

CRAMER'S SABERS

Alumni Newsletter

D - DAY **80TH ANNIVERSARY** **1944 - 2024**



Summer 2024



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MAJ (R) Gregory Couturier '02

CPT James Bentz '98

Asst. Dean Emerita Jane M. Stich '62, MA '69, MBA '83

Cadet Battalion Staff: Fall 2024

Battalion Commander: CDT Tiago Huynh (URI)

Executive Officer: Matt Kirschenman (URI)

Command Sergeant Major: CDT Carissa Johnson (URI)

Operations Sergeant Major: CDT Garrett Deforest (SRU)

S-1: CDT Simely Lanitgua (URI)

S-2: CDT Sara Carney (RWU)

S-3: CDT Thomas McMullen (RWU)

Asst. S-3s: CDTs Kali Connely (URI), Dylan Reasor (URI), Alex

Owens (URI), Callum Heffernan (URI), Joshua Hanlon (URI),

Garrett Sullivan (URI), Carson Zell (URI)

S-4: CDT Truman Bleakley (URI)

FUOPS: CDT Joseph Cartier (URI)

CUOPS: CDT Kyle Rodrigues (URI)

S6: CDT Dominic Tramontano (RWU)

UMO: CDT Robert Mehorter (URI)

Safety: CDT Clayton Roach (URI)

PAOs: CDTs Elizabeth Dufrane (RWU) & Sophie Artery (URI)

ROO: CDT Joseph Cartier (URI)

PTOs: CDTs Liam Reynolds (RWU) & Aidan Durant (URI)

Treasurers: CDTs Daniel DiCuffa (URI) & Callum Heffernan (URI)

A Company Commander: CDT Aidan Durant (URI)

B Company Commander: CDT Elizabeth Dufrane (RWU)

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Cramer's Sabers Battalion Cadre, Fall 2024

Professor of Military Science: LTC Cornelius (Tad) Granai

Executive Officer/APMS: MAJ Brendan Lamb

APMS/Recruiting: MAJ Angela Anderson

APMS/Operations Officer: CPT Pedro (PJ) Fernandez

APMS/Asst Operations Officer: CPT William Robertson

Sr. Military Science Instructor: SFC Jeffery Holomuzki

Sr. Military Science Instructor: MSG Kristopher VanMaaren

Enrollment & Scholarship Officer: Mr. Vance Dewey

Human Resources Technician: Ms. Rosemary Doyle

Logistics Specialist: Justin "Big Country" Prosser

URI Liaison: Ms. Cassie Barbato

Cover Photo: U.S. troops wade ashore from a Coast Guard landing craft at Omaha Beach during the D-Day landings near Vierville sur Mer, France on June 6, 1944. Photo: Robert F. Sargent/National Archives

THE CRAMER'S SABERS ROTC ALUMNI CHAPTER

University of Rhode Island Army ROTC

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Message from the Chapter President



As you will see in this edition, we continue to provide significant support to the ROTC cadets and cadre. There is a relatively small group of alumni who continue to support the program which allows the Chapter to provide the support we do each year. On the recommendation of Col Bill Babcock, I have included below a thank you, sent to him and his wife Judy, for their uniform donation. It is important to share this note Cadet Enoch is thanking all alumni in her note.

Congratulations to LTC Tad Granai and the cadre for another outstanding year of training and development of our cadets. As you will see in this edition, the cadets continue to exceed expectations maintaining the high level of accomplishments for the program and graduating outstanding 2LTs. Congratulations to Tad for his Induction into the East Greenwich Athletic Hall of Fame, he was quite the athlete in High School. We are grateful to Cadet Command; Tad has received another very rare extension and will be with us for another academic year which promises to bring another outstanding year.

I would like to draw your attention to the article written by COL Ray Horoho "We Need a Bench". Ray has finally put in writing what many of us have discussed over the past several years, the need to have more recent graduates ready to step in and ensure this Alumni Chapter that has achieved so

much continues to provide support to the cadets.

I also would like to highlight the article "Top Ten Military Friendly School". An article written by a student on the selection of The University of Rhode Island as one of the top 10 schools in the country for their outreach and support to the military. As I have said often during my tenure, the URI administration under Presidents Dooley and Parlange has been extremely supportive, as have the entire administrative staff. Let me take this opportunity to thank Dean Jen Riley, Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, for continued overwhelming support of the ROTC Program and Alumni Chapter. We are in a very unfamiliar position relative to cadre staffing as we have all positions filled and more. On behalf of all alumni, I would like to welcome the recent members, Military Science Instructor MSG Kristopher VanMaaren and Human Resources Technician Matt Daley (a Colonel in the Army Reserve).

Dear Colonel Bill Babcock:

My name is Leilah Enoch and I am a graduating Cadet at the University of Rhode Island. I am writing this letter to express my appreciation of you and your wife's support for the Cramer's Sabers Battalion. We have received so much funding and assistance from you and we could not have conducted half of our operations without your contributions. The overwhelming support has made us a stronger team and given us the room to have more effective events.

