

# HIGHTY-TIGHTY

## NOTES



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*The official newsletter of the Highty-Tighty Alumni, Inc.*  
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# HIGHTY-TIGHTY ALUMNI, INC.

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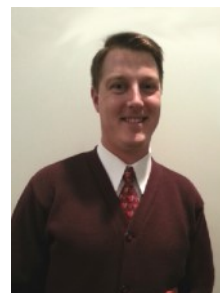
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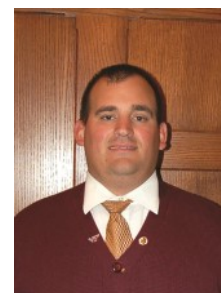
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# PRESIDENT'S PAGE

## A New Year Begins, a Tradition Continues

**D**id you know that the Highty-Tighties just had a big anniversary? This past May marked the 125th Anniversary of the formation of the Highty-Tighties as an official organization. It was May of 1893 when Cadet Lieutenant Frank Daniel Wilson convinced the corps Commandant, John Alexander Harman, and the board of trustees of the need for a distinct band unit within the corps.

As we proceed through the coming school year of 2018-2019 we hope that you will return to campus for some of the athletic, musical, and other kinds of events. If you haven't seen the Upper Quad recently, it is absolutely transformed. The two new residence halls of Pearson Hall and New Cadet Hall are the newest, most modern, and best looking residence halls on the Virginia Tech campus. Half of the Band is housed in each of the two halls.

The fall semester Highty-Tighty leaders are Cadet Major Paul Huemme as the Band Commander and Drum Major Cadet Parker Treubert. Both men are well prepared for the roles as leaders for the Band and will continue to make us proud of the Band throughout the school year.

The current Band is doing very well, having finished the school year with an excellent concert in the Moss Arts Center on Sunday, April 29. My wife, Brenda, and I attended the concert and believe the concert band has never sounded any better. The Southern Colonels jazz band also performed some very good numbers that the audience really enjoyed.

The day before the concert, the Band led the Change of Command pass in review. There was a large crowd in attendance at the drillfield. The band looked and sounded very good.

Our Highty-Tighty Reunion is being held later than usual this year. It will be the weekend of November 2-3. We will again have practice on Friday evening and the parade Saturday morning. We will be hosting Boston College for the football game. The game will be an important one for the Coastal Division standings in the ACC. Please plan to attend and have some fun with old and new Highty-Tighty friends.

For complete information about registering for the parade, the meal, and game tickets, see the details on page 13.

This is going to be a very good year for the Highty-Tighties. We have a strong incoming freshman class and have retained most of the rising Sophomores, Juniors, and Seniors. Every dollar that you give helps someone in the band stay in school or have a better college career being a member of the Virginia Tech Regimental Band.

Thank you for all that you do to help the Band thrive and keep the Tradition alive.



*Alumni Band approaches campus in the homecoming parade 2017.  
Photo by Mike Diersing*

Chuck Rowell HT '71  
President, HTA







## DIRECTOR'S DOWNBEAT

### Senior Chief James Bean

Another successful year has come to a close and although extremely busy, I was very proud of the HT's and their positive outlook throughout the year. Once again, we were able to replace many more instruments, thanks to an increase in budget spending and donations from former Highly-Tighties and Corps graduates. As always, these donations are much appreciated and are necessary to sustain our group.

Highlights from this year include our participation in the Governor of Virginia's Inauguration Parade in January and the St. Patrick's Day Parade in New York City. Both parades were well attended and we were given much exposure to both spectators and a television viewing audience.

I'm very excited about this upcoming year for two reasons. First, 2018 marks the Highly-Tighties 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Additionally, the class of cadets from my inaugural year are now "in-charge." Since this was my third year also, the band class of 2019 invited me to their Ring Dance, presenting me with a 2019 Battle Ring, which I proudly wear. Speaking of the Class of 2019, we were extremely fortunate to have so many qualified applicants for our drum major position this spring. After much deliberation with the selection committee, Air Force cadet Parker Treubert was chosen. Parker brings with him exceptional musical talent and confident leadership. The band commander for the upcoming season is another highly-qualified cadet who continually demonstrates his value to the band and Corps. Cadet Paul Huemme takes the helm as commanding officer in the fall. I look forward to working with both of these outstanding cadets and watching them grow into their positions.

