



The Kablegram



Stanton Military Academy Alumni Newsletter

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Fourth Quarter — December 2011

The True History of SMA

“Greg Robertson, SMA '70”

Chapter 16 – The Mystery of the Incorrect History



Captain W.H. Kable circa 1900
in his Confederate Uniform

For many years, the history of The Stanton Military Academy was written as:

“Stanton Military Academy was founded in September 1860, by William Hartman Kable (1837-1912) at Charlestown, Jefferson County, Virginia (now West Virginia). At the time, the school was known as the Charlestown Male Academy. Its founder was William Hartman Kable, a graduate of the University of Virginia. After the war, Captain Kable re-established his school at its original location, and conducted it most successfully at that location. All through this period of its history the school was known to the townspeople as The Kable School, and its Cadets were known as the ‘Kable boys’ Captain Kable’s longing for the South became too strong and in 1883, he moved the school to Stanton, Virginia and renamed it Stanton Male Academy....”

Now that the true history of the beginning of the Academy has been researched and published, the natural question is “How did the history stay wrong for so many years?” The 1906 yearbook printed an article about Capt. Kable that accurately told the story. Capt. Kable was alive at that time and was undoubtedly interviewed for the article.

The first occurrence of the incorrect history story appeared in a Kablegram (the cadet newspaper) article in 1922. Why this article was written and published is a mystery lost to the ages. Thomas H. Russell was President of the Academy at that time. He had worked directly with Capt. Kable, and was married to one of Capt. Kable’s daughters. It is inconceivable that he would have not known the true story. Also, this researcher discovered that at least 2 Master Thesis’s, multiple newspaper articles, and several articles for Historical Societies were written through the years on the subject of the history of SMA, each supporting and referencing the incorrect history story.

During the late 1800’s and early 1900’s, the advertisements for the Academy would give a length of time the school had been in operation. Those lengths of time always pointed to 1860. This year coincides with the year that Capt. Kable began his first professional instructing position as the assistant instructor at the Green Plain Academy in Southampton County, VA. Since Capt. Kable was an assistant instructor of the Green Plain Academy and not its founder, this date could not be considered the founding of the Academy. Additionally, Capt. Kable, in a 1907 University of Virginia Alumni questionnaire, pointed to 1855 as the year that he started as an instructor.

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Stanton Military Academy
Alumni Association

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REFLECTIONS FROM THE HILL



Hello again fellow Alumni,

I can't believe we are coming into winter already. I was back in Staunton on Sept. 9th to meet with Gen Bissell and my class mate and past president, Tom Phillips. We couldn't have had a better weather day on Friday. I don't think any of us really appreciated how beautiful the Staunton area was when we went to school there.

It was great to be back on the hill. Gen Bissell, Tom, and I got together to talk about helping each other (VWIL and SMA), find ways to get more donations to our cause, and also discuss the reunion in March of next spring.

We had the pleasure of meeting with Dr. Fox during the morning meeting and David Atchley from MBC who is the VP of Institutional Advancement. They are very thankful for the small things we do to help the VWIL program and also had some very constructive ideas on making the Legacy Fund drive.

We also had the pleasure of meeting some of the VWIL alumni in the afternoon and discussed our joint alumni weekend agendas. I am looking forward to the joint reunion and I believe all of you will agree with me that having the VWIL alumni along with all of our brother alumni will be a great combination. Please make your reservations soon at the Stonewall or wherever you want to stay, because I think they will be filling up quickly. Call all of your class mates and make sure they get off there butts and come also.

I wanted to tell you all to read the letter in this Kablegram from Richard Digregorio and family. Their family had six brothers that went to school at SMA. They graduated from 1941 to 1950. I was truly touched by this letter and I sent a personal note back with our thank you letter to their family. Unfortunately I was a little to late to get the note back to Richard, he passed away on Sept 1st . I was floored to hear this, and I send out from all of the alumni to the Digregorio family our deepest sympathy. He and his brothers represent some of SMA's finest.

Since I have not yet said anything about how well we are doing in our Legacy fund drive, I will now. We have collected up to the beginning of September in excess of \$40,000 and are moving forward slowly but with your help we will reach our goal of \$500,000. I think it is time for all of us to look into our souls and ask how can I help. Ask what did SMA mean to me. I know there are a lot of us that can attribute our successes right back to the hill and what we learned there. Please try to help us meet our goal.

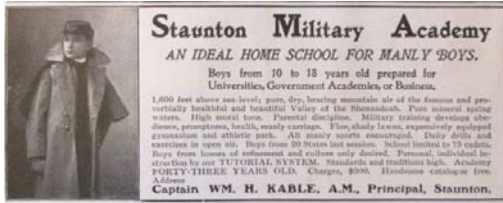
Well gentlemen I look forward to our next reunion, and I hope to see many of you in the spring.

Truth Duty Honor,

Bill Bissett 74

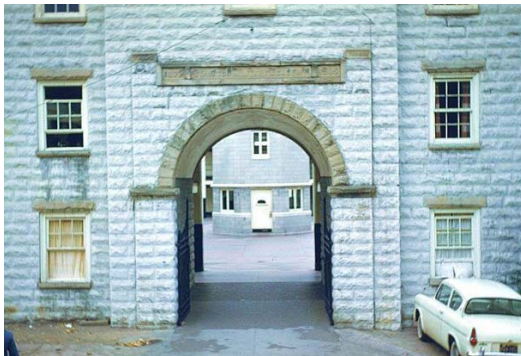
TRUE HISTORY OF SMA

Continued from page 1



Magazine Advertisement from 1903 stating SMA was 43 years old at that time.

Apparently Captain Kable pointed to the year of 1872, the year that he began as the Principal of the Charlestown Academy, as to what he considered the start of his school. This was evidenced by when one looked above the Sally Port going into South Barracks, the year to the left of the name on the marker “Staunton Military Academy” was 1872. However, from September 1872 until May 1884, Capt. Kable was an employee of the Charlestown Academy and therefore was working at that school rather than operating his own school. So the year of 1872, while it may have signified the start of Capt. Kable’s control of an established educational institution, can not be considered the founding year of SMA.



Sally Port entrance to South Barracks

One theory that has been put forth is that the story was generated to place the start of the Academy before the War Between the States. In the early 20th century many people considered that a high level of honor and gentlemanliness existed in the South during the period before the War Between the States. Perhaps the school directors, in their advertising, wished to capitalize on this belief. Another theory put forth is that the closest competitor to SMA, The Augusta Military Academy at Fort Defiance VA, advertised that AMA was founded in 1865. Therefore, by putting the founding of SMA at 1860, the school was older than AMA and still allowed for Capt. Kable to have served in the Confederate Army.

Though research will continue to try to uncover the answer to the “Mystery of the Incorrect History”, the true answer may be lost to the ages.

BRIEFLY...

SMA/VWIL Reunion Locations.

After reading the reunion schedule, you may have already noticed that the location of some of the events has been changed from years past. For example, we are using the Mess Hall more for meetings, instead of the hotel. This has been done so alumni will already be “on campus” when the “major” happenings take place such as the memorial wall ceremony, the parade, etc.

SMA Cadet Store.

The Cadet Store is located in the SMA-VWIL Museum in the former SMA Supply Room. You can also contact the store by e-mail at: SMAOffice@sma-alumni.org or call (540) 885-1309 for information, leave a message, and your call will be returned as soon as possible. You can also visit the SMA Alumni Association web site and select the Cadet Store tab for a price list of items and some pictures. Items can be purchased by check or credit card. See the website for details (www.sma-alumni.org).

Reunion Registration Form.

The SMA/VWIL Registration Form is available for download on the SMA Alumni Association website (www.sma-alumni.org). Please print a copy, fill it out, and send it to Arlene Nicely at SMA Alumni Association, PO Box 958, Staunton, VA 24402.

BRIEFLY...

BRIEFLY ..Continued from page 3

Yearbooks are ONLINE!

Our webmaster, Mark Orr, has informed the Kablegram that all of the SMA yearbooks that Greg Robertson has scanned have been uploaded to the SMA web site at: <http://www.sma-alumni.org/links.htm>. The years covered are 1906 through 1975. Our thanks go out to Greg Robertson for scanning all those pages and to Mark Orr for putting them online for all of us to enjoy. Nice work!

Legacy Fund Founding Fathers

The SMA Legacy Fund is off to a good start thanks to the donations from the following “Old Boys” and their families. Thank you!

- ❑ William K. Bissett '74
- ❑ Thomas A. Davis '62
- ❑ The Fileno DiGregorio Foundation (Richard DiGregorio '45, Albert DiGregorio '41, William DiGregorio '41, Raymond DiGregorio '43, Leonard DiGregorio '47, and Ronald DiGregorio '50)
- ❑ John Michael Garner '53
- ❑ Warren Hutton '75
- ❑ Edmund Leigh '74
- ❑ Harold “Herk” '49 and Patricia Wolfe

ARTICLES

Ed Beard, SMA '60, Former NFL linebacker, attacked by teens in Chesapeake

Editors Note: this article was written by Marjon Rostami and originally published on HamptonRoads.com.



Cadet Beard in 1960

Ed Beard rides around South Norfolk and Portlock almost daily, his tiny Maltese poodle, Duke, strapped in the front basket. Last Sunday was no different - except that Beard doesn't remember how this ride ended.

Around 5 p.m., Beard was riding past Portlock Elementary School when a fight on the baseball field caught his eye.

“There must have been 15 or 20 kids all beating up on one guy,” he said. “They got him on the ground, fighting like heck, the real thing. “One of them must have spotted me.”

The onetime linebacker for the San Francisco 49ers thought he could talk down the teens as they approached him. The Chesapeake native has been counseling troubled youths for decades. This, he thought, was something he could handle.

“Have you guys ever been at the Oscar Smith football stadium? It's named Beard-DeLong-Easley,” he remembers telling the group, whose members by that time had formed a circle around him. Beard was straddling his bike, Duke in the basket, as he talked to the teens.

Instead of responding, they turned on him. When Beard awoke, two passers-by helped him wipe the blood off the back of his head. His bike lay on top of him, Duke still in the basket.

Recalling the teens Thursday as he recovered from mostly minor injuries, Beard said, “I stupidly thought I could talk to them. I thought I could make sense to them, get them to resolve a problem, do some good.”

During his years in the NFL, Beard would return to South Norfolk during the off-season and talk to schools, youth groups and sports teams about staying out of trouble and doing good. Now, at 71, he's still involved in youth development programs. He will continue that work, he said, and even include Sunday's events in his talks.



Ed Beard in 2011

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ARTICLES

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“That was probably the first time I realized times have changed,” he said. “It’s not the physical hurt - it’s more disappointment.”

Beard suffered a concussion, something he laughed off as a taste of the old days on the football field, along with cuts and bruises, a gash on the back of his head, and a black eye. “I haven’t had a black eye since I was probably 12 years old,” Beard said.

Beard, a Virginia Sports Hall of Famer and No. 35 on The Virginian-Pilot’s list of all-time greatest athletes in South Hampton Roads, said he hopes something good can come out of his experience. Specifically, more neighborhood patrols, more youth outreach, and prevention of bullying and gangs.

“Those guys beating up on me, they don’t know who Ed Beard is,” he said. “I hope if one of those guys heard, ‘Hey, that was Ed Beard, former NFL football player, that y’all were beating on,’ I would hope that, at least, would make them lay off (of others) a little bit.”

Beard’s wife, Bobbie, said she’s “kind of paranoid” now about leaving her house. “You don’t know if they’re lurking,” she said, adding that she didn’t want Beard to go biking the next day. “But he did.”

Chesapeake police are investigating the attack, said spokeswoman Kelly O’Sullivan. No suspects have been identified, but the community is working with investigators, she said.

“I’m still in good shape. I took beatings on the football field; I can handle it,” Beard said. “But what if this had happened to somebody a little older, or someone who wasn’t in good shape? They might not have survived.”

Editor’s Note. Update November 29, 2011. Sarah Hutchins of The Virginian-Pilot reported that “Police have arrested four juveniles they say were involving in beating former NFL linebacker and South Norfolk resident Ed Beard late last month. The four range in ages from 15 to 17 and each has been charged with malicious wounding and malicious assault by mob, said police spokeswoman Kelly O’Sullivan. They are being held in the Chesapeake Juvenile Services center.”

Staunton man’s death led to book to inspire thousands of soldiers



Cadet Tullidge in 1941

As part of the Allied invasion of Nazi-occupied Europe, U.S. paratroopers dropped in behind enemy lines the night of June 5, 1944, to soften up the enemy and to secure strategic targets. The following morning, 160,000 American and British infantry swarmed onto 50 miles of French beaches and clawed for a foothold against withering German fire.