When I become a member of the alumni, I will remember you and the other alumni who shaped the way I lead as an officer in the e a member of the alumni, I strive to support URI ROTC to best of my ability, as you have. I was very moved by your speeches during the Alumni Awards at this year's Military Ball. I am very grateful that I got to see you speak as a junior and senior in the ROTC Program. The importance of the alumni service is now a staple that Cramer's Sabers Battalion and will continue to recognize. After I am commissioned later this month. I will remember you and the other alumni who have shaped the way I lead as an officer of the United States Army. I will continue to make sure that the soldiers around me understand the importance of those who served before us. I am beyond grateful for your bravery and assistance.

Message from the PMS



Hello to the entire Alumni! It is almost impossible for me to believe that four years have gone by since I became the PMS for this incredible program. I am honored and truly humbled to say that I have one more year to serve with this amazing group of Cadre, Staff, and Cadets.

With the academic year now complete, it is important to reflect on all the successes of this school year. Most significantly of course was the commissioning of a total of nine newly minted 2LTs on 20 May. Five of the new LTs will go into the Active Component, 3 will serve in the National Guard, and 1 Reserve Officer will serve with GEN Charlie Flynn at USARPAC. Following Cadet Summer Training, there will be three additional cadets commissioning within this cohort.

As for the cadets training this summer, I have never been more confident in how well this particular group of cadets will perform. Along with seventeen cadet's attending Advance Camp at Fort Knox, there are two cadets going to Basic Camp, one to Airborne School, and two off to the Air Assault Course. Following graduation, seven of the Advanced Campers will shadow Platoon Leaders for about a month at CTLT. Before we know it, Zero Week will be here and the Program will start again!!

Along with regular classes and Physical Fitness Training, Spring Semester training included the CFTX, 6 Labs, Combat Water Survival Test, Boston Tough Ruck, PT at First

Beach, Award Ceremony, and the Military Ball, among other events.

Our Recruiting Officer, Mr. Vance Dewey and the team have done a terrific job with recruiting. In particular, next year's senior class has a healthy 17 cadets expected to commission, the junior class has grown from 5 to 11 and next year's sophomore class remains strong with 22 cadets. Moreover, we have eight National Scholarship cadets coming to the Program in September, which is well above our average.

As always, a special thanks to go out to so many of our partners at three universities. Each of the schools continue as huge supporters of the Program. As always, thanks to URI President Marc Parlange, Dean Jen Riley, and Dean Sean Rogers for their tremendous support of the program, the Associate Dean of Students at Salve Regina University, Jen Jensen, and Kevin Hayden from Roger Williams for all they do for the cadets at URI, Salve Regina and Roger Williams respectively.

In closing, thank you to the Cramer's Sabers Alumni for your continued support to the Program. The cadets and cadre cannot thank you enough. In recent months, the Alumni has financially supported the Military Ball, CFTX pizza, and paying for the newly commissioned 2LTs Army Green Service Uniform (AGSU). Your passion and commitment to the cadets, cadre, and Program does not go unnoticed.



We Need a Bench

To Sustain Our Support for The Next Decade

If you are reading our semi-annual newsletter, you are fully aware of all the great support our / your URI ROTC Alumni Chapter continues to provide for the Cadets and Cadre of the Cramer's Sabre Battalion. Our Chapter may not be the only one across the country that helps in the ways we do on behalf of our Army's next generation of Lieutenants, but it is fair to say we are one of the best at what we provide and how we generate revenue to be able to do so.

You probably also know successful organizations do not sustain their success on the shoulders of their current leaders and contributors. Sustained success requires a leadership bench one or two generations deep to deliver long term as an exceptional organization. As good as we are today and as much as we provide today, we lack a sufficient bench of next generation Alumni Chapter members who are willing to step up and work to ensure the Cadets and Cadres in 2034 are receiving the same benefits as the Cadets and Cadre are enjoying in 2024. A number of our current committee chairs and officers are from the 1960s and 1970s graduating classes. While they are vibrant resolute diligent leaders at some point they will need to pass the torch.

We need you to step up and be one of those next generation of ROTC Alumni Chapter Leaders. We welcome all who want to be a part of helping to do

the work of this amazing team. Please join in and work on a committee, think about being a next up committee chair, or if you are interested shadow one of the current officers and ready yourself to take their place. Our board members are an amazingly friendly and inclusive group of men and women and your ideas for our continued success will be welcomed with open arms. Working on this team does not take a lot of time but it does take a commitment to continue the mission. If you are interested in being a part of this continued legacy of unparalleled support to the Cramer's Sabre Battalion, please call COL (RET) Ray Horoho at 703-231-8417 and he will help you find a place on the team to contribute to the areas that interest you. All ROTC Alumni are welcome to help us build a bench so that we can ensure our support continues for at least the next decade and beyond.



