



Kadet Newsletter

Peacock Military Academy

Alumni Association, Inc.

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Dear Peacock Brothers,

On behalf of the Peacock Military Academy Alumni Association and myself, I want to send each and every one of you my best wishes for a wonderful Holiday Season. I hope that 2023 delivers health and happiness to you and your families. This is the time of year when most of us have the opportunity to meet with loved ones for merry times, and to reminisce about the year as well as past holidays. May you enjoy to the fullest. Let us be grateful for what we have.

I want to personally thank all the Peacock Board and Committee members for their volunteer work and dedication to our Association. The Association continues to do its work maintaining the Peacock House and memorabilia, the scholarship program, cooperation and relationship with the Salvation Army and the Texas State Guard, the Kadet Newsletter, Peacock Medal awards at 4 academies and of course the organizing of our Peacock Alumni Reunions, which require attention to detail and dedication. Some repairs have been necessary this year at the Peacock House such as the bathroom floor, the AC system, sewer plumbing and yard work. The Salvation Army shared expenses for the sewer

system. They also covered the cost of the bathroom floor and AC system. We were also blessed with volunteers from USAA Insurance who came to clean the Peacock House thoroughly. They left the House sparkling.

Our gratitude also goes out to all of you



who contribute with money for annual membership dues, the Wesley Peacock House and the Peacock Memorial Scholarship Fund. Without you, our Alumni Association would not be able to continue its work of keeping the flame of Peacock burning. Our school's legacy is important to all of us. It is good to give back.

Our Association currently has about 500 active members. Sadly, we have lost about 150 members in the last 8 years. Our \$25 annual membership is small, but

we do need more participation in sending dues. It helps in covering our newsletter printing and mailing as well as other administration and correspondence expenses. Please remember to send in your Peacock dues for 2023.

And finally, speaking of 2023, it is the year that marks the 50th anniversary since our school closed. It is amazing that all this time has gone by, and it says a lot about Peacock. After so many years, we have the most successful alumni association among all of our rival schools. And we are not creating new alumni!!!

Please mark your calendar for the 2023 PEACOCK ALUMNI REUNION to be held on October 6th, 7th, and 8th. Encourage your classmates and come commemorate this special occasion. Don't wait for the next one. This will be a memorable and unique opportunity to reunite with friends and memories.

May God bless all of you,

David Lewis,

President PMA Alumni Association



PMA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

OFFICERS

President	David F. Lewis '70
1st Vice President	Robert (Butch) Good II '67
2nd Vice President	Ronald Bruce Williams '68
3rd Vice President	William J. (Jeff) Riggs '67
Secretary	Henry Allen (Butch) Daughtry '58
Treasurer	Martin James Cavanaugh '67
Chief Executive Officer	Arturo V. Wolf '73

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Peter Barbeck '73
Gary Allen Blum '62
Edwin R. Ford '62
Raul Gonzalez '68
Rudolph M. (Rudy) Johnson '53
James Barrett (Jim) Kenney '59
Robert D. (Bob) Meuth '72
Richard Miner '58

Melchor E. (Mel) Muzkiz '73
Jose A. Pacheco '69
Robert Lynn Powell '66
Gerald Leslie Ragsdale '71
Frank Reyna Torres '63
Michael A. Vlieger '62
William Tandy Walker '73
James Neil (Jim) Zachary '64

ALTERNATES

Byron W. McKinnon '73
George A. Veloz '66

TAPS

George LeRoy Wight Jr. '50
Lloyd J. "Buddy" Bell '52
Richard A. Wasteney '53
Spanky E. Byrum '56

James Lewis Johnson '58
John Walter Johnson '58
Timothy C. Smith '71



Welcome New Life Member!!!

Michael K. Berglund '71

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.

