Ad Astra Per Aspera

MUSEUM OF AUGUSTA MILITARY ACADEMY NEWSLETTER

December - 2020

The Constitution is not an instrument for the government to restrain the people, it is a instrument for the people to restrain the government...

-Patrick Henry-

Mal and Linda Livick

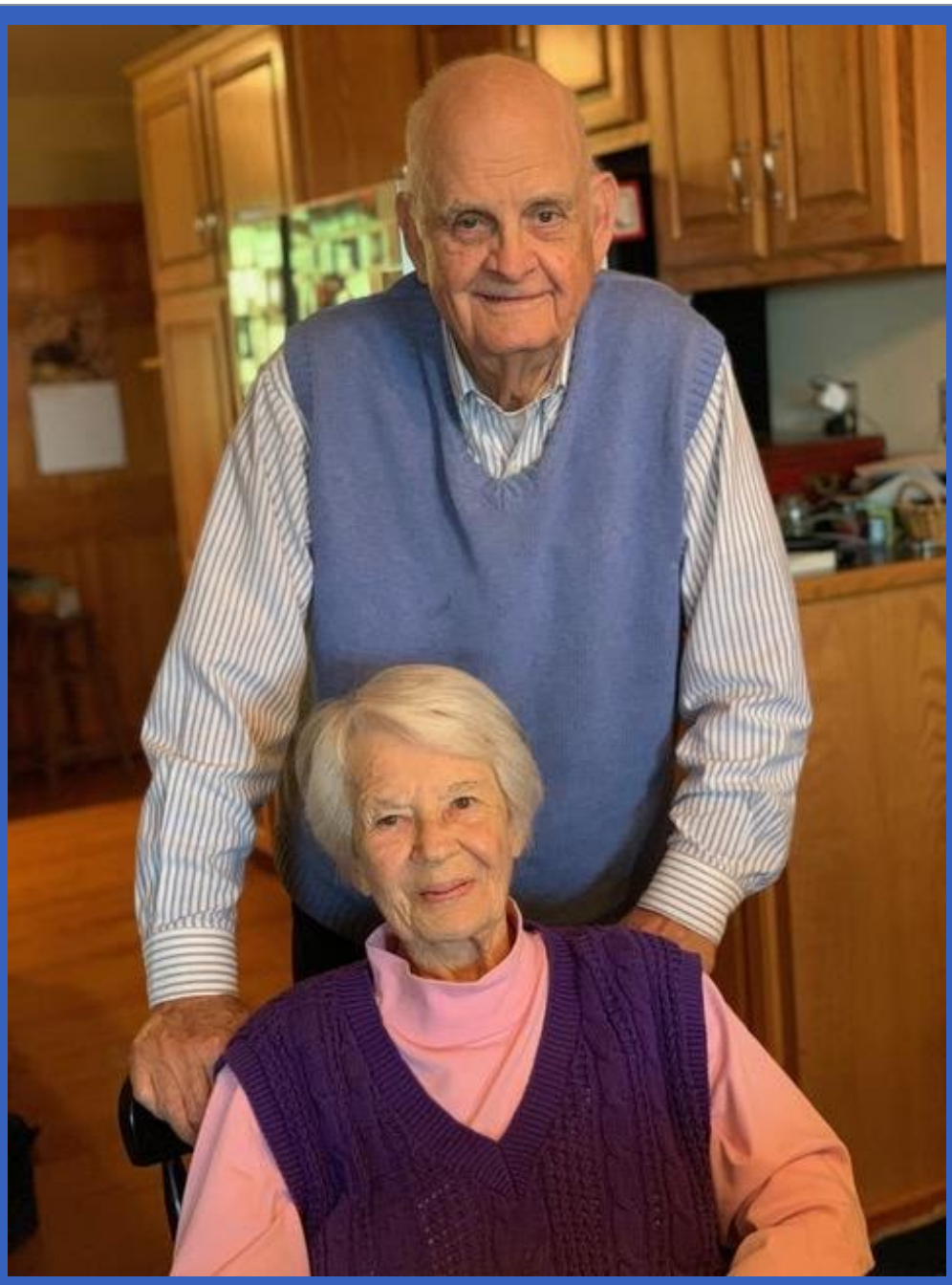
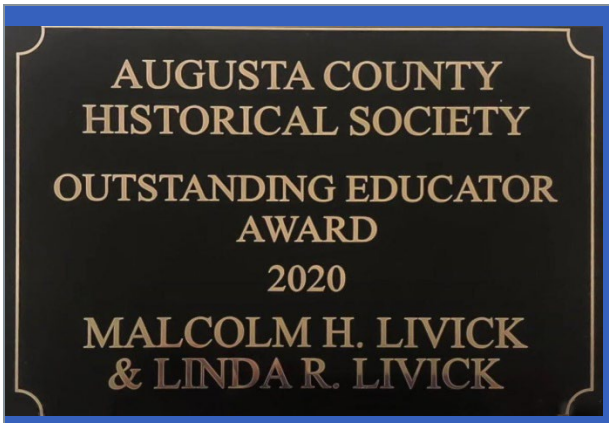


