Ad Astra Per Aspera

MUSEUM OF AUGUSTA MILITARY ACADEMY
NEWSLETTER

April 2020

Reunion 2020 Cancelled

Museum is temporarily closed

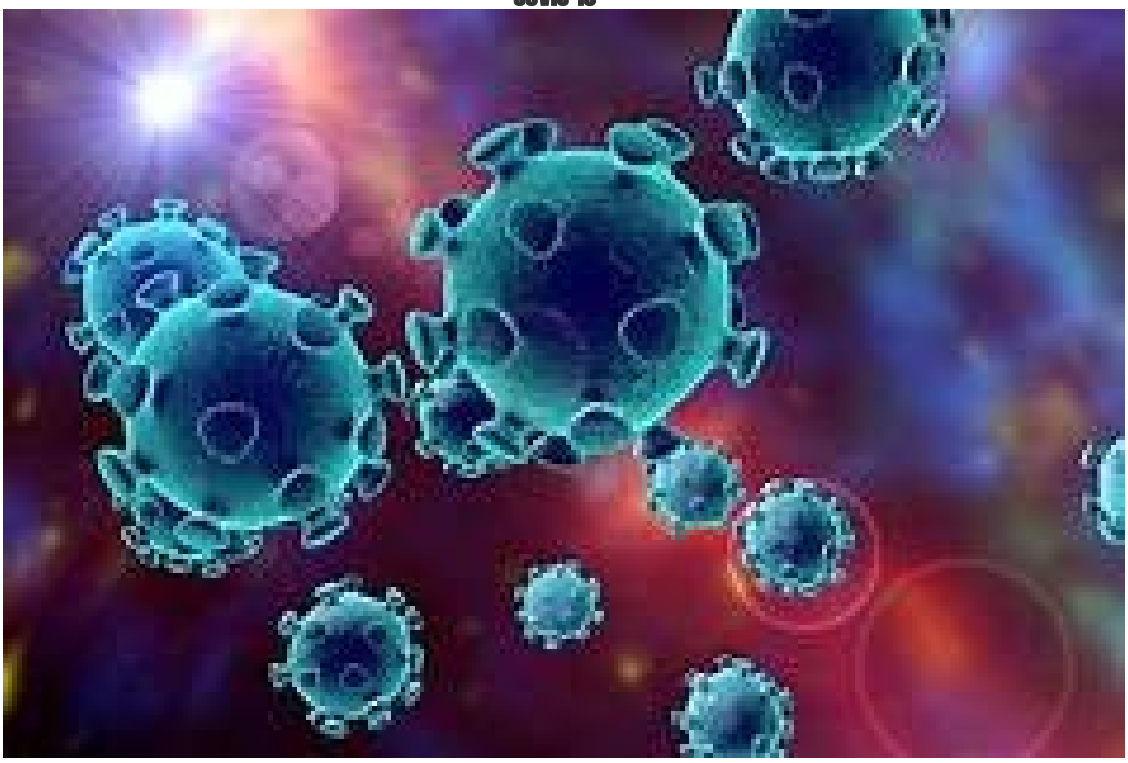
AMA's RESPONSE TO THE GLOBAL COVID-19 PANDEMIC

In light of Virginia's Stay-At-Home order, and several positive cases of the COVID-19 virus in Augusta County, the Executive Committee of the Augusta Military Academy Alumni Foundation are closing their Museum to visitors indefinitely. The museum is located on the grounds of the former school at 1640 Lee Highway, in Fort Defiance.

Museum Director, Neil Fitzgerald, will continue to maintain the Museum's business operations on-site. Our part-time staff have been directed to stay at home until the museum can re-open to the public. The Director can be reached at the museum via phone or email. But no personal visits to the museum for any reason.

Friends, alumni and volunteers are asked to please not come to the museum during this time.

COVIC-19



The "Front Arch" Today

Improvise, Adapt and Overcome
-United States Marine Corps Slogan-

CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

Dear AMA Alumni and Friends,

By now, all of you are aware of the cancellation of Reunion 2020. It was a tough decision, but with everyone's health and safety at risk, it was the right decision. We'll pick back up again in 2021!

