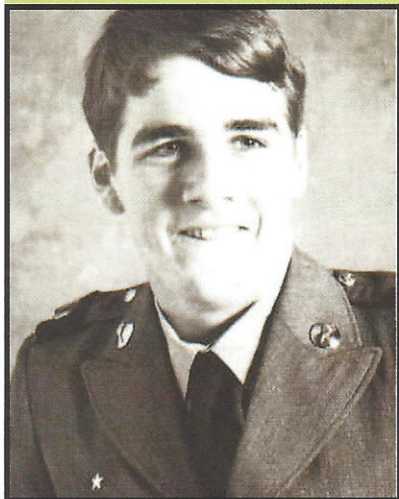


## "The Camden Experience"

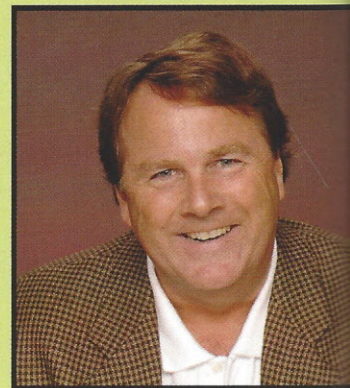
**In memory of LTC "Sonny" Brown (4/19/1936) to (2/26/2007), Former English teacher and yearbook adviser**

*One of our long term teachers, the late Colonel Sonny Brown, best described the term. People that utilize the term instinctively know what it means because they have lived it. The most important question is what does it mean to a new cadet? It means living away from family and friends, often for the first time. In order to be a successful cadet at Camden you will be required to do a lot of things that may be different from your regular routine. For example, due to the ultimate aim being discipline, one must get up and go to bed early. Obviously since CMA is a military school, you will be constantly exposed and introduced to the military system and experience having a roommate. Even though the process you will go through may seem rough, the faculty, staff, and TAC Officers will ALWAYS be there to guide you and answer any questions you have. Most importantly, you must always remember that at the end of your "Camden Experience" you will have a wealth of knowledge and understanding that will last you a lifetime.*



### Cam Walters (Class of 1973)

Although many years have passed, rarely a day goes by without some memory regarding my experience as a CMA cadet. Most of the memories include thoughts of my pals or the leadership from the great staff and educators at our disposal. I feel the experience has provided many advantages for me as I navigate through life and all of its challenges. I first realized a big advantage as I entered college, equipped with a modicum of self-discipline gained as a cadet. That helped, because in a large public university setting, the professors frankly did not care if you attended class or not. At CMA, I won sometimes, I lost sometimes, and did not get my way nearly as often as I would have back home. That I am thankful, because life is that way. It's much easier, and honestly more fun to face life with a spirit of positive determination, a good attitude, and a great deal of respect for all of God's creation. Our school is that way and fosters not only a great education, but a great blueprint for life itself! Good luck to the seniors, as well as all CMA cadets, and never forget your family and home here at Camden Military Academy.  
Go Spartans!!!!



### Nicholas White (Class of 2011)

As the youngest of five siblings, I had become accustomed to following the crowd. Easily influenced by others' decisions, I often times found it difficult to make the choices that were best for me. My constant need to feel accepted and to fit in drove me down a spiraling path that was almost irreversible. A few minor altercations with law enforcement and a 1.8 GPA during my freshman year of high school led me to CMA. Ironically, my first day at CMA was the most memorable. On that day I met Elisha Kits, a long-time student at CMA and who just so happened to be the battalion commander. I thought to myself, here is a man in complete control of his life and his decisions. He had passion, work ethic, exuded leadership, and spoke articulately. I thought to myself, this is what I have been missing my entire life. I want what he has, I want purpose. So, I made it my mission at CMA to do anything it would take to reach my goal. I wanted to be the Battalion Commander. However, this path was not as clear as I had anticipated. Often times I would ask teachers, upperclassmen, and TAC officers how I might reach my goal. And their answers were always the same: you follow the rules, work hard, and you give 100% to everything you do, and even still there are no guarantees. So, for the next three years I spent every waking moment trying to improve myself, learning how to make my bed just a little tighter, march in formations a little straighter, or studying just a little longer. I constantly looked for ways to improve every single thing I was doing in an attempt to separate myself from my peers. Days turned into weeks, which turned into months, which turned into years. At the end of my time, I was looking in the mirror at the best version of myself. It was the first time in my life I worked tirelessly day and night to achieve something I cared about. Through all of the late-night football games or early Saturday morning inspections, the moments of happiness and the tears of sadness, I had finally done it. I had found that feeling I wanted so badly my entire life. Without CMA, I would have never learned what it feels like to achieve something you've worked your hands to the bone to obtain. CMA gave me a taste of what this world can be, and what it feels like when you achieve something by following the rules, working hard, and giving 100% to everything you do. I am former Cadet Battalion Commander Nicholas White, and CMA saved my life.



### David Duncan (Class of 2011)

Camden Military Academy was the best thing that ever happened to me. I met guys who I can call brothers today. During my senior year, we won the state championship in lacrosse and the conference title in football—one of the best experiences of my life. Camden gave me the discipline that I needed and that my mother could not provide. It was not easy leaving all of my friends back home and moving to the middle of nowhere. Before I went to Camden I was heading down the wrong path. My father passed away and I started hanging with the wrong crowd. I was getting into a good bit of trouble, so my mom took me on a visit where I met LTC John Heflin. I did not want to attend this school by any means, but I remember what Heflin said to me that swayed me. He said "what would your father want you to do." I will never forget that. If I had never attended Camden Military Academy, I would have been locked up, or even worse. I would have never attended and graduated from The Citadel. I would have never landed a job with a fortune 200 company. I owe all of my success to the men who molded me at Camden, specifically CSM Brooks, the tac officer of Alpha Company, and LTC John Heflin. Camden was the stepping stone to my success.

