



but also of countless others who have served our country with honor and courage.

As Arlington Cemetery came into view, the picturesque scene brought a hushed awe to those assembled. The symmetry of the white stones standing at attention symbolized the discipline, the order, and the enormous responsibility that was expected and carried so willingly on the shoulders of those soldiers — patriots who had once defined the role of a soldier for Williamson and others for whom he had served as a revered role model.

Despite the sub-freezing temperature, the United States Color Guard and the United States Honor Guard carried out their responsibilities with precision and poise — from the folding and presentation of the United States flag to the 21-gun salute, and finally the lone trumpeter playing “Taps.”

These “good and faithful servants” were now at rest, and for one brief moment, those attending recalled the closing words of Lombardo’s eulogy. “Whenever I come here to

Arlington Cemetery, I am reminded of the Bill Mauldin cartoon, which he drew for President’s Eisenhower’s burial. There were ghostlike figures with helmets and sergeant chevrons among the tombstones, and the caption read, ‘Pass the word, it’s Ike.’ So today, as we travel to the gravesite, listen carefully. And, if you do, from soldiers and Army wives of yesteryear you might hear, ‘Pass the word, it’s Butch and Margaret.’”

Arlington’s Son

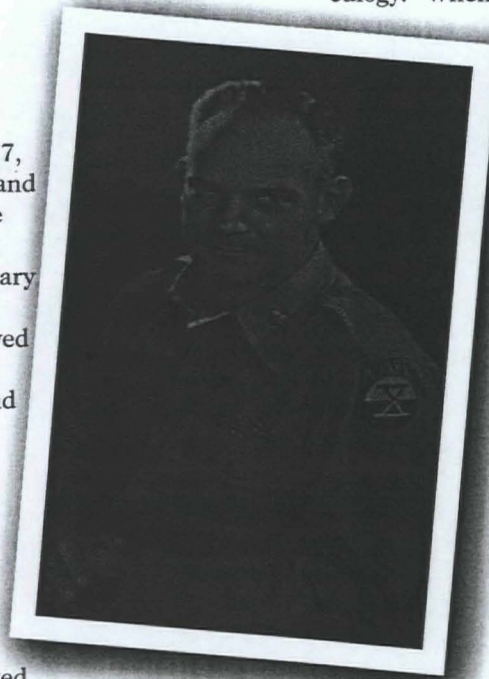
by Kathy Daughety

A Celebration of Life —

Snow began to dust the streets in Arlington, Va., on March 7, as those closest to Major General Ellis Warner Williamson and his wife, Margaret McNeill Williamson, were given a chance to celebrate these lives and to say a fond farewell. Ellis Williamson, known by his friends as “Butch,” died on January 28 at the age of 88. Margaret, his wife of 64 years, passed away on February 16, also at the age of 88. They are survived by daughter Nan V. Williamson, son Dan E. Williamson, grandchildren Tina Franklin and Dan E. Williamson, Jr., and many members of extended family.

A service of celebration for the lives of Williamson and his wife was held at the Old Post Chapel at Fort Myer where Brigadier General (Ret.) James A. Hutchens officiated, and Lieutenant Colonel (Ret.) Roy S. Lombardo, Jr., offered the eulogy. Both gentlemen had served with Williamson, and in their remarks, Hutchens and Lombardo shared poignant stories of amazing courage and leadership exhibited by Williamson, both on the battlefield and beyond. The service of testimonies, scripture, and music was an extraordinary celebration of remembrance and gratitude for this couple and for their lives of service to God and country.

Following the service at the Old Post Chapel, this extraordinary soldier and his devoted wife were escorted by caisson to their final resting place in Arlington Cemetery. The cadence of the horses’ hoofs on pavement signaled a somber reverence for all in attendance, and the caparisoned horse (or riderless horse) reminded us not only of the sacrifice and service of Major General Williamson



A Celebration of Career and Service — Barton College recognized Major General Williamson in 1996 with the Alumni Achievement Award for his illustrious military career while serving his country. His career spanned the 20th century and included service through five campaigns in Europe

during World War II, seven campaigns through the Korean War, and six during the Vietnam War.

Born in Raeford, N.C., Williamson grew up and went to high school in Raleigh. He served in the North Carolina National Guard during high school and college, and following graduation from Atlantic Christian College, he accepted a commission as 2nd Lieutenant of Infantry in March 1941. He was soon deployed with the 120th Regiment to Europe where he participated in the D-Day landings in Normandy during World War II.

Highlights of Williamson's military career also included service in the European theater where he commanded at the platoon, company, battalion and regimental levels, earning temporary promotions through the rank of Lieutenant Colonel. In 1950, he was on the planning staff for and participated in the Inchon Landings in Korea, and subsequently served on the X Corps staff, remaining in Korea until 1953. Following these Korean assignments, Williamson served two years in the Office of the Chief of Staff of the Army, followed

by a two-year assignment in the Office of the Secretary of Defense.

Following instructional and staff assignments in the United States, he assumed command of the 13th Infantry Regiment at Fort Carson, Colo., taking the regiment and their families to Germany during Operation Gyroscope.

