



WELCOME TO OUR Monthly E-Newsletter

From the Director's Desk

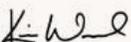
ATTENTION IN THE AREA, ATTENTION OFF POST

Greetings and we hope everyone has had an amazing start to the new year, with January and February flying by. I wanted to take a moment to provide some context around donations and unrestricted funds. As many of you have seen, BG McBurnette has started discussing the 135th Anniversary for NMMI and along with that the 135 Initiative. Your support of NMMI has a powerful impact on cadets and so much more. Unrestricted gifts that are not tied to a specific program, endowment or activity enable the Superintendent and Board of Regents to determine where the greatest need is and offset costs that can then be applied to other areas.

Unrestricted funds provide:

- Flexibility:** Supporting the overall mission of NMMI and allowing the school to use or determine where that area of need is.
- Support for Essential Expenses:** Unrestricted gifts can help cover essential expenses such as rent, utilities, technology, and more. These are all critical components of NMMI's daily operations.
- Trust:** Allowing NMMI to use these unrestricted funds in any way they deem appropriate provides the donor and NMMI trust and instills confidence in the Institutes ability to manage these funds effectively and efficiently.
- Program Support:** Unrestricted funds give NMMI the opportunity to establish programs that are in place but also to build and create new programs that help strengthen the overall holistic approach and entice new cadets to attend.

As we continue to look at these innovative programs and search for continued support, we want to stay transparent with our current and future donors as we strive to make NMMI great year in and year out. Contact us with any questions, continue to update your information and be on the lookout for more exciting information regarding the 135 Initiative as we build up towards our 135th Anniversary Celebration.

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
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR ALUMNI RELATIONS & 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

A LEGACY IN FORMATION: 135 YEARS OF NMMI

FEBRUARY 23, 1893,
WHEN NMMI
BECAME A
TERRITORIAL
INSTITUTION



February marks one of the most consequential moments in the history of the New Mexico Military Institute. On February 23, 1893, a single act of the New Mexico Territorial Legislature transformed a young, privately operated school into a public institution with a permanent mission, formally establishing the New Mexico Military Institute.

Just eighteen months earlier, the school had opened as Goss Military Institute, founded in 1891 by Colonel Robert S. Goss with the encouragement and support of Roswell civic leaders, most notably Captain Joseph C. Lea. Captain Joseph C. Lea and other community leaders recognized the potential in GMI and envisioned something larger, an institution that would serve the entire Territory of New Mexico, preparing future young men (and early on, women) for leadership, military discipline, and public service.

That vision became law on February 23, 1893, when the 30th Territorial Legislature passed an act dissolving Goss Military Institute and establishing the New Mexico Military Institute under territorial direction. The legislation established a Governor-appointed Board of Regents and placed the school under the protective authority of the Territorial Government, ensuring public oversight, institutional legitimacy, and long-term stability.

That vision became law on February 23, 1893, when the 30th Territorial Legislature passed an act dissolving Goss Military Institute and establishing the New Mexico Military Institute under territorial direction. The legislation established a Governor-appointed Board of Regents and placed the school under the protective authority of the Territorial Government, ensuring public oversight, institutional legitimacy, and long-term stability.

The transition was not without challenges. Funding was limited, facilities were modest, and the Institute's survival was far from guaranteed. Yet territorial status provided stability, legitimacy, and a foundation upon which the Institute could grow. When NMMI reopened for its first full term as a territorial school in the fall of 1893, enrollment increased, military training expanded, and the Institute began its steady evolution into one of the nation's most respected military preparatory institutions.

As NMMI celebrates its 135th anniversary, February 23, 1893, stands as a defining milestone, the day the Institute became more than a school. It became a territorial commitment to academics, leadership, and discipline, established to serve the young people of New Mexico. Today, that same commitment endures and has expanded far beyond its original borders, as NMMI educates and develops cadets from across the nation and around the world.

