I WAS EXCITED when I learned this issue of Hallowed Ground would focus on America’s military service academies. Not because I ever had the honor of attending one; in fact, my only real regret in life is that I did not serve in the armed forces, and therefore feel that I have missed out on a very important experience. Perhaps that’s one reason why I have spent 22 years of my professional life attempting to preserve the places where others served to create and define this amazing country.

But as our television screens fill with images of tanks rolling through bombed-out city streets as civilian refugees flee for their lives, images we had hoped were relegated to bygone days, it emphasizes the importance of always maintaining a core of military professionals willing to do whatever it takes to protect the rest of us, our families, our homes, our freedoms and our way of life.

This hit home when Quinnipiac College released a poll conducted in the first week after Russia’s invasion of Ukraine. The poll asked several questions about the public’s perceptions of the invasion before getting to — to me — the most important question. Simply stated, participants were asked: “If you were in the line of fire today — or would you leave the country?” The pollsters led with the headline that “a majority of Americans would stay and fight,” and that sounded reassuring, until one drilled deeper into the numbers. That “majority” was 55 percent. —

Older age groups tended to answer “stay and fight” in greater numbers, which helped raise the overall percentages. But the high numbers, which helped raise the overall percentages. But the high number of younger people who answered that they would “leave the country” surprised me. It reminded me of another survey, conducted in the first week after Russia’s invasion of Ukraine. The poll asked several questions about the public’s perceptions of the invasion before getting to — to me — the most important question. Simply stated, participants were asked: “If you were in the line of fire today — or would you leave the country?” The pollsters led with the headline that “a majority of Americans would stay and fight,” and that sounded reassuring, until one drilled deeper into the numbers. That “majority” was 55 percent. —

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I wondered? — but as I studied the data, a more troubling insight emerged. In the age group of 18–34-year-olds, 45 percent said they would stay and fight; 48 percent said they would leave “in case of attack.” Even as the preservation of threatened historic battlefield land remains our driving focus — as data centers, warehouse distribution complexes and utility-scale solar farms threaten to overwhelm every acre of unprotected battlefield land within a one-day car trip of Richmond — we cannot lose even one more day in accelerating our efforts to increase our educational reach and impact. We must increase our efforts to save the outdoor classrooms threatened as never before, and then, we must do even more to educate people as to why these places still matter today and pass along the lessons those places teach. Urgently, we must do all we can to instill a love for and appreciation of our amazing history in everyone, but especially in younger people, who are navigating a culture where traditional norms of patriotism are sometimes regarded as less essential qualities.

But these qualities, as we have seen in the inspiring defense of Ukraine by its military and its private citizens, are more essential than ever. As Thomas Paine wrote in the introduction to Common Sense, “The cause of America is in great measure the cause of all mankind.” He published those words 246 years ago, but they have never been more true. And I believe that cause is worth preserving, worth learning about, absolutely still worth fighting for. I take comfort in knowing that there ARE exceptional young men and women — those who make up the various corps of cadets and midshipmen at our service academies — who feel the same and decidedly WILL stay and fight. They have chosen to make it their lives’ work to safeguard what we hold dear.

President Portrait by BUDDY SECOR

WILLIAM R. BERGMAN
President, American Battlefield Trust
The pristine countryside visible today retains the imprint of its first Native people and the generations that followed. State Sen. Bryce Reeves, long a champion of a state park in Culpeper County, played a key role in building momentum for the effort, supported by a bipartisan group of legislators, including: Delegates Robert Bloxon, Barry Knight, Paul Kolvek, Alfonso Lopez, Daniel Marshall, Mark Sickles and Michael Webert, plus Senators George Barker, Creigh Deeds, Emmett Hanger, David Marsden, Chap Petersen and Jill Vogel. They are joined by a long-standing coalition of national and local preservation organizations, regional officials and local citizens. In 2016, the Culpeper County Board of Supervisors and the Culpeper Town Council both passed resolutions endorsing a state battlefield park in Culpeper County. If the current budget language is approved, the new state park will open on July 1, 2023 — little more than a year away. In anticipation of the event, the Trust history and education team is working to upgrade interpretive trails on the Brandy Station and Cedar Mountain battlefields this year.

Nestled in the Virginia Piedmont, Culpeper County is home to some of the most intriguing landscapes in the Commonwealth of Virginia and the Department of Defense, only $57,000 was needed in gifts from individual donors when fundraising began in February. The sheer number of categories in which this project is ‘one for the record books’ is astounding,” said Trust President David Duncan. “Not only was it awarded the largest matching grant in the history of the federal American Battlefield Protection Program (ABPP), but it also includes one of the most staggering matching opportunities ever offered to our members — a monumental $163-to-$1 return on donations.”

The property’s history dates to the 1690s, when it was originally known as “Fouace’s Quarter” after Stephen Fouace, one of the original trustees of the College of William and Mary. It later became associated with Carter’s Grove Plantation and before the outbreak of the Civil War, James W. Custis, who served in the Virginia State Senate and House of Delegates, operated the site. It is also a battleground of national significance, where, on the morning of May 5, 1862, Union soldiers turned the tide of the Battle of Williamsburg and Brig. Gen. Winfield Scott Hancock his sobriquet “Hancock the Superb.”

“The James Custis Farm is the heart of this battlefield, and its protection is a major milestone that is poised to help us tell important stories like never before,” said Drew Gruber, president of the Williamsburg Battlefield Association, which has advocated for protection of the farm for more than a decade.

In the closing days of December, the Trust successfully completed the purchase of the James Custis Farm, a 245-acre property at the heart of the Williamsburg Battlefield with centuries of history. The approximately $9.4 million inclusive cost makes the project the second-most expensive private battlefield acquisition in American history, but thanks to an exceptional confluence of grant funding from the National Park Service, the Commonwealth of Virginia and the Department of Defense, only

The Liberty Trail is a joint effort of the South Carolina Battleground Preservation Trust and the American Battlefield Trust, supported by numerous partners at the local, state and federal levels. The new app covering sites statewide builds upon some two dozen Trust battlefield trails and sites. Future iterations of the app will further enrich the experience and include features such as augmented reality, local insider tips for lodging and dining and short videos. Thanks to funding support from the federal American Battlefield Protection Program and State of South Carolina, elements like an augmented reality rendering of the colossal Born Work in Charleston’s Marion Square will soon be brought to digital reality. Learn more at www.battlefields.org/LibertyTrailApp.

The Liberty Trail will open on July 1, 2023 — little more than a year away. The app allows visitors to explore sites online or on their mobile device, including directions and links to more information. The Liberty Trail app is available for free and includes an augmented reality experience that allows users to explore the past through modern technology. The app is designed to be an accessible and engaging way to learn about the history of the South Carolina Battlegrounds.

More than 240 years may have passed since the British seized Charleston in 1780 and legendary Patriot figures like the “Swamp Fox” Francis Marion and the “Fighting Gamecock” Thomas Sumter waged their unorthodox campaigns in the swamps and backcountry, but the past is still evident across South Carolina, said American Battlefield Trust President David Duncan. “This mobile app provides a glimpse of the past on a modern-day landscape and invites users to imagine walking in the footsteps of those who fought for our liberty.”

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TRUST digital tour guide showcasing scores of Virgin ia sites integral to the Black experience during the Civil War era has received a Silver Award in the Education, Art, & Culture division of the inaugural Anthem Awards. This new initiative of the Webbys Awards celebrating purpose and mission-driven work is presented by the International Academy of Digital Arts & Sciences (IADAS). Other honorees in the Trust’s category include the National Geographic Society and Center for Inspired Teaching.

The “Road to Freedom” program, created through a partnership between the American Battlefield Trust and Civil War Trails, Inc, with assistance from the African American Heritage Preservation Foundation, offers free physical and digital products — a map guide available in visitor centers and distribution sites across the state and a web app with downloadable versions for Android and iOS devices. The trail highlights locales across Virginia, a key Civil War battleground state and an important passageway in the Underground Railroad. Sites stretch from Alexandria, just outside Washington, D.C., to Abingdon, near the Tennessee border, and tell stories of soldiers, slaves, educators, politicians and others, marking the places where they staged rebellions, fought for freedom, educated their children, were born and were buried.

The “Road to Freedom” program was praised by Arlington National Cemetery, which added the project, which adds layers of context and history, including first-person narratives and multimedia elements. “The stories embodied along the Road to Freedom, like the Freedman’s Village established on the grounds of what is now Arlington National Cemetery, are rich and profound. It’s an honor to be part of a project that enables users to stand at these places and contemplate the threats that tie past and present together.” Learn more at www.battlefields.org/RoadtoFreedom.