After meeting with Athletics Marketing and discussing some changes to our pregame show, we are exploring the possibility of adding an occasional

guest vocalist for the singing of the National Anthem. Additionally, every pregame will feature a recognition of a military member who is a graduate of Virginia Tech. These additions will in no way detract from our role or allotted performance time, but will call more attention to our presence at each game. Furthermore, since I consider myself a "purist" where the National Anthem is concerned, we will continue to perform the version mandated by the Department of Defense.

Once again, I want to thank everyone for their support of not only the organization, but of me as



*Senior Chief Bean Marches with the band in the St. Patrick's Day Parade in New York.*  
**Photo by Band Staff**

well. The reason this fantastic group is still around today is the continued efforts of all HTs, past and present. Happy 125th,

**Highly-Tighties!**

# FROM THE COMMANDER

## Cadet Major Paul Huemme

I thought I would start with a bit of an introduction about myself. My family frequently enjoys visiting the coast of Maine in the summer where I was born and raised. Currently, I reside in Crozet, Virginia with my family in which I spend most of my free time hiking the Blue Ridge Mountains and traveling to visit family and friends. At Virginia Tech, I am on track to receive an undergraduate degree in Building Construction through the school of Architecture and Urban Studies.

Through a program called the Platoon Leaders Course, I was granted an air contract with the Marine Corps for eight years. This summer, I successfully finished twelve weeks of basic training at the Officer Candidate School in Quantico, VA which screens and evaluates candidates on their leadership and decision-making abilities. Post college, I will be attending The Basic School which is a six-month required course teaching the foundations of a platoon commander to newly admitted officers.

Over the past three years, my time has been spent studying, attending Corps events, and marching in the band as a cymbal player. With three years spent in the back of the band, I am excited to lead from the front, to serve, and maintain the traditions of the Highty-Tighties. Three goals of mine for next semester are the perfection of drill, a clear sound, and officer development. The performance and drill staff have been working hard to revitalize

and make efficient a system of practice for the band to maximize the allotted time to perfect both drill and sound. The final and most important goal is to develop and commission officers of exemplary character. The Corps of Cadets and the band offer a unique opportunity where leadership can be both observed and practiced through every class level.

Overall, I look forward to serving the band as the company commander in the fall. We have been working throughout the summer and will hit the ground running upon the start of the fall semester.

Paul Huemme  
Band Commander  
HT '19



*Trumpet section in a lighter moment at the St. Patrick's Day Parade  
Photo by Band Staff*







# FROM THE DRUM MAJOR

## Cadet Captain Parker J Treubert, HT '19

I could not be more excited to lead the Highty-Tighties this coming year, although following after Kendall Romaine will be no easy task. However, I expect yet another great season with the band. I got a sneak peek at my upcoming role as I was able to conduct the band for Spring Game and the Corps of Cadets Graduation. I am hopeful that we will get a large freshman class so that we may obtain a great and powerful sound for football games and parades. My main focus for the band this fall is improving our sound, which may mean simplifying the drill slightly. I am confident that we have the talent necessary for even better sound. I have been talking with past drum majors and am eager to return to old traditions as we march forward with new ideas.

I was pleased to learn that many of my fellow classmates had received extraordinary positions in the regiment. Sadly for the Highty-Tighties, the increase in responsibilities will prevent them from participating in the band next semester. However, it is an outstanding achievement to be proud of. I am thrilled to work with the upcoming performance staff. I hope to teach them some tips and tricks. However, I can guarantee that I will learn way more from them than they ever will from me. Band Camp is scheduled for 12 August through 17 August. I will be arriving on 09 August to begin preparations for that camp. Let's hope for cool, dry weather but we all know that hot and humid is more likely in Blacksburg!

This summer has been a relaxing and uneventful summer for me. I previously had plans to study abroad in Germany for 4 weeks, but the program was cancelled in March. I was very disappointed as this program would have given me the opportunity to visit many German engineering companies. My Air Force training occurred last summer, so this summer I have no commitments. The upside is that

I have had plenty of time to review music books, practice conducting, and rehearse mace commands.