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



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

UPCOMING EVENT NEWS!

NMMI ALUMNI RELATIONS

Hello everyone,

As your dedicated Alumni Special Events Coordinator, I am excited to share what is ahead for our incredible alumni family. There is something truly special about this network. It is the shared history, the grit, the pride, and the lifelong bond that keeps us connected no matter where life takes us. Watching our alumni return, reconnect, and continue building this legacy is one of the most rewarding parts of what I get to do. We have a full calendar coming up, and I cannot wait to see so many of you back on Post and out at our events.

Alumni Trail Ride

Our annual Trail Ride is always a favorite, and this year will be no exception. Time away together, open skies, great conversation, and that unmistakable sense of camaraderie that only our alumni can create. It is more than an event. It is a tradition that continues to grow stronger each year.

A quick lodging update for those planning to attend: All full-service cabins have been rented. Small Timber Ridge bunkhouses are still available and include full use of the bathhouses for your convenience.

If you are bringing an RV, all RV hookups remain available, including eight full hookup sites. Space is available on a first-come, first-serve basis, so I encourage you to reserve early. Please contact Director Kris Ward at 575-624-8614 to reserve your space.

Generals Cup Golf Tournament

September 11-13

Our Generals Cup weekend is always a highlight of the fall. Whether you are competing on the course or cheering on your classmates, this tournament brings alumni together for friendly competition, networking, and a shared love for our alma mater. It is a weekend full of energy, connection, and school spirit.

Homecoming 2026

October 14-17

Homecoming is right around the corner, and planning is well underway. This year we are proud to honor the classes ending in 6: 1956, 1966, 1976, 1986, 1996, 2006, & 2016. Homecoming is where stories are retold, friendships are rekindled, and new memories are made. If you have not been back in a while, this is the year to return. We would love to welcome you home.

As always, these events thrive because of the strength and generosity of our alumni community. If you are interested in supporting these programs or learning more about sponsorship opportunities, please reach out to the Alumni Office. Your involvement truly makes a difference.

I am incredibly excited for the months ahead. Thank you for continuing to show up, support one another, and represent our institution so well wherever you are.

Onwards and upwards,

Leslie Palombi

Alumni Relations - Special Event Coordinator





NMMI ALUMNI RELATIONS | ALUMNIOFFICE@NMMI.EDU



NMMI

A Love of the Corps: Why Alumni Give Back
For many alumni, the bond with NMMI does not end at graduation. It's something deeper, a lasting connection formed through shared challenges, traditions, and the values learned on Post. It all leaves a lasting impression that continues to shape lives in meaningful ways.

Time and again, alumni tell us that NMMI helped shape who they are. They remember faculty and staff who believed in them, moments that tested their character, and traditions that instilled discipline, confidence, and purpose. Those experiences stay with them long after they leave.

Giving back is a way to ensure that today's cadets have access to the same opportunities, whether through scholarships, cadet activities, leadership development, or maintaining the facilities that support life on Post. Alumni support helps bridge generations, connecting past experiences to present impact.

What stands out most in conversations with alumni is gratitude. Gratitude for the education they received, the structure they needed at a formative time, and the people who invested in them. Supporting NMMI is often described not as an obligation, but as a natural response to what the Institute gave them.

Everyone has their own journey at NMMI, and their reasons for giving may differ, but the motivation is the same: to see NMMI continue to thrive and to ensure future cadets are prepared to lead, serve, and succeed.

Because of alumni generosity, the mission of NMMI continues. And because of the love alumni hold for the Corps, that mission is carried forward with pride.



NMMI ALUMNI RELATIONS | ALUMNIOFFICE@NMMI.EDU

WASHINGTON DC MEET & GREET





NMMI ALUMNI RELATIONS | ALUMNIOFFICE@NMMI.EDU

UPCOMING Events



Alumni Meet & Greet TUCSON, AZ—



Hosted by:
Bryan Welch
Class of '75 & '77

**19 March 2026
5 PM**

2543 E Grant Rd, Tucson, AZ 85716



36TH NMMI TRAIL RIDE
Registration
NOW OPEN



JUNE 2ND - 6TH
CAMP OF THE TALL PINES
SPOTS WILL FILL UP FAST! INCLUDING CABINS -SO BOOK NOW!