Image captured by Susan Lambert Yates - Stuart Hall '73



Mal Livick, former AMA Superintendent and Linda Livick, AMA's founder's Great Granddaughter, were recently awarded the prestigious

OUTSTANDING EDUCATOR AWARD

by the Augusta County Historical Society.

Congratulations to you both!

Chairman's Note

December 1, 2020

Greetings fellow Alumni and friends,

This year, the Pennock's home Thanksgiving leftovers lasted a couple more days because unlike in years past, our Thanksgiving table was short about a dozen family members. Trudy and I celebrated this most special day alone, and although we are thankful for all of our blessings, this year's feast was a little weird. (I have the feeling that Trudy and I are not the exception to this new-normal sad reality) I certainly hope that by Thanksgiving 2021 all of our lives will be back to our customary routine! Even though we are living in these most troubling and uncertain times, the AMA Foundation Committees are all hard at work planning for events that take the attitude that all will be back to normal sooner than later. Our

mantra is a one of optimism and “can do” sprinkled in with a touch of good old common sense.
Reunion 2021 planning is pretty much locked in, yet we do have a drop-dead cancellation date of January 31, 2021 to decide whether the Reunion is GO or NO GO.
Please make your hotel reservations as soon as you can, by reserving your room at the Blackburn Inn or the hotel of your choice. **Note: If the Reunion Committee decides to cancel the event, you will not be charged a cent for your hotel, but you will need to cancel your reservation immediately after the cancellation is announced.**
The Reunion Committee has eliminated the late registration penalty so you will be able to register at any time, without it costing you an additional late fee penalty. So please make your reservations to all of the reunion events sooner than later.
It is very important to us that you register as soon as you can. This makes logistical planning for food, refreshments and activity locations much easier for the committee if we actually had a hard headcount months before the Reunion.
I hope everyone stays safe and healthy and I wish everyone a Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukkah, and a productive and NORMAL 2021!

Team effort!

PS: One thing did go right for us in Puerto Rico in 2020. Hurricane season which ended November 30, was an uneventful one! Thank God for small favors!!

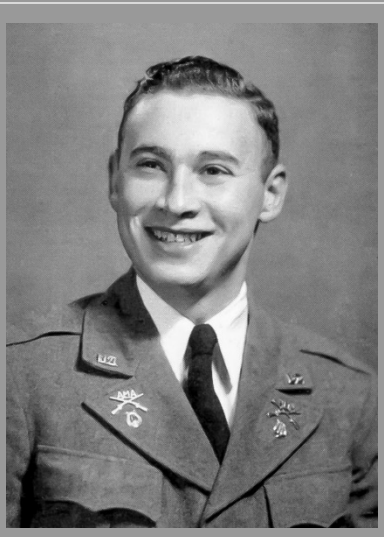
Douglas W. Pennock
Chairman
AMA Alumni Foundation, Inc.

DID YOU KNOW?

Jerry Izenberg '48

A Sports Writer's, Sports Writer!

