

NMMI ALUMNI RELATIONS | ALUMNIOFFICE@NMMI.EDU



WELCOME TO OUR Monthly E-Newsletter

From the Director's Desk

ATTENTION IN THE AREA, ATTENTION OFF POST

Happy New Year and welcome to 2024. We at the Alumni Relations Office are excited to put forward our major events schedule that you will see in this e-newsletter, as well as some other great information. We have heard all of the whispers and would like to confirm that the 2024 Trail Ride will indeed be held at the beautiful CS Ranch in Angel Fire NM. Feel free to start making plans and we look forward to seeing all able-bodied and willing participants come this June. We also are in the process of planning the Motorcycle Rally, which will take place in April this year. ATV Adventure, General's Cup and Homecoming are all right around the corner and will be here before we know it as well. We have a lot of things in the works regarding all of those events and again the dates are listed online and within the body of this e-newsletter.

I did want to take some time just to provide an update on the search for the next President/Superintendent of NMMI. Currently, a search firm is in the process of reaching out to identified candidates with the hopes of creating a bunch of interest and applicants. A committee has also been formed to help with the search and evaluation/hiring process as well. I know that Regent Anderson has been working diligently to get things in place so that we can start the new fiscal and academic year with a new leader on board.

Lastly, we look forward to seeing you all in the near future. Our local After Hours dates have been set and we are in process of lining out our Alumni Tattoos around the country. If you are interested in hosting an event in your area, please do not hesitate to contact us here in the office. We look forward to a great year filled with tons of events and comradery.



Kris Ward

Director of Alumni Relations and Institutional Advancement



Kris Ward

Director of Alumni Relations and
Institutional Advancement

[Visit our website for more Information.](http://www.nmmi.edu/alumni)

www.nmmi.edu/alumni

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NEW TEAM MEMBER ALERT

NMMI Alumni:

I am thrilled to reconnect with the esteemed New Mexico Military Institute (NMMI) community members! My name is Adam Villegas, and my journey with NMMI dates back to 1985-1988 when I proudly served as a Cadet.

Since my time at NMMI, my path has taken me on an extraordinary adventure. Following my cadet years, I enlisted in the United States Marine Corps. I later transferred to the United States Army, where I dedicated myself to service, culminating in my honorable retirement as a combat veteran in 2007. The enduring call to service led me back to NMMI in February 2021, initially as a Troop Leadership Advisor (TLA). Over time, I transitioned to the role of a Squadron Leadership Advisor (SLA) within the third squadron "Third Herd", a journey that reflects my continuous commitment to the values and mission of our institution.

In the spring of 2022, I whole-heartedly seized the opportunity to lead the Academy Preparatory program, further solidifying my dedication to NMMI's noble mission of shaping future leaders.

My academic journey includes earning a bachelor's degree in business management from Troy University and a master's in clinical mental health counseling from the University of the Southwest, providing me with a diverse and comprehensive foundation.

As I embark on the Deputy Director of Alumni Relations role, I bring a wealth of knowledge and experience in leadership, marked by traits such as empathy, patience, and a logical and reasonable approach. It is truly an honor to join forces with an exceptional team, all dedicated to advancing the best interests of NMMI and its students.

I am excited about this new chapter and eagerly anticipate the opportunity to work closely with our valued alumni. Together, we will continue to share stories that contribute to the rich history of our time on this venerable Old Post.

Respectfully,

Adam Villegas



Adam Villegas

Deputy Director of Alumni Relations

LTC, U.S Army Retired

1985-1988 JC

(575) 624-8158

Villegas@nmmi.edu

Meet the Team


Kris Ward

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR ALUMNI RELATIONS
& INSTITUTIONAL ADVANCEMENT


Adam Villegas '88 JC

DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF ALUMNI RELATIONS


Janice Weed '93 HS

ANNUAL FUND OFFICER


Karla Juarez

COMMUNICATIONS COORDINATOR


Alicia Morales

ADMINISTRATIVE SPECIALIST


Ralph "Hap" Nix '87 JC

SPECIAL EVENTS COORDINATOR


Destini Hernandez

GIFT PROCESSOR/FINANCIAL LIAISON

Hello from the NMMI Alumni Relations and Institutional Advancement staff! We are excited to connect with you and help you stay connected to the NMMI family. As an NMMI alumnus, you are an important member of the family, and we are committed to keeping you engaged and informed.

