

# NORWICH RECORD

THE MAGAZINE OF NORWICH UNIVERSITY

SUMMER 2024



## *Special Edition!*

Celebrating **50** years  
of Norwich University  
and Vermont College  
women!

See page 29





C/LTC Antonia Adipietro '24 carries a log upon her shoulders as she wades through the Dog River.

# Contents



## 11

**A Norwich Life:**  
**LtGen Broadmeadow**  
**'83: from cadet to**  
**University president.**



## 21

**Norwich Sophomore**  
**Expeditions: Conquering**  
**a mountain of challenges.**



## 29

**Women Kicking Glass:**  
**NU women through**  
**the ages.**

## SECTIONS

**P. 1 The President's View: A letter to you,**  
**from Woodbury Hall.**

**P. 3 News From The Hill: The latest and**  
**greatest from campus and beyond.**

## NORWICH STORIES

**P. 9 Embracing Challenge: Sisters take**  
**on the Norwich experience.**

**P. 15 Dear Norwich: A mother's letter**  
**to cadets.**

**P. 39 In Their Own words: Remembering**  
**GEN Gordon Sullivan '59.**

## COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

**P.49 Stay connected through Class Notes,**  
**the Partridge Society, and Roll of Honor.**

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## THE PRESIDENT'S VIEW



It is with great and humble pride that I return to my alma mater as Norwich University's 25th president. In the 40+ years since graduation, I have seen our institution's values come to life through our impressive alumni community. One of our strongest common threads is how important our guiding values are to all of us. I will ensure that our University

continues to live by this set of values; they are not just words on paper for a Rook to memorize, they are pertinent regardless of your path in life.

My wife Karen and I officially returned to Northfield in May and moved into Woodbury Hall. Unfortunately, there were few students around during our first couple months, so it was strangely quiet; but this allowed me to immediately meet the hard-working individuals who keep this campus beautiful and running well. As students and alumni, it is often hard to find time in the summer to make your way back to campus. It is sometimes difficult during the school year, especially in the winter, to get a full appreciation of just how picturesque it is here. Being here at the end of the spring and into June (as I write this), I have found myself appreciating not only the beauty of this campus, but more importantly, the hard work that goes into it by our facilities operations team. Though many on our staff have never graduated from our beloved institution, I see the Norwich spirit permeate throughout campus daily because of them. That is the same spirit that draws future leaders to enroll at Norwich.

Even before my arrival, I began deliberately thinking about the course of my first 100 days. Although there are some important decisions that I must make (and have made) early in my tenure, I intend to spend time listening. Much like our strategies must adapt over time, so must I as a leader. My management style, especially in the later stages of my Marine Corps career, was to be highly organized, deliberate, and decisive. But I believe it is important now to primarily listen and ask questions, set few agendas, and

develop a firm understanding of the state of Norwich from a variety of viewpoints. I am observing and absorbing everything I can. I will use this "listening tour" to shape an assessment that I will publish sometime after our students and faculty return for the Fall semester, which I will then share with all Norwich constituencies.

My observations and initial assessment will also be shaped by the dynamic, even chaotic, state of American higher education. I am arriving at a time when most colleges, including Norwich, face difficult headwinds. The national conversation surrounding the affordability, desirability, and value of a college degree, declining enrollments, issues with changes in the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), and political tensions roiling many campuses present challenges that must be faced head on. My task is to ensure Norwich not only weathers this storm but comes out stronger on the other side. By working together, I have great confidence in our ability to do just that.

Beyond my initial assessment, a longer-term vision must be crafted to move Norwich forward. A strategy has been in development for a couple years and has pulled good input from across our University community. The plan in its current draft form is comprehensive with many aspirational aspects. However, I believe what we need at this time is a succinct, business-oriented plan matching definable goals and realistic resources to best counter the current dynamic situation. Working quickly with staff and faculty, I plan to cull from the current draft those aspects most impactful in our near-term environment, put them into a plan shorter in both scope and duration, and present it to the Board of Trustees by the end of 2024. I am publishing it this quickly in part to meet accreditation requirements, and to also use the best aspects of the work done to date to provide a defined way ahead. However, while the world changes around us, this strategy must adapt with agility. Rather than publishing our plan and putting it on a shelf with a bow, we will immediately begin an assessment process measuring the plan's actual viability and adapting it as situations warrant.

One of my biggest surprises so far is the amount and frequency of the communication I receive regarding athletics. We are appreciative of the passionate following we have for our stable of NCAA Division III teams, along with our nationally recognized women's

and men's rugby programs. Sustaining that level of support from the Norwich community is important to me. This has reaffirmed my commitment to ensure that we are known as a high-caliber D-III school. We have seen great successes recently with the win of the Great Northeast Athletic Conference (GNAC) Commissioner's Cup for men's athletics, which recognizes our teams' overall competitive success; women's hockey claimed the regular-season championship; and men's hockey finished second to the eventual national champions. Additionally, a record-breaking 125 Norwich athletes earning GNAC Academic All-Conference recognition allows me the privilege of boasting our athletes' successes in the classroom, highlighting the fact that our top priority is education. These achievements indicate we are in a good position to reach my objectives. I intend to be deliberate in seeing that our championship-caliber facilities are home to competitive teams and our students benefit from both our Norwich values and the leadership qualities instilled by sports.

This edition of the Norwich Record offers insight into some of the topics I have highlighted here. You will read a letter from the mother of a Norwich cadet, which exemplifies the personal growth and development of character that is achieved on The Hill. It is especially moving that this letter was written directly to the cadets in leadership positions among the Corps – our students live and breathe our mission. Embracing the Norwich set of values ignites a spark of inspiration. Our motto, "I Will Try," is held deeply in our hearts and drives us forward regardless of any challenge.

One of the greatest leaders Norwich University has ever produced is Retired U.S. Army General Gordon Sullivan '59. In the previous edition of the Record, we shared the news of his passing and a poem written in his image by a family friend and artist. In this issue, you will find a collection of personal stories that highlight what he meant to our community in their own words. Few who have walked The Hill have reached the heights that General Sullivan did, and few have inspired the masses as he did. I was lucky to be one of those that found inspiration through him and admire him as the standard for the American soldier. He will forever be remembered for his legacy.

Norwich University has been creating leaders like General Sullivan for more than 200 years. It was an all-male institution until 1972 when Norwich merged with the nearby Vermont College, bringing women and civilian students into our University. Two short years later, the Corps of Cadets established Lima Detachment, the first cohort of women in the Corps. Then-President Loring Hart embraced Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 and was ahead of the curve; some senior military colleges waited 20 additional years to admit women into their ranks. Our unique environment provided these women a space to learn and excel in whatever field they chose, be it civilian or military. We have seen our women helm companies as CEO and become one of the first to fly in combat. What Norwich women have accomplished – and will continue to achieve – does not go unnoticed. Throughout this year, we have sponsored Women Kicking Glass, a celebration of their successes. Norwich will continue to provide a foundation that can be used to launch lives forward and kick through any barrier.

Our Norwich community is special. I greatly anticipate the opportunity to celebrate alongside you during Homecoming – I hope to see you there! As we continue moving together into the future, I am intensely dedicated to ensuring the success of our institution and students. Norwich has provided an incredible amount of meaning and direction in my life, and I am committed to ensuring that today's students receive the same experience.

Norwich Forever!

John J. Broadmeadow NU'83  
LtGen, USMC (Ret)  
President



# NEWS FROM THE HILL



(From left to right) Paul Parsons '89, Retired Army BG Enoch "Woody" Woodhouse H'23, and LtCol Michael Wabrek, USMC (Ret), meet up in France.

## Paul Parsons '89 jumps over Normandy in remembrance of D-Day

Paul Parsons '89 and fellow members of the WWII Airborne Demonstration Team (ADT) took flight and parachuted over Normandy to mark the 80th anniversary of D-Day throughout the week of June 6. The team of volunteer parachutists spent the week making multiple jumps and honoring the historic events and lives that were lost along the coast of France.

In that spirit, the ADT brought along a batch of photographs depicting Norwich graduates and veterans of the war. "I did the jump with a picture of General Harmon in my bag," said Parsons. "I know a couple other ADT members took pictures of Captain Burt with them. We mixed them up and did it that way because we're not just honoring specific World War II veterans, but all of them. All the photographs that were sent to me were jumped by somebody on at least one drop zone."

The first pair of their three total jumps were just to the south of Sainte-Marie-du-Mont, a village to the eastern side of Utah Beach. The final jump took place at Graignes, where "The 501st and 507th had a couple of mis-drops and they fought for three days against the 17th SS Panzergrenadier Division and held them before they could get to Carentan," said Parsons. When the Allied soldiers eventually ran out of ammunition, they left the wounded in a church. Now with an advantage, the German soldiers evacuated the aid station when they found it inside the church and "bayoneted the prisoners and bashed their heads in," said Parsons. The church was burned, and the German division continued the massacre by killing local citizens and ransacking the village. A memorial stands in the village today, honoring the Allied soldiers and villagers who lost their lives. Luckily, the accidental drop had somehow led to a pivotal moment during D-Day.

"These guys held out for three days against overwhelming odds, stuck it out, and delayed that advance," said Parsons.

Additionally, Parsons and the ADT were able to meet with BG Enoch "Woody" Woodhouse H'23, an honorary Norwich graduate and one of the last-surviving Tuskegee Airmen. "It was fantastic to get to see him and meet him," said Parsons. The pair shared conversation and took photos with a Norwich University flag that Parsons brought along for the trip.

Parsons, like many in his generation, has close personal ties with the World War II battlefields scattered around the globe. "I joined the Airborne Demonstration Team back in 2019 because I wanted to do something different than what I was doing before," said Parsons. "ADT seemed like the perfect fit to remember, honor, and serve my dad's memory, as well as memories of other World War II vets." His father, Army Air Force SGT Edward "Ned" Parsons, was an aerial gunner in the 312 Bomb Group, 389th Bombardment Squadron, and flew A-20Gs over the South Pacific. "He did six missions before they were going to move him to the B-32 Dominator, which was a very heavy bomber that was the backup to the B-29," he said. "But by that point the war was over, and the B-29 was a success."

Parsons and the rest of the ADT share these personal ties, sentiments, and desires to honor the past and those who gave the ultimate sacrifice. The group is self-funded and facilitated the trip and its logistics themselves. "Quite frankly, each jump is 250 euros. It's not a small investment for us to come over here and jump," he said. "We have to rent our aircraft and arrange for drop zones – but this has probably been one of the best trips that the Airborne Demonstration Team has done." **N**

## Harold 'Doc' Martin Scholarship continues impacting students

Norwich University's history is filled with impressive figures. One of them is Harold 'Doc' Martin "Class of 1920", the University's first African American cadet and namesake of the Harold 'Doc' Martin Scholarship. The scholarship was founded in 2021 and has quickly found success among a strong support system. This year's Harold 'Doc' Martin Scholarship Benefit Dinner hosted nearly 250 attendees, raised \$120,000, and welcomed several members of the Martin family, Maj Gen Cedric George, USAF (Ret), and Tuskegee Airman BG Enoch 'Woody' Woodhouse H'23, among others.

C/1LT Jabari Pinkney '25 and Imari Milton '26 are two of the students receiving this scholarship. "It feels great that I am able to walk in his footsteps," says Pinkney, who wrestles in addition to his Corps responsibilities. "He definitely went through the rougher part of getting to Norwich, becoming a cadet, and being a great role model for the community."

Milton is a first-generation college student, football player, and wrestler. "I'm very thankful to receive it, it has helped me a lot,"

he says. "It helped me pay some of my classes, and I just knew that it was a setup for a journey unlike any other."

While both are kept busy with athletics, they realize that Norwich affords an opportunity to elevate yourself. Pinkney studies computer security and information with a focus in forensics and hopes to become a CNO developer. "It's about these tools to break into things, unlike the networking side," he says. "I would be focusing on breaking into networks and diagnosing what's happening – reverse engineering, if was to put it shortly."

As a civilian student-athlete, Milton recognizes the opportunities at Norwich benefit everyone. "Most of my football teammates are in the Corps, and it's a much different atmosphere – but I know that I can do anything I put my mind to," he says. Coming to Northfield from Miramar, Fla., Milton saw a chance to chase his dreams and set himself up for the rest of his life. "Norwich is more than a place of learning, it's a community that nurtures leadership and builds character in the person." **N**



Maj Gen Cedric George, USAF (Ret), chats with cadets during the benefit dinner.

## President Biden appoints Bill Lenihan '97 to U.S. Commission of Fine Arts

United States President Joe Biden announced on May 10 that Norwich University alum, Bill Lenihan '97, M'10, AIA, NCARB, has been appointed as a member of the U.S. Commission of Fine Arts. Lenihan becomes one of seven members on the commission with this appointment and will serve a four-year term.

The U.S. Commission of Fine Arts was established in 1910 and acts in an advisory role alongside the federal government on matters surrounding the arts and national symbols, as well as guiding the architectural development of Washington. "Bill's extensive experience and distinguished career in architecture embody the values and excellence we instill in our students at Norwich University," said Director of the School of Architecture + Art, Cara Armstrong. "His appointment to the Commission of Fine Arts not only recognizes his achievements, but also highlights the impact of our alumni on a national stage." "Norwich is a special place where you form lifelong friendships while advancing your education, skills, and talents to be a leader in your career and serve your community," said Lenihan. "It is an honor to be appointed to the U.S. Commission of Fine Arts and use those lessons and skills to advise on the built environment of our nation's capital." Lenihan also

Bill Lenihan '97 speaks to the Delaware state government.



added that he has worked with Norwich alumni throughout his career, and that "One of our young team members at our firm is starting architecture school at Norwich this fall. It is wonderful to see the Norwich tradition continue." Lenihan is one of the owners and principals of Tevebaugh Architecture based in both Philadelphia and Wilmington, Delaware. The firm focuses on civic, cultural, academic, healthcare, corporate, and industrial projects, and he has provided his extensive expertise on their projects in architecture, planning, and design in high-caliber institutional, cultural, and historic settings. Some of these have included the Schwartz Center for the Arts, Brandywine Conservancy Museum of Art, and First Troop Philadelphia City Calvary, among many more. Additionally, Lenihan

holds professional registrations in more than 10 states and holds prominent positions throughout the industry as a founding member of the Rodney Square Conservancy, a member of the Friends of Furness Railroad District, and Washington Memorial Bridge Partnership.

