



# HIGHTY-TIGHTY

***NOTES***

*The official newsletter of the Highty-Tighty Alumni, Inc.*  
*Volume 35, Number 3* *Winter 2012*



# HIGHTY-TIGHTY ALUMNI, INC.

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# PRESIDENT'S PAGE

Bert Kinzey, HT '68

## AN ENCOURAGING AND EXCITING GLIMPSE



Back in the early 1980s, the Highty-Tighty Alumni, Inc., under the leadership of Charles Cornelison, began a campaign called "Realize the Vision." That vision was the Highty-Tighties again marching a block of 144 or more cadets as they did in the 1950s and throughout most of the 1960s. A well known photograph of the Highty-Tighties in Lane Stadium accompanied the kick-off of the "Realize the Vision" campaign, and it showed the Highty-Tighties in 1966 covering the field in expanded block during a half-time show. The photo served to represent the vision of the Highty-Tighties becoming that large and strong again in the future.

The campaign involved raising money for scholarships for bandmen. Along the way, the freshman stipend was created to help recruit high school musicians for the Highty-Tighties, and other initiatives were undertaken. The trend of declining numbers was reversed, and the Highty-Tighties began to grow again. At times, the number of cadets in the Regimental Band did reach slightly over one-hundred, but the vision of 144 or more cadets remains to be realized.

In 1980, the Corps of Cadets stood at approximately 330 cadets, and by fall of 2009 it had increased to around 850 cadets, a growth of 260%. By comparison, the Highty-Tighties in 1980 marched 64. In 2009, reports stated there were 110 members in the Regimental Band, and if you take that to be correct, it shows a growth of only 172%, far below that of the Corps as a whole. However, regardless of the count of 110 in company, the Highty-Tighties seldom marched more than 80 to 85 cadets. Even at homecoming 2010, there were only 84 Highty-Tighties marching on the field during the pre-game. This was disappointing to our alumni, but now things have started to change.



Over the past few years, a concerted effort has been made by many to increase recruiting and financial giving to support the Highty-Tighties all across the board. In the fall of 2010, more than 50 new freshmen joined the Regimental Band. The following year, this effort was strengthened considerably by the arrival of our new commandant, Major General Randal Fullhart, who is strongly committed to increasing the size of the Highty-Tighties. General Fullhart joined and became actively involved with the efforts of Major McNeill, the cadets, and the alumni to increase the size and quality of the Band, and more good things have begun to happen.

During this past football season I heard from several of our alumni who saw the Highty-Tighties march onto the field in a block of 121 cadets. It was by far the largest the Band had been since 1969. They said it looked like we were back to the 1960s in numbers again, and they were very complimentary of the quality of the Highty-Tighties as well. The presence of a block that size was inspiring to all who remember what a Regimental Band that size looks like and by those who remember the "vision."

While we have not yet realized the vision of 144 Highty-Tighties marching on the field or in a parade, but we have come close enough to have a very exciting glimpse. With continuing efforts, the true vision itself cannot be far away. We have the momentum. Let's seize it and build on it.

We as Highty-Tighty alumni must do our part to take the effort the rest of the way and realize the vision first put forth over thirty years ago. I ask every Highty-Tighty alumnus who possibly can to become a recruiter for the Regimental Band and take the packets we have created to high schools to give to high school musicians who are prospects for the Highty-Tighties.

Tom Verbeck, HT '73, has just taken over as VP for Recruiting and Retention within the HTA. Tom is a retired Air Force brigadier general, and he is committed to taking our recruiting initiative to the level it should be to help build and sustain the Highty-Tighties at a size well over 150 cadets. In the spirit of Ut Prosim, please contact Tom at [thomasverbeck@gmail.com](mailto:thomasverbeck@gmail.com) and volunteer to be a Highty-Tighty recruiter. By taking just a little of your time each year, you can help us realize the vision first set forth as our goal three decades ago.

***The Highty-Tighties perform during the presentation of the Homecoming Court while the Hokie Bird looks on. (Photo courtesy of Mike Diersing.)***





# DIRECTOR'S DOWNBEAT

## Major George McNeill, Virginia Militia

### It doesn't seem that long ago...

...since the new cadets first arrived for orientation in July, and unlike previous years they have come in large numbers. Many of us have asked the question: what is the contributing factor that drew so many to the Corps and the band this year? Some seem to think that economics plays a part - the need for scholarships due to rising tuition particularly for out-of-state students. Some think that a wider recruiting base was a significant factor. No matter what the reason, I am thrilled to see so many cadets joining the Highty-Tighties.

