



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

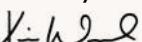
# WELCOME TO OUR Monthly E-Newsletter

## From the Director's Desk

### ATTENTION IN THE AREA, ATTENTION OFF POST

Happy New Year and welcome to 2026, we hope that this year has started off amazing for each and every one of you and wish all of you the best from the Alumni Relations Office. For those who have participated in the Fall Appeal letter we can't thank you enough and for those of you waiting to do so there is still plenty of time. The funds raised go to directly support new/old cadets through unrestricted scholarships and provide support to cadet activities. As we transition into the new year a huge focus here on post is and always has been recruiting and retention. Alumni play a vital role in this by using their platforms to spread positive comments through social media, speaking about it with friends and family and sharing the impact it has had on you throughout your life. This goes such a long way in providing support with the donation of your time and energy and we can't begin to express our gratitude for all of the hard work you provide.

Lastly, we have been diligently working away on this year's upcoming events and have the dates locked in for Trail Ride, Generals Cup and Homecoming. We hope to see all of you at one or all and are excited to provide support and do our best to make each of them as memorable as possible. The electronic version of the Sally Port has been uploaded and can be found on the alumni web-site. If you are interested in receiving a hard copy, please reach out to the office and we will be happy to ship one your way once they arrive at the end of the month. We look forward to having a great year as we celebrate the 135<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of NMMI and all that has been accomplished as well as the great things we will accomplish moving forward. Thanks for everything you all do for NMMI and we hope that 2026 is the best year yet for you and family.

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



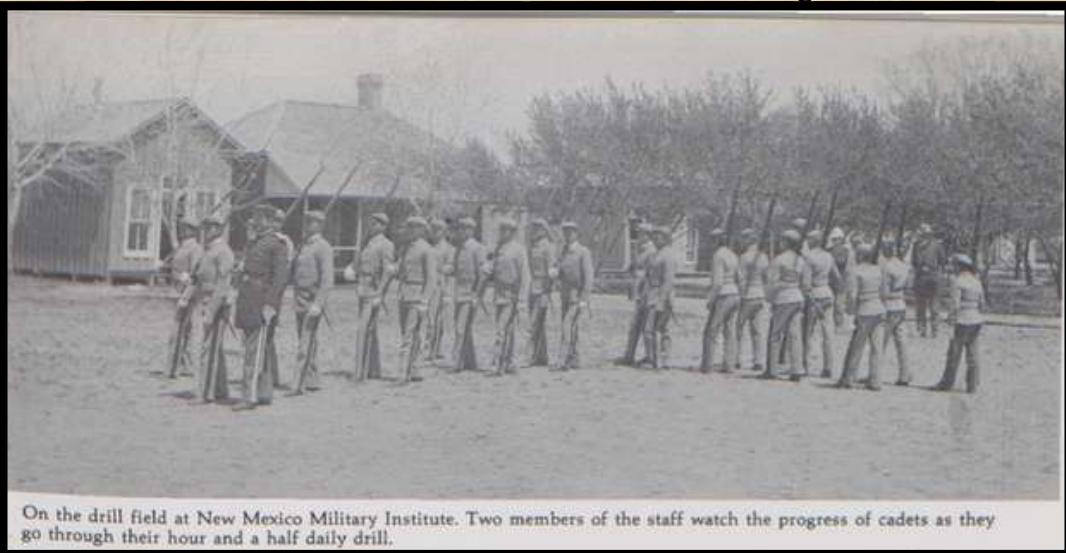
**Leslie Palombi**  
SPECIAL EVENTS COORDINATOR

**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](mailto:Alumnioffice@nmmi.edu)  
101 West College Blvd,  
Daniels Leadership Center,  
Roswell, NM 88201



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## A LEGACY IN FORMATION: 135 YEARS OF NMMI

### The Beginnings of New Mexico Military Institute

As New Mexico Military Institute prepares to celebrate 135 years of excellence, January offers a meaningful opportunity to reflect on the Institute's earliest days. Established in 1891, NMMI was founded with a clear and ambitious purpose: to provide young men of the New Mexico Territory with a disciplined education rooted in military structure, academic rigor, and character development. From the outset, cadet life was intentionally demanding, designed to shape leaders prepared for both service and civilian life.