After the success of our first installment last summer, we’ve expanded our How We Became America: The Untold History series of video shorts. This series is made for students and teachers, but easy-to-consume by all. It is designed to use eye-catching animation and a slightly irreverent spin to fill in the gaps and bring interesting stories to life. While our first batch of videos focused on the Revolution, the 15 new episodes cast an eye toward the Civil War.

A conflict of immense depth, the Civil War is explored through several lenses in the Untold series. Viewers will learn about such things as the vital roles of women during the war, the emergence of new technologies and innovations, how the camera changed the way war was viewed by the mass public, the great weight of the two-minute Gettysburg Address, the evolution of medical kits and how they empowered medics in the field, how Native Americans chose sides in the war and why Black soldiers put their lives on the line to preserve the Union. And at no longer than three minutes, they are sure to hold even the shortest of attention spans.

How We Became America: The Untold History stems from the partnership of the American Battlefield Trust and the Driving Force Institute for Public Engagement (DFI), and this latest Civil War installment received generous financial support from the HTR Foundation. Later this year and into 2023, we will add more videos on topics associated with the American Revolution, with great thanks to grant funding from the Americans Battlefield Protection Program.

Watch the latest Untold videos at www.battlefields.org/untold.

CELEBRATING OUR 150TH BATTLEFIELD at Great Bridge Revolutionary War site

BATTLE STATIONS! Infrastructure development targets Virginia

The modern battlefield preservation movement may have been born out of the suburban boom around Washington, D.C., in the 1980s, but the current explosion of development across Northern Virginia is not limited to the all-too-familiar subdivisions and strip malls. In a dille, we are confronted with very 21st-century types of infrastructure that require vast amounts of land and municipal services.

Now we face data centers (which require enormous amounts of electricity and other utilities to power both computer servers and air conditioning to prevent overheating), warehouse distribution complexes (which often require new roads and additional infrastructure) and utility-scale solar farms (to power all of the above, often mandated by the state as a form of green energy).

One company is advertising the region as “The Data Center Hotspot of the East Coast.” In early April, the Culpeper County Board of Supervisors overruled a planning committee recommendation — and significant opposition from communities to thrive and our priceless history to be protected.

Unfortunately, in early April, the Culpeper County Board of Supervisors overlooked a planning committee recommendation — and significant opposition from residents and the preservation community — to green-light a data center proposal near Hainsborough Bridge on the Brandy Station Battlefield. Worse feeding more development. We are not against such projects in principle, recognizing that our modern way of life must be supported with infrastructure. However, careful siting of such projects and thoughtful land-use planning will allow our communities to thrive and our priceless history to be protected.

Upon British artillery firing from Fort Murray toward Pennsylvania in the new year. Six months after the battle, the Virginia Battlefields Trust celebrated a major milestone — declaring victory on an acquisition at our 150th site, the Revolutionary War’s Great Bridge Battlefield in Virginia. Not only that, we created 54,000 total acres protected just in time to begin our 35th anniversary year.

Part of the modern city of Chesapeake, Va., Great Bridge is surrounded by development threats. The 0.66-acre tract the Trust saved had been listed “for lease,” with a sign planted on the land advertising the development of a strip shopping center on the hallowed ground. There, on December 9, 1775, Virginia Patriots were matched against the forces of colonial governor Lord Dunmore.

The battle ended after less than 30 minutes in a Patriot victory, the first notable one of the war. This was especially significant as the untired volunteers stood their ground against an enemy that included professionally trained British Regulars. Defeat at Great Bridge forced Dunmore, British Royal Governor of Virginia, and his soldiers to evacuate and ultimately leave Virginia in the new year. Six months after the battle, the Virginia delegation to the Continental Congress introduced the resolution that resulted in the Declaration of Independence.

THE MODERN BATTLEFIELD
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The Trust believes deeply in the power of place, the unique ability for landscapes to teach meaningful and compelling lessons to those who follow in the footsteps of history. And through an ongoing, multifaceted collaboration with the Congressional Medal of Honor Society (CMOHS), the Trust is working to, quite literally, place valor on the map, connecting to the battlefields where Medal of Honor recipients performed their acts above and beyond the call of duty, and sharing their remarkable stories of service.

The Medal of Honor Valor Trail™ will weave the stories of the nation’s highest decoration for valor with the places most deeply connected with Medal of Honor recipients — battlefields and historic sites, hometowns and burial places, namesake sites, monuments and museums. The envisioned trail will span centuries — from the Civil War through the present — and continents, showcasing the diverse universe of inspirational recipients who have worn the Medal.

“There is no higher honor our country can bestow than the Medal of Honor,” said American Battlefield Trust President David Duncan. “This award really is synonymous with the best of who we are as Americans and the ideals of valor, patriotism and self-sacrifice. But the dramatic stories behind the awarding of many of these medals are rarely told at the places where they unfolded. We aim to change that.”

The Medal of Honor Valor Trail™ is envisioned to include signage elements to augment existing on-site interpretation, installed gradually and in partnership with management entities. A website that provides a flavor of the myriad appropriate sites launched at ValorTrail.org on March 25 — National Medal of Honor Day, marking the date the first awards were presented in 1863 — and will continue to grow, highlighting the most compelling content created by the Trust and CMOHS, independently and jointly. The new venture was celebrated at events in the Washington area, including a wreath-laying at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier at Arlington National Cemetery, and at the Society’s headquarters aboard the USS Yorktown near Charleston, S.C.

Medal of Honor recipient and Society President Leroy Petry shared enthusiasm for the project, noting “The Society’s mission is to promote the legacy of the Medal of Honor, which we do by telling the stories of the Medal of Honor through a variety of education and outreach programs. The Valor Trail will make our efforts even more tangible by combining Medal of Honor stories with places in our own communities and places we can visit.”

Recognizing that inherent connection between story and place, the Trust worked with the Congressional Medal of Honor Society to create an interactive map on the Trust website that identifies locations for all 1,500-plus Civil War citations, tying in biographical information — sometimes scant for these earliest awards — about the recipients.

In many ways, the Medal of Honor Valor Trail™ is a natural growth of that earlier collaboration, a marriage of story and place for the full lineage of the Medal. With celebrations of America’s 250th birthday only a few years away, there is no better time to reacquaint Americans hungry for history with these authentic stories of valor. Visit www.V alorTrail.org.
Special thanks to Howard Hankins and John Plashal for facilitating access to the Hankins Farm as part of this project.

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**Edward Ratcliffe’s Legacy**

_Born a slave, Medal of Honor recipient inspired generations of descendants to service_

To the brothers, this place is charged with emotion, as they consider their ancestor’s experience on the property and imagined the course his life might have taken. “Being here [at New Market Heights], being on this very path, it’s almost unimaginable without this [land] being here.”

This past summer, the Radcliffe brothers went on a journey through their extraordinary ancestor’s footsteps, visiting the Hankins Farm and the New Market Heights Battlefield.

Upon arrival at the Hankins Farm — the ground on which his second great-grandfather was enslaved in James City County, Va. — Damon said, “Being here [at New Market Heights], being forever when he was recognized with the Medal of Honor.

Great-great-grandsons Damon and Edward pause to think about what this meant to their ancestor and his fellow soldiers, as it was likely that they had yet to be in combat. “It couldn’t imagine what any of the men were going through, let alone an ancestor of mine.” Yet, these current-day men have carried Ratcliffe’s attitude into their careers and everyday lives, putting their lives on the line to serve the greater good.

**First Sergeant Edward Ratcliffe’s Medal of Honor Citation:**

**Commanded and gallantly led his company after the commanding officer had been killed; was the first enlisted man to enter the enemy’s works.**

During the battle, the 5th USCT was pinned down in the ravine created by Four Mile Creek for some 30 minutes. It’s likely this artillery bombardment wounded his officer, forcing Ratcliffe to step forward and lead the assault. The physical landscape brought the story to life like never before for the brothers.

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**Hallowed Ground Spring 2022**

**ANCESTRY**

**Historic Connections in Your Family Tree**

We can often turn to our family history to explain many of the features we inherit, but for Damon and Edward Radcliffe, the story of their Civil War ancestor does not explain such things as a long line of brown eyes or an aversion to cilantro — but instead a multigenerational focus on patriotism and service.

Today, you can find Damon serving as a lieutenant in the York- Poquoson (Va.) Sheriff’s Office. Meanwhile, his brother Edward is a master sergeant in the U.S. Marine Corps. In September 1864, their second great-grandfather, First Sgt. Edward Ratcliffe, served with Company G of the 38th U.S. Colored Troops (USCT) at the Battle of New Market Heights — also known as Chapin’s Farm. Edward exhibited a degree of bravery that the average civilian cannot easily comprehend when he led his company forward in combat after the fall of his commanding officer. Not only that, he was the “first enlisted man to enter the enemy’s works.” His gallant actions were cemented in history forever when he was recognized with the Medal of Honor.