One of the young men who parachuted into France the night of June 5 was 20-year-old Sgt. George B. Tullidge III of Staunton. **A 1941 graduate of Staunton Military Academy** and the scion of two distinguished local families, Tullidge had been in the army for 18 months and was a member of the 507th Parachute Infantry Regiment, 82nd Airborne Division.

At St. Mere Eglise in the chaotic daylight hours of June 6, Tullidge and his unit came under heavy fire at a bridge outside the village. Despite a severe hip wound, Tullidge held the bridge while his men got across. He was evacuated and sent to England for medical treatment, but did not survive. Tullidge died on June 8. He was awarded the Bronze Star for bravery and the Purple Heart.

When word got back to Staunton, the mourning was deep and widespread. Tullidge —the son of local businessman George Tullidge and his wife, the former Anne Archer Hogshead — had been an enormously popular young man. Fun-loving and athletic, he held a number of swimming records at SMA and was humorously described by his classmates in “The Shrapnel” thusly:

“We don’t mean, however, that George is superhuman. Oh, no —he’s far from it. He caught the measles and got MBC fever along with the rest of us this past year. As a matter of fact, he beat our time there as well as in the pool. And we’re pretty certain it was his good looks and not his car that did it.”

The Staunton Leader editors who ran a front page story about his death didn’t know it at the time, but among Tullidge’s effects when he died was a pocket-sized notebook filled with quotes, inspirational thoughts, poems and Bible verses collected for him by his mother. Anne Tullidge had sent the book to him earlier in 1944.

“We felt that in the lonely, anxious and trying experiences he was passing through, a few moments reading of these might give him hope and strength,” she later noted.

Many times, young Tullidge drew comfort from the notebook, and even mentioned it in a May 10, 1944, letter to his younger brother, Tom. “Another thing that has helped me a lot is my firm belief in the Lord,” Tullidge wrote. “Often times when I feel depressed and blue, it does me an awful lot of good to read my Bible and a little book that mother sent me.”

ARTICLES...Continued on page 6

ARTICLES

Although consumed with grief, Anne Archer Tullidge decided to do what she could to help other young servicemen survive the most trying days of their lives. She took the “little book” she had compiled for her son and had it published under the title, “A Paratrooper’s Faith.” She then distributed thousands of copies of it, free, to thousands of American paratroopers.

“Our desire and prayer is that other boys who read it may receive an inspiration and help from these thoughts of great minds and souls of the past and present,” wrote Mrs. Tullidge, who dedicated the booklet to her son and to “the other heroes who willingly and gladly gave and are giving their lives to rid the world of tyranny and oppression.”

But the 28-page booklet, which fit neatly into the breast pocket of a uniform, did not end its service at the conclusion of World War II. Mrs. Tullidge continued to print and distribute it long after the war—as many as 300,000 copies, many of them mailed at her own expense.

So popular was the booklet and so heartfelt was her mission to inspire and encourage young men, that, on July 24, 1989, Secretary of the Army John O. Marsh Jr. presented her with the Decoration for Distinguished Civilian Service at the Pentagon. On the same day, the men of the 82nd Airborne presented her with the Iron Mike Award, and dedicated a street at Fort Bragg, N.C., as Tullidge Way in honor of her son.

Mrs. Tullidge, who also volunteered with the Woodrow Wilson Rehabilitation Center and worked with many youth organizations, died March 29, 1995. She and her husband are buried in Thornrose Cemetery while their son, George, is at rest in England in Cambridge Cemetery.

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Some Thoughts...

By Robert Brack, SMA '72

In the twilight of my years I can still make out his shadow there as a noble form rustles past an open window and linen curtains billow in the gentle breeze. I close my eyes and my mind returns to the classrooms of my youth, “Oh Shenandoah, how I long to see you” once more. How I long to savor the sweet flavor of your whispered call and breath the succulent blossoms of your spring. But alas, all has been relegated to that lovely land of perfumed memories, or have they?

As my mind returns for the briefest of respites to the precious days of my prolonged adolescence, I can see his bearded image glaring down at me: beaconing “manly boys” to come to him for the last lessons of youth that would prepare them to put away their “childish things” for the final time. William H. Kable, son of the Western mountains, an educator first but, when his Country beamed, he who shelved his precious books for a season to become a proud, honorable soldier. One whose faithful horse was shot out from under him during the debacle of Gettysburg. This tall, staunch teacher whom Bobby himself called, “a good officer.” After Appomattox he returned home to resurrect the dreams of his youth by rebuilding a school from the cinders of dreams long since scattered on the winds of time. He dreamt of building a ship of hope from the ashes of those broken dreams.

If you close your eyes you too can just make out his form: moving strongly, confidently by that open window as twilight fades to dusk and a weary world lays down her hallowed head for a peaceful night’s rest. His stealthy shadow slithers among the trees and, if you close your eyes and listen with your heart, you can still make out his whisper: “Truth...Duty... Honor...” my old boys... ne’er forget! These ancient stones serve another purpose these days. They house another’s dreams but the marks of his legacy can not be chiseled quite so easily. His old boys have all become old men now. They went on from that place to become good fathers and sons; grand fathers and faithful friends; educators themselves and vessels that hold the contents of that sacred cup; Generals and colonels and congressmen; businessmen and builders; Counselors to Presidents; Keepers of the law and faith.

It has been said that the dream of William H. Kable expired one day long ago, but standing there on that hill looking long off in the distance I do not think so. As he himself learned so long ago, the dream can never die so long as one dreamer dares draw breath. So long as one of these stoops to still the quivering hand of a frightened child. So long as so many of his precious boys sleep beneath the fertile fields of the distant lands that they helped to set free. But when our time comes, and we breathe the precious vapors of that far away valley for the last time, as we cross that sacred river: There up from that City on that hill before us an old soldier will beacon, “Come, to me my faithful sons: You told the truth; you did your duty; you served your Country with honor and distinction.” My dream shall never die so long as one of you draws breath.

STAUNTON MILITARY ACADEMY AND VIRGINIA WOMEN'S INSTITUTE FOR LEADERSHIP 2012 REUNION SCHEDULE of EVENTS

Friday, March 30, 2012 (on former SMA campus)

- 9:30 - 11:30 am: SMAAA Board of Directors meeting (**Mess Hall**)
- 10:00 am - 5:00 pm: SMA/VWIL Museum Open
- 11:00 am - 3:30 pm: Registration (**Mess Hall**)
- 4:00 pm: Memorial Wall Ceremony (**outside of the SMA/VWIL Museum**)
- 5:00 pm: Honor Ceremony with Howie Rifles Performance (**Kable Hall Courtyard**)
- 6:00 - 8:00 pm: Reception and Dinner (**SMA Mess Hall**)
- 8:00 - 11:00 pm: VWIL Military Ball (**SJH**) (Open to all SMA alumni who wish to attend)
Cost: \$15.00/person (not included in SMA Reunion price) paid to VWIL
Dress: Formal, Military or Business

Saturday, March 31, 2012 (on former SMA campus & Stonewall Jackson Hotel)

- 9:00 am - 4:00 pm: SMA/VWIL Museum Open
- 9:15 - 9:45 am: Registration for those who **have not** registered (**SMA Mess Hall**)
- 10:00 - 11:30 am: Annual Alumni Membership Meeting (**SMA Mess Hall**)
- 10:00 - 11:30 am: Women's Group "Get Together" (**VWIL Room in SMA Mess Hall**)
Women's Group "Get Together" for all wives/guests of Alumni. This is a very informal get together during the time the alumni will be attending the annual meeting. VWIL Cadets will be present to answer questions and give updates on the accomplishments of the VWIL Program. Refreshments will be served.
- 12:00 pm: SMA/VWIL Parade
SMA Alumni will form-up on the asphalt at 11:45 pm to follow the VWIL Corp of Cadets onto Kable Field.
- 1:00 - 2:00 pm: VWIL/SMA Lunch (**Parade Field**)
- 2:00 - 5:30 pm: Free time for alumni and guests
Visit the museum, connect with former classmates, shop or tour the city.
- 5:00 - 6:00 pm: Registration for those who have not yet registered (**Lobby of SJH**)
- 6:00 - 7:00 pm: Banquet Reception (cash bar) (**Lobby of SJH**)
- 7:00 - 10:00 pm: Alumni Banquet.....Invited speaker: Virginia Lt. Gov. Bill Bolling (**SJH Banquet Room**)
- 10:00 pm: Nostalgia Time

Sunday, April 1, 2012

- 8:30 am - 12:00 pm: SMA/VWIL Museum Open

REUNION NEWS



Stonewall Jackson Hotel
Reunion Headquarters

Dates: March 30-31, 2012

Location: "The Hill," Staunton, Virginia

Our next reunion will be a joint SMA & VWIL Reunion with many coordinated events on The Hill.

There are several good reasons for coordinating our reunions. Some important events that are attended by both sets of alumni can be combined. Coordinating our reunions will allow the maximum number of VWIL cadets to participate in a combined SMA/VWIL alumni parade on Friday afternoon. By scheduling our reunions together, both alumni associations can avoid competing with the Mary Baldwin College reunion, which means more facilities will be available for the VWIL and SMA events. Lastly, VWIL's gala affair is on Friday

night, and ours is on Saturday night; so there will be little or no conflict. Over the years, as our SMA alumni numbers go down and VWIL alumni numbers go up, coordinating the reunions makes sense.

SMA Registration form and a Schedule of Events are available online at the SMA Alumni Association website (sma-alumni.org/reunion.htm) and in this issue of the Kablegram. Please note, there are a limited block of rooms at the SJH and SMA Reunion registration prices due increase after the March 17th deadline. Save yourself some money and register early - it really does help Arlene and makes things go more smoothly. We do accept credit cards now!!!

Stonewall Jackson Hotel and Conference Center

24 South Market Street ■ Staunton VA 24401

540.245.8206 direct | 540.885.4848 main | 540.885.4840 fax

www.stonewalljacksonhotel.com

~ Sponsor a VWIL Cadet ~

We are seeking SMA alumni that would like to sponsor a VWIL cadet at our reunion banquet dinner on Saturday night. This provides a great opportunity to meet and talk these fine young ladies and future leaders. The cost is \$50 per cadet. If you can sponsor one (or more than one), it would be greatly appreciated. Please contact Arlene at the SMAAA Office:

Phone: 540-885-1309 ■ **Toll Free:** 1-800-627-5806

Fax: 1-866-950-4452 ■ **Email:** smaoffice@sma-alumni.org

Memorial Gifts

Doris Van Pelt Thompson and family made a gift in the memory of Fred Thompson.

Lynn Schoenbaum gave a donation in memory of her brother Ray Schoenbaum '67.



Staunton Military Academy Alumni Association
PO Box 958, Staunton, VA 24402

Tel: (540) 885-1309 / (800) 627-5806; FAX: 1-866-950-4452; SMAOffice@sma-alumni.org

SMA Reunion 2012 (30-31 March) Registration Form

Please **print** to fill out this form and mail to address above or FAX to: **1-866-950-4452**

LAST NAME: _____ FIRST NAME: _____ MIDDLE INITIAL: _____
 SMA YEAR: _____
 ADDRESS: _____
 CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____
 TEL: () _____; Cell () _____
 EMAIL: _____

ALUMNI GUEST REGISTER

SPOUSE NAME: _____
 GUEST NAME: _____
 GUEST NAME: _____
 CHILD NAME: _____
 CHILD NAME: _____

ADVANCE REGISTRATION FEE COMPUTATION

Deadline is March 17, 2012. Please take the time **NOW** to complete your registration form. By doing this, you will help us plan more effectively for a successful SMA Reunion in 2012.

Please note – *lodging reservations at the Stonewall Jackson Hotel (or elsewhere) must be made separately.*

_____ Weekend x \$130/person ¹	\$ _____
_____ Friday Only x \$75/person ²	\$ _____
_____ Saturday Only x \$75/person ³	\$ _____
TOTAL COST:	\$ _____

PAYMENT

Check (*payable to: SMA Alumni Association, Inc.*)

Credit Card: (*can only accept MC/VISA*) MasterCard VISA

Card Number: _____

Expiration Date: _____

Security Code: (*CVV2 code on back of card*) _____

BILLING ADDRESS

Name: (*exactly as written on credit card*) _____

Billing Address: (*for credit card purchases*)
 (*must be exactly as written on CC billing statement*) _____

 _____ Zip: _____

SIGNATURE

Signature: _____

¹ After March 17th, the price increases to \$140 for the weekend. Door price will be \$150.
² After March 17th, the price increases to \$80 for Friday only. Door price will be \$90.
³ After March 17th, the price increases to \$80 for Saturday only. Door price will be \$90.