He held the position of Chief of the Training Division in Headquarters, Seventh U.S. Army in Germany, and later became an army paratrooper. In Okinawa, he organized the 173rd Airborne Brigade and carried them into Vietnam as the first U.S. Army ground combat troops to enter the conflict. Williamson also held the position of Assistant Commandant at The Infantry School, Fort Benning, Ga. It was during this assignment that he was promoted to major general and then began his command of the U.S. Army Training Center at Fort Polk, La. Williamson commanded the 25th "Tropic Lightning" Infantry Division when he returned to Vietnam. After that campaign, he resumed stateside duty as Deputy



to the Chief, Office of Reserve Components and, at that time, qualified as an Army Aviator. Three years later, Williamson was designated Chief of the U.S. Military Mission in Iran and later designated as personal advisor to the Shah of Iran. He was medically evacuated from Iran in 1973 and subsequently retired from active military service.

Major General Williamson's decorations were as expansive as his career and included honors from England, France, Belgium, Korea, Vietnam, and Iran in addition to many recognitions received from the United States. His numerous decorations included the Distinguished Service Cross, the Distinguished Service Medal (2 OLC), the Silver Star (5 OLC), the Legion of Merit (OLC), the Bronze Star Medal (3 OLC), the Distinguished Flying Cross, the Air Medal (28 OLC), the Purple Heart (4 OLC), the Combat Infantryman Badge, Master Parachutist Badge, Army Aviator Wings, Glider Qualification Badge, the British Distinguished Service Order, the French Croix De Guerre with Silver Star, the Belgium Fouragere, the Korean Presidential Unit Citation, the Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry with 2nd Palm, and the Iranian Decoration of Merit.

Williamson's military education included basic and advanced courses at the Infantry School (1942-43), the Command and General Staff College (1950), the Armed Forces Staff College (1953), and the National War College (1960). He was granted a master's degree from the Graduate School of Business at Harvard University in 1962 and a master's degree in international affairs from George Washington University in 1963.

During retirement, the Williamsons lived in Arlington and continued to be active in various non-profit community organizations. From 1973 until his death, Williamson was an active participant in military and community organizations including: the Society of the 173d Airborne Brigade (President and President Emeritus), the Airborne and Special Operations Museum (Board of Directors), the Army's Military District of Washington Retiree Council (President), Army Distaff Foundation for Knollwood Hall (Board of Directors), and the Greater Washington Metropolitan Organ Society (President).

During Lombardo's remarks about Williamson, he also shared, "Success in life is never possible without a loving and resourceful wife and partner. Throughout, Margaret was at his side, supporting, encouraging, understanding, raising their family, and being the perfect balance to his aggressive style. She knew my children by name and through them my grandchildren. At a picnic at the FBI academy, she held my granddaughter and told her that she used to hold her Mommy and Uncle Lance on Okinawa. She recalled at a recent luncheon that we were from New Orleans and wanted to know how our family was affected by Hurricane Katrina. We



were only one of thousands of families that had served with the Williamsons, but she remembered all of those who were [a part of their extended] family. Together, they were two of the greatest of the Greatest Generation."

(Our appreciation is extended to the family of Major General Ellis W. Williamson, who provided the career information printed in this article. A special note of thanks is also extended to the Williamson family for inviting representatives from the Barton community to attend this special service of remembrance and celebration.)



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BARTON *Society*

Standing with a small group of Barton Society members under the dim lights in an elegantly adorned white tent, nationally recognized entertainer Mike Cross sheepishly admitted that he was planning to wear his tuxedo but forgot his white dress shirt. Instead, Mike Cross took the stage at the annual Barton Society event on May 5 wearing his signature outfit . . . denim overalls. Immediately, he set the tone for the evening's entertainment.

For more information about the Barton Society, please contact Caroline Hart, assistant vice president for institutional advancement at (252) 399-6533 or cohart@barton.edu.

Refining The Fire

Altos de Chavón Revisited

by Susan W. Moses, Spring PR Intern

There is an inconspicuous clay pot on a lower shelf in the corner of an artist's workshop. The side is so smooth that it could easily be mistaken for wood. There are subtle designs moving along the base, and there is no glossy skin that is characteristic of other jars hovering above and below. There is a marked difference in this solitary creature; it has an ancient air about it. This living artifact was created thousands of miles away in a remote highland village in the Dominican Republic. It now resides in the wheel and clay world of Barton art professor Mark Gordon, a world layered with floor to ceiling shelves of pottery, sculptures, and a carefully organized collection of music from every genre.



A light dusting of a refiner's fire has sufficiently settled, and there is a brightly colored, Carnival, paper-mâché mask with curved horns and a devilish grin made of cow teeth that laughs at those who enter this potter's domain. The 25-year-old mask is another piece of history that has made its way North.

Gordon was invited by the Igneri Foundation to jury the Third International Ceramic Tile Triennial or Elit-Tile 2006-2007, an international ceramics exhibition held last November. There were 251 entries from over 53 countries. Gordon, along with two other international ceramists (from Switzerland and Cuba), deliberated for three days before selecting the winning entries among these five-inch squared creations. The pieces ranged from the traditional to the eclectic and are now on exhibition at the Museo del Arte Moderno Nacional in Santo Domingo. In conjunction with the Elit-Tile 2006-2007, Gordon also presented a lecture for second year sculpture students at the School of Design in Altos de Chavón, as well as delivering a presentation at the UNIBE (Universidad Iberoamericana) in Santo Domingo. But the competition was not Gordon's first time to this island; this was his personal version of "Paradise Revisited," a purposeful déjà vu. From 1980 to 1983, he designed and implemented a ceramics studio at Altos de Chavón, creating a vocational workshop for the people of La Romana. His focus in going to