

# *NMMI Alumni Relations*



December 2015/January 2016



# Upcoming Events

It is

**“Official”**

## 27th Annual NMMI Alumni Trail Ride

Our hosts will be the Family of  
**Megan L. Byers 2014 HS**

and

Mescalero Apache Indian Tribe  
at Mescalero, NM

**14-17 June 2016**



### **Make your plans; mark your calendars, to attend the 2016 NMMI Alumni Trail Ride!**

The cost for the full four **(4) days** event will only be **\$375**, daily rates available, as well.

**Including:** Daily Happy Hours (Beer and Wine)! Appetizers! Meals – Morning, Noon and Night! – Keep Sake Item! And much more! But most Important – Long Lasting Old and New Comraderies

Silent Auction Items will be on display

2016 Trail Ride Memorabilia for Special Order: Trail Ride Shirts, Buckles

**Setting:** A private, exclusive canyon, normally not available to non-tribal members, approximately 3 1/2 miles from the Inn of the Mountain Gods Resort.

**Lodging:** Stay at camp or reserve a room, the Inn of the Mountain Gods will be offering participants group rates. Public sleep tent and “Hot Running Showers” at camp site

### **Lots of Things To Do!**

-Horseback Trail Riding—Bring your own horse or rent one

\* Per your request, half day rides will also be available this year.

-Hiking, Fishing, Biking, Zip Lining and Boating will be available

-Don Strand Golf Tournament and Jordy’s Highly Competitive “Horseshoe Tournament”

-Guided ATV Riding (Bring your own ATV)

-Skeet Shooting (Spilt the cost – total of 50 rounds)

-The Resort will provide a free shuttle (tips only) between the camp and the resort

-On Wednesday Night, we will have “Wine Down Wednesday” on the terrace at the resort followed by a Comedy Show.

-On Thursday Night our hosts, the Byers Family will be cooking a “Traditional Indian Feast” with Indian Fry Bread and with all the fix in’s, to include a “Traditional Ceremonial Dance”.

-On Friday Night, we will have our “Live Auction” (Proceeds going to the Corps); Top Hand Award; Rat Rider Turning Ceremony; Fallen Rider Tribute; Host Buckle Presentation

**Entertainment:** Back by popular demand, The Tejas Brothers!



# NMMI Brick Program

**ORDER YOUR BRICK TODAY!**

**\$75 each**



**\$75 each**

Bricks can be engraved with three lines of text; twenty spaces per line. Order a brick for yourself or gift a brick to a friend for graduation, birthdays, anniversaries, or other special events. All bricks will be placed in the DeSanders Alumni Memorial Plaza in the Troop Zia Ray of your choice. To order your brick, contact the NMMI Alumni Relations Office by calling (575) 624-8250; or by mailing your check to:

NMMI Alumni Relations, 101 West College Boulevard, Roswell, NM 88201

JONATHAN E. BACA  
CLASS OF 2011  
HQ TROOP

LOREN H. HORTON  
1998 HSC

DAVID E. HOMER  
NMMI 1976 JCG

CHRISTOPHER  
2004

MARIE  
JCG

THOMAS  
CMDR

BROTHERS  
BEN - DEVIN - ALEX  
LUKOMSKI

MITCHELL L. HORTON  
2000 HSC

MIGUEL P. PEREZ  
2008 - 2010

**Leave Your  
NMMI Legacy  
in DeSanders Plaza**

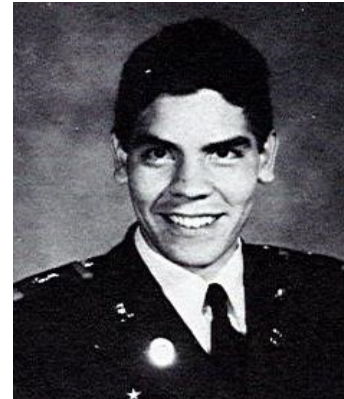




# Alumni Updates



Update from **MAJ Justin Wyatt Sisneros, USA 1999**  
**HS~2001 JC**—I was recently promoted to MAJ and am currently assigned to Joint Special Operations Command (JSOC) at Ft Bragg, NC.