New Honor Roll Member

Mark S. Barrow '61

Honored By Don Scoggins '61

PMA Memorial Scholarship Honor Roll*

The Peacock Family	Terry L. Royal '57
Mark S. Barrow '61	Bernie L. Young '57
Ben E. Sutton '42	Gene G. Hughs Jr. '60
John F. Kiel '47	James C. Norman '60
Edward Sebera '49	Charles A. (Chris) Salerno '60
Johan Heidenreich '50	David S. Hale '62
Arthur F. Wolf '51	Edwin R. Kollman '63
Joshua A. Tilton '52	Kenneth Earl Porter '63
Paul Robert Weston '52	Theodore James Morris '68
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.

PEACOCK NEEDS A WEBSITE MANAGER

The Peacock Military Academy Alumni Association is in deep need of a Website Manager. Sadly, our Manager, Bob Birkenmeier '67 passed away and since then, our PMA Website is unattended.

Volunteers please contact
Arturo Wolf '73
at arturowlfs@gmail.com.



PEACOCK MERCHANDISE

Caps (Green or Khaki)	\$10.00	Aprons	\$10.00
T-Shirts	\$10.00	Peacock Patches	\$3.50
Polo Shirts	\$25.00	Lapel Pins	\$7.00
Totes	\$15.00	DVDs	\$3.00
Pennants	\$8.00	Sweatshirts	\$20.00
Decals	\$3.00	Parade Rest Book II	\$10.00
Koozies	\$2.00	Challenge Coin	\$12.00
Coffee Mugs	\$5.00		

FOR PEACOCK MERCHANDISE
EMAIL ARTURO WOLF '73 AT: arturowlfs@gmail.com

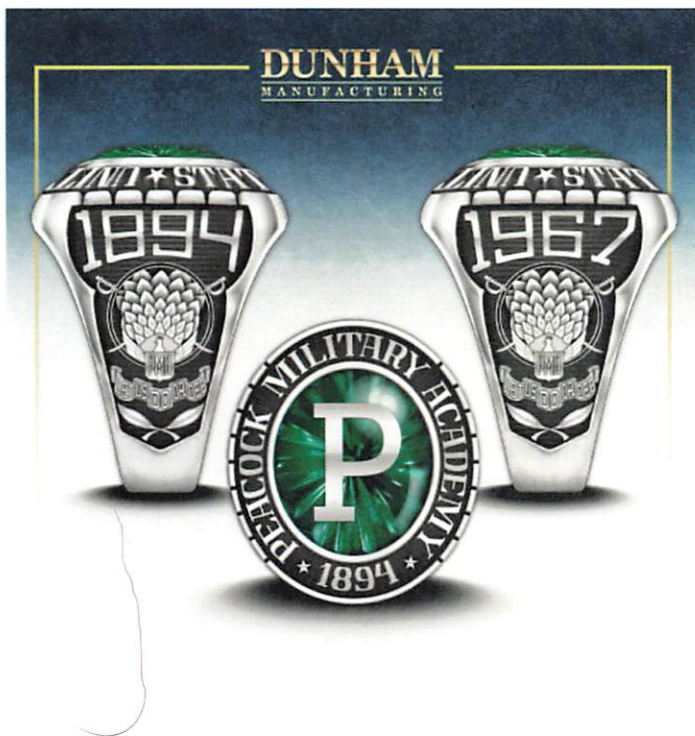
Please add \$5.00 for shipping and handling.

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

2023 Dues

The Alumni Association is collecting dues for 2023 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!





These are the new Peacock Military Academy Letterman's Rings. They are now ready to order. To order, call Dunham Manufacturing at 1-866-545-1722 and ask for Suzanne. The rings are 6 karat gold but they wear like 10 karat gold



On November 9th The Peacock House was blessed with 15 volunteers from USAA Insurance that cleaned the inside of the Peacock House. The house got a good cleaning thanks to the Salvation Army and USAA



season's
greetings

PEACOCK MILITARY ACADEMY

MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR THE 2023 PMA ALUMNI REUNION!!! 50 YEARS SINCE PEACOCK CLOSED

WHEN: October 6th, 7th, and 8th 2023

WHERE: The Westin San Antonio North

ADDRESS: 9821 Colonnade Blvd. San Antonio, TX 78230

RESERVATIONS: (210) 691-8888

Ask for Peacock Military Academy Rate

ROOM RATES: \$139 for Single and Double (Free Self-Parking)

Deadline for Reservations:
September 6th , 2023



Kadet News

Paul Reichman '63 sent greetings from Europe. He says "All is well in good old Germany and I sincerely intend on attending the 2023 Peacock Reunion because time flies and as they say life is like a roll of toilet paper, the closer you get to the end, the faster it turns."

