



# THE OLMSTED FOUNDATION

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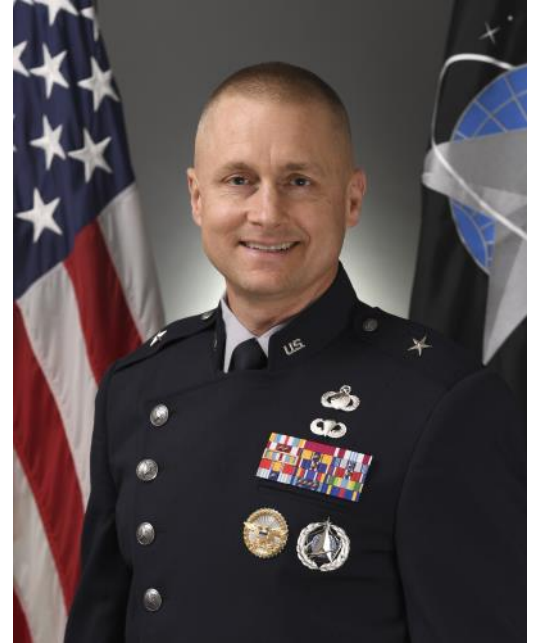
## DC Area Scholar Assembly Planned for April

Space Force Brigadier General Brian Denaro (OSC 06, Guangzhou) will be the speaker at this year's DC Area Scholar Assembly, which will be held on Wednesday, April 30 at the Army Navy Country Club in Arlington, VA.

Denaro currently serves as the Director, Plans and Programs, Office of the Chief Strategy and Resource Officer, Headquarters Space Force. Prior to this assignment, he was the Senior Military Assistant to the Under Secretary of the Air Force. He has also held positions in defense acquisition, intelligence, and international affairs.

Brig Gen Denaro is the 2024 recipient of the Yablonski Esprit Award, presented to the Olmsted Scholar who best exemplifies enthusiasm for the ideals embodied in the Olmsted Scholar Program and dedication to the Olmsted Foundation. He is a 2000 graduate of the Air Force Academy and earned a Master's in Business Administration as an Olmsted Scholar in Guangzhou, China.

The assembly will include a luncheon, updates from the Foundation staff, and Brigadier General Denaro's remarks. All Scholars and spouses in the greater Washington, DC area are encouraged to attend this event. Invitations will be sent out in March.



Brigadier General Brian Denaro (OSC 06, Guangzhou).

## Foundation Mourns LTG (Ret.) Frederic Brown, III



LTG (Ret.) Frederic Brown, III (OSC 60, Geneva).

One of the first Olmsted Scholars, LTG (Ret.) Frederic (Rick) Brown, III (OSC 60, Geneva), USA, passed away this past May at the age of 89. LTG Brown was one of six officers personally selected by George Olmsted for the inaugural Olmsted Scholar Class of 1960. Brown was the son of LTG (Ret.) Frederic Brown, Jr., and grew up on military bases. He graduated from West Point in 1956 as a distinguished cadet. As an Olmsted Scholar, he attended the University of Geneva where he earned a Master's degree in Political Science and subsequently was awarded a Ph.D.

LTG Brown served in cavalry and infantry units in Germany and Vietnam, as well as the United States. He commanded Ft Knox, KY and the Fourth Army at Ft Sheridan, IL. Upon retirement from the Army after 32 years of service, Brown went on to work in military knowledge management and digitization efforts as a consultant and was a senior mentor.

In 2010, he was honored as a Distinguished Graduate by the West Point Association of Graduates.

LTG Brown's obituary may be found here: <https://www.legacy.com/us/obituaries/washingtonpost/name/frederic-brown-obituary?id=55189369>

## Chairman's Corner



Happy New Year to the Olmsted family of Scholars worldwide, active and retired. I read all of your comments in the Annual Olmsted Holiday Letter, and I marveled at the amazing experiences you are all having around the world. Bravo Zulu!

2025 is shaping up to be a big year for the United States of America. As Olmsted Scholars, our leadership is required now more than ever, both domestically and internationally. The tragic fires and civic strife in Los Angeles notwithstanding, we now face adversaries who want to undermine our way of life and likewise that of our allies and partners around the globe. As Russia, China, Iran, the Axis of Resistance, and a plethora of other terrorist organizations attack us overtly or covertly, as Olmsted Scholars, the most valuable commodity we bring to the table for America is our ability to cultivate friendships and alliances. Keep up the good work! We need you in command and positions of significant responsibility in the Joint Force.