Update from **Anthony R. Haggard 1987 JC**—I'm currently attending Graduate School at the University of Southern California and double majoring-Masters in Social Work (Community Organizing & Business Innovation) and a Masters in Public Health. I graduate May of 2018 for my MSW and May of 2019 for my MPH. I plan on working for the United Nations in either New York or Geneva, Switzerland. I'm hoping to either work on Climate Change, Business Development or Public Health issues.



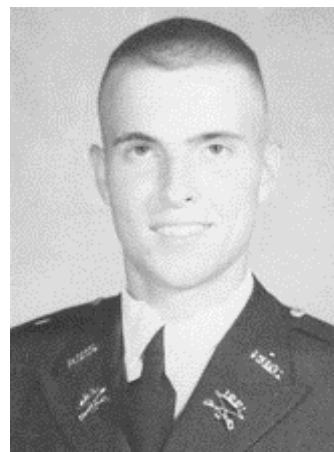
Update from **John H. Miller 1960 JC** - After leaving NMMI I attended Texas U. where I got a college degree and then went to Law School there. I practiced law since then In Sinton, Texas and all over South Texas.



Update form **Kristian F. "Fred" Kristiansen 1958 JC**— I have retired from Eastham Forge as Production Control Manager as of September 15th after 25 years of service at the Plant in Beaumont, Texas. It manufactured wellhead equipment for the oilfield worldwide. We will continue to live in Beaumont, Texas, as our 2 daughters and their families live only blocks away. I will continue to be involved in our community and as a Texas A&M graduate we attend all home Aggie football games which is a 3-hour drive. Barbara and I like to travel and we have plans to go to Australia early next year.



Update from **Timothy E. Harp 1981 JC** — Teaching and Coaching Football at Horizon High School in Thornton, CO.

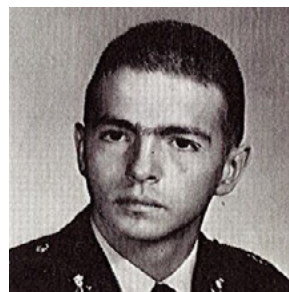


Update from **MAJ Matthew L. Isaacson, USA 1993**  
**JC** — On 21 May, I took command of the 209th Aviation Support Battalion, 25th Infantry Division in Hawaii.

# Alumni Updates



Update from **Stephen J. Fuquay 1969 HS**—I'm retiring from Boeing Salt Lake City. Maybe I'll have time to do some traveling to the hill maybe even the Trail Ride. I hope to gather names of Alumni living along the way so when I am traveling I can stop and visit.



Update from **Philip J. Romero 1974 JC**—Spent two years at New Mexico Military Institute Jr. college 1972-74. Received BA from New Mexico Highlands University. Married since 1981 to Geraldine Pino. Served as Sheriff of San Miguel County for 10 years. Retired Magistrate Judge since 2013. Residence in Las Vegas and Albuquerque, New Mexico. Enjoy running, biking, being retired and life itself!



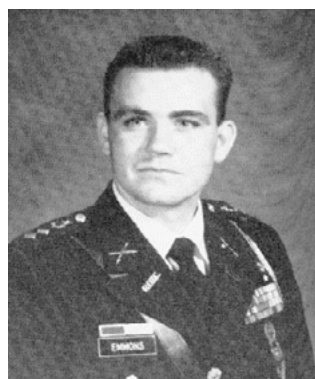
**Randell G. Major 1980 HS** with his son Cadet Randell L. Major at Ring Ceremony showing their NMMI class rings. The four signifies their four years at the Institute. Randell would love to hear from any of his old alumni buddies. His email is: [rmajor@majorranches.com](mailto:rmajor@majorranches.com)



Update from **Dr. Lester H. Kuperman 1963 HS**—Attended the University of Texas in Austin for three years, Baylor College of Dentistry in Dallas with DDS in 1972. Class Rank 4th, then University of Texas Dental Branch in Houston with MS in Biomedical Science and Specialist in Orthodontics. Currently in my 44th year of practice in Fort Worth, Texas. Married to Pam for 43 years and counting...two children...and three grandchildren.