Jerry Izenberg, AMA Sports Hall of Fame recipient, Musician and highly decorated and legendary sports writer.
Please read my commentary on Jerry's AMA years in "Doug Pennock's Viewpoint"



Read the 2008 Bayonet article

The Ladies of AMA have been activated!!

Top - Trudy Pennock, Doug '72
Center - Kiki Rovirosa, Jorge '70
Bottom - Becky Granger, Garry '71

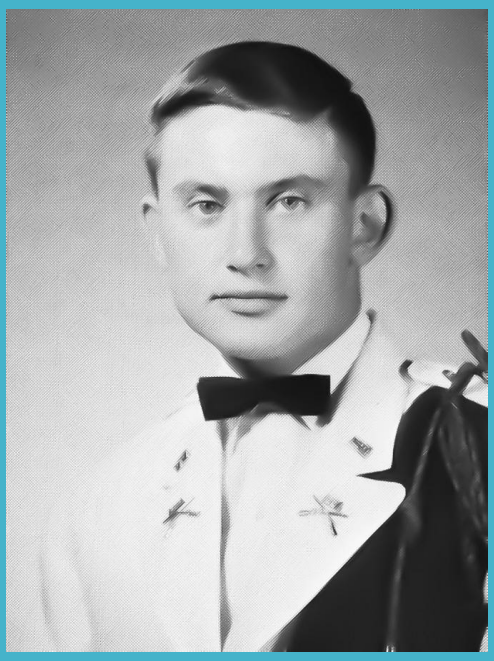
The December holidays is a time of giving and it has inspired the "Ladies of AMA" to make it a priority to identify one or more organizations in Augusta County where AMA can make a difference. So far we have the contact information for Blue Ridge Area Food Bank in Verona, New Directions Center (center for abused women), Valley Mission, and WARM. We will send an email to each organization to see how we can help. Our

goal is to make it an annual project starting with reunion 2021. Stay tuned...

A friendly reminder: we need volunteers to help out with Reunion 2021. Make sure to contact the AMA ladies at Doug Pennock's AMA Foundation email:

chairman.amafoundation@amaalumni.org

Augusta Military Academy Oral History
MEMORIES FROM OUR ARCHIVES



Alan Poole '67

July 31, 2002

"Till there are only two..."

I was first introduced to AMA in the summer of 1961 when my father had seen an advertisement for Augusta Military Academy at the back of a magazine. Dad sent away for a catalog and an application form and we then made a trip from our home in Cleveland, Ohio to Ft. Defiance, Virginia to check out the school that summer. A stop in Woodbury, Pennsylvania was made to visit relatives and to pick up my cousin who came along for the ride. I remember we stopped for lunch in Winchester, Virginia at a place called “Duff ’s Rebel Restaurant”. This stop would become a tradition with us each year when we would either return or leave the Valley. We arrived in Ft. Defiance that summer at an empty campus and after a brief look around we returned home where a decision was made for me to attend AMA and give it a try for one year. So, in September of 1961, there I stood in many long lines in the gymnasium waiting for either the issuing of uniform items or getting classroom assignments. Since I was in the Lower School my first room was located on the lower level of “Dean’s Castle”. I remember those being large rooms that I think had four bunk beds in it with eight cadets being roommates.

Read the entire story HERE

MUSEUM

DOCENT DUTY

THANK YOU!

-ALL OARS IN-

Please remember that a monthly pledge from everyone that reads this newsletter means that the future of the "Bayonet" and the Museum will be assured.

SET UP YOUR MONTHLY DONATION HERE

To those who volunteered in November!

Victor Gomez '68
Brian Miller '67

Visitors in November
49

Groups
17

Museum Volunteer's

We really need Volunteer Docents! Please sign up by calling Chris at the museum.

A message from Larry Nicholson '75

Gentlemen....In and effort to make the Spring 2021 AMA Alumni reunion the biggest and most successful reunion in a decade, we are initiating the "WHO IS YOUR ONE" campaign. If every "Active" AMA alumni reached out to at least one currently "inactive" classmate, and successfully gained their commitment to attend the 2021 reunion, we would have a wildly successful event that could prove decisive in the years ahead.

