Ad Astra Per Aspera

MUSEUM OF AUGUSTA MILITARY ACADEMY NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER - 2021

"Tonight, the sun will set on an empty barracks"

-Charles "The Big Boy" Roller-

Chairman's Note

October 1, 2021

Dear readers,

Reunion 2021 was a resounding success.
Thank you to everyone that attended!
Not only did we have a great turnout of over 110 souls, but thanks to the generous support of our sponsors, who donated a total of $16,500, we were able to keep the registration fees low, and we dramatically raised the quality of all meals!
I am happy to report that it appears that reunion 2021 realized a healthy net profit of over $20,000*! The PX generated an additional $3,800 in

sales for the two day event! Not too shabby considering a global pandemic has made the museum operation and AMA Foundation business more challenging than ever.
There were dozens of people who have been hard at work for over 2 1/2 years to assure that this reunion would turn out the way it did, but I would like to specifically point out and congratulate Jorge Rovirosa and Garry Granger for engaging and for successfully completing this herculean job. Thank you gentlemen!
*I will be sharing our final Reunion financial numbers with you next month, after our bookkeepers, Shen Valley Tax, certifies them.
In the meantime, The Foundation Board and I will be shifting gears to focus on many tasks and projects that are necessary to assure our future survival and securing our legacy, such as fundraising and the commencement of the **Legacy Preservation Corps**.

Please see the entire list of everyone that help make this year's reunion a success below!

Team effort!

Douglas W. Pennock
Chairman
AMA Alumni Foundation, Inc.

T H A N K Y O U !!!

Reunion - 2021

- **VA District United Pentecostal Church -** Great Landlords and friends to AMA

- **Jack White –** Oysters
- **Verona Fire Department -** Helping serve and prepare breakfast on Friday
- **New Hope Fire Department -** Hanging the American Flag in the gym and helping serve and clean up for Saturday's breakfast
- **Yamaha Golf Cart** – Donation of the six (6) passenger Golf Cart
- **Phil Bentley** – Scholarship Chair and organizing the Friday Clay Shoot
- **Rich vanBreeman** – Transporting the golf cart, handling the displays for the faculty & Staff posters, arranging the color guard and the bugler
- **Mike Kidd** – Barracks Donation Box, Sound system in the cemetery, canon jerker
- **Karen & Lee Ramsey** – Pitching in wherever needed
- **John Arthur** – SHOF Chair, AMAAF Secretary , SILVER Sponsor, All around helper
- **Nicky Syropoulos** – GROG participant, Portraying Professor Roller (Founders Day)
- **Tommy Pressly** – GROG Participant
- **Jim Mitchell** – GROG Participant, SHOF Inductee
- **Tom Del Valle** – Coming early and wrapping up numerous items, GROG MASTER, AMAAF Fund Raising Chairman, PLATINUM Sponsor
- **Brett Thompson –** GROG Container, American Flags posted around the campus, GOLD Sponsor
- **Coach David Trimble** – GROG participant
- **Elaine Huffman** – GROG Participant
- **Steve Trent** – AMAAA President, Keeper of the Hospitality Suite, GOLD Sponsor
- **B J d'Orsay** - Taking pictures, Bayonet Editor, coming early to help, transporting lacrosse goal and sticks from and to FMS , PLATINUM Sponsor

- **Larry Nicholson** – Founder's Day Master of Ceremonies, SILVER Sponsor
- **Gordon Metz**- Chaplin, SILVER sponsor
- **Brenda Metz** – Bringing delicious cookies/On call Nurse
- **Larry Reed** – On call Doctor
- **Don Studer** – Coming early to help, setting up the gym, helping in many ways, GOLD Sponsor
- **Amy Hensley** – Museum Director, Overseer of reunion
- **Tim Hensley** – Gold Cart driver
- **The Blackburn Inn** – Hosting R2021
- **Frontier Culture Museum** – Hosting the Tribute to the Faculty 7 Staff
- **Doug Pennock Gold Sponsor**
- **Ricardo Prado Sr.** – Playing the drums, DIAMOND sponsor
- **Frank Williamson** – Donations for the Bus Tour
- **Scott Travers**- Donation and preparation of Friday's Lunch, SILVER Sponsor
- **Eddie Thatcher** - Helping Scott Travers
- **Trudy Pennock** – Help with every event and driving the Ladies of AMA
- **Becky Granger** – Doing anything asked of her
- **Kiki Rovirosa** - Doing anything asked of her and leading the Painting Creativity session on Friday afternoon
- **Mary Baldwin College** – Color Guard
- **Victor Gomez** – Pistol Raffle, help with anything, spearheading the Latin alumni
- **Evelyn Gomez** – Helping with anything, making AMA Masks
- **Ainsley Bloomfield** – AMA Drawing, AMA Museum Intern/Staff
- **Chris Correa** – Docent Extraordinaire, AMA Museum Staff
- **Senator Emmett Hangar** – Republican 24th District / R2021 visitor
- **Delegate Jason Miyares** – Republican 82nd District / R2021 Visitor

