



# 1996 reunion honors veterans

Augusta Military Academy's alumni honored their fellow cadets, who wore America's military uniforms during post-World War II conflicts, during the 1996 AMA Alumni Reunion at the Holiday Inn Golf and Conference Center in Staunton.

The largest alumni turnout in many years saw a musical pageant in tribute to AMA alumni who served during the Korean and Vietnam Wars, and Desert Storm. Cadets who served during those conflicts led the salute: **Clyde Ramsey, '49**, the Korean War; **Alex Wattay, '53**, the Vietnam War; and **Steve Trent, '70**, Desert Storm.

### Founder's Day

Founder's Day was celebrated once more at the Old Stone Church Cemetery. **Linda Roller Livick**, granddaughter of **General Roller**, and wife of **Colonel Mal Livick**, led the ceremonies.

Echo taps sounded across the church grounds, followed by a single cannon salute, after AMA Chaplain **Bill Gray, '37**, read the names of Augusta alumni who had passed away since the 1995 reunion. An alumni color guard stood by.

Many alumni visited the school buildings and grounds, but concerns about the condition of the buildings kept cadets from climbing the tower to visit their old rooms. A new American flag, presented to the school's owners by the Alumni Association, flew from the tower pole.

### Enormous turnout creates nice problems

The big turnout created some difficulties which **Gary Nicholson, '70**, Alumni Association President, said were "nice problems to have." So many people turned up for the Friday night dinner at the Country Club of Staunton that some two dozen could not be served. "We will be sure we have enough seats next year," said Nicholson.

Classes from 1935 through 1983 were represented, with a great turnout by the Class of 1971 for their 25th Anniversary. Several faculty members attended functions, including **Mal Livick**, **Will Parkins, '35**, **Bob Hart**, **Tim Mannasmith**, and **Joe Josephson**.

### Elections held

Alumni Association Officers were re-elected for a one year term: President **Gary Nicholson, '70**; Vice President **Bob Bradford, '50**; Secretary **Clyde Ramsey, '49**; Treasurer **Ed Click, '50**; and Chaplain **Bill Gray, '37**. Four new Board members also were elected: **Garry Granger, '71**, V.P. **Leavel, '39**, **Alex Wattay, '53**, and **Rod Willey, '51**. Both Leavel and Willey previously served on the board.

A conference room at the Shenandoah Valley Regional Airport was dedicated to **Jack Manch, '38**. Manch was one of the Doolittle raiders who bombed Tokyo in World War II. He died in 1958, as he struggled to keep his crippled plane from striking houses on the ground, near Las Vegas.



**Clyde Ramsey, '49**, leads the salute to AMA cadets who were in the military during the Korean War. The occasion was the Saturday night banquet at the 1996 AMA Alumni Reunion in Staunton.

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## Augusta Military Academy Alumni Association, Inc.

June 1996



Dear Fellow Alumnus:

If you were there, it is pointless for me to embellish the spectacular. Our 1996 AMA Reunion was an enormous success, however you decide to measure it.

First, it was the biggest reunion in many years. Our banquet hall was packed on Saturday, and the crowd on Friday night overwhelmed the Country Club facilities. I regret that some of the late-comers had to dine elsewhere Friday evening. We'll be ready for you next year!

The salutes to the Augusta heroes of the Korean and Vietnam War, and of Desert Storm, were exactly what they should have been - sincere, thankful, proud, and, for many of us, emotional. The thankless sacrifices of so many of AMA's young men have now been acknowledged in our *bona fide*, yet hopelessly deficient, way. There were many vets of these conflicts who were attending their first AMA Reunion.

The Founder's Day ceremonies reminded us of our Augusta heritage. It is always good to see **Linda and Mal Livick**. The visits to the school were light and warm, yet darkly hopeless. The golfers had good weather for it; the shoppers found their usual bargains. The hospitality room may have run low on ice, but never on warmth. And, most of all, we were all together again - each of us blessed by being a part of something wonderful - the Augusta Military Academy family.

*K. Gary Nicholson, '70*

President, AMA Alumni Association, Inc.



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Circulation Manager: Ed Click, '50

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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.

Mail or FAX information to:

Bob Bradford  
1325 Virginia Street  
Danville, CA 94526-1241  
Phone 510/837-8083  
FAX 510/838-0928  
PRODIGY JPWF19A  
INTERNET reb111270@aol.com

### Letters to the Editor VMI Cadets say thanks

Thank you for the scholarship help from the AMA Alumni Association. This has eased the burden on my family...

