Ad Astra Per Aspera

MUSEUM OF AUGUSTA MILITARY ACADEMY NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER - 2021

"Live simply, love generously, care deeply, speak kindly, leave the rest to God."

- Ronald Reagan -

Chairman's Note

September 1, 2021

Dear readers,

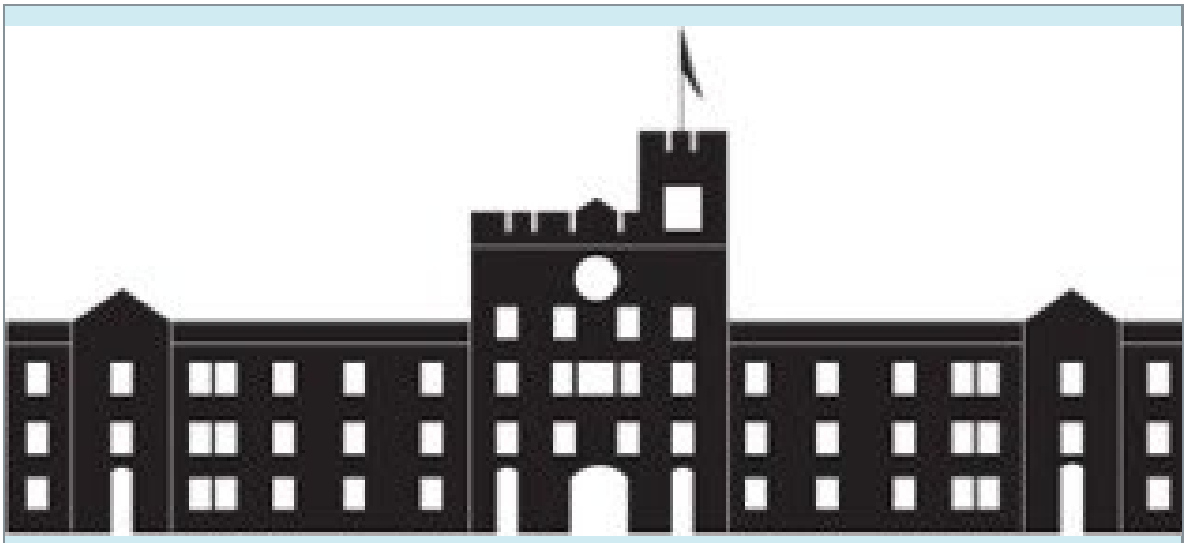
Wow! Summer is almost over and the Fall season is just around the corner!
The AMA Alumni Community has patiently waited for nearly two and a half years to once again assemble in Staunton and Fort Defiance to celebrate our annual reunion, albeit in the Fall instead of the Spring.
I look forward to seeing everyone the weekend of September 17th and I know that the rest of the AMA Alumni Foundation and Association teams are anxious to get the show started! All indications are that this years

reunion will be very well attended, as of August 31, we have well over one hundred registered attendees!
The Foundation Board Reunion Support Committee members and the Museum Staff have put in an enormous amount of time and effort to make sure that this reunion will be one that everyone remembers fondly. Many people have put in the extra time and effort to assure the success of this year's reunion, but I would like to recognize the amazing effort and work of 2 ½ years by Committee Co-Chairs Jorge Rovirosa '70 and Garry Granger '71!
Dozens and dozens of Zoom meetings, conference calls and visits to Ft. Defiance later is the reason that each and every detail of this year's reunion will fall into place as effortlessly just as the Roller Rifle drill team performances. Preparation, practice and a lot of hard work will result in what should appear to the casual reunion 2021 attendee as a "cake walk" to organize and run. Nothing could be further from the truth!
So, we look forward to seeing and sharing time and stories with all of our brother alumni. If by the unlikely chance that some part of your reunion experience is not up to your expectations, please feel free to reach out to Amy or myself. We will be happy to try and resolve whatever may be the issue, but please keep in mind that a tremendous amount of work and effort has been dedicated to this event by a small handful of volunteers. No matter what the final outcome, which I expect to be an outstanding one, each and every one of them deserve our support and appreciation!
See you in a few weeks.