University News

UNIVERSITY OF RHODE ISLAND RECEIVES GOLD AWARD FOR BEING A TOP 10 MILITARY FRIENDLY SCHOOL



KINGSTON, R.I. — April 23, 2024 — The University of Rhode Island has been named a Top Ten Military Friendly School for the 2024-2025 school year, its highest designation to date. Previously, URI has been awarded both Silver and Gold status.

Schools recognized as military friendly were evaluated using public data sources, and responses from a proprietary survey. The survey is known to be the longest-running, most comprehensive review of college and university investments that serve military and veteran students.

URI enrolls approximately 300 military students, whether they're active or veterans, with approximately 170 military dependents. More than 300 members of the faculty and staff at URI are affiliated with at least one branch of the military. More than 1,800 schools participated in the 2024-2025 survey. Approximately 660 earned the Military Friendly designation.

"The Top Ten rating is recognition that the University leadership, students, staff and faculty have doubled down on their commitment to veterans and military-connected students at URI," said Bob Flynn, director of URI's Center for Military and Veteran Education. "Additionally, our alumni have recognized these efforts and are supporting our veteran students with additional financial aid. We have a terrific community and veterans and their families add so much to its vibrancy."

The honor is the result of University-wide efforts that include such URI offices and departments—Enrollment Services, Community, Equity and Diversity, URI Foundation and Alumni Engagement. The University offers advising and mental health support. The University has an active Military and

Veteran Education program and Student Veteran Organization efforts.

URI provided the Center for Military and Veteran Education with new space in the Memorial Union in September, 2022. Flynn was hired as the full-time director shortly after and his team got right to work.

"All of this work at URI shows a commitment to support veterans and their families," Flynn said. "The center is centrally located and large enough to have events. We also have more than 10 students working at the center."

Each year, a new Military Friendly Schools list is created and released to the public. It is based on extensive research using public data sources from more than 8,000 schools nationwide, input from student veterans, and survey responses from participants. Schools were measured on their ability to meet thresholds for student retention, graduation, job placement, loan repayment, persistence, and loan default rates. They were measured for all students, but specifically those who are student veterans. Survey questions, methodology, criteria and weighting were developed with the assistance of an independent research firm and an advisory council of educators and employers.

For more information about the University's programs for student veterans, current military and military-connected schools, visit <https://www.uri.edu/veterans>.

Benjamin Smith, a senior sports media and public relations major at the University of Rhode Island and an intern in the Department of Communications and Marketing, wrote this press release. Reprinted with permission.

Cadet News

CADETS DO CRAMER'S SABERS BATTALION PROUD AT THE BOSTON TOUGH RUCK



On 14 April 2024, six Cramer's Sabers Cadets participated in the Boston Tough Ruck in Concord, MA. The Boston Tough Ruck is a 26.2-mile ruck with either a 25 or 35lb ruck. Four URI and two RWU Cadets participated, with two Cadets tying for third in the Military Heavy weight bracket (35lb Ruck).



CDT Cartier (URI) – 5:19
CDT McMullen (RWU) – 5:19
CDT Huyhn (URI) – 5:48
CDT Reynolds (RWU) – 5:53
CDT Lantigua (URI) – 7:36
CDT Enoch (URI) – 7:36



COMBAT WATER SURVIVAL TEST

On 10 April 2024, the Cramer's Sabers executed their annual Combat Water Survival Test (CWST) at the University of Rhode Island's Tootell Aquatic Center.

Events Included:

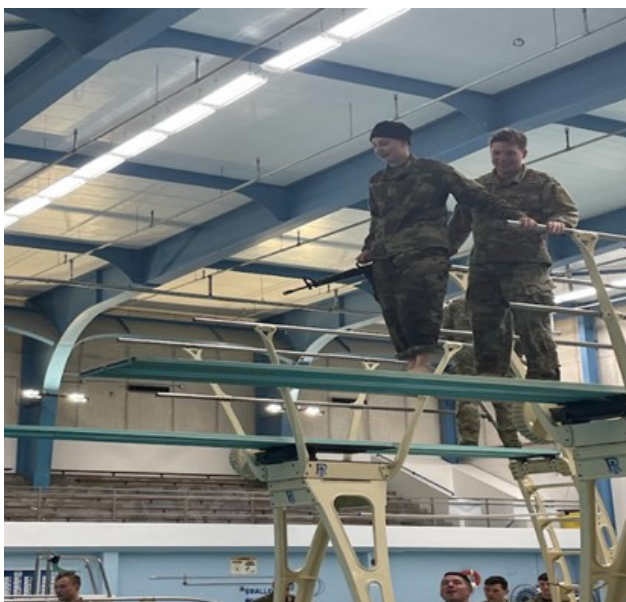
Equipment Swim – Cadets swam 25 meters in full OCPs, with a rifle.

Don & Ditch – Cadets with LBE and a rifle in hand submerged underwater and released all their gear

before they reemerged.