We all understand how incredibly busy our alumni are. Demands on our time from work, our communities, schools, professional organizations, clubs, not to mention the demands from family and friends, leaves all of us with very little actual free time. We all understand that our most precious, and un-replenishable commodity is our time.

We also understand that as AMA alumni, we share a very special bond that makes each of us truly unique. Whether you attended AMA in the 50s, or the 80s, the experiences we all shared in the heart of the Shenandoah valley are similar and special. Those experiences were not gained alone. They were gained side by side with friends, classmates, and teammates. While we all understand that the school we attended is closed, it is important to emphasize that the bonds that were built, the friendships forged, and those memories we made together are still there, just as they have always been, and are now waiting to be re-kindled.

We believe that what really draws attendees to any reunion is simply to connect with old friends and classmates. That is why any of us attend. Dinners, speeches, and ceremonies are great, but without classmates in attendance, they won't be enough to keep our alumni engaged and eagerly awaiting the next reunion. We also believe that if we can get a formerly inactive classmate to attend a reunion with his friends, that this may well be the catalyst for his re-engagement with the association. This can lead to more support of the association and the work we are doing.

In that light here is what we are asking all active alumni to do.

1. You will all soon be receiving early in the new year by email or snail mail, a class roster of your class with the email and phone number for all members of your class we have the data for. This mailing will not contain your home mailing address and it will be sent only to your classmates.

Bj d'Orsay has worked tirelessly to combine 3 separate rosters into one comprehensive capstone document, but sadly we still have significant gaps in contact information. Once you receive Bj's roster, please take the time to

update your own contact data with the re-assurance that this data is not being shared or sold to any external entity. bj, can be reached at bj.dorsay@gmail.com and he is standing by and would welcome your updated contact information. If you are searching for the contact information from someone not in your class, please contact bj directly for assistance.

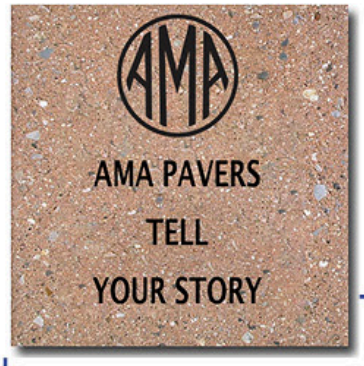
2. PLEASE REACH OUT and Contact those special inactive friends and classmates that you were closest to. We believe this is best done by phone. Voice to voice connection is still the most powerful and personal medium when face to face contact is not possible.

3. Work to convince those special friends that after this most traumatic of years, that we seek to rally in the valley, and re-connect with the young men with whom we experienced and shared the most formative years of our lives.

4. Together we can make the Spring reunion of 2021 the most successful and well attended event in recent memory. Too many of our alumni have drifted away and it is time to sound Reveille, Fall-in, and reverse the unwelcome trend of declining reunion attendance.

I hope you will join us in this important undertaking. Together, we can make a positive impact and difference for good that will be felt for many years to come. Pick your one (or two or three) and use whatever means necessary to include peer pressure, to bring our great alumni back home to the valley in 2021.

WHO IS YOUR ONE ?



Paver Order Form

Options:

4" x 8" ~ 3 lines of 20 characters each - $50
8" x 8" ~ 6 lines of 20 characters each - $100
8" x 8" ~ 3-6 lines of 20 characters plus graphic - $225
*number of lines depends on size of graphic

Left: example of 8 x 8 with graphic and three lines of text.

Fill in the blanks below. **PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY!** Only one paver per order form. Print additional copies for additional pavers. When you buy a paver, you SUPPORT AMA'S ALUMNI FOUNDATION.

Your Name : _____ Class, if any: _____

Address: _____ City, State, Zip: _____

Phone: (_____) _____ - _____ Email: _____

WHAT SIZE PAVER DO YOU WANT? ____ 4" x 8" - $50
____ 8" x 8" - $100
____ 8" x 8" with _____ graphic - $225
graphic at ____ top or ____ bottom

Punctuation marks and spaces count as characters!

