Ad Astra Per Aspera

MUSEUM OF AUGUSTA MILITARY ACADEMY NEWSLETTER

August - 2021

"It does not matter how slowly you go as long as you do not stop."
-Confucius-

Chairman’s Note

August 1, 2021

Dear readers,

July was a noteworthy month.
It started with the accustomed 4th of July weekend and the celebration of our Nation's 245th Birthday. A few days later, I received the sad news that Linda Livick had passed.
Immediately after receiving that news, I felt an urge to travel to Fort Defiance to attend her Memorial Service and was fortunate to be joined in this trip with two of my AMA brothers, Tom Del Valle and Garry Granger.

On Friday July 9, Tom, Garry and I met at Richmond airport and drove to Staunton. We gathered at the iconic Old Stone Church late Saturday morning to join the Livick family, friends and fellow AMA Alumni to celebrate Linda's life. The church was filled to capacity and after the conclusion of the service, I met with Col. Mal, Mal Jr., Lee and Todd Livick. I expressed my sincere condolences, shook their hands and gave each a hug. I was moved by Col. Livick obvious surprise and happiness at seeing me. That alone validated the reason I travelled so far to be there with my extended AMA family.

Tom, Garry and I spent Sunday at the Museum hanging out and greeting fellow alumni and guests as they arrived to the old campus to visit the museum. I was particularly invigorated by a young couple who I greeted at the front steps of the Museum that morning. I asked them if they had any association with AMA and they did not. I then asked them why they stopped and their answer was that they had seen the Museum Sign on Interstate 81 so many times, that they finally decided to come in for a visit! For the record, they had seen the sign over the last 14 years without stopping at the Museum!

Within a minute of meeting them, and as we all stood on the blacktop, I began telling them details about what day-to-day life was at AMA. I started what was to become a 30 plus minute narrative of what our typical day, week and year was like, beginning with reveille, forming up on the blacktop and marching everywhere including classes, Soupy, Church, penalty tours and town leave. They listened, laughed and sometimes would interrupt me to ask questions about cadet life. I was most definitely in a Docent zone, happily responding to all of their questions!

After wrapping up my detailed account of the life of an AMA Cadet, I asked Chris to give them a tour of the museum. Chris has become a master AMA Museum Docent! I am really amazed at how much he has learned and assimilated about our lives while attending Augusta. The couple spent an hour inside the Museum and when they left, I was given a hug and a kiss by the lady visitor and a handshake and slap on the back by her husband. The coolest part of this story to me is, that the couples' weekend was made extraordinary because they visited our little museum on a beautiful summer day in Fort Defiance.

So was mine!

Team effort!

Douglas W. Pennock
Chairman
AMA Alumni Foundation, Inc.

AMA FOUNDATION NEWS
August - 2021

Left to right
Top Row: Ed Click '50, Krista (with Jim Mitchell), Jim Mitchell '76, Tommy White '77, Scott Travers '70, Steve Trent '70

Second Row: Rod Willey '51, Tom Del Valle '73, Chris Vetick '77, Brett Thompson '75, Gordon Metz '67
Third row: Garry Granger '71, Susan Lambert Yates (Stuart Hall '73), Colleen Vetick, Doug Pennock '72
Fourth row: Victor Gomez '69

On Saturday July 10, 2021, 15 (13 are pictured) AMA Alumni assembled at the Old Stone Church in Fort Defiance to attend Linda Roller Livick memorial service.
The church was filled to overcapacity, a testament to how Linda had touched so many over her lifetime.
Mal Livick Jr. read several verses of poetry that were written by Linda's Grandmother and Todd Livick gave a moving eulogy.
We will certainly miss our Matriarch and her graceful Southern charm at this years reunion.

Noble Legends

The museum's Noble Legends speaker series continued on July 21 with Dr. Edmund Potter, Verona's 116th Infantry Regiment Museum curator.
Dr. Potter described the causes and consequences of the National Guardsmen from Augusta County providing security along the Texas-Mexico border on the eve of WW1
The Noble Legends speaking tour will continue throughout the summer.

AMAAF joins the Augusta County Public School Supply Drive

The AMA Alumni Foundation joined forces with the Augusta County community to purchase and donate school supplies for the underprivileged children of **Claymore Elementary School** of Ft. Defiance. $500 was donated by the AMA Alumni Foundation and an additional $900 was collected by members of the AMA Alumni Board, including $200 worth of supplies that Trudy Pennock sent the Museum via Amazon Prime!