Tread Water – Cadets showed their ability to stay in deeper water by treading water for 5 minutes.

3 Meter Board – While blindfolded, cadets walked off a 3-meter diving board with a rifle into deep water. Without losing control of their rifle, cadets resurface and swim to safety with their weapon.



COMBINED FIELD TRAINING EXERCISE

The Cramer's Sabers Battalion executed their Spring Combined Field Training Exercise (CFTX) from 04-07 April 2024. The CFTX included Boston University, Northeastern, MIT, and Providence College. In total, approximately 340 Cadets participated ranging from MSI to MSIVs. Events

include day/night land navigation, obstacle course, warrior task lanes, rappel tower, patrol lanes, and 6-mile ruck march. Cadets Huynh (MSIII) and Reasor (MSI) were selected out of over 340 cadets for their exceptional performance during the CFTX's closing award ceremony.



The cadets really appreciated the pizza provided by the Alumni Chapter following the CFTX

Alumni News

COL (R) WILLIAM MACKINLAY SELECTED FOR THE 2024 CLASS OF THE NATIONAL ROTC HALL OF FAME



With great pride the URI ROTC Alumni Board of Directors is happy to announce that Col (R) Bill MacKinlay has been selected for induction in the ROTC National Hall of Fame.

Colonel MacKinlay served 29 years on active duty. In addition to his Bachelors Degree from URI, he holds a Master of Science Degree from the Florida Institute of Technology, Acquisition and Contracting and is a graduate of the United States Army War College.

Bill is member of the Distinguished Order of Saint Martin, and served in a variety of key assignments throughout his career, including Commander, United States Army, Defense Contract Management Area Office, Defense Contract Management Command. His key staff assignments include Chief, Procurement and Technical Support Division, United States Army, Program and Technical Support, Headquarters Contract Management Command and Quartermaster Branch Colonel's Assignment Officer.

COL (R) Mackinlay's induction ceremony will be held at the University Of Rhode Island this Fall.

CONGRATULATIONS TO PMS LTC TAD GRANAI FOR INDUCTION IN THE EAST GREENWICH HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC HALL OF FAME



As a member of the 2024 class, LTC Tad Granai was inducted into the East Greenwich Athletic Hall of Fame. Tad played football, hockey, and baseball on Crimson teams. In hockey he started for four years and was All Conference and a 3x All Star. Also named Captain and MVP twice. One of East Greenwich's all-time top scorers. He was 1995 Male Athlete of the Year and went on to play hockey at URI, where he started all four years. In baseball, Granai was All Conference two times and as a senior

batted over .400. He played centerfield for three years and in the summer played for West Warwick Post 2 in Legion baseball. A team captain in football he was two-time All-Conference and started three years on offense and defense along with returning punts and kicks. Fortunately for the URI ROTC Program, because of his outstanding leadership, Tad received a rare extension as the PMS at URI and will be with us for another year.

MARYANN MAZZONE RAM OF THE GAME

MaryAnn Mazzone, a huge supporter of the ROTC Cramer's Sabers Battalion and Alumni Chapter, was honored as Ram of Game January 27 at the women's basketball game against UMass. Congratulations MaryAnn and thank you for all the support to the Program and Alumni Chapter.



Above: President Parlange, Athletic Director Thor Bjorn and the Ram join MaryAnn at center court.



Right: President Parlange looks on as MaryAnn enjoys the moment!!

2024 Cadet Awards Ceremony

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY AWARD

Cadet Charles Pettit

THE ASSOCIATION OF THE UNITED STATES ARMY AWARDS

Cadet Darby Donegan

RHODE ISLAND CHAPTER AUSA AWARD

Cadet Tiago Huynh

RI AUSA MILITARY HISTORY AWARD

Cadet Matthew Krischenmann

THE SOCIETY OF THE WAR OF 1812 AWARD

Cadet Aydan Durant

THE MILITARY ORDER OF THE PURPLE HEART AWARD

Cadet Joshua Hanlon

Cadet Dylan Reasor

THE MILITARY ORDER OF WORLD WARS AWARD (MOWW)

MS1 Cadet Callum Heffernan

MS2 Cadet Vladimir Monteiro

MS3 Cadet Truman Bleakley



SONS OF UNION VETERANS OF THE CIVIL WAR AWARD

Cadet Sean Seiler

MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION AWARD

Cadet Thomas McMullen



THE MILITARY ORDER OF FOREIGN WARS AWARD RI CHAPTER

Cadet Benjamin Seward

Cadet Madison Wuttke

THE USAA SPIRIT AWARD

Cadet Leilah Enoch

THE ARMED FORCES COMMUNICATION & ELECTRONICS ASSOCIATION AWARD

Cadet Sara Carney

THE ORDER OF THE FOUNDERS AND PATRIOTS OF AMERICA AWARD

Cadet Charles Pettit

Cadet Madison Christiana

THE RESERVE OFFICERS' ASSOCIATION AWARD

MS I Cadet Jude Niemi

MS II Cadet Daniel DiCuffa

MS III Cadet Garrett DeForest

MS IV Cadet Ryan Lawrence

THE AMERICAN LEGION AWARD

Cadet Samuel Nendze

Cadet Joseph Cartier

Cadet Brain Bericochea

Cadet Liam Reynolds

Cadet John Bowen

Cadet Kevin Otto

2024 Cadet Awards Ceremony (cont.)

THE VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS AWARD (RI Chapter)

