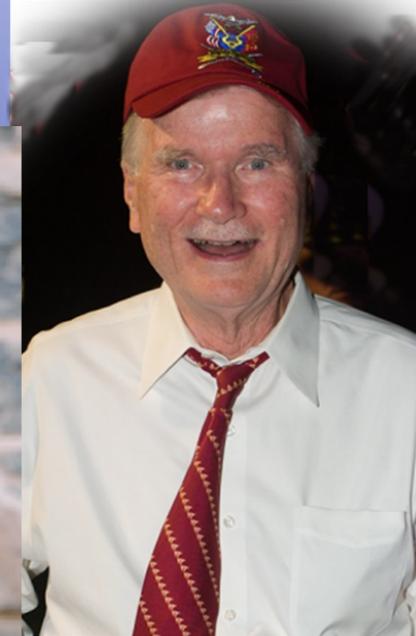


HIGHTY-TIGHTY

NOTES



We Have a New President!



David Williams HT '79



HIGHTY-TIGHTY ALUMNI, INC.

Board of Directors - Elected Members



David P. Williams
LTC, VaARNG
HT '79
President



Bertram Y. Kinzey III
HT '68
President Emeritus
Half-Notes Editor
Historian



Chuck Rowell, Jr.
HT '71
Immediate Past President
VP for Recruiting Retention
& Mktng



George E. McMichael, Jr.
HT '70
Past President
Webmaster
Newsletter Editor



Dirk I. McComsey
HT '92
Vice President
Alumni Operations



Scott Beman
HT '01
Vice President
Development



Maria Crookshanks
CDR, USNR (Ret.)
HT '87
Secretary



Lori Keck-Beach
HT '92
HTAB Drum Major &
Performance Officer



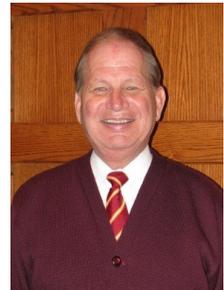
Mike Francisco
HT '74
Old Guard Liaison



Gene Harrison
HT '68
Director



William L. (Larry) Root
HT '72
Director



Thomas J. Verbeck
BG, USAF (Ret.)
HT '73
Director



Ed Wilkinson
HT '77
Director



Gary N. Jackson
LTC, USA (Ret.)
HT '78
Director



Michele Caldwell-Wrenn
HT '89
Director



Barry W. Baird
HT '92
Director



Scott Judd
HT '93
Director



Gregory R. Milas
HT '98
Director



Jennifer Boehm
HT '06
Director



Jennifer Harrison
HT '07
Director



Mariah Zwirb Cooper
HT '20
Director



Anthony LaVopa
HT '08
Director



PRESIDENT'S PAGE

Ever Forward



It is a sincere pleasure to write my first President's Page for the Highty-Tighty Notes, and I find it hard to believe that eight months have passed since I assumed my current role. We all know and try to live Virginia Tech's motto, Ut Prosim, That I may Serve. However, for the title of this article I borrowed the motto of my old unit, the 116th Regiment. I believe that Ever Forward represents the mindset we need at the crossroads that the Highty-Tighties and the Highty-Tighty Alumni find themselves. We have a new Commandant of Cadets in Major General William Seely, a new Vice Commandant in COL Craig Alia, and by the time you read this Senior Chief James Bean who has been the director of the Highty-Tighties for the past ten years will have retired. I want to thank Jim on behalf of all Highty-Tighty Alumni for his decade of service to the Band, and I am pleased that he will remain an adjunct member of Tech's faculty.

A nationwide search for the next director of the Highty-Tighties has commenced and two members of our board of directors will participate in the search committee process. As I write this, the University's position announcement has only been active for two weeks and we already have applicants from two exceptionally qualified individuals and more are expected shortly.

While we look to the future, we are fortunate to have a past grounded in excellence. We are the oldest continually existing collegiate band in Virginia, and one of the oldest in the nation. Our predecessors answered the call to duty and served as the regimental band of the 2nd Regiment of Virginia Volunteer Infantry in the Spanish American War. Our predecessors also had a personal connection with John Phillip Sousa. We have a history of performing for Presidents of the United States that reaches back to Theodore Roosevelt, and that record can only be bested by the active-duty service bands headquartered in the nation's capital.

