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TEXAS AGGIES



Duke, Mike, and Zach met while members of the Corps of Cadets in the early 1990s. During their time at Texas A&M, they learned through commitment, sacrifice, and hard work that anything can be achieved. Their experiences at A&M, in the Corps, leading Aggie Bonfire as Redpots, made long-lasting friendships that brought the three men back together with the goal of making 100% Texas-grown wine.

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#### Coming Up in Winter 2025

2024 Good Bull Reception & 16th Annual Rally to the Guidons

How One Cadet Reaches Countless Future Leaders

# THE GUIDON

FALL 2024 VOL 41 ISSUE 04





PHOTO BY AR PHOTOGRAPHY

#### ON THE COVER

One of the eight Corps of Cadets Hall of Honor inductees, Texas A&M System Chancellor John Sharp '72, stands with Interim Commandant Lt Gen Loyd "Chip" Utterback '75 at left, 2024-2025 Corps Commander Deandré Macri at right, and CCA President & CEO Bruce Hamilton '78 at far right, at the Hall of Honor Gala on Friday, August 16, at the Hilton Hotel & Conference Center in College Station.

# CALENDAR OF EVENTS

#### OCTOBER 2024

- 19 A&M @ Mississippi State
- 26 A&M vs. LSU
- **31** Aggie Ring Day

#### **NOVEMBER 2024**

- 1 Aggie Ring Day
- 2 A&M @ South Carolina
- 3 Daylight Saving Time ends
- 10 Marine Corps Birthday
- 11 Veterans Day (CCA Office Closed)
- 16 A&M vs. New Mexico St.
- **18** Bonfire Remembrance Day
- 23 A&M @ Auburn
- 28 29 Thanksgiving Holidays (University/CCA Office Closed)
  - 30 A&M vs. Texas

#### **DECEMBER 2024**

- **2** Last Day of Fall Classes
- 12 13 Commencement & Commissioning
  - 13 National Guard Birthday

#### **JANUARY 2025**

- 13 First Day of Spring Classes
- 20 Martin Luther King Jr. Day (University/CCA Office Closed)

#### THE GUIDON

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## **EARNING THE YELLOW CORD**

PARSONS MOUNTED CAVALRY CORD BANQUET

BY OLIVIA BAPTISTE '25, PMC COMMANDER

[PMC] represents membership in an elite organization that not only gives its members unforgettable memories, but the chance to grow in confidence, teamwork skills, communication strategies, and leadership.

On August 17, Parsons Mounted Cavalry (PMC) officially welcomed 47 members from the Class of 2026 to join the unit. This culminated a tryout process that began in October of 2023 that evaluated candidates' willingness to learn, confidence, work ethic, respect. and leadership abilities. The tryout process was the first time a majoritv of these new members touched a horse. The progress they made in a short period of time is amazing.

The night included a slideshow, dinner, pinning of cords, and photos. We were honored to have Corps Strategic Support & Engagement Director CAPT Scott Jackson '92 and his wife Melani '93, Col Shady Groves '68, Dannie and Paul Machemehl '74, and Dr. Leslie Easterwood '90 in attendance. CAPT Jackson spoke about the power of the horse and the exceptional teamwork that Cav Jocks practice. He spoke to the prestige of PMC and the important role it serves in representing Texas A&M.

The yellow cord pinned upon the new members signifies the tireless efforts

of thousands of Cav Jocks, who since PMC's reinstatement in 1973, have dedicated countless hours of hard work to caring for the hors-

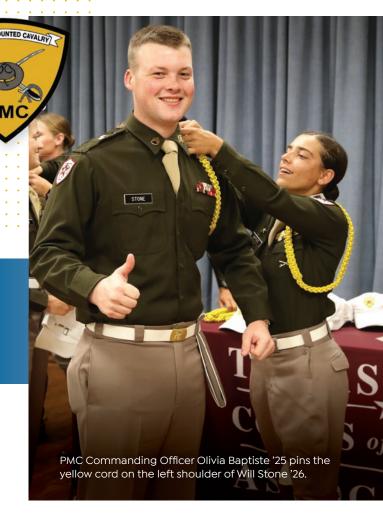
es. It represents membership in an elite organization that not only gives its members unforgettable memories, but the chance to grow in confidence, teamwork skills, communication strategies, and leadership. There is nothing like being in charge of a 1,000-pound animal in front of a crowd of thousands of screaming people. Horses are great teachers of confidence, patience, and gentleness, and we are blessed to have them as our team members.

This new class makes me excited! I am incredibly proud of each of them and what they have accomplished thus far within the unit. I look forward to getting to know them better, the opportunity to care for our horses as a team of 87 cadets, and the honor to represent Texas A&M and the Corps of Cadets together in campus marches and parades throughout the state.

They have already demonstrated their passion for bettering the unit. I enjoy getting to watch them grow and develop as leaders, and now I offer them my sincerest congratulations.

As full members they will attend twice-weekly ride classes once-weekly work shifts. They will dedicate countless hours to preparing for game days, riding in the more than 15 operations PMC will attend this year, and feeding horses. They will continue to earn the privilege of earning the cord each day through their dedication, selflessness, and hard work.

If you see someone wearing a yellow cord around campus, please do not hesitate to say hello, and ask us any questions you may have because we would love to tell you about our favorite horses and memories we have made!



#### 2024-2025 **CORPS OF CADETS LEADERSHIP**



#### **DEANDRÉ MACRI** '25

**CORPS COMMANDER** 

**HOMETOWN: KILLEEN. TEXAS** MAJOR: B.S. METEOROLOGY

**SQUADRON 6** 

Over the past three years, the Corps has instilled in me a deep understanding of teamwork, discipline, and camaraderie. This was achieved through the daily lifestyle and environment rooted in discipline and the dynamic of the class system. My buddies taught me the meaning of empathy and understanding in a team atmosphere which expanded my leadership development. My upperclassmen had a meaning-

ful impact on my success when I was most vulnerable as a fish. The rigorous learning curves and the challenges encountered have been instrumental in shaping my journey toward success within the organization which strives to teach and uphold a balance in holistic resilience across all domains. I learned that personal success is a pure reflection of your team's success and that every action you take either contributes to or takes away from your team's victory. The Corps experience is anchored in the Cadet Values: excellence, integrity, leadership, loyalty, respect, and selfless service. The Corps continually places you in situations that test these values in diverse ways, and it is through these experiences that I have become the person I am.



#### CARL WITHERELL '25 **DEPUTY CORPS COMMANDER**

**HOMETOWN: NEW BRAUNFELS, TEXAS MAJOR:** B.S. BIOMEDICAL SCIENCES **SQUADRON 18** 

During my sophomore year, I made an important decision to transfer into the Corps because I wanted an opportunity to improve my life. I was looking for structure, discipline, and companionship because I felt these were necessary for success and personal development. I was thrown into a challenging environment from day one that constantly tested me. Although the physical obstacles were significant, the experience was primarily characterized by the mental fortitude needed. Perseverance and flexibility were qualities that the Corps required, and I found them to be quite useful both in uniform and out. Friendship is among the most important things the Corps has taught me. My buddies and I formed lifetime friendships forged through shared hardships. The Corps gave me a tremendous sense of leadership and responsibility. These values now serve as the cornerstone of my personality, directing my choices and behaviors. In hindsight, joining the Corps was more about improving myself than it was about chasing a better life. It showed me that we can overcome any challenge and succeed as a team if we have commitment and support each other.

