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From the Director's Desk

ATTENTION IN THE AREA, ATTENTION OFF POST

Homecoming 2026 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, donated or simply hopped on a quick phone call, we cannot 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 2027 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 to attend, update your information with us and we look forward to everyone having a wonderful time. We will also start collaborating the planning phase of the Sally Port magazine, the hope is that the digital version for 2026 will post before the holiday break in December. Again, all our best to each of you and thank you so much for your support.

Kris Ward

Executive Director of Institutional Advancement



Kris Ward

Executive Director of
Institutional Advancement





PATRIOTS DAY:

NMMI REMEMBERS SEPTEMBER 11 AND HONORS THOSE WHO SERVED



The New Mexico Military Institute Garry Owen Squadron gathered at Lusk Hall to remember and honor the nearly 3,000 Americans who lost their lives on September 11, 2001, and the generations of service members who answered the call in the years that followed.

The 9/11 Remembrance Ceremony was coordinated and directed by Cadet Christopher King, who led the Squadron in a solemn tribute to the lives lost and the sacrifices made during the Global War on Terror.

The ceremony provided an opportunity for cadets to reflect on an event that occurred before many of them were born, but one that continues to shape the military they are preparing to join. The attacks of September 11 marked a defining moment in American history and set the nation on a path toward more than two decades of sustained military operations around the world.

As part of the remembrance, the Garry Owen Squadron conducted a commemorative run in honor of the fallen. The run served as both a physical tribute and a reminder of the enduring commitment carried by those who serve. Cadets ran in formation to honor those who made the ultimate sacrifice and those who continued the fight in the years following the attacks.

The Squadron also heard from two speakers who provided firsthand accounts of September 11 and the years of service that followed. LTC Karl Harness shared his personal memories of that morning and spoke about his friend, James Hendricks, whose sister, Janet Hendricks Gustafson, was killed in the World Trade Center. Harness described the lasting impact of losing someone in such a horrific manner and the profound effect September 11 had on those who knew and loved the victims. He also reflected on his own military service throughout the Global War on Terror and the connection between that day and the generation of Soldiers who subsequently answered the nation's call.

SGM Richard Englund shared his own experiences from September 11, recalling where he was when the attacks occurred and how the events of that day shaped his military service. His firsthand perspective provided cadets with an understanding of what it meant to witness the nation change in real time and then serve during the conflicts that followed.

Together, the speakers helped bridge the distance between history and personal experience. For many of the cadets, September 11 is a historical event they learned about in school rather than an event they personally remember. Hearing directly from veterans who experienced that day and went on to serve throughout the Global War on Terror gave the cadets a more personal understanding of its significance.

The ceremony concluded with the Squadron reflecting on the enduring cost of service and the importance of remembering those who gave their lives in defense of the nation.

For the Garry Owen Squadron, remembering September 11 is not simply about looking back. It is about honoring the fallen, recognizing the sacrifices of veterans and their families, and ensuring that the next generation of leaders understands the significance of the oath they will soon take.

By: LTC Karl Harness, USAR (JC '00)
Professor of Military Science



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Leadership in Action

On 11 September, 2026 in conjunction with the 15th Annual Generals Cup Weekend a leadership forum took place for a select number of cadets, faculty and staff. NMMI was excited to welcome home LTG Johnny K. Davis 1990 JC, MG Miquel Aquilar 1990 JC, BG Kallie Kuehl 1994 HS, BG Ethan Diven 1997 JC, & BG Nathaniel Carper 1998 JC. All were in attendance to provide and support a forum that focused on:

- Service before self
- Leadership during times of crisis
- Lessons learned from command
- Ethical decision-making
- National service following September 11
- Character and resilience
- Preparing future leaders for an increasingly complex world
- The changing character of warfare and national security
- Developing leaders of character in today's environment
- Lessons learned from military service and strategic leadership

We want to thank these General Officers and alumni for adjusting their schedules and taking the time to give back and discuss such wonderful topics with our current corps of cadets.



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ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

KARL H. (CHUCK) AGAR, PHD, CLASS OF 1961

NEW MEXICO MILITARY INSTITUTE

A foundation for a Successful American Life

Arrival in America

In June 1959 I arrived at New York harbor and registered with the US Immigration Service. My adopted mother (Mom) Major Bernice (Bee) J. Agar, a World War II veteran and US Army nurse, and I made a cross country drive to Los Angeles visiting sites and friends, finally arriving in El Paso, Texas in August 1959. That same month we drove to NMMI for me to be registered as a new cadet.

We reported to NMMI HQ to meet with Lt General Gay, the superintendent. The General hugged Bee. (Bee was a nurse with a field hospital when she met General Gay, Chief of Staff to General Patton, during the march to the Rhine.) We then met Col. Kelly, the academic Dean. After reviewing my academic High School records, he enrolled me as a college Freshman with an academic overload of high school English. The tour of the post resembled a WWII reunion. Mom had friends and acquaintances on "The Hill" – B.G. Willey (Commandant of Cadets), Capt. Norcross (Tactical Officer), Col. O'Brien (PMS&T), Doctor Marshall (NMMI Surgeon), and Capt. Robertson (Band master).

