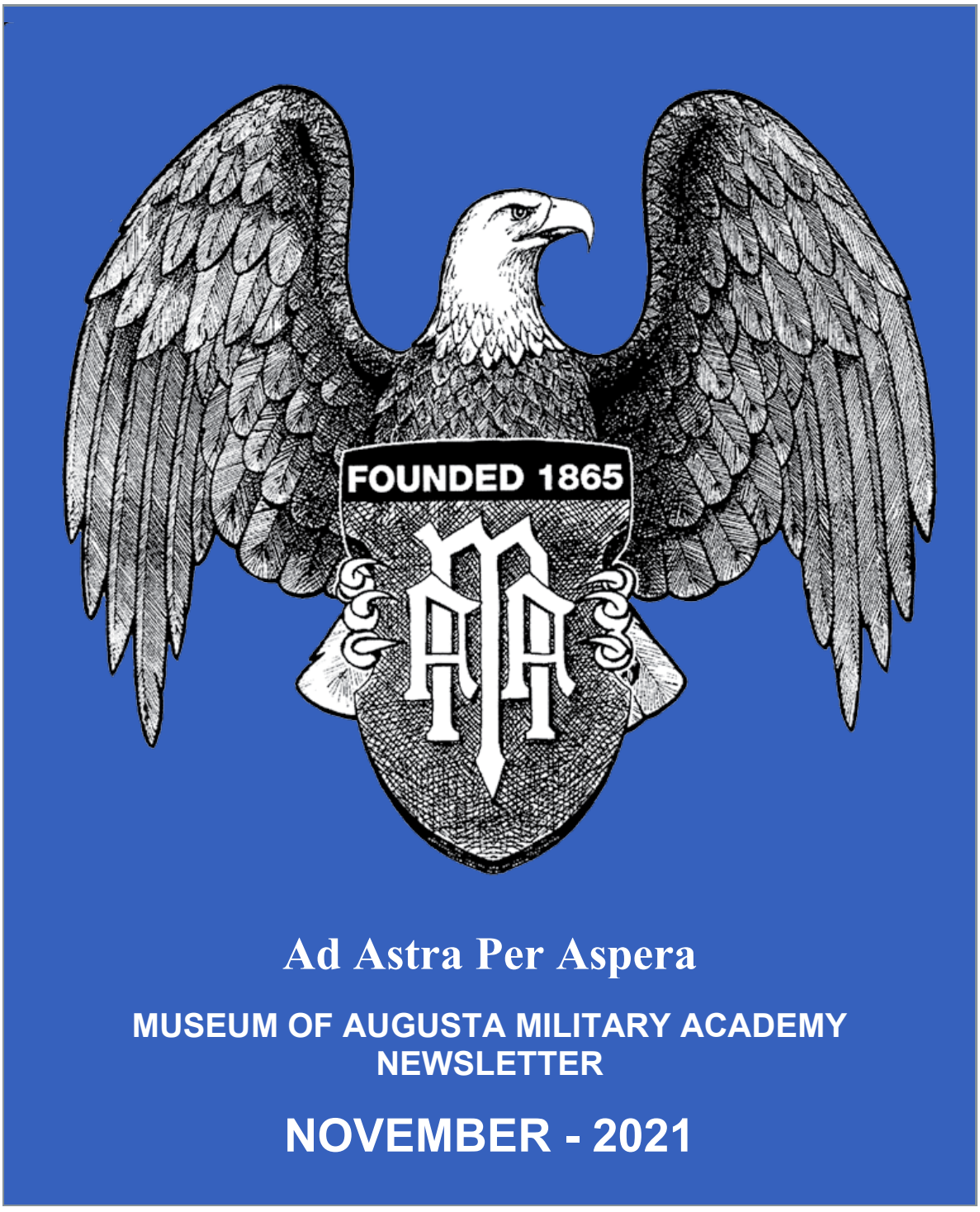


Ad Astra Per Aspera

MUSEUM OF AUGUSTA MILITARY ACADEMY NEWSLETTER

NOVEMBER - 2021

“Leadership is solving problems.
The day soldiers stop bringing you their problems is the day you have stopped leading them.”

