



Kadet Newsletter

Peacock Military Academy Alumni Association, Inc.

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Dear Peacock Brothers,

We had our Board of Directors spring meeting on the 6th of April. Like always the attendance from the Board Members was very good. My sincere gratitude goes out to all the Board Members who attended. We continue to meet at the old Wesley Peacock House, which was the headquarters of our school. I would like to extend an invitation to all Kadets to attend our board meetings. Meetings are held the first Saturday of April and October. Our next board meeting will be on Saturday October 5th at 12:00 Noon.

As always our meeting was very animated, as we are always happy to meet with our fellow Peacock Brothers. Reports from each committee were presented. The following were the major subjects:

Scholarship Committee: I am happy to announce to you that we will be able to present the first Peacock Scholarship award this year in the amount of \$5,000 for the Fall Semester of 2019. Our special thanks to all committee members for

their hard work in making this possible. But especially to all of you who have contributed to the creation of the Peacock Military Academy Memorial Scholarship Fund.

As of this writing, out of 25 applicants we had 3 finalists. Donna Peacock is participating in the interviews of all 3 finalists. All finalists are enrolled in College ROTC. Please continue to donate to the Peacock Scholarship Fund so we are able to reach more individuals in the future. Two generous contributors are now matching dollar per dollar all donations up to \$20,000 per year.

Facilities Committee: As you all well know the Wesley Peacock House is where we keep our records, memorabilia and hold our meetings. Last year we had to replace the A/C with the Salvation Army sharing in half the cost. I am asking all Kadets to please donate to the maintenance of the building. We are hoping to paint the house and repair odds and ends in order to keep the house in great condition. Please be as generous as

you can in your donation. My gratitude to the facilities committee for their good work.

2020 Reunion: The Board authorized Raul Gonzalez '68 and David Lewis '70 to start negotiations with the Omni Hotel. Updates will follow as we get closer to the reunion, which will be held October 2-4, 2020. Please save the date; it is never too early to start planning. Make an effort to attend our next reunion and encourage your classmates to come to this wonderful event.

Thank you all for your continued support and God Bless.



Raul Gonzalez
Class of '68
PMA Alumni Association

PMA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

OFFICERS

President	Raul Gonzalez '68
1st Vice President	Robert Ogden (Butch) Good II '67
2nd Vice President	Steven C. Copenhaver '66
3rd Vice President	Ralph Travis Harvey '62
Secretary	Henry Allen (Butch) Daughtry '58
Treasurer	Martin James Cavanaugh '67
Chief Exe. Officer	Arturo V. Wolf '73

BOARD MEMBERS

Earl B. Adams '62
Robert D. Meuth '72
Peter Barbeck '73
Richard Miner '58
Lloyd J. (Buddy) Bell '52
Melchor Elvie Muzkiz '73
Robert Carl Birkenmeier '67
Gerald Leslie Ragsdale '71
Gary Allen Blum '62

ALTERNATES

Frank Reyna Torres '63	William Jeff Riggs '67
Edwin R. Ford '62	
Michael A. Vlieger '62	
Rudolph M. (Rudy) Johnson '53	
William Tandy Walker '73	
James Barrett (Jim) Kenney '59	
Ronald Bruce Williams '68	
David Foye Lewis '70	
James Neil (Jim) Zachary '64	

TAPS

Donald (Don) Gordon Brookshire '51
 J. Earl Lacy '54
 Joseph Gomes Carinhas '54
 Philip Payne Souza '57
 James Ford (Jim) Harvey '62
 Kurt Stine '64
 Theodore James Morris '68
 Gregory Archer Reid '73



Welcome New Life Members!!!

Manuel E. Gonzalez III '63
 Col. Leopoldo "Leo" R. Vasquez Jr. '60
 Stephen L. Brownfield '62

Peacock Military Academy Memorial Scholarship Fund



Created to perpetuate the Peacock Legacy

All contributions are tax deductible. You may send your donation along with your annual dues.

