

# Grand Reunion —August 5th-8th, 2021



Volume 30, Number 4

Winter 2020

## From the President



Bellhops, Faculty & Friends:

Season Greetings from the Holiday Bunker.

As we just finished a strange Thanksgiving and look forward to a Christmas Season like we have never experienced, shut in, shut off, socially distanced and unable to gather with family and friends in a normal way, I hope all of our CMA Family are doing well. COVID continues to affect our lives daily and creates challenges at every turn.

We were unable to hold our annual CMA Day this fall on the Columbia Academy campus due to virus concerns. Dr Thomas and I have discussed the possibly of having a CMA Day next spring. I will have an update in the next *Bugle*.

It is time to make your plans for August 2021 to attend our delayed Reunion. I am looking forward to seeing and visiting with everyone after three years. The 2021 Reunion will be held again at the Marriott Cool Springs in Franklin, TN, August 5 - 8. As our Honor Group, we will recognize our Valedictorians & Salutatorians. This is a group who represented the top of their classes through the years. For the Banquet Dinner Sat night, registration must be received by noon on Friday in our

registration room. We must give the Marriott a number for dinner attendees at that time. Please send your Registration Form, or contact Becky Moon (becsmoon@gmail.com) or me (frsalze66@gmail.com) to confirm your Saturday night Banquet attendance prior to the Friday noon deadline. We will have the FAB Nashville Beatles Cover Band perform after the Saturday night banquet again in 2021. I encourage you to donate to help cover the cost of the Band. Any donations that exceed the cost of the band will be added to the funding for the CA Scholarship which our Association gives to a CA Graduate each year. There was a concern about the band interfering with the Banquet and our being able to visit with each other. The band will not perform until after dinner, Honor Group Recognition, Auction, and all activities are over. For those who want to get together and not listen to the band, our registration room across the hall will be available with tables & chairs all evening. If you have not planned on staying for the Saturday night banquet, please reconsider. This is the highlight of our reunion weekend and helps make our reunion a success.

In 2021 we begin celebrating the 50th Reunions for the Classes of the 70's with 1970 and 1971. We will be depending on the support from our younger Alumni to help us move forward in the coming years. If you are a member of the 1970 or 1971 Class, please contact your Class Representative, listed in the *Bugle*, and plan on joining us in August. I would also like to invite all of the 70's folks to join us.

August 2021 is your opportunity to do your part in keeping our Association productive and stable as we navigate the future Reunions. Please remember, the CMA Alumni Association is for anyone

who attended CMA for one year, several years, graduate or non-graduate. We all shared the same experience and have many of the same stories. Please contact your classmates and friends and encourage them to attend our 2021 Reunion and renew old friendships and share our old stories.

Merry Christmas, Happy Holidays, Happy New Year and God Bless Us Everyone.

Cordially,

Robin

Robin Salze  
Class of 1966  
CMAAA President



## 50 Year Reunion Contacts For 2021

# 50

### Class of 1970

Charles Hoover  
charles.hoover@corteva.com  
100 Lydia Lane  
Starkville, MS 39759  
Phone: 662-562-2251

Walter Keith  
wk4@comcast.net  
110 Suffolk Crescent  
Brentwood, TN 37027  
Phone: 615-406-9577

### Class of 1971

Bill Payne  
billpayne3@gmail.com  
1017 West 2nd Street, Apt 9  
Little Rock, AR 72201-2035  
Phone: 501-551-1534

# **CMAAA Board of Directors Meeting Minutes 24 October 2020**

## **Attendees**

Robin Salze-President (66), Randy Howell-Vice President (72), Sandra Hasler-Secretary (74), Becky Moon-Treasurer (75), Tom Carr-Asst Treasurer (75), Skip Snow (55), Lynn Bowles (58), Tom Walbert (58), Ron Nall (61), Wally Couch (62), James Madison (62), Charles Field (63), Don Noffsinger (63), Harold Smith (63), Jim Pennington (72), Dudley Dolinger (73), Woody Pettigrew (73), Marshall Briggs (75), Jay Robins (76), James Thomas (CA President, Honorary Board Member), Buddy Fisher (Friend of Board)

## **Meeting Minutes**

The CMAAA Board meeting met online via Zoom and was called to order at 10:00 AM on Saturday, October 24, 2020. Robin began the meeting with a moment of silence in remembrance of board members who are deceased and who have recently passed. The Invocation was given by Randy Howell and Ron Nall lead the Pledge of Allegiance. Becky Moon gave the Treasurer's report, stating that as of 9/30, we have \$31,462.92 in our account. She said we have a little less than expected due to the fact we didn't have our Reunion, but because there was a reminder in the Fall *Bugle* about dues, about \$1,200 has been received. Woody Pettigrew gave the Museum report; on hand, we have \$17,475, budgeted income is \$10,300, from pledges that are due that amount to \$2,400 and payback for the memorial which is \$7,900, giving us a total available budget of \$27,775. Our budgeted expense for the rest of the current lease is \$5,280, which gives us an available amount at the end of the lease two years from this month; Oct. of 2022, of \$22,495. This should be an adequate amount to get us throughout 8 1/2 of our two 5 year options. Woody stated that we should be in good shape for the next 10 years, in addition to the fact, that \$1,200 is put back annually for maintenance. This should get us to Oct. 2032 which is actually 3 years beyond our 50th reunion. He added that there may be a need to put down new laminate flooring. There are places on the current flooring that are buckling up and he is going to have someone come to look at it and give an estimate of how much it would cost to replace it. It not something that is critical at this point, but

