

# LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

## September 2, 2008 by e-mail

I imagine I am late forwarding this news. "Litz" lived three doors from me, when I was a rat in North Barracks and a freshman. They were all seniors. One of his roommates, George Bender, (I learned years later at a Bender family reunion) was my wife's first cousin from Fayetteville. George went to UNC like his father and uncles and became a pharmacist like his dad in his hometown. Senator Barry Goldwater gave the graduation speech in the old gym to their class.

Before Christmas dinner of 1957, we ate the last square meal at SMA. Colonel Joe Taylor was in charge of the mess hall. Lucky for me, we never had a paddle. The next year, C Company was moved into South Barracks.

- Dick Staunch, SMA '61

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## November 23, 2008 by e-mail

Gentlemen,

The message board has had some talk of getting the Howie Rifles alum together and putting on a show at the reunion. Could you guys send out an email to known Howies, if they would be interested in helping out with this. Also any ex-band members to form a Drum & Bugle Corps to go along with the Howies.

Burdette, could you get this into the Kablegram's next issue, and have anyone interested to send their contact information to the alumni office?

AMA has done this for the last three years, and there is no reason that we can't. I would think that VWIL would help out with the rifles and band equipment. Tom or Harry, could you check this out with Gen. Bissel?

There seems to be several old band members who post on the message board that are interested. MAYBE!! All the help you old boys could give would be appreciated.

TDH,

- John Nolde, SMA '63

*Editor's note. You can find the SMA message board at <http://sma-aa.proboards82.com>.*

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## January 18, 2009, by e-mail

I am wondering about the where-a-bouts of several of my friends, while I was at SMA and would love hearing about what they are up to. My roommate, Francis "Sam" Rossini, from Pennsylvania, Mark Lederman, from New York, and Ronald Klein from Massachusetts do not appear on the missing list of the '59 class. If you could fill me in on these guys, I would appreciate it. Unfortunately, I will not be able to attend the April reunion.

- Michael A.

Meyers, SMA '59

*Editor's note: Mark Orr, SMA '73, our SMA webmaster, forwarded this e-mail to the Class of 1959 Reunion Czar, Kelly McGavock.*

## December 25, 2008, by e-mail

Hello, here is a bit of news from Panama City, Panama that you may find interesting. We're having Presidential elections in May, 2009, and the candidate heading the polls by 10% is a graduate from SMA, Ricardo Martinelli, who graduated in the early 1970's. He attended SMA with his younger brother, Mario. BTW, I am a graduate from August Military Academy as was acquainted with both Ricardo and his brother, Mario.

Best regards,

- Duncan Wong, AMA '52

*Editor's Note: We contacted Ricardo and asked him for some biographical information. His response is printed below.*

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## December 30, 2008, by e-mail

Gentlemen,

I have been blessed in my life and have achieved many successes, but I decided to run for President, because I feel that the country needs a change. It is very easy to sit on the sidelines and criticize the political class, but that doesn't improve the country or change anything. It is much harder to become involved and try to change the system. Panama, like many countries in Latin America, suffers from great inequality from lack of opportunities. My eldest son decided to stay in the U.S., after graduating from Georgetown, because he felt that there weren't opportunities for him in Panama. That is when I first thought of the idea of running for President. Later, as I visited the poorest areas of Panama, my commitment grew even more. Things have to change, they cannot stay the same, or we will suffer the fate of other countries like Venezuela and Ecuador.

I cherish my memories of my time at Staunton. I made friends that have lasted a lifetime and learned honor and discipline, as fundamentals of personal character.