NMMI Impact On my Life

At the beginning of the fall semester in 1959 Mom and I drove to Roswell for the next stage of my life in America. She dropped me off at the Sally Port. General Gay and his Wife took Mom to the Officers Club at Walker AFB.

I was met by an old cadet and Capt. Norcross who pulled me aside and instructed me in a low voice to lay low and not to draw attention to myself. That was excellent advice. The next two years were the most important time in my growing into an American Citizen.



Karl H. "Chuck" Agar, Ph.D., PE,
Retierd Class of 1961 JC



Karl H. "Chuck" Agar, Ph.D., PE,
Retierd Class of 1961 JC



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Karl H. "Chuck" Agar, Ph.D., PE,
Retierd Class of 1961 JC

The military environment benefited me in terms of personal conduct, team work, self discipline, accepting help and providing help when needed, time management, adjusting to changing conditions and being aware of the temperament and the personality of fellow cadets and staff. [i.e. do not disagree with the Commandant – he only answers to the creator] The superior Academic and Military Science instructions and training were the foundation of my career and outlook on life. I owe my pursuit as an electrical engineer to the guidance of Major Mount-Campbell, the physics professor. My successful career as an electrical engineer in missile guidance and electronic warfare, and as well as academics, was influenced by history professor Captain Rodriguez who stated: *"You do not know a subject until you understand the rest of the story."*

The rest of the story

In August of 1957 I was greeted by Major Bee Agar in Augsburg Germany for a visit. I was impressed with her sincerity, outlook on life and her straight forward approach with people. Her frankness was admirable. Within a week of the visit she asked if I would consider being adopted by her. I spend a sleepless night considering Bee's and my life. Bee had lost her Marine husband in the Pacific theater and her son in the Korean war. I was born at the height of WWII in Austria to parents of German and Belgium roots and after escaping Austria from the Russian occupation I lived through turbulent times in Germany in terms of economic, social and family conditions especially after the death of my birth mother. My answer was enthusiastic and straight to the point: Yes! Her dream of having a family had been partially restored and I had a Mom again.



Major Bee Agar

Karl H. "Chuck" Agar, Ph.D., PE,
Retierd Class of 1961 JC



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The People Behind the Progress



Kris Ward
EXECUTIVEDIRECTOR OF
INSTITUTIONAL ADVANCEMENT



Janice Weed, MA, CNP
93HS
DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF
INSTITUTIONAL ADVANCEMENT



Natalie Perez
ANNUAL FUND OFFICER



Leslie Palombi
SPECIAL EVENTS &
ALUMNI ENGAGEMENT COORDINATOR

–Fresh Faces at the Old Post–

Growing Our Team, Strengthening Our Mission



Ashley Escobal
ADMINISTRATIVE SPECIALIST



Travis Smith
DEVELOPMENT DATA SPECIALIST



Diana Aguilar
DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF
ALUMNI RELATIONS



Office of Institutional Advancement

OFFICE HOURS:

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GROWING TOGETHER: ANNUAL FUND SEES INCREASED ALUMNI PARTICIPATION

EVERY GIFT TELLS A STORY.

Whether it's a first-time donor making a \$25 contribution, a graduate honoring a classmate through a scholarship gift, or a longtime supporter continuing their annual commitment, every donation strengthens New Mexico Military Institute and helps prepare the next generation of leaders.

As we close the 2025–2026 fiscal year, we're grateful to report another successful year for the NMMI Annual Fund. Thanks to the generosity of alumni, parents, employees, and friends of the Institute, the Annual Fund generated **\$639,827 in gross support**, a slight increase over last year's total of approximately **\$624,380**. While financial support remained strong, the most encouraging news came from something even more important, participation.

This year, **1,264 gifts** were made to the Annual Fund, up from 1,032 the previous year. The increase of more than 230 additional gifts reflects a growing number of individuals who believe in NMMI's mission and are choosing to invest in the Corps of Cadets' future. In addition, **79 first-time donors** made their first gift to the Institute, expanding the NMMI family of supporters and helping build a strong foundation for years to come.

Annual Fund support came from many avenues throughout the year, including direct annual gifts and payroll contributions, appeals, the General's Cup Golf Tournament, IRA Qualified Charitable Distributions (QCDs), event auctions, and Foundation support. Together, these efforts provide critical funding for cadet scholarships, academic excellence, leadership development, and programs that enhance the cadet experience.

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR LEADING ALUMNI CLASSES

Healthy participation starts with alumni who continue to lead by example.
This year's top contributing classes to the Annual Fund were:

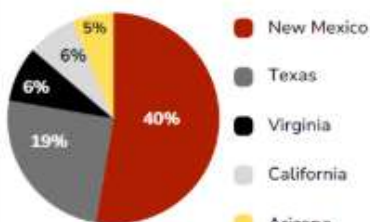
ANNUAL FUND SUPPORT ACROSS THE COUNTRY

NMMI's impact extends well beyond Roswell.
This year, the states providing the greatest Annual Fund support were:

Top 5 By Class to Annual Fund

1st: 1977
2nd: 1994
3rd: 1991
4th: 1961
Tied for 5th:
1965
1966

Top 5 By State to Annual Fund



As NMMI continues celebrating its 135th Anniversary, every gift, regardless of size, helps preserve the Institute's tradition of developing leaders of character while providing opportunities for future generations of cadets.

