



# MMA TIMES

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## Shooting Sports Legends Honored at Fort Moore

By Lt. Col. Michelle Lunato



History and tradition are part of the U.S. Army culture. By embracing history, and the lessons learned from it, Army units can continue their missions and make a difference. Behind any unit's success though, are the Soldiers who make everything happen.

This year, the USAMU and the Military Marksmanship Association honored six veterans during a Facility Dedication and Hall of Fame Ceremony on October 13, 2023.

### *Building Dedications*

The ceremony started with a demonstration of the capabilities of the Finals Hall and its official renaming to Pullum Hall, after Lt. Col. (retired) William C. Pullum. When Pullum came to the Unit, he was known as a demanding leader, but he helped us reach new heights, said two-time Olympic Gold Medalist Gary Anderson, via a written statement read by Ray Carter, President of the MMA.

"When the 1964 Olympic Games took place, the impact of Bill Pullum's leadership was emerging. I won my first Gold Medal in 300m Free Rifle and Martin Gunnarsson won Bronze. Lones Wigger achieved his great breakthrough by first winning Bronze in 50m Prone and then, winning Gold in 50m Three Position, while Tommy Pool took Bronze."

Over the years, Pullum's success as a rifle coach made people wonder how he did it, but us shooters knew, he made us learn how to coach ourselves, said Anderson.

"Bill Pullum never told us what to do. He coached us by asking questions. When we dug deep within ourselves to answer his probing questions, we found answers that made us better shooters."

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## MMA President's Report

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Greetings fellow MMA members!

As 2023 comes to an end, and my tenure as MMA President begins, I am looking forward to teaming with the MMA Executive Board over the next two years as we work to provide you a valued membership experience. If, at any time, you'd like to reach out to me with a comment or suggestion, my contact information has been provided at the end of this section.

Since the last MMA Times was published, the 2023 USAMU/MMA Reunion occurred on October 13-14, 2023 at Fort Moore, GA. It was a great opportunity to connect with old friends and meet new ones!

Several noteworthy events occurred at the 2023 Reunion, including the opportunity to see Pullum Finals Hall and Wigger Hall dedicated, with their families present. A big thank you to USAMU Executive Officer Robert Aylward for his outstanding and tireless efforts to make the range dedications a reality. We've included some photos from the Dedication Ceremony in this edition of the MMA Times.

In addition, several well-deserved awards were extended as part of the 2023 Reunion. Congratulations to COL Stanley Parmentier (my former USAMU Commander) as he was inducted to the USAMU Support Hall of Fame; to MAJ Mike Anti, LTC Wanda Jewell and COL Bruce Meredith as they were inducted to the USAMU Hall of Fame; and to SSG Benjamin Cleland as he was inducted to the USAMU Service Rifle Hall of Fame.

Other well-deserved awards included the 2022 Shooter of the Year to SGT Alison Weisz, the 2022 New Shooter of the Year to Spc. Samantha Simonton, and the 2022 Support Person of the Year to Mr. John Feamster, Custom Firearms Shop.

Two (2) MMA Executive Board members were also recognized for their outstanding contributions to the success of the association. Ray Carter for his yeoman service as MMA President in resurrecting the association's mission focus by updating and expanding the membership rolls and restarting the publication of a quarterly MMA Times to enhance communication amongst the MMA community. Lyman Grover for his continued and long-standing service to MMA while serving in multiple areas of responsibility, to include Treasurer since 2018, Editor of the MMA Times since March 2022, and MMA merchandise manager.

During the MMA Business Meeting portion of the 2023 Reunion, several nominations were made to fill vacant positions on the MMA Executive Board and were approved by MMA members who were present.

Your current MMA Executive Board is as follows:

Ronald Plumb - President

Kenneth Johnson - Vice President

Wanda Jewell - Secretary and MMA Times Editor

Lyman Grover - Treasurer (until we can find a replacement)

Bruce Meredith - Historian

Ray Carter - Past President and Membership Chair

Robert Aylward - USAMU Liaison

My current contact information is as follows.