Covid restrictions and the recent disappointment of not being selected for the Presidential Inaugural Parade are in the rearview mirror. However, I will assure you that the written and active support of Vir-

ginia's political leadership in the Band's inaugural parade application packet could not have been stronger. While we might not be happy with the outcome, we came away with powerful new friends and an exceptional template to use in the future.

I have personally seen a renewed commitment to performance excellence from the Highty-Tighties that actually started in the recently completed spring semester. In March, the Band traveled to Pittsburgh for a major St. Patrick's Day parade and won the best musical unit award. My time with the spring semester commander and the incoming commander and drum major has been productive. I look forward to the Highty-Tighty Alumni building a winning team with them.

I want to close our time together with an invitation – come home. If you regularly attend the Highty-Tighty Reunion at homecoming, thank you. If you haven't attended in the past or it has been a few years, I want, we want, and your classmates want you to come home. Your Highty-Tighty family misses you, so please mark your calendars now for October 3-4. If you want a more active role in the Highty-Tighty Alumni, you are welcome to reach out to me or any of the directors. I look forward to seeing you in the fall.

Ut Prosim and Ever Forward

David Williams HT-79





Alumni Relations Report

Brian Callsen — Director

Hello – I’d like to introduce myself, specifically to Highty-Tighty alumni. I started in May as the Director of Alumni Relations for the Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets. I’m really enjoying the opportunity to work with alumni, particularly HT alumni. What an incredibly dedicated group! I maintain good, consistent communications with the HT Alumni Board of Directors, some of whom I’m fortunate to often see in Blacksburg. Speaking of, I hope to meet and get to know you if you are able to visit Blacksburg during one of the opportunities this fall—Read on!

- **Corps Reunion**

The Corps Reunion will take place on 19/20 September—I hope you can join us. [Here’s](https://vtcc.vt.edu/alumni/corps-reunion.html) the website, which includes the schedule and a registration tab. <https://vtcc.vt.edu/alumni/corps-reunion.html>

It’s going to be a fun weekend with lots of opportunities to see old friends and interact with current cadets.

- **Highty-Tighty Reunion**

The registration webpage has just been published for Highty-Tighty Homecoming (Reunion). You can get to the link on the HTA website - hightytightyalumni.org - or use this link: <https://aimsbbis.vt.edu/HTReunion25>

- **Call for Leaders in Contact, Hokie Heroes, and First Salute**

- ◇ **Leaders in Contact (formerly Gunfighter Panel):**

We’re assembling a panel of recent alumni to speak with the Regiment on 18 September. The key is we want to put together a panel of different experiences and skillsets. If you are interested and available, email us at vtccalumni@vt.edu so we can start the conversation.

- ◇ **Hokie Heroes:**

If you are deployed from your home base—*or home civilian agency*—in the coming months, take some Hokie swag with you, snap a picture of yourself, and send it to vtccalumni@vt.edu. You’ll be recognized as part of the radio broadcast of football games and in a news article. Help us thank you for your service!

- ◇ **First Salute:**

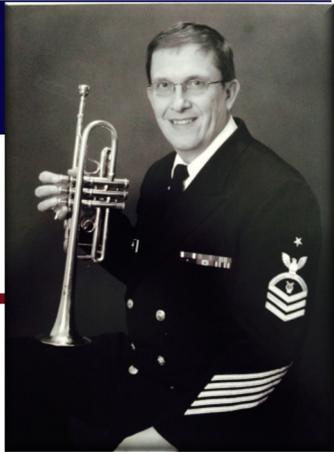
If you are back for a home football game, we can recognize you on the field before the game. Email us at vtccalumni@vt.edu to let us know what game you plan to attend.

Ut Prosim
Brain S. Callsen
Director of Alumni Relations
Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets



Sr. Chief James Bean

My Years as Highty-Tighty Director



ment everyone has shown throughout my tenure.