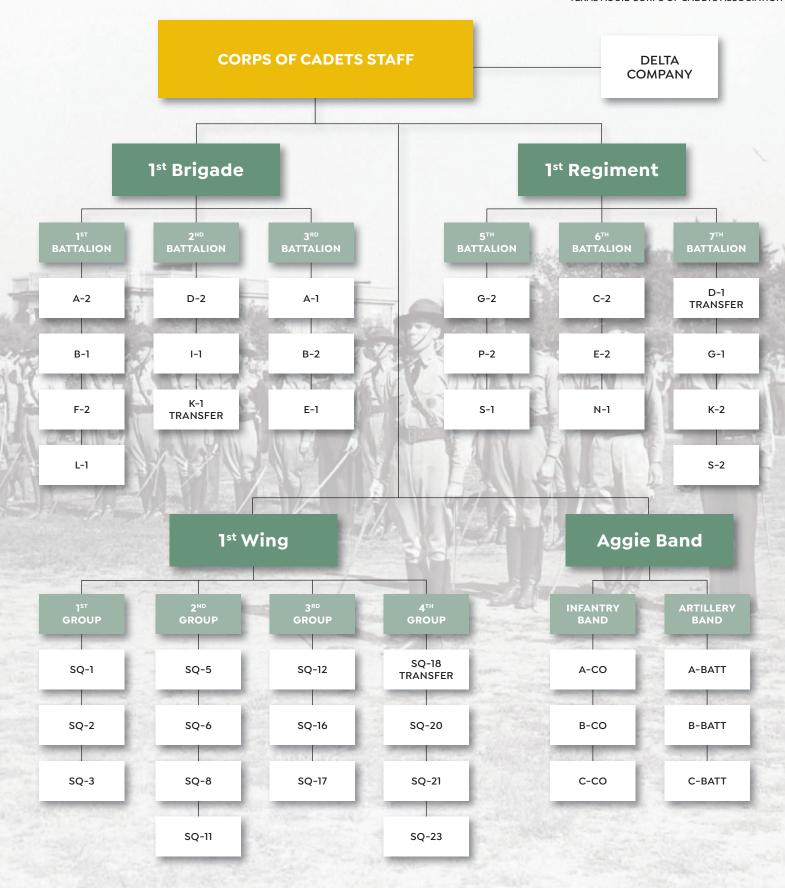


#### **JAMES GUANDOLO '25**

**CHIEF OF STAFF** 

**HOMETOWN:** DALLAS, TX **MAJOR: B.S COMPUTER SCIENCE** COMPANY S-2

My experience in the Corps of Cadets profoundly shaped my character and abilities and equipped me with essential skills for life. From the beginning, the Corps' core values of respect, excellence, leadership, loyalty, integrity, and selfless service were ingrained in me. My time with the Fish Drill Team taught me the importance of discipline and focus as we mastered Marine Corps platoon drill and placed first in the National Drill Competition. As a member of the Recon Company, I learned to embody resilience, confidence, physical fitness, and grit. Facing extreme adversity head-on taught me to maintain composure in challenging situations. This environment sharpened my ability to think critically and act decisively, qualities essential for effective leadership. Being a part of the Ross Volunteer Company reinforced my commitment to integrity, honor, courage, and selfless service. Here, I had the privilege to selflessly serve and lead by example. These experiences enhanced my ability to communicate effectively and positively impact those around me. I grew more assertive, resilient, creative, and confident.



2024-2025

**CORPS OF CADETS ORGANIZATION** 

# FOW > Cadet Onboarding New Name, Same Spirit

BY ZOE BARNHART '26, A-BATTERY 1ST SERGEANT

It is no secret that the freshman onboarding experience looked differently from how the Corps previously processed freshmen. The Fightin' Texas Aggie Band was the guinea pig with the changes, as bandsmen return to campus first. While it is easy to focus on the negatives and nitpick decisions, this experience taught me that those who learn to roll with the punches get to see the most gain from their trials. I can confidently say that at least for the band, we made the most out of the new experience and even enhanced many aspects of FOWs of the past.

As a first-time cadre who has only experienced FOW from a freshman point of view, I was unsure what to expect from this new onboarding experience because I had never been behind the scenes. One comfort to me that also aided in the transition was knowing no one had ever seen this version of freshman orientation, either. Out of the changes made, the three biggest were Back in the Saddle Training (BITS), Corporals Course, and the inclusion of Battalion Cadre.

BITS is the training for whitebelts with two goals: provide a refresher on Corps standards and give upperclassmen time to plan the year for their outfit. The whitebelts in my outfit took this in stride and invent-

ed several innovative ideas. From Squad Leader roles to outfit chain goals, their ideas helped form structures and organization that would not have come together otherwise.

Corporals Course is a crash course for sophomores on how to be Fire Team Leaders, Assistant Fire Team Leaders, and coaches in general. The course provided both lectures on useful information and interactive scenarios to fully engage the sophomore class and refresh concepts learned as fish. This aided sophomores with a firmer grasp on their new roles and not simply being thrown into the fire, as in the past.

Last, the Battalion Cadre training. Rather than in previous years, where only a handful of outfit members taught everything the freshmen needed to know in two weeks, Battalion Cadre consisted of a cadet task force selected from across the battalions to split up and teach different modules to freshmen. This made the work and unification of The Standard more evenly distributed and explained across the Quad and alleviated some of the stress to fit these lessons in on the outfit level. Regardless of the changes made to

PHOTO BY TEXAS A&M CORPS OF CADETS.



onboarding freshmen, I can confidently say the spirit of the core values we hold dear as Aggies and within the Corps of Cadets will live on in the Class of '28. I could not be more proud of my outfit's fish for enduring the trials and lessons learned during onboarding, and I am sure every upperclassman feels the same. Onboarding may be complete, but the year is only just beginning.

While it is easy to focus on the negatives and nitpick decisions, this experience taught me that those who learn to roll with the punches get to see the most gain from their trials.