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## USAMU Commander's Report



Military Marksmanship Association Members,

Thank you to everyone who attended the MMA Reunion in October. It was an honor for the AMU to be able to dedicate Wigger Hall and induct COL (ret) Bruce Meredith, LTC (ret) Wanda Jewell, and MAJ (ret) Mike Anti into the Hall of Fame and I appreciate your presence at those events. I would have enjoyed being there personally to welcome each of you to the AMU footprint, but my family was celebrating a very proud moment as we were at Ft. Sill, OK for my son's basic training graduation and excitedly watching him begin his path as a fourth-generation soldier.

With Thanksgiving just behind us and Christmas on the horizon, I wish you a wonderful holiday season. Hopefully, Thanksgiving provided you time to pause, reflect, and identify several reasons to give thanks. Writing this, I find myself thankful to be part of the AMU and thankful for the MMA members, both past and present, who continue to support AMU and represent the marksmanship community beyond their military service. As Christmas approaches, please take time to check in on an old friend and see how they're doing. Take a moment from the busy holiday schedule and reconnect with that teammate you haven't talked to in years; they'll be so happy to hear from you.

2023 was an incredibly successful year for the Soldiers of AMU. 222 individual medals, 42 team medals, 18 National and Interservice Championships, 3 national records, 1 international record, 16 promotions, 23 achievement/service awards, 113 news/video publications and over 600 social media posts. But most impressive to me – 134 soldiers and civilians supporting each other every day to lift their teammates to incredible accomplishments at every turn.

From me and mine to you and yours, Happy Holidays and all the best in 2024.

Home of Champions,  
Casey Mills  
LTC, SF

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### MMA Executive Board

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**Shooting Legends, from** Page 1

Next on the ceremony agenda was the dedication and renaming of the 50m/300m Outdoor Range to Wigger Hall, after Lt. Col. (retired) Lones W. Wigger Jr. “People called him Sir, Wig, or the Big Guy, said Carter. This U.S. shooting legend is known for a long list of accomplishments, which was even more impressive when you realize there were no World Cups back then, said Carter. “He had one chance a year to win medals and set world records and only three out of four years at that. Then throw in two tours to Vietnam, and he was a busy guy.” Carter said Wigger was not only a legendary marksman but also a mentor to many athletes in the sport. “Wigger was instrumental in inspiring many of us to start shooting, including myself.” Overall, his impact on the sport is undeniable, said Carter.

The Wigger family expressed heartfelt gratitude for the smallbore range dedication honoring their father and applauded Robert Aylward, the USAMU Executive Officer, for his commitment to making this happen, said, Ron Wigger, son of Lones Wigger. “For those of you who don’t know, it’s a pretty lengthy process to get a building or range or a hall named at Fort Moore. It’s about a two-year process, and it finally happened. We are really blessed that it was able to happen during the USAMU reunion too—that’s just icing on the cake.”

**2022 MMA Persons of the Year**

Sgt. Alison Weisz, International Rifle Team, was named the 2022 Shooter of the Year.

Spc. Samantha Simonton, Shotgun Team, was named the 2022 New Shooter of the Year.

Mr. John Feamster, Custom Firearms Shop, was named the 2022 Support Person of the Year.

**Support Hall of Fame Inductee**

Col. (retired) Stanley J. Parmentier was the first honoree and inducted into the USAMU Support Hall of Fame. Parmentier commanded the USAMU and served as the U.S. Chief of Delegation for the International Military Sports Council (CISM) from 1978-1984. His influence and hard work helped establish women’s teams at CISM shooting events, develop the precursor of the current U.S. Army World Class Athlete Program, and establish the need for the Infantry Sniper School.

This Support Hall of Fame inductee is also known to be the key leader who “strong-armed” the Corps of Engineers to “fast track” the construction of the Tommy Pool International Range. Though the U.S. Army Chief of Staff had provided one million dollars for the construction project, the Corps of Engineers were reluctant. Parmentier said did not accept the reasons for their reluctance and pushed back against the Corps of Engineers commander, demanding the Army Chief of Staff’s wishes to be fulfilled.

I went to his office and said, “I wonder how it would look when I show up at the Chief of Staff’s office on Monday morning, and tell him, you don’t want to build the range that he has just allocated one million dollars to for the next CISM range.”

After a moment, Parmentier said the Corps of Engineers commander replied, “You know, maybe we can get it built.”

**Hall of Fame Inductees**

The next portion of the ceremony included the induction of three USAMU veterans into the Hall of Fame. The first inductee was Olympic Silver Medalist Maj. (retired) Michael E. Anti.