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Upon arrival at the Hankins Farm — the ground on which his second great-grandfather was enslaved in James City County, Va. — Damon said, “There was a heart flutter when we pulled into the driveway up front, which I guess it could be him saying, ‘Hey, this is where it all began.’”

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Damon Radcliffe, a law enforcement officer, and Edward Radcliffe, a U.S. Marine, remain as the last men to have belonged to the 38th USCT, a unit that included both enslaved and free African Americans.

**Photography by Jay Paul**
TARTING THE NEW YEAR on a purposeful note, Cole Sumner took to the Averasboro Battlefield to complete his Eagle Scout service project on January 1. The Dunn, N.C., teen, with help from fellow Scouts and parents of Dunn Troop No. 711, worked to bring access to a segment of the battlefield previously saved by the Trust.

“The American Battlefield Trust provided us with this land, and we are thrilled to make good use of it,” notes C.C. Livingston, the Averasboro Battlefield and Museum’s director of operations. Expanding the interpretive experience, Sumner’s project falls in line with hopes to attract an increased number of visitors to Harnett and Cumberland Counties. Over the years, the work of Scouts has had a positive impact on the Tarheel State site, as the Averasboro Battlefield Commission, Inc. decided early in its formation to embrace partner projects with these motivated young people.

While the battlefield benefits from enhancements, Scouts gain valuable project planning and implementation experience. Boy Scouts working toward the rank of Eagle are also met with challenges in leadership, demonstrated as they provide direction and guidance to individuals assisting on service projects. The Eagle Scout Award is the highest award in the Boy Scouts of America and is earned through an incredible degree of hard work and perseverance.

Sumner’s service project will act as a bridge to bring his community closer to its Civil War past. The Battle of Averasboro unfolded across the Smithville Plantation on March 16, 1865, and ended with no clear victor. However, it set the stage for the Battle of Bentonville, when Union Maj. Gen. William T. Sherman and Confederate Gen. Joseph Johnston met in the war’s final clash in the Carolinas. Within a month, the two generals met at Bennett Place to discuss terms of surrender.

Today, the Averasboro Battlefield Commission, Inc. holds the responsibility of preserving and presenting this history, via driving tour and a museum and visitor center. In this endeavor, the group has found great value in partnering with local and national groups, such as the Trust, which has protected 569 acres at Averasboro.

Learn more about this increasingly dynamic North Carolina battlefield site at www.averasboro.com.

IN MEMORIAM
Robert Hicks and Mary Ann Peckham

T HE VOLUNTEER STATE lost two titans of preservation this winter with the passing of Franklin visionary and self-described scribbler Robert Hicks and Mary Ann Peckham, who spent a career with the National Park Service before joining preservation nonprofits as a second act. Both stalwarts were deeply concerned with the dynamic social stories that make up our shared history and left indelible marks — physically on the landscapes of Tennessee and spiritually on the broader battlefield preservation movement.

Hicks (1951–2022) was a two-time New York Times bestselling author who rose to fame with the 2005 publication of The Widow of the South, centered on the real-life figure of Carrie McGavock, who buried 2005 publication of The Widow of the South, centered on the real-life figure of Carrie McGavock, who buried

He helped restore. At the same time, Hicks was leading the nonprofit Franklin’s Charge, campaigning to protect the Eastern Florida property at Franklin, completed with the aid of a Trust predecessor organization. His charisma and enthusiasm drew national attention to Franklin and helped him turn it from a cautionary tale into a preservation miracle, with the battlefield re-claimed by the community to recreate a downtown park. An evangelist for the preservation movement, he received the Trust’s Lifetime Achievement Award in 2008. It is especially fitting that he was to rest in the cemetery at Cartersville. Peckham (1951–2022) was the longtime executive director of the Tennessee Civil War Preservation Association, a landmark statewide preservation organization. But nonprofits were a second career, following exceptional federal service within the National Park System. Her first duty station was at Little Bighorn Battlefield National Monument, followed by tenures at the Cape Hatteras National Seashore and Blue Ridge Parkway, plus special assignments in historical research and interpretation at Fort Sumter and Fort Moultrie National Historical Park. From 1989 to 2001, she was the superintendent of Stones River National Battlefield and oversaw the creation of the Friends of Stones River, an organization that remains active today. After leaving the federal service, Peckham moved to Washington and joined the American Battlefield Trust, where she served as the Trust’s historic site manager for the historic state sites in Virginia and Tennessee.

He is especially fitting that he was to rest in the cemetery at Cartersville. Peckham (1951–2022) was the longtime executive director of the Tennessee Civil War Preservation Association, a landmark statewide preservat-
This summer, the Trust acquired 144 acres at Champion Hill — the site that includes most of the hill and the historic Jackson Road at the crossroads. The property will be stewarded until transferred to the Vicksburg National Military Park. The Trust has now saved 169 acres at Champion Hill.

CHATTANOOGA, Tenn.

After Maj. Gen. Ulysses S. Grant received command of the Western armies, the Federals began offensive operations to open a supply line to besieged Chattanooga. On November 23–24, Union forces captured Orchard Knob and Lookout Mountain; the next day, they assaulted and carried the seemingly impregnable Missionary Ridge. One of the Confederacy’s two major armies was routed, and the Union held the “Gate-way to the Lower South.”

The Trust acquired eight acres at Chat-tanooga’s Lookout Mountain in September and secured a conservation easement on an additional 300 acres at the battlefield in December, all made possible by the American Battlefield Protection Program, the State of Tennessee Historical Commission, the Tennessee Civil War Sites Preservation Fund, the National Land Trust and a generous anonymous donor. Each of the three acres will be transferred to the National Military Park. The Trust will steward the property until it’s transferred to the National Military Park. The Trust has now saved 792 acres at Chattanooga.

DAVIS BRIDGE, Tenn.

On October 4, 1862, Maj. Gen. Earl Van Dorn’s Confederate army retreated from Corinth, Miss., but it wasn’t long before Union Maj. Gen. William Rosecrans sent forces, under Maj. Gen. Edward Ord, in pur-suit the next morning. Confederate forces were pushed back to the Hatchie River and across Davis Bridge. However, Confederate scouts were able to find another crossing on the river, and Van Dorn’s men escaped. While a Union victory, the Confederates evaded destruction.

This September, the Trust acquired an acre at Davis Bridge. This tract, in the epicen-tor of a key portion of the battlefield, will be transferred to the Shelby National Military Park. The Trust has now saved 160 acres at Davis Bridge.

GETTYSBURG, Pa.

On July 1, 1863, Confederate forces con-verged on the town from the west and north, driving Union defenders back through the streets. Union reinforcements arrived dur-ing the night, forcing the Confederates to at-tack strong positions on both flanks the next day. On July 3, the Confederate infantry as-sault known as Pickett’s Charge failed. In December, the Trust successfully saved one acre at Gettysburg, where Union cavalry advanced against the Confederates on July 3. The tract will be transferred to Gettysburg National Military Park, where it will provide an important access point. The Trust has now saved 1,238 acres at Gettysburg.

GREAT BRIDGE, Va.

Wary of a possible advance on Suffolk, Pa-triot forces dug in at Great Bridge. On Au-gust 28, 1775, stymying Lord Dunmore and his Loyalist forces. On the morning of December 9, tensions turned into a full-fledged fight. Dunmore ordered Fort Mur-phy’s garrison to begin bombarding Patriot work and followed with an attack of Brit-ish grenadiers. Upon attack, the alarm was raised by Patriot sentries on the bridge. The Patriots held their fire until the grenadiers were within 50 yards, a move that wiped out half their attackers and quickly defused the British assault. The Patriot victory even-tually led to Dunmore’s departure from Virginia in 1776.

Aided by the American Battlefield Pro-tection Program, the Commonwealth of Vir-ginia, the Virginia Battlefield Preservation Fund, the City of Chesapeake and the Great Bridge Battlefield and Waterways Founda-tion, the Trust acquired one acre at Great Bridge in June. A site of significance for Black soldier participation in the nation’s founding conflict, this land represents the organization’s first preservation victory at Great Bridge and the organization’s 150th site. The Trust plans to transfer the property to the City of Chesapeake. The Trust has now saved one acre at Great Bridge.

Guilford Courthouse, N.C.

On March 15, 1781, British forces under Lieutenant General Charles Cornwallis de-feated an American army more than twice its size at the Battle of Guilford Courthouse. But it was a costly victory; Cornwallis lost a quarter of his force and retreated back into Virginia, where he ultimately surrendered at Yorktown. Although Guilford Courthouse National Military Park was established in 1917, the battlefield was gradually enveloped by the city of Greensboro. However, in recent years, the park has acquired and reclaimed several acres.