Cadet Dominic Tramontano

THE NATIONAL SOJOURNERS AWARD

Cadet Clayton Roach

SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION AWARD (SAR)

Cadet Alex Owens

THE DAUGHTERS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION AWARD

Cadet Grace Fishpaw

THE DAUGHTERS OF THE FOUNDERS AND PATRIOTS OF AMERICA AWARD

Cadet Sophie Artery

THE DAUGHTERS OF AMERICAN COLONISTS AWARD

Cadet Carissa Johnson



THE JOANNE LACHAPPELLE AWARD

Cadet Matthew Vartanian

THE SUPREME COUNCIL SCOTTISH RIGHT OF FREE MASONRY Award

Cadet Anyi Arias

THE JOHN "DOC" ROGERS, JR. INCLUSIVE EXCELLENCE AWARD

Cadet Huynh Tiago

THE JOHN "DOC" ROGERS, JR. LEADERSHIP THROUGH COMMUNICATION AWARD

MS I Cadet Logan Gross

MS II Cadet Daniel Dicuffa

MS III Cadet Truman Bleakley

MS IV Cadet Joseph Siva

THE JOHN "DOC" ROGERS, JR. AWARD FOR MILITARY LEADERSHIP SELFLESS SERVICE

SFC Jeff Holomuzki



DISTINGUISHED MILITARY STUDENT AWARD

Cadet Ryan Lawrence

GCM ROTC AWARD

Cadet Leilah Enoch

MILITARY ORDER OF FOREIGN WARS

Cadet Simely Lantigua

Cadet Elizabeth Dufrain

SOUTH KINGSTOWN ELKS LODGE

Cadet Matthew Vartanian

CRAMER'S FITNESS EXCELLENCE

Cadet Alicyn Noel

SUPERIOR CADET AWARD

Cadet John Bowen

Cadet Kyle Rodericks

Cadet Dillion Coblinz

Cadet Mia Destival

2024 Alumni Awards



COL (R) Tom Heaney, a Saber winner, presents the Prestigious 1LT Parker Cramer Award to CDT Leilah Enoch



LTC (R) Torre Peterson presents the William Schank Award to CDT Sean Seiler



LTC (R) Torre Peterson presents the Carl Myllmaki Award to CDTs Darby Donegan and Grace Fishpaw



COL (R) Bill Babcock and wife Judy present the Carmen DeCubellis Award to CDT Ryan Lawrence

2024 Alumni Awards (cont.)



COL (R) John Petrella Presents the LTC Paul Helweg Award to CDT Joseph Silva



COL (R) John Petrella presents the Gen Leon LaPorte Award to CDT Benjamin Seward



COL Bill Babcock and wife Judy present the LTC Richard Schott Award to CDT Charles Pettit



COL (R) Tom Heaney presents the Ranger Award to CDT Benjamin Seward

2024 Military Ball



The evening began with the posting of the colors by the ROTC Color Guard. Cadet Nendze did an outstanding job as master of ceremony for the evening.



The 2024 Military Ball was held on Saturday April 27 and due to the great experience of 2023, was again at the historic Westerly Armory, Westerly Rhode Island. The ball, as is the tradition, was planned and executed by the senior class, who ensured the evening included military traditions, recognition of accomplishments, and a fun time for all. There were more than 120 guests including cadets from all classes, friends, ROTC Alumni, Jennifer Jenson from Salve Regina, and President Mark Parlange. The guest speaker for the evening, who remained for the entire evening, was Senator Jack Reed.

Senator Reed congratulated the cadets of all classes for volunteering to serve the nation. He provided them invaluable guidance as they pursue their military careers, recognized the ROTC Alumni in attendance, URI President Parlange and Jen Jensen from Salve Regina, and singled out LTC Granai for his leadership of the Battalion. Senator Reed, Chairman of the Senate Arms Services Committee, provided the audience with a realistic view of the world situation today and what cadets as military officers may face now and in the future. Senator Reed was clearly at home within this military environment and remained until the closing

and the singing of the Army Song. A 1971 West Point graduate, Reed went on to serve in the 82nd Airborne Division as an Infantry Platoon Leader, a Company Commander, and a Battalion Staff Officer. He earned the Ranger Tab and Senior Parachutist Badge. He joined the faculty at West Point, teaching cadets economics and international relations as an Associate Professor within the Department of Social Sciences. He served as a professor at the U.S. Military Academy until August of 1979 when he resigned from active duty as a Captain. He continued serving in the U.S. Army Reserves until June of 1991, when he left the Reserves with the rank of Major.