VETERANS DAY

VWIL Corps and SMA Alumni Association Honor Veterans Day



1st Captain Brittany Bullard followed by the Executive Officer Captain Jillian Stubbs, the S-6 Officer Lt. Angie Taylor, and the Safety Officer Lt. Tiffany Parshall

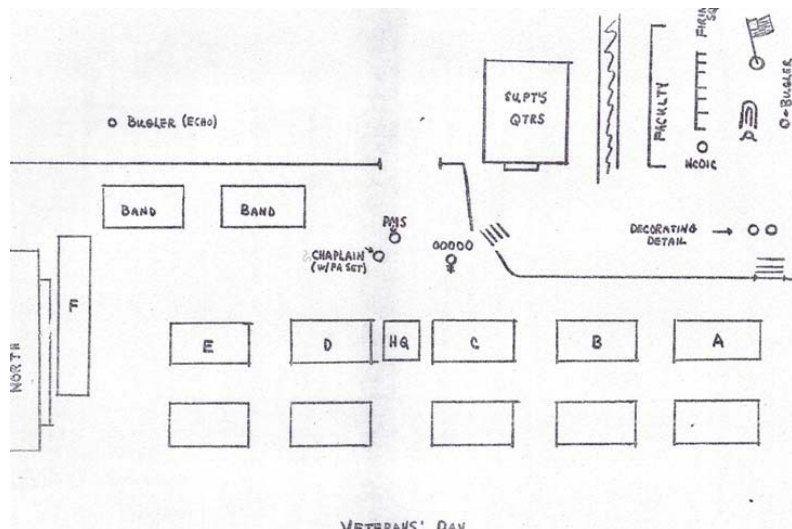
The VWIL Corps marched through the streets of Staunton, Virginia on November 12, 2011 as part of the Staunton Veterans Day Parade. The Corps was led by First Captain Brittany Bullard and her staff followed by the Color Guard proudly displaying the American Flag, the flag of the Commonwealth of Virginia, the VWIL flag, and the Staunton Military Academy flag.

The annual laying of a wreath at the World War I Monument on Flagpole Hill on Veterans' Day was a tradition of Staunton Military Academy that started in 1920 and continued uninterrupted through 1975, when the school closed.

Thirty six years later, on November 11, 2011, the tradition was reborn. A wreath was once again laid at the bottom of the monument by a former SMA cadet to honor those who made the supreme sacrifice to perpetuate our way of life. SMA provided over 700 alumni for service in the great conflict.

A second wreath was laid at the Wall of Honor in remembrance of SMA alumni who gave their lives during World War II, the Korean Conflict, and Vietnam.

For those of us that participated in the ceremony those many years ago, here is a drawing of the site and the sequence of events taken from Veterans Day in 1961.



Plan for Veterans Day Ceremony in 1961

Sequence of Events

- Corps assembles on asphalt; reports taken 1310 hrs.
- Corps Commander commands "Parade Rest".
- PMS introduces the visiting minister.
- Prayer and remarks by minister concerning the significance of Veterans Day. (Time: up to ten (10) minutes)
- Decorating Party places wreath on SMA Alumni Monument. (Flagpole Hill) (Time: up to 5 minutes)
- Corps Commander commands "Attention" and "Present Arms".
- Firing party fires three volleys (References FM 22-5, par 134, pages 145-148.
- Buglers sound "Echo taps".
- Corps Commander commands "Order Arms", then directs Corps to march into the mess hall (approximately 1330 hrs.)

LIFE AS A CADET

Charge of the First Battalion

Greg Robertson, SMA '70

Townies vs. Bellhops. Though there is very little documentation on the subject, it is safe to say that from the founding of the Academy in 1884 until its closure in Staunton in 1976, there was a small faction of the townspeople in Staunton that had less than admiration for SMA Cadets. Likewise, there was a small faction of SMA Cadets that felt the same about townspeople. At times these feelings would erupt into confrontations that ranged from name calling to fisticuffs. I personally think that it is fair to say that some fault lay with the Townies, and some fell on the SMA Cadets. With the exception of some name calling from passing cars, my own direct experience in these matters was limited to one incident.

It was December 1969. I had recently been given command of 1st Battalion (Thanks Charlie!) and promoted to Cadet Major. I decided to exercise my new privilege of being able to go downtown at anytime I felt like and do some shopping. So, after attending afternoon formation and sending the 1st Battalion off to company drill, I went walking down Prospect Street to the A&P to get some smokes.

I was walking back up Prospect and had reached the sidewalk below South Barracks when a car full of Townies went by going down Prospect while yelling "FU Bellhop" out the windows. I ignored them and continued up the street. I was just getting to the driveway that went up to South Barracks when the same car came roaring up Points Street, which is the side street that intersected Prospect near the driveway to South Barracks. The car stopped and the front seat passenger got out and started coming at me. I heard some one in the car yell out "Get his cigarettes!"

I threw my bag of cigarettes (Marlboros) up on the grass area below South Barracks and slowly backed on to Academy property. I also threw my hat to the side and told the guy coming at me to "Come on!" I made my mind up that I wasn't going to run and would hold my ground. We started fighting. I don't remember much about the fists, kicks, etc., but I do feel I was holding my own. I also remember seeing out of the corner of my eye one of the other guys in the car jump out of the car and up on the wall to grab my bag.

All of a sudden, I hear the other guys in the car yelling to the guy I'm fighting with "Get in the car, Hurry!" As he ran towards the car I looked up the hill. Drill had just ended and the 1st Battalion Rifle companies had been heading back into South Barracks. So, coming down the hill towards us were about 200 screaming cadets with rifles and swords. The scene of that wave of gray moving across the grass looked like something out of a Civil War movie. Some of the cadets reached the car before it left and were smashing at it with their rifle butts. The car sped off up Prospect. Interestingly, I noticed that the car turned right into the entrance to the Academy at Memorial Hall, rather than continuing straight North and away from the Academy.

After my rescue from the townie attack by the brave rifle companies of First Battalion, I went up to the Commandant's office to report the attack. I had gotten the license number of the car, and wanted to provide it before I forgot it in the post fight adrenaline rush. When I got to his office, he was already calling the police. The townies, rather than evacuating the area quickly and smartly, went speeding across the asphalt narrowly missing Col. Cleveland and shouting "FU" while flipping off the world.

While we waited for the police, Col. Cleveland let me call my father to report the incident and see what he felt we should do. I was still a minor so the decision whether to request prosecution rested in my father's hand. After talking it over, he agreed with me that we should ask for prosecution to try to stop the attacks on cadets. There had been several beatings of cadets by townies that fall, and the attacks seemed to be increasing in number.

The police arrived on the Hill and took statements from myself, Col. Cleveland, and several cadets that had been part of the rescue force that charged down from South Barracks towards the fight. Later that evening, the police called Col. Cleveland and requested that he bring me down to the police station to identify some people that they had picked up. When we got to the station, the police had us sit in the waiting area for awhile. Then a side door opened and the police paraded in the guy that I had fought with, the guy that grabbed my smokes from where I had tossed them, and several other youths that I guessed had been in the car. The detective asked me if these were the people that had attacked me. I pointed out the guy I had fought with and the cigarette stealer.

Then the guy I had fought with showed his wealth of intelligence by blurting out "Yea, and if those guys hadn't run down at us, I would have kicked your ass." The detective grabbed him, slapped handcuffs on him roughly while saying something to the effect of "What part of keep your mouth shut didn't you understand." Away they went through the station I can only guess to be booked.

The next time I saw those guys was at the trial. I was put on the stand and the prosecutor asked me to tell my story. The defense attorney did not ask me any questions. The defense attorney then put the guy I had fought with on the stand to tell his story. He told a story about a cadet pulling a gun on him downtown several days before and was only coming up to the hill to report it. He said that when he saw me he simply got out of the car to ask me who he should report the gun carrying cadet to. He went on to say that I then attacked him with no provocation. As he turned his witness over to the prosecution for questioning, the judge stopped the proceedings and asked the defense attorney if each of the other defendants were going to tell the same story. The defense attorney said yes and the judge said "Very well, I've heard enough. Everyone take there seats." I really did not have a clue what was going to happen next.

Life. Continued from page 12

LIFE AS A CADET

life.. Continued from page 11

The judge then looked at the defendants and said, “Nice story! But I think these boys went up to the Academy looking for trouble and this time they got it. I find all of them guilty of assault, robbery, and trespassing. Sentencing will be next week.” Col. Cleveland, I, and the rest of the cadets that had come to testify left the courtroom through the front door while the townies were led away by the bailiff. I never learned what the townie’s sentences were. I did find out that only one of them was over 18 and the rest were minors.

Sometime early in the next semester a cadet, whose identity I can not remember, came to my room and said he had a message from the Townies I had fought with. He said that “They” were looking for me to finish the job they had started. I told the cadet that if he ever saw that guy again to tell him that I would be glad to meet him anytime to finish our fight. But, I would bring 20 cadets with me to make sure that it stayed a fair fight. I don’t remember any other cadets being jumped the rest of that year. I will admit that I never went downtown alone again. But, there were plenty of football players that loved getting out of drill to head downtown early with me.

I did not see those townies or that car again until graduation day in 1970. As I was driving my parent’s station wagon out the front gates to head towards the Holiday Inn for a party, the Townie I had fought with drove by me heading up Kable Street towards Wieland Gate. I didn’t recognize the others in the car but I can guess it was the same ones from before looking for one last shot at me. They apparently didn’t recognize me out of uniform. I smiled, waved, and left that chapter of my life in the rear view mirror.

One last thought on this issue. Remember the “gun carrying cadet”? I dismissed that story at the time and never really thought about it again. Until, that is, I saw Doug Wellman’s YouTube video. In it, there is a cadet walking around downtown Staunton with a pistol. I am guessing that the pistol was a toy, but Doug will have to comment on that. Maybe Doug’s friend in the movie with the (toy?) gun had been seen by those Townies and that’s where their story came from.

But, I still think the townies were just looking for trouble and thought I was an easy mark.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Mr. Bill Bissett
Staunton Military Academy
P.O. Box 958
Staunton, VA 24402

July 26, 2011

Re: Legacy Fund Campaign

Dear Bill:

The Fileno DiGregorio Foundation is very proud to be able to donate \$10,000 to your Legacy Fund Campaign on behalf of myself (’45) and my brothers, Albert and William (’41), Raymond (’43), Leonard (“’47), and Ronald (’50). My parents, Fileno and Maria DiGregorio, were very grateful to Staunton Military Academy for giving my brothers and I such great educations. We all developed into successful men and feel that Staunton Military Academy was a big part of that success. The lessons in and out of the classroom carried us through our lives.

On behalf of my two brothers that have passed, Al and Bill, and the rest of the DiGregorio Family, we hope that your Legacy Fund Campaign is a great success.

Sincerely,

Richard F. DiGregorio, SMA ’45
Trustee, Fileno DiGregorio Foundation

Editor’s note. Sadly, Richard DiGregorio passed away only a few weeks after writing this letter.

Editor’s Note: Here is a note from Arlene Nicely, the Secretary of our alumni association. When Sergeant Major Nicely says something should be printed in the Kablegram, it goes right in.

Bill Spriggs, SMA ’59, came to the museum, Friday a week ago during Hurricane “Irene”, because he had to get out of his home on the Cheasapeake. He lives in Reedville, VA. I had just finished working and had locked up the museum...went up the steps (around 7 P.M.) and saw him standing on the asphalt. He told me he had to leave his home so thought he would head this way to see SMA and Staunton. I ask him if he would like to see the museum and he stated that he did not want to hold me up. I told him I didn’t mind at all and took him down to the museum. We talked awhile about SMA and his classmates. I called him several

Letters... Continued on page 13

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Letters ..Continued from page 12

days later to make sure he got home alright and to see if he had much damage to his home for he had told me he did not know what he would be going back to. He said he was lucky for the only damage was a few tree branches that had fallen.

I received such a nice note from him and thought it may be something for the Kablegram.

