



## Charlie Hillsman, '71, passes away

Charles E. Hillsman, '71, has lost his battle to stomach cancer. The Confederate reenactor general officer had seemed to recover after extensive surgery, but he collapsed and died at his home in Jetersville, VA on 17 December 2000.

The Hillsman home stood on the site of one of the last battles of the Civil War. His family home had been a hospital for both Federal and Confederate casualties.

At left, an honor guard accompanies Hillsman's body to the cemetery. Photo by Gary Nicholson, '70. Story on page 29.

### Registrations running ahead

## Reunion 2001 salute to jocks

Spectator, participant, cheerleader: it matters not which you were when you went to Augusta. Reunion 2001 is for all of you, but is a special salute to every cadet who ever played on any AMA team.

The first weekend in May is the time for this year's reunion. The early bird reception will be on Thursday evening 3 May. Friday will feature a tour of historic New Market, the AMA Golf Open, and the annual AMA-Fishburne Tennis Match, this year dedicated to the late Les Higbee, '35. The annual Awards Banquet will be held Friday night where Jim Stillwagon, '67, will make brief remarks. On Saturday 5 May, class photos will be taken at breakfast followed by the annual member-

ship meeting. Korean and Vietnam War plaques will be dedicated at the AMA Alumni House followed by lunch in the gym.

After lunch, athletic team photos will be made, including a gathering of former AMA cheerleaders.

The annual Founders Day ceremonies will be held in the Augusta Stone Church Cemetery followed by a sporting clays shoot. The day ends with Kentucky Derby and Cinco de Mayo parties, and a pizza party dance. Packed days for everyone!

There will be an attempt to recognize all the championship teams AMA has had. Page 15. A wonderful few days with old friends and new, saluting the brightest and the best in Augusta's long and proud athletic tradition.



Al Diamonstein is candidate for lieutenant governor of Virginia  
Page 35

Korean War, Vietnam War dedications  
Pages 12-13

AMA'S DICK NOLAN, '50, led Terps, Giants, 49ers, Saints  
Page 27

## Augusta Military Academy Alumni Association, Inc.



Spring 2001

Dear Fellow Alumnus:

During the past two presidencies, the AMA Alumni Association has become an outfit that we can all be proud of. Under the excellent leadership of **Gary Nicholson, '70**, many of the successful undertakings that we enjoy today were started.

It was during Gary's time that **Bill Klinck, '62**, asked me to help him establish a new scholarship. That was done and today we have the AMA Legacy Scholarship program. **Bob Bradford, '50**, became the new editor of *The Bayonet*, and that has become the most important publication of our association. **B. J. d'Orsay, '70**, put us on the internet and began establishing our website. And what a website it is!

Gary finally stepped down to become my Vice President so that we could continue the progress. With new added effort, the progress continued and grew. Our first effort was to create an endowment fund that will help us underwrite our Association into the future. The Roller Society was established and **Jeff Wenzel, '70**, plus Bob Bradford through *The Bayonet*, promoted it successfully.

Since we cannot have our school, the Pentecostals have leased to us the Roller-Robinson home where we now house our alumni offices and museum. What a labor of love this became! I can not tell you how many hours, or how much money, have been given by **Duke Fancher, '58, Steve Trent, '70, Bob Harris, '54, Terry Snow, '58, Gary Nicholson, Dave Conrad, '59, Rod Willey, '51, and Sue, Chief Cole, Don Studer, Frank Williamson, '60, and Ben Zinkhan, '60.**

To fund the Alumni House, the President's Council was created. The paver program was initiated for the same reason. These two programs have raised thousands of dollars for construction and outfitting of the House.

Our latest effort involves the creation of a foundation. On November 2, 2000, the AMA Alumni Foundation, Inc. was created. This organization will carry our good name and works far past the time when all of us are gone.

We have accomplished far more than any of us dared to think we would. The AMA Alumni House/Museum is a loving credit to all that we are. It has been said by many outside the Association that *The Bayonet* is the best newspaper of any alumni organization in the country; it is *that* good. The scholarships are supporting our kids as well as cadets at VMI.

A special thanks to the Fort Defiance Mafia — Bob Bradford, Duke Fancher and Gary Nicholson. It is these guys who deserve our hearty thanks for going above the call of duty.

As a parting word — much has been done and we have been very successful, but much is still left to do. Please, please, continue to support the Association and the Foundation with your time and money.

I will be around to help in any way possible.

*Goodloe Saunders, '57*

President, AMA Alumni Association, Inc.

1928

**Bill Robinson** is still piloting his own plane at age 90, according to **Nate Adams, '41**. Bill was a five-year man at Augusta, Captain of C Company his senior year, co-captain of the boxing team, and an **Astronaut**.

