



# THE *Skirmisher*

**BORDENTOWN MILITARY INSTITUTE**

**“RATHER BE THAN SEEM”**

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



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*Tersina DiPietro, Editor*

**SUMMER 2016**

## President's Message:

I am looking forward to seeing ALL of you on October 21st and 22nd for the Bordentown Military Institute Reunion 2016. For those of you who have experienced the cocktail party on Friday night, the parade down the streets of Bordentown, the service at the BMI Memorial Statue, and the banquet on Saturday, it is time to do it again. If you have not been to a BMI Reunion in the past, this is the year to start. If we have your email address, we will send information to you via the Internet. If not, be sure to check your "snail" mail. In the meantime, on page 8 you can catch a preview of the schedule for Saturday, October 22.

We were pleasantly surprised at your enthusiasm for the Memorial Paver Project. It was our intent to have completed the first phase before the Reunion. Unfortunately, we have encountered some delays having to do with property ownership; therefore, we are forced to temporarily set that project aside while we concentrate on the Reunion. Thank you for your patience.

I hope you will be with us in October. Until then, keep those shoes and belt buckles shined.

Respectfully,

*Jack*

Jack Harkins '67

## CLASS NOTES

'35 We received a letter from the daughter of **GEORGE HODSDON**. She wrote, "Dad is pretty good in his 100th year and his quick wit still catches me by surprise. He enjoys the BMI newsletters."

'39 **H. AUSTIN MITSCHER** wrote to ask if there are still alumni from the classes of 1938, 1939, or 1940. If alumni wish to contact him, he can be reached at hamandanne@yahoo.com. Austin is 96 years young and has been married to his wife Anne for 66 years.

'44 In our last issue of *The Skirmisher*, we mentioned that **KIM KOWALCZYK '71** had a 1944 yearbook that he was willing to pass on to anyone who wanted it. By the time we heard from **SID BENJAMIN '44**, the yearbook was already in the hands of **ALEX COOPER '70**. When we contacted Alex and told him of Sid's interest in receiving the yearbook, Alex generously gave the book to us and we mailed it to Sid. (*Ed. Note: Now that is really showing the true colors of the Band of Brothers. Thanks, Alex.*) Sid wrote, "I spent several hours at my desk and truly enjoyed going through the yearbook page by page bringing back memories of a most enjoyable period in my life. And now, in the words of Dr. Seuss, 'The golden years are here at last; the golden years can kiss my as\_\_!' Sixty years of wonderful golf damaged my sciatica and I have a hard time moving around."

'45 **ARNOLD WOLFE** wrote, "I cannot tell you how much I enjoy *The Skirmisher*. I recently met and had dinner with a fellow graduate from 1945, **CLEM CRYSTAL**. I had not seen him in 71 years and found him living quite near me in Florida. Keep up the wonderful work you are doing keeping the spirit of BMI alive."

'46 **FRANK DUMONT** has enjoyed recent messages from **TONY FERRIGNO '47**. Frank wrote, "He seems to be in great health and spirits. I always look forward to *The Skirmisher*."

'47 **BERNARD FEATHERMAN** continues to remain active in many activities in Highland Beach, FL. He has served on numerous charitable, educational, and civic boards. He also serves as Mayor of the Town of Highland Beach.

'48 **JOHN SODERBERG** wrote, "Very good to see the BMI return address on an envelope again. Curiously, I find myself reading *The Skirmisher* again and again without putting it down. Then I read it again." He added, "**JOHN SODERBERG '48** (A.K.A. The Silver Fox) sends greetings and a challenge to **DICK KESSLER '48**. We will see who lives the longest. When we do go, be sure to go out in a blaze of BMI glory! Starting tonight, I am no longer eating two pounds of raw, red beef for dinner and I will fill my plate with broccoli and cooked carrots. I'm not new to this game."

'49 **PAUL EDMAN** wrote, "I have the dates on my calendar. Looking forward to the 2016 Reunion." We heard from Barbara Helander, wife of **GORDON HELANDER**. She said that Gordon is unable to communicate with us but she knows that BMI was important to him.

'51 **PAUL MARTINEK** reminds his fellow classmates that Reunion 2016 marks the 65th Anniversary of their graduation from BMI. What better way to celebrate than attending the Reunion festivities!