In December, the Trust issued a grant to help the National Park Service protect nearly one acre at Guilford Courthouse. The prop-erty, which witnessed the British advance during the 1781 battle, was acquired by the Guilford Courthouse National Military Park. The Trust has now saved one acre at Guilford Courthouse.

MANASSAS, Va.

On August 28, 1862, Confederate Maj. Gen. Stonewall Jackson encountered and attacked elements of the Union army, holding off several assaults the next day until reinforce-ments could arrive on the field. On August 30, Confederate flank attack on August 30 sent the Federals into a retreat eastward.

BELMONT, Mo.

Fought on November 7, 1861, the Battle of Belmont served as Maj. Gen. Ulysses S. Grant’s first test as a commander on the field. The battle ended inconclusively, although both sides claimed otherwise. The Confederates, having forced the Union troops to retreat to Paducah, claimed victory. Conversely, Union forces believed they were victorious due to heavy Confederate losses.

In September, the American Battlefield Trust acquired one acre at Belmont, representing the Trust’s first preservation success at the battlefield site. The property will be stewarded by the Trust until its transfer to Columbus-Benton State Park. The Trust has now saved one acre at Belmont.

BENTONVILLE, N.C.

In March 1865, Maj. Gen. William T. Sherman divided his force as he marched north into the Carolinas. Confederate Gen. Joseph E. Johnston confronted an isolated wing on high ground, covering the roads from Bentonville to Cold Harbor, where he ultimately surrendered at Yorktown. Although Guilford Courthouse National Military Park was established in 1917, the battlefield was gradually enveloped by the city of Greensboro. However, in recent years, the park has acquired and reclaimed several acres.

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The Trust acquired nearly four acres at Manassas in December. This acreage, located near the Sudley Church, was a top priority of the National Park Service for several years. The Trust will steward the property until its transfer to the Manassas National Battlefield Park.

The Trust has now saved 377 acres at Manassas.

MANSFIELD, La.

Intent on wresting control of Louisiana and Texas from the Confederacy, Union Maj. Gen. Nathaniel Banks began a protracted campaign up the Red River Valley in March 1864. Unfortunately for Banks, his opponent was Confederate Maj. Gen. Richard Taylor, one of the South’s most reliable field commanders. On April 8, Taylor drew his small army up astride the Old Stage Road near Mansfield. The result was a decisive victory that marked the end of both Banks’ invasion and Federal dreams of taking Louisiana out of the war.

In November, the Trust acquired 20 acres at Mansfield through its partnership with the American Battlefield Protection Program and the State of Louisiana. The tract, which covers land tied to the second phase of the 1864 battle, will be transferred to the Mansfield Battlefield State Historic Site. The Trust has now saved 455 acres at Mansfield.

PARKER’S CROSS ROADS, Tenn.

On December 31, 1862, Union brigades attempted to cut off Brig. Gen. Taylor’s forces at Parker’s Cross Roads, at Mansfield. The result was a decisive victory that marked the end of both Banks’ invasion and Federal dreams of taking Louisiana out of the war.

On May 21 to July 9, 1863, Union and Confederate forces at Port Hudson, La., found themselves locked in a protracted 48-day siege — one of the longest of the war until that point. The Union army owed much of its ultimate victory to the Troops of African descent involved in the fighting. The 1st and 3rd Louisiana Native Guards participated in a critical attack against the seemingly impenetrable Confederate fortress. Although unsuccessful in capturing the fort, their courage under fire and tenacity began to chip away at prejudices within the army and public at large that maintained Black troops were not reliable in combat.

In late September, the Trust acquired nearly three acres at the Port Hudson Battlefield, in partnership with the American Battlefield Protection Program and the State of Louisiana. This land was within Confederate defenses during the 48-day siege and later served as the headquarters for the “Corps d’Afrique” before it became the U.S. Colored Troops. The Trust has now saved 259 acres at Port Hudson.

SAILOR’S CREEK, Va.

On April 6, 1865, just three days before Gen. Robert E. Lee’s surrender at Appomattox, the Confederates suffered a crushing defeat at Sailor’s Creek. In three separate actions, Union troops overwhelmed three corps of Confederates, capturing 7,700 men and depriving Lee of roughly one-fifth of his army.

The Trust, with help from the American Battlefield Protection Program and the Commonwealth of Virginia, secured one acre at Sailor’s Creek this winter. This land, which witnessed actions at Marshall’s Crossroads, will be stewarded by the Trust until transferred to the Sailor’s Creek Battlefield State Park. The Trust has now saved 1,319 acres at Sailor’s Creek.

SPOTSYLVANIA COURT HOUSE, Va.

Following the vicious Battle of the Wilderness, Union Gen. Ulysses S. Grant continued his march “by the left flank” toward Richmond; he set his next target as Spotsylvania Court House. As both armies snaked south, parallel to each other, they finally met in battle on May 8. This was the opening of a two-week contest that would see some of the fiercest fighting of the war. Grant’s assault on the Confederate salient was the scene of more than 20 hours of continuous fighting through torridal downpours of both rain and bullets. Union troops captured more than 3,000 prisoners during this fight, but the Federals were unable to break the Confederate lines and fighting continued until the 19th. The outcome was inconclusive, and each army continued its march south toward Richmond.

Thanks to the American Battlefield Protection Program, the Commonwealth of Virginia, the Virginia Battlefield Preservation Fund and the Central Virginia Battlefield Trust, the Trust saved 141 acres at Spotsylvania Court House this past November. The property includes the site of the 19th-century Todd’s Tavern and witnessed considerable cavalry fighting on May 7, 1864. The Trust has now saved 141 acres at Spotsylvania Court House.

★ Grasp the full extent of the Trust’s preservation efforts at www.battlefields.org/preserve/saved-land. ★
Cadets. Midshipmen. Rats. Plebes. The long gray line. Whatever you call them, those who study at America’s service academies are part of a great tradition and legacy.
When “The Glorious Union” was plunging past a collapsing compromise over slavery toward inevitable civil war in the 1850s, one of the last national institutions to split openly North and South was the U.S. Military Academy at West Point. Its graduates and cadets came from every state in the Union to train as engineers and officers. They knew they would be called on to command armies against one another in such a war, the only ones with the education, competence, background and experience to command armies on such a huge scale. Yet they were brothers, not by blood, but by constant association and shared experience at West Point — and on assignments beyond, including two years of war against Mexico. And because they understood what the gathering storm meant most keenly, they dreaded it most deeply.

Historian Stephen E. Ambrose tells us how such an iron brotherhood is formed: Isolate them together on a flat granite hilltop in the middle of the Hudson River for four years of intense study and training under stress. The certain result, Ambrose wrote, “[W]as a feeling of comradeship stronger than that in most college fraternities, and it overcame nearly all social, religious, and political differences.” Could it also overcome a bloody, fratricidal war?

Southerners had more to lose in a war of brothers. In those times, a allegiance to states trumped allegiance to the Union. If their state — their home, their people — seceded, most of them believed, they must secede with it. They would resign or be dismissed for refusing to take an oath of allegiance to the Union. If war came, they would fight for their states against the Union they now served, destroying their careers in the process.

Cadet Pierce Young of Georgia wrote his parents, “You and the others down there don’t realize the sacrifice resignation means.” But every Southern cadet and West Point graduate knew the cost. Cadet Edward Anderson of Virginia, who refused to take the oath of allegiance to the Union and was therefore dismissed, wrote his mother, “I actually cried … I know well that I resign everything.” Another Virginia cadet, Tom Rowland, captured the Southern despair in a letter to his father: “What is to become of our glorious Union? Everyone seems to despair of its perpetuation, but I cannot give it up. I will catch at the last straw, and stand by the Union until all is hopelessly lost. Then we must cast our lot with Virginia and hope for the best.”

The anguish over the coming war hit Southern graduates who were now officers in the regular army just as hard as it did cadets. Richard Stoddert Ewell, a Virginian from the class of 1840, noted army Indian fighter in the Arizona Territory and future lieutenant general in the Confederate Army of Northern Virginia, said that the war was “sacrificing every earthly hope,” that “it was like death for me.”

During the nearly six decades since the Academy’s founding in 1802, there had been little sign that the North-South split over slavery was cracking the West Point brotherhood as it was the rest of the country. James Ewell Brown Stuart, who graduated in the class of 1854 and become Robert E. Lee’s cavalry commander in the Army of Northern Virginia, explained: “There seems,” he said, “to be a sentiment of mutual forbearance.”

This forbearance was shattered when hot-blooded abolitionist John Brown launched his ill-starred raid on the Harpers Ferry armory on October 16, 1859, to seize arms and incite a slave rebellion. Brown went to the gallows, and sectionalism arrived at the Academy, with the North-South split now raging openly at West Point as it did everywhere else.

