



NMMI ALUMNI RELATIONS | ALUMNIOFFICE@NMMI.EDU



From the Director's Desk

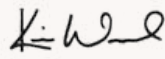
ATTENTION IN THE AREA, ATTENTION OFF POST

January 2025

Happy New Year and welcome to 2025, we hope that this year has started off amazing for each and every one of you and wish all of you the best from the Alumni Relations Office. For those who have participated in the Fall Appeal letter we can't thank you enough and for those of you waiting to do so there is still plenty of time. The funds raised go to directly support new/old cadets through unrestricted scholarships and provide support to cadet activities.

As we transition into the new year a huge focus here on post is and always has been recruiting and retention. Alumni play a vital role in this by using their platforms to spread positive comments through social media, speaking about it with friends and family and sharing the impact it has had on you throughout your life. This goes such a long way in providing support with the donation of your time and energy and we can't begin to express our gratitude for all of the hard work you provide.

Lastly, we have been diligently working away on this year's upcoming events and have the dates locked in for Trail Ride, Generals Cup and Homecoming. We hope to see all of you at one or all and are excited to provide support and do our best to make each of them as memorable as possible. Thanks for everything you all do for NMMI, and we hope that 2025 is the best year yet for you and family.

Kris Ward 
Director of Alumni Relations and Institutional Advancement



Kris Ward
Executive Director of
Alumni Relations and
Institutional Advancement





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Meet the Team



Kris Ward
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR ALUMNI RELATIONS
& INSTITUTIONAL ADVANCEMENT



Janice Weed '93 HS
DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF ALUMNI RELATIONS



Natalie Perez
ANNUAL FUND OFFICER



Karla Juarez
COMMUNICATIONS COORDINATOR



Alicia Morales
ADMINISTRATIVE SPECIALIST



Leslie Palombi
SPECIAL EVENTS COORDINATOR



Destini Hernandez
GIFT PROCESSOR/FINANCIAL LIAISON

Greetings from the NMMI Alumni Relations Office!
As your bridge to the NMMI community, we're committed to fostering lifelong connections and supporting your post-graduation journey. Join us for networking, mentorship, and opportunities to stay engaged with your alma mater.

Alumni Relations Office

Monday - Friday 0730-1630

Alumnioffice@nmmi.edu

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



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NMMI 2024 ALUMNI CRUISE ADVENTURE

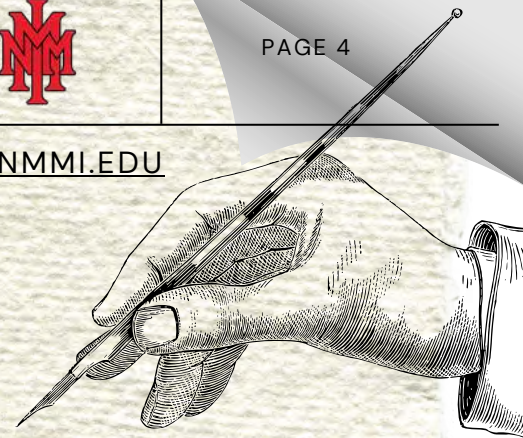
We would like to extend our heartfelt gratitude to everyone who joined us on the 2024 Alumni Cruise. Your presence made the trip truly unforgettable, filled with laughter, joy, and cherished memories. It was a tremendous success because of you! We hope you enjoyed the experience as much as we did, and we look forward to many more adventures together in the future. Thank you for being a part of this amazing journey!





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Writing Winners



Congratulations to the Winners and Participants of the Ruppert-Burton Speech Contest!
Greetings, NMMI Alumni,

This year, the Ruppert-Burton Speech Contest saw an incredible turnout, with participation skyrocketing from 40 cadets last year to an impressive 120 cadets! Each participant worked tirelessly and delivered outstanding presentations, showcasing their dedication and talent.

A huge thank you to our amazing judges and the DLC Staff for your time, effort, and support in making this event a success. Special recognition goes to our incredible Cadet M/C's, Taiki Prasertphon and Charley Melton-Hovland, for doing a phenomenal job introducing each speaker to the stage.

Fall 2024 Winners

Junior College Division 1st Place: Daniel Brown & Lucas Dias - \$300 2nd Place: John Nichamoff - \$200 3rd Place: Clarisse Coelho - \$100

High School Division 1st Place: Alehi Musani - \$575 2nd Place: Amarina Rai - \$475 3rd Place: Matthew Garcia - \$375

We are so proud of all the cadets who participated and look forward to continuing this amazing tradition. Thank you for supporting our cadets as they grow into confident, skilled leaders!