"I do not doubt that Bill will bring invaluable insights and expertise to the U.S. Commission of Fine Arts," said Armstrong. "His appointment is a proud moment for all of us at Norwich University, reaffirming our commitment to fostering leaders who make a meaningful impact in their fields." **N**

## Returning the Favor

The William M. Lasky School of Business has been dedicated in honor of long-time trustee and donor Bill Lasky '69.

"I went to Norwich because I knew I was going to be entering service because of my age and health," said Norwich University Trustee Bill

Lasky '69, who enrolled during the Vietnam War era. "I wasn't going to be accepted to Harvard or some places I applied to, but I wanted to go to a school that had some great education and good moral integrity. Norwich being a military university – the most senior one – and having ROTC that allowed me to graduate

as an officer attracted me. Norwich became the school I chose."

Lasky began his lifelong business journey when he set foot on The Hill. "I took business because my father was a businessman," said Lasky. "I wanted to be prepared when I got into the service

and to later enter the business world, whether I started in sales or whatever – it didn't matter. I knew that business runs the world, and so therefore I wanted to do that." He remembers the demanding curriculum but values the ways that it improved his education. "They had a lot of math like statistics, calculus, and other things at the time, and that made it tough," he said. "But, it was enhancing the value of the education and the criteria of business school, which in the end, I thought was an excellent result."

When he graduated and commissioned, Lasky put his education to the test immediately when he arrived at his new temporary home in South Korea. "The commanding officer and squadron commander reported in and told me that they have a big problem there: they only had three aircraft that were flyable out of 36 because they couldn't get parts, and their mission was compromised without flyable aircraft." Lasky was inserted into his position as a first lieutenant even though it was a captain's slot because he was the only one that

had the appropriate training. "It was really a business issue," said Lasky. "How do I get parts to my unit in South Korea when we're the lowest priority of all installations worldwide?" Initially he "stole" parts from other American aircrafts around the country and even spent some of his own money to purchase inexpensive parts; though, "figuring out the system" was his biggest accomplishment. "I figured out how to get parts faster by changing the delivery location. There was a strip in South Korea along the Han River that was actively 'hot,' so I found an address of an installation that I had my parts shipped to. Within 90 days we had all the parts we needed."

His business education gained at Norwich continued serving him throughout his life as he rose to executive positions in his career. Eventually, he felt compelled to provide support to the business school that provided his foundation. "Having been a business major and businessman, I decided that my next contribution to the school would be focused on the business school," he said

of his generous donation. The values, ethics, and Captain Alden Partridge's commitment to the citizen-soldier are central to Lasky's affinity for the school and he aims to ensure that spirit that benefitted him is carried forward. "Being educated always helps people to be able to perform better and be more successful."

He knows that his feelings towards the school are part of the common thread that he shares with other graduates, and that he is one of many who will continue to support the school. "I look back and compare my experiences at Norwich compared to other people's experiences in other schools," said Lasky. "I felt that it really was a school that provided more to me than I understood when I was there." **N**



Bill Lasky '69 (left) and President Emeritus RADM Richard Schneider, USCG (Ret.), celebrate in the lobby of the new William M. Lasky School of Business.

# EMBRACING CHALLENGE

A pair of high school sisters take on Women's Leadership Challenge Weekend.

STORY BY ZACK BENNETT



Gabriella (left) and Abigail Colsia (right) alongside their father Matthew following Women's Leadership Challenge Weekend.

Norwich University's belief in experiential learning is deeply rooted in Captain Alden Partridge's vision of citizen-soldiers and creating useful citizens for the benefit of our nation. Students at the University are immersed in Partridge's lifestyle day-to-day, but opportunities such as Women's Leadership Challenge Weekend offers high schoolers like Gabriella and Abigail Colsia the chance to grow as Partridge-inspired leaders.

The girls' father, Matthew Colsia, found the camp through a Facebook post and thought it offered a unique learning experience. "I looked into it and thought it

sounded like a good idea, especially considering it was centered around women," he says. Gabriella, 16, and Abigail, 14, have participated in other leadership events and camps before, but Abigail says that it "felt nice" to learn in an environment tailored for women. "I learned how to be more confident and be a leader," says Abigail.

"It was great because you're around people who are encouraging you," says Gabriella. "I learned that you shouldn't say you can't do something – you should never think 'I can't.'" She compared this to previous camps she has attended and says that "Sometimes you say, 'Oh, I can't do this, or I can't do that,' and they just let it happen. At Norwich they didn't force you to keep going, but they encourage you to keep trying it."

***"I learned that you shouldn't say you can't do something – you should never think I can't."***

Associate Director in the Office of Admissions, Scott Wills, says that these camps highlight young ladies' capabilities. "The ladies at Norwich finish higher than the men on PT, higher than the men on GPA, and higher



Abigail and Gabriella Colsia traveled from Virginia to Vermont to conquer this leadership challenge.

than the men on their military science scores," he says. His research eventually inspired him to pursue an all-female Leadership Challenge Weekend. "The concept was exactly the same as the regular Leadership Challenge Weekends, just no boys. I recruited women for the cadet staff and speakers."

"For these high-impact, high-grit, highly academic women, Norwich is the perfect place for them," says Wills. "The quality of the graduate that rolls out from Norwich, for me, is head and shoulders above anything I've ever seen. Most of us are afraid of doing the things that we really want to do because it's out of our comfort zone. The

Leadership Challenge Weekend allows you to experience that military lifestyle, living in the Corps of Cadets, and doing something bigger than yourself."

Matthew says that he was "very pleased" to see his daughters pushing to reach goals. The girls' parents have served in the military and the pair, like Norwich University, believes that conquering challenges leads to personal growth. "Sometimes it feels like it's socially accepted to give up or move on, and I don't think that's good for character building." He sees value in learning how to fail and move forward through challenges, and says that "failure is a bruise, not a tattoo." **N**



# A NORWICH LIFE

**25th president of Norwich University, LtGen John J. Broadmeadow '83, reflects on his Norwich experience.**

STORY BY ZACK BENNETT

Norwich University president, LtGen John J. Broadmeadow, USMC (Ret), always loved flying. “I started flying when I was 15 years old, and I got my private pilot’s license right after my 17th birthday,” he says. “I had dreamed about the Air Force since I was in middle school.”

He initially planned on attending the Air Force Academy, but plans changed when he “got beat out” in a competitive nomination. His new idea was to use Norwich as a stepping stone to the academy. He enrolled as a history major, but quickly switched to engineering before arrival. “I didn’t really understand what engineering was all about. I ran into a buzz saw when I got here because I really had no clue,” he says. “I wasn’t prepared for the rigors of engineering. I don’t want to say I was a poor student, but I was an unprepared student. Bottom line, it dashed my hopes of going to the Air Force Academy.”

His major was quickly changed to business administration. “I really found a good niche in an area that I understood and enjoyed,” he says. “The business professors really did a lot to help cultivate me as a good business student.” He found a support system at Norwich that made an impact on him. “Norwich supported and bolstered me. They made me get on track as a business student,” he says. By now, he did not see Norwich as a stepping stone. “I never thought about leaving anymore,” he says. “I never thought about leaving the school at that point.”

Though he had always wanted to fly, he eventually met a Marine Corps recruiter who convinced him to join up. He went to platoon leaders’ class between his sophomore and junior year. “I just loved it. I found out what I wanted to do: come back to Norwich as a platoon leader candidate,” he says. He returned for a second session the next year. “That just solidified the fact that I wanted to be commissioned in the Marine

*“Convincing your peers to do the right thing and what was expected of us was a really good leadership lesson that I carried into the Marine Corps.”*



LtGen John J. Broadmeadow '83 speaks to a Norwich crowd.



(Left to right) Karen Broadmeadow '83 and now-President John Broadmeadow '83 alongside his parents, Irene and Edward Broadmeadow, during his commissioning in 1983.

Corps. Norwich gave me a good foundation for the successes I had at the officer candidate school and really prepared me for the rigors of the Marine Corps.”

He remembers a time as a student when he was able to put his leadership to the test. “I was a junior being a sergeant first class dealing with upperclassmen, many of whom were athletes, many of whom didn’t fully embrace the Corps of Cadets,” he says. “I had to be that guy that went down and told them, ‘Hey, you realize football season is over? Now you have to get in formation,’ and all the rest of the stuff. It was a good leadership lesson early on,” he says. “Convincing your peers to do the right thing and what was expected of us was a really good leadership lesson that I carried into the Marine Corps.”

Life after Norwich would see LtGen Broadmeadow and his wife, Karen, who he met on campus, traveling around the world for his Marine Corps duties. He credits her with keeping the couple engaged with the University throughout the years. “She was the one President Schneider came to visit when we were living in California. He came to see Karen because she ran

the Southern California club at the time,” he says. “I think that was his first visit out there, and even though he actually came to see Karen, we struck up a friendship that endures to this day.”

While he was at first seen as a new friend, he was eventually seen as a presidential candidate for the University. “As I moved to headquarters of the Marine Corps for my second three-star job, I got a phone call and they asked me to put in an application as the president of Norwich, which I did, obviously,” he says. Though he was not selected as president in 2020, life would keep him on the Norwich path. “That’s how I came into consideration for the Norwich Board of Trustees, and eventually ended up stepping into this job.”

LtGen Broadmeadow began his tenure as the 25th president of the University in May and highlights the school’s values as his guiding light. “As a student, you might just memorize what they are. But, through my four years here, I really began to understand how they are important,” he says. “When I got into the Marine Corps, I really found how there’s overlap between our guiding values in the Marine Corps leadership traits – huge overlap. You begin to think, ‘Okay, why is

that?’ and you really begin to understand that they are the ethical foundation that is critical to your success in places like the Marine Corps, public service, or even business where those guiding values help point you in a direction when things aren’t clear-cut.”

“For me, those aren’t just words,” he says. “They truly are what I have tried to live by. They form the foundation of my leadership style and the way that I try to conduct myself in business, or now, in the running of this University.”

President Broadmeadow realizes that while Norwich has remained steadfast in its role, the world has changed. “It was 45 or 46 years ago now that I came here to school. It’s a whole different world, and students that come here today are different,” he says. “We have to recognize those differences and adapt.” He adds that while the character of how education is facilitated has changed, the nature of Norwich has not. “The values are enduring. When I was here, I never envisioned having a laptop computer, let alone an iPhone. That wasn’t even imaginable when I was here,” he says. “Now, you couldn’t imagine educating a student without those – but our enduring values haven’t changed.”

Like many of his fellow alumni, these values have remained a core part of him. He sees that spirit daily since arriving as the University’s 25th president. “I get a lot of alumni saying, ‘Hey, I’m here to help, what do you need from me?’” he says.

He admires the “time, talent, and treasure” that Norwich alumni are so ready to offer and sees their unwavering support as a reflection of the values that the University has spent two centuries fostering. “While we may tweak some words in the margin, those guiding values are the same today as when I came here, or when our oldest alums came here.” **N**



President Broadmeadow '83 is the highest-ranking Marine in the University’s history, retiring as a lieutenant general.

A Norwich mother shares her gratitude with leaders in the Corps of Cadets.

*Dear Norwich,*

*Thank you for the leadership of the Corps of Cadets, Cadre, and Regimental Staff thus far. Please also thank your staff and the Cadre. I do not doubt that the sacrifices you make as student leaders are significant. I am writing to thank you for the difference each of you made for my son. On behalf of our family, I am incredibly grateful.*



The Corps and Cadre created the opportunity for the noise and excuses of my son's life to fall away so he could truly see who he is and what he is capable of – I suspect that is the same for all the Rooks. The Cadre that worked most closely with him executed the Norwich vision in an inspiring way; they brought leadership, creativity, and energy to everything they did. The last few months were a life-changing opportunity. I hope you all understand how truly special it is.

When he was little, my son was among the most effervescent, busy little boys I've ever known. A few days after starting kindergarten, he came home from school and said, "School isn't a place for boys like me." As an educator, it broke my heart. In a way, he was right

– but he wasn't the issue – school was the issue. He didn't want to learn about rocks and trees inside the walls of a school; he wanted to be outside, among the rocks and trees. We got through the early school years; he lived for recess, sports, breaks, and summer.

During the winter of 2016, it was clear that he wasn't feeling well. Several doctors told me that he was fine, then that he had a concussion, and finally, on May 18, 2016, he was diagnosed with acute myeloid leukemia. When the doctor called, I was told to pick him up from school and drive him directly to the hospital. He wouldn't leave for six weeks. That first night, as I lay in his hospital bed with him, he asked me how we would get through this. I said the only thing I could think of: one thing, one day at a time.