-General Colin Powell-

Norman
Rockwell

Chairman's Notes

November 1, 2021

Dear readers,

The end of 2021 is in sight, and the holiday season is soon to begin.

I am very excited to announce that this year's reunion generated approximately $27,000 in combined net profit! This final tally has been certified by our Bookkeepers Shen Valley Tax. In addition, the $19,900 grant the **Fundraising Committee** has managed to attain from a **UVA SHARP** grant is certainly news that helps fan my optimism for our Foundations future financial stability!

I would like to believe that when an organization's leadership is focused and an organization large or small is run and managed like a business, and the leadership of the organization is engaged and resolute in making sure that every aspect of the business runs smoothly, good things begin to happen. People like to be associated with winners and the AMA Foundation Board is committed to ensure that best practices in business, accounting, public relations and Alumni relations is our new normal. I would not be surprised if we will begin to see an upswing in significant donations and gifts to the AMA Alumni Foundation in the near future! But as always, we really appreciate any size donation. Alumni and friends financial support is and always will be the lifeblood of the Museum.

Our museum staff has been hard at work rearranging and updating displays and working on the upcoming Fall Festival on November 6, which will now be held in the Gymnasium. We hope that there will be a good turnout of local residents and I am sure that Amy, the Museum staff and our Alumni and non-Alumni volunteers will make sure that the event goes off without a hitch.

As we promised shortly after commencing our tenure as the AMA Alumni Foundation Chairman 18 months ago, I am happy to announce that the newest version of **Past Perfect Web Edition Museum Software** has been purchased and activated.

Finally, all of our freestanding database information (each PC in the museum had its own single user non-share version of Past Perfect) such as alumni names and contact information, deceased Alumni

list, donors list, Roller Society members and images and collection information on our entire museum collection are now on one module that can be accessed by any user with a password. All Museum information is now stored on "The cloud".
This extremely powerful Museum software tool, will also allow us to eventually create and launch a "Virtual" Museum Webpage which will permit us to display as much of our collection online that we want, and will make it possible for anyone on the globe to visit and explore our Museum from the comfort of wherever they may be!
A huge thank you to Bj d'Orsay and Rich vanBreemen for the hundreds and hundreds of hours they spent making the successful transfer of information possible!!
I hope everyone has a wonderful Thanksgiving week end and hopefully you get to spend it with family. I urge everyone to invite someone you know that will most probably be spending Thanksgiving alone to your Thanksgiving table. You will never know how much that single act will mean to that person. Sort of puts “Thanksgiving” into the proper perspective…

Team effort!

Douglas W. Pennock
Chairman
AMA Alumni Foundation, Inc.

The AMA Alumni Museum will be hosting a Fall Festival on November 6, 2021

10:00 am to 4:00 pm

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

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

#GIVING TUESDAY™

November 30

AUGUSTA MILITARY ACADEMY ALUMNI FOUNDATION, INC.

FOUNDED 1865

Goal: $25,000

For More Information
1-540-248-3007
https://amaalumni.org/donate/

AMA Alumni Foundation News

SHARP GRANT AWARDED TO THE AMA FOUNDATION

The AMA Alumni Foundation has been awarded a $11,900 SHARP grant from UVA!

Warren Fleming '72

We are very pleased to announce that thanks to the diligent efforts of AMA Alumni Foundation Fundraising Committee member Warren Fleming ’72, and the leadership and collaboration of Committee Chairman Tom Del Valle in addition to Bj d’Orsay, Gary Cripps and Museum Administrator Amy Hensley, the AMA Alumni Foundation Inc. has been awarded a $11,900 grant to be used to cover COVID related losses.

