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WMA Alumni Association Executive Board

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Message From the President:

Hello fellow alumni,

I hope you are getting through the winter. I know some of you don’t know what that is, as you are in warmer climates. As you can see we have the newsletter back. We, as a board, have been working on many items including updated by-laws, scholarships update, and working with the museum constantly. With the closing of the school, we have been working to reinvent ourselves as an organization. I feel that with the additional board members and a plan of action we have been making great progress. We would like to invite you to stay a member of the Association as we have a lot more to do to keep our memories and musters. If you aren’t a member please become a member as we would like to increase our membership to hold us all together. Last year’s Homecoming was a huge success and we would like to keep that going. The museum is making great progress to be better and better each year.

I have a challenge for all of you. If you aren’t a member, become one. If, you are a member, recruit one or two members. We need you! Join us at www.wmaalumni.org.

Have a wonderful spring and come to Lexington to visit the museum and our memories! Wentworth Hotel is open.

Thank you,

Scott Hefner
President of the WMA Alumni Association
Congratulations to former Wentworth Brigade Commander and class of 1967 graduate, Dr. James A. DiRenna, Jr., DO, FAAP, who has been elected as the 161st President of the Missouri State Medical Association. An Inauguration and celebration will be held in Kansas City in April.

Enid’s John D. Groendyke was recently named one of five University of Oklahoma College of Law alumni to be honored at its annual Order of the Owl Hall of Fame ceremony in February. A news article may be read at the following link: https://www.enidnews.com/news/local_news/enid-s-groendyke-to-be-honored-by-ou-law/article_4ef2c6ff-c7da-5283-bf94-72939991b524.html

Mickey Sheldon reports that he completed the Bataan Death March! “26.2 miles with 40lbs (the length of a full marathon) couldn’t have done it without my battle buddy from Infantry OSUT! (Miles Ball) 2nd hardest thing I’ve ever done in my life! Crazy we’re both first lieutenants now! “

Congrats on your accomplishment!

Brandon Lincoln, WMA Class of 2001, received notice this week that once again he qualified to continue his membership in the Million Dollar Round Table for 2019. Members of the MDRT are made of the top 1 percent of Financial Planners globally, and he is honored to continue being a part of this association. Brandon is looking forward to heading to New York toward the end of the year to exchange ideas with others. Our congratulations, Brandon.

From Rick Cottrell:

All Wentworth transcripts can still be ordered on the Wentworth website or by calling 660-259-2221, 660-259-6004, or 660-259-6010. I know what some old boys were told that their academic record was destroyed by a water leak. To my knowledge over the past 30+ years no records were lost because of a water leak. The individual who started that rumor just did not want to take the initiative to find it. To date, we have processed over 16,000 college academic files and we have just finished through the letter Q. We still have letters R-Z to process. High School records will be scanned after the college records are completed.
Fellow Alumni: Please considering joining your Alumni Association!

Wentworth Military Academy  
Alumni Association  
Membership Application

Instructions:  
Fill the following form out as completely as possible then send it along with your payment information to:  
WMA Alumni Association  
c/o Russell Gilman  
4216 S. Peninsula Dr.  
Port Orange, FL 32127

TO PAY ONLINE VIA CREDIT CARD: https://www.wmaalumni.org/join

Applicant’s Information:
First Name: ___________________________ Last Name: ___________________________
Maiden Name (if applicable): ________________ Years at WMA: ________________
Home Address: ___________________________ City: ___________________________
State: _______ Zip: ________________ Country ___________________________
Home phone: ___________________________ Cell phone: ___________________________
E-mail: ________________________________

Spouse’s Information:
First Name: ___________________________ Is Spouse also an Alumnus [ ] yes [ ] no

Membership Dues:
[ ] Annual one year ($50)  [ ] Annual three year ($140)
[ ] Lifetime Donor Dues one time payment ($1000)
[ ] Lifetime Donor Dues semi-annual two payments in single year ($510) $1,020
[ ] Lifetime Donor Dues quarterly payments in single year ($258) $1,032
[ ] Recent Alumni 1st year (Free)  [ ] Recent Alumni 2nd or 3rd year ($25)
[ ] Senior 65 Annual one year ($35)  [ ] Senior 65 Annual three year ($95)
[ ] Senior 65 Lifetime Donor Dues one time payment ($500)

Coin Purchase:
I would like to purchase _____ coin(s) at $25 each.    Total: $_______________
Wentworth Military Academy
Alumni Association
Coin Order Form

Fill out the following form and send it along with your payment to:

WMA Alumni Association
c/o Russell Gilman
4216 S. Peninsula Dr.
Port Orange, FL 32127

I would like to purchase _____ coin(s) at $25 each. Total: $__________

Mailing Information: Please Print Clearly!