One of the earliest photographs from this period captures cadets assembled on the drill field, a central feature of daily life at the fledgling Institute. Drill was not ceremonial; it was foundational. Historical records note that cadets spent up to an hour and a half each day engaged in military instruction. Under the supervision of staff officers, cadets learned the importance of precision, accountability, and collective effort. These early formations reflect more than military training; they represent the establishment of standards and expectations that continue to define the Corps of Cadets today. While much has changed since NMMI's earliest years, the traditions established in the 1890s remain alive and well today. Cadets continue to participate in regular drill and parades, upholding the precision, discipline, and pride that have defined the Corps for more than a century. Modern formations, whether on Stapp parade field or during formal inspections, reflect the same emphasis on attention to detail, teamwork, and respect for tradition that shaped the Institute's first cadets. These time-honored traditions connect generations of cadets, serving as a visible reminder that the values instilled at NMMI in 1891 continue to guide and strengthen the Corps today.

### 135 Years of NMMI

As NMMI marks 135 years of educating and shaping leaders, we honor the leaders and cadets of the 1890s whose commitment and determination helped establish a legacy that endures today. Their experiences in leadership, academics, and athletics set the foundation for generations to follow. This anniversary year invites alumni and friends to reflect on the enduring values that connect the Corps of yesterday to the Corps of today.

Source material drawn from J.R. Kelly's *A History of New Mexico Military Institute, 1891–1941*, and *The Pictorial History of New Mexico Military Institute, 1891–1983*.

Janice Weed  
93HS  
Deputy Director of Alumni Relations





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## The Trail Ahead: Tradition in Motion, Community in Celebration



There's a special kind of energy in the air right now, the kind that hums just beneath the surface and reminds us why we gather, why we return, and why these moments matter. As we step into our 135th year as an institution, we find ourselves not just looking back with pride but looking ahead with genuine excitement.

First on the horizon is Trail Ride, a beloved tradition that never fails to bring people together in the most authentic way. Trail Ride is more than an event. It's laughter carried in the breeze, stories told between old friends and new, and the shared joy of being part of something bigger than ourselves. Whether you've been riding for decades or are joining for the first time, Trail Ride is where camaraderie is effortless and memories are made without trying too hard.

And just when the dust settles, the pace picks up. Generals Cup is coming into view, bringing with it competition, connection, and that unmistakable spirit of friendly rivalry. It's a celebration of teamwork, tradition, and pride, where every swing, cheer, and shared moment reinforces what it means to be part of this community.

Not long after, we'll turn our attention toward Homecoming, a time when past, present, and future converge. Homecoming is our collective heartbeat, a reminder that no matter how far we roam, this place continues to shape us. It's a chance to reconnect, reflect, and celebrate the legacy that binds generations together.

This year feels especially meaningful. 135 years represents more than longevity. It represents resilience, growth, and a living tradition that continues to evolve while honoring its roots. Each event this season is another chapter in that story, written by the people who show up, participate, and care.

We can't wait to see you on the trail, on the course, and back home again. Here's to a season filled with connection, celebration, and the simple joy of coming together, carrying our traditions forward with optimism, pride, and plenty of heart.

**Leslie Palombi**  
Alumni Relations - Special Event Coordinator



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# 2025 Year-End Tax Statements HAVE BEEN SENT TO NMMI DONORS

If you supported the NMMI Annual Fund during 2025, thank you for helping strengthen the Corps of Cadets and advance the mission of New Mexico Military Institute. Your generosity makes a lasting impact on our cadets, programs, and campus community.

If you did not receive a tax statement due to outdated contact information, or if you would like an additional copy of your 2025 thank-you letter or tax deduction letter for use in January 2026, please contact our office.