Here in Washington, I have been participating in Olmsted selection board interviews with the headquarters staff and other Board members to pick the best and most qualified scholars for the Class of 2026. I have found the quality of our candidates to be nothing short of outstanding, making it very difficult to down-select those who don't make the cut line. All things considered, this is a good problem to have! We'll vote on the results of final selectees at our March Board meeting and announce the selectees shortly thereafter in advance of the annual June meeting at Anderson House in Washington, D.C. More to follow.

Keep up the great work and keep recruiting quality Scholars. The strength and future of the Olmsted Scholar program depends on the continued quality of the candidates - and remember, we now select Scholars from the United States Coast Guard and Space Force. *Semper Paratus* and *Semper Supra!*

Keep charging and keep in touch!

*James G. Foggo  
Admiral, US Navy (Ret.)  
Chairman of the Board*

## President's Perspective



I echo the Chairman's New Year's wishes to Scholars around the world currently serving or retired. With the approaching selection of the Olmsted Scholar Class of 2026, the total number of officers selected as Scholars will be nearly 800. This is a significant milestone, as more key billets in command and critical staffs continue to be filled by Scholars. The identifier "Olmsted Scholar" in your biography marks each of you as an officer who can be trusted to address the military's most complex challenges. In addition, Scholars will be supporting a new administration, which assuredly will have different areas of focus that require adaptive and innovative solutions to challenges and issues. These are skillsets that Scholars possess in abundance.

I have been asked by many who read this newsletter, "Are the new Scholars as capable as we were when we were selected?" The unequivocal answer is: NO! They are much more capable, as evidenced by the fact that today we send Scholars to far more challenging overseas locations such as Almaty, Kazakhstan and

Ho Chi Minh City, Viet Nam. I am also asked from time to time how they are doing in terms of promotion and selection for command. Again, the answer is simple: Scholar rates of selection in ALL Services have never been higher!

As I write this column, we have just completed our annual 3½ month journey personally interviewing each finalist from all six of the Armed Services. And to reiterate the words of our Chairman above, "Yep, better than ever!"

Two final points: I want to announce that in April of this year Vice President Col (Ret.) Sean Cosden and his wife, Elizabeth, will be visiting Scholars currently in the program living in Latin America. And for Scholars in the local area, please mark your calendars for our annual DC Area Assembly on April 30th at the Army Navy Country Club where Space Force Brigadier General Brian Denaro (OSC 06, Guangzhou) will be our featured guest speaker.

*Bruce K. Scott  
Major General, US Army (Ret.)  
President & CEO*

# Olmsted Scholar Reports from South Korea

by Maj Sean Kelly (OSC 23, Seoul)



Thousands of political wreaths line my running route each night, some supporting the president, others criticizing him.

My Olmsted Experience in Seoul was recently marked by a turbulent chapter in Korea’s democracy. On December 3, I woke up to the sound of military helicopters flying low over my apartment and, after checking my phone, I learned from my Korean classmates that the president had declared martial law! Turning to the news, I discovered that the helicopters had landed near the National Assembly building to block lawmakers from entering and that “North Korean forces” supposedly were the reason... What was happening? Was there an imminent threat from North Korea? These questions and more raced through my mind. Having recently completed a deep dive into Korea’s history with authoritarianism and martial law, I was relieved when this “self-coup” attempt quickly failed a few hours later without any serious violence, and the “North Korean forces” was just rhetoric for the opposition party.

The following days were particularly interesting on campus. Korean students are well known for a history of political activism, and this generation wasted no time making its stance clear. Political signs lined the walls, students skipped classes to protest downtown, and my scheduled lectures pivoted to more urgent, topical discussions. As the only foreigner in my political science classes, I was asked by everyone about the American perspective on the unfolding crisis, so I took the opportunity to exchange views. Conversations with my classmates and professors revealed a spectrum of emotion—fear of another backslide to authoritarian rule, anger at persistent political corruption and scandals, and hope that democratic norms would ultimately prevail. This hope proved justified when the president was impeached the following weekend, lifting the overwhelming sense of unease that had gripped the city. Still, the political crisis was far from over.