something that we can afford to do and he wanted to make that recommendation. And he is wanting to get this done prior to our next reunion. There will probably be a cleanup scheduled before the 2021 Reunion. Also, there is a need for paint touchups on the white trim on the inside of the museum, having the caisson on the cannon cleaned and repainted, and cleaning trees that are growing out the gutters. The painting, cleaning out the gutters, and replacing the flooring are things Woody would like to consider getting done before the 2021 Reunion. Dr. Thomas offered to deal with the gutters because CA has a bucket truck which would be needed to gain access to the gutters.

Dr. James Thomas was introduced and he gave the CA report. He stated that this school year has been quite good, however, somewhat challenging. CA began having in-person schooling from the beginning and had no cases of COVID for the first five weeks. Since then there have been a few more cases of the virus, and they have had to quarantine several students/ teachers. The quarantine would be for two weeks, then those students/teachers would return to the classroom. It has been more of a challenge for the upper grades than for the primary students. There has been only one case for the primary grades and the Spring Hill campus has not had any. They had a record enrollment this year. However, CA did lose some students/ families due to the virus because they didn't feel comfortable returning to the classroom. But on the other hand, there were new students/families who enrolled this year, who did want their children to be actively involved in a classroom setting. They had a record enrollment of 972 students (preschool-twelfth grades). Most of the growth happened at their Spring Hill campus; with 120 students (three years old-fifth grades) in attendance there. The students have done well with adjustments that have been made to keep everyone safe. They are not having their daily chapel and no large groups are meeting on campus. They have extended their lunch times so the students have more room to spread out and keep at a safe distance from one another, about four to a table. They also have a tent set up outside on the quadrangle with tables and chairs so that half of the students can eat lunch outside. When the weather gets colder, the tent has sides that can be dropped and heaters may be used when necessary. The football team is struggling a little bit this year. The team has won only one game so far, but they've had to miss two games due to

the virus. They have their last game next week and it is a Regional game. If they win, CA will be in the playoffs regardless. They played last night in Chattanooga against a team out of Georgia. The quarterback for the opposing team is ranked #2 in the country and is planning to go to South Carolina. So they played against a really tough quarterback last night. Even though CA didn't win, it as a good experience for them. Ms. Shrader has her session coming up next week on CA/CMA history. She will bring her group of about seventy 7th graders to Dr. Thomas's office in Academy Hall and he will speak to them about the campus and its history. Ms. Shrader and Dr. Thomas will then take them to the basement of Academy Hall and let them look around. While they are in the basement, Dr. Thomas will share stories that he has heard from former cadets over the years. The students are very interested and enjoy learning about the history of their school. The last thing he shared was that he noticed coming on campus that morning that someone had had a car wreck and there were about four sections iron fence that had been knocked down. The damage was on West 7th between the new entrance and Academy Lane, right across from the car shop. Some of the stone was damaged, as well. He is hoping that there will be an insurance claim that will help with the repairs to the fence. Dr. Thomas had already applied for a grant from the state Historical Preservation to help with repairing other areas of fencing that needed repair and they approved it. The grant would cover 40% and CA would have to pay 60%. They have a bid from Columbia Machine Works to fix it, about \$10,000. But since the grant approval and the estimated amount of repair, there has been further damage to the fence; several trees have fallen and hit the fence on the Academy Lane side. The repairs weren't able to begin until the grant was fully approved and now that it is, Dr. Thomas is wanting to have the entire fence repaired. He is typing up a informational and fund-raising letter to send out to all the CMA alumni. The letter is asking for financial support for getting the fence repaired. So please consider helping with this monumental preservation project to restore the beautiful iron fence that surrounds our campus. Another project he is hoping to eventually get to is the renovation of the second and third floors of Academy Hall. Dr. Thomas added that Jim Borum had made the suggestion

- Continued on Page 3 -

that perhaps CMA alumni could sponsor a section of the fence and they could have a plaque with their name on it attached to fence. Dr. Thomas said he would take any suggestions on how to do this because he feels it would be a great idea; just needing help with how to attach it permanently so that the plaques could not be removed. He is hoping to get the letters written and sent within the next few weeks.