You may reach us at [alm\\_gift@nmmi.edu](mailto:alm_gift@nmmi.edu), and we will be happy to assist you.  
Thank you again for your continued support of NMMI!



This is the 515th CSSB, currently deployed to Erbil, Iraq, in support of Operation Inherent Resolve (OIR).

Pictured are commissioned officers who are alumni of NMMI's ECP program, along with one current NMMI faculty member.

From left to right: MAJ Bruce Spraggins (JC '04), MAJ Trenton Armstrong (JC '07), CPT Marcos Sanchez (JC '18), and MAJ Christopher Tebo, NMMI faculty member since 2008.



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# UPCOMING Events

NMMI ALUMNI ABQ CHAPTER

**VALENTINE'S**  
20 26  
SOCIAL & DINNER

Thursday Feb. 19th 6:30pm-9:30pm

Proudly Hosted By **D.H. LESCOMBES**  
VINEYARD & BISTRO  
Rio Rancho

**Please Select Entree with RSVP by Feb. 12th**

**LOCK-IN YOUR RESERVATION TODAY!**  
Table Top Seating - Limited To 48 Attendees  
Bar Top Seating - Limited To 12 Attendees

**\* RSVP by email: [Randym@spinn.net](mailto:Randym@spinn.net)**  
Provide Alumni Name & Name of Guests

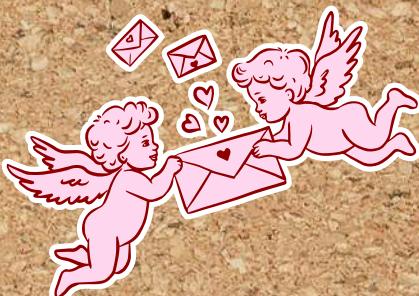
Join us once again for a Memorable Evening with NMMI Alumni, Friends and Guests, while socializing around the Cash Bar in anticipation of a Fabulous Buffet Dinner!

**D.H. LESCOMBES Winery & Bistro**  
Rio Rancho (3771 NM-528) Alameda & Coors Bypass

**CASH ONLY AT THE DOOR**  
(Correct Amount Please)

**\$26** Per Guest including tax and gratuity!  
This price will include a non-alcoholic beverage and choice of **4 different entrees:**

Homemade Lasagna • Pasta New Mexico  
Grilled Salmon • Country Pot Roast



**SAVE THE DATE!**

**NMMI TRAIL RIDE IS NEAR!**

Get ready to pack your bags (and your boots) We are gearing up for NMMI's 36<sup>th</sup> annual Trail Ride. Keep an eye out for open registration updates!

**We'll see you there!**

**CAMP OF THE TALL PINES**  
**MAYHILL NM**  
**JUNE 2-6<sup>TH</sup> 2026**



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2026 NMMI ALUMNI PRESENTS

# BATAAN. DEATH. MARCH TEAM

SATURDAY, MARCH 21, 2026



As an NMMI alum, you, your friends and family are invited to JOIN the NMMI ALUMNI TEAM to honor those of Bataan on Saturday, March 21, 2026 at White Sands Missile Range, NM. As in recent years, you also have the option of marching (virtual) in your hometown.

JOIN THE TEAM!

[www.nmmialumniteam.com](http://www.nmmialumniteam.com)
Step 1 - Sign Up To  
Join the New  
Alumni TeamStep 2 - Register  
With BataanStep 3 - Order  
Team ShirtStep 4 - Prepare  
for the March

## CONTACT

Steve Duran '83HS '87JC at  
(575) 621-1631

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# THE JOURNEY BEGINS: Matriculation into the Corps of Cadets