'52 We heard from **FRED HUBER**. He wrote, "So nice to see *The Skirmisher* again. It has been a long time since my two years in Bordentown. I lived in Durland House in the room next to **NORMAN**

**SCHWARZKOPF.** I visited the campus once - in 1954 - to show it to my girlfriend following our formal engagement for which I had received a congratulatory letter from J. Harold Lucas. Still have his letter and some of my BMI stuff that have stood me in good stead ever since, especially during my chemical industry career and during the final years (the '90s) during which I was CEO of a chemical manufacturer in South Louisiana. Even today, as I cope with the loss of my 'girl' of 60 years, and have to do my wash and make my bed, I think of Sgt. Marshall and make 'square corners' fit for inspection."

**HUMBERTO LARACH** wrote to tell us that he is planning to attend Reunion 2016. He said he is trying to convince **DUKE DUCLO '48** to attend also. Humberto wrote emails to alumni from his class with the hope that they will join him in October. He can be reached at 786-206-5740.

'54 **NOBLE CHASE**, a novel by **MICHAEL RUDOLPH**, is now on sale. Mike is working on his second novel, **THE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION**.

'56 **GUY HAAG** wrote, "My wife passed away after our 50th Anniversary. My son lives in Phoenix, AZ, and my daughter and her family live in London, England." Guy resides in Edwardsville, IL.

'57 Along with his dues, **EDGAR BRICK** sent a note stating, "Enjoying winter in Naples, FL, and summers in Newtown, PA. Still working managing money for over 400 clients. Best of all - health is good."

"Thanks for the great job!" wrote **J. ROBERT HENDRICKS**. (*Ed. Note: We never get tired of hearing that.*)

We received an email from **MARSHALL TILDEN**. He said he has not been to BMI since 1967 when he and his girlfriend, who is now his wife, visited for his tenth reunion. Marshall added, "I would love to see **JOHN CARPENTER '62**, **DENNIS FRY** and **BOB HENDRICKS** (both from the Class of '57). I graduated from Syracuse University in 1961. Ironically, I grew up in Manhasset, Long Island, and was involved with Jim Brown's football games when I was younger. This influenced me to apply to Syracuse even though I did not play football. While there, Ernie Davis and John Mackey were roommates right down the hall from my room and I became friendly with them. I am very proud to have **FLOYD LITTLE '63** also involved with my life with Syracuse. I knew **JAY LUISI '56**. He was a great guy and it made me feel special just to talk with him. See you in October."

'58 We heard from "Santa" **JACK ARTHUR**. As many of you know, J.R. is an expert player of bagpipes. He has been retained to pipe for a wedding the same weekend as Reunion 2016. He wrote, "Sharon and I will have to wait until the 2018 reunion which I have already marked on my calendar. My best to all my fellow classmates and fellow cadets." J.R. recently moved from Florida to Fredericksburg, VA. He said he moved to get nearer to Bordentown.

The Rev. **RICHARD BOULTER** sent an email expressing his sadness to learn of **DAVID HARKNESS'** passing last year. He said he and Dave were very close friends since their childhood days back in Trenton. Richard has been enjoying retirement and spending as much time as he can with his grandkids. He added, "I spend a lot of my time doing pastoral work and outreach within the community. The nice thing about being the assistant is I seldom have to preach, do not have to worry about building issues but still keep my fingers involved in the activities of the church. I do reflect often on my days at BMI and many of the folks I met there. Not sure about October. I have to see what our priest is doing regarding time off. When he is off, pastoral care falls under me."

'59 **CHARLES HELLRIEGEL** would like to have a 1959 BMI yearbook. He wrote, "Mine got lost in a shipment back to the states from Dakar, Senegal." He added, "I am hoping to get to this year's Reunion but my schedule at NASA's JSC Space Center in Houston for October has yet to be determined."

**ROBERT WILMOT WILLIAMS** is working very diligently to ensure that the number of attendees from the Class of 1959 will far outnumber all other class attendance at Reunion 2016. Robert's

email address is [rwilmotw@yahoo.com](mailto:rwilmotw@yahoo.com). He invites all members of his class to contact him. Robert and his wife Judy will be there to welcome former classmates. Also, Robert has researched deceased alumni from his class (See In Memoriam column on page 7.).