Col. Mike Toler '68 has also committed to coming to the 2023 Reunion. He is planning on selling his house in the Mid Hudson Valley and return to Texas (Allen) by next year.

Pete Barbeck and Vicki '73 have a condo in Fort Myers Florida. Hurricane Ian destroyed much of their area. They were fortunate that their property was not damaged as bad as others around them. We hope that things are normalizing a bit for them.

We gave **Conrad Banspach '37** a call, and yes, he is doing well in St. Petersburg, Fla. at 103 years young. They even renewed his driving license. Conrad trained both crews, Enola Gay and Bockscar, on the latest radar technology of the day. Those were the planes that dropped the two bombs on Japan. He is a living treasure of stories.

Jimmy Crouch '53 and wife Barbara are doing well and living in Bastrop, Texas. They are happy to be living close to their kids.

Jerry Tauzin '66 lives in Lafayette, Louisiana. He credits Peacock for "straightening him up." After Peacock he kept his nose clean. Jerry is a veteran who served in Vietnam.

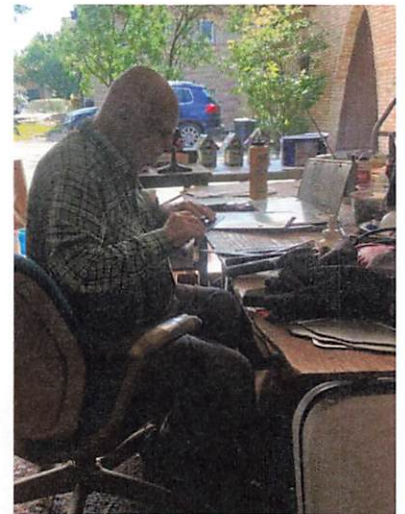
Ron Percival '67 wrote to say that he was very satisfied with the Peacock merchandise he ordered. He sent us a picture with his cap, shirt, coffee mug and challenge coin. (First Picture)

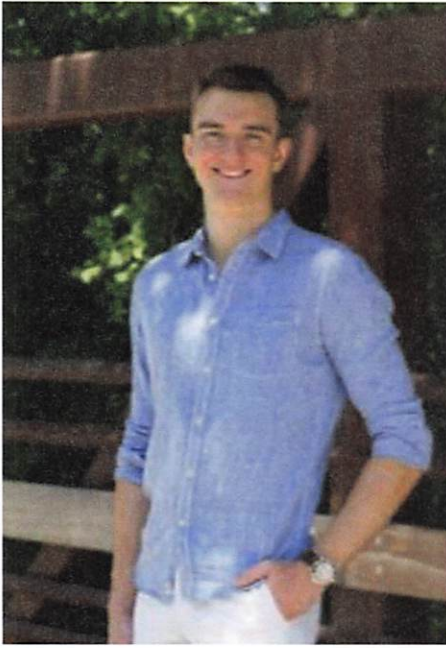
Bill Hudnell '65 wrote looking for his classmate **Bruce Barrett '65**. We told him Bruce lives in Cantonment, Florida and gave him his address and phone number. We like it when folks reunite after many years.

Edgar Fischel '50, our fellow Costa Rican Kadet, recovered from Covid-19 and is back in full force in his wood shop in San Antonio, TX. (Second Picture)

Ted Nevels '73 found his Zouave jacket when moving. He looked inside and saw that his jacket once belonged to **Jim Harvey '62** and also **Russell Gustke '63**. Sadly, both Harvey and Gustke have departed and are now performing on that Peacock Zouave platform above.

