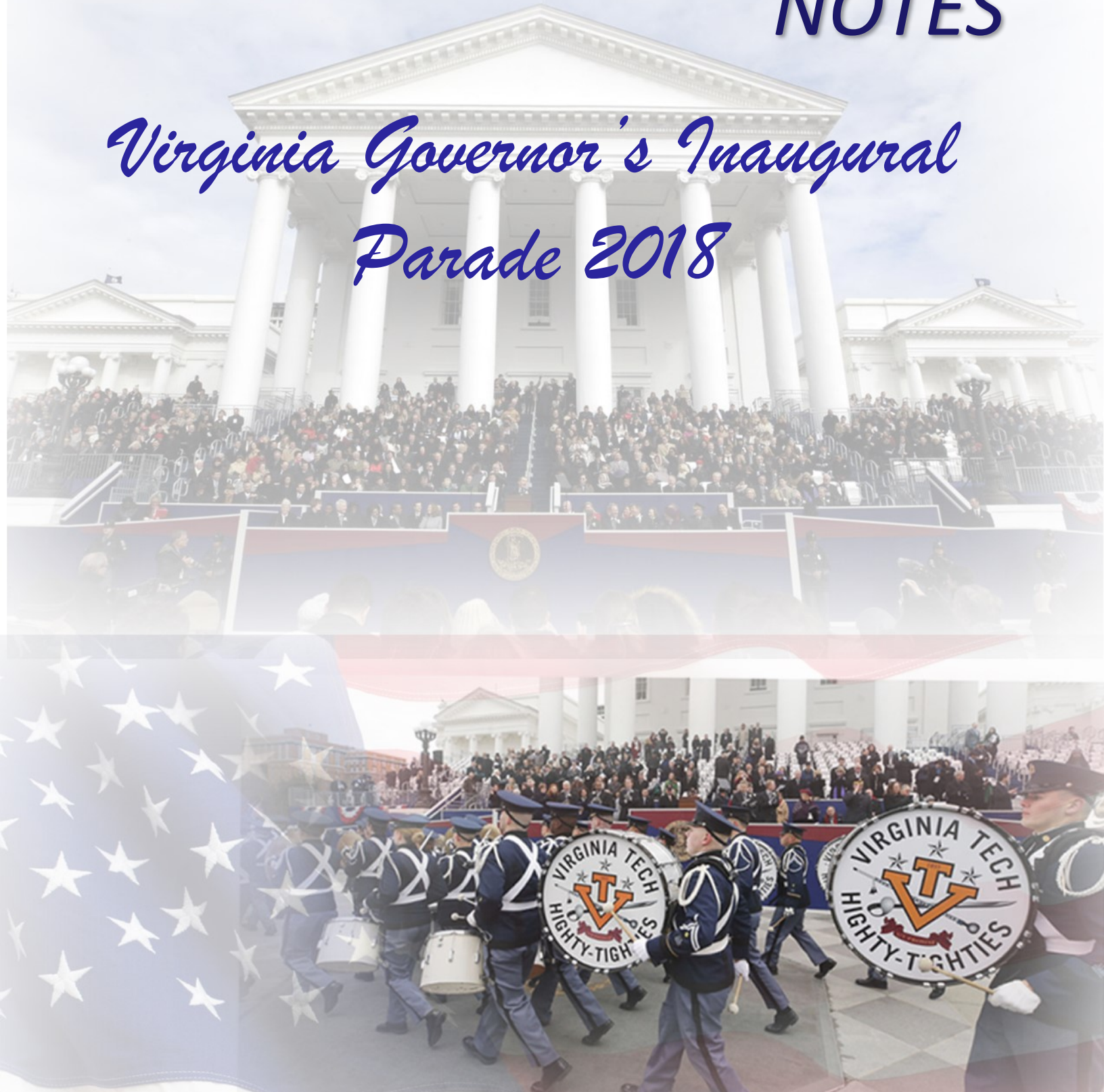


# HIGHTY-TIGHTY

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## NOTES

### *Virginia Governor's Inaugural Parade 2018*



*The official newsletter of the Highty-Tighty Alumni, Inc.*  
Volume 42 Number 1 Winter 2018

