

OAK LEAF

MAGAZINE



SPRING / SUMMER 2022

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*The Oak Leaf is a bi-annual publication of Oak Ridge Military Academy,
intended primarily for ORMA alumni.*

*The Spring 2022 edition of the Oak Leaf was produced by the
ORMAYearbook Staff under the direction of Mr. Rex Blackburn.*



OAK RIDGE
MILITARY ACADEMY

from the office of the PRESIDENT

"It has been the best of times and it has been the worst of times." I think that probably best describes the past year at our academy.

This year we graduated 15 cadets, all of which were accepted to major colleges and universities or to active service. Five of our cadets were accepted to the Citadel, one to LSU, one to Old Miss, two joined the Navy, and one young lady received a full scholarship to any state-supported school in North Carolina. This elite group of young men and women earned over \$1 Million in scholarships. We are all very proud of this graduating class.

This year our athletic program continued to flourish posting winning records with all our teams including at 18-0 record recorded by our women's softball team, now playing on a new field on campus.

Because of a donation from an alumnus, we are going to be able to add Solar Panels to the Academic Building, Bonner Gymnasium, Cone Dormitory and White Mess Hall. We estimate that this investment will save our academy over \$5,000/month. It will indeed be the gift that keeps on giving. Again, due to the benevolence of one alumni donor. Thank you!

Also, this year we were approached by the Communications Tower Group Inc requesting to erect a cell tower on our campus property. An agreement has been reached that will realize a monthly payment to our academy of \$1,000/month for the next 25 years. Construction of this Oak Ridge Cell Tower will begin soon and should be functional within 30 days, giving better cell phone reception to the Oak Ridge community and revenue to our academy.

We are expecting high enrollment next year as our numbers and quality of students continue to rise to desired levels. While our focus is on increasing our numbers, our primary goal will continue to be to maintain the high academic standard that we have been able to achieve in the past three years. We are not just building leaders, but smart leaders in the ORMA tradition.

Sadly, this year we have lost too many alumni such as Bill Northrop, Tony Robertson, Bill Lee and Joe Sugg, just to mention a few. Their contribution to our academy's tradition will not be forgotten.

Our academy can only survive with the moral and financial help of those who went before. Your continued support is always recognized and appreciated. Thank you