#### Old Business

Robin addressed the upcoming 2021 Reunion. He said the agenda and schedule will remain the same as previously planned at the last Board meeting; and the class reps are in place. Everyone agreed that the previous plan to have group photos taken Saturday at 5:00 at the Marriott would stay the same. Bill Wade will sponsor the golf tournament if there is interest for it to be done. Further discussion will determine what takes place about the golf tournament during the spring Board Meeting. Dudley Dolinger stated the clay shooting will also be based on interest. He will be more than glad to sponsor this event. More information will be given at the Spring Board meeting. Robin said that we don't have anything in place, other than the stock certificate, for the auction at this time. He asked for creative ideas for the association to consider and share at our next meeting. An auction is a great fundraiser and it's something we will plan to have at the 2021 Reunion.

#### New Business

Randy Howell shared an update on the Marriott Courtyard that was being built in the Columbia area. Apparently the developers were indicted on some legal issues and everything has had to stop on the project. The mayor of Columbia has given them until Dec. 31 to resolve their issues and get back to work or the city will be looking for another developer. So the chances of the builders reaching their April 1 deadline is highly unlikely now and may negatively impact our ability to move the reunion back to Columbia even by the 2023 Reunion. Robin sent the Board members revised By-Laws that specifically address our situation and unique times, so we might look over, discuss, and consider them for approval. A motion was made to approve the By-Laws, seconded, and approved. Robin discussed the best timing for the

upcoming Board Meeting in the Spring and it was decided that we would set a tentative date for Saturday, April 17, 2021. A decision will be made as we get closer to the date to monitor our situation and consider if we will be able to meet in person or if we will have to have another Zoom meeting.

#### Closing

Woody informed the group that he had received a note from Libby Kimbrell asking him to share with the Board, the school, and the Association, her appreciation for the condolences and kindness shown to her with the loss of Don. Dr. Thomas was asked and he gave the closing prayer. The meeting was adjourned at 10:40 A.M.

### Valedictorians and Salutatorians Recognized

This reunion's recognition group is those individuals that were the Class Valedictorians and Salutatorians.

Thanks to the yearbooks for the years 1953-1979 we know the Valedictorians and Salutatorians for those years. We encourage those from earlier years to indicate on your registration form if you were either honoree when a senior at CMA so you can be recognized.

Each Valedictorian and Salutatorian is encouraged to attend the 2021 Grand Reunion and be recognized during the banquet Saturday night.

### Support Your Association

If you want to help your Association with some expenses the opportunity is right before you. We have the Beatles cover band, FAB Nashville, playing at the reunion after the banquet Saturday night. That is an added reunion expense and the Association could stand to have your help in deferring that cost. If you would like to make a donation to help with the expense, please mark the appropriate block on the Registration Form and include the amount in your registration payment. You can also help with our annual expense of providing the CMAAA Scholarship to a CA graduate each year. If you would like to specify a donation to the CMAAA Scholarship Fund you can do that on the Registration Form as well. Please consider helping the Association with these expenses.

### Golf Scramble For 2021 Reunion



As in years past, the Association is looking at setting up a golf outing on Friday morning 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. More information and registration information will be available in the Spring *Bugle*. If you are interested in playing, please contact Randy Howell at [Demingsboy1954@att.net](mailto:Demingsboy1954@att.net) or Bill Wade at [englandclarkwade@bellsouth.net](mailto:englandclarkwade@bellsouth.net) and let them know so they can begin to get an idea on the participation level.



## 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: \_\_\_\_\_



# GRAND REUNION CMAAAA 2021



## Marriott

### Reservation Process

Please make Reservations by 9 July

#### Via Phone (1-888-236-2427):

1. Ask for Reservations
2. Provide arrival/departure date
3. Reference the CMAAAA to get the special rate of \$139.
4. If they ask for a code to receive the rate, it is CMA.

#### Via Internet:

1. Click this hyperlink: [Book your 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 \$139 per night rate.
3. Enter the check-in and check-out dates as well as the room information and click on Check Availability.
4. Verify the room information and rate on the next page and click Select.
5. Continue making reservations by following instructions on the next page.

#### If Hyperlink does not work:

1. Go to this address:  
[www.marriott.com/event-reservations/reservation-link.mi?id=1590167198776&key=GRP&app=resvlink](http://www.marriott.com/event-reservations/reservation-link.mi?id=1590167198776&key=GRP&app=resvlink)
2. This puts you at the CMA Reunion Room Registration page with the special rate of \$139 per night.
3. Follow instructions as above.

