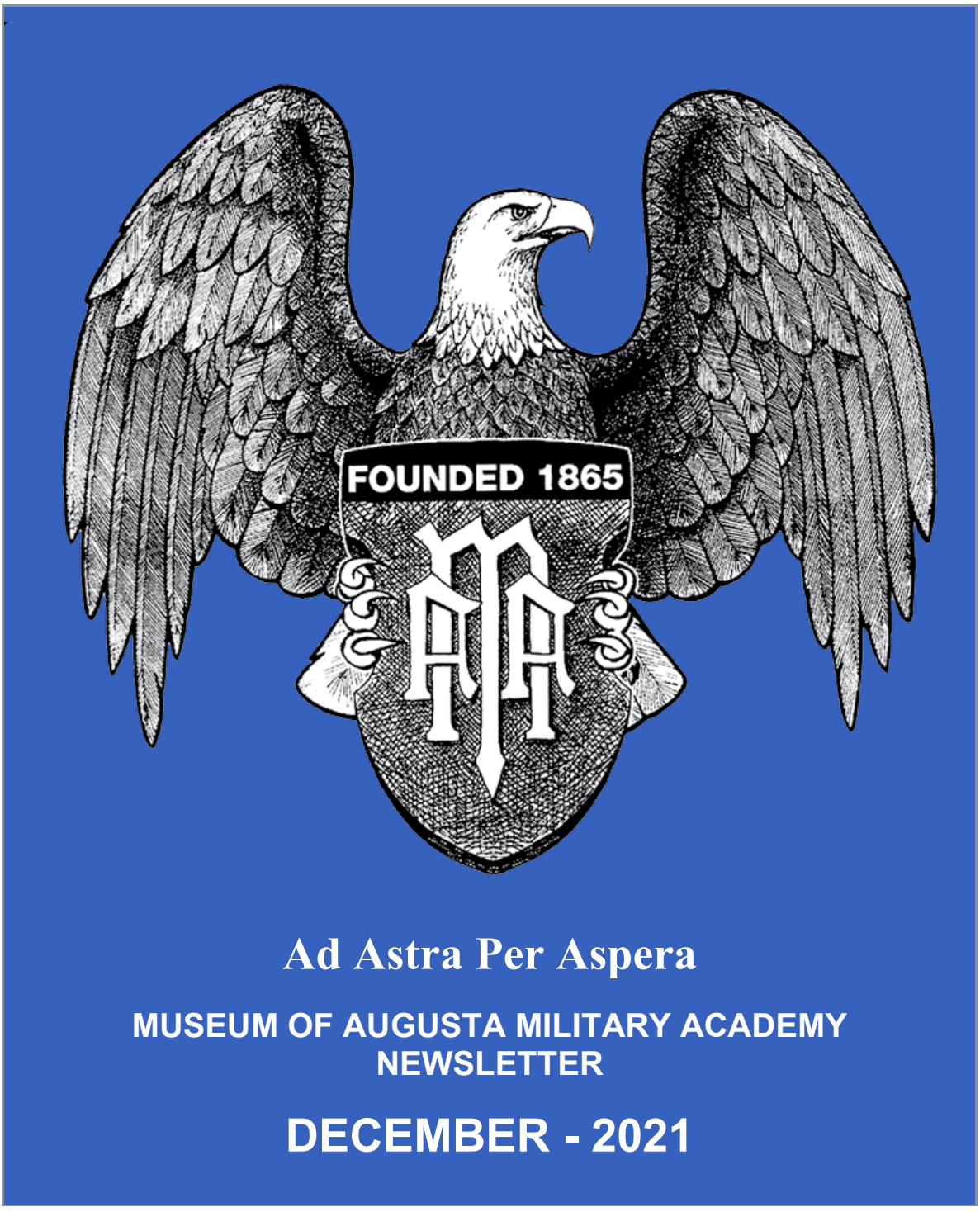


Ad Astra Per Aspera

MUSEUM OF AUGUSTA MILITARY ACADEMY NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER - 2021

“You are never too old to set another goal or to dream a NEW DREAM”

-C.S. Lewisl-

Our own Rich vanBreemen at work!