BY THE NUMBERS **CLASS OF 2028** 

> 830 FISH CLASS TOTAL





**AWARDED A CORPS SCHOLARSHIP** O. ALING \$1,519,00



\$2,975,477 IN GENERAL MURRAY SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED

131 FIRST-GENERATION **COLLEGE STUDENTS** 



#### **CCA HYDRATE THE FISH DRIVE**



NATIONAL MERIT **SCHOLARS** 

85

NATIONAL RECOGNITION **SCHOLARS** 

#### **ENTIRE CORPS**

2.435 CORPS STRENGTH ON **1ST DAY OF CLASS** 

203 INTERNATIONALS FROM 14 COUNTRIES

HYDRATION PACK DONORS

**UNITS FUNDED** 

EACH FISH IS A \$75 INITIAL INVESTMENT

\$10 PT SHIRT

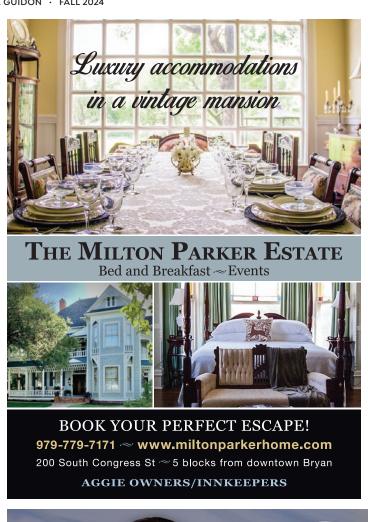
\$10 PT SHORTS

\$40 HYDRATION UNIT

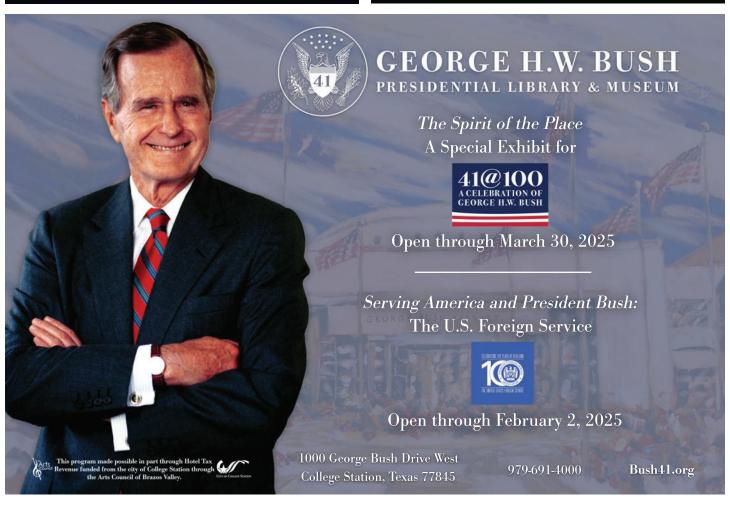
\$8 FISH PLANNER

\$6 12TH MAN TOWEL

\$1 POCKET CONSTITUTION







#### CONSTITUTION DAY ON THE QUAD



On September 17, 1787, the framers signed the most influential document in American history, the U.S. Constitution. The CCA is passionate about educating cadets about America's founding and our exceptional form of government. CCA Cadet Liaison Baylee Griffin '21 met with cadets on the Quad on Constitution Day 237 years later and provided them with their own free pocket-sized U.S. Constitution and other giveaways, including patriotic bookmarks, stickers and light snacks. Perfectly dovetailing with the CCA's newest Leaders of Tomorrow online course, We the People, this event provided an opportunity for the CCA to illustrate to cadets the generosity of our members while underscoring the importance of the history of our Republic.



# we admire F

#### THE CCA CONGRATULATES

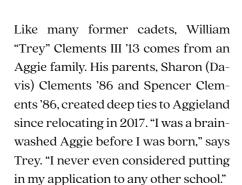
board member Jackie Purdy '90 for her #12 selection to the Top 50 Women Leaders of Texas for 2024 by Women We Admire.

Women We Admire is a membership organization comprised of the most accomplished women executives and leaders across the U.S. and Canada. As one of the fastest-growing professional women's networks, our goal is to provide members with a valuable resource that connects extraordinary women across all sectors and enriches each member's career journey. You can read Purdy's full profile by visiting https:/thewomenweadmire.com/leaders/jacqueline-purdy/

# THE EVOLUTION OF A DREAM

Trey Clements '13 Crafts Custom Guitars for 41 @ 100 Celebration

BY LAURA SIEGEL '98



Showing interest in the Texas A&M Corps of Cadets, Trey decided to Spend the Night with the Corps and pursue military aviation. An upperclassman from his high school JROTC talked Trey into joining Squadron 2, where Trey thrived and made lifelong friendships. Among these friends was Erik Sletten 13, his sophomore year Old Lady and fellow guitarist, who made the initial suggestion to begin customizing their own guitars in the Corps dorm.

When pursuit of military service did not pan out, Trey took a rigorous job as a pipeline inspection technician. "I was on a job in Midland in the middle of August," he says. "It was 114 degrees and I was swinging a sledgehammer. I asked myself why I was doing this job, traveling 250 days of the year. I had a revela-

tion. I realized what I wanted to do was something creative, to build something. I got it into my brain to build guitars."

Leaving pipelines behind, Trey enrolled at the Galloup School for Guitar Repair and Lutherie in Big Rapids, MI. He completed their six-month program and took a year-long apprenticeship with Marchione Guitars. After his family moved to Bryan, Trey's father suggested he "go all in" with his luthier business and began searching for a shop to call home. After a pitch to the city of Bryan, he acquired the vacated Bryan #2 Fire Station.

The facility required renovation, but Trey made it work as both a studio and residence. After the conversion was complete, he began developing and refining prototypes for his guitar models.

"Just like in the Corps, I learned through failure," he explains. "I had to work through the design process and figure out how to solve problems. I wanted to make lighter, ergonomic, and versatile guitars that were distinctly my own. Making guitars is a 1,000-step process. It has to be perfect before moving on



Trey with his parents Sharon '86 and Spencer Clements '86 on the Quad prior to a 2011 football game march in.

to the next step. Attention to detail and discipline are important."

Perseverance paid off and now Clements Guitars offers two models, the 32 Series Solid Body Electric and the JDC Semi-Hollow. "By the end of the process, I had the same satisfaction I had at Final Review my zip year." Trey's dream changed over time, but he felt at home in Aggieland, doing what his heart desired.

A surprise came his way when in 2022 Maddie Hillin '15, Chief Operating Officer of the George and Barbara Bush Foundation, asked him to create two guitars for musical artists for the Bush 41@100 Celebration in June 2024.

"Music was always a big part of the Bush's lives, and it only made sense to host a country music concert as part of the celebration. When that was decided, we connected with Trey Clements from Clements Guitars on creating two special pieces that would complement the concert. We cannot thank Clements Guitars enough for their creativity and dedication to honoring President Bush in this way," says Hillin.

"It was a huge creative challenge," adds Trey. "I struggled to strike a balance between the requests and my own aesthetic, but I was extremely happy with the way they turned out. It was something like earning my Gator brass all over again," explains Trey.

The Gatlin Brothers, Oakridge Boys, Robert Earl Keen, and Lyle Lovett '79 all signed the special guitars, and Trey enjoyed personal time and photoshoots with the artists. Through those opportunities, Trey expects his business to broaden. The 32 Series Clements Guitar will be sold at auction at next year's Presidential Salute Dinner to benefit the George and Barbara Bush Foundation. The second guitar is a JDC Series honoring the distinctive 4141 Locomotive. Designed to match the Air Force One color palette, that guitar will remain on display at the George Bush Presidential Library and Museum as part of a 41@100 exhibit.

For more information on the Bush Foundation Presidential Salute on February 15, 2025, visit to https://georgeandbarbarabush.org/events/salute







On May 1, Georgia Governor Brian Kemp signed the Ashley Wilson Act into law. Wilson sits to the governor's right.

shley Marie (Schoonover) Wilson '09 arrived on the A&M campus in the fall of 2005. She joined the Corps of Cadets as a member of the Fightin' Texas Aggie Band's A-Battery and participated in the Naval ROTC program, the Cadet Leadership Council, and the George Bush School of Government and Public Service. After obtaining her bachelor's degree in international studies, she began a life

of public service as a police officer. Following her marriage to Andrew Wilson, her first assignment was in Virginia. Life then took them to Georgia, where Ashley joined the Gwinnett County Police Department.