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

## Sporting Clays Shooting Event To Be Set Up For Reunion



A now regular activity at the CMA Reunions is once again being planned for 2021. Dudley Dolinger ('73) has again agreed to coordinate with the Nashville Gun Club to set up a Sporting Clays shooting event on Friday during the reunion for any CMA alumni and friends interested in participating. The event will start at 10:00 AM and will provide participants the opportunity to go to the gun club and go through the stations shooting at 50 sporting clays. The cost for the event is based on what equipment you bring. If you provide your own gun, ammunition, ear protection and eye protection (all required to have), the cost will be \$40 plus tax. If you need to purchase/rent any of the mentioned items, the price will increase accordingly and could make the total cost be \$75 if you needed the gun club to provide everything. All interested in registering for the shoot are asked to submit the registration form along with a \$25 deposit. Since total costs are dependent on individual needs, you should be prepared to make further payment at the gun club. If you would like to participate, please complete the registration form on page 6 and submit it to Dudley Dolinger at the address provided on the form by July 1st. Feel free to contact Dudley Dolinger at 615-476-1820 or at [ddolinger@comcast.net](mailto:ddolinger@comcast.net) if you have any questions. This event has proven to be a great time for all that participate. Join the group and shoot some clays!



# GRAND REUNION CMAAAA 2021

## Schedule of Events

### Thursday, August 5th

- 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, August 6th

- 9:00 AM: Registration in CMA Registration Room until 5:30 PM  
8:00: Golf Tournament—Details in Spring 2021 *Bugle*  
10:00: Sporting Clays Shooting Event, Nashville Gun Club, 1100 County Hospital Road, Nashville, TN  
3:00: Board Meeting, Marriott Meeting Room  
5:30 PM: Welcome Reception, CMA Registration Room  
Optional: Individual class activities and free-style group gatherings

### Saturday, August 7th

- 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 Departed Cadets in Classes of '70 and '71  
1:00: 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, August 8th

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



# 2020NE

## REUNION REGISTRATION FORM AUGUST 5th—8th 2021

Please Respond by July 15th, 2021



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

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

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

HOME PHONE (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ BUSINESS / CELL PHONE (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

E-MAIL ADDRESS (Please Print Clearly) \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Count On Me to Attend the 2020 CMAAA Grand Reunion.

☐ I Am Unable to Attend but have enclosed my \$50.00 for the next 2 Years Dues (\$25.00 per Year)

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

I Plan on Arriving at the Marriott, Franklin at Approximately \_\_\_\_\_ AM PM, on \_\_\_\_\_ (Date)

## 2021 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. 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 July 15th, 2021. If you have any questions, please contact Becky Moon at 804 Athenaeum Place, Columbia, TN 38401-3156 or (931) 388-9128 or e-mail her at: becsmoon@gmail.com

### 2021 Reunion Honorees

#### Valedictorians and Salutatorians

Please Indicate if you were a Valedictorian or Salutatorian (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) Bugle Newsletter expenses.

☐ Golf Tourney, 8:00 AM, Friday—Golf Registration Form will be provided in Spring 2021 Edition of the Bugle

☐ Sporting Clays, 10:00 AM Friday—Complete Registration Form on page 6 and submit to Dudley Dolinger with Payment

☐ Welcome Reception at Marriott, 5:30—7:30 PM, Friday.....(No Additional Charge)

☐ Band Donation—Help cover cost of Band; Donations in excess of cost will go to CMAAA Scholarship Fund.\$ \_\_\_\_\_

☐ 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.....(\$50.00/Person) \_\_\_\_\_ x \$50.00 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

☐ 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



## Grand Reunion 2 Man Scramble Golf Tournament

Crossing Golf Course, 750 Riverview Drive  
Franklin, Tennessee 37064  
Friday, August 6th, 2021  
Sign In: 7:30; Tee Times Start: 8:00  
Open to all Alumni, Family, and Guests

Please Type or Print Clearly



NAME \_\_\_\_\_ HANDICAP \_\_\_\_\_  
FROM WHAT \_\_\_\_\_  
TEES \_\_\_\_\_  
HOME STREET ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_  
CITY \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_  
HOME PHONE (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_  
E-MAIL ADDRESS (Please Print Clearly) \_\_\_\_\_  
Requested Teammate: \_\_\_\_\_

**To Be Updated and Provided in the  
Spring 2021 Edition of the Bugle**

**Registration Fee—\$55.00**  
**Green Fee, Cart, Lunch and Prizes**

### Notice to Golfers

Please respond with this completed form and your check payable to Bill Wade as soon as possible so he can make plans with the golf course. If you have any questions, call Bill at 615-838-9730 or e-mail him at: [englandclarkwade@bellsouth.net](mailto:englandclarkwade@bellsouth.net)  
**NOTE: Proper Golf Attire is Required.**

Make Check Payable to: Bill Wade  
Mail Registration Form and Check to: Bill Wade, P.O. Box 1804, Brentwood, TN 37024



## Grand Reunion Sporting Clays Shooting Event

Nashville Gun Club  
1100 County Hospital Road  
Nashville, Tennessee 37218  
Friday, August 6th, 2021  
Registration/Sign In: 10:00



NAME \_\_\_\_\_ Class of \_\_\_\_\_  
HOME STREET ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_  
CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_  
HOME PHONE (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ BUSINESS / CELL PHONE (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_  
E-MAIL ADDRESS (Please Print Clearly) \_\_\_\_\_