Alumni Relations Office

Monday – Friday 0730–1630

Alumnioffice@nmml.edu

101 West College Blvd | Daniels Leadership
Center | Roswell, NM 88201



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Our Latest After Hours

NOVEMBER 29, 2023
ROSWELL COUNTRY CLUB



Our Upcoming After Hours



RSVP NOW

[HTTPS://ALMPUB0.WIXSITE.COM/NMMIALUMNIRELATION/EVENTS/FEBRUARY-AFTER-HOURS](https://almpub0.wixsite.com/nmmialumnirelation/events/february-after-hours)

Coming Up



**UPCOMING
EVENTS 2024**
NMMI ALUMNI DATES ARE LOCKED!

-  **APR 25-28** MOTORCYCLE RALLY
- TRAIL RIDE**  **JUN 11-15**
-  **AUG 9-11** ATV ADVENTURE
- GENERAL'S CUP**  **SEP 27-29**
-  **OCT 16-19** 2024 HOMECOMING

Save the Date!
More Information will be posted

REMINDER REFUND POLICY


To receive a full refund, you must submit a written request no later than **(4) weeks** before the event date. No refunds will be given if the request is received after this timeframe.

Due to budgeting and commitments to third-party vendors for headcount, all requests for refunds must be submitted in writing to Destini Hernandez via email at Dhernandez@nmmi.edu.



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Alumni Meet & Greets



El Paso, TX - March 8, 2024

Las Cruces, NM - TBD

Colorado Springs, CO- July 17, 2024

Denver, CO- TBD

San Antonio, TX- October 10, 2024

Austin, TX - TBD



**If you would like to Host an Alumni Meet & Greet,
please contact us at (575)624-8158.**

Local Roswell Alumni After Hours

February 27th - Roswell Country Club

March 26th - Roswell Country Club

April Motorcycle Rally - Q1

May 23rd - Roswell Chamber of Commerce

July 11th - Pepper's Patio

August 22nd - Liberty Patio

September 27th - Location TBD

October 17th - Location TBD

November 19th - Roswell Country Club

EVENTS

Other Meet and Greet, After Hours, and activities are being planned and will be posted once information is available. Dates and events are subject to change.

For additional information, please call (575) 624-8251.

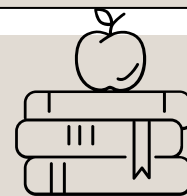
Once registration is open, please visit our WIX store below to get registered.

[HTTPS://ALMPUB0.WIXSITE.COM/NMMIALUMNIRELATION](https://almpub0.wixsite.com/nmmialumnirelation)

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Academics- Fall Review



"NMMI is one of the finest institutions in New Mexico." ~COL Jose Porras, NMMI 1997 JC, Vice Dean

NMMI has had a banner year. Niche, Academic Influence, and Boarding School Review ranked NMMI as the #1 community college in the state. Our ranking puts us in the top 2% of community colleges in the nation, ranking 16 out of 906. In addition, Boarding School Review ranked NMMI in the top five military schools in the nation and the #2 Most Influential institution in New Mexico behind UNM. Niche ranked the high school #1 in Chaves County. So, how did NMMI get such honors and distinctions?

NMMI ACT scores average 23% and 28% above the national and state averages, respectively. We have the highest qualified faculty in the state for high schools and community colleges at 98.3% with advanced degrees compared to the NM state average of 47%. GPAs have increased by 5% from the previous years, faculty evaluations improved to 4.51 out of 5.0, assessment scores of our key outcomes increased, demerits and absenteeism decreased, and our early warning system repeatedly catches struggling students. Our teachers score 20% higher than the New Mexico average.

The best part of NMMI is what we do for our at-risk students. NMMI has the highest transfer-out rate for Title IV students (financial aid/at-risk kids) in the United States at 71%. NM is 19%, and the national average is 25%. The next best score was 62%. Additionally, NMMI's chronic absenteeism is half a percent, while the New Mexico average is 40%. Our JROTC has won the Honor Unit with Distinction Award (HUD) for the 7th year in a row—the highest honor given to a JROTC unit. Our academy prep program grew by 250%. Students graduating from NMMI are assessed each year on critical thinking, oral communication, written communication, information literacy, applying technology, leading and working with others, self-development, and leading with presence. Every year a cadet stays at NMMI, their scores increase in every area. The cadets walking at graduation are some of the most well-prepared students for college or work.