It will be a busy fall with seven home football games! I am looking forward to marching with many of you at Homecoming and the Highty-Tighty Reunion. I will be dedicated to serving this organization that has provided me with a positive work ethic, strong determination, and great camaraderie.

Parker J. Treubert  
Drum Major  
HT '19



# Alumni News



## Our Newest Distinguished Highty-Tighty Alumnus, T. O. Williams Passes

In our last issue, we reported that T. O. Williams, HT '59 had been honored as a Distinguished Highty-Tighty Alumnus. Sadly we must report in this issue that T. O. passed away not long after the winter issue was mailed. His obituary from the Virginian Pilot is reprinted below.

Norfolk - Col. Thomas Owen (T.O.) Williams III, age 80, of Blacksburg passed away on Saturday, March 10, 2018 at his home. He enjoyed a dinner with his family the previous evening before retiring.

T.O. was born July 4, 1937 to the late Thomas Owen Williams Jr. and Alice Saecker Williams in Portsmouth, VA. where he grew up being mentored by his uncles, Albert (Ab) and Wellington (Waddy) Saecker who were WWII Pilots and his grandparents. After graduating in 1955 from Cradock High School in Portsmouth, he attended VPI where as a member of the Corps of Cadets he led the Cadet Band (Highty-Tighties) as Drum Major in 1959, his graduating year. It was during his years in Blacksburg that he met his wife of 52 years, the late Frances Shealor Williams.

T.O. served in the US Air Force as a Command Pilot, an instructor and Flight Examiner during the Vietnam War, Assistant Professor of Aerospace Studies at the Citadel in Charleston, SC., Air Command and Staff College, Montgomery Al., the Country Director for Arabian Peninsula Affairs in the Office of the Secretary of Defense, International Security Affairs at the Pentagon and the National War College in Washington, DC, National War College, Deputy Commander for operations of the 1st Special Operations Wing in Hurlburt Field, Fl., Senior US Defense Representative in Khartoum, Sudan, the Base Commander at Kelly Air Force Base in San Antonio, TX. He retired with the rank of

Colonel after 27 years of service in 1986.

After retiring from the Air Force, Col. and Mrs. Williams settled back in Blacksburg where Frances had extended family and T.O. could bring his experience to the civilian world and his alma mater. He served as Montgomery County Public Schools Director of Personnel, Director of Programs in the office of University Development at VA Tech, Associate Director for the VA Tech Alumni Association, and as Director of Development for the Virginia Tech Alumni and Conference Center Campaign, the Minnick Education Center and The German Club at Virginia Tech. T.O. served as Chairman and CEO of the Board of Directors, Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets Alumni, 2005-2009.



His personal life was as filled with drive and accomplishment as his professional life with an active membership and leadership roles at Luther Memorial Lutheran Church, The Blacksburg Rotary Club, The German Club, The Blacksburg Sports Club, and The United Way.

T.O. is predeceased by his wife Frances Shealor Williams, siblings Al Thomas and Edna Mae Williams. He is survived by his son Thomas O. "Tommy" Williams IV (Betsy), grandchildren - Leslie Alexandra Williams and Sarah Leigh Sims (Tyrone), sister - Patricia Humphrey, brother - George "Bill" Thomas, brother-in-law, Duane Shealor (Bonnie) and family, and special friend, Diana Johnson.



# Development Update



## Support The Highty-Tighties

The 2018-19 academic year for the Highty-Tighties is about to begin, and the band is ready to go with fresh memories from performing in the Virginia Governor's Inaugural Parade and the St. Patrick's Day Parade in New York City just a few months ago. The average GPA has continued to improve across the board which is helping our retention rates in a big way. The Schaeffer Endowment Fund needs additional funds in order to maintain the \$1,000 freshmen stipend that each incoming band freshmen receives. The band is continuing to grow, and we would like to maintain the support we have been providing for the new members of the organization we hold so close to our hearts.

The Highty-Tighty Annual Giving Fund (Fund # 877055) is up and going, and continues to need an influx of funds. You may give online at [givingto.vt.edu/corps](http://givingto.vt.edu/corps) or contact the Corps of Cadets Advancement Team at 800-533-1144 or 540-231-2892. They will be more than happy to help you with a contribution or pledging a commitment to any of our available scholarships.