*ur n
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at risus. Ut molestie mo
et nibh. Ut mattis l
rabitur varius fring
erat. Maecenas
n non neque lo
nulla augue.
to leo. Pell
sit amet.
m. Proin b
turnisti. Su
est tace
tempus
Nunc
ber-*

*magna vel risus. Cras non
rhoncus. Vivamus a mi Morbi
sit amet, consectetur*



Ways to Give

Donating to NMMI ensures cadets receive a quality education and the resources needed to succeed while preserving the institution's legacy of excellence. Your generosity directly impacts the future of NMMI, empowering students to achieve their goals and make a lasting difference in the world.

Annual Fund - (Unrestricted Funds) The New Mexico Military Institute Annual Fund Supports financial need and merit-based scholarship assistance and helps offset costs for uniforms, equipment, and transportation needs associated with cadet activities.

Annual Scholarships - Annually funded scholarships are funded each year by friends and alumni. Gifts made to annual scholarships are not invested and do not earn additional income. As an annual scholarship donor, you specify the scholarship name and criteria. Annual scholarships give you flexibility in cost and commitment.

Endowment - An endowment is an amount of money (\$10,000 minimum) given to the NMMI Foundation, stipulating that the funds are invested to earn annual interest rather than spent immediately. A portion of the annual earnings is used to award scholarships, provide faculty development, or support NMMI programs.

Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD) - A QCD is a tax-free gift from an Individual Retirement Account (IRA). If you are at least 70½ years of age and have an IRA, we ask that you consider giving to NMMI through a QCD. Consult with a financial advisor/IRA custodian to assist you with your plan.

Planned Giving - Donors who establish planned gifts to benefit New Mexico Military Institute ensure their legacy will continue for many generations. Estate funds may be added to an existing endowment or used to create new opportunities at NMMI. Financial planning for the future allows you to direct estate funds to the area of your choice.



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Fall Appeal

2024

NEW MEXICO MILITARY INSTITUTE

FALL APPEAL

SUPPORT THE NMMI ANNUAL FUND

The New Mexico Military Institute Annual Fund makes need and merit-based scholarships possible. During the 2023-2024 school year, 87% of the Corps of Cadets received scholarships, ensuring they can access a world-class education and experience without the burden of financial worry.

Make A Donation TODAY!

[CLICK HERE!](#)



[NMMI ALUMNI RELATIONS | ALUMNIOFFICE@NMMI.EDU](mailto:ALUMNIOFFICE@NMMI.EDU)

NEW MEXICO MILITARY INSTITUTE

2024 YEAR IN REVIEW

SALLY PORT

ALUMNI MAGAZINE

2024 Sally Port Magazine Now Available!

We are thrilled to share that the 2024 Year in Review edition of the Sally Port Magazine is now available in digital format! This year's issue is a comprehensive showcase of everything accomplished in 2024, featuring all alumni events, updates on the cadets' academic performance, and more.

The magazine features an update on where our alumni are today and the accomplishments they've achieved. You'll also find a special message from Brigadier General Voris W. McBurnette, Superintendent, reflecting on the past year and looking ahead to the future.

We've dedicated sections to the 2024 Hall of Fame inductees, the celebration of the 100th Homecoming Anniversary, and the solemn Silver Taps ceremony, honoring those we have lost. These features offer a deep dive into the achievements and milestones that define our community and its enduring legacy.

This edition is packed with stories and highlights that reflect the vibrant spirit and resilience of our NMMI family, making it a must-read for all who are connected to our institute.

Coming Soon: Hard Copies of the Magazine

For now, we only have the digital version of the magazine available. Hard copies will be sent to the printers soon, so stay tuned for their arrival. Once we receive them, if you would like a hard copy, please let us know at that time.

A Message from the Editor

Destini Hernandez, the editor of this year's Sally Port, extends heartfelt thanks to everyone who contributed their time and input to make this publication possible. The team worked tirelessly to prepare a magazine that all alumni can proudly share and enjoy.

Share Your Thoughts

We hope you find this edition inspiring and informative, and we look forward to hearing your feedback!





