

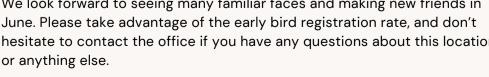
From the Director's Desk

#### ATTENTION IN THE AREA, ATTENTION OFF POST

Trail Ride registration is OPEN, and the Alumni Relations Office has been working diligently to ensure this will be an event that all can enjoy. The 35th Annual Trail Ride is set to start on June 3 and will feature all of the yearly traditions, including horseback riding and ATV driving. Nancy Burch is coming all the way down from Angel Fire to provide horses for those who are interested, and we have some familiar faces queued up to guide our ATV riders around the Lincoln National Forest.

We look forward to four nights of fantastic fare in a location that provides a fully enclosed lodge for breakfast, lunch, dinner, lounging, and entertainment, full-service RV hookups, limited cabins, bunkhouses, and plenty of space for those who wish to tent camp or simply sleep under the stars. Attendees will also have access to enclosed showers and sink rooms, a fishing pond, and 250 acres featuring much more. There is plenty of offsite lodging available in Mayhill (9 miles away), Cloudcroft (19 miles away), and Ruidoso for those who prefer to travel a little further. We will have themed dinners each night, so please watch for more information to follow, as well as our first-ever cornhole tournament on June 6 and live entertainment featuring two different bands on Thursday and Friday. If golf is something you enjoy, there is a wonderful 9-hole course in Cloudcroft and multiple options in Ruidoso, or you can drive down to Alamogordo, just 40 miles away. The casinos are always open in Ruidoso, or you can visit the telescopes in Sunspot. This location truly offers something for everyone of any age.

We look forward to seeing many familiar faces and making new friends in June. Please take advantage of the early bird registration rate, and don't hesitate to contact the office if you have any questions about this location





**Kris Ward Executive Director of** Alumni Relations and Institutional Advancement



Ki Will Kris Ward

Director of Alumni Relations and Institutional Advancement



# Meet the Team



Kris Ward

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR ALUMNI RELATIONS

& INSTITUTIONAL ADVANCEMENT



Janice Weed '93 HS
DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF ALUMNI RELATIONS

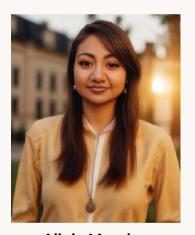


Natalie Perez
ANNUAL FUND OFFICER



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

# **KICKING OFF 2025**

03.27.25

#### WITH OUR FIRST AFTER HOURS EVENT!











We were thrilled to host our first After Hours event of 2025 on March 27th at The Liberty! This special evening brought together alumni, friends, and supporters for a night of camaraderie, networking, and celebration.

The highlight of the evening was hearing from Brigadier General Voris W. McBurnette, Superintendent of NMMI, who shared inspiring insights about the future of our institution and the strength of our community. Thank you to everyone who joined us for this fantastic event. Your continued support makes a lasting impact, and we look forward to many more memorable gatherings throughout the year!

# NMMIAdventures& Gratitude \* AlvIonth of \* Celebration!

**HELLO NMMI FAMILY!** 

LESLIE PALOMBI HERE, YOUR EVER-ENTHUSIASTIC EVENT COORDINATOR, BRINGING YOU AN EXCITING UPDATE FROM THE ALUMNI RELATIONS OFFICE! GET READY FOR A WHIRLWIND OF EVENTS, CAMARADERIE, AND APPRECIATION AS WE HEAD INTO A BUSY SPRING

# Saddle Up for Adventure! Trail Ride in Mayhill, NM!

Mark your calendars, adventurers! We're gearing up for our 35<sup>th</sup> annual Alumni Trail Ride, and this year, it's bigger and better than ever! Join us from June 3rd to June 7th at the stunning Camp of the Tall Pines in Mayhill, NM. We're talking ATVs roaring through scenic trails, gentle horseback rides through the pines, a piñata bursting with fun, and of course, mouthwatering food that'll have you coming back for seconds! Whether you're a seasoned outdoors enthusiast or just looking for a week of fun and connection, this is the event for you. Get ready to create unforgettable memories with your NMMI family. Registration in now open and can be found on our alumni website!

# Legacy Dinner: Celebrating Our Cadet Heritage!

A special reminder to our Legacy Cadets and families!