The orientation staff - mainly consisting of Highty-Tighties - did a spectacular job in July discussing the lifestyle of band members and convincing many prospective cadets to join the band company. Many of those incoming new cadets would not have otherwise joined, and the large incoming freshmen class this year is directly related to the efforts of these select individuals and other recruiting efforts. The initial number of recruits was as high as 72 before classes started, dipping slightly to 69 on the first day of classes. Unfortunately, the numbers dropped even more throughout the semester and the Highty-Tighties currently have 57 member of the Class of 2015 remaining at the end of the semester. The remaining cadets are highly motivated, energetic, talented and dedicated musicians.

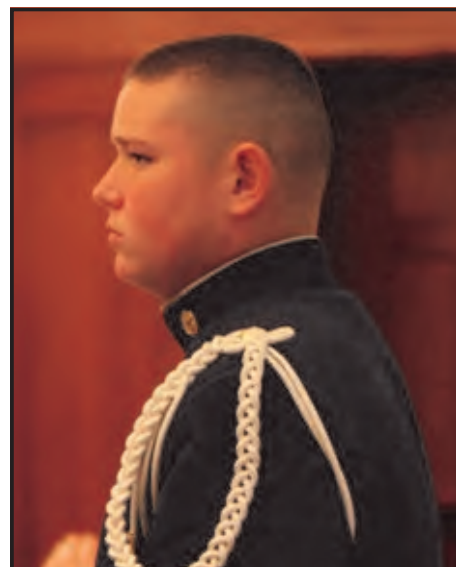
On Oct 29, 2011, while returning from an away game the band commander received a call informing him that one of our finest cadets had passed away. Cadet Joshua Lilliston had lost his battle with cancer. Joshua loved the Highty-Tighties and his determination to perform with the band in the mist of his most difficult times speaks volumes about the loyalty he had to his buds and to the band. He will be sorely missed.

What's on the schedule for next semester? Of course the pep band will be in full swing when the band returns after the break. In February, the Southern Colonels will play three big events: The Military Ball on February 12, VCOM's Gala Event on February 18<sup>th</sup> at the Inn and a performance at the Richmond War Memorial on February 25<sup>th</sup>. In March, the band will head for New York to participate in the world's largest St. Patrick's Day Parade. The parade kicks off at 11:00 on March 17<sup>th</sup>. And on April 20<sup>th</sup>, the Southern Colonels will put on a first time ever "Jazz on VT" concert beginning at 1900 followed by the Virginia Tech Spring game on Saturday April 21<sup>st</sup> at 1600.

Kudos to the leadership! From commander to squad leaders, they all are to be highly commended for their outstanding work this semester. And thanks to those working behind the scenes that helped to make this year a success. I also thank the Highty-Tighty Alumni for their support with the design of the new brochure, the HT poster and preparation of the recruiting packets for local recruiters to use for school visits.



Cadet Private Joshua Lilliston



Highty-Tighty Class of 2015

# FROM THE COMMANDER

## Cadet Major John M. Witte, HT '12

### As the fall semester comes to a close...

...I have been exceptionally happy with the amount of progress the Band has made. Every Bandsman has given their all to ensure the highest standards are maintained and that the Band is constantly improving.

We have had a very busy Fall Semester this year, but with the dedication of the Performance Staff, led by C/CPT Aaron Bonovitch, we have been able to add several pieces to our musical repertoire and challenge ourselves with complicated drill maneuvers. One of the greatest accomplishments this semester has been the addition of a Percussion Feature. The drum line put in countless hours, with the help of several devoted Alumni, to pull off an impressive demonstration of their talent. This show also featured the famous "Get Lost" drill. The drill this semester, created by C/1LT Nicholas LaPietra, has been superb as well. He has introduced computer based drill software that has completely changed the way the High-Tighties write drill, and has opened the doors for even more impressive shows in the future.

On the support side of the Band, C/1LT Jimmy Callen has completely overhauled the Dirt Room by developing a bar-code system for all the Band's instruments and Equipment. This along with the instrument contracts that all Bandsmen sign has allowed the Band to find any damaged instruments and repair them promptly.

Fall semester continues to be academically challenging for the Band due to the heavy workload, but with the implementation of new academic policies and the hard work of the administrative staff, we are constantly attempting to find a happy medium between academics and performance requirements.

Unfortunately, this semester was marked with the loss of one of our High-Tighties. The Band lost Joshua Lilliston to cancer. C/Lilliston was much more than just a cadet. He was a trumpet player, a bugler, a friend, and a role model to all of us. I have never been so proud to have someone under my command, and I hope that someday I will be as strong as he was.

