Ad Astra Per Aspera

MUSEUM OF AUGUSTA MILITARY ACADEMY

NEWSLETTER

January - February 2020

"No one cares how much you know, until they know how much you care."

-Teddy Rosevelt -

Reunion 2020
April 16-18

- Celebrating 20 years of our Museum's operation -

Thursday, April 16

6:00 PM ..... **Opening Reception**
Ironwood Country Club
Cash bar

7:00 - 8:30 PM .....**Dinner - Ironwood Country Club**

8:30 PM - Midnight ..... **Hospitality Suite open**
The Loft at the Blackburn Inn, Open Bar

Friday, April 17

8:00 AM ..... **Golfers Depart Blackburn Inn**
Waynesboro Country Club

8:30 AM ..... **Bus Tour Depart Blackburn Inn**
Destination TBD

9:00 AM .....**Sporting Clay Shoot**
The Flying Rabbit, Harrisonburg

7:00 PM .....**Banquet**
Location either Blackburn Inn
or Frontier Culture Museum
Guest Speaker Gen. George W. Casey, Retired

9:00 PM - 12:00 ..... **Cash Bar**
The Loft at Blackburn Inn

Saturday, April 18

11:00 AM.....**Founders Day Ceremony**
Augusta Stone Church Cemetery

1:00 PM ..... **Lunch, AMA gym**

2:00 PM .....**Annual Membership Meeting, AMA gym**

6:00 PM .....**Bar Open**
Blackburn Inn

7:00 PM **Dinner**
Blackburn Inn

NOTE: The Blackburn Inn will be our meeting place this year for all events.

Online Registration with payment via PayPal

Printable Registration Form

Keynote Speaker
General Gorge W. Casey Jr. - Retired
Former U.S. Army Chief of Staff

Larry Keith "Stride" Coleman AMA '72

1950 - 2019

SSG Larry Keith "Stride" Coleman,

Linden -Larry Keith "Stride" Coleman of Fayetteville, NC passed away unexpectedly at Cape Fear Valley Hospital on Thursday, 12 December 2019. He was born on 26 December 1950 in Littlefield, Texas.

Stride Graduated from AMA in 1972 and joined the U.S. Army. He retired from the U.S. Army in September 1992 at Ft. Bragg, NC. His tours of duty include Vicenza, Italy, Ft. Campbell KY, and Ft. Bragg NC. His awards include Southwest Asia Service Medal w/ bronze service star-2, Kuwait Liberation Medal-Saudi Arabia, Parachute Badge, Army Commendation Medal, Overseas Service Medal-2, Army Achievement Medal, Humanitarian Service Medal, Bronze Service Star and Meritorious Service Medal. He was also employed in Kuwait with a DOD contract for 12 months.
Stride was someone you would never forget the first time you met him. His humor was extraordinary. He enjoyed skeet shooting and fishing with his Pee Dee River Wild Asses and spending time with his family in Texas and numerous friends in NC and VA. His most famous quote to folks was "Quit Bullshitten".

RIP Cadet Captain Coleman

CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

AMA Family and Friends,

The New Year is upon us and wish each of you the best for 2020!

We're celebrating the 20th Anniversary of The AMA Alumni Museum! The Museum was dedicated at Reunion 1999 and it opened at Reunion 2000. There have been a few changes since then and many of our Alumni who helped make it a reality have passed on.

Our museum is a stand-alone operation supported by your generous contributions. We have a full-time staff who dedicated to serving our Alumni and operating the museum in a professional manner. We can all be proud of what we've accomplished. No other closed military school operates a full time, stand-alone museum. When our volunteer docents are at the museum, we have a living history museum that tell the story of daily life at AMA.

I hope to see each of at Reunion 2020 and help us celebrate 20 years of serving our Alumni and our community!

Ed Rogerville
Chairman AMAAF

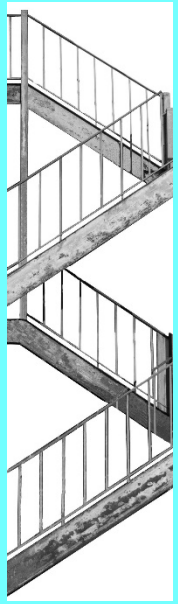
AMA Foundation Board
ROLL CALL

In keeping with the AMA Foundation Board's policy and promise of better communication and transparency, over the next few months, we will publish a short Bio on each of our current members.

Gary Morrison is the Executive Director of the NewDay USA Foundation. Gary is also the former Superintendent of Fishburn Military School in Waynesboro, Va, serving there from 2012 to 2016. He graduated from Fishburn in 1981 and has twice been named Outstanding Alumnus of the year at his alma mater. He has served on the BOT since 2018 and is a member of the class of 2022.
Gary lives in Waynesboro with his wife of 30 years, Susan and his daughter, Katelyn, a student at JMU.