Thanks to the faculty's excellent teaching and the support staff's outstanding work, our cadets get a world-class education at NMMI.

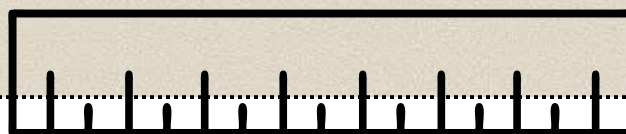
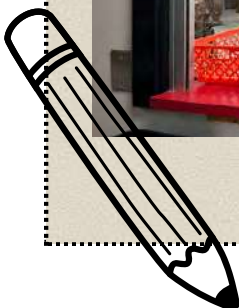
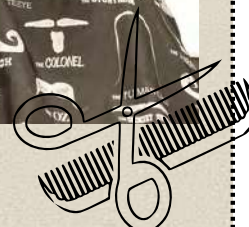


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Around Post

Embarking on a new chapter at New Mexico Military Institute! Matriculation day marked the beginning of a journey filled with challenges, camaraderie, and the symbolic shave – a moment of unity, marking the start of a shared commitment to excellence! Ready to embrace the cadet life and soar to new heights!





Around Post



Left: Danilo Brito cruises to victory in the 200-yard freestyle race.

Right: Mary Kathryn Olvera gets off the blocks first in the 50-yard freestyle race. (NMMI Sports Press photos)

NMMI Sports Press

Veteran senior swimmer Mary Kathryn Olvera took first place in the women's 50-yard freestyle swim at Saturday's Artesia Invitational, posting a time of 26.67 seconds, edging Alamogordo's Sonja Davis by three-hundredths of a second.

Her time was .32 seconds slower than her personal best set at November's Wildcat Invite in Lovington. Olvera took third at that meet.

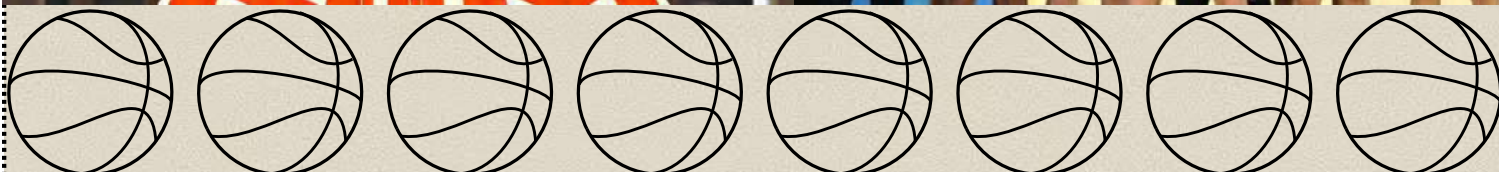
Olvera also finished sixth in the 500-yard freestyle with a time of 6:04.63, this time hitting the wall just behind Davis and almost 20 seconds behind the winner, Colette Dhenin of Carlsbad.

Newcomer Danilo Brito, a sophomore from Brazil, snagged two first-place medals, dominating the competition in both events. In the men's 200-yard freestyle, Brito defeated Edgar Dias of Hobbs by almost five seconds with a time of 1:56.69. His 50-yard splits were 25.31, 28.85, 31.57 and 30.96.

Colt basketball took home the consolation championship trophy, corraling Cobre 47-41.



Senior center Ian Thompson earned All-Tournament honors.