Congratulations to **Loren B. Bentley, III 1995 HS** and his wife Angela on the birth of Stephen Tarian. Stephen was born of 5 December.



Update from **LTC Christopher A. Emmons, AZARNG 1990 JC**—After working the road in Chandler, AZ, for 18 years as a patrol and motorcycle police officer. I was promoted to Detective in January 2014 and assigned to the Professional Standards Section of the Chandler Police Department. My primary duties now consist of background investigations on police officer applicants and scheduled and un-scheduled audits on police department functions. Desk work is definitely not as "fun" as working the road!! I'm still a drilling member of the Arizona Army National Guard and am assigned as the Logistics Directorate Chief at the Camp Navajo Army Ordnance Depot located outside of Flagstaff, AZ.



NMMI is working to get *The NMMI Dispatches* and *The Sally Port* magazine online. If you would like to receive either of the publications online instead of US mail, please sign up below!

[The NMMI Dispatches](#)  
[The Sally Port magazine](#)

# Alumni Updates



## **Vernon Edmondson, Chaplain, COL, USAF (Retired)**

Thoughts on Vern, my friend.

I never saw him without a smile.

Held the first chapel service in the new chapel before it was dedicated. He wanted the first classmen to enjoy a service in the building they had seen built during their time on campus. He always thought of cadets first.

His prayers were incredible! When saying the opening prayer at football games, he loved God's creation and you knew it! If there was an exceptionally beautiful sunset, he mentioned it! He always included prayers for the players on both teams that no one got hurt.

He performed the first funeral ever held in the chapel as well as countless weddings. One particular wedding rehearsal had been completed and the participants had gone outside when they heard the Polo Bell ring. Another cadet had died. Vern went from celebrating the beginning of a new couple's life to that of comforting.

I introduced him to Betty Baker, a Roswell realtor, whom he later married. She was the love of his life. She quit selling houses and became immersed in NMMI, supporting Vern, comforting mothers on Matriculation Day. They had many joyous years together.

He and Betty loved hooking the travel trailer up and taking off for the wild blue yonder! One summer's camping trip involved several couples from NMMI who went to Big Bend National Park (Texas), so the guys could "ride the rapids down the Rio Grande River" in the roy-aks. The trip included a trip to The Basin where the weather changed and it started snowing on everyone! Vern let us know that there humor in the situation!

He had a sixth sense in that he knew when you were having a bad day. Numerous people have told me "he would walk up beside me, put his arm around me and keep walking with me – never asking what was going on". He counseled cadets, teachers, and staff. I think he was everyone's confidant! And he impacted the lives of everyone he met!

I saw a plaque in a restaurant recently that pretty much sums up Vern's Life: Live Simply, Love Generously, Care Deeply, Speak Kindly, Leave the Rest to God.

Rest in peace, my friend.

Alma K. Croix

NMMI Chapel Musician 1973-1986

Commandant's Secretary 1972-1983

Alumni Office Secretary 1984-1988

Honorary Life Member



# Alumni Updates



**RALPH ROYCE 1962 HS - 1964 JC** began flying at 17, was Executive Director of the CAF, joined the Lone Star Flight Museum of 1991 and founded the Texas Aviation Hall of Fame. Type rated in the B17, TBM, F6F, C60 (L18), he holds an unlimited piston powered letter from the FAA, has flown over 100 air shows, and air bossed over 250 shows. Involved in Air Show production and management since 1976, he has operated an aviation event consulting and air boss/announcing business for twenty years and is well known throughout the Air Show industry. He specializes in running first time or complex events safely!

Royce is Chairman of the International Council of Air Shows' Safety Committee. He is lead instructor for the Industry's Air & Ground Operations Seminar, both basic and advanced, taught at the ICAS Convention, the FAA Academy, and the USAF Air Show Workshop. He is a board member of the Wings Over Houston Air Show. Having an excellent relationship within the air show community, as well as the FAA, Royce was selected to be the civilian consultant and air boss to the USAF's 5th Anniversary Golden Air Tattoo at Nellis AFB.



