



At the parade route's end, both current and former women cadets gathered in front of the Simpson Drill Field reviewing stand to capture the joyful moment.

# 16TH ANNUAL RALLY TO THE GUIDONS

## *Led by the Women's 50th Anniversary Block*

BY ROXIE PRANGLIN '78

Rally to the Guidons is a unique version of a Corps of Cadets homecoming. It is a celebration of the past and yet an acknowledgement of change. (Just ask any of us trying to reserve a parking space in one of the garages!) The weeks leading up to Rally always cause a flurry of communication among my group: "Are you going? I don't have any khaki pants. Are you tucking in your shirt? I'm not, and they can't make me." It may come as a surprise to some, but khaki pants and a tucked-in shirt are not the uniform of the day for this 68-year-old! Yet, when we gather, it is as if we have never been apart. When the Aggie Band starts to play, they take us back to another time. There is nothing like it! For those who have not experienced it, it



▲ Roxie Pranglin '78 and Sandra Francis-Chinn '80

is worth the effort to get to Aggieland on a football game weekend.

What an experience! Rally to the Guidons 2024 did not disappoint. It was a beautiful fall day on the Quad where we celebrated 50 years of women in the Corps. The morning was filled with laughter, hugging buddies not seen in many years, and telling stories. For the Women's Block, it was also profoundly moving to march behind our Company W-1 Commanding Officer, Don Roper '75 and our Guidon Bearer, Thelma Román-Hales '81. I can only speak for myself, but the flood of emotions at Rally can be a bit overwhelming. However, it is always worth it. I am usually on a "Waggie High" after it is over, making my very patient husband listen to



me tell him stories he has heard many times. We ended the march on Simpson Drill Field, laughing and taking photos. One of the best was the group photo—a joyful moment, frozen in time.

I attended my first Rally in 2010 with Lee Anne Phillips '78. We were the only women in our block. We also attended in 2011 and 2013, with others joining us. Until recently I have not lived near College Station, so my attendance was sporadic. The ones where women march in a block are the ones that mean the most to me, providing an opportunity to not only reconnect with my classmates but also the younger Classes of '79, '80, and '81.

Yet it is also a day with a touch of poignancy, remembering those that were not marching with us: Linda Albritton '78, my back row buddy; Darlene Snyder Anderson '78, Women's Drill Team and Sparky's buddy; Charla Gwin '79, who could hide elephants like no

Left to right, all members of the Class of '95: Ryan McCoy, Bryan Wallace, Brad Hart, Rob Kielty, Joanna Collins, Celese Stevens and Doug LeVan.



one else; Cheryl Abbott, '80, our Tyler Rose; and Melanie Zentgraff '80, who was brave beyond words. They were marching with us in spirit. I am also remembering those who chose not to return to campus. I will not name them, but they are still remembered and missed. Hopefully, we can get them back one day, so I am looking forward to the coming Rallies. In particular, I want to march with my brother, Jeff Pranglin '79, in the same block, because that would be icing on the cake!

Left to right, all members of the Class of '58: Wesley Henderson, John Long, Bob Clark, Bobby R. Smith. Seated in front is Tom Locke.



## RALLY 2024 BY THE NUMBERS

**665** FORMER CADETS REGISTERED

**91** WOMEN'S BLOCK

**40** FORMER BANDSMEN BLOCK

**54** VETERANS BLOCK

**CLASSES '76-'77** BIGGEST BLOCK

**99** AGE OF OLDEST MEMBER,  
H.J. KOLINEK '46

### WOMEN'S 50TH ANNIVERSARY JODY

BY MANDY SCOTT '87

*Standing tall and looking good  
Oughta be in Hollywood  
'Stead we're marching with the Corps  
Like we did in years before*

**Wo-o-o-o-oh...**

*It all began in '74  
That's when women joined the Corps  
We're celebrating 50 years  
Lots of blood and sweat and tears*

**Wo-o-o-o-oh...**

*We have come a long, long way  
From Minerva's Plan back in the day  
We joined to serve, we learned to lead  
And to leave our legacy*

**Wo-o-o-o-oh...**

*Future Aggie boys and girls,  
Start making plans to join the Corps  
Challenge yourself as Aggies do  
Tomorrow's Corps depends on you!*

**Wo-o-o-o-oh...**