

AUGUSTA MILITARY ACADEMY ALUMNI FOUNDATION, INC. Officers and Trustees 2006-07

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* *Ex officio voting trustees*

The AMA Alumni Association

The Augusta Military Academy Alumni Association, Inc. plans and executes annual alumni reunions, operates the PX, sponsors special events, and supports other "for profit" ventures.

Reunion registration fees, PX purchases and the like are **NOT tax deductible**.

The Association has a Board of Directors consisting mainly of, but not limited to, alumni of AMA.

There is an annual election of board members at the Membership Meeting during the annual reunions. Officers are selected annually at the board meeting held during the annual alumni reunion.

The AMA Alumni Foundation

The Augusta Military Academy Alumni Foundation, Inc. supports the AMA Legacy Scholarship Fund, the VMI Scholarship Fund, the AMA Museum, the maintenance of the alumni mailing lists, and the publishing and distribution of *The Bayonet*.

Gifts to the Foundation **ARE tax deductible**.

The AMA Alumni Foundation was created to provide an opportunity for friends of Augusta to support our activities and be entitled to a deduction on federal and state* income taxes. The AMA Alumni Foundation is a 501(c)(3) tax exempt organization as defined by IRS regulations.

When the Alumni Association earns income on any one of its projects, it may, if its officers or board so decide, transfer some or all of those funds to the AMA Alumni Foundation.

However, once money has gone into a *Foundation* account, it can be used only for those purposes which would entitle the contributor to a tax deduction (such as scholarships, museum programs or *The Bayonet*).

The Foundation **IS PROHIBITED** by IRS rules from transferring any of its funds to the Association.

There is an annual election of Trustees and officers at the annual reunions. Trustees may be AMA alumni, but are not required to be.

* Check with your financial advisor to determine your state's tax rules

**AUGUSTA MILITARY ACADEMY
ALUMNI ASSOCIATION, INC.**

Officers and Directors 2006-07

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Bazemore and Ragsdale from page 56

A number of the girls he knew attended Mary Baldwin and Sweetbrier during our second year at Augusta. Early on Jimmy was dating the daughter of one of SMA's instructors who lived not very far from the Augusta Stone Church. The temptation to visit with the girls so close by was so strong that we often found ourselves AWOL.

On one such occasion, an evening with no moon, we were rushing to return to barracks by way of the church's adjacent cemetery grounds. To my fright, as we ran among the gravestones there was a sudden blood curdling scream and a thud that came from Ragsdale. He had fallen head-long into a freshly excavated gravesite!

This occasion among other adventures did not apparently go completely unnoticed for I recall several times during Sunday evening Tattoo formation when we turned in the required weekly letter home, when it was asked, "Are the Bobbsey Twins with us tonight?" Ragsdale and I both played football on Major Hoover's 150 pound team which was relegated to playing successfully against area high school varsity football teams as far away as Charlottesville. At that time our varsity was made up of a number of veterans and others on scholarship. Colonel Roller (he had been promoted) who had played football at VMI along with General George C. Marshall, his roommate, was very interested in having a high-powered team to compete with college freshman teams and other like-minded prep schools. Anyway, Jimmy was elevated to the varsity after he recovered a game winning fumble in the end zone during our game that year with the Miller School.

Getting the job at hand done

Neither Jimmy nor I were outstanding students, but I did manage, the hard way, to learn how to concentrate on my studies. In spite of the two compulsory hours of sitting at your desk every evening I exerted no effort which meant I would not have correct answers when called upon in class. I slowly realized that maybe I should do the work since I was not free to do anything else. It was amazing to me to find how satisfying it became to now be fully participating. My biggest lesson learned at AMA was how to concentrate and get the job at hand completed.

In my second year at AMA, Colonel Louisell offered a course in drafting. I elected to take it rather than third year Spanish thus forfeiting an AMA diploma for a high school certificate. That turned out to be a great decision that led

me to architecture. Jimmy fared about the same as I did in his class work with the result his Dad, an AMA graduate in the mid twenties, insisted that Jimmy spend a post-graduate year at Augusta.

All told, we both thoroughly enjoyed our years at Augusta and felt we had been well prepared for what lay ahead. On occasion we talked wonderingly as to why there was no apparent effort toward creating an alumni association, especially during the 50's and 60's. And when Jimmy heard that AMA had closed its doors we lamented together that fact and thought the school closing might not have happened if there had been a strong alumni association. But we did not know the facts then and I still do not know all the circumstances.

Nevertheless, I am more than pleased to know that we do now in fact have an active AMA Alumni Association. Trudie and I stopped for another visit last year.

Big changes are underway and

Master Sergeant Don Studer very kindly showed us through the museum, brought us up to date on events that have taken place and gave us copies of recent issues of *The Bayonet*.

Read about salute to Korean vets

Then I received a copy of *The Bayonet* announcing the 2006 reunion. Its theme to salute Korean and Vietnam War vets brought about this story for although neither Jimmy nor I would consider ourselves "forgotten heroes from forgotten wars," I do feel there may

be some of AMA's grads of the late '40s who may wonder what ever happened to the Bobbsey Twins. And if you may be wondering what happened to Duffie Mc Bryde - well, she married a fellow grad of UVA and has for the past 50 oddyears lived near Baltimore with her children and grandchildren close by. As for me, my

wife and I have been together for 28 years. We have sold our boats, our far apart homes, I no longer teach and I have closed down my architectural practice in western New York State though I continue to design projects that may arise and come my way.

We recently settled on Dataw Island near Beaufort where we have built a home not far from the Oak Plantation. There are four children, all much more successful than their Dad, and we have nine wonderful grandchildren.

Warm regards to our AMA alumni and Duffie!



IN KOREA - Left, Jim Bazemore and right, Jimmy Ragsdale, 1952.

Jimmy Ragsdale, the AMA "bad boy," won the Silver Star in Korea 26 July 1952. Though he had been quite severely wounded, "Corporal Ragsdale exposed himself to enemy fire to help carry a wounded Marine back to safety." He was soon promoted to sergeant.

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