- **Ashley Jones** – Volunteer, Scholarship recipient, Legacy Preservation Corps
- **Linda Roller Livick Family –** SILVER Sponsor
- **Bob Hume** – Arranging and funding the Ad Astra Cocktail Party
- **Jimmy van Breeman** – Last minute run for mixers
- **Kelly van Breeman** – Bartender
- **Aerial Crossan** – Bartender
- **Ed Rogerville –** SILVER Sponsor
- **Jim Belcher** – Speaker at Noble Legends, Leader of the legacy Preservation Corps
- **Virginia Hallock Family –** SILVER Sponsors
- **Susan Yates**- Sous Chef at Sunday breakfast, SILVER Sponsor, AMA Honorary Alumnus
- **Bruce Hemp** – Host of the Post Reunion Country Breakfast, Honorary Marine and Honorary AMA Alumnus
- **Debbie Nicholson** - Sous Chef at Bruce Hemp's post reunion Sunday breakfast
- **Tim Mannasmith** – GROG Participant, SHOF Inductee, Faculty
- **Mike Basto** – On-Line donations, SHOF Inductee
- **Fishburne Military School** – Blessing of the Flags and Sports equipment
- **PostNet Flower Mound, TX** – Printing Services
- **Paul Langford** – Masks & Hand Sanitizer
- **Brian & Sue Hart**- Registration, SILVER Sponsor
- **Shenandoah Trophies and Awards**- Shirts
- **Augusta Stone Presbyterian Church** – Friends of AMA
- **Billy Sturgis** – 50/50 & Tower of Power salesmanship
- **Brian Miller** – 50/50 winner and donating his winnings back (Thank You)
- **Tom Phillips & Bill Bissett** – SMA '74, thanks for coming to dinner Friday night
- **MARC ARONSON** – Diamond Sponsor
- **Bill McVey –** GOLD Sponsor

- **Warren Fleming –** GOLD Sponsor
- **Gary Cripps –** SILVER sponsor
- **Garry Granger** – Co-Chair R2021, MC Grog Ceremony, Script Writer, SILVER Sponsor
- **RICKY ELLET –** SILVER Sponsor
- **Dr. Mary DeCredico, US Naval Academy,** Past Member AMA Board of Trustees, SILVER Sponsor
- **Mid Valley Press**, Verona, Va
- **Va. Power Motor Sports**, Ruckersville, Va.
- **Food Lion**, Verona, Va.
- **Blackburn Inn and Conference Center**, Staunton, Va.
- **Hotel 24 South FKA: STONEWALL JACKSON Hotel**, Staunton, Va. – In Kind Contributors to R2021

AMA Alumni Foundation News

MEMORIES FROM REUNION 2021

Nicky Syropulus as "Professor Roller" at the Founders Day ceremony

Trudy Pennock enjoying her art class in Hoover Hall

"Ladies of AMA" Kiki Rovirosa and Becky Granger, hard at work

Evelyn Gomez Selling 50/50 Tickets

"The Chairman's Eagle" Presented to Victor Gomez

Ricardo Prado and his family visiting from Guatemala and playing the "Hillsman drum beat"

Scott Travers and Bj d'Orsay clowning around in the kitchen

Saturday's Founders Day Ceremony at the Old Stone Church cemetery

Luke Snyder meditating on the history of AMA during the Founders Day Ceremony

Shawn "Ogi" and Tonie Ogimachi enjoying lunch at Hoover Hall,

came all the way from Klawock Alaska

Col. Tim Mannasmith. Teacher, Coach and SHOF inductee

Garry Granger and Herb Meyer relaxing at the Hospitality Suite at The Blackburn Inn

BAND Company was well represented at this reunion.