Arguments, challenges and fights broke out between Northern and Southern cadets. When Abraham Lincoln was elected president in early November 1860, tensions hit the ceiling. In a letter to their local Columbia Guardian, a group of South Carolina cadets wrote, “We cannot so stifle our convictions of duty as to serve under such a man as Mr. Lincoln as our commander-in-chief.”

Henry Dupont, a cadet from Delaware, confessed, “There is an insane spirit here
half, more defeats than victories falling to our share; whereas in less than two campaigns, we conquered a great country and a peace, without the loss of a single battle or skirmish.”

In this new war, the graduated cadets monitored by Scott, as expected, began immediately assuming high command on both sides. There was irony in this: If the Mexican conflict was kept short because of their competence, the Civil War would stretch across four long, wrenching years because of the same talent. All had been trained in the same military and engineering rooms at West Point, graduated with the same knowledge and skill set and marched on the plain and taken fire together.

These equally trained officers monopolized high command throughout the war. In its 60 major battles, 55 were commanded on both sides by West Pointers. In the other five, one of the commanders was also a West Pointer.

One of the results of that near-total monopoly of leadership was an “equilibrium of competence” that frequently stopped one side from utterly destroying the other and seriously elongated the time it took for one side to win. In the Civil War, 217 Academy graduates became general officers in the Union armies, 146 in the Confederate armies. One hundred five graduates were killed in the war — 60 Union and 45 Confederate — and another 151 wounded, a total figure that amounted to 25 percent of all graduates becoming casualties.

Where the waters of the Hudson River crash against West Point’s granite face is universally regarded as one of the most beautiful natural vistas in the world. Cadets since the Academy’s founding had appreciated its dazzling beauty, but had not realized its isolation, particularly as civil war raged out in the country. Cadet Callum Bryant wrote his father early in the war, “We are almost completely secluded and shut out from the rest of the world.”

Many West Point graduates had seen a part of that world, and readied themselves to command in the Civil War...
**Naval Academy**

**Coming of Age for the Civil War**

*By Dwight Hughes, Class of 1967*

**The U.S. Naval Academy at Annapolis, MD.**

Seamanship is an art like any other; it is not something which can be picked up in one's spare time, indeed, it leaves no leisure for anything else. — Pericles addressing the Athenians.

_Thucydides, History of the Peloponnesian War 1:142._

“The training which Naval [Academy] Cadets receive is admirable, and the education makes them useful citizens, and strengthens the defense of the country,” wrote James I. Waddell, who had served in both the United States and Confederate States navies, in his 1885 memoir. However, he continued, “The all important, useful and necessary branches of my profession, I learned at sea, on shipboard, while a boy… I may be in error when I assert that practical seamanship cannot be learned from books…”

_**N THIS SENTIMENT,**_ Waddell personified the antebellum evolution from the ancient school of the sea to professional naval officer education. He first went to sea as a traditional midshipman of the old wood-and-canvas navy at age 16 in 1841. Six years later, he reported to the new school at Annapolis, where he and other seasoned mariners studied uncomfortably alongside youngsters fresh from civilian life to be certified as passed midshipmen.

Cruising the globe for the next decade, Waddell advanced to lieutenant and served a tour teaching navigation at the Academy. In 1861, the North Carolinian was second in command of the USS Saginaw, a brand-new steam sloop of war on the China Station, when he swapped blue for gray, ultimately commanding the infamous Rebel commerce raider CSS Shenandoah.

Waddell had become an officer the hard way and, to him, the right way: a slow, tedious progression through the ranks based on seniority, which gave enormous prestige to promotion. He doubted the practical application of classroom learning and seemed to harbor resentment for book learners. Such controversies had delayed the launch of a naval academy for 40 years after West Point’s founding and underscored the tension between academic learning and professional training.

Secretary of the Navy George Bancroft established the Naval School at the former Fort Severn in Annapolis, Maryland, on October 10, 1845, with a class of 50 midshipmen and seven professors. The initial curriculum involved two years of study in mathematics, navigation, gunnery, steam engineering, chemistry, English, natural philosophy and French. This was to be followed by three years’ service afloat, and another year at the school before sitting for the lieutenant’s exam. Five years later, the Naval School became the Naval Academy, with a full four-year course of study augmented by summer training at sea. In his history of the antebellum Academy, *The Spirited Years,* Charles Todorich concluded: “It was during this [antebellum] period that the efficacy of formal naval education was proven…. The new commandant of midshipmen established authority over daily affairs and, with the Executive Department as police force, maintained firm discipline over unruly young men. The broad-based, college-like curriculum taught by civilian professors transmuted midshipmen from quasi-officers to student-cadets. A mutually beneficial relationship developed with the city of Annapolis. The Academy soon became the near-sole supplier of officers to the fleet and a repository for navy memorabilia and tradition. Despite periods of stagnation and neglect, the sea service had come a long way since its baptism by fire during the undeclared war with France in 1798. By mid-century, a more efficient departmental structure replaced the ad-hoc administration of the past. A body of trained sailors manned the fleet; bunting had been outlawed and alcohol would be banned afloat (for the Union navy) in 1862. Six new screw-driven steam frigates, a class of smaller steam sloops of war and innovations in naval artillery initiated a technological revolution and rebuilding that would accelerate dramatically during the coming conflict.

However, nothing in the history and traditions of the United States Navy prepared it for civil war. U.S. warships were still cruising individually or in small, semipermanent squadrons on far-flung stations to show the flag and to protect the burgeoning, global American shipping and whaling industries. The navy of 1860 trained primarily to refight the War of 1812 — glorious single-ship duels against a foreign foe, and commerce warfare with pirate suppression as needed. Massive Civil War campaigns with ports, amphibious assaults, coastal and riverine warfare and coordinated army-navy operations were not imagined. A small but formidable officer corps served with proud heritage and expert seamanship. Their heroes were intrepid and pugnacious captains: John Paul Jones, Thomas Truxtun, Edward Preble, David Porter, William Bainbridge, Isaac Hull and Stephen Decatur commanding...
The impetus for an academy gained steam. The great revolution in naval technology demanded technically competent officers.

Senior officers feared that book learning, culture and refinement would emasculate young officers, diluting the hero spirit. Meanwhile, however, self-educated mid-grade officers facilitated an explosion in global discovery and science driven by the new nation’s burgeoning trade and influence, its demands to exploit rich trade routes and destinations and the need to protect those who went there — a maritime Manifest Destiny. Matthew F. Maury, the “Father of Oceanography”; ordnance experts John A. Dahlgren and John M. Brooke; and explorers Charles Wilkes and John Rodgers gained international renown. They also demanded reform: “Never before has the spirit of discontent, among all grades in the Navy, walked forth in the broad light of day, with half such resolute but determined steps,” wrote Lieutenant Maury in 1840. These men would lead on both sides in the coming conflict.

Between 1843 and 1860, the number of sailing warships decreased from 59 to 44, while steamers increased from 6 to 38. Meanwhile, war with Mexico loomed and tensions with Great Britain flourished.

Three committed men established the Naval Academy. First, Navy Secretary George M. T. Coit, a New York lawyer and politician, championed the idea of a federal Naval Academy. His advocacy, coupled with the political influence of New England’s merchants, won professionalism was not universal or variable. Many officers were physically and mentally unfit, that hard-
**HISTORY OF SERVICE ACADEMIES**

**JANUARY 27, 1778:**
Connecticut militia under General Samuel H. Parsons first occupy West Point

**1780:**
Tadeusz Kościuszko witnesses the completion of construction on the West Point defenses he designed after General Washington deemed the location “the most important port in America”

**1792:**
U.S. Military Academy (USMA) at West Point established by President Thomas Jefferson; two attendees graduate that same year

**1802:**
U.S. Naval School, located at the site of Fort Severn in Annapolis, Md., established through efforts of Secretary of the Navy George Bancroft

**1817:**
USMA begins a huge reorganization under superintendent Sylvanus Thayer, becoming one of the nation’s finest sources of civil engineers

**1850:**
The U.S. Naval School is renamed the U.S. Naval Academy (USNA)

**1854:**
The West Point Museum opens to the public as the first federal museum

**1856:**
The first Coast Guard Academy, then called the Revenue Cutter School of Instruction, started aboard the two-masted topsail schooner Dobbin

**1861:**
With the War Department in desperate need of Union officers, the USMA graduates the classes of 1861 and 1862 in the summer of 1861

**1876:**
The first Coast Guard Academy (USCGA) moves to its present-day location

**1878:**
With the War Department in desperate need of Union officers, the USMA graduates the classes of 1861 and 1862 in the summer of 1861