2024 Military Ball (cont.)



2024 Summer Commissioning Ceremony



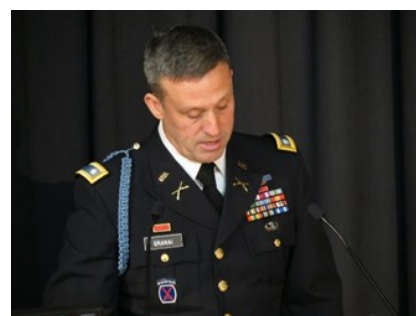
On 20 May The Cramer's Sabers Battalion conducted their Commissioning Ceremony for the class of 2024 in Edwards Hall, with General (R) David

Perkins as the guest speaker and CPT William Robertson moderating.

GEN Perkins was introduced by President Mark Parlange, who provided a summary of GEN Perkins many accomplishments. .

GEN (R) Perkins is the former TRADOC Commander, and provided the nine soon to be 2LTs with invaluable advice going forward. He told them with their ROTC training, they were prepared to move forward, but they did not know everything, and therefore encouraged them to seek out the

advice and knowledge of their NCOs as that was an important role they play. He thanked them for selecting service to the Nation and wished them and their families all the success in the future.



Following GEN Perkins, LTC Granai addressed the cadets with his advice for their success and expressed how proud he was at their many accomplishments in the ROTC Program.

Also in attendance were Dean Jen Riley, Mary Parlange, and many family and alumni.



INTRODUCING THE SUMMER 2024 COMMISSIONEES: 2LT Brain Bericochea, National Guard-Field Artillery; **2LT Carry Donegan** Army Reserve-Military Intelligence; **2LT Leliah Enoch** Active Duty-Ordnance; **2LT Grace Fishpaw** National Guard-Military Police; **2LT Sofie Morris** Active Duty-Ordnance; **2LT Charles Pettit** Active-Duty -Military Intelligence, **2LT Sean Seiler** Active Duty- Finance detailed to Field Artillery, **2LT Benjamin Seward** Active Duty- Finance detailed to Infantry, **2LT Joseph Silva** National Guard-Transportation

THE PINNING OF THE BARS BY FAMILY AND FRIENDS



THE PINNING OF THE BARS BY FAMILY AND FRIENDS (cont.)



THE PINNING OF THE BARS BY FAMILY AND FRIENDS (cont.)



Remembering Our Hall of Fame D-Day Veterans

June 6th, 2024 marked the 80th anniversary of the Normandy Invasion and the Start of Operation Overlord--the World War II Allied operation to liberate German-occupied Western Europe. In this

issue of the Cramer's Sabers Newsletter, we remember and honor members of the URI ROTC Hall of Fame who took part in the invasion and the Normandy Campaign.



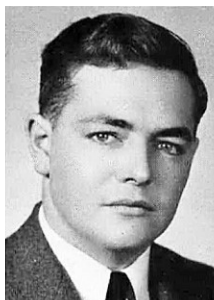
2LT Robert J. Barrat, 303d Bomb Group, took part in the aerial support of D-Day, 6 June 1944. On that date, the 303d flew three separate missions between dawn and dusk in a ground support role. In the campaign that followed, the 303d flew 29 missions and over 1000 sorties. Barrat was killed in action 9 February 1945 when his B-17, after colliding with another aircraft, crashed near Eisenburg Germany.



COL Maurice Belisle, 1st Infantry Division, (then a Captain) led his company ashore on "Dog Green" sector, Omaha Beach on D-Day. During that landing, near the town of Colleville-Sur-Mer, he braved heavy enemy sniper fire to provide first aid to a seriously wounded officer. For his actions that day, he was awarded the Bronze Star Medal with "V" device for valor. Belisle continued to serve after the war, culminating his Army career as Professor of Military Science at URI. Following his military retirement, Colonel Belisle remained at URI as an Assistant Dean until 1976.



CPL Harvey R. Colome, 81st Chemical Mortar Battalion, landed on Omaha Beach, France on 6 June 1944 with the First Army. The 81st played an important role in the campaigns through the European Theater of Operations. CPL Colome was killed in action 23 March 1945.



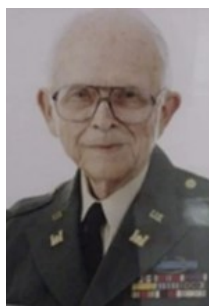
1LT Kenneth R. Knowe, 30th Infantry Division, landed at Omaha Beach 15 June 1944. As part of the 119th Infantry Regiment, Knowe secured the Vire-et-Taute Canal, crossed the Vire River, and spearheaded the St. Lo break-through. Knowe was killed in action 8 October 1944 and posthumously awarded the Silver Star for conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity in action against the enemy.