Anti, who earned his Distinguished International Shooter Badge before starting college, competed in 50m Three-Position Rifle and represented the United States and Army at four Olympics, two Pan American Games, three Championships of the Americas, and three World Shooting Championships, earning numerous medals and titles.

The four-time Olympian said he was honored by the Hall of Fame induction but could not take all the credit himself since the Home of Champions offered him amazing support. With that, he humbly thanked the crowd and offered the current Soldiers some advice. Take full advantage of

“Understand that being assigned to the USAMU is a privilege afforded to only a few. Take full advantage of that time you have here to be the best you can be. Again, thank you all for this incredible honor.”



**Shooting Legends**, continued from Page 4

The next Hall of Fame inductee was Olympic Bronze Medalist Lt. Col. (retired) Wanda R. Jewell. Jewell served on both active duty and Reserve status as an instructor/shooter in both 10m air rifle and 50m Three-Position Rifle, in which she won her Olympic medal. This Soldier competed in seven consecutive World Shooting Championships, three Pan American Games and one Championships of the Americas. Jewell, who also earned the Distinguished International Shooter Badge, holds the distinction of being the first woman in history to win two World Championship titles at the same competition when she won both the 10m Air Rifle and Three-Position Rifle Champion titles at the 1978 World Shooting Champion in Seoul.

Like Anti, Jewell said she attributes a lot of her success to the USAMU's support of its Soldiers. "I cannot thank you guys enough. For everyone who came before me, everyone who was here with me, and everyone who's to come, thank you. It's a great team to be on."

The next Hall of Fame inductee was Col. (retired) Bruce A. Meredith. This USAMU alum served for 30 total years on both active and Reserve status as a shooter and coach. The West Virginia native competed, and at times supported, in 40 nations, including five Olympics, ten World Shooting Championships, eight Pan American Games, six Championships of the Americas, eight World Crossbow Championships, and five Central American and Caribbean Games. Meredith was a teammate of some of the greatest of all time shooters, and with them, he won 65 national team championships and set 146 national records. Individually, he set 73 national records. This prolific marksman also earned the Distinguished Rifle, Pistol and International Badges, as well as the President's 100 Tab in both rifle and pistol.

Upon leaving active duty, Meredith continued to impact the shooting community by leading the U.S. Army Reserve International Team, which provided former USAMU shooters an opportunity to continue to excel after leaving active duty. In this capacity, he managed 84 Soldiers, many of whom became Hall of Fame inductees themselves. These Soldiers won a total of 105 medals for the United States in the Olympic Games, World Shooting Championships, Pan American Games, and the Championships of the Americas.



## NRA DISTINGUISHED AWARDS

by Ray Carter

While most MMA members may have heard of the **Distinguished Rifleman Badge** (Service Rifle), the **Distinguished Pistol Shot Badge** (Service Pistol) and the **Distinguished International Shooter Badge** (ISSF-Olympic competition) that are awarded by what is now the Civilian Marksmanship Program (CMP), there are also some “Distinguished” badges awarded by the National Rifle Association (NRA). While the CMP Distinguished Badges can be worn on the uniform, the NRA Distinguished Badges are not authorized.

The NRA Distinguished Smallbore Rifle Awards began in 1965 with position (which may earned in either or both of 3-position or 4-position competition) and prone awards. Each time a competitor places in the top-scoring 10% of the designated tournaments (NRA Regionals and Nationals), that competitor will earn a step toward an NRA Distinguished Rifle Award. It takes four steps or “legs” to earn it. Unlike the CMP Distinguished Badges, those already Distinguished are not taken out of the rankings, so it can be hard to earn those “legs”.

USAMTU and USAMU shooters dominated the early years of these awards. There are too many USAMU shooters to list here. You can see the **NRA DISTINGUISHED SMALLBORE RIFLEMAN AWARDS – POSITION** at <https://competitions.nra.org/media/7583/2018distinguishedsmallboreposition.pdf> and the **NRA DISTINGUISHED SMALLBORE RIFLEMAN AWARDS – PRONE** at <https://competitions.nra.org/media/7583/2018distinguishedsmallboreprone.pdf>.

The NRA later established the **NRA INTERNATIONAL DISTINGUISHED RIFLEMAN AWARD** for those who earned enough points in International Confederation of Fullbore Rifle Associations (ICFRA) sanctioned World Championships, the America Match or the Australia Match. It is available to Target Rifle and F-Class shooters and coaches. These are long range high power rifle prone events.

