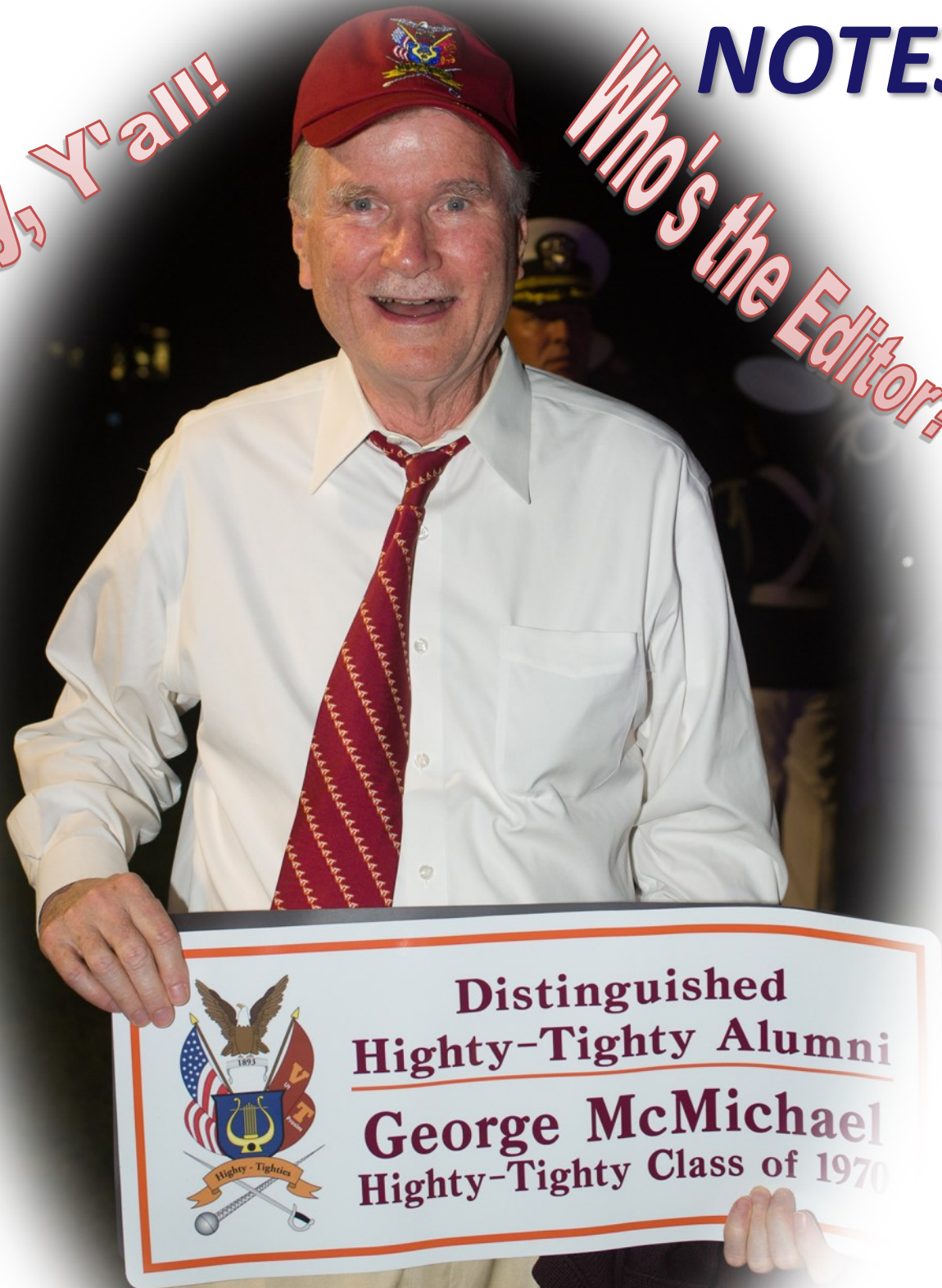


# HIGHTY-TIGHTY

Hey, Y'all!