**Pre-Registration Fee—\$25.00**  
**Total Cost Dependent of Supplies Required**

### Notice to Participants

Please respond with this completed form and your check payable to Dudley Dolinger **no later than 1 July** so he can make plans with the gun club. If you have any questions, call Dudley at 615-476-1820 or e-mail him at: [ddolinger@comcast.net](mailto:ddolinger@comcast.net)

Make Check Payable to: Dudley Dolinger  
Mail Registration Form and Check to: Dudley Dolinger, 59 Vaughn's Gap Road, Nashville, TN 37205

# Then and Now—And the Connections In Between

Courtney Wilhoite was born in Columbia in 1935 while his family lived on campus. His father, C. C. Wilhoite had been on the CMA Faculty since 1931 and would stay with the school 42 years serving as instructor, Assistant Headmaster and Principal. When Courtney was born, his family had a four-room apartment in Main Building, on the second floor at the top of the stairs. The second floor, at that time, was a barracks, not classrooms. Courtney loved those days living in Main and really liked getting to know the boys who roomed there even though he is not too certain that they liked having him around. The proof of that may have been realized in 1970 when Courtney had just begun a new job at the hospital in West Memphis, Arkansas. One of the doctors walked into his office and said, "Wilhoite, are you from Columbia, Tennessee?". When Courtney allowed that I was, the doctor said to him, "You are in big trouble." Turned out that the man was Dr. Jim Wright from Earle, Arkansas. He was a CMA graduate, class of 1942. He had roomed in Main and went on to explain that Courtney had gone to all the boys' rooms, collected pictures of their girlfriends and redistributed them. Dr. Jim also said that when they were in formation, Courtney would go around and kick them in the shins. While Courtney doesn't remember doing that, he does plead guilty to the pictures incident.



Courtney says that growing up on the campus was great. One of his friends was Tommy Hughes whose dad was the head football coach. Tommy and Courtney would sit at the top of the hill and watch them build the gym. The Hughes family moved away while they were in the second grade. It turned out that Courtney did not lose a friend, but gained a new one, one who would be his best friend for life. As he began the third grade, the Bass family came to CMA. The family included another third grader, Johnny Bass. Johnny's dad was the new Athletic Director and head football and baseball coach. Courtney and Johnny enjoyed playing all over the campus, swimming in the pool, playing tennis and trying to play golf on what passed as a golf course. They never did figure out the sequence of the nine holes. The next year, beginning the fourth grade, Coach Prickett and his family came to CMA. They had

two daughters Jenny and Nancy. Nancy, Johnny and Courtney were almost the same age; these days Courtney enjoys reminding them that they are older than him.

In 1947 Johnny and Courtney became cadets, something that he had always looked forward to being. He says that is one of the best things that could have happened to him. Six years as a cadet saw interesting times, many educational – both academic and practical, some fun and some humorous. It seemed to be forever before graduation arrived on June 2, 1953. Courtney believes that what was learned in the classrooms proved to be valuable, in college as well as in life. Even the lectures in the assemblies in the Chapel helped. He remembers Colonel C.A.'s "Press toward the mark" helping him through tough times. Always enjoyable were the entertainment programs which came along every once in a while. He recalls the program in which the presenter used nitrogen to freeze items so that they would shatter when hit with a hammer. He says he will always remember math classes under Major Hatcher and Major Prickett. Both were excellent teachers whose lessons helped throughout life. The few times that he has been able to answer a Jeopardy question, he thinks that Major Bass or Major Gracy would be proud of him.

And then there were the Government Inspections each year. Cadets quickly learned that a "G.I. party" was not a fun event. It was a matter of pride that CMA was a honor school every year beginning in 1935. Courtney recalls a couple of humorous incidents during his senior year. He was assigned to accompany one of the inspectors on his tour of the barracks. In Black Hall in a three-person room, the inspector asked the first cadet, "What is your name?", and number two, "What is your name?". He moved on to number three and asked "Where are you from?". The reply, Cadet Corporal Smith, Sir". A case of anticipating the question. In another room, the question again was, "Cadet Jones, where are you from?". The reply was, "Phil Campbell, Alabama, Sir." The inspector: "Where is that, Cadet?". The cadet answered, as if everyone should know where Phil Campbell was, "Why it's about halfway between Bar Creek and Spruce Pine". That broke up everyone in the room.

He liked the military aspect of CMA. In junior school, one of the things that he was really dreading about

going into the ninth grade was closing the bolt on the M-1 rifle. He knew that he was going to catch his thumb in the receiver and end up with the dreaded "M-1 Thumb"; luckily, that never happened. He enjoyed the ROTC classes, especially taking apart the M-1 and putting it back together again. That was his first experience with a real rifle. He was never on the rifle team, but in ROTC class he enjoyed learning how to aim and fire the 22 rifle. It helped him later while in Air Force basic training where he drew attention from the drill instructors when he hit 5 out of 5 bulls eyes with the M-1 Carbine. He did not know until he was looking at his discharge form some eight years later that he had earned the Small Arms Expert Marksmanship Ribbon.

