



Kadet Newsletter

Peacock Military Academy

Alumni Association

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Michael A. Vlieger '62, CEO

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Kadets,

As I awake to the new day and hear the news or read the newspaper, I realize the significant diversity in all of us. We were only "created" equal--- whatever developed is up to us. There are only guidelines, and strangely enough, the most important ones are based upon unknown, infinite factors of the equation. Faith, hope, love, sensitivity, compassion, charity---all are emotional and our basic foundation of strength. For without these we cannot work to accomplish anything of lasting value. If this organization is to accomplish what was instilled in us at that campus we called home for so many years we must reflect on one thing. All of the virtues I have mentioned are useless unless they are practiced in harmony with many others---either as family or through teamwork. We learned this at Peacock, not only on the athletic field, but in every aspect of our daily lives. Zou-aves scaling the wall, Monkey Drill carrying the top man with two flags (not holding on, but being held). Giving commands and have all things happen. There is very little that can make you more excited than the command "Pass in Review". The anticipation, the preparation by movement as bands move, colors turn, commanders position themselves and staff, all for that proud instant in front of the reviewing stand. Is that it? I think not. The adrenalin builds as the battalion moves off the field and the special units begin their performance. As your team performs a flawless exercise, the feeling of a challenge done well! Were you part? Do you remember? Has it been lost? Only you can answer these questions.....

I can only be a "spark", if there is dry wood ready to catch fire and produce the heat needed to temper the fine steel of young men that will continue a worthwhile endeavor. Faith, hope, charity, which is greatest? They are all movers and shakers and cannot stand separate. For without all three, you cannot be complete. If you want me to lead, you must be active, able, and willing to follow. I love you all and will give everything to the cause of which I speak.

RUDY JOHNSON '53

MRS. WESLEY PEACOCK, JR. REMEMBERED

Mrs. Wesley Peacock, Jr. passed away on February 17th. A memorial service was held at Beacon Hill Presbyterian Church on February 21st.

"Miss Frances" became an official part of the Peacock Family and the Academy when she married Colonel Wesley in 1940.

Through the years she -- along with "Miss Ellen", Colonel Donald's wife -- was an active hostess for PMA, chaperoning dances and other events in which the Cadets participated.

She and Colonel Wesley were Co-Founders of the Peacock Family Association of the South, which now numbers over 300 members.

COACH COLLINS' EULOGY

Coach Lloyd W. Collins passed away April 10th. The Alumni are saddened by his passing and extend our condolences to Anne Collins. The Eulogy, given by Wayne Spivey at the graveside, is enclosed in this Newsletter.

BATTLE OF FLOWERS TAPE

The Battle of Flowers Association and Minnette Buzzini presented the Alumni Association with a copy of a new video titled, "The Battle of Flowers Association Presents Its Early Parade History Circa 1890 - 1930." There are many pictures of the early Peacock floats depicted on this video. Be sure to see this tape on your next visit to the Peacock House. Many thanks to Minnette Buzzini, wife of Alumnus Walter Buzzini, '49 for delivering this tape.

NEXT BOARD MEETING

The Alumni Board of Directors' next meeting will be held Saturday, August 5, 1995, at the Wesley Peacock House.

Excerpt from Board of Directors Minutes

Lynn Powell presented several options for the Association's future. Making a "physical presence" was foremost of plans. A committee to present options for a Senior Terrace Memorial was appointed. Members are Frank VanDelden, Ed Ford, Wayne Spivey, and Kirk Johnson.



Mrs. Wesley Peacock, Jr.
L. W. "Coach" Collins
William H. (Bill) Edwards '49
William Mason Dunn '68
Robert H. Carneiro '48



PMA POST EXCHANGE

<i>Centennial Caps</i>	<i>\$10.00</i>
<i>Alumni Ceramic Coffee Mug</i>	<i>\$5.00</i>
<i>Alumni 1994 Directory</i>	<i>\$5.00</i>
<i>PMA Patches</i>	<i>\$2.00</i>
<i>Parade Rest Book I</i>	<i>\$18.00</i>
<i>Parade Rest Book II</i>	<i>\$18.00</i>
<i>Centennial Reunion Video</i>	<i>\$20.00</i>
<i>Monkey Drill Video 1942</i>	<i>\$15.00</i>
<i>Alumni Reunion 1989</i>	<i>\$15.00</i>
<i>Ralph Braswell 1947</i>	<i>\$15.00</i>
<i>Field Day 1952</i>	<i>\$15.00</i>
<i>Dr. Alfred Burden Tape 1951</i>	<i>\$15.00</i>
<i>Ronnie Swain 1962-1963</i>	<i>\$15.00</i>
<i>Steve Copenhaver Tape</i>	<i>\$15.00</i>
<i>Bobby Bell Edwards Tape</i>	<i>\$15.00</i>

Please note all Alumni merchandise is of high quality including the Centennial Reunion tape and the Alumni Reunion tape of 1989. All other videos are of varying quality due to age and original quality of the film. All prices include postage and packaging. Mail your orders to PMA Alumni, 2811 West Ashby, San Antonio, Texas 78201.

