

SPRING 2019



# Newsletter

EXCELLENCE IN INVESTMENT MANAGEMENT, WORLD-CLASS FINANCIAL PLANNING, AND COMPASSIONATE ENGAGEMENT

## BULL MARKET REACHES 10 YEARS



Doug English, CFP®

The S&P 500 Index has staged an impressive rally after nearly entering a bear market December 24, with U.S. stocks notching their best start to a year since 1991.



Stocks have climbed the “wall of worry” once again, but global uncertainty persists as the bull market nears its tenth anniversary. While the road to new market highs could get a little bumpy as investors deal with Brexit and China trade concerns, we encourage investors to focus on the fundamentals supporting economic growth and corporate profitability in 2019.

Although recession calls have grown louder over the past several months, we’ve seen mounting evidence that this economic cycle could persevere at least through the end of 2019.

A pause in monetary policy tightening may also support U.S. economic health. The Federal Reserve (Fed) has indicated that it will abstain from raising interest rates further until there is more clarity in the global environment. That message has calmed investors’ fears that continued policy tightening could eventually smother future economic growth.

We believe the pieces are in place for a continued economic expansion, and we look for stocks to power through periodic bouts of uncertainty and occasional volatility.

As always, call our office if you have questions or concerns about the market. Thank you for your continued trust and confidence.



## Developing Productive Citizens in the 21st Century

*By John Snowden*

The Military Magnet Academy was created to close the gap between poverty-level kids and their middle-class counterparts. Too many Charleston County kids have been stuck in a vicious cycle of low expectations leading to poor school performance.

The Military Magnet Academy's (MMA) goal, like that of most schools, is to provide excellence in academics and opportunities for achievements in many activities thus producing well-rounded adults.

At MMA, the approach to achieving this goal is somewhat different. MMA is not a disciplinary school, but a school with high expectations for all students, not just in academics but in all areas. MMA currently has 468 students in grades 6-12 working in a structured, caring environment where growth in self-discipline is promoted and expected.

While MMA does not focus on promoting a career in the military, a

Board Member and ACT Client, Victoria Montgomery,  
with Military Magnet Academy Cadets

military style is used to provide structure and clear expectations to develop cadet leadership skills. All MMA students are required to spend a week in summer camp at Camp McGrady at Fort Jackson. This is a time for new students to become acclimated to the fundamentals of the military system and for older students to gain leadership skills as they participate in ranked positions.

This approach continues back at the school. All students are in uniform. Leadership positions have rank insignia and lead a Regiment Formation every morning. Younger students see leadership role models and begin to see the work required to achieve rank. The discipline learned in this environment carries over to the classroom.

*Continued on back page*

# Protect Yourself from Tax Season Fraud

Tax season is one of the most active times of the year for identity theft and targeted phishing attacks. With the number of scam phone calls on the rise here are a few quick steps you can take to keep yourself safe.



- 1) **Never share your personally identifiable information.** If you ever receive an email from a friend or colleague requesting this type of information, contact them directly before responding.
- 2) **Never open a link or any attachment from a suspicious email.** The IRS will contact you by regular mail if they need to; they never communicate via email or phone without first mailing a letter.
- 3) **The IRS will never threaten or demand payment over the phone.**
- 4) **Review your credit card and bank statements/transactions frequently.** If you're an E-Money subscriber, your Client Portal can help you keep an eye on recent transactions and identify fraudulent activity immediately.

There's much more you can do to stay safe, like using firewalls and antivirus software or registering with the do not call registry, but if you follow these quick tips, you'll have a good start on staying safe from scams.

## Client Spotlight: Dr. Polly Watson



*Congratulations to ACT Advisors client, Dr. Polly Watson, for taking the leap and opening her own practice! **Hormone Wellness MD** specializes in women's health and helping them discover holistic solutions for achieving and maintaining their vitality. Read more online at [hormonewellnessmd.com](http://hormonewellnessmd.com).*

# ACT Advisors 2019 Photo Contest: Loved Ones



*Left to right: A Chodnicki family holiday get-together; The Robichaux family reunion; Swiva the Spoiled Cat*

From family reunions to holiday get-togethers and even keeping spoiled fur-babies company —let your ACT Advisors tote bag or fanny pack join the fun! Snap a picture of your loved ones alongside your ACT Advisors bag and send it to us to be eligible for this year's prize drawing! Email [nicolette.speziale@lpl.com](mailto:nicolette.speziale@lpl.com) with your pictures.



MMA Coat of Arms

## DEVELOPING PRODUCTIVE CITIZENS IN THE 21ST CENTURY

Success is very evident at MMA. The graduation rate is over 90%. Every senior was accepted at some college last year, although they did not all attend. Three seniors have already been accepted by The Citadel for the fall semester. Three of the last four Regimental Commanders were females, all of whom received strong scholarships and are in college now.

However, the MMA could use some help. Victoria Montgomery and John Snowden are members of the MMA Foundation. The Foundation tries to fund those items that Charleston County School District does not cover. These include rank insignia, rifles, band instruments and trips for leadership training at USMC Parris Island and at Fort Jackson. There is a \$500 first-year fee for uniforms and camp that is commonly a financial burden for many parents.

John and Victoria are working hard to establish an endowment that could provide \$50,000 per year forever to cover these costs. If you're interested in including The Military Magnet School Foundation (an approved 501c3 non profit organization) in your next charitable contribution, contact John at (843) 817-3333.



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