



**FULL REUNION
SCHEDULE
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Founder's Day during Reunion 2000

General Meier, '58, to lead homage to AMA men who died in Vietnam

Major General James W. Meier, '58, USAF, retired, will lead a tribute to the 9 AMA men who were killed in the Vietnam War. The general will speak during Founder's Day ceremonies on Saturday 7 May during Reunion 2000. General Meier had service as an F-4 pilot flying 77 combat missions during the Vietnam War.

The Founder's Day program is only part of an extremely busy Reunion 2000 weekend. The AMA Alumni House and Museum will have its ribbon cutting on Saturday morning. The annual Awards Banquet will be held Friday evening, a pizza party and dance takes place Saturday night, and early arrivals are invited to a reception at White Hall on Thursday evening.

AMA alumni will play Fishburne alumni in an attempt to keep the Hudgins-Roller Tennis Trophy in Fort Defiance. The AMA Golf Open goes off Friday morning and there will be a sporting clay shoot Saturday after the Founder's Day ceremonies.

Alumni and friends will lunch in the AMA Gymnasium on Saturday and a motorcoach has been laid on for a trip to historic Lexington on Friday. A Kentucky Derby party in the Hospitality Tent will provide mint juleps and TV sets for the Run for the Roses late Saturday afternoon.

About General Meier

General Meier earned a BS degree from the Georgia Institute of Technology and a Masters in business administration at Pepperdine University. He attended B-52G combat crew training classes and later flew as an instructor-pilot. In 1970, he was assigned to the 390th Tactical Fighter Squadron, Da Nang Air Base, South Vietnam. Here, flying an F-4, he flew 77 combat missions.

In 1971-75, Meier was assigned to the staff of the commander in chief, Pacific. He went back to flying duties in 1977 with the 524th Bombardment Squadron as a B52-G aircraft commander and assumed command of the squadron in 1978. He later became Chief, Strategic Operations Division, Head-



Major General Jim Meier, '58, USAF

quarters, U.S. Air Force, stationed in Washington, DC. General Meier served as vice commander of the 416th Bombardment Wing, Griffiss AFB, NY in 1983-84, and then was commander of the 92nd Bombardment Wing, Fairchild AFB, WA.

He served as deputy director for operations, National Military Command System, Operations Directorate, Joint Staff, in Washington, DC, and was named vice commander of the 15th Air Force in 1991. After he retired from the Air Force in 1992, he worked for Northrop Grumman with responsibility for research and development for the B-2 Stealth bomber. Since 1996, he has been an associ-

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Augusta Military Academy
Alumni Association, Inc.



Spring 2000

Dear Fellow Alumnus:

I am very pleased to tell you that things are really coming together for Reunion 2000. As you'll see elsewhere in this issue, we have both the old and the new scheduled. The AMA Open Golf Tournament, the tennis match with Fishburne alumni, a sporting clays shoot, a Kentucky Derby party, a dance, lunch in the AMA gym, a Silent Auction, and so on. Of course, the highlight of the weekend will be when we cut the ribbon and open AMA Alumni House.

We owe a huge debt to the many Augusta alumni and friends who have chipped in to make this all possible. The list of President's Council members continues to grow steadily and those who are not able to contribute as much as the \$1,000 requisite for the Council have given us sustained support throughout the renovation of the Roller-Robinson House. Whether you gave \$50 or \$1,000, we can't thank you enough.

We still need financial support. At the time of the reunion, our museum will be a "work in progress." It will take another effort to purchase and install the museum cases and shelves necessary to display and protect the items which represent AMA's heritage. It certainly is not too late to help! It's not too late to buy a paver for the new sidewalk. It's not too late to write a check. It's not too late to join the President's Council. There is still work to do!

Goodloe Saunders, '57

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. Clear, correctly exposed photos are welcome.

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A reason to come back

Many alumni tell us that the main reason they come back for AMA reunions is to see old friends and classmates. Some of our guys say, "You know, one of these days, I'm coming back to an AMA reunion."

The poem below by an unknown author suggests a reason you might want to come back this year:

*Around the corner, I have a friend
In this great place that has no end.
Yet the days go by and the weeks
rush on
And before you know it, a year is
gone.*

*I've still not seen my old friend's face
For life is swift, a terrible race.
He knows I like him just as well
As in the days when I rang his bell,
And he rang mine.
We were younger then,
But now we're tired and busy men.
Tired of playing the foolish game,*



*Tired of trying to make a name.
"Tomorrow," I say, "I will call Jim
To tell him what I think of him."
But tomorrow comes and tomorrow
goes.
The distance between us grows and
grows.
He's around the corner, yet miles
away.
Then comes the message:
"Jim died today."*

See you at the reunion?



Museum will be a work in progress

Work proceeds to have AMA Alumni House "90 per cent" ready for reunion

As Reunion 2000 approaches, work is accelerating on the renovation of the 1870 Roller-Robinson House which will become the AMA Alumni House and Museum.

Jon Casafsky, who is supervising the work, says that the house will be "90 per cent ready in time for Reunion 2000." He and AMA Alumni Association officials caution that the AMA Museum itself will be in the process of organization when the reunion rolls around.

The sprinkler system has been roughed in and the house has passed electrical, HVAC and water inspections by county officials. The dry wall is up and floor sanding was scheduled to begin in a matter of days.

A copper roof has been installed over the entire edifice, including the 2 room addition which had not been planned for in the original design. The Pentecostal Church, owners of the AMA buildings and grounds, had insisted that the house be separated from the Mess Hall. This gave AMA 2 additional rooms, 13' X 15' each, one over top of the other. (see photo at right) When the separation was accomplished, the church demolished the Mess Hall.

"The additional rooms required some serious new underpinning," said Casafsky. "We had to jack up the bay window, put cement beneath it, and lower the window back into place. They did many strange things to this old house as it went through being a home, a library, and an area for the AMA band."

Casafsky says that the interior of the house will be finished in time for the reunion. "I'm not sure there will be shelving and display cases for the museum items, but I hope to have the inside in pristine condition for AMA alumni to visit during the reunion."



The Mess Hall gone, this is what the Roller-Robinson House looked like in winter with its 2 extra rooms, one over the other. Photos by Richard McLaughlin, '49.

Cornice work on the house should be completed by mid-March and the siding will go on after that. "We plan to paint as we go, covering the part of the house we have just completed, then painting more as we get more done," Casafsky reported.

Work on the rear porch is under way, which includes a mandated wheelchair accessible ramp. The last thing to be done on the outside will be construction of the front porch as the house looked 130 years ago with a balustrade across the porch roof. To assure accuracy Casafsky had an 1880 photo of the house digitally enhanced so he can copy the balustrade design faithfully.

AMA alumnus **Bookie Westbrook, '60**, will install period wallpaper in the front parlor. (see diagram on page 12) Two other alumni have been working on the remodel also. **Jim Sharpe, '80**, and **Scott Wheatley, '83**, both are working as construction assistants to Casafsky.

"We are delighted that we have made so much progress in these past few months," said AMA Alumni Association President **Goodloe Saunders, '57**. "In spite of some cold weather and bureaucratic holdups by county inspectors, we have gotten the main job done. The house is stabilized and quite livable. It has kept its 1870 look, but has all the conveniences of the Year 2000. It's something every AMA alumnus can be proud of."



