



# *Kadet Newsletter*

## *Peacock Military Academy*

### *Alumni Association, Inc.*

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Michael A. (Mike) Vlieger, '62, Editor

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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Dear Brother Ex-Cadets -

We had our Spring Directors' Meeting on Saturday, April 4, 2009, at the old Headquarters Building at the Academy. There were 20 Directors present out of the 25 on the Board. Most of the Directors are from out of the City of San Antonio and either fly in or drive long distances to attend the meetings for your Alumni Association. Like Director **Don Brookshire, Class of 1951**, who came in from Folsom, California, just for the meeting. Now, that's dedication and determination from a good Brother who wants to serve you as a Director. And so it is with the rest of your Directors who serve for no pay of any kind. We just serve for the dedication and joy of keeping the Spirit of Peacock Military Academy alive as long as the good Lord and all of you Alumni Members are willing.

Former Director, **L.B. Johnson, Class of 1956**, resigned due to health reasons and **Raul Gonzalez, Class of 1968**, replaced him. **Kirk Johnson, Class of 1954**, stepped in for **Dickie Dixon, Class of 1962**, who passed away.

Remember, Brothers, it is not how much money you have or how many awards and recognitions you might have received, but rather the fact that you graduated or attended Peacock Military Academy is all that matters to us. Because you are one of us, we want you to join us and your classmates and have fun attending our next Reunion.

The Association, like all other non-profit organizations, is hurting for money because of the rising costs of everything. Of the money we have in the PAR money market and PAR CD, only the interest is used for the upkeep of the Headquarters Building where our memorabilia is kept. At this time, that is drawing little interest.

This is different and separate from the Peacock Military Academy Alumni Association. As you well know, we do not have access to new members (recent graduates) since 1973 when the Academy closed its doors. We have not raised our dues since the Association was founded 25 years ago and a lot of things have been paid by the Association and by donations from good Brothers like you.

For example: the beautiful Memorial Monument on the Senior Terrace; work on The Wesley Peacock House Headquarters Building; the Class of 1938 water fountain restoration and installation; transferring all Academy records to C.D. form; plus any additional costs accorded from our Reunions, which are many. The Association pays additional items in order to keep the Reunion costs as low as possible. The true cost of last year's Reunion was \$410.00 a couple although we paid a lot less because the Association picked up the remainder.

So, my Brothers, if you have not sent in your dues for this year, which are still \$25.00 a year since our founding, please do so and any donation you would like to contribute to your Alumni Association will be greatly appreciated. Remember, Brothers, no donation is too small or too large. We would like to keep this Association going until the last Peacock Cadet turns out the lights and closes the door. That is still a long way from now. So my fellow Brothers, let's keep the light on brightly and the door wide open for each of us and our membership.

Thank you always for your support and confidence with all matters concerning our Alumni Association.

Your President,

Frank R. Torres  
"Pancho"  
Class of 1963

### WebSite and Emails

The PMA WebSite is [www.PeacockMilitaryAcademy.org](http://www.PeacockMilitaryAcademy.org)

This Newsletter will be posted on the WebSite.

We need your email address for our records!

## SPECIAL FATHER AND SON 1<sup>st</sup> Captains!

The 1<sup>st</sup> Captain and Battalion Commander for **1960** was **Ronald M. Brame**. His son, Josh Brame, received the Peacock Kadet Medal while attending San Marcos Academy in 2006. He served as 1<sup>st</sup> Captain and Battalion Commander at San Marcos. I know Ronald is very proud of Josh, as we all are.

*Email from Ronald Brame to Lt. Garcia*

Your Spanish class is still with me-*ar, er and ir verbs, o, as, a mos, ais, an*. My Spanish has improved, my older daughter is fluent, and my friends are envious when we visit Cozumel or Honduras for our SCUBA trips. You had a very positive impact on my life, and I just wanted to contact you to attempt to express my appreciation for your commitment to education and specifically the Class of 1960 at PMA.

I was Class of 1960 Battalion Commander. You may remember my best friend in the class, **Ole Losoya, Class of 1960**.

After Peacock, I graduated from Texas A&M with a Bachelor of Architecture. I attended on full scholarship and graduated with honors. That sounds self-serving; however, I only want to communicate that my PMA education was very adequate, and I was prepared for college. After A&M I was commissioned as 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. in the Corps of Engineers. I attended several military schools and learned to jump from perfectly operational airplanes. I spent two years in Germany as Platoon Leader then Battalion Operations Officer. I volunteered for Vietnam and served with the 101<sup>st</sup> Airborne Division and on a general staff at Saigon Support Command, then taught at the Corps of Engineer School Headquarters in Washington, D.C. I resigned my commission, left as a Captain with two Army Commendation Medals, a Bronze Star, too many Vietnam Service Campaign Medals, and then joined an architectural firm in Dallas at the end of 1969.

Somewhat I became president of HKS Architects in Dallas in 1972 and retired in 1992. The firm grew to be the third largest in the country with offices around the country and Europe.

