



The 1995 AMA Alumni Reunion saluted all the brave Augusta men - living and dead - who brought honor to their country and to AMA in World War II. Veterans in attendance at the Saturday banquet pose for The Bayonet.

Reunion honors WW II Vets

The Old Soldiers came back on the 50th Anniversary of VE Day. Augusta men who were soldiers, sailors, marines, airmen and coast guardsmen in the Great World War II. AMA alumni from the Classes of 1919 forward were on hand to salute Augusta's World War II heroes during the annual AMA Reunion in Staunton the first weekend in May.

At the Saturday night banquet, the Honor Roll of AMA cadets who died in World War II was read. WWII veterans in attendance paid tribute to the Augusta men who did not come home. 53 Augusta alumni lost their lives in the War. (See page 11)

The reunion weekend began under threatening skies at Lexington where the VMI Corps of Cadets honored AMA at a late afternoon dress parade. On Saturday afternoon, the sun shone on Founder's Day ceremonies in the Old Stone Church Cemetery where **Mal** and **Linda Roller Livick** remembered AMA's founder, **Professor Charles S. Roller**, and his sons, **Colonel Tom Roller** and **General Charles S. Roller, Jr.**

The general membership meeting Saturday morning heard re-
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Augusta Military Academy Alumni Association, Inc.



May 1995

Dear Fellow Alumnus,

Our 1995 Annual Reunion was a smashing success! So many people have told me that they thought this year's reunion was the best we have ever had.

Many fellows came back for the first time in many years as we honored all the AMA cadets who served in World War II. At the Saturday banquet, there was a moving tribute to the 53 Augusta alumni who were killed in action during the War. **Mal** and **Linda Roller Livick** led the Founder's Day ceremonies in the Old Stone Church Cemetery with poignant memories of their family members who rested nearby.

And of course - the camaraderie between old friends and new, sharing tall tales about Augusta and getting caught up on the latest news. All in all, a truly wonderful weekend for everyone who attended.

I want to give special thanks to **Tom Simmons, '53** who made all the hotel and catering arrangements; to **Frank Spencer, '49** who arranged for AMA to be honored with a dress parade by the VMI Corps of Cadets; to **Bill Klinck, '62** who donated the flowers which graced the World War II commemorative plaque which used to hang in the Front Arch; to **Nicky Syropoulos, '69** for his always successful and entertaining auctioneering; to **Harry Campbell, '70** for his research into the war records of AMA's World War II heroes; and to **Liz Hash, wife of John, '75** for putting on the ladies' luncheon.

If you did not attend, talk with someone who did. I am sure they will tell you that it was truly an unforgettable weekend. You should be making your plans now to attend our 1996 reunion weekend honoring all Augusta men who served in the Korean War, the Vietnam War and Desert Storm. It will be another very special occasion for everyone who loves AMA.

Sincerely,

K. Gary Nicholson

President, AMA Alumni Association, Inc.



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The *Bayonet* welcomes information and articles for or about AMA alumni. Share the news of promotions, awards, retirement, births, marriages, deaths, etc. Please print or type your submission.

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Scholarship Winner Thanks Association

"I want to thank the entire AMA Alumni Association for awarding me a scholarship to VMI again this year. The support you have given me these past two years has helped tremendously and is greatly appreciated, not only by me, but by my family as well.

"My third class (or sophomore) year has been extremely difficult, yet very rewarding. I am an economics and business major with a minor in French and history. In addition to my academic load, I am on the track and cross country teams and serve as a youth counselor at Trinity United Methodist Church here in Lexington.

"I have had two good years here at VMI and can only look

forward to two more. I hope to go on to graduate school, possibly at James Madison University, seeking my masters in business administration or business marketing.

"Again, I thank you for the support you have given me. Please extend my gratitude to the entire AMA Alumni Association. If ever the opportunity arises for me to thank the Association in person, I'd be glad to talk more about my cadetship and how much your group has helped me and my family."

Sincerely,
Will Martin
Mount Sidney, VA

Support your Alumni Association!
Send your tax deductible contribution to: AMA Alumni Association, Inc.,
PO Box 101, Ft. Defiance, VA 24437

Class Notes \ Class Notes \ Class Notes

1918

John Reed will celebrate his 96th birthday on 27 June. John writes that he "enjoys reading *The Bayonet* very much." Big Barracks was new when John left AMA to attend the University of Michigan. He went into the Army, but served only two months and twelve days before World War I ended 11 November 1918. John is in good health and now lives in Lexington, Kentucky.

1919

Robert Gordon was the oldest alumnus attending the 1995 reunion. He lives in Davidson, NC and told everyone, "I'll be back next year!"



Robert Gordon, '19, at the VMI parade

1930

Jack Woods says that at age 83, he tries to "keep five things in order: my golf swing, my house, my money, a healthy diet and a happy wife." Jack is interested in having West Coast alumni get together in his home town - Las Vegas, NV.

1931

Ben Chiswell, Captain, US Coast Guard, Retired stays very busy with local Coast Guard functions and gatherings in Lake San Marcos, CA. He also is active in

Kiwanis and is Past President of his local club.

1935

Herb Jacob sends his best to other World War II veterans from his home in Bonner Springs, KS. Herb retired from Hercules, Inc. several years ago

1938

Bob Reisacher, Colonel, US Army, Retired, had hoped to attend the reunion from his home in Santa Fe, NM, but previous commitments prevented his coming. "I am sure that several *Augusta graduates* have served in WWII, Korea and Vietnam as I did and it would have been great to be in Fort Defiance with them..."