Doctors were clear that the odds of his survival were not great. His best chance would come from a bone marrow transplant if we could find a match for him. We needed first to rid his body of cancer, so he lived at the hospital six weeks at a time with a lengthy chemo regimen each time; after days of chemo, they monitored him for necessary blood transfusions and to treat whatever infection his body couldn't fight. We were unbelievably relieved when a donor was identified, a 29-year-old man from the Netherlands. This was his chance.

The days, weeks, months, and now years that have followed his transplant have been full of incredible joy and fraught with worry. Once you have seen your

child in the liminal space between life and death, once you have seen other parents bury their children who had the same disease your child did, things are different. His dad and I tried to let things be normal, but nothing was ever quite normal. Suleika Jaouad, an author and a leukemia patient, describes it as, "living between two kingdoms" – neither entirely healthy nor entirely sick. He has lived between these two kingdoms for years.

His lungs took the brunt of the collateral damage of his chemo; even now, he has limited lung capacity and is prone to pneumonia. Sports were no longer a reality, he worried his peers saw him as

"the kid with cancer," and his world was much smaller than it had been before he was sick. He lived, but he wasn't living. Fast forward to the fall of 2022. He was reluctant to engage in a meaningful college search. With a heavy push, we created a list of schools, including Norwich, for him to look at. He was not all that interested in looking at them. Finally, in November, I suggested we go look at Norwich. It couldn't have been a worse day for a tour – frigid, windy, and icy. The campus was empty. I wondered how to help him understand it was a perfect fit for him – just the right size, majors I knew he would love. I believed he would make a great civilian student there, provided he liked it. On the way home, he was excited for the first time in a long time. He loved it. He loved everything about it and wanted to be in the Corps of Cadets.

In full transparency, there wasn't a single cell in my body that wanted him to pursue an opportunity in the Corps of Cadets. It wasn't anything to do with the Corps, per se. It was that I didn't want him to feel the sting of limitation

or rejection again. I was terrified that his lungs, his body, atrophied from years of being sedentary, couldn't do it. I insisted that he needed clearance from his oncology team before we could even entertain the idea, thinking doctors would save him from having to face the possibility of failure.

He worked to get the clearance, but it came with an asterisk. You can do this, they said, as long as you let them know there are things you might not be able to do, things you can't do. I was now more terrified than before. That isn't how the Corps works, I told him. He said he would sort it out. He wanted to try. His dad's blessing was much easier to win than mine. Ultimately, I told him this was his choice. If he were to be a Rook, I would be the best Rook mom I could be. This was his journey – and I would figure out how to support it.

At some point in August, something clicked in my mind. He had no choice in having cancer. Yes, he got through it – but even now, he'll say he just laid there. He'll say that the doctors, nurses, and his



bone marrow donor did all the hard work. He wanted to choose a hard journey and prove he could see it through.

On August 20, 2023, we dropped off a boy who had pretty good “excuses” about why he might not make it to recognition. He’d had cancer, he was incredibly out of shape, we’d let him quit when things got hard because life had been hard enough, and the list went on. I’m not proud of my role in that – but – there’s no manual for parenting and certainly no additional chapter about parenting and life-threatening illnesses. He didn’t want people at Norwich to know he’d been sick, so we only shared it with folks in the Health Center. My son wanted a fresh start. He wanted to be just like everyone else.

And he was.

Unlike the first time he was bald, this time, it didn’t give anyone pause. Others were nearly bald, too. The physical tasks that were hard for him were also hard for many others. He didn’t stand out for what he couldn’t do, instead he worked alongside others to try and keep trying. The kid who wanted to learn about rocks and trees by being outside, the kid that school wasn’t meant for was now a man, finally learning the way he hoped to from the start. He wasn’t learning about leadership by reading a book; he was watching it in action, learning it by living it. He learned about teamwork by being a part of a team. I know that this is just the beginning of his true education.

Last week, when he was home, I asked how he got through the first few months of this experience – especially in the early days when the Sunday calls were full of tears – his and mine. He said, “One thing, one day at a time, Mum. When it was awful, I just thought about the next thing I could get to. Sometimes, the only thing I could think was: ‘I just have to make it to breakfast.’”

Thank you for teaching my son the true meaning of Essayons. He couldn’t have learned and understood it without you and those you lead. He will, no doubt, continue to try.

**Norwich together, Norwich forever.**



# NORWICH SOPHOMORE EXPEDITIONS

A new Norwich tradition takes students down the Long Trail.

The morning after graduation in the Spring of 2023, Norwich University embarked on building a new tradition. Sixteen students, along with Commandant of Cadets Bill McCollough '91 and three staff members, departed The Hill at first light and were dropped off at the base of Stratton Mountain along the Vermont Long Trail/Appalachian Trail to begin a multi-day hike along the oldest long-distance hiking trail in the U.S.

## AN IDEA TAKES SHAPE

Commandant McCollough named the trip Norwich Sophomore Expedition I. Limited to students just finishing their sophomore year, McCollough's vision was to add a significant milestone in the development of Norwich students. Rooks mark their first year with Rookdom, and eventually, recognition as cadets. Juniors receive their Norwich rings. Seniors earn their degrees; and many, their commissions as officers in the U.S. Armed Forces. Sophomores would now be offered the chance to mark their year by participating in an Expedition.

The Expeditions are modeled after the experiential learning pioneered by Norwich founder Captain Alden Partridge and influenced by the growth McCollough observed in fellow Marines who completed challenging military courses or certain small unit training exercises. The concept was simple: organize students into small teams, pair them with a mentor from the Commandant's staff, and set them off into the wilderness for a week.

Each day would begin with a short reading about leadership or character development followed by miles of hiking, overcoming obstacles, and making decisions. Days would end with the mentor leading a guided discussion about the reading, how it applied during the day, and how it might apply to their future. Importantly, the Commandant and the mentors would not lead the Expedition; the students would select their own team leaders and assign other billets and responsibilities as they saw fit. The staff members would be there to provide subtle guidance if required, lead the reading discussions, and be the experienced safety backstop for each team. By following this construct, the Commandant hoped that student participants would:

- **Overcome their perceived physical and mental limits, leading to confidence**
- **Face obstacles as a group, building teamwork**
- **Complete a task requiring commitment over many days, developing grit**
- **Take a break from electronic interruptions, creating self-awareness**
- **Break long-term objectives into daily tasks, exercising patience**

Commandant McCollough '91 (center) and a group of students conquering the trails.



Team Leader C/SFC Joseph T. Ferencie '25, one of the cadets entrusted with leadership responsibilities, climbs along the trail during Expedition II.



- **Refine their personal ethos with the guidance of a mentor**
- **Become more mature leaders, better prepared to guide fellow students**
- **Forge a shared, distinct, and enduring Norwich memory**

Students who participated, but didn't finish would add another outcome:

- **Gain the strength that comes from attempting a task that currently lies beyond capability**

In preparation during the 2022-2023 academic year, three staff members joined Commandant McCollough and began planning Expedition I. Retired U.S. Army COL Jeremy Miller, the 1st Battalion Assistant Commandant and previous Norwich professor of military science who had recently through-hiked the Appalachian Trail led the planning effort. CSM (VSM) John De Nagy, Company F Mentor and retired SEAL Master Chief, and CSM (VSM) Sean Beebe, Company E Mentor and retired Special Forces CSM, joined McCollough and Miller as mentors on the Expedition and led the effort to find likely participants. McCollough contacted several alumni friends in the Norwich Fins and Feathers organization to raise the money to buy the necessary equipment and provisions. Participants would provide their own clothes, boots, packs, and sleeping bags. The money raised would provide the tents, stoves, fuel, water purification systems, trekking poles, mosquito nets, medical kits, food, and transportation to and from the trail. The Expedition would expend no University funds.

More than 30 sophomores indicated interest in joining Expedition I throughout the year. As the

start date drew closer, the numbers dwindled. Some students were eager to return home after finals to see friends and family or to start summer jobs or internships. For others, the prospect of spending a week on a physically challenging task grew less appealing. As final preparations began in the lead-up to graduation, 16 sophomores remained.

### EXPEDITION I

After departing from Norwich, several University vans made their way to the insertion point. The lead van registered an outside temperature of 41 degrees as it pulled into the parking lot at the trailhead. The vans unloaded, safety parameters reiterated, and packs hefted; Norwich Expedition I began in a light rain.

Over the course of the next days, the weather only sporadically improved as the expedition experienced rain, sleet, and a few bright spots of fleeting sunshine. Much of the trail was running water, and the many streams that cross the trail were often swollen to the point that finding alternate crossing points was necessary. The northern sides of the mountains that the hikers traversed were still covered in snow, making progress slow as hikers often sank to their knees or higher.

While Mother Nature did not cooperate much, the teams rose to the challenge. Five members were not able to complete the Expedition, but all who reached their limits before the end exhibited grit and determination, expending themselves beyond what they thought they were capable of. As the numbers shrunk, what started out as two teams with two mentors each morphed into one team.

Over the course of the Expedition the goals were met, and the members gelled as a team. They made decisions about hiking times and shelter selection

as their pace slowed due to weather; they learned to gauge their progress and pace, finding out who was good at the uphill, and who was good at the downhill; they redistributed loads to make better progress; they found the camaraderie that comes with doing hard things together; they experienced how a team is more capable and confident than an individual; and they built trust with people they barely knew before they hiked the Long Trail together. The readings about character and grit took on new meaning, backed by a new experience.

Eleven students finished. Soaked, tired, and cold, they smiled and joked as they devoured the grilled sandwiches and soup that CSM (VSM) Kelsie Monroe (Company G Mentor), Ms. Vanessa Middleton (Student Experience Coordinator), and Ms. Sadie Hale (Executive Secretary to the Commandant) had waiting for them when they hiked into the parking lot for the pickup back to Norwich. Cadet Jacob Medina summed up the experience well when he wrote, “I have finally had a moment to truly reflect on the Sophomore Long Trail Expedition and I wanted to express my sincere appreciation for having had the opportunity to participate in the inaugural event. I would be disingenuous if I didn’t admit that it was challenging mentally, physically, and spiritually in a way that I had never previously experienced with other activities... I was able to learn a great deal about myself, take a self-inventory, and confirm what my strengths and weaknesses are, analyze how I approach adversity, and gain valuable insight into the type of leader I endeavor to become. Thank you for coordinating such an unforgettable learning experience.”

When everyone returned to campus in the fall of 2023, the Expedition members stood in front of the new sophomore class and received their Expedition pins and coins. The pins are worn on

their cadet uniforms, and the coins are serialized. Coin 1 adorns the Expedition logbook where all those who finished signed their names. Coins 2-12 were presented to the inaugural group.

### EXPEDITION II

With 11 Expedition juniors in leadership positions across the Corps during 2023-2024, the recruiting was better for Expedition II. Members of Expedition I helped interested students organize themselves into teams and prepare for Expedition II. After a high-water mark of nearly 60 students showing interest, 27 ultimately began the trek broken down into four teams. This growth necessitated adding another mentor to the mix, and CSM (VSM) Paul Putney, the Company B Mentor and former Army Ranger joined the effort. Monetary support from Fins and Feathers allowed every student to be issued a pack this year – the model interestingly named “The Rook.”

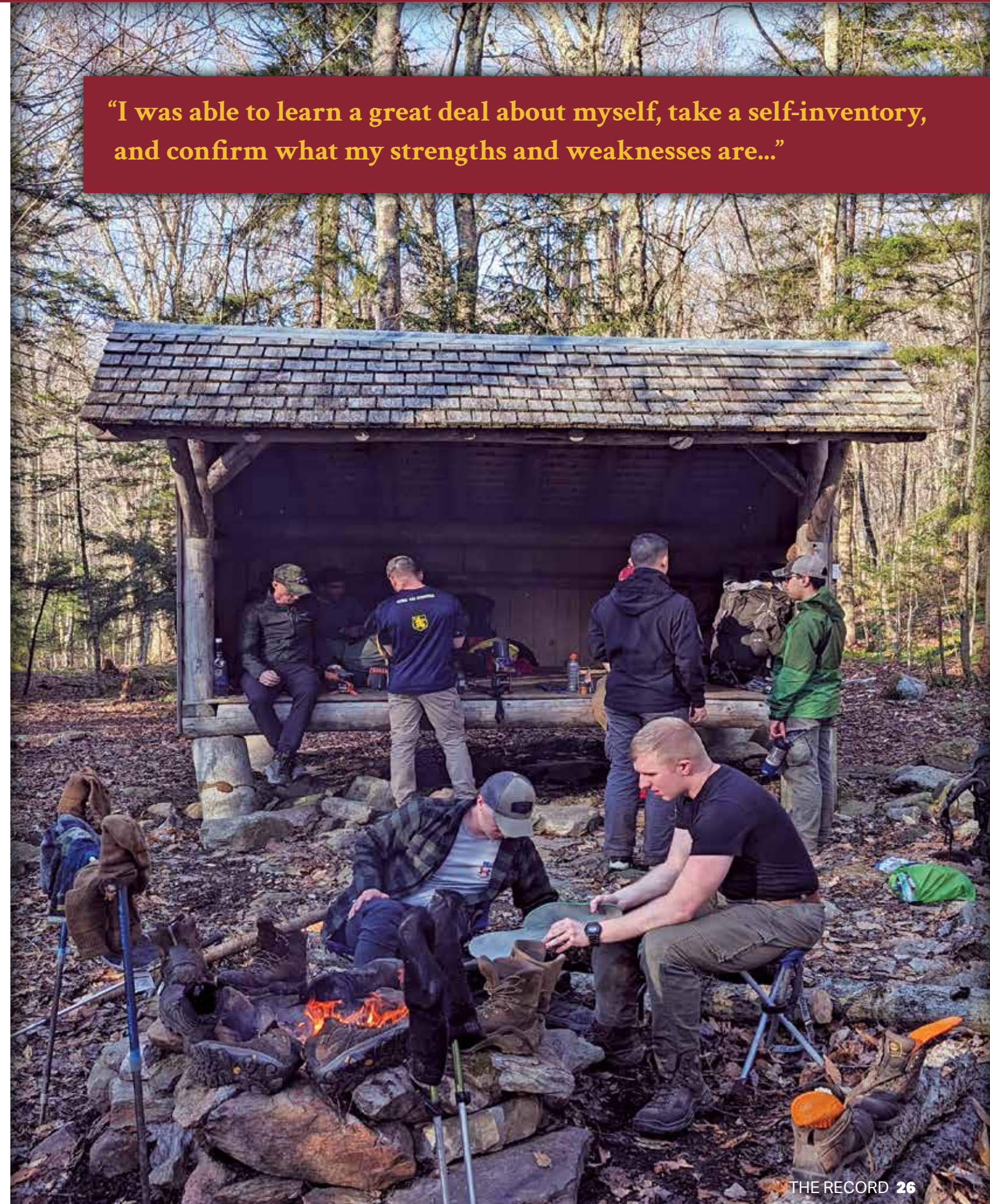
With more hikers and teams, the Expedition added a forward command element to the plan, staying at a hotel in southern Vermont where they could respond quickly if any student needed to come off the trail and to run resupply on days three and five. Notably, this effort was spearheaded by several students from the previous Expedition who tracked team progress via GPS.