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December

AFTER HOURS



LAST AFTER HOURS OF THE YEAR – DECEMBER 5, 2024

ON DECEMBER 5, 2024, WE WRAPPED UP ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL YEAR OF OUR AFTER HOURS EVENTS AT THE ROSWELL COUNTRY CLUB, AND THIS FINAL GATHERING WAS A MEMORABLE ONE. A SPECIAL HIGHLIGHT OF THE EVENING WAS THE PRESENCE OF OUR SUPERINTENDENT, BRIGADIER GENERAL VORIS W. MCBURNETTE, WHO GRACIOUSLY ATTENDED AND TOOK THE TIME TO ENGAGE WITH ALUMNI AND GUESTS, OFFERING INSPIRING WORDS OF APPRECIATION FOR THE SUPPORT AND DEDICATION OF OUR ALUMNI NETWORK. IT WAS A WONDERFUL OPPORTUNITY FOR EVERYONE IN ATTENDANCE TO CONNECT WITH ONE ANOTHER AND REFLECT ON THE YEAR'S ACCOMPLISHMENTS. WE WOULD LIKE TO EXTEND OUR HEARTFELT THANKS TO ALL WHO ATTENDED, WHETHER YOU WERE ABLE TO JOIN US IN PERSON OR PARTICIPATED IN SPIRIT. YOUR SUPPORT AND ENTHUSIASM ARE WHAT MAKE EVENTS LIKE THESE SO SUCCESSFUL. WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU AT FUTURE GATHERINGS AND CONTINUING TO BUILD ON THE LEGACY OF NMMI.



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Board Of Regents



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GOVERNOR NOMINATES REGENTS FOR NEW MEXICO COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES NEW MEXICO MILITARY INSTITUTE



THOMAS E. JENNINGS
1968 HS

Brings a wealth of experience to his candidacy for the Board of Regents of the New Mexico Military Institute. With a strong background in public service, including his tenure as mayor of Roswell and as a city council member, Jennings has demonstrated leadership in local governance and community development. His extensive involvement in various organizations, such as the Roswell Chaves County Economic Development Foundation, Roswell SERTOMA Club and Big Brothers Big Sisters of Southeastern New Mexico, highlights his commitment to community service. Jennings' career also includes significant contributions to the oil and gas industry as a petroleum land manager, showcasing his versatility and dedication to both public and private sectors. Mr. Jennings is an alumnus of NMMI.



**BRIGADIER GENERAL
KALLIE D. KUEHL**
1994 HS

Is a highly accomplished military leader with over 20 years of experience across military, federal, and corporate sectors. With a distinguished career as a senior military officer and legal expert, she has expertise in acquisition and contract law, government fiscal law, and complex civil litigation. Currently serving as senior center attorney at Kirtland Air Force Base, Kuehl provides strategic legal counsel and manages a team of legal professionals. Her extensive military service includes roles as chief of staff and state staff judge advocate for the New Mexico Air National Guard, where she oversees strategic vision and legal guidance for over 1,000 personnel. <https://www.nationalguard.mil/portals/31/Features/ngbgomo/bio/4/4272.html>

**THE TWO INDIVIDUALS, PENDING
CONFIRMATION BY THE NM SENATE, WILL
REPLACE OUT-GOING REGENTS, JOHN
GARCIA AND DR. CEDRIC PAGE, WHOSE
TERMS EXPIRED DECEMBER 31, 2024.**



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SAVE THE DATE

2025

2025 LEGACY DINNER

APRIL 24, 2025

5:30 PM-7:30 PM

DANIEL'S LEADERSHIP CENTER

2025 ANNUAL TRAIL RIDE

JUNE 3-7, 2025

CAMP OF THE TALL PINES
105 CAMP TALL PINES, RD
MAYHILL, NM 88339

2025 GENERAL'S CUP

SEPTEMBER 19-21, 2025

NEW MEXICO MILITARY INSTITUTE GOLF COURSE

2025 HOMECOMING

OCTOBER 22-25, 2025

NEW MEXICO MILITARY INSTITUTE

1950'S THEME

2025 Albuquerque Chapter Event Dates

NMMI ALUMNI ABQ CHAPTER

VALENTINES 2025 SOCIAL & DINNER

Thursday Feb. 20th 6:30pm - 9:30pm

Proudly Hosted By **DH LESCOMBES** Winery & Bistro Rio Rancho

Join us for an evening filled with great conversation among friends and fellow Alumni. Enjoy superb dining at Rio Rancho's Newest Premier Restaurant

D.H. LESCOMBES Winery & Bistro
Rio Rancho (3771 NM-528) Alameda & Coors Bypass

CASH ONLY AT THE DOOR
(Correct Amount Please)

\$26 Per Guest including tax and gratuity!
This price will include a non-alcoholic beverage and choice of 4 different entrees:

