



OFFICE OF ALUMNI RELATIONS E-NEWSLETTER



New Mexico Military Institute

21 June 2013

<http://www.nmmi.edu/alumni>
alumnioffice@nmmi.edu

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The 2013 24th Anniversary Trail Ride, hosted by the Easterling Family in Quemado, NM, was a great success. On Friday evening there were 92 riders in camp for dinner followed by entertainment provided by Johnny Lee. The Silent and Live Auction set a new high, thanks to the generosity of those in attendance. The funds will go to donor directed scholarships and cadet activities. Next year the Trail Ride will be in Wagon Mound, NM, hosted by Becky and **Brad Christmas 1970 HS**. This will be the Silver Anniversary, plans are underway!
—**LTC James D. Lowe, NMMI 1967 JC**
Executive Director



Left to right: Lance "Cole" Easterling, Jr. and his father, **Lance S. Easterling 1985 JC** and his grandfather, **B. T. "Buzz" Easterling 1954 JC**

This year the **Terrance J. Brown, Honorary Life Member** Rat Rider Scholarship was awarded for the first time. Terry set up the scholarship for an alumnus who is 5 years or less out of NMMI to be able to attend the Trail Ride. Terry is an artist and his artwork has been auctioned each year to raise money to endow the scholarship. The recipient for 2013 was **Jose Alejandro Cobo 2012 JC** from Key

Biscayne, Florida. The Friday Night Auction raised just over \$4,000 to be added to the Terrance Brown Rat Rider Endowment.



Jose A. Cobo 2012 JC and **Terrance J. Brown, Honorary Life Member**



Pictured left to right are **Jose A. Cobo 2012 JC**, MG Jerry W. Grizzle, AUS (Ret) and Claudia Dineen Vandewart

The Auction is one of the big events at the Trail Ride. With the help of auctioneer, **B. C. Bennett 1971 JC**, and **Nickie A. Vigil 1981 JC** a new record was set for scholarships and Campaign for the Corps, which supports cadet activities.



B. C. Bennett 1971 JC



Nickie A. Vigil 1981 JC, NMMI Director of Development and her son, **Dennis J. Garcia 2007 JC**



This year's Top Hand award was awarded to **Harry C. "Hotshot" Hendricks 1973 HS**. It was presented by **Dr. Randal W. Brown 1974 HS**, last years Top Hand recipient. The spurs

are funded by the **David H. Walter 1967 JC** Top Hand Fund.



The Don Strand Memorial Golf Tournament was held in Socorro, NM, at the New Mexico Tech Golf Course. Thanks to **Crae W. Fields 1989 HS** for managing the tournament along with **C. Sabino Grijalva 1988 JC**, PGA Head Golf Professional at NMT's Golf Course.



Hiking at the Lava Falls. Daily hiking was led by **LTC Seth R. Orell, USA (Ret) 1962 JC** and assisted by his son, **Seth R. Orell, Jr., Honorary Life Member**. The hikers enjoyed the beautiful scenery around El Caso Peak. To view more pictures of the 2013 Trail Ride, visit our [Facebook](#) page.



The ATV Riders were out riding the trails daily. They returned to camp dusty and dirty but feeling happy!



The horses were out on the trail every day. On the Thursday ride, **MAJ Walter E. Lowe, USA (Ret), Honorary Life Member**, pictured below with Gary Heil, met the riders on the trail and prepared a cowboy dutch oven lunch.



Thanks to **Richard C. Poe, II 1987 JC** for bringing adult beverages, water, Dos Lunas Tequila and Johnny Lee to the Trail Ride. Left to right are Richard, Susan (Easterling) Swaim, Entertainer and songwriter Johnny Lee and **Tanya R. Montgomery 1998 JC**.

Mark you calendars for the Silver Anniversary Trail Ride to be held at the Christmas Ranch in Wagon Mound, NM. 17-20 June 2014.

HOMECOMING 2013



Our next big event is Homecoming 2013. Our honored classes will be classes ending in "3", but **all classes are welcome!**

Some of our honored class alumni feel that they didn't just live at the Institute with the cadets in their classes. They are working hard include classes two

years before and two years after their graduation year. **All classes are welcome!** It promises to be the best Homecoming ever! Hope you can be here for the festivities on 16-19 October.

Mark your calendar!