Dr. Thomas Steve Wilson
PRESIDENT,
OAK RIDGE MILITARY ACADEMY



AN ACCOMPLISHED ALUMNUS

*ALUMNI PROFILE:
BRYAN DAYTON
class of 2003*

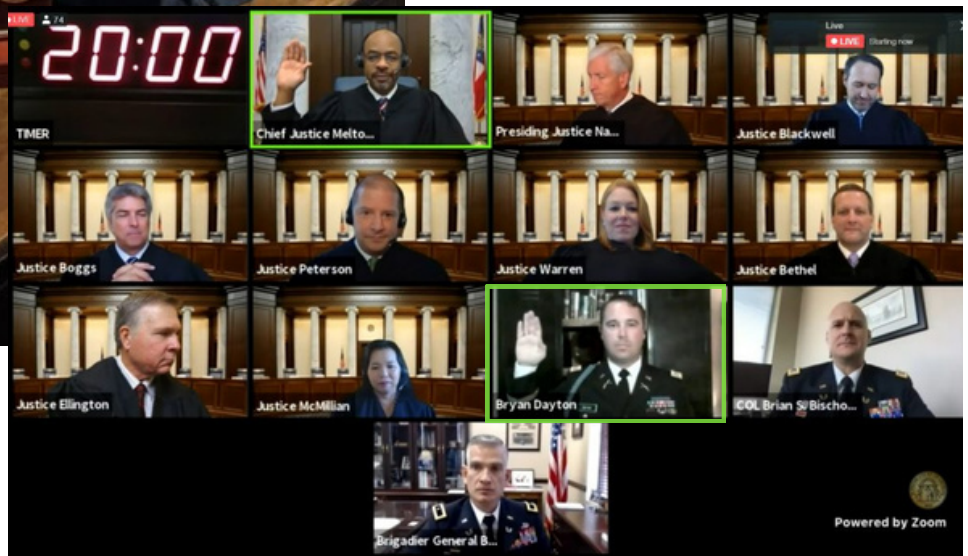
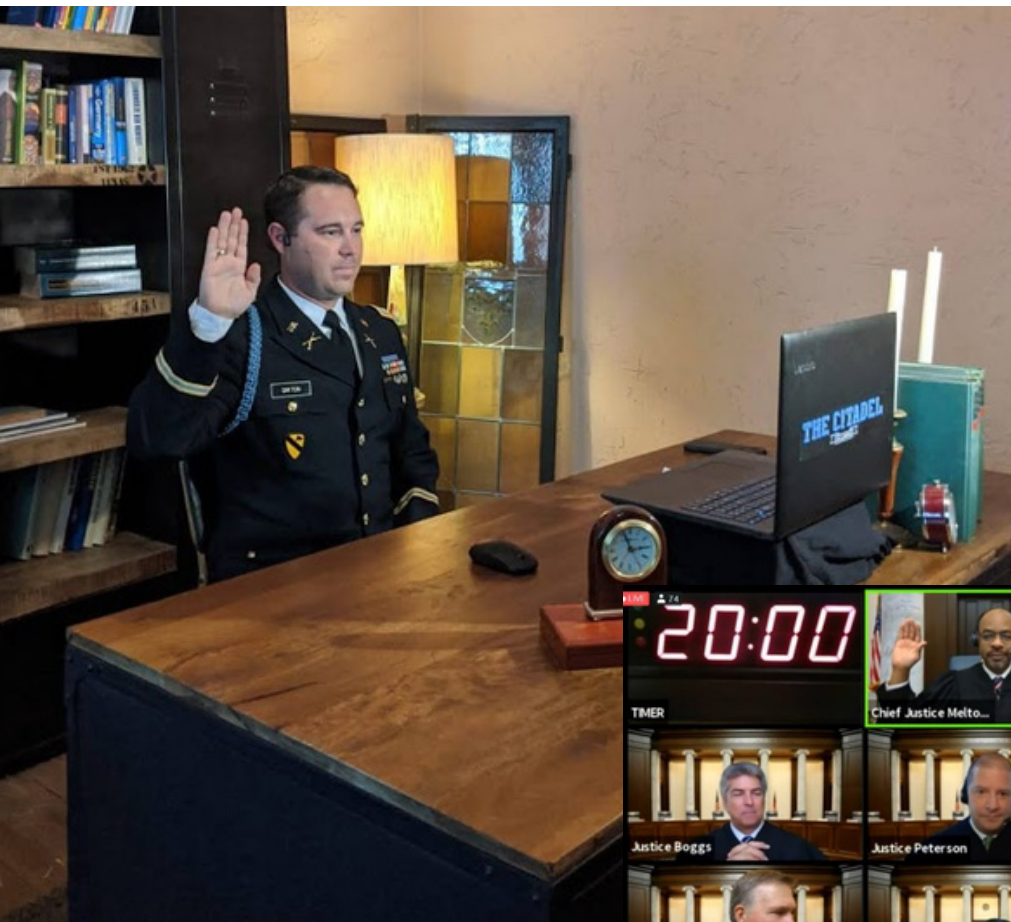
Sometimes, our alumni achieve truly historic distinctions, and Bryan Dayton has done just that.

In August of 2020, Bryan was sworn in to the bar of the Supreme Court of the State of Georgia. Capt. Dayton has a recognized pattern of excellence.

After graduation from ORMA, Bryan was accepted into the Citadel, and received his Bachelor's Degree in Criminal Justice in 2005. In 2019, he received his J.D. from Atlanta's John Marshall Law School, graduating in the top 5 of his class. He has served in the Georgia Army National Guard and has worked with U.S Army Europe Command, and has been deployed to Kuwait, Latvia, and Poland at various times. Over his military career, Capt. Dayton has received the Ranger Tab, Airborne wings, Air Assault Badge, and Expert Infantryman's Award.

Accomplishments like these make Oak Ridge Military Academy proud of her distinguished alumni. They continue to be a faithful continuation of the grandeur of our great heritage, and we wish for more alumni like Bryan Dayton.

Pictures courtesy of Atlanta's John Marshall Law School





NEW JOB IN A NEW HOME

FACULTY PROFILE:

EMILY STEVENS

One of the great strengths of Oak Ridge Military Academy has always been its faculty. ORMA offers a unique blend of veteran experience and fresh, youthful energy; teachers who've been in the field for 4+ decades and those who are eager to start their first year. Emily Stevens is one of those young, eager members of our faculty.

Mrs. Stevens joins us from Utah, where she grew up, near Salt Lake City. She completed a degree in Communications at Utah State University. Now, Emily and her husband live on campus at Oak Ridge, in the Armfield staff apartment.

Her vibrant personality brings an energy to her classroom, and her students testify to how much she cares about them. "It's been lovely so far," reflects Mrs. Stevens, "It's been so awesome to be initiated to the military aspect of life here; I've enjoyed witnessing the camaraderie of the cadet corps, and seeing them succeed in and out of the classroom."