**Pecan Crusted Chicken • Pasta New Mexico
Fish & Chips • Country Pot Roast**

RSVP Must Be Received No Later Than Feb. 10th

LOCK-IN YOUR RESERVATION TODAY!
Table Top Seating Is Limited To 40 Attendees
Bar Top Seating Is Limited To 16 Attendees

CONTACT: Denise_Kawas@yahoo.com
Randym@spinn.net

Provide Alumni Name, Class Year and Guest Name

2025 NMMI ALUMNI BATAAN DEATH MARCH TEAM

- Saturday, March 22, 2025
Contact: Steve Duran '83HS '87JC at (575) 621-1631

[Click Here to Register](#)

- Mardi Gras: Saturday, April 26th
Location: The Peebles Residence
- Burgers Orell: Date to be determined, but it will be moved to August, replacing the Ingram BBQ.



Around Post



Egg-cellent Engineering: NMMI's Rocket Scientists Take Flight

NMMI's students showcased their engineering skills by launching fragile payloads—raw eggs—skyward, aiming for a safe landing. This hands-on project combined gravity-defying ingenuity with delicate cargo management, challenging students to design rockets that protect their fragile contents. The successful launches demonstrated creativity, teamwork, and practical application of scientific principles, proving that science can be both fun and educational, one unscrambled egg at a time!



Golden Hour Thrills: NMMI Paintball Club in Action

The NMMI Paintball Club captured the last light of day with tactical precision and adrenaline-fueled excitement. As the golden hour set in, the battlefield came alive with vibrant energy, strategy, and camaraderie. Each play was a thrilling blend of skill and excitement, making the most of the fading daylight. With the sun setting, the club proved that golden hour has never been this fun!





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Caps Off to the Class of Fall 2024: NMMI Celebrates Its Graduates

New Mexico Military Institute (NMMI) proudly celebrated the accomplishments of the Fall 2024 graduates. These cadets have embodied the core values of Duty, Honor, and Achievement throughout their journey, demonstrating exceptional dedication and leadership. The graduation ceremony was a momentous occasion, filled with pride and reflection on the hard work that led to this milestone. Families, friends, and faculty gathered to honor the graduates, who have paved the way for future success with their perseverance and commitment.

As they embark on the next chapter of their lives, we extend our heartfelt congratulations to the Class of Fall 2024. Your achievements have left an indelible mark on NMMI, and we look forward to seeing the great things you will accomplish in the future.

Congratulations, cadets, and best wishes on your continued journey!



New Beginnings at NMMI: Welcoming Our Newest Cadets

Matriculation Day at the New Mexico Military Institute (NMMI) marked the beginning of an incredible journey for our newest cadets. As they took their first steps on campus, these future leaders embraced the values of leadership, character, and achievement that define the NMMI experience. This important milestone signifies the start of their transformation into disciplined and honorable individuals. We are thrilled to welcome them into the Corps of Cadets and look forward to witnessing their growth and accomplishments in the years to come.



TAPS

ROBERT	H.	WERTHEIM	1942	JC	29-APR-20
LANSING	G.	BRISBIN	1944	HS	01-JAN-23
KAY	W.	KIRKPATRICK	1951	JC	21-DEC-24
HOWARD	W.	OLINGER	1953	JC	
BRICK	P.	STORTS	1954	HS	05-NOV-24
ROGER	L.	FROESEL	1956	SC	20-AUG-24
DONALD	E.	JONES	1961	HS	
PAUL	R.	DUQUETTE	1963	JC	30-DEC-24
THOMAS	A.	LYNDE	1963	JC	22-DEC-22
GERALD	L.	SMITH	1963	HS	04-JAN-25
JAMES	H.	SCROGGIN	1967	JC	03-JAN-25
J.	M.	STERRITT	1967	HS	11-DEC-24
MICHAEL	R.	BEASLEY	1968	JC	14-DEC-24
BOYD	W.	WEST	1968	JC	22-JAN-25
THOMAS	W.	GOODWIN	1972	JC	23-OCT-24
STEVEN	J.	SALOPEK	1975	JC	07-JAN-25
REED	E.	UPTON	1976	HS	12-JUL-23
ROBERT	E.	BROWN	1978	HS	08-DEC-24
ROBERT	M.	ELLIS	1984	JC	13-JAN-25
JOHN	B.	RUSSELL	1992	JC	
JENNIFER	J.	Jo	1998	JC	18-APR-24
NAKAL	J.	GOATER-PRICE	2021	JC	04-JAN-25



Alumni Reported Deceased
January 31, 2025



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.”**

