

Ole!



**The Newsletter of the
Hawthorne Caballeros
Alumni Association/
Drum & Bugle Corps**

Volume 6, Issue 2

March/April 2025

Alumni Corps Begins 2025 With An Outstanding Performance

By Chris Sortino

Season 31, here we go!

It's amazing since this Corps' founding members thought that the life expectancy was 5 years.

Not only have we completed 30 years, these have been 30 outstanding years. The quality of this Corps has been nothing but exemplary every single year. The size of the Corps changes every year due to many factors, such as health, age and availability of the current and prospective members. In spite of these fluctuations, we are still the most sought after alumni corps on the planet.

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Military Funeral For A Passing Veteran

By Mike Del Vecchio

Few people know or understand what really happens after the death of veteran, and know this special event is handled by the members of the Military Guard of Honor.

My name is Michael J. Del Vecchio. I am with a unit called BUGLES ACROSS AMERICA and we provide buglers to play "Live" Taps at funerals when called upon by the funeral service. I have been the bugler numbers of times. Most military groups only have 2 members to handle the ceremony which includes handling the folding of the flag, and presenting the folded flag to the selected relative.

The Honor may be either first, or at the completion of the final blessing.

There are several different processes that occur as we go along, and I will

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.....year 31!

On April 5th, this year, we ventured into York, PA for the annual stage show sponsored by the Hanover Lancers.

This was the first time the Corps went to York without bus transportation. We are trying to make economical decisions whenever and wherever we can.

This year the venue changed to the campus of York College. A beautiful campus indeed only a short distance from the Penn State venue in York.

The Corps met at the college for a short warm-up with Larry and John outside of the stage door.

Afterwards, we went on stage for our sound check for about a half hour. We ironed out some kinks and cleared up cobwebs from the long off-season. The turn-out for the first show was pretty good with just under 50 horns.

Afterwards the Corps broke for some personal time for chow and checking into our hotel.

We returned to the stage around 7:00 PM and started the entire show with a bang. Power! Power! Power!

The audience responded with several standing Ovation.

There was only one little hiccup during the performance, but the Corps recuperated in a very professional way with all the class of a champion.

Speaking for myself, I was very curious how our newest song "Pagliacci" would be received by an audience. I last played this Larry Kerchner arrangement of this fine piece of music in my time with the 1977 Caballeros. Back then it replaced "Cha Cha Cha Flamenco." I remember saying "What song could possibly replace "Flamenco"?" It worked back in the day but what about now? My concerns were set aside with the standing ovation we received.

An encore was requested by the cheering fans and we obliged with "Mambo Jambo." Again, a standing ovation.

A wonderful start to the 2025 season. Looking forward to the rest.



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...Military Funeral!

explain them to you.

Once the hearse arrives, the driver will stop as close to the path used by the people arriving. The casket will be carried out feet first and will remain that way until it reaches the area close to the site of burial. The Honor Guard will usually follow the casket to the grave site and will then seek the proper place for them to stand at attention until it is time to spread the flag, refold the flag, and be sure the fold is correct. The flag's final fold is a blue field with white stars showing. There shall be no red of the flag exposed. At the same time the bugler will also take his place 20 to 30 feet from the burial site.

However, if the blessing is done at a church, and the entrance to the church is led by the priest, the deceased will follow the priest into the church head first, with a holy cloth laid over the casket.

Once the services are completed, the casket will be turned around and the American flag opened and laid on the casket. The procession will then move

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Saluting A Special Friend!

By Chris Sortino

I'm sure we've all had a friend that meant more to us than some of our other friends.

This is a story of my relationship with my special friend Roger Bennett.

We met in kindergarten. Over the years we did everything together.

Growing up in the fifties and sixties in the resort town of the era, Asbury Park, NJ. summer was a kids dream, going to beach every day and the boardwalk almost every night. Those days our parents never let us forget how lucky we were growing up in our little piece of paradise.

When a drum corps started up in town at the VFW, we both ran down to join. I had already been in a corps in neighboring Neptune, NJ, playing in the drum line. Roger joined and ended up in the horn line.

As we grew older we went to the same high

school. One day I joined St. Lucy's Cadets in Newark. Roger went to the Shoreliners as the drum major. We would hang out together during the week but usually went separate ways on weekends because of our drum corps schedules.

St. Lucy's needed a cymbal player toward the end of the season, so I asked Roger to come up and give it a shot. So he learned the whole drill in one rehearsal. The following Saturday we had a show in Sel-don, LI.