Amy will be purchasing the supplies such as pencils, crayons, earbuds, notebooks and wet wipes, and will deliver them personally to the school Principal o Wednesday August 4.
Thank you to everyone that donated or collaborated with this worthwhile community outreach program!

The AMA Alumni Museum will be hosting a Fall Festival on October 9, 2021

We are hoping that if it this event turns out to be well attended, we will make it an annual event.

There will be games, food trucks, and local crafters. If you can volunteer to help with this event, please contact Amy Hensley at the Museum.

Register for the September 17-18 Reunion!

The earlier everyone registers, the sooner the Reunion Committee can plan for all of the catering needs!
This years registration has turned out to be strong, so we expect a good turnout! Don't miss what promises to be the best reunion in a few years!

CLICK HERE TO REGISTER

AMA Reunion 2021 Itinerary / Schedule

Thursday, 9/16/21 No Official Program Event

0900-1500 Hours	**AMA Museum** and **Gift Shop/PX OPEN**
1600-2000 Hours	**Early Registration** and **Hospitality Room** open **Blackburn Inn**
1600-2000 Hours	**Tower of Power** Tickets; **50/50 Raffle** Tickets; and **.45 Cal AMA Pistol** Raffle Tickets for sale at **Registration Desk Blackburn Inn**

Friday, 9/17/21

0730-1630 Hours	Registration **AMA GYMNASIUM**
0730-1630 Hours	**Tower of Power** Tickets; **50/50 Raffle** Tickets; and **.45 Cal AMA Pistol** Raffle Tickets and **Specialty Basket view** at **AMA Gymnasium**
0800-1630 Hours	**AMA Museum** and **Gift Shop/PX OPEN**
0800-0930 Hours	**Hospitality Soupy** call at **Hoover Hall** serving AMA Breakfast: Eggs, Bacon sandwiches, over toasted toast, Onion tasting Milk, Coffee.
0800-1600 Hours	**Historical Tour**- President James Madison Home "Montpelier" **Tour Bus Departing from Blackburn Inn**
0900-1600 Hours	**Golf Outing Ingleside**…on your own. Ingleside…where is "Walter"
1000 hours	**Sporting Clays** Flying Rabbit (**Register 1000 hours - Shoot 1030 hours**)
1200-1330 Hours	**Hospitality Soupy** call …Hot Dogs and Burgers cookout at **Hoover Hall**
1400-1600 Hours	**AMA Sports** in **Front Field**
1400-1530 Hours	**Ladies of AMA ART**, Hoover Hall
1730- 1830 Hours	**Welcome and Hospitality**, Frontier Culture Museum, Staunton
1800-2200 Hours	**On-line Auction** continues
1830-1945 Hours	**Texas Style BBQ** - Frontier Culture Museum, Staunton
1945-2200 Hours	**GROG Ceremony TRIBUTE TO AMA FACULTY & STAFF** – Frontier Culture Museum, Staunton

Saturday, 9/18/21

0730-0815 Hours	**Hospitality Soupy** AMA breakfast at **Hoover Hall** … Pastries, day old doughnuts, AMA coffee
0730-1045 Hours	**AMA Museum** and **Gift Shop/PX OPEN**
0730-1300 Hours	**Registration** open **AMA Gymnasium**
0730-1300 Hours	**Tower of Power** Tickets; **50/50 Raffle** Tickets; and **.45 Cal AMA Pistol** Raffle Tickets and **Specialty Basket viewing** at **AMA Gymnasium**.
0830-0930 Hours	**AMA Alumni General Membership Meeting** at the **Big Room**
0945-1045 Hours	**AMA Foundation Meeting** at the **Big Room**
1115-1230 Hours	**Founder's Day Ceremony**, Old Stone Church Cemetery.
1300-1500 Hours	**AMA Luncheon and program - AMA Gymnasium** (Roller Society, Sports Hall of Fame, Tribute to the AMA Museum, Special Presentations)
1530 Hours	**ONLINE Auction CLOSES at Gymnasium**
1500-1600 Hours	**AMA MUSEUM** and **Gift Shop/PX OPEN Last Call**
1800-1900 Hours	Cash Bar **Blackburn Inn**
1915-2100 Hours	**Banquet and Program - Blackburn Inn** (AMA Legacy Scholarship, AMA Medal, Drawings Tower of Power, 50/50, Raffle)
2100-2300 Hours	**Hospitality Suite** open - **Blackburn Inn**

PISTOL RAFFLE 2021

Tickets for a chance to win this engraved Rock Island Armory 1911 .45 ACP pistol are on sale now!