BOT News

The Next Step



Our goal for 2020:

$100,000

Total donations in 2019

$73,046

CADET TRIVIA:

Every Sunday morning after Soupy, (Breakfast) the weekly Sunday Morning room inspection was performed in Big Barracks, Band Barracks and Jr. Barracks.
All rooms were inspected by senior cadet officers, (Company Commanders and Senior Staff officers and possibly members of faculty or the Military Department.) Usually you would spend Friday and Saturday evenings tearing your room apart, mopping then waxing your

The Board of directors of the AMA Alumni Foundation and AMA Alumni Association met on Saturday February 23, 2020.
The primary topic of discussion was the closing of the Alumni Association Bank accounts and to only operate one bank account that is attached to the AMA Alumni Foundation. The purpose for this change is to streamline all of our financial banking transactions, therefore making it easier to track all costs related to the Museum, PX, and the annual reunion.
The proposed change was adopted with a unanimous vote.
Steve Trent reported on the upcoming reunion. Most critical pre-reunion items are in place and staged to be ready for April. Steve can always use additional volunteers to work at the reunion weekend. If you are interested to volunteer, please call Neil at the Museum and he will get you in touch with Steve.

New BOT Director Nominations for the class of 2023

The Directors whose term is up in April of 2020 are:

Tom Del Valle -'73

floor, dusting everything, washing your trash can with soap and water, cleaning your windows and mirrors with Windex and a newspaper, folding everything just so in your locker, spit shining your shoes (all of them) and cleaning your brass and the rifle that was stored in your locker. Essentially, cadet rooms and personal appearance was expected to be Perfect!!!
The inspecting Officer was accompanied by the company's First Sergeant. They would enter the room, and as soon as the inspecting officer stepped into the room, the resident cadets (at one time there were as many as four cadets per room) would come to attention, salute and in unison say, "Room ready for inspection sir!"
The inspecting officer would take about a minute to check every nook and cranny of the room and if he were to find something dirty, dusty, grimy or just not up to HIS standards, he would instruct the First Sergeant to take away points from that room.
At the end of inspection, all room points were tallied and the Company would be given a grade.
Later that day, at Sunday Soupy (Supper) in the Mess Hall, the Company with the best overall score would be announced, followed by loud cheering and applause from the cadets belonging to that Company.
This is probably why most AMA Alumni tend to be a bit anal about cleanliness!

Frank Williamson -'60
Steve Traylor - '72
Brett Thompson - '75

Del Valle, Williamson and Thompson have indicated their desire to continue as Directors. Therefore, at this time, there is one remaining spot to fill.
You are encouraged to submit a candidate at any time up to March 19, 2020, which is the cut-off date for Director nominations.
New Directors will be elected at the April 18 Saturday morning General Membership meeting.
You may submit your candidate's name to Neil at the Museum or you may send it directly to me at: dpennock2002@yahoo.com.

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The 2019 Fall Bayonet may be seen by clicking on the link.

FALL BAYONET

Doug Pennock's Viewpoint
February 2020

PLEASE WRITE A CHECK! Wire Transfers and PayPal also welcomed!
THANK YOU!

Thank you
to the folks who volunteered in January

Charlie Pascale '69

* AMAF Trustee

Museum Volunteer Calendar

Volunteer@AMAalumni.org

Support the Museum

Make A Donation

Museum and Gift Shoppe - PX
Hours of Operation
Tuesday - Sunday
10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Editors Note:
The following expressions are mine alone. I look forward to your feedback. You may contact me directly at: dpennock2002@yahoo.com

Greetings to everyone!

The first month of 2020 has passed. I apologize for not publishing the January issue of your Newsletter. As some of you may or may not know, I have had a trio of life changing month's beginning in November 2019, so most of my day-to-day routine tasks were put on hold until the middle of January 2020.
I am happy to report that I am back in saddle and well into my regular life routines!
Thank you so much to everyone that reached out to wish me the best and your offer of unconditional support. I am moved and humbled by the outflow of good wishes!!
As I look at the upcoming year, I see many challenges in my life on our little island of Puerto Rico. Multiple daily earthquakes have added an additional layer of

Editors Note:
The AMA Museum staff is hard at work performing all sorts of projects, maintenance, new exhibits, attending to the PX-Gift Shoppe and of course, welcoming visitors.
I have asked the staff that currently work at the museum to share a little bit of what they do and how they feel about being part of our organization.
This issue's article was written by Rich vanBreeman, our Collections Manager.

Thoughts on being the new museum Collections Manager

Having been on the job for about 4 months now, all I can say is WOW! Every day I am here I learn more about the Academy, but more importantly, about the people who've passed through these gates over the years. And while it may seem like the artifacts are what we are preserving, what we are really doing is preserving the

stress and worry, but as is my nature, I will try my utmost to persevere and make the best of what life sends my way.

I feel a similar challenge in my job as Vice-Chairman of the AMA Alumni Foundation. Even though we have accomplished many positive tasks over the past two years, we are still facing much uncertainty of what the future will bring. Nevertheless, I am more determined and resolute than ever to keep the promise I made two years ago. To work diligently along with my fellow Board members, Museum Staff and Alumni to protect and ensure that our AMA legacy will survive for many years after we all leave this earth.