Overall, I could not be more pleased with this Band. They have poured their hearts and souls into this great organization, and the results are remarkable. It has been an honor to command such an elite unit. As the commander, I receive the praise for the success of the band, but if not for the dedication of my staff and every single Bandsman, the High-Tighties would not be where they are today. I trust my successor will take this Band to a new level as well. To the Alumni, thank you for your continued support. As seen in the last show, your help has a direct impact on this great band. **HIGHTY-TIGHTY!**



*The High-Tighties demonstrate their precision and musical excellence at the 2011 Homecoming Parade. .  
(Photo courtesy of Mike Diersing.)*





# Homecoming 2011

*Right: Highty-Tighty Drum Major Emeritus Chris Bise (HT '72) talks with other alumni before eternal begins in Rector Field House. Although the show remains the same, there are always lots of details to take care of! (Photo courtesy of Mike Diersing.)*



Calling all Highty-Tighty Alumni...

Please join us for

Homecoming 2012

Duke vs Virginia Tech

October 13th



*Below: The Highty-Tighty Alumni Band line up and get ready to start eternal. They look pretty sharp, don't they?? There is always a bit of pressure showing the current band that they haven't forgotten everything since graduation! (Photo courtesy of Mike Diersing.)*

*Above: Besides the fun of marching with the band again, alumni enjoy the opportunity to visit with each other and catch up with friends. Alumni are waiting for another practice run at the pregame show. (Photo courtesy of Mike Diersing.)*





# Homecoming 2011



*Left: The current Band Company Commander C/Major John Witte addresses alumni and current band members during the annual general meeting. The commander discussed the band's activities during the fall semester, upcoming events and the successful recruiting efforts that resulted in the largest freshman class in recent years. (Photo courtesy of Mike Diersing.)*

*Right: Major-General Fullhart, the Commandant of Cadets, addressed the Highty-Tighties and their guests at the general meeting. The commandant shared his appreciation of alumni support for the current Band members, as well as his respect for the history and traditions of the Highty-Tighties and the Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets. (Photo courtesy of Mike Diersing.)*

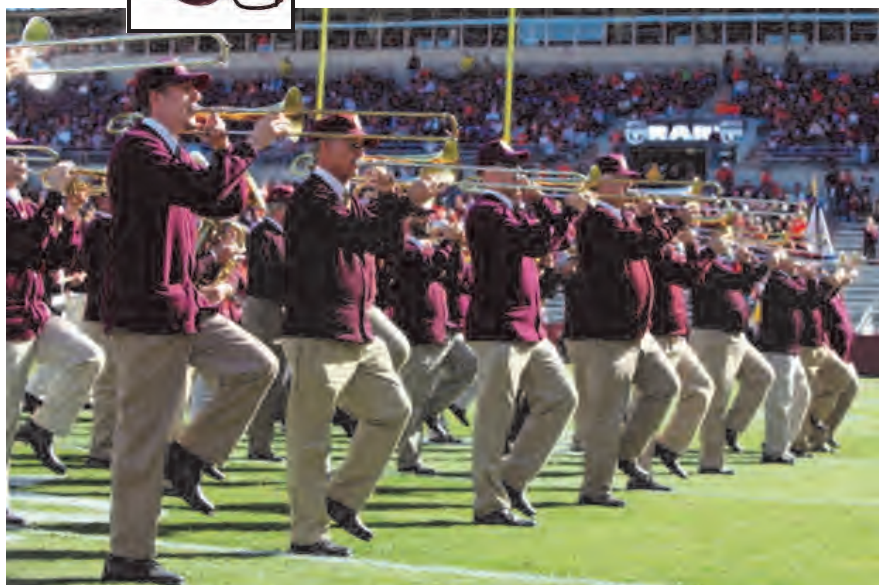


*Left: Highty-Tighty President Bert Kinzey (HT '68) presents the Schaeffer Scholarship to Cadet Corporal Quang Nguyenlu. This award is the for top cadet in the sophomore class, and is determined by the current senior class. Also present is last year's recipient, Cadet Staff Sergeant Elaine Altman and the Highty-Tighty CO, Cadet Major John Witte. (Photo courtesy of Gene Harrison.)*





# Homecoming 2011



*The Highty-Tighty Alumni Band marched in the pregame show with the current band, and all the run-throughs during Eternal paid off! The two bands executed their shows before a crowd of over 69,000 members of Hokie Nation. The football team also performed very well, beating the Boston College Eagles by a score of 30-14. These pictures show various parts of the pregame show, and the top and bottom photos were taken during a countermarch, so you can see the two bands marching with each other. This is why Eternal is so important - while the Highty-Tighty Alumni Band know their stuff, sometimes you need something to jog the memory! Photos courtesy of Mike Diersing.*





# Development Update

The 2001 – 2012 year has been a bright year for the Band. We have seen another excellent year of bringing in over 65 new freshmen to the Highty-Tighties. We also anticipate this to occur again this coming Fall.

This, therefore, brings us to a great need to have alumni and friends to help us grow the Funds available for giving the \$1,000 freshman stipend to each entering Freshman Highty-Tighty Band member. The success we are having in growing the Band results in a greater need for donations to support this growth.