The note:

DEAR ARLENE,

THANKS FOR YOUR CALL CHECKING ON ME AFTER IRENE. I DID MAKE OUT OK, THINGS WEREN'T AS BAD AS PREDICTED. A LITTLE CLEANING UP IS ALL. I CANNOT TELL YOU IN WORDS HOW MUCH I APPRECIATED THE TIME YOU SPENT TALKING ABOUT SMA WITH ME ON FRIDAY. IT IS ALWAYS GOOD TO TALK WITH AN ASSOCIATE OF SMA, AS I HAVE THE BEST OF MEMORIES FROM "THE HILL". YOU HAD ALL OF THE ANSWERS CONCERNING THE WAKE OF SMA DURING MY TIME THERE UNTIL NOW, AND I WAS SO THRILLED I FORGOT THERE WAS A HURRICANE ON ITS WAY TO MY HOUSE!

I REALLY ENJOYED MY VISIT TO STAUNTON, AS ALWAYS. I NEVER REALIZED STAUNTON WAS AS LARGE AS IT IS, BUT AFTER RIDING AROUND I FOUND IT TO BE NOT ONLY SPREAD OUT BUT NICE.

ARLENE, THANKS AGAIN; YOU MADE MY DAY!

SINCERELY, BILL SPRIGGS, SMA '59

He was not the only visitor from the wakes of Irene. An alumnus from Fork Union Military came by and called us to see if he could get into the museum. I ask Brocky if he would come to show him around for he was asking me questions on the phone that I couldn't answer about SMA and I knew Brocky could. Brocky came and spent time from around 3:00 to 10:00 p.m. with him—taking him on the walking tour of the campus and showing him the museum and talking about old times. He had been visiting a base in Norfolk and had to leave due to Irene so he came this way to visit the military school museums.

While he was in the service **he had parachuted onto Kable Field with the "Golden Knights"** and wanted to see the field once again. Brocky gave him the grand tour. He could not believe how close SMA was to town, for he said Fork Union was not close to anything when he was there, and if he had seen SMA first, he knew which one he would have been attending. Ha.

Just two "Irene" stores from "Arlene"

Arlene C. Nicely, Alumni Secretary,
Staunton Military Academy Alumni Association

Brocky and Arlene

September 9, 2011

Thank you for the beautiful flowers from SMA. We also appreciate you attendance at Fred's memorial service.

We had calls from Butch & Patti Aaron and Jack Dalbo. Stu and Jean sent cards, and they attended the service. We probably missed some people. Enclosed is a gift for the SMA Foundation in Fred's memory.

Blessings,

Doris Van Pelt Thompson

Editor's Note: Fred Thompson recently passed away. Although he did not attend SMA, his service to the SMA Alumni Association from 1990 to 2002 was extensive. Fred's obituary is printed in the TAPS section of this issue.

Dear Sirs,

September 12, 2011

This is to notify you of the passing of my father, Richard F. DiGregorio on September 1, 2011. He was a 1945 graduate of the Academy and along with his four brothers who also attended the Academy, has been very active in the SMA Foundation.

His obituary is attached.

Sincerely,

Richard A. Digregorio

Editor's Note: Richard's obituary is printed in the TAPS section of this issue.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Letters ..Continued from page 13

To: VWIL Corps
CC: SMA Alumni Association
Subject: SMA Grad Bio and Appreciation for VWIL
From: Jael Cooper, CPT U.S. Army (VA)

October 10, 2011

Gen. Bissell sent out his annual letter to the alumni of SMA and our VWIL grads. One SMA graduate, *Steve Landa '63*, provided a little information on his own path in life, as well as his appreciation in finding SMA and VWIL still united. I've always found it interesting to see what individuals of our "grandfather Corps" have been up to because before you know it, it could be you writing in about what you've done in life! If you're interested in learning what Mr. Landa did once leaving SMA, read below, and plan on talking with grads like him at our reunion in March!

Steve's Letter:

The feedback coming from an "Old Boy" SMA alum is all positive. As you may gather from interactions with SMA Alums, many of us really enjoyed our years there, and they played a key role in our future lives. I was sorry to see SMA close, but I am very pleased with the continuing mission of developing leaders at VWIL. It is very nice to see the links forged between the SMA Alumni and VWIL cadet corps.

After graduating from SMA, I went on to Dartmouth College, where I was enrolled in ROTC. Actually, after SMA, I did not have to do the first two years in college. I did participate actively my last two years in College and was Commander of the Dartmouth ROTC unit my senior year. I was commissioned in Field Artillery and went to Ft. Sill for my officer's basic branch training. From there, I went to Ft. Knox, Kentucky as a training officer in a basic training company, and then the Army sent me to Ft. Bragg to Special Warfare School just prior to going to Vietnam. I was an advisor to a Vietnamese Artillery Battalion, living with two other Americans on my team in a small village north of the city of Hue. We operated in I Corps, from the DMZ to DaNang and west through the Ashau Valley to Laos. Having survived a combat tour, I am convinced that the lessons have made me appreciate life and hold many values sacred.

Keep up the great work.

*Steve Landa
SMA Class of 1963*

Thanks,
Jael C. Cooper
CPT U.S. Army (VA)

Subject: Re: Some Thoughts
To: smaalumni@msn.com

October 10, 2011

My name is Robert Brack I graduated (PG) from SMA in 1972. SMA changed my life; so I felt obligated to add, based on my own perspective, that Colonel Kable's dream will never die. Better men than me feel the same.

Please feel free to use what I wrote in any way you think will help the cause.

Robert Brack, SMA '72

Editor's Note: Robert's essay is reproduced herein, titled "Some Thoughts..."

Dear Sir:

October 12, 2011

I am enclosing a copy of the obituary for my husband of 54 years, Frank J. Scibilia, SMA '49. I thought that perhaps some of his former classmates would like to know what happened in his life after he left Staunton.

Frank enjoyed the years he spent at Staunton and often spoke of them. I know he regretted never being able to attend a reunion.

Sincerely,
Dorris Fish Scibilia

Letters ..Continued on page 15

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Letters ..Continued from page 15

From: John Cates
To: SMAOffice@sma-alumni.org
Subject: taps

November 16, 2011

Hello Arlene,

I noticed today (*on the SMA website*) that former SMA teacher George Lowman is listed in TAPS. Thanks for including him. For the records, he taught **science**, not French. And by checking the faculty listings in the yearbooks I have determined that his last year at SMA was 1972. So he taught from 1969-72. Thanks again for including him. He was a fine person and teacher.

John Cates
SMA French teacher, 1969-71

From: Bill Bissett
To: smaalumni@msn.com

November 18, 2011

Hey Arlene,

George Lowman was there at least thru '73, if not '74. He was our Chemistry teacher in 72-73, and he was a biology teacher.

Bill Bissett, SMA '74

RE: Roland S. Tremble SMA '38

To Whom It May Concern:

It is my sad duty to inform you of the death of my husband, Roland S. Tremble, on April 1, 2011. I have included a brief biography which you may use in *The Kablegram* if you wish. He loved God, his country, and his family—and will be sorely missed.

Very truly yours,

Theresa F. Tremble

Editor's Note. Mr. Tremble's biography appears in the TAPS section.

To Whom It May Concern:

I am saddened to share the news that my brother, Lt Col. James H. Holstein (Jim) Ret., of Richardson, TX. passed away today from cancer. **Jim was a 1971 Graduate of SMA**, 1975 Graduate of the University of Mississippi, and received his Master Degree from Florida State University. Jim is survived by his wife Patricia, daughters, Jaymee, Becky and Dawn and three grandchildren. Jim is also survived by his Father James H. Holstein of Rosenberg, TX.

Brooks Holstein, SMA '73 posted this on Facebook.

Editor's Note. This final letter came to General Bissell from a 2011 VWIL graduate, and he graciously forwarded it to the Kablegram.

Good afternoon Sir—

Sorry for my delay in writing this for you. I hope it is not too late.

To say that I have been lucky to end up where I am today does not touch just how I feel about what I am now a part of. I have just completed the Direct Commission Officer School through the Direct Commission Selected Schools Program offered to Mary Baldwin VWIL graduates. **I am now an Ensign** at Sector San Diego working for the response department in between Incident Management and Law Enforcement. San Diego could not be a more beautiful place, and the people at my unit could not be more amazing. Thanks to VWIL, I have received an opportunity that has set me up for a wonderful career. Thank you VWIL!

Very Respectfully,

Samantha Leon

WHERE ARE THEY NOW



Cadet Clemson in 1961

Claude L. Clemson, SMA '61

After graduating from SMA, Claude attended the University of Maryland and served in the U. S. Army (1968 – 1976). He resides in Frederick, Maryland, and his career has been in farming and the USPS. Claude is currently retired.



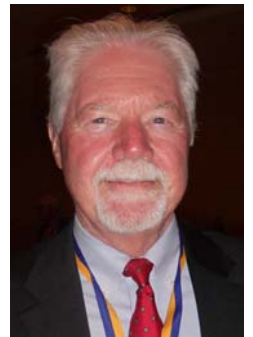
Claude Clemson in 2011



Cadet Campbell in 1961

Alan E. Campbell, SMA '61

After graduating from SMA, Alan attended Roanoke University and George Washington University, earning a B.S. in accounting. He also earned an M.S. in accounting at Virginia Commonwealth University. Alan served in the U. S. Army from 1967 – 1970, pulling two tours in Viet Nam. He resides in Richmond, Virginia. Alan began his career as an accountant until 1972, worked in the Intelligence Division of the United States Treasury from 1973 – 1976, and finished his career as a practicing Certified Public Accountant until 2006.



Alan Campbell in 2011



Cadet Davis in 1962

Thomas A. Davis, SMA '62

After graduating from SMA, Tom attended Southeastern University and earned a B.S. degree. He resides in Staunton, Virginia and has devoted his career to the banking industry. Tom is a Trust Officer and is the Head of the Wealth Management Division of the First Bank and Trust Co. in Staunton. Tom also holds the distinction of serving as the Treasurer for the SMA Alumni Association, a position he holds for life.+



Tom Davis in 2011



Cadet Cochrun in 1961

James L. Cochrun III, SMA '61

After graduating from SMA, James attended Tulane University and earned a B.A. before going to the American Institute of Foreign Trade for post graduate work. He served in the U. S. Army as a Captain in Military Intelligence. He resides in Boca Grande, Florida, and his career has spanned 31 years with Goodyear International in such exotic locales as Puerto Rico, the Caribbean, Brazil, Panama, the Philippines, and Spain.



James Cochrun in 2011

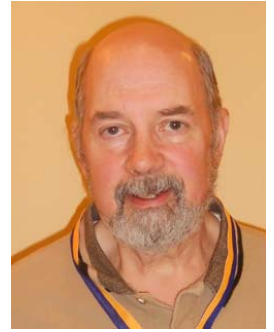
WHERE ARE THEY NOW



Cadet Henderson in 1963

Rev. Richard A. Henderson, SMA '63

After graduating from SMA, Richard attended Northern Illinois University and did his Post Graduate work at the University of Dubuque Theological Seminary. Reverend Henderson serves as the Senior Vice President – Operations for The Prudential and acts as the Chaplain for the SMA Alumni Association. He resides in Buffalo Junction, Virginia.



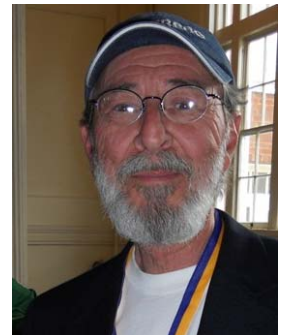
Rev. Henderson in 2011



Cadet Hertzberg in 1962

Lawrence Hertzberg, SMA '62

After graduating from SMA, Larry attended East Carolina University and served in the U. S. Army, with one long tour in Viet Nam. He now resides in Raleigh, North Carolina. His career has centered on retail.



Lawrence Hertzberg in 2011



Cadet Leadbetter in 1961

C. Robert Leadbetter, SMA '61

After graduating from SMA, Robert attended the University of Michigan and the University of Indiana earning a B.S. degree in Business. He resides in Boynton Beach, Florida, and his career has been as a Human Resources Executive in General Motors, Gulf & Western Industries, Mazada, and Brunswick.



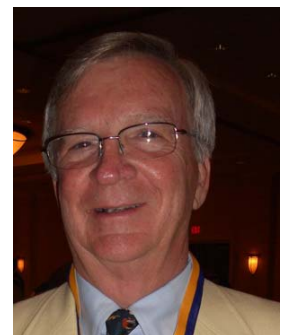
C. Robert Leadbetter in 2011



Cadet Nolde in 1963

John A. Nolde, SMA '63

After graduating from SMA, John attended the University of Miami earning a B.B.A. degree in Business. He enlisted in the Virginia National Guard and served with the 276th Engineers. He resides in Richmond, Virginia, and his career has spanned 41 years in the real estate business. John is distinguished by being selected as a member of the Mary Baldwin College Board of Trustees.



