



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

# WELCOME TO OUR Monthly E-Newsletter

## From the Director's Desk

### ATTENTION IN THE AREA, ATTENTION OFF POST

The Corps is back in town and already in full swing as the 2025–2026 academic year gets underway. Athletics is gearing up for competitions, leadership development is well underway, and the excitement of a new year is in the air. While many cadets, faculty, and staff look forward to graduation each spring, there is an equal sense of anticipation at the start of each academic year. The energy builds as we approach matriculation, and we can't wait to hear the sounds and see the sights that mark the beginning of life on post.

This year is no different, with more than 800 cadets enrolled and an additional 100+ students at the Intermediate Preparatory Academy. We look forward to an outstanding year ahead and can't wait to showcase the Corps' achievements when Homecoming arrives in October.

The Alumni Relations Office is diligently working on the Generals Cup Golf Tournament in conjunction with Homecoming planning. As we continue to share details about these events—and many others—I want to pause and highlight one simple but meaningful way you can support NMMI right now.

Like all schools across the country, NMMI faces a data challenges. By "data," we mean updated contact details—physical addresses, email addresses, and phone numbers. Having this information ensures we can:

- Stay connected with alumni who want to hear from us,
- Provide timely updates and stories of interest, and
- Reconnect you with the friends and classmates you made during your time on post.

Over 35% of Americans move each year, and with busy personal and professional lives, it's easy to forget to update your alma mater. That's where you can help. Encourage fellow alumni to reach out to the Alumni Relations Office so we can keep their information current. Invite them to follow our social media pages, attend events, and re-engage with the Institute.

We are excited for a year filled with successes, and we hope to welcome you back on post to experience it all in person.

**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**

EXECUTIVEDIRECTOR ALUMNIRELATIONS  
& INSTITUTIONAL ADVANCEMENT



**Janice Weed '93 HS**

DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF ALUMNI RELATIONS



**Natalie Perez**

ANNUAL FUND OFFICER



**Destini Hernandez**

GIFT PROCESSOR/FINANCIAL LIAISON



**Alicia Morales**

ADMINISTRATIVE SPECIALIST



**Leslie Palombi**

SPECIAL EVENTS COORDINATOR

**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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# CROSSED SABERS SOCIETY



BECOMING A MEMBER OF THE CROSSED SABERS SOCIETY

## ANNUAL GIVING. LIFELONG RECOGNITION

At New Mexico Military Institute, leadership is built through commitment—and commitment extends beyond the Corps. The Crossed Sabers Society honors alumni and friends who demonstrate their dedication through annual and cumulative giving, helping ensure that future generations benefit from the NMMI experience.

### WHAT IS THE CROSSED SABERS SOCIETY?

The Crossed Sabers Society is NMMI's premier giving society, created to:

- Celebrate a select group of long-term benefactors
- Recognize supporters who give generously and advocate passionately for the Institute
- Build a national network of informed, engaged NMMI champions
- Honor both annual participation and a lifetime of impact

### HOW TO BECOME A MEMBER

Membership begins with a \$1,000 annual contribution, qualifying you for the NMMI Annual Fellowship level. To maintain your status and benefits in the Crossed Sabers Society, this \$1,000 minimum must be given each fiscal year. From there, your cumulative giving over time may elevate you to higher tiers of recognition, including:

- 🏅 NMMI Member – \$5,000–\$9,999
- 🏅 NMMI Sustaining Member – \$10,000–\$24,999
- 🏅 NMMI Benefactor – \$25,000–\$49,999
- 🏅 NMMI Distinguished – \$50,000–\$99,999
- 🏅 NMMI Champion – \$100,000+

### MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS INCLUDE:

A CUSTOM CHALLENGE COIN

AN NMMI ALUMNI FLAG

INVITE TO EXCLUSIVE CROSSED SABERS SOCIETY BREAKFAST WITH BG MCBURNETTE AT HOMECOMING

RECOGNITION IN PUBLICATIONS AND DONOR LISTINGS

**GIVE ANNUALLY AND BUILD YOUR LEGACY—YOU ARE PART OF SOMETHING BIGGER.**

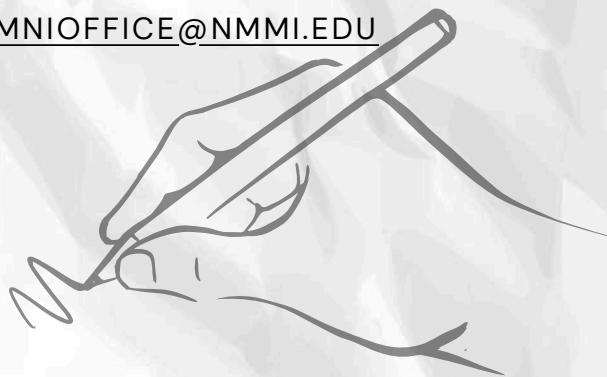
To become a member or check your giving history, contact:

✉️ Janice Weed '93HS, Deputy Director, Alumni Relations | [jweed@nmmi.edu](mailto:jweed@nmmi.edu) | (575) 624-8246

✉️ Natalie Perez, Annual Fund Officer, Alumni Relations | [perez@nmmi.edu](mailto:perez@nmmi.edu) | (575) 624-8158



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1996 HS



READ NOW







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# HOW YOUR IRA CAN HELP YOU..



## IRA GIVING: QUICK Q&A

**What's the benefit of giving from my IRA?**

If you're 70½ or older, giving directly from your IRA can reduce your taxable income (even if you don't itemize deductions).

**How much can I give?**

You can transfer up to \$100,000 per year through a Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD).

**Does it count toward my Required Minimum Distribution (RMD)?**

Yes. A QCD can count toward your RMD if you are 73 or older.

**Does the gift have to go straight to NMMI?**

Yes. The transfer must go directly from your IRA custodian to NMMI to qualify as a QCD.

**Can I make a QCD from my Roth IRA?**

Technically yes, but it's less common since Roth IRAs are not subject to RMDs during your lifetime. Traditional IRAs are more typical for QCDs.

**Who should I talk to?**

Start with your IRA provider or financial advisor. Then let NMMI know so we can thank you properly and ensure the gift is directed as you wish.

Many NMMI alumni and friends use **Individual Retirement Accounts (IRAs)** to build long-term financial security. But did you know your IRA can also be a powerful way to support the next generation of cadets?

### A quick overview of IRAs:

An IRA is a personal retirement account that offers tax advantages to help you save. The two main types are:

- **Traditional IRA:** Contributions are often tax-deductible, and withdrawals in retirement are taxed as income.
- **Roth IRA:** Contributions are made with after-tax dollars, but qualified withdrawals are tax-free.

People often begin contributing to IRAs in their 20s or 30s, building up savings over decades with the help of compound interest and tax benefits. At age 59½, you can begin making withdrawals without penalty. And at age 73, you must begin taking **Required Minimum Distributions (RMDs)** from traditional IRAs.

### A giving option after age 70½:

If you are 70½ or older, you can make a **Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD)**, a direct gift from your IRA to a nonprofit like NMMI. This option is especially helpful if you don't need all of your RMD or if you are looking for a tax-efficient way to give.

Here's how a QCD works:

- You direct your IRA custodian to send a gift straight to NMMI
- The amount (up to \$100,000 per year) does not count as taxable income
- It can count toward your RMD for the year
- 

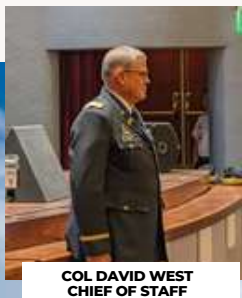
For many donors, this means they can support scholarships, academic programs, and cadet leadership development, while potentially lowering their tax burden.

As always, consult your tax professional to see what's right for your situation. Thank you for being part of the NMMI family and helping us develop the leaders of tomorrow.

To learn more or notify us of a planned gift, please contact us at [adv\\_off@nmmi.edu](mailto:adv_off@nmmi.edu) or [perez@nmmi.edu](mailto:perez@nmmi.edu).