A dedicated patrol officer, Ashley advanced through the ranks and was honored several times for her work. Yet, as with all serving on the front

lines battling crime, Ashley witnessed the dark side of society. She experienced the tragedy of seeing her friend and coworker, Officer Antwan Toney, shot and killed in the line of duty. The incident sent her down a path of isolation, depression, substance abuse, and Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD). Struggling to recover, Ashley sought help through therapy. Her recovery was difficult and expensive.

The reality of costs associated with therapy and recovery brought not only a high price financially, but also additional stress, as many of the bills for treatment were not covered by insurance or workers compensation.

Undeterred, Ashley turned frustration into action. Relying on the lesson learned as a freshman in the Corps of Cadets to never leave a fish buddy behind, she outlined a proposal for legislation to help all first responders dealing with PTSD. Her goal was to obtain financial assistance for them to receive the mental health treatment needed after diagnosis.

What started out with a plan written on a napkin during a meeting with State Representative Gregg Kennard turned into a House Bill submitted to the legislature. Ashley was the driving force behind the bill, testifying multiple times before committees and enlisting the help of others impacted by job-related trauma to testify. Ashley courageously shared her personal story through countless interviews, press conferences, and meetings with state officials. She recruited firefighter Chris Baggett's mother and his sister. Brandi Cook, to share of Chris' tragic suicide, to include reading his final letter. She recruited other firefighters and peace officers to speak of tough calls they had responded to and the dark places their minds went. Ashley's husband, a military veteran, spoke, along with personal friend, Jennie Hill. Jennie shared her story as a police officer, who, following a career-ending injury and spiraling isolation, wrote her own suicide note before finding her purpose in serving with The Wounded Blue.

More impact was added by State Representative Devan Seabaugh who shared the story of his time in EMS and the effects of PTSD. He testified that first responders serve all members of society, and they can experience PTSD at any point. He noted that it takes only one critical incident or a series of cumulative incidents to create PTSD. which can manifest either during one's career or after retirement.

During the demanding process of the bill's consideration, all involved spoke about how their lives had been affected by their jobs, what the PTSD bill would mean, and the lives it would undoubtedly save. While all first responders encounter physical injuries that can be seen and healed, Ashley knew firsthand that there are often invisible injuries, such as PTSD, that are often overlooked. It was this idea that formed the basis of Ashley's mission.

Undergoing numerous amendments and a gauntlet of committees to survive, it took three annual legislative sessions before the bill was finally passed at the close of the 2024 term. On March 28, HB 451, the PTSD bill was approved as the Ashley Wilson Act, in honor of her diligent efforts. The bill was also unanimously voted in by the Georgia House of Representatives following the Georgia Senate's unanimous vote to approve two days prior. The Senate's vote, literally at midnight, was due to the work of Georgia State Senate Senator Randy Robertson, who pushed to get it back to the House floor for a final vote on the last day of the session. On May 1, Georgia Governor Brian Kemp signed the bill into law.

The Ashley Wilson Act became the first of its kind in the country and has paved the way for other states to follow. For her work over the past four years to get PTSD benefits for Georgia's first responders, the Georgia Association of Chiefs of Police awarded Sgt. Wilson the 2024 Supervisor of the Year Award at an event held in Savannah in July of 2024.

Matthew Vargas '09 and Ashley Wilson '09, buddies from A-Battery.



# THE WOMEN (AND MEN) OF COMPANY W-1

#### Stepping Off from Square One

BY **DENNIS DAVENPORT** 



The admission of women into collegiate ROTC programs was imminent in the early 1970s, driven by post-Vietnam War plans for an all-volunteer military, the Title IX Educational Amendment to increase opportunities (including military) for women, and supporting federal funding. With this inevitability, the A&M administration decided to do it on their own terms. Texas A&M was a year behind Virginia Tech but ahead of the military academies and other universities with ROTC in integrating women into their all-male programs. BG Don Johnson '55, then an Army ROTC LTC, recalls there was no blueprint.

The 1974-75 school year was the target for admitting women into the Corps. Scott Eberhart, 1973-74 Corps Commander, was in the loop. He directed Corps Staff juniors to develop a plan covertly to accomplish this. The fivevear Minerva Plan was developed. In a meeting of the upcoming 1974-75 Corps leadership in late spring 1974, it was announced that women would be admitted in the fall.

Don Roper '75, Squadron 11, was selected for a new Corps Staff position, Personnel Officer. As he did not serve on Staff as a junior, he was not aware of the edict. However, Roper immediately volunteered to lead the mission. Corps Sergeant Major John Chappelle '75 replied, "We had already chosen you anyway."

Mark Machala '76, a Squadron 16 sophomore, volunteered for the Chief Instructor position for W-1 and intended to "train them to be good cadets." His responsibilities were similar to a first sergeant's.

Army 1LT Theresa Holzmann (now McLaughlin) reported to the Army ROTC unit just before the semester began. She had neither Corps knowledge nor advance knowledge of her mission to advise the women's outfit. Her first clue revealed itself when she entered the Trigon. Someone yelled, "She's here!" Holzmann served three years at A&M and is remembered fondly by many of that era.



The first graduating class Hanes, Jackie Pritchard, and Juanita Stubblefield

and then-1LT Theresa Holzmann is listed as military advisor.

#### THE BEGINNING

Fifty-two women assembled in front of Dorm 4 at 1600 on September 12, 1974. The first W-1 formation and training session was intentionally scheduled to occur before evening formation. The immediate mission was to establish esprit de corps and stress that members were to have each other's backs. W-1 was a multi-service outfit, and most women enrolled with intent to pursue ROTC and military service. There were no uniforms, group meal plans, ROTC

insignia, or a complete roster. The new cadets were spread over both on-campus and off-campus housing. Not officially recognized in the Corps organizational diagram, W-1 was designated "day duck" status as an adjunct detachment under Corps Staff. Lounge A, between Dorms 1 and 3, became outfit HQ, providing a base for meetings, posting announcements, signing in, restrooms, and more.

Initial actions developed the traditional structure of platoons and squads. A call went out for male volunteers to assist W-1. Three juniors and nine sophomores came to serve as platoon sergeants and squad leaders, while they continued membership in their own outfits. The training model was similar to present-day transfer outfits as well as for all fish. Every W-1 cadet was considered a fish. There was no class hierarchy, although most of the first group were academic freshmen. The first official uniform became blue jeans, white blouses, and issued black shoes. Nametags were issued and affixed. Not having uniforms, W-1 did not participate in pre-game marchins nor Corps Block football seating during the fall.

#### FIRST YEAR PROGRESS

W-1 developed well as the semester proceeded. There was not much support "in the trenches," but circumstances indicated support from above. Uniforms arrived on January 20, 1975. Meal plans were adjusted. W-1 started marching in and eating together in Duncan and was upgraded from detachment to outfit status and moved into the 3rd Battalion. Plans progressed for dorm space for the 1975-76 school year and to develop a Women's Drill Team.

