WD Mil Hal



## Homecoming Convocation

and

Reserve Officer Training Corps
Hall of Fame Ceremony

Friday, October 12, 2007

II a.m.

F. S. Belcher Theatre

John W. Davis Fine Arts Building





# Historical Sketch of West Virginia State University ROTC

The second Morrill Act of 1890 made training in agriculture and mechanical arts available to African-American citizens. Section four of the Morrill Act required military training as part of the curriculum. West Virginia responded on March 17, 1891 by enacting legislation to create a special land grant institution for Blacks. Federal funds provided \$3,000 for faculty salaries, and the West Virginia Legislature appropriated \$10,000 to purchase a farm and build a school building upon it. The institution was founded as the West Virginia Colored Institute.

Although not specifically included in the West Virginia Legislative Act, military training was conducted during the school's first year. The ROTC Department opened shortly after the establishment of a military corps in 1899. In 1915, West Virginia Colored Institute was renamed the West Virginia Collegiate Institute. In 1929, the college changed its name to West Virginia State College. In 2004, the college received university status and was renamed West Virginia State University. Military training continued at the college from 1899 until present, with the exception of temporary suspensions from 1907-1916 and 1920-1942.

From its beginnings until 1915, the institution offered the equivalent of a high school education, with a curriculum devoted primarily to agriculture, trades, and teacher education. In 1915, the school was given the authority to award college degrees requiring instruction in Mathematics, Chemistry, French, and English. The first college degrees were awarded in 1919.

Much of the credit for establishing the present Senior ROTC program goes to Mr. Daniel P. Lincoln and Professor Daniel L. Ferguson. Their success in conducting voluntary military training early in World War II kept alive the War Department's recognition of the college's desire to continue the ROTC program.

In 1942, LTC Payton Winlock established a Senior ROTC unit to provide instruction in Field Artillery. Artillery was taught until 1956, when the department was designated a General Military Science Program. Graduates could now be commissioned into any of the Army's eighteen branches of service.

With the 1954 Supreme Court decision, Brown v. the Board of Education, West Virginia State College was propelled from a small black college to a racially integrated one. Program offerings expanded, and new ones developed as the college kept pace with the demands of students and the needs of the larger community. In 1970, the Military Science Department acquired elective status and ceased to be a mandatory program for all male students.

## 2007 Fall Program

LTC Steve D. Thomas, Presiding
Professor of Military Science, WVSU ROTC Yellow Jacket Battalion

PRELUDE: "America the Beautiful"	ty Marching Band	
ARRIVAL OF OFFICIAL PARTY		
POSTING OF COLORS		
NATIONAL ANTHEM		
INVOCATION	CADET MICHAEL H.WEBB	
WELCOME & INTRODUCTORY REMARKS	Lieutenant Colonel Field Artillery, Professor of Military Science	
PRESENTATION OF INDUCTEES AND RESPONDE	NTS	
James J. Braxton, Sr., Colonel, (Retired), Class of		
	Presented by Cadet Dominique L. Logan	
Tyra Y.White, Lieutenant Colonel, Class of '81	Presented by Cadet Alexander Chiang	
Vince D. Ross, Lieutenant Colonel, Class of '86		
	Presented by Cadet Dirk L.Toombs	
Peter S. Ridley, Captain (Posthumous), Class of		
Presented by Cadet Brittani L. Chambers		
MUSICAL SELECTION: Selections from "God Bless America" by I. Berlin/arr. By J. Bocook The West Virginia State University Marching Band		
RECOGNITION OF HONORED GUESTS	LTC Steve D.Thomas	
CLOSING REMARKS		
	Ninth President West Virginia State University	
ALMA MATER	Spencer-Wade	
ARMY SONG & RECESSIONAL OF OFFICIAL PART	Y	
POSTLUDE: "Battle Hymn of the Republic"by J.W. Howe/arr. By F. Cofield West Virginia State University Marching Band		

### Colonel (Retired) James J. Braxton, Sr.

Colonel James J. Braxton was born in Brooklyn and raised in Jamaica, Queens, New York where he attended Bayside High School. At the age of seventeen, he enlisted in the U.S. Navy. His first assignment was aboard the USS Noxubee as a ship's storekeeper. He was discharged from active duty naval service in April of 1974.

