



MMA LEADER

»»»»»»»»»» MARINE MILITARY ACADEMY develops disciplined, morally strong, college-ready, young men who are prepared for responsible leadership. »»»»»»»»»»»»

Volume 32, Issue 4

Dedicated to Our Cadets » The Leaders of Tomorrow

Dec. 2018/Jan. 2019



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Brigadier General Calvert Worth outlines the traits of a successful leader

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Academics

Recent College Acceptances

- **Ruben Arellano** - Glendale Community College
- **Ethan Forest Gordon** - West Virginia University
- **Taniel Zaven Katanjan** - Collin College
- **William Charles McCormick** - Austin Community College, San Antonio College
- **Erick Nicholas Olsen** - Austin Community College
- **Hunter Johnson Omo-Osagie** - Texas Tech University
- **Richard Popp** - University of Texas at Austin, Rutgers University
- **Alan Said Maccise** - Tecnológico de Monterrey
- **Jacob Alexander Thompson** - Blinn College
- **Silas Joseph Torres** - University of Texas-San Antonio
- **Daniel Benge** - Texas A&M-Corpus Christi, U.S. Marine Corps
- **Thorton Christine** - High Point University



New NHS and NJHS inductees during the Academic Awards Ceremony Feb. 1

In Good Company

MMA's NHS, NJHS Welcome New Members

The Marine Military Academy chapters of the National Honor and National Junior Honor societies inducted 15 new members during the Academic Awards Ceremony Feb. 1.

NHS

Junior Simeon O. Olawale-Apanpa of Houston.

Junior Amechi Joshua Obigwe of Vernon, Texas.

Junior Robert Charles Drake Jr. of Las Vegas, Nev.

Junior William Carson Parrish of Mount Juliet, Tenn.

Sophomore Jiaming Xu of Beijing, China.

Sophomore Diego Adrian Hernandez Heredia of Monterrey, Mexico.

NJHS

Freshman Zachary Carter Benge of Houston, Texas.

Freshman Aidan Sean Kenney of Doha, Qatar.

Freshman Tyler Shaw Murphy of Mill Valley, Calif.

Freshman Jiahao Wang of Changzhou, China.

Freshman David W. Xu of Euless, Texas.

Eighth-grader Phuc Anh Quang Le of Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam.

Junior Jonathan Vazquez del Mercado Leon of Atizapan, Mexico.

Eighth-grader Jinzhou Yang of Frisco, Texas.

Seventh-grader Yu-Chen Lu of Tomball, Texas.

Sophomores, juniors and seniors with a cumulative GPA of 3.5 are invited to join this prestigious academic organization. To remain in NHS, members must maintain a 3.5 GPA at the end of every academic quarter.



MMA Superintendent Col. R. Glenn Hill encourages cadets during the Academic Awards Ceremony.

Academic Excellence Rewarded

Marine Military Academy awarded 36 cadets for their high grades for the first semester with a wreath pin at the Academic Awards Feb. 1. The Gold Wreath is given to cadets who make the Superintendent's List, or a GPA of 3.75 or above, while the Silver Wreath is given to those who make the Dean's List, or a GPA of 3.5 to 3.74. Cadets who make the Superintendent's List for two straight semesters also receive a Gold Star pin. Those who achieve the Dean's List for two straight semesters receive a Blue Star pin.

Gold Wreath and Gold Star

- Junior **Maxwell E. Fortin** of Austin, Texas.
- Freshman **Runyu Liu** of Beijing, China.
- Senior **Alan Said Maccise** of Naucalpan, Mexico.

Gold Wreath and Blue Star

- Freshman **Dylan Micheal DeViney** of Houston.
- Freshman **David Joseph Stilwell** of New York City.

Gold Wreath

- Junior **Matthew V. Anderson** of Colleyville, Texas.
- Post Graduate **Thornton Hooper Christine** of Villanova, Penn.
- Senior **Pierre Bonnimond** of Paris, France.
- Junior **David Glenn Hunt** of Dallas
- Junior **Simeon Oladeji Oluwatosinosaze Olawale-Apanpa** of Houston.
- Senior **Victor Immanuel Olaoluwadurotimi Olawale-Apanpa** of Houston.
- Junior **Robert Charles Drake Jr.** of Las Vegas, Nev.
- Senior **Cameron Joseph Daniel** of Tomball, Texas.
- Senior **Sabin Constantin Moiceanu** of Lafayette, Calif.
- Eighth-grader **Jinzhou Yang** of Frisco, Texas.
- Senior **Ethan Forrest Gordon** of Spring, Texas.