As an outsider, my perspective is naturally limited, but witnessing this pivotal moment in Korean democracy firsthand has deepened my appreciation for the Olmsted program and the unique opportunity it provides. Experiencing a country’s struggles from within (using the target language!) provides insights that no textbook or lecture could hope to match, and for me, that is what the Olmsted Experience is all about.



At the post-impeachment gathering in front of the National Assembly building (green roof).

**Save the Date:**

**The George and Carol Olmsted Foundation  
Annual Meeting, Reunion and Reception**

**Anderson House**

**Saturday, June 7, 2025**





## Memories of the Olmsted Family Home

George and Carol Olmsted lived for many years at 2775 N. Quebec Street in Arlington, Virginia. From 1960 until 1981, they hosted annual meetings there for new Scholar classes and former Scholars. In 1981, the reception moved to the Anderson House. This tradition continues today with the Annual Meeting, Reunion and Reception.

When General Olmsted died in 1998, he bequeathed the family home to the Olmsted Foundation. In 2000, the Foundation sold the property to developers. The Olmsted home was later bulldozed, and eight new homes were built on the subdivided lots.



This view of the Olmsted home shows the extensive porch in the rear of the house, which overlooked the George Washington Memorial Parkway and the Potomac River.

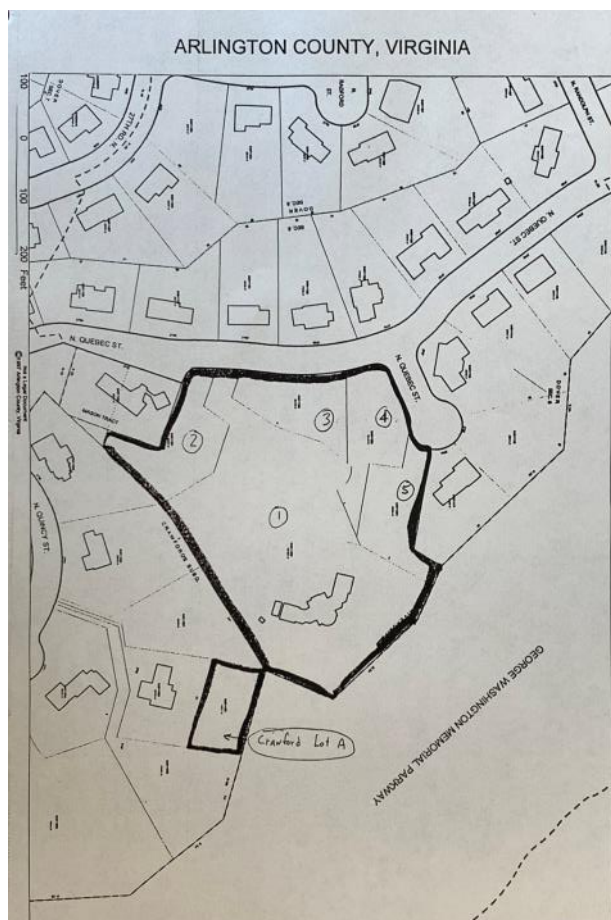
Bruce Grossetta (OSC 70, Buenos Aires) shared some of his memories of meeting General Olmsted and attending the annual gathering at the Olmsted's home.

“As members of one of the earlier classes, Gail and I were able to interact with the Olmsteds on a few occasions.

In the fall of 1970 when we were at Defense Language Institute in Crystal City taking classes in Spanish, we were able to make a courtesy call on General Olmsted at his office on Pennsylvania Avenue. And what an office! It was on a very high floor, perhaps the top floor, very spacious with a large balcony which looked down directly at the White House! The General was warm and congenial, and obviously proud of the program he created. He spent nearly 30 minutes with us and was sincerely interested in us.

When back in the DC area to attend American University as a follow up to the overseas portion of the program, we were able to attend a Scholar reunion in the summer of 1973 at the Olmsted home. For a couple of “kids” it was very memorable. It was a large home on spacious grounds overlooking the Potomac. As the program was embryonic at the time, the number of Scholars there was not large, and General and Mrs. Olmsted mixed freely with their guests, engaging in long conversations—they were so interested in where we'd been and our experiences.