To everyone who made a gift this year, thank you. Your generosity is more than a donation; it is an investment in the mission of New Mexico Military Institute and in the young men and women who will carry that mission forward.

Together, we are ensuring that the legacy of NMMI continues for generations to come.

-Janice Weed, MA, CNP, 93HS

Deputy Director of Institutional Advancement



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135 YEARS. 135 DONORS. ONE NMMI

Homecoming has always been about coming back. Back to Post, back to familiar traditions, and back to the people and places that shaped an important part of your life. For some, it has been only a few years since they last walked through Sally Port. For others, decades have passed. Yet every fall, generations of alumni return to a place that somehow still feels familiar.

Look through an old Bronco yearbook and that connection is easy to see. The uniforms change. Buildings change. Traditions evolve. But the experiences captured in those pages remain recognizable: cadets in formation, classmates gathered together, lessons learned in the classroom, victories celebrated, and friendships formed along the way. One page from the 1976 Bronco perhaps says it best: "Being a cadet is a legacy to be cherished and never forgotten."

This year, as NMMI celebrates its 135th anniversary and prepares to welcome alumni home once again, we're inviting the NMMI family to mark the occasion together in a simple way: 135 people making a gift in honor of 135 years.

The 135 for 135 Challenge is simple: 135 donors in honor of 135 years of NMMI. Make a gift of \$13.50 or more by October 30 and be one of 135 people celebrating NMMI's past while investing in its future.

NMMI

Together, individual gifts become something larger. Annual Fund support provides unrestricted support for scholarships and needs across Post, helping today's cadets make their own memories and experience many of the same lessons, friendships, and traditions generations before them carried away from NMMI.

In a few weeks, alumni will once again return to Post for Homecoming. They will see old friends, walk familiar grounds, watch today's Corps of Cadets, and remember what it was like when they stood in their place. Some things will look different. Others will feel remarkably unchanged.

For 135 years, each generation has added another chapter to NMMI's story. This Homecoming, we're asking 135 members of the NMMI family to help write a small part of the next one.
Be one of the 135.

SUPPORTING THE MISSION



- Natalie Perez
Annual Fund Officer



Being a cadet is
a legacy to be
cherished and
never forgotten.





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GENERALS CUP!

WHAT A WEEKEND!

More than 300 players joined us for the 15th Annual General's Cup, and we are grateful to everyone who helped make the weekend possible.

Thank you to our players, sponsors, auction donors, volunteers, vendors, staff, and friends who spent the weekend with us. A special thank you to our Premier Sponsor, Krumland Auto Group, and our Duty and Honor Sponsors for their generous support.

General's Cup is a weekend of golf, fellowship, and friendly competition, but its impact reaches beyond the course. Proceeds support the NMMI Annual Fund, helping provide scholarships and meet needs across Post.

Thank you for being part of another memorable General's Cup and for supporting NMMI and our cadets. We hope to see you again next year!



MORE THAN
300 PLAYERS
Two courses. One great weekend.



General's Cup supports the NMMI Annual Fund, providing unrestricted support for scholarships and immediate needs across Post.

**Thank you for supporting
NMMI and our cadets.**



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MILITARY INSTITUTE





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THANK
YOU

15th ANNUAL
GENERAL'S CUP



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From Golf Greens, *to Masquerade Dreams*

September has been an exciting month for NMMI, and we are incredibly grateful to everyone who helped make this year's General's Cup Scholarship Golf Tournament a success. Alumni, supporters, sponsors, volunteers, and friends came together for a weekend centered on fellowship, tradition, and support for NMMI cadets. Events like General's Cup are a wonderful reminder that the relationships formed at NMMI continue long after cadets leave post.

Now, we are turning our attention toward one of our biggest celebrations of the year: Homecoming 2026, October 14–17! This year is especially meaningful as we celebrate 135 years of NMMI and welcome back our honored classes ending in "6."

One event I am especially excited about is our Masquerade Honored Class Dinner at the Roswell Country Club on Friday, October 16. We are planning a special evening where alumni can reconnect with classmates, celebrate NMMI traditions, and make new memories together. We hope you will dust off your formal attire, grab a mask, and join us for an unforgettable evening.

Our alumni connections are also reaching far beyond Roswell. We continue to work with alumni across the country to create Meet & Greet opportunities that bring the NMMI family together closer to home. Whether you return to post for Homecoming or attend a gathering hundreds of miles away, these events share the same purpose: keeping our alumni connected to one another and to NMMI.

