



WELCOME HOME!



Reverend Jim Dunlap, representing the 57 Pentecostal Churches in Virginia which now own AMA, turns over the key to the Roller-Robinson House to Goodloe Saunders, '57, President of the AMA Alumni Association, during dedication ceremonies of AMA's Alumni House and Museum. Dunlap opened his remarks by saying, "Augusta Military Academy alumni - Welcome Home!"



**Reunion coverage
begins on
page 3**

**AMAAlumni.org
AMA's NEW ADDRESS**

1999 REUNION SPECIAL

**6 LEGACY
SCHOLARSHIPS
AWARDED**

**Death takes
AMA Chaplain
Bill Gray, '37**

**Click,
Gray, Leavel,
Pearson, Starnes
and Williamson are
1st AMA Medal winners**

Augusta Military Academy Alumni Association, Inc.



June 1999

Dear Fellow Alumnus:

Did you make it back for the most stupendous AMA reunion yet? 400 plus folks did, and you need only ask any one of them what they thought about that never to be forgotten weekend. The only surprises we had were good ones!

The highlight of the weekend was the dedication of the Roller-Robinson House in the center of the campus as our AMA Alumni House and Museum. Work already has begun to renovate and restore that 130 year old cherished landmark. We plan to cut the ribbon and officially open the museum and our alumni headquarters at the Year 2000 Reunion next May. When that great day comes, ***I want the house to be paid for!*** Some say that I am shooting for the moon to expect this. I say if you shoot for the moon and miss, you'll still land among the stars! To the stars through difficulties - *Ad Astra per Aspera* - after all, that *is* our credo. I just *know* that there are 150 AMA alumni and friends out there who will make a one-time gift of at least \$1,000 to see that we open our doors next May *free of debt*. We are so convinced of this that we have created a President's Council to honor those who make a \$1,000 one-time gift toward the project. (See story on page 7)

Can we do it? Of course, we can. We need your help, and we need it now! Look into your heart and make this wonderful dream a reality. You'll be so proud of what you've done! Thank you so very much.

Goodloe Saunders, '57

President, AMA Alumni Association, Inc.



Volume 99, Number 3

Newsletter of the AMA Alumni Association, Inc.
P.O. Box 101, Fort Defiance, VA 24437-0101

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The *Bayonet* is distributed to alumni and friends of the Augusta Military Academy. Notice of changes of address should be sent to Alumni Records, c/o Edwin Click, 1462 Lee Highway, Fort Defiance, VA 24437-9703. Please provide your 9-digit ZIP code! The *Bayonet* welcomes information and articles for or about AMA alumni. Share the news of promotions, awards, re-tirement, births, marriages, deaths, etc. Please print or type your submission.

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PAVE THE WAY!

You'll see these 3 words throughout this edition of *The Bayonet*.

As we work to repair the interior and exterior of the Roller-Robinson House, turning it into the AMA Alumni House and Museum, we will have to replace most of the walkway that leads down the hill from the house toward the front gate.

This gives every alumnus and friend of AMA an opportunity to salute someone - remember someone - mark a date - and so forth.

For the new walk will be made of specially engraved paving bricks. You can buy a brick in memory of a classmate, teacher or friend. You can purchase one to honor a friend who is still here (letting him or her 'smell the roses' while still alive). Order one to remember an event or to salute all your old roommates. The possibilities are endless!

Think about it! The brick you buy will be there for a very long time. The person or persons, event or thing will be "cast in stone" for all time.

You also will be able to use the purchase of these special pavers to help you earn membership in the President's Council which Goodloe discusses in his letter, above.

You'll see numerous samples of bricks already manufactured on the following pages. These may give you some ideas.

The price is so reasonable - \$50 for a 4X8 brick and \$100 for an 8X8 brick.

See all the details on pages 30-31. You'll also find an order form there.

When all the bricks needed to rebuild the walk are sold, there will be no further opportunity for you to have a special engraved paver in the walk. Don't be disappointed. Go to pages 30-31 *now* and place your order!

PAVE
THE
WAY!

AMA Alumni House and Museum dedicated on Fort Defiance campus

On a day in May one can only experience in the Shenandoah Valley, Augusta Military Academy consecrated the ancestral home of the Roller family whose members gave life and purpose to the institution.

Fishburne Superintendent Colonel Beau Beasley, the FMS band, color guard and firing squad all participated in the dedication of the 130 year old Roller-Robinson House as the AMA Alumni House and Museum. In his remarks, Beasley said, "no other place on earth is better fitted to preserve your memories, enshrine your icons, and revere your treasures."

Under the bluest of spring skies with a brisk Valley wind whipping the flags and bunting, Reverend James Lupton, '50, AMA's new chaplain, thanked God "for sending us the Roller family... who provided aesthetic discipline and sound learning, and