As W-1 was a multi-service outfit, all ROTC departments developed interest in the success of their contract and potential contract cadets and provided advisory services to the outfit. W-1 contract cadets who were academic upperclassmen had to concurrently take Military Science 1 and 2 in order to graduate and commission at the same time, creating somewhat of an awkward situation.

The first official appearance of W-1 in uniform with rank was on Simpson Drill Field on Military Day in spring of 1975. W-1 proudly passed in review, led by Don Roper, who was obliquely flanked by Guidon Bearer Gail Sedberry, the first female African-American cadet. The male training staff, with Mark Machala marching right guide, constituted the first rank, followed by ranks of women. Roper remembers the applause received as they approached the reviewing stand.

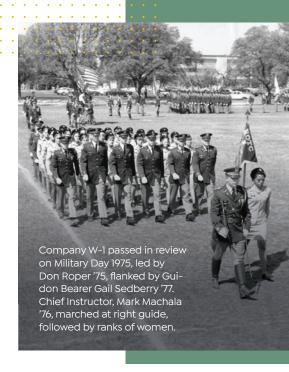
"All of the hard work, the blood, sweat, and tears were rewarded that afternoon. We knew we had made it," says Roper. W-1 passed in review in the same fashion during Parents Weekend and the first pass of Final Review 1975. Twenty-five women completed the first year.

#### SECOND PASS INTO 1975-1976

New Commander David Dean '76, the only returning male, led the second pass. Dean is the only male to have dedicated three semesters to W-1. He was followed by Guidon Bearer Sherri Jean (Blasé) Teal '78. Executive Officer Nancy (Hart) Mantooth '76, the first female senior, marched right guide. Junior and sophomore females constituted the traditional underclass leadership positions and marched accordingly. Claire-Jean (Atmar) Korznewski '77, the first female First Sergeant, called cadence. Most male advisors returned to their outfits for second pass. Mark Machala transferred to Squadron 6.

W-1 occupied the first floor of Dorm 1 in the 1975-76 school year, while civilian women occupied the top three floors. W-1 continued to headquarter in Lounge A. The outfit began marching in at football games and other reviews. The first Kyle Field pre-game march in was significant. Dewey Bolton '76, the last male volunteer, served as Commander in the spring semester of 1976.

W-1's leadership transitioned to all females for the fall semester of 1976, thus accomplishing the five-year Minerva Plan in just two years. They marched second pass of Final Review 1976 as an all-female outfit. It was led by Commander Gail Sedberry '77 (replaced later by Ruth Ann Schumacher '77), First Sergeant Roxie Pranglin'78 and Guidon Bearer, the late Charla Gwin '79. The first six women to complete the entire four-year Corps Program from day one were: Roxie Pranglin, Robin (Gibson) Weber, Ann (Stone) Sheridan, Vicki (Hanes) Radcliffe, Jackie (Pritchard) Lockhart and Juanita (Stubblefield) Thompson, all from the Class of '78.



The CCA expresses gratitude to the male cadets who served in the planning and implementation of integration of women in the Corps. Regardless of their stance on the issue, they got the job done. This includes those volunteers who assisted in the initial training and displayed the strength of character to march with W-1. Their contribution during this controversial time is a unique example of the 12th Man Tradition. Many were subjected to harassment and mistreatment from their peers. Upon request, in addition to those previously mentioned, we recognize: Mike Woolam '76, Brian Miller '77, Mike Wright '77, Jack Herbert '77, Clint Miller '77, Mark Shepard '77, Scott Birdwell '77, Jack Herbert '77, David Cunningham '77, Bruce Kimmick '76, Dennis O'Driscoll '77, Milton Clary '77, and Jerry Krenek'77.

\*This story was inspired by remembrances from Don Roper, Mark Machala, Rickey Gray, Terry Rathert, Theresa Holzmann Mclaughlin, Roxie Pranglin, Ruth Ann Schumacher Burns, Robin Gibson Weber, and Keepers of the Spirit by John Adams. This story has been abridged. The full-length story can be found by visiting corpsofcadets.org/companyw-1.

# ALEGACY OF LEASE PROPERTY OF ALEGACY OF LEASE PROPERTY OF THE PROPERTY OF THE

Jo Lynn Wilkinson marches alongside

her father, Nathan

Wilkinson '22.

The CCA is excited to announce the creation of the Eternal Cadence group that will recognize those individuals who designate a planned gift to the CCA upon their passing. If you have already put the CCA in your trust or will, please let us know so that we can add your name to our growing list. We want to show proper recognition to these generous members who will continue the legacy of building leaders of character for tomorrow with their planned giving. Our Corps of Cadets is a national treasure, and the CCA, with your help, will work tirelessly to support that treasure.

If you have questions about planned giving, please contact Jill Bright at 979-221-1998 or send an email to: bequest@corpsocadets.org

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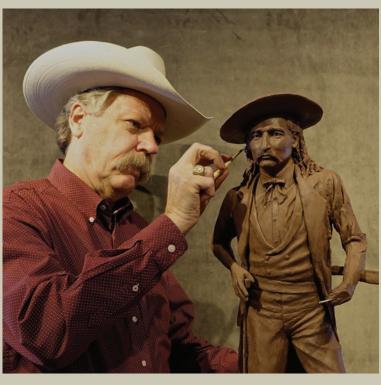


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#### **Aggie Geologist Turned Artist**

R. Scott Nickell '81 is no stranger to A&M as he graduated with a degree in geology. However, he found a different path in life based on his talent and love of working with his hands. The end results are magnificent art sculptures of cowboys and Native Americans that are one-of-a-kind and so detailed one would think they could come to life. Sculpting since 1988, Nickell sells his sculptures in the West Lives On Gallery



in Jackson Hole, WY. If you visit Jackson Hole, stop in and say HOWDY to Scott and see the beauty of his work up close.



"Chief Red Cloud" Bronze, Edition of 24 21 1/2"H x 8 1/2"W



"Quanah Parker" Bronze, Edition of 24 17 1/2"H x 8"W



"William F. Cody-Buffalo Bill" Bronze, Edition of 24 29 1/3"H x 13 1/3"W

## INTRODUCING THE 2024 TEXAS A&M CORPS



THOMAS E. "TOM" REDDIN

Thomas E. "Tom" Reddin' 59 received his BS in electrical engineering and MS in computer science, both from Texas A&M. A member of "A" Ordnance and Corps Staff, he was the Corps Adjutant, a Ross Volunteer, Who's Who, Distinguished Student, and a Distinguished Military Graduate. He served 10+ years in the Army, including Vietnam as a Major with the 25th Inf Div. His awards include three Bronze Stars. Following military service, he managed government contracts in the DC area until he was selected for federal service to head the Parklawn Computer Center supporting the seven agencies of the Public Health Service. He received the Senior Executive Service Presidential Rank Award and the Information Resources Management Award for Executive Excellence. As a Boy Scout volunteer, he received the national Distinguished Eagle Scout and Silver Buffalo Awards as a Distinguished Government Executive. He is a Department of Computer Science and Engineering Distinguished Former Student. Reddin is a member of CCA's Hollingsworth 1876 Society.