Who's the Editor?

NOTES



*The official newsletter of the Highty-Tighty Alumni, Inc.*

*Volume 46 Number 1*

*Winter 2022*

# HIGHTY-TIGHTY ALUMNI, INC.

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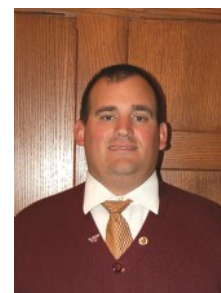
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# PRESIDENT'S PAGE

## Greetings and Happy New Year

Much has happened since our last issue starting with move in day for our HT freshmen in August. We had a good group of HT alumni present to welcome them to their new home as they moved into East Eggleston Hall where the whole band will be housed for the 2021-2022 school year.

Then September 10<sup>th</sup> brought Corps Reunion beginning with a wonderful evening behind Lane Hall with Cadets manning stations showing all of the different activities that many of them take part in. There was also a formal retreat followed by a nice dinner under a big tent for all Corps alumni attending. On Saturday, the 11th, we had a nice group of Highty-Tighty alumni for the pregame Corps units march on.

The next event was H.T. Homecoming. It began with a Pass in Review on Friday, October 15th afternoon where Rock Roszack reviewed the Corps of 1270 members with General Fullhart. Rock represented the Class of 1971 and gave a speech to recognize the Class of 1971 becoming members of the Corps OLD GUARD. Our Band '71 members present were asked to stand in a place of honor at the reviewing stand as they became the newest members of the OLD GUARD.

Shortly afterwards, the Highty-Tighty Alumni Band, led by Drum Major Lori Keck Beach, marched in the annual VT Homecoming parade which was Friday night this year. Leading the alumni band was our newest Distinguished Highty-Tighty Alumnus George McMichael and his wife Diane in a shiny convertible. At the end of the parade, we started a new tradition of having our alumni band end the parade on the drillfield sidewalk surrounded by the current Highty-Tighties as we played Tech Triumph. Gunnyfest finished off Fridays festivities hosted by board members Dirk McComsey and Scott Beman.

On Saturday morning, we had our pregame rehearsal on the drillfield with the current HTs. We went straight from this rehearsal to Dietrick Hall for our meal and HTA, Inc. Annual meeting. Following

the meal we had some time to visit with classmates and other alumni before moving to the South End Zone of Lane

where we performed our traditional pregame show for over 60,000 fans. We had a great turnout for both the Friday night parade and the pregame show on Saturday. We hope that this year we will have the same alumni and many of the Class of 1972 HTs join us.

If you haven't participated in a while, know that older alumni or Highty-Tighty alumni with health issues are now encouraged to join us in front of the Moss Arts Center as we begin marching the final stretch down the Alumni Mall. You don't even need an instrument to participate in this part of the parade. Just join us if you want to feel younger again.

With the Corps well on its way to the expansion towards 1400 members, a group of us have been meeting one day each month to improve the recruiting of new members into the Highty-Tighties. We will continue these meetings all of 2022. Our goal is to have 50 or more new freshmen each year. This group is improving the many avenues of recruiting into the Band with the help of Lt. Col Rewa Mariger and new VTCC Admissions officer Greg Anderson.

Finally, beginning this semester, the recent custom of having the Band divided into two sections, Band A and Band B, will end with the Band being reemerged into ONE Band. This will help retention and many other issues.

Sincerely,

Chuck Rowell HT '71  
President, HTA





## DIRECTOR'S DOWNBEAT

### Extremely Challenging Fall Semester

**A**lthough it was exciting to get back to a more typical fall semester, this season was extremely challenging. More than half

the band, all freshmen and sophomores, had never experienced a football season with all the marching practice and music learning involved in a “normal” situation. Additionally, the band, including myself, struggled with bringing the group into the 21<sup>st</sup> century with a new software program called Pyeware. This program will eventually decrease the time spent on drill by publishing individual counts, syncing se-

lected music, and demonstrating graphics of the drill before the first practice. The goal being to limit the time of learning so more run-throughs can be made for each set, resulting in a polished project. However, like any new platform, there is a steep learning curve. While it took some extra effort and work, our performance staff, led by drum major Joe Topp did a commendable job of implementing the agenda, resulting in our shows getting better and better through the season.