Although I am sad to leave, I am excited about the future of the

Photo at left shows Senoior Chief Bean at the Highty-Tighty banquet receiving a shadow box and a bass drum head that was signed by all of the cadets . This, along with the alumni pin he was given by Bert Kinzey was to honor his ten years of service as director.

I wanted to take a moment to thank all of you for making my time here a truly rewarding experience. Working alongside the talented and dedicated members of the Highty-Tighties, both current and past, has been an honor and a privilege. I have learned so much from each of you, and I will always be grateful for the support and encourage-

HT's. I am confident that we will continue to grow and prosper in the coming years. Please know the future of the organization will rely on the alumni and their continued support. There is no better group on campus who cares for the cadets and band than you.

Thank you again for everything.

Jim



Senior Chief James Bean, We Salute You!



History Notes Bert Kinzey HT '68

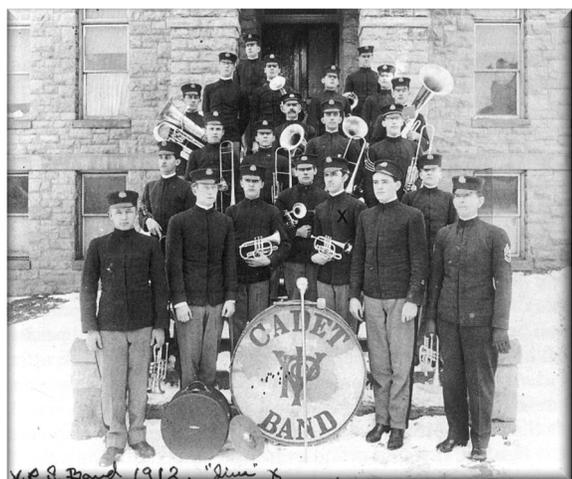
THE LEGACY OF JIM SCHAEFFER



Although he passed away in November 1951, the legacy of Jim Schaeffer lives on today in the standards of excellence the Highty-Tighties are expected to achieve and maintain. Except for the four years he spent on active duty in the Army, Jim Schaeffer spent every day of his adult life as an important part of the Highty-Tighties. He established the traditions of excellence that are the hall-

marks which brought the band amazing successes that continue through the eternal pursuit of perfection. Certainly, in the entire history of the band, no one has had a greater or more lasting effect on making the Highty-Tighties the organization that it is than Jim Schaeffer. This article is a summary of his legacy and how he is still remembered today.

When the cadet band was established as a separate and distinct unit within the Corps of Cadets in 1893, James Patton Harvey was appointed as the first director. But the college had no music department. To assist the director, a faculty member who had musical knowledge and ability was assigned to the band to provide musical instruction to the cadets. The first of these faculty members was El-liston Ager Smyth who was a chemistry professor.



The VPI Cadet Band of 1912 is pictured with Jim Schaeffer holding a cornet and marked with an X on his chest.

By 1908, several additional instructor-members had been added to the band. One of these was James “Jim” Solomon Schaeffer. He was on the college staff as a custodian in one of the buildings, but he was a gifted musician. His father, Thomas Schaeffer, was also a custodian for the college, and he was the founder and the director of the Glade Cornet Band, a band made up of Blacksburg townspeople. It was the fourth and longest-tenured civilian band that had played march music for the Corps of Cadets prior to the formation of the cadet band. Thomas Schaeffer had taught his son how to play several instruments, and he had become an excellent musician. As an instructor-member in the cadet band, Jim Schaeffer played cornet from 1908 until 1912 and provided music instruction to the cadets.

In 1912, Jim Schaeffer was drafted into the Army. The Army recognized his musical abilities, and he served until 1916 as a musician in the 4th Coast Artillery Corps Band. In 1916 he returned to Blacksburg, and learned that James Patton Harvey had passed away in 1915. Harvey had suffered a stroke in 1913, and Henry H. Hill, an associate chemist at the college’s agricultural experimental station, had taken over the duties of director that year without pay so that Harvey could continue to receive his pay while Harvey was incapacitated with the stroke. Hill continued to serve as director until 1915 when Peter Ubalodo Janutolo became interim director for one year. When Jim Schaeffer returned from the Army, he was offered the position as permanent director.