Silver Wreath and Blue Star

- Senior **Richard Blaine Popp** of Fort Lee, N.J.

Silver Wreath:

- Junior **Spencer Lee Kohlmyer** of Edmonds, Wash.
- Senior **William Charles McCormick II** of San Antonio.
- Junior **Amechi Joshua Obigwe** of Vernon, Texas.
- Freshman **Zachary Carter Benge** of Houston.
- Sophomore **Adrian Blanco Valencia** of Katy, Texas.
- Sophomore **Axel Alejandro Gill Ramos** of Saltillo, Mexico.
- Freshman **Aidan Sean Kenney** of Doha, Qatar.
- Sophomore **Michael James Styskal** of Boerne, Texas.
- Sophomore **Jiaming Xu** of Beijing, China.
- Sophomore **Diego Adrian Hernandez Heredia** of San Pedro Garza Garcia, Mexico.
- Freshman **Tyler Shaw Murphy** of Mill Valley, Calif.
- Eighth-Grader **Phuc Anh Quang Le** of Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam.
- Junior **Joseph Maximus De Leo** of Mission, Texas.
- Senior **Abdoulaye Diallo** of Montreal, Canada.
- Senior **Derek Steven Mohos** of San Luis Potosi, Mexico.
- Sophomore **Jacob Ellyson Randall** of St. Paul, Minn.
- Junior **Cameron Seb Tankersley** of The Woodlands, Texas.
- Junior **Jayden Mark Massengale** of Montgomery, Texas.
- Seventh-grader **Aayan Shazad Haider** of Sugarland, Texas.

Recent Events

38 Plebes Become Full-Fledged Cadets



MMA Battalion Commander Trevor Roberts of Fairbanks, Alaska, addresses the soon-to-be cadets.

Thirty-eight young men officially joined the Marine Military Academy Corps of Cadets during the Introductory Graduation Parade Feb. 2.

The then-plebes took the MMA Cadet Oath before joining the MMA battalion as cadets. They later marched alongside their company brothers in the pass in review.

After the parade, the new cadets assembled in front of their company barracks for an informal recognition ceremony. Parents beamed with pride as their sons were recognized and awarded their certificates of completion.

The new cadets later joined their families for their first weekend of leave.



Parents and family members wait for the start of the Mid-Term Introduction Training Graduation Parade.

Rotary Interact Members in Action

Marine Military Academy Rotary Interact members gathered at Valley International Airport to give little Emma a big send off on her trip to Disney World. The cadets posed for photos and wished their young new friend the best of luck on her adventure!

The trip is part of the Make-A-Wish Foundation's work with children battling severe illnesses.



MMA's Rotary Interact Club members always ready to lend a helping hand!



Children from neighborhoods near MMA enjoyed time with Santa Claus during the yearly Christmas party.

Christmas Party

Cadets helped brighten area children's lives during Marine Military Academy's Christmas Party.

The annual event benefits children who are eligible for the Toys for Tots program.

Cadets welcomed the children and their families as they arrived at the Mess Hall. Children milled around as a string trio played holiday tunes while staff prepared to serve guests a full meal.

After dinner, children lined up to visit with Santa Claus. The little ones left with a gift, a candy bag and a big smile on their faces.



Members of MMA's Leatherneck Band keep the mood lively during the annual Marine Military Academy Christmas Party.

Alumni Affairs

Alumni Reunion

Now is the time to make plans for Marine Military Academy's 53rd Alumni Reunion April 5-7.

Reunion events will begin the morning of Friday, April 5 on the MMA campus. All alumni are encouraged to arrive in time for the Alumni Reunion Parade at 4 p.m. After the parade reception, the reunion will be moved to the Hilton Garden Inn at South Padre Island.

Reunion events are free except for the Saturday dinner. To register and reserve a hotel room, visit MMA-TX.org/Alumni/Reunions to download the forms. For questions, email flores@MMA-TX.org or call (956) 421-9232.

A Forever Mark

You made a lot of memories at Marine Military Academy, and now you can have your name permanently etched on campus with a personalized brick paver.

Get one for yourself or to honor a cadet, express your gratitude for a Drill Instructor, a teacher, or a friend or to memorialize a loved one.