Mother Nature was more cooperative with Expedition II, and the teams only experienced two nights and one day of rain, although an afternoon hailstorm was a first. The rest of the time provided good weather, but that didn’t mean easy traveling.

Good weather meant more miles, and the north sides of Stratton, Bromley, Peru, Styles, and Killington all provided larger than expected lengths of snow that had expedition members wondering if they should recommend snowshoes for next year’s Expedition.

Breaks at campsites along the trail offer brief respite for the hikers.

“I was able to learn a great deal about myself, take a self-inventory, and confirm what my strengths and weaknesses are...”





Expeditionists prepare to embark on their journey on the front steps of Jackman Hall.



The readings took on a new flavor, with the “Words to Consider” booklet that Commandant McCollough sends to all deposited freshmen, providing content for the daily discussions. This year also found several of last year’s completers joining the trek as junior mentors. Expedition II continued the tradition of challenge, with 22 cadets finishing. Several of those who began but needed to be pulled out remained at the forward headquarters to help resupply efforts, adding to the team nature of the Expedition. The goals were again met, but this time with twice the number of students. The experience of Expedition II is captured by Cadet Michael Cypher who commented, “Provoking our fitness, skills, and grit, the trail was the best way we could’ve ended the semester. We planned and looked forward to this week all year and I’m extremely grateful that we had the opportunity and support to do so. What

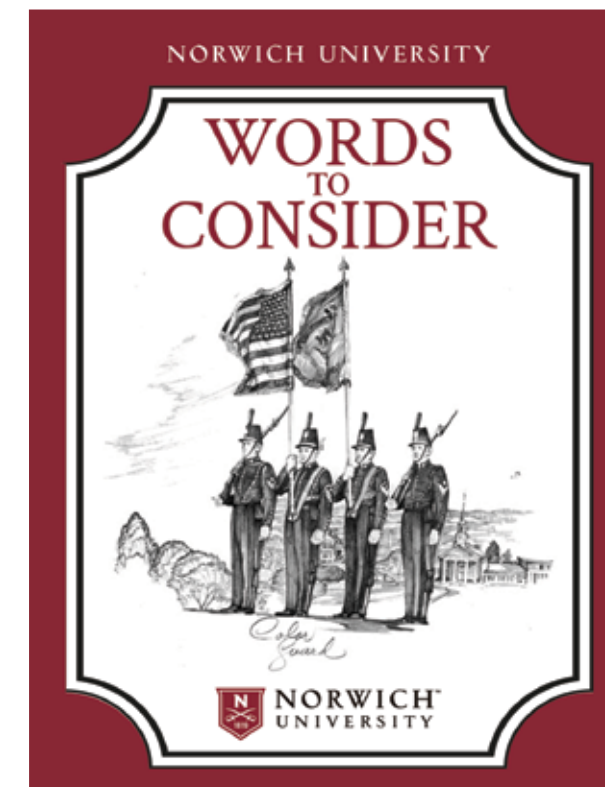
I experienced on the trail inspired me to continue trips like this annually over the course of my life.”

Upon return to The Hill, the completers were issued their Expedition pins. Their coins will be presented in front of next year’s sophomore class when Expedition III is introduced.

### THE FUTURE

Based on two years of feedback, Norwich Sophomore Expeditions fill a unique role in the development of our students and mark a new tradition that shows promise for growth. Expedition leadership hopes that civilian sophomores will join Expedition III and make it part of their developmental journey, as well. Photos of the successful Expeditions can be viewed at the Shaw Outdoor Center and the logbook can be viewed at the Sullivan Museum. **N**

*Anyone wishing to support future Norwich Sophomore Expeditions can do so by donating to the Commandant’s Special Projects Fund through the Alumni and Development Office at (802) 485-2300.*



# WOMEN KICKING GLASS

**Celebrating a history of Norwich University and Vermont College women destroying barriers.**

STORY BY ZACK BENNETT

## WOMEN KICKING GLASS

Celebrating a history of Norwich University and Vermont College women destroying barriers.

Norwich University's founder Captain Alden Partridge was an advocate for women's education, but it took 155 years for it to happen.

When Captain Partridge founded the American Literary, Scientific and Military Academy in 1819, he created a progressive—and controversial—liberal arts curriculum that included modern languages, political science, engineering, agriculture and military science. Equally radical, Partridge advocated for women to be allowed to attend institutions of higher education.

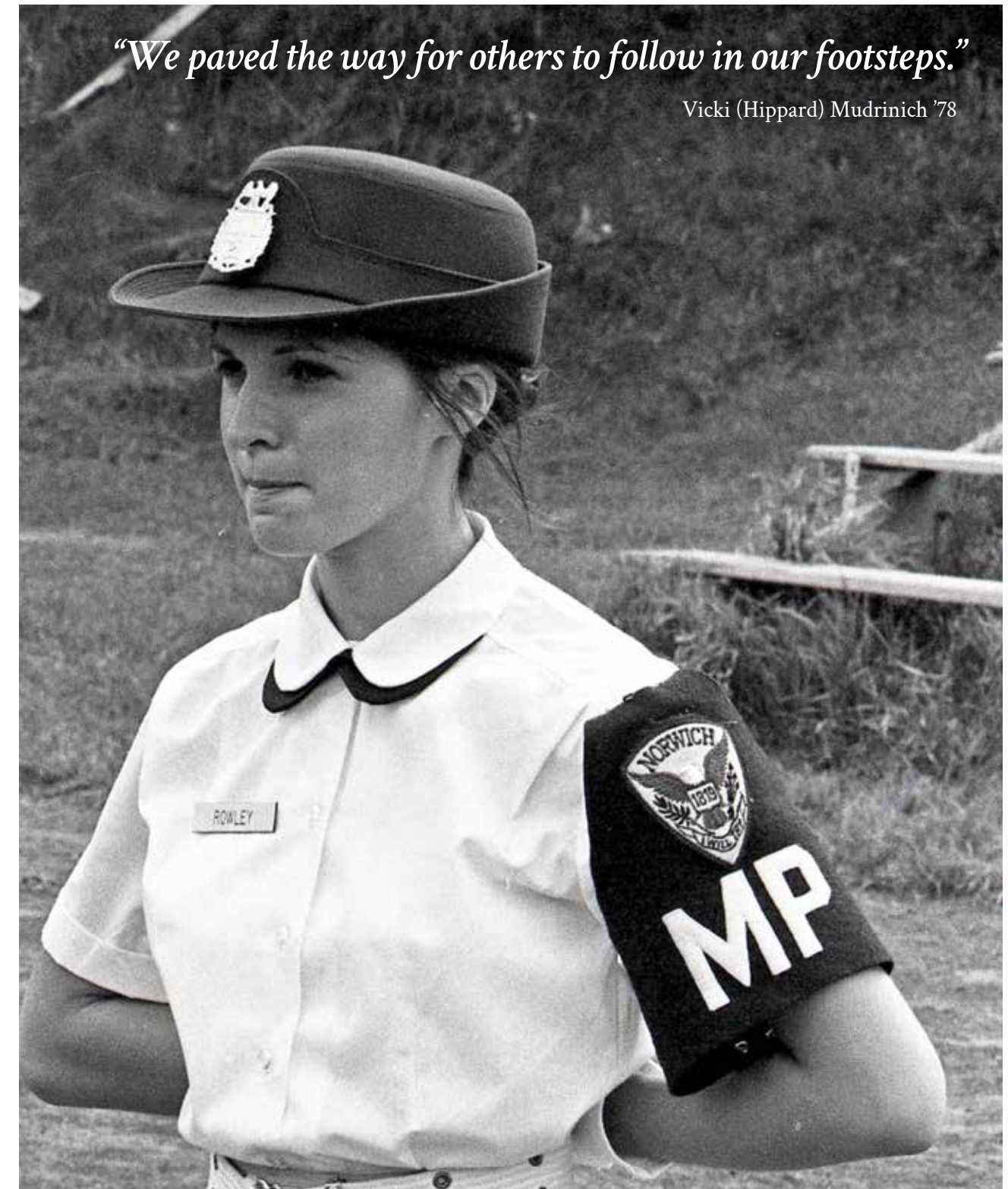
In the first half of the 19th century, the general public's attitude was that there was little need for women to be educated, especially at the college level. Partridge recognized the value and need to improve women's access to educational opportunities. As early as the 1820s he offered his support to the Middletown Female Seminary in Middletown, CT. The boarding school for young women offered "every useful and ornamental branch of education" and was a forerunner to what Partridge envisioned, and later attempted to replicate at Norwich.



In the 1830s, Oberlin College in Ohio, Wesleyan College in Georgia, Stephens College in Missouri, and Mount Holyoke College in Massachusetts were among the first to offer higher education to women. In 1935 Partridge published a prospectus publicizing a seminary in Norwich, Vermont for young ladies. It advertised that women would be allowed to participate in some of the Norwich University classes and lectures cadets attended. Unfortunately, this revolutionary proposal did not generate adequate public interest, and plans for a female seminary at Norwich were abandoned.

While Partridge's seminary for women did not come to fruition, he supported the establishment of Newbury Seminary, a coed institution founded in 1834 in Newbury, VT. In time a portion of the school moved to Massachusetts and became the School of Theology at Boston University. After the Civil War, another portion of the Newbury school branched off to Montpelier and became known as the Montpelier Seminary and eventually Vermont Junior College.

During the 1940s Vermont Junior College admitted both men and women. With cultural shifts in post-WWII America, young women began setting their sights on professional careers. In 1953 Vermont Junior College became an all-women's institution offering two-year programs in subjects such as secretarial science and nursing. In 1958 it was renamed Vermont College.



Lynn (Rowley) Davis '79, Military Police Company

*"We paved the way for others to follow in our footsteps."*

Vicki (Hippard) Mudrinich '78



The "original eight" in 1974 comprised four freshmen and four upperclassmen, who were their cadre.

With just 12 miles separating the schools, Norwich University and Vermont College had a close relationship, as did their students. Vermont College women regularly attended dances and other social events at Norwich, resulting in many marriages between VC and NU students. As they entered the 1970s, both schools faced declining student enrollment. The emergence of community colleges eroded interest in Vermont College. Norwich's enrollment was impacted by a trend toward co-education and anti-military sentiment in the wake of the Vietnam era. A merger of the two institutions was proposed to create efficiency, improve academic programs, and extend the existing cooperation between the schools.

*"In May 1974 the Board of Trustees approved a proposal allowing the housing of 4-year female students on the Northfield campus and an effort be made during the ensuing years to integrate them into the corps system."*

The agreement was signed in January 1972, and with that, Norwich became a two-campus institution. Vermont College was to retain its name and operate as a civilian division for women, while Norwich would be a residential campus for men offering "male military training and a Corps of Cadets."

Women enrolled in two-year programs at Vermont College could now take classes toward a four-year degree at NU. The result was Norwich's dramatic transformation into a co-educational institution with civilian students learning alongside the traditional Corps of Cadets. Each day, students were bussed between the Montpelier and Northfield campuses for classes, social events, and athletics. Before long, the plan to keep male cadets and female civilians living on separate campuses was revisited. In 1973 a group of students petitioned President Loring Hart to be allowed to live on the Northfield campus and join the Corps of Cadets.

*Excerpt from the Norwich University Women Kicking Glass Oral History Project. This publication was created to mark the 50th anniversary of women living on the Norwich Campus and joining the NU Corps of Cadets. This HERstory shares experiences of Norwich alumnae, as well as those of Vermont College alumnae prior to the 1972 merger. To purchase your copy, visit [alumni.norwich.edu/womenkickingglassmerch#order](http://alumni.norwich.edu/womenkickingglassmerch#order).*

The landmark Title IX Act of 1972 furthered the argument for women to be allowed in the Corps. The federal law prohibits discrimination based on sex in education programs and activities that receive federal financial assistance. This legislation had a profound impact on the integration of women into American military schools. In 1973 the University of North Georgia and Virginia Tech were the first senior military colleges to accept women into the Corps of Cadets.

President Hart embraced Title IX, and with two of the six senior military colleges opening their doors to women, he supported the Vermont College women's request to do the same. In May 1974 the Board of Trustees approved a proposal allowing "the housing of 4-year female students on the Northfield campus and an effort be made during the ensuing years to integrate them into the corps system."

