

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT #1

In recent months, USMA Band alumni have been surfacing across the country. One of these is a fellow who spent only two years at West Point. But, while there, he made a great impression. Possessing a great sense of humor, he was always a source of laughter. Here's an update.

William "Bill" Giannone (Flute/Piccolo, 1972-1974) signed in with the USMA Band in November 1972. Prior to entering the military service, he earned his Bachelor of Music degree from the State University of New York at Fredonia. Upon arrival, he settled in as the Concert Band piccolo player. It must have really fried the non-band personnel on the installation when USMA Bandsmen earned the distinction of Soldier of the Month, Soldier of the Quarter, et al. Bill donned the mantel of Soldier of the Month during the first few months of 1974. It goes to show that good musicians can face any challenge and often out-perform most other folks. When the USMA Band was ordered to reduce its personnel strength by 38%, Bill relocated to the 26th Army Band at Ft. Wadsworth (Staten Island), NY. While stationed at Ft. Wadsworth, he

completed his master's degree at Teachers College of Columbia University. Bill separated from the Regular Army in 1975 and joined the New York Army National Guard. He was subsequently promoted to WO1 and was appointed bandmaster of the 42nd Infantry Division ("Rainbow Division") Band.

In the early 1980s, Bill entered the world of IT. He was a computer programmer, an IT supervisor, and an IT auditor. He retired in 2018. But the title of "retiree" has not slowed Bill down. He founded a music publishing company, Rosebud Music Publishing. A major *Citizen Kane* aficionado, Charles Foster Kane's final word provided the inspiration for the company's moniker. Bill arranges music -- primarily for flute and piano. He has produced three hard-copy publications, *Bach's Three-Part Inventions for Three Flutes*, *12 Great Flute Encores*, and *The Wedding Flutist*. He has also put out over 50 individual pieces published on sheetmusicplus.com, available as digital downloads.

Last October, Bill gave a full-length classical flute recital at the Long Beach (NY) Public Library. On that program, he played works by Blavet, Debussy, Griffes, Hndel, Honegger, and Messaien. They are posted on his website, rosebudmusicpublishing.com in the video tab.

Bill lives in Long Beach, NY, with his wife of 45 years, Joan. They have two adult children and two grandchildren. Let's see you at the 2025 USMA Band reunion, Bill!