**1882:**
After four years in Newport, R.I., during the Civil War, the USMA graduates from both the USMA and USNA graduate early to fill the ranks during the conflict

**1885:**
Henry O. Flipper becomes the first Black cadet to graduate from the USMA

**1897:**
President Gerald R. Ford signs law that allows women to be admitted to the then all-male military colleges

**1917–1918:**
World War I; cadets and midshipmen from both the USMA and USNA graduate early to fill the ranks during the conflict

**1920:**
USMA graduates the classes of 1920 and 1921 in 1921

**1922:**
The U.S. Coast Guard Academy (USCGA) moves to its present-day location

**1932:**
The U.S. Coast Guard Academy (USCGA) moves to its present-day location

**1939:**
Naval Academy Museum building, later named Preble Hall, is dedicated

**1945:**
U.S. Naval School, located at the site of Fort Severn in Annapolis, Md., established through efforts of Secretary of the Navy George Bancroft

**1946:**
Seized from Germany following WWII, the Barque Eagle arrives at the USCGA

**1947:**
Air Force becomes separate entity under the National Security Act and formation of an academy begins

**1950:**
The U.S. Air Force Academy (USAFA) graduates its first class of 207 cadets

**1951:**
The U.S. Air Force Academy (USAFA) graduates its first class of 207 cadets

**1959:**
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**1965:**
The U.S. Air Force Academy (USAFA) graduates its first class of 207 cadets

**1966:**
The U.S. Air Force Academy (USAFA) graduates its first class of 207 cadets

**2010:**
Coast Guard Academy established at Fort Trumbull, a Revolutionary War fort in New London, Conn.

**2017:**
U.S. Naval Academy Museum building, later named Preble Hall, is dedicated

**2019:**
The U.S. Air Force Academy (USAFA) graduates its first class of 207 cadets

**2020:**
Seized from Germany following WWII, the Barque Eagle arrives at the USCGA

**2021:**
86 graduates receive their diplomas from the USAFA and move directly into the U.S. Space Force
U.S. Air Force Academy
Colorado Springs, Colo.
By Sarah Kay Bierle

Cadets march on to the terrazzo to start the U.S. Air Force Academy's Graduation Ceremony. JOSHUA ARMSTRONG, USAF

The Air Force Academy offers 32 majors and 13 minors for their academics, and all cadets pursue a rigorous course of study: physical education and military training during their attendance. Some of the cadets pursue pilot training, while others prepare for other vital roles in their service branches. As in the other service academies, Air Force Academy cadets are allowed to cross-commission into other armed service branches. Since 2020, the USAFA cadets also have the opportunity to commission into the United States Space Force.

Four years after crossing the bridge and taking their enlistment oath, these young men and women wait on the graduation field and anticipate the roar of the Thunderbirds flying over the field, signaling the end of their cadetship and the beginning of their future service. Inspired by traditions and history and prepared with training and studies, each new class is poised to take off into the “wild blue yonder” — where not even the sky or space can limit the history they will create.

Sarah Kay Bierle serves as education associate at the American Battlefield Trust and is a proud sibling and niece-in-law to U.S. Air Force Academy graduates. She received her bachelor's degree in history from Thomas Edison State University and is a published author dedicated to the study of the Civil War, also volunteering as managing editor for Emerging Civil War.

U.S. Coast Guard Academy
New London, Conn.
By Darran McLenon, Class of 1991

The U.S. Coast Guard Academy has come a long way from the Alexander Hamilton–inspired Revenue Cutter Service of the late 1700s, and its accompanying service academy has been through quite the evolution itself. The first Coast Guard Academy began aboard the topsail schooner Delaware, which set sail from Baltimore, Md., in 1876, for a two-year training cruise. Cadets were trained on the open ocean until 1900, when the first campus was established on this peninsula in Curtis Bay, Md. After 10 years, the academy was moved to Fort Trumbull, a Revolutionary-era fort in New London, Conn. Remaining in the town, the academy shifted to the 90 acres it sits on today in 1932 when members of the town donated the land to the U.S. Treasury Department, which, at the time, oversaw the Coast Guard.

This acreage is what I came to know when I attended the U.S. Coast Guard Academy (USCGA) from 1988 to 1991. For a guy from Monroe, Mich., I had no idea what I was walking into. As soon as I went through the gates, I was catapulted into an English-type campus with history at every turn. The buildings are old, and everything is polished. It’s on the Thames River, but it’s also on a hill! I walked up and down that hill amongst statues, monuments and the museum, but was kept so busy that, at times, the scenery was a blur.

It wasn’t until 1941 that cadets were granted a bachelor of science degree in addition to their commission as an ensign in the U.S. Coast Guard, and the years following greatly expanded academy options. In the sixties, the number of faculty increased, a system of academic honors was established and elective courses were first offered. Today, cadets can receive their degree in eight different majors: Civil and Environmental Engineering, Electrical Engineering, Cyber Systems, Mechanical Engineering, Naval Architecture and Marine Engineering, Operations Research and Computer Analysis, Marine and Environmental Sciences, Management and Government.

I thought I was smart in high school, but the academy was whole new ball game. Being the only federal service academy that does not require a congressional nomination, competition for admission was — and remains — fierce. So, I entered West Point and Annapolis before moving into the U.S. Coast Guard Academy's Graduation Ceremony. JOSHUA ARMSTRONG, USAF

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The Citadel
Charleston, S.C.

ROM AN EARLY AGE growing up in Toledo, Ohio, I was interested in pursuing a military career. My father was a WWII veteran, whose experience as a young enlisted medic in Europe had been very positive. While I initially aspired to a principal appointment to West Point, I failed the medical exam due to poor eyesight. Although disappointed, I was encouraged to look to The Citadel and was accepted there. The first time I laid eyes on campus was when I reported as a cadet in August 1965.

Arriving at The Citadel is a bit like stepping off the high dive — no matter how good a swimmer you are, you will go under! It was overwhelming because it was designed to be so. You must put other things aside and focus on your new life as a cadet. Four years passed quickly, surrounded by outstanding educators and student leaders, as I received scholarships in recognition of my studies and my commitment to join the army.

The Citadel gave me a very strong foundation for going into the military, and any graduate is given a strong foundation to do whatever they want to do in life. You learn teamwork, time management, accountability, the importance of not just accomplishments, but also of taking care of subordinates. I am deeply grateful for the training I received, relying on it heavily in my military career. Whenever faced with a difficult situation, I knew what was expected of me as a leader because The Citadel set me on the path toward that type of leadership.

The Citadel has made tremendous strides to modernize its curriculum to develop skills for officers and civilians — graduates are not required to enter the military; in fact, only one-third do — and prepare them to meet the demands of society today. In my day, cadets could receive commissions in the army and air force, with a small number in the marine corps. Commissions in the navy are also now an option. In addition to strong engineering programs, the school now has a focused emphasis on cybersecurity, as well as newly added coursework on entrepreneurship and nursing. More than students or even officers, The Citadel creates a brotherhood. I have friends all over the world gained from combat tours in Vietnam and the Persian Gulf, assignments in Korea and Germany, posts at the Pentagon and State Department and time in private industry. But I remain closest to my 1969 Citadel classmates.

The true purpose of The Citadel is to develop principled leaders for all walks of life who find ways to give back to society. And we give back to each other — that’s why my late wife, Beth, and I created an armed forces scholarship in my parents’ name and a separate one in our own names for deserving students.

But one of the strongest traditions in this regard surrounds our beloved class rings, which are bestowed in a solemn ceremony in the fall of senior year. Through the Band of Gold program, new class rings include gold from rings given back to the school by the families of deceased alumni.

The rings bestowed on the Class of 2022 were fashioned using gold melted down from rings that had been worn by members of the Class of 1942, including my father-in-law, Col. Frank Poole (Ret.).

Maj. Gen. Joseph G. “Skip” Garrett III (Ret.) graduated from The Citadel in Charleston, S.C., in 1969 and was commissioned in the U.S. Army, where he spent a 32-year career. After retiring from the army, Skip served as the vice president and deputy for Patriot Programs at Raytheon Integrated Defense Systems. Now fully retired, he lives in Asheville, N.C.

THE CITADEL

Virginia Military Institute
Lexington, Va.
By Charles F. Bryan, Jr., Class of 1969

WITH INTENTIONS of molding “fair specimens of citizen-soldiers,” the Virginia Military Institute (VMI) was established by the Virginia legislature in March 1839 and opened later that year on the site of the Virginia State Arsenal in Lexington. While the first graduating class in 1842 was made up of 16 cadets, 2021’s Commencement witnessed nearly 350 cadet graduates. I myself graduated in 1969 with a group of 261 “Brother Rats” — so-called because of the trying “rat line” boot camp experience we all went through upon arrival at the Institute.