First Name:____________________ Last Name:____________________
Address: _____________________________________________________
City:____________________ State:_______ Zip:___________________
Country____________________
Home phone:______________ Cell phone:____________________
E-mail:____________________
Michael William Lierman, 1953-2019

Michael William Lierman was born in Lexington, Missouri, on October 15, 1953, and left this earth on February 21, 2019, to start his next journey to be with his Heavenly Father. He was the son of Benny and Dixie Lierman of Lexington. He has one sister, Linda Ingalls, Kansas City, who was his donor for his bone marrow transplant, and we thank her for the Gift of Life for her brother. Mike was a member of the Lexington Restoration Church of Jesus Christ but was currently attending the Liberty Christian Fellowship Church in Liberty.

Funeral services were held Monday, February 25, 2019, at 2 pm at Walker Nadler Fuller Funeral Home, Lexington. Visitation was Sunday, February 24, 2019, from 4 until 7 pm at the Wentworth Military Museum, Lexington. Private inurnment will be at a later date. In lieu of flowers the family asks that memorials be made to the KU Bone Marrow Transplant Clinic or the Wentworth Museum.

Mike was preceded in death by his grandparents, John and Jessie Halterman, Ben Lierman, Sr., Henry and Eva Dankers, parents, Benny and Dixie Lierman, father and mother-in-law, Robert and Jeanette Duncan and his niece, Stacey Ingalls.

Mike is survived by his wife of 44 years, of the home, Brenda; his two children, Amy and Andy and his wife Amber, who Mike considered his second daughter; and of course his three beautiful grandchildren, whom he loved with his whole being, Endsley Elizabeth, Landry Christopher and Breckin William (his namesake), all of Liberty; sister, Linda Ingalls of Kansas City, Missouri; two brothers-in-law, Bob Duncan and wife Teresa of Richmond, and Ron Duncan and wife Beth of Higginsville; and several aunts, uncles, cousins, nieces and nephews; his Wentworth family and many, many friends.

Mike attended Lexington schools until his enrollment at Wentworth Military Academy as a freshman in high school. He continued his education at the Academy, graduating from high school in 1971 and Junior College in 1973. Mike held several positions in the Corps of Cadets and upon graduation was the Assistant Battalion Commander of First Battalion. He lettered in football all four years. He continued his education at Wentworth Military Academy and Junior College completing his college career at Central Missouri State University in 1975, with a Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration. Mike joined the staff of the Academy in 1980 as the Assistant Commandant of Cadets. He also served as an Admissions Representative during the summer months. He then served as a full-time Admissions Representative, until he was appointed Dean of Admissions. He then served as the Vice President for Operations. Mike then served as the Executive Vice President and Chief of Staff until his appointment to be the 14th Superintendent of Wentworth Military Academy and served in that capacity until May 2017, spending 36 years serving the Academy that he loved with all his heart.

Mike was affiliated with several civic and educational organizations. He was a member of the National Association of Admissions Counselors and the Midwest Boarding Schools Association. He served as the President of the Lexington R-V School District's Board of Education from 2004-2006 and as a board member from 2000-2004. He was a member of the Missouri School Board Association and the National School Board Association and the Missouri State Teachers Association. He served as a board member of the Lexington Area Chamber of Commerce and the Lexington Economic Development Committee. Mike was a member of the MOCAP grant writer's team in Lafayette County. He also served on the board of Lexington Sports and Fine Arts Boosters and was a member of the Lafayette County DARE program for drug awareness education. He was a member of Rotary International and served as a board member for the Lexington Rotary Club and also had volunteered with the Meals on Wheels Program.
Cesar Ortiz ‘65
Taps on 1/30/2018  https://www.byrdandflanigan.com/notices/CesarC-Ortiz

Ord M. Hutcheson ‘45

Edwin Chapline ‘43

Norman W. Thorson ‘50

Frank E. Day ‘53

James Moran ‘54
Taps on 12/22/2017

Michael Colleran ‘65
Taps 01/14/2018  https://www.legacy.com/obituaries/idahostatejournal/obituary.aspx?n=michael-edward-colleran&pid=187858104&fhid=24602