# HIGHTY-TIGHTY ALUMNI, INC.

## Board of Directors - Elected Members



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President



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HT '68  
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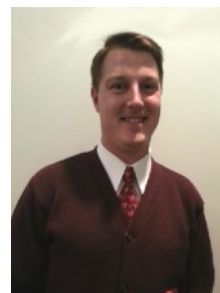
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HT '68  
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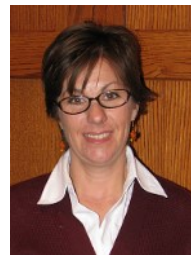
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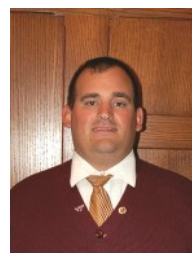
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HT '98  
Director



**Robert W. Mauck**  
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**Allie G. Oberoi**  
HT '10  
Director



**Mike Francisco**  
HT '74  
Director



**William L. (Larry) Root**  
HT '72  
Director

### Additional Board Members Not Pictured

**Jennifer Boehm**  
HT '06  
Director



# PRESIDENT'S PAGE

## Homecoming November 2-3

If you missed Homecoming 2017, you missed a great parade with the Highty-Tighties leading, followed soon after by the Corps and Highty-Tighty Alumni Band.

As usual, Lori Keck-Beach was our Highty-Tighty Alumni Band Drum Major and the band looked and sounded very good.

Following the parade we had free time and then another excellent meal in the upper level of Dietrick Dining Hall. Our annual Highty-Tighty Alumni general meeting was highlighted by bestowing the Distinguished Highty-Tighty Alumni award to T.O. Williams, III. (See page 7)

The upper quad is really beautiful with the completion of the second cadet residence hall (where Brodie Hall stood). The new VT sidewalk, as seen below, is between Lane Hall and the two new residence halls. There is a new staircase from Alumni Mall up to the flag pole with the statue of Addison Caldwell on a landing part of the way to the top. All of these fit together to make the upper quad area really stunning! Please plan to visit soon to see it for yourself. Bring the whole family.

The new Highty-Tighty Annual Giving Fund (#87055) is a great way to support the Highty-Tighties through a

donation or up to a five year pledge (see Scott Beman's article on page 8).

As you will read in Sr. Chief Jim Bean's article, the band has a great need for incoming freshmen who are brass and wind instrumentalists. Dave Williams, Sr. Chief Bean, and the Band members will be focusing on that in this year's recruiting efforts. Please let them know if you have a prospective Highty-Tighty to recommend from your home area high school.

Finally, we just got word that homecoming (Highty-Tighty Reunion) will be later than usual in 2018: November 2-3. So set aside those scarves and gloves and mark your calendars.

Best wishes for a happy, healthy, and prosperous 2018.

Chuck Rowell HT '71  
President, HTA



*This is a shot of the upper quad from August of 2017 when the freshmen were formed up on the new VT.  
Drone photo by Steve Brent*





# DIRECTOR'S DOWNBEAT

## Senior Chief James Bean

This fall, I once again witnessed some incredible growth and development in our unit. Led by the Band's CO, Bren Huggins, and

drum major Kendall Romaine, the HT's continually excelled and had an unparalleled season. From the start, the goal of our leadership was to maintain a positive approach to all facets of our program, not dismissing mistakes, but learning from them while providing feedback to develop, not tear down. This approach was used from the start of band camp in August through the entire first semester. I was repeatedly proud of everyone's can-do spirit and enthusiasm. Even when things did not go our way, such as the weather or the inability to use the pre-scheduled indoor practice facility, everyone was flexible and amenable to last-minute scheduling changes in order to fulfill our mission.

A particular highlight for me this fall, which epitomized our entire season, was our halftime show for the senior game versus Pittsburgh. During this performance, the HT's not only included a new march, *Grandioso*, but executed an intricate marching display complete with obliques, the spelling of VPI, and a segue into the athletic department's brand, VT. In addition to the expertise of Drum Major Romaine, our drill writer, Bill Glynn, did a fantastic job, with his writing efforts realized by the fine contributions of every member of the HT performance staff.

I would say the greatest future challenges for us are recruiting wind players and having a rehearsal facility to call our own. At this summer's orientation, I noticed a decline in the amount of brass and woodwind players signing up for the VTCC. We recruited many string players that have adapted nicely to our percussion section as bell, cymbal, and tenor drum players. On a positive note, these freshmen are a

wonderful addition to the band and will continue to provide depth to our sound over the next four years. Conversely, because of the percussion section size and retention, we will need to focus on woodwind and brass players when recruiting in the near future.