VMI, for me and many others, marked a period of immense growth. But the school itself has grown much since 1839.

When the Civil War broke out, the Cadet Corps went to Richmond to train Confederate recruits and later re-formed at VMI to furnish officers for the Confederate armies. VMI faculty member Thomas J. Jackson became Confederate Gen. “Stonewall” Jackson, and, when he perished at Chancellorsville, it was the Corps of Cadets that transported his body to his grave in Lexington.

Throughout the war, the Cadet Corps was called into action on 15 occasions in the Valley of Virginia. At the Battle of New Market on May 15, 1864, 257 cadets were organized into a battalion of four companies of infantry and one section of artillery. Six of the cadets who perished there are buried on Institute grounds.

And then, on June 12, 1864, VMI was shelved and burned by Union forces under Gen. David Hunter — you can still see cannon balls from the attack that remain embedded in the exterior walls of the VMI barracks! Remarkably, the Institute reopened the following year, on October 17, 1865.

In the years that followed, VMI was on the rise. In 1912, it replaced its “graduate” degree with a bachelor of arts. During WWII, more than 1,400 alumni served and cadets practiced building trenches at the spot where Foster Stadium now stands. During WWII, it hosted federally operated training programs, and more than 4,000 alumni answered Uncle Sam’s call. By 1968, the school was integrated.

My time at the Institute was during a period of social change in our country. On January 20, 1969, I, along with some 250 of my classmates, represented the Commonwealth of Virginia in the inaugural parade honoring the recently-elected President Richard Nixon.

After a great many hours of practice and the anticipation of appearing on national TV, we loaded on to a dozen buses that bone-chilling January 20 morning and arrived four hours later at Bolling Air Force Base. We changed into our overcoats and put on our white cross web belts, only to reboard the buses and assemble near the National Mall.

It wasn’t long before we encountered a large group of anti-war protestors who shouted absurdities at us. But despite their taunts and the delay they caused, we finally formed up behind Virginia Tech’s “Highty Tighty” military marching band and stepped off in a battalion mass formation with our cadet first captain and his regimental staff in the lead. As one newspaper reported, we marched “flawlessly”; we were also treated to an unexpected compliment when President Nixon turned to his family and pointed out the VMI unit. His daughter, Tricia, blew kisses at us as we marched by. A week later, we were met by a full-page cover photograph of parading cadets in LIFE magazine.

That cold day, 54 years ago, has long faded to a warm memory of my youth during troubled times.★

Charles F. Bryan, Jr., Ph.D., graduated from the Virginia Military Institute in 1969. He is the president and CEO emeritus of the Virginia Historical Society and is founding partner of Bryan & Jordan Consulting, LLC.

★
Historians love to know where you attended college. It is the inevitable conversation at any round table meeting or when you are leading a tour. My alma mater usually elicits the same reactions from an audience. For my undergrad, California — we are older, and is today located in Northfield, Vt. But this was not always the case. Norwich was founded by Aldan Partridge, an 1806 graduate of West Point and a former instructor at and superintendent of the academy. After a falling out with the army, Partridge founded his own military academy in August of 1819 (and, subsequently, a few other institutions). He believed in the idea of the citizen-soldier, supporting well-trained and regulated militias and both rigorous physical and intellectual training for educators. He believed in the idea of the private military college in the United States (take that VMI, we are older), and is today the oldest private military college in the United States (take that VMI, we are older), and is today located in Northfield, Vt. But this was not always the case. Norwich was founded by Aldan Partridge, an 1806 graduate of West Point and a former instructor at and superintendent of the academy. After a falling out with the army, Partridge founded his own military academy in August of 1819 (and, subsequently, a few other institutions). He believed in the idea of the citizen-soldier, supporting well-trained and regulated militias and both rigorous physical and intellectual training for America’s growing officer corps. Over time, the school moved from Vermont to Connecticut and then back to Vermont. Class sizes grew and shrank in size as it overcame poor enrollment, a devastating fire and the shock of the American Civil War. From America’s western expansion to the continuing War on Terror, Norwich has provided the nation with well trained and innovative military and civilian leaders. It is the oldest and the only one of the six senior military colleges located north of the Mason-Dixon Line and is the “Birthplace of ROTC.” Where else can you attend a college football game with a Sherman tank sitting on the sidelines or walk to class past a 47-mm Hotchkiss gun used in the Spanish American War, or take a moment and reflect at the “Gold Star Families Memorial Monument?”

Norwich is a special place for all alumni. Its motto is “I will try” — a phrase that I use on a daily basis.

More than 750 Norwich attendees served in the American Civil War, with at least 56 serving on the side of the Confederacy. Of those wearing Union blue, four were recipients of the Medal of Honor, including Edward Williston, who earned his Medal of Honor at Trevilian Station, and George William, Civil War era secretary of the navy; William G. Wilson, co-founder of Alcoholics Anonymous; and Horatio G. Wright, Union general who lost his engineering skills to the Brooklyn Bridge and Washington Monument after the war.

Other military academies may be larger or more famous, but Norwich has produced leaders who rose to the occasion in all branches of the service on battlefields across the globe — Gettysburg, the Little Big Horn, Manilla Bay, the Bulge, Fallujah and countless other places across the globe where America’s soldiers, sailors, airmen, and Marines were placed in harm’s way.

Kristopher D. White is the deputy director of education at the American Battlefield Trust, as well as the co-founder and chief historian of Emerging Civil War.
**A SCENERY OF STORY-FILLED STONE**

Memorials and Monuments of West Point and Annapolis

Each day, cadets and midshipmen at the U.S. Military Academy and U.S. Naval Academy walk past reminders of those who laid the foundation on which they themselves strive to build their own legacies. Cast in stone, monuments and statues are the keepers of stories that have and continue to inspire our nation’s military leaders.

**U.S. MILITARY ACADEMY AT WEST POINT**

Wood’s Monument (1818)

The oldest monument at West Point, the four-sided obelisk Wood’s Monument honors Lieutenant Colonel Eleazar Derby Wood — an academy graduate and army engineer who died valiantly at the siege of Fort Erie during the War of 1812. At the conclusion of the war, Major General Jacob Brown ordered its construction at his own expense. Erected in 1818, the 15-foot monument now sits in the West Point cemetery. Wood was also memorialized through the naming of a star fort in New York Harbor, which now stands as part of the base for one of our nation’s ultimate symbols of freedom, the Statue of Liberty.

Kościuszko’s Monument (1825)

During the American Revolution, General Washington appointed Tadeusz Kościuszko as fortification engineer of West Point, and as such, he designed the defenses of the West Point garrison from 1778 to 1780. In 1825, John Latrobe — son of the famous Architect of the Capitol Benjamin Latrobe — proposed a monument be built on the campus to honor the “Patron Saint of West Point.” Dedicated in 1828, the monument became the second oldest in the world dedicated to the Polish general, with the first in Kraków, Poland. The statue element, designed by D. Borja, wasn’t added until 1913.

**U.S. NAVAL ACADEMY AT ANNAPOLIS**

Mexican War Midshipmen’s Monument (1848)

The first monument to be built upon the grounds of the Naval Academy, the Mexican War Midshipmen’s Monument is a marble obelisk that was created by sculptors R.A. Griffith and John Stephenson. Inscribed on each side are the names of four midshipmen — Clemson, Hynson, Pibulby and Shubrick — who fell during the Battle of Veracruz in 1847. While none of these men stepped foot upon the campus grounds in Annapolis, their fellow midshipmen ensured their legacy would inspire generations of future attendees by gifting the structure in 1848.

Victory Monument (1887)

Standing tall upon the U.S. Military Academy campus at Trophy Point, the Battle Monument cannot easily be missed. Funded by the officers and soldiers of the Union Regular Army, the monument consists of a 46-foot-tall, polished granite column and surrounding cannons; the names of 2,230 Union officers and soldiers are inscribed throughout; and high atop, a statue of “Fame.” While the bulk of the monument was designed by Stanford White, the famed female statue was designed and sculpted by Frederick MacMonnies. Dedicated in 1897, it stands as a tribute to the Federals who fell in battle during the Civil War.

**Commodore John Barry Memorial (2014)**

Erected by the Ancient Order of the Hibernians and dedicated in 2014, the Commodore John Barry Memorial pays tribute to “The Father of the American Navy.” After offering his services to Washington and the Continental Congress, Captain Barry was given command of the Lexington in December 1775. Throughout the course of the Revolution, Barry captained three ships and delivered the first successful Patriot naval win with the defeat of the HMS Edward. The young memorial sits upon the Barry Plaza, which can be accessed through the Barry Gate on the U.S. Naval Academy campus.