After CMA, Courtney worked at two jobs to earn some college money. He applied for a Naval ROTC scholarship which would pay a good part of college costs. He passed the exam but did not pass the physical because of his teeth. He did receive a regular scholarship to Vanderbilt, spending two years there; but even with the scholarship, the money ran out. Courtney did not have a clear picture of the future, so he enlisted in the Air Force. During the eleven weeks of basic training he was placed in the Personnel (now Human Resources) career field. That was where he eventually ended up in civilian life. After almost three years of work in that field, he applied to become an instructor in the Air Force Personnel School. He was selected for that and spent eight weeks in the Technical Instructor Course. After a year in that job, his boss told him that he was being sent to the Air University in Montgomery for a six-week Academic Instructor Course. The 180 students in that class consisted of enlisted men, officers and civilians. At the graduation ceremony, Courtney was named one of the five students to have graduated "With Distinction".

Courtney had been back at his job for a couple of weeks when he learned that the school was being moved to Greenville, Mississippi. Courtney arrived there on March 8, 1961. The next day he was in the hallway in the barracks when one of the men asked him if he would go in his place to the Saturday night dance at the base service club. He was supposed to meet some girls from town there. Courtney was reluctant but told him that he would. Saturday night

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he strolled over to the service club and located the girls. There were three younger ladies and an older lady (their chaperon). One of the girls was really beautiful, so he sat next to her. It turned out that all were school teachers. That one girl's name was Alice. Neither of them cared much for dancing, so they mostly talked. Courtney asked for her phone number and called her the next day for a date. A couple of nights later they ate a hamburger and went to a movie. The base was seven or eight miles from town. Alice had a car, so she provided the transportation. They were married nine months later in her home-town of West Memphis, Arkansas. That marriage lasted for almost 48 years until Alzheimer's took Alice from him.



Alice's dad had been a school superintendent in Arkansas until his death in 1955. Also, she had known a couple of boys from West Memphis who had gone to CMA; J.E. Brady and Ray Garrison. Courtney later met another cadet who lived in West Memphis, Scott Guinn. Several years later when he was looking at Alice's scrapbook from her days at Hendrix College, he noticed that every dance card from her freshman year had the name Don Martin. Don had been a friend of Courtney's when his Dad was Band Director at CMA and then later moved to North Little Rock. (Don senior was Colonel Martin's brother). Don came back to CMA as he was beginning the 10<sup>th</sup> grade.

After a time of working in a manufacturing company in Memphis, Courtney landed an opportunity to start a personnel department in the hospital in West Memphis. They had already moved from Memphis to West Memphis, so that was a golden opportunity. After seven years he was offered the same type job but at a larger hospital in Jonesboro, Arkansas. So, Courtney, Alice and their two children, Van and Martha, relocated to Jonesboro. At that time St. Bernard's Hospital had 750 employees, and when Courtney retired about 21 years later, it had 1,500 employees. It has now grown to over 3,000. The opportunities were there as Courtney moved from Human Resources to Administration.

Courtney's classmates at CMA may remember how much that he liked baseball. He was on the CMA team his senior year but got into only two games, the last two of the season against BGA. His only time at bat, he got a hit on a

grounder when the second baseman covered second base as the runner was stealing. So, he batted 1,000 during his baseball career at CMA. He remembers that the BGA second baseman was injured as he covered the base. Later while talking to an acquaintance in Jonesboro, Courtney discovered that he was that second baseman. What are the odds, especially since he was from Jonesboro and was going to BGA? His son and Courtney's daughter were in the same high school class. That son is now the president and CEO of the hospital from which Courtney retired.

A little more on baseball... Courtney says he never was a good hitter. He says that my eyesight wasn't good enough, so I got into umping. He did that for 36 years, finally calling it quits at the age of 56. He called everything from little league age on through college and some semi pro. He still enjoys going to the Arkansas State games where he sits two rows behind home plate where he can help the umpire when he needs it.

Courtney is a loyal member of the CMA Alumni Association and has served on the CMAAA Board of Directors for a number of years, still serving today as an Honorary Member.

### 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, provided in the Spring edition of the *Bugle*, 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)". Send in the form, along with a check for \$50 made out to CMAAA and your dues are good until the next reunion year in 2023. Dues are very important to keep the association going.