In 1982, James Braxton graduated from West Virginia State College and was commissioned a Second Lieutenant in the U.S. Army Air Defense Artillery branch. While in the military, Colonel Braxton held the following specialties: PATRIOT Missile, Quartermaster, Contracting, and Military Police Officer. His Army duties include: Maintenance and Fire Control Platoon Leader, Company Executive Officer, Company Commander, Battalion Logistics Officer, and Command Provost Marshall.

Colonel Braxton spent I4+ years on active duty with the U.S. Navy and the U.S. Army, inclusive. He is currently serving in the U.S. Army Reserves as a mobilized U.S. Army Reservist, holding the rank of Colonel. His current position is the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Command Provost Marshall (Director, Force Protection/Antiterrorism, Physical Security, and Law Enforcement). He is the principal agent responsible to the Commander (Lieutenant General) for all security. Previous positions include: Comptroller, G8 for the 80<sup>th</sup> Division (Institutional Training), Brigade Executive Officer, Battalion Commander, Battalion Executive Officer, and Brigade Logistics Officer. He has a total of 29 years of active and reserve military, inclusive.

Military decorations include: Meritorious Service Medal, Oak Leaf Cluster, Army Commendation Medal, 4 Oak Leaf Clusters, Army Achievement Medal, Oak Leaf Cluster, Armed Forces Reserve Medal, National Defense Service Medal, w/Bronze Star, Army Service Ribbon, Army Reserve Component Achievement Medal; Overseas Service Ribbon (2); Parachutist Badge, and Rigger Badge.

As a civilian, he holds the position of Chief of the Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO) office, Humphrey Engineer Center Support Activity, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers located in Washington, D.C. and Alexandria, Virginia. Colonel Braxton has a total of 14 years of Federal government service, serving in a variety of positions.

Colonel Braxton's educational experience includes: Associate Degree in Banking and Finance from West Virginia State College, as well as a Bachelors of Science Degree in Business, a Masters of Science Degree in Administration from Central Michigan University, US Army Command and General Staff College, US Department of Agriculture's Graduate School Executive Potential Program for Senior-Level Employees. He is currently attending the University of Phoenix, PHD program in Leadership and Organizational Design.

He currently resides in Fredericksburg, Virginia. He is married to his wonderful wife, Linda, and they have a son, a daughter-in-law, and two grandchildren.

### LTC Tyra Yvette White

Lieutenant Colonel Tyra Yvette White is a native of Baton Rouge, Louisiana. LTC White graduated in 1977 from the Immaculate High School located in Detroit, Michigan. She was also a member of Xinos during the years of 1975 to 1977. Xinos is a community organization sponsored by the National Sorority of Phi Delta Kappa Inc. The organization's goal was to empower women in the area of business. She earned a Bachelor of Science Degree in Criminal Justice from West Virginia State University in 1981. White later received an MBA with Honors-Cum Laude from Touro University International in 2006.

During the course of her stay at West Virginia State University, she was a member of the Senior Reserve Officer Training Corps, where she obtained recognition as Miss Company C. Tyra is a member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority as the Dean of Pledges. She also received the honor of being Miss Senior in 1981.

After receiving her Bachelor of Science degree, White was commissioned a Second Lieutenant in the Military Police Corp through the West Virginia State University ROTC program. She attended MP Officer Basic Course, MP Officer Advanced Course, Command and Staff College (CAS³), Command and General Staff College (CGSC), and numerous other military courses.

LTC White proudly gave more than 20 years of military service, which included one tour in Germany. While in service, she received numerous medals and awards including Meritorious Service Medal with Oak Leaf Cluster, Army Commendation Medal with Three Oak Leaf Clusters, Army Achievement Medal, Army Reserve Component Achievement Medal, National Defense Service Medal, a Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, Army Service Ribbon, and Oversea Service Ribbon.

In 1992, LTC White transferred from Active Duty to the Individual Ready Reserve (IRR). In 1993, she later joined the Michigan National Guard. Also in that same year, she began a career in Law Enforcement as a member of Detroit Metropolitan Police Department. There she served ten years with the Detroit Police Department while she was assigned to duties at the Army National Guard Bureau in Arlington, Virginia.