Chairman's Notes

December 1, 2021

Dear readers,

2021 is almost over and it is hard to believe that this is my fifth December Newsletter! Time does tend to travel rapidly when you are focused on a job you enjoy.
We have all accepted the new realities of living with a Global Pandemic for two years and counting, yet, we were finally able to hold an Alumni reunion in September that was not only a success in terms of attendance, but probably as important, financially. Reunion 2021 garnished the largest net profit for the AMA Alumni Foundation since it's founding twenty one years ago! This positive financial result was primarily due to the generosity of our Reunion 2021 sponsors, who donated over $17,000! Thank you again! Individual Alumni donations are on the rise and our Fundraising Committee has for the first time in forever, captured a $10,900 grant!
We have reached out and touched our local community by raising money to buy school supplies for underprivileged children at the Ft. Defiance Elementary School. We have held several interesting presentations on campus with our Noble Legends speaking tour and we held our first Fall Festival in November.

We have also grown a very good working relationship with the Verona and Mt Sidney fire departments, as well as our friends and landlords the United Pentecostal church.
The future is looking bright for our little museum in Ft. Defiance Virginia!
Our Corporate books are in order, accounts payable are current and the Museum Administrative team is actively at work on dozens of projects and tasks given to them by the Foundation Board.
I for one am so proud of the incredible work that so many people have done for AMA over the past twelve months. I am honored that every time I have asked an Alumni to help out, the answer has always been a resounding YES!
Thank you to all of the volunteer Docents, the members of the AMA Alumni Foundation Board, and the Alumni that are helping us with various ongoing “Special Projects”.
I most especially thank our Museum staff, Amy, Rich, Chris and Ainsley, for the terrific work you have done all year long!
As is my custom, I wish all of my Jewish friends a Happy Hanukkah.
And in closing, I wish everyone a Wonderful Holiday Season, Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Team effort!

Douglas W. Pennock
Chairman
AMA Alumni Foundation, Inc.

The AMA Alumni Museum hosted a Fall Festival on November 6, 2021

We had many vistors from Augusta County and as far away as Texas!
The Fall festival will be repeated next year.
We expect more time to organize and with the local community's word of mouth and paid advertising, we expect a much larger turnout!

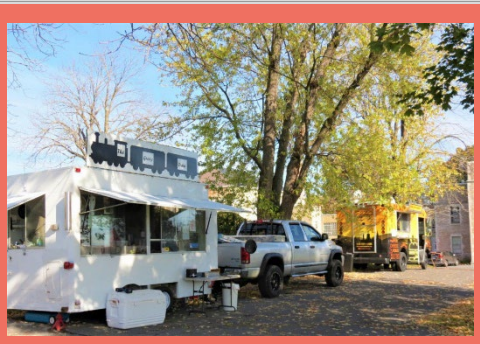
Tom and Patti Del Valle stopped by on their way to a wedding in Charlottesville