Roger learned all the

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2025

Alumni Association News

The Alumni Association is a separate organization from the Alumni Corps. It was incorporated in January 1977 and exists for the benefit of the competing corps and, as of 2008, the Alumni corps as well. Membership is now open to anyone whoever belonged to the Hawthorne Caballeros (not current marching members) or the Hawthorne Caballeros Alumni Corps just by paying the annual dues. With thanks to all who paid the \$10.00 annual dues for the 2023 and 2024 years, we were able to award one deserving member of the competing corps who was struggling to pay their 2024 dues, a \$500 payment toward their dues.

Dues for 2025 are now due so please see Larry Mastroberardino or Greg McNeff with your \$10 so we can continue to support both corps. Out of town? You can mail your \$10 to Greg at 143 Mohawk Ave, Hawthorne, NJ 07506.

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...Military Funeral

out of the church with the casket, head first led by the priest out the main entrance and it will be placed in the hearse for transport to the grave site for the military service. An American flag is draped over the casket of the deceased Service members and Veterans to honor their service to America. The flag is placed so that the blue field with stars is at the head and over the left shoulder of the deceased. At the same time, the bugler is moving to his position, some 20 to 30 feet from the casket, and he positions himself so he can see the casket. The orders are the bugler will face the casket for the playing of "Live" Taps. At a sign from the commander of the honor guard, the bugler will commence to play "Live" Taps.

Should the bugler turn away from the group at the funeral and raise his bugle slightly higher, than his instrument has a recording and not playing "Live" Taps. After Taps has been played, the flag is meticulously folded thirteen times by members of the honor guard. When the flag is completely folded, the stars point upwards, which remind Americans of their national motto, In "God We

Trust". When folded and tucked in, it takes on the appearance of a tricornered hat, reminding Americans of the soldiers who served under General George Washington, and the sailors and Marines who served under Captain John Paul Jones, who were followed by their comrades and shipmates in the United States Armed Forces. No red or white stripe is to be evident, leaving only the blue field with stars.

An honor guard member, representing one of the branches of the United States Armed Forces, presents the flag to the next of kin. The presenter, if possible, a member of the same service of the deceased, will lean forward while presenting the folded flag, with the straight edge of the flag facing the recipient. The presenter then recites the following words, which was standardized on April 20, 2012.

"On behalf of the President of the United States, the United States (Army, Marine Corps, Navy, Air Force or Coast Guard), whichever branch is appropriate, and a grateful nation, please accept this flag as a symbol of our appreciation for your loved one's honorable and faithful service."

The symbolism in the Flag Folding Ceremony explained:

Fold One: Life on earth.

Fold Two: Eternal life.

Fold Three: The veteran who gave a portion of his/her life for the defense of the United States.

Fold Four: Humanity's weaker nature and American reliance on God in peace and war times.

Fold Five: Tribute to the United States.

Fold Six: The state of the American's heart.

Fold Seven: The United States Armed Forces.

Fold Eight: Tribute to the one who entered the valley of the shadow of death that humanity might see the light of day.

Fold Nine: A tribute to Motherhood.

Fold Ten: A tribute to Fatherhood.

Fold Eleven: For the Jewish citizen, it represents the lower portion of the seal of King David and King Solomon & glorifies the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.

Fold Twelve: For the Christian citizen, represents eternity and glorifies God the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.



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. . . . Salute!

music on the bus to the show. That night we won by beating the Norwood Park Imperials from Chicago. We were ecstatic. This was the first time we beat a Midwestern corps.

The next day was the Dream Contest. As spectators, we were flying high from the previous night's conquest.

The following day was a normal Monday. That morning Roger got a call from Father Nativio, moderator of St. Lucy's asking him if he would march the rest of the season which included a trip to Miami for the AL Nationals.

We were thrilled. Then that night, "BOOM!" Roger's father said he couldn't go to Miami. Roger was devastated. He finished out the rest of the season then left drum corps.

A few years went by, I joined the Navy and Roger went into the Air Force which included a free trip to Vietnam.

When we came home, I joined the Cabs and he stayed out of drum corps for awhile. I would see him from time to time at an occasional show but that was it for years.

He got married as I did and he moved to PA. Somehow he ran into Mike Kruse who lived there also. They became good friends. Mike was in the Cabs and Roger followed soon after.

It was a treat for me to see Roger at some of the shows after that. We would talk about old times when we were kids and where the future would bring us. For him it was to the competing corps and me to the Alumni Corps.

One day for reasons I never knew, Roger came to the Alumni Corps. It really felt great marching in the same corps again with my good friend. As priorities change in our lives, it became time for Roger to move on.

We would chat on the phone from time to time but that came to a stop after awhile.

One day at a rehearsal

for a show in PA, Paul Bongiovi gave me the news that Roger had passed on. I went over to Mike and we wept for our friend.