The AMA Alumni Foundation Board of Directors will be holding a teleconference on April 18th. During the conference, the new Board will be seated, and officers will be elected. We'll announce the elected officers through our newsletter, the AMA website and social media.

I will be stepping down as Chairman of the Foundation during the meeting. I will continue to serve on the Board through the end of my term, which expires in 2021.

It's been an honour to serve as the Chairman and to serve you, our Alumni. I'm confident the Board will select a qualified Director to lead us into the future and who will continue to build on our successes. Thank you for your support of AMA, the Foundation and me personally.

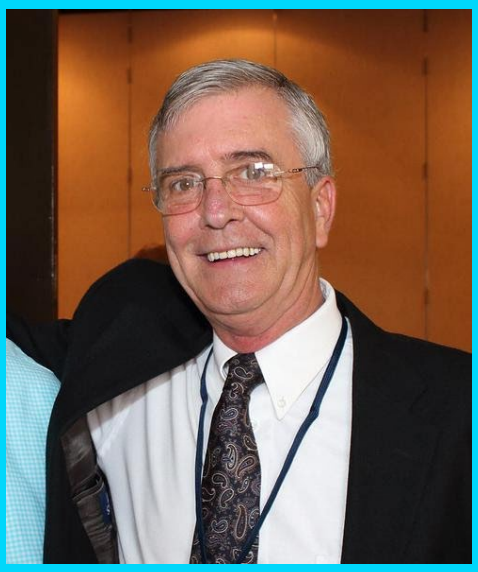
Let's hope and pray that the current crisis ends soon! Please be safe and practice the recommendations of the CDC and medical professionals. Try to enjoy this beautiful spring and get outside if you can do so safely.

Thank you,

Ed Rogerville '76

Chairman AMAAF

Steve Traylor '72



Steve Traylor served on the AMA Alumni Foundation Board from 2014 to 2020. A 1972 AMA graduate, and a man that has been involved in things AMA for many years.

From attending most annual reunions to becoming a recruiter for "Volunteer" marchers for the 1st Roller Rifle reenactment in 2004, and for the last 9 years serving on the Foundation Board as our treasurer and the last year as a member. Steve's dedication and CPA's attention to

detail is one of the reasons our organization is still active and relevant to our members and friends today.
I am certain that everyone appreciates the work and impact Steve has had on our "family" over the past many years.
I hope to see him in his new civilian role at the 2021 reunion!

Thank you Steve!!

AMA Alumni Foundation Board NEWS

-REMINDER of the "SPECIAL ELECTION" -

New Director Nominations for the class of 2023

Nominations for Director for the class of 2023 are closed

Due to the cancellation of this year's **Alumni Reunion** caused by the COVIC-19 Pandemic, the Foundation Board of Directors has decided to modify the manner in which four directors will be voted into office in April 2020. Our Bylaws do not provide for a mechanism in which the new directors can be elected to the Board other than during the general membership meeting. The

The Next Step

Our goal for 2020:

$100,000

Board has decided that a special one-time only "special provision" to the By-Laws shall be crafted and voted on, in order to allow new Director elections to be undertaken via Electronic Vote. The "Special Provision" to the By laws was passed by unanimous vote on March 24, 2020.

The entire text of the "special provision" to the Foundation By-Laws shall be available for all to read on the AMA Website.

HERE

The procedure for the new election process will be as Follows:

All qualified members were sent the electronic ballot in a special Constant Contact email on Friday March 27,2020. If you have not received the ballot, please check in your email junk file. The ballot software will only allow you to vote once. Once you have sent the ballot back to the sender, you will no longer be able to access the site. The election process timeline will end at 2400 hrs ESDT, Friday April 17, 2020. All ballots will be verified by Doug Pennock, Election Committee Chairman, John Arthur, Board Secretary and Bj d'Orsay, BOT member.

The new 2020 Foundation Board of Directors will convene via teleconference on Saturday April 18 at 1000 hrs ESDT. Once quorum is established, Officers of the 2020-2021 Foundation Board of Directors will be voted on by the members of the Board and the first regular meeting of the year will be held to assure business as usual in our organization.