Gordon Metz, admiring the Carriage

KIds having fun

Steve Trent supervising the games

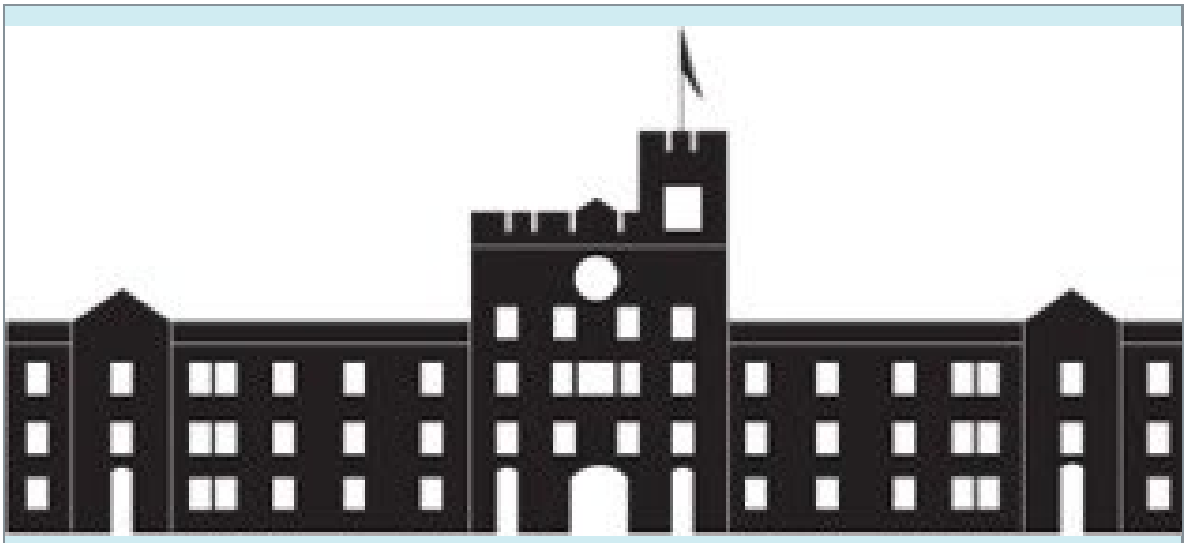
A young visitor helping out with the carriage set up



Food Trucks on Campus

AMA Alumni Foundation News

The AMA Alumni Board of Directors will hold our first meeting of 2022 on Saturday January 8, at 1000 Eastern. This will be a regular business meeting and as always, will be open to all Alumni.
The meeting will be held on campus and depending on the turnout, will be held at the museum or at Hoover Hall. I will not be able to attend in person, but will preside the meeting via Zoom teleconference.



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:

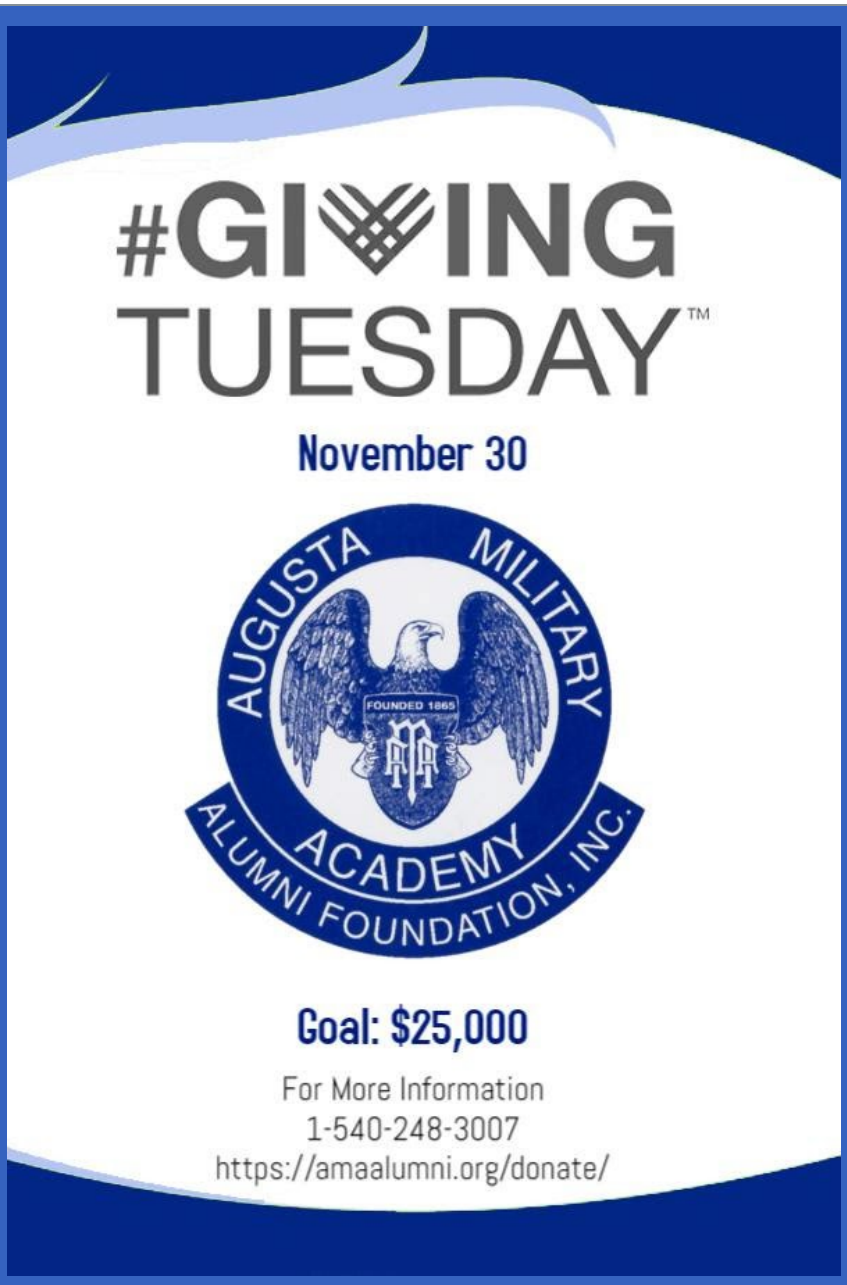
- Learn the history of our Academy
- Be trained to be an effective docent at the museum
- Keep the memories and stories of AMA alive
- Manage the AMA Alumni Foundation into perpetuity