PEACOCK HOUSE ADDITION PLANNED

Frank VanDelden '46 has spent several hours completing schematic drawings and floor plans of the proposed addition to and changes within the Wesley Peacock House, home of the Peacock Alumni Association and The Salvation Army Women's Auxiliary.

The Open House during the Centennial Reunion was attended by approximately 200 Alumni and wives and recent affairs the Auxiliary with similar large turnouts have brought home the need for more space, including a much larger kitchen where food and refreshments are prepared, another restroom, and more space for storage, plus a large "workroom" for the many Auxiliary programs.

The Auxiliary is sponsoring the project, estimated at \$100,000.00, and hopes to raise the money from Foundation Grants to The Salvation Army for this purpose.

ANNE COLLINS THANKS THE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

Dear Fellows:

I would like to express my thanks to each of you who has shown so much respect and affection for Coach Collins.

For those of you who do not know, he died on April 10th and was buried in Blanco, Texas on April 12th. It was a simple graveside service, as he had requested. Wayne Spivey delivered an eulogy that expressed the feelings of several of you. Rudy Johnson also spoke briefly and I am certain he spoke not only for himself, but for all of you.

Coach Collins had been quite ill for the past six months and Wayne was a great help to me. I have really appreciated the phone calls, cards, letters and the memorials from all of you.

I plan to stay in San Antonio. I will always be delighted to have you come by for a visit.

EULOGY

Lloyd W. "Coach" Collins

It is difficult, almost impossible for me to put into words my feelings about Coach Collins. I say this because this is how I, and countless others who have been touched by his life, knew and remember him.

Coach Collins was not only a coach of athletics, but was in every sense of the word, a friend, a teacher, a mentor, and oft times a confidant. He was present at a time in my life and in the lives of others when these qualities were needed. I personally now know how badly I needed them. I am not certain they were, at that time, always welcomed by all, including me.

An athletic coach seems to play a very unique role in the education process. He is a teacher of academic subjects as well as a teacher of athletic skills. He is a builder of character on and off the field. Coach Collins excelled in all three areas, academic, athletic and character building. In the classroom and on the field he was tough, demanding and insisted upon excellence to the degree one was capable. He demanded our best effort, not once or now and then, but always. Do it over and over until we got it right. And he tested us periodically to insure we still did it right!! I say, and I think I can for those countless others, that is an extremely important legacy. A legacy learned, that we used with those we instructed in the ways to conduct their lives.

Coach Collins was fair and treated us with respect. He understood that what he could instill in us, both in the classroom and on the playing field, was of utmost importance. He knew we would carry it with us and translate it into solid productive traits as we went into the world and reached for our futures.

Coach spent a good many years with young men in their formative years when values were being nailed down. He played a big part in nailing down those values in me and with, I'm sure, the others whose lives he touched.

I want to read a few words from some of the men whose lives he touched. When Coach Collins asked me to deliver his eulogy I wrote to these men and asked them to tell me how he had an impact on their lives. This is what they told me.

My thoughts about Captain Collins are many. To pick one that meant more than the others would be difficult. I believe this one pretty well wraps it up. Captain Collins knew it would be hard for me to play Varsity Football because I could not hear well. He told me that some of the best men could not hear either. He taught me to put my heart into whatever I did, and I would do well. The philosophy has stuck with me throughout my life.

Jack Turner

A story concerning football was a time we were to play T.M.I. They ran the Split T formation and Coach Collins said he didn't know how to defense it, so he called the coach at Texas A&M. The coach at A&M was Paul "Bear" Bryant. Coach told us that the Bear had told him how to play against the formation. It was not until years later when I remembered what he told us did I realize that he probably never talked to the Bear at all. He just told us he did to inspire us to play and play well. It must have worked because we clobbered T.M.I.

Buddy Bruni

I was Officer of the Day and I walked into Wilson Hall. A young cadet was in a panic knocking on the Captain's door. When Captain Collins opened the door, the cadet blurted out something about flooding. I followed them to the showers and the floor was awash with the shower still in full stream. Coach turned to the young cadet and said very calmly, "Son, I believe the first thing to do is to turn off the faucet and then clean up this mess." I'll never forget the look on that young boy's face. He had just learned what we already knew about our Coach. His fairness and the cool logic that he used to explain and solve problems has stuck with me all these years. He was one of the major forces in shaping my life. Seldom, does one meet someone who has the qualities necessary to lead and teach young people how to cope with life and at the same time be able to lead them, when necessary, "To Hell and Back".

Leon Lenox

Coach Collins brought out a side of me I didn't know existed, the ability to bow your neck and grind it out when the going gets really tough. I believe the real lasting legacy of Coach Collins was that, by the confidence he showed in us, he made us all believe we had some real worth, that we were winners. That is a gift beyond measure to give a youngster. It will be so helpful in meeting the later challenges of life.

Henry Cullins

We loved you Coach and we will miss you. You are gone but you will never be forgotten. God Bless You.

