



The Kemperite

March, 2009

Message from the President

It's been a bittersweet past few months for me. The alumni directories are finally finished and we haven't had anything but positive comments. I have heard from alumni who have contacted friends and classmates they haven't spoken to in years. We had one of the most successful Alumni Weekends since the school shut down in October in Kansas City. Since the closing of the school, reunions have seemed bittersweet. I have enjoyed them, but at times they felt like a wake for the passing of our school. The October reunion was different. We had a great time, even at the annual meeting on Friday (even I admit annual meetings can sometimes be kind of dry). As I outlined our vision for the future of the Association, it felt good to be looking forward instead of looking back. After I finished and opened the floor for comments, my greatest supporter was Chief Ignacio. I will never forget that. We also honored Chief at our banquet Saturday night. It was one of the most memorable nights of my life, seeing what a positive impact one man can make on so many lives. As person after person stood up to tell Chief what he meant to them and how he impacted their lives, I could not have been prouder to be a Kemper Alumni. Unfortunately we lost Chief on December 12. He was interred at Arlington National Cemetery on February 19 with over 125 friends, family, and Kemper Alumni attending. As I attended his internment with my former classmates and



Tony Ameigh, James Herring, Greg Bunch, and George Speidel at Trap shoot

fellow alumni, and then the luncheon afterward, plus a dinner hosted by Kevin Hawkins and his wife on the following night, I was reminded how lucky I am to be part of such a wonderful group of people. We have celebrated together, supported each other, and mourned together. We are not just alumni of Kemper Military School, we are a family. As Always
Kemper Proud
Laura Williams

Kemper Alumni Association Holds Reunion in Kansas City

By *Laura Williams*

Several years ago, a fellow alumni's spouse commented that she wished we would have a Kemper get together in a place other than "Mecca" (Boonville) so when the opportunity presented itself, we had our Annual Meeting and Fall Reunion in Kansas City. We gathered at the Holiday Inn Northeast. Friday, October 3, we met for the Annual Meeting and presented our vision for a partnership with Wentworth Military Academy. After much discussion, the alumni present overwhelmingly supported continuing negotiations. Saturday morning we rose early and met Wentworth alumni for the 2nd Annual Kemper vs. Wentworth trap shoot. Our team was led by Greg Bunch, JC '83 and they gave it a good effort but we lost. There is a slideshow on our website that Neill Horton put together that is a must see. We look forward to exacting some revenge this fall. We then

attended a BBQ at Wentworth Military Academy, and had a tour of the grounds. We also got to watch cadets march again. My favorite was singing the Kemper fight song on the campus grounds (I also discovered that a lot of band alumni do not know the words – we always were playing).

Saturday night we gathered at the Holiday Inn again for a banquet to honor Chief Abraham Ignacio, the Kemper Bandmaster from 1976 - 2002. Old Boys from many different years stood up and talked about what Chief meant to them and how he was such a

wonderful mentor and father figure. We made Chief an Old Boy, had him sign the Standard of Honor (along with any eligible Old Boy who wanted the honor of signing with him) and then promoted him to an officer. Chief then stood up and spoke to us. He reminded us that he always taught that the three most important things were character, integrity, and enthusiasm. When all was said and done, there was not a dry eye in the house. One Old Boy, from the 1940's told me "I didn't even know the guy, and I even I teared up"! With the success of this reunion, we are planning another one the first weekend of October in Kansas City. I look forward to seeing you there.



Chief Ignacio's Burial at Arlington Cemetary



Looking at Pictures Chief left for us at Ft. Belvoir luncheon.

buildings and taken off the campus. It was a huge job, but alumni Jody Gramlich worked hard and got it done. We were originally planning on a work weekend to organize everything, but now due to a planned remodel of the building we have been storing our stuff at (this means everything from furniture to Standards of Honors) we need to move to another storage building. It's a huge job, and we need all hands to report for duty.

For more information, please email me at LWilliams@kemperalumni.org or call me at 501-312-5876.

The Kemper/Wentworth Initiative

*By Mike Mehlfaf
President Elect
Kemper Military School and
College Association*

The Kemper Alumina Association is continuing negotiations with Wentworth Military Academy to establish a Kemper presence on the Wentworth campus. In the short term the new President of Wentworth, Bill Sellers, has offered

our association full access to the Wentworth campus. The offer includes, at no cost to our association, a large display case in the Wentworth Hall of Honor in Groendyke Hall. In addition should we wish to display additional Kemper historic memorabilia, space will be provided for the construction of an additional larger display case, at our expense, in the same building. Wentworth will also make its campus and services available to the Kemper Alumni Association

Upcoming Events:

Kemper Work Weekend May 16 and 17, 2009

Calling all alumni – we need your help. In April of 2008, the City of Boonville informed The Friends of Kemper that everything had to be cleared out of the

for meetings and other gatherings on the campus. The only charges Kemper would incur would be for the actual costs of setup and food service.

In the long term, if our Alumni Association wishes to provide scholarships for Wentworth cadets, they will wear the Kemper Crest on their uniforms. If we get involved in a capitol project on the Wentworth Campus we will have an opportunity to place the Kemper name on a building on campus. In addition Wentworth is looking for clean, dry and secure space on their campus for us to store Kemper memorabilia.

The history of our two schools goes back to the founding of Professor Kemper's first school in Boonville. Wentworth's current Presidents Great Grandfather was a student in that class. For more than 100 years Kemper and Wentworth battled each other in hundreds of different competitions both on and off the field. To continue that relationship is a goal we can all strive to reach.

New Message Board up on Alumni Association Website

Check out our newest addition to the Kemper Alumni Association website. Neill Horton, our webmaster, has added a new message board to complement the old one. Go to www.kemperalumni.org and give us your thoughts.

