



NMMI ALUMNI RELATIONS | 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

I hope summer has treated everyone well and was enjoyable for all. The Alumni Relations Office has been busy as ever closing out events, planning upcoming events and preparing for the arrival of all the new recruits. Cadre arrived on July 19th and they have been busy going through training, embracing any changes or adjustments for the upcoming year and preparing to lead with integrity. BG McBurnette has been on post for a full year now and is looking forward to continually enhancing all aspect at NMMI as move forward in the ever changing world academics.

We are excited about all the upcoming events, engagement opportunities and so much more as we get ready for the 25-26th academic year. The 14th Annual Generals Cup Golf Tournament and Scholarship Gala is also in full swing and registration/sponsorships have been pouring in for this event. We look to have another great turnout and hope to raise \$80-\$100K in scholarship funds for the Corps of Cadets. Lastly, registration for homecoming opened up in June and we look forward to celebrating all of the classes ending in "5" and are excited to see all of the alumni, family and friends who attend. The schedule of events is out and can be found on the alumni website as well as on our social media platforms. Please note that we have limited seating for the honored class dinner and won't be able to allow walkups for that night's festivities. You can find all of this information and more by visiting Greetings Alumni, Patrons, and Friends,

- As we close out the fiscal year and look ahead to the opportunities of 2025-2026, I wanted to take a moment to share an inspiring story from this year's graduation—a true reflection of the values and legacy that define New Mexico Military Institute.
- As many of you know, NMMI has a proud tradition of preparing cadets—both sponsored and non-sponsored—for appointments to the five U.S. service academies. These cadets, whether they arrive through more traditional paths or come to us with service academy aspirations, consistently leave NMMI with a deep sense of pride, purpose, and connection.
- One particularly meaningful achievement this year was the direct appointment of three high school cadets to U.S. service academies. What makes their accomplishments even more special is that each of them is a legacy cadet—continuing the proud tradition of service and excellence established by their families:
- John Sandoval '25 HSG will be attending the United States Naval Academy this fall. His mother, Carmelita Lopez '94 HSG, is an NMMI graduate.
- Octavian Chavez '25 HSG received an appointment to the United States Military Academy at West Point. His father, Isaac Chavez '90 HSG / '92 JCG, is also an alumnus.
- Cohen Tomasits '25 HSG will also be heading to West Point. His father, Ray Tomasits '92 HSG, is not only an NMMI graduate but also a West Point alumnus.

These stories are a powerful reminder of the strength of our NMMI family—the legacy, leadership, and lifelong impact that begin right here on campus. We are incredibly proud of these cadets and look forward to seeing all that they will accomplish.

Thank you for being part of this journey with us. Enjoy the rest of your summer, and we hope to see you during Homecoming in October—or even sooner!

With gratitude,

or on Facebook and Instagram.

Please keep us up to date and in the loop with all you have going on, your successes are our successes. We are excited to have an amazing academic year and look forward to all that it has to offer.

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



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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UPCOMING Events



**NMMI Alumni
CONFERENCE
CALL**

You're invited to join us for an upcoming Alumni Conference Call on **August 12th 6:00 PM MST**. We'll be discussing exciting updates, upcoming events, and ways to get involved. **Zoom QR is listed below.** Let's reconnect and move forward together!

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Let's reconnect and move forward together!

Alumni After Hours

Please join us for our quarterly NMMI alumni after hours event at **El Toro Bravo!**

August 26th 6:00 PM - 7:30 PM

We will be serving build-your-own foods, and mild cheese enchiladas. Food and water will be provided. Cash credit bar will be open with wine and beer options.

SPECIAL GUEST SPEAKER Guests are invited and please RSVP to: M. Duran

Texas, laughs, and NMMI alumni - see you there!

An Annual Tradition of the Albuquerque Chapter • 2025

Please Join Us
Friday August 15th at 5:30pm for
Burgers Orell

HOSTED BY
Seth '60HS '62IC & Kathy Orell • Pat '63HS '65IC & Elise Orell

RESERVE YOUR SEAT TODAY!
Seating Is Limited To 60 Attendees

TO RSVP Please Email:
Kathy Orell - okelly1986@gmail.com
Randy McMullen - randym@epix.net

Please Pay CASH At The Door.

Provide Alumni Name & Name of Attendees
\$10 for Adults - Children 13 & Under Free

Maps provided to attendees with confirmed reservation

ALUMNI

NMMI Alumni MEET & GREET

SAN ANTONIO TX

Petroleum building
8820 N. New Braunfels Ave.
Ste 700, San Antonio, TX
5-7 PM

Join us for a special evening to reconnect with fellow alumni, hear highlights, updates, and share in the spirit of the Corps. Don't miss this opportunity to network, reconnect, and light beer in the Alamogordo City.