We're hosting a Legacy Dinner on **April 24th** to honor and celebrate your unique connection to NMMI. This is an exclusive opportunity to connect with fellow Legacy Cadets, share stories, and reinforce the bonds that make our institute so special. Don't miss this chance to celebrate the tradition of continuing our NMMI legacy!

# Employee Giving Luncheon: A Heartfelt Thank You!

We're incredibly grateful for the dedication and generosity of our staff and faculty who contribute to the annual fund through payroll deductions. To express our sincere appreciation, we're hosting an Employee Giving Luncheon on April 8th at 11:40 AM in the Gold Room.

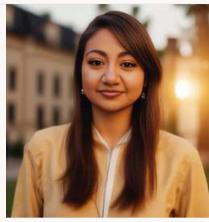
This is a chance for us to personally thank you for your commitment to cadet scholarships and share the tangible impact of your contributions. And for those staff members who are interested in joining this wonderful cause, we invite you to participate in our payroll deduction program! Not only will you be directly supporting our cadets and receiving an end-of-year tax write-off, but you'll also be invited to enjoy a complimentary meal at our special luncheon as a token of our gratitude. To sign up and become part of this impactful group, please contact our annual fund officer Natalie Perez. We're building a stronger NMMI community together, and we couldn't do it without your support. We look forward to seeing you at these exciting events!

Onwards and upwards!

Leslie Palombi Special Events Coordinator, Alumni Relations Office New Mexico Military Institute

# Stay Connected: Update Your Alumni Information





We value the connection we share with each of our alumni, and keeping your contact information up to date helps us stay in touch with you about exciting news, events, and opportunities at NMMI. Whether you've changed your address, email, or phone number, we want to ensure that you continue receiving important updates from your alma mater.

- If you haven't updated your information recently or need to make any changes, please take a moment to visit our alumni portal or contact Alumni Relations to update your details. Keeping your information
- current allows us to send you invitations to alumni events, exclusive offers, and other important communications.
  - We look forward to staying connected with you and keeping the spirit of New Mexico Military Institute alive long after graduation!
- "Need to get in touch with NMMI Alumni Relations? We'd love to hear from you and about your achievements! You can phone, email, or visit our Alumni page. If we miss your call please leave a detailed voice message. We're here to help and will respond as quickly as possible!"

Alicia Morales 575-624-8251 alm clrk@nmmi.edu







#### Honoring Our Departed Alumni

At New Mexico Military Institute, we deeply honor the lives and legacies of our alumni who have passed away. Silver Taps ceremony is NMMI's solemn event held to commemorate the memory of those who have passed, providing family and fellow Alumni with the opportunity to reflect and honor their contributions.

If you are aware of any fellow alumni who have recently passed, we encourage you to notify us so we can ensure they are remembered. Please reach out to the Alumni Relations, providing the name, graduation year, and any other relevant details of your fellow Alum. Your support in helping us stay informed is greatly appreciated and allows us to include all those who should be honored. Together, NMMI will continue to celebrate the lives of those who have contributed to the rich history of our Alumni community. Thank you for helping us maintain the bond NMMI Alumni share.



#### NEW HIRE IN THE ALUMNI RELATIONS DEPARTMENT

My name is Natalie, and I am honored to serve as the Annual Fund Officer at New Mexico Military Institute (NMMI). This year marks my seventh year at the institute, where I have previously worked in the Global Enrollment department and the Paul Horgan Library (Toles). My career has been dedicated to working with young adults, including my time with non-profits such as Big Brothers Big Sisters of SENM. I hold an MBA from Grand Canyon University and earned my undergraduate degree from New Mexico State University.

Although I am not an alum of NMMI, I have always recognized it as a hidden gem—an institution that provides students with unparalleled opportunities beyond what is available at most schools. Education is something I deeply value and being part of an institution that is passionate about building leaders and educating young people is incredibly meaningful to me. As I have become more involved with the Alumni Relations Office, I am truly amazed by the profound impact NMMI has on its graduates. I see firsthand how this institution is ingrained in their hearts, how it has shaped their character, and how the friendships and experiences forged here last a lifetime. It is inspiring to witness the deep connection alumni have to their alma mater, and I am eager to continue fostering those relationships.