President Hart reached out to current Vermont College students and women who had been admitted to Norwich for the fall of 1974. "This year we are accepting women in the Norwich University Corps of Cadets," he wrote. "The Corps, which is the backbone of the military segment of the University, is, in effect, a self-governing student body within a military framework. As a member of the Corps you would be expected to conform to the rules and regulations under which it operates, and to wear the Norwich uniform during regular school hours and on certain ceremonial occasions."

In August 1974, 155 years after Captain Partridge founded the institution, 71 women moved into Gerard Hall on the Northfield campus. Some were incoming freshmen in a four-year degree program. Others had been enrolled in a two-year program at Vermont College and were now pursuing a four-year degree. Among them were eight women, four upperclassmen and four incoming freshmen, who formed the first female cohort in the NU Corps of Cadets.

Excerpt from the Norwich University Women Kicking Glass Oral History Project. This publication was created to mark the 50th anniversary of women living on the Norwich Campus and joining the NU Corps of Cadets. This HERstory shares experiences of Norwich alumnae, as well as those of Vermont College alumnae prior to the 1972 merger. To purchase your copy, visit [alumni.norwich.edu/womenkickingglassmerch#order](http://alumni.norwich.edu/womenkickingglassmerch#order).

### THE "BUS SOCIETY"

When Norwich University and Vermont College initially merged, a "bus society" formed as students travelled between the Northfield and Montpelier campuses. Joining them was academic advisor and Spanish professor **Nadine Nunez-de-Cela**, a Montpelier resident. Nunez advocated for fully integrating women into Norwich by placing them on campus instead of forcing them to commute.

For economic and practical reasons, President Hart endorsed this proposal. An ad-hoc committee of students, cadets, faculty, and staff selected Nunez-de-Cela as Norwich's first dean of women, assistant commandant of cadets to coordinate women's campus life in partnership with the Commandant's Office. In a 1974 article in *The Guidon*, Nunez-de-Cela said she saw the presence of women making Norwich better – better academically because of diversity of opinion, better socially, and better in matters surrounding the Corps. She was described as "very realistic" in her views surrounding the University's community, and as someone who wanted to "see what we already have at Norwich utilized, broadened, and developed for the benefit of all."

### WOMEN JOIN THE RANKS

Among the 71 women who moved into Gerard Hall that fall was **Diane (Gionet) Halliday '75**. She was one of two upperclassmen who became cadre and mentors to Norwich's first-ever female cadets. The group was called L (Lima) Detachment considering there were too few women to form a full company. Once L Detachment was on campus, *The Guidon* described Nunez-de-Cela as hoping to see "All these divergent groups respect, understand, and cooperate with each other for the

general success of the entire Norwich community. This is the spirit of rapport that has to prevail if Norwich is to survive this transitional period."

Freshmen **Irene (Nadeau) Mills '78** and **Vicki (Hippard) Mudrinich '78** were two of the young women in Lima Detachment. "You have to prove yourself every day, that you can do a good job," recalls Mills. She quickly proved that she could and was awarded Regimental Rook of the Month as a member of the Regimental Military Police (MP) Company. In a *Guidon* article surrounding this accomplishment, it was written that "Miss Nadeau's accomplishment was on a greater scale considering that MP company is a much larger company than Lima. Thus, competition was steeper." Mills would continue her dedicated work while on campus and was additionally recognized with the AFROTC Leadership Ribbon through the Arnold Air Society.

"It may have been a gamble on the part of the administration – and we were definitely an experiment – but it worked," says Mudrinich. "We paved the way for others to follow in our footsteps." She saw the military as a career where "Opportunities for women were promising, and where the pay was equal to that of men." She attended Norwich in pursuit of her career goals, and



Diane (Gionet) Halliday '75, first woman to graduate from Norwich and first to commission in the U.S. Air Force.



Irene (Nadeau) Mills '78 during commencement on The Hill.

a 1974 "News from Norwich" article quoted her as saying, "Each girl must prove herself in an environment that is downright hostile for a while. The pressure is on all sides to prove that she can perform as well as the male cadets in every phase of education and military training."

Mudrinich proved herself time and time again. She, like Mills, was a member of the Military Police Company, and additionally earned the rank of captain in HQ Company. Throughout all of it, she maintained an A average in the classroom and held the highest GPA in the Corps during her senior year. In recognition of her efforts, she was awarded the Distinguished GMC Cadet Ribbon for her performance in AFROTC.

Though the institution had only become totally open to women in the past few years, Norwich was beginning to draw international attention. **Sussan (Shahin) Coley**

*"It may have been a gamble on the part of the administration – and we were definitely an experiment – but it worked."*

'83 was one of 27 Iranian Imperial Navy recruits when she began at the University in August of 1979. The Shah of Iran at the time saw value in increasing female representation in his country's armed forces and offered pathways to American higher education for recruits. Coley remembers sentiments expressed by fellow Iranians under the Shah's initiative. "We were like celebrities, and because of that, continuously our commanders were encouraging us to watch what we said, what we did. Our uniform was impeccable. Our hair, every single hair had to be tied in place. It was all perfect. Yes, it was very, very high pressure, but I guess all of us knew that," she says.

The political landscape shifted dramatically with the onset of the Islamic Revolution in 1979. In April of the next year, all Iranian diplomats and students were

ordered to leave the U.S. within 48 hours. Coley was forced to return to Iran, only to realize that living under the oppressive Khomeini regime was unsustainable. Her determination to return to Norwich sparked a movie-like sequence of events that involved befriending passport employees and pretending to be a maid. With the support of the Norwich community, aided by Vermont Senator Patrick Leahy, Coley returned to The Hill nearly a year later to complete her studies.

While a majority of the student population is involved in the Corps of Cadets, not all choose military careers, instead opting for the public, private, or non-profit sectors. **Tina (Judd) Christiano '83** was one of those who chose a civilian's path after her time in the Corps. "I was raised by a single mom who instilled in me the confidence to stretch limits and break barriers," she says. "She was always encouraging me to venture to places where women weren't visible, so I was more than intrigued when Norwich opened their doors to women."

Her new experience at Norwich provided a platform for monumental growth. Christiano eventually built a successful company surrounding the manufacturing industry and is now owner and CEO of Secondary Solutions Inc., a multi-million-dollar business whose employee base is built of 75% women. "I have been referred to as intimidating, direct, and honest," says Christiano. "Getting doors opened took plenty of prying and pushing, but determination was in my corner."

When **Wendy (Sampson) Bluemmert '89** arrived on campus, she was prepared for a military lifestyle. She arrived on The Hill with an AFROTC scholarship, but quickly learned that she did not have confirmation of continued funding after her first year. Bluemmert wasted no time enlisting in the Army National Guard and spent her summer training. Commandant Anthony Carbone '58 caught wind of this, and personally called the Army requesting that she return to college. He said they would find a solution to her financial problems and kept his word.

Now back at Norwich, she was in a world that did not share many similarities with her hometown of Union,



Vicki (Hippard) Mudrinich '78



Wendy (Sampson) Bluemmert '89

New Jersey. "Parents put a lot of pressure on Black kids to go to college in the 1980s," she says. "Most of my friends went to HBCUs [historically Black colleges and universities]. But I chose Norwich and there was no diversity." She remembers seeing only eight other Black students in her class on arrival day; by graduation, she would be the only one remaining. Bluemmert dove into Corps life and her studies, driven by the same determination that led her to the National Guard when she could not afford school. In 1986, Bluemmert etched her name into Norwich history as the third woman and first Black woman to earn the rank of Rook 5, leading freshmen Rooks through their first year of Corps training.

Many who have walked The Hill have shared Bluemmert's drive and determination. When **Jana (Hurst) Raymond '90** was asked why she wanted to fly, her answer was "why not?" Unfortunately, this was a question Raymond was forced to tackle repeatedly when military recruiters were slow to encourage her desire for flight and service. One Navy recruiter, however, saw something special in her and assisted her in the application process for Broadened Opportunity for Office Selection and Training (BOOST). If she was successful in training, she would be guaranteed a four-year NROTC scholarship. The daunting statistic, though, was that the program had a 50% fail rate. "Every position I wanted, from air crew, to avionics electrician, to diver, was closed to women," she says. "I ended up going in non-rated, with the assumption that I would finish BOOST and get my scholarship."

Her assumption was right. She was in the 50% that completed BOOST and was accepted into Norwich University. "At Norwich, I always felt supported," says Raymond. "When I told Bruce Stewart [admissions director] I wanted to fly in the Navy, he didn't look at me like I was crazy. When I told Don Wallace [engineering professor] I wanted to double major in math and mechanical engineering, he told me how I could do it."

**Tracey (Jones) Poirier '96** was yet another driven young woman when she first walked onto campus. In her studies, she majored in both English and communications. Her work was recognized with a Rhodes Scholarship, making her the first-ever – and to date, only – Norwich student to receive the world's oldest graduate scholarship. "Norwich teaches us a lot of things," says Poirier. "I think the most

important is the ability to simply take action, even in the absence of guidance. We aren't ones to be idle or come up with reasons for why something can't be done." She remembers finding a way to push forward, even when the odds might have been daunting. "No excuse, SSG," was probably the most used phrase of my Rook year. It didn't take a lot to figure out that no one wanted your excuses, they just wanted to know how you were going to fix it."

Poirier was promoted to brigadier general in 2023 and became the first female general officer in the Vermont Army National Guard. "I doubt anyone who knew us as Rooks would have believed my roommate Kim Hamilton '96 and I would end up generals, but Norwich women always seem to be able to defy expectations."



Civilian women at Norwich in 1980.

### CIVILIANS ON THE HILL

Norwich's women have been defying expectations for decades, regardless of their field. **Karen (Rowe) Broadmeadow '83** was a classmate of Christiano who arrived at Norwich as a civilian through Vermont College, where she earned an associate degree. "My most enduring memory of Norwich is its sense of community," she says. "The camaraderie formed within various

communities, including the civilian student population, Dewey Hall residents, and fellow business students, laid the foundation for lasting friendships."

She married classmate and current Norwich University President, LtGen John J. Broadmeadow '83, USMC (Ret), and his military career would take the family around the world. The foundation she formed at Norwich allowed her to excel in her roles, even if they changed every few years. She has worked for Fortune 500 companies, HBCUs, and in MCI WorldCom's Corporate Employee Relations. Outside of her professional career, she has given much of her time and efforts to volunteer causes like the Carlsbad Education Foundation Board of Directors in California, the Joint Spouses Conference in Hawaii, and the 2017 Navy-Marine Corps Ball Committee where she raised more than \$450,000 for the Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society. "Being an advocate for military families, especially during wartime, can be a challenge but also offers deep rewards," she says. The Department of the Navy recognized her efforts in 2020 when she received the Distinguished Public Service Award.



Beth (Carson) Veach '93, graduate of Norwich's Adult Learning Program.

**Beth (Carson) Veach '92** has held the Norwich spirit since even before her time at the institution. Her father passed when she was only five, and her mother became the first-ever female deputy sheriff in Lorain County, Ohio, as she now worked to support her family. The family adopted the song, "I Fought The Law, and The Law Won," as something like a theme song. Veach would eventually enter

the workforce in a male-dominated field, just like her mother, when she was one of two women in Columbus, Ohio, to become an investment banker.

Sometime later in life, Veach eventually moved to Vermont. Her husband came home with an advertisement he had torn out of a newspaper which highlighted Vermont College of Norwich University's adult distance learning. "He said, 'Beth, you know, you said you wanted to finish your degree. Do you think you'd want to look at this?'" Veach remembers. "My first reaction was, 'Oh my gosh, these are the schools that advertise on the back of a pack of matches, right?' But then I started researching and I was so impressed." She was surprised that this institution was right in her backyard. "I got to know about the military part of the school, how old the school was, the rich history – Norwich really has stayed true to their history," she says. "I was shocked that a school that had achieved so much and turned out so many successful graduates, that was on the cutting edge a few years earlier allowing women in the Corps, was right here. I couldn't be happier that it turned out that way."

Much like Veach, **Michele Turner M'12** pursued her degree online; though, unlike when Veach enrolled in distance learning, online education was no longer seen as potentially dubious. Turner garnered plenty of experience throughout her career, working in high-level roles at places like Microsoft and Amazon, but wanted to further her education through a master's degree and found the online format to be her best option. "I decided that since I've been doing this business continuity thing for decades, why don't I get credit more on the educational level," she says. She began scouting schools and found a couple, "But what made Norwich stand out was that when I looked through the information, it wasn't just structured as a checklist of academic requirements, there was really a sense of family. A sense of 'We will do this together.'" She remembers thinking that "If I'm going to get it, I'm going to get it here."



### INTO THE FUTURE

Norwich University was one of the first senior military colleges to admit women. This feat was accomplished two years prior to the federal service academies accepting females, and 25 years before Virginia Military College admitted women by Supreme Court order. Today, the tradition of strong women at Norwich continues. Approximately 30% of undergraduate students are female and nearly 20% of the Corps is comprised of females. The women that fill the ranks – those like **2024-25 Regimental Commander Sophia M. Righthouse '25**, the seventh woman in this role, and astronaut hopeful **Amrutaa Vibho '26**, a highly touted academic in the Corps – continue forging the path that many others began in the early '70s. Norwich University has been innovating and a driving force in the creation of leaders since Captain Alden Partridge founded his academy in 1819. With a 50-year track record of trailblazing, accomplished alumnae, and current students like Righthouse, Vibho, and countless others, Norwich women will continue to "kick glass" on The Hill and beyond for generations to come.