USAMU shooters, former USAMU shooters and coaches that have earned this award in Target Rifle include Sherri Gallagher 2003, Emil Praslick III 2006, Boyd Goldsby 2007, Al Coots 2007, Ty Cooper 2007, Robert Gustin 2008, Norm Anderson 2012 and Brandon Green 2015. Emil Praslick III also earned one for F-Class.

The NRA then established the **NRA INTERNATIONAL DISTINGUISHED SMALLBORE RIFLEMAN AWARD** for those that earned enough points while representing the USA on the Pershing Team competing for the USA starting in 1931 and/or competing on the Lord Earl Roberts Team in Bisley, England starting in 1969. These are smallbore rifle prone team events.

Current and former USAMU shooters and coaches earning this award include Robert Mitchell 1961, John Foster 1965, Lones Wigger 1965, Don Adams 1965, Bruce Meredith 1969, Presley Kendall 1973, William Krilling 1973, Eric Sundstrom 1973, Ray Carter 1977, Ernest Vande Zande 1981, Boyd Goldsby 1989, Thomas Tamas 1989, David Chesser 1993, Glenn Dubis 1997, Steve Goff 1997, Jason Parker 1997, Shane Barnhart 2001, David Johnson 2001, David Cramer 2005, Henry Gray 2013, Robert Gustin 2013, Joe Hein 2013, Michael McPhail 2013, and Eric Uptagrafft 2013.

The NRA also has an **NRA DISTINGUISHED REVOLVER BADGE**, **NRA DISTINGUISHED ACTION PISTOL BADGE** (Open, Metallic, Production), **NRA DISTINGUISHED 3 POSITION SPORTER BADGE**, **NRA DISTINGUISHED PRECISION AIR RIFLE BADGE**, **NRA DISTINGUISHED RIFLEMAN BADGE** and **NRA DISTINGUISHED POLICE COMBAT BADGE** (Revolver, Semi-Automatic, Production). Julie Golob (Open), Adam Sokolowski (Production, Metallic, Open) and Ryan Franks (Production) have earned the NRA Distinguished Action Pistol Badge.



## A BLAST FROM THE PAST ... 1978

This is the first U.S. Army Reserve team to win the National Trophy Team Rifle Match (Dogs of War Trophy).

It was 1978 and included (kneeling L to R) SP4 Thomas Whitaker, CPT Boyd Goldsby, CPT Ray Carter, MAJ John Foster, (standing L to R) CPT Donald Dixon, MSG Ray Crouse, Team Coach MAJ Tommy Pool and Team Captain MAJ Frank Loudermilk. The USAR went on to win the NTT Rifle Match again in 1980, 1981, 1983, 1990, 1992 and 2016. Many of the shooters on those teams were former USAMU shooters.

Thomas Whitaker was a former member of

the U.S. Air Force Marksmanship Training Unit at Lackland AFB, TX. He joined the USAR Service Rifle Team and later became a dentist. He shot the first smallbore rifle prone 6400x6400 and was on many winning teams in smallbore rifle, service rifle and Palma Long Range Match Rifle shooting.

Boyd Goldsby shot International Rifle and Service Rifle with the USAMU winning the 1974 Interservice Rifle Championship before resigning his Regular Army commission to go back to school and become a Registered Nurse (RN). He won the NRA National Service Rifle Championship and the National Trophy Individual Rifle Match in 1976. He later went back on Active Duty as a nurse in the Army Nurse Corps and even served as the USAMU Chief of Competitions in the 1990's. He was on many International Teams shooting International Rifle including the 1980 Olympic Team. He is in the USAMU International Rifle Hall of Fame, the USAMU Service Rifle Hall of Fame and the USAMU Hall of Fame. He eventually retired as a Lieutenant Colonel.

Ray Carter shot International Rifle and Service Rifle with the USAMU 1974-77 and then with the USAR 1977-95 retiring as a Major. He won 19 medals in UIT/ISSF competitions ranking 13<sup>th</sup> in all-time medals when he retired. He helped win three National Trophy Team Rifle Matches and three 10-Man Interservice Rifle Team matches and won the Pershing Trophy as the high shooter in the National Trophy Team Rifle Match in 1976 and 1991.

