

NMMI ALUMNI RELATIONS | ALUMNIOFFICE@NMMI.EDU

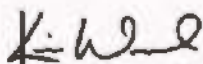
WELCOME TO OUR Monthly E-Newsletter

From the Director's Desk

ATTENTION IN THE AREA, ATTENTION OFF POST

As the year starts winding down and we have completed our major events for 2025 I wanted to take some time to thank everyone who participated in an NMMI sponsored event during the year. The goal is for us to create a very memorable and smooth event that appeals to alumni of all ages as well as their families. We take great pride in doing everything we can for you all, staying transparent, keeping you in the loop and planning enough in advance that you have time to check your schedules. As we start planning for 2026, we hope to build upon these events, we appreciate all the feedback and look forward to growing the attendance numbers every year. Please update us with your information, provide insight into what you have going and always remember we are just a quick email or phone call away.

We look forward to publishing the Sally Port magazine in December and hope to have an online issue available as well as the traditional hard copy. As we near Thanksgiving and the start of the holiday season, I want to let you all know how thankful I am for this opportunity and the friendships that NMMI has provided me. All my best and I look forward to hopefully seeing you all very soon.



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 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

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Women of NMMI Rise Together

By Janice Weed '93 HS

The 5th Annual Women of NMMI Luncheon and Saber Award Presentation was a powerful celebration of leadership, connection, and community. Held on October 23, 2025, in VMV Hall, this year's luncheon brought together alumnae, cadets, staff, and friends to celebrate the achievements of NMMI women past, present, and future. What began five years ago with just five cadets in attendance has grown into a dynamic gathering of more than fifty current cadets and former NMMI women leaders, a powerful testament to the continued strength and growth of this program.

Hosted by the NMMI Alumni Relations Office, the event featured keynote speaker Laurie Pallesen '81JC, whose story of resilience and service deeply resonated with attendees. As the first woman from Roswell to attend NMMI and a proud member of the all-female Kilo Troop, Laurie shared how the challenges faced as a cadet shaped her lifelong strength, compassion, and determination.

The highlight of the afternoon was the presentation of the Women of NMMI Saber Award, a time-honored symbol of leadership and achievement. This year's recipient, Cadet 1SGT Sinay McGhan-Barthel, was recognized for her excellence in academics, leadership, and mentorship within the Corps of Cadets. Each of the five nominees exemplified NMMI's core values of Duty, Honor, and Achievement through their leadership on the Hill and in the classroom.

In a touching moment that captured the spirit of the NMMI family, alumnus Paul Hughey '93HS/ '95JC generously donated his own sword for Cadet McGhan-Barthel to carry until her award saber arrives. Hughey, a member of a proud NMMI legacy family, once carried the same sword as Second Squadron Sergeant Major in 1994. Upon reading Sinay's nomination, he shared, "I am extremely impressed and in awe of her accomplishments. I am proud that she will carry this sword and lead her peers with humility and excellence."

As with every Women of NMMI event, the luncheon also serves as a fundraiser to support future Women of NMMI Saber Awards, helping ensure that future generations of cadets have access to the same transformative opportunities. This event stands as a powerful example of how alumni and cadets can connect through shared values, creating positive and lasting experiences that strengthen the NMMI community for years to come.

Looking ahead, preparations will soon begin for the 50th Anniversary of Women at NMMI, a milestone celebration honoring five decades of women who have made their mark on the Institute. We invite all alumnae who wish to participate in this historic planning effort to reach out and get involved. Your stories, ideas, and energy will make this celebration unforgettable.



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A YOUNG LEADER IN THE MAKING:

CADET
RHETT
DAVIS



At New Mexico Military Institute, tradition is not simply remembered — it is lived. This year, that tradition shone brightly through the dedication of Cadet Recruit (Rat) Rhett Davis, who trained for a role of honor and solemn duty: leading the caparisoned horse during our Silver Taps Memorial Service.

For many cadets, stepping into the line of Corps duties can feel overwhelming — and Rhett was no exception when he began. Unsure at first, still learning his place in the Corps, and adjusting to the expectations of Rat life, he could not have imagined the role he would soon serve. Yet, through hard work, humility, and a commitment to growth, Rhett transformed before our eyes. What started as uncertainty turned into poise, purpose, and a shining example of who our young cadets can become.

Rhett is not just any cadet — he is a legacy. His father, uncles, and grandfather all graduated from NMMI, and the Davis name has long been woven into our institute's story. Carrying forward that heritage, Rhett proudly wore his grandfather's name badge — their shared initials reflecting not just bloodline, but bond, duty, and tradition. It was a moment that connected generations, a young cadet literally and symbolically stepping into the footsteps of those before him.