While everyone has felt the impact of the last year and a half, the HT's have suffered with declining numbers and frankly, it will get somewhat worse as our seniors graduate in the spring. In-person orientation is a chance for myself and several HT's to talk to each incoming corps freshmen, offering them



*Highty-Tighties prepare to step off in the 2022 inaugural parade of Governor Glenn Youngkin*



# SENIOR CHIEF JAMES BEAN



## I will work even harder in our constant pursuit of perfection

the chance to participate in the band. Unfortunately, since orientation had moved online, we were prohibited from this through the last two cycles. Regardless of the fact that the university will not have orientation this summer, the corps *will* for three weeks in July. This along with some other ideas should help considerably. Furthermore, thanks to the leadership of Chuck Rowell, we have garnered support from others on the staff as well as Dave Williams and Gary Jackson. This think tank meets monthly to discuss and implement ways to attract recruits to the band. Additionally, we produced a recruiting video this fall through Shay Barnhart with the outstanding contributions of Cadet Banning Jones. It is a fantastic, professional showpiece that can be found at [vtcc.vt.edu/ht](http://vtcc.vt.edu/ht). Please visit this link and spread it to family and friends.

Spring brings renewal and I'm excited to get going with all our plans after the holiday break. The band will no longer be divided into two sections but will merge into one with one overall band commander. This design will hopefully create unit cohesion and has been much anticipated by myself and the cadets. The new band commander for next semester, Brett Nutter, is off and running and I'm confident his leadership style will transfer beautifully to this new set-up. Brett was out of company in the fall as part of the 3<sup>rd</sup> battalion staff. His ideas for accountability, morale, and overall team building are exceptional and I'm eager to be working with him.

I hope you watched for the band in Richmond on inauguration day, January 15<sup>th</sup>. The Highty-Tighties along with the color guard and Gregory guard represented Virginia Tech and the Corps of Cadets. We have received an invitation to march at Mardi Gras in New Orleans on February 26. Since we were unable to take a trip the last two years, our travel budget has increased enough for this extravagance. We will be marching in the Endymion Parade and have been chosen as one of ten bands to participate in the pageant inside the

superdome following the street parade. The band will be continuing to support women's basketball through the winter and my goal now is to revive the concert band. Barring any unforeseen circumstances, the concert band and jazz ensemble plan on performing on May 1 during the Change of Command weekend. Lastly, I want to thank everyone who has been so supportive of our great group of future leaders. Personally, I have had so many of you offer kind, supportive words through the pandemic and I appreciate the advice generously given. The continued instrument and monetary donations are hugely appreciated and speak to the greatness that this organization produces. As director, I vow to you that I will work even harder in our constant pursuit of perfection and look forward to having these last two years in the distant past! *Ut Prosim!*

James M. Bean, Senior Chief, USN (ret.)





# FROM THE COMMANDER

## Brett Nutter

**I**t has been an honor to serve as this semester's commander over one unified band. I grew up playing the violin and piano and joined the band

my freshman year to be a part of a company with deep traditions and passion for what they do. I was born in Lowell, Massachusetts and raised in Trumbull, Connecticut. Growing up, much of my free time was dedicated to athletics, yet I always admired the precision and hard work displayed by those dedicated to developing as musicians. I remain proud of my decision to join this company and now cherish the opportunity to lead it. I am a member of Army ROTC and graduated Advanced Camp and Air Assault School last summer. On campus, I study Civil Engineering with a specialty in structures, hold membership to The German Club fraternity, and have life-guarded at McComas pool for 3 years. While I am involved in many things around campus, outside my academics, Band Company has remained my priority.