Here is a photo of **Ron Percival '67** (left) and **Gary Percival '72**. They are wearing their Peacock white letterman's sweaters. (Third Picture)





John M. Wilburn - Peacock Scholarship Recipient - His Essay

The Peacock Military Academy Scholarship Committee requires candidates for our scholarship to write an essay. John M. Wilburn, a sophomore at the UTSA ROTC program wrote an outstanding essay. In the words of Donna Peacock "It is probably the best college essay I have ever read."

John's essay brilliantly and movingly expresses his thoughts on good leadership examples, and how becoming a better man is the primary motivation that he carries within. He does this by marvelously describing parallels of his own life experiences with those of Sergeant Tim O'Brien's character Norman Bowker in his book "The Things They Carried." Sgt. O'Brien is a novelist and Vietnam veteran.

Here we reproduce John Wilburn's wonderful essay:

TOPGUN

I enlisted six months ago, on December 21, 2021. That day was the sixth wedding anniversary of my mom and her second husband, Dave. He was a Marine flight instructor before Desert Storm, and in watching Top Gun ad nauseum as a family as a result, I credit him with inspiring me to join the military. As time passed though, he became aggressive, and I never intervened to stop his behavior. Today I know very well how much pain I could have prevented for my family had I been brave enough to stand up to him when I was younger. Reading the chapter "Speaking of Courage" in O'Brien's work, I was struck by the difficulties Norman Bowker faced in reconciling the praise he received for his wartime gallantry and the guilt he faced in letting his friend Kiowa drown in sewage. I was valedictorian of my high school, and my family has told me many times that they are proud of me, but any pride I could feel for happening to be good at getting high grades pales in comparison to the regret I have for not being strong enough to pull the ones I love out of the muck. Becoming a better man that both David and my younger self is one of the primary motivating experiences I carry with me today.

In high school, I was in a leadership program called the Civil Air Patrol, where I met a man named Adam Tyra. He was an infantry officer in Iraq and a much better example of military leadership than I ever had prior. He gave me a challenge coin for my graduation and advised me to use it to remember that behind every rank, uniform, or order, is a person. In the Army, I have met leaders that clearly understand that truth. Every time I meet them, I notice just how empathetically they interact with subordinates, and how impartial it makes them in executing their assigned missions. I have also met those who act so callously with their rank that they appear to be issuing commands purely for the joy of exercising power over others. The environments such people create saps the motivation and fortitude out of everyone exposed, and when I eventually commission, I plan to rectify these scenarios wherever I go. I keep Mr. Tyra's challenge coin with me as a reminder of a good mentor, and as an example of the leadership I intend to embody.

Most importantly to me, I wear a cross necklace I was given to me by my father when I turned thirteen. I asked for it at a time when I was struggling to believe in God or the claims of Christianity, and I wore it on the day that I was baptized in the Brazos River. The necklace has since served to remind me of the undeniable ways God has been working in my life since before the day I was born, placing ongoing trials and unique opportunities in my life that are forming me into exactly the person I need to become.

I have never thought about the "Things I Carry With Me" nearly to such an extent as this until reading the stories detailed by Sergeant O'Brien. I found his work incredibly effective in allowing me to empathize with people who I have never met, simply by thinking about why they held on to what they did. My former stepdad's influence on my life, my old mentor's challenge coin, and a necklace I have had since I was a child, all in some way representative of who I am now, similarly provide a kind of snapshot of who I am. What's especially interesting to me is the fact that if I can fill an essay, and probably much more, on such a subject, the people I meet on a day-to-day basis certainly could too. In my future interactions with others, I hope to behave in such a way that they become comfortable sharing what it is that they hold on to.