Knowing the lasting impression NMMI has on its alumni, I am excited to contribute to its continued growth. My role allows me to help secure funding for scholarships, student activities, and the expansion and preservation of everything that makes NMMI unique. I want to ensure that cadets have the resources to thrive in an environment that challenges and prepares them for success.

As the Annual Fund Officer, my goal is to emphasize that every contribution matters—whether it be time, financial support, or sharing knowledge. Each donation is valuable, especially when it comes from alumni who know firsthand the transformative experience of NMMI. Our team is committed to making every alum feel valued while working to develop and maintain the Old Post. Keeping our community informed and engaged is a priority, and I look forward to strengthening connections with our incredible alumni and donors.

I am especially excited about this year's Trail Ride, where I will be participating as a Rat Rider! The event's location is stunning, and I look forward to experiencing this unique tradition alongside our dedicated alumni.

To all NMMI alumni, parents, and friends. I want you to know that you are deeply valued. If you ever have concerns, ideas, or feedback, our department is always open to hearing from you. We recognize the importance of tradition, but we also know that growth and change can be beneficial. Let's continue working together to ensure NMMI remains a place of excellence for generations to come.

A fun fact about me—I spent a year volunteering in South America at an orphanage. It was one of the most challenging yet rewarding experiences of my life, and it solidified my passion for service and making a meaningful impact.

I look forward to connecting with you all and working together to support and strengthen the NMMI legacy.

# ANNUAL FUND

# Annual Giving: Empowering the Future of NMMI

At New Mexico Military Institute, our mission is to develop leaders of character, intellect, and integrity. Annual giving directly supports this mission by ensuring that NMMI remains a place where academic excellence and leadership thrive.



#### **Annual Giving**

Annual giving is the lifeblood of NMMI, providing critical, flexible funding to sustain cadets and programs.

#### **Why Annual Giving matters**

- <u>Sustains Excellence</u>: Funds programs, scholarships, and leadership training cadets rely on
- <u>Allows Immediate Impact</u>: Gifts are used this year, making an instant difference for cadets
- <u>Enhances the Cadet Experience</u>: Supports traditions, athletics, and student life that define NMMI
- <u>Builds a Strong Future</u>: Every donor, no matter the amount, strengthens NMMI for future generations



As a proud member of the NMMI family, your support carries forward the traditions and values that shaped you. Whether through an annual gift, a legacy commitment, or a planned gift, you ensure that cadets today and tomorrow have the same opportunities that defined your experience.



#### NMMI ENTREPRENEURIAL SYMPOSIUM INSPIRES CADETS TO TAKE BOLD STEPS

The NMMI Entrepreneurial Symposium, founded by Mr. Dick Varnell '60HS/'62JC, continues to inspire cadets by bringing successful alumni and local business leaders to the Old Post to speak to cadets. Through firsthand accounts of starting and running businesses, cadets gain valuable insight into the entrepreneurial world and are encouraged to take risks, embrace challenges, and pursue their dreams. As Mr. Varnell stated, "Failure breeds success."



This year's symposium featured two dynamic alumni speakers, Brad Larsen '96JC and Blake Olson '92HS/'94JC, who shared their experiences and strategies for building thriving businesses.

Brad Larsen, founder of Rentwerx.com in San Antonio, provided cadets with a roadmap for entrepreneurial success. He emphasized the importance of mastering the art of selling and developing strong relationships, building businesses with recurring revenue for sustainability, strategic planning, and goal setting to maintain long-term success.

Blake Olson, a serial entrepreneur, focused on the power of niche markets, reinforcing the idea that specialization can lead to financial success. He echoed Mr. Varnell's message about embracing failure as a steppingstone to achievement.

Through the Entrepreneurial Symposium, cadets gain firsthand knowledge from those who have navigated the challenges of business ownership. Their stories and guidance give future entrepreneurs the confidence to take their first steps into the business world.

As NMMI continues to shape leaders in academics, leadership, and athletics, events like this symposium ensure cadets are prepared for success beyond the classroom.