PMA Memorial Scholarship Honor Roll *

The Peacock Family	Terry L. Royal '57
Ben E. Sutton '42	Bernie L. Young '57
John F. Kiel '47	Gene G. Hughs Jr. '60
Edward Sebera '49	James C. Norman '60
Johan Heidenreich '50	David S. Hale '62
Arthur F. Wolf '51	Edwin R. Kollman '63
Joshua A. Tilton '52	Kenneth Earl Porter '63
L.B. Johnson '56	Edmund Valdes '69
William D. Morse Jr. '56	Arthur Anthony Wolf

Class of '53 Deceased:
 Otho Bolton, Robert Bleuler, Richard Bradford, Jimmy Chamness, Charles Cole, Jack Gilpin, Robert Haley, Colon Loft, Leonard Millstead, Wyatt Myers, George Ochoa, Delbert Robertson, William Whitfield.

REMINDER!

Board of Directors will meet at noon

Saturday,
 October 5, 2019

The Wesley
 Peacock House



2019 Dues

The Alumni Association is collecting dues for 2019 and a Dues Form is included with this Newsletter. The Dues Form may also be used to make a contribution to the Scholarship Fund.



THANKS!

Register on our PMA Website:
<http://www.pmaalumni.org>



Have Problems?

Contact Our Webmaster Bob Birkenmeier '67
 at birk@pmaalumni.org

PMA Facebook Page: Wesley Peacock House
 Peacock Military Facebook Page:
 Academy Alumni W Peacock House

PEACOCK MERCHANDISE

Caps (Green or Khaki)	\$10.00
T-Shirts	\$10.00
Polo Shirts	\$25.00
Totes	\$15.00
Pennants	\$8.00
Decals	\$3.00
Koozies	\$2.00
Coffee Mugs	\$5.00
Aprons	\$10.00
Peacock Patches	\$3.50
Lapel Pins	\$7.00
DVDs	\$3.00
Sweatshirts	\$20.00
Parade Rest Book II	\$10.00

FOR PEACOCK MERCHANDISE
 EMAIL ARTURO WOLF '73 AT:
awolf@pmaalumni.org

Please add \$5.00 for shipping and handling.

FREE SHIPPING & HANDLING
 FOR ORDERS OF \$40 OR HIGHER.

PEACOCK MEDAL RECIPIENTS FOR 2019

This past spring, once again the Peacock Military Academy Alumni Association presented the Peacock Medal to the outstanding military cadet of four different Texas academies. The purpose of this coveted award is to honor cadets that have excelled during the year in their respective corps. The medal is always presented by a Peacock alumnus.

Recipients for the 2019 Peacock medal were:

San Marcos Academy – Cadet Gordon Murphy
Presented by **David Lewis '70**

San Antonio Academy – Cadet Richard Cage
Presented by **Bruce Williams '68**

Texas Military Institute – Cadet Troy Rollwitz
Presented by **James Hyslop '62**

Marine Military Academy - Cadet Brian Pritchard
Presented by **Earl Adams '62**



Bruce Williams '62 presenting Peacock Medal to Cadet Richard Cage at San Antonio Academy

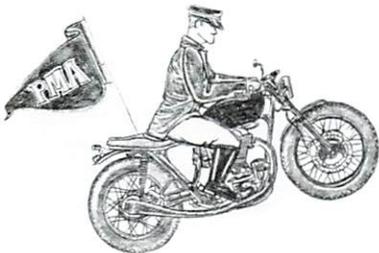
The Wesley Peacock House still needs your help

In the last Newsletter we sent an appeal to all former Kadets for donations for maintenance of our beloved Peacock House which shelters all of our memorabilia and academy records. The response was good and several of you were very generous. However, we are still in need for some additional funds to complete our maintenance projects, mainly on the exterior of the house. We have resolved and completed major issues inside the house.



Please remember to add a few dollars for the Wesley Peacock House when you fill out your annual dues.

The Wesley Peacock House is our house! Thank you in advance for your generosity.



PEACOCK MOTORIZED CAVALRY NEWS

*Texas Vietnam Veterans Memorial Highway
Welcome Home Motorcycle Run*



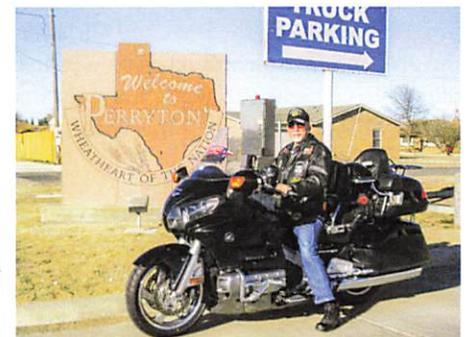
The Texas Vietnam Veterans Welcome Home Motorcycle Run started back in 2003 by Brent Jackson. Mr. Jackson founded the run because he believed that all Veterans deserved a proper "Welcome Home", especially those of the Vietnam Era. The Welcome Home Run is comprised of Vietnam Veterans, Military members, past and present, and civilians who support our troops.



