

NMMI ALUMNI RELATIONS | ALUMNIOFFICE@NMMI.EDU

WELCOME TO OUR Monthly E-Newsletter

From the Director's Desk

ATTENTION IN THE AREA, ATTENTION OFF POST

Homecoming 2025 will soon be upon us and we are excited to see all who attend. With all that we have going on around post I wanted to take a moment to thank each and every alumnus who has engaged the school this year. Whether you attended an event, dropped by unannounced, made a donation or simply hopped on a quick phone call, we can't thank you enough for staying involved with NMMI throughout the year so far. During the year and our slate of events we look forward to seeing old friends and new faces, this year has been exceedingly great because of all the old and new involvement. Event dates for 2026 will start to post in December and we hope that you all take a moment to review what we have planned and can pencil us into your calendar at some point in time. As homecoming swiftly approaches, please take a moment to register beforehand if you plan on attending, update your information with us and we look forward to everyone having a great time.



Kris Ward
Director of Alumni Relations and Institutional Advancement



Kris Ward
Executive Director of
Alumni Relations and
Institutional Advancement



NMMI ALUMNI RELATIONS | ALUMNIOFFICE@NMMI.EDU

Meet the Team



Kris Ward

EXECUTIVEDIRECTOR ALUMNIRELATIONS
& INSTITUTIONAL ADVANCEMENT



Janice Weed '93 HS

DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF ALUMNI RELATIONS



Natalie Perez

ANNUAL FUND OFFICER



Destini Gonzales

GIFT PROCESSOR/FINANCIAL LIAISON



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.

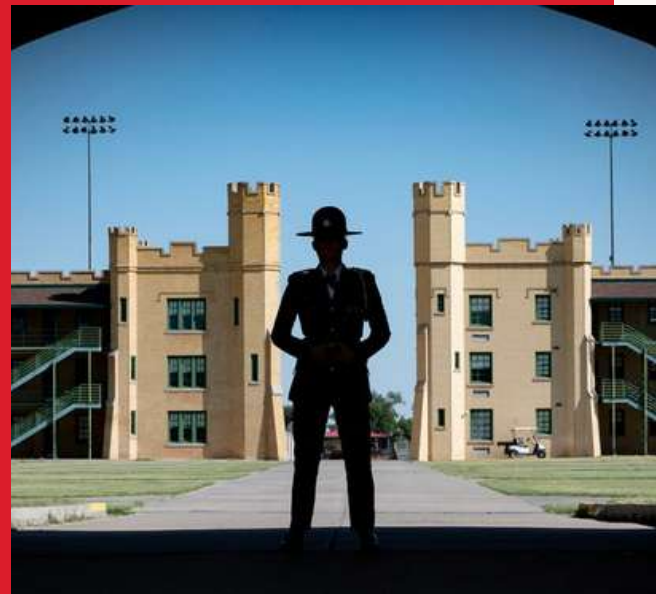
Alumni Relations Office
Monday – Friday 0730–1630
Alumnioffice@nmmi.edu
101 West College Blvd,
Daniels Leadership Center,
Roswell, NM 88201



NMMI ALUMNI RELATIONS | ALUMNIOFFICE@NMMI.EDU

BEYOND LEADERSHIP

BEYOND LEARNING



OPEN

HOUSE

NOVEMBER
8TH 2025



YOUR PATH TO A BRIGHT FUTURE STARTS HERE

Join us for an inside look at life at the New Mexico Military Institute! Tour the campus, meet cadets, and learn about scholarships, ROTC, Service Academy Prep, and leadership opportunities.

REGISTER NOW





NMMI ALUMNI RELATIONS | ALUMNIOFFICE@NMMI.EDU



NMMI



AROUND
Post



2025



NMMI ALUMNI RELATIONS | ALUMNIOFFICE@NMMI.EDU

Your Gift Multiplied: Matching Gifts and the Annual Fund

One Gift. Twice the Impact.



At NMMI, the tradition of giving back runs deep. From the bonds built in the barracks to the pride of marching across Stapp Parade Field, alumni know what it means to support the next generation. The Annual Fund is one of the most direct ways to do that—fueling scholarships, cadet life, leadership development, and classroom enrichment. But did you know many employers offer matching gift programs that can double or even triple your donation to the NMMI Foundation? That means your \$100 gift could quickly become \$200 or more, all directed to the programs cadets rely on every day.

How Matching Gifts Work

Many companies will match your charitable donation if you follow these quick steps:

1. **Make your gift to the NMMI Foundation (Annual Fund preferred).**
2. **Check with your HR department or visit your company's internal benefits or giving portal.**
3. **Search for "matching gift" and follow the instructions—usually just a simple form or upload of your receipt.**
4. **Your employer reviews and confirms with the NMMI Foundation.**
5. **NMMI receives the matching gift, increasing your impact.**

It takes just a few minutes and can make a big difference.

