



# MMA TIMES

MILITARY MARKSMANSHIP ASSOCIATION, INC.  
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[www.militarymarksmanship.org](http://www.militarymarksmanship.org)

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[www.militarymarksmanship.org](http://www.militarymarksmanship.org)

## ARMY MARKSMANSHIP UNIT DOMINATES PISTOL CHAMPIONSHIPS

Sgt. 1st Class Kulani Lakanaria



For the 22nd time in a row, the Army Marksmanship Unit's Service Pistol Team is the overall team champion of the Interservice Pistol Championships.

The annual gathering features elite marksmen from across the services and serves as a platform for showcasing skill and teamwork, according to an Army news release. The event typically takes place in June, but it was moved to November this year to allow more service members to participate.

"It's an absolute blessing to have more service members show up this year and compete at Interservice," said Staff Sgt. Walter Johnson, an instructor and shooter on the Army Marksmanship Unit's Service Pistol Team, in the Army news release. "The nice thing is that we changed the dates to November—that allows the teams to use the first quarter budget to provide funding for these teams to participate."

Soldiers from the elite unit based at Fort Moore, Georgia, competed against marksmen from across the services Nov. 13–17. There were nine shooting competitions, including individual and team .22-caliber matches, centerfire and .45-caliber matches and the Excellence in Competition and Directors

See **Pistol Championships** Page 6

## MMA President's Report

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Greetings fellow members,

I'd like to take this opportunity to thank you for choosing to be a member of an organization that is striving to favorably impact the military marksmanship community! Whether you are a life member, annual member, a long-time member, or you just became a member, I hope you are finding the Military Marksmanship Association is meeting or exceeding your membership expectations.

If you are not already aware, MMA membership benefits include quarterly issues of the *MMA Times* newsletter, an annually updated Membership Directory, and an invitation to attend USAMU/ MMA Reunions. In addition, the MMA currently sponsors the annual USAMU Ball, and based on nominations from each section, MMA awards a plaque and gift to the Shooter of the Year, New Shooter of the Year, and Support Person of the Year.

*Please take note* -- the new MMA Executive Board members have spent the past several meetings discussing ways to enhance the benefit of MMA membership. In future newsletters, I anticipate being able to share some details about an exciting, new membership benefit. So, stay tuned!

Regarding MMA Membership, the Executive Board has unanimously approved widening the eligibility criteria for MMA membership when it comes to active duty, reserve, and national guard. Effective immediately, all current and former Active Duty, Reserve and National Guard members and their spouses, widows or widowers are eligible for MMA membership.

Please feel free to invite others who you feel may be interested in MMA membership. Simply send the following web address to them: [www.militarymarksmanship.org](http://www.militarymarksmanship.org). There will be a link to "Membership" on the left side of the page.

Finally, please consider what I said above about the MMA "meeting or exceeding your membership expectations". If you want to bring to my attention an idea, concept, or initiative for MMA to consider, or if you want to make a comment or recommendation directly to me, I can be reached at [ron.plumb54@gmail.com](mailto:ron.plumb54@gmail.com).

Ron Plumb  
MMA President

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A dark blue banner with white text that reads "In Memoriam".

### In Memoriam

We are saddened to notify you of these two recent deaths in the MMA family.

Ruth Ann Anderson, wife of USAMU Hall of Fame member Gary L. Anderson, was born in Cheyenne, Wyoming and passed away in Ohio at the age of 79 on February 18, 2024.

She was predeceased by her parents, Virgil Bell and Helen Curtin Bell; her nephew Barry Schmeichel; and her brother-in-law Harold Patterson. She is survived by : her husband Gary Anderson; her children, Kirsten Georgi (Ken) and Erik Anderson (Zac Snell); her grandchildren, Max Georgi and Annaliese Georgi; her sister Barbara Patterson; her nieces, Lynn Becker and Lori Cook (Alex); her sister-in-law Karen Hulce (Marty); and her niece Jill Reynolds (Andrew).

Yvonne Branham, wife of USAMU Hall of Fame member Burl Branham, passed away at the age of 86 on Thursday, February 22, 2024 at home surrounded by her loving family. Born August 11, 1937 in Davisport, Kentucky. She was the daughter of the late Charlie and Arizona (Ward) Boyd.