I look forward to seeing everyone, and I mean EVERYONE at the 2020 reunion!

Doug out

If anyone knows of alumni and friends that may be interested in connecting with the AMA organization, please send their contact information to Neil.

Click below to follow us on Twitter!

legacy of the Academy and of the people whose lives are tied to this institution

Part of my day is spent cataloging donations to the museum which can be anything from old letters between roommates to uniform items. I photograph each item, catalog them in the database and preserve each item in our archival storage room. Sometimes it feels like the ending scene of Indiana Jones with the treasure being shoved into a large forgotten storage room.

However, we do not want to just squirrel away these items, to be forgotten and unseen. We make every attempt to tie the items back to the owner if possible. Often times, the items are sent to the museum after "grandpa" has passed on and the family is clearing out his attic. When I send the family the receipt for the donation, I usually include some information and photos of that cadet when he was here. I believe they appreciate it.

For those of us here in the museum, it's the PEOPLE and not the "stuff" that make this museum real and alive. Each item belonged to someone and that someone has an attachment to the school THROUGH those items. Every item has a story to tell. By properly cataloging the items in the database, it makes it easier to retrieve that information. It is our sincere hope that Neil, Chris and myself get those stories right and help share them with the public and the families of the alum. We welcome your input, suggestions and ideas on how we can better tell the AMA story.

Regards.
Rich vanBreemen
AMA Museum Collections Manager

Click below to follow us on Facebook!

Help us by using AmazonSmile

https://smile.amazon.com/ch/54-2028850

WE WANT YOUR FEEDBACK!!

Help us get better!
Please send us your thoughts on what you like and the things we can improve on.
Please send your comments to Neil at Museum@AMAalumni.org. or directly to me, Doug Pennock at

dpennock2002@yahoo.com

THANK YOU

December 2019
Neil, Rich (Santa) and some young museum visitors

AUGUSTA MILITARY ACADEMY MUSEUM

- Fort Defiance, Virginia -

MISSION STATEMENT "To preserve the traditions of the Augusta Military Academy and to honor the memory of the life and times of its alumni, faculty, staff, and supporting families through permanent and temporary exhibits and diligent conservation the museum's collections of artifacts, archives and photographs."

The AMA MUSEUM is operated by the AMA Alumni Foundation, which is a 501(c)3, non-profit organization. The museum is manned by former cadets and faculty members, who volunteer their time and talent. Funding for the museum is totally dependent on tax-exempt financial gifts and donations made by the alumni, former faculty, and friends of Augusta Military Academy, as well as the community and visitors to the museum.

Sponsor an issue

The AMA Museum encourages you to sponsor an edition of the Augusta Military Academy Museum Newsletter.

For a $75 tax deductible contribution, we will be happy to place an alumnus, class or business ad for you in the next edition of the newsletter.

Museum GIFT SHOPPE (PX)

SHOP HERE

Commercial sponsorship is available. Please contact Neil at the museum. 540-248-3007

Museum Visitors in

2019

1,773

(Visitor count for 2018 was 890)

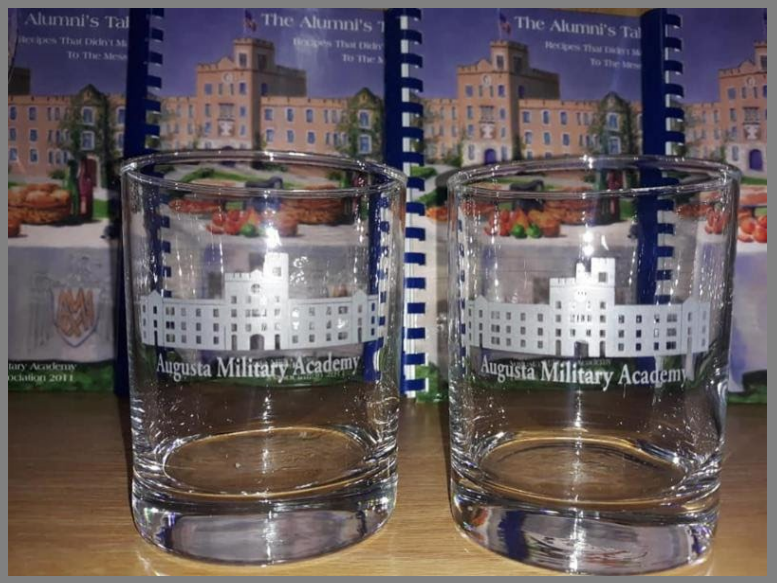
101

visitors in December!

Visitors in 2020

98

Volunteer to be a Docent for a weekend and discover how much



This edition of the

fun it can be to share our history with a stranger.

Museum of Augusta Military Academy Newsletter was prepared by Doug and Trudy Pennock

The January-February issue of the AMA Museum Newsletter is sponsored by: Tom Del Valle

Augusta Military Academy Museum | 540-248-3007 | Museum@AMAalumni.org | http://www.amaalumni.org
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