Ticket cost are $25.00 or
5 tickets for $100.00

A maximum of 250 tickets will be sold

You may purchase tickets by contacting the Museum at 540-248-3007 **Pistol Raffle Tickets**

The winning raffle number will be drawn at the Saturday evening Reunion event. You do not need to be present to win!

You must be 21 years or older to participate in this raffle.

This raffle is void where prohibited by law.

Who is your ONE?

Reach out to an old classmate, roommate or teammate today! Challange them to attend Reunion 2021 in September!

REUNION COMMITTEE ANNOUNCEMENTS

Reunion 2021 is only 7 weeks away!

- All Reunion 2021 Alumni and guests that have a reservation at one of the two overflow hotels should make sure the hotel is aware that you have a special AMA rate. Fairfield Inn - 540-213-4100, has offered a $96 per night rate and the Tru Hotel - 540-213- 4000, has offered a $89 per night rate. Both of the overflow hotels will honor the special room rates until **August 25th**! There are a limited amount of Rooms available.

- We need dynamic items for the On-Line Auction.... Please donate Vacation spots, art, nice jewelry, small modern kitchen appliances (air fryer ,Keurig), gift cards for National retailers, etc. Send pictures of the items and Contact Mike Kidd mkidd72@gmail.com or Rich Van Breeman amacurator@gmail.com

- The bus tour to James Madison's home, Montpelier is filling up fast.... We currently have 32 reservations and the bus holds 56 souls. If you want to attend, please sign up now.

- It is very important to register sooner than later for the reunion. We need an accurate headcount in order to finalize food and beverage needs with the caterers.

- All Ad Astra's that will be attending the reunion need to get in contact with Bob Hume. Bob is organizing a private Ad Astra get together at the Stonewall Jackson Hotel on Thursday evening (September 16). You can contact Bob at: 540-434-0288 or rhume1304@gmail.com

- If you and your guest(s) plan to join us for Breakfast at Hoover Hall on Friday and Saturday and wish to grab a Hot Dog or Burger on Friday for lunch on campus, please let Amy know as soon as possible. We want to make sure that there will be plenty of food for the CW's to serve everyone...

The Ladies of AMA have been activated!!

Trudy Pennock, Doug '72
Kiki Rovirosa, Jorge '70
Becky Granger, Garry '71

Reunion 2021 is only 7 weeks away, and we are excited that this year there will be an event for the ladies. On Friday, September 17, Kiki Rovirosa will be sharing her art knowledge as she helps us reveal our creativity on a canvas. Nothing to be afraid of, surely we all have some Matisse in our veins!!!
If you are not going on the bus tour, make sure to join us Friday at Hoover Hall from 2:00pm - 3:30pm. I know you will be delighted to brandish your art piece once you get back home. YES, the guys are welcomed to join us and show their creativity as well.

We are still looking for AMA ladies who would like to volunteer a few hours during reunion. Below a list of how you can help. Contact Trudy Pennock (trudypennock@yahoo.com) and copy Amy Hensley (museum@amaalumni.org) if you are willing and able to help.

Registration desk: Thursday 9/16 (4:00 - 8:00pm) at Blackburn Inn; Friday 9/17 (7:30am - 4:30pm) at AMA Gymnasium; Saturday 9/18 (7:30AM - 1:00pm) at AMA Gymnasium

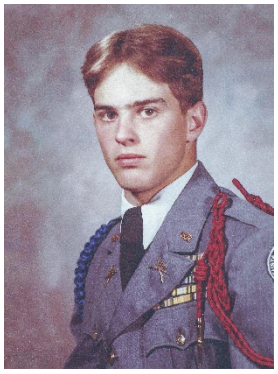
Frontier Museum: Friday 9/17 Set-up room (3:30pm - 5:00pm) Help with Grog Ceremony (8:45pm -10:00pm)

Blackburn Inn: Saturday 9/18 (7:15pm - 9:00pm) Help sell and collect money for wine bottles at tables (hotel personnel will open paid bottles)

It has been over two years since the last AMA Alumni reunion, so any help we can give the guys to make this a memorable reunion will be greatly appreciated.