To contribute to the Schaeffer Endowment, please make your check to: Virginia Tech Foundation; and send it to University Development (0336), Blacksburg, VA 24061, ATTN: Dave Spracher. Note on the check that you want your contribution to go to the Schaeffer Endowment!

Two other new initiatives to consider supporting are the "Freshman Stipend Sponsor in Perpetuity" program, which is a pledge of \$5,000 per year for 5 years; or the "Annual Freshman Stipend" program, which is a pledge of \$1,000 per year for 5 years. For more information about either program, please call VTCC Director of Development, Dave Spracher at 540-231-2806

or Sarah Woods at 540-231-2085. There is some additional information below about the differences between these two programs and how vital these stipends are to the recruiting efforts for future freshman classes of Highty-Tighties.



Thank you in advance for all that you will do for securing the future of the Highty-Tighties. We count on you for helping us to continue to grow the Band to even greater size and excellence.

Chuck Rowell  
VP of Development



## Invest in the Future – The HT Freshman Stipend

The freshman stipend for the 2011-2012 academic year totaled \$67,000, which provided \$1000 per incoming Highty-Tighty freshman to defray some of their tuition or room and board expenses. This sum was partially financed through Highty-Tighty Alumni funding, with the Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets Alumni funding the \$42,000 shortfall. While the support of the VTCCA is absolutely appreciated, it is a goal of the Highty-Tighty Alumni, Inc. to independently fund these stipends in the years to come, and they remain an important recruiting tool

that is vital to the continuation of large incoming freshmen classes. Please consider funding a freshman stipend in perpetuity or an annual freshman stipend, the details for both levels of sponsorship are outlined below. The current band needs your help in order to continue growing and representing everything that Highty-Tighties exemplify. For additional information please contact the VTCC Director of Development, Dave Spracher at (540)231-2806 or Charles Cornelison (HT '67) at the Office of Gift Planning, (540) 580-6312 .

### Annual Freshman Stipend

- Provides \$1000 for a HT freshman
- Gift or pledge of \$5,000
- Payable over 5 years
- Sponsors a Fall & Spring Caldwell March freshman for 5 years

### Freshman Stipend Sponsor in Perpetuity

- Provides \$1000 for a HT freshman
- Gift or pledge of \$25,000
- Payable over 5 years
- Establishes your legacy to the Highty-Tighties with permanent recognition





# Alumni Notes

## The Highty-Tighty Family Mourns the Passing of Two Alumni

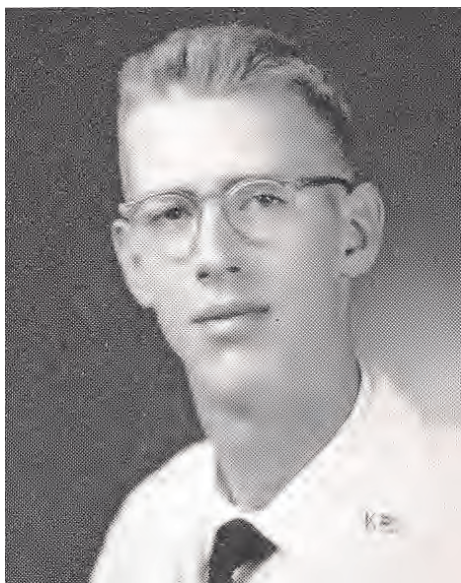


**Above: Bill Hardy, center, plays his tenor drum at the Virginia Tech-Kentucky game in October 1967. (Highty-Tighty file photo)**

**Right: Six members of the Highty-Tighty Class of 1968 attended the memorial service for Bill Hardy at the Hardy farm near Danville. From left to right, Reggie Lemon, Bruce Hively, Gene Harrison, Bert Kinzey, Threet Gill, Bugler Tyler Manuel, and Vern Simpson. (Photo by Lynda Kinzey)**

### William E. "Bill" Hardy, Highty-Tighty Class of 1968

Bill Hardy, Highty-Tighty Class of 1968 passed away on October, 14, 2011, after a brave battle with cancer. Bill was a much loved member of his class, and he is fondly remembered as a very kind and friendly person. Bill had a distinguished career as an educator at Auburn University, and had received many awards for his outstanding work. Following his death, his body was prepared for viewing with Bill wearing his Highty-Tighty cadet uniform with brass and shoes brightly shined. He was buried on his family farm near Danville, and the service was attended by six of his HT '68 classmates. They were Reggie Lemon, Bruce Hively, Gene Harrison, Bert Kinzey, Threet Gill, and Verne Simpson. Highty-Tighty bugler, Tyler Manuel, HT '14, played Taps at the conclusion of the service.