Jim Schaeffer’s first tenure as director lasted from 1916 until 1921, and several notable events took place during those years. Among them was the band’s first appearance in a presidential inaugural parade when they marched in the parade for President Woodrow Wilson in 1917. During the 1918-1919 school year, the band first became known as the Highty-Tighties, receiving the name from a barracks cheer by Division E in the Corps after the band had modified the cheer to make it its own. That cheer has remained a tradition of the band to this day.

During those years, Schaeffer became a victim of his own success. The band grew to more than forty members which was quite large for a college band in those days. Additionally, there was a drum and bugle corps of more than twenty members. The college decided that they needed a director who had a conservatory degree in music to be director, and William Luther Skaggs was hired as director. He would serve in this capacity from 1916 until 1927. Another conservatory-trained musician, George

Albert Johnson, served as director from 1927 until 1937.

But Jim Schaeffer still remained with the band through those years as the assistant bandmaster. His efforts helped improve the marching quality of the band, and he also directed the band in weekly concerts on campus during the spring. In 1937, Schaeffer again was named as the director of the Highty-Tighties, and he remained in this position until his death on November 25, 1951.



As director, Jim Schaeffer always marched with the band at the front right corner. This photo was taken at the Apple Blossom Parade in Winchester in 1951.

During his second tenure as director, Jim Schaeffer set standards of excellence that he insisted the band maintain. These included precise alignment of ranks and files when marching, precision in the carriage of instruments, both while playing music and when not playing. There was even a maneuver for trombones to empty their spit valves in unison after music was played! He insisted that all march music be memorized, so that the cadets could concentrate on their alignment while marching and doing drills during performances. He expected band cadets to maintain the highest standards in their uniform appearance. He maintained these standards throughout his tenure as director, except during the World War II years when the Army took over the accelerated training program on campus for all cadets.

Throughout most of his second tenure as director, most parades were competitive, and the band won first place in every parade it participated in with only one exception when it won a second place. The winning streak would continue long after Schaeffer died, including the three consecutive first place trophies at the two Eisenhower inaugural parades and the Kennedy inaugural parade.

In writing about Jim Schaeffer as director, Charles B. Moore, cadet executive officer in the Highty-Tighty Class of 1948, stated, “He wanted things done right, and in no

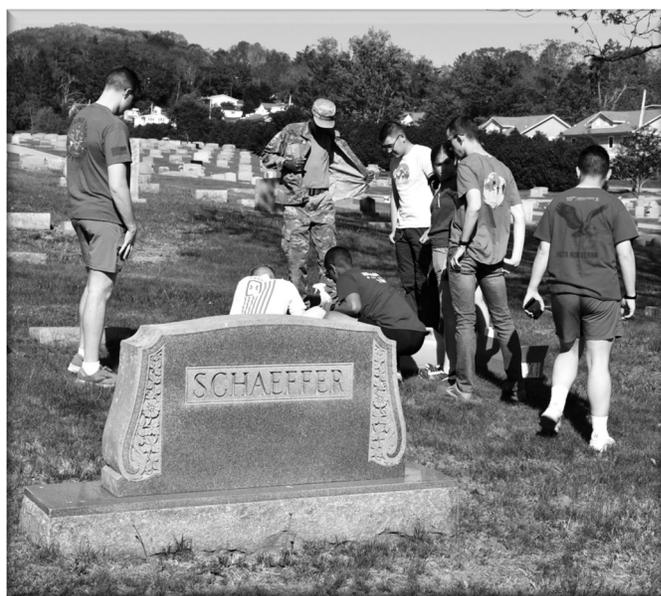


Jim Schaeffer (at right) dines with G. W. Headly, Band Company CO (at left), and Charles B. Moore, XO (at right rear), from the class of 1948. Also in the photo is Major Hobson from the U. S. Army ROTC Department.

uncertain terms, directed us to do so. He had a tough love for ‘his people’ that we all knew and came to respect. He said we were in for some tough times, and he was correct. This was not a frivolous slip-shod exercise by any means, rather a serious effort by all to do what was expected of us with dignity, pride, and style.”