The Annual Fund in Action

Every dollar to the Annual Fund helps us:

- Fund need-based and merit scholarships
- Support academic and leadership programs
- Enhance cadet life through clubs, athletics, and activities

Companies That Match Gifts

NMMI has received matching gifts from:

- Microsoft
- Home Depot
- State Farm
- AT&T
- GE
- And many more

Search Prompt: Try This Today

Google your company name + "matching gift" and see what comes up. You might be surprised who participates. Or just email us at adv_off@nmmi.edu and we'll help you find out.

Checklist: Are You Match-Ready?

- ☒ I've made my gift to NMMI
- ☒ I've checked with my HR department
- ☒ I submitted my match request (or uploaded my receipt)
- ☒ I let NMMI know I started the process (optional)

Let Us Help

We're here to answer questions and help you through the steps. Contact Natalie Perez at 575-624-8158 or perez@nmmi.edu.

Make your next gift go twice as far. Support the Annual Fund and ask your company to match it. It is one more way to give back and move NMMI forward.



Written By: Natalie Perez



NMMI ALUMNI RELATIONS | ALUMNIOFFICE@NMMI.EDU

NMMI

DURING HOMECOMING 2025

HONORING STRENGTH AND LEGACY:

WOMEN OF NMMI SABER AWARD LUNCHEON

DUTY, HONOR, AND ACHIEVEMENT

The New Mexico Military Institute and the Alumni Relations Office are proud to host the Women of NMMI Saber Award Luncheon—an afternoon of connection, camaraderie, and celebration. Please join us in the VMV Ballroom on Thursday, October 23, 2025, from 11:40 AM to 12:40 PM during Homecoming.

This special luncheon is more than a meal; it is a gathering that unites NMMI's female cadets and alumni to honor the Institute's strength, legacy, and shared experiences.



The program will feature the presentation of the Women of NMMI Saber Award, which recognizes a female cadet's leadership and contributions that have left a lasting impact on the Corps of Cadets and the broader NMMI community. More than recognition, the Saber Award stands as a symbol of perseverance, leadership, and service. The recipient embodies the values of Duty, Honor, and Achievement while paving the way for future generations of NMMI women.

We are honored to welcome Laurie Pallesen, '81 JC, this year's speaker. She was the first young woman from Roswell to attend NMMI in 1979.

A suggested donation of \$20 will support the Women of NMMI Saber Award fund. Your participation not only honors this year's recipient but also strengthens the tradition of recognizing and empowering women who carry forward NMMI's mission.

EVENT DETAILS

Location: VMV Ballroom
Time: 11:40 AM – 12:40 PM
Date: October 23, 2025
Donation: \$20 to Women of NMMI Saber Award

Dress Code

- Civilians: Business Casual
- Cadets: Uniform of the Day

Register today to secure your place at this inspiring celebration of leadership, legacy, and community. Together, let's honor the women who have helped shape NMMI's proud history—and those who continue to define its future.





NMMI ALUMNI RELATIONS | ALUMNIOFFICE@NMMI.EDU

Coming Home

TO NMMI

2025

Written By; Leslie Palombi

Each fall, the gates of NMMI open a little wider, the cadet corps stands a little taller, and the parade ground feels a little more like home. Homecoming is more than a date on the calendar—it is a tradition that carries with it stories, friendships, and memories that span generations.

When alumni return, the bricks and arches may look familiar, but what makes Homecoming special isn't just the campus—it's the people. It's the classmates you haven't seen in years, the faculty who helped shape your journey, and the shared bond of life at the Institute. Together, we celebrate not only where we came from, but also how far we have traveled since.

This year's Homecoming promises to be another meaningful gathering filled with laughter, reflection, and the unique spirit that ties all of us to NMMI. Whether you graduated decades ago or just last year, your story is part of our story. Your presence brings life to the traditions we hold so dearly.

We can't wait to welcome you back, to hear your stories, and to make new memories together. After all, no matter how far life takes us, there will always be a place for you here—at Homecoming, and at NMMI.

Don't forget to register for Homecoming and purchase your Honored Class Dinner tickets at the Roswell Country Club. We are excited to see you soon and share another unforgettable celebration of our NMMI family.