Pavers start at just \$100. Whatever you choose, the pavers will become part of the most important street for cadet activity - the Battalion Quadrangle.

For more information, call 956-423-6006 extension 231.

Athletics



MMA Superintendent Col R. Glenn Hill presents a banner in honor of his 500th victory.

Professional Milestone

Coach Molina Surpasses the 500-Victory Mark

American author Napoleon Hill once said, "Victory is always possible for the person who refuses stop fighting."

If that is the case, then Coach Erasmo "Mo" Molina is the epitome of a fighter. The venerable Marine Military Academy coach and teacher was recognized Feb. 2 for racking up 500 wins during his coaching career.

As destiny would have it, that day Coach Molina led the mighty Fighting Leathernecks Basketball Team to yet another victory. This time by a score of 62-52 over the Faith Academy Knights.

The typical halftime hubbub disappeared when MMA

Superintendent Col R. Glenn Hill walked onto the court microphone in hand. Col Hill spoke eloquently about Molina's achievements before the presentation of a banner that will hang from high at King Gym.

"A coach is only as good as his players," the 72-year-old Molina said.

"I've been very fortunate to be associated with some very good, hardworking kids", he said.

Molina said he was brought back from the brink of retirement to teach at MMA.

"Thirteen years later, here I am," he said.



BGen Calvert L. Worth speaks to Marine Military Academy cadets during the recent leadership forum.

Lessons in Leadership

Brigadier General Challenges Cadets to Excel

The world is complex and will continue to be, and we must rise to the challenge. That was the message BGen Calvert L. Worth had for Marine Military Academy cadets.

BGen Worth spoke to cadets Jan. 18 during Leadership Forum 2019. He focused on leadership and integrity.

Cadets listened as BGen Worth told a parable of a young man who would become a king thanks to his honesty. He spoke of a monarch who wanted to find his replacement and decided to distribute seed among the children in his kingdom. The young ones would plant the seeds and care for them. The one with the best plant would become king.

When everyone went before the ruler, the young men and their families presented their extravagant plants. Only one boy showed up

with an empty pot. He told the king he had done exactly what had been ordered – plant the seed, water and nourish it, but nothing happened.

The king turned to the people and told them that boy would be the new king.

When questioned about his decision, the king told the people that all the seeds were sterile, and only that boy had been honest.

The parable was a strong lesson on integrity. He also spoke about the importance of leadership.

"Leadership is not formulaic," he said.

"Some of the biggest challenges I've faced in my time were moving through and learning how to read my peers," he said.

BGen Worth said the times he failed as a leader were the most

formative of his career. He said those failures happened because he did not prepare as a leader.

"Whenever you fail to prepare you certainly cannot perform in a way that's commensurate with your responsibility," he said.

"You will learn over time that preparation is fundamental to what you do," he said.

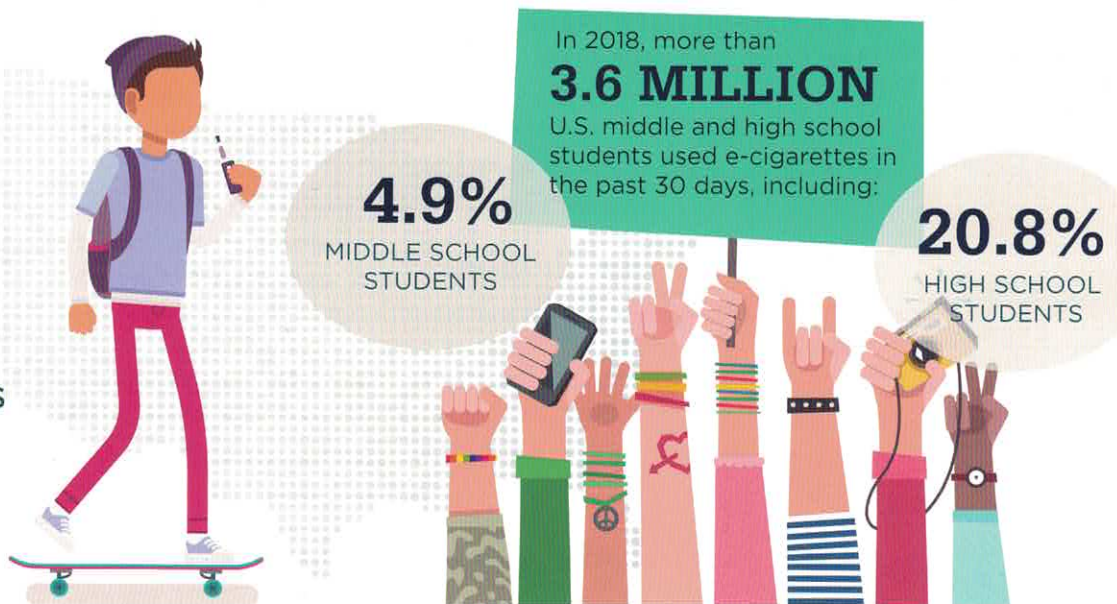
"Leadership is not so much about you as an individual learning everything and being everything. Leadership is about your ability to continue to absorb, to have a desire to continue learning and to have the humility to learn from others," he said.