John Nolde in 2011

WHERE ARE THEY NOW

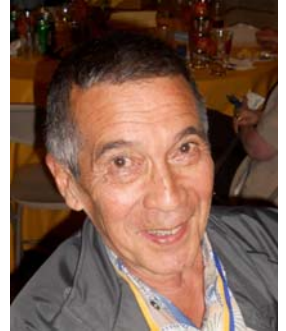
Continued from page 17



Cadet Ozawa in 1961

Leland "Lee" Ozawa, SMA '61

After graduating from SMA, Lee attended Embry Riddle Aeronautical University and earned a B.S. degree in Professional Aero. Following college, he served his nation in the United States Marine Corps (1961-1966) as a pilot. From 1966 until 2003, Lee flew for Northwest Airlines (now Delta). After retiring from Northwest, he worked again as a pilot for Vision Air in 2005 and for a private firm in Iraq in 2009. He resides in Las Vegas, Nevada. He said the reunion was "a great time, and was so proud that SMA lives – in Spirit!"



Cadet Ozawa in 2011



Cadet Penneyacker in 1963

John E. Pennypacker, Jr., SMA '63

After graduating from SMA, John attended Hampden Sydney (1 yr.) and Embry Riddle Aeronautical University and earned a B.S. degree in Aero Studies/Aviation Management. Following college, he began his career in the United States Army (1965-1985) as a helicopter pilot. After leaving the Army, he worked for Hughes Helicopter Co. which became McDonald Douglas Helicopter Co., which became Boeing Helicopter Co. John retired in October on 2007. He resides in Mesa, Arizona and spends his time visiting his son and daughter (Jay and Katie) in Phoenix, Arizona and Leesburg, Virginia.



John Penneyacker in 2011

VWIL



NEWS

Meet the Cadets

Editor's Note: This is the first installment of "Meet the Cadets". A second installment will be published in our February 2012 issue.

SARAH BAILEY, BAND SERGEANT



Sarah Bailey

I come from a small town named Elkton, Virginia in which I was born and raised. In 2008, I was a young freshman naïve to the ways of the world and with no idea of what I would do with my life. And so I embarked on the great journey towards higher learning. I met a lovely young lady named Elizabeth Agnew in my Hebrew Scriptures class my first semester at MBC. She invited me to join the MBC/VWIL Marching Band. Though I worried it would take time away from my studies, I hesitatingly agreed to check it out. Before I knew it, I was wearing uniforms and marching in parades.

I am now a Senior (woohoo!) and double majoring in History and Religion, and I'm still a faithful traditional student in band. Other "trads" or traditional students have migrated in and out of Band, but I have stayed in Band throughout my time at MBC. I love playing my trumpet, though I do not always practice as I should. Band gives me the opportunity to play it more often and with a group. This year I was promoted to the new traditional rank of Band Sergeant, which I consider to be such a great honor. I expect this year to be very stressful and intense, but also very awesome and memorable.

Editor's Note: Sarah is the first VWIL "traditional" who has earned the rank of Sergeant.



VWIL Continued from page 18

LUZ BRUNO, 1ST PLATOON SERGEANT



Luz Bruno

Hello, my name is Luz Bruno, and I am from Virginia Beach, VA. I am studying Sociology and Psychology at Mary Baldwin College, and I am minoring in Leadership and Peace Conflict Resolution. Upon graduation, I will commission into the Army National Guard.

As a cadet in VWIL, I have held regimental positions. From a line Corporal, and now a Platoon Sergeant, I am looking forward to inspire cadets to become focused team players that can carry on the strong legacy of our unique Corps.

BRITTANY BULLARD, COMMANDING OFFICER



Brittany Bullard

Hi, my name is Brittany Bullard and I am from Springfield, Virginia. I am studying International Economics and Business here at Mary Baldwin College, and upon graduation I will commission into the U.S Air Force. As a cadet in VWIL, I have held the positions of 2nd Platoon Line Corporal, 2nd Platoon Sergeant, and most recently Commanding Officer. I am looking forward to the year ahead and the events that will bring SMA and VWIL together.

KATIE CEROW, 2ND PLATOON SERGEANT



Katie Cerow

Hello! My name is Katie Cerow. I am from Ashburn, VA. I am majoring in Business for a Sustainable Future, and minoring in biology and leadership. I will be commissioning into the US Army and graduating in the the year 2013. Previously, I have been a briefer, public relations (S-2) corporal, and an honor guard rifle bearer. Currently, I am still on honor guard, and I am the 2nd platoon sergeant. I am looking forward to another great year.

JANE CHADWELL, 4TH PLATOON CAPTAIN



Jane Chadwell

Hi, my name is Jane Chadwell, and I am from Springfield, Virginia. I am studying International Relations and Asian Studies here at Mary Baldwin College, and upon graduation I will commission into the U.S Army. As a cadet in VWIL, I have held the positions of 4th Platoon Line Corporal, 4th Platoon Sergeant, LCP Cadre, Peer Advisor, and most recently Fourth Platoon Captain. I am looking forward to a productive and busy year ahead.

Where are they ..Continued on page 20



VWIL..Continued from page 19



Michelle Filiater

MICHELLE FILLIATER, BAND LIEUTENANT

Hello, my name is Michelle Filiater, and I'm from Smithfield, Virginia. I am a Business major with a double minor in Leadership and Marketing here at Mary Baldwin College. Upon Graduation in May, I will be commissioning into the United States Army. As a cadet in VWIL, I have held positions on 4th Plt Line Corporal, Drumline Sgt, and today Band LT. I am looking forward to have MBC traditionals more involved in band.



Tesla Goodrich

TESLA GOODRICH, PEER ADVISOR & MBC CLASS OFFICER

My name is Tesla Goodrich, and I'm from Charlottesville Virginia. I'm majoring in psychology here at MBC. I've been a Peer Advisor for the last 2 years as well as being involved in nCC and CCC. I'm also highly involved in our AAAA chapter and am a member of the briefing team. I'm a class of Officer for MBC as well as a member of Presidents Society. I'm excited for applying to law school next year!!



Amanda Harrison

AMANDA HARRISON, 4TH PLATOON SERGEANT

My name is Amanda Harrison and I am from Richmond, Virginia. I am currently a junior at Mary Baldwin College and am studying Sociology with a minor in both Anthropology and Leadership studies. Upon graduation, I plan to commission into the United States Army as either a Military police officer or as a Quarter Master Officer. As a cadet in VWIL, I have held a number of positions including Platoon SGT, PT cadre, LCP cadre, Platoon CPL, Peer Advisor, nCC board member, 2013 Vice President, and a Drill team member. At Mary Baldwin I also run Cross Country. VWIL has helped me develop a lot over the years, not only in the military sector, but in the civilian sector as well. I can't think of another program I would rather be in!



Dear SMA and VWIL Graduates,

I would like to provide you with my second annual address. If you will remember, we had tried this a year ago and it brought some good reviews, as well as questions on the status and progress of the Corps. Thank you all for your thoughts and comments, and I hope this edition continues to provide you with valuable information on our current status. Before I get too underway in the discussions of the Corps, I do have one glitch I would like to bring to your attention. Although I am more than happy to send out this address, the office has found that not all of the e-mails we have on file are current for the various alums, and so the information did not reach the intended recipients last year. I know SMA is working to update and record the e-mails of their alumni, and I would like to ask the VWIL alumnae to do the same. Please send in your updated contact information, and have your sister nULLs do the same, to Jessica Hartzog (hartzogj10199@mbc.edu), who is working to update all of our alumnae information.

I believe I should begin this next entry with an account of some of the changes that have occurred in the office. If you will remember, by the end of last year the office was being run by basically Karen Parker and me, due to the departure of Velma Bryant to another college. While we sorely miss Velma, your efforts and conversations during that period helped us recruit an additional staff member to supplement the office staff. I was fortunate to be able to talk Jael Cooper into staying on as my Assistant Commandant, responsible for recruiting, retention, training, and general office management. If you will remember, Jael was the First Captain from last years graduating class. She was an amazing leader and was a perfect fit for what we needed to compliment the commandant's staff. The inclusion of these this individual into the daily flow of office life here has been a great help, and I would like to once again offer my thanks and appreciation to all of the SMA alumni who helped me push for an increase in the staff members.

Changes have not only been occurring in the office however; as is typical with each new senior class, the dynamics and schedule of daily life that the Corps experiences undergoes slight readjustments each year. This year we are still refraining from morning formations, and the senior class has focused their year of executive style leadership on the two areas of physical training and academics. Statistically the Corps has improved since my last address by achieving academic stars among 46% of our young women, and an impressive 74% passing rate on our Strength and Endurance Test (SET).

Perhaps the most exciting thing to report to particularly the VWIL graduates is the advent of some new uniforms to our tradition. The first is a casual uniform that has come about as a result of professors, and the cadets themselves, commenting on the old green sweats appearing sloppy compared to our regular uniforms they typically attend class in. The nULL class of 2012, our current seniors, proposed what we are now calling our Cadet Casual uniform. Since the installation of the black polo with the VWIL name embroidered over the heart, which is accompanied by khaki pants, the college faculty and staff have given incredibly positive feedback. The cadets as well, seem to really enjoy having a more business casual look in their weekly uniforms. These uniforms will be primarily worn on Wednesdays, for travel, and other social events. While we were re-examining our cadet uniforms this past year, we looked closely at the old white jacket that was worn for formal occasion with white pants or a black skirt. This uniform has become rather impractical for our cadets over the years as they are easily ruined. After careful study and with help from a friend a dear friend of mine that works in the uniform business, we have decided to replace this formal uniform with a more practical option. This new uniform is a black, short-waisted, formal jacket with gold buttons and is from the same company that designed our tunics. The jacket can be worn with white pants, green pants, and or the long black skirt, and is acceptable for both semiformal and formal affairs. When worn, the coat will also be adorned with a cummerbund like waist band similar to the sash worn with our green tunics. Like the sash, the cummerbund will be without tassels for cadets and privates, and with tassels for those holding rank. This option was modeled a few years ago and was as well received then as it was in our recent discussions with cadets. Should you be planning to attend the reunion taking place on 30-31 March, you will be able to see this new uniform on the cadets, as it is expected for them to be wearing the new uniform as early as Thanksgiving.

Another exciting change in VWIL day to day life is that or the first time this year we have moved the freshman class from Woodson dorm to Tullidge dorm. This means that our junior and senior cadets still live in Kable dorm, while our freshman and sophomore cadets live together in Tullidge. The nULLs live on the top two floors of Tullidge, with the sophomores on the bottom two. To help with this transition we have hired a 2011 graduate, Erin Hall, to act as a Resident Director for the dorm to assist the Resident Advisor that Mary Baldwin provides. Erin lives in a room on the nULLs' hall and is available as needed to help them adjust to college life and VWIL. Combining cadets in two central locations I believe will be effective, and has steamed from the College's decision to house freshman with similar focuses, for example Career and Healthy Lifestyles, together during their freshman year. There have also been updates that the College has been performing on the Corp's residents building. In particular, cadets in Kable were able to receive a luxury terrace built on the roof that is accessible from the second floor kitchen. This was former First Captain Cooper's idea and was finished at the start of this year. The addition of this porch provides Kable residents with a location to relax, sunbath, and enjoy themselves with a degree of privacy, which has been a great motivation boost for our upper class.

There has also been a shift in the Corps distribution on the Mary Baldwin College campus, specifically in relation to the freshman and sophomores. Before I get underway in that subject, however, I am sure you are all interested in our new class this year. This August we



VWIL..Continued from page 21

matriculated 41 young ladies into the Corps of Cadets as members of the nULL Class of 2015. Admittedly, this was a smaller number than the estimations I had provided last April. The reason behind this class size, which is still a nice number to start the year with, is because many of the young women that applied were sending in their application on the assumption that they would receive a military scholarship. As many of you may already know, military scholarship funding has gone down in this economy, and the cost of a private school was more than many of these applicants could take on. I should point out, however, that it was the cost coupled with the geographic location of our program. This year the majority of our students are actually not from the state of Virginia, although this gives us a very geographically diverse group of young women, it does affect their funds and their willingness to travel so far from home. What this means for the group of women we do have though, is that they are incredibly motivated to be in the VWIL program. Additionally, the majority of them are former JROTC participants and they seem to possess a higher GPA and SAT score base. With all of these factors in mind as I have seen this new freshman class begin along their path here in the program and at the college, I am very excited and pleased with the direction the Corps is going.