#### Interested in Speaking at Next Year's Symposium?

If you are an alumnus or business leader interested in sharing your entrepreneurial journey with NMMI cadets, we invite you to be part of next year's event. For more information or to express your interest, please contact:

Col. Terri Garvey
New Mexico Military Institute
Chair, Business and Leadership Department
575-624-8153 | garvey@nmmi.edu

# HONORING FALLEN SOLDIERS: VIETNAM MEMORIAL PROJECT FOR THE 173RD AIRBORNE BRIGADE



# COL. JIM MATCHIN 1966 HS 1968 JC

A Vietnam War veteran, is working to honor the soldiers of his generation who served with the 173rd Airborne Brigade. With support from the Brigade Commander, Col. Joshua Gaspard, Matchin is creating memorials for fallen soldiers to be placed at company headquarters in Vicenza, Italy, and Grafenwoehr, Germany. These memorials will include the names, photos, and details of the 1,790 Sky Soldiers who died during the Vietnam War, ensuring their legacy is remembered by both their families and current soldiers. The memorials aim to strengthen connections between families and the unit while serving as a constant reminder of the sacrifices made by soldiers during Vietnam. Matchin hopes to complete the project by June, in time for the 173rd

Airborne Brigade Association reunion.



READ THE FULL ARTICLE HERE:

VIETNAM MEMORIAL FOR THE

173RD AIRBORNE BRIGADE

#### NMMI ALUMNI CELEBRATE MAJOR MILESTONES IN THEIR MILITARY CAREERS

Attached is a graduation picture of NMMI alumni Warrant Officer Tom Sylvester and Ensign Marcus Lovato. Warrant Officer Sylvester recently graduated from the Army's Warrant Officer Candidate School at Fort Novosel (Dothan), Alabama. He previously completed the Army's Basic Combat Training Course at Fort Jackson (Columbia), South Carolina. Next, he will attend the Army's Warrant Officer Basic Course and Survival, Escape, and Evasion Courses before beginning flight training at Fort Novosel.

Ensign Lovato, currently undergoing flight training at Naval Air Station Pensacola (NASP), Florida, is also making strides in his aviation career. Congratulations to both on their accomplishments!





#### CELEBRATING LOVE AND NEW BEGINNINGS: WARRANT OFFICER ANDREW VOLGENIN'S MARRIAGE

Attached is a picture of NMMI alumnus Warrant Officer Andrew Volgenin 2015 HS and his bride Tawny, captured after their marriage at Walt Disney World in late February of this year. The couple is looking forward to a honeymoon in Paris in the near future. Currently, Mr. Volgenin is undergoing Apache helicopter training at Fort Novosel (Dothan), Alabama, as he continues to advance in his military career.

Congratulations to the newlyweds!

#### In loving memory of



# Colonel Allen Dearle Baker, USAF Retired

NMMI HS '71

Colonel Allen D. Baker, 72, passed away on February 22, 2025, after a courageous battle with aggressive kidney cancer. He was a beloved husband, father, grandfather, uncle, brother, and a cherished friend. He leaves behind a legacy of dedication, service, and love that will be deeply missed by all who knew him.

Born on October 11, 1952, in Lincoln, NE, Al's family moved to Colorado when he was just six months old. He graduated from New Mexico Military Institute in May 1971 and continued his education at Colorado State University. Upon graduating in 1975, he was commissioned as a 2nd Lieutenant in the United States Air Force as an Air Force ROTC Distinguished Graduate. He retired from the Air Force on January 1, 2003, after a distinguished career, which included serving as a Missileer and in Space Operations. Known for his hard work, dedication, mentorship, and sense of humor, Al's contributions to the Air Force were immense.

In his final Air Force assignment, Allen served as Vice Commander of the 50th Space Wing, overseeing the command and control of Department of Defense satellites and other space operations, a role he held before the establishment of the United States Space Force.

Above all, Al was a devoted family man. He is survived by his loving wife of 50 years, Colonel Debby Baker, USAF Retired, his daughter Alaina, her husband Nick, and his grandson Louden. He also cherished his brother, Colonel Rick Baker, USAF Retired (NMMI JC '70), and his sister-in-law Elsie, along with his extended family, nieces, nephews, and cousins. Al was always ready to host family gatherings, travel the world, remodel homes, attend his grandson's wrestling matches, and embrace the joys of life.