Gary Gooden ‘56
Taps on 2/21/2018

George W. Plant ‘47

Joe Pogue ‘44

Paul Jurgens ‘69

Alan Price ‘69

Paul J. Buckman ‘77

Dawson (Slick) Heathman ‘50
Leo Ellis 1948
Taps on 5/11/2018  https://www.forbisanddick.com/obituaries/Leo-Ellis/#/Obituary

William Braunlin ‘49

James F. Morris ‘52
Taps on 06/18/2017  https://www.legacy.com/obituaries/htrnews/obituary.aspx?n=james-f-morris&pid=18894934

William R. Allen ‘42

Dallas Kelly Shannon ‘54

Robert Brickley

Wilma Dieckhoff ’99 (Wentworth staff)

Marvin Preston ’53
Taps on 6/2/2018  http://meyersfuneralchapel.com/2018/06/02/marvin-preston/

Joseph W. Fowler ‘62

Robert W. Mann ’45

Thomas Menck ‘67
Taps on 5/28/2018  http://www.omaha.com/sarpy/ralston/menck-an-avid-gunsmit/article_c929f4de-129c-5258-b0b3-c0bc1a3b1755.html
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<td>9/13/2018</td>
<td><a href="https://www.nadlerfullerfh.com/obituaries/Freddie-King/%21/Obituary">https://www.nadlerfullerfh.com/obituaries/Freddie-King/%21/Obituary</a></td>
</tr>
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James A. Ahrens, 78, of Grinnell died on March 4, 2019, at his home. Ahrens taught Military History at Wentworth Military Academy for 22 years.

Ahrens was a native of Grinnell, Iowa, where he graduated from Grinnell College in 1962. Ahrens went into the Air Force following graduation. Ahrens eventually went into the Reserves where he was mobilized several times. He ended his career having achieved the rank of lieutenant colonel and commanding a battalion during Desert Storm.

Please note that the passing of Wentworth alumni are regularly reported on the “Old Boys” Wentworth Military Academy & College Facebook page: https://www.facebook.com/groups/61357360111/

The Alumni Association pays for a service that sends alerts regarding Old Boys should the words “Wentworth Military Academy & College” appear in the obituary. If you know of an Old Boy who died, you may contact Al McCormick and give him the information: almccormick64152@gmail.com.
A Message from the WMA Museum Chairman George Hittner

Reflections on the Last 18 Months

Dear fellow Old Boys and friends of Wentworth:

To say that the last 18 months were an unexpected chapter in my life, and in the lives of so many who banded together to save our history, would be the grandest of understatements. The result of channeling our grief over the news of the school’s closing has resulted in the most unbelievable of stories and a beautiful new home filled with our treasures, the majority of which, most of us never knew existed.

From that fateful alumni meeting in the mess hall after final commencement, to two successful lawsuits, to the auction, and one of the largest homecomings in our history, it has been a whirlwind. As I mentioned during my remarks at homecoming, none of this was planned. No one, including myself, could have ever imagined that we would have been as successful as we were, especially in such a short amount of time. However, the more successful the effort became, the more those of us who were on the front lines had the sense of “you broke it, you buy it.” Said another way, the more we accomplished, the more there was to be done. So, way has led unto way, and now we find ourselves with a bright new future - - - one in which ALL ALUMNI are masters of our collective destiny.

No words are sufficient to thank the hundreds of volunteers and donors who believed in the vision (or at least in its possibility) and who TOGETHER, made the dream a reality. Make no mistake, there remains a lot to be done, but our foundation is astoundingly strong.

Please know that the Museum is wholly dependent on our alumni to keep going. We need each of you to pitch in as you can, and yes, that includes financially as well. However, we are not just asking for your money. There are MANY ways you can help. The Museum hosts quarterly work weekends where folks from around the country lend their talents to the Museum. You can help us spread the word by asking folks to join our Facebook Page. From a financial perspective, our “first” ask is to join the 1880 Sustaining Member Society. It is $18.80 a month and truly makes a difference to the on-going operations of the Museum. This is a grassroots effort and requires all alumni to pitch in. Gone are the days we can rely on others.