Pictured are **Jesus Aguilar Murillo 2001 HS~2003 JC**, **Cesar E. Gallardo Inzuna 2000 HS**, **Victor M. Anaya Acosta 1996 HS** and **Francisco Jose Flores del Rincon 2000 HS~2002 JC** in Sinaloa, MX. They are celebrating the Grand Opening of Victor's 7th store in the "La Cullita" chain. Victor is the president of the NMMI Alumni Chapter in Mexico.



**Do you have updates? Have you moved, married, had children or been promoted? Send us your stories and pictures to share with your fellow alumni.**

Send to [alumnioffice@nmml.edu](mailto:alumnioffice@nmml.edu) or go online at <http://www.nmml.edu/alumni/aluminfo.htm>.

# Alumni Updates



**CHP Vernon R. Edmondson, USAF (Ret) Honorary Life Member** passed away on 18 October 2015. Chaplain Edmondson was a graduate of Southern California College, Berkley Baptist Divinity School and New Mexico State University. After his ordainment he was commissioned in the USAF as Chaplain where he served for 20 years during the period of 1953-1973, achieving the rank of Colonel (O-6). Edmondson was on active duty in the USA, Europe, as well as Thailand during the Vietnam War. After retirement from the USAF, he then served as Chaplain at the New Mexico Military Institute in Roswell for 14 years, retiring from NMMI in 1987. Many NMMI Cadets looked to him not only for spiritual guidance but also as a role model and mentor. After his "second retirement" from the Chaplaincy, he pastored at the First Christian Church of Roswell until relocating to Ruidoso with his wife Betty in 1997. Continuing his spiritual calling in Ruidoso, he served as Pastor of the First Presbyterian Church of Ruidoso followed by the Ruidoso First Christian Church. He is survived by his sister Geneva; his daughter Barbara; his sons Paul, Allen, Brad and Clark; his eight grandchildren; and his seven great-grandchildren.

When I was asked to write about Vern Edmondson I developed a writer's block and so I pondered a bit. I reflected on the my early days as a NMMI cadet starting in the early 1970s when Vern first came to NMMI. Prior to Vern Edmondson at NMMI, our early chapel days were held in Pearson Auditorium. My reflection of days prior to the NMMI Memorial Chapel services are linked to an image of a large wooden cross that was hung from a ceiling wire or rope on Sunday's Christian services among the red and taupe colored stage drapes. The cross appeared each Sunday sometime after the Saturday night movies that played for the cadets at the same venue the night before. The previous Chaplain to Vern Edmondson did a good job until one day he announced he was retiring. Soon thereafter, Vern Edmondson was introduced as the new NMMI Chaplain. He immediately struck us cadets as a man that had a knack for cheering up the services as Vern always had a great big smile throughout his services. I remember his services as being positive and stimulating while delivering his message and purpose for the week. His legacy quickly took a different turn at NMMI when he became the first Chaplain of the brand new NMMI Alumni Memorial Chapel. So for the Chapel's first approximate 14 years of existence the cadets had the benefit and honor of knowing our friend and Chaplain Vern Edmonson. His daily uniform was Air Force Blue and a very big warm positive smile. If hand salutes would ever be considered part of sign language they would chose Vern's as the most pleasing gesture. He was very approachable and a warm servant to all.

Vern was close to the cadets and school staff while he was there. He continued to be a friend to many alumni and associates and was a familiar face after his own retirement in 1987 from NMMI through his and his wife Betty's attendance at many homecoming events. He was an Honorary Alumnus and he was also a frequent special guest of the honored classes at their homecoming dinners. Everyone looked forward to seeing Vern at homecomings and periodic functions along with their other favorite faces sought after from their respective days at NMMI. He conducted marriage services for several alumni at locations in and out of our cherished NMMI Alumni Memorial Chapel. He also was nurturing during sorrowful times to alumni, cadets and NMMI families.