- Ricardo Martinnelli

*Editor's Note: This message was sent to us by Frank de Lima, on behalf of Ricardo, who is quite busy now, campaigning for the Presidency of Panama.*

E-mail letters to  
[Kablegram@sma-alumni.org](mailto:Kablegram@sma-alumni.org)

# TAPS

## Joseph A. BEVERIDGE, SMA '49



Joseph passed away on May 22, 2008 in Miami, FL. He qualified for entrance to West Point in 1949. He enlisted in the Army in 1950, served in U.S. Army Intelligence as 1st Lt. from 1952 to 1956 and was honorably discharged in 1961

from the U.S. Army Reserves. In 1956, he graduated from the University of Miami with a Bachelor's degree in Business Administration. During the late 50s and early 60s, he taught Dale Carnegie classes in salesmanship and was a 32nd degree Mason and Mahi Shriner. He was an Allstate Insurance Company agent for approximately 30 years and was a member of the Sons of the American Revolution. He is survived by his wife, Marion of 48 years; sons, Mark, SMA '73 (Jodee) and Brett (Maria); five granddaughters, Ashley, Lauren, Sofia, Madelyn and Rainey; sister, Jean Lawton of Oklahoma City, OK and several nieces and nephews. A loving husband and father who was an outgoing person and always had a good joke to tell to whomever he met.

## Dan LaMARCHE , Jr., SMA '47

Dan passed away on December 14, 2008 in La Jolla , CA, at the age of 79, of complications from a stroke . After graduating from SMA , Dan graduated from Miami University in Ohio in 1951 followed by a stint in the Army from 1951 to 1953. He is survived by his wife Janet Parks LaMarche, sons Dan III and Parks.



## Robert P. SALCHLI, SMA '41

Robert Paul Salchli, 84, died on January 2, 2008 in Carlisle, PA. Robert was a veteran of WWII having served with the US Army in the Pacific Theatre during the occupation of Saipan and was awarded the Bronze Star. He was a 1947 graduate of Gannon University. He was employed for 43 years by the Erie Dry Goods Company-Boston Store and the Joseph Horne Co. He was preceded in death by his wife, Jean Weber and son Robert Carl. He is survived by two daughters; Jean Faber and Jan Gallagher and their families.

## David Jay SCHULTZ, SMA '41

David passed away on February 4, 2009 in Pittsburgh, PA. "He always looked back at his days at SMA as the most memorable time of his life." (Reported by nephew, John Levine).

## Richard WIGTON, III, SMA '54

Richard passed away on January 22, 2008 in Fairfield, CA

### Additional Taps (prior to 2008-2009):

**Frank E. BUSCHOR, SMA '43**, passed away on June 1, 2005

**Paul J. CAREY, SMA '40**, passed away on September 25, 2007

**Patrick T. COUNTS, SMA '59**, passed away on December 30, 2002 (per brother, Tim)

**William H. DENZER, SMA '43**, passed away on July 26, 2007

**Andrew N. ENNIS, SMA '61**, passed away on June 24, 2004

**Arthur E. FRITSCH, SMA '36**, passed away on October 8, 2007

**Joseph J. GRIFFIN, III, SMA '53**, passed away on October 2, 2006

**Charles E. HUGHES, SMA '36**, passed away on June 21, 2006

**George Jester MERRITT, Jr., SMA '59**, died on March 30, 2001 (SSDI).

**Ferdinand MEYER, IV, SMA '53**, passed away on March 22, 2005

**Bill Joe NOLES, SMA '59**, passed away June 28, 2001 (per son, James)

**James O'BRIEN, SMA '62**, passed away on December 19, 1999 (per wife, Betty)

**Albert J. OPPERMAN, SMA '29**, passed away in 2001

**John B. SANFORD, Jr., SMA '33**, passed away on July 15, 2005

**George SCHWAB, III, SMA '62**, passed away December 1999

**John Curtis SINCLEAR, III, SMA '58**, passed away (per daughter, Mary Regan)

**John Curtis SINCLEAR, Jr., SMA '26**, passed away (per granddaughter, Mary Regan)

**Charles Richard WILLS, SMA '59**, died in May 1976 (SSDI)

**Holman R. WILSON, SMA '21**, passed away on May 10, 1998

## Old Boys Never Die Jim Lowe, SMA '58

At the end of his farewell address to Congress in 1951, Gen. Douglas MacArthur cited the words of an old barracks ballad:

“Old soldiers never die; they just fade away.” And like the old soldier of that ballad, I now close my military career and just fade away, an old soldier who tried to do his duty as God gave him the light to see that duty. Goodbye.