I am most proud of my wife, four children, and five grandchildren. We are all blessed with good health, faith in God, a capacity for hard work, and a love of country. Peacock and you had a material impact on my life; and for that, I am very thankful.

Sincerely,  
Ron Brame  
Class of 1960

*Email from Weldon Slaughter, Class of 1947*

Mike – It was great hearing from you yesterday. Thanks a lot. I had further thoughts on our talk:

**Jerry Houston, Class of 1952** – During one of our living room (Peacock House) chats we were discussing football players we both had known and it came out that he was one of Bear Bryant's Junction Boys who survived.

**Masonic Home** – The only Coyote (WFSH) loss for 1941 – like 13-6 or so. The game was scheduled as a “practice” for the Coyotes. Did the book mention that win? Also, many thanks for your offer to loan me the book. I gave up reading books 2 or 3 years ago due to eyesight. And I had cataract surgery (both eyes) 3 or 4 years ago. I have 3 of W.E.B. Griffin's books unread. He did the series called The Brotherhood of War.

**WFSH Coyotes** – They were honored by Texas Monthly last Friday night as the top Texas football team ever. Should be an article soon.

**Bobby Reagan, Class of 1947** – He gave me the 1941 football letter and game jersey. He was a one semester cadet at PMA – 1944. Was withdrawn due to parents' divorce. His father was a prominent (wealthy) doctor in WF. His mother came to say goodbye – she had joined the Army Nurse corps. I said hi to her. She was posted KIA. Also – he and **John M. Smith, Jr., Class of 1948**, were two of my best friends from WF – that I failed to include in the listing of WF boys recruited by Maj. Don on his trip to WF in 1943. That made 9 recruits! The recruits were the result of my father-in-law, J. H. Allison, who was very influential in WF and Texas.

**Shamrock Hotel** – Was built by Glenn McCarthy – wealthy oil man whose life was shown in the movie Giant. He was the principal character. Later was known as The Shamrock Hilton. Had a giant pool – with small boat towing skiers! When the AF Thunderbirds came to Houston, **Bobby Bell Edwards, Class of 1947** (BC of PMA 1946-47) was one of the pilots. **Tom Knight, Class of 1947**, and myself arranged a poolside liana (bungalow) to honor the Thunderbirds. Attended by many PMA guys from Houston area. A great bunch of men. Bell was killed in Vietnam early in that war.

Mike, I really missed the board meeting and the comradeship there. But due to my health issues and finances, I am not driving distances any more.

The best to you and Ginger  
Weldon – AKA George, Class of 1947

**NEXT BOARD MEETING**  
**Saturday, October 3, 2009**  
**The Wesley Peacock House**  
**12:00 Noon**



### 2009 DUES!

The Alumni Association has experienced a drop in dues paying members. Help us keep the Memories Alive! by paying your 2009 Dues. For those who have paid your Dues for 2009, THANKS! for doing your part!!

## HOW I ARRIVED AT PEACOCK

In the summer of 1949, my parents decided that we had to move back to our ranch. We had a problem; the nearest school was 21 miles away and I was too young to drive. How would I go to school? My friend, **Leon Lenox, Class of 1951**, went to a military school in Texas and had interested me with his stories.

Well, that fall found me at good ole PMA alongside my friend. The first few weeks I thought he was possibly the biggest liar on earth, or getting even with me for having broken his nose playing baseball.

It was quite a shock for a New Mexico boy from a town of about 8,000 to arrive at Peacock. Much less trying to find Col. Adams to get the key to the flagpole or Col. Richardson saying something that I didn't understand when I was looking for the cannon report. I couldn't understand the laughter from the older cadets when they heard me asking. I soon figured it out and was ready to go home. I didn't need this.

After a month or so I began to acclimate and spent possibly the four best years of my life at Peacock. I am sure of one thing: I made some friends that I will treasure until my dying day.

**Russ Doty, Class of 1953**

### *Dickie Dixon, Class of 1962*

PMA Alumni Board Member and my classmate, Dickie Dixon, passed away suddenly in January of 2009. The following is a card received from his wife, Judy Dixon

Dear Mike and PMA Alumni Association,

Thank you so much for the beautiful spray of red and white carnations sent in Dickie's memory. It meant so much to me that you and Ginger, as well as so many other PMA graduates, attended Dick's service. He would have been so humbled!

Dick was so proud to have gone to Peacock Military Academy! This was evidenced by his joyful anticipation and excitement in attending the Alumni Meetings every six months. I too enjoyed so much attending with him, and getting to know his classmates and their wives these last few years. It was actually on a return trip from San Antonio four years ago that he proposed.

I appreciate your thoughts, prayers and kindness following Dick's sudden death. He loved all of you and I do too!