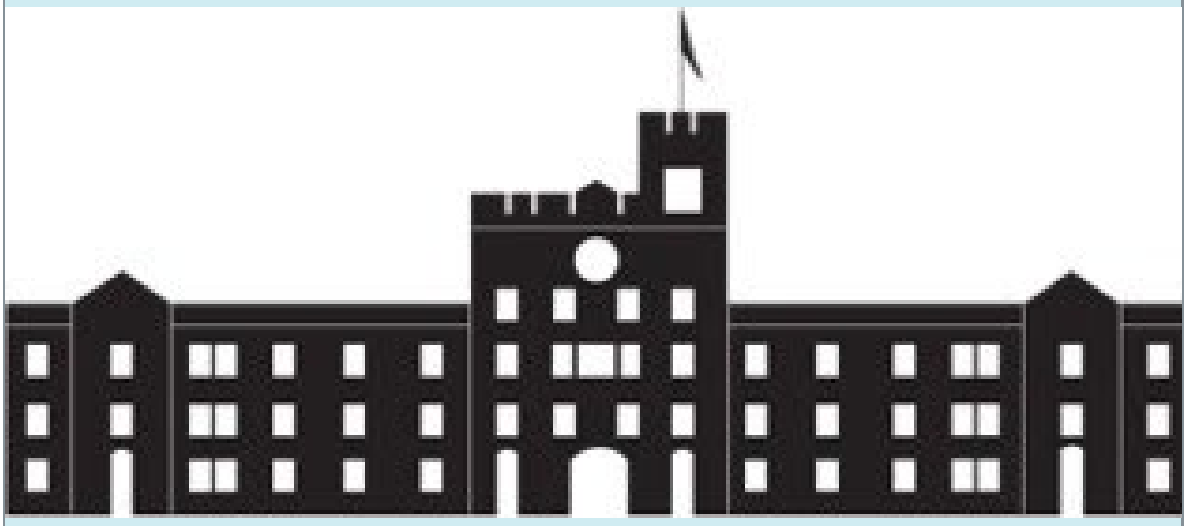
The SHARP Grant which is managed by UVA, awarded the AMA Foundation this grant because they considered us being the most worthy of receiving the funds over the dozens of other organizations that had applied for it!

I cannot state strongly enough how much Warren Fleming’s communication skills and knowledge of the inner workings of the bureaucratic maze that one must navigate through in order to be successful in receiving these kinds of funds.

Thank you, Warren!

The Fundraising committee is currently working on various other grant requests. I will keep all of our membership informed upon successful outcomes as they occur.

I would like to add that UVA will be publishing an article on the AMA Foundation SHARP grant which will be distributed at the national level!



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

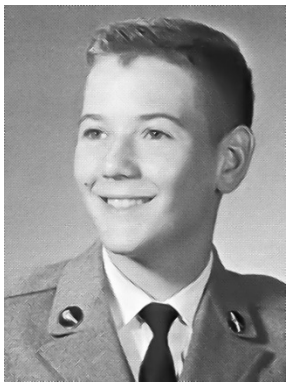
Expectations:

- 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

Augusta Military Academy Oral History
MEMORIES FROM OUR ARCHIVES



John Wright, '63

November 27, 2001

My memories of AMA are a mix of good and bad.

The decision to go to a military academy was not necessarily mine. My dad was stationed at the Pentagon in 1961-62, and I had not done well in the 61-62 school year. Being an Army brat, I had been to a different school each year. Anyway, my folks told me that they were going to look into sending me to a private school and we could go visit a number of candidates.
I recall visiting Fork Union, Staunton Military Academy and AMA. I'm not sure that choosing AMA was all my idea, but that's where I ended up at the beginning of the 1962 school year.
After checking in, I recall meeting General Roller. My dad, mom and I were in his office and he laid out his expectations for "His boys". He then asked me to spell 'separate'. I don't know if my mom had expected this, but she had been drilling me on the spelling for a few days. (ha) Anyway, I spelled the word correctly. The General was pleased and indicated he thought I would do well.