*Duty* was one of the three words of Dave Litzenburg’s school motto, the others being *truth* and *honor*. That Dave adhered to this code throughout his life will certainly be attested to by his family and others who knew him.

News just came of Dave’s passing on Sept. 1 last year. At Staunton Military Academy, we were classmates, and both “old boys” – cadets who had been there longer than one year. (At our graduation, Dave had been at SMA since the seventh, I since the sixth grade.) I didn’t get to know Dave well, although we both came out of the Junior School, and in our freshman year on “The Hill”, I believe we roomed on the same floor in Kable Hall. I recall respecting Dave for what appeared to be his studiousness, but we had different circle of friends. We did work together on the committee that decorated the gymnasiums for dances, and we were both on the newspaper staff. But Dave, I believe, was the epitome of a “model cadet”, while I retained a libertarian streak throughout my years at SMA. I recall him, though, as someone always easy to get along with.



As this is written, the morning after getting news of Dave’s passing, we’re in the midst of a winter rain in Texas, and that brings me back to General MacArthur. He breathed his last on April 5, 1964. I was working in New York at the time, and after work on a day complete with April showers, I joined a long line of people outside a small funeral chapel in Manhattan to file past his casket. In the steadily-moving line, I was able to pause only briefly alongside the sleeping genius. I stood at attention, perhaps bowed my head, and continued out the door. The weeping weather, I thought, was singularly appropriate.

Today, the skies are crying again, not this time for a general, but for a cadet who was true to his alma mater to the end. According to the alumni newsletter, of which he was editor, Dave completed work on the June 2008 issue just weeks before his departure.

As boys at school, I doubt that the end of life was something any of us contemplated. It is interesting, though, how in the midst of later life, we contemplate the importance of those schooldays, and of the men who nurture their memory and foster the continued camaraderie of alumni. C. David Litzenburg was among such, of whom may it ever be true that, in the fond memory of those who knew them and others who know of them,  
Old Boys never die.

# CADET STORE



The Cadet Store is located in the SMA-VWIL Museum in the former SMA Supply Room. The form at right should be completed and mailed, with your check enclosed, to:

SMA Alumni Association  
P. O. Box 958, Woodrum Station  
Staunton, Virginia 24401-0958

You can also contact the store by e-mail at [www.sma-alumni.org](http://www.sma-alumni.org) or call (540) 885-1309 for information, leave a message, and your call will be returned as soon as possible.

Currently, credit card orders cannot be accepted by the Cadet Store. Your order will be shipped when payment is received.



This is a much reduced image of the SMA flag that is available in SMA blue and gold, and also available as a four-inch by six inch mini-flag on a ball-tipped post and base mount — perfect for a table or the mantle over your fireplace. The small flags are \$10.00.

## History revisted -

Below is an ad that ran in a 1959 Kablegram.



