

REKI MAE GARLAND (PARKER) '86HS '88JC

Thank you for the nomination to be part of the MMI Alumni Board. Marion Military Institute was part of my life for many years. My stepfather, Thomas G. Schofield, attended MMI before entering the United States Naval Academy. It was my stepfather who introduced me to MMI. I graduated high school from MMI in 1986 and then junior college in 1988. The Florida State University was the next school I attended graduating in 1992 receiving a Bachelor of Science in Clothing; Textiles; and Merchandising with a minor in Communications. After graduation I moved back to my home town in Georgia. Smyrna is where I have settled, married and started a family. My first job was in retail and after getting married I went to work in the family business. I helped manage and grow an import wholesale furniture company for about seven years. I have two children. Alexandria was my first born in 1997 with my son Charlie following in 1998. When Alexandria started school I became a stay-at-home mother. I truly enjoyed volunteering at my children's school and I was up there just about every day helping in any way I could. Divorcee was added to my life's resume a few years back. With my children in college I started a new job. I have been driving a school bus for my county which definitely keeps me on point. I did not enter the armed forces after MMI, and I feel this is a way to serve my community.

I only made it back to the MMI campus twice before starting a family. When my daughter was a junior in high school I revisited MMI for the first time in many years. I took my two children to Alumni Weekend to show them this hallowed institution and tell them stories of my years marching around the campus. With a little more time on my hands I asked to be considered for the MMI Alumni Board in 2015. I was voted on and served my three years. I would like this opportunity again to be a board member on the MMI Alumni Board. I will be able to attend the meetings and perhaps give input to subjects of discussion. It was an honor to be part of the MMI Alumni Board and I would like to be considered again to serve my Alma Mater. Thank You.

