

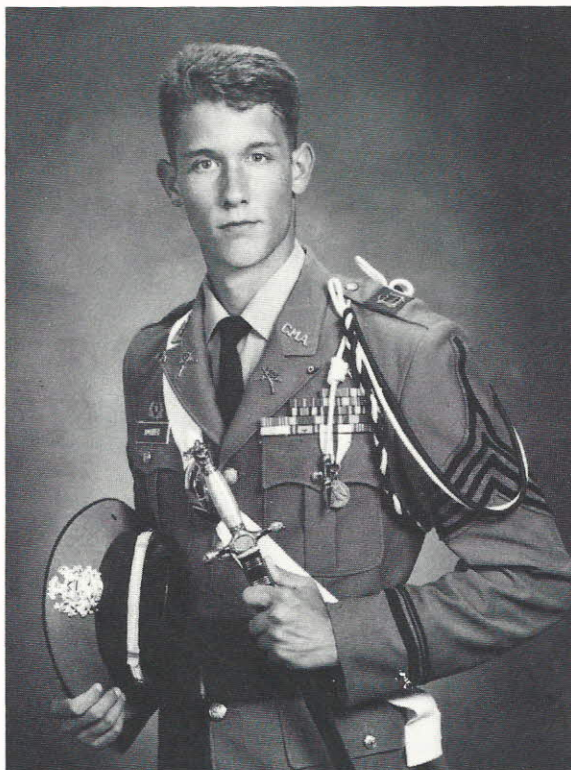
*I sent you my boy, and you sent me back a man!*

## CADET CPT. CHARLES MATTHEW AMODEO

### Battalion Executive Officer

*Son, Hank and I realize that you were born with a personality of your own. That a progression was set in motion for your development as a separate individual, so that almost from the beginning we made preparation and plans for you to grow apart from us and become your own person. The problem was, we didn't prepare ourselves to let you go. We had to realize that we are never really alone or separated in our thoughts from you. We are forever connected to you and to all those who touch our lives. We had to know that you have a right to suffer, and that only through this process could you possibly become all you can be.*

*We have watched you grow, probably more than you know. We have seen the anguish and torment you experienced during times when you made hard choices between doing the "popular thing" and upholding the tradition of the Academy. We have grieved for you as you suffered disappointments when some of your friends and peers didn't share your beliefs and strong commitments. Yes, we have seen you love your friends, peers, and all the cadets. You loved them enough to stand tall, being ever faithful to yourself and your*



*unwavering belief in what the cadets could accomplish and who they could be. Son, only great men and leaders have this strength. They call it courage, leadership, character, and integrity!*

*During the same period of time we have watched you make mistakes, stumble, fall and get back up again. We are thankful for the support, strength and true friendship of the Cadets, who embrace the Academy Code of Honor, that were always there to lift your spirits and help stay your direction.*

*We bask in the joys, good times, and successes you and our adopted Corp. of Cadets have experienced. Being equally proud of each. The emotions you have experienced will strengthen and fortify you in a way that will enable you to face life's tougher trials and tribulations, giving you the ability to make the right decisions.*

*Son, you have mastered being the best "you" you can be, and we are immensely proud of you! The blunders made you wiser, the falters made you more stable, and the floundering helped you find purpose.*

*The almost despair, sorrow, and anguish you suffered at times, combined with the joys, pleasures, and satisfactions you experienced, resulted in the self-confident, well-rounded young man we proudly call our son.*

*Love, Mom and Hank*

## Thank You Camden Military Academy!

I would like to share with you a few of my thoughts about my personal experiences at Camden Military Academy. To be honest, in the beginning it was hard to think of being away from home and in a different environment with people I didn't know. The idea of such a different routine and lifestyle was scary!

My parents allowed me the freedom to catch the train and visit the campus on my own the first time. Mr. McCaskill met me at the station and gave me a tour of the campus, where I met several of the staff and quite a few of the cadets. They welcomed me and made me feel comfortable and by day's end, most of my concerns had diminished.

After enrolling I found the schedule was full time, the rules were strict - but fair, and the staff eager to help whenever necessary. With the help of the staff and other cadets, the adjustments I had to make became easier.

I've learned a lot these past four years: how to study and make good use of my time, how to respect others, and how to follow orders and accept responsibility.

My Camden Military Academy experience has brought order and purpose to my life. I'm confident I have a good basic education; well prepared to enter the college of my choice.

The Academy Code of Honor has joined me in a very special bond with the Cadets I've served with. I will treasure my friendships and memories of each of them and the Academy as long as I live.

I'm thankful to all of those at the Academy who have helped me; especially, LTC and Mrs. Austin, Major LePage, C SM Martain, LTC Cook, LTC Crossfield, Major Horne, LTC Mowe, LTC Halliday, LTC Schrader, Major Gale, LTC Watson, Mrs. Robinson, Mrs. Crane, Mr. Sims, Gene McCaskill, LTC Orris, and Colonel and Mrs. Risher for making my Camden Military Academy experience more meaningful.

I will be forever grateful to my parents who have encouraged and supported me every step of the way.

I strongly recommend Camden Military Academy to anyone that wants to learn and prepare themselves to become a worthwhile young man - a gentleman.

Cadet Cpt. Charles Matthew Amodeo