White has been involved in several community, civic, and religious activities where she has been recognized for her outstanding contributions. She was a T-Ball coach for the Detroit Police Athletic League (PAL). White volunteered for the Crossroads Young Marines located in Quantico, Virginia. She is also a member of the Knights of Peter Claver, a member of the Ladies Auxiliary Court 167. LTC White has been a faithful member of St Cecilia Catholic Church in Detroit, Michigan from 1983 to the present.

LTC White is currently assigned to the Pentagon in Washington, DC. She has one daughter, Tiffany, who is currently a sophomore at Massanutten Military Academy in Virginia.

#### LTC Vince D. Ross

Lieutenant Colonel Vince D. Ross is a 1986 Distinguished Military Graduate from the West Virginia State College ROTC program. Upon commissioning and graduation, he remained at West Virginia State, where he served as a Gold Bar Recruiter from I June through October 1986. Lieutenant Colonel Ross holds a Bachelor of Science Degree in Criminal Justice from West Virginia State College and a Master of Arts Degree in Human Resources from Webster University.

Ross completed the Field Artillery Officer Basic Course and was later assigned as the Executive Officer of Battery C, I<sup>st</sup> Battalion 33<sup>rd</sup> Field Artillery of the US Army Field Artillery Training Center. After approximately 24 months as Battery Executive officer, his Battalion Commander made a controversial decision, with the approval of the installation Commanding General, to put First Lieutenant Ross in command of that same battery, though he had not attended the Field Artillery Advanced Course and had only three years of service. In September, 1989 First Lieutenant Ross assumed Command of Battery C, I<sup>st</sup> Battalion 33<sup>rd</sup> Field Artillery.

After his command assignment, then Captain Ross completed the Field Artillery Officer Advanced Course and was assigned to Second Infantry Division, Headquarters Command Group where he served as the Assistant Secretary to the General Staff and Chief of Protocol for the Commanding General of Second Infantry Division, Camp Casey, South Korea. After eight months in Korea, Captain Ross received a compassionate reassignment to Ft. Hamilton, New York. He was assigned as the installation Chief of Plans, Training, and Security, for New York Area Command and Ft. Hamilton. After approximately a year in the assignment, Captain Ross moved to St. John's University, Jamaica, New York, where he served as an Assistant Professor of Military Science.

In 1996, Captain Ross was selected for promotion to Major. He was transferred to the Adjutant General Corps and was assigned as Battalion Operations Officer and Later Battalion Executive Officer of the New York City Recruiting Battalion. Following a tour in New York, he was reassigned to Fort Knox, Kentucky, where he served as the Chief of Military Personnel Division for the Midwestern Regional Third Recruiting Brigade.

After being selected for promotion to Lieutenant Colonel, he was then reassigned as the Director, Theater Army Personnel Operations Directorate at First Personnel Command, The Theater Human Resources Command for Europe. As Director, Lieutenant Colonel Ross was responsible for guiding the command through personnel transformation along with other critical personnel functions in support of Operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom. He served as the command's point person for the theater Rest & Recuperation Program and also as the training manager for all personnel support operations of units rotating through Bosnia and Kosovo.

His twenty-year career has led to service throughout the United States, Germany, Korea, and Kuwait.

He is married to the Former Lorraine Wallace of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, and they have twin sons, Marcellus and Dawson.

## Captain Peter Stapleton Ridley, Jr. (Posthumous)

Captain Peter Stapleton Ridley, Jr. was a native of Washington, D.C. He was born September 12, 1939, the only son of The Honorable Peter S. Ridley, Sr. and Mrs. Virginia Pair Ridley. Peter S. Ridley, Jr. was educated in the public schools of the District of Columbia.

Peter was accepted for enrollment at West Virginia State College in the fall of 1956, where he majored in Business Administration. He was an active member of the Student Council, Spanish Club, Basileus (President) of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity (Theta Psi Chapter), a member of the Pan-Hellenic Council, Prillerman Hall Council, and Commander of The Pershing Rifle Corps. He earned a Bachelor of Science Degree and accepted his Commission as a 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant in the United States Army in June 1960, serving with distinction and rising to the rank of Captain.

During the period of his military career, from 1960 to 1967, he served as Company Commander and Battalion Executive Officer with the 7th Maintenance Battalion in Heidelberg, Germany. After his tour in Germany, he was sent to the Foreign Language School in Monterey, California where he learned Vietnamese, graduating with high honors. Pete was assigned as a Military Advisor to the South Vietnamese Infantry in Ben Tre, Vietnam. During his tour in Vietnam, he was awarded the Army Commendation Medal, the Bronze Star, and the Vietnamese Service Medal.