### Richard P. "Dick" James, Highty-Tighty Class of 1958

Dick James died peacefully at home October 24, 2011. Cherishing his memory are his wife, Betty; daughter, Tricia James and her husband, Steve Hamilton, of Berryville, Va.; son, Colonel Richard P. James Jr. and wife, Cindy; granddaughters, Kaitlyn, Meredith and Emily Grace James, all of Savannah, Ga.; and stepdaughter, Kim Smith. A graduate of Thomas Jefferson High School and Virginia Tech, Dick enjoyed alumni activities and the long-lasting friendships of his fellow alumni. An avid Virginia Tech fan, Dick was the drum major for the Highty Tighties (Tech's marching band) and led the band when they marched in Eisenhower's inaugural parade. He was a mechanical engineer for Shultz and James retiring in 2002. He loved swimming as a youth and golf in later years. Dick maintained his positive attitude and contagious enthusiasm for life despite his struggle with Parkinson's and Lewy Body disease for the last two years.



# Alumni Notes



## Glen Alexander - HT '72

Another Highty-Tighty Alumnus flying high - Glen just completed training as a Captain on the A320 (148-seat Airbus Aircraft). He has logged more than 17,000 hours throughout a 20 years career with the United States Air Force and over 16 years with Northwest Airlines. Glen has also sat in the cockpit of the RF-4C, T-38, RAF Hawk, and the C-21 while serving in the Air Force, then progressed in his capacity as a civilian pilot in the Boeing 727, the McDonnell-Douglas DC-9, the Airbus A320 and A330 with Northwest (which is now a part of Delta Airlines).

Glen is looking forward to joining his classmates and celebrating their 40th Reunion with the Highty-Tighty Alumni Band next Fall at Homecoming. Looking forward to seeing the Class of '72 showing off their stuff at eternal and Band Banquet!

### New Cadet Knowledge:

- Which of his marches did John Philip Souza dedicate to the Highty-Tighties?



***Glen Alexander, Highty-Tighty Class of '72 shown seated in the cockpit of an A320 Airbus. Photo courtesy of Glen Alexander.***



## American Society of Quality selects 2011 Fellows

The American Society of Quality Board of Directors in November awarded Fellow status to 22 ASQ members for achieving distinction and pre-eminence in the technology, theory, education, application or management of quality control. ASQ Fellows represent diverse industries on a global scale. "ASQ Fellows are extremely passionate - sharing their time, ideas and expertise to make the world we live in better through quality," said James Rooney, ASQ president. "These men and women truly are leaders in today's quality movement." Among the new 2011 ASQ Fellows is :

-- Steven S. Prevette, Highty-Tighty Class of 1981, Savannah River Nuclear Solutions, a Fluor Partnership with Newport News Nuclear and Honeywell, Aiken, S.C. — For advancing the field of statistical process control and Dr. W. Edwards Deming's management philosophy; for implementation of these methodologies in the U.S. Department of Energy; and for service to the Columbia Basin Section, ASQ discussion boards, and the Statistics Division.





# Alumni Notes

## Stevens - Amend Wedding

Several of the Highty-Tighty Class of '71 gathered together on January 14<sup>th</sup> in Harrisonburg, VA to celebrate the marriage of classmate Joseph H Amend to Kathy Bliss Stevens. What a great reason to have a mini-reunion - congratulations to you both and welcome to the extended HT family, Kathy!

*Pictured here are (left to right): Jim Campbell, George Stevenson, Mark Levin, Tom Biggs, Joe Amend, Lt. Col., USAF (Ret.), Bob Keeton, Jim Allen, Ron Joyce, George Clarke, and Chuck Rowell. (Photo courtesy of Jim Campbell.)*



## Newest Member of HT 2033

Jeff Wilt, Highty-Tighty Class of 1989 and his wife Nena are enjoying the blessing of a happy baby girl - Emmaline Virginia was born June 2nd of '00-89' (that is 2011 for the less-motivated of you..!). According to her father she is a happy little girl being spoiled a LOT by her grandmother. The future Highty-Tighty Class of 2033 member will make her first homecoming trip this fall with both of her parents. Welcome to the Highty-Tighty family little Emmaline Virginia - enjoy your first Homecoming Parade!



