McDONOGH SCHOOL

Special Collections & Archives
Records Management Program

Record Group:	RG 03: Office of the Headmaster
Office:	RG 3.9 A. Ludlam Michaux, 1969-1976
Repository:	McDonogh School Archives & Special Collections
Quantity:	Cubic Feet: 1.04
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Biography

Colonel Alexander Ludlam Michaux, Jr. was born in 1922 in Richmond, Virginia. His family moved to Westminster, Maryland, in 1929 and began attending McDonogh School as a scholarship student in 1935. He graduated in 1940 and briefly attended college at Washington and Lee University before enlisting in the Marines in 1942. In World War Two, he served in the Battle of Okinawa and in Beijing (Peking), before returning to Maryland. In 1950, Michaux was recalled to active duty and sent to Korea, where he served in the Battle of Chosin. He accepted a regular commission in 1953 and was eventually sent to Vietnam for 13 months, where he was promoted to the position of Colonel before his retirement from active duty in 1969.

In between military assignments, Michaux wed Cornelia Smith in 1949 and had four children; Louise, Randolph, Beverly, and Priscilla. He also earned a bachelor's degree from the University of Maryland in 1962 and graduated from both the Naval War College and Army War College.

In 1969, Michaux returned to McDonogh to become director of development. However, he was quickly appointed as McDonogh's first president by the Board of Trustees, existing alongside Headmaster Robert Lamborn until the latter's resignation in 1972. Michaux served as President, taking on the duties of Headmaster/Head of School, from 1972 until his retirement at the end of the 1975-76 school year. Under him, the school carried forward with demilitarization and adopted coeducation as means to increase enrollment. He also stabilized the budget and erased some of the financial difficulties at McDonogh that had plagued the final years of the Lamborn II administration.

Colonel and Mrs. Michaux moved to the Southwest for a decade where he worked as a realtor before returning to the Towson area. Colonel Michaux remained active as a volunteer at McDonogh, talking to children about his time as a student decades prior. He also volunteered with his church (Episcopal) and the Greater Baltimore College Committee.

He died on May 20, 2012, at the age of 90, having been predeceased by his wife in 1995 and his daughter Priscilla in 1992.

(Biography written using Michaux's obituaries in the Baltimore Sun and the McDonogh Magazine Summer 2012 issue)

12/18/2025

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