We have been very fortunate that the athletic department has made the new indoor facility available to us for our Friday night "eternals." These indoor practices are integral to our football performances because, regardless of weather, we know we have at least one rehearsal we can count on. Unfortunately, we were forced to move several of these practices due to last minute athletic events. Fortunately, Dave



Cadet Djamila Lou works with the pep band  
Photo by Mike Diersing

McKee, the Marching Virginians director, was willing and able to accommodate us at his facility by Chicken Hill, and the weather cooperated. Ideally, we need a home to call our own that is lighted for nighttime rehearsals, especially in November, and covered from the elements. Dare to dream!

We represented the VTCC and the Virginia Tech community by marching in the Governor's Inaugural parade on January 13. To look ahead, on March 16, we will travel to New York City to participate in their St. Patrick's Day parade. The annual Band Festival will be on April 29<sup>th</sup> in the Moss Center and



# Director Continued

## Veterans Day Nov 11, 2017

will feature the Corps' jazz band, the Southern Colonels, as well as the HT concert band. Finally, the Southern Colonels will perform the annual *Jazz on the Lawn* using the portico of Lane Hall and the new VT as a back drop. The date is yet to be determined, but it will be an evening in the first week of May.

As I constantly remark, I am proud to be part of this wonderful organization. I am continually amazed at the determination, dedication, and service of not just our current band members, but alumni as well. I frequently get nice emails of support and encouragement as well as instrument donations and ideas from our alumni association. While the role of the band is one of support and service, we relentlessly strive to maintain the HT tradition of excellence. "Let's make it Highty-Tighty!" has been a popular chant during rehearsals and before performances. With the eternal support of our alumni and the current band members, we will always make it .....



### Veteran's Day Parade Roanoke

*Photos by Mike Diersing*

**"Highty-Tighty!"**



**HT**



# FROM THE COMMANDER

## Cadet Major Bren Huggins , HT '18

The fall semester for the Highty-Tighties was a huge success. With a fairly balanced schedule and plenty of time to prepare in-between performances, the Band was able to push the limits of our abilities as musicians and marchers to produce several stellar shows. Through challenging weather conditions and tight timelines throughout game days, Band cadets were given an opportunity to show off their resolve and leadership abilities time and time again. Cadets such as our Drum Major, Kendall Romaine, our XO, Christopher Selig, and members of our performance staff such as Chris Bartlett, Bill Glynn, Noah Schalles, and James Braford showed on multiple occasions their capabilities as leaders of cadets, officer candidates, and future leaders of America's military personnel and civilian professionals. I was fortunate to get the opportunity to work alongside these talented and highly capable gentlemen and learned many lessons regarding successful leadership from their successes and from the Band's successes as a whole.

At the end of the Fall Semester, the Company began preparation for a performance years in the making: the Governor's Inaugural Parade in Richmond, Virginia. Returning to the performance stage from their winter break early, the cadets of Band Company displayed dedication and pride in the unit while marching to represent Virginia Tech and the Corps of Cadets before the Gubernatorial Review Stand on that cold January morning. The parade was a massive success for the Company and for the Corps and served to buttress one of the most successful Fall semesters for the Highty-Tighties in recent memory.

Another point worth noting is Band Company's noteworthy success off of the parade field. The Company is entering Spring semester with the highest average GPA in years for a Fall semester: 3.19.

Additionally, the Highty-Tighties will begin the grading period with zero cadets on military or academic probation. These numbers are a testament to the long hours, late nights, and early mornings that these men and women put into their careers and into their service to the community and to the country. Building off of the commitment and foundations set forth by selfless and dedicated alumni, the Band continues to forge ahead on the never-ending mission to embody the standards set by the Highty-Tighties before us. I look forward to serving as the Commander of this elite unit for another semester and anticipate more victories in the months to



*The Band approaches the reviewing stands at the Governor's Inaugural.*  
**Photo by Band Staff**

come.



# Alumni News



## T. O. Williams Becomes the Newest Distinguished Highty-Tighty Alumnus

Our newest Distinguished Highty-Tighty Alumnus, T. O. Williams, HT '59, was honored at the annual meeting of the Highty-Tighty Alumni Inc. during our reunion in October of 2017. T.O. had a long and distinguished career serving the band, the University and his country.