1931

**Hugh Kerr** was the father of the present day Staunton librarian. In the last issue, we identified her as **Mary Beime** Nutt when, in fact, her name is **Mary Beirne** Nutt. Thank you, **Hilton Roller Grasty**, for making this correction.

1938

(NONE)

**Colonel Bob Reisacher** celebrated his 80<sup>th</sup> birthday on Christmas Eve. Congratulations, Bob! He lives in Santa Fe, NM.

1939

**Dr. Mel Alper** and Jane hosted **Mickey Gordon** and Libby at their Bermuda home at Christmas time.

1940

(NONE)

**Bob Beam** is owner of the Staunton Steam Laundry. Bob and Betty celebrated their 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary this past September.

1941

(CLAYTON RICH)

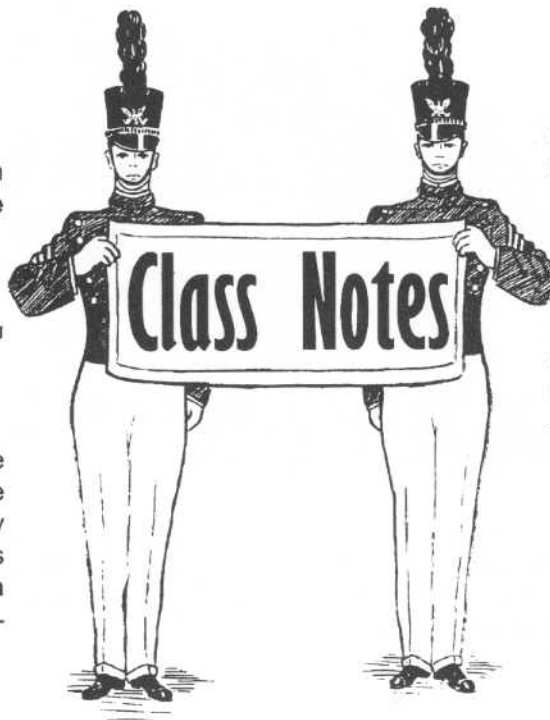
**John Minor** lives in Mount Vernon, OH where he has retired from the Coca Cola Company.

**Clayton Rich** lives in Atlanta with his wife, Sally. He is retired from having been a development director for Emory University.

1942

(NONE)

**Ott Heilman** lives in Kittanning, PA with wife, Mary Louise. He is a retired county commissioner.



1943

(EARL CABANISS &amp; CHRIS HARRISON)

**Joe Andicko** says he wishes everyone who ever entered his life through AMA "a clean bill of health from his dentist, his cardiologist, his gastroenterologist, his urologist, his podiatrist, his psychiatrist, his plumber, and



**HAPPY 84<sup>th</sup> - Julian Quarles, '35, found a great way to celebrate his birthday, at the helm on Biscayne Bay off Miami.**

the IRS!" Joe lives contentedly in Boynton Beach, FL.

**Chris Harrison** now is Volunteer Administrative Assistant at Queen Anne's County High School in Maryland. Chris has five children, five grandkids, and now has two great-grandchildren. His youngest son, Alan, is now a Naval officer in the Submarine Service.

1945

(NONE)

**"Shorty" Long** and Nancy live in Arizona. He has been retired since 1990. He was formerly President of Saguaro Acceptance Corporation, a dealer finance company.

1946

(NONE)

**Dave Brewer** reports that he is "happily settled into retirement here in Pawley's Island, SC."

1947

(NONE)

**John Herring** gets to see the world by housesitting for friends who are on vacation: Seattle, Victoria and Vancouver, Canada, Santa Ana and La Jolla, CA, Knoxville, and Bernardsville, NJ. "All these folks, wonderful friends from my 35 years at the University of Virginia."

**J. B. Simmons** and Linda will celebrate their 3<sup>rd</sup> wedding anniversary in May. J.B. is self-employed and owns Simco Vending Services in Tulsa, OK.

1948

(BILL HARRIS)

**Hal Walters** has settled into his new digs in Brevard, NC. He now has 12 grandchildren to keep up with! e-mail: halwaltjr@citcom.net

**Bill Aldrich** lives in Houston and says he uses a scooter for prolonged distances. "I'm always at the reunions in spirit," he says.



**Al Tomlin** lives in Greensboro, NC where he and Lucy are enjoying life. "We do lots of travelling and I get to play lots of tennis," he says. Hey, Al, we need you at Reunion 2001 to help us get the Hudgins-Roller Tennis Trophy back from Fishburne!

**1949  
(NONE)**

**Lewis Philhower** is semi-retired as a Senior Vice President for Paine Webber. He lives in Macon, GA.

**Richard McLaughlin** is on the Board of Visitors of Mary Baldwin College. Having retired from the aerospace industry, Richard now lives in Staunton, his boyhood home.