Just prior to learning that his cancer had returned, Vern was one of the first to register for the 2015 NMMI Homecoming events. He was also invited to be an honored guest at the Class of 1975 Reunion Dinner. Once he learned the cancer had returned, he had to cancel his plans to attend Homecoming; and through social media he told us of his plans to temporarily relocate to the Houston, Texas, area for a short period of time for the needed cancer treatments. Unfortunately, Vern passed away just days before the NMMI Homecoming and the 1975 Class Reunion Dinner; but his spirit and enthusiasm was with us as we honored his life and his influences in

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# Alumni Updates

## CONTINUED from pg. 8

several ways at our 1975 Class Reunion Dinner. Class leaders decided to dedicate a bench in the DeSanders Alumni Memorial Plaza in honor of Vern Edmondson. Two awesome iron NMMI memorabilia items that were handcrafted by alumnus **Scott Buckles 1975 HS - 1977 JC** were donated as auction items at the class dinner to raise money for Vern's bench. The two items alone raised \$1,300.00 toward payment of the bench. Other donations have since arrived for the cause and we only need about \$800.00 more to complete the payment for the bench. Alumni and friends continue to make donations toward the payment of Vern's bench. The bench committee has decided that any funds received over the balance due for the bench in memory of Vern Edmondson, will be transferred to the NMMI Foundation for a scholarship in Vern's memory. If you would like to contribute to the bench in memory of Chaplain Vernon Edmondson, Honorary Life Member, please send your donation to the NMMI Alumni Relations Office, 101 West College Boulevard, Roswell, NM 88201.

Written by **William J. Ball, Jr. 1975 HS - 1977 JC**



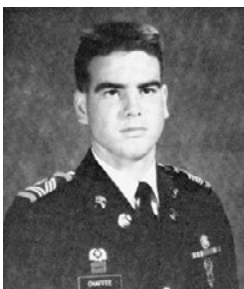
**Philip H. Snoberger 1943 HS** in January 1946. Phil served with the 14th Armored Division in Europe in 1944 and 1945. They were nicknamed "The Liberators".



**Philip H. Snoberger 1943 HS** in 2012. Phil is still able to wear his Army uniform 67 years later.



**Clark W. "Skip" Coleman 1967 JC** is a retired Police Lieutenant living in Las Vegas. He retired from the force after 27 years. Congratulations, Skip!



**LTC Neil T. Chaffee, USA 1990 JC** is a Battalion Commander stationed at Ft Hood, Texas. He is the 15th MI "Nighthawk" Battalion Commander that flies RC-12N Guardrail turbo-prop aircraft and the MQ-5B Hunter unmanned system.

# Alumni Updates

## **Miguel Gomez 1962 JC—recipient of Civic Recognition Award**

Colorado Springs awardee recognized for acts of compassion and kindness

*By Award Committee*

Miguel Gomez was named a recipient of the Civic Recognition Award. Gomez joins the ranks of others from Colorado who have received this honor.

The purpose of the Civic Recognition Award is to inspire people to help others and improve their communities. Recipients come from all walks of life and all 50 states. Under certain circumstances, the award can be issued posthumously.

It is hoped the Civic Recognition Award will encourage people in Colorado Springs and across Colorado to live their lives around ten values than enhance the wellbeing of individuals, families and communities.

Those ten values are compassion, courage, forgiveness,

generosity, humility, inclusiveness, integrity, kindness, respect and service.

Gomez is among a select number of individuals recognized in Colorado Springs. Many individuals never receive a civic award despite years of community involvement. While formal recognition should never be one's motive for acts of kindness, receiving an award is an affirmation of the positive impact one's actions can have.