All election results will be published in a special Museum Newsletter edition and on the AMA

CADET TRIVIA:

Lockdown for a flu like virus was something we experienced at AMA every few years, at least I did while I was there. One year, the Flu hit AMA so hard, that 75% of the Corps became sick. The school was shut down and the infirmary was overflowing so we were all quarantined in our rooms for a week or so. The Mess Hall was open for those Cadets

Museum Facebook Web Page shortly after the AMA Foundation Board meeting is adjourned.

The nominees for new Directors are listed below. You may click on each nominee's name to see their Bio's.

Tom Del Valle '73 *
Frank Williamson '60 *
Brett Tompson '75 *
Garry Granger '71

*Indicates incumbent nominee

NOTE: As of April 1, 2020, 133 ballots have been filled out and returned! we find that response by our Alumni to be very good and appreciate your interest in the involvement of our organization's Governance process. Thank You!

Reunion Registration Refunds

The cancellation of Reunion 2020 has caused a unique financial situation for our organization. Many of you, (myself included) pre-registered and paid for the upcoming weekend events in full. If you desire to receive a refund, you may do it by contacting Neil at the Museum.
The reunion is the one time a year that we can all get together and enjoy each others company, but

that could walk there to get their meal and the Infirmary staff, with the help of a few volunteers, would deliver box lunches to cadets' rooms if they were not able to make it to the mess hall for Soupy.
We survived the Great AMA flu shut down... we most certainly will get through this one!

PLEASE WRITE A CHECK! Wire Transfers and PayPal also

it is also the one time a year that additional funds are raised for the coffers of the AMA Foundation. As many of you know, we have been running with an annual deficit, so any additional operating losses will be even more detrimental to our day to day operation.
May I suggest that you consider donating your registration fee(s) to the Foundation. As a donation, you may use that "Gift" as a tax deduction, unlike the "Registration Fee" which does not qualify for that perk.
Trudy and I registered for this years reunion and I have indicated to Neil that our registration fees are to be donated to the Foundation's General Fund.
Even if you did not pre register, but you were planning on attending the reunion, and even if you were not, you may want to write a check.
Thank You!

++
++
++++++++++++++++++

2020 AMA Sports Hall of Fame Inductees

Maj. Ed Hart USMC (Retired)1967-1973 - Head Coach - Lacrosse

Charlie Livick '77 - Football, Basketball and Lacrosse

welcomed ! THANK YOU!

Thank you to the folks who volunteered in March

Brian Miller '67
Charlie Pascale '69

* AMAF Trustee

Museum Visitors in 2020

265

(Visitor count for 2019 was 1,773)

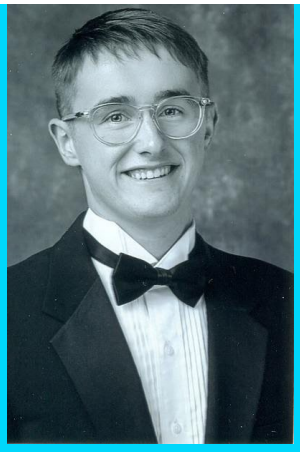
78 visitors in March!

George Richardson '64 - Swimming, Baseball and Track

All AMAHOF winners or family will be contacted by phone and will be officially enshrined into the AMAHOF at the 2021 reunion

Thank you John Arthur '75 for an outstanding job running the AMAHOF Selection Committee!

++++++



McVey/Zinkhan Scholarship - $2,000 - Will be Attending James Madison University in the fall of 2020 - Edwin M. Liles '61, Grandfather

Ashley Jones

AMA Legacy Scholarship - $1,000 - Currently attending University of Virginia - Albert E. Krise III '57 - Grandfather

the Museum

Make A Donation

Museum and Gift Shoppe - PX

Hours of Operation

CLOSED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE

Editors Note:
The AMA Museum will be closed to the public until further notice, but Neil will be at work in his office, caring for the museum. Thank you Neil!