**1950  
(JIM LUPTON)**

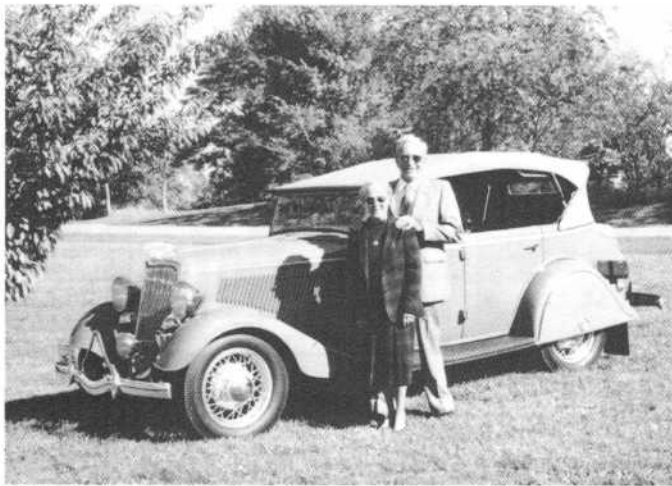
**Ed Click** and Suzanne visited family in Hawaii in January, spending two weeks on Maui and Oahu.

**Bill Hill** is Managing Editor for the South Carolina Veterinarian Association, and for the Virginia and North Carolina Academies of Small Animal Medicine. He also does consulting work with non-profits in Greenville, NC, his home town. Bill's wife, Joy, has been ill and he is able to do most of the work from home.

**1951 HONOR CLASS  
(FRANK PILLEY & HAP STARR)**

**Jack Hodge** and Mary Scott live in Blackstone, VA. He is the retired Chief Engineer of the Virginia Department of Transportation. Jack's e-mail address: JHodge@meckcom.net

**Colonel Frank Pilley** is an adjunct professor of mathematics at George Mason University in Northern Virginia. He retired from the Air Force as a bird colonel. He and **Hap Starr** are rounding up fellows from their class to come back to Fort Defiance in May for the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of their graduation from Augusta.



**CLASSICS - John Jackson, '46, and his wife, Mary Anne, with their 1934 Ford Phaeton. The Jacksons have a collection of vintage cars at their home in Summit Point, WV.**

**1952  
(JIM "SHAD" WHITE)**

**Tommy Mitchell** lives in Staunton with his wife, Connie. He retired from the Virginia Department of Transportation.

**Richard Chichester** is moving back to Virginia in August. He is the retired CEO of Select Sires, a livestock artificial insemination company, located in Ohio. He and his family will live in Falmouth. The Select Sires Board of Directors has named its Chicago headquarters in his honor.

**1953  
(NONE)**

**Lew Mundin** works part time in a men's store in Richmond and volunteers three days a week at the Westminster/Canterbury Retirement Home. His oldest daughter, Beth, has given Lew five grandchildren.

**Manuel Balbis**, retired President of Firestone Argentina, is a business consultant for Efficiency Production, Inc, and continues to operate Galaxy, a tire export company, all from his home in Miami.

**Tommy Simmons** has been elected President of the Deerfield Valley Homeowners Association. Deerfield Valley is in the western part of

Augusta County where Tom lives.

**1954  
(KEN HOKE)**

**Pete Stone** has moved from Florida to Mississippi where his new e-mail address is: PStone@mc.edu

**Manley Caldwell** is a lawyer in Palm Beach, FL. (No election jokes are permitted!) He attended Washington and Lee after graduation from AMA. He hopes to get back to Reunion 2001 which will be the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of his first year at Augusta.

**Guy Townsend** owns and operates the Prestley Farm Nursery in Manquin, VA.

**Ken Hoke** has retired as Director of Information Services at Guilford of Maine, and now lives in Micaville, NC.

**Frank Suter** is in the dairy processing food industry selling chemicals and equipment. He and his wife, Alice, live in Conyers, GA. They are coming back to Reunion 2001!

**1957  
(GOODLOE SAUNDERS)**

**Phil Thomas** has sold a 1,200-acre tract of Fauquier County (VA) picturesque farmland (where he grew up) to a preservation group to keep it out of the hands of developers. The farm borders the Appalachian Trail and Sky Meadows State Park along the Route 50 corridor. The land is in the Ashby Gap, at the town of Paris, the site of many important Civil War troop movements, and considered by some to be one of the most breathtaking landscapes in America.

**1958  
(DUKE FANCHER)**

**Terry Snow** continues to recuperate from the effects of a stroke. He is a resident of the Carrington Nursing Home in Lynchburg. Mail should be sent to him at: 1516 Somerset Drive, Lynchburg, VA 24503-2427. Phone