She enjoyed living all over the US with her husband Burl and son Jeff, especially enjoying their time spent in Hawaii. Yvonne loved visiting Callaway Gardens, tending to her flowers; and spending time with her family.

Yvonne is survived by her loving husband, Burl Branham; her son, Jeff (Dee Dee) Branham of Columbus; her granddaughter, Ashley Branham of Columbus, GA; and her granddaughter-in-law, Kim Branham of Columbus, GA. In addition to her parents, Yvonne was preceded in death by her siblings.

## USAMU Commander's Report



Fellow Military Marksmanship Association Members,

2024 is well under way and it promises to be a busy and exciting year for the U.S. Army Marksmanship Unit with the Summer Olympics in Paris just around the corner and upcoming Olympic Trials to determine who will represent Team USA on the largest stage in the world.

Congratulations to SGT Sagen Maddalena and SGT Ivan Roe who already secured their spot on the U.S. Olympic Team in the 10M Air Rifle event for women and men respectively. Shotgun will conclude their Olympic Trials on 16 – 17 MAR in Tucson, AZ and the final round of Trials for 50M Smallbore will take place at Fort Moore on the USAMU range from 18 – 19 MAR.

On 19 JAN, the USAMU enjoyed the 15<sup>th</sup> Annual Ball with Medal of Honor recipient SGM Thomas Patrick Payne as the guest of honor and distinguished speaker. While in town for the ball, SGM Payne conducted the promotion ceremony for SGT Samantha Simonton (SG) and gave a separate LPD on the hostage rescue near Hawija, Iraq in 2015. During the LPD, SGM Payne highlighted many leadership lessons and how he maintained a positive mental mindset during his most challenging situations. It was an absolute privilege to have SGM Payne on the USAMU footprint, sharing his story and lessons learned, and further motivating the USAMU Soldiers to pursue excellence in all they do.

Thank you to the MMA Community for recognizing the accomplishments of the USAMU throughout the year and providing an avenue with which to highlight some of our highest achievers. It was an absolute honor to present the MMA's Best New Shooter, Best Shooter, and Best Support award to SGT Jonathon Wiedell (AS), SSG Benjamin Cleland (SR), and Mr. Bill Moran (Maint) respectively during the annual Ball.

If you don't already, you can follow the USUSAMU at any of the below:

Website: [www.USAMU.com](http://www.USAMU.com)

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/USAMU1956](https://www.facebook.com/USAMU1956)

X / Twitter: [www.twitter.com/USAMUsoldiers](https://www.twitter.com/USAMUsoldiers)

Youtube: [www.youtube.com/goUSAMU](https://www.youtube.com/goUSAMU)

Instagram: [www.instagram.com/USAMU1956](https://www.instagram.com/USAMU1956)

Stay tuned to see what the rest of 2024 has in store for this great team.

Home of Champions,  
Casey Mills  
LTC, SF  
Commander

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## MMA Alum Coaches Team to NCAA Victory

MMA member Karen Monez was the coach of the TCU Horned Frogs Rifle Team that won the 2024 NCAA Rifle Championships March 8-9, 2024 in Morgantown, WV. It was the fourth NCAA Rifle Championship win for the TCU's all female rifle team and Coach Monez.

Scores: TCU 4732, WVU 4729, Alaska 4719, Kentucky 4718, Air Force 4709, Navy 4698, Mississippi 4693, Nebraska 4680.

Other MMA members attending included USNA Rifle Coach Mike Anti, USAFA Assistant Rifle Coach David Johnson, former WVU Rifle Coach Ed Etzel and Bart McNealy.

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## MEET MMA PRESIDENT RON PLUMB

Greetings fellow MMA members!

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 is provided at the end of this section.

As a way of introduction, let me start by sharing that I attended my first rifle marksmanship course in 1966, as a 12-year-old in Northern Virginia. My goal was to obtain an NRA Hunter Safety Certificate so I could accompany my dad when he went deer hunting. Little did I realize that first step onto the rifle range would turn out to be not only an enjoyable pastime during my younger years, but also a competitive sport that I would successfully participate in for many years to come!

