

Lore of the Corps

Thirty Years of Service to the Regiment: Philip Byrd Eastham Jr. (1950-2016)

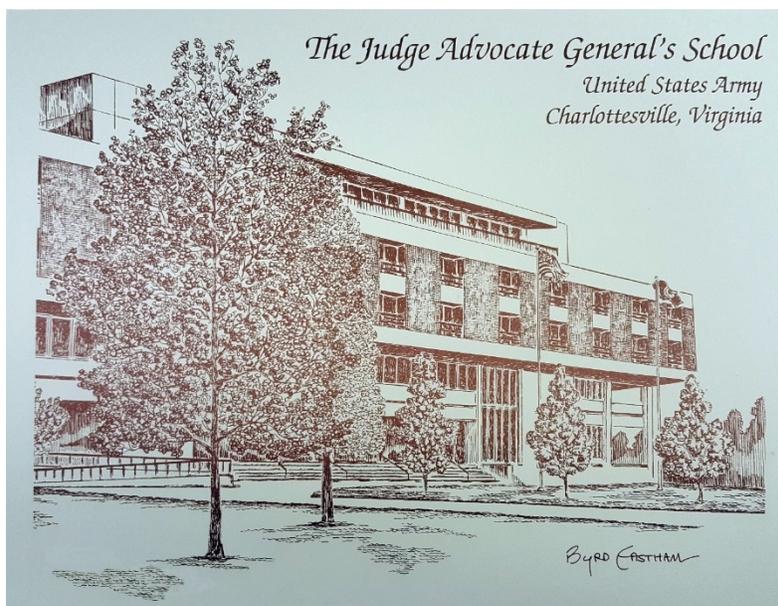
Fred L. Borch
Regimental Historian

For thirty years, Philip Byrd Eastham, Jr. was a constant presence at The Judge Advocate General's Legal Center and School (TJAGLCS), and his contributions to our Regiment during those years were remarkable. This is his story.

Born in December 1950, Byrd grew up in rural Fauquier County, Va. He came from a long line of native Virginians, as his ancestors first arrived in what was then a British colony in 1629. In 1973, Mr. Eastham graduated Phi Beta Kappa from the College of William and Mary with a Bachelor of Arts. William and Mary also honored him with the Lord Botetourt Medal.¹ Byrd then studied in the United Kingdom, where he obtained a second Bachelor of Arts and also Master of Arts in Art History from Trinity College, Cambridge University.²

In 1976, then First Lieutenant Eastham, Adjutant General's Corps, was assigned to The Judge Advocate General's School, U.S. Army (TJAGSA), where he served as the Chief of the Visitor's Bureau. That same year, 1LT Eastham made his first long-lasting contribution to our Corps when he revived the TJAGSA Alumni Association's *Newsletter*. This publication (subsequently published as the *Regimental Reporter* after the Corps received 'Regimental' status in 1986),³ had fallen into a long hiatus. Byrd's revival of it ensured that alumni, and especially retirees, received news about both TJAGSA and the Corps.⁴

While serving in the Visitor's Bureau, 1LT Eastham "would occasionally be seen sketching at his desk" and, since his artistic skills were admired by TJAGSA's leadership, Byrd was hired as an artist/illustrator when he left active duty in 1981.⁵



From the beginning of his long tenure as an Army civilian employee, Mr. Eastham worked "closely with the faculty in developing a broad range of graphic arts products," including textbook and lecture program covers.⁶ Over the years, Byrd also designed a number of t-shirt logos celebrating the annual conferences held at TJAGSA (today's World Wide Continuing Legal

Education conference). He also did some of the artwork for the Regimental Distinctive Insignia adopted by the Corps in 1986,⁷ and developed the logo of the U.S. Army Claims Service. Finally, Mr. Eastham worked with faculty and visual media personnel to develop artwork incorporated into instructional videos.⁸

Mr. Eastham also was in charge of the design and layout of the School's "Annual Bulletin," which contained the Commandant's annual report, resident and non-resident course catalogues, and information about various academic

¹ The Lord Botetourt Medal is presented each year to the undergraduate student "who has most distinguished him- or herself in scholarship." *THE LORD BOTETOURT MEDAL, COLLEGE OF WILLIAM & MARY*, <http://www.wm.edu/sites/commencement/awards/lord-botetourt-medal/index.php> (last visited November 4, 2016). During the spring semester, academic department chairs are notified of undergraduate students whose academic records merit their consideration for the Botetourt Medal. *Id.* Those department chairs are asked to submit letters of recommendation on behalf of eligible students whom they wish to see considered for this singular honor. *Id.*

² *The Byrd-Man of TJAGSA*, REGIMENTAL REPORTER, Fall 1989, at 7.