We cannot thank Mrs. Stevens enough for all of her hard work this year, and we have bright expectations for her future at ORMA.

ORMA CLASS OF 2022

Graduation

The conclusion of the 2021-22 school year was crowned with the annual Commencement ceremonies. Though there are several momentous events like the Awards Ceremony, Baccalaureate Service, and the Night Parade that contribute to the significance of the weekend, the Graduation ceremony is the crown jewel of all ORMA's events.

With a brass quintet, the majestic backdrop of Maple Glade, and proud faces beaming in the audience, the event is truly majestic and meaningful; it is an event truly worthy of the grand heritage of Oak Ridge. The Senior White uniform, the saber arch, the presence of friends and loved ones -- ORMA's Graduation ceremony will long survive in the memory of each cadet. Congratulations, Class of 2022!



As the seniors are given their final order, "Dismissed," they toss their service caps into the air in celebration. Moments like this are truly an iconic part of the traditions of Oak Ridge.

SENIOR RECOGNITION

This year's senior class earned a total of \$1,043,576 in awarded scholarship moneys, an average of \$65,000 per graduating senior!

Congratulations to the graduates of the class of 2022, we wish the best for you!

Below, you'll find the colleges into which each student was accepted (with an asterisk noting the college each senior plans to attend at the time of this publication).



Max Jolay

Ole Miss The Citadel
UNCG Arkansas
UNCC Alabama*
LSU

Joshua Turner

Wingate Lenoir-Rhyne
UNCW Seattle Pacific
UNCC Xavier
LSU*

Henry Parker

WCU The Citadel*
Methodist University

Brandon Augsburger

Guilford Technical
Community College*

Porter Quinn

The Citadel*

Verdell Nicholson

Georgia State University
Central Piedmont
Community College
National Guard*

Gabriela Perez

NC State App State
HPU ECU*
UNCG UNC-CH
UNCW Berry

Miriam Evans

Belmont Abbey*
Western Carolina

Will Hennis

Western Carolina
Chowan
GTCC*

James Niehues

Western Carolina
Belmont Abbey
U.S. Navy*

Joshua Green

The Citadel*

Skylar Dudley

Georgia State
Perimeter College
High Point University*

Lueyuan Mai

Georgia State
Perimeter College*

Tavius Gray

Guilford Technical
Community College*

Christopher Ouellette

The Citadel*

Jordan Moore

Guilford Technical
Community College*

NEWS FROM OAK RIDGE

Softball Field

The softball team currently sits atop the Oak Ridge Military Academy athletic program. With a talented roster, the ORMA softball team is beating schools 10 times our size. Cadet Alexis Ballard noted, "What makes playing with these girls so fun is how the team always has your back no matter what." She is a two-year veteran of our softball team and was overjoyed to see ORMA give the team a home field adjacent to the baseball field. The field consists of a fine gravel infield playing surface, new bases, and new dugout benches, along with new

fencing around the whole perimeter of the field, which faces Highway 150 next to Cone Dormitory. Playing home games on campus allows a larger audience of cadets and parents to attend, which the girls greatly enjoy. Strategic moves like this in our Athletic Dept. positively affect the overall spirit of the corps. Serenity Henry (pictured below), a key member of the team, is proud to say that her coach, Bobby Allison is "A father figure for the girls and a good role model, he taught us to be selfless and diligent in our sport."