## You Can Help Keep the Bugle Interesting and Fresh

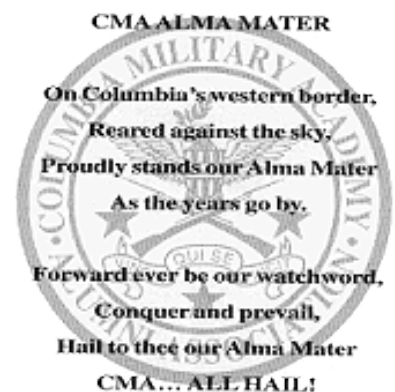
This edition of the *Bugle* marks 30 years of publication of our quarterly newsletter. During that time the *Bugle* has gone through numerous changes and you can help the *Bugle* maintain its value by providing your stories, pictures, news updates, Then and Now write-ups, and information on CMA Family 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

## Europe Revisited



Lyle Hampton took a number of CMA Cadets on a trip to Europe in the early 1970s. He has a couple of copies of the book that they followed day-by-day on their travels and just recently re-read the books and relearned a lot of history. If any on those Cadets are interested in a copy of the book they can contact him at [lyhamp5216@gmail.com](mailto:lyhamp5216@gmail.com).





# SILVER TAPS

## William Brewer

William C. Brewer, Sr., retired barber, died October 10, 2020 at his resident in Columbia. Mr. Brewer was a barber at CMA for a number of years.



Carl Brewer

## James L. Harper, Class of '43

James L. Harper, age 95, of Nashville, Tennessee, died on November 14, 2020. He was born in Nashville on March 26, 1925, the son of Porter C. Harper and Annie Mai Follis Harper. Jim graduated from CMA in 1943 and immediately enlisted in the United States Navy. He volunteered for submarine service and spent the remainder of World War II on war patrol in the western Pacific. After the war, Jim returned home and entered Vanderbilt University, from which he graduated in 1949. During the early years of his career, he worked with his father-in-law at the W. H. Criswell Company. During that time, Jim also attended the YMCA Night Law School, graduating in 1955. In 1960 he formed Harper-Freeman and Company with his brother-in-law J. R. (Dick) Freeman. During the 1960s, Jim served as president of the Nashville Board of Realtors, president of the Tennessee Association of Realtors, and Regional Vice-President of the National Association of Realtors. In 1966, he was elected to the Board of Directors of Fidelity Federal Savings and Loan and served on Fidelity's board and on the boards its successors for the next 24 years. In 1970, Jim formed James L. Harper & Associates, where he continued in real estate brokerage with a primary emphasis on appraisals and counseling for commercial and industrial properties. Jim was preceded in death by his loving wife of 61 years, Jo Ann Harper, by his parents, by a brother, Will T. Harper, and by his son-in-law, Richard L. Griffin. He is survived by his daughter, Virginia Harper Griffin, two granddaughters and five great grandchildren.



Jim Harper

## Robert C. Smith, Jr. Class of '44

Robert Caldwell Smith, Jr., passed away on Friday, November 6, 2020 with his loving wife and soulmate, Helga, by his side. He was the son of the late Robert Caldwell Smith, Sr. and late Pansy Mae

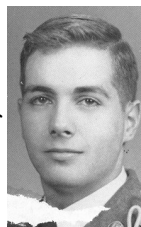
Richardson Smith and was born in Tupelo, Mississippi on September 27, 1926. He attended CMA for four years, graduating with the Class of 1944. He was one of three CMA seniors appointed to the United States Naval Academy that year. After graduating from the Naval Academy in 1948, he served on destroyers and mine sweepers for over six years then served a 9-month tour in Korea. After returning to the States in 1954, he was assigned to the Naval Academy as an instructor teaching plebes engineering drawing and descriptive geometry. He then resigned from the Navy and went to work for Westinghouse Electric in the Defense Group. He worked for Westinghouse for about 18 years before working for the Navy as a contract specialist until 1995, when he retired. In addition to being survived by Helga, Bob is survived by their son, Kurt (Carolina) and their children, Kayden and Carrington; his daughter Wendy; and daughter Jennifer (Erik) and their son, Jonah. Bob was a Navy Football season ticket holder and an active member of the Annapolis Yacht Club, both for over 50 years. He was a long-time and faithful member of the CMA Alumni Association. He was an avid supporter of Navy sports, Redskins football, and enjoyed playing golf and traveling with Helga. They have been to Europe numerous times visiting Helga's family and to the South visiting Bob's relatives. "Go Navy, Beat Army!"



Robert Smith

## Russell Thompson, Class of '55

Russell Douglas Thompson passed away on October 3, 2020 in Ocean Springs, Mississippi. Born in Jackson, MS on May 16, 1937, Russell attended CMA for four years, graduating with the Class of 1955. He then graduated from Millsaps College in 1959, and from the University of Mississippi School of Law in 1964. He was commissioned as a Judge Advocate in the United States Air Force in 1966, serving in Vietnam, and on Air Force bases in Myrtle Beach, SC, Charleston, SC, and Biloxi, MS until leaving active duty in 1976. He continued his military duty in the Re-



Russell Thompson

serves of the Judge Advocate General's Department until his honorable retirement from the Air Force in June 1990. After leaving active duty in 1976, he began a general law practice in Ocean Springs, MS where he was very active in the community, especially his church, the First Presbyterian Church of Ocean Springs. He was elected an Elder in 1976 and served the church in many capacities over the years prior to his death. While retired from his law practice, he was commissioned as a Certified Lay Pastor and was called to serve the First Presbyterian Church of Lucedale, MS as Pastor from 2009 to 2020. He is survived by his wife of 59 years, Lucy Mobley Thompson, his children, Melissa Thompson Webb (Mark) and Douglas Russell Thompson (Ashley), and 4 grandchildren. He is preceded in death by his parents, James Grant and Elizabeth Russell Thompson, and a brother, James Grant Thompson, III.