THOMAS "TOMMY" PAUL

Thomas "Tommy" Paul '62 received his BS in Mechanical Engineering with Honors from Texas A&M and his MS in Mechanical Engineering from Northeastern University in 1969. He was CO of E-2 and a member of the Ross Volunteers. He received the College of Engineering Faculty Senior Award for Achievement and was listed in Who's Who. A Distinguished Military Graduate, Paul was commissioned in the USAR and served two years on active duty. Employed in the Boeing Turbine Division and the GE Aircraft Engine Group, he spent 26 years designing and developing aircraft engines and was promoted to Vice President Power Generation Engineering. He served on the ME Department Development and Advisor Council, the College of Engineering Development Council, and the President's Corps of Cadets Board of Visitors. Paul is an ME Department Distinguished Graduate and a College of Engineering Outstanding Alumni. Paul is a member of the CCA's Hollingsworth 1876 Society.

## OF CADETS HALL OF HONOR INDUCTEES



**RUMALDO** Z. JUÁREZ '66





**DAVID** A. SCHLUETER '68

Professor David A. Schlueter '68 received his BA in English from Texas A&M; a JD from Baylor School of Law; and his LLM from University of Virginia School of Law. He was a member of the Fightin' Texas Aggie Band, on Bugle Rank, Combined Band Scholastic Officer, and a Distinguished Military Graduate. Schlueter served for 27 years in the US Army Judge Advocate General's Corps. He is Professor Emeritus and Hardy Chair Emeritus at St. Mary's Law School, where he taught for 41 years; he has co-authored twelve books on military justice and evidence. He was appointed legal officer of the United States Supreme Court and also worked as the reporter for the Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure Advisory Committee. Schlueter was named the 2018 Distinguished Aggie Lawver; is a Sul Ross Scholarship donor; and serves as a Class Agent. He is an elder at Concordia Lutheran Church and is a member of the CCA's Hollingsworth 1876 Society.

#### 2024 TEXAS A&M CORPS OF CADETS



JOHN SHARP

Chancellor John Sharp '72 earned a bachelor's degree in political science from Texas A&M University and a master's in public administration from Texas State University. He is a distinguished alumnus from both universities. Sharp was a member of Squadron 6, on Corps staff, and a member of the 1972 rugby team. He also was elected sophomore class president, student life chairman, Muster chairman, and student body president. Upon graduation, Sharp was commissioned as a second lieutenant in the United States Army Reserve. Sharp served more than three decades as a state legislator, senator, railroad commissioner, and comptroller before becoming a partner at Ryan & Company. He became Chancellor of The Texas A&M University System in 2011. Sharp is a member of the CCA's Hollingsworth 1876 Society. Sharp is married to Diana (Atchison) Sharp; they exchanged vows on May 5, 2023. Between them, they have five adult children and six grandchildren.



JAMES "JIM" G. IVEY "73

COL James "Jim" G. Ivey '73 graduated with a BS in building construction from Texas A&M and an MBA from the University of Houston and is a graduate of the Army Command and Staff College and the Duke University Advanced Management Program. Ivey was a member of Company L-1, a Ross Volunteer, and served on the 5th Battalion Staff as well as Town Hall and SCONA. He worked for 40 plus years in the energy industry, ultimately serving as CEO for J2R Energy, Pintail Oil and Gas, and Milagro Exploration. Ivey also had a 30-year career in the Army Reserve retiring as a COL. His service included a brigade command. His major awards included the Legion of Merit, Army Commendation Medal, and the de Fleury Medal. Ivey is a member of the Texas Aggie Corps of Cadets Association and the Ross Volunteer Association.

#### HALL OF HONOR INDUCTEES



WADE SEIDEL

Wade Seidel '73 earned a bachelor's degree in business administration from Texas A&M University and graduated summa cum laude and as a distinguished military graduate. Seidel was a member of company B-2, on Corps staff, served as Deputy Corps Commander, and was a Ross Volunteer. He also was elected as a student senator and served on the Memorial Student Center council. Upon graduation, Seidel was commissioned in the United States Army where he was a US Army Airborne School graduate. He then co-founded the accounting firm of Seidel Schroeder and served as managing partner for 38 years. Seidel served on Brenham's Trinity Medical Center Hospital board; the Brenham Economic Development Foundation board, and the Hospice Brazos Valley board. He is a 25-year member of the Corps of Cadets Association where he serves as a board member. He is married to his wife Susie, and they have two Aggie children and seven granddaughters.



**MICHAEL** J. PLANK

Regent Michael J. Plank '83 graduated with a BS degree in mechanical engineering from Texas A&M. He was a member of Squadron 11, served on 3rd Group Staff, and was President of the O.R. Simpson Honor Society. Plank is Chairman/CEO of The Plank Companies, National Property Holdings, Rail Logix, and Speed Shore Corporation and was a recipient of the Ernst & Young Entrepreneur of the Year Award. He received the College of Engineering's Distinguished Alumni Award, was inducted into the ME Department's Academy of Distinguished Graduates, and was named a Distinguished Alumnus of Texas A&M. Plank was appointed as a Regent of the Texas A&M System by Governor Abbott in 2019. The Susan & Michael J. Plank Leadership Learning Center and Plank Bridge in Aggie Park are both named in their honor based upon their generous support of the Corps and Texas A&M. Plank is a member of the CCA's Hollingsworth 1876 Society.



David Schlueter '68 escorts his wife Linda down the red carpet beneath the Ross Volunteer saber arch.

#### THE BEST 2024 Corps of Cadets Hall of Honor Gala

BY JILL BRIGHT '91

n August 16, the CCA hosted the Corps of Cadets Hall of Honor Gala at the Hilton Hotel and Convention Center to induct eight worthy former cadets into this elite group. The Hall of Honor was established in 1993. and in 2016, the CCA transformed it into a black-tie event.

Over 570 guests, university VIPs, CCA Hollingsworth 1876 Society members, and friends gathered for the celebration. As the emcee called guests to their seats, the Fightin' Texas Aggie Band's buglers and drummers played the processional for over 50 former and current inductees as they walked

the red carpet beneath the Ross Volunteer saber arch.

CCA President and CEO. Bruce Hamilton '78, welcomed the crowd and introduced CCA Chairman Brandon Neff '99, who highlighted the importance of the inductees and their contributions to society and to the Corps as well as the importance of the examples they set for current cadets.

A&M President Mark Welsh III emphasized the importance of the Corps to our university. "One of the most meaningful things about A&M is that it has a spiritual pillar. Here there is this very tightly wound hold on heritage, history, and tradition, and it's locked tight with our Core Values. However, the center pole of that pillar is the Corps. So if you think of the Corps as the Keeper of the Flame, Guardians of Traditions, or the face of the 12th Man—we should all remember is that it is the heartbeat of Texas A&M and it must stay strong," said Welsh.

The quality of the guests in attendance was reinforced by Lt Gen Loyd "Chip" Utterback '75, Interim Commandant of the Corps. "I'm certain there's not a gathering of this size in this state and maybe the nation with men and wom-



en who have better defined the word honor or collectively made greater contributions to our nation. The needs of our world are ever evolving, but one truth never waivers: our nation needs Texas Aggies to answer the call. These Aggies have done just that."