**'60** We received an email from **THOM BAILEY** informing us that he has moved from Newport News, VA, to Massanutten, VA. He wrote, "Looking forward to coming to the reunion in October."

**BOB CONSTANTINO** wrote, "I am writing a book (faith centered towards our whole and eternal salvation). If anyone is in the publishing field, please let me know." Bob said he has been in contact with **BILL MIRANDA** who is doing well and living in California. Bob is interested in getting a 1960 BMI yearbook. Also, he would like to contact anyone who remembers **BOB KESTY** who passed away in 2001.

**LOU SHAPIRO** wrote, "About ten years ago I had a meeting at Mastoris' Diner. I had not been back to Bordentown since my graduation so when my meeting ended I decided to go over and have a look. The infirmary and Landon Hall were recognizable but the site of Old Main was a real shock. I am glad I made the visit. It triggered many pleasant memories of both events and people. I have not seen many names from the Class of 1960 in recent Skirmishers but if more names pop up, I will certainly consider joining you in October. I credit my two years at BMI and their faculty for a successful turn-around in my life. For the past 55 years I have been a partner in an architectural firm specializing in the design of health care facilities. I retired in January 2015. I live in Clarks Summit, PA, with my wife of 47 years. We have two children and three grandchildren."

**'61** **CHET DERR** wrote, "Thank you to the Executive Board and Alumni Association for keeping our traditions and memories alive."

**ED FINKLE** wrote, "I am now the Business Development Manager for Yankee Trails World Travel. Looking for Florida grads to give me a call (518-879-2559) or email at [Efinkle@yankeetrails.com](mailto:Efinkle@yankeetrails.com). I would like to arrange a get-together as I have a huge fleet of busses to do special events for our BMI cadets."

**STEVE HAMMOND** spends six months in Maine and six months in San Diego, CA. He added, "I am keeping busy restoring historic buildings for contemporary commercial and residential use. My best to all BMI alums."

**NORMAN KIRSCHBAUM** lost his 1961 yearbook many years ago during a move. He would appreciate receiving a replacement. After living and working in Italy, he is now in Wiesbaden, Germany. He wrote, "This year completes my tenth year of service to the US Army. After serving as the chief nurse in Italy, I am now the Nurse Case Manager for one of our larger bases in Germany. After graduating from BMI, I enlisted in the Army and served from 1961-1964. I spent the next 45 years as a professional photographer, an EMT, Flight Paramedic and Emergency Nurse, and in 2009 joined the Government Service as an Emergency Room Nurse. My years at BMI have served me well. I took with me all that was offered: rules to live by, values to hold dear, and friendships that I hold close to my heart. I hope someday to be able to attend another reunion. My only one so far was in 1971 and was a real 'kick' for me. I would bring Carol Jean, my wife for the last thirty-six years. She can't wait to talk to my former classmates, especially my old roomie, **ROBERT LOW**."

**'63** **MICHAEL JOYCE** was sorry to see the name of **TOM LONGO** on the "Heaven List." He added, "I remember that back then most of us were just boys going to school but some were men on a mission. **TOM, FLOYD LITTLE**, and other P.G. team members were in a different world. Their careers over the years confirmed that they were as good as we thought they were. I always enjoyed watching us play freshmen college teams and then seeing the new players that showed up on the sidelines for the second half if they were getting their butts kicked."

From Hawaii, we received best wishes and alohas from **ALAN SITT**.

**RONALD "DUTCH" WALDHEIM** said he hopes to be present at Reunion 2016.

'64 Along with his check, **RICH GUIDETTI** sent a note stating that he is looking forward to our reunion in October. He wrote, "I hope that more classmates from my class will attend."

In an email, **TIM PENNYPACKER** informed us that he will attend our reunion in October.

**LELAND SMITH** wrote, "The University of Tennessee-Martin appointed me as an instructor of communication and management in the College of Business and Global Affairs. A former colleague rescued me from retirement. Martin, TN, is a beautiful little town in the northwest corner of TN. The town is a geographical oddity because the location is approximately two hours from four different states and metropolitan areas. For anyone interested, TN is extremely retiree friendly with no income tax."