There were many fellow competitors and coaches that helped me along the way, starting with my dad. He watched and learned from the top shooters and their coaches. He realized the benefit of competing on a regular basis with "the best", so in 1969 I joined the Acorns Junior Rifle Club which trained/practiced in the Northern Virginia area. I was fortunate to win multiple team national championships as member of the Acorns, as well as an individual national championship.

I then attended East Tennessee State University (ETSU) on a rifle team scholarship. At the time, ETSU had one of the premier collegiate rifle teams. While there, I majored in Business Management and earned a 3-year ROTC scholarship. I was again fortunate to be a member of teams that won multiple national championships, and I won another individual national championship.

Upon graduation from ETSU, I received a commission in the U.S. Army and was stationed at Fort Benning, GA, where I served as a member of the United States Army Marksmanship Unit (USAMU) for four years (1977-81). While at the unit, I had the opportunity to shoot shoulder-to-shoulder with some of the best international-style rifle shooters in the world and receive world class support from the USAMU coaches and gunsmiths. My experience as a member of the USAMU yielded friendships and memories that have lasted a lifetime.

Following my time at the USAMU, I spent a year attending an MBA program at ETSU and shooting on the US Army Reserve's International Rifle Team, before accepting an offer from the US Army to return to active duty. I served in Army Club Management positions at Camp Casey, South Korea with the 2nd Infantry Division (1982-83) and Fort Polk, Louisiana with the 5<sup>th</sup> Mech Infantry Division (1983-86). I then pursued civilian positions that complimented my experience in Army Club Management. From 1986-88, I worked as a Business Analyst for the Morale, Welfare and Recreation (MWR) Office at the U.S. Army Training Doctrine Command, and as Operations Director for the MWR Directorate in the Military District of Washington.

Following my work experience with MWR operations in the Washington D.C. area, I moved to Nashville, Tennessee in 1988 and embarked on a 33-year financial management career in Tennessee state government, retiring in 2021.

Concurrent with my career in state government, I served as a staff officer in the Tennessee Army National Guard, retiring from military service in 1999 having attained the rank of Major. One of the highlights of my military service while in the Tennessee Army National Guard was being selected by the U.S. National Guard Bureau to serve as Officer-in-Charge of the All-Guard International Rifle Team from 1989-1999.

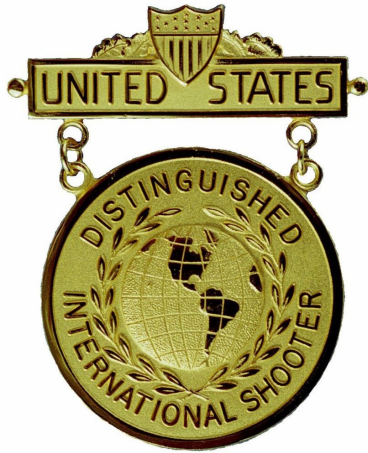
I have been happily married to my wife, Judith, for 45 years. Our son, his wife and our granddaughter now live in Maui, Hawaii, while our daughter lives near us in Nashville.

My current contact information is as follows.

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## Distinguished International Shooter Badge



*The first U. S. Distinguished International Shooter Badge was presented by President John F. Kennedy in 1963 to USAMU veteran Gary L. Anderson. In the 60-year history of this Badge, 527 U. S. rifle, pistol, running target, and shotgun athletes have earned this prestigious Badge. There have been 26 replacement badges issued.*

America's marksmanship Distinguished Badge program traces its history back to the first gold Distinguished Marksman Badges awarded by the U.S. Army in 1887. This program, which has been administered by the CMP since 1996, offers competitors opportunities to earn 11 different Distinguished Badges. Of those 11 badges, the one that is the most difficult to earn is the **U.S. Distinguished International Shooter Badge**. This is because to earn this badge, a rifle, pistol, or shotgun athlete must first qualify for a USA Shooting National Team that represents the USA in ISSF or WSPS Championships. ISSF Championships include the Olympic Games, World Shooting Championships, World Cups, Pan American Games and Championship of the Americas (CAT). WSPS Championships for athletes with disabilities include the Paralympic Games, WSPS World Championships, and the Parapan American Games. Junior athletes

are eligible to earn International Distinguished credit points in Junior World Championships. Two of the 2023 honorees earned their badges solely with points earned in Junior World Championships.