* contact museum for custom size and placement of graphic, additional charges may apply

Please PRINT below what you want on your engraved brick:

Line 1: _
Line 2: _
Line 3: _
Line 4: _
Line 5: _
Line 6: _

Mail form to: AMA Museum, PO BOX 100, FORT DEFIANCE, VA 24437
Include check or money order made payable to AMA Alumni Foundation
OR call the museum at (540) 248-3007 with your credit card information
OR email form to museum@AMAalumni.org, then call with payment information
OR call the museum to place your paver order over the phone.

BAND | AMA | ROLLER RIDERS | ROLLER RIFLES

Revised May 2020

Brick Order Form

Doug Pennock's Viewpoint
December 2020

Editor's Note:
The following expressions are mine alone. I look forward to your feedback. You may contact me directly at:
chairman.amafoundation@amaalumni.org

I spoke to Jerry Izenberg AMA '48 a few months ago and had a very enlightening conversation with him.
I first met Jerry at the 2008 Reunion which was the year he was inducted into the AMA Sports hall of fame. Ironically, he was inducted into the AMSHOF for his participation in JV Baseball and Basketball, and not for his amazing accomplishments as an award winning Sports Writer! I noticed that Jerry's name tag showed that he was a member of the class of 1948, the same year my dad Charles "Chuck" Pennock had graduated. I asked Jerry if he remembered my Dad, he did, and to my delight, he had many wonderful things to say about him. We probably chatted for 45 minutes.
The reason I called Jerry earlier this year, was to ask him if he would consider writing a brief story about his years at AMA. When I asked, Jerry paused a few seconds, and said something like; "Doug, you don't want me to write a story on my years at AMA". I was a little surprised by his answer, so I asked him why not? Jerrys answer was enlightening and frankly, disturbing to me.
For the last two and a half years since I took on the task of writing and editing the monthly AMA Museum Newsletter, I have attempted to put together an informative and truthful document that shares fresh and historical information relevant to all AMA Alumni. I also highlight what the Alumni Foundation Board is currently working on, and plans to accomplish looking forward.
My personal commentary, Doug's Viewpoint, theme of the month is always impromptu and from the heart. I never know what I will write about until I actually sit at my computer and start pecking away. I can be a bit direct but will always endeavor to sign off with a positive message that hopefully we can all take something from. I apologize for this month's commentary's subject, but I have been thinking about my conversation with Jerry and I felt that my sharing this AMA not so pleasant historical fact, is appropriate at this stage of our history.

Jerry went on to tell me that during his four year stay at AMA, he was constantly harassed with anti-Semitic insults and innuendos. The problem was that the anti-Semitic abuse mostly came from members of the school's administration, so there was nothing Jerry could do about it.

Jerry's response to this reality was to keep his head down, stay out of trouble and make good grades. Jerry's passion was music and he could play many musical instruments, was a member of Band Company and the AMA Orchestra. Jerry's mother even paid for a private music tutor from Staunton who would visit Jerry on campus during his free time. Jerry was the most proficient musician at AMA at that time and he was seriously considering becoming a professional musician after finishing his formal education.

The most cutting abuse that Jerry suffered was his senior year when the Faculty member who was the director of Band Company and the AMA School Orchestra, Major Martin Manch, removed Jerry from the Band Company and the AMA Orchestra for the reasons I am alluding to in this article!

All of us had our rough spells at AMA, but the reality was that if you were a white, Christian and an English-speaking cadet at AMA, you would pretty much have control over your day-to-day destiny. Hazing of rats is excluded from this observation and I do not have a problem with that.

I would like to apologize to Jerry and all of the Cadets that suffered the same abuse before, during and after his years at AMA. The fact that he persevered and graduated from AMA then continued on to College at Rutgers University and went on to become one of America's top Sports Writer's goes to his character and temperament.

In closing, I can share with you that even today, Jerry Izenberg AMA '48, supports the AMA Foundation with a yearly donation and he assured me that he fully supports what we are doing at the museum.

Doug out

Ad Astra Per Aspera!

PX/Gift Shoppe

SHOP HERE

NEW!!!!

Christmas Baskets Now Available

FREE SHIPPING!

BONUS GIFT

Offer ends December 31, 2020

With the purchase of $50 or more from the PX, you will have your choice of one FREE copy of AMA WAY or the ROLLER RIFLE RETIREMENT CD! ($25 Value!)