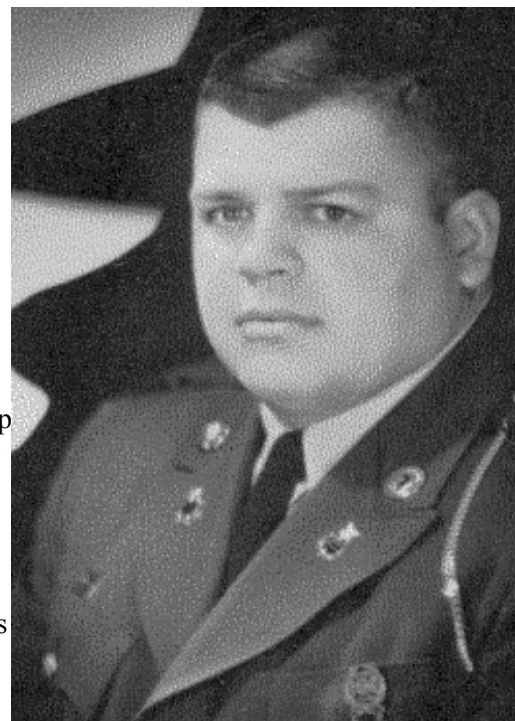
It should be a proud moment for Gomez's family and friends, and an opportunity to share inspiring stories. If fact, by discussing the award, the inspiration provided by Gomez's good deeds is multiplied. Discussion of the award can also help spread the word about the ten values embodied by the award. It is a fact that many individuals feel motivated to do more after hearing about the good deeds of others. Award recipients themselves can feel encouraged or inspired by the recognition to help more.

The positive impact of Civic Recognition Award winners like Gomez on their community cannot be measured. These winners were often the first to help people in need and the first to welcome a new

neighbor. The existence of community non-profit organizations of all kinds is a lasting testimony to the good works of involved individuals who, like Gomez, stepped forward to make a difference.

The lives of Civic Recognition Award winners like Gomez are also often examples to children. Children look up to role models to help shape how they behave in school, relationships or when facing challenging situations. When children emulate positive role models, they respond to situations in healthy ways that can contribute to individual and community well-being. Positive role models are essential to every child's well-being.

The Civic Recognition Award is one of the highest recognitions possible for individuals. Residents of Colorado Springs and all of Colorado can feel proud that one of the own, Miguel Gomez, has been recognized with this high distinction.





# Fall Legacy Dinner

Twice a year, we pay homage to our Legacy Cadets with a dinner. At the 2015 Fall Legacy dinner we had two 4th generation cadets and four 3rd generation cadets. Proud alumni parents and grandparents honored them by attending. A total of 41 cadets were in attendance. The next Legacy Dinner will be held on **2 March 2016**.



**4th generation cadets Gavin T. Maloney and Winston T. Welch**



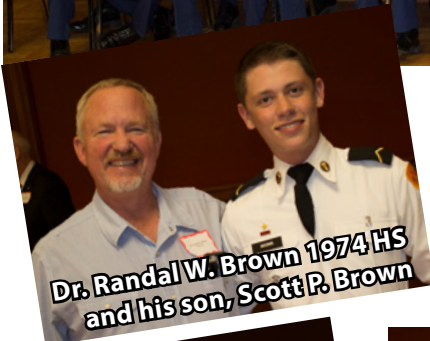
**3rd generation cadets Travis C. G. Rutherford, Lake M. Keating, Chance W. Cavin and Spencer A. Treat**



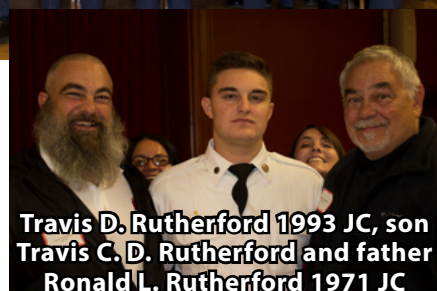
**COL Herbert M. Graves, USAR (Ret) 1958 HS~10960 JC and grandson Chandler W. Lenz**



**Cadet Spencer Treat and his father Bernarr R. Treat 1982 HS**



**Dr. Randal W. Brown 1974 HS and his son, Scott P. Brown**



**Travis D. Rutherford 1993 JC, son Travis C. D. Rutherford and father Ronald L. Rutherford 1971 JC**



**K. C. Swaim, grandson of B. T. "Buzz" Easterling 1952 HS~1954 JC and LTC Daniel L. Armijo, II, NMCI 1972 JC**



**Cadet Chance Cavin and his father William E. Cavin 1985 JC**



**Marlin D. Wells 1962 JC and grandson Jacob R. Wells**



**Cadet Ian T. Payne and father David T. Payne 1993 HS**



**Cadet Lake M. Keating and his grandfather John E. Keating 1961 HS**