Special Guest Speaker
COL Porras JC 1997



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NMMI ALUMNI

Homecoming 2025

**1950s Greaser
Rock 'n' Roll!**

NMMI ALUMNI
HOMECOMING 2025
DINNER & DANCE

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 24TH



EARLY BIRD PRICE IS ONLY
\$75 THROUGH SEPTEMBER 12TH
(INCLUDES ACCESS TO THE DINNER & DANCE
HONORING CLASSES ENDING IN 5)



Come Dressed to Impress!



REGISTER NOW

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FALL INTO TRADITION

*General's Cup
& Homecoming
2025 Preview*

Fall Events Preview:

General's Cup and Homecoming 2025

As summer unfolds, we're already looking forward to two of the biggest highlights of the year: the 14th General's Cup Golf Tournament and Gala and our 101st Homecoming 2025. Both events offer opportunities to reconnect, give back, and make new memories—and we can't wait to see you there!

GENERAL'S CUP

September 19-21, 2025

More than just a golf tournament, the General's Cup is a cherished tradition that brings together alumni, friends, and supporters for a weekend of camaraderie and purpose.

This annual event helps raise crucial funds for cadet scholarships, directly supporting the next generation of leaders. Whether you're aiming for a hole-in-one or simply coming out to enjoy the event, your participation makes a meaningful impact.

Expect a weekend filled with friendly competition, networking opportunities, and chances to give back in a fun and engaging atmosphere.

If you are interested in donating a silent auction item, please contact our annual fund officer Natalie Perez, 575-624-8158.



**HOMECOMING
2025***October 22-25, 2025*

Homecoming 2025 promises to be a celebration you won't want to miss! This year, we're honoring classes ending in '5 and throwing it back to the 1950s with a Sock Hop and Greaser theme.



Dust off your leather jackets and poodle skirts—it's time to twist and shout as we celebrate this retro-themed event. From Hall of Fame dedications to alumni gatherings, the schedule will be packed with ways to reconnect and relive your favorite memories.



The Honored Class Dinner will take place at the beautiful Roswell Country Club, offering a special setting for meaningful connections and recognition.

Stay tuned to your inbox and our social media channels for more Homecoming details, registration dates, and special announcements as the event approaches.
Stay Connected!

Make sure you're following us on Facebook, Instagram, and X (Twitter) and regularly checking your email. We'll be sharing all the key updates, registration links, and exclusive previews in the weeks ahead.

We're looking forward to seeing you soon at these incredible events!

Writer: Leslie Palombi Event Coordinator



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LEAVE YOUR LEGACY AT NMMI

SECURE THE FUTURE OF NMMI THROUGH PLANNED GIVING



At New Mexico Military Institute, tradition and leadership walk hand in hand. For generations, alumni have carried the torch, ensuring the next class of cadets has access to the same transformative education, values, and opportunities that shaped their own lives.

One of the most powerful ways to support NMMI's future is through planned giving. This type of gift allows you to make a lasting impact—often without affecting your current finances—by including NMMI in your estate plans, retirement account, or insurance policy.

PLANNED GIFTS INCLUDE:

- Bequests through a will or trust
- Beneficiary designations on retirement accounts or life insurance
- IRA Qualified Charitable Distributions (QCDs)
- Charitable gift annuities and more

WHY CONSIDER A PLANNED GIFT?

- Create a lasting legacy aligned with your values
- Support scholarships and essential programs for future cadets
- Enjoy potential tax benefits
- Join a community of alumni committed to NMMI's future

If you've already included NMMI in your estate plans, we want to honor and recognize you.

Please take a moment to complete our Planned Giving Society form online:

alumni.nmmi.edu/give-now/planned-giving-society

We invite you to take the next step in shaping NMMI's future.

With sincere appreciation,

Janice Weed



Janice Weed

Deputy Director of Alumni Relations

📞 575-624-8246

✉ jweed@nmmi.edu



HONORING NMMI'S LEGACY OF SERVICE



Written By
Natalie Perez
Annual Fund Officer

For generations, cadets at New Mexico Military Institute (NMMI) have gone on to serve with distinction, carrying with them the values learned during their time on the Hill. From the parade grounds to the front lines, NMMI's legacy of service has reached across the world.