Online Alumni Directory Coming Soon!

By Neill Horton

I am planning to add a secure, on-line version of the 2009 Alumni directory. If you gave the company that put the directory together your email address, you will get an email from us sometime in March or April with Login

Information, an opt-in link to make your data available, and instructions on how to search for your long lost friends. As it is planned now, NO contact information will be displayed unless you opt-in, but authenticated users will be able to find you by name or year, and send you an email (if we have it on file) without ever knowing what your email address actually is. If you never received a call to update your info, got a directory that had incorrect info, or just want to make sure we have the right data - feel free to contact us and we can help. Just an FYI for any geeks out there that want to know. The board (and the site) is all written in C# using the ASP.NET 3.5 Framework. There is a bit of AJAX here on the board and on the stories page, and the Database is SQL SERVER 2005.

New Items Added to the Quartermaster

New items have been recently added to the quartermaster. We have new T-shirts, books, decals, and picture frames. Check it out at www.kemperalumni.org

Young Scholar Seeks Our Help

We recently received the following email from a young gentleman named Kyle Nappi. What a great kid! I urge anyone who can help him out, contact him and tell him your story. We need more kids like this, who will work to preserve the history and legacy of our many veterans.

February 27, 2008

Hello. My name is Kyle Nappi. I am 18 years old and I live in Ostrander, Ohio. I am

currently a senior at Buckeye Valley High School. I have a big interest in history, specifically WWII. I collect military medals, patches, badges, insignia, field gear, and a very unique thing, veteran autographs. I have a collection of autographs from military veterans who served during WWI, WWII, Korea, Vietnam, Gulf War, and the present war in Iraq.

I have been interested in history for over 7 years now, and I have collected the autographs and stories from nearly 2,000 veterans in 20 countries. The oldest veteran is currently 112 years old and the youngest enlisted at age 14. I have autographs from Pearl Harbor survivors, D-Day veterans, airman, POWs, the last WWI veterans, generals, U.S. Presidents, USS Indianapolis survivors, Holocaust survivors, and even German soldiers!

Back in June (of 2007), I was interviewed by PBS, to talk about my collection for an interview that was to be shown online ([YouTube](#)). After that, I was interviewed for "The Columbus World War II Roadshow." They mentioned that it was to come on (in Central-Ohio) before some of the episodes of Ken Burns' "The War." You can find this interview on [YouTube](#) under "Kyle Nappi."

I was recently interviewed by the *American Legion* for an article that appeared in their August magazine. Here is an internet link to the online article: <http://www.legion.org/whatsnew/publications/newsletter/story?id=635>

There have been several other people who have taken the time to post my request online and in newspapers. There are too many for me to list, but if you go to [Google](#) or [Yahoo](#) and search "Kyle Nappi" you can find most of them.

Recently, I also had the privilege of going to Washington, D.C. in March of 2008. I was invited to the Pentagon, by the Secretary of Defense (Robert Gates) for a Ceremony honoring WWI veterans. I was able to meet

with the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Mike Mullen as well with the last American WWI veteran, Frank Buckles. He is the last surviving WWI veteran...out of nearly 5 million that served. He's the last survivor. Before not too long, the WWII veterans will dwindle down as well (sadly nearly 1,100 die each day), and we must not only remember their stories, but the ones who did not come home. "All gave some, some gave all."

There are so many people, my age, who don't fully understand the magnitude about the veterans and what they did for our country. I think it's inspiring to these veterans when, someone is asking for their autographs/military experiences, but also when the person asking is that of my age. I have received letters from veterans who thank me for what I am doing and that it is unfortunate that so many people tend to forget these stories. Some veterans have even sent me their military insignia, medals, books, etc (one veteran even sent his POW dog tag) simply because they say that there is no one in their family who cares about it. I think it's amazing that they would send all this to me, a complete stranger to them.

So, overall, I am trying to obtain as many autographs/stories from veterans as I can to ensure that their stories are not forgotten. This is a hobby that keeps me quite busy - I get over 5 things in the mail each day, followed by 10-15+ E-mails, fielding phone calls, writing up letters, sending out letters (a lot of postage) to numerous veterans, locating/finding addresses, typing up the questions, translating the letters (for those foreign veterans), etc. It is also a costly hobby as well - a lot of money goes into postage, envelopes, paper, ink, etc. Some people have sent books of stamps to help defray shipping costs. This is pretty much a daily routine so it's almost like my job, so to speak.

With it being my senior year at Buckeye Valley High School, I am still looking at colleges and scholarships. I have taken a

college government course and am currently taking a college history course (provided by Kenyon College). For majors in college, I am considering History and Political Science. During Election 2008, I was able to attend a Hillary Clinton rally at our high school, a John McCain in Columbus, Ohio, and a Sarah Palin rally in Findlay, Ohio.

I would like to pursue my interest in military history and turn it into a career (something along the lines of military historian). I am also considering a military career.

I would like to major in either history or political science in order to help further my career. I have greatly considered applying to one of the United States military academies in the U.S. However, I think that I am too late to apply for this upcoming school year starting in August, as I've been told admissions take nearly a year and a half. But

it is something that I would greatly like to do. If you would have any leads as to admissions for any of the academies, feel free to pass them along.

My main purpose for writing is to share with you that there are people from my generation who do remember the past and the sacrifices that were made for our country. I would greatly appreciate it if you could pass the word around that there are people who remember, along with the information about my collection.

Thank you very much for your time.

Sincerely,
Kyle Nappi
1890 Warren Rd.
Ostrander, OH 43061 USA
Phone Number: 740-363-8095
E-mail: knap607@yahoo.com

Kemper Through The Years



1930's Cadet Room



1968 Retreat



Signing Day



1980 Football Team



1970's Cheerleaders



Court Concert