After the Highty-Tighty Alumni, Inc. was founded in 1975, the commandant of cadets and the alumni organization established the official traditions of the Highty-Tighties, and these included the excellence in marching and the memorization of music that Jim Schaeffer brought to the band and which are to be maintained.

After his passing, the Highty-Tighties established a tradition of conducting a memorial service for Jim



The tradition of honoring Jim Schaeffer was reestablished this spring as cadets cleaned his grave stone and conducted a memorial service including the playing of Taps.

History Notes Continued

Schaeffer at his gravesite each year on Memorial Day, and Taps was played during the service. But after the university changed to the semester system and was no longer in session during the Memorial Day weekend, the tradition came to an end. It was reestablished again this year when cadets cleaned his footstone and conducted a service in his honor.



In 1964, Schaeffer's trumpet returned to the Highty-Tighties when Bert Kinzey, HT '68, who had been given the trumpet in 1954, entered Virginia Tech as a freshman. This photo appeared in "The Virginia Tech" along with an article about the trumpet returning to the band.

As author of this article, I am probably the last remaining Highty-Tighty who actually knew Jim Schaeffer personally, although it was as a young boy who always wanted to grow up and become a Highty-Tighty. After I ran out onto the Drillfield and "marched" behind him during a review in 1950, he became my first real hero, and I remember talking with him on several occasions over the following year and a half. He encouraged me to learn to play an instrument and to work real hard so that I could become a Highty-Tighty some day.

In 1954, my father obtained Jim Schaeffer's trumpet from his widow to give to me, and I played it when I was in elementary school. After moving to Florida in 1959, I played it in high school, but in 1964, I returned to Blacksburg and Virginia Tech as a Highty-Tighty. With Jim Schaeffer's legacy at the university and in the town of Blacksburg still known and respected, articles

were written about the return of his trumpet to the Highty-Tighties. Following graduation from college, I presented the trumpet to the band on "permanent loan." After the Highty-Tighty Alumni Band was formed, I returned each year to play it at homecoming as a way of keeping Jim Schaeffer's spirit alive. Today it remains in the Highty-Tighty section of the Cadet Museum.

To honor Schaeffer's legacy, and also because of my personal connection to him with his trumpet, in 1996, my wife, Lynda, and I founded the Jim Schaeffer Memorial Scholarship. It is awarded each year at homecoming to the outstanding sophomore in the Highty-Tighties who best exemplifies the high standards brought to the band by Schaeffer as selected by the senior class.

May Jim Schaeffer's legacy and his standards of excellence that are embraced in "THE ETERNAL PURSUIT OF PERFECTION" remain with the Highty-Tighties forever in the future.



Today, Jim Schaeffer's trumpet is on display in the Cadet Museum in the Corps Leadership and Military Science Building.

ADDRESS ISSUES WITH THE HIGHTY-TIGHTY HALF-NOTES

The Highty-Tighty Half-Notes emails keep you up to date on what the band is doing, and they provide information about alumni activities. Alumni who have signed up to receive the Half-Note emails, and who have used a vt.edu email address, should consider changing to a different address unless you are using it on a regular basis. Virginia Tech has started unilaterally deleting inactive vt.edu addresses, and for the last several months, there have been numerous bounce-backs from vt.edu addresses when Half-Notes have been sent out.

If you stopped receiving the Half-Notes, please send your active email address to Bert Kinzey at bertkinzey@icloud.com.

Also, if you have never received the Half-Notes and would like to start getting them, send your active email address to Bert.

From the Commander



Continuing Our Eternal Pursuit of Perfection

As the upcoming academic year approaches under the guidance of both a new Commandant of Cadets and Highty-Tighty Director, I cannot overstate how honored and excited I am to help usher in this next chapter of our organization's storied history. The opportunity to work with and for the Highty-Tighty team has already been gratifying as we all prepare for our upcoming freshmen class and the fall semester. My peers and I are privileged to have served under Senior Chief Bean, and the coming year will be historic in preserving the legacy that he created during his decade of service.