READ THE ENTIRE STORY HERE

MUSEUM DOCENT DUTY

THANK YOU!

To those who volunteered in October

FEED THE BARRACKS!!

Please remember that a monthly pledge from everyone that reads this newsletter

means that the future of the Museum will be assured.

Brian Miller '67

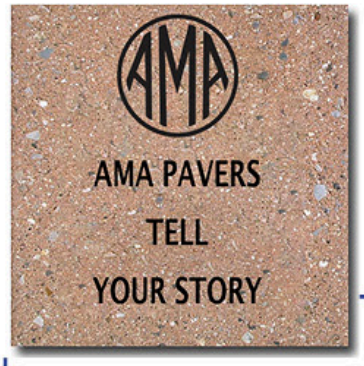
SET UP YOUR MONTHLY DONATION HERE

Visitors in October

98

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

Purchasing a Paver Brick allows you to recognize anyone that had a positive impact on you while attending AMA

All Paver Bricks are placed in a permanent location along the sidewalk running south of the Museum

Visit the Brick virtual map HERE

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

November 1, 2021

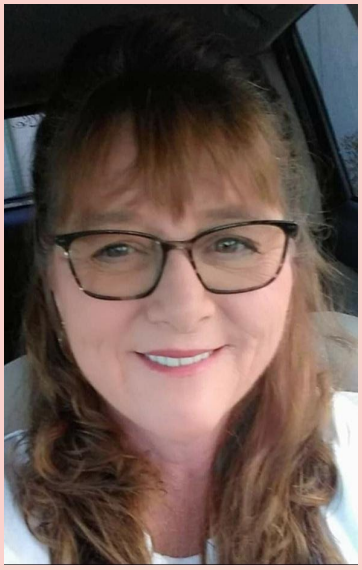
Dear Readers,

Fall has arrived and for you folks that are lucky enough to live in a place that enjoys the four seasons of the year. You are probably surrounded by millions of trees that are in various stages of color change or at the point of foliage nakedness.
I live in a place where we only have one season. I enjoy ribbing my AMA brothers that live north of zone 9, particularly when it is bone chilling cold outside, but believe it or not, I am actually a little envious of your meteorological reality because I actually enjoy cold weather.
When I first attended AMA in the fall of 1966, I experienced all of the extreme changes and rigours in my day-to-day life, exactly as all of my fellow "New Cadet" "Rats" did.
Yet, during that year, my AMA adventure had a few extra layers of wonders thrown in. October brought the magical transformation of the trees changing to Fall colors. I had read about the fall colors in school in

Puerto Rico, but living the magic of the fall color change was truly a wonder to me.
Over the next 6 years, I would continue being amazed by the fall show in the Shenandoah Valley. Even today, I wish I could spend a couple weeks in Virginia just taking in that magical transformation.
We all reminisce and enjoy talking to our AMA friends and family about our times at AMA. I certainly do.
We enjoy spending times at reunions and some of us spend a weekend or two pulling Docent duty at the museum.
I love doing all of that, but truthfully, every year at this stage of the calendar, I really miss taking in the reds, browns, yellows and orange colors of the wonder of fall.
I hope everyone has a wonderful Thanksgiving!

