS. Row 2: Joe Bailey, Louisville, KY; Bill Orman, Soddy Daisy, TN; Ralph Cover, Albuquerque, NM; and Bob Harbin, Covington, TN. Row 3: John Taylor, Soddy Daisy, TN; Bob Beadles, Bradenton, FL; and Gene "Greasy" Smith, Niceville, FL

**Mini '61 Reunion
Held in Early June**

The Class of '61 in holding it's 50th "Real Reunion" reports it had another enjoyable and memorable gathering in Columbia. It was attended by 17 alumni and Coach Allen.

Joe Bailey did yeoman tasks putting events together as an outstanding host.

The group met Friday night at Legends Restaurant for an outstanding
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**50 Year
Reunion
Contacts
for 2012**

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ing meal. The usual after dinner story telling (some truths and some slight exaggerations) continued in the conference room of the Jamison Inn until early morning, after being asked to quiet down 3 times by the motel management.

Saturday morning, following a continental breakfast at the motel, alumni went to the old CMA campus for a two hour tour of the facilities. They toured Main, Academy, the Gym, Johnson, and Jackson. Some were able to visit their senior year dorm room and found the original lockers, table, and chairs after 50 years. Even the dorm bathrooms were still intact. Some of the buildings were discovered in a run down condition but very little had changed. A second shorter tour was taken of old downtown Columbia.

From there, Joe took the group to a catfish lunch before returning to the motel for more story telling. Late that afternoon we went to the home of Moore Landers for food, drinks and fellowship. A fine time was had by all as we continued our story telling and fellowship until dark.

Sunday morning Buford Gladney invited all to Shoneys for breakfast and

he picked up the tab. That is a deal you should not have missed. Even so, many had to leave out early. I understand that Joe stayed until late morning with Buford and Bobby Alderson discussing football....what else.

Overall, in spite of the intense heat, a good time was had by all. We had three first time attendees and three post graduates. Bob Bealdes won the iron butt award for driving over 1500+ miles by himself in a '88 Datsun with no air conditioning. Ralph wins the distance award for traveling the most miles, some 2500+ miles. Greasy Smith wins the tardy award for not arriving until Saturday morning. Joe Bailey gets the perfect attendance award for not missing any '61 reunion.

Those of you who missed the reunion, shame on you. Please, please commit now to be at the 2012 Grand Reunion. Joe will plan some special activities just for our class. Above all, as Joe Bailey says, "keep in touch with each other". We don't know how many of us will still be alive and able to travel in the next few years. We aren't getting any younger.

Chris Aloia, Class of '61



SPINNING YARNS FOR THE CLASS OF '61... are Left to right, around the table: Buford Gladney; Bill Orman; Ralph Cover; Bobby Alderson; Joe Bailey and John Taylor.

CMA HeyDay, continued from pg. 1

For it's bull ring for you if demerits were given
Should you fall short in expectation so driven.

After marching to mess hall and daily classes
Begun with chapel for all lads and lasses.

Time for second mess and preparation for drill
Practice and practice to hone up your skill.

The band played so well; it was glorious to hear
John Phillip Sousa was always without peer.

The Sunday dress parades were always the best
With sabers and weapons at the ready, not at rest.

When the last note was played, it was back to your room
Writing letters home without any gloom.

Every night at dusk, Old Glory was brought down
With honor the flag lowered without even a frown.

The sound of taps could bring a tear to your eye
Especially if a friend or relative was unfortunate to die.

For the service to Country a tribute was meant
To pay homage to those whose life was spent.

While protecting the liberty and freedom for all
Answering the need, they answered the call.

The times at CMA are never forgotten
Deep in the South in the land of the cotton.

The remains of CMA are housed in the museum
Of the guardhouse as part of a hallowed requiem.

Who could forget the long gray line
As it marched forward to the end of time.

For forty consecutive years of honor awards
CMA will be remembered by the plaintive chords.

Of a bugler playing taps in the night
While the birds return home from their daily flight.

SILVER TAPS

Robert D. Templeton, Class of '48

Robert Douglas Templeton, age 80, died at his residence in Grand Junction, TN June 11, 2010. Mr. Templeton graduated with the CMA Class of '48 and was preceded in death by his wife of 39 years, Martha B. Templeton, and a daughter, Deborah Anne Clark. He is survived by his three children, R. Douglas Templeton, Jr. (Evie) of Stewartsville, MO, Scott B. Templeton and his fiancée, Lisa, of Southaven, MS, and Laura Burns (Steve) of Williston, TN; a brother, William Jasper Templeton, Jr. of Winchester, TN; seven grandchildren, and five great-grandchildren. A visitation was held Sunday, June 13 with interment in Memorial Park Cemetery.