CHAPTER NEWS



From the NMMI Alumni Washington, DC Chapter

Friends, Neighbors and Family,

Last year was the first time in nine years that we didn't have the annual BBQ (as the house was a construction site). SO, I've just reloaded the website and am looking forward to collecting all the usual suspects and new friends for the benefit of coming together to celebrate summer, food, adult beverages and fantastic friends!! The date is Saturday, 22 June. Please plan to attend. You can RSVP at this link:

www.plugandperform.com

Thanking You,
Larry

Lawrence J. Moon, Jr. 1983 JC



From the NMMI Alumni Houston, TX Chapter

Dear NMMI Alumnus,

The next regular meeting will be on Monday, 24 June 2013, to allow those who attend the Trail Ride a chance to get back to Houston with their pictures.

Visit our Facebook page here: <http://www.facebook.com/groups/321582457935283/> and be sure to join (Like) us so that you will get event notices when they are posted. Go to the 'events' tab to see more information.

The regular meetings are set for 6-8 pm. Treat these meetings as you would an Open House, i.e. show up when you can during that timeframe and leave when you must.

Come out and relax with old and new alumni friends.

See you there,
Lee

Lee G. Jones, Jr. - 1966 HS, 1968 JC
lgjones@swbell.net
713-906-6099 (Cell)



From the NMMI Alumni Albuquerque, NM Chapter

Visit the Chapter Facebook page at [Albuquerque Chapter](#) or contact **LtCol Jordan A. Wommack, USAF (Ret) 1980 HS** at jordywommack@msn.com.

If you would like information on an NMMI Alumni Chapter near you, email our office at alumnioffice@nmmi.edu or call 575-624-8250.



From the NMMI Alumni Las Vegas, NV Chapter

The Las Vegas, NV Alumni Chapter is now recruiting! Visit the [Chapter Facebook page](#) for more information or contact **LTC Juliana K. McCauslin, USAR 1989 JC** at julianamccauslin@yahoo.com.

ALUMNI UPDATES



Edgar and Heather

Graduation 2003

NMMI is mourning the loss of **Heather A. (Zahn) Rivera 2005 JC**, age 28 of El Paso, TX. Heather passed away 13 June 2013. Heather was born in Torrejon, Spain on 1 March 1985 to Donna and Reinhold Zahn. Heather graduated with honors from New Mexico Military Institute, Roswell, NM in 2003.



Heather married her high school sweetheart, **SGT Edgar A. Rivera, USA 2004 HS** on 28 December 2004. Heather was an entrepreneur, owner of the online business "Fluff of Enchantment" where she sold handmade cloth diapers and other FLUFFY stuff for your little ones. She was active in the community of natural parenting and touched the lives of many women seeking a natural birth

process. She was active in the International Order of the Rainbow for girls and Job's Daughters in her early teenage years. Heather is survived by her husband, Edgar; their four children, Ethan Roswell (5), Harmony December (4), Haven Sahara (2) and Hazel Aspen (2 weeks).



Heather (Zahn) Rivera Obit & Guestbook: [Click Here](#)

Edgar Rivera's Facebook page: [Click Here](#)

Donation Link ISO Rivera Family: [Click Here](#)

Raising for the Rivera's on Facebook: [Click Here](#)

Our thoughts and prayers are with Edgar and his family.

Brandy J. Barr 2005 JC informed our office of the news when she came by to order bricks for the Zia in the Alumni Plaza. She ordered three bricks, the first for Heather, the second for Edgar and the third for herself. The bricks will be in Honor of Edgar and in Memory of Heather.

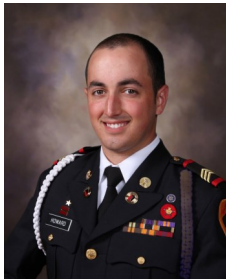


Edgar and Heather's children from left to right are Haven, Ethan, Harmony and newborn Hazel.

ALUMNI UPDATES



Adam W. Camp 2008 JC and Kaitlin Maher were married 14 June 2013. Adam was Regimental Commander in 2008 and is currently working ESPN Radio 101.7 "The Team" as an Account Executive. Congratulations Adam and Kaitlin!



Alexander J. Howard 2012 JC has only been away from NMMI for one year, and is already doing a lot! He is the Founder and Director of the Nicaraguan Clean Energy Initiative .

You can read about it here on the [Facebook](#) page.

Alex is proud of the fact that the flag of the Republic of Nicaragua now permanently hangs at the New Mexico Military Institute because he is the first NMMI graduate of Nicaraguan origin.



On 2 May 2013, Alumni Director, **LTC James D. Lowe, NMMI 1967 JC** along with William Lamb, Jr., NMMI Regimental Band Master and Cadet Cornell Abeyta (pictured right to left), attended a ceremony at the Indian Police Academy in Memory of the Indian country Law Enforcement Officers who have given their life in the line of Duty. Cadet Abeyta played Taps for the memorial service. Cornell is a direct descendant of the Institute. His father is **Harvey R. Abeyta 1989 JC**.



