

## Cooper P. Bright, SMA '27: career Navy officer

Cooper Buck Bright, SMA '27, a retired U.S. Navy officer, died May 1, 2007 at the Charlotte Hall Veterans Home in Charlotte Hall, Maryland. He was 98.

Mr. Bright was born in Wildwood, NJ on January 31, 1909, one of six siblings including a twin brother, Ward. He was the son of a prominent New Jersey family. His father, William H. Bright, was Cape May County State Senator in the 1920s and served as president of the Upper House. His mother, Priscilla E Buck Bright, ran the family real estate business and was a women's suffragette activist.

Mr. Bright with his brother, Ward, attended Staunton Military Academy in Staunton, Virginia, beginning in 1921. They graduated in 1927 as certified Second Lieutenants in the U.S. Army Infantry Reserve. Cooper graduated with a B.A. from Rutgers University in 1931. During the depression, he lived in Wildwood and Wildwood Crest, working in the family real estate business, built and operated a yacht marina, served as a sales manager for Curtis Publishing Company, and operated a fishing party boat during the summers. His penchant for seeking creative solutions to problems resulted in his invention and patenting of an internal combustion, free piston engine, which was later sold to the American Machine and Foundry Corporation.

Mr. Bright joined the Navy immediately after the attack on Pearl Harbor. Four of his siblings also enlisted in the armed forces at that time. Mr. Bright spent the war years aboard the USS Yorktown (CV10), known as the "Fighting Lady". He was awarded 11 battle stars and the Bronze Star during that time. His leadership role in air operations aboard the Yorktown has been immortalized in a film entitled "The Fighting Lady". Also three books were written about his role - *Fighting Lady* and *On the Warpath in the Pacific*, both by Clark G. Reynolds; and *Carrier War* by Joseph Bryan. Mr. Bright's achievements are part of the history told to visitors to the USS Yorktown, which is now part of the floating museum at Patriots Point

near Charleston, South Carolina.

Mr. Bright made the Navy his career after the war and worked at the Office of Naval research and its predecessor, the Office of Special Devices. He was involved in the development of low-frequency air search radar and directed its deployment on Navy blimps.

He also served as executive officer aboard the USS Winston and became part of a United Nations peacekeeping mission to the Middle East headed by Dr. Ralph Bunche. In 1950, he became the last free balloon officer pilot to be trained by the Navy at Lakehurst, NJ, qualifying him to wear the half wing and be recognized as an aviator.

Other career highlights include being commanding officer of the USS White Marsh (LSD8), an amphibious landing ship dock, and commanding the USS Wrangell (AE12), an ammunition ship operating out of Earle, NJ. He served the Joint Chiefs of Staff and with the Office of the Chief of Naval Operations, where he instituted operations research techniques in war gaming. He was a charter member of the Operations Research Society of America.

His favorite assignment was in 1961, when he served as naval aide to President Harry S. Truman during the Kennedy inauguration. Another of his naval career highpoints was being sworn in as a captain by his sister, Captain Joy Bright Hancock Ofstie. She was a founding member and later director of the WAVES. Mr. Bright is also recognized as an aviation innovator by the Ohio Aviation Museum in Columbus, as one of the inventors of the US Navy inflatable airplane and for using Navy blimps to carry the large low-frequency antennae for anti-submarine warfare.

After his retirement from the Navy in 1963, he again attended Rutgers University on the GI Bill and studied for his Ph.D. in Political Science. He subsequently served as head of the Center for Transportation Studies at Rutgers' Eagleton Institute of Practical Politics until his final retirement to his farm, "Drop Anchor", on Maryland's Eastern Shore in Dorchester County near Cambridge.

There he spent his days with his wife Mary Williams Bright, restoring an old farmhouse and enjoying life on the Chesapeake Bay. He also served on the County Soil Conservation District Committee and was president of the Dorchester Democratic Club.

He is survived by a son, Richard D. Bright and daughter-in-law Sally S. Bright of Cambridge, Maryland; and a granddaughter, April B. Baer and great-grandson Cooper H. Baer of Ellicott City, Maryland. He is also survived by three nieces, Joy Bright Mosley, Priscilla Bright Varecha, and Ann Allen Meyenburg; and one nephew, Noble Bright, Jr. In addition to his wife, he is preceded in death by two brothers, Ward and Noble; and three sisters, Honor Bright Allen, Eloise Bright, and Joy Bright Hancock Ofstie.