As Event Coordinator, one of the best parts of my job is seeing those connections happen. Thank you to everyone who attends, volunteers, hosts, sponsors, and helps spread the word about our events. General's Cup may be behind us, but Homecoming is just around the corner, and there is plenty more to look forward to!

We can't wait to welcome you back to post and continue celebrating 135 years of Duty, Honor, and Achievement.

-Leslie Palombi
Special Events &
Alumni Engagement Coordinator



NMMI HOMECOMING 2026 SCHEDULE

Wednesday, 14 OCTOBER 2026

- 1200 - 1630 Alumni Registration Information (DLC 200)
- 1730 - 1830 1ST and 3RD Class Ring Ceremony (Pearson) (Cadet Uniform Class A)
- 1900-2000 Ring Ceremony Reception (VMV) (Invitation Only)

Thursday, 15 OCTOBER 2026

- 0800 - 1100 NMMI Foundation Members Breakfast Meeting (Invitation Only) | NMMI Foundation Board of Trustees Meeting (Jack Daniels Room, DLC)
- 0800 - 1630 Alumni Registration Information (DLC 200)
- 1000 - 1100 Tour of NMMI Campus (Global Enrollment | Lusk Hall)
- 1140 - 1240 Women of NMMI Luncheon (VMV) (Admission with \$20 Donation)
- 1300 Lefty Stecklein Golf Social (NMMI Golf Course) (\$23 per Player 18 holes + Cart)
- 1600 Band Meet and Greet at NMMI Band Hall (Band Alumni Only)
- 1730 Corps formation and movement to SRC
- 1800 Prayer Service for families of Silver Taps Honorees (Alumni Chapel)
- 1800 Centurion Presentation (Bronco Plaza)
- 1840 Corps Formation (Hagerman Barracks)
- 1900 Silver Taps – Corps of Cadets, Alumni, and Guests (Hagerman Barracks)
- 2000 - 2200 Alumni Reception following Silver Taps – Hosted by BG McBurnette and Mrs. Nikki McBurnette, Alumni & guests (NO CADETS AND NO ONE UNDER AGE 21) (Quarters 1)

Friday, 16 October 2026

- 0730 - 0830 Graveside Dedication: Lt. Col. L.T. "Babe" Godfrey (HS '23 | JC '24)
- 0800 - 1630 Alumni Registration Information (DLC)
- 0900 - 1000 Tour of Dow Hall (LTC Karl Harness, PMS)
- 1000 - 1100 Tour of NMMI Campus (Global Enrollment | Lusk Hall)
- 0830 - 1030 Board of Regents Meeting (BOR Conference Room | Lusk Hall)
- 1330 - 1500 Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony (Pearson Auditorium)
- 1600 - 1800 Hall of Fame Reception – Hosted by BG McBurnette & Mrs. Nikki McBurnette (Quarters 1) (Invitation Only)
- 1800 - 2230 Honored Class Dinner (Roswell Country Club) (\$75 Preorder | \$85 after Sep 12th)
- 1900 NMMI Colt Varsity Football vs Hot Springs High School (Colt field)

Saturday, 17 October 2026

- 0600 Reveille
- 0700 - 0830 Crossed Sabers Society Breakfast | Gold room (Bates Hall) (Invitation only)
- 0800 - 1000 Alumni Registration Information (DLC)
- 0800 Goss Drill Team Exhibitions (Bronco Plaza)
- 0800 - 0930 Corps FRI (All Barracks Closed to Visitors)
- 0900 Change of Flame Guard (Bronco Plaza)
- 0930 - 1000 Alumni Tour of Rooms (Hagerman 1st Stoop Only)
- 1015 Corps forms for Parade
- 1015 - 1030 Honored Classes form for Alumni March (Bronco Plaza)
- 1030 - 1135 Alumni Honored Class March and Homecoming Parade (Stapp Parade Field)
- 1150 DRC w/Formation and march by
- 1200 - 1400 Farley's Alumni Meet & Greet
- 1330 Corps of Cadets March on for Football Game (Colt Field)
- 1445 Bronco Volleyball vs Frank Phillips College (Cahoon Armory Gym)
- 1400 - 1700 NMMI Bronco Football vs. Snow College (Colt Field)





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FROM NMMI TO REGIMENTAL COMMANDER: GRACE PICOZZI'S JOURNEY OF LEADERSHIP AND EXCELLENCE