You may be wondering how many of our current cadets are commissioning. At this point, the majority of the cadets, approximately 84% of the Corps, are now working towards receiving a commission into the United States Army. This is a major change from our past history where Army and Air Force have both dominated almost equally. Additionally, we have about a dozen young women, including our freshman, that are seeking to commission in the Navy, one of which is our First Corporal this year who is actually on a four year scholarship. We also have a few freshmen that are very dedicated to obtaining a commission in the Marine Corps. As many of you may recall, we have had a few graduates that have gone on to commission in the Coast Guard, most recently we had a graduate do so this past year. We are continuing to increase in interest in relation to the opportunities the Coast Guard has to offer as a means of commissioning for our cadets.

With so many of our young women interested in seeking a commission, you may be curious how and if we are able to continue are many exchange programs given our cadets demanding schedules. I am happy to report that we continue to improve our international exchange programs. This coming December, for example, we will yet again be sending two of our cadets to India to further their studies at Lady Doak College. In return, we should receive two of their cadets in January to finish out the spring semester here at Mary Baldwin College. This has been a very profitable and enjoyable opportunity for not only the students directly participating in the exchange, but also for both of the communities of each college. In addition, we still have a strong program in relation to VMI, in which one of our Army cadets travels to Morocco and studies with the selected Army cadets from VMI the Arabic language. A final exchange program that is still in the works, and could occur in the future with the help of SMA is an exchange program with Panama. This program is pending on the need for a meeting to occur between myself and the President of Panama. Like all of our exchange programs, we look forward to seeing this one unfold into a productive relationship, as it greatly enhance the experiences of our young women and their capacity to lead effectively regardless of the situation.

As we here with the Corps continue on this year we will continue to travel and recruit in various locations both in and outside of Virginia. This year we will again travel to Roanoke for the Veteran's Day parade, which was a big hit last year, and occurs on November fifth. Again, we plan to travel to NYC for the St. Patrick's Day parade, the largest parade in the world, which will take place on March seventeenth. A new opportunity for us is that we have been honored to be invited to the Women's Memorial in Arlington to present the colors and provide one of the many speakers (VWIL graduate, Mei-Ling Fye) at the November eleventh ceremony.

As I begin to conclude this address I would be amiss if I did not bring out the wonderful things SMA has done for VWIL over the past several years, to include helping us to purchase numerous vehicles for our motor pull for our trips back and forth to VMI, a necessity that is ever more necessary with so many of our girls seeking a commission. Our young women would not be able to achieve all of the many things they set their sights on without your help.

I would like to close this address with some information about the upcoming reunion weekend that is taking place on March 30-31 with both the SMA alumni and VWIL alumnae. I speak for both myself and the Corps when I say we hope to see you in attendance. The activities for this weekend were discussed with members of SMA and a selection of VWIL graduates. We will be able to provide you with a more comprehensive itinerary closer to date, but for now this is a brief outline of our plan: on Friday there will be the memorial wall ceremony, a Howie Rifle drill demonstration, and VWIL's Military Ball will take place as usual. The speaker this year is Bobby Ross, a former coach for teams like the San Diego Chargers and the Detroit Lions. We would like to invite you, as always, to attend the event and listen to this wonderful speaker. On Saturday, SMA will have their typical morning meetings, and VWIL will also have a morning discussion and update on the Corps for alumnae. In the afternoon we will have the Parade with SMA, followed by VWIL graduates, marching onto the field for a pass and review. Following the parade there will be a cookout with beer and soda provided, so the two groups and the current cadets can intermingle. It sounds like it will be an exciting weekend and I do hope you plan on attending.

As always, thank you for your time and continued support of the Virginia Women's Institute for Leadership, the only all-female cadet Corps in the world.

Brig. Gen. Mike Bissell
 Commandant of Cadets
 VWIL Corps of Cadets



nULL CLASS OF 2015 by Lieutenant Jessica Hartzog, VWIL S-2

The Virginia Women’s Institute for Leadership, one of the Gateways at Mary Baldwin College, matriculated 41 nULLs in the class of 2015. The nULL Class spent three days in the Wilderness bonding together and overcoming new challenging obstacles. Wilderness Cadre member Lieutenant Angie Taylor, Physical Fitness Officer, says “this years nULL class seems to be extremely motivated, highly dedicated, and overcame their fears. They have started a strong foundation for the year and we can expect to see great things”. They returned for the start of cadre week where they were introduced to the regimental system, class system, and the plethora of VWIL uniforms.



nULL CLASS OF 2015

Their cadre trained them on how to properly stand at attention, execute facing movements, and about face. The corps marches Old Guard which is what the Tomb Guard Sentinels march at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. VWIL is the only all-female corps and they are also the only corps to march Old Guard. Executive Officer Captain Jillian Stubbs stated “being out on the field and observing their training, I can already see that they are adapting to the uniqueness of VWIL. Their diversity and willingness to succeed is evident already and I am excited to see how the year pans out”.

Cadet of the Month: October 2011 & Air Force ROTC Scholarship Awardee



Cadet Raven Jackson

I am a 19 year old, Virginia Women’s Institute for Leadership cadet, who currently attends Mary Baldwin College. My major is Criminal Justice with a double minor in Political Science and Leadership Studies. I grew up in Chesapeake, VA in a single parent house hold. My father, Eric T. Howard, was a Navy Veteran who passed away in 2000. I decided to join the military because my father’s military duty influenced my life in a positive way.

Prior to graduating Deep Creek High, I was awarded a Type 3, 4 Year Air Force Scholarship my senior year. I was awarded this scholarship for my leadership in AFJROTC, my GPA, my extracurricular activities, among many other characteristics. I graduated high school with an advanced diploma and at the top 10% of my class.

Upon arriving to Mary Baldwin College, I joined VWIL to expand my leadership skills, and to prepare myself for my future in the military. During this journey I have met so many wonder women and have earned my cadetship. The greatest accomplishment thus far has being the opportunity to contract with the United States Air Force.

Kenneth Ronald Boerner, Sr., SMA '51



Cadet Boerner in 1951

Kenneth Ronald Boerner, Sr. Passed away peacefully on Friday, May 27 at 2:15 a.m. He will be missed by his wife, Mary Lou Boerner of 51 years; his son, Kenneth Ronald Boerner, Jr.; daughter, Kemberly Gray Chadwick; daughter-in-law, Anne Hurley Boerner; grandchildren, Alec Boerner, Taylor Chadwick,

Haley Chadwick, Pierce Boerner; and sister-in-laws, Norma Gray Ellis, Mildred Gray Williams, and Edith Boerner; as well as special family members, Andrea Plummer and Steve Berlin.

Kenny went to prep school at **Staunton Military Academy** and continued his education at Virginia Tech on a football scholarship. His education was interrupted by the war in Korea, and he came back to Virginia Tech and graduated in 1957.



Kenny Boerner

He was employed by the Federal Government and started out working for the Internal Revenue Service. His career ended with employment by the Department of the Navy. After retirement, he worked for the State of Virginia as an auditor.

Kenny enjoyed hunting, fishing, golfing, playing bridge, cooking, and entertaining his friends.



Leonard DiGregorio of Southbridge, and Dr. Ronald DiGregorio of Charlton; and many nieces and nephews. He was predeceased by his sister, Concetta Detarando and two brothers, Albert DiGregorio and William DiGregorio. Richard was born in Southbridge on February 8, 1927, and was the son of the late Fileno and Angela Maria (Sonsini) DiGregorio.

Richard attended High School at **Staunton Military Academy in Virginia** where he was the undefeated captain and earned golden gloves on their boxing team. He then served in the infantry as a radio operator for two years in Italy at the end of WWII.

Upon earning his BS in Mechanical Engineering from University of Virginia, Richard returned to Southbridge to work with his brothers at the business begun by their father in 1916, The United Lens Company, Inc. As Chief Engineer, Richard's penchant for innovation and invention was integral in catapulting that company to world renown

in the optical field. He retired as VP of Manufacturing in 1991, but remained a member of the company's Board of Directors. He was a lifetime member of the Society of Manufacturing Engineers. He was a member of the Knights of Don Orione in East Boston, a member of the



Richard DiGregorio

Southbridge Exchange Club and sat on the Board of Directors of the Southbridge Credit Union.

Ricard Fileno DiGregorio, SMA



Cadet DiGregorio in 1945

Richard Fileno DiGregorio, 84, of Southbridge, passed away Thursday, Sept. 1st at the UMass Memorial Medical Center, University Campus, in the company of his three children and granddaughter. His wife of 62 years, Helen A. (Hamilton) DiGregorio, passed away earlier this summer on

July 12th. He is survived by a son, Richard A. DiGregorio and his wife Martha of Norwell; two daughters, Martha A. Burzycki and her husband Peter of North Harwich, and Margaret D. Batting, of Barrington, RI; five grandchildren, Nora Burzycki, James DiGregorio, Emma Burzycki, Sarah DiGregorio, and Benjamin Batting; three brothers, Raymond DiGregorio of Sturbridge, Dr.

Ross Veder Hersey, Jr. Asst. PMS&T '44 – '46



Captain Hersey in 1944

Ross Veder Hersey, 94, of Waynesboro, VA, passed away November 1, 2011 at his residence at Stuarts Draft Retirement Community. He was born in New Bedford, Massachusetts on June 27, 1917 and is a graduate of Greenbrier Military School (1936) and Washington & Lee University (1940). After graduating from W&L, he came to Waynesboro as Circulation Manager of the News-Virginian. During his brief stay in Waynesboro before World War II, he met and married the former Betty Lou Bush.

During World War II, he served in the European Theater of Operations with the Army's First Infantry

TAPS

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Division. He was wounded in North Africa and received the Silver Star for heroism in combat, the Purple Heart, and the French Croix de Guerre with star. He was mustered out as a major.

After the war, Mr. Hersey returned to the Shenandoah Valley and spent two years (1944 – 1946) at **Staunton Military Academy as the Assistant PMS&T**. He also coached the rifle team. In 1947, Mr. Hersey returned to Waynesboro and the News-Virginian as its Managing Editor. In 1949, he joined the E. I. duPont Company facility in Waynesboro in public relations and personnel work. He retired from duPont in 1974 to pursue a career in public speaking where he made over 1,700 talks in all 50 states to banquets and conventions.

He was a member of the Waynesboro Kiwanis Club for 46 years, serving as president of his club and as lieutenant governor of the Capital District's Fifth Division. As a Kiwanian, he chaired the committee that brought Little League baseball to Waynesboro. He served as vice-chairman of both the local Red Cross and the United Way, and was president of the Waynesboro Concert Association.

He is survived by his wife of 69 years, Lou Hersey; his four children, Robin Hersey of Waynesboro, Barbara Overstreet and he husband Ray of Bedford, Missie Hersey of Richmond, and Andrew Hersey of Charlottesville; his grandchildren, Brian and Holland Hersey of Waynesboro.

Courtesy of the McDow Funeral Home.



James Henry Holstein II, SMA '71



Cadet Holstein in 1971

James Henry Holstein II passed into God's Eternal Rest on Nov. 6, 2011.

A Memorial Mass will be held Friday at 1 p.m. at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic Church.

He was born in Charleston, WV on November 20, 1953 to Mary Sue Brooks Holstein and James Henry Holstein. He is the

oldest of 3 boys. **He attended and graduated Stanton Military Academy.** Following high school, he was accepted to Ole Miss University where he was in ROTC and graduated with a BA in Law Enforcement and Public Safety. Jim entered active duty military in 1974 as a 2nd Lt. at Ft. Knox, KY. He had a very extensive career in the military. He earned his MS in Defense Contracting, Logistics and Procurement while on active duty and ended

his career of 25 years as a Lt. Colonel for the US Army. He served in 1st Calvary Division, 68th Army Regiment, TACOM, 101st Air Assault Division, JTFB Honduras, and 13th COSCOM. Jim was employed at AECOM in Fort Worth Texas. He was a member of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic Church.

He was married to Patricia E. Hare on July 11, 1986 in Biloxi Mississippi at St. John's Church.

He is preceded in death by grandparents Bonnie and Mack Brooks; mother Mary Sue Holstein; and brother John Beard (JB) Holstein.

Survivors: his father James Henry Holstein of Richmond Texas; wife Patricia E Holstein of North Richland Hills; brother Brooks Holstein of Biloxi MS; daughters Jaymee Dow of

Leawood KS, Dawn Smith of Omaha NE, Becki Truxillo of Houston TX; son Jeff Howell of Jackson, MS; and His grandchildren Ben and Connor Smith, and Brooke and Bailey Truxillo.