One moment that captured both pride and humor happened just before Silver Taps, when Rhett was speaking with his uncle. Unaware he was being overheard, he nervously insisted he didn't want his uncle to see his room — "I know he's going to toss it!" he whispered. The comment drew smiles; even in a moment of pride and purpose, he remained very much a Rat — humble, hardworking, and just a touch worried about room standards.

By the evening of the ceremony, however, there was no doubt: Rhett stood ready. He moved with dignity and confidence, honoring our fallen and reflecting the discipline and spirit of a true NMMI cadet. His growth in such a short time reminds us that leadership is not given — it is earned through effort, respect, and an open heart.

Rhett Davis showed us that legacy is not simply inherited — it is honored. And in leading the caparisoned horse with grace and reverence, he represented his family, his Corps, and our Institute with distinction.

The future at NMMI is bright, and Cadet Davis is proof that tradition lives strongest in the next generation.

Well done, Cadet. Duty, Honor, Achievement —
lived each day, one step at a time.

Respectfully,
Leslie Palombi



SILVER TAPS 2025



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Dr. Joe Moody ('59 HS, '61 JC) is one of those alumni who makes you smile every time he checks in. Whether it's a kind holiday email, a quick note to say hello, or a thoughtful reminder of his NMMI pride and patriotism, he's stayed genuinely connected with the Alumni Office, and we appreciate it.

When we asked Joe to answer a couple of questions on why he gives back to the Institute, his wife, Barbara, joked, "As usual, it's too long!" But I loved it. As the newest member of the Alumni Office, one of the best parts of my role is hearing stories from our alumni. Most don't just remember NMMI, they carry it with them for life. Joe's story is a great example of that.

He speaks of NMMI as his "life's common denominator," crediting the values of Duty, Honor, and Achievement as the foundation for his success in the military, in education, and in family life.

We're grateful for alumni like Joe who support the Corps, the mission, and us here in the Alumni Office. It's always a pleasure to hear from him.

Here's what he shared with us. We think you'll enjoy it as much as we did.

NMMI – MY LIFE'S COMMON DENOMINATOR!

The common denominator of an equation is a feature that influences everything above the line!

LIFE

NMMI = DUTY – HONOR – ACHIEVEMENT

Life, as we all know, is a "free-for-all" and as we experience it, we are faced with millions of choices. These are "good – bad – ugly." Cadets attend NMMI during their formative years. It is during these years when the mind is most open to learning. NMMI stresses that life needs to be anchored by DUTY and HONOR! If these values become part of your common denominator, you will encompass the "Good" and reject the "Bad" and "Ugly." When you choose good and honorable, you are rewarded. If you choose "bad" or "ugly," you are reprimanded and reminded of the "good."

From the time a cadet is dropped off at Sally Port until he/she graduates, not only is he/she educated in academic subjects but also in the fundamental understanding of ACHIEVEMENT. It is part of life and is an excellent goal. But it is being taught how to achieve that is the difference between NMMI and public education. Every feature of NMMI stresses that the RIGHT WAY TO ACHIEVE is in a DUTIFUL and HONORABLE way! Cadets are exposed to that lesson from REVEILLE to TAPS! Even if a cadet wakes up at night, the view of the majestic Hagerman Barracks instills Duty – Honor – Achievement in his/her soul!

My life has been a success, and I owe it to my NMMI COMMON DENOMINATOR! My honorable and dutiful years in the military, in graduate schools, as a professor, as a husband, as a father and grandfather, etc. are because of my years at NMMI. There is not a SINGLE DAY that goes by that I do not reminisce about my days of learning to live by Old Post's code of Duty – Honor - Achievement! I'm not wealthy, but I have achieved my life's goals in an honorable and dutiful way. If you live an honorable productive life, you will have a blessed old age! I am having a blessed old age so God Bless NMMI for giving me my Common Denominator of DUTY – HONOR – ACHIEVEMENT.

Above are the reasons I support NMMI with my gifts, time, thoughts and prayers!



←
THEN

NOW
→

What a difference
a few years make.



Article By: Natalie Perez



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DECEMBER 2026

12-20



2026 Alumni CRUISE



We had an amazing time on the 2024 NMMI Cruise, so we're doing it again—and this time we're heading to the Dominican Republic, Aruba, & Curaçao Dec 12-20, 2026!

Join fellow NMMI alumni and friends for a tropical getaway that also supports the Institute. That's right—it's a fundraising cruise and the more, the merrier (and the better for NMMI)!

What's included?

- ✓ WiFi, drinks, & gratuities (Princess Plus package)
- ✓ Taxes & fees
- ✓ Onboard credit for veterans!

Cabin prices vary with promotions, but we'll help you get the best deal when you're ready to book.

Email Tricia Berry (tberry@cruiseplanners.com) or call/text 505-280-1908 today and let's start planning your spot on this unforgettable 2026 cruise!

[HTTPS://WWW.CRUISESTNT.COM/CS/1811996](https://www.cruisestnt.com/CS/1811996)

LET'S MAKE THIS ANOTHER UNFORGETTABLE NMMI ADVENTURE!





