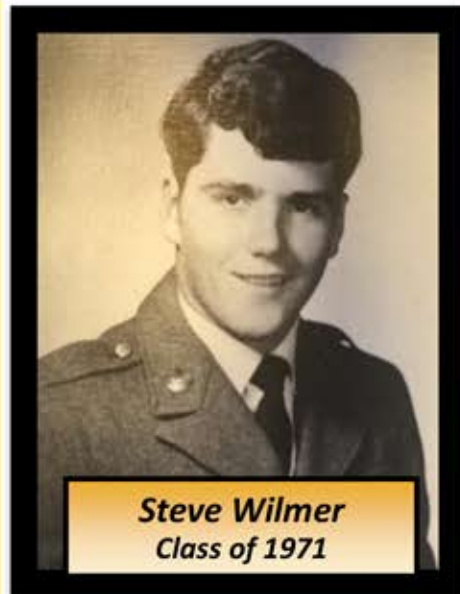


What MMA Means to Me



Steve Wilmer
Class of 1971

It wasn't until I was a teacher at Antilles Military Academy in Trujillo Alto, Puerto Rico, that I became aware of the sacrifice my parents had made. It has taken a long time to realize the impact MMA made on my life.

I clearly remember in public school being told I needed to be more organized, but only at MMA did they tell and show us how. Today in business and private life I still follow a lot of what I was taught. At night, I prepare for the next day, write out the "action items" that need to be addressed. I'm always early for meetings, and I always have a back-up plan. I still set goals.

Today, I still wear a tie to any meeting where I don't know someone. I learned to do that at MMA. If you arrive not wearing a tie, and everyone else is wearing one, there's no backing up. The expression was: "There is no second chance to make a first impression."

All through college studies, I followed what I was taught at MMA. Go to the back of the chapter, read the

questions first. Then, go through the chapter and read the bold type. Any time you come across a word in anything you are reading, where you don't know the exact meaning; go to the margin of the page and make a mark. After you finish the chapter, look up word in question, write it and its definition in the back of the book where there are always blank pages. Almost all my books for over forty years have those marks and definitions.

In college students would ask, "how do you do keep your grades up, you never study?" When I tried to explain that I got up at 5:30 AM, and went to the student center (above the cafeteria) to do homework, they all thought I was joking. The cafeteria staff were impressed that I was always first in line at breakfast.

Back in the 80's I was hired at a large company in Houston TX. I knew my competition was far more qualified for the position, but I got the job. Months later, I asked the director why he chose me over the other prospect. His answer was, "you addressed me as 'sir' when I talked to you." I didn't learn that habit in public school!

Nearly 50 years have passed since I went through the South gate at MMA to start a new life. For three years at MMA, I worked through the gauntlet of faculty, staff and ranking cadets. I would be quick to say that attending bible studies my senior year in college, probably made the biggest impact on my life, but attending MMA, definitely impacted how I would live, and stays with me even today.

Friends and family find it strange that I still fold my socks, T-shirts, underwear, all neatly organized in my dresser. In the closet my shirts, suits and sport coats are right sleeve out. Shoes are lined up underneath

*I achieved lots of major and minor goals over the years. One interesting goal was to publish a book about my first year as a cadet. The book is fiction, inspired by a true story. The title is: **MILITARY SCHOOL ? ME ?** It is with the publisher now and will be available from Amazon, and Barnes & Noble Amazon, early summer.*

Kind Regards
Steve Wilmer '71