Dinner was served, and the new members of the Hall of Honor were inducted. Each was called by name, and a short video aired about their accomplishments and love for the university. A Ross Volunteer escorted each inductee to the stage where he was

met by Utterback, Hamilton, and 2024-2025 Corps Commander, Deandré Macri '25, for the presentation. Everyone was presented a walnut keepsake book, and a Hall of Honor medallion was placed around their necks.

"Being in the presence of such accomplished former inductees and their families was a humbling experience and a realization that my decision to join the Corps after graduating from a small high school in Robstown, Texas, was a blessing for myself and my family, and a testament that A&M is

 Members of Squadron 23 celebrate with Emma and Harvey Haas '59.

truly an 'equalizer' for success, opportunity, and leadership, no matter where you come from," says Dr. Rumaldo Z. Juárez '66.

After the final presentation, Macri closed, stating, "To everyone here tonight, I want to say thank you. Each of you support and strengthen the Corps of Cadets. The Corps experience changes us; it shapes and molds us into leaders of character and virtue. When I see events around our world, I am steadfast in the awareness that what our country most desperately needs continues to be harvested right here, in this room, at this university, in the Keepers of the Spirit of Aggieland, the cadets of Texas A&M."

The CCA thanks the Texas A&M System, the Chancellor's Office, and H. Malcolm Stewart '73 for their Titanium sponsorship as well as all of the sponsors of the evening. To view the inductee videos, visit corpsofcadets.org/hoh.

Left Photo: Susan and Wade Seidel '73, one of this year's inductees, with a member of the Ross Volunteer Company, Landon Johnson '25.

Right Photo: From left to right, Jerome Rektorik '65, Interim Commandant Lt Gen Loyd "Chip" Utterback '75, and William Heye Jr. '60 catch up and reminisce.

> PHOTOS BY AR PHOTOGRAPHY

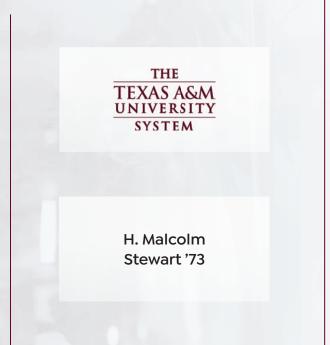




# The CCA Salutes the 2024 Hall of Honor Gala Sponsors

A special thank you to all of the sponsors of the 2024 Corps of Cadets Hall of Honor Gala, who made the event a splendid success. We appreciate your support and look forward to the 2025 Hall of Honor Gala!

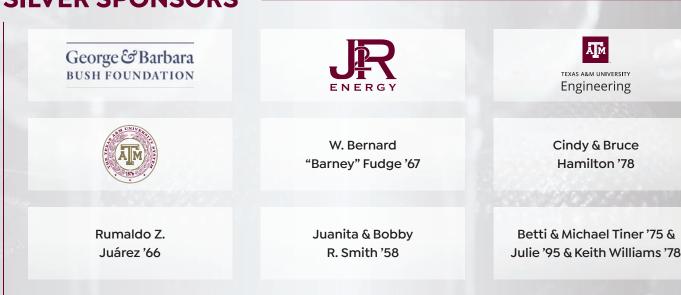
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Marisa Reeder in honor of Rumaldo Z. Juárez '66

Dr. Manuel Piña Jr. '67 in honor of Rumaldo Z. Juárez '66

James Criswell '68 in honor of David E. Schlueter '68

Al Davis '54 in honor of John S. Sharp '72

John Bliss '73 in honor of James G. "Jim" Ivey '73

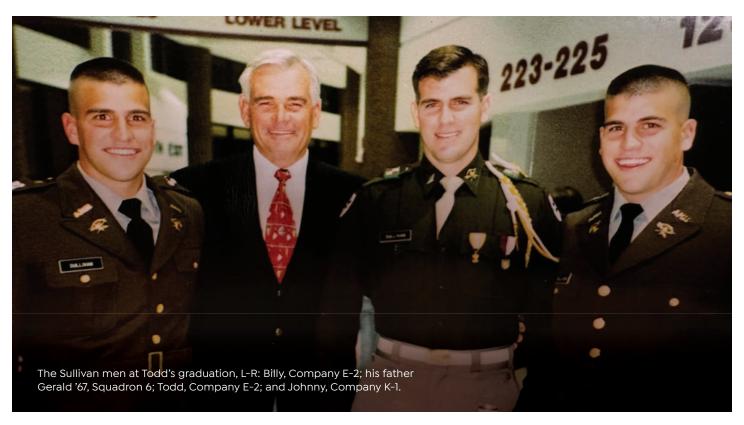
Pat Ehlert in honor of Wade F. Seidel '73

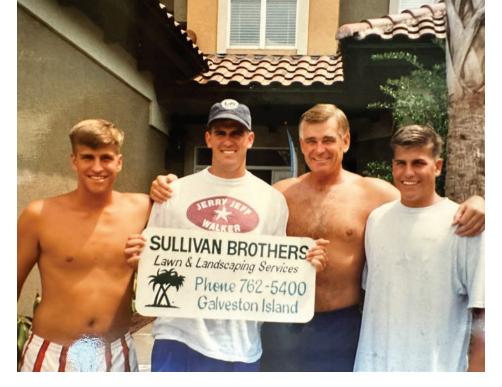
# BATTLEFIELD & BOARDROOM: AGGIE LEADERS MAKING A DIFFERENCE

# Todd'97, Billy'02 & Johnny'02 Sullivan

Meet the Sullivan Brothers—business leaders from Galveston who have built their enterprises on a firm foundation of family values reinforced by their Corps experience. The brothers currently operate a conglomerate of 15 entities, colloquially called The Sullivan Brothers Family of Companies, which span an array of sectors from energy to disaster response, and construction. Todd, John and William (known as Johnny and Billy), joined together in business in middle school as local landscapers and have worked continuously as complementary partners for over 35 years. The Corps has played an instrumental role in the story of their family and their business pursuits.

BY BRANDON NEFF '99, CHAIRMAN OF THE CCA BOARD





Pictured during their early years in business with their proud father, Gerald, are Billy, Todd, and Johnny.

#### Why did you join the Corps?

We come from an Aggie Corps family, so we grew up around A&M and the Corps. Our dad, Gerald Sullivan '67, set an example for us in so many ways, and the Corps of Cadets was something we always aspired to do. As zips, Todd wore Dad's boots and Johnny and Billy split up Dad's brass so we could each wear something that had been on the Ouad with our father. Wearing parts of his uniform was a special symbol of carrying on the family tradition.

#### What lessons from the Corps have been helpful in your careers?

Loyalty. When you commit to a partnership, you must be in it for the good and bad days alike. In business, you experience highs and lows, but you must work through each with your partner. Just like you had to be loyal to your buddies in the Corps, even when things got tough and your buddy may have done something wrong, you always stuck with him. You never quit on your buddy, and you never quit on your partner.