DECEMBER

MON TUE WED THU FRI SAT SUN

1 2 3 4 5 6

7 8 9 10 11 12 13

14 15 16 17 18 19 20

21 22 23 24 25 26 27

28 29 30 31

NMMI
Alumni
AFTER HOURS

Celebrate the season with fellow NMMI alumni at our annual Holiday After Hours event! Enjoy good company, festive cheer, and relaxing while listening to close to 100 years of NMMI history.

TO DO LIST
Dec 4 - batch 3 reels for Christmas
Dec 22 - Schedule "year in review" carousel
Dec 25 - Christmas :D

DECEMBER 2ND 6:00 PM - 7:30 PM
Roswell Country Club
2601 Urton Road

Progress counts even when it's quiet.



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**NEW MEXICO
MILITARY INSTITUTE**

OPEN HOUSE
November 8th, 2025

 Register Now: 

#WeAreNMMI



**ZERO COST
OPTION
FOR NM RESIDENTS**

NEW MEXICO MILITARY INSTITUTE

GO BEYOND
Beyond Leadership • Beyond Learning

Open House
November 8th 2025



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NMMI *Alumni* Conference Call

YOU'RE INVITED TO JOIN US FOR
AN UPCOMING NMMI ALUMNI
CONFERENCE CALL ON
DECEMBER 3RD AT 6:00 PM MST.
WE'LL BE DISCUSSING EXCITING
UPDATES, UPCOMING EVENTS,
AND WAYS TO GET INVOLVED.
ZOOM OR CODE LISTED BELOW.
LET'S RECONNECT AND MOVE
FORWARD TOGETHER!

SCAN ME!





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CONGRATULATIONS



DR. NIIMORI AND THE REGIMENTAL BAND

They received the Eastern New
Mexico State Fair Trophy for
“Best Marching Unit”!





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NMMI CADETS SOARING AT THE U.S. MERCHANT MARINE ACADEMY

During my recent visit to the United States Merchant Marine Academy, I was filled with pride seeing our NMMI cadets thrive at every level, from seasoned seniors to brand-new plebes. It was especially inspiring to reconnect with one of our alumni who graduated in June 2025 and is now in flight school, continuing their journey of excellence and service.

We are incredibly proud of each of our cadets as they navigate the rigorous academic and military environment at the Academy, carrying the NMMI legacy with honor, discipline, and resilience.

NMMI currently has several outstanding athletes and scholars at the Merchant Marine Academy, and I was fortunate to capture a special moment with one of our cadets who is currently a plebe, just beginning their journey. Their enthusiasm, dedication, and representation of NMMI are nothing short of inspiring.

This year, we started with 32 Service Academy Prep Scholars and currently have 31 scholars (with one departed) and 18 Self-Preps (with one departed) in our program. These students excel across all areas and eagerly look forward to receiving their appointments in Spring 2025. The future is bright for these young leaders, and their accomplishments are a testament to their hard work and the strength of our NMMI community.

If you would like to schedule an Alumni & Preps Lunch this spring, please feel free to contact me. It would be an honor to connect our current scholars with those who have paved the way before them.

Go Broncos!

**LTC ADAM VILLEGAS,
DIRECTOR OF ACADEMY PREPS
NMMI JC 85-88**





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NEW MEXICO MILITARY INSTITUTE

AROUND *POST*

Cadets showed their knowledge and teamwork at the Sierra Blanca Academic Challenge — proving learning and leadership go hand in hand!



#STEM EDUCATION

It's all about the code! Cadets celebrated Binary Day with fun, hands-on STEM activities that sparked curiosity and innovation



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AROUND POST



NMMI CELEBRATED MOLE DAY — OCTOBER 23, FROM 6:02 A.M. TO 6:02 P.M. — HONORING AVOGADRO'S NUMBER (6.02×10^{23})!

CADETS JOINED IN FOR MOLE-INSPIRED POETRY, PUNS, AND GAMES LIKE ATOMIC LADDER AND MINUTE TO WIN IT — WITH PIZZA, COOKIES, AND ICE CREAM FUELING THE FUN. A GREAT DAY TO REMIND US THAT CHEMISTRY IS ANYTHING BUT BASIC!



es
oel.
bitant
sem integer.
am nulla facili cras. Mi bibendum
ongue quisque aptas diam. Ut tortor pretium



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NMMI Homecoming 2025 Moments





TAPS

BILLY	L.	WOLFSON	1969	HS	10/10/2025
ROBERT	M.	DAVENPORT	1953	HS	10/13/2025
HANS	K.	BAUMANN	1984	JC	10/14/2025
ROBERT	E.	CLEMENTS	1959	HS	6/11/2025
SUNG GU	LEE		1994	JC	2/24/2025



Alumni Reported Deceased
October 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."**