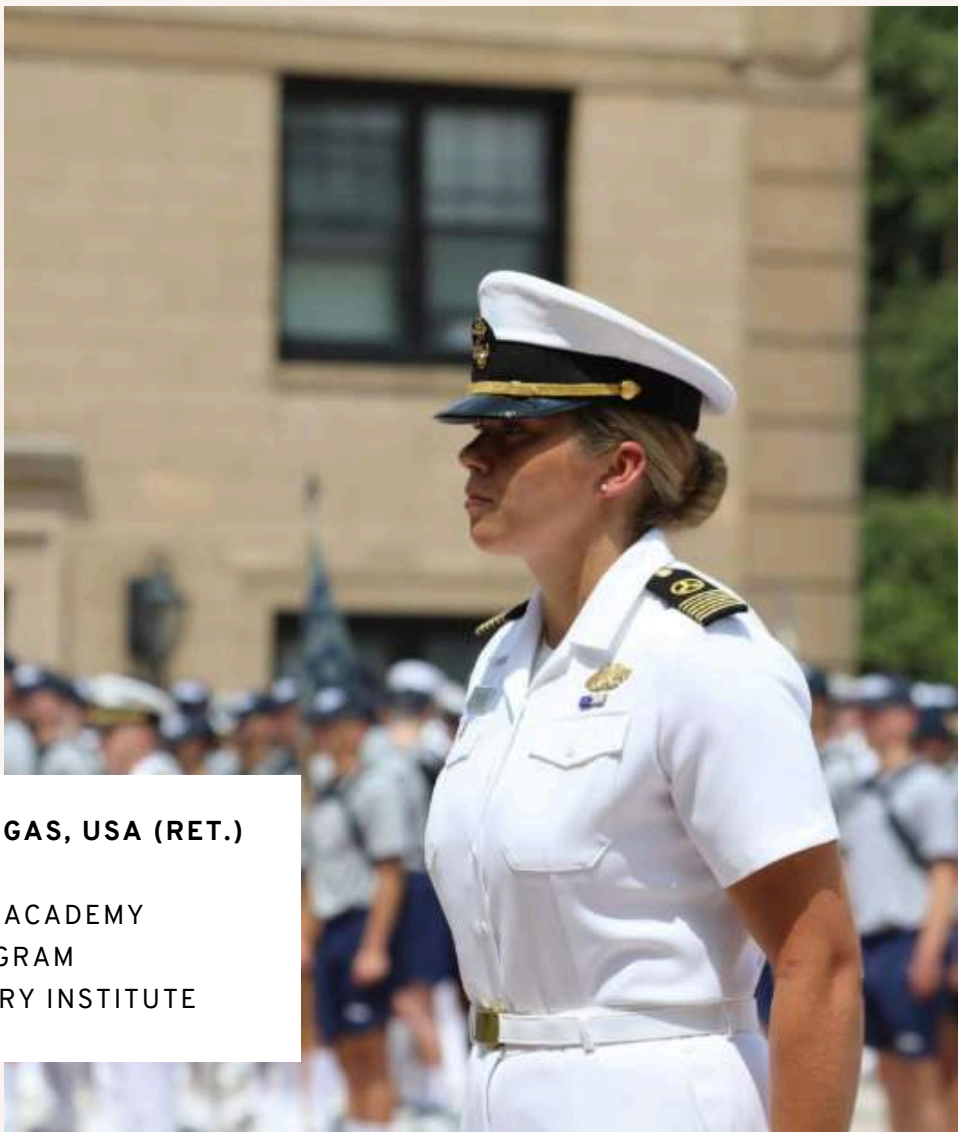
BY LTC ADAM VILLEGAS, USA (RET.)

(JC '85-'88)

DIRECTOR, SERVICE ACADEMY

PREPARATORY PROGRAM

NEW MEXICO MILITARY INSTITUTE



GRACE PICOZZI (JC '23)

REGIMENTAL COMMANDER

UNITED STATES MERCHANT MARINE ACADEMY

Grace Picozzi arrived at New Mexico Military Institute as a U.S. Merchant Marine Academy prep scholar with a goal of earning her place at Kings Point. She left NMMI in 2023 having done far more than preparing for the next step in her education. She had already begun establishing herself as an exceptional student, cadet, and leader.



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GRACE PICOZZI THE LEGACY LEFT BEHIND



GRACE PICOZZI (JC '23)

REGIMENTAL COMMANDER, UNITED STATES MERCHANT MARINE ACADEMY

Today, Grace serves as Regimental Commander at the United States Merchant Marine Academy, one of the highest levels of cadet leadership at a federal service academy. Her journey from NMMI to Kings Point is an example of what service academy preparation is ultimately intended to accomplish, not simply gaining admission to an academy, but preparing young men and women to excel once they arrive. During her year at NMMI, Grace distinguished herself academically and within the Corps of Cadets. She completed 33 college credits while serving as an Echo Troop First Sergeant, a position that required her to support her troop commander, maintain standards, strengthen discipline, and contribute to the morale and development of fellow cadets. Grace also maintained a 4.0 academic average while balancing the demands of academics, military responsibilities, physical development, and preparation for the United States Merchant Marine Academy. That ability to perform across multiple areas would become a defining characteristic of her career at Kings Point. After leaving NMMI in 2023, Grace entered USMMA and chose Marine Engineering Systems as her major. She is scheduled to earn her Bachelor of Science in June 2027, along with a U.S. Coast Guard Third Assistant Engineer license with unlimited horsepower. She is also expected to commission as an Ensign in the United States Naval Reserve. Her leadership progression at Kings Point has been equally impressive. Grace served as 3rd Company Commander Petty Officer, assisting in the leadership and management of a company of more than 120 midshipmen. She later became 3rd Company Executive Petty Officer, where her responsibilities included motivating, training, and mentoring plebes as they adjusted to the Regiment and the academic demands of USMMA. She continued her progression as Regimental Executive Petty Officer before being selected to serve as Regimental Commander in 2026. As Regimental Commander, Grace now works with senior Academy leadership and serves as a bridge between the staff and the Regiment of Midshipmen. Her responsibilities include helping maintain, supervise, and support the standards of the Regiment. For an NMMI alumna who began her service academy journey as an Echo Troop First Sergeant, the progression is significant. From NMMI First Sergeant to company leadership at Kings Point, from Regimental Executive Petty Officer to Regimental Commander, Grace has consistently accepted increasing levels of responsibility and demonstrated the ability to lead others. Her accomplishments are not limited to the Regiment. Grace is also captain of the USMMA Women's Lacrosse Team for 2026 and 2027. She was named the team's Most Valuable Player in 2024 and 2026, earned Second Team All-Conference honors in 2024, and First Team All-Conference recognition in 2025 and 2026. She has also remained committed to service outside the classroom, Regiment, and athletic field. Grace participates in Catholic Ministries through the Newman Club and serves as a Mass lector. She is also raising and training Lola, a future guide dog through the Guide Dog Foundation.