My home town is West Point, Va, where I live with my Grandmother. My current major is history, but I have applied for the International Studies Program here at the Institute. My ultimate goal is to attend law school, and perhaps go into politics. But first, I will take a commission in the Army, or work for the federal government in law enforcement.

I am very fortunate to be a VMI cadet... I feel honored to be a part of the brotherhood. I am especially proud of our Honor System... The bonds I have made here with my Brother Rats will remain throughout our lives, and that is something very rare.

**Brian T. Neale**  
Lexington, Virginia



### Drive to do better

Thank you for the scholarship. I am a Third Class Civil Engineering major at VMI with hopes of becoming a Marine Corps officer.

I am a corporal in Alpha Company, and next year I hope to move up the hill and become a battalion sergeant major. My academics are going fairly well, but sometimes my priorities are not right. Luckily, I can drive to do better!

**Christopher Michael Floom**  
Lexington, Virginia



### Another year has passed

Another year has passed at VMI, and I'd like to thank AMA again for the financial support these past three years of my cadetship.

I would like to thank all of the AMA family for the encouragement and support you have given to me. Your help has given me the opportunity to advance and ready myself for the next necessary step in life... in the "real world."

**Will Martin**  
Lexington, Virginia

# Class Notes \ Class Notes \ Class Notes

## 1930

**Fred Clark** spent many years with Black and Decker, and lived in South America after World War II. He now lives in a Philadelphia suburb. Thanks to **Admiral Joe Yon, '30**, for this information.

## 1932

**Sinc Adam**, of West Chester, PA, retired as an architect seven years ago. "I had my 81st birthday last December, so figured I should quit while I'm still ahead!" After AMA, he attended Penn State, then the Wharton School where he got his MBA. Sinc is one of five brothers to attend AMA: **John, '29**, who died in '89; **James, '30**, who died in '83; **George "Winnie", '35** (See 1935, below); **William, '40** (see 1940, below); and Sinc.

**Captain Ben Chiswell**, USCG, Retired, recently received the distinguished service award from his Kiwanis Club in Lake San Marcos, CA. Ben and Dorothy attended the Chiswell family reunion in Maryland/Washington, DC the end of May. On June 30, their son, Ben III, completes 30 years of service with the Coast Guard, also retiring as a Captain.

## 1935

**George Edwin "Winnie" Adam** retired in 1982 and lives in League City, TX. A chemical engineer graduate of Lehigh University, he spent most of his career with Kerr-McGee in Mississippi.

## 1936

**Sam Jordan** and fourteen mem-

bers of his family will gather at Nagshead, NC for a family reunion June 15. His old World War II unit - the 71st Tactical Recon Group, USAF - will have their reunion in August in Sam's hometown, Colorado Springs. He says he's looking forward to the *Astr* reunion in October in Lexington, where two of his sons attended VMI.



**George Leatherman, '39**, beams with pride as he and his family hear the announcement that his grandson has won the 1996 AMA Legacy Scholarship. See story on page 7.

## 1938

**Larry Kurtz** checks in from Punta Gorda, FL to say that he missed the reunion because he was in California visiting his son, while wife Jill visited her family in Ireland. They'll head for the North Carolina mountains in June. e-mail at LARRY-1@worldnet.att.net

## 1940

**Bruce Krysiak** and his son are opening an American supermarket in Russia. Working with Giant Foods in Washington, DC, the Krysiaks will build the 100,000 square foot store in Vladivostok, on the Russian Pacific coast. Bruce formerly was an executive

with Arden Mayfair, Loblaw of Toronto, and National Tea. He lives in Highlands Ranch, CO.

**William Louis Adam** is a retired petroleum engineer, living in Midland, TX. He served in the US Air Force in the Italian campaign in World War II, and got his MS from the University of Michigan in 1947.

## 1941

**Michael Elliott** writes to us from Auburn, CA that he served in the USAF in both Korea and Vietnam.

**Victor Dalmas** was in the 322nd Infantry in the South Pacific in World War II, and with the 7th Infantry in Korea. He also was with Special Forces in Vietnam. He retired as a lieutenant colonel.

## 1942

**John Minor** writes from Mount Vernon, OH that he has retired from the Board of Directors of

First-Knox National Bank "after a great 37 years. Spent a glorious vacation in Puerto Rico. This year, I feel great about everything!"

## 1943

**Herb McCawley** took a six-week trip to New Zealand and Australia last fall, including a balloon ride over Alice Springs and a 3½ day train trip from Sydney to Adelaide, and on to Perth. He lives in Indian Harbour Beach, FL.

**John Jansing** and Flora continue to "enjoy life in Hobe Sound, FL, with summers spent in Harbor Springs, Michigan." Their first grandchild - a girl - was born last

