



THE *Skirmisher*

BORDENTOWN MILITARY INSTITUTE

“RATHER BE THAN SEEM”

BMI Alumni Association, P. O. Box 91, Bordentown, New Jersey 08505



Presidents Message

Greetings to all!

Your Executive Board is rolling up its sleeves to get to work on BMI Reunion 2024. The dates are Friday, October 18, and Saturday, October 19. The Cocktail Party on Friday night and the Banquet on Saturday night will be at the Bordentown Yacht Club as was the case Reunion 2022. And the food will be provided by Toscano, the best restaurant in a town full of restaurants.

Many participants at Reunion 2022 said it was the best ever and in keeping with the finest BMI traditions we want to make Reunion 2024 even better. The way we do this is to get even more of our fellow cadets to join us. Now is the time to reach out to your classmates and tell them this is the year to attend.

Also we are exceedingly proud to announce to you that The Delaware Valley Chapter of the National Football Foundation awarded BMI it's **GEORGE O'GORMAN CONTRIBUTION TO AMATEUR FOOTBALL AWARD**. This is particularly notable because it's the first time they recognized a program rather than specific athletes. See the complete article on the next page.

I hope to see all of you in October!

Jack Harkins '67

The BMI 2022 Reunion was an extraordinary event. I would like to personally thank the tireless behind-the-scenes work of the Board of Directors. The setting at the Bordentown Yacht Club couldn't have been more accommodating for the camaraderie for all who attended. We all enjoyed talking with each other. Like the words in our Alma Mater, "Built high above the Delaware", the Bordentown Yacht Club setting brought a special moment to our days when we attended BMI.



**The Delaware Valley Chapter of the National Football Foundation awarded BMI it's GEORGE O'GORMAN CONTRIBUTION TO AMATEUR FOOTBALL AWARD.
By Jack Harkins '67**



Established in 1962, the Delaware Valley Chapter of the National Football Foundation is intimately involved in amateur football in the Central New Jersey area. Covering 6 counties, 21 high schools and 2 colleges, the Chapter is a visible presence throughout the year.

Led by the dynamic Eric Hamilton, former Head Football Coach at The College of New Jersey and a team of dedicated volunteers, the DelVal chapter hosts several NFF programs and is a shining example of the NFF in action. The annual Scholar-Athlete banquet is the premier event for the chapter. Held in March, the dinner attracts over 250 football enthusiasts annually. Each of the high schools representing 6 counties in the Delaware Valley honors its top scholar-leader-athletes.

I urge you to the BMICadets.org to watch a video of Executive Board Member Jim Lynch '73 acceptance speech. In his introduction of Jims speech, Master of Ceremonies Eric Hamilton, who grew up in Bordentown, recognized the table of BMI representatives, alumni, coaches and instructors, who were "still around." With that I am declaring a motto that would be secondary to "Rather Be than Seem", that motto is "We're Still around!"

**A Great Teacher
By Joe Porter '67**

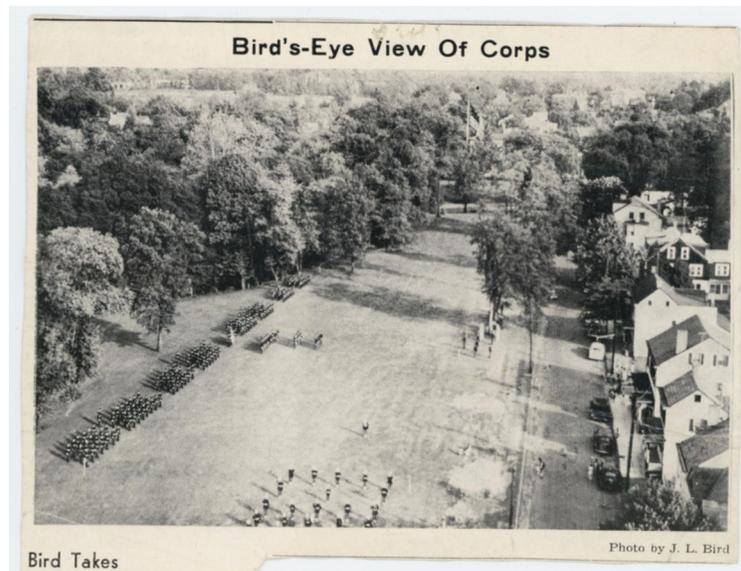
BMI had many high quality, scholarly instructors. One instructor that had a major impact on me was Mr. Jetmore. Mr. Jetmore, or as he was known by all of his students "The Jet", graduated from Yale University.

Mr. Jetmore taught English using the traditional Warriner's textbook. Seeing that I thoroughly enjoyed grammar, Mr. Jetmore told me that I would probably enjoy a new concept called transformational grammar. I was like a kid in a candy store. What an exciting time I had! Transformational grammar was like an intricate puzzle. The idea was to combine a number of short sentences into one complex sentence without making it a run-on sentence. By using all parts of speech including relative adjective phrases and subordinate adverbial clauses, the exciting part was defending your new magical sentence. Now grammar came alive!