The Highty-Tighty Reunion will be held 2-3 November 2018. Gunnyfest was held at the Hilton Garden Inn this past fall, and I believe it was a great success. I expect it will be held at the same location again the Friday of Reunion weekend once band practice has concluded.

We are working to update our Highty-Tighty Alumni contact list, as well as the class leader list. It would be greatly appreciated if you could take a moment to send me your updated contact information via e-mail (i.e. contact phone number, home address, e-mail address). If you are a class leader, or would like to be your class's leader or alternate leader, please also indicate that. My e-mail address is [vpihokie2001@gmail.com](mailto:vpihokie2001@gmail.com).

We look forward to seeing the band continue to demonstrate the precision and excellence that we all know as key attributes of the Highty-Tighties.

Deeds Not Words  
Scott D. Beman, HT '01  
Vice President for Development



# Be A Mentor!



## A Message from our VP of Alumni Operations Dirk McComsey, HT '92

For the 2017-2018 school year, the Highty-Tighty Alumni Mentor Program had its best mentor-to-freshman ratio since the program began. We had 31 mentors last year! However, a lot of the same alumni participate in the mentor program year-after-year. While these alumni are doing what they can to help the band, it can become burdensome to those who have mentees who actively communicate and keep in touch throughout the years. Some of them need a break!

We need younger mentors to participate in the program. It's a great way to give back to the organization which means so much to all of us. Mentors can tell tales of "the good old days," while providing support and encouragement to the younger generation when they need a little bit of guidance from someone who has been through it all.

To participate in the Mentor Program, you must be able to meet the following requirements:

- Have graduated at least five years ago (for this upcoming year, that means the class of 2013 may now participate)
- Be able to meet with your assigned freshman(men) at least once per semester. This can be on campus or off. There have been several instances where mentors have met with their mentees over a break. Also, the HT reunion counts as the first semester meeting.

Attempts are made to pair alumni with freshmen in the following categories in the following order, unless requested otherwise:

- Gender
- Current hometown (this makes off-campus meetings easier for some)
- Instrument played
- Branch of service (or cadet only/VPI Battalion)
- Major

If helping the band is of interest and you can dedicate the small amount of time and effort required to be a mentor, please contact Dirk McComsey, HT 92 ([dirk@mccomsey.com](mailto:dirk@mccomsey.com)) with your email address, the information listed above, and any other information you may think relevant.



### ***It's Really All About People***

*This is the class of 2018 at the Highty-Tighty Banquet last May. You have already missed a mentor relationship with them, but there are new people coming every year that could enrich your life and provide you with an opportunity to be an important part of their Highty-Tighty experience.*

***Photo by Bert Kinzey***



# St. Patrick's Day Parade 2018

## Highty-Tighties March in Annual New York City Festivities



*Highty-Tighties pass by Saks 5th Avenue*



*Highty-Tighties pass The Plaza Hotel and Central Park*



*The band performs another counter march looking sharp as always .*



*Drum Major, Kendall Romaine signals a roll off as the band marches down Fifth Avenue.*





# St. Patrick's Day Parade 2018



## Highly-Tighty Group Shots



*Highly-Tighties take advantage of a pause in the action to get some great group shots in the "Big Apple"*

**Photos by Band Staff**





# Band Banquet 2018

## Alumni Pins and HT Certificates Awarded



*Our newest alumni, the Highty-Tighty Class of 2018!*



Each of the freshmen in the Highty-Tighty Class of 2021 received their Highty-Tighty Certificates, recognizing the successful completion of their freshman year and making them official members of the Regimental Band. Here, Joseph Litzinger receives his certificate.



Parker Treubert (right), who will be the drum major next year, represented the junior class in presenting the Charles O. Cornelison Senior Service Award to Adrian Go, the executive officer this past year.