On 17 May 2013, **Loren B. Bentley, III 1995 HS** was awarded a mounted saber for his outstanding support as an assistant coach and advisor for the Goss Rifles Drill Team. By the end of January, the team tied for First Place in Exhibition Drill at a meet where they were competing against well funded teams loaded with experienced juniors and seniors. At the meet, in Amarillo, TX, they won First Place in outright Exhibition Drill. The saber that was presented to Loren was to recognize the contribution of his time and talent with the team.

Pictured are left to right: **Joshua Mote 2013 HS**, Goss Commander; **Loren B. Bentley, III 1995 HS**; **Christopher D. Otero 2013 HS** and CSM Ronald Fabec, USA (Ret).



ENS Steele Johnson, USCG 2008 HS graduated from the U. S. Coast Guard Academy on 22 May 2013 with a Bachelor of Science in Operations Research and Computer Analysis, and received his commission as an Ensign in the U. S. Coast Guard. Steele's first billet is on the ELM, which is a 225 foot "Juniper" Class Seagoing Buoy Tender. ELM is homeported in Atlantic Beach, NC. Atlantic Beach is home not only to ELM, but to the other Coast Guard units that comprise USCG Base Fort Macon.

Steele matriculated at NMMI in August 2004 and attended for four years. His was able to attend NMMI because of the Legislative Scholarship for Sophomore, Junior and Senior years. He was 1st SGT of Hotel Troop and Drum Major of NMMI Regimental Band. Congratulations, Ensign Steele!



LTG Charles W. Brown, USA (Ret) 1953 SC, a Rushville, NE, native, has been elected to the Hall of Great Westerners at the National Cowboy and Western Heritage Museum in Oklahoma City, OK. Mrs. Sherry Brown of Gainesville, VA, received official notification from the Museum April 29, 2013. General Brown will be inducted into the Hall of Great Westerners on 12 April 2014, at the Museum in Oklahoma City. His many friends and relatives in the Rushville area are thrilled. Election to the Hall of Great Westerners is the top honor awarded by the National Cowboy and Western Heritage Museum. General Brown will be joining Ronald Reagan, Theodore Roosevelt, Charles Goodnight, Dwight Eisenhower, Meri-

wether Lewis and more than 200 other great men and women of the American West whose lives exemplify the Western ideals of honesty, integrity, leadership and self-sufficiency.

Brown was born on the Brown Brothers Ranch south of Rushville in 1932. The ranch had been established by his grandfather in 1902. Brown attended public schools in Rushville through high school. He received his college education at the New Mexico Military Institute, graduating in 1953 at which time he entered the U. S. Army for a career lasting 37 years.

Brown participated in rodeo calf roping events while in high school and was a member of the NMMI rodeo club. He was decorated for Valor during the Vietnam War and served in many Army assignments of importance in the United States and overseas. While assigned to head the Reserve Officers Training Corps Program at Texas Tech University, Brown re-organized and coached an award-winning rodeo team.

It was in Germany as a 49 year old brigadier general that he earned the title, "The Cowboy General." He encouraged a touring rodeo to come to his station to entertain his soldiers and their families. He quietly entered the calf roping contest, tagging his calf in eight seconds, good enough for third place. Brown said it was his career best time. *The Stars and Stripes* newspaper said he was "The Cowboy General."

After retirement from the Army, Brown turned his attention to the restoration of the Brown Brothers Ranch to an effective cattle operation. He consolidated ownership, purchased land, improved facilities, and invested in breeding stock.

The ranch celebrated its centennial in 2002 at which time Brown and his family were recognized with the Pioneer Farm Family Award by the *Omaha World Herald*. Brown was further recognized in 2012 when he was elected posthumously to the Nebraska Sandhills Cowboys Hall of Fame. His son, Stephan, now operates the ranch with General Manager Keith Millikan; and grandson, Austin, a cadet at West Point, is also becoming involved with the operations.

General Brown died in 2007. With his choice of burial, Brown made a final statement of his love for our Western heritage. Although qualified for burial at Arlington National Cemetery with full military honors, Brown chose to be buried in the veterans' section of Fairview Cemetery, Rushville, NE, and military honors were provided by the American Legion and his rodeo partner from high school, Blayne Begin. Election to the Hall of Great Westerners is a signal honor recognizing Charles W. Brown for his service to our nation and for his lifelong promotion of our Western heritage.