Just a few months ago Mike Kruse told me that Roger's wife had passed away. Knowing they had no kids I asked about the remains of this couple. I was told that they were both cremated and a close neighbor had them. Mike's concern was evident and he procured their remains.

I asked Mike if I might have a small amount of Roger's ashes. I wanted to scatter them in the ocean in Asbury Park where Roger and I grew up together.

During Camp Weekend last week, Mike called me over to his car and gave me a small bag containing Roger's ashes.

So this week I drove down to the 3rd Ave beach in Asbury Park and did something I never did before. I

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Sunday, March 2 *

Rehearsal

12:00-5:00

Post 199

Sunday, March 16 *

Rehearsal

12:00-5:00

Post 199

Sunday, March 30 *

Rehearsal

12:00-5:00

Post 199

Saturday, April 5 *

Lancers Indoor Show

York, PA

Saturday, April 26 *

Camp Weekend

Wildwood, NJ

9:00AM-5:00PM

Sunday, April 27 *

Camp Weekend

Wildwood, NJ

9:00PM-3:00PM

Saturday, May 10 *Buccaneers Alumni
Show

Robeson, PA

**Alumni 2025
Partial Schedule****Sunday, May 18 ***

Drill Rehearsal

12:00-5:00

Roland Park

South Brunswick, NJ

Monday, May 26 *

Memorial Day Parade

Hawthorne, NJ

Saturday, June 7 *

Elk's Parade

Wildwood, NJ

Saturday, June 14 *

Flag Day Parade

Lake Hopatcong, NJ

Sunday, June 22 *

Drill Rehearsal

12:00-5:00

Roland Park

South Brunswick, NJ

Saturday, June 28 *

DCI Field Show

Shelton, CT

Saturday, July 12 *

Grand Prix

Clifton, NJ

Saturday, July 19 *

Alumni Field Show

Milton, PA

Saturday, July 26 *

DCI Field Show

Mt. Olive, NJ

Friday, August 1 *

DCI Alumni & I&E Show

Williamsport, PA

Saturday, August 2 *

DCI Field Show

Williamsport, PA

Aug 3—Nov 8

T.B.D.

Sunday, November 9 *

Veterans Day Parade

Clifton, NJ

November 22 *

Parade & Stage Show

Plymouth, MA



Camp Weekend Report

By Chris Sortino

Well, we got through another drill camp, kinda in one piece.

Most of the Corps got to Wildwood on Friday. I got there around noon for lunch, checked in to the motel around 2:00 and just relaxed and mingled with the rest of the members who came in one by one into the night. I had dinner with Jim and Nick, dropped off Nick then back to the motel for more refreshments and chatter.

Got up early Saturday, had breakfast then to the goose fertilized field.

We started rehearsal right at 9:00 and worked through the day with a short lunch break until the rains came around 2:00. pm We actually accomplished a lot finishing about three quarters of the drill and playing it.

Had dinner on Saturday night then back to the motel and found most of the Corps in the common room behind the lobby. Had great conversations with all. Great fun for sure.

Sunday, same time and routine as Saturday. After the Saturday rain the lines on the field were still there.

The wind was very difficult to deal with, 30 to 40 MPH.

Even with all that, we forged ahead. We had some sporadic drum line and horn line warm-ups in between learning the drill. Environmentally challenging days, but we finished the show. Not perfect, but finished. Cleanup here we come!

All in all, the cooperation was fantastic all weekend long.

We had a few hiccups and a few blanks, but we finished. That was the main target for the weekend.

Next stop....Robeson, PA

See you all there!

HELP WANTED!

We are looking for help operating our truck.

Drivers: Looking for up to two additional qualified drivers. These people will need to show the ability to drive our truck on city streets , such as Hawthorne, and park our truck next to the competing corps' trucks and trailers. This requirement is to assure our insurance company we certify our new drivers.

We can always use help with water bags and lightweight equipment when required. Applicants don't need to be members but associated with members.

Anyone interested in helping us can contact Bob or Kenny at any rehearsal.

Answer To Trivia Question

Q: The Caballeros played "Cha Cha Cha Flamenco" in consecutive years twice. What years did they perform both these runs?

**A: 1960, 1961, 1962
& 1963
1972, 1973, 1974,
1975 & 1976**

March Birthdays

Brad DeWaal
J. Oliver Plunkett
Nick Stefano
Arlene Black

Hawthorne Caballeros Birthday

Bob Cook
Glenn Kubacki
Chris Menear
Curt Hawkins
Frankie Salati
Jerome "JJ" Jones
(Vanderhoof Driver)
Caballeros Alumni
Corps Birthday
Pat Chadwick
Beth McGarril
Mike DelVecchio



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.....Salute!

scattered the ashes of a good friend into the ocean. I returned him back to where he started. "Full Circle."