*You can purchase WKG merchandise, read profiles of trailblazing women, and support the Women Kicking Glass Scholarship by visiting [alumni.norwich.edu/womenkickingglass](http://alumni.norwich.edu/womenkickingglass), or by contacting the Norwich Office of Alumni Engagement at (802) 485-2100 or [alumni@norwich.edu](mailto:alumni@norwich.edu).*

# IN THEIR OWN WORDS

A collection of personal stories in remembrance of General Gordon R. Sullivan '59.

STORY BY ZACK BENNETT

## The Great American Soldier

*RADM Richard Schneider, USCGR (Ret.),  
Norwich University President Emeritus*

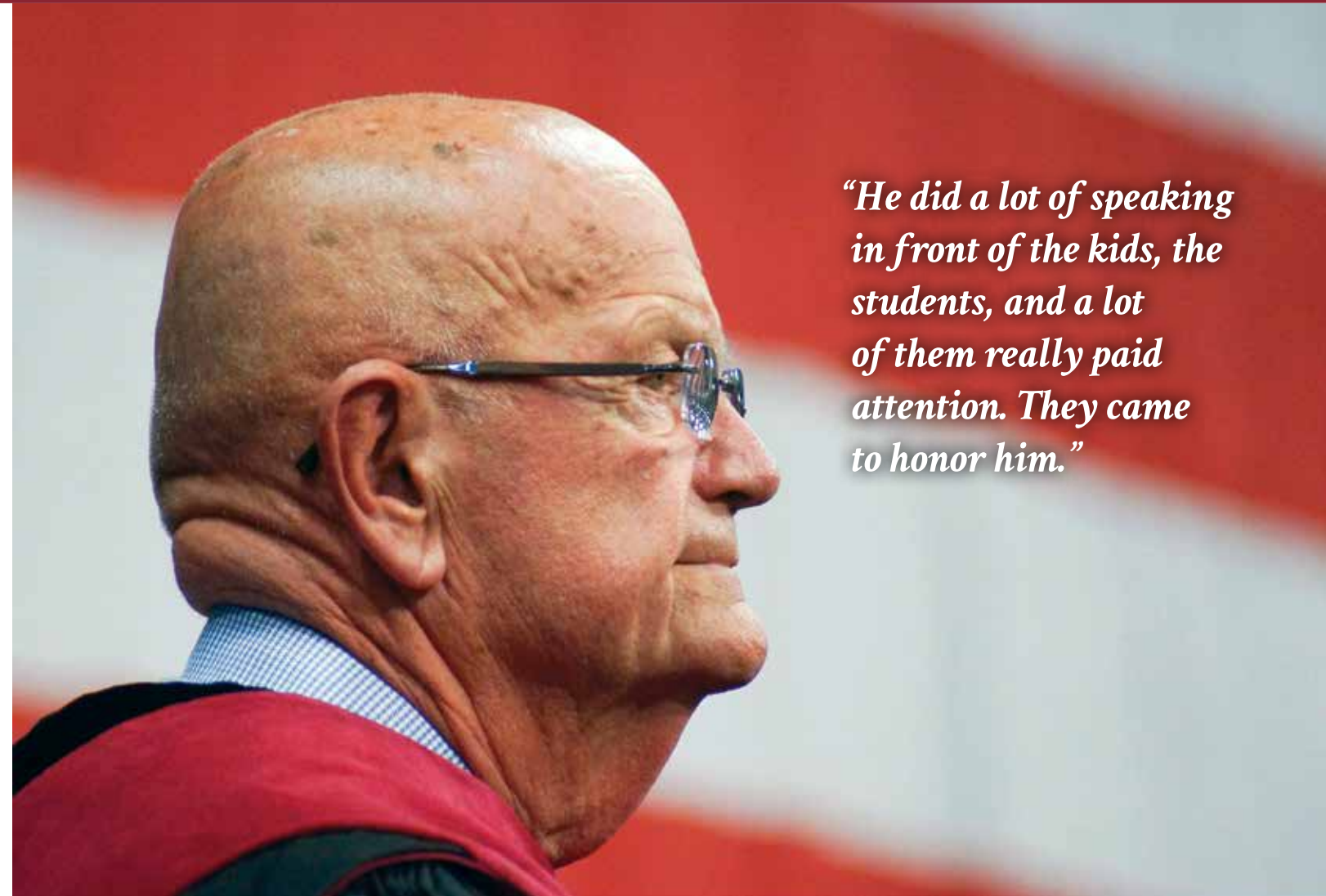
“He always stayed at our house as the chairman of the board,” says Schneider, reflecting on their days spent together working for Norwich. “He was up here – I can’t remember what the reason was – and he was with us. We had just the day before put the sign over the Sullivan Museum.” Schneider knew Sullivan’s tendencies and knew that he liked to start his morning with the newspaper and breakfast. “Jaime [Schneider’s wife] was running down to get him the paper, but he and I went for a walk. I took him to the head of what would become the Bicentennial Stairs. We’re walking down, and all of a sudden it gets really quiet, and we get to the road, and we stand on the second set of the stairs – and there is his name,” says Schneider. “Well, I thought the guy was going into cardiac arrest right there. It almost felt like ages, but he just took it all in. Then he said to me, ‘You know, most guys never get to see anything like this. You usually die by the time they name something for you.’”



Cadet Gordon Sullivan, c. 1957.

Schneider remembers when the entire community finally had the chance to join the celebration of Sullivan during the official opening of the museum. “It rained like hell,” says Schneider. “We’re standing up there, the two of us at a podium – thankfully we were on a riser and were all inside a tent. We’re looking at all these wires while it’s pouring and water is seeping under the tent on the ground, and we both turn to each other, and he said to me, ‘Oh my God, Rich, we’re going to get electrocuted.’” Sullivan’s sense of humor is a quality Schneider remembers fondly. “I said, ‘Sir, don’t worry about it. We’re fine – you know, we’ve got rubber soles on our shoes!’ We ended that talk early and everybody moved into the museum.”

Like many others, Schneider was in the crowd during Sullivan’s final arrival at Arlington National Cemetery. “One thing that struck me was the wide range of Norwich people that were there,” he says. “He did a lot of speaking in front of the kids, the students, and a lot of them really paid attention.



*“He did a lot of speaking in front of the kids, the students, and a lot of them really paid attention. They came to honor him.”*

They came to honor him.” Schneider recalls the overwhelming emotions the Norwich community in attendance shared. “As he left the hearse, they played ‘Norwich Forever.’ There wasn’t a dry eye inside the ranks, especially among the Norwich crowd. The others didn’t know what the hell they were playing, but we don’t really care – we all knew what it was. Those two verses, I think that kind of culminated his life.” Schneider was not the only one who felt the weight of the occasion. “The words couldn’t get out of my mouth. There were a bunch of guys just humming along because we were so moved. The only thing Gordon wanted to be remembered as was a great American soldier.”

## A Hero of Mine

*LtGen John J. Broadmeadow '83, USMC (Ret), 25th  
President of Norwich University*

“My relationship with General Sullivan goes back to Somalia for Operation Restore Hope in 1993,” says President Broadmeadow. “I was working on the port in Mogadishu and got told, ‘Captain, you need to get a couple of your Marines and go see the Army Chief of Staff,’ and I had no idea who he was. I showed up over there and found out he was a Norwich grad. I introduced myself and he handed me my very first challenge coin I ever got.” Though that was their first time meeting, the simple gesture connected Norwich spirits.

Lieutenant General Broadmeadow was joined by General Sullivan years later aboard the USS Intrepid during the University's Bicentennial Gala. Unbeknownst to Sullivan, President Broadmeadow had held the coin close throughout the years and brought it with him to highlight his impact during a speech to those aboard the ship. "I pulled that coin out and showed it to General Sullivan," he says. "He made a big impact on me. The fact that we – Norwich – had this four-star general, I thought that was important."

Though, his accomplishments in the Army were not the only reason he admired General Sullivan. "The fact that he was not just a trustee here, but chairman of the board who really involved himself in the day-to-day activities in this school, tells me that his leadership went way beyond just being a four-star general," he says. "There are a lot of four-star generals, but there are very few people that have done the breadth of things – particularly for Norwich – that Gordon Sullivan did. He is absolutely one of my personal heroes."

### Lunch with Sully

*David J. Whaley '76, Norwich Executive (1981-2023)*

"We hop on a plane for France, land in Paris, and start driving to Verdun immediately," says Whaley, recalling his experience during one of Sullivan's famous "staff rides." Sullivan led these rides with the intentions of not only remembering history but understanding it. "We were studying World War I, and we're looking for a hotel in Verdun," says Whaley. "Well, Verdun is a blue-collar town and the best hotel we can find is probably the equivalent of a Motel 6 – but it's okay for us to do our reconnaissance of the battlefields around there where the Americans were, and especially where some of the Norwich men had fought."



Retired Army GEN Sullivan meets with a group of cadets, a regular occurrence on The Hill.

After their first night's stay, they were ready to officially start their work. "That morning, General Sullivan and Brigadier General Harold 'Hal' Nelson are up at the crack of dawn drinking coffee – and I'm not a coffee person, nor am I a morning person," says Whaley. "We eat at seven for breakfast, and it's a typical European breakfast with sausage, salamis, cheeses, and big, crusty bread. The three of us are talking about the day, and then General Nelson gets up to – and I watch him – take two pieces of this nice crusty bread, throws a bunch of cheese on it, a bunch of salami, and wraps it up, and puts it in his pocket."

Whaley was confused but didn't think much of it, though he happened to see Sullivan doing the same. Eventually, the crew finished their meals and headed out on their reconnaissance.

"We go out to the different battlefields and it gets around a quarter-to-twelve, so I ask, 'Guys, where do you want to have lunch?'" Their answer was simple: just pull over. "So, I do, and we're out in the middle of the country – I mean, there's nothing around us but farm fields. Well, they have their bottles of water and pull out a sandwich. I ask, 'We're not going to a restaurant or

something?' and was told that it was 30 miles back to Verdun." The others asked Whaley if he made a sandwich, and his answer was no; though, what he witnessed at breakfast was starting to make sense now that they were pulling out theirs. "They each broke off a little bit of their sandwich – and I didn't have any water, so they each shared a bit of theirs with me. That was my introduction to going on trips with them," says Whaley. "They were like soldiers on recon – take your supplies with you. I thought we might at least find a McDonald's in France or something. I learned my lesson."



The trip continued the next day, and by the end of the evening, they had decided on pizza for dinner. “We got a pizza and a few drinks and took it back to the hotel where we’d normally have breakfast. We didn’t finish the pizza, and General Sullivan says, ‘Don’t throw that away, that’s lunch tomorrow!’”

Morning came, and they loaded back into the car. By lunchtime, they were on the side of the road sharing a meal again. “We get the cold pizza and a couple waters and apples that we split. General Sullivan tells us, ‘This is when I know I’m with my soldiers. This is what a soldier does. You pull your stuff – whatever you’ve got with you. You’re on the side of the road, it’s drizzling. You’re not uncomfortable, but you’re not comfortable. This is how it’s meant to be,’” recalls Whaley. “Here I am with a Chief of Staff of the Army who commanded thousands, standing on the side of the road sharing cold pizza, bottled water, and apples with good friends. That’s what was important to him, and I was blessed to be included in that.”

### A Man of Character

*Beth Veach '92, Board of Fellows (1993-1997),  
Board of Trustees (1997-2014)*

“Plumley Armory was absolutely packed, in part because they were going to introduce General Sullivan as the newly elected chairman of the board of trustees,” says Veach. “Someone – I wish I could remember who – was talking about General Sullivan, and, of course, his decorated military service and the fact that he was a Norwich grad who had become Chief of Staff of the Army and Secretary of the Army, and, you know, this glowing background.”

She remembers him walking up to the stage following this introduction and heading to the podium. “He had this knack of looking out into a crowd and it just felt like he made eye contact with every person. He just stood there, and it got very quiet,” she says. “The first words out of his mouth were, ‘Let me just say, no one is more surprised than me.’ The crowd just erupted in laughter and applause.” Even as a decorated Army general, Sullivan never expected red-carpet treatment at his alma mater. “That was classic Gordon Sullivan, just so unpretentious – and seemingly, as he said, surprised by all that he achieved in life.”

*“He was a different man,” says Barrett. “We’re talking about a guy who is on the Joint Chiefs, an Army Chief of Staff – the highest-ranking officer in the Army. But, if you got him out of uniform, he wasn’t that guy.”*

His demeanor – despite his stature – became part of his beloved reputation. “He reached all the highest levels in the U.S. Army, yet he could be so down to earth,” she says. Remembering her time as a trustee, Veach adds that “You couldn’t help but be impressed by what he had done and how he led the board. Then we’d have a coffee break, he and I would end up at a table together, and he would be bringing me up to date about his Saturday mornings with his grandson spent watching SpongeBob SquarePants.” It stuck with Veach. “I was so struck by just how down to earth and human he was, he was never impressed by his own success.”

(Left to right) Chairman of the Board of Trustees Alan DeForest '75; Honorary Chair of the Norwich Bicentennial, Retired U.S. Army GEN Gordon Sullivan '59; Norwich University President Emeritus RADM Richard Schneider, USCG (Ret.); Vermont Governor Phil Scott; and Chair of the Bicentennial Commemoration Doug McCracken '70 cut the cake at the 2019 Bicentennial Gala in Shapiro Fieldhouse.