Making a USA Shooting National Team is only the first step in earning this badge. To be awarded the badge, a National Team member must then earn 30 International Distinguished credit points with medal-winning or high place finishes in ISSF or WSPS Championships where they compete against the best athletes from countries all over the world. Credit points vary from 30 points awarded for Olympic or Paralympic Games gold, silver, or bronze medals to five points that are awarded for third place finishes in the Pan American and Parapan Games. Ten and 5 points are awarded for medal finishes in Junior World Championships. Earning an Olympic or Paralympic Quota Place for the USA merits 10 bonus points. Olympic Mixed Team events (one man and one woman) receive credit points. World Championship team events were restored to International Distinguished credit point eligibility in 2022.

Regulations for awarding the International Distinguished Badge are found in the current CMP Smallbore Rifle and Air Rifle/Air Pistol Rulebooks. Copies of those rulebooks can be viewed or downloaded at: <https://thecmp.org/competitions/cmp-competitions-rulebooks/>. The CMP maintains records of all international distinguished credit points earned by USA Shooting athletes who have not yet received the International Distinguished Badge. Athletes can check their records by logging on to: <https://ct.thecmp.org/app/v1/index.php?do=reportShootersWithDistinguishedPoints>.

Questions about international badge status should be addressed to [vsnyder@thecmp.org](mailto:vsnyder@thecmp.org).

USA Shooting (<https://www.usashooting.org/>) is the U.S. National Governing Body for Olympic and Paralympic Shooting sports. USAS is responsible for selecting, training and supporting USA Shooting National Teams that represent the USA in ISSF or WSPS Championships. The International Distinguished Badge was instituted by the

Department of Defense in 1963, pursuant to recommendations from the National Board for the Promotion of Rifle Practice. Responsibility for administering this program was transferred to the CMP when Congress and the U.S. President established the Civilian Marksmanship Program as a federally chartered, non-profit corporation in 1996. The CMP now administers the Program in accordance with authority granted to it by federal law (36 USC §40722 (3)).

**William Hinton, Dacula GA, Age 27, Badge #550.** Staff Sergeant Will Hinton trains and competes in international trap events as a member of the U.S. Army Marksmanship Unit Shotgun Team at Fort Moore, Georgia. He is also part of the USAMU shotgun exhibition team. Hinton grew up in a family of bird hunters. This led to recreational shotgun shooting and then to active participation in FITASC and sporting clays competitions.

He made his first USA Shooting Junior National Team at the age of 17 in 2013. By the time Hinton joined the USAMU Shotgun Team in 2016 he had decided to specialize in ISSF Trap. Hinton's most spectacular international successes have come in the last two years. 2022 featured a gold medal and an Olympic Quota Place in Men's Trap at the Championship of the Americas in Lima. This year's highlights included a 4<sup>th</sup> place individual finish and membership on the gold medal USA Men's Trap team in the World Championship at Baku, Azerbaijan in August. His successes in the Baku World Championship gave Hinton more than enough credit points to earn the U. S. Distinguished International Shooter Badge.



## Pistol Championships from page 1

In addition to winning the overall team title, the Army Marksmanship Unit's Service Pistol Team swept the .22, Centerfire, .45, Service Pistol and all four team championships.

Sgt. 1st Class Ryan Franks, the competition's overall individual champion, said that he was proud of the team's performance. "I feel like I've done my job," he said. "Our job is to compete and win, and it gives me confidence as the team chief to put my focus on my shooters and still go out and win with minimal time on the gun. My focus is my team, ... and the team made big strides proving our training plans are effective."

After Franks, Sgt. 1st Class Greg Markowski was in second place, and Sgt. Jason Gregoire was third. Both are Army Marksmanship Unit shooters and instructors.