AMA ALUMNI - if you are attending reunion with your better half, please share this newsletter with them.

Augusta Military Academy Oral History
MEMORIES FROM OUR ARCHIVES



By: Paul Karch, ’79

July 30, 2003

A Different Kind of Tour... When we talk about a “tour” today, we normally think of an organized vacation complete with guides, information about a (generally unknown) area that we are going to visit and instructions and direction.

My “tour” at AMA, from 1975 to 1979, however, was a different kind of tour, although with some similarities to our travel tours. It was without a doubt one of the most important and unforgettable periods of my life.

I remember well my arrival at Augusta Military Academy in 1975 – an unwilling participant in my parents’ experiment to “fix our son” – after an unsuccessful stint at a Northern Virginia High School. I had been rudely awakened one morning and told that I was to pack for an extended stay at a boarding school. Two days later, we left for AMA.

I was not a very promising cadet, I suppose, when we drove onto the campus: me with my hair to my shoulders, a miserable academic record and absolutely no direction. But all that was to change radically.

First things first: the hair had to go and it went. Next, being assigned to a room and, what? A roommate?! Then there was the uniform, going to sleep at a certain hour, Reveille at a certain hour ...

READ THE ENTIRE STORY HERE

-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

MUSEUM DOCENT DUTY

THANK YOU!

To those who volunteered in July

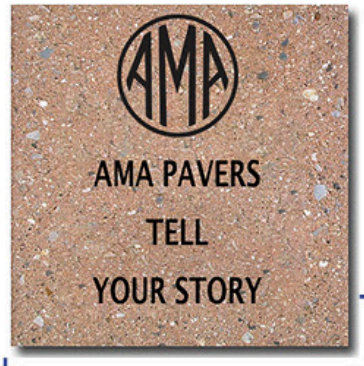
Doug Pennock '72
Tom Del Valle '73
Garry Granger '71
Charlie Pascale '69
Victor Gomez '69
Brian Miller '67
Brian Hart '66

Visitors in July

110

Museum Volunteer's

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



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

Paver Brick's were the most profitable single item sold at the Museum in 2020!

Please order yours TODAY!

Brick Order Form

SHOP THE PX

THESE ITEMS and MANY MORE

ARE AVAILABLE IN OUR ONLINE STORE,

shop.AMAalumni.org

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?

Doug Pennock's Viewpoint

August 1, 2021

I attended 3 memorial services over a one week period this July.
The first was in Fort Defiance on Saturday July 10, for Linda Livick, the second was Thursday July 15 for my Aunt Ginger Pennock, and the latest one was July 17 for an old family friend whom I have known since I was a toddler.
Although every memorial service I attended was held at a different location, (Virginia and Puerto Rico) I heard a similar message at each gathering. What most resonates with me and what I take away from the three services, is that life is so very short and is mostly taken for granted. People that I spoke to at each service expressed and shared stories of family and friends and their recollections of the life that their loved one had lived and the impact they had on their families, friends and community.
It is amazing how a smile, a kind word or just listening to someone's confession, pain or happiness can touch a person in a profound way.

Each and every one of the people whose service I attended this past week have touched thousands of lives in an intense manner. I am one of the thousands and can attest to that.
I hope that when my day comes, I should be so fortunate to be remembered by a few people that feel the way I do today.
Family and friends are the most precious treasure we have. I urge everyone to take extra time every day to remind them how much you cherish and appreciate and love them.
If you have signed up for September's Alumni Reunion, good for you. If you have not, please consider attending. Time is running faster than you can imagine, and what a sad thing it would be if you don't attend the reunion, and someone you are fond of showed up looking forward to see you but will not be with us to make next year's reunion.

Doug out

Ad Astra Per Aspera!

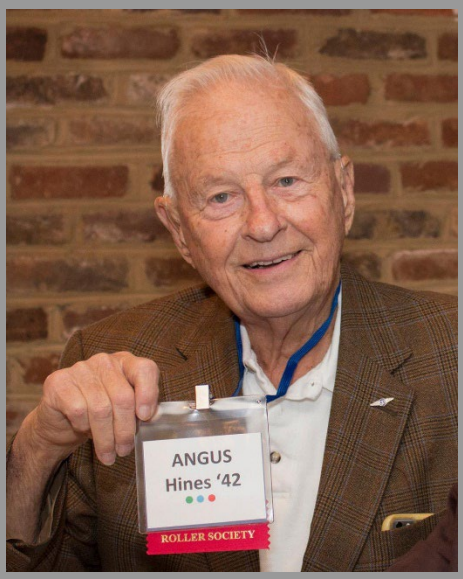
Editor's Note:
The following expressions are mine alone. I look forward to your feedback. You may contact me directly at:
chairman.amafoundation@amaalumni.org

