

The Queens Guard ceased performing 12 years ago, but there's a growing effort to rebuild and reclaim the glory of years past...

## Queens Guard Redux

BY FRANK DEMONICO RC '85

For years they were a captivating sight on campus: 21 students in smart military attire performing crisp, intricate drill maneuvers with their Springfield rifles and gleaming 16-inch bayonets. Collectively, they were known as The Queens Guard, establishing an international reputation through their many acclaimed exhibitions. Though it ceased performing 12 years ago, the Guard is anything but forgotten, particularly with the recent announcement that The Queens Guard Alumni Association (QGAA) had formally joined the RAA as its newest special interest alumni group.



Joe Carlani RC '84

It didn't take long for the group to get noticed, performing around the country and winning several national championships. In 1968, The Queens Guard went international when it was invited to take part in the prestigious Edinburgh Military Tattoo in

Scotland. In following years, the group puts its skills and clockwork precision on display in such global venues as Canada, Great Britain, Germany, France, Australia and New Zealand.

As a result of declining enrollment, however, the Guard merged in 1970 with the Army R.O.T.C.'s Scarlet Rifles. They continued to perform under the name Queens Guard until ceasing competition in 1993.

Bayonets may have mothballed, but the glory days of The Queens Guard may soon be returning. **Joseph Carlani RC '84**, a member of the Guard in 1982-84 and now president of the QGAA, says the association is working to bring The Queens Guard back to life this fall, with an eye to resuming high level competition within three to five years. As part of that growing effort, Joe is working intently with other QGAA members, and with current Army and Air Force R.O.T.C. faculty leadership. Providing inspiration to all is the late **Vincent Kramer RC '41**, whom Joe lavishly praised for faithfully championing The Queens Guard while he was Executive Director of the RAA. Vince, in fact, often accompanied the group on its trips overseas.

Why partner now with the RAA? The



official university endorsement it confers, Joe explains, will allow the Army-Air Force leadership to accept QGAA as partners in the drive to rebuild The Queens Guard this fall. It will also lead to establishment of a

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permanent location on campus to display the Guard's memorabilia — including trophies, plaques and banners — and allow the University Archives to assist the QGAA in creating a digital photographic and film library for everyone to enjoy.

So, a hearty welcome to The Queens Guard Alumni Association. The RAA is proud to have you on board — and eagerly awaits the dazzling sight of Queens Guardsmen once again performing on campus. 🇺🇸