NOTE: The "Band Boys" did feel a bit confused because they were bunking in the same hotel as the rest of the Alumni!

FEED THE BARRACKS BOX
Built and donated by Mike Kidd

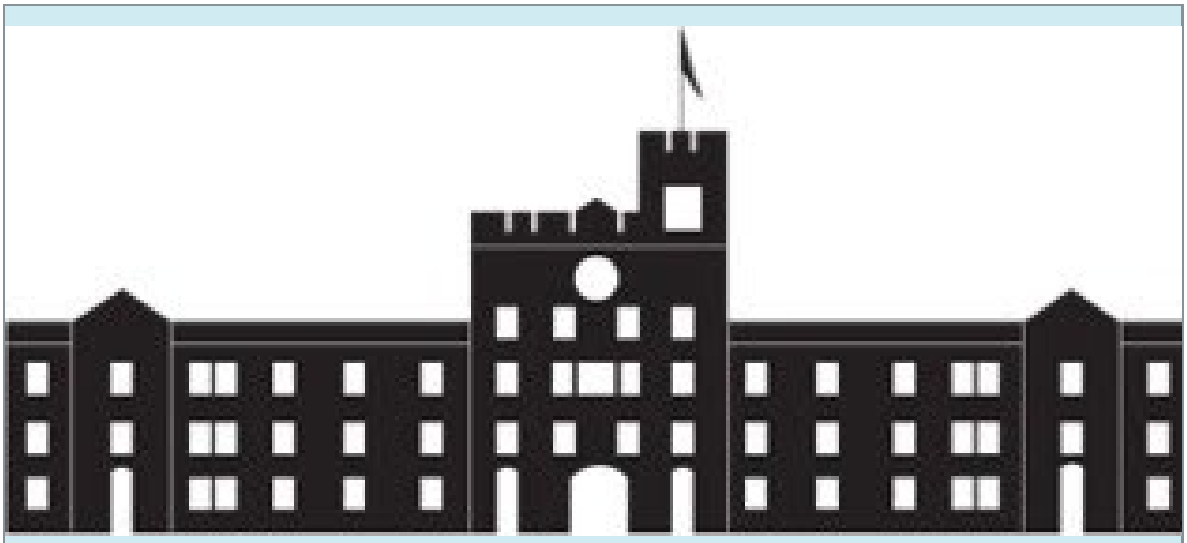
Susan Yates (Stuart Hall '73) Tom Del Valle, Bruce Hemp (Stuart Hall '72) and Debbie Nicholson. Sunday morning breakfast at Bruce's home.

Ashley Jones, recipient of the 2019 AMA Legacy Scholarship and the newest member of The Ladies of AMA and The AMA Legacy Preservation Corps

Billy Sturgis and Brett Tompson, relaxing at the beach on the Eastern Shore of Virginia the day after reunion 2021

You can view a picture gallery of the 2021 Alumni Reunion

HERE



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.

PISTOL RAFFLE 2021

Congratulations to Tom Phillips AMA '65, the winner of the Pistol Raffle

The rafffle raised $4,550!!

The Ladies of AMA have been activated!!

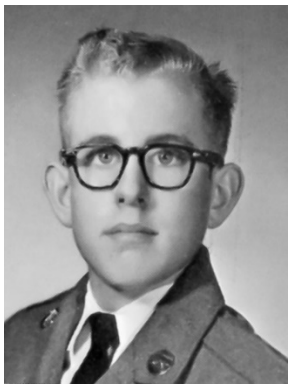
Trudy Pennock, Doug '72
Kiki Rovirosa, Jorge '70
Becky Granger, Garry '71

A big shout out to the Ladies of AMA!
I wish to thank Trudy, Becky and Kiki for all the hard work and effort you did over the four days we were in Staunton for Reunion weekend 2021.
In addition, I would like to recognize Evelyn Gomez, Sue Hart, Karen Ramsey, Elaine Huffman, Brenda Metz, Amy Hensley, Mary Baldwin Color Guard (The tree ladies on the team), Ainsley Bloomfield, Ashley Jones (AMA 2019 AMA Legacy Scholarship recipient), Kelly van Breemen, Susan Yates, Debbie

Nicholson and Bruce Hemp for all they did to help make this reunion ROCK!