The ride begins in Perryton, Texas and ends in Brownsville, Texas. We take Highway 83 all the way from Perryton to Brownsville. We stop along the way in different towns, where we visit Veteran cemeteries and Veteran nursing homes. The towns that we stop at have food and ceremonies for us. This year there were 80 motorcycles and the trip took 4 days. For me it's about a 2000

mile ride. We went from a cool 28 degrees in Perryton to a high of 80 degrees in Brownsville.

This ride is always in March during the spring break. If any Peacock motorcycle riders would like to join us next year please let me know. There is a \$25 registration fee and we pay our hotels. It's a fun ride and you meet very interesting people.



Raul Gonzalez '68
Raulgonzalez48@hotmail.com

Mike's Memories

I always remember the new cars that arrived around graduation time. Seniors were allowed to bring their cars two weeks prior to graduation. The cars would be parked on Ashby looking good. My earliest memory was of a 1960 Chevrolet Convertible, red and white with the hounds tooth interior. From my class there are two that stand out: A 1962 red Catalina that **Gary Blum '62** was the proud owner of. It had a 389 engine with a 4 speed. I always remind Gary of this awesome Pontiac when we are together. The car that made the biggest impression on me was **Tommy McNutt's** 1962 Impala. It had a 327 engine with 4 speed transmission. At a recent car show I saw a car exactly like Mc Nutt's Aztec gold Impala on display. See picture. I had a '59 Ford my senior year. They made them tough in those days. Maybe other Kadets will remember more of the Detroit Iron.



Mike Vlieger '62

In response Butch Daughtry '58 wrote:

And then...there were those of us who could only envy those cars at graduation. My transportation was a black four door 1938 Chevy that was NOT the envy of anyone!!! Sold it after graduation and a year or so later bought a red and white 1959 Ford Galaxy two door. Drove the wheels off of it. And now all these years later, I really would LOVE to still have the 38 Chevy and restored. Funny how our values and priorities can change over time.

Butch Daughtry '58

Butch Daughtry is so very right about how our priorities change over time. While a 38 Chevy was not appreciated as much in 1958, now our fellow Peacock Brother **David Lewis '70** is the proud owner of a beautiful '32 Ford hot rod. See picture.



Kadet News

Pete Van De Putte, a PMA faculty member from 1969 to 1971 owns Dixie Flag and Banners Company in San Antonio. They are providers of custom flags and banners for organizations like the San Antonio Spurs, Valero Alamo Bowl, the U.S. Army All American Bowl, San Antonio Fiesta Commission, and many others. They also provide hardware for flag poles and the PMA Alumni Association has been a customer. Pete is giving a program educating the Boys and Girls Club on flags to include the proper decorum and respect owed to the U.S. flag. He has offered to come to our next reunion to share his program. The picture shows Pete in the King Vidor Auditorium on the Peacock Campus.



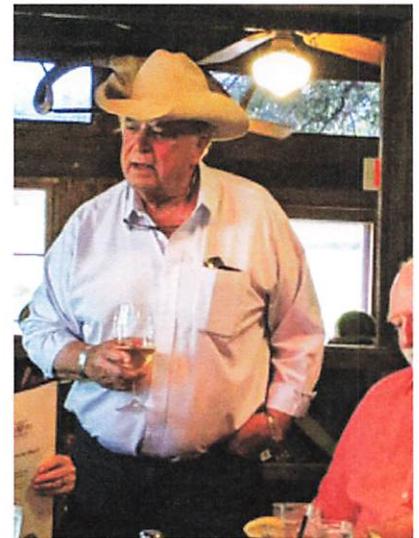
Pete Van De Putte lecturing on the flag. King Vidor auditorium.

J. Earl Lacy '54 has passed away. His wife Susan informed the PMA Alumni Association. Earl had suffered serious health issues for the past 3 years. He now rests in peace in a better place.