Courtesy of Shannon Rufe Snow Funeral Chapel



Lt. Col. Holstein (RET)

Michael Douglas Ison, SMA '57

Michael Douglas Ison, SMA '57, suddenly died January 5, 2011 after suffering a stroke.

Editor's Note. This death notice was sent by his widow Carol J. Isoni, who said "Mike enjoyed his years at Staunton and spoke often of his many friends."



Cadet Ison in 1957

George E. Lowman, Science Instructor '69 – '75



Lt. Lowman in 1972

George Edgar Lowman, 58, of Elkton, VA., died Monday, April 17, 2006, at his home, after a brief illness with cancer.

Born Oct. 2, 1947, he was the oldest son of George P. and Earlene H. Lowman of Keymar. He was

TAPS...continued on next page

the husband of Dianne Koontz Lowman, his wife of 28 years.

He was a 1965 graduate of Francis Scott Key High School and a 1969 graduate of Bridgewater College. He was a science instructor at **Staunton Military Academy from 1969 through 1975.**

He was a member of the Middleburg United Methodist Church. He was employed with the U.S. Postal Service, in Elkton, for 18 years. He enjoyed his Morgan car, hiking in the mountains and being outdoors.

Surviving, in addition to his wife and parents, are son and daughter-in-law Heath and Jeannie Lowman; grandchildren Kalee and Caleb; and brother and sister-in-law Richard and Barbara Lowman of Herndon, Va.

Reprinted from the Carroll County Times, Carroll County, MD.

James I. Moore, SMA '48



Cadet Moore in 1948

James I. Moore, 81, of Ho-Ho-Kus, NJ died June 20, 2011. Beloved husband for 54 years to Maida (Tinker) Moore of Ho-Ho-Kus. Jim graduated from **Staunton Military Academy in 1948** and attended Bucknell College. He enlisted in the Signal Corps during the Korean War and graduated from OCS as a Lieutenant.

His working career involved themagazine publishing business, mainly with Hearst Corporation. He was a member of Christ Episcopal Church in Ridgewood; a member of the Hobbyists and the Ramsey Country Club. After his retirement, he served on the Meals-On-Wheels Board of Directors for 20 years. He volunterred at Valley Hospital in numerous capacities and worked in the pet therapy program at Bergen Pines.

Frank J. Scibilia, SMA '49



Cadet Scibilia in 1949

Frank J. Scibilia, SMA '49, passed away July 8th, 2010 in Syracuse, NY. Frank graduated from **Staunton Military Academy** in 1949. He was born in Syracuse, NY on September 9th, 1931. Frank attended Lemoyne College from 1949-50 and then attended The University of Buffalo, where he was active in the pharmaceutical fraternity



Beta Sigma Phi. He graduated from UB in 1954 with a Bachelor of Science in Pharmacy. Shortly after graduation, in 1955, he married fellow graduate Dorris Fish. He enlisted in the Army and served at Fort Benning, Georgia from 1955-57. Frank and Dorris have four children; Grace, Linda, Dean, and Frank along with seven grandchildren.

Frank and Dorris owned and operated Lyndon Pharmacy in Fayetteville, NY from 1961 until they retired in 1996. He was very active in the community, participating in the Rotary Club of DeWitt and the Onondaga County Pharmaceutical Association. He also served on the Jamesville DeWitt School Board for many years as well as the Town of DeWill Zoning Board. Frank was an avid Syracuse Orange fan, traveling to many out of town football games and bowl games. He especially enjoyed the basketball team. He also enjoyed golf, playing poker, traveling and spending time with good friends. He is greatly missed by his family and all of those who knew him.

William Rising Schroeder, SMA '42

William Rising Schroeder, 86, a former electrical



Cadet Schroeder in 1942

engineer and veteran of

World War II, died July 25, 2011. **He was a 1942 graduate of Staunton Military Academy** and attended Princeton University for a year before enlisting in the U.S. Navy in 1943 to serve his country in World War

II. During the war, he served as an Electronics Technician's Mate, Third Class, aboard the USS PC 584, which was involved in antisubmarine operations in the Pacific, and participated in the Okinawa operation. He was awarded the Asiatic-Pacific Area Campaign Medal, American Area Campaign Medal, and World War II Victory Medal, and received an honorable discharge in 1946.

Following the war, in 1949, he received his Bachelor of Science degree in Electrical Engineering from the University of Kansas. Thereafter, he held a variety of engineering positions with Maryland Electronic Manufacturing Corporation, McGregor & Werner, Inc., National Bureau of Standards, Boeing Airplane Company, Navy Department Bureau of Ships, and the U.S. Army Materiel Command's Harry Diamond Laboratories.

He enjoyed studying the Bible, playing chess, tinkering with computers, and learning foreign languages. He will be

remembered for his endearing eccentricities, sense of humor, and devotion to his family.

He is preceded in death by his parents, Colonel Henry John Schroeder and Enriette Lawson Lewis Schroeder; his brothers Brigadier General Henry John Schroeder, Jr., Colonel Robert Lewis Schroeder, and Lieutenant Thomas Lewis Schroeder; a niece Mary Byrd Schroeder Braun; and a nephew Lieutenant Colonel Henry John Schroeder, III. He is survived by nephews William Harrison Schroeder, Esquire, of Floyd,

Thomas Andrew Schroeder, of Albuquerque, New Mexico, Robert Lewis Schroeder,

Jr., of Oak Grove, Virginia, and William David Schroeder, of Baltimore, Maryland; grand-nephews William Harrison "Hank" Schroeder, Jr., of Floyd, and Andrew Carter Braun, of Falls Church, Virginia; and grand-nieces Anne Lee Schroeder and Emma Randolph Schroeder, of Floyd. A graveside memorial service was held at the West Point Cemetery at the United States Military Academy, West Point, New York, at 10:00 a.m., Tuesday, August 2, 2011.

Courtesy of W. Harrison Schroeder

WILLIAM H. TAYLOR II, SMA '56



Cadet Taylor in 1956

William H. Taylor, 72, of Lexington, Ky., and Sausalito, Calif., died Monday, June 13, 2011, at the University of Kentucky Chandler Hospital. Bill was born in Philadelphia, Pa., on Dec. 17, 1938, a son of the late W. Howard Taylor and Ruth Schwender Taylor of Huntington, W.Va. He attended

Marshall Laboratory School in Huntington and **graduated from Staunton Military Academy**, The Johns Hopkins University, and received his Ph.D. in Solid State and Material Services, an A.M. in Solid State Physics and an M.S.E. in Aerospace and Mechanical Sciences from Princeton University. He was also a Distinguished Military Graduate and Corps Commander, R.O.T.C. of The Johns Hopkins University, followed by two years on active duty (1964~1966), U.S. ARMY, as a 1st Lieutenant, Ordinance Corps.

Dr. Taylor's career as a venture capitalist spanned over 30 years and several successful technology funds in New York and San Francisco. At his death he was the Managing General Partner of Mountaineer Capital, LP, in Charleston, W.Va., a \$25 Million Equity Base SBIC dedicated to supplying venture capital to West Virginia small businesses.

He served on numerous boards of directors and held memberships and affiliations with several honorary and national organizations. Additionally, he was an owner and the manager of the W. Howard Taylor Family, Agent LLC, a natural gas production business in Huntington, W.Va.

He is survived by his wife, Martha Stump Taylor; his son, Dr. Craig S. Taylor; his stepson, Dr. James H. Forsythe (Jennifer) and two stepdaughters, Alison G. Forsythe and Dr. Ann C. Forsythe; his brother, Dr. Stephen L. Taylor; his stepsister, JoAnn R. Hodges (Ray) and numerous grandchildren. His son, Bryan H. Taylor, preceded him in death. He will be buried in Woodmere Memorial Park, Huntington, W.Va.

Thompson, John Charles, SMA '53

John (Bill) was born to Lucy Pope Thompson and William Jesse Thompson in Dunn, NC on September 2, 1935. He passed away October 24, 2011 in Pasadena, CA.



Cadet Thompson in 1953

After growing up in Dunn, he graduated from **Staunton Military Academy in Virginia**. He attended Duke University and graduated in 1957.

While at Duke, he was a starter on the football team and played in two Orange Bowl games. He was named an Academic All-American and was a member of the Kappa Alpha fraternity. John (Bill) met his wife, Martha Rae Harris of Albemarle, NC while at Duke during their freshman year. They were married on June 29, 1957 and celebrated 54 years of marriage this past June.

After law school at Duke, John began his career in the management training program of Carnation Company. After many moves throughout the country with Carnation, John and Martha settled in San Marino, CA in 1965 where they raised their two children, Betty and John, and made many wonderful friendships. John was elected to the Board of Directors of Carnation Company at the age of 41 and held many executive positions for over 23 years at the company. As Executive Vice President at Knudsen Corporation and Kraft, John continued his successful business career while expanding his involvement with several charities, such as the City of Hope and the Children's Miracle Network. His lifelong passion for golf culminated in his dream retirement job as Executive Director of the Aloha section of the PGA in Hawaii. Although he and Martha resided in California for

over 47 years, they never forgot their southern roots, especially their love for Duke University and the state of North Carolina.

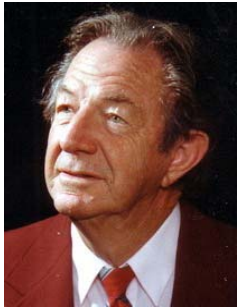
John is survived by his lifelong best friend and loving wife, Martha; his daughter Betty Thompson Vanstrom and her husband Peter and their daughters Christine and Caroline of Roswell, GA; his son John and his partner Troy Wiese of Atlanta, GA; his brothers Jim Thompson of Charlotte, NC and Tom Thompson of Naples FL; and cousins Clarence Lee Tart and Mary Elizabeth Fowler of Dunn, NC.

Editor's Note: Courtesy of Los Angeles Times (October 29, 2011)



John Charles Thompson

Fred Calvin Thompson, Director of the SMA Alumni Association



Fred C. Thompson

Fred Calvin Thompson, 85, husband of Doris Van Pelt (Hanger) Thompson of 47 Middle River Drive, Verona, died Monday, September 12, 2011 at his residence.

He was born January 13, 1926 in Verona, the son of Earl Madison and Lelia B. (McLaughlin) Thompson.

Fred was employed with the Chesapeake and Potomac Telephone Company in Staunton for 38 years, retiring in January of 1989. Subsequently, **he was Executive Director of the Staunton Military Academy Alumni Association until June 2002.**

He was also active in Verona United Methodist Church, serving as Sunday School Superintendent, Sunday School Teacher, delegate to Virginia annual Conference, Lay Leader, Member of Finance and Parsonage Committees. He also served as Chairperson of the Council on Ministries, Pastor Parish, and Building Committees; additionally, he served on the Administrative Board and Board of Trustees.

Fred was a Navy Veteran of WWII, serving in the Pacific, participating in the Battle of Okinawa on a destroyer serving as a "picket ship" in defense of the main fleet of aircraft carriers.

He was a member and President of the Beverley Manor PTA, the Augusta Country Club, Men's and Senior Men's

Golf Association, the Verona Community Association, and the Staunton, Waynesboro, Augusta County Central Labor Council. He served as a member and Chairman of the Augusta County Parks and Recreation Commission, Augusta County Transportation Safety Commission, and the Staunton, Waynesboro, Augusta County March of Dimes. His extensive volunteer work had a significant impact on the lives of men, women, and children in the Verona, Staunton, and Augusta County areas.

On March 29, 1948 he married Doris Van Pelt Hanger who survives. Also surviving are his son and daughter-in-law Michael B. and Donna Z. Thompson of Glen Allen and daughter Pamela M. Thompson of Suffolk. He was preceded in death by his parents and his brothers, Horace, Norwood, and Virgil Thompson.



Roland S. Tremble, SMA '38

Roland S. Tremble was born in Jersey City NJ on May 30, 1921. He graduated from **Staunton Military Academy in 1938** and then Dartmouth College in 1942. Roland



Cadet Tremble in 1938

entered the US Army Air Force after graduation. During WW2 he was the navigator on a B-24 Liberator bomber, flying 52 missions including raids over the Ploesti oil fields, attaining the rank of Captain. At the age of 24 he had the privilege of working with the top executives of many of this country's major corporations in renegotiating war contracts.