### An Evening at Woodbury

*Keith Barrett '80, Alumni Association President  
(1994-1999), Board of Trustees (2000-2016), Cemetery  
Association President (2020-2024)*

“There was one night during the trustee meetings that Rich [President Emeritus Richard Schneider] would have people come back to Woodbury and there’d be no staff,” says Barrett. “It would be just he and his wife, Jaime, and it would be very, very relaxing, very quiet. You know, golf shirt, open collar kind of kick-back. Rich would have these dinners, and afterwards, the people that were staying elsewhere would filter out.”

Though most trustees lodged outside of Northfield, Barrett was local to the town. It was a slight surprise when Schneider invited him and his wife, Susan, to stay for a while. “I said, ‘Sure, why not?’ Then we thought, ‘Hey, let’s play a game,’ but I

can’t remember what the game was,” says Barrett. “It was some sort of word game, but it just turned into a very relaxing, yucking-it-up time.”

The spur-of-the-moment game night and moments shared with friends quickly became a fond memory for Barrett. “I vividly recall sitting around Woodbury. I could tell you where everybody sat, I can tell you about the President’s dog who was sticking his nose in shoes, but I can’t remember the game – it was a word game of some sort; pull a card, whatever it was, but it was one of those games that are created to make you uncomfortable,” he says. “Sullivan was uniquely uncomfortable in a very comfortable sort of way. It was nice to see that we’re all vulnerable.”

“He was a different man,” says Barrett. “We’re talking about a guy who is on the Joint Chiefs, an Army Chief of Staff – the highest-ranking officer in

the Army. But, if you got him out of uniform, he wasn't that guy. Not to say he had two different personas, but he was just always that guy, a very humble guy." Barrett feels lucky to have shared moments like this with Sullivan and sees the Norwich spirit in him. "I commented to my wife when we left, 'He's an average guy, he's the average Norwich grad.' He's a rock star, but so genuine," he says. "He was a great soldier – a great soldier for our country, and a great soldier for the University when he became chair of the Board of Trustees."

### The Humble Giant

*Retired U.S. Army CAPT Edward O'Brien '59,  
Classmate & Best Friend*

"Sully was a cadet private, and so was I for years," says O'Brien. "We weren't necessarily the most spit and polished people in the world – but he was a very intelligent cadet and that doesn't mean he didn't get excellent marks as far as military subjects were concerned, because he did. However, that is augmented by an incident that has stayed in my mind all these years."

"We were out at the motor pool one day – back then we had tanks at Norwich, and these were the M47s because Norwich hadn't got the M48s yet," says O'Brien. "The purpose of us being out there was to learn how to break a track and reassemble a track on the tank."

"Our instructor in that course was Captain Bill Harty '51, and we're all down there in our group. He was asking questions about certain things that were in the manual," says O'Brien. "It was a very technical question, and he asked it relative to the tracks on the tank, 'How do you do this, how do you do that? Anybody got an answer to that?' and nobody raised their hand but one person, Gordon Sullivan, who

comes up with this beautiful answer that's exactly on point." Harty looked at him for a moment before responding. "I'll always remember, Captain Harty looks at him and says, 'Sullivan, you're going to be something in this Army.'" The group laughed and lighthearted jokes slipped through. "Of course, Sullivan's going to be great, sure he is. Yeah, he's going to be terrific," recalls O'Brien. "That was our cadet life."

Life took different routes for the pair of friends, though their paths intertwined on occasion. O'Brien followed his Norwich education with law school, and when he graduated, he joined the Army where he was a member of the 70th Armored Regiment stationed in Germany. Sullivan was coincidentally reassigned to the 3rd Armored Division, "Which was very close to where I was stationed in Germany," he says, though he adds that the years following their military careers are especially memorable. "The most fun I really had with him was when he retired, because he moved here to Cape Cod; I live here, my law firm is in Cape Cod."

"We had a lot of good times," says O'Brien. "He's the kind to remain active, there was always something he had to be doing. He was here in Falmouth where my law firm is, and he had time, so he'd come in just about every day to my office. He came in so frequently that I said, 'We should get him a desk to sit at in the office and he can pretend he's a lawyer!'"

He recalls another memory during a trip to a boat-building facility in Connecticut. "We're in this building where they're building boats, and this guy is showing us around telling us, 'We've got a lot of guys here, lawyers and doctors who are retired and like to build boats.' His eyes are lighting up and he turns to me and says, 'We can do that,'" remembers O'Brien. "'We can do *what?*'" I asked him. 'We can

build boats!'" O'Brien was not quite as excited as Sullivan, considering he still practices law. In a later conversation with a friend, he recalls that, "I showed him the name of the boat-building place and told him, 'Sullivan's not going to rest until that damned sign is changed to Sullivan-O'Brien Boat Builders; boat builders, that's what he really wants to do!'"

"We'd go out sailing a lot together, out in the Nantucket Sound, and get involved in all sorts of conversations," says O'Brien. "One of them came down to the fact of, well, who do you think's going to go first, you or me? A little chitchat back and forth and joking around, then he asked me, 'Well if I go, are you going to speak at mine?'" O'Brien told him yes and returned the question.



GEN Sullivan takes notes in preparation for one of his famous staff rides.



“He said, ‘I’ll speak at yours.’ So, I said to him, ‘Well, what do you want me to say if I speak at yours?’ He said, ‘What I want you to say is that I want to be remembered as a good American soldier. Once you tell him that, go sit down.’ He didn’t want me to get into the glorification of everything he did, but that shows his humility.”

O’Brien kept his promise and delivered Sullivan’s eulogy. “He was a very humble guy. He was a true American. You would never know he was a four star because he never talked about it socially. We never

called him ‘General,’ we called him ‘Sully,’” he says. “I think his legacy is that he was a humble guy who never glorified himself. He was a humble cadet working his way through Norwich, and as a general he was loved by the American soldier. That’s what he meant to a lot of people, but to me, he was my best friend.” **N**

Sullivan Museum & History Center  
presents



**WOMEN KICKING GLASS:  
The Pioneering Spirit of  
Norwich Women**

**A Celebration of 50 Years of Women  
at Norwich University**

**MUSEUM EXHIBIT DATES:  
September 2024 – May 2025**

**Opening Reception:  
Thursday, September 19, 2024  
4:30 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.**



The Sullivan Museum and History Center’s 2024 Women Kicking Glass exhibit commemorates the pioneering spirit of Norwich women who have made significant strides in the military, public service, engineering, medicine, and beyond — paving the way for future generations to break barriers and achieve greatness.

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# CLASS NOTES



C/LTC Christine M. Conway, highest-ranking woman in the Norwich University Corps of Cadets in 1979.

## 2021

In January of 2024, Rachel (Basinger) Lane M'21 became a programming associate for the Theodore Roosevelt Presidential Library set to open in Medora, North Dakota, on America's 250th anniversary, July 4, 2026.

## 2019

Clay Faris, Norwich University class of 2019, was a physical education major and football player that graduated cum laude. Clay went on to move to Texas to be closer to his family, and while there, attended Texas State

University for his master's degree in exercise science. In 2021, Clay was an integral member of a team that qualified for the International CrossFit Games held in Madison, Wisconsin. While his team did not win the event, the team was ranked first in Texas (where he currently lives), seventh in North America, and fifteenth in the world. He took the next year off from competition and was married in September 2022. For the 2023 CrossFit competition season, Clay decided to give the individual competition a try and was able to qualify for the America

West Semifinals, held in Pasadena, California. After a solid performance, he did not qualify for the finals, unfortunately. For the 2024 CrossFit competition season, Clay and a couple of his local CrossFit friends decided to compete as a team. A couple weeks ago, that team finished fifth at the America West Semifinals and qualified for the CrossFit Games that will be held in Fort Worth, Texas, August 8-11, 2024. Clay and his wife, Skylar, currently own and operate their own CrossFit gym in Seguin, Texas. They also welcomed their first child, Gauge Wilder, in August 2023.

## 2014



Five Norwich graduates ran into each other at the MBA Veterans Career Conference. MBA Veterans holds this conference for veterans attending the world's top-ranked universities. All five alum are attending top-30 MBA programs. From left to right: Jake Towse '15 (IU Kelley); Will Mistretta '15 (Carnegie Mellon University's Tepper School); Rob Gendron '14 (University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill's Kenan-Flagler Business School); Mike Johnson '14 (University of Michigan's Ross School of Business); and Christian Cole '15 (University of Rochester's Simon Business School).

## 2013

Sarah (Clifton) Fleenor '13 is now the associate director of the Citizen-Leader Track (VPI Battalion) for the Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets. Sam Keenan '13 was admitted as an attorney in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts during a ceremony at Faneuil Hall in Boston on November 14, 2023. Sam's practice will primarily focus on the regulation of investment advisers, broker-dealers, and capital markets.

Photo caption: Sam with Mary Kate Fallon, his fiancée, after being called to the bar.

## 2012

Brandon Van Luvender '07, M'18, and Anna (Simons) Van Luvender '12, M'17, welcomed Elias F. Van Luvender on May 10, 2023.

## 2011

Daniel Alcorn, Norwich University class of 2011 and current mathematics teacher at Rutland City Public Schools and program manager for Norwich Pro, completed their EdD dissertation.

## 2007

On May 16, 2024, Lt Col Jordan Kowalski ('07 India Co) took command of the 3rd Special Operations Squadron, Cannon AFB, New Mexico. The 3rd SOS conducts persistent ISR utilizing MQ-9s for Air Force Special Operations Command.



## 2003

March 4th: Michael Mele, NUCC '03, Special Agent with the Diplomatic Security Service, received the U.S. Department of State Individual Heroism

Award and medal. Mele, then serving at U.S. Embassy Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan, led a hasty, single vehicle route recon mission into an area of conflict in support of U.S. Consulate Almaty, Kazakhstan, during a sudden, unexpected period of widespread civil unrest and attempted overthrow of the Kazakh government in early January 2022.

## 1997

William Lenihan, Norwich University classes of 1997, B.Arch., and 2000, M.Arch., was recently appointed by United States President Joe Biden to the U.S. Commission of Fine Arts.

## 1995

Lt.Col Joseph Ronzio took command of the 94th Aeromedical Staging Squadron at Dobbins ARB on April 6, 2024.

## 1988

Norwich grad Fran Perez-Wilhite has been selected to serve on the Minority Business Enterprise Advisory Council for the Minority Business Development Agency. As a member of the council, Fran will play a pivotal role in shaping policies, offering strategic guidance, and championing initiatives that support the growth and sustainability of Minority Business Enterprises across various sectors.



**1983**

Norwich graduates LtCol Justin Orabona '83, USMC (Ret), retired U.S. Army COL Jeffrey Ogden '84, and Brian Balukonis '87 (VP Caribbean Area Lead) all got together at the Society of American Military Engineers 2024 Capital Week in Bethesda, Maryland.



Houston Alumni Association held its annual Christmas party for 2023, hosted by Tony and Shelley Martin in Kingwood, Texas. Good food and good cheer were followed by updates from the campus and student body news. The Christmas party was attended by: Carl Drechsel '67; Rollins '69 and Pat Collins; Tom '69 and Carolyn Rumney; Dennis '82 and Margaret Davidson; Tony '83 and Shelley Martin, Ed '84; and Melinda Dohn.

Houston alumni and family assisted in placing over 50,000 Christmas wreaths on fallen soldier grave sites at the Houston National Cemetery. This is the 16th annual ceremony and is larger than Arlington National Cemetery. Raul and Vivian Araiza, with Preciliano Delgado, Geneva and Tony Martin '83, Brian Ashe '68, Carl Drechsel '67, and Jon Morrow '76.



**1977**

Maj L. Gregory, Norwich University class of 1977, M'07, is a chief instructor pilot teaching flight instruction at the University of Maine at Augusta.

**1969**

A group from the class of 1969 has gathered annually at Ed Hackman's Paradise Island retreat on Lake



Winnepesaukee, N.H. The golf, stories and adult beverages flowed abundantly during their stay. We haven't slowed down! From left to right are Ethen Allen, Doug Eagan, Ed Hackman, Tom Smelstor, John Mulhern, Brendan Garvin and Phil Boncore.

**1967**

Norwich classmates Bruce Wait '67 and Sanford Miller '67 got together last Columbus Day weekend at the Adirondack League Club outside of Old Forge, New York.



**PARTRIDGE SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP KEY**

**Chairman's Six Diamond Club**  
cumulative lifetime giving of \$10,000,000 or more

**Chairman's Five Diamond Club**  
cumulative lifetime giving of \$8,000,000-\$9,999,999

**Chairman's Four Diamond Club**  
cumulative lifetime giving of \$6,000,000-\$7,999,999

**Chairman's Three Diamond Club**  
cumulative lifetime giving of \$4,000,000-\$5,999,999

**Chairman's Two Diamond Club**  
cumulative lifetime giving of \$2,000,000-\$3,999,999

**Chairman's One Diamond Club**  
cumulative lifetime giving of \$1,000,000-\$1,999,999

**Five-Star General**  
cumulative lifetime giving of \$750,000-\$999,999

**Four-Star General**  
cumulative lifetime giving of \$500,000-\$749,999

**Three-Star General**  
cumulative lifetime giving of \$250,000-\$499,999

**Two-Star General**  
cumulative lifetime giving of \$100,000-\$249,999

**One-Star General**  
cumulative lifetime giving of \$50,000-\$99,999

**Lifetime Level**  
cumulative lifetime giving of \$20,000-\$49,999

**Annual Membership**  
fiscal year gift of \$1,000 or more

**1819 Circle Membership**  
planned or deferred gift to the university

**Garrison Associates Membership**  
consecutive annual giving in five-year increments

**PARTRIDGE SOCIETY**

The mission of the Partridge Society is to encourage alumni, parents, and friends of Norwich University to help the University achieve its financial goals and to formally recognize those who do so.