NMMI ALUMNI RELATIONS | ALUMNIOFFICE@NMMI.EDU

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.nmmialumnteam.com

- Step 1: Download the NMMI Alumni Team App
- Step 2: Register with App
- Step 3: Order Team Gear
- Step 4: Practice for the March

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



NMMI

MEET & GREET

FORT WORTH TX

- 28 March 2026
- 6:00 - 8:00 PM
- 7101 Camp Bowie West Blvd



Hosted by
Fielding Chandler
HS '85 JC '87



RSVP BY PHONE/EMAIL

817-291-8719

hfchandler@sbcglobal.net





NMMI ALUMNI RELATIONS | ALUMNIOFFICE@NMMI.EDU

Nmmi THE CRESTING CEREMONY



The Cresting Ceremony marked a powerful milestone as cadets officially earned the right to wear the NMMI crest. More than a symbol, the crest represents commitment, accountability, and pride in belonging to something bigger than oneself. This moment celebrates the transition from starting cadet to fully embraced member of the Corps, and the journey forward begins here. 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





NMMI ALUMNI RELATIONS | ALUMNIOFFICE@NMMI.EDU

PLANNED GIVING 101: HOW LEGACY GIFTS SUSTAIN FUTURE CADETS

NEW MEXICO
MILITARY INSTITUTE



At New Mexico Military Institute, generations of alumni and friends have strengthened the Institute through leadership, service, and philanthropy. Among the most meaningful ways supporters ensure NMMI's continued excellence is through planned giving.

Planned gifts create a lasting impact, sustaining NMMI's mission to develop educated and disciplined leaders grounded in Duty, Honor, and Achievement for generations to come. Thoughtfully arranged, these legacy gifts allow supporters to align their charitable intentions with their personal, financial, and family goals.

What Is Planned Giving?

Planned Giving refers to charitable contributions arranged today that are realized in the future. These gifts are typically incorporated into an individual's estate or financial plan and can take many forms.

Importantly, Planned Giving is not limited to a select few. Many alumni and friends include NMMI in their plans while also providing for family and loved ones. For some, a planned gift becomes the most significant contribution they will ever make, both in size and in long-term impact.

Common Types of Planned Gifts

Supporters often choose from several flexible options when including NMMI in their legacy plans:

- **Bequests:** Naming NMMI in a will or living trust for a specific dollar amount, a percentage of the estate, or the remainder after other commitments are fulfilled.
- **Beneficiary Designations:** Listing NMMI as a beneficiary of a retirement account, life insurance policy, or investment account.
- **Charitable Gift Annuities or Trusts:** Structured gifts that may provide income to the donor during their lifetime while ultimately benefiting NMMI.
- **Endowed Gifts:** Establishing or strengthening scholarships, academic programs, or cadet activities to ensure enduring support year after year.

Each option offers flexibility and can be tailored to reflect a donor's values, priorities, and connection to NMMI.

A Legacy of Leadership

Choosing to make a planned gift is an act of leadership. It reflects confidence in NMMI's future and a belief that coming generations of cadets deserve the same transformative experience that shaped those who came before them.

If you have already included NMMI in your estate plans, we would be honored to thank you and ensure your intentions are properly documented. If you are beginning to explore planned giving, we welcome the opportunity to provide information and answer questions, confidentially and without obligation.

To learn more about planned giving opportunities, please visit our website: <https://nmmi.planned.gifts/>. If you would prefer to discuss how a legacy gift might align with your goals, please contact Janice Weed, Deputy Director of Alumni Relations & Institutional Advancement.