Christmas Time 1914

Soldiers Paused War for Day of No Hate

It was the night before Christmas, give or take a day or two, and even in the muddy pits they called home, the troops were in merry spirits. It was December 1914, the first Christmas season of World War I, and German and English soldiers were hunkered down in trenches that slashed parallel lines across a thousand miles of European countryside. The war had come to a screeching halt – neither side could advance, neither would retreat.

The enemies had dug shelters in the earth like moles. Their burrows were cramped, cold and sometimes knee-deep in water. Across the narrow strip of no man's land – sometimes only a matter of yards – they could hear one another sloshing and coughing.

One English soldier wrote, "We used to shout remarks to each other, sometimes rude ones, but generally with less venom than a couple of London cabbies after a minor collision."

The two sides had settled down as neighbors, albeit the kind that regularly took shots at one another. As the end of the year approached, the Germans, whose ancestors had introduced fir trees to the Christmas ritual, decorated some scrawny bushes with candles and placed them atop their sandbag parapets. Gradually, a few bold soldiers on both sides poked their heads above their bulwarks, then shakily stood up and showed themselves to be unarmed. In spots up and down the lines, mostly in Belgium and northern France, enemy soldiers began approaching each other, and many unofficial cease-fires were agreed to.

Corporal John Ferguson was among the first of his company to venture out. "Soon most of our company followed," he later reported. "I was known as 'Fergie' in the regiment, and to find out where I was in the darkness, they kept calling out, 'Fergie.' The Germans, thinking that was an English greeting, answered, 'Fergie.' "

Singing was one way the enemies spoke without a common language. "The Germans finished a carol, and we sang 'The First Noël,' " recalled a British soldier. "When we finished, they struck up 'O Tannenbaum.' And so it went. First the Germans would sing one of their carols, and then we would sing one of ours. When we started, 'O Come All Ye Faithful,' the Germans immediately joined in singing the same hymn with the Latin words 'Adeste Fideles.' I thought, 'Well, this was really a most extraordinary thing.' "

Souvenirs – coins, buttons, badges and pipes – were exchanged. Other commodities were traded: canned beef and jam for sausage and chocolate. English cigarettes bought German cigars, rum procured schnapps. As the men raised their cups, they pledged to other's health.

"Our conversation was no different from that of meeting a friendly opponent at a football match," said a British subaltern. A lieutenant wrote, "One of the Germans jocularly remarked that he hoped the war would end soon, as he wanted to return to his former job as a taxi driver in Birmingham."

Another English soldier talked with several Germans, among them an old man. "When we shook hands, I thought he was not going to let my hand go," the Briton said. "The tears came rolling down his cheeks, and I felt so sorry for him as he was so old and wanted to go home."

In The midst of the festivities, both sides also conducted more somber business – collecting and burying the decaying bodies of those who had died in no man's land and were now covered with a blanket of snow. In one place, a joint burial service was held.

"The prayers were read first in English by our padre," recalled a second lieutenant, "and then in German by a boy who was studying for the ministry. The Germans formed up on one side, the English on the other, the officers standing in front, every head bared. I think it is a sight one will never see again." Remembered another English soldier, "There was not an atom of hate on either side that day."

Although some officers took part in the revelry, fraternization with the enemy had been strictly prohibited by their commanders. The British general Horace Smith-Dorrien wrote, "Understandings – amounting almost to unofficial armistices – grow up between our troops and the enemy, with a view to making life easier, until the sole object of the war becomes obscured."

Indeed, a captain on the front wrote in his diary, "We have issued strict orders to the men not on any account to allow a 'truce'. The Germans did try. They came over towards us singing. So we opened rapid fire on them, which is the only sort of truce they deserve."

The length of the cease-fire varied along the line. For Captain C.I. Stockwell of the Royal Welsh Fusiliers, it ended at 8:30 a.m. on Dec. 26, when he fired three shots into the air, then mounted his parapet. The German officer who had traded him a barrel of beer for a plum pudding appeared on his parapet. They saluted each other and retreated to their own trenches. A few moments later, the German fired two shots into the air.

The war was on again.