*This article was developed from an obituary provided by Richard Bright, son of Cooper Bright. The article was edited by Mr. Burdette Holmes, SMA '62, associate editor of The Kablegram.*

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### JOHN R. DAVIS, SMA '39

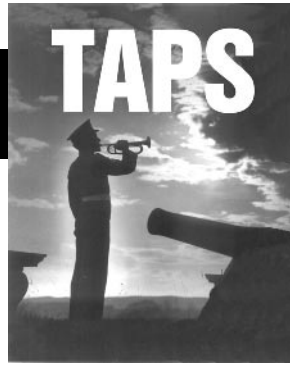
John R. Davis, born February 14, 1918 in Richwood, West Virginia, Author, Lecturer, Adjunct Professor, Founder and President of John R. Davis and Associates (a Chicago security firm), died Friday, December 29, 2006 in Fort Lauderdale, Florida. He is survived by his wife, Helen Lee Davis.

They met while at the University of Alabama and were married in 1947. He leaves behind two sons and two daughters, Susan Smith, Lt. Colonel Helen Crouch, J.R. Davis, and Thomas Ruff Davis, and seven grandchildren. He was preceded in death by daughter, Jennifer Lee Davis.

Davis was considered an authority in Forensic Science. He became well known in his field and published his first book in 1957 on Industrial Plant Protection. His insight into forensics was shared with many lectures to law enforcement around the world and through a series of articles for various police publications. He began his career as a pilot in the U.S. Army Air Force during WWII, but a plane crash

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# TAPS



## JOHN R. DAVIS, SMA '39

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cut short his career expectations, and gave birth to his new profession as Chief Investigator with American Express. He was a graduate of Michigan State University, and after receiving his Master's Degree from Loyola University Chicago, he founded his own security firm in 1951. His love for boating will always be remembered by his wife and children as the best times of their lives. His perpetual desire to be at sea lured him back to Ft. Lauderdale, Florida, where he spent his winters enjoying his Chris Craft Yacht named "Polly Graf". Davis' professional memberships included: The American Academy of Forensic Science (Fellow/Retired); American Polygraph Association (Charter Member/Retired); and Academy for Scientific Interrogation.

*Editor's note: This obituary is a reprint from the Chicago Tribune.*

## LOVIC STEPHENSON III

Lovic Stephenson III, died on January 13, 2007. Year of graduation and other details were not available.

## ROBERT I. OSROWITZ, SMA '49

Robert I. Osrowitz, SMA '49, died in 1998. Other details were not available.

## JOSEPH R. WALLACE, SMA '63

Joseph R. Wallace, SMA '63, passed away December 21, 2005 at the Ira Davenport Hospital. He was born June 26, 1943 in Daytona Beach, Florida, the son of Theodore and Thelma (Sutherland) Veliskn and grew up in West Palm Beach, Florida.

Mr. Wallace was very proud of attending Staunton Military Academy, where he was the class president in 1963. He attended Richmond University and eventually graduated from SUNY II. He lived in Rochester for several years and in Vine Valley, N.Y., eventually settling in Bath.

Joe and Deborah Gulvin entered into marriage October 11, 1980 at the Phelps United Church. Together they have raised four children, Joseph II, Elizabeth, Marianne, and Patricia. The recently celebrated their 25th anniversary. The majority of Mr. Wallace's employment career was spent as an auto body instructor. He taught for a year or so at the Wayne Finger Lakes BOCES in Flint, N.Y., however, for almost 25 years, he was an instructor at the Steuben Allegany BOCES

instructor at the Steuben Allegany BOCES Coopers Education Center. He retired from there last year. Teaching was his passion, as evidenced by his touching the lives of hundreds of students in Steuben County.

Mr. Wallace enjoyed softball, gardening, cooking, fishing, and sail boating. He also loved dogs and making special road trips to Maryland to eat crabs. He was a member of the Centenary United Methodist Church. He will be missed by all his family, friends, and former students.

He was predeceased by his parents, Theodore and Thelma Velisk. He is survived by his wife of over 25 years, Deborah Wallace of Bath; his son, Joseph Wallace II and his wife Tracy of Caledonia; his daughters, Elizabeth Wallace of Nashville, Tennessee and Marianne and Patricia Wallace, both living at home in Bath; two grandchildren, Joseph R. Wallace III, and Emily P. Wallace, both living at home in Caledonia; mother-in-law and father-in-law, Jane and Nelson Gulvin of Phelps; in-laws, Patricia (John) Hart of Newark, N.Y., Kenneth (Margaret) Gulvin of Canandaigua, Cherly (Timothy) Ten Eyck of Waterloo; several nieces and nephews; many friends; and his dog, Annie.

*Editor's note: This obituary was provided by Pastor Tom Cacy, SMA '63*

## HOWARD A. COYER, SMA '63

Howard A. Coyer Jr., know at SMA as "Howie" or "Doc", lost a long battle with cancer October 10, 2004, his daughter, Michelle, reports.