Warmly,  
Judy

*Email from Weldon Slaughter, Class of 1947*  
**Ruffin Paine Johnson, Class of 1950** aka El Lobo Solo (or for Gringos – The Lone Wolf)

Many years ago while pursuing my hobby of clunker gun collecting and amateur gun smithing, I happened upon a copy of Gun World Magazine. The feature article was a portrait on **Ruffin Johnson, Class of 1950**. I immediately recalled him because of his unusual first name. It was an interesting article with several photos of Ruffin and his handiwork – custom hunting knives! Also I noted that he was in Houston – my adopted home town.

I contacted him by telephone and we had a nice visit. He remembered me well because of my height and being a varsity football end noted for catching passes. He brought me up to date on his vocation of custom knife making and his moniker of El Lobo Solo. He made knives on order and for sale to the public – mostly at gun shows. As I was a regular at gun shows in Houston, we arranged to meet and visit at the next Houston Gun Collectors Show at the Astrodome Arena. We met and I had no trouble remembering him. He was just an older version of the Cadet 3 years behind me. He may have been in a barracks I was in charge of for a while my Senior Year – Birkhead Hall. We had a nice visit and brought each other up to date since graduating from PMA.

I had one son left at home – Rob – who had taken up hunting. He drooled at the possibility of having a custom hunting knife. So Ruffin and I discussed him making us two knives – to be engraved on one side: Peacock Military Academy: 1894-1973 and the other side a full spread Peacock with our names in script. But something happened to me like lung cancer and the deal was never finalized.

Recently we chatted and he told me of his experiences after Hurricane Ike (September, 2008) in that he was without power for two weeks and managed to keep his frozen foods and refrigerator foods by using a portable gasoline powered generator. His home sustained no other damage – lucky him.

He was for years under contract with a Louisiana oil company to manufacture presentation hunting knives and was awarded a bonus of hunting privileges on the King Ranch. However the demand got too great and he farmed out the contract to another knife maker friend. He's slowing down like most of us – old age gets you! He now only does presentation knives for individuals and gun show sales. He was greatly surprised at **Rudy Johnson, Class of 1953**, (no kin) awarding a K-Bar Knife to the Marine Military Academy as a supplement to the Peacock Kadet Medal each year. I do not know if the K-Bars have custom engraving.

Sins 30

**G. Weldon Slaughter, Class of 1947**

## Donation made to Alumni Association

The Alumni Association is saddened by the passing of **Gene Johnson Potter, Class of 1945**, on April 23, 2009. Gene was very active with our Alumni Association serving as a Board Member and Faculty Advisor. Gene graduated in 1945 as Battalion Commander. He was President of the Senior Class and Captain of the Football Team. After graduation, Gene enlisted in the Army serving in the Philippines. He returned to Peacock after the War and became the Assistant Professor of Military Science and Tactics. Gene's daughter, Cynthia Ream, was kind enough to donate many pictures that Gene had collected over the years. We will display these pictures in The Wesley Peacock House. She can be reached at:

Cynthia Ream  
3281C Deep Lake Boundary Road  
Colville, Washington 99114

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### HOW TO CONTACT PMA

830-816-5013      Mike's Home Telephone  
[gingervlieger@aol.com](mailto:gingervlieger@aol.com)      Best Choice  
[jabonero@aol.com](mailto:jabonero@aol.com)      Next Best Choice

## TWO NEW LIFE MEMBERS

Johnny Lee Isbell, Class of 1957  
Monte Albert Cauble, Class of 1972

***The Alumni Association thanks you for your support!***

## TAPS

Gene Johnson Potter, Class of 1945  
Teddy Otto Uhlaender, Class of 1957  
Ben Bevers, Class of 1958  
Walker Bryan (Dickie) Dixon, Jr., Class of 1962



Michael E. Umbers, Class of 1950  
James Edwin  
Womack, Class of 1950



**DVD's Available - \$10.00**

Note: The quality varies as these are made from home movies, some over 60 years old!

Monkey Drill 1942

PMA 1962-1963

Paul Weston Graduation Parade 1952

Centennial Reunion 1994 Sunday Morning

Centennial Reunion 1994

PMA Reunion 2006

Ralph Braswell PMA 1947

PMA 1963 - 1966

PMA 1947

San Antonio Remembered KLRN - Peacock Segment

Bobby Bell Edwards 1946-1947

Alfred L. Burden 1951

The Wesley Peacock House Inventory 1990

PMA Memorial Dedication 1998

PMA 1989-Movie Trailer, House Renovation, TV News

Three Peacock Sisters

**CD's Available - \$5.00**

Commencement 1973

Professor Wesley Peacock, Sr., Radio Talk 1940

Ghost in the Church - Colonel Wesley Peacock

Colonel Wesley Peacock Naval School-Corpus Christi, Tx

Colonel Wesley Peacock-The Peacock School 1940

Colonel Thiesen 1991

King Vidor Interview 1978

Colonel Wesley Peacock "Memories"

Uncle Wesley - Peacock Academy

PMA Distinguished Alumni and Other Memories

Uncle Wesley - 1989

Colonel Donald Peacock - Memories 1984