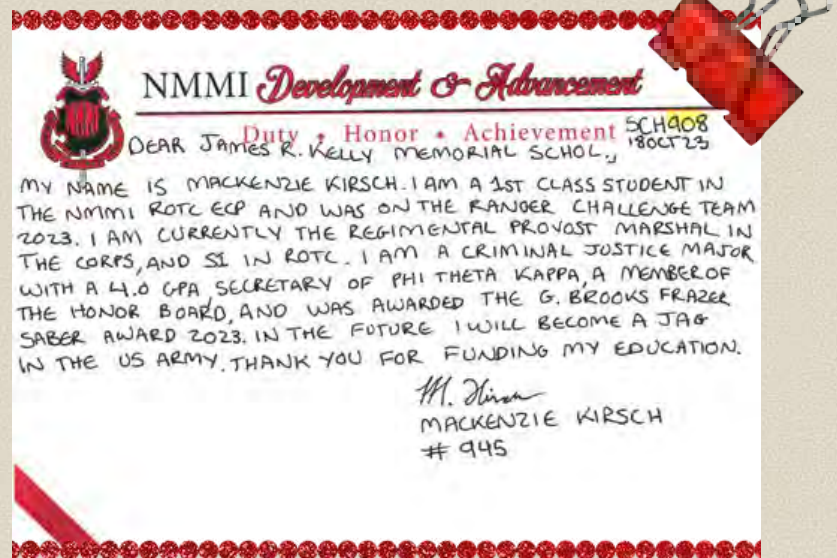


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Cadet Shoutout!



**Mackenzie Kirsch: C/MAJ and
Regimental Provost Marshal (S2)**



**Mr. Jay S. Kirsch
1991 HS / 1993 JC**

**Father of
Mackenzie Kirsch**

New Mexico Military Institute (NMMI) has long prided itself on its sense of community and the support it provides to its cadets. One initiative that exemplifies this commitment is the collaboration between the NMMI Alumni Relations Office and the Foundation. Together, we embark on a mission to foster gratitude and strengthen alumni and community connections by implementing a program that involves cadets writing scholarship thank you letters twice a year.

Gratitude is a powerful force that builds bridges between individuals and communities. Recognizing the significance of expressing appreciation for the financial support cadets received the Alumni Relations Office and Foundation work together to instill a culture of gratitude within the NMMI community.

The collaboration aims to strengthen the connections between cadets and donors by humanizing the scholarship process. Through these letters, donors gain insight into the lives and dreams of the cadets they support, creating a more profound connection beyond the financial contribution. This personal touch transforms scholarships from transactions into relationships.

Beyond fostering gratitude, the program provides cadets with professional development opportunities. Writing thank you letters is a skill that transcends academia and prepares cadets for future endeavors. It hones their communication skills and teaches them the importance of acknowledging support in a thoughtful manner.

The NMMI Alumni Relations Office and Foundation's joint initiative to have cadets write scholarship thank you letters twice a year is a testament to the Institute's commitment to community, gratitude, and personal development. Through this collaborative effort, NMMI is not only acknowledging the generosity of its donors but also building a legacy of appreciation that will endure for generations to come.

Crossed Sabers Society



The Crossed Sabers Society was created to support New Mexico Military Institute by recognizing the Institute's most dedicated and loyal supporters. The objectives of the Society are as follows:

- To establish a select group of long-term benefactors who have a clear and tangible interest in supporting the Institute both financially and through personal influence.
- To provide a visible and prestigious means to honor and recognize the Institute's leading supporters.
- To form a national network of influential community leaders who are informed advocates of Institute causes.
- To entice annual involvement and to showcase a lifetime of support

The Crossed Sabers Society's objective will be to enrich the total Institute educational process, thereby enhancing the long-term value of an Institute education and helping ensure that the graduate remains a recognized and respected leader in society.

This annual membership begins on the date the qualifying amount is reached. Donations are cumulative. All levels receive a Custom challenge coin, alumni flag, and invitations to Crossed Sabers Society events. Newsletter.

CROSSED SABERS SOCIETY GIVING LEVELS

- ★★★★ NMMI Champion (\$100,000 -)
- ★★★ NMMI Distinguished (\$50,000-\$99,999)
- ☆☆ NMMI Benefactor (\$25,000-\$49,999)
- ★ NMMI Sustaining Member (\$10,000-\$24,999)
- NMMI Member (\$5,000-\$9,999)
- NMMI Annual Fellowship (\$1,000 minimum)

LTC Adam Villegas, US Army Retired
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Janice Weed
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NMMI 93HS
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(575) 624-8246

END OF YEAR STATEMENTS

If you have donated for 2023 and would like an End of the Year statement for Tax purposes, please contact our office Gift Processor Destini Hernandez. dhernandez@nmmi.edu | (575) 624-8254

NMMI Intermediate Preparatory Academy Grand Opening!