. Photos by Bert Kinzey HT '68



# Band Banquet 2018



## Seniors become Alumni



*Each of the seniors in the Highty-Tighty Class of 2018 received their alumni pins from HTA President Chuck Rowell. Here, Kendall Romaine, this year's drum major, receives his alumni pin.*



*After receiving their Highty-Tighty Alumni pins from Chuck Rowell, each senior was welcomed into the alumni ranks by HTA President Emeritus Bert Kinzey, and congratulated by General Fullhart, Senior Chief Bean, and Gary Jackson, HT '78.*

*Photos by Kathy Fullhart*

## Homecoming (Reunion) Details

### Highty-Tighty Reunion 2018 Has Been Scheduled for November 2-3, 2018

On game day, November 3, we will have the Annual VT Homecoming parade beginning at 9:00 am. We will form up near the site of the old Blacksburg Middle School. Following the parade, we will once again march onto the drill-field in front of Burruss Hall and fall out near the VT Chapel.

As we have for the last two years, we have scheduled a meal for the HTA members as well as their guests. The Highty-Tighties will join us for the meal. It will be held on the second level of Dietrick dining hall. The time for this meal will not be set until two weeks before the game as game times are dictated by TV schedules, etc. The manager of food service at Dietrick has improved the seating area so that we will have more room for everyone. The food is excellent with up to five different food stations and great desserts. You will need to register for the meal when you register for HT Homecoming by going to <https://www.alumni.vt.edu/events/2018/11/highty-tighty-reunion.html> or just go to [hightytightyalumni.org](http://hightytightyalumni.org) and click on the registration link there.

We had almost 300 people attend the meal last year. With great food, minimal program content and plenty of time to visit with your classmates, it makes for a memorable day. Please register soon. We hope to see you there this year.



# Alumni Notes

## THE HIGHTY-TIGHTY EXPERIENCE

### WHAT IS TRULY IMPORTANT AND ENDURING

by Bert Kinzey, HT '68, President Emeritus, HTA

One of the very best parts of being president of the Highty-Tighty Alumni for nine years was that it allowed me the opportunity to meet so many of our alumni, dating back to the 1940s. From that decade, now seventy years in the past, alumni like "Happy Jack" Stevenson, HT '43; J. B. Jones, HT '45; and Charlie Moore, HT '48, come to mind. Sometimes, I met entire groups of our alumni, like when the Highty-Tighty Class of 1950 came to campus for a reunion.

Over the years, I got to meet hundreds of our alumni, not only from so long ago, but from every era and decade following. Since moving back to Blacksburg in 2005, I've had the opportunity to meet each new class of alumni as they joined our ranks upon graduation over those thirteen years. I've been able to talk to alumni who were in the Band during the lean years of the 1970s and 1980s, and I've met with those who weren't sure the Band and the Corps would survive until they graduated. Beginning in 2007, we made a big push to grow the Highty-Tighties in size, and the alumni who were cadets in those years take great pride in helping bring Band Company back to the size Charlie Cornelison envisioned in the early 1980s.

The Highty-Tighties have changed over the years, and certainly, the alumni of today are different in many ways from those in my class, just as we were different from those who graduated in the 1940s and 1950s. But one thing has not changed, and that's what's important. The alumni I have met express a pride in what they did as Highty-Tighties

and in what their class did. And in every case, classmates from years, if not decades past, are still some of the best friends those alumni have. That has endured for as far back as the oldest living alumni remember, and I have no doubt those who have passed on had the same feelings. After all, it was Lem Pritchard, Red Slemple, and Bob Goodloe, from the classes of the mid-1920s who called for the formation of a Highty-Tighty alumni organization in 1975. This was in response to the Virginia Tech administration banning the Regimental Band from performing at athletic events and making other attempts to put an end to the Band and the Corps. Those three alumni recalled their experiences in the Highty-Tighties during the 1920s, and their stated purpose was *"to preserve the Highty-Tighty experience for generations to come."*



Those of us who have been Highty-Tighty cadets know how much more was expected of us than the rest of the Corps. We had to spend more time practicing, our uniforms had to be sharper, and in all we did, we were expected to perform at a higher level of excellence than others. Unit pride was stronger, and individual pride was as well. To make this happen, we had to be more

determined, be better at time management, and we had to form a strong bond with our classmates to help each other succeed. It's an experience over a brief four-year span of time that stays with us for a lifetime, no matter how the details have changed over the decades.