BGen Worth reminded cadets that they are just beginning their journey.

"If you could look ahead a few years you will see how important it is to be where you are today," he said.

Cadet Life

IN THE U.S.,
YOUTH ARE
MORE LIKELY
THAN ADULTS
TO USE
E-CIGARETTE



Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Vaping Becomes National Epidemic

The surgeon general issued a rare advisory last December.

"I am officially declaring e-cigarette use (vaping) among youth as an epidemic in the United States," Dr. Jerome Adams wrote.

The missive sent shockwaves throughout the country, partly because Dr. Adams' had issued just three other advisories during his 10 years in office.

How could something that was touted as a safe alternative to cigarettes be deemed so dangerous so soon after its release to the market?

After their unveiling in 2007, e-cigarettes were promoted as a way to help adults quit traditional cigarettes. According to an article by Yale Medicine, the devices deliver fewer chemicals when compared to traditional cigarettes, but vaping

liquids still contain thousands of harmful chemicals, including nicotine. To make matters worse, the devices allow users to consume liquids containing extracts from highly addictive drugs, the article states.

A study by the University of Michigan last year revealed that 11 percent of high school seniors, 8 percent of 10th graders and 3.5 percent of eighth-graders reported vaping with nicotine regularly. Another survey, this one by the Center on Addiction, discovered that 18 percent of Connecticut high school students had used e-cigarettes to vape THC. The teens said they were more likely to vape THC, the chemical responsible for most of marijuana's mind-altering effects, than consume the drug in its traditional leafy form.

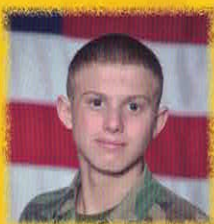
The problem was compounded

recently with the release of smaller vaping devices and more potent liquids. Dr. Linda Richter with the Center on Addiction wrote about the danger of the newest and most popular device.

"The JUUL is smaller, slick device that resembles a computer USB flash drive ... it's easy to hide, which explains why it has become so popular among middle and high school students," Richter wrote.

Richter states that the concentration of nicotine in a single JUUL pod cartridge is the same as an entire pack of cigarettes.

It's easy now to understand why the surgeon general deems vaping an epidemic. The seemingly cool devices are increasing the number of teens who become dependent on nicotine and who risk their lives by consuming potent drug extracts.

Student of the Month - December**Eric E. Eckstein of Indianapolis, Ind. - General Studies**

Rank: Cadet Private First Class

Grade: 7, **Activities:** Band

Education goals: I plan to attend college for fire services and emergency medicine.

Career goals: My goal is to become a fireman and paramedic.

**Jinzhou Yang of Dallas - Math**

Rank: Cadet Private First Class

Grade: 8, **Activities:** Basketball

Future education goals: I plan to attend Texas A&M University and study business.

Career goals: I plan to work with my father. The plan is to run his business in the future.

**Pierre N. Bonnimond of Paris, France - Science**

Rank: Cadet First Lieutenant

Grade: 12, **Activities:** Rifle team and Tennis

Future education goals: I plan to attend the University of Texas at Austin and major in international studies.

Career goals: After graduating from college and getting my MBA I plan to work for a big company in either the fashion or automobile industry.

**Jacob E. Randall of St. Paul, Minn. - Foreign Language**

Rank: Cadet Corporal

Grade: 10, **Activities:** Football

Future education goals: I plan to go into the field of physics and do some work in international trade. I am also interested in biology.

Career goals: I want to become a professor/scholar in physics and math. However, I might go into bio-engineering.