THANK YOU!
Doug Pennock

Augusta Military Academy Oral History
MEMORIES FROM OUR ARCHIVES



Thomas Douglas, '62

August 24, 2002

The late 1950's and early 1960's were strange times: war with Korea, WW II memories still fresh in the minds of surviving families and Vets, desegregation, with its fears and apprehensions, and a growing nation of young people – the baby boomers. Now, picture a middle-class family with a daughter in high school and a son graduating from grade school with "not so good grades" and an immature attitude. These "good parents" wanted to ensure a good education for their only son. They investigated a number of schools on the East Coast and decided that a school called The Augusta Military Academy was the place for him. The deal was struck and an application was signed. In 1960, this short, average student with glasses was off to AMA. This adventure began with the purchase of a pair of military boots, shoe polish, new toiletries, sheets, pillowcases, a blanket and a footlocker. I still remember the excitement. I was off to an academy with its

barracks in front of a beautiful green meadow and a graceful stone building on the top of the hill. I was ready! In September, we packed up the Chevy and were off. I couldn't wait to get there. The trip seemed to take forever. As we began to drive up that long driveway leading to the Academy, things changed. I was no longer sure if "we" made the right decision. I became extremely apprehensive and a little fearful.

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.

MUSEUM DOCENT DUTY

THANK YOU!

To those who volunteered in September

Brian Miller '67

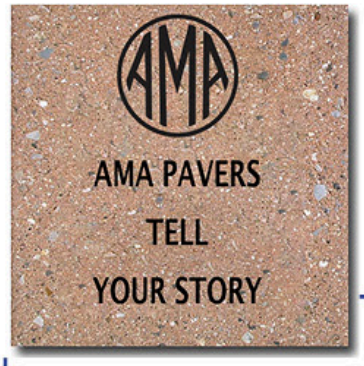
SET UP YOUR MONTHLY DONATION HERE

Visitors in September

108

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

October 1, 2021

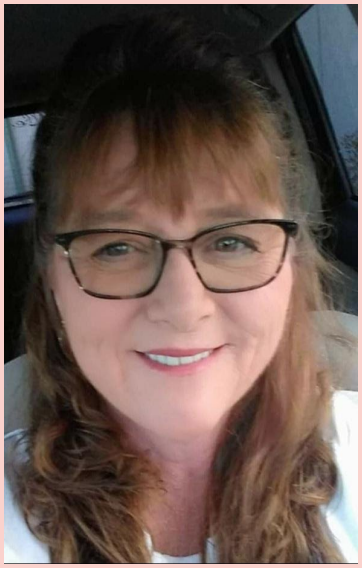
Dear Readers,

As you know by now, Reunion 2021 was a tremendous success, measured not only by the healthy attendance, but probably more importantly, the amount of money that was raised that will be a huge shot in the arm to help bring our current fiscal year much closer to a break-even or even profitable state. Considering the difficult times we have and still are living in, that achievement is nothing short of amazing! I was congratulated many, many times over the course of the reunion by Alumni who would say to me what a terrific job I was doing as Chairman of the AMA Alumni Foundation. I do appreciate all of the positive feedback, but those of you that really know me, understand that I never look for or require the accolades that were given to me as motivation to get the job done. I do what I do simply for the love and regard I have for things AMA.

Having said that, the real reason that things have slowly but surely turned around in our organization in such a dramatic way over the last year and a half, is that we are extremely fortunate to have a terrific team working hard behind the scenes making sure that every detail and moving parts of this small organization are being attended to, and as problems are discovered, we face them and solve them in a proactive manner. Every member of the Foundation Board is engaged in the particular task which was handed to them by me. The museum staff led by Amy, has gelled into a cohesive and efficient team that follows the Boards directives efficiently and yes, even passionately.
In addition to the "Insiders" that are involved in the day-to-day minutiae of running this small but complex operation, we also have a treasure chest of outside help from Alumni and friends whose efforts has begun to show substantial and positive results.
I am excited about what the future holds for the AMA Foundation Museum and am even more excited today, after witnessing so many Alumni, family and friends demonstrate a renewed upbeat feeling and delight just because they spent a weekend with friends and brothers at our old school campus.
Thank you all!!

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

October 1, 2021

Happy Fall!