The author, from an Oklahoma ranching family, is a retired soldier who worked extensively with General Brown in the NMMI Alumni Association.

LTC James K. Hitch, III, USA (Ret) 1960 JC

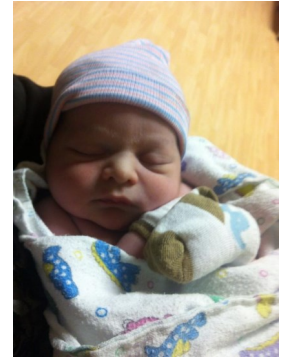
ALUMNI UPDATES



Daniel R. De Matteo 2006 JC and his wife Margaret gave birth to daughter Carolyn Delaney on 18 June 2013. She is pictured here with big brother, Patrick. Congratulations!



Michael D. Donovan 1970 HS and his wife Laura are the proud grandparents of Campbell Donovan, born 7 September 2012. Congratulations to his son JJ on becoming a proud papa.



Jay B. Armijo 2002 JC and Camille Moreno welcome Mason Bradley Armijo on 8 May 2013. Congratulations to Jay and Camille and to grandfather **Daniel L. Armijo 1972 JC**.



Congratulations to **1SG Jerry L. Hall, USA 1989 JC** and **Tondi L. (Merrill) Hall 1990 JC** on the birth of grandson, Samson. Their daughter, Shannon, gave birth to Samson on 1 May 2013.



Congratulations to **Krista C. (VanWinkle) Riley 2003 JC** and her husband Bobby on the birth of baby girl, Veronica. She was born on 30 April. She is pictured here with big brother Aadan.



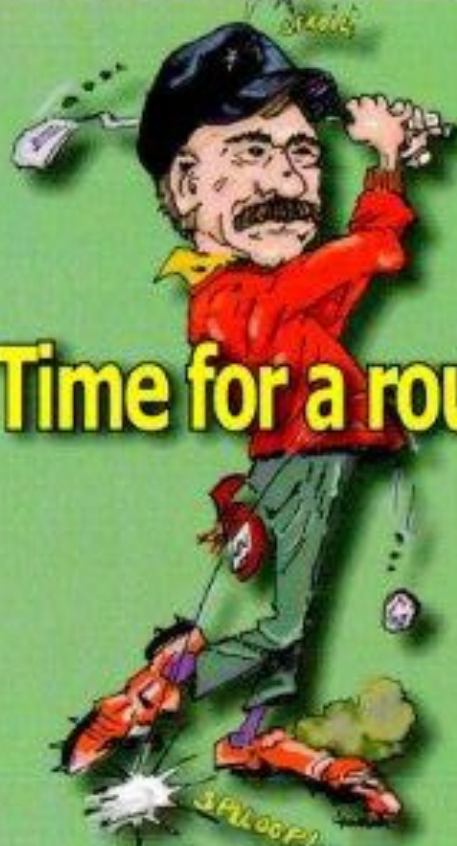
Congratulations to **SGT Edgar A. Rivera, USA 2004 HS** and his wife **Heather A. (Zahn) Rivera 2005 JC** on the birth of their fourth child, Hazel Aspen. Hazel was born on 29 May 2014.



Congratulations to **Ian P. Nichols 2008 HS** and his wife, Chelsea Benson-Nichols, on the birth of their daughter Keela. She was born on 7 April 2013.

SAVE THE DATE!

SAVE THE DATE!



Time for a round with the General!

The General's Cup!
Annual Scholarship Golf Tournament & Gala
October 4 - 6, 2013
New Mexico Military Institute Golf Course
Proceeds benefit cadets through
NMMI's General Scholarship Fund

The sign in the background reads: "New Mexico Military Institute General's Cup" with two red stars and a small line of text at the bottom: "In Honor of the Military Officers and Cadets who have served the State of New Mexico".

For additional information, contact **Nickie A. Vigil 1981 JC**, NMMI Director of Development at 575-624-8621 or nickie@nmmi.edu

2014 NMMI ALUMNI CRUISE

Our last NMMI alumni cruise was amazing so it's time to start planning another one. We took a survey and asked where everyone would like to go on the next one and the votes are in.....Europe it is!!!

We have planned a fabulous cruise from Rome to the Greek Isles for July 2014 and hope you can all join your fellow alumni on this fantastic vacation destination. The deposit is \$450 per person or \$900 per cabin.

Celebrity Cruises **Celebrity Reflection 25 July 2014**

<http://www.cruisestnt.com/cs/205513> for details!

