



CLAN MACCALLUM - MALCOLM SOCIETY

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Robert L. Colvin

Christian G. Malcolm Kehm U.S.M.C. Memorial Piping Scholarship Recipient 2012

Thank you again for allowing me to be one of the recipients of the Christian G. Malcolm Kehm U.S.M.C. Piping Scholarship for 2012. I have wanted to learn to play the bagpipe for years, but with other obligations and responsibilities, I was unable to pursue this goal.

Because of the generous financial assistance, I was able to attend the academy. This allowed me to build a strong foundation of proper techniques and provide a path for further learning and competency working toward my goal of becoming a member of the U.S.C.G. Pipe Band.



Having been provided this opportunity to attend the academy, I wanted to make sure I took every occasion while I was there to further my knowledge and abilities. Besides attending the three classes, each day, I also attended the optional evening workshops to learn about bagpipe maintenance and all about reeds. The class instructors I had were all more than qualified to teach and although each taught differently, each provided interesting techniques to me to build and improve my abilities. I feel both lucky and blessed to have had the instructors that were assigned to me; Sandy Jones, Director with over 65 years of experience. We were also able to celebrate both his birthday and wedding anniversary with him during the week. Greg Abbott, besides his bagpiping abilities, he also manufactures his own line of reeds for bagpipes and practice chanters. Brian Yates began his piping in 1972 and has the unique opportunity to have a home on the shore of Loch Ness in Scotland. I also attended each recital given by the instructors before dinner and supper each day. These recitals were very inspirational and roused me to work harder both in class and in my practicing. I also want to let you know that the facility where the academy was held is top shelf. The sleeping accommodations, classrooms and food provided at Valle Crucis Conference Center enhanced the learning experience by allowing positive interaction with all present. All meals provided and the sleeping accommodations were excellent.

Again, thank you for choosing me as a recipient for the scholarship.

Warmly,

Robert L. Colvin