

The Making of a Classic

A classic is something that has endured, that has stood the test of time, that has weathered the winds of decades and the storms of centuries. As Camden Military Academy marches proudly into its second century, we pause to honor all those whose dedication, efforts, and loyalty have created our enduring institution; but particularly we honor one man whose name is virtually synonymous with Camden Military Academy—Colonel Lanning P. Risher.

In 1948 Cadet Risher was graduated from Carlisle, where his father, Colonel James F. Risher, was headmaster for many years. No doubt Colonel James cast a long shadow, but his son cut his own path as a member of the Carlisle Cadet Corps. His epigram in the 1948 Carlisle yearbook attests that he was recognized for his scholarship and valued for his friendship.

Upon leaving Carlisle, Colonel Risher entered The Citadel, from which he was graduated in 1952. He then served two years as a first lieutenant in the United States Army. At that juncture a gifted young man had many roads to choose. Ultimately, he chose the way of his father—service in the molding and education of young men. He chose to give back what he had received, to teach the valuable lessons he had learned from Carlisle, The Citadel, and the United States Army.

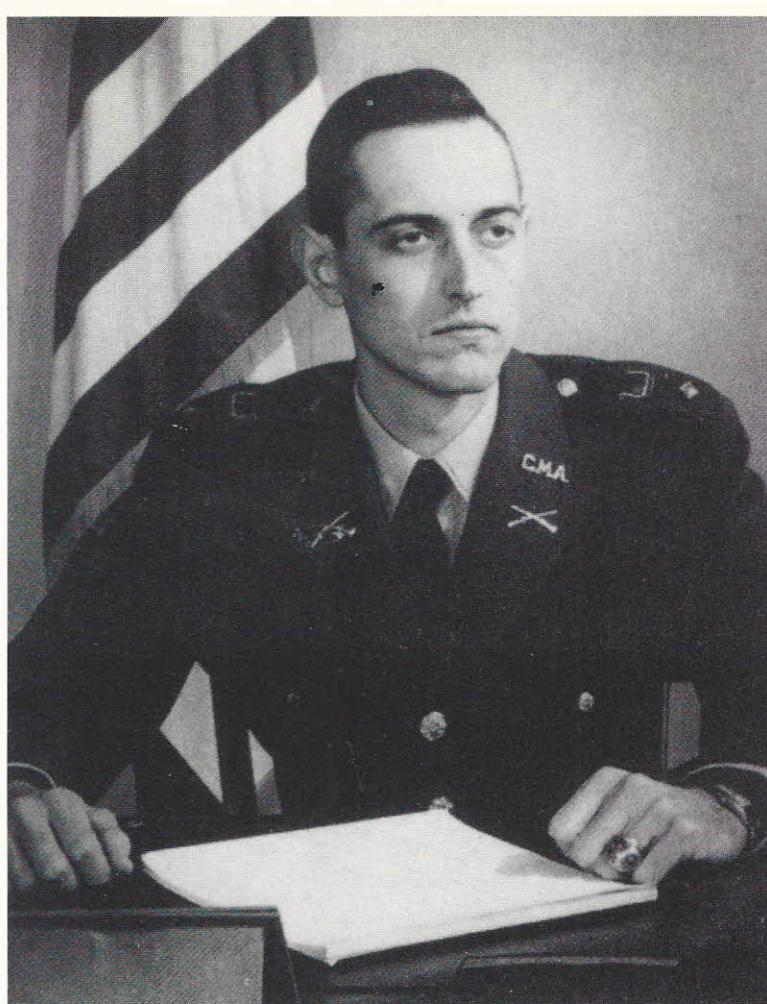
In 1955 Colonel Risher returned to Carlisle as an instructor. During that period a group of businessmen from Camden approached Colonel James F. Risher and asked him to establish a military school at the site where Camden Academy, also a military school, had closed its doors after seven years of operation. To accomplish that task, Colonel James sent his son Lanning as headmaster.

In 1958 Colonel Lanning P. Risher opened Camden Military Academy with five instructors and ninety-six students, most of whom were the overflow from Carlisle. Although Colonel James visited from Bamberg weekly, the operation of Camden Military Academy was in the hands of his son, where it has remained to this day.

For thirty-six years Colonel Risher has piloted our academy through the fair weather and the storms, through the anti-military sentiment of the Vietnam era, and through the ups and downs of a capricious economy. His unflagging service is proof of his dedication, of his commitment to the military education of young men and all the principles that it encompasses.

We cite in passing Colonel Risher's outstanding service to his community and to professional education—in his church, the Rotary Club, the Chamber of Commerce; as a member of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools, as president of the Southern Association of Independent Schools—but it is for his service to the Cadet Corps of Camden Military Academy that we honor him.

As we complete this first year of the second century of the Carlisle-Camden tradition, the Cadet Corps stands two hundred and thirty strong, a testament to the endurance of our institution. To show our gratitude, to honor his perseverance, to recognize his loyalty and commitment to our education and that of all those who have come before us, to commemorate his inestimable role in creating a classic, we the Cadet Corps of Camden Military Academy respectfully dedicate *Excalibur 1994* to Colonel Lanning P. Risher.



Shown here as he appeared in the first CMA yearbook, Colonel Risher was in his initial year as headmaster.



This 1961 picture taken on the CMA campus shows Colonel Dallas, who retired as a CMA instructor several years ago, Colonel Lanning P. Risher, and his father, Colonel James F. Risher, headmaster of Carlisle.