Team effort!

Douglas W. Pennock
Chairman
AMA Alumni Foundation, Inc.

AMA Alumni Foundation News



ATTENTION IN THE BARRACKS!

Augusta Military Academy
Legacy Preservation Corps

Purpose:

To create a committee of descendants and/or friends of Augusta Military Academy Alumni, Faculty and Staff, who are as passionate about the Academy and dedicated to Preserving AMA's Legacy and to:

- Learn the history of our Academy
- Be trained to be an effective docent at the museum
- Keep the memories and stories of AMA alive
- Manage the AMA Alumni Foundation into perpetuity

Expectations:

- Meet regularly
- Develop a structure of management / leadership
- Seek participants
- Assist with financial stability
- Protect and preserve AMA's history, artifacts and legacy

How to get involved:

- Contact AMA's Curator at amacurator@gmail.com
- Contact AMA's Museum Director at museum@amaalumni.org

More on this innovative initiative during the reunion

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

We are hoping that if 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 2021 Reunion!

There is still time to attend reunion, but the Reunion Committee needs to know in the next two weeks so they 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**

The Online Auction has been switched on!

Click Here

Who is your ONE?

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

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.

The Ladies of AMA have been activated!!

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

Reunion 2021 is only 3 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.

If you would like to volunteer a few hours during reunion contact Trudy Pennock (trudypennock@yahoo.com) and copy Amy Hensley (museum@amaalumni.org).

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 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

Frank Williamson, ‘60

May, 2020

“Well Franklin, tell us about yourself”, asked the tall, handsome assistant football coach, Major Mal Livick. This was my idea of what was going to be “a walk in the park.” I related my high school graduation, great junior year with letters coming from many colleges expressing their interests in my football abilities. Added to that, I told Major Livick about my tragic Senior season as co-captain of the Benedictine High School Cadets football team. In the 2nd game of the season, I was clipped on a punt return and my leg was broken. After 5 weeks in a cast, I was knocked unconscious (again on a punt return, but a legal tackle.) I “came to” in an ambulance on the way to the hospital. Soooo, the letters started to become few and far between. In actuality, I had missed my Senior year football season. At the end of this litany, AMA Head Coach Bill Ralph joined us and agreed that I should have one military school football season before entering college level football. Then Coach Ralph stood up and I said to myself, “My God, he’s a giant”! Bill Ralph, a VMI graduate, 3 letter man, just towered over me. He was about 6’7” & 275 lbs. Meeting him reinforced why General Roller, “The Big Boy” hired Ralph as his football coach. I never got over the fact that he could throw a football 70 yards while standing flat-footed still. We had a great year with 5 wins, 1 loss & 3 ties.

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 Museum will be assured.

SET UP YOUR MONTHLY DONATION HERE

MUSEUM DOCENT DUTY

THANK YOU!

To those who volunteered in August

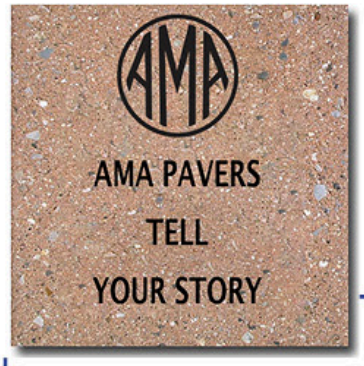
Steve Trent '70
Charlie Pascale '69
Brett Thompson '75
Brian Miller '67
Brian Hart '66

Visitors in August

88

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

September 1, 2021

Dear Readers,

As I sit watching the various network news feeds reporting on the disaster that is playing out in Afghanistan, I can't help to ask myself, what has happened to our country?
In my 68 years, I have witnessed many historical highs and lows created or somehow related to our great republic's elected leaders.
My earliest memories of what were to be major global impacting events began when our country was fully engaged in a "Cold War" with the Soviet Union. President Kennedy's brave response to Nikita Khrushchev's attempt to fill Cuba with ballistic missiles targeting the U.S. in 1962 which was a possible precursor to World War III. Kennedy placed a line in the Caribbean with a naval blockade, and Khrushchev blinked. Yet, only a year before, Kennedy had unexpectedly and without warning, decided to pull our military's support and aid to the Cuban Freedom Fighters at the infamous "Bay of Pigs"

invasion. Thousands of Cuban Freedom Fighters were killed or imprisoned because of his decision, and the Castro regime has controlled Cuba with an iron fist for over the last 60 years.

