In the Company of Leaders

Five Men Inducted Into The Corps Hall Of Honor

By Annette Walker ’88
Today the Corps asks our cadets to come take their place in the company of leaders, to “Answer the Call.” Whether that call to service leads them to the military or the public or private sectors, being cadets means they will be asked to bring all their talents and experiences to bear on physical, academic and organizational challenges. It is these same challenges and experiences that exemplify a member of the Corps of Cadets Hall of Honor.

The Corps of Cadets established the Hall of Honor in 1993 to pay tribute to those former cadets who have lived a life that exemplifies the Texas Aggie Spirit. Those chosen also possess the values upon which the Corps was founded: honor, loyalty, service, pride, patriotism, faith, leadership and honesty.

Texas A&M University recognized the lifetime achievements of five notable gentlemen during the Corps Hall of Honor induction ceremony held on Saturday, Feb. 7, in Rudder Auditorium on the Texas A&M campus.

Dr. James H. “Red” Duke, Jr. ’50 of Houston; Lt. Col. (Ret) Donald R. “Buck” Henderson ’62 of College Station; Col. (Ret) Donald E. Crawford ’64 of Frisco; Bill E. Carter ’69 of Dallas and Jerry S. Cox of Houston ’72 were inducted.

To date, 66 former cadets have been inducted into the Corps Hall of Honor.

We congratulate these gentlemen on this prestigious honor and thank them for their support and leadership.
Dr. James H. “Red” Duke, Jr. ’50

“The Corps of Cadets is where my foundation was poured. I am proud to be here, proud to be an Aggie and I am more honored than I can tell you. I cannot adequately express my feelings as it relates to Texas A&M and the Corps and this bond we share together.”

Dr. James H. “Red” Duke, Jr. received a Bachelor of Science degree from Texas A&M, a Bachelor of Divinity from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary and a Doctor of Medicine from The University of Texas Southwestern Medical School.

He served in the Texas National Guard and was a 1st Lieutenant in the United States Army, 2nd Armored Division. Through his medical professional years, he has held 25 academic and hospital appointments, membership and participation in over 40 professional and civic organizations and holds six Visiting Professorships at prestigious universities across the nation.

He spent two years with a team developing a medical school in Jalalabad, Afghanistan, and was instrumental in the development of Memorial Hermann’s Life Flight program as well as bringing this facility to Level 1 Trauma Center designation in Houston.

Duke has appeared as a medical consultant on numerous news and documentary productions and hosted the nationally syndicated television show, Dr. Red Duke’s Health Reports, which aired for more than 18 years.

He is currently a trauma surgeon and professor of surgery at The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston. He has served on various boards with The Association of Former Students and The Twelfth Man Foundation, has the distinction of being the first yell leader to read The Last Corps Trip publicly, and was named a Distinguished Alumnus of the University in 1988.

Lt. Col. (Ret) Donald R. “Buck” Henderson ’62

“My journey from a fish cadet in 1958 until now has been a great trip and I’m thankful for the many Aggie friends and opportunities along the way. To the current cadets I challenge you to give all you can in all you do, but keep a sense of humor, take time to laugh at yourself and let your conscience be your guide.”

Lt. Col. (Ret) Donald R. “Buck” Henderson received a Bachelor of Science in sociology and a Master of Science in educational psychology from Texas A&M.

He served in the U.S. Army for 21 years, including overseas assignments in Germany and Vietnam, retiring as a lieutenant colonel. Henderson received the National Defense Transportation Association Distinguished Service Award in 1977.

Before his retirement in 2007, Henderson served the Aggie community in many roles. He was the director of facilities and assistant executive director for programs at The Association of Former Students, the director of the Sanders Corps of Cadets Center and was an assistant professor of military science and assistant commandant in the Office of the Commandant.