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**



The total funds collected for Giving Tuesday fell a little short of our goal, but as of press time today, we have received about $5,800 in donations.

Thank you everyone that gave for your generosity!!

Augusta Military Academy Oral History
MEMORIES FROM OUR ARCHIVES

MUSEUM DOCENT DUTY

THANK YOU!

To those who volunteered in November

Brian and Vicki Miller '67
Malcolm Matheson '74

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.

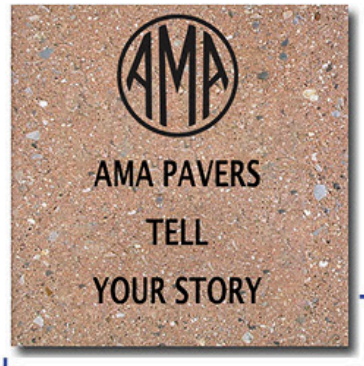
SET UP YOUR MONTHLY DONATION HERE

Visitors in November

97

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 East 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

NEW TO THE PX!!

Long sleeve AMA T-shirt

All sizes

COLORS - RED WHITE and BLUE

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. You are going to buy stuff anyway, why not allow Amazon to help the Museum?

Doug Pennock's Viewpoint

December 1, 2021

Dear Readers,

Each and every one of us that attended AMA for even a short time, were fortunate to have been taught fundamental life lessons that would have otherwise taken us several years to experience, comprehend and to even implement in a manner that could serve us and others well.
Life at AMA forced us to interact with strangers and very rapidly made us adjust our habitual behavior so that it would be mutually beneficial to all concerned.
An example being, the first day you reported to campus to start a new academic year, you were assigned one, two or even three roommates. (Even more if you were in Junior Barracks) Inevitably, each person in that room came from a different environment or family situation, maybe they were from north of the Mason Dixon line and you were from Dixie, perhaps your new roommate only spoke Spanish, and in later years was African American or they suffered some medical condition you had never dealt with, as in my case, when my roommate turned out to be epileptic and shortly after we met, went into a full blown grand mal seizure in our room!
I did not know what was happening and how to help him, so after that scary event, our school nurse Molly Canevet, instructed me on the right and the wrongs in dealing with a person experiencing a seizure. Thanks to Nurse Molly's training, I was able to help many fellow cadets that would suffer a seizure over the next few years. From that day on, and up to this very moment, I feel confident that I can assist a person having a seizure.