Following Captain Ridley's tour of active duty with the U.S. Army, he returned to civilian life in Washington, D.C. to pursue a degree in Law. He was accepted and enrolled in the Washington College of Law at the American University Law School, earning the Degree of Juris Doctor. He was listed in Who's Who Among Students in American Colleges and Universities''. He also received the John Sherman Myers Achievement Award for Community Service from the Student Bar Association of American University. In 1970, Peter was admitted to the Bar of the District of Columbia and entered into private practice of Law. Peter was also admitted as a member to the Bar of the D.C. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit, and The United States Supreme Court. Peter served on the Advisory Commission for the Codification of the D.C. Municipal Code and was counsel to the National Rifle Association. His community work encompassed his church, Northeastern Presbyterian, the Brookland Civic Association, the NAACP, the Urban League, and Omega Psi Phi Fraternity.

## **Professors of Military Science**

1942-1944	Lieutenant Colonel Payton Winlock
1944-1945	Lieutenant Colonel Benote H. Lee
1945-1946	Captain William J. Gray
1946-1948	Lieutenant Colonel Leon Lavoie
1948-1951	Lieutenant Colonel Charles H.Wesner
1951-1954	Lieutenant Colonel Orion Page
1954-1956	Major Robbin Washington
1956-1958	Lieutenant Colonel John Woodruff
1958-1959	Lieutenant Colonel Howard Bartholomew
1959-1963	Lieutenant Colonel Edward D. Hinkson
1963-1967	Lieutenant Colonel Joseph C. Hill
1967-1969	Lieutenant Colonel Marvin E. Billups
1969-1971	Lieutenant Colonel Louis J.Weil
1971-1974	Colonel Lawrence M. Sevdy
1974-1976	Lieutenant Colonel Stanley Goldsmith
1976-1979	Lieutenant Colonel Edward Robertson
1979-1983	Lieutenant Colonel Charles T. Ledbetter
1983-1984	Lieutenant Colonel Douglas W. Richmond
1984-1989	Lieutenant Colonel Quewanncoii C. Stephens
1989-1993	Lieutenant Colonel Willie C. Lucas
1993-1996	Lieutenant Colonel Herbert E. Lattimore
1996-1999	Lieutenant Colonel Raphael P. Deegan
1999-2000	Lieutenant Colonel Robert T. Kleppinger
2000-2003	Lieutenant Colonel John M. Horn, Sr.
2003-2006	Lieutenant Colonel George A. Nelson
2006-Present	Lieutenant Colonel Steve D.Thomas

### **ROTC Hall of Fame**

The West Virginia State University ROTC Hall of Fame was created to recognize the accomplishments of its graduates who have excelled in their chosen fields. Inductees include:

#### 1980

Major General Edward Greer Major General (Ret) Charles C. Rogers\* Major General (Ret) Harvey D. Williams Brigadier General (Ret) Dallas C. Brown

#### <u> 1981</u>

Brigadier General (Ret) Frank C. Bacon\* Colonel (Ret) George E. Peters, Jr. \* Colonel (Ret) Robert L. Peters\* Dr. Vincent E. Reed

#### 1982

Colonel (Ret) Grover A. DuBose Colonel (Ret) James M. Garrison, Jr. M.D. Lieutenant Colonel (Ret) Nelson R. Bickley Dr. William J. L. Wallace (H\*) Dr. Prince A. Williams (H\*)

#### 1983

Brigadier General (Ret) Robert L. Stephens, Jr. Lieutenant Colonel (Ret) Preston A. Davis Lieutenant Colonel (Ret) Haywood Martin

#### 1984

Major General Joseph E.Turner USAR (Ret) Colonel (Ret) Charles E. Stokes, Jr. Lieutenant Colonel (Ret) Richard V.White Lieutenant Colonel (Ret) Howard L.Wilson

#### 1985

Brigadier General (Ret) Walter F. Johnson, III Colonel (Ret) Thomas E. Carter, M.D. Lieutenant Colonel (Ret) Thomas D. Carter, Jr. Lieutenant Colonel James L. Hill

#### 1986

Colonel (Ret) Paul H. Easley, Sr. Colonel (Ret) Roscoe A. Swann, Jr. Lieutenant Colonel (Ret) John E. Baker\* Major (Ret) James W. Hawkins, Jr.