Last semester was incredibly successful for the Highty Tighties. While I served as 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion Executive Officer in the Fall of 2021, I watched admiringly as the band showed tenacity and perseverance through a rigorous football schedule. The Highty Tighties never failed to meet the incredibly high standard we set for ourselves. Successful events from last semester included football games, Hokie walk performances, the Virginia Tech Homecoming parade, and the alumni pre-game show. The band showed its resilience, hard work, and loyalty to the Corps and University.

My philosophy for Band Company this semester is simple; excellence in everything we do. Donning the white chord, while a great privilege, is a great responsibility. We owe it to ourselves, our name, and our 125 years of alumni to display band company excellence in every parade, competition, and task we are met with. Scattered in different parts of our unit

area hang our company goals to achieve this desired excellence. They are as follows:

- Be the top band at all parades
- Earn zero deficiencies on the Regimental Inspection
- Win the Jaffe Eager Squad Competition
- Win the Platoon Tactical Challenge

While these goals may seem lofty and out of reach, we are already well on our way to achieving them. In the beginning of this semester, the band returned early to perform at the Governors inaugural parade. From witnessing the other bands in attendance, I can say, with great confidence, that we were the best marching band there. This past weekend, the band earned 0 Gigs on the Regimental Inspection, for the first time in many years. That's already a goal crossed off our list.

While we chase these goals as a company, I hope to see my fellow bandsmen develop their leadership and music skills to set this standard of excellence for years to come. We will continue to rally behind our motto of "Deeds, Not Words"

Brett Nutter

Band Commander Spring 2022



**Brett Nutter and HT Exec, Alyssa Stolecki  
At Governor's Inaugural**



# Development Update



## Support the Highty-Tighties

As things begin to get back to normal, with football games, womens' basketball games, and even some parades, the band continues to need our support. There has been a large increase in the overall endowment for the band in the last year, which has been great. It truly shows that us as alumni care about the future of this great organization that we hold so dear.

Members of the Class of 1971 pledged \$86,000 during the HT Reunion last fall to the HT Class of 1971 ELS Fund. This will make a big difference in the lives of HT cadets! In addition, we wish to thank a Highty-Tighty Alum who included the band in his estate. This contribution went to the once struggling LTC George R. McNeill Scholarship that is now valued at \$233,316.26.

If you have or are interested in leaving the HT's in your estate, please let Sandi Bliss (at [srbliss@vt.edu](mailto:srbliss@vt.edu)) know as you can see it does make a big difference.

The Schaeffer Endowment Fund continues to need funds in order to maintain the \$1,000 stipend that each incoming band freshmen and now sophomores receive. The band needs our financial support to be able to continue to grow as we make efforts to bring in young men and women who exemplify what it means to be a Highty-Tighty.

The Highty-Tighty Annual Giving Fund (Fund # 877055) is growing and doing very well, and we want to continue to provide financial support.

There is an ongoing effort that you might consider giving to called the Brick Program. When an individual gives to an operating fund the amount of \$2,500 (that is not part of an endowment), they get to have their name on a brick style plaque that will go into the new Corps Leadership and Military Science (CLMS) building. You can get details on this program at <https://vtcc.vt.edu/give/brick-plaques.html> Please contact Sandi Bliss if you are interested in taking part in this, and having your name in the CLMS just like you signed your name in the bricks on Lane Hall when you graduated.

Thank you to everyone who has been so supportive, and we look forward to another great year of being HightyTighty Alumni!

Deeds Not Words

Scott D. Beman HT '01  
Vice President for Development



*The image above was copied from the website mentioned in the article. The plaque is created from an image of a Lane Hall brick.*





# Homecoming 2021

## Homecoming Parade Friday Night



The parade was on Friday night this year. We had a great turnout and the folks along the parade route were very enthusiastic. Nate Brown mentioned in his article that he was very encouraged by the greeting time we had on the drillfield after the parade, building the connection between the past, the present and the future.

The center photo in the collage above illustrates that connection nicely as the two drum majors compared notes on the parade. Other shots above - starting top left

- Them "Bones"
- Old Guard alumni catching up before the parade.
- Marching on Main Street once again!