Perhaps most importantly for her future profession, Grace has accumulated extensive hands-on maritime engineering experience. Her training has taken her aboard the USNS Joshua Humphreys, T/V Kings Pointer, APL Eagle, M/V Stena Impeccable, and M/V Hudson Express. Her experience includes engineering rounds, machinery maintenance and testing, mechanical drawings and system tracings, equipment rebuilding, machining, welding, fuel and ballast transfers, and major engine-equipment overhaul and repair. Her maritime experience has also included supporting cargo transportation for military operations in the Atlantic and Indian Oceans. Grace's story represents exactly why service academy preparation matters. Success cannot be measured only by whether a student receives an appointment. The true measure comes afterward: whether that student can succeed academically, withstand the demands of a service academy, lead peers, accept increasing responsibility, and ultimately prepare to serve the nation. Grace has done exactly that. She arrived at NMMI as a Merchant Marine Academy prep scholar. She left as an NMMI alumna, First Sergeant, and 4.0 student prepared for the challenges ahead. At Kings Point, she continued climbing. Student. Engineer. Athlete. Team captain. Mentor. Company leader. Regimental executive leader. And now, Regimental Commander. Grace Picozzi's journey demonstrates what can happen when ability is matched with discipline, opportunity, preparation, and a willingness to lead. For the NMMI Service Academy Preparatory Program, there may be no greater measure of success than watching a former prep scholar leave Roswell, excel at a federal service academy, and eventually rise to lead its Regiment of Midshipmen. Grace arrived at NMMI preparing to attend the United States Merchant Marine Academy. She is now helping lead it.

That is the legacy of preparation, and that is the development of a leader.

We could not be prouder.

-Adam





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A LEGACY IN FORMATION: 135 YEARS OF NMMI



The First Step: RAT Week and Matriculation

Every New Mexico Military Institute graduate remembers arriving on The Hill for the first time. The emotions may have been different, excitement, uncertainty, determination, even a little apprehension, but the experience marked the beginning of a journey that would shape lives for generations.

Matriculation and RAT Week formally welcome new cadets into the Corps. While the names and methods have evolved over the past 135 years, the purpose has remained remarkably consistent: transforming individuals into members of something greater than themselves- The NMMI Corps of Cadets! From its earliest days, NMMI was founded on the belief that discipline, structure, and shared purpose build character. As early as 1893, cadets followed a rigorous daily routine of military drill, classroom instruction, inspections, and accountability. Military training occupied an hour and a half each day, and the curriculum quickly expanded beyond drill to include reconnaissance, patrols, and leadership exercises. These expectations established the framework that continues to distinguish the Institute today.

When the Institute reopened on its permanent campus in 1898, new cadets stepped onto what would come to be known simply as The Hill. There, they encountered not only new buildings, but a new way of life. Lea Hall served as the center of cadet life, housing classrooms, offices, dining facilities, sleeping quarters, and even a swimming pool. As enrollment grew, Hagerman Barracks became home to generations of cadets learning the customs, courtesies, and responsibilities expected of members of the Corps.

Colonel James W. Willson believed military discipline should prepare young people for leadership, not simply enforce rules. His vision, influenced by his experience at the Virginia Military Institute, shaped many of the traditions that still define cadet life. By the early twentieth century, regulations governed everything from reporting procedures and inspections to personal conduct and daily routines. These standards created a common foundation, ensuring every cadet, regardless of background, began the year on equal footing. RAT Week continues that tradition today. While each class brings its own personalities and experiences, every new cadet learns that success at NMMI begins with humility, fellowship, teamwork, and perseverance. The challenges of those first days are designed not to discourage, but to teach resilience, self-discipline, and confidence. They also build friendships that often last a lifetime.