In November of 1963, President Kennedy was assassinated, and our country was shocked, but EVERY American came together and mourned and healed together.

President Johnson ramped up our military presence in Vietnam in 1964 and eleven years later when the US pulled out of Saigon (in an eerily similar fashion that we have left Afghanistan), over 58,000 men and women had perished in a war (Conflict) that tore the fabric and morale of the American people apart.

President Nixon resigned in August of 1974 just a little over a year after he had negotiated the Paris Peace Accords which ended the war in Vietnam. Our country was in a tailspin.

The Arab Oil Embargo began in the early 70's and the quagmire which is the "Middle East" was introduced to the American people. In November of 1979, during President Jimmy Carter's presidency, 54 US embassy workers were taken hostage by the Iranian Revolutionary Army. 444 days later, on January 20, 1981, all of the hostages were released minutes after President Ronald Reagan took the oath of office. America came together again and celebrated.

Reagan rebuilt our military and economy and in 8 years brought the US's reputation and pride back to top form at home and internationally. In 1989 the Berlin wall came down. The "Cold War" had been won by the U.S.

On September 11, 2001, America was attacked by our enemies from the Middle East, and the War Terror began.

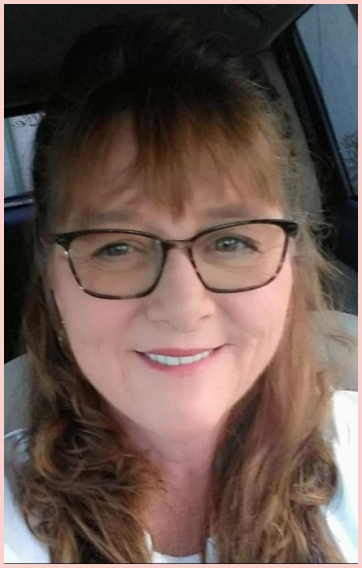
In 2003 the U.S. was forced to return to the Middle east to liberate Kuwait from the tyrant Saddam Hussein. Operation "Iraqi Freedom" was a resounding success and brought back the Nations love, admiration, and respect for our fighting men and women which had been lost years before at the conclusion of the Vietnam war. America had been forced to do the right thing for humanitarian reasons and by doing so, had been unwillingly forced into the role of the "bodyguard of the globe".

Nearly after 20 years and over 4,500 precious US military lives later, (and an additional 2,500 lost in Iraq) we have now pulled out of Afghanistan.
It is obvious to me that the amazing show of unbelievable incompetence shown by our POLITICAL leaders at this moment in history, is a clear and scary snapshot of where we are today as a country. I am embarrassed and alarmed at how rapidly our country seems to be unraveling before our and the international community's eyes.
Yet, in spite of the abundance incompetence by our elected leaders and their naive and clueless advisors, a silver lining has appeared in the middle of this chaos. It is once again made possible by the men and women of our Armed Forces! The dozens of freedom flights out of Kabul Afghanistan carried out every 45 minutes 24/7 in USAF C-117's from a single runway under heavy fire has saved as many souls every day of the airlift, that were evacuated from Saigon nearly 50 years ago!
I apologize to all our brave members of the United States Military that have served honorably, have shed blood, and have given their lives in service to our country in this long and complicated mess in the Middle East. Just know that so many your country men and women are immensely proud and thankful for your sacrifice.
I pray that our elected leaders, will be able to find a way to return to intelligent, collaborative and non-divisive approaches where all Americans can come together and heal collectively for the common good of our great country.

God Bless America.