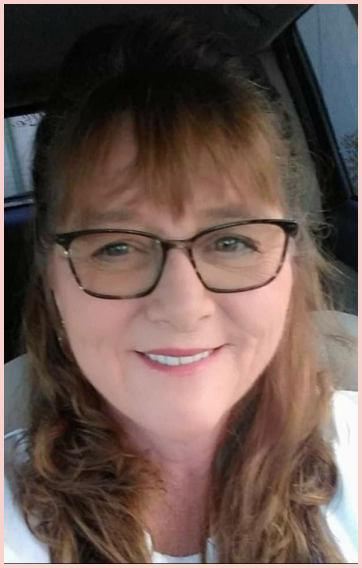
We all learned that for the most part, you get what you deserve in life. At AMA, that meant that you were expected to work hard at any task at hand. If you followed the rules, you would stay out of trouble and probably never be seen marching "Penalty Tours" on the Blacktop on that everlasting march to nowhere.

If you actually listened to your teachers, instructors and higher-ranking cadets, followed up on homework, concentrated on drills, and focused and performed the dozens of small menial but important tasks that each and every one of us were expected to do well, you most likely would earn some rank. Rank by definition placed you in a position where it was expected of you to take on more responsibilities and actually work harder. It is a undeniable fact that one's leadership skills became exponentially better as more responsibility (rank) was handed to you. By the time I left AMA as the Battalion XO in the Summer of 1972, leadership had been branded into my soul. Having the ability to "take charge" at a second's notice and be able to see through the B.S. of life was and still is an easily manageable task for me. So, whatever successes I have had over the past five decades since leaving Ft. Defiance, I attribute to my six years of living inside the AMA advanced incubator of life. I would expect that many of you would agree that the same applies to you.

I wish everyone a safe and wonderful Holiday Season!

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

December 1, 2021

I truly hope that everyone had a wonderful Thanksgiving with family and friends. We are now full steam ahead to Christmas. Rich, Chris, Ainsley and

myself will be setting the AMA Christmas Tree up in Maggie Bell's Parlor and decorating the porch with greenery and lights. I love this time of year. I do miss the old days of being young and wondering if Santa had packed on his sleigh my hopes and dreams for Christmas.

Now that I am older, I see Christmas in a less selfish light. I think about those who are struggling. The single mom or dad and families trying to make ends meet so that Santa comes for their little ones and food is on the table, the homeless and those who are alone, young or old. This is the time of year we seem to be a little more generous than during the rest of the year. I encourage you to drop a few more dollars in the Salvation Army bucket, send a Secret Santa gift to someone in need, bake a cake for the neighbor or visit that person you have been meaning to stop by to see. While we all keep in our hearts the Christmas Story in Luke 2:1-20 about the Birth of Jesus, I personally also keep in mind Matthew 25:35-40. In this world we live in today being loving, caring, fair and kind is a beautiful gift that will always be well received.

I pray that all who are traveling over the holidays that you have safe travels. If you are going to be close to Fort Defiance, please stop in and visit. Be sure to visit the website www.amaalumni.org and do a little Christmas shopping in the online PX. Always remember that if you are purchasing through the PX, volunteering or making a monetary donation, you are supporting AMAAF and your support is greatly appreciated.

From all of the staff at The Museum of Augusta Military Academy, we wish you all a very Merry Christmas!

Amy Hensley
Administrative Director
AMA Alumni Museum

vanBreemen's Expressions

The GLASS

By: Rich vanBreemen

December 1, 2021

It's that time of the year again. We flip the calendar page and lo and behold, it's the last one – another year over. Are you the glass half empty or glass half full kind of person? I like to hedge my bets, so I say, "BE BOTH".