#### 1987

Colonel (Ret) Vandy L. Miller Colonel (Ret) Herman H. Jones Colonel (Ret) James W. Vallandingham Colonel (Ret) James W. Reed

#### 1988

Lieutenant Colonel (Ret) C. Milton Kates Colonel (Ret) Alphonoso W. Nabors Lieutenant Colonel (Ret) Bernice McGhee Colonel (Ret) Edwin A. Wilkerson

#### 1989

Major General (Ret) Kenneth D. Gray Colonel William P. Greene, Jr. Lieutenant Colonel (Ret) Stephen S. Whisiker\* Lieutenant Colonel (Ret) John L. Whitehead\*

#### 1990

Brigadier General (Ret) James W. Monroe Brigadier General (Ret) Jack Yeager Lieutenant Colonel (Ret) Acie McGhee, Jr. Lieutenant Colonel (Ret) Ronald E. McLeod Colonel (Ret) George S. Roberts (Posthumous)\*

#### 1991

Colonel Ronald E.Townsend Colonel (Ret) Kenneth A. Ingram Lieutenant Colonel (Ret) Henry R. Bellinger Mr. Earl E. Jones

#### 1992

Colonel (Ret) James A. Manning
Colonel (Ret) John Mackey
Colonel Donald Townsend
Lieutenant Colonel (Ret) Dennis Neighbors
Brigadier General Roscoe Cartwright (H\*)
Lieutenant Colonel (Ret) Samuel Kelly (H\*)
Dr. John W. Davis (H\*)
Mr. James Evans (H\*)

#### 1993

Lieutenant Colonel (Ret) Ronald H. Poole Lieutenant Colonel (Ret) Rodney I. McCormick\* Beny J. Primm, M.D. Dr.Thomas D. Boston

#### 1994

Colonel (Ret) Frankie D. Hoskey Major General Terry-L. Tucker Lieutenant Colonel (Ret) Lazelle Free, Sr. Major (Ret) George L. Rich, Jr.

## ROTC Hall of Fame Continued

#### 1995

Lieutenant Colonel (Ret) Keith Sovine Captain John Willis Hill Gravely First Lieutenant Herbert Henderson Frist Lieutenant Edward Scott Sidney Taylor Brown (H)

#### 1996

Colonel (Ret) Lew G.Tyree Lieutenant Colonel (Ret) Thomas E. Haggins Major Jeff Chandler Woods Captain A. Dayton Carpenter

#### 1997

Brigadier General (Ret) Earl M. Simms Lieutenant Colonel Carolyn L. Maddox Lieutenant Colonel (Ret) Clifford Hill Captain Jerry L. Hatcher

#### 1998

Brigadier General John E. Barnette
Lieutenant Colonel (Ret) Ferguson B. Meadows\*
Lieutenant Colonel (Ret) Fransciso B. Newman

#### 1999

Lieutenant Colonel (Ret) John F. Hailey\*
Lieutenant Colonel (Ret) Herbert L. Lawrence
Lieutenant Colonel (Ret) Charles E. Wilson
Lieutenant Colonel (Ret) Frank E. Duncan
Lieutenant Colonel Timothy A. Boyles (Posthumous)\*

#### 2000

Lieutenant Colonel (Ret) Howard G. Hicks, Jr. Colonel (Ret) Cardell S. Hunter Lieutenant Colonel (Ret) Frederick C. Franklin Major (Ret) Charles S. Corprew, Jr.

#### 200 I

Justice Leander J. Shaw, Jr.
Lieutenant Colonel (Ret) Osborne E. Reaves
Lieutenant Colonel (Ret) Robert H. Meggison
Lieutenant Colonel (Ret) Len O.Witcher

#### 2002

Colonel Terry L. Melton
Lieutenant Colonel Edward E. Dickerson
Major (Ret) Stephen T. Reaves
Judge Booker T. Stephens (H)
Judge Herman G. Canady (H)
Lieutenant Colonel (Ret) Charles T. Ledbetter (H)
Colonel David G. Shaddrix (H)

#### 2003

Lieutenant Colonel (Ret) Jesse L. Haynes Lieutenant Colonel (Ret) Clarence O. Hill Lieutenant Colonel (Ret) Harvey C. Johnson\* Major (Ret) Mexion O. Prewitt (Posthumous)\*