**BOB STEWART** reports that he had a stroke but is now doing okay.

'65 Although **LOU MANCUSO** and his wife, Jo Ann, spend most of their days in AZ, they continue to spend about ten weeks a year in Ocean City, NJ. He reports, "We have made great friends in AZ. I keep busy making jewelry, golfing, bowling and being involved in our community by serving on several committees. Our community hosts frequent dances and events. Also we entertain often so we seem to always be on the go."

'66 **HAL HURKA** lives in Charlottesville, VA. He is interested in making contact with BMI alumni who are in that area. Hal can be reached by email at [halhurka@gmail.com](mailto:halhurka@gmail.com).

**JOHN ISOLDA** lost contact with **JOSEPH FLAMINI**. (*Ed. Note: We passed his information on to Joe.*) John would like to find **JOHN SWENSON**. If any alumnus knows where he is, please give him John Isolda's phone number (610-597-6759).

We heard from **JIM KELL**. He wrote, "I have put the October dates on my calendar and will make every effort to be there. It will be the first time that Lynette, my wife, and I will attend. In 1966, we drove to BMI together for my prom in my 1966 Mustang. Wish I still had that car. We have been married forty-six years and have a son and daughter. I had an exciting career in the hotel, restaurant and casino business, retiring in 2000. I presently work in sales from my home. My roommates were **JOHN MAGET** and **ED ENS**. Sure would be good to see them and others from '65 and '66."

**TONY SUOZZO** wrote that he was sad to hear about some of his fellow classmates passing. He added, "I heard from my roommate **RICHARD 'MOOSE' ARMELLINI** a while back. He was my roommate in Hop House and I am happy to say I outranked both him and **GEORGE KUDRA**. I used to really enjoy 'turning in' George for some little infraction so he could not get the weekend off for leave. But we were great friends. I was wondering if anyone knows where **SKIP BONHAM** is. Borst chased us across the football field in that ugly green Dodge one night after we sneaked out. Still cannot figure out how we made officer rank."

**KEN VAN FLEET** says he is officially retired.

'67 In an email from **MIKE BARTEL** we learned that he plans to travel from Oklahoma to the reunion in October. He wrote, "I am coming! We are making it into a long week's vacation for us so we have a vehicle and plane tickets. All we need is a bed!"

'68 **TOM O'DONNELL** wrote, "My days at BMI have prepared me for a future I never expected as a cadet. I am blessed to have an occupation that allows me to help our brave men and women who serve this great nation. As Dean of Veteran Affairs at Stockton University in Galloway, NJ, I have the pleasure to work each and every day with our heroes as we assist them in their higher education journey. We have been named by **MILITARY TIMES** as sixth in the nation for military friendly colleges. I have the wonderful opportunity to serve on national committees to help our heroes succeed and become the great leaders that our country desperately needs. I would never enjoy this success if it were not for the **EXCELLENT** training and education I received at BMI. Who would have thought, back then, that it would lead to the greatest job a person could ever ask for: helping our heroes. Looking forward to our reunion."

From **JOE VRABLIK** came a note along with a very generous donation. He wrote, "I trust you are all well and prosperous. Thanks much for keeping the 'spirit' of BMI going."

**'69** **JOE BRADLEY** hopes to be present for Reunion 2016.

We received news from **GUILLERMO GONZALEZ** via email. He said he attended BMI from 1965 to 1967 but would have been in the Class of 1969. Guillermo lives in Caracas, Venezuela, but he often visits his children in the Florida area. He added, "Back in 2010, I made contact with my old roommate, **ROBERT PENHALLOW**. We spent four hours on the phone. This year I would very much like to travel north and be part of this year's reunion."

**'71** New to our active list is **JACK C. MOSS** (Valedictorian - Class of 1971) inquiring about Reunion 2016. Jack resides in Arvada, CO. (*Ed. Note: Welcome, Jack!*)

### **FACULTY**

Steve Libro wrote, "Keep up the good work." He reminds us to "Rather Be Than Seem."