The following Fishburn Military School cadets will be receiving $500 Scholarships

AMA Scholarship - Cadet Andrew Watkins
Livick Scholarship - Cadet Ryan Manning

The 2020 Spring Bayonet may be seen by clicking on the link.

HERE

Doug Pennock's Viewpoint
April 2020

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

Beginning March 16, 2020 Trudy and I have been in a total lockdown at our home as is the case with all of my 3.2 million fellow Puerto Rico residents. I believe Puerto Rico was one of the first US Territory or State to engage into this protocol. Being forced to stay home except for visits to the grocery store, pharmacy and Doctors, our life has been transformed into a daily routine that is

Neil's Notes

We were so excited this year to celebrate the 20-year anniversary of the Augusta Military Academy Museum, and the alumni were anticipating having their reunion at a new venue, Staunton's Blackburn Inn. I too, was looking forward to the reunion of 2020, so it saddened me to have to cancel after months of preparation. Ed Rogerville and Steve Trent had to make a tough call, but Corvid-19 posed too grave a risk to our attendees. There will be no reunion in 2020, but that doesn't mean AMA alumni don't have a place to come together. Your Alumni House is where you can

layered with many levels of concern, worry and boredom.

Nevertheless, we have found new ways of entertaining ourselves, be it by performing chores around the house, chatting, spending more time in front of a computer or with our phone and taking up new and old hobbies that we can practice inside the comfort and protection of our home. We try to wake up as early as we did before the world turned upside down and for the most part we do. I love to cook, so my culinary abilities (or lack thereof) are practiced morning, noon and evening. Gaining weight or preventing that from happening is a challenge and getting a haircut is not going to happen.

So, my belt size is slowly increasing and my hair is longer than I like it. Last week we were told that the Puerto Rico lockdown will be extended another two weeks to April 14 and most probably through April 30, so I believe that I will give Trudy a special temporary "Benny the Barber" (Benny was the on-campus Barber at AMA) permit to give me a haircut. Let's see how that goes.

One huge concern that overshadows our life, is the hope that neither of us contract the dreaded Coronavirus Virus and that our friends and family are also spared from it. Yet, I am confident that we will all make it through this emergency and even though our economy has been dealt a horrific blow, that too will rebound sooner than later.

My sincerest wish is that everyone does their part and listen and follow to what our medical experts are advising. If you must leave the safety of your home, always maintain a safe distance from others,

revisit your past and renew your connections. Even though governor Northam's order requires the museum to remain closed until the coronavirus crisis has passed, we'll be ready to open as soon as that day comes, and we'll announce it here as soon as we know. Meanwhile, I will continue here as museum director, ensuring the bills get paid, our finances are in order, and that our 2019 financial records are complete and submitted to our accountant.

We look forward to announcing plans for 2021. Preliminary arrangements are already being made, and despite their temporary closure, plans for the museum and Gift Shoppe continue. We're excited to introduce a 1,014-piece jigsaw puzzle featuring a classic photograph of the barracks. Ceramic coffee mugs are also new to the shelves as well as AMA koozies. In the museum, our

wash your hands frequently and only buy what you will be needing for the next week to ten days! **Hoarding will get you 10 Tours!**
I can hardly wait to hug my kids and grandkids again.
I really look forward to hugging my AMA brothers and sisters at Reunion 2021!

Doug out

curator, Rich, is hard at work researching for a new exhibit to be installed this year.

So, there have been unprecedented challenges this year, but we're pursuing opportunities nonetheless so that we can bring you and our visitors an even better Alumni House. If you need anything, please don't hesitate to call or write, and I look forward to assisting you however I can.

Neil Fitzpatrick
AMA Museum Director

If anyone knows of alumni and friends that may be interested in

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

connecting with the AMA organization, please send their contact information to Neil.

Click below to follow us on Twitter!

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!

The April issue of the AMA Museum Newsletter is sponsored by: The AMA HDP Crew. NICE SHIRT!

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.

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

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.

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

Augusta Military Academy Museum | 540-248-3007 | Museum@AMAalumni.org | http://www.amaalumni.org
1640 Lee Highway
P.O. Box 101
Fort Defiance, VA 24437