## Calling all HT Alumni...

...don't wait for Homecoming to catch up with your friends and classmates! Send in your photos, announcements and class reunion plans to the *Highty-Tighty Notes*. Please refer to the back cover for submission details, all content should be sent to the newsletter editor. To aid in the submission process, please include pertinent dates, places, names and the HT class for alumni, as well as your updated contact information in the event of editing questions. Ut Prosim :)

## New Cadet Knowledge Answer:

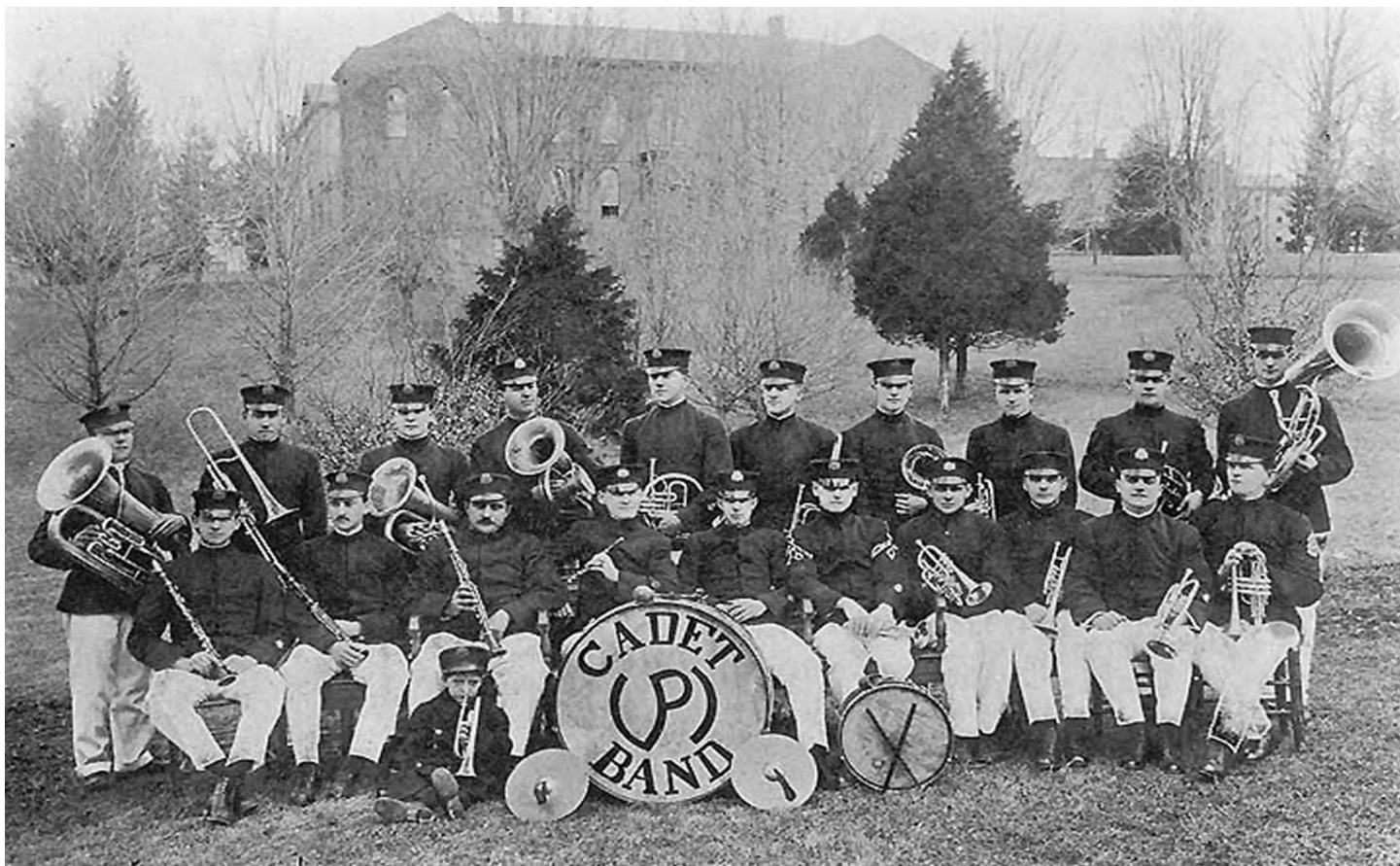
John Philip Souza dedicated his march "Hands Across the Sea" to the Highty-Tighties after watching them performing his march "The Stars and Stripes Forever." This recognition from one of the greatest composers of military marches in American history demonstrates the musical excellence upheld by the Highty-Tighties then and today.



# History Notes



## THROUGH SEVERAL CHANGES IN DIRECTORS THE BAND CONTINUES TO MAINTAIN ITS FINE REPUTATION



**The Cadet Band of the 1913-1914 school year poses in front of the building that stood where Brodie Hall now stands. Lane Hall can be seen in the right background. The cadets are located where the Alumni Mall is now at a point approximately where Torgersen Hall's arch crosses it. (Photo from Virginia Tech Special Collections)**

*By Bert Kinzey, HT '68*

*Author's Note: This is the twelfth in a continuing series of articles about the history of the Virginia Tech Regimental Band, the Highty-Tighties. The purpose of this series is to provide an accurate record of the Band's proud and amazing history that spans well over a century. The photographs and historical information here were taken primarily from the late Harry Temple's outstanding and meticulously researched six-volume history of the Corps of Cadets, entitled **The Bugle's Echo**, which traces the history of the Corps from the first day the college opened its doors through 1934.*

As reported in the last installment of "History Notes," the Cadet Band's first director, James Patton Harvey resigned from his post as Music Director at the beginning of the 1905-1906 school year and was replaced by Hugh Douglas McTier. In 1908, McTier hired five professional musicians to assist him and also play as members of the Band. Additionally, Henry Harris Hill, a cadet, was hired as assistant bandmaster. These seven faculty members provided the cadets with outstanding musical instruction, and the Band was known for its excellent musical quality.