The Partridge Society Board of Directors welcomes the following new and promoted Lifetime and 1819 Circle Members and acknowledges new levels achieved between November 1, 2023 – May 31, 2024.

**Four-Star General Members (\$500,000-\$749,999)**

Blair '84 & Barb Lavoie P'20  
Mrs. Lori Sullivan W'59 & H'91

**Three-Star General Members (\$250,000-\$499,999)**

Tina E. Judd-Christianio '83  
Richard '68 & Mary Jane Hayden  
Annette Redmond '83

**Two-Star General Members (\$100,000-\$249,999)**

Jon '94 & Amy Allen  
COL & Mrs. Robert J. Bedell, USA (Ret.) '70  
Jack '67 & Francie Bergquist  
Steve '64 & Patricia Cerjan  
Dennis M. Godek '74  
Lyman '65 & Susan '65 McWain  
COL & Mrs. William Mooney, USA (Ret.) '86  
In memory of LTC Joseph A. Tobin '58  
Nina Van Lund W'64

**One-Star General Members (\$50,000-\$99,999)**

Elliot '65 & Elizabeth Danburg  
Col David M. "Pilgrim" DeNofrio, USAF (Ret), PhD, '84  
Donald & Patricia Elmer  
Keith '84 & Lori Gelinas  
Bill '73 & Karen Helmraht  
Mauri Korhonen '70  
Charles & Marlene Meng G'23  
Karl '84 & Susan '84 Moisan  
Jon '65 & Carol Morse  
Nancy Nock W'56  
Mr. & Mrs. Chuck Pappalardo '87  
Dennis '70 & Riki Stone

**Lifetime Members (\$20,000-\$49,999)**

COL Michael L. Amaral, USA (Ret.) '86  
Mrs. Alba Ashley W'59  
Richard '68 and Alannah Bond  
Mr. Matthew L. Brennan '79  
Will E. Brigham, Jr. '67  
Stephen '74 & Rita Canty  
Louis Casciaro '79  
Joseph J. Corrado '80  
John '54 & Patricia Diego  
Eric '86 & Catherine Fohl  
Roger '68 & Traudl Frey  
Thomas & Dr. Allison Gorski P'14  
Maj Hillary P. Britch-Hedberg, USAF '07 & Maj Anders J. Hedberg, USAF '06  
Dick & Cindy Hella  
MAJ & Mrs. Clen S. Humphrey, Jr., USA (Ret.) '77  
COL William F. Lyons, Jr., USA '90  
Daniel & Karen Maslowski P'25  
Brandon Medhurst P'26  
Carl E. Nelson, PE'79  
James O'Brien '85  
Christopher '81 & Molly O'Connor  
LTC John Perry, Jr., USA (Ret.) '81  
Steven '86 & Maria Peters  
Mr. Daniel Polachek '06 & M'09  
Mrs. Shantel M. Smith '94 & LTC Sean M. Smith, USA (Ret.) '95

**1819 Circle Members**

Will E. Brigham, Jr. '67  
Daniel Fitzpatrick '69  
Mr. & Mrs. Robert J. Holmes '68  
Peter A. Johnson '69  
Mark E. Powers '82  
\*Ms. Loretta F. DeGrandis

*\*Posthumous*

## ROLL OF HONOR

The following list reflects notifications of deceased Norwich family members received by the University from December 2, 2023 to July 22, 2024. Full obituaries, when available, can be viewed online at [alumni.norwich.edu/obituaries](http://alumni.norwich.edu/obituaries). To inform the University of the passing of a member of the Norwich family, please contact the Alumni Office at (802) 485-2100 or [inmemoriam@norwich.edu](mailto:inmemoriam@norwich.edu).

- |   |  |   |
|---|--|---|
| 1944 - <b>Chestine E. Beaton</b> , 3/31/2013, 88  | 1963 - <b>Edward D. Parady</b> , 1/1/2024, 82  | 1975 - <b>Rufus Boyett</b> , 4/23/2024, 88  |
| 1947 - <b>Phyllis B. Bailey</b> - Spouse of Lawrence Bailey '40   | Widow '62 - <b>Shirley Lyles</b> , 10/28/2023, 83 - Spouse of James H. Lyles '63   | 1975 - <b>Stephen C. Lach</b> , 1/27/2024, 70 - Sibling to Thomas Lach '71  |
| 1947 - <b>Shirley M. Reid</b> , 12/10/2023, 96  | 1964 - <b>Thomas Y. Heath</b> , 79   | 1976 - <b>David C. Barris</b> , 3/2/2024, 69  |
| 1949 - <b>Albert B. Pyle</b> , 6/10/2023, 92  | 1964 - <b>Gordon C. Rollins</b> , 1/12/2024, 81  | 1977 - <b>Thomas H. Cornish</b> , 5/6/2024, 69  |
| 1950 - <b>Roy F. Cooke</b> , 9/12/2023, 95  | 1965 - <b>Thomas C. Fischer</b> , 2/25/2024, 80 - Cousin to Richard Fischer '58  | 1979 - <b>Suzanne P. Berrier</b> , 2/2/2024, 66   |
| 1951 - <b>Richard H. Cummings</b> , 4/10/2024, 95   | 1965 - <b>William D. Kirby</b> , 2/12/2024, 82 - Spouse of John Kirby '63  | 1979 - <b>Andrew J. Bibb</b> , 12/30/2023, 66 - Sibling to Ellen Ammel '79, BIL to Michael Ammel '78                                |
| Widow '51 - <b>Barbara Shaw</b> , 11/15/2023, 89 - Spouse of Donald N. Shaw '51   | 1966 - <b>William H. Clark</b> , 5/12/2024, 80   | 1979 - <b>Jeffrey W. Cervenka</b> , 2/20/2024, 66 - Spouse of Tammy Cervenka '78  |
| 1952 - <b>Adella M. Brady</b> , 9/5/2023, 90  | 1967 - <b>Richard Ayers</b> , 3/24/2024, 79 - Child of Gleason Ayers '40, Sibling to David Ayers '74, Sibling to Robert Ayers '64, Uncle to Emily Shapiro '11 & M'15 | 1979 - <b>Ralph H. Hendry</b> , 2/27/2024, 66   |
| 1952 - <b>Warren A. Messner</b> , 3/28/2024, 93   | 1967 - <b>Gerald A. Dennig</b> , 1/13/2024, 79   | 1980 - <b>Brent J. Cote</b> , 4/28/2024, 65   |
| 1953 - <b>Joseph M. Beaver</b> , 6/20/2023, 92  | 1967 - <b>Sanford W. Harvey</b> , 12/20/2023, 78   | 1980 - <b>Michael J. Gallo</b> , 4/3/2024, 65   |
| 1953 - <b>Alfred V. McLane</b> , 1/1/2024, 92   | 1967 - <b>John P. Huber</b> , 12/19/2023, 78   | 1980 - <b>Barry M. Keefe</b> , 12/25/2023, 65   |
| Widow '54 - <b>Nina E. Luce</b> , 12/14/2023, 81 - Spouse of David W. Luce '54  | 1967 - <b>Carroll C. Porter</b> , 2/26/2024, 79  | 1982 - <b>Brett R. Van Noordt</b> , 2/29/2024, 63 - Sibling to Todd Van Noordt '80  |
| 1955 - <b>John J. Gurun</b> , 3/21/2024, 92   | 1967 - <b>Peter Walor</b> , 4/18/2024  | 1984 - <b>Edward V. Hines</b> , 4/25/2024, 63   |
| 1956 - <b>Raymond G. Powell</b> , 10/28/2023, 92  | 1968 - <b>William H. Moncrief</b> , 12/7/2023, 77  | 1984 - <b>Donna M. Mason</b> , 1/21/2024, 59 - Spouse of Robert Mason '83, Sibling to Jule Barre '86                                |
| 1956 - <b>Allen S. Wilder</b> , 4/25/2024, 90   | 1968 - <b>Alfred A. Pucci</b> , 8/9/2023   | 1985 - <b>Roberta L. Hislop</b> , 3/21/2024, 84 - Spouse of Stephen Hislop '85, Parent to Timothy Hislop NU Staff → Vermont College |
| 1958 - <b>Bruce E. Cunningham</b> , 2/6/2024, 87  | 1968 - <b>Edward Sbardellati</b> , 4/17/2024, 77   | 1987 - <b>John L. Sullivan</b> , 2/16/2024, 58  |
| 1958 - <b>Barbara F. Greene</b> , 5/11/2024,  | 1969 - <b>John C. Amelotte</b> , 7/4/2012, 66  | 1992 - <b>Kevin T. Sullivan</b> , 11/29/2023, 55  |
| 1958 - <b>Dan Hooker</b> , 5/18/2024, 87  | 1969 - <b>George A. Bell</b> , 2/22/2024, 76   | 1993 - <b>Jeffrey F. Mansfield</b> , 1/2/2024, 52   |
| 1959 - <b>Maynard B. Ashley</b> , 1/4/2024, 87  | 1969 - <b>Richard W. Berry</b> , 5/16/2005, 59   | 1999 - <b>Michael R. Yerkey</b> , Feb-24, 47 - Sibling to Robert Wyatt Yerkey '01   |
| 1959 - <b>Andrew E. Beible</b> , 5/5/2019, 81   | 1969 - <b>Arnold G. Holliday</b>   | 2000 - <b>James J. Nagle</b> , 8/10/2023, 46  |
| 1959 - <b>Frank E. Dailey</b> , 2/25/2015, 81   | 1969 - <b>Robert W. Verge</b> , 1/12/2024, 77  | 2001 - <b>Matthew B. Clinger</b> , 3/23/2024, 44  |
| 1959 - <b>James A. Geller</b> , 1/20/2024, 86   | 1970 - <b>J. Thomas Devaney</b> , 1/8/2024, 76   | 2011 - <b>Bruce E. Carrell</b> , 1/4/2024, 72 → Masters   |
| 1959 - <b>Patrick C. Gratale</b> , 11/26/2011, 77   | 1970 - <b>Frank H. Howe</b> , 4/8/2024, 75   | 2011 - <b>Jennifer M. Myles</b> , 12/5/2023, 48 → Masters   |
| 1959 - <b>Michael A. Nason</b>  | 1970 - <b>Denis F. Mulvihill</b> , 2/13/2024, 75   | 2017 - <b>Joseph Allen</b> , 2/13/2024, 28  |
| 1959 - <b>Blaine W. Parker</b> , 11/13/2022, 86   | 1970 - <b>John R. Osterfield</b> , 12/11/2023, 76  | 2017 - <b>Alan T. Yoshida</b> , 12/9/2023, 51 → CGCS  |
| 1959 - <b>Gordon R. Sullivan</b> , 1/2/2024, 86   | 1970 - <b>Pamela D. Siedor</b> , 1/2/2024, 73  | 2018 - <b>Mark Glenn</b> , 12/19/2023, 53 → Masters   |
| Widow '59 - <b>Elaine E. Beal</b> , 12/19/2023, 83 - Spouse of William R. Beal '59  | 1972 - <b>Francis F. Perry</b> , 2/12/2024, 79   | Widow of Faculty - <b>Theresa M. Beatty</b> , 2/14/2024 - Spouse of William F. Beatty, former Faculty                               |
| 1960 - <b>Stephen R. Dayton</b> , 1/27/2024, 85   | 1973 - <b>Theodore G. Laubner</b> , 10/22/2023, 73   | Former Faculty Member - <b>Eugene A. Sevi</b> , 4/26/2024, 78   |
| 1960 - <b>Richard A. Kidwell</b> , 5/15/2024, 86  | 1974 - <b>Wendy H. Cardinal</b> , 6/1/2012, 60 - Spouse of George Cardinal '74, SIL to Norman Cardinal '64, Aunt to Michael Weller '91                               | Parent of Faculty - <b>Elizabeth B. Sodergren</b> , 1/21/2024, 81 - Parent of Steven Sodergren, current Faculty                     |
| 1960 - <b>William W. Palmer</b> , 2/7/2024, 86  | 1974 - <b>Elizabeth J. Davis</b> , 4/16/2024, 71 - Spouse of Scott Davis '73   |   |
| 1960 - <b>Nancy L. Shultz</b> , 12/6/2023, 83   | 1974 - <b>Edwin A. Polley</b> , 10/29/1999, 47 - Sibling to Richard Polly '79  |   |
| 1961 - <b>Frederic H. Fladd</b> , 4/24/2024, 85   | 1974 - <b>Ricky D. Reyell</b> , 7/8/1996, 43 - Spouse of Gail Reyell '77, CIL to Ralph Smith '51, BIL to Suzanne M. Smith-Pisinski '82, BIL to Gary Smith '74        |   |
| 1961 - <b>R. Rand Garbacz</b> , 5/7/2024, 85  | 1974 - <b>Kenneth M. Ruehl</b> , 11/28/2007, 55  |   |
| 1961 - <b>Peter M. Noyes</b> , 5/7/2024, 85   | 1975 - <b>James S. Bagdon</b> , 6/24/2024, 71  |   |
| 1961 - <b>Charles W. Schneider</b> , 4/5/2024, 85   |  |   |
| 1961 - <b>Morton D. Stern</b> , 6/30/2024, 84   |  |   |
| 1962 - <b>Frank W. Demell</b> , 4/28/2024, 88   |  |   |
| 1963 - <b>William H. Baumann</b> , 5/18/2024, 82 - Sibling to Charles Baumann '64, Father to John Baumann '91, Father to Karen Colby '95, FIL to Charles Bacon '86, Grandfather to Nathan Bacon '14 |  |   |

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