Amon Carter Evans, Class of '50

Amon Carter Evans, CMA Class of '50, former owner and operator of The Tennessean newspaper died May 11, 2011 at his residence in Springville, TN. Funeral services were held May 16, 2011 at The First United Methodist Church in Paris, TN with burial following



Amon C. Evans

at Woodlawn Memorial Park, Nashville, TN. Dr. Robert D. Martin, Pastor of the First United Methodist Church, Paris, TN officiated. Tom Wheeler, Will Davis, Nick Burnley, John Burnley, David Courtney, Chris Courtney and Will Cook served as pallbearers. John Seigenthaler, Tommy Knowles, Jimmy Holt, Mary Warren, John J. Hooker, Tom Ingram and Senator Lamar Alexander, former Senator Jim Sasser and former Vice President Al Gore were honorary pallbearers.

Amon was born on August 4, 1933 to the late Silliman and Lucile McCrea Evans. On September 8, 1995, he married Denise Bacon who survives in Springville, TN.

He is also survived by daughters; Ann (Tom) Wheeler, Clinton, TN, Deborah (Will) Davis, Nashville, TN, Sarah Evans, Columbia, TN, sons; Eric (Austin) Evans, Columbia, TN, Andrew (Wendy) Evans, Knoxville, TN, step-daughter; Amy (Will) Cook, Memphis, TN, step-sons; David (Whitney) Courtney, Atlanta, GA, Chris Courtney, Springville, TN. Thirteen grandchildren and numerous cousins from Texas and Washington D.C. areas also survive

him. He is preceded by a daughter; Janet Evans, son; Amon Carter Evans Jr., and a brother Silliman Evans Jr.

Mr. Evans was an active member of The First United Methodist Church in Paris, TN where he served as Vice President of the Church Council, member of the Finance Committee and former Trustee. Mr. Evans served in the US Army Signal Corps from 1959-1961, receiving the Army Commendation Medal. Mr. and Mrs. Evans retired to Henry County, Tennessee where the family has owned property for almost 50 years. In addition to leading a group appointed by Henry County Mayor searching for affordable, abundant, and clean and healthy water, Amon was also the Chairman and a Commissioner of the Springville Utility District. He was the former owner of Rattle & Snap Plantation in Columbia, TN and a past president of the Newspaper Printing Corporation. He served on the States Bi-Centennial Commission and was a member of the Board of Trustees of the University of Tennessee for more than 20 years. He also served in other capacities at the request of four different Tennessee Governors.

The family asked that memorials be made to: The Amon Carter Evans Memorial Scholarship Fund c/o First United Methodist Church, PO Box 25, Paris, TN 38242

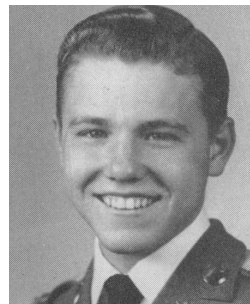
Capt. Thomas Sims, Class of '53

Capt. Thomas Malone Sims Jr., died March 14, 2011, at home in Annandale, VA. Capt. Sims wife, Mayotha M. "Marge" Sims died a month later at Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington, D.C.

Tom and Marge lived in the Washington D.C.

area for the last 28 years. The couple were volunteers for the National Military Family Association during much of that time. Tom was awarded the Presidential Medals of Service by George W. Bush and later by Barack Obama for his guidance and support of the association.

The couple's volunteerism in the greater National Capital region extended over decades, guiding high school youth through their transition into adulthood at



Thomas Sims

St. Matthew's United Methodist Youth Fellowship in Annandale. Marge made detailed, artistic items for the church and served as a trustee. Tom served as church treasurer. Together, they delivered Meals on Wheels throughout Northern Virginia. At their favorite Meals on Wheels stop, instead of a "thank you" they received a 'yeah, such as it is,' providing a story they relished greatly.