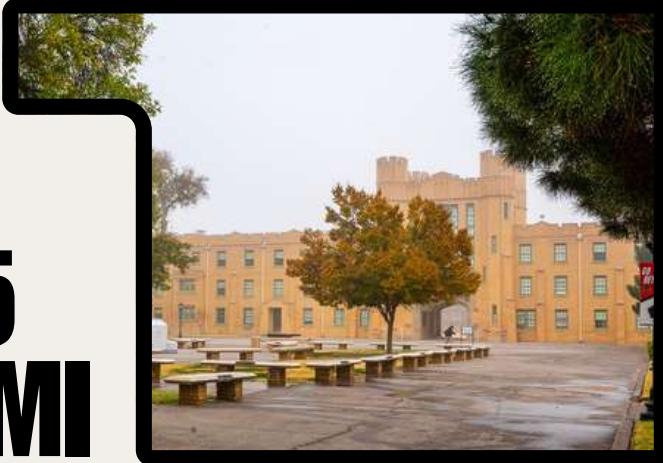
This moment marks more than the start of a school year. It marks the beginning of transformation. During Matriculation, new cadets officially step into the Corps and commit themselves to growth, discipline, and leadership. From this day forward, they are challenged, supported, and shaped by tradition, teamwork, and purpose. The journey starts here and it will change them forever.

-NMMI FACEBOOK



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# STAYING CONNECTED THROUGH 135 YEARS OF NMMI



For 135 years, New Mexico Military Institute has remained a constant in a changing world. Generations of cadets have passed through the Sally Port, shaped by the same core values of discipline, leadership, and service, while the Institute continues to evolve to meet the needs of each new class.

That longevity is sustained by people. Alumni who carry NMMI with them long after graduation. Friends and families who remain connected across decades. Together, this community has allowed NMMI to remain strong, relevant, and accessible for more than a century.

As we begin NMMI's 135th year, staying connected matters more than ever. It allows us to share meaningful updates, recognize milestones, properly acknowledge your generosity, and remain in conversation with the people who care about the Institute and its future. It also helps ensure that important information reaches you without interruption.

One of the simplest ways alumni and friends support the Institute is by keeping their contact information up to date. Updated contact details help us:

- Deliver thank-you letters and gift acknowledgments promptly
- Send tax documentation accurately and on time
- Share news, events, and Meet and Greet opportunities
- Maintain accurate records that reflect your connection to NMMI

As NMMI looks ahead, we remain focused on honoring our history while strengthening the relationships that carry us forward. Whether you have recently moved, changed an email address, or have not updated your information in some time, we invite you to take a moment to review your details.

Your connection to NMMI matters. Staying in touch helps ensure that the legacy we share continues with care and intention.

Update us online at <https://alumni.nmmi.edu/update-us/>, or send us an email at [AlumniOffice@NMMI.edu](mailto:AlumniOffice@NMMI.edu).

Thank you for being part of the NMMI family and for helping carry 135 years of leadership and tradition into the future.

If you have any questions or comments, please contact Natalie Perez at [perez@nmmi.edu](mailto:perez@nmmi.edu) or call 575-624-8158.

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# TAPS

ROBERT	P.	BAUGHMAN	1949	JC	4/3/2023
WILLIAM	N.	HAYS	1968	JC	10/8/2025
RYAN		PAGE	1991	HS	11/28/2025
PETER	J.	ROBINSON	1982	JC	12/5/2025
F.	B.	PORCHER	1952	SC	12/10/2025
JOE	M.	PATTON	1969	JC	12/25/2025
RICHARD	R.	BILLS	1971	HS	12/30/2025
BRUCE	S.	FILLPOT	1977	HS	12/31/2025
RON	L.	STRAUGHAN	1969	JC	1/5/2026
ROBERT		JOHNSON IV	2008	JC	1/6/2026
IVAN "BUDDY" G.	M.	MAYFIELD	1958	HS	1/9/2026
M.	S.	GRIEBEL	STAFF/FACULTY		1/11/2026
DAYTON	J.	BLAINE	1982	HS	1/13/2026
EARL	M.	BOULE	1965	JC	1/16/2026



Alumni Reported Deceased  
January 29, 2026



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."**