Charles "Bud" Ryder, Jr., Major General, US Army, Retired, lives in San Antonio. He regretted not being able to attend the reunion and asked that "all the cadets of my era be given my best."

1939

Mel Alper was honored April 26 by the Prevention of Blindness Society in the Washington, DC area. Dr. Alper received the Professional Service Award at the Four Seasons Hotel where Virginia Governor Allen headed the Honorary Committee. Mel was first in his class at AMA, first in his class in medical school, and was an original jet flight surgeon in the US Army Air Corps at the end of World War II.

1941

William Ditto writes from Spotswood, NJ that he is "still in the insulation business. I had the opportunity to pay back AMA by supplying and installing insulation in the new infirmary. How many remember Doc Roller and Mother Mac and her 'Fleets'?"

1942

Bill Knox and Marty keep busy travelling and taking care of his special goldfish "which are more prolific than rabbits." Bill likes to boat on the Kanawha River near his hometown Charleston, WV and he and Marty are into ballroom dancing.

1943

Herbert McCawley had lunch with **Bill Klinck**, '62, in New Market, VA last fall. He also visited **Jack Sarricks**, '43, in Pensacola, FL and **Bill Grimes**, '43, in Lexington, NC. Herb lives in Indian Harbour Beach, FL and recently completed a trip through the Straits of Magellan.

Leonard Salasky is semi-retired from the wholesale lumber business in Sacramento, CA. His wife of 42 years, Carol, has had a ladies retail clothing store for the past 27 years. Their three daughters live in Dallas, Alaska and Tel Aviv, and a son lives in Sacramento.

Jack Jansing writes from Hobe Sound, FL that one of his neighbors is **Tom Stanley**, '43. "I also occasionally see **Angus Hines**, '42 and stay in touch with my old roommate **Bill Stuart**, '42. I have three wonderful children and the best wife of 37 years."

1945

Jack Stanley has remarried following the death of his first wife, Betty. He had sold his trucking company in 1993. Jack and his bride, Susan, have homes both in Roanoke and on Smith Mountain Lake where they get in lots of golf and boating.

Don Wilson has been practicing law in Garland (Dallas County), TX for the past 35 years.

Ray Long is President of the Westbrook Village Men's Golf Club in Peoria, AZ. Ray reports that the club has several hundred members and they play tournament golf twice a week. This summer, he's rented a house on a golf course in Park City, UT for a family reunion.

Turner Dozier, who is a retired Norfolk sports writer, sent a letter to the editor saying, "I fully expect the media to follow Michael Jordan to the 'john' in anticipation of the opportunity to flush him out."

Donald Browne has retired from Pittsburgh Plate Glass after 30 years. He and Carolyn just celebrated 46 years together. Their daughter teaches school in Tennessee. Their son, a West Pointer, is a lieutenant colonel and battalion commander at Fort Stewart.

1946

Carroll Knicely has retired as Secretary of Commerce in the cabinet of the Kentucky Governor, having served in three different administrations. Carroll now is chairman of West Kentucky Corporation, a 42-county economic development agency created by the state legislature. He's also doing economic consulting for a national group of mutual funds.

1947

Monroe "Rodie" Nash, originally from Portsmouth, VA, is now a stockbroker in Virginia Beach.

Johnny Pappas is looking for all the former cadets who made up *The Rhythm Makers* in 1946-47. This great musical group included, in addition to Johnny, **Francis Fields** and **Curtis Lowe** on trumpet, **Ted Altman** on alto sax, **Max Kuniansky** on piano, and **Francis Tokar**, manager of the *Rhythm Makers*. We have only Tokar's address. Anyone know how to find any of the other guys?



Hap Starr, '51, Alex Wattay, '53 and Frank Spencer, '49 at the Saturday night reunion reception. Gary Nicholson, '70, had his uniform on display on the wall.

1948

Barry Spanjaard writes from Canyon Country, CA that he wrote a book in 1981 and tours the world giving lectures. He ran into **John Pappas** on his lecture circuit a few years back and they have stayed in touch since.

Bill Harris tells of his military career when, in 1955, he - a shavetail in the 16th Combat Engineers, 1st Armored Division - continued to miss meetings and checkpoints during maneuvers. "My CO gave me hell for three days over the radio... especially after I had been 'captured' by 'enemy' troops." When Bill finally caught up with his captain, it turned out to be **Jimmy Pigg, '44**. When Jimmy recognized Bill, all was forgiven.

Richard McLaughlin recently visited old friends in Miami and "got my first sun tan in five years." Richard has sold his business in Babylon, NY and hopes to move back to his hometown, Staunton, later this year.

1949

Jim Bob Lane says that he went to Randolph Macon with **Frank Scott, '48** and **Wilson Harrell,**

'47. All belonged to Phi Kappa Sigma. Jim helped arrange the February AMA Alumni Association Board meeting at Virginia Beach.

Frank Spencer has two new grandchildren - Jack Spencer Pace born 19 December 1994 and Kelsey Spencer Rund born 15 February 1995. "That makes six for us - three boys and three girls." Frank tells *The Bayonet* that he served as Chief of Programs and Construction with an Air Force Advisory Group in Vietnam from May 1972 to February of 1973.

1950

Reverend Jim Lupton has been elected Chairman of the Stuttgart, AR Ministerial Alliance. His son gets married in June and Jim will lead a trip to Israel to visit Christian holy sites in November. If you are interested in joining Jim on this trip, call him at 501/673-3473.

1951

John Herring tells *The Bayonet* that he saw service in the Korean War in the 49th Fighter Bomber Wing, USAF. We are looking for all AMA alumni who served in the Korean or Vietnam conflicts.

(continued on page 6)