**Nicholas J. Hartmann of Santa Barbara, Calif. - Social Studies**

Rank: Cadet Private

Grade: 12, **Activities:** Soccer and Rifle Team

Future education goals: I plan to attend San Francisco State University and major in business administration.

Career goals: After college, I will pursue my interests in international business.

**Christian M. Bryant of Houston - English**

Rank: Cadet Sergeant

Grade: 10, **Activities:** Jiu Jitsu

Future education goals: My educational goals consist of attending Sam Houston University and major in psychology.

Career goals: My career goal is to become a criminal psychologist.

Cadet of the Month - December



Robert William Skinner of Alpine, Texas - Alpha Company

Rank: Cadet Corporal

Grade: 10, **Activities:** Basketball

Education goals: My goal is to exceed in all areas and go to college.

Career goals: My plan is to be a successful and well-known waterwell driller.



Jiaming Xu of Beijing, China - Delta Company

Rank: Cadet Corporal

Grade: 10, **Activities:** Tennis

Education goals: I plan to graduate from MMA as the valedictorian and gain acceptance into a tier-one university in either Texas or California.

Career goals: I am interested in computer science and design.



Ryan B. Klivanov of Palos Verdes Estates, Calif. - Echo Company

Rank: Cadet Private First Class

Grade: 10, **Activities:** Boxing

Education goals: My sights are on the Citadel or another military college.

Career goals: I want to be able to take over my mom's ambulance company and be my own boss.



Michael Ramirez of Harlingen, Texas - Fox Company

Rank: Cadet Private First Class

Grade: 7, **Activities:** Basketball

Education goals: My plan is to graduate from MMA and attend the Naval Academy.

Career goals: I plan to become a U.S. Marine Corps officer.



Alejandro Sanchez Guzman of Uriangato, Mexico - Golf Company

Rank: Cadet Second Lieutenant

Grade: 12, **Activities:** Soccer and Cycling

Education goals: I plan to attend Pan American University in Guadalajara, Mexico.

Career goals: I would like to get my master's degree in political science and pursue a career in politics in Mexico.



Hudson O. Suarez of Grapevine, Texas - Leatherneck Band

Company: Alpha, **Rank:** Cadet Private

Education goals: I plan to achieve a GPA of 3.5 or higher and graduate from MMA.

Career goals: My plan is to join the Marines.



Alejandro Salazar Mar of Veracruz, Mexico - Silent Drill Team

Company: Delta, **Rank:** Cadet Sergeant

Grade: 11.

Education goals: I plan to graduate from MMA and attend a university.

Career goals: My plan is to work in father's business.

Student of the Month - January



Matthew V. Anderson of Colleyville, Texas - English

Rank: Cadet First Sergeant

Grade: 11, **Activities:** Color Guard

Future education goals: My education goal is to get accepted into and graduate from a prestigious engineering school such as M.I.T. or Cal Tech.

Career goals: I would like to pursue a career as a software engineer.



Thornton H. Christine of Villanova, Penn. - Foreign Language

Rank: Cadet Sergeant

Grade: Postgraduate, **Activities:** Golf

Future education goals: My education goal is to graduate from High Point University with a Bachelor's in Health Science, preferably in emergency medicine.

Career goals: I plan to enlist in the United States Coast Guard shortly after graduating college. I also intend to continue my career as an EMS first responder with Narberth Ambulance in my home town.



Ethan F. Gordon of Houston, Texas - Social Studies

Rank: Cadet Private First Class

Grade: 12, **Activities:** Weight lifting

Future education goals: I plan to attend University of West Virginia and major in computer science.

Career goals: I want to become a computer programmer at a prestigious game design company.



Luong V. Nguyen of Hanoi, Vietnam - Science

Rank: Cadet Sergeant

Grade: 10, **Activities:** Off-season football

Future education goals: I plan attend the University of Texas at Austin and study international business.

Career goals: My goal is to start an electronic business in Vietnam.

Cadet of the Month - January



Matthew V. Anderson of Colleyville, Texas - Alpha Company

Rank: Cadet First Sergeant

Grade: 11, **Activities:** Color Guard

Education goals: My goal is to get accepted into and graduate from M.I.T. or Cal-Tech.

Career goals: I plan to be a software engineer.



Sebastien D. Foy of Eugene, Oregon - Delta Company

Company: Delta

Rank: Cadet Lance Corporal

Grade: 10 **Activities:** Boxing

Education goals: My plan is to get a 3.5 GPA for each quarter and overall for this semester, and to raise my grade in Algebra 2.