SSG Joseph A. Medas, 83d Infantry Division, landed at Omaha Beach with the 83rd Infantry Division on 18 June 1944 and entered the hedgerow struggle south of Carentan, France. Medas was killed in action 13 April 1945 during the battle to secure the Elbe River at Barby.



2LT Louis W. Mercure, 9th Infantry Division, landed at Utah Beach 10 June 1944, and took part in the 39th Regiment's campaigns to seal off the Cherbourg and Contentin Peninsulas. 2LT Mercure was killed in action in Belgium, 6 September 1944.



LTC Kendall Moulthrop, 1st Infantry Division, (then a Captain) led a company of 200 men and landed in Normandy on D-Day. As he and his men secured the beachhead, they entered a minefield that wiped out half of the company. Though severely wounded, CPT Moulthrop refused treatment and continued to lead his company until they secured their objective. After recuperating for six months, Moulthrop rejoined his company. For his service during the war, Moulthrop received 4 Silver Stars, 2 Bronze Stars, 2 Purple Hearts and a host of other decorations. After the war Moulthrop became a well-respected Professor of Engineering at URI.



Uniform Program

2024 ROTC UNIFORM PROGRAM - ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL YEAR!!!

Thanks to the continued generosity of our alumni, the members of this year's graduating class were provided with an Army Green Service Uniform for their commissioning ceremony. This program was begun by LTC (R) Paul F Helweg, Jr. past president, and has continued to grow over the past several years. Thank you all for keeping this tradition going!!

THANK YOU TO OUR 2024 UNIFORM DONORS:

MG (R) Roger Nadeau '74
Mr. Dave & Priscilla Feeney '71 '70
COL (R) William P. Babcock '68
LTG (R) Patrica & COL (R) Ray Horoho '82
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CAPT Howard & Robyn Catley



*Looking good at the Military Ball in their new army greens.
CDT Grace Fishpaw, CDT Brian Bericochea, and CDT Joseph Silva*

2024 Golf Tournament



2024

LTC (R) Paul F. Helweg, Jr., ROTC Memorial Golf Tournament

Register today!

Green Valley Country Club, Portsmouth RI, September 13, 2024
Check-in begins at 11:00 a.m. Shotgun play begins at 12:30 p.m.

\$125.00 per player includes green fees, golf cart, and steak dinner. Chicken and vegetarian options are available upon request. Please note your meal selection on your registration (see below). There will be Mulligan's, raffles, and a silent auction available for purchase.

Make checks payable to: *URI Foundation ROTC Golf #5919*

Mail to: *URI Foundation, ATTN: Rebecca Vigeant, 79 Upper College Road, Kingston, RI 02881*

Please email or mail single/foursome registration form to: Tom Heaney at tahini06@gmail.com or 423rd Beach Road Middletown, RI 02842 as soon as possible!! ***

Anyone registering after September 2, 2024 must register at the tournament registration table on the day of the tournament.

Individual: (Name, Entre selection, and email,) _____

Foursome: (Name, Entre selection, and email)

1) _____ 2) _____

3) _____ 4) _____

☐ I'd like to sponsor a cadet; I've included an additional \$125.00

☐ I have additional guest(s) for dinner included \$40.00 for each dinner.

All proceeds support the ROTC Program and Alumni Chapter



2024 Golf Tournament



TEE SPONSOR INSTRUCTIONS

THANK YOU for pledging to sponsor a tee/hole for our September 13, 2024, ROTC Helweg Memorial Golf Tournament

Donation by Check:

Your tee/hole sponsor donation check for **\$100.00** should be Payable to: **URI Foundation ROTC Golf #5919**

Please write in ***"Tee Sponsor"*** in the memo space of your check

Mail the check to: *URI Foundation Attn: ATTN: Rebecca Vigeant, 79 Upper College Road, Kingston, RI 02881*

Donation on Line:

If you prefer to make an online payment using a credit card or Pay Pal, please go to:

urifae.org/golf. This URL will bring you to a donation form specially set up to go into the ROTC Golf Account (**URI Foundation ROTC Golf #5919**).

Tee Signs:

When you make your donation (by either a check or on-line), please email **LTC (R) Milton McKenna** at **mmck66@verizon.net**. Milt will **confirm your payment and ensure we have the information you want on your tee sign**.

Tee sponsor signs will be prepared with your "message" and/or "photo" (.jpg files please) to commemorate your pledge. In order to complete your sign in a timely manner, please ensure LTC (R) McKenna receives your tee sign request and sign information by September 2, 2024.

2024 ROTC Alumni Chapter Golf Committee



THE ARMY ROTC FUND FOR MILITARY LEADERSHIP EXCELLENCE



Under the leadership of the late LTC Paul F Helweg '70, the ROTC Alumni Chapter established The Army ROTC Fund for Military Excellence in 2005. Known as the LTC Richard S Schott Prize, the fund is named for LTC Schott, an outstanding officer who perished in Vietnam while saving his men. The award, consisting of the income generated by the endowment, is given annually to a cadet who demonstrates superior academic, leadership, and other attributes important for a future commissioned officer.