³ For more on the Corps' status as a Regiment, see Fred L. Borch, *The Origin of the Corps Distinctive Insignia*, THE ARMY LAWYER, Oct. 2012, 1-3.

⁴ REGIMENTAL REPORTER, *supra* note 2.

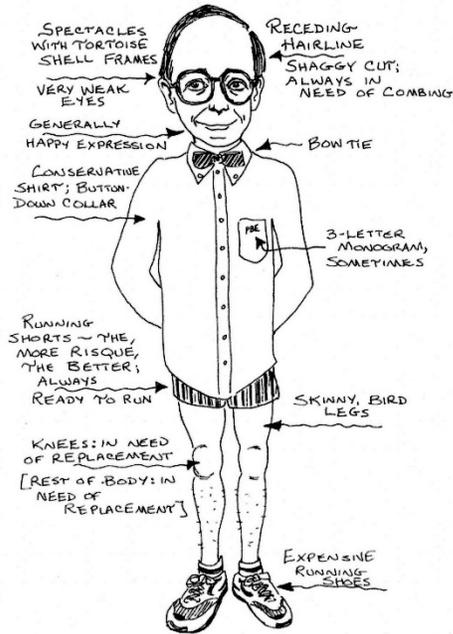
⁵ *Id.*

⁶ *Id.*

⁷ Borch, *supra* note 3.

⁸ REGIMENTAL REPORTER, *supra* note 2.

"THE BYRD MAN OF TJAGSA"
[A BYRD'S-EYE VIEW]



programs.⁹ This bulletin is still published on a yearly basis, although it now contains additional information on the activities of the Legal Center.

Byrd was an avid historian, especially when it involved the Charlottesville community and the University of Virginia. In 1987, he was commissioned by a New York publisher to develop a series of drawings for a book titled *Mr. Jefferson's Last Act*. Mr. Eastham's graphics have been used in promotional and educational materials for a variety of local sights, including: Ash Lawn, the home of President James Monroe; Monticello, the home of President Thomas Jefferson; and the University of Virginia's Bayly Museum of Art (renamed the Fralin Museum of Art in 2012).¹⁰

During the 1980s, Byrd's talents also were on display when his drawing of the building housing TJAGSA was reproduced and given as a gift to each departing member of the faculty and staff. Occasionally, Byrd also produced "an original sketch" that depicted the departing person "in a humorous manner." Accompanying this Lore of the Corps are both the drawing of the building and a self-portrait of Byrd. The latter exemplifies Mr. Eastham's self-deprecating sense of humor and drawing talents.¹¹

As the self-portrait suggests, Byrd was an avid runner. He ran two Marine Corps marathons and participated in the

"Run for Your Life" program in which individuals at TJAGSA kept records of their weekly running mileage and then were recognized with a certificate signed by the TJAGSA commandant when they achieved certain running mileage goals. The accompanying photograph shows Byrd receiving a certificate attesting to his running abilities from Colonel Paul Jackson "Jack" Rice, about 1986.

Mr. Eastham retired in the summer of 2006, after a combined thirty years of military and civilian Federal Service. A few months later, in recognition of his many contributions to our Corps, Byrd Eastham was made an Honorary Member of the Regiment. This is an honor accorded very few men and women in history.¹²

In retirement, Byrd began a new career in the antiques business as the co-owner (with Ms. Jane deButts) of the Eternal Attic, a consignment shop located on Ivy Road in Charlottesville, Va. He left that business in 2011.¹³

After a long battle with Myeloma (cancer), Philip Byrd Eastham Jr. died at his home in Charlottesville on July 23, 2016. He was 65 years old. Byrd was survived by his spouse James Wootton; two brothers, and three nieces and a nephew. But he is not forgotten by those in the Corps who knew him, if for no other reason than Byrd was universally liked and admired by all.¹⁴



Byrd receives Running Award from Colonel Jack Rice

⁹ *Id.*

¹⁰ *Id.* Waldo Jaquith, *UVA Art Museum Renamed*, CVILLENEWS, <https://cvillenews.com/2012/05/22/uva-museum-renamed/> (last visited Nov. 3, 2016)

¹¹ REGIMENTAL REPORTER, *supra* note 2.

¹² Philip Byrd Eastham, Jr., DAILY PROGRESS, Aug. 1, 2016, B6.

¹³ *Id.*

¹⁴ *Id.*