## Jimmy Mays, Class of '56

Jimmy Mays, 81, left this life at his home in Columbia on September 20<sup>th</sup>, 2020. Born James Julian Mays on December 31, 1938, he was the son of the late Julian Lacy Mays and the late Mary Ruth McGuire Mays. He attended CMA for four years, graduating with the Class of 1956. He then attended and graduated



Jimmy Mays

from The University of Tennessee. He served in the United States Navy as a Naval Aviator, and was a proud Veteran. A lifelong Columbian and local businessman, he served his community as President of the Chamber of Commerce, and many local boards including The Industrial Developmental Board, Graymere Country Club, First Federal Savings, and Kings Daughters Academy. He is survived by his wife, Lucie Niceley Mays of Knoxville; sons, James Julian (Adele Fletcher) Mays, Jr.; Park Niceley Mays; 3 grandchildren; sister, Judy Mays (Robert) Parks; and brother, William Terrence (Joyce Palmatary) Mays.

## John H. Fish III, Class of '58

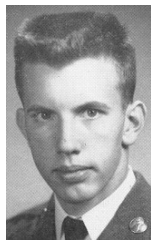
John "Jack" H. Fish III, 80, of Chattanooga, passed away Saturday September 19, 2020, at Parkridge Hospital.

- Continued on Page 10 -

# SILVER TAPS

- Continued from Page 9 -

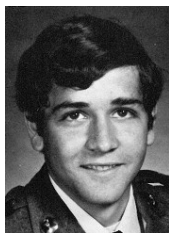
Jack attended CMA for three years, graduating with the Class of 1958. He then attended and graduated from Vanderbilt University with a degree in Electrical Engineering and also received a master's degree from the University of Tennessee in Electrical Engineering. Jack's passion was rowing. He coached Chattanooga Junior Rowing and UTC Rowing for over 30 years and made an impact on a number of his rower's lives. He retired from TVA after 25 years and started a consulting business, Power System Analyst, with his partner John Boyle. Jack and his wife Liz enjoyed traveling with their close friends, Al and Alva Lamontague and Stacia and Paul Dugan. These trips included snow skiing, scuba diving, visiting and hiking National Parks. He was preceded in death by his parents, John H. Sr. and Edith (Nelson) Fish and his brother, Joe Fish. Survivors include his wife of 45 years, Liz (Martin) Fish, brother-in-law and sister-in-law David and Wanda Martin, special cousin, Ann Machen, several close friends, nieces and nephews.



**Jack Fish**

## William A. Strong, Class of '72

William Atlee "Bill" Strong, Jr., 66, of Pine Bluff, died Thursday, October 8, 2020. He was born January 8, 1954 in Midland, Texas, son of William Atlee Strong, Sr. and Genevieve Hirschmann Strong. Bill was reared and received his early education in Pine Bluff then attended CMA for four years, graduating with the Class of 1972. After working in the various Strong Com-



**Bill Strong**

panies during his youth and early adult years, Bill pursued other career paths until 1988, when he helped launch Strong-Seal Systems, a patented system for blending and applying special corrosion resistant cements to rehabilitate manholes and other sanitary sewer infrastructure. Over the next 30 years, the Strong-Seal System became the most specified and installed family of products in the market. Bill, first as Product Manager then as Sales Manager, was instrumental in recruiting and training certified applicators around the nation and was regarded as an authority in the industry. Since 2013, Bill has been a Partner in the Strong Company, Inc. Bill was an outdoorsman at heart. He particularly loved hunting and fishing. Bill had a passion for taking care of children and widows. He loved taking his grandchildren with him on his outdoor adventures. He was preceded in death by his father, William Strong, Sr.; grandson, Sage Damon Strong; and nephew, Kevin Kline. Survivors include his son, Brian Strong (Christie); daughters Audrey Strong, Kira Earnest (Matt) and Cassie Evatt (Will); his mother, Genevieve Strong; sisters Annette Kline and Betty Jane Strong; seven grandchildren; and his life partner, Tonya Ashley.

## Jeff Rich, Class of '80

Jeffrey Wade Rich, age 58, passed away on October 2, 2020, in Columbia, Tennessee. Jeff was born on August 1, 1962 in Columbia to his parents, the late Jesse Willard and Lois Posey Rich who survives him. Jeff attended CMA for two years as part of the Class of 1980. He is survived by sisters Wanda (Bob) Wills and Janet Lynn (Dale) Johnson and several nephews and grand nieces and nephews.



**Jeff Rich**

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