#### 2004

Colonel (Ret) Theodore A. Crawford Lieutenant Colonel (Ret) Francis V. Wilson Lieutenant Colonel (Ret) Albert W. Powell Lieutenant Colonel (Ret) Charles W. Marshall

#### 2005

Colonel (Ret) Tom Adams, Jr. Lieutenant Colonel (Ret) Francis E. Crawford, Jr. Lieutenant Colonel (Ret) Roscoe D. Crawford Lieutenant Colonel (Ret) Thomas L. Jones

#### 2006

Lieutenant Colonel Charles P. McCormick Lieutenant Colonel (Ret) Clarence "C]" Jackson Lieutenant Colonel (Ret) Willard O. Jasper Lieutenant Colonel (Ret) Michael A. White

#### 2007

Colonel (Ret.) James J. Braxton, Sr. Lieutenant Colonel Tyra Y. White Lieutenant Colonel Vince D. Ross Captain Peter S. Ridley, Jr. (Posthumous)\*

<sup>\*</sup>Deceased

### **ROTC Hall of Fame** Honorary Members

The West Virginia State University ROTC Hall of Fame was created to recognize the accomplishments of its graduates who have excelled in their chosen fields. Honorary members are normally inducted once each decade. Honorary inductees include:

#### 1982

Dr. William J. L. Wallace\*
Dr. Prince A. Williams\*

#### 1992

Brigadier General Roscoe Cartwright\* Lieutenant Colonel(Ret) Samuel Kelly

Dr. John W. Davis\*

Mr. James Evans

#### 1995

Mrs. Sidney Taylor Brown

#### 2002

Judge Booker T. Stephens
Judge Herman G. Canady
Lieutenant Colonel (Ret) Charles T. Ledbetter
Colonel David G. Shaddrix

<sup>\*</sup>Deceased

## West Virginia State University Army ROTC 14 Decorated General Officers

Name	Year of Graduation
Major General (Ret) Edward Greer	1948
Major General (Ret) Harvey D.Williams	1950
Major General (Ret) Charles C. Rogers*	1951
Brigadier General (Ret) Frank C. Bacon*	
Brigadier General (Ret) Dallas C. Brown	1954
Major General (Ret) Joseph E.Turner	1961
Brigadier General (Ret) Walter F. Johnson, III	1961
Brigadier General (Ret) Robert L. Stephens	1962
Major General (Ret) James W. Monroe	1963
Brigadier General (Ret) Jack Yeager	1965
Major General (Ret) Kenneth D. Gray	
Brigadier General (Ret) Earl M. Simms	1968
Major General John E. Barnette	1969
Major General Terry L.Tucker	1972

<sup>\*</sup>Deceased

## The Army Song

First to fight for the right, And to build the Nation's might,
And The Army Goes Rolling Along
Proud of all we have done, Fighting till the battle's won,
And the Army Goes Rolling Along.
Then it's Hi! He! Hey! The Army's on its way.
Count off the cadence loud and strong
(TWO! THREE!) For where e'er we go, You will always know
That the Army Goes Rolling Along.

## The Star-Spangled Banner

O say, can you see, by the dawn's early light,
What so proudly we hail'd at the twilight's last gleaming?
Whose broad stripes and bright stars, thro' the perilous fight,
O'er the ramparts we watch'd, were so gallantly streaming?
And the rockets' red glare, the bombs bursting in air,
Gave proof thro' the night that our flag was still there.
O say, does that star-spangled banner yet wave
O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave?

There is a place we love so dear—
Its name we'll ever praise and revere
'Tis West Virginia State we love—
Just one more step from there is Heav'n above.

#### REFRAIN:

West Virginia's praise we'll sing—
Lift our voices 'til heavens ring—
As we gaily march along—
We'll sing a song—
For Alma Mater
How we love her
Pride of all our loyal hearts—
From her we will never part—
Thoughts of thee will ne'er be few
Alma Mater we love you.

We'll love her more as days go by,
And send her praises to the sky;
To place her over all the rest,
And keep her e'er the dearest and the best.

Shadowed 'neath a deep blue sky; Is STATE for whom we'll live and we'll die—Arise! O men of God and sing; We're loyal, and to her we'll always cling.