Philip P. Souza '57 succumbed to cancer after a valiant fight. His daughter Tonya Souza had informed us back in March that Philip was in hospice care in Seattle, Washington. He passed this past May. We will miss him dearly.

The Peacock Alumni were represented by Board Members at the **Annual Salvation Army Luncheon** which took place at Incarnate Word University. Guest speaker was Mrs. Laura Bush. The luncheon serves the purpose of helping the Salvation Army continue its mission of Doing the Most Good for our community.

Gary Blum '62 was given a great surprise by his daughter. A 75th birthday party at the Perini Ranch in Buffalo Gap, Texas. Gary and his wife Vivian along with 20 of their friends enjoyed a great time and excellent food. The famous **Perini Ranch** is owned by **Tom Perini '62** and his wife Lisa. It is an award winning steakhouse that also includes guest quarters and has been featured in Forbes, Texas Monthly, The New York Times, People magazine and Gourmet magazine. Tom has also appeared several times on the Food Network. What a great treat for Gary to celebrate at his classmate Tom's establishment!



Tom Perini '62, Owner of Perini Ranch and Steakhouse.

The PMA Alumni Association, Salvation Army and the Boys and Girls Club joined forces to provide a new electronic scoreboard

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1st PEACOCK SCHOLARSHIP AWARDED



“Do or Dee”. We did it! The first PMA Scholarship has been awarded. The announcement of the Scholarship immediately resulted in requests for 30 applications by ROTC cadets. Our first Scholarship was offered to the University of Texas at San Antonio and Texas A&M San Antonio. In response to the 30 requests, we received four replies

with completed applications and essays. After review, one was eliminated. The remaining three, after further review and scoring, were essentially tied. This brought us to the personal interview phase to help us decide the winning applicant.

I have to say that all three were great candidates and it was very difficult to decide on the winner. Each and every one interviewed very well. Rudy Johnson had the opportunity to meet one of the candidates, so he knows the level of quality individuals that were the finalists.

The decision on the winning applicant was unanimous. Donna Peacock, Ralph Harvey '62 and I, all chose the same applicant to be the recipient of the first PMA Memorial Scholarship award. Her name is Kaitlin Smith, a Freshman at UTSA. She graduated

early at 17 from High School. Kaitlin convinced her parents to sign for her so she could join the Army. She has completed basic training and has completed jump school “Paratrooper”. Kaitlin would like to become an Army Ranger.

Kaitlin has been invited to our Alumni Board Meeting in October. This will give the Board the opportunity to meet PFC Kaitlin Smith. Thanks to the Board for all your encouragement, support and input.

Mike Vlieger '62
PMA Memorial Scholarship Committee



Kadet News

(continued)



New scoreboard.

for the **Peacock Center Gymnasium**. In the pictures you can observe the new scoreboard with our PMA logo along with the Salvation Army's. We are proud to contribute to the healthy development of our community youth and at the same time, keep the spirit of Peacock alive on the campus.

We received the sad news of the passing of **Gregory Reid '73** in McAllen, Texas. Greg, along with several dozen Peacock Kadets, transferred to San Marcos Academy after PMA's closing. He graduated with the rank of Captain commanding Company A. Greg and his fellow former Peacock students demonstrated high achievement in military, sports and scholastic endeavors. We will honor him at our next alumni at our Gray Line Ceremony.



PMA Board in front of the new scoreboard.

The Salvation Army Peacock Center has new Corps Officers. **Russ and Linda Keeney** from Abilene, Texas have replaced Lieutenants Ben and Charlise Godwin who were transferred to Big Springs, Texas. We welcome Russ and Linda and look forward to working together.

THE PEACOCK MONKEY DRILL TEAM

There was a time in which rodeo fans across the country and even Mexico, were familiar with the famous Peacock Military Academy Monkey Drill Team. Some of the biggest fans were Roy Rogers and Dale Evans. Roy Rogers loved to visit during rodeo breaks with the very athletic young men who performed spectacular trick riding stunts to the delight of the crowds.



Famous Monkey Drill Team "Pyramid." Top man: Ernest Bruni of Laredo (Class of '52)

San Antonio crowds attending the Peacock Military Academy parades were fortunate and enthusiastic witnesses to the wonderful spectacle of skilled riding acrobatics by the Peacock centaurs. The team always drew a large attendance, and showmanship along with skill of the riders brought them back time and time again.