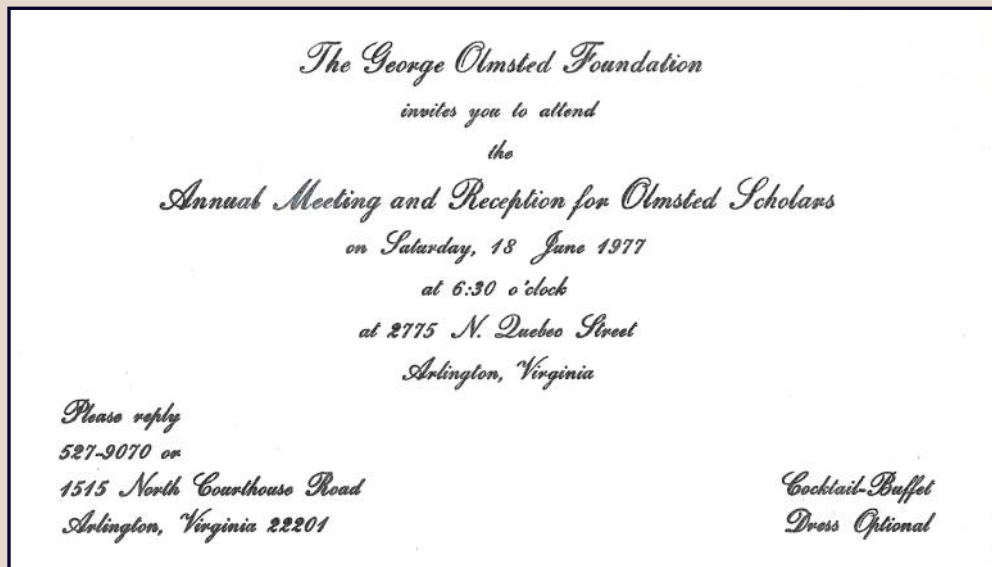
These two occasions are firmly etched in our memories, and we knew we were so fortunate to be selected for the program and to have interactions with its founders.”



Map of the preliminary plan for the property bequeathed to the Olmsted Foundation in 1998.

## Early Annual Meetings at the Olmsted Home

Photos of the annual gatherings at the home of George and Carol Olmsted are collected in photo albums now stored in the Olmsted Library at the Foundation offices. Interested Scholars are always welcome stop by the office to view the photos and other books and memorabilia.



The 1977 invitation to the Annual Meeting and Reception for Olmsted Scholars.

George Olmsted speaks to guests at the Annual Meeting.



This view is of the entrance of the Olmsted's home.



Carol Olmsted looks over the arrangement of the buffet table prior to the arrival of her guests.



Scholars gather on the back porch looking over the Potomac.



Scholars and guests enjoy conversation after dinner.



## Anderson Speaks at Ramstein Air Base



Lt Gen Anderson stands with Lt Gen Jason Hinds, Deputy Commander, USAFE-AFAFRICA and Col Jamil Musa (OSC 11, Rabat).

Lt Gen Dagvin Anderson (OSC 00, Brno), Director for Joint Force Development (J7), was the keynote speaker at the Ramstein Air Force Ball this past October. The event was organized by the 86th Logistics Readiness Group to celebrate 77 years of Air Force heritage and the 80th Anniversary of D-Day. In addition to linking WWII history to future warfighting concepts, Lt Gen Anderson shared some moving stories from his time as an Olmsted Scholar in the Czech Republic.



Lt Gen Anderson (right) poses with his daughter, Hala, Col Jamil Musa and his wife, DeDe. Hala was able to join them from her studies abroad in Paris.

## Holton Featured by MOAA



Olmsted Foundation Active Duty Director Col Eddy Holton (OSC 13, Bologna) was recently featured in the December 2024 issue of *Military Officer*, a magazine published by the Military Officers Association of America.

Holton was interviewed for a column called “Why I Serve,” and highlighted his Olmsted experience during the interview.

Holton has been selected to take command of the 2nd Marine Regiment, at Camp LeJeune, NC.