In addition to competition, the event also fosters camaraderie and gives troops the chance to trade ideas and expertise. As an example, Franks said, the Coast Guard sent two teams to the competition. "They never shot this match before and were very receptive to pointers, and every day in the competition they made leaps and bounds," he said. "I look forward to seeing them compete again."

For Franks, winning the championship was a longtime aspiration. "Winning the Interservice Pistol Championship was always a career goal," he said. "I am prouder of the U.S. Army Marksmanship Unit Service Pistol Team for going out there and representing us well."

## 2023 Shooter, New Shooter and Support Person of the Year

**2023 USAMU Shooter of the Year** is **SSG Benjamin L. Cleland** (Service Rifle). He had a 496.2 average for the year. He won the National Trophy Individual Rifle Match (496), the Pershing Trophy (499) as the high individual in the National Trophy Team Rifle Match. The aggregate of those two matches plus the President's 100 Rifle Match (397) helped him win the coveted Mountain Man Trophy. Additionally, he won the first ever CMP Mid-Range Championship at Camp Perry. He also won his fifth Interservice Individual Rifle Championship and his third Interservice Long Range Championship at Quantico.

**2023 USAMU New Shooter of the Year** is **SPC Jon Wiedell** (Action Shooting) who was the US Practical Shooting Association Multigun National Champion, the Duskin Memorial 3-Gun Champion and the Texas 3-Gun Champion. He was also accepted as a Primary Instructor within the Action Shooting Team.

**2023 USAMU Support Person of the Year** is **Mr. Bill Moran** (Custom Firearms Shop) who completed a project that raised and extended the berms on Krilling Range (Action Shooting), coordinated the repair of the firing lines on McAndrews Range (Service Rifle), successfully maintained 31 buildings and 328 acres that the USAMU utilizes and managed the USAMU safety program which passed all inspections with zero deficien-



# First USAMU Olympic Team Members Named

The first USA Shooting athletes have qualified for the Olympic Games Paris 2024 after the conclusion of the third air gun trials selection match in Anniston, Alabama, Jan.7, 2024.

Ivan Roe, a Manhattan, Montana, native, will be making his Olympic debut in Paris for Men’s Air Rifle. Roe was a member of the 2023 World Shooting Championship team and the 2022 Championships of the Americas (CAT) team where he earned a gold medal and an Olympic Quota for the U.S. He is currently a sergeant in the U.S. Army Marksmanship Unit at Fort Moore, Georgia and previously shot for Murray State University.

“I am super excited,” said Roe. “This is a huge relief off of my shoulders. During the finals, I was just committing to the process. I wasn’t focused on Paris at all. I was just trying to shoot the best shot I could.”

Sagen Maddalena, of Groveland California, is making her second Olympic Games appearance after competing in Tokyo. Maddalena qualified for the Paris team in Women’s Air Rifle. At the 2023 Pan American Games she was crowned Women’s Air Rifle champion and earned a total of three medals. She earned two more medals at the 2023 World Shooting Championships.

“This is pretty surreal, the competition was so tough,” said Maddalena. “I can’t believe I made it. I am proud of myself, and I think it’s awesome, but I worked for it. I definitely put in the miles and hours.”

Maddalena is currently a sergeant in the U.S. Army Marksmanship Unit and previously shot for the University of Alaska - Fairbanks.

## New Life Members

- 2023
- Denise L Loring  
Robert H. Buker, Jr.  
Erik A. Andreasen  
Joseph E. Chrysler  
Cris Murray  
Arthur V. Clary  
David J. Liwanag

- 2024
- Michael Markovcy  
Miguel "Mike" Castellanos

## 2024 U.S. Army Small Arms Championship

The 2024 U.S. Army Small Arms Championship, also known as the All Army, is taking place March 10-16, 2024 as we go to print. This annual week-long training event and competition is hosted by the USAMU and open to all Soldiers in the U.S. Army, as well as members of the National Guard, US. Army Reserve and cadets in the U.S. Army Cadet Command (ROTC). One of the 231 shooters is Cadet Mark Suggs, son of deceased MMA member Matt Suggs. He attends Duke University. There will be more on All-Army in the June 2024 MMA Times.