From Portsmouth, Va., T.O. was in Air Force ROTC, a member of the Regimental Band, and served as Drum Major his senior year. After Graduation in 1959, he went directly to Active Duty. Since then he has kept up with the Highty-Tighties through the HTA and VTCCA, Inc.

T.O. told us that he had planned to serve in the Air Force for five years only but ended up staying in for twenty-eight. He served two tours in Vietnam with Special Operations, then was stationed at the Pentagon, Air Staff and served under two Secretaries of Defense – Donald Rumsfeld and Harold Brown in International Security Affairs. He also spent a lot of time in the Middle East.

The Air Force provided excellent educational support by sending him to grad school four times. He told us his wife said he never did get it right.

He served on the faculty of Air Command and Staff College, Air University, Alabama; and The Citadel, Charleston, SC. Other assignments with the Air Force took him to Japan, Europe, Canada, Vietnam, Thailand, Taiwan, Africa, and even some bases in the U.S.

Two memorable



*T. O. Williams is recognized by current and former HTA presidents at the annual meeting.*

*Photo from Shay Barnhart*

were as Air Force Special Operations Director of Flying Operations at Hurlburt Field, and Chief of the Office of Military Cooperation in the U. S. Embassy, Khartoum, Sudan, Africa.

T.O.'s next career was at Virginia Tech in the offices of Alumni Relations and Development. His last project was fundraising for the Holtzman Alumni Center, Skelton Conference Center, and The Inn at Virginia Tech. He retired from Virginia Tech in 2003. He then served as Chairman and CEO of the Board of Directors, Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets Alumni, Incorporated, 2005-2009, and remains on this Board currently.



*T. O. Williams honored in the Homecoming Parade.*

*Photo from Shay Barnhart*





# Development Update



## Support The Highty-Tighties

The 2017-18 academic year for the Highty-Tighties is in full swing, and the band just returned from Richmond after performing in the Virginia Governor's Inaugural Parade. 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 and 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 2016-2017 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 2012 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 2017 at the Highty-Tighty Banquet last May. You have already missed a mentor relationship with them, but there are new people coming every year to enrich your life and provide you with an opportunity to be an important part of their Highty-Tighty experience.*

***Photo by Bert Kinzey***



# Reunion 2017

## Highly-Tighties Return to Downtown Blacksburg



*One of the highlights of every reunion is climbing that hill on Main Street then turning on to the mall as we return to Virginia Tech and all of those memories!*







# Reunion 2017



## *Pregame Show VT Homecoming 2017*



*Photos by Mike Diersing*



*It's been a long time..... John  
Irvin HT '67 contemplates  
leading the Highty-Tighties  
onto the field..... one more  
time*





# Reunion 2017

## Schaeffer Scholarship Awarded



*Left: Bert Kinzey, HT '68 presents the Schaeffer Scholarship to this year's recipient Isaac Patterson, HT '20*

*Bert and his wife, Lynda, have been personally funding the Jim Schaeffer Scholarship for many years. Photo at right shows Bert with this year's recipient, Isaac Patterson along with previous recipients Elaine Altman, Kavi Mura-leetharan, Chris Bartlett, and Dja-milla Lou.*





# Governor's Inaugural 2018



## Highly-Tighties Represent Virginia Tech In Richmond with Pride and Precision



*The Governor's Inaugural Parade had a very short route. The band is shown—top left — walking in formation to the step off point. Other shots here show the band approaching and passing the re-viewing stands and then exiting the parade route.*

*Photos by Larry Root, HT '72 and Band Staff*





# Alumni Notes

## Nancy Lyon-Stadler, HT '84

Our President Emeritus, Bert Kinzey, has recently come across an alumni story we thought was worth sharing in the newsletter. Nancy Lyon-Stadler, HT '84 is doing some extraordinary things in the world of athletics as she raises her sons and enjoys a very successful career in Civil Engineering. Nancy was a trumpet player in the band and told us that people tell her that she motivates and inspires them through her dedication to competing in triathlons. Her training regimen, sounds pretty intense: 1-2 hrs/day, 6 days per week, with a longer (2.5-4.0 hr) bike ride and intense track interval workouts on the weekends. Nancy has a page on the USA Triathlon website where we picked up the information that follows.