This fall, I look to inspire my fellow HTs to serve their band and community with extreme ownership in all that they do. Already, we have seen cadets take ownership of the Highty-Tighty standard across the country in various endeavors such as internships, military schools/camps, and even two graduates of USMC Officer Candidate School. In addition to the hard work done individually, we have also implemented summer physical training into our preparations for band camp, which has provided us with increased mental and physical preparation for our return to campus. We also intro-

duced our sophomore leaders to personnel management. I look forward to seeing how the discipline and work ethic displayed by HTs over the summer will continue in our eternal pursuit of perfection.

I'm incredibly lucky and grateful to be working with Ethan Homenik, our Drum Major for the 2025-2026 season. His vision and love for this band are truly inspiring, and I know that his dedication and musical expertise will show an immensely positive growth in our marching and performing standards. We are both incredibly excited to see this band grow and thank the Highty-Tighty Alumni for their continued support now and beyond. We look forward to celebrating the Highty-Tighty's continued success at this year's Homecoming game!



Facta Non Verba,
 Jack L. Chiodini
 Highty-Tighty Commander
 Fall 2025



Cadet Captain Rachel Upshur leads the band in the St. Patrick's Day Parade in Pittsburgh



Homecoming 2024

HTA Annual Meeting - Leadership Changes



President Emeritus Bert Kinzey thanks Chuck Rowell and acknowledges his dedicated service as HTA, Inc. President for the past eight years, before taking the guidon and handing it to David Williams, thus passing the presidency on to David. David was company commander in the Highty-Tighty class of 1979.

We are experiencing a lot of changes in our leadership. The photo above features the most significant change for the HTA - a new president of our organization. That's not the only change we have seen. We have also seen General Fullhart pass the baton to the interim commandant shown below speaking at the annual meeting. We now have a new full time commandant, Maj. Gen. William H. Seely III, the 37th commandant of the VTCC. In addition to that, closer to home, you might say,

Senior Chief Bean has decided to hang up his baton after ten years of faithful service to the Highty-Tighties. We have an exciting candidate for his replacement, but we are not able to confirm his hiring as of the writing of this article. So we have a new alumni president, a new Director (almost) and a new commandant. Some things change and some don't — like the continuing pursuit of excellence that is the trademark the Virginia Tech Regimental Band — The Highty-Tighties!



Senior Chief Bean speaks at the HTA Annual Meeting



Chuck Rowell receives recognition for his service as president



Interim Commandant BG Dwayne Edwards, USA (Ret) speaks at the HTA Annual Meeting



Homecoming 2024

Old Guard Class of 1974

During our annual HT meeting, the Class of 1974 was recognized as the newest Old Guard Class. Those present were David Kirks, Company Commander, Gary Herbek (who marched as Alumni Drum Major), Mike Francisco, Tim Howard, Doug Lester, Jim Moore, Butch Morris, Dave Sanders and Skip Watts. Sadly, we lost our Executive Officer Lloyd Hofer in 2023.

wore back then, the “wooly bag” and the “gray bag” - see photo at right.

We want future Old Guard classes to be well represented when their 50th year comes around.

Please reconnect now with your classmates, renew old friendships and encourage as many of your class as possible to attend Homecoming on their 50th year. Thank you and hope see you at Homecoming 2025.



Mike Francisco HT'74
Old Guard Liaison

Above left to right: Chester “Skip” Watts, Edgar “Butch” Morris, Tim Howard, Dave Kirks, Douglas “Darry” Lester, Dave Sanders, Jim Moore, Gary Herbek (at the podium —See photo at right), and Mike Francisco

As part of the recognition, a video was produced by the Class of 1974. It showed what the world was like 50 years ago at Virginia Tech. It included music, interviews, photos and old videos of the Highty Tighties. This video played before and after the meeting for everyone to enjoy. It was produced by Dave Sanders with help from class members. A link to the video is shown below. Also, Skip Watts provided a mannequin display of the uniforms we



Link to Class of 1974 Video

Here is the link to the 74 Class video. Note that you can also go to hightytightyalumni.org and click on the link there. Don't miss this opportunity to bring back lots of memories. You will love it!