Although uniforms have changed, facilities have expanded, and generations of cadets have marched across Stapp Parade field, the purpose of those first days has never wavered. Every alumnus and alumna who has walked through the Sally Port shares a common beginning. RAT Week reminds us that before there were leaders, officers, business executives, educators, physicians, and public servants, there were young men and women willing to accept a challenge and take that first step.

For 135 years, that first step has been the beginning of the legacy.

-Janice Weed, MA, CNP, 93HS
Deputy Director of Institutional Advancement

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MEET THE NEWEST MEMBERS OF OUR TEAM

MEET ASHLEY: A NEW FACE IN INSTITUTIONAL ADVANCEMENT!

Hello! My name is Ashley Escobal, and I am excited to introduce myself as one of the newest members of the Institutional Advancement team at NMMI!

I have already had the opportunity to speak with some of you over the phone, and I look forward to getting to know many more of our alumni and friends. When you call or visit our office, there's a good chance I'll be one of the first people you connect with, so please don't hesitate to say hello! I recently moved to Roswell from Amarillo, Texas, to join NMMI, and I could not be more excited to be here. I jumped right into my new role by helping host the registration table at this year's 15th Annual General's Cup Scholarship Golf Tournament. It was such a fun experience and gave me my first opportunity to meet many of our alumni and supporters in person.

Every day brings something new to learn, and I have truly enjoyed becoming part of the NMMI community. I am grateful for the warm welcome I have received from my coworkers and excited to learn more about the traditions and people that make NMMI so special.

Next up is Homecoming 2026! I'll be helping at the registration table, and I hope you'll stop by, introduce yourself, and say hello. I'm looking forward to meeting more of you and putting some faces to the names and voices I'm beginning to recognize!

See you at Homecoming! ❤️🖤🐾



Ashley Escobal
ADMINISTRATIVE SPECIALIST

MEET TRAVIS: A NEW FACE IN INSTITUTIONAL ADVANCEMENT!

Hi everyone,

My name is Travis Smith, and I am excited to be one of the newest members of the Institutional Advancement team. I serve as the Development Data Specialist (also known as the Gift Processor).

My background is in data analytics, and I hold a Google Data Analytics certification. I am also currently pursuing further my education. Even though I am new to NMMI, the adjustment has been smooth, and I have already felt more than welcomed.

I look forward to getting to know all of you. Whether it's at Homecoming, another campus event, or just a quick visit to the office to say hi, I hope we have the chance to connect.



Travis Smith
DEVELOPMENT DATA SPECIALIST

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MEET THE NEWEST MEMBERS OF OUR TEAM



Diana Aguilar
DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF ALUMNI RELATIONS

Meet Diana: A New Face in Institutional Advancement!

As we enter an exciting season at New Mexico Military Institute, I'd like to take a moment to share how grateful I am for the opportunity to be part of NMMI. One thing became clear to me very quickly as I began spending more time on Post; this is a place with great history, strong traditions, and an alumni community that cares tremendously about the Institute and about one another.

I recognize that I have much to learn and am excited to do just that.

This is an exciting time for our department. I am pleased to be joining the team alongside, Ashley Escobal, our Administrative Specialist, and Travis Smith, our Development Data Specialist. With these additions, our Institutional Advancement team is now fully staffed for the first time in quite some time. We are incredibly excited about what that means for the road ahead. Having a full team gives us greater capacity to connect with our alumni, strengthen communication, support events, share your stories, and continue building relationships across the NMMI community. There is a great deal of enthusiasm within our department about what we can accomplish together.

A little about me: my professional background has largely centered around education, training, communication, and service. I spent approximately five years in the classroom before transitioning into training and program coordination, where I had the opportunity to work closely with people from many different backgrounds. I hold a bachelor's degree in business administration and a master's degree in teaching and learning. Throughout each stage of my career, I have found that the work I value most is rooted in building relationships, helping others feel supported, and creating meaningful connections. Those are the same values I hope to bring to Alumni Relations here at NMMI.

The priority of this role is first and foremost to serve our alumni. I want to get to know you, hear your stories, understand what your experience was like as a cadet, and learn what NMMI has meant to you throughout the different stages of your life. The traditions, memories, friendships, challenges, and accomplishments that each of you carry are part of what makes NMMI what it is today. We want to make sure our alumni know that they continue to have a place here long after their time as cadets has ended.

I could not have asked for a more exciting introduction to NMMI. General's Cup was a tremendous success and an incredible way to begin my time at NMMI. This year, we welcomed a total of 104 teams. The event has grown so much year over year that, for the first time, the tournament was split over two separate courses to accommodate everyone participating: the NMMI Golf Course and Nancy Lopez Spring River Golf Course. Seeing an event grow to that scale speaks volumes about the support, and dedication of our alumni and members of the greater community. It was exciting to witness that connection firsthand, and it gave me immediate appreciation for just how much NMMI means to the people who continue to support it.

Now, our team is diligently preparing for Homecoming, and I am incredibly excited to experience it for the first time. I look forward to welcoming alumni back on Post, meeting more of you personally, and gaining a greater understanding of the traditions and experiences that connect generations of NMMI alumni.