**About Nancy:** I am a mom, a civil engineer, a triathlete and a veteran. Being a triathlete is an integral part of who I am, and has been since 1989. I love how sport integrates into life. As a traffic engineer, many of my projects include planning, design and construction of multimodal projects (bike/pedestrian/transit), allowing me to integrate what I do for fun with my technical expertise - I love the days when I get to ride a bike and call it work! My two teenage boys are athletes and we capitalize on opportunities to train together. Balancing training with life is a challenge, but I take a holistic approach and remember that I do all this for fun!

**Most memorable moment in your multisport career:** In 2015, my boys accompanied me to the ITU Grand Final in Chicago. In addition to the world championship race, Ben (then 17) and I competed in

the Open Age Group sprint triathlon. By a stroke of luck, my wave was right behind Ben's wave so we were together through the pens, saw each other multiple times during the race, and celebrated together at the finish. It was a fantastic race experience and one that changed triathlon for both of us. Ben had done triathlons since he was little, but never really actually trained. This race changed that. We train together regularly, share ideas on training, nutrition, and everything in between, and Ben now competes as a member of the Virginia Tech triathlon club. That one epic event has had such a positive and ongoing impact on our lives.



### Sport Career Highlights:

USA Triathlon Team USA (2017 ITU Rotterdam, 2016 ITU Cozumel, 2015 ITU Chicago, 2013 ITU London) USA Triathlon National Championship (2017 Sprint, Olympic, Aquabike; 2016 Sprint, Olympic; 2015, 2014) Multiple local and regional triathlons. Started track bicycling at the Cleveland Velodrome in 2015 and am a current member of the board. Bike escort for hand cyclists (para-athletes) in PGH and CLE Marathons First Triathlon: 1989 Seoul International Triathlon, Seoul, Korea.



# Alumni Notes



## Great Story from HT Class of 1947

*Note from the editor: I received a letter back in July of 2017 from one of our alumni from the class of 1947, Terry F. Tanner MD, telling me about a "small world" event he experienced having to do with his early experiences as a Highty-Tighty. Here is a copy of the story, just as Dr. Tanner described it:*

Dear George,

This may be of interest to other band members...

I first came to VPI in July 1943 - a 16 yr old freshman from Georgia. Certainly one of the highlights of my time at VPI was being a member of the Highty-Tighties. My older brother Paul was in the class of 1945 (band), as was my Grandfather (class of 1879), Father (class of 1911) and youngest brother Maurice (class of 1957 Band). All three of us went on to graduate as MD's from Medical College of Virginia. I now live in St. Petersburg, Florida. With this background said, I will now tell my story!

Several months ago a gentleman from Maryland visited our Church here in St. Petersburg. He spent a month or so here in speech therapy for Aphasia after having suffered a stroke approximately one year earlier. At that point I must admit I knew only his first name! One Year later, Paul and his wife Patricia, returned to St. Petersburg to vacation- I am pleased to say that Paul has made great improvement in speech and mobility.

While here they joined our Community Church Group that meets in our home every week. To reiterate, I still only know 'Paul', no last name! I should interject at this point that I have a parking sign in my carport that reads, 'Hokie Parking Only!' One Wednesday night Paul and Patricia arrived for our group meeting only to have Paul announce boldly that "my daddy is a Hokie and he's 90 years old." With that I said, "I'm also a Hokie and I'm 90 years old- what's your last name." Paul replied, DiPiazza. Before he could respond... I said "is your daddy Jack DiPiazza???" Yes, Jack DiPiazza!

I then told him his dad was one of the first people I met in our class and that we both played trumpet in the band. We then took pictures together and sent them to Jack. A few days later I received information regarding our upcoming class reunion, so I called Jack in New Jersey and suggested we both plan to attend and renew our friendship. So, after 73 years we met again at VPI and spent a delightful weekend renewing our friendship and talking over old times.

Since then we have talked several times on the phone, and are looking forward to Jack and Lila visiting St. Pete with their son and daughter-in-law next winter. Jack graduated in chemical engineering and was an executive with Exxon. Both our pictures appear in the 1948 yearbook. He left for service in the Coast Guard, and I for the Army Infantry. So, it is a small world after all!!!

Terry F. Tanner MD ('47)

**Make a Note on your Calendar**

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

**Highty-Tighty Alumni, Inc**  
141 Lane Hall, Virginia Tech  
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Blacksburg, Virginia 24061

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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>