He has served on many committees and boards for Texas A&M, including the Twelfth Man Foundation, the Aggie Band Association and the Corps of Cadets Association. He is a former vice president of the Brazos Valley A&M Club, served as ’62 Class Agent with The Association and has spoken at more than 20 Aggie Muster ceremonies.

Col. (Ret) Donald E. Crawford ’64

“It is great to be recognized for something you really love and for which you have a passion. The Corps of Cadets training and leadership development made a significant difference in my life, preparing me to become a good husband, military officer and business person.”

Col. (Ret) Donald E. Crawford received a Bachelor of Science in business management from Texas A&M.
A&M. After four years on active duty in the U.S. Air Force, he served in the Air Force Reserves for 26 years in numerous command positions.

He was the owner of Southwest Shelving Company with manufacturing plants in Texas, Louisiana and New Mexico. Crawford was the regional commander of the U.S. Air Force Academy Admission program in north Texas, and the chairman of the Advisory Panel to the Director of Admission at the U.S. Air Force Academy for 10 years.

In 1989, he assisted in the development of the Corps Recruiting Office and Corps Leadership Outreach Program. Crawford was instrumental in founding the Texas Aggie Corps of Cadets Association in 1993 and currently serves as its executive director.

The CCA has grown to over 12,500 members, sponsors more than 36 programs designed as quality-of-life programs for cadets, publishes a quarterly magazine, the Guidon, and the Corps yearbook, the Quadrangle. The CCA maintains a database of more than 46,500 former members of the Corps of Cadets and has provided over $1.5 million in support for Corps programs.

Crawford also serves on the Corps Development Council and the Texas A&M President’s Corps of Cadets Board of Visitors.

Bill E. Carter ’69

“I am very humbled as I think of the long history of the Corps of Cadets and how so many individuals have become leaders of character because of their experiences in this unique organization. The core values I learned as a cadet at Texas A&M have served me well in every aspect of my life including the bonds I still hold with my fellow cadets cemented so long ago.”

Bill E. Carter received a Bachelor of Science in agricultural economics from Texas A&M. After graduation, he was commissioned into and served in the U.S. Army.

Carter began his financial services career as a planner with Financial Services Corp. in Dallas and served on various civic boards and associations, including serving as president for the International Association for Financial Planning, the Foundation for Financial Planning and the CFP Board of Standards.

He is currently the president of Carter Financial Management, a wealth management company in Dallas. As a student, Carter served as student body president and Corps adjutant his senior year and was a Distinguished Military Graduate.

Carter was named a Distinguished Alumnus in 2000, and he has served on many committees and boards for Texas A&M, including as a committee member of the Texas A&M President’s Corps of Cadets Board of Visitors, member of the Board of Directors of the 12th Man Foundation, past Chair of The Association of Former Students Board of Directors and chairman of the board of trustees of the Texas A&M Foundation.

Jerry S. Cox ’72

“The Corps is a critical piece of the heritage at Texas A&M and is the principal instrument used to protect and defend the values and traditions of this amazing institution. The legacy of the past and the promise of the future are largely held in the hands of the Corps of Cadets. I am honored to be a part of this legacy.”

Jerry S. Cox received a bachelor’s degree in finance from Texas A&M University, a master’s degree in theological studies from Houston Baptist University and an honorary Doctorate of Laws from Pepperdine University.

He is currently president and chairman of Cox & Perkins Exploration Inc. in Houston. Cox has been a major donor behind several enhancements at Texas A&M, including the Cox-McFerrin Center for Aggie Basketball and the Jerry and Kay Cox Endowed Chair at the Mays School of Business.

Cox has been honored as an Outstanding Alumnus of the Mays Business School and as a Distinguished Alumnus of Texas A&M University. He has served on many boards and committees at Texas A&M, including the Texas A&M Foundation, the Development Council at the Mays Business School and the Corps Development Council.

He is a former director and president of the 12th Man Foundation and the presiding chairman of the One Spirit One Vision campaign. ☝