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**COL DAVID WEST**  
CHIEF OF STAFF



**COL THOMAS TATE**  
COMMANDANT/  
DEAN OF STUDENTS



**LTC CRISTHINA STARKE**  
GLOBAL ENROLLMENT AND  
MARKETING DIRECTOR



**COL JOSE PORRAS**  
VICE DEAN/HS PRINCIPAL



**COL DEANA CURNUTT**  
CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER



**COL ORLANDO GRIEGO**  
CHIEF ACADEMIC  
OFFICER/ACADEMIC DEAN

## AROUND POST

# A STRONG START: BG MCBURNETTE WELCOMES FAMILIES AND SETS THE COURSE FOR THE SEMESTER

BG McBurnette spoke to the parents of incoming RATs, introducing Tier 1, highlighting NMMI's mission, and providing an overview of what families can anticipate throughout the semester. This marks the beginning of a strong partnership between the Institute and home.



**BRIGADIER GENERAL VORIS W.  
MCBURNETTE**  
PRESIDENT/SUPERINTENDENT

**COL JOSE BARRON**  
ATHLETIC DIRECTOR





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**MATRICULATION WEEK MARKED THE BEGINNING OF A LIFE-CHANGING JOURNEY FOR OUR NEWEST CADETS AND THEIR FAMILIES. FROM EMOTIONAL FAREWELLS TO THE FIRST SALUTE, THESE UNFORGETTABLE MOMENTS REFLECT THE PRIDE, TRADITION, AND CAMARADERIE THAT DEFINE NMMI.**





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# EXCITING EVENTS AHEAD FOR NMMI ALUMNI & FRIENDS



As we step into the fall season, we are thrilled to share the many events that will bring our alumni and community together to celebrate tradition, camaraderie, and the spirit of Old Post.

The Generals Cup Golf Tournament, taking place September 19–21, is officially closed with all teams filled. We thank everyone who registered and look forward to an incredible weekend of golf, fellowship, and celebration.

Before then, alumni are invited to join us for the first Alumni After Hours of the season on Thursday, August 28, at El Toro Bravo. Beginning at 6:00 PM, this gathering will be a wonderful opportunity to reconnect and network in a relaxed atmosphere.

In October, we turn our focus to one of the most beloved traditions of the year—Homecoming 2025.

This year we are proudly celebrating NMMI's 101<sup>st</sup> homecoming. From October 22–25, alumni and friends will gather on campus for a weekend full of cherished traditions and new memories. Highlights include the Silver Taps Memorial Service, the Alumni Honored Class Parade, the Colt and Bronco football games, and the Honored Class Dinner at the Roswell Country Club. Within the schedule of Homecoming, we will also host the Women of NMMI Luncheon on October 23 at the VMV. This special gathering, open with a donation, honors the contributions and impact of our female alumni.

On Friday, October 24, the Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony will take place in Pearson Auditorium from 2:30–4:00 PM. This powerful event celebrates the newest inductees into the NMMI Hall of Fame and will be attended by the entire Corps of Cadets, creating an unforgettable moment of pride and tradition.

Alongside these events, we are especially excited to welcome both new and returning cadets back to the hallowed grounds of Old Post. Their dedication, discipline, and spirit continue to inspire the entire NMMI community as a new academic year begins.

We look forward to seeing you at these gatherings and celebrating together the traditions that make NMMI so extraordinary.

Onwards and upwards,

Leslie Palombi







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## HOMEcoming 2025

**Wednesday, 22 OCTOBER 2025**

1200 - 1630 Alumni Registration Information (DLC 200)

*Schedule*



**Thursday, 23 OCTOBER 2025**

0800 - 1100 NMMI Foundation Annual Members Breakfast Meeting (Invitation Only) | NMMI

Foundation Board of Trustees Meeting (Jack Daniels Room, DLC)

0800 - 1630 Alumni Registration Information (DLC 200)

1000 - 1100 Tour of NMMI Campus (Global Enrollment | Lusk Hall)

1140 - 1240 Women of NMMI Luncheon (VMV) (Admission w/ Donation)

1300 Lefty Stecklein Golf Social (NMMI Golf Course) (\$21 per Player 18holes+Cart)

1730 Corps formation and movement to SRC

1800 Prayer Service for families of Silver Taps Honorees (Alumni Chapel)

1840 Corps Formation (Hagerman Barracks)

1900 Silver Taps - Corps of Cadets, Alumni, and Guests (Hagerman Barracks) other than the Color Guard and Horseman (Class C with Black Jackets).