After the war he completed the Advanced Management Program at Harvard University and received an MBA from Pace Institute. He was a CPA; Director of Taxes at ACF Industries in NYC; Controller of North American Philips Co; Chief Financial Officer of General Signal Corporation; Financial Vice President and Treasurer of American Broadcasting Company; Chief Operating Officer of Downe Communications, Inc.; management consultant to Citibank; owner of Girard Business Forms Company. He formed and managed the Rehabilitation and Liquidation Bureau of the Delaware Insurance Department.

He was a CPA in NY and NJ, a former president of the Tax Executives Institute, a former member of the NY Metropolitan Club and Union League Club. He was a life-long member of While Beeches Golf & Country Club in Haworth, NJ.

TAPS

A former resident of Bergen County, New Jersey, he lived in Wilmington DE for the last 24 years. He was an all-around sportsman, enjoying golf, tennis, hunting, fishing, and skiing. He was **captain of his tennis team at Staunton Military Academy**, and played football and lacrosse for Dartmouth. He was a 4th degree member of the Knights of Columbus. He had three children with his



Roland Tremble
in later years

first wife, Mary Jane Roberts (who died of ovarian cancer). He then married Patricia Harkin and they had three children. Patricia died of colon cancer. He then married Theresa Fanuele and they recently celebrated 24 years of marriage. In addition to his children and spouse, he leaves 11 grandchildren and 7 great-grandchildren.



Willis J. Wichlei, SMA '55



Cadet Wichlei in 1955

Willis J. Wichlei '55 passed away on May 18, 2011.

Editor's Note. This death notice was sent by Linda Wichlei, who said "He told his children and grandchildren many stories of his time at SMA"

Ward Wilcox, SMA '62



Cadet Wilcox in 1962

Ward Wilcox passed away suddenly on April 27, 2010 while hiking in Anacortes, WA with his dog Shelby and a good friend.

He was born on July 4, 1943 in Fayetteville, NC to Ward Manley Wilcox, Sr. and Alice Catherine MacQueen Wilcox. His early childhood was spent in North Carolina where he got his first boat at age 5 and developed a lifelong love of the sea and boating. The

family later moved to San Antonio and then Dallas, Texas.

Ward was a graduate of **Staunton Military Academy in Virginia (class of '62)** and the University of North Texas. He got his MBA at Corpus Christi State University and later graduated from the Southwestern Graduate School of Banking at SMU in Dallas.

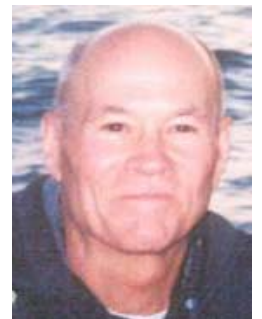
In 1979 he met his wife, Clay Fennell while working at an advertising agency in New York City and living on a sailboat in Stamford, CT. They shared a life together filled with sailing, traveling, and love for each other. Together they cruised on their boat down the east coast and spent time in the Abaco Islands of the Bahamas before they arrived in Rockport, TX. They lived there for 10 years and their daughter, Chelsea Marissa Wilcox was born. In Rockport, they both worked at First National Bank and Ward took night classes at Corpus Christi State University to get his MBA.

In 1992 they moved to Austin, TX, where Ward applied the skills working for Morgan Keegan in the Portfolio Accounting Department. In 1997, he accepted the offer to transfer to Memphis, TN. He was a vital part, and main architect of many of the tools used by the Fixed Income Department of Morgan Keegan today, and for many years to come.

Although Ward received great satisfaction from his work, he yearned to get back to the coast. After exploring many alternatives, Ward and Clay were won over by Anacortes, WA and moved there in March of 2008. Anacortes became the perfect setting for their love of sailing, hiking, and exploring.

Ward was at peace with his new sailboat and life in Anacortes. He spent the week prior to his death cruising on his boat with his dog in the San Juan Islands. He wrote an email to a friend on April 20, 2010 saying that, "I'm down below with the heater on, reading and writing. Dog is sleeping. There is nothing as cozy as a comfortable boat of teak and bronze, anchored in a beautiful cove on a rainy day. I am sorry for everyone, who is not me."

Ward is survived by his wife, Clay; his daughter, Chelsea; his sister, Catherine Wilcox Shaw and nephew, Sean Devereaux Wrather, both of Dallas, TX; and in-laws, Doriss L. Fennell and J. Edward Fennell of New York City. He was loved and will be missed deeply!



Ward Wilcox
in later years

SMA-VWIL "Walk of Honor" Brick Order Form

Staunton Military Academy Alumni Association

P.O. Box 958, Staunton, VA 24402

Tel: (540) 885-1309 / (800) 627-5806; Email: SMAOffice@sma-alumni.org

Please fill out this form and mail it to above or fax it to: (866)-950-4452.

Purchase a Brick in your name! The individually inscribed commemorative bricks are a way to honor and recognize SMA alumni, former faculty members, teachers, coaches, staff, graduating classes, and SMA friends and supporters. The blank bricks on the existing walkway will be replaced with each 100 orders of inscribed bricks. Each 4" x 8" brick costs \$60.00 and can be purchased with a tax-deductible contribution to the SMA Foundation, Inc.

ORDER

SMA Foundation, Inc. (payable to SMA Foundation, Inc.)

"Walk of Honor" Brick (\$60.00 per brick) \$ _____

If multiple bricks are being purchased, please fill out add'l copies of the form to specify the inscription information for each brick being ordered. Number each page (form) being faxed. The first page should include the total amount being ordered and charged (e.g., \$60/brick x quantity purchased = Total.

Total Order: \$ _____

Inscription Information: (please print clearly)

Line 1. _____

Line 2. _____

Line 3. _____

PAYMENT

Check (payable to SMA Alumni Association)

Credit Card (can only accept MC/Visa)

Master Card Visa

Card Number: _____

Expiration Date: _____

Security Code: (CCV2 code on back of card) _____

Name: (exactly as written on credit card) _____

Billing Address:

(exactly as written on CC billing statement)

_____ Zip: _____

CONTACT AND SIGNATURE

Contact Phone Number: _____

Email Address: _____ @ _____

Signature: _____

Inscriptions may be up to three lines (maximum of 20 characters per line). Punctuation marks count as characters.

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

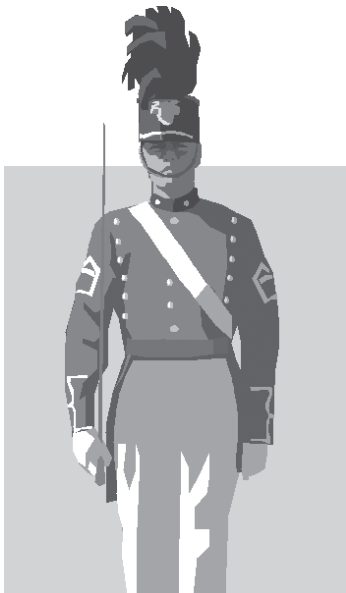
You can also contact the store by e-mail at SMAOffice@sma-alumni.org or call (540) 885-1309 for information, leave a message, and your call will be returned as soon as possible.

Credit card orders can be processed by using the form on page 28. Your order will be shipped when payment is received.

STAUNTON MILITARY ACADEMY



STAUNTON, VIRGINIA



QUAN.	ITEM	EACH	TOTAL
_____	Baseball Caps	\$13.00	\$ _____
_____	Structured Hats: White with Blue Lettering "Staunton Military Academy"		
_____	Blue with Gold Lettering "Staunton Military Academy"		
_____	Blue with Gold Hat Shield		
_____	Baseball Caps	\$15.00	\$ _____
_____	Unstructured Hats: Blue, White, OR Tan with Cross Rifles and Lettering		
_____	"Staunton Military Academy"		
_____	T-Shirts: M-3X		
_____	Blue: (Gold Silk Screened Hat Shield)	\$8.00	\$ _____
_____	Blue: (Gold Embroidered Hat Shield)	\$14.00	\$ _____
_____	Gold: (w/ Blue Embroidered Hat Shield on front & Embroidered SMA Shoulder Patch on sleeve)	\$18.00	\$ _____
_____	Gold: (with full color hat shield patch)	\$20.00	\$ _____
_____	Black: (with full color hat shield patch)	\$20.00	\$ _____
_____	T-Shirts: M-3X - Long sleeve		
_____	Gold: (with full color hat shield patch)	\$25.00	\$ _____
_____	Sweatshirts: M-3X		
_____	Blue: (Gold Embroidered Hat Shield Patch)	\$24.00	\$ _____
_____	Gray: (Embroidered Cross Rifles and lettering "Staunton Military Academy")	\$24.00	\$ _____
_____	Polo (Golf) Shirts: M-3X		
_____	Solid White or Blue with Blue Embroidered Hat Shield ...	\$39.00	\$ _____
_____	Solid Black with Gold Embroidered Hat Shield	\$39.00	\$ _____
_____	Blue (Chevron design on collar and cuff) Embroidered with cross rifles and lettering "Staunton Military Academy"	\$25.00	\$ _____
_____	Jackets: \$65.00 M-3X		
_____	Gold with Navy Embroidered Hat Shield	\$60.00	\$ _____
_____	Navy Blue with Gold Embroidered Hat Shield	\$60.00	\$ _____
_____	Gold with Full color Hat Shield	\$75.00	\$ _____
_____	Black with Full Color Hat Shield Patch	\$75.00	\$ _____
_____	Blue Fleece 1/4 zipper front pullover		
_____	Embroidered with Gold Hat Shield	\$39.00	\$ _____
_____	Small cooler bright yellow w/black trim: full color Hat Shield Patch on front	\$24.00	\$ _____
_____	Officer/NCO Belt Buckle	\$30.00	\$ _____
_____	Leather Garrison Belt	\$35.00	\$ _____
_____	(can be cut to sizes up to 50 inches)		
_____	Car Window Decal	\$3.50	\$ _____
_____	Original Post Cards of scenes from SMA	\$2.00	\$ _____
_____	SMA Shoulder Patches	\$2.00	\$ _____
_____	Blue Book (reprint)	\$10.00	\$ _____
_____	Mug: Black "Barrel" Mug with Gold Hat Shield	\$6.00	\$ _____
_____	Steins: White with Gold Hat Shield	\$16.00	\$ _____
_____	License Plate Holder: Plastic with lettering "Staunton Military Academy Alumni Association" in gold	\$10.00	\$ _____
_____	DVD Disc: "A History of the Staunton Military Academy" Produced and Directed by Greg Robertson SMA '70	\$20.00	\$ _____
_____	CD: A collection of items related to the history of SMA contains ADS (1884-1930) catalogs, panorama of campus & Corp of Cadets, postcards, and 16 Yearbooks including the first (1906) and last printed (1975)	\$20.00	\$ _____

Charges listed below are for 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	\$ 10.75	\$ _____
\$31.00 to \$70.00	\$ 12.95	\$ _____
\$71.00 and above	\$ 14.95	\$ _____
	Total:	\$ _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____

Telephone: (_____) _____ E-mail: _____



Staunton Military Academy Foundation, Inc.

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Staunton, Virginia 24402-0958

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

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

Please fill out this form and mail it to above or fax it to: (866)-950-4452.

SMA Alumni Association, Inc. (payable to: SMA Alumni Association, Inc.)

- **Annual Membership Dues:** (\$60.00 per year, 1 September through 31 August) \$ _____
If you are paying for multiple years, please indicate below which years (past/present/future).

SMA Legacy Fund Contribution: \$ _____

- The Legacy Fund is endowment fund intended to perpetuate our SMA Legacy, as the number of our alumni decline.

SMA Foundation, Inc. (payable to: SMA Foundation, Inc.)

- **SMA Foundation Contribution:** \$ _____
Tax deductible donations are used to fund the Kablegram, SMA-VWIL Museum, reunions, related expenses.
- **SMA-VWIL Initiative Fund** \$ _____
Tax deductible donations are given to VWIL for discretionary utilization.
- **SMA Leadership Scholarship Fund** \$ _____
Tax deductible donations are used to fund the annual SMA Alumni Association Leadership Scholarship.
- **SMA Special Donation:** \$ _____
Tax deductible donations are used as specified by the donor, such as the Howie Rifles, VWIL Band, etc.

Total: \$ _____

PAYMENT

- **Check** (please see above for correct "payable to")
- **Credit Card** (can only accept MC/Visa) Master Card Visa

Card Number: _____

Expiration Date: _____

Security Code: (CCV2 code on back of card) _____

Name: (exactly as written on credit card) _____

Billing Address:

(exactly as written on CC billing statement)

_____ Zip: _____

Contact Phone Number: _____

Email Address: _____ @ _____

Signature: _____