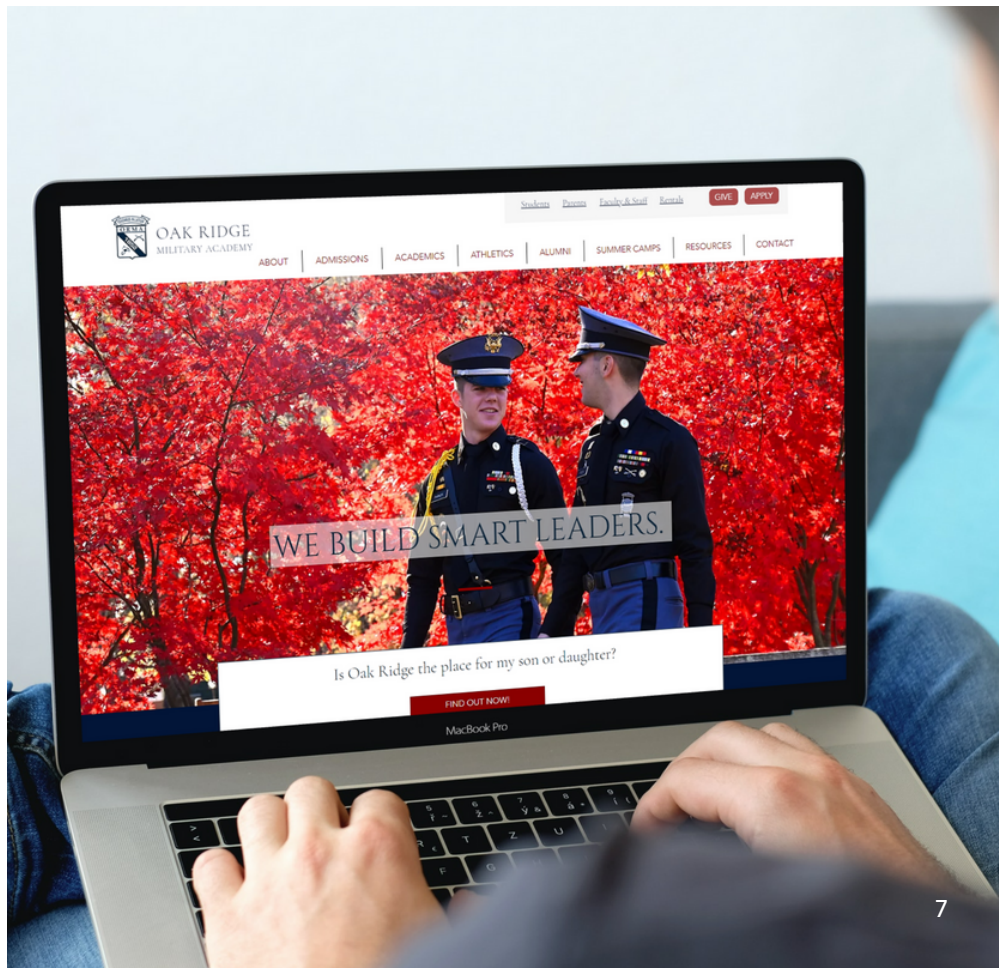
2022 Yearbook

The 2022 edition of the Oak Ridge Dress Parade is truly a step above the norm. With the help of local businesses, the book's budget was more than doubled, such that we were able to produce a thickened, metal-embossed, quality book--inside and out--that the students, alumni, and Academy could be proud of. Want one for yourself? Contact the school office to purchase one! Want to support next year's book? Call us and let us know!

New Website

Not all development is physical, material, or structural -- digital development is as important as ever for an academic institution in the 21st century.

Realizing this, Oak Ridge has completely rebuilt its website from the ground up. The streamlined structure of the site is easier to navigate, the new layout allows us to feature more photos of our cadets and campus, and there are many more updates to come! Give us a visit at oakridgemilitary.com and let us know what you think!





TONY ROBERTSON
class of 1962

It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of Tony Robertson on March 5, 2022.

Tony had a successful career as a city manager, after he spent some time teaching both history and civics, and coaching football and baseball. After retirement, he did some substitute teaching at Sandhills Classical Christian School in Southern Pines. He was an active member of Community Presbyterian Church, where he served as elder, was a member of the men’s prayer breakfast and worked with Radio Read for the Blind. He also volunteered at the Republican Headquarters in Pinehurst.

In addition to all this, he served faithfully on the Board of Trustees for us at Oak Ridge. It’s always difficult to lose alumni, but particularly those who have served the Academy in these sorts of capacities. Tony truly loved his alma mater, and we were grateful to have had his support and involvement.

He will be missed.

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FRED MCKINNEY

class of 1962

Fred McKinney was not merely an alumnus of Oak Ridge Military Academy; his ongoing support and involvement with the school as a member of the Board made him a pillar of the Academy, even in his later years.

Fred was well-known throughout Durham, Cumberland and New Hanover counties and around the state as a well-respected member in North Carolina Law Enforcement, having a 30-year career in the State Bureau of Investigation, retiring as Special Agent in Charge. Upon his retirement in 1999, he was presented the Order of the Long Leaf Pine and appointed Honorary Attorney General.*

Upon Fred's passing, former NC Governor Mike Easley had this to say about him, "Fred was a great friend for decades, an outstanding investigator, and a man of outstanding character and integrity. He was respected by all who worked with him and Mary and I will miss him dearly."

Men like Fred bring pride to the name of Oak Ridge Military Academy, and we are grateful to be associated with such a man. Fred will be missed. Rest well, Cadet.