The Intermediate Preparatory Academy (IPA) had an exceptional inaugural year, a result of the NMMI's initiative to provide local students with a high-quality intermediate learning option. With strong support from NMMI senior officials, including President/Superintendent MG Jerry Grizzle, Chief of Staff COL David West, and CFO COL Deana Curnutt, along with collaborative efforts from various departments, IPA transitioned from concept to reality within 18 months. The school, located at 402 W. Country Club, welcomed its first class of 6th-grade students in August 2023.

The Alumni and Learning Center Staff played a crucial role by temporarily accommodating IPA in the Daniels Leadership Center until the school building's first phase of construction was completed. Led by Director Kris Ward and COL Tom Tate, the IPA received unwavering support to ensure a seamless learning experience. On October 16, 2023, IPA students moved into their own school building, hosting a student-led Grand Opening ceremony within a week.

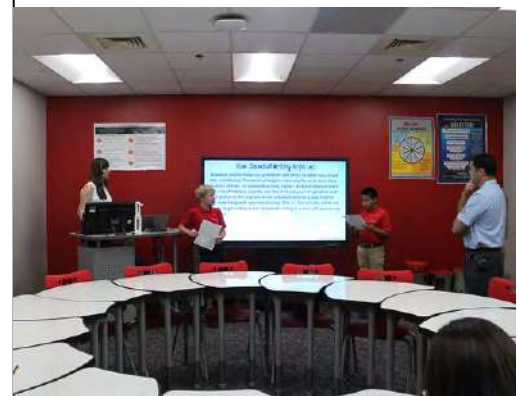
Whether at the Daniels Leadership Center or the IPA school, students thrived in a challenging learning environment, exhibiting notable academic, leadership, and behavioral improvements. In reading, 45% of students showed a full year's growth in just half a year, while in math, 59% demonstrated the same progress. Notably, IPA prioritizes experiential learning beyond the classroom, with students engaging in various off-campus activities, including collaborating with a local artist, visiting the library, conducting field-based research in local parks, and immersing themselves in a two-week theme, "Love Where You Live," exploring community landmarks and interviewing influential citizens.

D'Anna O'Mera

Head of School

Intermediate Preparatory Academy

New Mexico Military Institute

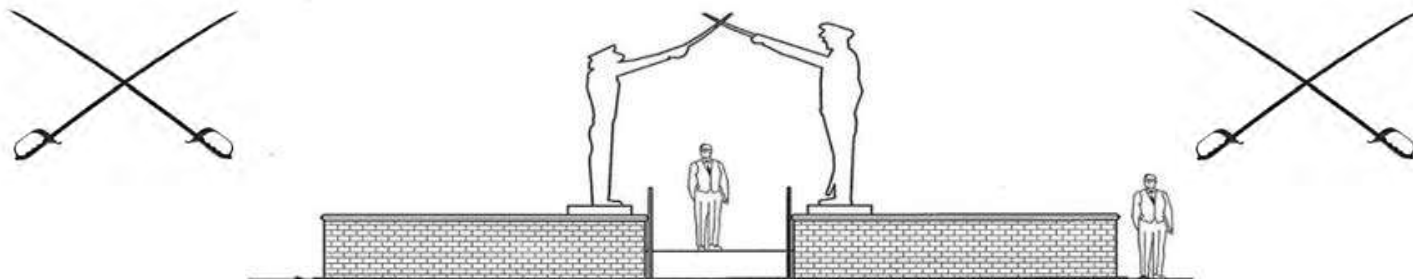



Pathway to Achievement



Secure your spot in NMMI History

Be a part of the rich NMMI History by having your name mounted on the NEW Pathway to Achievement when you sponsor a saber. The saber will be located on the railing of the walkway. The crossed saber path will lead visitors to and from the 'Old Post' at the corner of Main & College. Sponsor a saber for \$2,500.00. ONLY 40 sabers exist for this special project.