### **REUNION 2016**

The Friday night get-together will take place at the Bordentown Yacht Club. The Saturday night dinner/dance will be held at the Scottish Rite building in Bordentown Township. If you want to contact some of your classmates to make it a really special occasion this year, let us know and if we have their information, we will be glad to help you locate them. In the meantime, save the dates of October 21 and 22. Please remember that our reunions are open to ALL former cadets - graduates, postgraduates, undergraduates, Junior School - faculty and staff. If you were there for a short time or a long time, you are welcome to attend and we hope you will make an effort to join us. We look forward to seeing you.

### **SCHOLARSHIPS**

The Bordentown Military Institute Alumni Association recently awarded scholarships to two high school graduates who are headed for college. First prize winner was Emma Stahl; second prize went to Morgan Irons. Both students wrote stellar essays centered around BMI mottos: Rather Be Than Seem; Good, Better, Best, Never, Never Rest Until Your Good is Better and Your Better Best. Thirteen students submitted essays for consideration. It was difficult to select a winner because all of the essays showed originality, clear thinking, and ambitious plans for the future. Our president, **JACK HARKINS**, was pleased to present the awards at the high school ceremony.

### **MEMBERSHIP DUES**

If you have not paid dues for 2016, it is not too late. **Dues and other contributions, although much appreciated, are NOT tax deductible.** Make check payable to BMI Alumni Association and mail to P. O. Box 91, Bordentown, NJ 08505. Thank you for your support.

### **YEARBOOK**

We have a 1968 yearbook available. If you are interested, please send a check for \$6.00 to cover costs to BMI Alumni Association, P. O. Box 91, Bordentown, NJ 08505. Also, please read CLASS NOTES to learn of alumni looking for yearbooks.

### **WHITE HOUSE**

In the past, we reported that the White House was in disrepair. It was abandoned by its owners and was empty for some time. Several alumni wrote to express their concern over this situation. You will be pleased to know that it was recently purchased by a gentleman who is repairing the house and the grounds around it. It looks great already.

**YOU CAN HELP**

If you move, please send us your home address. If you change your email address, let us know. It makes our job easier if we do not have to check everything we receive from you to be sure that we have your up-to-date information. Also, if you live somewhere in winter and somewhere else in the summer, we want ONLY one address. Thank you.

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***IN MEMORIAM***

The officers and members of the Executive Board join with the entire membership of the BMI ALUMNI ASSOCIATION in extending sincere sympathy to the families of:

**BICKAR, ALEXANDER J. '59**

**COPELAND, DR. JAMES E. '48**

**GOLDBERG, ROBERT L. '66**

**MARTINDELL, MILTON JR. '43**

**NEILSON, RONALD W. '59**

**OATIS, JOHN J. JR. '59**

**PHILLIPS, GEORGE H. '54**

**RANIERI, JOHN V. '59**

**STANEK, RICHARD '45**

**UPSON, STEPHEN W. '59**

**VOGEL, JAMES P. '59**

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**BORDENTOWN MILITARY INSTITUTE  
Alumni Association**

**Alumni Day Agenda  
October 22, 2016**

<b>Parade - Starts at Bordentown Home for Funerals, Crosswicks Street</b>	<b>3:00 PM</b>
<b>Ceremony at the B.M.I. Memorial Site Park Street in front of Cadet Statue</b>	<b>3:20 PM</b>
<b>Sign in at the Scottish Rite</b>	<b>5:00 PM</b>
<b>Bar is Open - Scottish Rite</b>	<b>5:00 PM</b>
<b>Call to Order</b>	<b>6:00 PM</b>
<b>Invocation and Moment of Silence</b>	<b>Pastor Ivo Meilands</b>
<b>Post the Colors</b>	<b>B.M.I. Color Guard</b>
<b>Announcements</b>	<b>Jack Harkins '67</b>
<b>Dinner</b>	<b>6:15 PM</b>
<b>Welcome and Introduction</b>	<b>Jack Harkins '67</b>
<b>Treasurer's Report</b>	<b>Robert Frisbie '61</b>
<b>Old Boys March</b>	<b>Gary Weisberg '69</b>
<b>Retire the Colors</b>	<b>B.M.I. Color Guard</b>
<b>Benediction</b>	<b>Pastor Ivo Meilands</b>