Al was preceded in death by his parents, LTC Richard Baker, US Army Retired, and Imogene (Niemeyer) Baker of Colorado Springs, CO.

In retirement, Al remained actively involved in his community and church. He served as Church Council President, Treasurer of the Trust Board, Sunday School Teacher, and was especially fond of teaching children about Jesus at Vacation Bible School. He was a past president of the Corvettes West Car Club and the non-profit Community Grief Center (CGC) Board of Directors, where his fundraising efforts left a lasting impact. Al's generosity, humor, and love of life were an inspiration to all who knew him.

He often credited his time at NMMI for providing him with the strength and discipline to navigate life's challenges and achieve his goals. The training and experiences he gained at NMMI shaped him through difficult times, including his final moments. Allen loved God, his family, his country, and his community. His life was a living example of how to live, work, laugh, forgive, and love. His memory will forever be a beacon of inspiration.

Al's legacy lives on, a testament to a life well-lived between the dash of 1952-2025.

Trail Ride 2025

DATE: JUNE 3, 2025 - JUNE 7, 2025 LOCATION: CAMP OF TALL PINES, 105 CAMP TALL PINES RD, MAYHILL, NM 88339, USA

#### **Current Pricing (Before May 1st)**

- Full Ride (June 3-7): \$450
- Wednesday-Saturday (June 4-7): \$375
- Thursday-Saturday (June 5-7): \$275
- Friday Full Day (Includes breakfast, lunch & dinner): \$125 (This will stay the same after May 1st)
- Friday Night Only (Dinner only, no breakfast/lunch): \$75
- One Full Day (Tuesday–Friday, includes breakfast, lunch & dinner): \$125

#### Price Increase on May 1st

- Full Ride: \$500
- Wednesday-Saturday: \$425
- Thursday–Saturday: \$325

#### Get Your Trail Ride 2025 Merchandise!

Make sure you're geared up for the event with exclusive Trail Ride 2025 merchandise from Anaya Prints Shop. From t-shirts to hats, grab your gear before the ride and show off your Trail Ride spirit! Visit **HERE** to order today.

#### **Horse Rentals Available!**

Don't have a horse? No problem! Rent one from Nancy Burch for the ride. Rentals are available on June 4, 5, and 6 at \$225 per day or \$650 for all three days (includes tax). Click **HERE** for Rental Information.

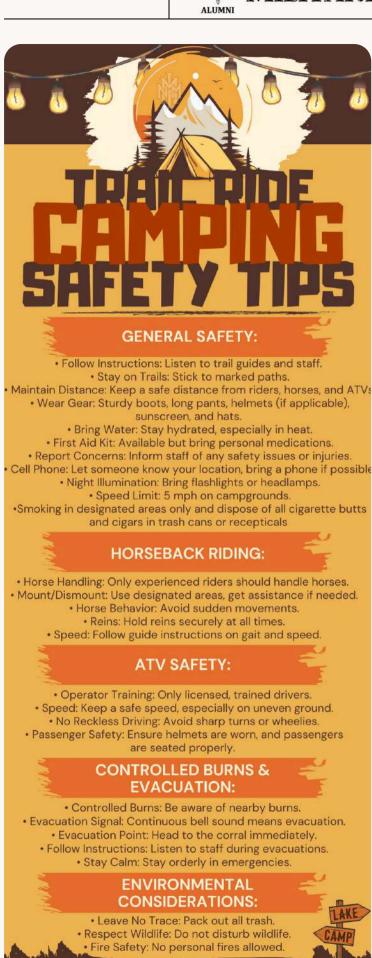
#### Sign Up Today!

Spots are limited, so don't miss out!

REGISTER NOW!

Grab your riding gear and get ready for an adventure of a lifetime! Whether you're a seasoned rider or a first-timer, Trail Ride 2025 promises an experience you won't forget.





# SAFETY FIRST

As we gear up for an unforgettable 35th Annual NMMI Trail Ride, let's make sure everyone stays safe and prepared on the trail and at camp!

By following these guidelines, we can all enjoy a fun and safe experience at Trail Ride 2025. Let's make this year's ride the best one yet!

See you on the trail!