John Foster had been a long-time shooter in International Rifle and Running Target for the USAMU (1958-77) and is in the USAMU International Rifle Hall of Fame, the USAMU Running Target Hall of Fame and the USAMU Hall of Fame having won World Championships in Running Deer in 1961 and International Rifle in 1966, 1970 and 1974. He had served as the USAMU International Rifle Section Officer-in-Charge (OIC). He eventually retired as a Lieutenant Colonel.

Donald Dixon shot with 1974 Service Rifle Summer Team and then the USAR Service Rifle Team 1977-83 helping win the NTT in 1978 and 1981 and the Interservice 10-Man Team in 1982. He is earned Distinguished and President's Hundred in rifle and pistol and has competed in four World Championships with the U.S. International Muzzleloading Team. He eventually retired as a Lieutenant Colonel.

Raymond Crouse was a top shooter many years with U.S. Army Reserve Service Rifle Team and was the NCOIC.

Tommy Pool shot with the USAMU International Rifle and Service Rifle Teams (1958-73) and was a World Champion in 1962 and an Olympic Medalist in 1964. He had served as the USAMU International Rifle Section Officer in Charge (OIC). He won the 1978 NRA National Service Rifle Championship. He is in the USAMU International Rifle Hall of Fame and USAMU Hall of Fame. He eventually retired as a Lieutenant Colonel. He was also the USAMU Public Affairs Officer for years.

Frank Loudermilk was a Service Rifle shooter and the Officer-in-Charge (OIC) of the US Army Reserve Service Rifle Team.



## Where are they now? – LTC (Ret) Ralph Talbot

Ralph thought his former USAMU teammates and associates would like to know what has happened to him since he retired from the USAMU in October 1986.

First, some history. He enlisted in the Infantry in January 1955. After earning pistol “legs” in the Third Army and All-Army Championships in 1957, he was a summer pickup on the USAAMU pistol team, earning his third “leg” at Camp Perry, OH and earning the Distinguished Pistol Shot Badge. At the time, at age 21, he was thought to be the youngest US Army Distinguished Pistol Shot Badge award-ee. In 1958 he was selected to attend the Infantry Officer Candidate School (OCS) at Fort Benning, GA. He was commissioned in September 1958 and transferred to the Armor Branch.

For the next 27 years of active service he progressed through various duties and assignments at Fort Knox, KY; Bidingen, Germany; Can Gio, RVN; Phan Tiet, RVN; the Pentagon; Canberra, Australia and Arlington Hall, VA. In 1981, as his terminal active-duty assignment, he volunteered for, and was assigned as the Chief, Pistol Branch, USAMU. There he had the opportunity to hone his previous off-duty pistol skills under the guidance and assistance of great instructors, mentors and teammates progressing to shooting as a USAMU Blue Team anchor shooter in the 1986 competitive year. In October 1986 he retired with almost 32 years active service to reside in San Antonio, TX with his wife of now 68 years, Betty.

His awards: Defense Superior Service Medal, Bronze Star Medal (2), Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Meritorious Service Medal (2), Air Medal (3), Combat Infantry Badge, RVN Staff Service Honor Medal First Class, RVN Gallantry Cross with Palm, RVN Gallantry Cross with Silver Star (2) and RVN Gallantry Cross with Bronze Star.

Upon retirement he continued to compete actively as a civilian, being sponsored at various times by Team Aim-Point, Ultra-Dot and Springfield Armory. This support allowed him to compete at the highest level for many years. He earned the Presidents Hundred Tab five times, was the 1997 National Civilian Service Pistol Champion and fired his highest registered score of 2665-135X. He still shoots competitively, although approaching 87 years of age, his skills have somewhat deteriorated. He feels the thrill of competition and comradeship gained on the firing line still exists for him. He thanks the dedication and professionalism of the great USAMU Officers, NCO's and Soldiers he has known and associated with over the years.

He has served as the US Air Force Pistol Team Coach; the Pistol Director and President, Texas State Rifle Association; the NRA Volunteer Coordinator for the NRA Annual Meetings in San Antonio and as the USOC Shooting Sports Coordinator for the U.S. Olympic Festival when it was held in San Antonio in 1993.

He was inducted in the U. S. Army Officer Candidate School Hall of Fame at Fort Benning, GA on 1 May 2023.