Thank You for Your Support!



## Where are they now? – Julie Golob (née Goloski)

Julie is many things, a multi-time world and national shooting champion, an experienced shooting instructor, woman of the outdoors, proud US Army veteran, published author, and two of her most treasured titles, wife and mom. She believes a huge part of her success comes from a desire to have balance in her life. Family is always first and her personal motto in life is to work hard, share knowledge and showcase a winning spirit through a blend of kindness, ferocity and humility.

A self-proclaimed daddy's girl, Julie spent her weekends on the range and afternoons in the field hunting with her father in upstate New York. From patching targets and picking up brass to eventually working as a certified range safety officer in action shooting sports, the father/daughter shooting hobby evolved when Julie decided to take her first shots as a competitor. Shooting in her first "match" at the age of fourteen she was completely hooked and it wasn't long before this junior shooter started to turn heads.

Within just three years of her first competition, Julie earned a slot to the [United States Practical Shooting Association's \(USPSA\)](#) National Championships in 1994. Her confident gun handling skills and accuracy caught the attention of the [US Army Marksmanship Unit's \(USAMU\)](#) Action Pistol Coach.

Julie Golob began her professional shooting career with the [US Army Marksmanship Unit \(USAMU\)](#) in 1995. Recruited right out of high school as a promising junior competitor, Julie completed Basic Training and Military Police School at Fort McClellan, AL.

Before Julie joined the Action Shooting Section, there had been only one national title won by a member of the Action Shooting Team. That changed. Julie had a record-breaking year in 1999 winning Women's Open Titles in all the USPSA Area Championships she entered, seven out of the eight Areas. She won the women's title at the World Speed Shooting Championships (Steel Challenge) and followed that victory with back-to-back national titles at the USPSA Open and Limited National Championships, the first woman to ever do so. These wins also earned her a Triple Crown in action shooting sports.

With such a phenomenal shooting season in 1999, the USAMU nominated Julie for the US Army Female Athlete of the Year Award. Usually reserved for Olympic athletes, Julie was extremely honored at the nomination. She was beyond thrilled when she was selected for the prestigious title in a ceremony held in Washington, DC. It marks the first and only time in history an action shooter has ever received the title. Julie also is the first person to meet the competition requirements for a future nomination into the USAMU Action Shooting Hall of Fame.

More than just a competitor, Julie also earned the rank of sergeant and led the Action Shooting Team in a Recruiting Command initiative, the Army Action Shooting Adventure Package (ASAP). Hitting the road, the ASAP toured the show circuit and other recruiting events with live demonstrations using blank ammunition and laser activated targets.

Julie served nearly eight years with the USAMU as a shooter and instructor with numerous military awards and honors, leaving the Unit in 2003 and becoming a professional shooter. She first worked for GLOCK and their GSSF program before joining Team Smith & Wesson as their captain.

In 2011 Julie won the Ladies Revolver National Title, becoming the first shooter in history (male or female) to win a national title in all six USPSA divisions. In 2016 USPSA adopted the Carry Optics Division – one that utilizes striker-fired or double-action pistols and red dot optics. Julie used the then new Smith & Wesson Performance Center C.O.R.E. and Trijicon RMR to claim her 14th USPSA Ladies National Title in Carry Optics, becoming the first to win a national title in all seven practical shooting divisions. She is currently the only woman with national titles in all USPSA handgun divisions.

Beyond Practical Shooting sports, Julie earns wins in NRA Action Pistol, hoisting the coveted Ladies Bianchi Cup three times. Building her established resume in [International Defensive Pistol Association \(IDPA\)](#) events, she has won a total of 7 national titles in defensive pistol. 7 World title wins in Steel Challenge, 3 World Shoot Off and 2 International Revolver Championships wins are also on the lengthy list. With over 50 world and national titles in 7 different shooting disciplines, Julie has proven her talent across a variety of sports and firearm platforms.

Julie is a former member of the NRA Board of Directors and is currently a member of the Cody Firearms Museum Advisory Board and the Outdoor Stewards Conservation Foundation Board. She is also an MMA Life Member.