As we look in the rearview mirror of this past year, we have a lot to be happy about, and more than a few things to sober us. As the past and upcoming Bayonets tell, the size of the TAPS section is not getting any smaller. However, in regards to the AMA museum, the news is mostly UP. 2021 presented us all with many challenges; financially, operationally and personally. Now that it is behind us, we can breathe a big sigh of relief and admit that things went pretty darn good!

First and most importantly, we have a new permanent Director. Amy Hensley came in, and after her initial shock period, took to the job like a duck to water. From my perspective, you couldn't have a better person at the helm trying to navigate these turbulent waters.

Chris Correa has really stepped up his game and is a lynch pin in the operation of the museum and the PX. Until you are here and see what

all he does, you wouldn't believe it. Ainsley Bloomfield, our college intern, is more than just a worker bee or warm body. She has shown herself to be a valuable asset to the museum and contributes in ways that give me hope for future generations (guess not all kids are lazy slackers).

Operationally, our biggest achievement is moving our museum database online. This gives us increased reliability, data protection and access. We have been working constantly to improve the data and moving us towards sharing this data with you virtually (remember that phrase). The 2021 Reunion went off "without a hitch"; I put that in quotes because if you knew how much work went into it you would crap your drawers. The result of this effort was a great reunion, increased enthusiasm for the museum and a lot of research accomplished that helps us tell the AMA story.

All of this didn't happen on its own and its nearly impossible to thank everyone who made it happen – you know who you are. That hard work is probably the glass half empty part; it was tough. But what about the glass half full? What do we have to look forward to?

Come visit the museum and you will begin to see it happening. We have been rearranging displays, concentrating our story telling to make the best use of our limited floor and wall space. On top of that, we have a number of new exhibits, upgrades to old and introduction of multi-media presentations that will help launch this museum onto a "virtual presence (there's that word again.

As a teaser, here are just a few of the things we hope to accomplish in 2022 with your help and support:

· A TIMELINE displayed on the wall to tell the story of AMA from beginning to end in a way to help visitors relate.

· Improved Roller Rifle exhibit with multi-media presentation

· Displaying the Faculty/Staff signs from reunion along with improving the museum classroom exhibit.

· A visible recognition of the DAY STUDENTS and their involvement and contributions to the school.

· Adding a DINING HALL exhibit or experience.

As you can tell, we are not being stagnant or resting on our past achievements. We at the museum are more enthused than ever about telling the whole AMA story. And in that regard, let me say that we intend to expand that story beyond the obvious. However, we recognize that having alum do docent duty is becoming increasingly difficult. This is why we have been relying on Chris to do the bulk of that work. It is also why we are looking at having electronic or "virtual" presentations moving forward. The survival of the museum goes beyond the survival of the alum – we absolutely believe that.
As you can tell, we are fired up about next year and filling that glass up. We encourage you to get involved in any one of a dozen ways. Just reach out to the museum staff if you can help. Be prepared to start seeing my "wish list" show up in the newsletter, of things we need or information we are seeking. Don't think of this time as the end of another year – think of it as a waypoint moving forward on this journey. I hope you will join us.
MERRY CHRISTMAS, HAPPY HANUKKAH and have a GREAT NEW YEAR.

Rich vanBreemen
Curator, Museum of the Augusta Military Academy

-Museum's Curator Wish List-

The museum is in need of a pair of black combat boots, (preferably size 8 to 10) just like the one's a Roller Rifle member would wear to a performance. A genuine Roller Rifle pair of boots would be ideal. The boots would be part of the updated Roller Rifle display at the museum.

If you happen to have a pair sitting in your attic or basement and would like to donate them, please call Rich van Breemen or

Amy at the museum and they will be glad to send you the shipping information.

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

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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