QUAN.	ITEM	EACH	TOTAL
_____	Baseball Cap .....	\$10.00	\$ _____
	Navy blue with gold "Staunton Military Academy"		
_____	SMA-VWIL Video .....	\$50.00	\$ _____
_____	T-Shirt with shield .....	\$15.00	\$ _____
_____	Sizes M to XXL .....	\$15.00	\$ _____
	Sweatshirt (blue with gold hat shield)		\$ _____
_____	M to XXL .....	\$25.00	\$ _____
_____	XXXL .....	\$30.00	\$ _____
	Sweatshirt, grey (embroidered with "Staunton Military Academy" and crossed rifles.		\$ _____
_____	M to XXL .....	\$25.00	\$ _____
_____	XXXL .....	\$30.00	\$ _____
	Golf Shirts, navy with embroidered "Staunton Military Academy" and crossed rifles		\$ _____
_____	M to XXL .....	\$25.00	\$ _____
_____	XXXL .....	\$30.00	\$ _____
	Golf Shirts, blue with maze trim on collar and sleeve "Staunton Military Academy" in gold		\$ _____
_____	M to XXL .....	\$25.00	\$ _____
_____	Old Boys Buckle (silver) .....	\$20.00	\$ _____
_____	Officer/NCO Belt Buckle .....	\$25.00	\$ _____
_____	Leather Garrison Belt .....	\$25.00	\$ _____
	(may be cut to sizes up to 50 inches)		\$ _____
_____	Black Leather Belt .....	\$15.00	\$ _____
	Sizes 28 and 32 only		
_____	Car Window Decal .....	\$ 3.50	\$ _____
	"SMA Alumni"		
_____	Postcards .....	\$ 2.00	\$ _____
_____	SMA Shoulder Patches .....	\$ 2.00	\$ _____
_____	Rank Insignia .....	\$ 1.00	\$ _____
	S/Sgt. and PFC available		
_____	Blue Book (reprint) .....	\$10.00	\$ _____
	Coffee Cup		
_____	South Barracks in blue .....	\$ 5.00	\$ _____
_____	Blue with gold shield .....	\$ 5.00	\$ _____
_____	Artist Sketch .....	\$ 5.00	\$ _____
	(Asphalt with South and North Barracks, Mess Hall)		\$ _____
_____	Artist Sketch (all buildings) .....	\$ 5.00	\$ _____
	Two available (circle your choices): [1] a 17" x 7 1/4" sketch of or [2] a 14" x 9" sketch.		\$ _____
_____	License Plate Holders .....	\$10.00	\$ _____
	Black metal with "Staunton Military Academy" in white lettering.		\$ _____
_____	License Plate Sign .....	\$10.00	\$ _____
	White metal with "SMA ALUMNI" in blue		\$ _____

Charges listed below are the the United States in-country delivery only. Shipments to Hawaii, Bahamas, and other distant destinations are subject to shipper's charges.

Shipping charges must be added:

\$ 0.00 to \$30.00 .....	\$ 8.75	\$ _____
\$31.00 to \$70.00 .....	\$ 10.95	\$ _____
\$71.00 and above .....	\$ 11.95	\$ _____
	Total:	\$ _____

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Telephone: ( \_\_\_\_\_ ) \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

# Staunton Military Academy Alumni Association

P. O. Box 958, Woodrum Station, Staunton, Virginia 24402-0958

Telephone: (540) 885-1309 • Fax: (540) 885-1366

E-mail: SMAOffice@sma-alumni.org • Website: <http://www.sma-alumni.org>

## SMA ALUMNI ASSOCIATION, INC. MEMBERSHIP DUES

Amount enclosed: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

- Dues (\$50.00) will be credited for fiscal year September 1, 2008 - August 31, 2009).
- Dues are not tax deductible. Please make checks payable to: SMA Alumni Association.

## SMA FOUNDATION, INC.

Amount enclosed: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

- Contributions are tax deductible. Please make checks payable to SMA Foundation, Inc.
- Donations are used to fund the SMA-VWIL Museum, scholarships and related expenses.

## SMA-VWIL INITIATIVE

Amount enclosed: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

- Contributions are tax deductible. Please make checks payable to SMA Foundation, Inc.
- Donations are given to VWIL for discretionary utilization.

## SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Amount enclosed: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

- Contributions are tax deductible. Please make checks payable to SMA Foundation, Inc.
- Donations are used to fund the annual SMA Alumni Association Leadership Scholarship.

## SPECIAL DONATION

Amount enclosed: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

- Contributions are tax deductible. Please make checks payable to SMA Foundation, Inc.
- Donations are used as specified by the donor, such as Howie Rifles, VWIL Band, etc.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Class: \_\_\_\_\_

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City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: Home: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_



Complete this form, include your check(s) and mail to SMAAA. Your support and involvement are critical to the continued success of the association and the activities and programs that have been developed and implemented in the memory of Staunton Military Academy, the Corps of Cadets and staff.



**SMA Alumni Association**

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