



# RANDOLPH-MACON ACADEMY

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

July 11, 2023

Dear Bryan,

Just a brief note of thanks to you and the Alumni Association Board of Directors for the generous gift your organization has pledged toward R-MA's journey toward R-MA 4.0! From her founding in 1892 as a program preparing young men for the Methodist ministry, to her time as a founding member of the National Defense Cadet Corps (later Army JROTC), to her move to become a founding member of Air Force JROTC in 1975, the Academy has been able to draw upon the wisdom, generosity, and the steel will of our alumni!

This latest move, directed by the Board of Trustees, may be the most consequential of the three preceding changes, because it unleashes the incredible power of the Yellow Jacket community to build a military program that addresses the needs of R-MA's current students and the path they are on today. Not what we faced at founding, or in WWI or as Vietnam drew down, but what today's young people need and must master to become the Republic's leaders for a new generation of world problems unprecedented in most of the experience of anyone with whom I've spoken.

I'm so grateful to the Alumni Association Board of Directors for recognizing the scope and importance of the work before us. America must have capable, engaged young leaders who embrace the martial mindset that has made R-MA an elite unit among her peers and those leaders must be comfortable with technology and yet deeply knowledgeable of their own immortal souls. They must be able to master AI and yet not be captured by it. They must be willing to sacrifice, but never seek to impose needless sacrifice on others.

They must be what Yellow Jackets have always been: effective leaders, prepared for their moment in history and ready to take it on! We will use your gift to help keep that promise for this new generation of students, mindful of all the work that built the Academy we now lead. God bless you and thank you so much for helping to drive our Corps of Cadets forward!

GO Jackets!

David C. Wesley  
Brigadier General, USAF, Retired  
President