Together, we can ensure NMMI's mission endures, today, tomorrow, and always.





NMMI ALUMNI RELATIONS | ALUMNIOFFICE@NMMI.EDU

From Resistance to Romance:

A Historic Beginning at Nmmi



Some love stories begin with a spark. Others begin with resistance. For Teena, it began during a historic moment at New Mexico Military Institute. She was asked to arrive on campus early to help prepare for the new female cadets who would soon be arriving. Teena was the first female cadet to step onto Post that year, a milestone in the Institute's history when female cadets were allowed to enroll. It was a time of change, and not everyone welcomed it.

Including Glenn. "I did not like him," Teena remembers. Glenn was outspoken and didn't approve of female cadets joining the Corps. He could come across as arrogant and direct. Yet there was something more to him. He was social, quick with humor, and people genuinely enjoyed being around him. Despite the initial tension, something unexpected began to grow.

As a RAT, fraternization was not allowed. So Teena and Glenn found another way to connect. They wrote letters almost every day. To avoid drawing attention, they even created fictional characters. Teena signed her letters as Maryanne Tinsberry, and Glenn wrote as Chuck Wingate. Through these imagined names, real feelings quietly took shape. In thoughtful words and careful notes, a different understanding began to form. What started with tension slowly became friendship, then something deeper.

Once they were officially dating, their time together reflected the simple realities of cadet life. They would gather their spare change and head to Sonic Drive-In for a treat. Every payday also meant a rush of NMMI cadets to the Pizza Hut lunch buffet, a tradition many alumni still remember. Teena and Glenn and a few friends would drive out to the old missile silos and explore until dark. Time together and shared adventure became treasured memories.

Life on Post shaped Teena in lasting ways. Though she had already completed training at Officer Basic Camp, NMMI was the first time she was truly on her own. The structure and discipline continued to develop at NMMI strengthened her independence and resilience. It formed the foundation not only of individual growth, but of a relationship built on shared challenge and mutual respect.

After graduation, their commitment continued. Teena traveled to California to remain close to Glenn, finding an apartment near his home. In July, he proposed. That December, they were married.

Looking back, Teena holds only great memories of NMMI. Even the challenges, whether academic or physical, are remembered with appreciation. They were part of the growth.

One tradition still makes them smile. The annual Talent Show was a favorite. Teena would go to the Auditorium each evening to watch rehearsals and listen to the orchestra practice. Glenn played in the orchestra, and after rehearsal he would walk her back to the Girls Dorm. Those quiet walks became part of their story.

For Teena and Glenn, NMMI was more than a place of education. It was the beginning of a lifelong partnership. And it all started with a first impression that couldn't have been more wrong.



TAPS

	DANIEL	J.	COOPER	1985	HS	11/22/2008
COL.	GORDON	W.	KEISER	1955	USMC (RET)	HS 7/11/2021
	TIMOTHY	J.	HENDERSON	1976	JC	10/4/2025
	W. KERRY		BOYD	1961	HS	12/3/2025
	THOMAS	A.	MCGEE	1956	HS	1/4/2026
DR.	WILLIAM		GREENHAW	1965	JC	1/13/2026
	GORDON	M.	GRUBBS	1958	HS	1/13/2026
	JEFFREY		ROBERTS	STAFF/FACULTY		1/20/2026
	GEORGE	L.	LUNDBERG	1955	HS	1/21/2026
	F. CHESTER		MILLER	1966	III	HS 2/1/2026
	JOHN	A.	CHALFANT	1956	HS	2/4/2026
	JERRY	D.	STEVENS	1956	HS	2/4/2026
COL.	MARTIN	C.	WEHMHONER	1958	JR.	JC 2/8/2026
	ANTHONY	R.	BELCHER	1972	JC	2/12/2026
	RAYMOND	U.	SEALE	1982	JR	HS 2/16/2026



Alumni Reported Deceased
February 26, 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.”**