Doug out.

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



From the Administrators Desk

September 1, 2021

Happy September! We are just a few weeks away from Reunion and the final preparations are being made. The staff and I will be making sure the Museum house will be standing tall when everyone arrives!
Our last month has been a busy one! We have had a nice group of visitors to include a visit from the cadets of St Benedictines Military School in Richmond VA. I would like to thank Ed Rogerville, Steve Trent, Brian Miller and Brett Thompson for their help when the cadets were here. Sharing your experiences first hand with these young men is very valuable insight as they embark on their own unique experience.
I would also like to give the Museum staff a great big THANK YOU for all their support and hard work. I greatly appreciate their daily effort as they are providing tours, assisting with admin work and helping in the prep work for reunion. Thank you Rich, Chris and Ainsley for your willingness to participate in the whole team effort!
The PX has done remarkable this month and there have been a few new items added. We have added AMA Alumni shirts in long sleeve and in the Polo golf shirt. Please be sure to check out the PX online at amaalumni.org.

If you have not registered for the Reunion or made a raffle ticket purchase, please be sure to go to the website and register or purchase your raffle tickets.
Over the past several months I have spoken with many of you and I am looking forward to meeting everyone at Reunion. I thank you all for welcoming me and making me feel like a part of AMA family. I wish everyone safe travels as you make your way here.

God Bless!

Amy Hensley
Administrative Director
AMA Alumni Museum

vanBreemen's Expressions

COMING HOME

By: Rich vanBreemen
September 1, 2021

The museum is an interesting place. It serves as a reminder of the Academy's presence and its function. It is also a sort of AMA "Mecca" – a destination on a journey of remembrance. Sometimes, when alum come to visit, they drop off items of interest for the museum. These are usually parts of uniforms, RECALLs, some documentation or photographs. However, every once in a while, something truly unique wanders in.

One such item came to us last week by way of Herb Hausmann, class of 1958. As Mr. Hausmann described it to me, he came to possess Doc Savedge's personal collection of arrowheads, which were on display in the Colonel's classroom throughout the 50's. Mr. Hausmann couldn't recall if Doc sold or gave them to him, but Herb has had them as one of his prized possessions for over 50 years!

The arrowheads were collected at an old Indian burial ground, about 15 miles west of the General Braddock Memorial near Fort Necessity National Park. This area marks some pivotal events (with 20/20 hindsight) in the formation of the United States of America. A short history lesson about the area and its significance.

The French & Indian War of the mid 1700's, was arguably the result of a brash young Virginia Colonel of Militia named George Washington. Before the war had started, Colonel Washington was sent on a diplomatic mission into the Ohio Territory to persuade the French to leave the area, which the British claimed as their own.

Exceeding his original orders, Washington engaged the French and Indians near Fort Necessity – a fort under construction by Washington's troops to secure the area. Colonel Washington's command lost that engagement and it was the only time in Washington's long military career, that he ever surrendered to enemy forces.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Battle_of_Fort_Necessity

Those events along with others spiraled out of control culminating in the French & Indian War, also known as the Seven Years War.

It was during that war that Colonel Washington returned to the area under the command of British General Braddock, a man Col. Washington highly admired and respected. Again, they engaged the French and Indians in the area and once again were driven out. General Braddock was killed in the engagement and Colonel Washington took control of the panic driven troops, restoring order and carrying out a successful tactical retreat.
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Edward_Braddock

Colonel Savedge recounted this story to Cadet Hausmann and that the arrowheads had been dug up in and around the area that was Fort Necessity. He did not elaborate on whether he himself had dug them up or someone else. Herb Hausmann proudly displayed these artifacts for over 50 years, and now, with his health failing, he has donated them back to AMA where they will be proudly displayed in the classroom area of the museum. We will, as best we can, try to recount their story and how they have COME HOME.

It is our intent, that if the situation were to warrant it and the museum's collections are dispersed, that these arrowheads be brought back to Fort Necessity National Park to complete the final leg on their journey HOME.

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 2021 Reunion Committee

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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