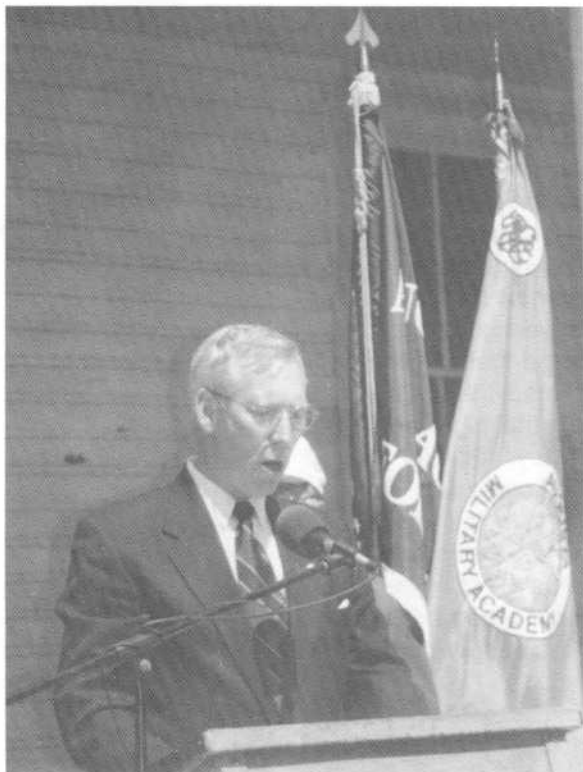
taught pure manners, humility and leadership through service."

Emotional moments

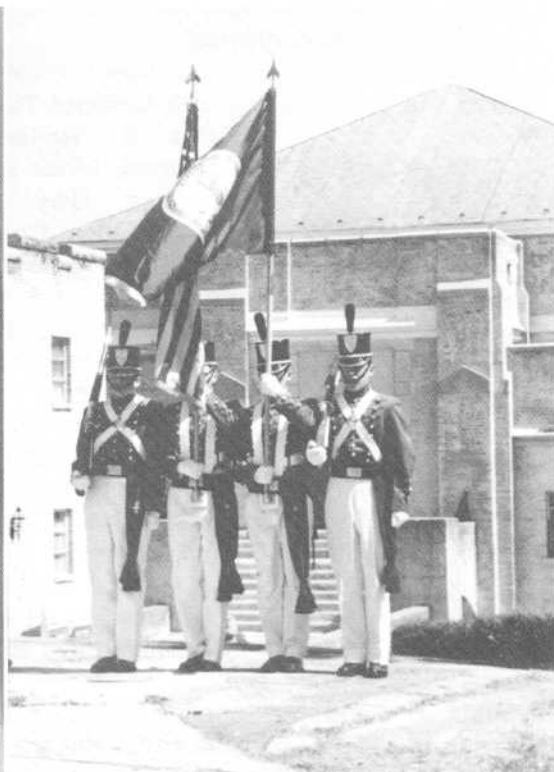
When his turn came to speak, Reverend James Dunlap, representing the Pentecostal Churches which now own Augusta, began by saying,

"Augusta Military Academy alumni - Welcome home!" He said to some 400 alumni and AMA friends gathered in front of the house that AMA "belongs in this place... It is good to have you back on your property."

(continued on page 6)



Colonel Oscar "Beau" Beasley, Fishburne Superintendent, speaks at dedication.



FMS Color Guard with the Big Room in the background.

You could hear it the moment you arrived on campus. In the line of cars on the Valley Pike waiting to turn in at the main gate, you could hear it.

Actually, you could feel it before you heard it. Unmistakable. The customary quickening of the pulse; the little shiver up the spine. If you were standing, you stood taller. You found yourself swallowing. Difficult to explain for some; obvious to Sousa.

It was the ruffle of drums. First, the feel of the bass drum, then the others. And the trumpets. But mostly the drums, the drums, the drums. Echoing over the parade ground as have so many other drum beats in decades past.

Young men in shakos battled to keep flag staffs aligned as an energetic Valley wind unfurled the flags to their limits.

The color guard and the band stepped off. The measured cadence of cadet footfalls on the blacktop.

To the martial music aficionado, the band might, on another day, be called thin.

But not on this May Day. The Colonel Bogey and the AMA Alma Mater never sounded more beautiful.

Cadets were back on our campus!

Major Todd Livick, '81, leads Founders Day ceremonies at Old Stone Church Cemetery

Major Todd Livick, '81, whose great great grandfather founded Augusta Military Academy, said that it was "an unbelievable tribute to **Charles S. Roller, Sr.** and his descendants that in 1999 we still gather to honor their memory."

Standing in front of the monument where his great great grandparents are buried (along with **Colonel Tom Roller** and **General Charles S. Roller, Jr.**, Todd's great grandfather), Livick said he first attended a Founders Day service in 1969 where his father, **Colonel Mal Livick** spoke. "It was the first time that I understood what a great family this was and how they molded so many young minds and young men..."

Major Livick remembered that before Route 11 became so congested, the Corps of Cadets would march up the highway to the cemetery on Founders Day. "In later years," he said, "the Corps would cross Lily Valley at route stop and reassemble by the Stone Church for the march to the cemetery."

And he recalled that his great grandfather, The Big Boy, "didn't know a bad boy. That's why so many here today respect and revere him."

Fishburne participates

The Fishburne Band and Color Guard led the way into the cemetery. A prayer was offered by Reverend J. Mark Stanley of the

Augusta Stone Presbyterian Church. **Frank Spencer, '49**, called the



Francis X. Fields, '48, sounds Taps.



Major Todd Livick, '81, remembers his ancestors during Founders Day ceremonies.



The Fishburne Military School Firing Squad fires a 21-gun salute to the Roller family.

roll of all Augusta men who had passed away in the last year.

The Class of 1939 placed a wreath at the Roller tomb, and a Fishburne firing squad of 7 fired 3 volleys.

Francis X. Fields, '48, played Taps. As the colors were retired, the FMS Band struck up the AMA school song and exited the cemetery to the applause of the crowd.

Traditionally, Founders Day was 8 May, Professor Roller's birthday.