But there was instability as well. In 1909, McTier took a leave of absence from his position as Band director, leaving his assistant, Henry Harris Hill, as the Band's director. Although McTier returned to his position briefly, he resigned permanently





# History Notes

in the summer of 1910. With no assistant director available at that time, Cadet Marsden Churchill Smith, a senior cadet lieutenant, took over as director for a year. Like Hill, he was both a student and faculty member at the same time. V.P.I. paid Cadet Smith \$25 per month for his services as director. Interestingly, the professional musicians remained in the Band, but none of them were chosen to be the director. Why V.P.I. chose to have a cadet serve as director rather than one of these musicians is lost to history. Then, in 1911, James Patton Harvey, the Cadet Band's original director, was rehired to that position once again. It was hoped that this would bring stability to the position again, but unfortunately it proved to be short-lived.

The Band was kept busy playing at all home athletic events and traveling to some away games as well. It also gave regular concerts on campus. These always received excellent reviews in newspapers which were complimentary of the quality and diversity of the music. From marches to operatic overtures, Major Harvey led his well prepared charges to the delight of all those who attended the concerts.

But being a military organization, the Band was also subjected to the scrutiny of inspections by the Army as well as the press. Following the major inspection by the War Department Inspection Team during the 1912-1913 school year, the ranking officer of the team included in his report that the Cadet Band was one of the finest college bands in the entire nation.

For the spring of 1913, the Band planned a concert tour of Southwest Virginia. Although their usual on-campus concerts were free to the public, to help raise money for the tour they scheduled a special concert on April 26 for which they charged a nominal fee. It consisted of a rather lengthy program consisting of a wide variety of numbers, and those attending left feeling that their money had been well spent. The concert also served as a warm-up for the concert tour. The concert tour lasted a week with a new concert every day. Pulaski, Wytheville, Marion, Saltville, Bristol, and Abingdon were all stops along the way. The cadets were received enthusiastically each night,

but the concerts in Marion, Bristol, and Abingdon were extra special, because they were well attended by students from the women's colleges in those towns. Receptions and social gatherings followed each of the concerts and were enjoyed by both the cadets and the local townsfolk.

As the 1913-1914 school year began, football games became the focus of the Band's schedule as they do to this day. The newly completed train station in Blacksburg made it much easier for the Corps to attend away games, and on November 1, they traveled to Roanoke to play Washington & Lee. The Band led the Corps into the Fairgrounds for the game. Unfortunately, the team suffered its only shutout of the year, losing 21 - 0.

On Thanksgiving Day, the Corps once again boarded the train and traveled to Roanoke for another football game, this time against V.M.I. Although the two military schools had played in the past, the renewal of the rivalry this year marked the first time they had met in Roanoke. It would begin a Thanksgiving Day tradition that would be continued for more than half a century and which became known as "The Military Classic of the South." The two cadet corps marched through town, with V.P.I. being led by its Band. The hard fought game ended in a 6 - 6 tie. Little did the cadets know that day that they had participated in the start of a tradition that would remain a significant yearly highlight in the life of every cadet to attend both schools for decades to come.

As the school year continued, tragedy struck the Band when Director Harvey suffered a stroke. For some time he desperately tried to continue as the director, but he experienced great difficulty. If Harvey was replaced he would lose his pay, and he felt he could not let this happen.

In what has to be one of the most unselfish and benevolent acts in the history of the school, Henry Harris Hill, who had by now graduated and become an Associate Chemist at the Agricultural Experimental Station, proposed that he take over as director. However, he asked that the pay be given to Harvey rather than to him, and the College agreed to do this. It had been Hill who had worked his way through college as assistant band director and who had taken over as director previously when Hugh Douglas McTier had taken a leave of absence a few years earlier. He was grateful for the help Harvey had always given him, and he felt he now had a chance to repay Harvey for his assistance and kindness. Hill would continue as the Acting Band Director for eighteen months until Harvey died on