**Tamanend Statue (1930)**

Chief of the Delaware Indians, Tamanend envisioned a peaceful existence between Native tribes and European settlers. He even agreed to a series of treaties with William Penn to ensure peace “as long as the creeks and rivers flow and the sun, moon and stars endure.” More than a hundred years after his passing, Tamanend’s likeness was carved into wood by artist William Luke in 1817, and was used as the figurehead for the USS Delaware. While the ship was salvaged in 1866 and the wooden sculpture sent to the Naval Academy, it wasn’t until 1930 that the wooden carving was cast in bronze and placed on a pedestal facing Bancroft Hall. Today, midshipmen look to the statue with pensive offerings and hopes of passing grades.

**Troy Monument (1860)**

Honoring six naval officers killed in action during the little-known Barbary Wars of the early 1800s, the Troy Monument was carved in Italy by Giovanni C. Micali in 1806. It is the oldest military monument in the United States and features the allegorical figures America, History, Commerce and Victory. The monument is a reminder of the evolution of the U.S. Navy, as the Barbary Wars marked the first real test abroad for the young naval force. Originally erected in the Washington Navy Yard, the monument was later moved to the grounds of the U.S. Capitol, and in November 1860, it was transferred to its current home at the U.S. Naval Academy.

**Tripoli Monument (1880)**

Erected by the officers and soldiers of the Regular Army, the monument consists of a 46-foot-tall, polished granite column and surrounding cannons; the names of 2,230 Union officers and soldiers are inscribed throughout; and high atop, a statue of “Fame.” While the bulk of the monument was designed by Stanford White, the famed female statue was designed and sculpted by Frederick MacMonnies. Dedicated in 1897, it stands as a tribute to the Federals who fell in battle during the Civil War.

**USS Constitution Monument**

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CAMP of INSTRUCTION
STUDENTS OF PRESERVATION

MOLDING THE FUTURE OF THE MILITARY
The Reserve Officers’ and Junior Reserve Officers’ Training Corps

The Reserve Officers’ and Junior Reserve Officers’ Training Corps (ROTC) and the Junior Reserve Officers’ Training Corps (JROTC), commonly called “Rotsee” and “J-Rotsee,” respectively, are educational programs sponsored by the United States Armed Forces at universities, colleges, high schools and some middle schools to prepare young people for careers in the U.S. Army, Navy, Marine Corps and Air Force.

ROTC programs are offered at more than 1,700 colleges and universities in the United States. Participants commit to serve in the armed forces after graduation in exchange for a paid college education and a commission as an officer. More than half of all newly commissioned military officers in the U.S. in 2020 were in the ROTC.

The genesis for the ROTC came during the Civil War with the Morrill Act of 1862, which established land-grant colleges and stipulated that they include military instruction. The ROTC was formally established by Congress in 1916 as part of the National Defense Act. ROTC enrollees attend college like other students, but also receive basic military training and participate in regular military drills.

The U.S. Army ROTC is the largest branch of the program, with more than 20,000 enrollees, known as cadets, and more than 270 courses of instruction. Army ROTC courses are held in both classrooms and in the field and are complemented by a student’s other academic studies. The U.S. Naval and Marine Corps ROTC is the navy’s single largest source of navy officers. The NROTC program was created in 1926, and the Marine Corps was added to the program in 1932; those seeking to become Marine Corps officers participate in the NROTC. NROTC students, known as midshipmen, are commissioned as naval officers upon graduation and can choose a career in surface warfare, naval aviation, submarine warfare or special warfare.

Air Force ROTC students, known as cadets, enroll in four-year or three-year programs that include a mix of college classes and an Air Force ROTC curriculum led by active-duty officers. The Junior ROTC program, also established in 1916, is at high schools and some middle schools across the country and at U.S. military bases around the world. There are more than 3,270 JROTC units covering the U.S. Army, Air Force, Navy, Marine Corps and Coast Guard, with the majority — 1,600 — affiliated with the army.

The JROTC programs emphasize military discipline and the study of military science and military history. Cadets and midshipmen who successfully complete JROTC programs and one to three years of classes are usually able to enlist at an advanced rank. JROTC participants are not required to join the military, but 30 percent or more either join one of the services or continue with ROTC in college.

As mandated by federal law, each branch of the military must have a JROTC program to “instill in students in United States schools, of which the best known is the United States Army War College at Carlisle Barracks in Carlisle, Pennsylvania.

The Carlisle Barracks dates back to 1777 and the French and Indian War and is the second-oldest active military base in the U.S.

The Army War College, founded in 1901, offers graduate-level classes to prepare officers for command and staff positions. The college has about 800 students and awards its graduates master’s degrees in strategic studies.

Its counterpart in the U.S. Navy is the Naval War College, established in 1884 at Newport, Rhode Island. More than 50,000 students have obtained degrees there since its first class of nine graduated in 1885. The college has about 600 graduate students working toward a master of arts degree in national security and strategic studies.

The navy also operates the long-established Naval Postgraduate School in Monterey, California. Founded in 1899, the school offers master’s and doctoral degrees in more than 70 fields of study and has about 2,200 students. The primary graduate school of the U.S. Navy is the Naval Postgraduate School.

The U.S. Marine Corps, founded in 1775, operates the Marine Corps University, the nation’s oldest and largest military graduate school, with more than 700 full-time graduate students, mostly air force officers, studying at four schools — the Graduate School of Engineering and Management, the School of Systems and Logistics, the Civil Engineer College and the School of Strategic Force Studies. The institute also has seven research centers.

The Marine Corps University, founded in 1899 by Gen. Alfred M. Gray, Jr., is the newest of the major military postgraduate schools. Its campus is at Quantico, Virginia, on the Potomac River just south of Washington, D.C., and includes the nearby National Museum of the Marine Corps. The Marine War College, established in 1981, is the senior school within the university. Others include the School of Advanced Warfighting, the Command and Staff College and the Experiential Warfare School.

The National Defense University at Fort McNair in Washington, D.C., was established in 1976 to provide high-level education and professional development of national security leaders both inside and outside the military. It has about 4,000 students in five different colleges and schools: the National War College, the College of International Security Affairs, the Dwight D. Eisenhower School for National Security and Resource Strategy, the Joint Forces Staff College and the College of Information and Cyber-space.

The university says its mission is to educate military officers “and other national security leaders in critical thinking and the creative application of military power . . . under conditions of disruptive change, in order to prevail in war, peace, and competition.”

The other military graduate schools in the United States are the Air War College in Montgomery, Alabama, the United States Army Command and General Staff College at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, and the United States Army Warrant Officer Career College at Fort Rucker, Alabama.
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— Ken Engle, Amado, Ariz.
Honor Guard member

THE HONOR GUARD

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- October 3–5: Scenic Routes: South: Yorktown to Charlottetown—William 'Bill' Gress—Charleston, SC—All meals and some meals are included in the registration fees.
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- November 3–5: America's Heroes: A Nation of Medal of Honor Battlefield Experience—Edward G. Lengyel—Roche, PA

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The United States Military Academy at West Point is legendary among military academies, with alumni such as Lt. Gen. Ulysses S. Grant, Gen. Robert E. Lee, Maj. Gen. George G. Meade, and Gen. Thomas J. “Stonewall” Jackson. With such legends and an accumulation of head-tilting objects comes a place where visitors can learn more about West Point’s story. Right outside the gates from the campus, next to the Visitors Center and along the Hudson River, sits the West Point Museum in Olmstead Hall. Amazingly, it is the nation’s oldest federal museum!

Opened in 1854, when Robert E. Lee was superintendent of the Academy, the museum was not at all what visitors encounter today. It was first a museum of weaponry, with a smidge of scattered objects. But growth came with the 20th century, rocketing the didactic site to the position of a leading public museum, especially as tourists flocked to the Hudson Valley. Starting in the then Academy Building, the museum was moved to its current location in 1988. Today, visitors can view exhibits on both large and small weaponry, as well as the history of West Point — starting with its Revolutionary beginnings. You can even find pieces that belonged to George Washington, Napoleon I, John Pershing, Dwight Eisenhower and more!

Even if military history is not the apple of your eye, the museum has a fabulous art collection, including works by artists such as James Whistler, Robert Weir and Frederick Remington. Seasonally, the museum also opens access to Fort Putnam, a Revolutionary-era fort used by the Continental Army to prohibit northern access of the Hudson River to the British.

If you are visiting only the museum and Visitors Center, you will need a Real ID. If you wish to walk the gorgeous grounds of the campus, including the cemetery, additional permissions can be obtained at the Visitors Center. The Visitors Center and West Point Museum are free and open to the general public on a daily basis, but it is recommended that you verify the operational status and public health protocol before making your plans.
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