I've met a few alumni who are upset and refuse to be a part of the HTA's mission to support the



# Alumni Notes



## Highly-Tighty Experience by Bert Kinzey

Highly-Tighties, because they say the Band is different today than when they were a cadet. I've heard alumni say that they did the heel pop, but the present band does not. Or the present band doesn't play the same arrangement of "Tech Triumph," while others don't like the additions to the drum major's uniform. Yes, those things have changed, but from my experience of being close to the Band as president of the HTA, and simply because I live here in Blacksburg, I can tell you that the "Highly-Tighty experience" that those three alumni from the 1920s talked about back in 1975 is still alive and well. The details don't matter. The essence of being a Highly-Tighty, that which is truly important, is still what makes the Highly-Tighties special, and right now I'd say it's getting even stronger.



For all of you who remember your own "Highly-Tighty experience" and take pride in it, I call on you to step up and help us support the Regimental Band, so that many more generations to come will have that experience as well. It may be a bit different than yours was or mine was, but that's not what matters. As long as the Highly-Tighty traditions continue, as long as there is an *eternal pursuit of perfection*, and this is accomplished through *deeds not words*, then the Highly-Tighties, present and future, deserve our support. This is more important than ever right now. Sources of financial support are changing. Alumni from the large classes of the 1950s and 1960s are passing away, causing our alumni base to shrink in size, and this will continue to get worse over time. Those of us who can, must step up and do more to keep the Band strong and growing.

Even if it can only be a small amount, please make a pledge to support the Regimental Band. Join us at Homecoming if you can and participate with us in the parade and on the field. Be a mentor to a freshman cadet when we call for mentors in the fall. Join with your classmates and talk about what you can do as a class to help support the Band.

To those of you who have given financial and other support, I say, "THANK YOU!" Please continue, and for those of you who haven't as yet, please seriously consider what you can give and how you can participate to continue the mission those alumni from the 1920s started in 1975: to preserve the "Highly-Tighty experience" for generations to come.



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## REQUESTS TO ALUMNI

### *Very Important!*

There are three things all Highty-Tighty alumni need to do to help ensure you get the newsletter and stay connected with Virginia Tech and the Highty-Tighty Alumni, Inc.

1. Be sure that your address and other contact information are up to date with Virginia Tech. You can update your information by sending an email to [alumnidata@vt.edu](mailto:alumnidata@vt.edu). Use this address if you have a change to your email or mailing address. **Please do not provide your contact information or changes of address to the newsletter editor.**
2. Everyone needs to go to the Highty-Tighty Alumni website and check their contact information in the database. Go to [www.hightytightyalumni.org](http://www.hightytightyalumni.org) and click on Database. The site provides a way for you to provide and request and update of your address, phone number, and email address.
3. If you know of any Highty-Tighty alumni who are not receiving the *Highty-Tighty Notes* newsletter or the *Highty-Tighty Half-Notes* email updates, please pass this information on to them.

## HIGHTY-TIGHTY HALF-NOTES

### *Subscribe Today*

The *Highty-Tighty Half-Notes* are periodic emails sent to Highty-Tighty alumni and friends of the Regimental Band. They are intended to supplement the news included in the *Highty-Tighty Notes* newsletter, which only comes out twice a year. These email updates include both photographs and information about the present Band and alumni. Early information about the reunion and other items of interest to alumni are often subjects of *Half-Notes*. If you would like to receive these occasional emails with photographs and updates about the Band's activities, as well as information about alumni, please send your email address and your request to receive the *Half-Notes* to: [bertkinzey@gmail.com](mailto:bertkinzey@gmail.com)

You may have your name removed at any time.

Please forward any alumni notes, articles, or other materials for the *Highty-Tighty Notes* to:

George McMichael, Editor

2333 Idavere Rd. SW

Roanoke, Va. 24015

[gmmname@aol.com](mailto:gmmname@aol.com)



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For more information on the Highty-Tighty Alumni, Inc  
visit our website at  
[www.hightytightyalumni.org](http://www.hightytightyalumni.org)

For more information on the present Highty-Tighties  
visit their website  
<http://www.band.vtcc.vt.edu>