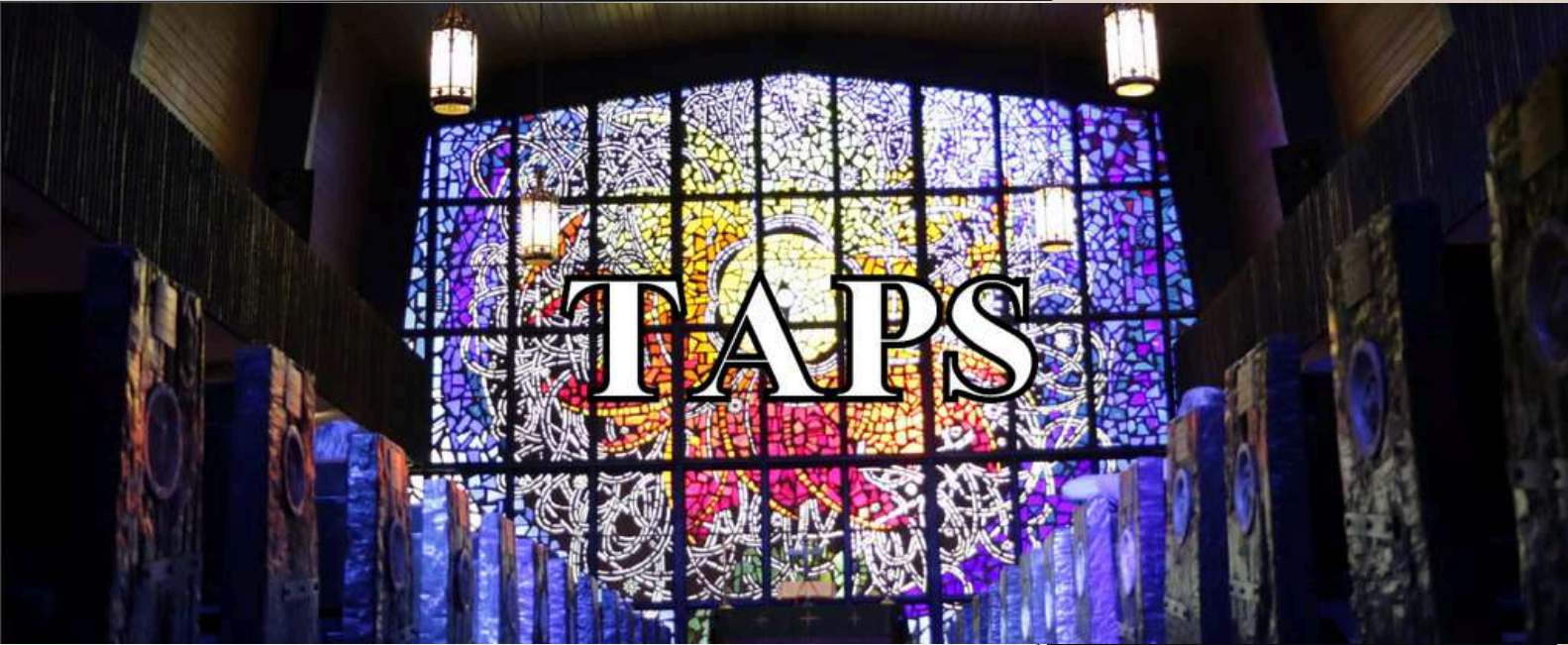
While I may be new to NMMI, I understand that the relationships between the Institute and its alumni have been built over generations and consider it a privilege to become part of that relationship. My responsibility is not simply to learn about NMMI from books, photographs, or archives, but to learn about it from the people who lived the experience.

So, as I begin this new chapter please introduce yourself. Tell me your story. Tell me about your time on Post, the people who influenced you, the traditions you value, and the experiences that still make you smile years later.

I am honored to be here, grateful for the opportunity to serve you, and looking forward to the journey ahead.



NMMI INSTITUTIONAL ADVANCEMENT | ALUMNIOFFICE@NMMI.EDU



	RANSOM	K.	BRADLEY	1973	HS	7/26/2026
	KEVIN	W.	CORDOVA	1994	JC	2/26/2026
	ROBERT	K.	CORNELL	1963	JC	8/7/2026
CPT	JAMES	R.	OWENS USA (RET)	1957	JC	8/21/2026
	CHARLES	C.	SEYFRIED	1956	HS	12/13/2025
	MATTHEW	K.	WENCKENS	1995	JC	8/24/2026
COL	J.	D	BURNS NMMI (RET)	1969	JC	8/25/2026
	GEORGE	K	HIBBARD	1967	HS	8/19/2026
	BRYAN	D.	HAYES	1995	JC	7/23/2023
	VILLALOBOS	J.	NICHOLAS	2017	HS	8/12/2025
	DUFFIN		GREGORY	1968	JC	5/24/2022
	JOHNNY	W.	LEE	1967	HS	4/12/2022
	JUDE	N.	PRATHER	1969	JC	12/16/2024



Alumni Reported Deceased
September 30, 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.”