Founded in 1891 as the Goss Military Institute, NMMI has long served as a training ground for leadership and military service. By World War I, over 320 NMMI alumni and 163 commissioned officers had served in the United States Armed Forces. That proud tradition continued through World War II, the Korean War, the Vietnam War, and into more recent conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan. Thousands of alumni have answered the call to serve, representing NMMI with courage, integrity, and honor across multiple generations and global missions.



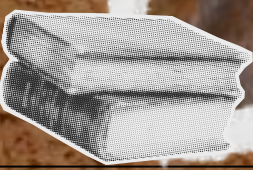
Today, NMMI continues to prepare young men and women for lives of purpose and service. Over 30 cadets each year are commissioned as Second Lieutenants through the Army ROTC program, while around 50 cadets pursue appointments at United States Service Academies. These pathways reflect the enduring values of Duty, Honor, and Achievement that form the foundation of the NMMI experience.

As our nation reflects on freedom this July, we are especially proud of and grateful for the NMMI alumni, parents, and friends who have answered the call to serve. Whether through military service, mentorship, or supporting our mission, your contributions help shape the next generation of leaders. Gifts from alumni and friends provide scholarships, resources, and opportunities that allow cadets to grow into leaders of character and commitment.

To every alumnus who served, every friend who mentors, and every supporter who stands with us, thank you. Your example continues to inspire, and your impact lives on in every cadet who walks through the Sally Port.

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DUTY HONOR ACHIEVEMENT





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A NEW CHAPTER BEGINS AT *NMMI*

THE TRADITION CONTINUES: WELCOMING NMMI'S NEWEST CADETS

The next generation of cadet's steps onto the Hill — ready to begin a journey shaped by discipline, honor, and leadership, just like you did. We're proud to welcome the newest members of the NMMI family, as they take their first steps in a legacy you helped build.

From the first salute to the last formation — the traditions, the challenges, and the brotherhood & sisterhood live on.

Their journey is just beginning, and they follow in the footsteps of alumni like you —



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CREDIT: NMMI'S OFFICIAL FACEBOOK PAGE



**DISCIPLINE DOESN'T CLOCK
OUT. OUR CADETS PUSHED
THROUGH NIGHT PT WITH
GRIT AND DETERMINATION**



TIRADENTES MEDAL



CREDIT: NMMI'S OFFICIAL FACEBOOK PAGE

NMMI President/Superintendent, BG Voris W. McBurnette, was awarded the prestigious Alferes Tiradentes Medal by the Polícia Militar de Minas Gerais in Brazil—recognizing his leadership and our strong international partnership with Colégio Tiradentes.

[READ MORE](#)



Honoring NMMI Alumnus Alexander J. Kirchner, HS Class of 2004



Alexander J. Kirchner received the Secretary of Defense Medal for the Defense of Freedom for wounds sustained on Feb 15, 2021 in Iraq, while serving as a Crew Chief Firefighter with U.S. Army Central Command.

His courage and sacrifice reflect the highest values of the New Mexico Military Institute, and we are honored to count him among our alumni.

Thank you, Alexander, for your dedication, bravery, and service.





TAPS

THOMAS	F.	CASTLEMAN	1978	JC	07-JUL-25
JOHNSON	CAMDEN	CHANCELLOR	1950	HS	09-JUL-25
DALTON	H.	COBB	1973	JC	16-JUL-25
RANDY	R.	DOERHOEFER	1984	JC	27-JUL-25
ROBERT	W.	FLYNN	1963	JC	21-DEC-23
PAUL	R.	GALLOWAY	1966	JC	03-JUN-25
RICHARD	J.	GESTING	1974	JC	06-JUL-25
JAY	A.	HATCHER	1971	JC	17-JUN-25
JOHN	E.	HEAD	1963	HS	
AURELIUS		HOUSTON	1982	JC	25-MAY-25
JAMES	L.	HUFFINES	1942	JC	07-JAN-09
ROBERT	L.	KENNEDY	1966	HS	06-JUL-25
DANIEL	JACKSON	KRAMER	2005	HS	20-MAY-25
CHARLES	E.	LAKE	1950	HS	26-JUN-25
LAWRENCE	M.	LITTELL	1968	HS	18-APR-25
LILY	CAITLYN	MARQUEZ	2028	HS	05-JUN-25
TYSON		NELSON	1997	JC	22-JUL-25
ROBERT	H.	PINE	1964	JC	
RICHARD	G.	ROBINSON	1968	HS	
FRED	W.	SHAW	1961	JC	15-JUN-25
GARY	S.	SMITH	1964	HS	08-MAY-25
J.	PHELPS	WHITE	1952	JC	27-MAR-25
RONALD	L.	WINN	1965	JC	17-AUG-22



Alumni Reported Deceased
August 1, 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.”**