Note: Postage will be billed separately.

VIDEO SPOTLIGHT

Roller Rifles Retirement - 2011

Roller Rifles Retirement - Part 1

WATCH HERE

amazonsmile
You shop. Amazon gives.

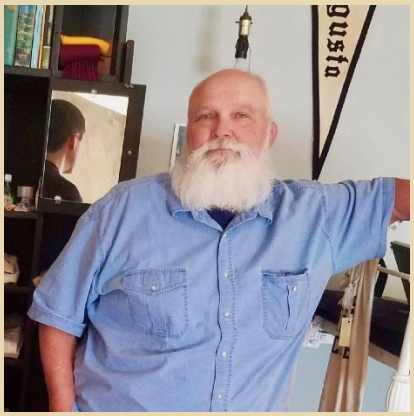
Painless Giving

Imagine if you could send the AMA Foundation a little bit of money every time you bought something on

Amazon. YOU CAN if you sign up to Amazon Smile.
ou are going to buy stuff anyway, why not allow Amazon to help the Museum?

vanBreemen Expressions

Rich vanBreemen is the AMA Museum's interim Administrator/Collections Curator



December 1, 2020

Challenge

If there is one word that sums up 2020, CHALLENGE would be it. However, this article has nothing to do with 2020. The Museum is home for a reasonable collection of CHALLENGE COINS and the staff is presently going about making that display more appealing to the public and enhance its significance. So, what the heck is a CHALLENGE COIN and why do we care about them?

There are several stories about how CHALLENGE COINS came about, the most popular is that they were first struck by a wealthy AEF officer/pilot in The Great War for the men in his squadron. It was used as both a morale booster and for unit identification. According to lore a downed pilot was

saved from execution by the French when the coin proved he was an American. You can learn more about the history of CHALLENGE COINS here: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Challenge_coin

My experience with being "challenged" was nothing that heroic. It was late February, 1979, and I was a naïve 2 striper in the USAF. The C-5A Galaxy that had been my home for the previous 36 hours dumped me in Kadena Okinawa late at night. 30 minutes after clearing security, my brother, who had been stationed there for several years, had me tipping beers in some little bar off "Whisper Alley" in a less than reputable side of town. The whole place was smaller than a 2-car garage. My brother, myself and 8 Marines about filled the place up. They were showing 8mm stag films on a white sheet hanging from the wall, so you get the idea - it was a real classy joint. Suddenly, one of the Marines yells "HAND CHECK" and everyone in the place throws their arms up in the air. The last guy to get his arms up (me) has to buy the bar a round.

That was my first experience with the "CHALLENGE" which has evolved into what we now know as CHALLENGE COINS. Today, when presented with a CHALLENGE COIN, you are supposed to present yours in response – or face the consequence of buying a round; I supposed that's more civilized than what I experienced. All I know is they weren't a popular item with the military during my limited career.

The coins had reached mainstream acceptance (and a more politically correct usage) by the time of Operation Freedom (2001). Today, practically every military unit, every police, fire and special services department has their own coin. Many Corporations use a variation of the CHALLENGE COIN for moral boosters and rewards. In the way we used to trade baseball cards, people now trade CHALLENGE COINS. Coins unique to an individual are more sought after than unit coins, but everyone has their one niche coin they are after. Good luck to you if you can snag a Presidential Challenge coin!

The Museum of the AMA faced a dilemma when it came to displaying its collection of nearly 100 CHALLENGE COINS. The display stand being used was so full, you couldn't see the forest for the trees and there was no way to discern what each coin represented. So, we moved some displays around and are building a new display board. We are also cataloging each

coin and are working on a way to show both sides of the coin as well as learn the story behind each coin and who it is from. The new board will hold close to 200 coins.

Rich vanBreemen
Interim Museum Administrator/Collections curator

The 2020 FALL BAYONET

READ HERE

The Museum Newsletter is written and prepared by Doug Pennock and edited by Trudy Pennock

This issue of the AMA Museum Newsletter was sponsored by: The class of 1971

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.

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