

Commencement Ceremony
Class of 2021



NEW MEXICO
MILITARY INSTITUTE

Friday
the Tenth day of December
Two Thousand Twenty One
Nine o'clock in the Morning

Pearson Auditorium



Roswell, New Mexico



RICK KRAFT

INVEST IN YOURSELF SO YOU CAN INVEST IN OTHERS

Rick has practiced law in Roswell for the past 39 years and is the owner of Kraft Law Firm which he started 23 years ago in 1998. His two former partners, Michael Stone and Dustin Hunter have gone on to become District Court Judges.

Rick graduated from high school in South Pasadena, California in 1976, Baylor University in Waco, Texas in 1980, with a Bachelor of Arts degree, and Baylor University School of Law in 1982 with a Juris Doctorate degree.

Rick wears many hats as a motivational speaker, a writer, a lawyer, and most importantly as a husband and father. As a speaker, Rick has given motivational speeches to audiences throughout New Mexico and around the country.

As a writer, Rick writes a weekly syndicated newspaper column entitled "Just A Thought" that has appeared in the Roswell Daily Record and other newspapers across the country from South Carolina to Los Angeles. The column has been published weekly for over 21 years. Rick just published his 1125th column. Rick has also published four books.

As an attorney, Rick was President of the New Mexico State Bar in 1998-99 and President of the New Mexico Young Lawyers Division in 1986-87. He was the youngest President in the 125 year history of the State Bar when he took office. He has served as the Director of the New Mexico State Bar Leadership Institute providing leadership training for attorneys statewide.

As a husband, Rick is married to his best friend Tanya Kraft, a former teacher at Military Heights and Valley Christian Academy. He and Tanya have been married for 37 years. Rick and Tanya are the parents of a 34 year old son, Devin Kraft, a graphic novelist in Dallas, and a 33 year old daughter, Dr. Kelsey Brynn Gass who is an orthodontist. She is married to another orthodontist Wes Gass and they moved to Atlanta from Texas a year ago.

Rick has been active in the Roswell community and has served as Executive Director of the Roswell Chamber's Leadership Roswell Program for the past 30 years. Rick also serves on the Leadership Roswell Alumni Association Board of Directors.

He has been ordained as a Deacon at First Baptist Church of Roswell. Rick teaches Sunday school, has run a camera for their television ministry, and served on several committees.

In 2012 he received the "Heritage Award" from the Historical Society of Southeastern New Mexico, in 2013 the "Citizen of the Year Award" from the Roswell Realtor's Association, and in 2014 the "Outstanding Leader Award" from the Leadership Roswell Alumni Association.

In February of 2020 he ran for President of the United States of America in New Hampshire finishing in the top half of the candidates on the ballot. He received 119 votes, only ten votes less than Vice President Kamala Harris!

Rick's hobbies include writing, traveling, collecting baseball cards, and running. He has over five million baseball cards and has run nineteen marathons (26.2 miles).

Rick LOVES practicing law and giving motivational talks. His two highest passions are personal growth and leadership.

PROGRAM

Colonel Orlando Griego, Master of Ceremonies

NATIONAL ANTHEM*

INVOCATION

Father Jaroslaw “Jarek” Nowacki

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Colonel Orlando Griego, Ph.D., NMMI
Chief Academic Officer/Academic Dean

ADDRESS TO THE GRADUATING CLASS

Major General Jerry Grizzle, Ph.D., USA (Ret.)
President/Superintendent

GUEST SPEAKER REMARKS

Rick Kraft

PRESENTATION OF HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES

Colonel Jose Porras, NMMI
Vice Dean/High School Principal

PRESENTATION OF JUNIOR COLLEGE GRADUATES

Colonel Orlando Griego, Ph.D., NMMI
Chief Academic Officer/Academic Dean

CLOSING REMARKS

Colonel Thomas Tate, USA (Ret.)
Commandant of Cadets/Dean of Students

PLAYING OF “OLD POST”*

DISMISSAL

**Please stand*

High School Graduates

Honors

Issak Vaughn Renner
Highland, Utah
New Mexico Military Institute

Graduates

Jesús Rodrigo Camacho Castro
Culiacan, Sinaloa, Mexico
University Paramericana

Julián Labastida Reyes
Culiacan, Sinaloa, Mexico
Instituto Tecnologico de Monterrey