<https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fi/5kgpr9hamr0pfcwhhn4c3/FINAL-v12.mov?rlkey=qdm530r1ci381t8ex2ssi8ref&st=12nrglnu&dl=0>



Alumni Relations Update

Dirk McComsey HT '92

The Highty-Tighty Alumni were busy in 2024! Local mentors met with new cadets for a donut social again this year, many stopped by the Lot 8 tailgate, and a group of us had a great time in Damascus, VA in July.

In July, 19 alumni, family, and friends from VA, DC, MD, WV, FL, and TN got together in the beautiful hamlet of Damascus, VA for a long weekend getaway. Alumni from the 60s, 80s and 90s enjoyed biking, hiking, and dining in the Highlands of VA while sharing stories and celebrating



*Top left: Opening dinner at Scott Judd's house. Top right: Ready for a hike
Bottom: Starting down the Virginia Creeper Trail*

Once again, in April following the Spring board meeting, we held our picnic with current band members, but this year was different... It was held on Upper Quad outside the CLMS building. This made it easier for the band to participate and meet the alumni who work to support them. Thanks to all the alumni who attended and helped by purchasing picnic items, bringing grills and cooking. All alumni and bandsmen are invited to this picnic to socialize and relax before the cadets need to focus on exams.

their time in the band. Scott Judd (HT 93) was a gracious host for the opening dinner/parting breakfast as well as the time in between events. Friday's events were biking the Virginia Creeper Trail, which was destroyed by the catastrophic flooding a few months later, followed by dining at Wicked Chicken. Saturday involved a moderate hike starting at the tunnel through Backbone Rock to the Appalachian Trail into Damascus. Afterward, several alumni attended the Highland Festival in Abingdon.

Upcoming Events



In August 2024, alumni assisted with new cadet move-in, meeting parents, handing out water and answering questions. This year, move-in occurred on Friday. Afterward, several alumni met at Tom Verbeck's farm in Giles County. Parents are always appreciative for the assistance and information our alumni provide. New cadet move-in this year happened just about the time this newsletter was published.

This year was the second year of the official HTA tailgate in Lot 8 during football season. They were well attended by HT alumni from recent graduates to classes from the 70s. The October 17 Boston College tailgate oyster roast was a huge hit, as it was the prior year. Thank you to the alumni who assisted with the tailgates throughout the season. Tailgate menus will be decided close to the day of the game and are announced on the HTA Facebook group. Stop by before the game and visit!

After the Homecoming parade, GunnyFest was another success. Thank you to those alumni who contributed to help make it happen. Once again, a few of you exceeded all expectations. The party couldn't have happened without some of those heavy-hitters. Every year the cost for this event goes up, but we pull together and make it happen. In 2025, GunnyFest will be planning to change the location to the CLMS immediately after the parade to make it even easier for alumni to attend. Please subscribe to Bert's Highty-Tighty Half-Notes and check the HTA Facebook group for more information closer to Homecoming for more information.

If you have not already done so, please join the Highty-Tighty Alumni Facebook group and register to receive the Half Notes email. Events and activities for the alumni are posted to the Facebook group and also mentioned in the Half Notes.

Upcoming Events

Donut Social - Fall semester, 2025.

Watch for more information on social media and the Highty-Tighty Half Notes.

Corps Reunion - 19-20 Sept. See details on page 4

Highty-Tighty Homecoming (Reunion)

2025 - 3-4 October - The registration page is open. Go to hightytightyalumni.org or the direct link is <https://aimsbbis.vt.edu/HTReunion25>

GunnyFest - Homecoming 2025 - Cadet Leadership and Military Sciences Building, Blacksburg, VA. Following the Homecoming parade.

Tailgates - Lot 8 throughout the football season.