It was due to Mr. Jetmore's influence that I became an English teacher.



DAVID B. JETMORE
B.A., Yale University
LL.B., New York Law School
Member, New York Bar
English



A new phase of BMI photography was exhibited on May 17 as Cadet Jack Bird took to the skies with his camera. Bird, photographic editor of the Skirmisher and the Sword and Sabre, chartered a Piper Cub at Florence Airport and flew to Bordentown where the cadet corps was having a parade in celebration of Armed Forces Day. The plane skimmed the green opposite the Main Building several times and many excellent photos were taken. (photo above.)

Editor's note: The above caption was taken word-for-word from a newspaper article. Unfortunately we do not know the name or date of the newspaper



Jeff Nissim, along with the BMI Cadet Statue, proudly survey our Legacy Paver

Approximately six years ago I came up with the idea of the paver project. I presented the idea to the B. M. I. Alumni Board. President Jack Harkins thought the response would be less than 50 cadets. To make a long story short; the response was almost 200 pavers. My thought was to place them in the sidewalk. We ran into some red tape. Jack suggested placing them inside the fence in front of the statue. We sent out information to the alumni about the project and the response was surprisingly good. I contacted a mason to remove the bricks at the statue and make it ready for the pavers. In the mail I received checks from the alumni, went to the bank and deposited them. Then I went to Bordentown to get the blank pavers. (City of Bordentown donated them). We brought the blank pavers to the engraver, after being engraved the pavers were returned to Bordentown so Vice President J.C.Platt could place them at the site. All this happened two years ago. When you come to the reunion you can see your name.

Jeff Nissim '66, BMI alumni Association Delegate-at-Large

Editor's note: In the above article, Jeff provides a rather straightforward summary of the Legacy Paver Project. He is being to modest. Although other people worked on this project Jeff was certainly the persistent mainstay, the driving force, if you will, that kept this project on track. 50 years from now, when we have all reported to that Battalion in the sky, this paver project will be the most visible and durable demonstration of the Bordentown Military Institute legacy. jeh

Rather Be Than Seem - Motto of B.M.I.

by Joe Porter '67

The motto of Bordentown Military Institute (BMI) was first found in Cicero's essay, "On Friendship...esse quam videri". The essay quoted "virtute enim ipsa non tam multi praediti esse quam videri redunt." (Translation - "Few are those who wish to be endowed with virtue rather than to seem so.") Other great writers such as Sallust, Aeschylus and even Plato, used similar lines.

BMI's motto has been in place since 1881. There are over 75 schools, past and present, throughout the world, who use this motto. These include: Appalachian State University (1899), The Episcopal Academy (Newtown Square, PA), Hartford Public High School (Hartford, Connecticut), The Ellis School (Pittsburgh, PA), Royal Holloway (University of London, Surrey, England), University of North Carolina (Charlotte, NC), and Wavell State High School (Brisbane, Australia). Even TV personality, Stephen Colbert, inverted the phrase on his show as "to seem to be, rather than to be."

The state motto of North Carolina is "esse quam videri" which means "to be rather than to seem". It was made the official state motto in 1893 (twelve years after BMI). North Carolina was the last of the original states to adopt a state motto.

Many people have asked, "What does the motto mean?" Well...

North Carolinians have been quoted as saying, "We don't feel as though anything; we feel things or we don't. And we will tell you about it, rather than telling you that it may, perhaps, somewhat, be something that might well have crossed our minds." In other words, be direct rather than "beat around the bush" and be indecisive. It takes a special person to be direct and do it rather than just talk about it and not do it.

As the people from North Carolina say, "We were the last of the thirteen colonies to come up with a motto and it shows tenacity. We would rather be precise than seem so."

Click on: [esse quam videri](#) and read more on Wikipedia about BMI's great motto - "Rather Be Than Seem."

Facebook Groups



Bordentown Military Institute Friends
Public group · 211 members

A great way of keeping track of BMI events of course is the Bordentown Military Institute Alumni Association's BMI Cadets page on the computer plus of course articles in the Skirmisher. On Facebook there are also two Pages for BMI, (1) Bordentown Military Institute Friends (of which I'm the Administrator) and (2) Bordentown Military Institute. Posts as well as comments of course are always welcome from our former Cadets, Staff Members or family members of either. BMI Friend's also has a BMI Chat room. A lot of us have brought up events and things We remember from our Cadet Days both on the Facebook Comments on postings (many include pictures and narrative) and other subjects within the Chat room of BMI friends.

See You at the 2024 BMI reunion.

"Larry", LAWRENCE J. McCARTER, SMSgt, USAF (Ret), BMI Class of 1966.

MEMBERSHIP DUES AND DONATIONS

Dues and other donations, although much appreciated, are **NOT** tax deductible. Dues are \$20 per year payable to BMI Alumni Association, P. O. Box 91, Bordentown, NJ 08505. Payment of dues is not a requirement for membership in the BMI Alumni Association. Please always include your class year along with your name. The BMI Board is always on the lookout to purchase BMI memorabilia, and this is possible through the donations we receive from you, the BMI alumni. We thank you!