MOAA members may view *Military Officer* magazine here: <https://www.moaa.org/content/publications-and-media/news-articles/news-listing/?cat=2296>

## Scholars Meet in Hawaii



MG Joe Hilbert (OSC 03, Leipzig) and COL Tim Peterman (OSC 10, Bangkok) attended the US Army Pacific (USARPAC) change of command this past November. From Tim Peterman: “We had a wonderful conversation about the role of Olmsted Scholars in our Army past, present, and future. We’re both thankful for all we gained from our experiences. We were both able to share in GEN Clark’s promotion, the change of command, and GEN Flynn’s retirement. The longer we are blessed to serve, the more we realize how the arc of great leaders and friends keeps us together.”

## In Memoriam

Col (Ret.) William Albright, USAF  
OSC 60, Geneva

## Promotions and Selections

### Selected for Brigade Command by the US Army:

- ◆ COL Ari Martyn (OSC 12, Beijing)
- ◆ COL Walter Reed IV (OSC 12, Cadiz)

### Selected for Top Level School by the US Marine Corps:

- ◆ LtCol Bryceson Tenold (OSC 11, New Delhi)
- ◆ LtCol Daniel Walker (OSC 12, Guangzhou)
- ◆ LtCol James Armstrong (OSC 14, Podgorica)

### Selected for Battalion Command by the US Army:

- ◆ LTC Steven Jay DeJesus III (OSC 18, Singapore) (Primary)
- ◆ LTC Jeffrey Wismann (OSC 18, Rabat) (Primary)
- ◆ MAJ(P) Scott Clark (OSC 19, Kraków) (Primary)
- ◆ LTC Brandon Gilles (OSC 17, Poznań) (Alternate)
- ◆ MAJ(P) Adam Jannetti (OSC 19, Seville) (Alternate)

### Selected for promotion to the rank of Major by the US Army:

- ◆ CPT Ashton Woodard (OSC 24, Granada)
- ◆ CPT Ryan Deits (OSC 25, Regensburg)

### Selected for Intermediate Level Education by the US Army:

- ◆ CPT Ashton Woodard (OSC 24, Granada)
- ◆ CPT Ryan Deits (OSC 25, Regensburg)

## Scholar in Alumni News

LTC Jennifer Purser (OSC 17, Brno) was highlighted in a College of William and Mary alumni special online feature about alumnae completing Army Ranger School. As an Army major, Purser graduated from Ranger School in April 2022.



In the article, Purser credits her experience and time at the College of William and Mary with helping her accomplish her goal. A 2008 William and Mary graduate, LTC Purser earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in International Relations.

The article may be viewed here: <https://magazine.wm.edu/online-exclusives/2024/tabbed-and-tenacious.php>

## Scholars Meet at Football Game



Olmsted Scholars MG Joe Hilbert (OSC 03, Leipzig), USA, and CAPT (Ret.) Dave Sauve, (OSC 01, Santiago), USN, reunited at Yankee Stadium on Saturday, November 23rd for the Army - Notre Dame football game. Army and Notre Dame have met at the home of the Yankees 23 times, including 22 times at the original stadium and once at the current stadium.

The event marked the 100th anniversary of one of the most famous games in college football history, the “Four Horsemen” game of 1924. MG Hilbert, who is the Commanding General of the 11th Airborne Division (Arctic), represented his unit as West Point players proudly wore 11th Airborne Division patches on their uniforms for this historic rematch. Hilbert and Sauve served together as directors of the Foundation in 2015-2018.

**Please help the Foundation keep your record current. All Olmsted Scholars are encouraged to go to the Foundation website and update their Scholar profiles. You can access Scholar profiles by going to the Foundation website at <https://olmstedfoundation.org/> and clicking login on the top right corner.**

## Scholars in the News

Col Eddy Holton (OSC 13, Bologna), USMC, Why I Serve, *Military Officer Magazine*, <https://www.moaa.org/content/publications-and-media/news-articles/news-listing/?cat=2296>

LTC Jennifer Purser (OSC 17, Brno), USA, Tabbed and Tenacious, *College of William and Mary Alumni Magazine*, <https://magazine.wm.edu/online-exclusives/2024/tabbed-and-tenacious.php>

LCDR Miles McCarthy (OSC 23, Santiago), USCG, Serious About Building Maritime Capacity in the High Latitudes? Look South, *Center for International Maritime Security*, <https://cimsec.org/serious-about-building-maritime-capacity-in-the-high-latitudes-look-south/>



The George and Carol Olmsted Foundation  
80 East Jefferson Street, Suite 300B  
Fall Church, VA 22046



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