What a wonderful Reunion! I hope that all of you that attended Reunion 2021 enjoyed the events and visiting with old friends. I enjoyed listening to all the stories and seeing friends enjoy each other's company. It is truly amazing to me that though there may be the distance of miles and maybe gaps in years since the last visit, the friendships stand firm with you all. I hope that you all had a safe trip home and have hearts filled with love and fond memories. If you did not already do so, please take a few minutes to fill out the Reunion Evaluation Form that can be found in your packet within your giftbag. The information you provide will help us as we plan Reunion 2022. The eval form can be returned by mail or via email if you choose.

Many sincere thank yous to all who helped with clean up, the transporting of items to The Blackburn Inn, the school and to The Frontier Culture Museum during the reunion. Your help is greatly appreciated and not unnoticed.

As we head into the fall there are several events that will be taking place. The 1st Annual Fall Festival at The Museum of Augusta Military Academy will be on October 9, 2021 from 10 am to 4 pm. We have some craft vendors that will be selling their homemade items, two food trucks that will be onsite, games and crafts for the kids, fall festival t-shirts for sale and a bouncy house. The Museum will be open for tours. We are also planning a Veterans Day event to honor all those who have served. In December there is plans in the works for a Christmas Open House that will include a tree lighting, caroling and perhaps a visit from Santa! All these events are open to the public. If you would like to offer help and support for these events or even be a docent for a weekend, please contact the museum.

I thank each and every one of you for allowing me to be a part of the great legacy of AMA. It is with great pride and dedication to the mission of the Alumni Foundation that I and the museum staff proudly serve you each and every day.

Best Wishes to you all!
Sincerely,
Amy

Amy Hensley
Administrative Director
AMA Alumni Museum

vanBreemen's Expressions

BOOK ENDS

By: Rich vanBreemen
October 1, 2021

Reunion 2021 is in the books and we can now move on. It was a time for old friends to get reacquainted, share "tall tales" and remember those who are no longer with us. As an outsider looking in, it was a time of self-reflection and thinking about the people I've met while here. I was once again prompted to ask, "What is the purpose of this museum?" HINT – My answer is at the end of this article.

Part of my job entails me spending time "thinking". I think about the school, the people, the artifacts we collect and the stories associated with them. From a purely AMA perspective, the left side "bookend" of this story picks up in the life of young men, sometimes merely boys. We become very familiar with their time at the school, their studies and more than likely their extracurricular activities, i.e. sports, band, Roller Rifles, Recall, etc. We can follow each cadet from their arrival to their departure; but then they are gone – replaced by a new crop of cadets; sort of like standing at the base of an escalator and watching it roll by.

For the vast majority of those cadets, my next interaction with them is updating the database with their obituary information – the right side "bookend". But what do we know of that library collection in between those bookends? For some alum, there aren't many books as their lives were cut short at an early age for any number of reasons. For others, the collection is long, sometimes with thick and complicated books. Other times the books are smaller, more simple reading. In either case there is SOMETHING between the bookends.

You have heard me say many times as curator at your museum that the artifacts in the museum are the vessels which transport the story of the people who came here. The real legacy of AMA is not the signed football, the rifle on the wall or uniforms on display. It is the story of the PEOPLE who came here, who were shaped and influenced here and went on to live their lives to the best of their abilities. If we only tell the AMA part of your story, it's like reading the first chapter of a book and then stopping; you never know what happens next.

Doc Savedge was noted for his work on school yearbooks. He was considered an expert in the field and often traveled, giving lectures on the importance of the school yearbook. On display in the museum, is the December 1992 Reader's Digest article written about him and this topic. [NOTE: You can read the article in its entirety in the December 1992 Bayonet on our AMA web site.] He is quoted as saying, "The story you tell in your yearbook is the last thing anybody will write about most of the people in your school until their obituary." No doubt his words hold true, but that doesn't mean that your time between those bookends has no merit or should go unrecognized.

The staff at the museum feel that the books are just as important as the bookends. We strive to share those stories whenever possible. We can only relate that which we know, which is why when we get the chance to speak with alum or former faculty/staff, we quiz you like the FBI - stopping short of shining a bright light in your face! In doing so we hope to learn more about the school and its profound influence on the people associated with it. It's how we hope to keep the legacy of the Augusta Military Academy marching forward.

So, "What is the purpose of this museum?" I believe it is to tell how the lessons learned at AMA helped shape and guide thousands of young men as they filled the space between their own bookends.

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

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.

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