Alumni Recruiting

Monthly Recruiting Pays Dividends

For 4 years now we have had a committee that meets every month year -round. Col. Rewa Mariger, Assistant Recruiter, Taylor Cupp, Admissions staff member, Greg Anderson, HTA Gary Jackson, Sr. Chief Jim Bean, President David Williams, and I meet to discuss progress, new ideas, on-going methods, projections for the coming year, and results-to-date.

During July there were 3 weeks of orientation and our Highty-Tighty recruiters and Sr. Chief Jim Bean signed 49 freshmen cadets to move in

... we will have more than 150 Highty-Tighties for the fall semester.

on August 15th as new Band members. We are excited to add these new members of the Band as we will have more than 150 Highty-Tighties for the fall semester.

We hope you will join us for Homecoming on October 3-4 to march and see these new HTs.

Each year we accept 4-5 other sharp and qualified musicians; some of them later become staff or leaders in the Band. They might be keyboard, violin, choir, or other non-marching band musicians.

Currently we have 104 returning upper class Highty-Tighties led by Fall Commander Jack Chiodini and 2025-26 Drum Major Ethan Homenik. Both rising Seniors spoke recently to our Spring Highty-Tighty Alumni board meeting. They gave very good talks about their plans to lead the Band towards greater marching discipline and music memorization.

Lastly, it is important to note that some of the increase in interest in joining the Band is because of your continued generosity. Incoming freshmen and as of last year, now Sophomores also each receive a \$1,000 additional stipend for being a member of the Band. This definitely gets the student and especially the parents attention as the

cost of college continues to rise.

So, recruiting and fund raising continue to complement each other as we find ways to attract future Cadets to say “YES I want to be a HIGHTY-TIGHTY”

Chuck Rowell, HT '71
Immediate Past President



2025 Football Schedule

31 Aug	3:00 pm EDT	@ South Carolina
6 Sept	7:30 pm EDT	Vanderbilt
13 Sept	7:00 pm EDT	Old Dominion
20 Sept	TBA	Wofford
27 Sept	TBA	@ NC State
4 Oct	TBA	Wake Forest Homecoming
11 Oct	TBA	@ Georgia Tech
24 Oct	7:30 pm EDT	Cal
1 Nov	TBA	Louisville
15 Nov	TBA	@ Florida State
22 Nov	TBA	Miami
29 Nov	TBA	@ Virginia
6 Dec	8:00 pm EST	ACC Championship

Development Update



Highly-Tighty Fundraising Update - 2025

The band continues to represent the organization, the Corps of Cadets, and the university with professionalism. More than 21 Highly-Tighty specific scholarships are available, and the HT Endowment value has reached more than \$5.4 million, despite some ups and downs in the market.

Opportunities to Give

The Schaeffer Endowment Fund continues to need funds to maintain the \$1,000 stipend that each incoming band freshmen and all sophomores receive. This fund is attractive to prospective band members, so there is always a need to maintain this great asset.

The Highly-Tighty Annual Giving Fund (Fund # 877055) continues to grow. The Brick Program has been a good example of a way to give. When an individual gives to an operating fund in the amount of \$2,500 (that is not part of an endowment), the individual is eligible for a brick style plaque that will go into the new Corps Leadership and Military Science (CLMS) building. This donation can be given all at once or broken up over a five year period. Please contact Scott Lyman (rlyman@vt.edu) 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.

With our support these current and future band members can continue to strive and

understand what it means to be a Highly-Tighty. If you are interested in providing financial support, please contact Scott Lyman (at rlyman@vt.edu). It truly does make a difference!

Thank you all for being supportive and a strong base for the band and the corps, and we are once again looking forward to another great 2025 year of being Highly-Tighty Alumni, and enjoying the sights of what we all have helped to build over so many years, and when you are back on campus, definitely take a walk around Upper Quad. The new buildings have created so much good morale for the band and the rest of the cadets.

Scott D. Beman HT '01
HTA, Inc.
Vice President for Development



The image above shows the plaque mentioned in the article which is created from an image of a Lane Hall brick.

Highty-Tighty Alumni, Inc
141 Lane Hall, Virginia Tech
280 Alumni Mall
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. 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 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. Note that Database is currently down for maintenance.
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

You may have your name removed at any time.

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

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