#### Support the 2025 Trail Ride Auction!



We are seeking silent and live auction items for the 2025 Trail Ride event! Donations such as outdoor gear, gift certificates, and local crafts are greatly appreciated. Your generous contribution will directly support the Corps of Cadets, and you'll receive an in-kind credit for the fair market value of your donation. Every donation makes a difference—thank you for your support!

#### **ITEMS NEEDED**

- Silent Auction Items
- ► Live Auction Items

#### **DROP-OFF LOCATION**



101 W College Blvd, Daniel's Leadership Center Roswell, NM 88201

# AROUND POST

# NMMI CADETS TRAIN WITH NM CORRECTIONS ACADEMY

NMMI cadets recently trained alongside correctional officer cadets at the NM Corrections Training Academy in Santa Fe, gaining hands-on experience in law enforcement.

#### Highlights:

- Physical training with officer cadets
- Sessions with probation & parole officers
- Tours of the Old Main Penitentiary & maximum-security facility

Huge thanks to LTC Kaftan & CPT Stoneburner for leading the visit!





# PI DAY

Before heading off for Spring Break, NMMI Cadets celebrated Pi Day with a fun lunchtime event filled with math-inspired games, pizza, and donuts! A sweet way to honor 3.14—and wrap up the week with some well-earned fun.

Content and images courtesy of the New Mexico Military Institute Facebook page.



# AROUND POST

# **LEADERSHIP IN ACTION**

Proud moments at NMMI! Cadets were honored during the Induction Ceremony for the Merle B. Prinkey Jr. Chapter of the National Honor Society and the Phi Alpha Chapter of Phi Theta Kappa. Congratulations to these outstanding scholars for their academic excellence and leadership!

# NMMI MCBRIDE RIFLE TEAM

Congratulations to the NMMI McBride Rifle Team for their impressive performance at the Capital City Skills Meet in Santa Fe! Competing against 14 teams, they secured 7th place overall, with C/SSG Teahan Calvert leading the team with a remarkable score of 482 out of 600. Under the guidance of MSG (Ret.) Daniel Munoz Jr., our cadets continue to exemplify discipline and precision in marksmanship. Kudos to all team members for their dedication and hard work!

Content and images courtesy of the New Mexico Military Institute Facebook page



# **TAPS**

DEANN	E.	ALLEN	1980	JC	08-DEC-20
WILLIAM	J.	Bartle	1949	HS	06-Jun-13
GEORGE	N.	BENTLEY	1971	HS	27-Apr-24
WILLIAM	M.	Bourn	1962	JC	13-Mar-25
FRANCIS	W.	Cox	1980	HS	05-DEC-19
LEONARD	F.	DIRKS	1968	HS	26-ГЕВ-22
RICHARD	K.	<b>D</b> оским	1970	HS	03-Mar-23
<b>Ј</b> онииу	L.	Dungan	1966	HS	09-Гев-25
DUNCAN	M.	EYRE	1984	JC	14-SEP-24
WALLACE	F.	GABLER	1964	JC	09-Гев-25
RICKY	D.	GAUNTT	1973	HS	05-Ост-23
RICHARD	Α.	GRAY	1966	HS	05-Mar-25
Robin	E.	HENDRIX	1987	HS	07-Ост-23
CHARLES	W.	Ност	1972	JC	06-Apr-23
RUPERT	F.	Horka	1960	JC	28-Jan-21
HENRY	L.	KELTON	1960	JC	11-Apr-20
SHANNON	E.	LILLY	1980	JC	06-Jan-18
CRATON	D.	LOONEY	1969	JC	25-Mar-21
WILLIAM	Α.	Lybarger	1960	JC	21-DEC-20
Jose	L.	MARTINEZ BASURTO	1992	HS	26-Гев-25
JORDAN	Н.	MINYARD	1969	HS	13-Jan-19
Douglas	Н.	Pender	1953	JC	29-Jan-25
STANTON	P.	Powell	1967	JC	22-Mar-13
WILLIAM	Н.	Tarver	1967	JC	20-Гев-25
Frank	K.	Turner	1959	JC	28-Jan-25
NEAL	P.	WATTS	1960	JC	26-Jun-16
JOSEPH	K.	WEST	1962	JC	13-Jan-21
KELLY	S.	WESTERFIELD	1967	HS	14-Aug-24



Alumni Reported Deceased March 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."