***On May 19, 1915, The V.P.I. Cadet Band traveled to Bluefield, West Virginia, to serve as the band for Bluefield's Commandery 19 in the Knights of Templar Parade. This was the first time the Band had ever been photographed with motion pictures, and the film was then shown in newsreels in theaters across the country. (Photo from The Bugle's Echo)***



# History Notes



*The funeral procession for the Band's first director, James Patton Harvey, passes the newly completed Alumni Gate on its way to the cemetery on June 15, 1915. "Pat" Harvey had spent much of his adult life in service to the Band, and he had been the director who resigned with the Band cadets in 1898 so they could become the Regimental Band of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Virginia Volunteer Regiment during the Spanish American War. The Alumni Gate stood at the intersection of Main Street and College Avenue. (Photo from Virginia Tech Special Collections)*



June 14, 1915, and during that time Harvey continued to draw his much needed pay.

The inspection by the War Department during the 1914-1915 school year once again brought special accolades to the Band. The senior officer for the team remarked in his report that the V.P.I. Cadet Band was the finest he had ever inspected. The Corps received the Department's highest rating.

In Bluefield, West Virginia, the Knights of Templar were preparing for their 41<sup>st</sup> Annual Conclave of the Grand Commandery. Bluefield's Commandery Number 19 sent a request to V.P.I. asking that the Cadet Band serve as its band for the parade, and they offered to pay all expenses. The request was granted.

On May 19, the V.P.I. Cadet Band marched in the parade leading Bluefield's Commandery Number 19, which followed behind in full dress, including swords. The parade was grand in both sight and sound, and it was the first time that the Band was ever photographed with motion pictures. The film was then shown in newsreels in theaters across the country.

Less than a month after the parade, James Patton Harvey succumbed to the effects of his stroke and passed away. His funeral was the next day. The entire Corps turned out to honor "Pat" Harvey who had dedicated so much of his life to the Band. Six Band cadets served as pallbearers, and the drums were muffled and draped in black as the cadets said goodbye to their beloved first director. The procession moved from the Methodist Church on Church Street out to the cemetery where Harvey was buried. An eight-man detail fired a volley in salute, and a bugler played Taps to conclude the ceremony.

Commencement ceremonies followed the funeral, but the drums continued to be muffled and draped in black for the rest of the day. It would also be the last day that Henry Harris

Hill would play with the Band and serve as its director.

With Harvey's financial concerns no longer an issue, Hill stepped down from his position as acting director so a permanent replacement could be found. In the summer of 1915, Peter Ubaldo Janutolo was appointed as the Band's new director. Janutolo had been one of the semi-professional musicians playing with the band since 1913, and he was also an Assistant Professor of Chemistry.

The 1915-1916 school year was an uneventful one for the Band with the usual schedule of football games in the fall and concerts in the spring. The one off-campus event took place when the Cadet Band was invited to provide the music for the Appomattox Fair as guest of the county with all expenses paid. Since the Fair was requesting concert music rather than a marching band, Director Janutolo formed a small concert band consisting of one graduate student and eleven upperclassmen from the Cadet Band. They departed for Appomattox on October 26 by train. Upon arrival, they were greeted by Fair officials as well as Band alumni who hosted them for dinner that night.

For the next two days, the cadets gave several concerts and provided music at several special events. But the schedule also permitted considerable time for socializing, especially in the evenings. The *Appomattox Times-Virginian* commented that the troubadours "made a big hit, especially with the fair sex," and they were an "organization of note," making an obvious play on words. Based on the correspondence that followed after the Band returned to campus, the fair sex was also a big hit with some of the cadets.

Commencement the following year finished an otherwise quiet year for the Band, but change was coming. James Solomon Schaeffer returns in 1916, and the Cadet Band would never be the same. During Schaeffer's first year as director, the Band would march in its first Presidential Inaugural Parade.



## Highty-Tighty Alumni, Inc

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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 Alumni Relations. The person to contact is Sharon Coy at scroy@vt.edu. Sharon can also be reached at (540) 231-8905. Make sure she has your present address, and if you move Sharon is the one you should notify about your change of address. It is her list that is used to mail out this newsletter. **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 e-mail 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* e-mail updates, please pass this information on to them.

### HIGHTY-TIGHTY HALF-NOTES

#### *Subscribe Today*

The *Highty-Tighty Half-Notes* are periodic e-mails 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 e-mail updates include both photographs and information about the present Band and alumni. Early information about homecoming and other items of interest to alumni are often subjects of *Half-Notes*. If you would like to receive these occasional e-mails with photographs and updates about the Band's activities as well as information about alumni, please send your e-mail address and your request to receive the *Half-Notes* to: [bertkinzey@verizon.net](mailto:bertkinzey@verizon.net)

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Vickie Ireland, Editor  
20 Robin Road  
Portsmouth RI 02871  
[chrisnyc@aol.com](mailto:chrisnyc@aol.com)

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