I've been very fortunate to have had many good friends, with most of them in drum corps. My friendships mean the world to me. So this opportunity to honor a wounded war veteran and a close friend in this way, was to me, one of the finest things I have ever done.

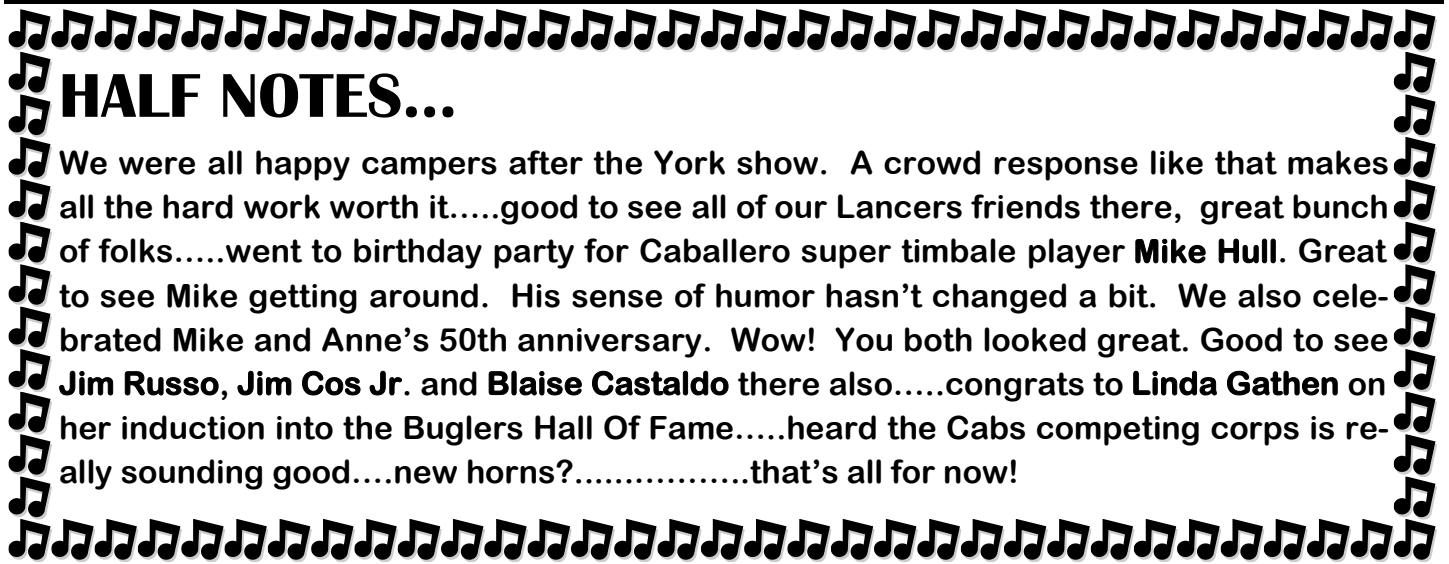
"Good night Roger, rest well."



April Birthdays

Larry Coleman
Ray Gatchalian
Dave Chadwick
Rich DePinto
Rose Silverstein
Fran Lauritano
Bruce Ziegler
Eric Weber
Linda Gathen
Joe Silverstein
Kenny Clancy
Jack Zampella





HALF NOTES...

We were all happy campers after the York show. A crowd response like that makes all the hard work worth it.....good to see all of our Lancers friends there, great bunch of folks.....went to birthday party for Caballero super timbale player **Mike Hull**. Great to see Mike getting around. His sense of humor hasn't changed a bit. We also celebrated Mike and Anne's 50th anniversary. Wow! You both looked great. Good to see Jim Russo, Jim Cos Jr. and **Blaise Castaldo** there also.....congrats to **Linda Gathen** on her induction into the Buglers Hall Of Fame.....heard the Cabs competing corps is really sounding good....new horns?.....that's all for now!

A "Bit of Wit" from the Quill of Charlie Bratton...



When one door closes, another opens or you can open the closed door. That's how doors work.

You know you're getting old when you go to an antique auction and three people bid on you.

Everybody knows 40 is the new 30. but the police officer giving me a speeding ticket couldn't be convinced.

The bank keeps calling me to give me compliments. They say I have an "outstanding balance."

What tells you a pirate has fallen for modern technology? The I patch.

If a word in the dictionary was misspelled, how would we know it?

My wife says romance is better on vacation. I wish she hadn't told me via postcard.



Articles for the OLE!

The OLE! welcomes all impressions/expressions. Send your input/articles to Cabalumno1@aol.com