WISHLIST

*Expand ORMA's
Aviation Program*

\$24,000

*Pay off ORMA
maintenance truck*

\$20,000

*Air conditioners (3)
for Cone Dormitory*

\$15,000

*LED lighting for the
Academic Building*

\$5,000

*Tony Robertson
Scholarship Fund**

\$1,000

**An anonymous alumni will match
scholarship donations up to \$10,000*

DONOR RECOGNITION

ORDER OF THE OAK LEAF

\$20,000+

James & Laura Tew Scholarship
The Cemala Foundation
DLK Educational Scholarship Trust

William Goldston (c/o '44)
Oak Ridge Society Foundation
Jonathan Caine (c/o '90)

PRESIDENT'S CUP

\$10,000 - \$19,999

Tom Davis Fund

Urban Contractors, LLC

Tom Spain

Dr. Thomas & Charlene Wilson (c/o '64)

Commandant's Cup

\$5,000 - \$9,999

Mist Island Foundation Ken & Cheryl Hartman (c/o '62)
Coak May (c/o '59) Fred McKinney (c/o '62)
Carlos Garcia Ken & Rita McDaniel (c/o '68)
Al & Brenda Taylor (c/o '57)

Gold Wreath Club

\$3,000 - \$4,999

Ike Keener (c/o '66) Jim & Kay Savage (c/o '64)
April Smith (c/o '86) The Winston-Salem Foundation
Julia Wood (c/o '87) Susan Greeson

Battalion Commander Club

\$1,500 - \$2,999

Joseph Giaimo (c/o '04) Jack Richmond

Officers Club

\$1,000 - \$1,499

RT Johnson (c/o '60) Kevin James (c/o '69)
Ashley & Blake Mitchell Forth Heffner (c/o '99)
Carol Robertson
(in memory of Tony)

Gold Star Platoon

\$500 - \$999

Merchants of Oak Ridge David & Tammy Reid
Oak Ridge Physical Therapy Thurman Worthington (c/o '57)
The Bryan Foundation Merry Maids

Honor Guard Club

\$250 - \$499

R. Roe Painting Co. Tracy Koch (c/o '81)
Janenne Morris Steve Bethea (c/o '73)
RLF Communications Malchus & Amanda
Richard Simpson (c/o '53) Watlington (c/o '64)

NCO Club

\$100 - \$249

Toney Falkner III Denyse Bryant
Charlie Sugg (c/o '62) Justin Malone (c/o '03)
Paul Schenk (c/o '74) Jane & Paul Embler
David & Tori Uggiano John & Donna Riddle
Jane & Herbert Foy Sheriff Danny Rogers
Rebecca & Barry Kempson Arthur Cates
Charles Landt (c/o '67)

If you'd like to see your name featured on our Donor Recognition page, you can find our Donation portal on our website: oakridgemilitary.com Just hover over the "Alumni" tab, and click "Make a Donation."

We're eternally thankful to each donor that makes our mission possible.

CLASS NOTES

Class of 1975

Near the end of last year, Steve Williams was awarded an Order of Knighthood with the rank of Knight Commander, by Order of His Royal Highness Prince Nicholai of Montenegro. The award was presented for service to the Crown and the Country of Montenegro.

Class of 2001

Deedee Smith (Grummett) had the distinction of ringing the bell at the New York Stock Exchange with some representatives from her company, Ecolab.

Class of 2003

Norman Luper was recently recognized by the Greensboro Police Department, as well as several local news stations, for his Safe Greensboro Innkeepers Alliance, a voluntary cooperative partnership between the police dept. and hotel/motel owners to decrease crime at their locations. He received a \$2,500 prize and the 2021 Employee Innovation Award.

Congratulations to Bryan Dayton and his wife Katy on the birth of their baby girl on March 3rd of this year.

Class of 2013

Alexander Gough and Isabella Novembre (both ORMA graduates) were married on June 25th of this year. Congratulations to the happy couple!

Class of 2019

Darwin Hopson and Aleksander Wemett are both enlisted in the U.S. Army

Have you had a recent major life development? Keep your fellow alumni posted so we can celebrate together! Reach out to Angie Williams (awilliams@oakridgemilitary.com) and let us know.



T A P S

Charles Buie, c/o 1947

William Love, c/o 1963

Roger Crutchfield, c/o 1950

Ronnie Mack Simpson, c/o 1964

Robert L. Thaxton, c/o 1951

Dick Benton, c/o 1967

Wyman Cockman, c/o 1953

Joe Yates, c/o 1975

Calvin Ogburn, c/o 1953

Art VanHook III, c/o 1975

Buzz Cole, c/o 1957

James Miller, c/o 1979

Josiah Sugg III, c/o 1957

Helen Margaret Wilson Melton,
c/o 1988

Fred McKinney, c/o 1962

SGM Marvin Woodard,
former Staff

Tony Robertson, c/o 1962



OAK RIDGE MILITARY ACADEMY

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WE HOPE YOU HAD A GREAT SUMMER!