# Homecoming 2021

## Great Time of Greeting Post Parade

- Forming up for the step off
- Current HTs looking sharp
- Newest Distinguished HT Alumni

On this page at right; lots of meeting and greeting going on and below; Lori Keck Beach leads the Alumni Band through the current HTs onto the drillfield for an impromptu get together.



*Photos by Chuck Kneyse HT 69 & 70*







# Homecoming 2021

## Band Practice and Pre-Game Show



*With the Homecoming Parade taking place on Friday night, the practice for pregame was necessarily moved to Saturday morning on the drillfield. The weather cooperated nicely and we had a great practice as evidenced by the sharp looking group of Highty-Tighties shown below at pregame.*







# Homecoming 2021

## Annual Meeting

The annual meeting of the Highty-Tighty Alumni was held following the morning band practice at our usual location in Dietrick Dining Hall. Chuck Rowell managed the agenda providing opportunities for many of our usual reports and recognitions. Bert Kinzey is shown above making his annual



*Bert Kinzey Presents the Schaeffer Award, Chuck Rowell and General Fullhart present their reports.*



*Bert Kinzey Presents Highty-Tighty Recording from the Fifties to Lori Keck Beach*

preciation for her years of loyal service as our drum major each year.

As the Old Guard class of 1971 was recognized they came through again with a presentation of \$86,000 for another ELS Scholarship. Well done Seventy One!

*Photos by Chuck Kneise HT 69 & 70*

presentation of the Schaeffer Scholarship. As always, General Fullhart brought the group up to date on the status of the Corps and building projects that are in progress on the upper quad. Bert later made an unusual presentation to Lori Keck Beach of a vintage Highty-Tighty album that was produced back in the fifties in ap-



*Old Guard Class of 1971 Presents Yet Another ELS Scholarship and Senior Chief James Bean Joins Chuck Rowell with News from the Band.*



# Distinguished HT Alumnus Reflections

## It's All About HEART!

As I look around my office I see some artwork that was given to me as a gift years ago. It is a collection of small paintings that include Burruss Hall, Lane Hall and the World War II memorial. Continuing around the wall is my Virginal Tech Corps of Cadets Old Guard Certificate. Then there is the “Grand Prize”, my Distinguished Highty-Tighty Alumni award.

I think the title “Highty-Tighty” means more to me today than it did fifty five some odd years ago when I received it. To this day, all of my logons and passwords have some reference to Highty-Tighty. I had “Highty-Tighty” engraved on the inside surface of my class ring and whenever I manage to do a good job on something, I consider that another example of doing something “Highty-Tighty”

I suppose one might ask if I have a life after Virginia Tech. I would say that yes, I have a life largely BECAUSE of my experiences at Virginia Tech — specifically my experiences in the Highty-Tighties.

Some single words that might describe my feelings about my band experience would include unity, oneness, and most importantly, heart. Looking at the photos on the opposite page you know there is more uniting these people than the uniforms they are wearing. It is an attitude that comes from feeling a part of something larger than yourself that I have heard described as “Family” many times. I like to refer to this as “Heart”. Being a Highty-Tighty gave me an understanding of the incredible things a group of individuals can accomplish when they all genuinely WANT to reach a goal.

This is obviously not a new concept. When two football teams have equal amounts of talent, expertise and great coaching, heart will make the difference between winning and losing every time. That

is the part of all of this that I see as a valuable life lesson.

I was blessed to be a part of an organization that considers itself “special” and has the history to prove it. From that I recognized how that applies to so many other things. I am proud to bear the name McMichael and do my best to honor that name. I am also proud to call myself a Roanoker and actually have an emotional attachment to that

star up on Mill Mountain. Then there is “Old Glory”. I am extremely proud to be an American in spite of major efforts in progress these days to extinguish that fire. (Not going there — would need a bigger newsletter)

I have seen many bands that clearly have the attitude that they are the “Best band in the Land”. They can’t all BE the best band, but if they are all trying with all their HEART to reach that goal it makes for one heck of a grand PARADE.