A 30-year U.S. Navy career kept the couple traveling from their original homes in Memphis, TN, for Tom and Meridian, MS for Marge. They enjoyed tours of duty in Sasebo, Japan, where Tom earned a commendation for providing humanitarian aide to refugees of Vietnam on the USS Hector and in Atsugi, Japan where Tom earned the rank of Captain, Legion of Merit for his diplomatic work, and the Meritorious Service Medal.

Displaying amazing simultaneous events throughout their lives, while Tom was a member of the 9th Company Class of 1957 at Annapolis, he introduced Elvis to audiences of the Naval Academy's WRNV radio station which was more accustomed to classical music. Marge was selected by the legendary Elvis to be the lone gal in a Meridian audience to be kissed by the burgeoning star in his pink silk suit. This concurrency continued even to their recent illnesses and their passing just 29 days apart.

During his 30 years of military service in the Navy's Supply Corps, Tom survived direct fire while participating in the invasion of Lebanon, provided tactical support to the recovery ships used in the first NASA launches, and coordinated the building, opening and all supply logistics for a "Senator Stennis" project at the Naval Air Station in Meridian. It was during this tour of duty where Tom's Austin Healey 3000 slowed long enough to "pick up" the former Mayotha Marjorie Barham.

The newly married couple was sent directly to Guantanamo Bay Cuba the week after U.S. President John F. Kennedy promised Fidel Castro U.S. military intervention. Despite those dicey assignments, the couple enjoyed 48 years together and has one daughter who survives them, Kathleen Diane Sims.

Memorials may be made to the National Military Family Assn (nmfa.org), 2500 North Van Dorn St., Suite 102, Alexandria, VA 22302-1601.

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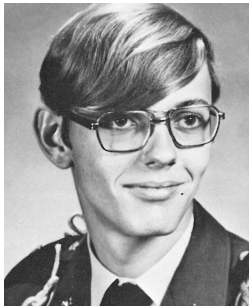
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Richard K. Neil, Class of '73

Richard K. Neil passed away May 31, 2011. Rick was born September 10, 1955 in Nashville, Tennessee and attended Columbia Military Academy from the Fall of 1970 until his graduation in May 1973. He was the Commander of the Gold Star Drill Team during his senior year at CMA. Rick settled in Oklahoma and served as bargaining committee man for the UAW local 1895 where he also served as a chaplain. He was a member of Grace Baptist Church in Sperry, OK where he served as a bus director.

He loved to play Frisbee golf and enjoyed his friends and family.

He was preceded in death by his father, W. S. Neil and is survived by his mother, Evelyen Hiland of Brentwood, TN; wife, Sharon Neil of the home; son, Vincent Thomas of Sperry, OK; daughter, Carla Janine Fisher of Collinsville, OK; granddaughters, Hailey Thomas of the home, Ellen Thomas, Katy Thomas and Savannah Thomas of Sperry, Nicole Bryant of Tulsa, and Danielle Fisher of Oologah; 4 great-grandsons; brother, Bill Neil of Nashville, TN; niece, Amanda Lane of Charlotte, TN; nephew, Brad Neil of

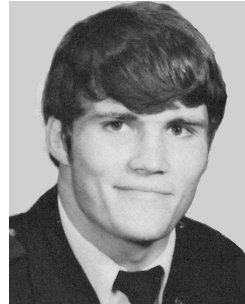


Rick Neil

Nashville, TN; as well as other relatives and devoted friends. He was an inspiration to everyone he knew.

Gilbert B. Alexander, Class of '77

Gilbert Blake Alexander, III, CMA Class of '77, of Griffin GA, passed away December 17, 2010. Blake was born in Pontiac, MI December 28, 1958. His family moved to Nashville TN and he attended Columbia Military Academy for seven years, beginning as a 6th Grade Cadet in the 1970-71 school year and graduating in 1977. Blake served as "B" Company Commander during his senior year, was Senior Class President, was a Captain of the Football Team, and was selected "Mr. CMA" by the faculty and administration.



Gilbert Alexander

Survivors include, wife Tammy Pitts, of Griffin; son and daughter-in-law, Blake, IV and Mindy Alexander of Covington, GA; daughter and son-in-law, Carrie and Cameron Kiplinger of Covington, GA; mother, Mrs. Jonell Alexander of Nashville; father and stepmother, Dr. Gilbert Blake Alexander, Jr. and his wife Gail.

Funeral services were conducted at the Chapel of Conner-Westbury Funeral Home with Interment in the Midway United Methodist Church Cemetery, Midway, GA.

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