“Through Their Generosity and Dedication, the Following Friends of URI ROTC Continue the Tradition

of Leadership Excellence for Our US Army and Our Nation”.

The fund initial donors included 40 alumni and friends and is memorialized on a plaque located in the ROTC department. If you are interested in helping us grow this endowment, please contact Jackie Nowell, Associate VP, Donor Relations and Engagement, 401-874-4221, jnowell@uri.edu at the URI Foundation and Alumni Engagement PO Box 1700 Kingston, RI 02881.

CALLING ALL URI, ROGER WILLIAMS, & SALVE REGINA ROTC ALUMNI!



The URI Army ROTC Alumni Chapter is conducting a national search to find and connect with past Cramer's Sabers Battalion Alumni of all schools and year groups. Alumni of the program include Commissioned Officers from the University of Rhode Island, Roger Williams University, and Salve Regina University. If you are a ROTC alumnus and want to stay connected with the program, other alumni, and current cadets, please send a note to URIROTCAA@gmail.com, and someone from our Communications team will connect with you.

Over the years, many of us have moved, changed emails, and phone numbers several times. Many of us no longer have home phone numbers! It is a top priority of our board to maintain an active and current directory of all alumni in order to share up to date information on the program, cadets, and communicate opportunities to support.

We send out a newsletter semi-annually and would like to update our directory so that we can share what our Alumni Chapter is doing so that you might enjoy reading about it or joining us during one of our events. If you have any friends who you are still in contact with, ask them if they receive the newsletter and if not, please give them our Gmail address.

We also have several platforms to help reconnect alumni with the program:

LinkedIn: URI ROTC Alumni Group
<https://www.linkedin.com/groups/96094>

Facebook: URI ROTC Alumni Chapter
<https://www.facebook.com/urirotcalumnichapter>

Thank you for your assistance!

Cramer's Sabers Battalion History

The Army ROTC Battalion on the URI Campus originated from the military training unit established in 1894 by Captain William W. Wetherspoon, later Chief of Staff of the United States Army. Under the provisions of the Morrill Act of 1862, better known as the Land Grant Act, State colleges set up military training units to prepare college students for leadership in the event of a national emergency. In 1920, the unit was re-designated as the Reserve Officers Training Corps in compliance with the National Defense Act of 1920.

Starting with a unit consisting of fourteen men in 1894, the unit grew to approximately 1500 cadets during the time ROTC was mandatory for freshmen and sophomore male students. The unit was organized into a brigade of three battalions consisting of three companies each and one provisional battalion consisting of the junior training company, Kingston Rangers, the ROTC Band and the Drill Team.

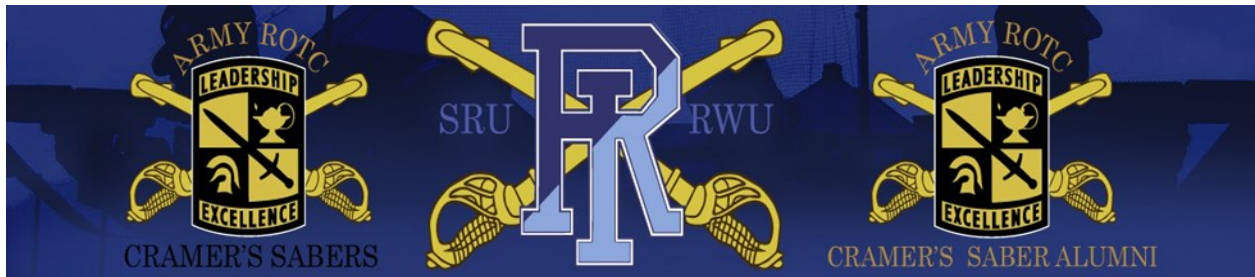
An Infantry branch material unit was instituted with military instruction in 1940. Subsequently, Quartermaster and Engineer branch units were incorporated into the program in 1943 and 1951 respectively. Presently, all branch training has been terminated and replaced by general Military Science instruction. (full college credit is received for ROTC courses by all students enrolled.)

Since 1951, over 11,900 cadets from the program have been awarded commissions into the Active and Reserve Components of the United States Army. Approximately 29,000 students have taken basic ROTC courses at the University of Rhode Island during the same period. Beginning with the academic year 1965-1966, Military Science has been on a voluntary basis. In 1986 the University of Rhode Island cadet battalion was named "CRAMER'S SABERS" in honor of First Lieutenant Parker Dresser Cramer, Infantry Corps, University of Rhode Island Class of 1959.



Built in 1928, Rodman Hall was the original home of ROTC in Rhode Island

SABERS LEAD THE WAY!



KEANEY GYM HOME OF THE CRAMER'S SABERS BATTALION