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

November 1, 2021

Happy Fall!
It has been a beautiful October here in Fort Defiance VA. The leaves of the trees are presenting nature's beautiful fall display. The weather is cool and crisp in the mornings. I love the Valley in the Fall!
We have been busy this past month settling down from the excitement of Reunion 2021 and getting ready for the 1st Annual Fall Festival. The Fall Festival will be Saturday, November 6, 10 am to 4 pm. We are expecting approximately 30 to 40 children from the area. We will have a bouncy house, food trucks, craft vendors and games. Walmart has donated a $100 gift-card, Frontier Culture Museum has donated 4 admission tickets and Lexington Carriage Company has donated a certificate for a carriage ride through Lexington VA. All these items will be raffled for the benefit of the AMA Alumni Foundation and the Museum. Shenandoah Awards has donated T-shirts for us to sell. We are planning a fun family day that will hopefully become a new annual fundraising event. If you can attend, we look forward to seeing you and if you can VOLUNTEER to help, we would greatly appreciate it!
We are also launching GIVING TUESDAY fundraising campaign. Giving Tuesday is the Tuesday that follows the traditional Black Friday after Thanksgiving. Information is posted on the website and on our official FACEBOOK page. There are several ways to offer your support, whether it be a monetary donation, purchases from the PX online or in person or by volunteering to docent. All these avenues benefit the Foundation and the Museum.
If you are traveling through the Valley or looking to just take a few days to get away, please come by the Museum and visit. We love our visits from Alumni and cherish the stories you all share during your visit. We all at the Museum greatly appreciate you and your continued support!

Amy Hensley
Administrative Director
AMA Alumni Museum

vanBreemen's Expressions

Thanks

November 1, 2021

The poppy is the enduring symbol of remembrance of the First World War. It is strongly linked with Armistice Day (11 November), but the poppy's origin as a popular symbol of remembrance lies in the landscapes of the First World War. Poppies were a common sight, especially on the Western Front.

November is upon us and with it come two prominent, and somewhat related holidays – Veteran's Day and Thanksgiving. This year, Veteran's Day and Thanksgiving are exactly 2 weeks apart. Armistice Day, occurs around the world on November 11th, to coincide with the ending of the Great War. For most other nations, it is when they recognize their war dead. In the USA, November 11th was declared a US Federal holiday in 1954 and renamed Veterans Day for all who served (Memorial Day is for our fallen). Thanksgiving is always the last Thursday in the month of November. In both cases, we should take time to reflect on the numerous things we have to be grateful for. Even when coping with illness, loss of a loved one, or in the worst of economic times, there are things for which we are still grateful.

While slightly dated, in 2015 roughly 7% of the entire US population had EVER served in the US military. Veteran's Day, also known internationally as Armistice Day, is set aside to thank those who have, at one time or another donned this nation's military uniform(s) and pledged to be the shield between enemy aggressors and our way of life and freedom back home. I know that may sound a bit heavy handed, but let's look at the facts. In general, at any time other than possibly WW2, there are usually no more than .5% to 1% of the population in military uniform. That seems like a cheap insurance policy given that if they weren't there, none of us would enjoy the freedoms we have in this country today. It also seems like a small price to pay to stop for a moment, and reflect on what the veterans have and continue to do for this country.

I don't speak for any veteran other than myself, but I know that in my mind, I am grateful for the opportunity to have been allowed to serve and feel like I got more out of my time in uniform, than Uncle Sam got out of me! I know many others who feel the same way. When you stop and thank a

veteran for his OR HER service, don't be surprised if you get a muffled response. I don't know of a single veteran who did it for the praise. I also know that most would serve again if needed. So, as a veteran, on that day in particular, I give thanks to this country for the opportunities it afforded me and my family. I thank the brothers and sisters (both literally and figuratively) who served having my back and for allowing me to have theirs.

On Thanksgiving, my thoughts move to a higher level. We can think about the Pilgrims or Native Americans and we can allow politics to cloud the moment one way or the other. OR, we can simply acknowledge that regardless of the past; history and their legacy give us the opportunity to live the life we have today, the freedoms and privileges that so many others wish they had. You may not always agree with things in this country but you should never take them for granted. And it is for those things we are grateful this and every Thanksgiving.

Yes, November is a time of two Federal holidays and time off from work. But it is also a time when we need to recognize how this came to be.

Rich vanBreemen
Curator, Museum of the Augusta Military Academy

NEW!!

The 2021 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 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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