Career goals: I want get a master's degree in business.



Khanh N. Tran of Hanoi, Vietnam - Echo Company

Rank: Cadet Private First Class

Grade: 10, **Activities:** Band

Education goals: I wish to attend the University of Texas at Austin to study architecture.

Career goals: I would like to pursue a career in engineering and medicine.



Julian H. McGinley of Torrington, Conn. - Fox Company

Rank: Cadet Corporal

Grade: 10, **Activities:** Football

Education goals: My plan is to graduate from MMA and attend Ohio State University.

Career goals: I plan to work in family business.



Joshua Curry of Green Pond, S.C. - Golf Company

Rank: Cadet Staff Sergeant

Grade: 12, **Activities:** Rifle Team

Education goals: I plan to attend Northwest Vista College and become a diesel mechanic.

Career goals: I would like to become an Army Ranger.



Amechi J. Obigwe of Vernon, Texas - Leatherneck Band

Company: Alpha

Rank: Cadet Private First Class

Grade: 11

Education goals: I plan to attend the University of Texas at Austin or Texas Christian University.

Career goals: I would like to become a psychiatrist and hopefully have my own private practice.



Rongtao Zhang of Guangzhou, China - Drill team

Company: Echo

Rank: Cadet Lance Corporal

Grade: 9

Education goals: My plan is to graduate from MMA and attend a prestigious university.

Career goals: My goal is to one day become a lawyer.

Important Dates

- **March 5-8:** Third Quarter Exams
- **March 8:** Begin Spring Break - flight departure after 12 p.m.
- **March 17:** End Spring Break - return 6 p.m.
- **March 18:** Begin Fourth Quarter
- **April 4:** HM Smith Dinner
- **April 5:** Alumni Parade
- **April 5-7:** Alumni Reunion
- **April 25-28:** Spring Fling family weekend.
- **May 4:** SAT
- **May 6:** Deadline for Financial Aid Application for 2019-20
- **May 13-15:** Second Semester Exams
- **May 17:** Eagle Scout Ceremony
Academic Awards/Spring Sports Awards
- **May 18:** Graduation Parade, Awards
Graduation
- **June 1:** Re-Enrollment Contracts 2019-20 Deadline

The MMA LEADER is a bi-monthly publication for patrons of Marine Military Academy. To receive a digital version via email, send your address to the editor.

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Extra! Extra!

CyberPatriot Team Advances to Nationals



Marine Military Academy's CyberPatriot team will fly to Baltimore where they will compete against the best cyber teams in the nation. MMA's team cinched their spot in the national competition recently after a grueling semi-final round. The team members are (from left): senior **Victor Olawale-Apanpa** of Houston; senior **Ethan Gordon** of Spring, Texas; senior **Derek Mohos** of Brunswick, Ohio; senior **Sabin Moiceanu** of Lafayette, Calif.; and senior **Cameron Daniel** of Tomball, Texas; Their coach is William Beckman.

Giving

Recent Donations

In Honor Of

- John P. Heiner – 88th Birthday
- Col Robert G. Hill, USMC (Ret)

In Memory Of

- Linda Lee Bence
- Jack H. Brouse – VMF 422
- Elizabeth A. Dowling
- Isabel Euresti
- Sgt David Fuller, USMC (Ret) – 9th Marines RVN
- SSgt Tyrel L. Genoff, USMC – MMA '07
- Gayle Carter Hamilton
- Chris Heard – MMA '99
- LtCol John M. Holt, USMC (Ret)
- Gerard Alec Julien "Gerry" – MMA Cadet "E" Co.
- Jamal Khashoggi
- Howard Lombard "Lee" - MMA '76

- David Brien Longhofer
- Maj Edward T. McGee, USMCR (Ret)
- Daniel Pearl
- Ernie Pyle
- Roberto Mares Saldivar
- Tyler R. Secrest - MMA '07
- Scott Stamler Shafer
- Capt Robert J. Shirk, USMC
- Sgt Andy Stevens, USMC – KIA IRAQ 12/1/05
- John Haddock Stevenson, IV
- Col Frederick John Strowbridge, Jr., USMC (Ret) "Fred"
- SSgt Dennis Studenny – 5th Marines, RVN
- The 11 deceased "Tree of Life Synagogue"
- SSgt E. L. "Knobby" Walsh, USMC – 7th Marines, Korea