One last thing about HEART. It doesn’t require virtuoso musical talent to be a productive part of a great

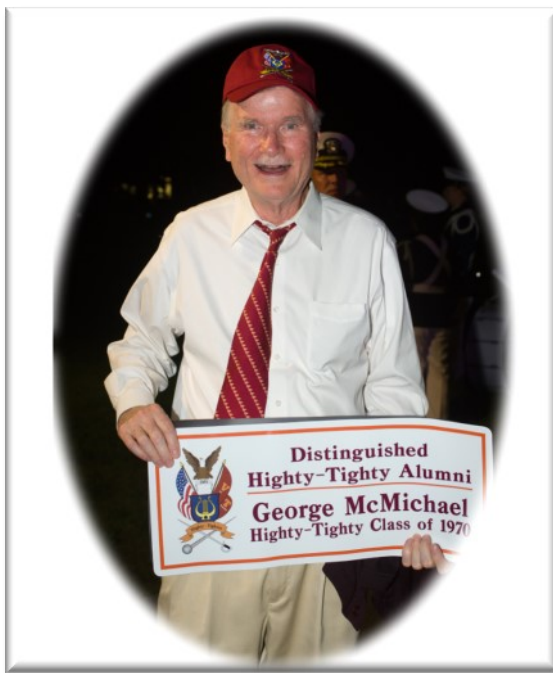
band. I have never had a drum lesson but have somehow managed to survive over fifty years in the drum rank and now you folks give me the title Distinguished Highty-Tighty Alumni. I look around at other honored alumni and see Generals, Judges, and other very successful folks and ask, how did I get here? Ultimately I am here because God put me here but what I contributed was the HEART.

Thanks for the privilege



George McMichael

HT Class of 1970







# Governor's Inaugural Parade

## Highty-Tighties March in Jan 15 Parade



*The Highty-Tighties kicked off the new year with their first performance of 2022, returning to campus early to march in Governor Youngkin's inauguration parade.*

## What's the Plan for 2022?

Our new VTCC Alumni Director, CDR Nate Brown shared a few calendar events for 2022 that might be of interest to alumni. (See table at right) First, there is a rumor that there may be a few football games this year. You can see that schedule on the web at <https://hokiesports.com/sports/football/schedule>. If you are already in withdrawal for some football the first game on the schedule is only two months away. The Spring Game is scheduled for 16 April. We will be playing Wofford on 17 Sept for Corps Reunion and HT Reunion and Homecoming will be 15 Oct against Miami. There will be updates as the year progresses. We will post anything significant at [hightytightyalumni.org](http://hightytightyalumni.org).

23 Apr	Caldwell March Part 2
30 Apr	Cadet Change of Command
30 Apr	HT Alumni Board Meeting
8-12 June	Reunion weekend and 50th Reunion for Class of 1972
3-10 Aug	Cadre Week
11 Aug	New Cadet move in
11-18 Aug	New Cadet Week
2 Sept	HT Cord Night Class of 2026
16-18 Sept	Corps Reunion
14-16 Oct	HT Reunion - Homecoming



# Alumni Recruiting

## Start a Conversation

The Highty-Tighties need our help with recruiting. The ongoing pandemic has put a pretty serious dent in recruiting for the Corps and for the Band. College fairs have gone from large in-person events to virtual conversations with limited time and limited participation – a serious problem. In the current recruiting environment, a high school student would either have to know about the Corps and Band from friends or family members or they would have to have done considerable research starting from the Virginia Tech homepage. Add to that a Virginia Tech calendar full of academic requirements, performance commitments to Virginia Tech athletic teams, numerous Corps requirements, and there might be two weekends left in a year for attending parades on the east coast – prime recruiting territory.