Work ethic. "Put out fish!" Even when physically exhausted, we learned in the Corps that determination was the largest factor determining if someone would quit or keep fighting. Being mentally strong and unwilling to quit meant more than physical ability. In business, when it seems too hard to keep going, you reach down deep inside and find that "other gear" we all know is inside of us. The Corps teaches: "Don't quit, can't quit, won't quit!"

Sacrifice. In the Corps, you realize you're a part of something bigger than yourself. You sacrifice your personal desires for the greater good of your buddies, your outfit, and the Corps. In business, you must sacrifice for your employees and clients. We've missed many family events because of business needs. Ours is truly a "family affair" and our families are very much a part of our success, but it is only because they sacrificed, too.

Humility and selflessness. You cannot get through the Corps if you are selfish; your buddies will always challenge you to rise to the occasion, to contribute, "to put out or get out," and you will be rewarded for your good efforts. During FOW, you go from "Billy Bad Ass" in high school to someone that no longer had a name other than fish Jones. To be a successful partner, you must be a humble contributor to the team. In business, you must deliver good value to your customers. Markets and customers are efficient and smart; thus, they will seek good value. Conversely, if you are committed to delivering a good product or service in the same spirit as being a good fish buddy, or a servant leader in the Corps, your customers and the market will provide returns again and again, leading to durable and repeatable long-term success.

#### How can the Corps experience prepare cadets for leadership in the private sector?

If the Corps can intentionally recruit business-minded future cadets and provide them with curated engagement programs with former cadets, our ranks will swell and our cadets will be the best prepared in the nation. In business, you often motivate employees differently based on their backgrounds, learning styles, or situations. As the Corps taught us, sometimes you need to be a pisshead, while other times you need to lead like a sergebutt, and sometimes you need to whisper in someone's ear to encourage them like a zip would do. Current cadets will always benefit from hearing these lessons and others directly from former cadets who are now leaders in various industries.

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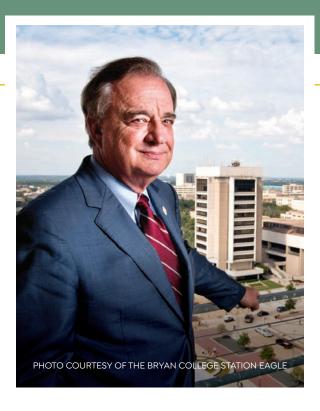
#### WITH CHANCELLOR JOHN SHARP '72

BY BRUCE HAMILTON '78, CCA PRESIDENT & CEO

In August, Texas A&M University System Chancellor John Sharp '72 announced this would be his final year of service. This retirement announcement coincided with Sharp's induction into the Texas A&M Corps of Cadets Hall of Honor on August 16. Texas Aggie Corps of Cadets Association President and CEO Bruce Hamilton '78 sat down with Sharp recently to discuss his life of devotion and service to the Corps and Texas A&M.

#### BRUCE: How did your experience in the Corps of Cadets prepare you for serving as Chancellor?

JOHN: More than anything else, the Corps taught me the importance of relationships. We learned never, ever to let our fish buddies down; that when one of us had to be corrected for behavior, we ALL had the responsibility to learn from it: that our fish buddies came first over ourselves; and that a failure of one was a failure for all of us. The teamwork and responsibility to others was a lesson I never forgot, and I have used those traits continuously over my career, especially during my tenure as Chancellor.



#### BRUCE: How has the Corps of Cadets changed since your days as a cadet in Squadron 6?

JOHN: The Corps has become a much more professional experience. In the early 1970s, we were just a bit wild. While there was some learning that came from trial and error, sometimes there was perhaps too much trial and error. Our Corps today is still student led, but those leaders are given better coaching and leadership skills, and they develop fewer bad habits. However, the principle that fish must be reduced to the bottom of the heap in order to learn to be followers first is still the secret sauce that develops them into leaders later.

#### BRUCE: Can you recall a memory from your time as a student that stands out in your memory?

JOHN: One day I will never forget was May 6, 1972, when my dad drove me home from graduation. I remember exactly where we were, right under Wellborn Road. It was burned into my memory, and my dad asked me, "What do you think this place is going to be like in 20 years?" And you have to

remember at that time the Vietnam War was winding down, and the numbers in the Corps were declining precipitously. I said, "Dad, I am worried that this place is going to look just like the University of Texas 20 years from now." Thank God I was wrong about that. I have asked myself the question so many times, "What is it that makes this place special?" It is the Corps. The Corps makes the Kool-Aid, but everybody drinks it. The rest of the student body looks to the Corps for the traditions, looks to the Corps for the spirit, looks to the Corps to lead the way and set the standard for all of those values that are special about Texas A&M. Without the Corps, I'm afraid my prediction would have been right.

#### SILVER TAPS

The CCA has received notification that the following members have passed since our previous issue:

Charles Locke '46

James Stokes '47

COL Don McInturff '48

Raymond Medford '50

Hal Haltom '51

Emil Huber Jr. '51

William Stromberg '51

Robert Bradshaw '52

Voris Burch Jr. '52

Herbert Lackshin '54

Gerald Schulz '55

Charles Stinnett Jr. '56

Thomas Smith '57

COL Forrest Appleton '58

LTC Ford Martin '58

Dr. Wendell Edwards '59

William Hardy III '59

Lt Col Albert Yantis Jr. '59

Stewart McLeod '60

Don Walther '60

Charles Gould '61

Ernest Gregg '61

Robert Brooks '62

Thomas Swafford '62

James Bruns '63

William Kerley '63

Fred Luhm '63

Clarence Potter Jr. '63

COL Gerald Donaldson '64

Luther Sanders '64

Franklyn Supercinski '64

Donald Carter '65

Victor Garcia '65

David Barker '66

John Randolph '66

Dr. Roger Harvey '68

Lee Horton '68

Robert Scheske '68

Lawrence Zatopek '68

LTC Charles Kessie '69

Edward Licence Jr. '70

LTC Frank McAllister '71

William Becker '73

Arthur King '75

Michael Siller '76

Michael Spencer '88



An In Memory gift to the Texas Aggie Corps of Cadets Association is a meaningful way to give recognition to someone while supporting the mission of the CCA.

Robert W. Sears '56

COL Forrest W. Appleton '58

Ford G. Martin '58

William C. Kerley '63

Fred E. Luhm '63

Walter H. Bradford '68

Roger B. Harvey '68

Edward B. Licence '70

Johnny L. Willis '91

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Paul F. Gardner '66



In Honor & In Memory





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#### WOMEN IN THE CORPS



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Join us as we celebrate those who were first to forge the way through those who continue the tradition today.

With exciting and memorable activities beginning Friday evening and running through Sunday, we invite every generation of women and those who supported them to gather again in Aggieland. Current cadets are also invited.

A Friday evening social kicks off the festivities followed by Saturday morning cadet-led Quad tours and a luncheon with panel discussions featuring cadets from each decade. A semi-formal dinner that evening will continue the celebration and provide a meaningful look at the history, integration, and future of women in the Corps. Miss Reveille X will join us for the social hour that evening. Sunday will have some optional events, one of which may be attending the women's basketball game vs. Texas, the time is TBD, so stay informed by visiting https://www.corpsofcadets.org/50thwomen.



