

# Dedication

For over fifteen years, Lieutenant Colonel Herman Henderson "Sonny" Brown has been a mainstay at Camden Military Academy. No teacher, tactical officer, or administrative support member has proven more trusted, industrious, or beloved. His imprint on CMA has been profound and will endure well into the future. Indicative of this imprint is the yearbook that you presently hold in your hand. *Excalibur* is CMA's persona to the outside world, and it has been the school's good fortune to have Sonny at its helm since his arrival in 1991. You can see his care and attention to detail on every page, just as you can see evidence of his positive impression on virtually every senior that CMA has graduated over the last decade and a half.

A native South Carolinian hailing from Friendfield in Florence County, Colonel Brown is a perpetuator of the education legacy inherited from his mother, who herself was a teacher in both Carolinas for 45 years. After graduating from Pamplico High School, he began his college studies at the former Clemson College before trading in tiger stripes for gamecock spurs and graduating with a degree in political science from USC in 1961. Teaching social studies at Wampee High School in what is now known as North Myrtle Beach was the first step in Sonny's teaching career, but it soon led to a second and more enduring step when he demonstrated his acumen with the English language to such a degree that the school's principal asked him to return to school and earn a certification to teach English. This he did over the course of one summer at his alma mater and returned to Wampee the following fall to teach English classes in grades 9-12. After two short years with Sonny at the helm of high school English instruction, Wampee High School students boasted the highest verbal SAT scores in all of Horry County.

After three years at Wampee, Sonny passed the Graduate Record Exam in English and returned once again to USC in 1964 to attend graduate school. A short diversion to Pinehurst, NC, ensued when he accepted an English teaching position at Sandhills Community College, but he resumed his graduate studies shortly thereafter and completed them in 1967. Next came a teaching position at Dentsville (now Columbia Northeast) High School before a far-flung career change was pursued at the Research Reading Center in Santa Barbara, California.

While on the west coast, Colonel Brown began a second career, first as an assistant manager then as a district manager of Educator's life, a teachers' insurance company. This career lasted nearly a decade before he returned to South Carolina and began yet a third career as a realtor in the Myrtle Beach area. Eventually, he started his own successful company, which was well known in the Myrtle Beach realty community for several years.

Despite impressive successes in the business world, education remained in Sonny's blood. In the 1980's he returned to the classroom, teaching social studies at Socastee High School. Thereafter, he re-



## Lieutenant Colonel Sonny Brown

turned to the USC Graduate School and earned a master's degree in secondary English education in 1982. In 1983 he taught AP English at North Myrtle Beach High School. In the mid-1980's he was lured briefly back into real estate, but before the end of the decade, Sonny was back in the classroom to stay.

Colonel Brown began his "tour of duty" at CMA in 1991, and it has been the school's esteemed privilege to have him on the faculty ever since. He has taught all grades of English during his time with us and only recently relinquished his position as department head, a post he had filled with distinction since 1998. He has left his mark on virtually every graduating class for the past decade as a teacher of senior English. Every *Excalibur* and most issues of the school's student news-

paper have benefited from his personal touch. He takes and edits most photographs that appear in school publications. For the administration he serves as an editor and quality assurance assistant for school publications and other school communications.

It is with unanimous joy and appreciation that the administration, faculty, and staff of CMA dedicate this issue of *Excalibur* to LTC Sonny Brown for his untiring efforts to improve and support our institution and its learning environment. We treasure the time he has shared with us, and we covet the time we still have to benefit from his direction, mentoring, and companionship. Thank you, Sonny. CMA owes much of its lustre to your professionalism, your care, and your devotion to its betterment.