Notable members of the AMA Family that have passed since our last reunion

Linda Roller Livick

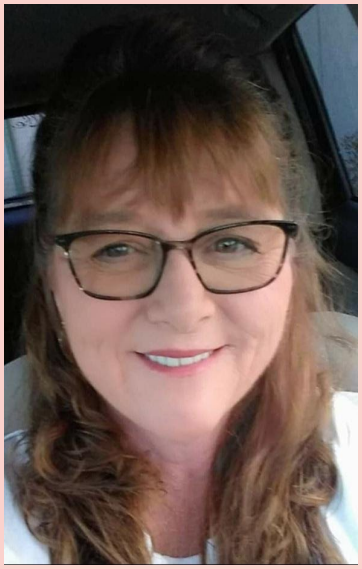
George Reeves

Mark "Henry" Femrite



Angus Hines

Stride Coleman



From the Administrators Desk

August 1, 2021

Hello!

Can you believe we are now through July and August is upon us! We are just about 45 days to Reunion 2021!
It has been a busy summer here at the Museum. August will end our Noble Legends Speaker Series that started in May. This has been an excellent program and we are looking forward to starting a second “season” beginning in March. Not only have we had support of this program from the community, but also had a few Alumni in attendance as well.
PX sales are doing very well. New items have been added and will be appearing on the website very soon. We have added long sleeve shirts, golf shirts. I encourage everyone to please check out the online PX.
The Alumni Foundation along with Foundation Board members have raised over $1,600 for school supplies for E.G. Clymore Elementary School in Fort Defiance. The Museum staff will be presenting these supplies to the school Principal, Fonda Morris on August 5th. The supplies will be issued to underprivileged children whose families would not otherwise be able to purchase the supplies needed.
All of us at the Museum look forward to seeing everyone at Reunion 2021. If you have not registered, you can do so by going on to the AMA website or call the Museum and I will be happy to get your registration completed. If you live local or will be in the area please come by and visit. If you can donate a few hours of your time and docent on the weekend that would be greatly appreciated.
I look forward to seeing everyone soon!

Warmest Regards,

Amy Hensley
Office Administrator, AMA Alumni Museum

vanBreemen Expressions

Academy Trained

August 1, 2021

When I started working at the AMA Museum, I had very little knowledge of the school's history. As such, I made numerous errors in the beginning - thankfully minor.

It was then I first heard the phrase "Academy Trained". I wasn't sure what to make of that, but I eventually understood it to be a self-deprecating, humorous reference to having gotten poor instructions or not heeding those instructions while at the academy.

Being an Air Force veteran, I'm used to the brotherly jabs between colleges, especially the uniform wearing kind. Receiving those jabs from alumni is actually a form or a compliment, given that I never attended AMA – I guess it means you accept me. The inside joke of being "Academy Trained" comes up often in committee meetings, discussions and work days.

One of the dourer aspects of my job is tracking down alum, faculty and staff then finding out that they have passed. The obituary section in the last issue of the Bayonet is a testament to those efforts by BJ d'Orsay, Ainsley Bloomfield and myself. In the spirit of wholeness for these obituaries, we attempt to gather as much information about the deceased as we can. It is often an eye-opening experience; many of those who were "Academy Trained" went on to be highly successful and productive members of their communities.

The expression, “Academy Trained” plays out as humorous mostly because it is 180 degrees out of phase with reality. What I repeatedly find is that the training – not just necessarily the education – cadets received while at AMA enabled them to be successful. It taught them (you) how to deal with adversity and how to overcome life’s hurdles. You learned the most important life lessons of TEAM WORK, Comradery, Perseverance, and HONOR. These lessons were delivered to you when you were most impressionable – your high school years and they stuck.

Now, at 62 years old I find myself envious of your rich history and regret never having had that opportunity. I am, however, grateful when I screw up and I get accused of being “Academy Trained”. Not a bad company of people to be associated with.

Rich vanBreemen
Curator, Museum of the Augusta Military Academy

NEW!!

The 2021 SUMMER 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 "views" at Bald Rock

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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