22-25 October, 2025

NMMI ALUMNI RELATIONS | ALUMNIOFFICE@NMMI.EDU

A Legacy of Duty, Honor, Achievement

SEPTEMBER 2025

BY KARL HARNESS, LTC, U.S. ARMY



Master Sergeant Gerald Diaz was a sophomore in high school when the tragic events of the 9/11 terror attacks occurred. By 23 July of 2003, Master Sergeant Diaz enlisted as an infantryman in the U.S. Army and one year later in 2004, he was deployed to Afghanistan as part of the larger Global War on Terror. This September 11 marks the last day in uniform for Gerald after 22 years of honorable service.

To commemorate his service, Master Sergeant Diaz had one final request; to salute the flag he so honorably served through the Global War on Terror one last time. His request was granted at the New Mexico Military Institute but with a unique twist. The flag he would salute was the same flag he carried with him on every combat deployment throughout his service, which included carrying it with him on combat patrols. Gerald said he could not recall where he got the flag, that it might have come from his father, but regardless, he decided to take it with him on his first deployment to Afghanistan in 2004. He would take it on subsequent deployments to Iraq in 2005 and 2009, Afghanistan again in 2017, and Syria in 2020.

Master Sergeant Diaz recalls his most memorable moment with the flag, "The most exciting experience with this flag was flying it off my truck while on patrol in Syria. It was pride for us while on patrol, signaled to friendly forces we were Americans, and let the Russians know who we were when we were conducting operations."

On September 11, 2025, Master Sergeant Diaz led the Cadet Color Guard who raised his flag over the New Mexico Military Institute for reveille that morning. Giving the orders to raise the flag during the playing of reveille, which signals the beginning of the duty day, Gerald saluted the flag one last time as the non-commissioned officer in charge. The flag flew proudly over the Institute until the flag was lowered, and retreat sounded, signifying the end of the duty day. At this point, Sergeant First Class Gomez assumed command of the Cadet Color Guard, who lowered the flag and folded it with care while Master Sergeant Diaz gave his final salute in military uniform.

A powerful symbol of respect not just for Master Sergeant Diaz's service, but a fitting closure to the end of the Global War on Terror and all the service members who answered the nation's call.

Gerald's path to NMMI began when he was a young man in Junior ROTC in Albuquerque, NM. "I remember coming here for a drill competition and was so impressed with the discipline. You could feel it in the air," Gerald recalls. By 2021, he and his family would find themselves back at NMMI but this time, with Gerald serving as a Senior ROTC instructor. Over four years, he contributed to the training of SROTC cadets and would see approximately 120 of these cadets become Second Lieutenants in the U.S. Army.

The most impactful memory of his time at NMMI is when he received his first salute. "I didn't really know the origins of it until Cadet Heacox asked me to be her first salute. It didn't hit me how much of an impact I made until she asked me." The first salute is a tradition when newly commissioned officers receive their first salute from an enlisted member, usually someone who made a significant impact on them during their officer training. In exchange for the salute, the officer provides the enlisted member with a silver dollar, symbolizing their gratitude for the mentorship given by the enlisted member.

Master Sergeant Diaz may be retiring, but his family's service to NMMI and the nation continues. Gerald's wife, Cheryl, will continue her service as part of the NMMI staff while Gerald starts his service with the Border Patrol. Their daughter, Aricela Diaz, is currently at Basic Training to become a supply specialist. She will enroll in the New Mexico Military Institute and join the ROTC program to earn her commission in the same program her father served in, helping create some of the U.S. Army's newest Second Lieutenants. Master Sergeant Diaz's impact reverberates not just in the halls of NMMI, but throughout the U.S. Army.



NMMI ALUMNI RELATIONS | ALUMNIOFFICE@NMMI.EDU





TAPS

MARION	L.	ATKINSON III	1945	JC	14-JAN-20
JAMES	E.	BALLARD	1965	JC	12-JAN-24
CHARLES	H.	COLL	1955	HS	07-SEP-25
ROBERT	H.	FARMER	1955	JC	22-JAN-25
JOHN	D.	FERRIS	1975	HS	30-APR-93
PETER	E.	GROSS	1965	HS	24-JUN-23
CLYDE	A.	HOWARD	1945	HS	15-Nov-20
PETER	M.	HUNTSMAN	1956	HS	
FRED	A.	MALONE	1961	JC	18-AUG-25
JAMES	F.	MELTON	1962	JC	25-AUG-25
GARY	S.	MIHALOVICH	1975	JC	05-DEC-14
GEORGE	E.	RODRIGUEZ	1975	JC	21-JUN-23
TIMOTHY	P.	ROGERS	1965	JC	05-Nov-12
HAROLD	F.	ROSSON	1945	HS	
KENNETH	T.	THORNHILL	1975	HS	20-JUN-22
JAY	O.	TREAT	1965	HS	22-SEP-23
CHARLES	N.	VANCE JR.	1973	JC	19-AUG-25



Alumni Reported Deceased
September 18, 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."**