2000 - 2200 Alumni Reception following Silver Taps - Hosted by BG McBurnette and Mrs. Nikki McBurnette, Alumni & guests (NO CADETS AND NO ONE UNDER AGE 21) (Quarters 1)

**Friday, 24 October 2025**

0730 - 0830 Graveside Dedication: J. Penrod Toles (Southpark Cemetery | Plot 41-15-4)

0800 - 0930 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Toles Learning Center (Toles)

0800 - 1630 Alumni Registration Information (DLC)

1000 - 1100 Tour of NMMI Campus (Global Enrollment | Lusk Hall)

0830 - 1030 Board of Regents Meeting (BOR Conference Room | Lusk Hal)

1430 - 1600 Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony (Pearson Auditorium)

1600 - 1800 Hall of Fame Reception - Hosted by BG McBurnette & Mrs. Nikki McBurnette (Quarters 1) (Invitation Only)

1800 - 2230 Class Dinner (Roswell Country Club) (\$75 Preorder | \$85 after Sep 12<sup>th</sup> | Limited to 220 guests)

**Saturday, 25 October 2025**

0600 Reveille

0620 BRC w/Formation

0700 - 0830 Cross Sabers Breakfast (Gold Room) (Invite Only)

0800-1000 Alumni Registration Information (DLC)

0800 Goss Drill Team Exhibitions (Bronco Plaza)

0800 - 0930 Corps FRI (All Barracks Closed to Visitors)

0900 Change of Flame Guard (Bronco Plaza)

0930 - 1000 Alumni Tour of Rooms (Hagerman 1<sup>st</sup> Stoop Only)

1015 Corps forms for Parade

1015 - 1030 Honored Classes form for Alumni March (Bronco Plaza)

1030 - 1135 Alumni Honored Class March and Homecoming Parade (Stapp Parade Field)

1150 DRC w/Formation and march by

1200 - 1400 Farley's Alumni Meet & Greet

1330 Corps forms for March-on (Wool Bowl)

1340 Corps of Cadets March on for Football Game (Wool Bowl)

1400 - 1700 NMMI Bronco Football vs. Trinity Valley Community College (Wool Bowl)







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Please Join Us

**NMMI ALUMNI MEET AND GREET**

# FARLEY'S



## HOMECOMING 2025

JOIN US FOR A SPECIAL NMMI HOMECOMING 2025 LOCAL MEET-AND-GREET BEFORE OUR JUNIOUR COLLEGE BRONCO FOOTBALL GAME AT ROSWELL'S FAMOUS FARLEY'S RESTAURANT! ENJOY THE RELAXED ATMOSPHERE ON THE PATIO WHILE CATCHING UP WITH FELLOW ALUMNI. COMPLIMENTARY CHIPS AND SALSA WILL BE SERVED FROM **NOON TO 2:00 P.M. OCTOBER 25<sup>TH</sup>**

**DON'T MISS THIS OPPORTUNITY TO RECONNECT, SHARE STORIES, AND MAKE NEW MEMORIES!**



PLEASE JOIN US

## NMMI HALL OF FAME INDUCTION CEREMONY

Experience the grandeur and pride of NMMI as we honor this year's Hall of Fame inductees. Witness a tradition steeped in excellence, dedication, and the legacy of our institution.

The entire Corps of Cadets will be in attendance as we celebrate these distinguished individuals. This is more than a ceremony—it's a moment of shared history, unity, and inspiration.

Join us as we applaud extraordinary achievements, uphold the spirit of the institute, and create memories that will echo through the halls of NMMI.


Pearson Auditorium  
101 W College Blvd Roswell, NM  
**Friday, 24 October, 2025**  
2:30 PM - 4:00 PM

*Valor*




HS '65  
SFC Randolph  
"Randy"  
Suber, USA  
*Valor*

*Flag Officer*




HS '86 JC '88  
BG Howard-  
Charles W Geck,  
USAR




HS '89 JC '91  
COL Andras  
Marton, USAR


*George Ward memorial*



JC '81  
Laurie Pallesen



JC '88  
MAJ Robert "RJ"  
Casey, USAFR







# TAPS

JOHN	R.	JINKINS	1969	JC	11/14/2020
JOHNNY	A.	AHLM	1966	JC	8/4/2025
JOSEPH	I	FOSTER	2003	HS	6/2/2025
WILLIAM	T.	CHEATHAM	1969	JC	
TYSON		NELSON	1997	JC	7/22/2025



Alumni Reported Deceased  
August 28, 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."**