Jerry Houston, '52 writes about his First Day and Last Day at PMA:

Day One

We were moving from Amarillo to Dallas. My mother, my aunt, and I drove on the campus with the intent, I thought, of looking around a bit . . . maybe talking to an administrator . . . maybe seeing if I might like a military type boarding school. I had never been a good student, and I was barely out of bed from a follow-on complication with the mumps--the kind girls don't have to sweat.

Magically, I thought, we found ourselves in Colonel Wesley's office. His confident pride in the school and his manner with those dear to me made a good impression--on all of us. When the question--"Would you like to try Peacock for a year?"--came from my mother, I was stuck for an answer. Not stunned, necessarily, I'd just not considered it.

Some comment suggested we change rooms, or leave--I don't recall exactly--and, being closest to the door, I turned to exit first. In what had to have been an athletic movement, Colonel Wesley covered the space between his desk and the door in time to place a restraining hand on my shoulder and say, "We gentlemen always insist that the ladies precede us through doors." The tone, the firm but gentle hand, and the instructive moment were a major turning point in my life. I was chagrined; my training to that point had been lacking. It was evident.

A fellow freshman, Clark Richins, was tasked with taking me to pick up my school books. I was to look at them overnight and decide if Peacock was for me. If so, the next day would be spent buying uniforms. Clark took me to the head of the line, and said Colonel Wesley told him we had priority. He said it with a straight face, but he winked at me. I liked that. A firm regime, but with room for maneuver. I was sold. I stayed.

The Last Day

My last day started the night before. That eagerly sought event we'd clawed toward, had

not only come into view, but darned if it wasn't racing at us--full tilt--and we couldn't backpedal out of the way. As a favor to the seniors, Rudy Johnson had promised to blow taps. Tattoo passed, and twenty-one seniors maneuvered for listening advantage. In finest masochistic tradition, I decided to claim front-row-center. I planted my heels on my Battalion Commander's spot on the sidewalk in front of Johnston Hall at rigid attention and faced the bugler's megaphone.

At the first sweet, dragging note, I saluted. Barracks' lights were out; windows were raised; you sensed, rather than saw, attentive faces behind darkened screens. As smooth, familiar notes cried out through the night, pent up tears burst traditional dams. Shameless rivulets bearing memories, both sad and bright, dampened cheeks, a collar, and a faceless future.

Rudy rotated the megaphone. The repeat he aimed at Woodlawn Lake. The best, we knew, had come at last. Each pristine note pure now birthed a 2-second delayed echo at quarter volume, but more pure, I swear, though I know not how. I remember thinking how lucky the people were who lived between our fortress and the lake. It was over. Rudy turned, walked over, and would have talked. I flashed a thumbs up and fled for bed.

In a good life filled with bounty, I've heard the nation's best: Silver Taps at Aggieland, Memorial Day at Arlington National Cemetery, and forecastle memorial services for friends in aircraft carriers on the seven seas. All were touching; all were professionally done. None, however, came near to Rudy's taps, blown from Peacock ground at Woodlawn Lake with love.

That shortest night was spent thinking of proper words for adequate goodbyes. None came. Just as well. Somehow, I remember invoking God's presence on the graduation ceremony--while secretly blessing Colonel Howard "Shorty" Adams for years of memorization training. Then the line and handshakes. No words from me, just head nods and a lifetime's worth of tears.

PAT BOSCAAMP REPORTS IN

Richard E. Bradford, PMA '53, continues to enjoy his career as a movie and television star. Currently, he plays the role of the spaceship commander in the new NBC TV series "Earth 2" shown every Sunday night. I have also seen him many times on other television shows like "Cagney and Lacey," "The Commish," and "Murder She Wrote." Recently, Richard was on a show called "The Chinatown Murders" in which he played a New York police detective. His acting is always superb. I hear from Richard quite often when he is between acting jobs and enjoy hearing from him.

Patrick F. Boscamp '60
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JACK PALMER '40, graduated from West Point and served 20 years as a Pilot in the U.S. Air Force, with the rank of Major. He and his wife, "Bunty" now live in San Antonio following his retirement as an engineer with Civil Service.

WILLIAM CHESHIRE '47, graduated from West Texas State University and for 12 years was Dean of Student Services at Texas State Technical Institute before other careers. At Peacock he was a Cadet Captain of Cavalry and an outstanding acrobatic member of the Monkey Drill Team. (See Page 35 of "Parade Rest, Book Two") His love of horses continues. He and his wife, Mary Kathryn, live in Amarillo, Texas.

RONALD RICHARDSON '47, was in the middle of the fighting in Korea. In the book, "A Korean Odyssey", Ron is mentioned several times. The book focuses on the experiences of the 224th Regiment, 40th Division, in which he was a Forward Observer, Heavy Mortars. He earned the Combat Infantryman Badge, one of the most coveted military decorations. He is now retired and lives in McAllen, Texas.

NEWS BRIEFS

BILL EDWARDS '49, who died recently, had the distinction of being the only Cadet in the Academy's history to be BOTH Captain of the Cavalry Troop and Battalion Commander at the same time. He was also Captain of the Monkey Drill Team the same year. A veteran of the U.S. Navy, he served in the submarine service in Korea, earning the Purple Heart Medal and a Presidential Citation.

PMA Alumni Association, Inc.

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