Kiet Tuan Nguyen*
Bien Hoa, Republic of Vietnam
New Mexico Military Institute



Junior College Graduates

Highest Honors

Cassidy Margaret Nixon AA
Sandy, Utah

Jayden Michael Swink AA
Scottsdale, Arizona

High Honors

Brisa Suzanne Heacox AA
Roswell, NM
Syracuse University

Rodolfo Abel Spiegel AA
Panama City, Panama
Texas Tech University

James Joseph Surovcik AA
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
Felician University

Tre Ellis O'Guinn AA
Peoria, Arizona

Tatianna Maria Jiron AA
Albuquerque, New Mexico
New Mexico State University

Honors

Jaiten Marc Whitson AA
Los Lunas, New Mexico
Texas A&M University–Corpus Christi

Hector Sebastian Grijalva Altamirano AS
Guaymas, Sonora, Mexico
NM Institute of Mining and Technology

Moises Pompa Enriquez AA
Roswell, New Mexico
Syracuse University

Huy Trong Bao Vo AA
Lakewood, Washington
Savannah College of Art and Design

Dana Dena Douglas AA
Albuquerque, New Mexico
Enlisting in United States Marine Corps

Graduates

Teresa Talinao Antonio AA*
Menifee, California
Norwich University

Lluvia Fernanda Castillo Rico AA
Dorris, California
San Francisco State University

Christian Scott Carreathers AA
Albuquerque, New Mexico

Esafe Tokai Fetu'u AA
Mesa, Arizona

Graduates

Anthony Antonio Grant Jr. AA*
Buford, Georgia

Jessie Joseph Alex Kaiser-Tualii AA
Yucaipa, California

Cade Joseph Manzanares AA
Roswell, New Mexico
Mount Marty University

Jayden Tarik Oliver AA*
Tampa, Florida

Duncan Joseph Peterman AA
Rio Rancho, New Mexico
University of New Mexico

Marcaviss Marrell Terrell Pickens AA
Tacoma, Washington

Tobias Rodlauer AA
Pubersdorf, Austria

Christian Joshua Sunu'i AA
Pago Pago, American Samoa

Illia Surik AS
Kyiv, Ukraine
Texas Tech University

Tyrique Maurice Thompson AA
Tampa Bay, Florida

Tyrone David J Webber AA
St. Catharines, Ontario, Canada
Oklahoma State University

Anthony Lamar Wynn Jr. AA
Ewing, New Jersey

OLD POST

This is our Alma Mater, This is our stalwart
In-sti-tute; We'll have her al-ways on our way,
Mem-ries are with us Day by day; we will re-
mem-ber Kay-dets mar-ching, we will re-
mem-ber Kay-dets play-ing, And bu-gles in the
sun-rise; All of our life be-neath blue skies; These are the
things that can not van-ish, No mat-ter where we
go... Old friends, Old Post, place we love most.. In
you our hearts will grow.

The musical score is written on ten staves in a single system. It features a treble clef, a key signature of two flats (B-flat and E-flat), and a 4/4 time signature. The melody is primarily composed of eighth and quarter notes, with some triplet markings. The lyrics are printed below the notes, with some words underlined or in italics for emphasis. The piece concludes with a double bar line.

“Let it be clearly understood that if this is not a military school it is nothing. By this is meant not only the outward forms and visible signs of military government – the drills and parade - its tinsel and glare, but what is of more importance, the indoor government - the inner, private life, manners and habits of the Cadet, the close, constant, kindly supervision over the Cadet in every respect - checking him here, urging him there - in the privacy of his room, at his meals, in recitation or at drill - on duty - off duty- at work or play - is the spirit and purpose of this military school. Obedience is but self-command and who commands himself is best learning to command others.”

--1891, Colonel Robert S. Goss, Superintendent