Finally, my role as Chairman of the Museum is an unfair perch that too often obscures the contributions of many others. Quite simply, that is not fair. Sooooo many people deserve soooo much credit. Our Executive Board has sacrificed immensely, and they deserve all of our gratitude. James Lowman, Jennifer Kerr, Scott Hefner, Mark Chitwood, Catie Ebert and Sam Ratcliffe, THANK YOU for all you have made possible. Our volunteers (way too numerous to mention) have made the Museum an institution to behold in less than a year. And finally, our curator and two honorary curators keep the wheels moving every day: Sue Webster, Monte Lauderdale and Ruthie Lauderdale - - - I do not know what we would do without you.

To recount all of the vast victories of the last 18 months in a letter would have been too much of an undertaking, and you would have stopped reading long before my summary was complete. I hope each of you will endeavor to make the trek to Lexington to see what has been accomplished. We still have a lot to do, but with your help, we’ve already proven mountains can be moved. PLEASE JOIN US!
The following is an excerpt of George Hittner’s remarks delivered during the Alumni Banquet at Homecoming last year:

"The Stephen G. Wentworth Founders award was the highest recognition Wentworth could bestow to distinguished Alumni or friends of Wentworth. Many of these individuals served on the WMA Board of Trustees, or otherwise kept the school afloat financially. The plaque that once hung in Groendyke Hall on campus is perhaps most recognizable because its recipients have their faces etched in bronze. They are amongst the famous names in Wentworth’s history. Oliver, Groendyke, Sellers, Tillotson ... just to name a few. The plaque now hangs at the very end of the Museum’s Goendyke Hall, and is the only plaque in the hallway that faces in such a way as to ensure everyone can see it. On my order, and with the unanimous approval of the select joint committee on Awards, six of the seven empty spaces have been removed. The plaque has been trimmed down, re-ordered, and reassembled. There now exists only one vacancy on the plaque. Following my next announcement, the plaque will be completed and the award will cease being able to be awarded to any further participant. This was Wentworth’s highest honor, and it brings me great joy to read the following proclamation:

In recognition of his 32 years of service to Wentworth Military Academy, a career that included serving as a TAC officer, teacher, high school principal, Commandant of Cadets, and Wentworth’s final caretaker, the Executive Committee of the Wentworth Military Academy Museum and the Board of the Wentworth Military Academy Alumni Association are pleased to recognize Colonel Rick Cottrell as the last ever recipient of the Stephen G. Wentworth Founders Award."

And here, ladies and gentlemen, is the final bronze face plaque...

Congratulations, Rick!

2019 Museum Work Weekends Are Scheduled As Follow:*

1st Weekend in April (April 5, 6, 7)

4th of July Weekend

Work will also be needed during Homecoming Weekend

All are welcome. There is still much to do. Hope to see you there.

*Work Weekend Events are posted on the “Old Boys of Wentworth Military Academy & College Facebook Page
The pictures featured on these pages represent scenes from Homecoming 2018 as well as scenes from your museum. Some have been taken from the “Old Boys Wentworth Military Academy & College Facebook page. These were supplied by the museum chairman.

Above and top right: Mark Chitwood and Sam Ratcliffe on bonfire duty during Homecoming 2018.
The pictures featured on these pages represent scenes from Homecoming 2018 as well as scenes from your museum. Some have been taken from the “Old Boys Wentworth Military Academy & College Facebook page. These were supplied by the museum chairman.
Above: The Chapel Bell is shown from a recent photo and is adorned with a wreath honoring Col. Mike Lierman.
Museum News

*** WMA MUSEUM SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT***

Dear Lexington Residents, Old Boys, and Friends of Wentworth:

It is with great pleasure that I unveil the preliminary plans for the Wentworth Military Academy Museum Park, located in the super-fine town of Lexington Missouri!

Subject to the approval of Lexington’s Planning and Zoning Committee, this park will be unlike anything in the Lexington region, and will be carefully designed to showcase not only Wentworth’s rich history, but also our quickly approaching 150 year of partnership with Lexington.

The Museum has taken great pains to make the WMA Museum Park a place for the community and Alumni to gather and reflect. We promise not only a first-class park, but also an outdoor-event space open to the community for concerts, and yes, even city-approved bonfires.

As the attached plans demonstrate, we are well underway. While there will be numerous opportunities to sponsor various aspects of the park, the most fundamental will be our “Buy a brick” program. This is a GRASSROOTS effort and we will soon invite all to join us in helping create something truly spectacular. We need your support; and it’s just about time to get started. More on that in the coming days...

Above: Monte Lauderdale and Sue Webster

The work continues. Remember, this is your museum.