So, as alumni what can we do? We need to start conversations about the Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets and the Highty-Tighties anywhere and anytime we can. Back in the fall I blundered into the opportunity to talk briefly about the Highty-Tighties to the seven high school band directors in Augusta County where I live. My home is next door to one of the high schools and on that particular evening I listened to the high school band rehearsing. The thing was, this was a much bigger band. Turns out it was a county-wide marching band festival that evening. I put on a new Virginia Tech Regimental Band polo shirt (bought at Expertees in Blacksburg, look them up – great Highty-Tighty shirts at reasonable prices), grabbed two small stacks of business cards (Highty-Tighty cards and personal business cards), walked next door and launched into seven separate, brief conversations about the Virginia Tech Regimental Band, cadet Emerging Leader Scholarships, and the Band's \$2000 signing bonus. If an incoming freshman from Virginia wins an ELS and joins the Band the financial aid packet totals \$10,000. A five-figure financial aid number is a great ice breaker, particularly with parents. In addition to the band directors, I talked individually with several high school musicians and two sets of parents. A couple of days

later Senior Chief Bean, the Highty-Tighty director, followed up with emails to the high school band directors I had spoken with. Will this have a big impact on the fall of 2022 – probably not, but you can never tell when conversations will pay off. I intend to follow up with one of the families that I spoke with because the student's grandparents attend my church.

You don't have to search out big events; large numbers of alumni having one-on-one conversations can change the recruiting picture significantly. Not too long ago I struck up a conversation with a parent and their high school aged child in the grocery store. The student was wearing a high school band jacket. Neither the parent nor their teenager had heard of the Highty-Tighties. I gave a quick overview of the band, reached in my wallet and handed the family one of the "Highty-Tighty business cards" I always have.

Bottom line, let's go start some conversations. If you want a few Highty-Tighty business cards to keep in your wallet, drop me a line with your address to [daveandliz.williams@gmail.com](mailto:daveandliz.williams@gmail.com) and I'll get them in the mail to you. You should always feel free to share recruiting information with Senior Chief Bean at [jbean88@vt.edu](mailto:jbean88@vt.edu), and the Corps' recruiting officer, Lieutenant Colonel Mariger at [rmariger@vt.edu](mailto:rmariger@vt.edu).

Until next time.  
Ut Prosim

Dave Williams  
VP for Recruiting  
Retention & Marketing





# Meet Nate Brown



## NEW VTCC ALUMNI DIRECTOR

Hello Highty Tightly Alumni! In my very short time as the VTCC Alumni Director, I have been thoroughly impressed with the Highty Tightly Alumni organization. You all are extremely organized, passionate, and generous with your time and energy.

I would like to highlight two recent examples of the strength of your organization as exhibited by your members. My first exposure was at New Cadet Move In day last summer. Your members came out in force, welcoming the next generation and their families. It was hot, but your efforts turned what could have been a stressful and uncomfortable experience into the best example of Hokie Hospitality to those new cadets and their families!



*Nate speaks with alum during move in day*

The second example showcases what we all strive for within alumni organizations... the linkage between the past, present, and future. This particular example occurred at the conclusion of a bit longer parade than what we will likely replicate in the future. After scaling multiple hills and mountains during the Friday night Homecoming parade in downtown Blacksburg, the Highty Tightly Alumni Band marched onto the Drillfield in front of the Chapel and passed through a human tunnel of current Highty Tights. You all stopped and finished up the night's performance with Tech Triumph as the human tunnel of cadets broke ranks and surrounded you. Following the last note, there

was an impromptu meet and greet between alumni and cadets. Words don't do what I witnessed justice! It was exactly the linkage that we strive for between alumni and current cadets.



*Alumni and HT's greet at end of Homecoming Parade*



Thank you to all that have welcomed me to Blacksburg and allowed me to support and participate in your events. I look forward to all of the future opportunities for the VTCC Alumni Office and the Highty Tightly Alumni Organization to work in concert to enable current and future Alumni enjoy a Life-Long Hokie experience.

Ut Prosim  
Nate Brown, G'98  
VTCC Alumni Director

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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 an 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.vtcc.vt.edu/band>