After graduating from SMA in January 1959, Mr. Coyer went to college for a short time, then left and entered the construction business around Lewisberry, Pennsylvania, where he lived with his wife, son, daughter, and two step-sons.

In 1993 or 1995 – Michelle isn't sure which year —, Mr. Coyer was knocked off a truck bed by a crane and "every bone in his foot was crushed. He really couldn't work much after that", Michelle recalls.

The family continues to receive the *Kablegram* and appreciates it, Michelle

explained. Her father spoke fondly of Staunton.

The broken foot reminded this writer of the time in the fall of 1958, when Howie broke his ankle. The knee to toe cast was eventually equipped with a walking heel, and Mr. Wallace returned to drilling the first platoon of Charlie Company. He hurried back to formations, he said, because he didn't much care for the way the company's executive officer was handling the platoon in this absence.

*Editor's note: This obituary was submitted by John R. Bell II, Cadet First Lieutenant, Executive Officer, Charlie Company and Mr. Wallace's roommate from September, 1958 until graduation in January, 1959.*

## DAVID LEWIS THOMPSON, SMA '64

David Lewis Thompson, SMA '64 died August 30, 2007 of cancer.

*Editor's note: David's daughter, Whitney Herbert notified us of David's passing and asks for stories about her father from anyone who knew him at SMA. It would be a great comfort to Whitney and her sisters, for they "miss him immensely". Send the stories to the Kablegram, and we will forward them to Whitney.*

## COL. ROBERT T. RICHMOND, JR.

Col. Robert Tyler Richmond Jr., U.S. Army, retired, 84, of Staunton died Sunday, March 4, 2007, at Stuarts Draft Christian Home. He was born Nov. 24, 1922, in Irvine, Ky., a son of the late Robert Tyler Richmond Sr. and Hazel (Crawford) Richmond.

A graduate of Kentucky Military Institute, Lyndon, Ky., he attended Hampden-Sydney College and graduated from the United States Military Academy at West Point, New York. He later earned a master's degree from the College of William and Mary. While at West Point, he was a member of the 1945 National Championship football team.

His military career, which spanned more than 26 years, provided him with active duty in the 11th Airborne Division as well as the 101st Airborne Division. He also held teaching positions at the Airborne School at Fort Benning, Ga., at the United States Military Academy for

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# CADET STORE



The Cadet Store is located in the SMA-VWIL Museum in the former SMA Supply Room. Some of the items available are pictured here and on the previous page. The form should be completed and mailed, with your check enclosed, to the address shown below. You can also contact the store by e-mail as shown below, or call (540) 885-1309 for information, leave a message, and your call will be returned. We cannot accept credit card orders. If your order is e-mailed or faxed to the Cadet Store, it will be held pending receipt of your payment and then promptly shipped to you by the most efficient, economical method.

## TAPS

### COL. ROBERT T. RICHMOND Former PMS&T at SMA

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three years and he twice served as professor of military science at Staunton Military Academy. He served a year in Vietnam and retired from active military service in 1971 as a colonel, having earned numerous medals and distinctions.

Upon the closing of SMA, he assumed a position as a teacher of mathematics with the Staunton city school system until his retirement. A member of First Presbyterian Church, Staunton, he served on the session.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by a daughter, Lynn McLin Richmond, and his sister, Cornelia Crawford (Richmond) Boston. Survivors include his daughter, Blair (Richmond) Montgomery and her husband, Michael, of Franklin, Tenn., his son, Robert Tyler Richmond III and his wife, Betty, of Staunton, and their mother, Betty (Wright) Richmond of Staunton.

He is also survived by three grandchildren, Kathleen Scarborough of Virginia Beach, Robert Tyler Richmond IV of Charlottesville and Lissie (Richmond) Lockard of Richmond; and two great-grandchildren, Addie and Jake Scarborough of Virginia Beach.

QUAN.	ITEM	EACH	TOTAL
_____	Baseball Cap .....	\$10.00	\$ _____
	Navy blue with gold "Staunton Military Academy"		
_____	Baseball Cap .....	\$10.00	\$ _____
	Blue with green bill with "SMA-VWIL Museum"		
_____	SMA-VWIL Video .....	\$50.00	\$ _____
_____	T-Shirt with shield .....		\$ _____
	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 7¼" 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 lettering		

Shipping charges must be added:

\$ 0.00 to \$30.00 .....	\$ 5.95	\$ _____
\$31.00 to \$70.00 .....	\$ 6.75	\$ _____
\$71.00 and above .....	\$ 7.95	\$ _____

Total: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

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, 2007 - August 31, 2008).
- 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.

## KABLE HALL ALCOVE PROJECT

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

- Contributions are tax deductible. Please make checks payable to SMA Foundation, Inc.
- Donations will pay for the upgrading of the alcove in Kable Hall. See story on page 12.

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

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

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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