Peacock was one of few military schools in its time with a cavalry program. Col. Donald Peacock, having served as a Cavalry Officer in the National Guard and later Fifth Cavalry Regiment of the U.S. Cavalry Reserve

at Fort Clark, created the Peacock Cavalry Unit known as "The Peacock Lancers" in the 1930's. The unit consisted of 40 horses and riders.

The Peacock "Monkey Drill Team" was an offshoot of the cavalry. Like the cavalry, the trick riding team was Col. Don Peacock's idea. It was formed in 1935 and the team became a colorful tradition for over two decades. The idea came to Col. Don while on his first active duty when he became fascinated with a long-time cavalry tradition.

Back in the day, cavalry regiments in isolated posts had a lot of time on their hands. So the men practiced trick riding and formed crack teams. Eventually every cavalry regiment had its monkey drill team, named that way because of the monkey-like acrobatic feats they performed.

A young Don Peacock filmed these antics and the equipment used and when he returned to San Antonio he recruited the more skilled cavalry cadets to form part of this elite drill team. It is a story similar to another of Don's creations "The Peacock Zouaves" which were an elite infantry drill team.

The team consisted of 10 to 14 cadets and a few "spares" in case someone took a hard fall. Donna Peacock in her book *Parade Rest Book One* has a wonderful description of a typical Peacock Monkey Drill Team drill performance:

The entry onto the field or arena was spiced up by the boy's lively swinging off and on as their horses kept on the run. This feat consisted of the rider's holding on tightly to a leather loop on the riding pad, swinging both legs to one side of the horse, then toward the horse's neck, twisting slightly back and touching the ground before swinging back to the regular position.



Pablo Andrade from Mexico City, class of '41

Then came the standing up. Standing up and riding on a single galloping horse was actually far more difficult than on two or more horses because one horse's narrow back provided little area for balancing. But audiences never seemed to appreciate this fact, preferring the Roman riding, performed by the longer-legged cadets manipulating two, three, four and sometimes even five horses into an exciting run. For added effect, the Roman riding was often done with two sets of horses and riders suggesting ancient races on the field of competition.

Jumping was one of the more spectacular events of the program. The boys began by taking the jumps seated, the reins held in their mouths and their arms outspread, then cleared the hurdles while seated backwards. Then the hardest task: taking jumps standing on a single horse. Still, spectators thrilled more to the Roman jumping, and usually one of the boys was in there riding as many as four or five mounts.

The finale was a pyramid: four boys seated on four horses, three boys standing on the same horses, and the team's smallest (and usually the youngest) member sitting on the shoulders of the middle standing rider. The pyramid went twice around the field, the top man holding one or two American flags. Then on the



Monkey Drill Acrobatic Riding Team 1952. L to R, back row: Ham, co-capt; Ragland, co-capt; Muhn; Nance; Stewart; Gonzalez B.; Phillips; Wolf; Herbert. Front: Guitierrez, standing; Crutcher, sitting

second round, just as the spectators relaxed, the little one aloft did a backward flip and was caught by the seat of his pants by the standing teammates. This last move caught the audience unawares and first reactions were commonly those of alarm, soon followed by amused relief.

The Peacock Monkey Drill Team was dissolved at the end of the 1955-56 school year. A fire in late 1951 had reduced the number of horses and the growing urbanization around the campus made it difficult for riding and keeping horses. Cadet Darwin Harris '57 from Marfa was the last captain of the team. Many Kadets became "stars" of the different teams along the years. From William Cheshire '47, the first to ride 5 horses Roman style, to Bob Mobley '50 who would do a headstand with his shoulders on each of two horses' withers running the length of the field in this position. Also there was Ernest Bruni '52 a great "top man" above the pyramid in his freshman year who later became a regular team member.

The Peacock Monkey Drill Team, one of PMA's wonderful traditions of the past which made our school great.



Roy Rogers poses with 1950 Monkey Drill Team at the Houston Fat Stock Show and Rodeo where the team was the featured attraction. L to R: Moberly; Manning J.; Bruni; Odonnell; Roy Rogers; Wright H.; Manning, D.; Holcombe; Barger.