For more information visit our WIX Store or call,  Adam Villegas (575) 624-8158

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Our Upcoming E-Newsletter



In honor of Valentine's Day, we are seeking submissions for our upcoming e-newsletter, and we would love to feature your beautiful journey. If you and your partner met at New Mexico Military Institute, we encourage you to submit a high-resolution photograph of the two of you together along with a short narrative detailing how your paths crossed on campus.

Your story could inspire and resonate with fellow alumni, creating a heartwarming connection that transcends time and distance. Whether your encounter was a chance meeting in the library, a shared class, or a memorable event, we want to hear about the special moments that led to the formation of your enduring bond.

Submission Guidelines:

1. Attach a high-resolution photograph of you and your partner during your time at NMMI.
2. Write a short narrative describing how you met on campus.
3. Include your names, class years, and current status (e.g., married, engaged, dating).

Alumnioffice@nmmi.edu





TAPS

Richard	N.	Adams	1946	HS	14-Jan-24
Rodney	G.	Baranyi	1989	JC	
Kurt	A.	Barks	1992	JC	19-Dec-23
Eugene	A.	Barnes	1949	HS	12-Nov-23
Charlie	C.	Birnie	1955	JC	04-Jan-24
Robert	C.	Bledsoe	1949	JC	23-Aug-30
Richard	Henry	Bradshaw	1957	HS	12-Dec-23
Ronell	C.	Brown	1981	JC	11-Nov-23
William	A.	Clark	1959	JC	09-Jan-20
Allan	P.	Davis	1952	HS	05-Nov-23
Max	C.	Dreisbach	1960	HS	
Dale	R.	Elliott	1968	HS	11-Dec-23
James	L.	Erickson	1975	JC	13-Nov-23
Donald	G.	Fletcher	1965	HS	
Charles	F.	Handfield	1981	JC	29-Nov-23
William	Hugh	Herold	1961	HS	20-Oct-23
Thomas	J.	Hughes	1951	HS	18-Oct-23
Kenneth	W.	Jaggers	1962	JC	10-Nov-23
John	T.	Jensen	1961	JC	03-Jan-24
Craig	L.	LaGrone	1963	JC	11-Nov-23
Robert	F.	Lisenbee	1988	JC	26-Oct-23
Gavin	D.	Litwiller	1955	JC	28-Dec-23
Craig	H.	Mandeville	1961	JC	10-Oct-23
Noel	E.	McDonald	1963	JC	04-Oct-23
Donald	G.	Nicholas	1955	SC	26-Oct-23
Ross	D.	Speer	1954	HS	
Marion	F.	Thompson	1965	JC	
James	Buchanan	Thomson	1960	JC	01-Nov-23
James	S.	Van Atta	1983	HS	29-Dec-20
Wayne	W.	Walter	1985	JC	12-Jan-24
James	E.	Weathers	1961	JC	27-Oct-23
Charles	W.	Wilks	1955	HS	08-Jan-24
Steven	M.	Wright	1964	JC	05-Oct-23

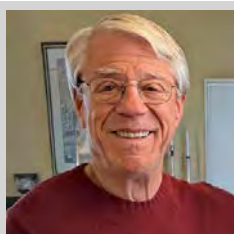


Alumni Reported Deceased Since Last Publication October 29, 2023



A quote from the 1933 Bronco about cadet, George O. Speer 1933 JC, who was killed in a Polo-Game-

“BUT IF THEY ARE GONE FROM OUR RANKS, WE KEEP THEM ON OUR ROSTER AS VALUES ONCE INTIMATELY KNOWN AND AVAILABLE IN OUR RECOLLECTIONS, AND IN OUR HEARTS. THEY WILL REMAIN FOREVER YOUNG.”



1963 JCG

In fond remembrance of Craig (Coach) Langford LaGrone, Sr., born on June 22, 1943, passed away November 11, 2023. In 1961, he embarked on his academic journey, attending junior college at New Mexico Military Institute where he graduated from NMMI in 1963 JCG. Craig took great pleasure in sharing tales about NMMI and maintaining connections with the Alumni Office staff. Craig's joyful presence, particularly his spirited dance at the October 26, 2023, NMMI Alumni Homecoming alongside his beloved wife, Mrs. Ellen LaGrone, will forever be etched in the memories of those who had the pleasure of knowing him.

