Museum of Augusta Military Academy News

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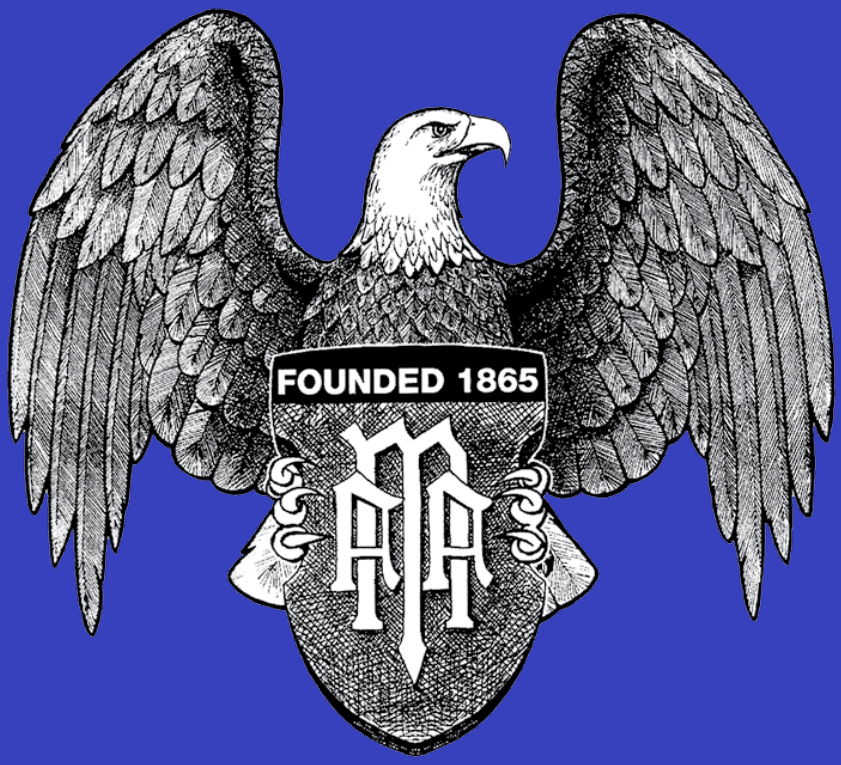


Visit our Website

Ad Astra Per Aspera

MUSEUM OF AUGUSTA MILITARY ACADEMY NEWSLETTER

December - 2022

HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

Chairman's Note

December 1, 2022

Dear Alumni and friends,

December's holiday season is once again upon us! I don't know about you, but it seems like I was writing lasts years December Chairman's letter not so long ago.

We have had a very active 2022. The Museum Staff led by Amy Hensley has done a remarkable job caring for the house, updating displays, organizing and running community-based projects such as Spring Festival, Fall Festival, Music concerts, Food drive for the local food bank, Noble Legend speaking tour, plus welcoming our many visitors and Alumni that show up unannounced. And of course, helping with the grunt work for our annual Reunion.
We even returned a Virginia Tech saber back to its rightful owners after our Museum Collections Curator, Rich vanBreemen discovered that the saber was not ours to keep! You may want to pick up the phone or drop Amy, Chris, Rich or Autumn a note and share your thanks with them for a job well done!

The Foundation Board has continued to raise the bar in terms of strict oversight in all business matters of the Museum. Our Treasurer, Gary Cripps and I are in constant communication with Amy and our bookkeepers so that if any financial, tax or filing problem arise, we will deal with it in real time.

The board met quarterly with full participation of membership and spent hours discussing old and new Museum business and how we could improve our current financial position.

Because our Alumni have responded so positively to our October 2022 plea for donations, (over $26.000) that bump in revenue has allowed us to refrain from dipping into our savings account for Q3 and most of Q4. Thank you!

Money is what that keeps the Museum doors open. As you know, we are very focused on raising funds from outside sources. Tom Del Valle, Foundation Vice-Chair and Chairman of the Fundraising Committee has been working hard all year to reach a successful outcome in our financial quest. Alumni and Board Members such as Bud Oakey and longtime Foundation Director Gordon Metz have connected with many influential Virginia Government dignitaries who have all promised to help our organization.
We have four grant writers soliciting funds for the organization. So we are very hopeful that the time and effort that has been put into this complicated task will bear fruit in 2023!

The Foundation Board and the Alumni Association are currently discussing the process of a complete revamp of the AMA alumni organization leadership model. This change will soon lead to a merge of both organizations into a single cohesive unit. I look forward to seeing the final roadmap and suggestions that AMA Foundation Board Secretary John Arthur and AMA Alumni Association President Steve Trent will present both boards at our combined meeting on January 7, 2023.

Merry Christmas and a Happy and safe New Year to all!!

Team effort.

Douglas W. Pennock
Chairman
AMA Alumni Foundation, Inc.

Foundation Board News

The next scheduled AMA Alumni Foundation Board meeting will be January 7, 2023 at the Hotel 24 South in Staunton.

AMA Legacy Scholarship Season is OPEN

The AMA Foundation will be offering two $2,000 Scholarships for 2023!

The AMA Legacy Scholarship, (restricted to AMA descendants), funded by Marc Aronson '68

The *Guilliams Virginia Tech Scholarship, funded by Ron Guilliams '70.

The Guilliams Scholarship will be for applicants interested/accepted to Virginia Tech only and will be available to legacy and non legacy applicants.

Applications need to be received at the AMA Museum postmarked no later than March 1st, 2023.

Legacy Scholarship Letter :

Legacy Letter

Legacy Scholarship Application:

Legacy Application Form

Guilliams Virginia Tech Scholarship Letter:

Guilliams Letter

Guilliams Virginia Tech Scholarship application:

Gulliams Application Form

Applicants should look at the scoring Rubric to see how to model their application.

Scholarship Scoring Rubric

Awardees should plan to be at the Reunion Banquet to give an acceptance speech of no more than 90 seconds.

If you know a qualified candidate, please contact Phil Bentley '83 at: 717-566-3456

***The Guilliams Virginia Tech Scholarship will be available to any qualified candidate, even if they are not an Alumni decedent.**

Nominations are being sought for the Class of 2023 AMA Sports Hall of Fame (SHOF). You may nominate an individual athlete, coach, team or anyone that you feel contributed in a significant way to AMA sports. Personnel / Team(s) selected will be recognized during Annual Reunion in September 2023.

Please email your nomination to John Arthur '75 email: john.arthur@cdg-1.com AND Amy Hensley, the Museum Director, email: museum@AMAalumni.org. John can be reached at 757-650-6309 for any questions.

All nominations must be received no later than FRIDAY, February 24, 2023!

Augusta Military Academy Legacy Preservation Corps

Jim Belcher Jr.
Chairman AMALPC Committee

Purpose of the Corps:

To create an organization of descendants and/or friends of Augusta Military Academy Alumni, Faculty and Staff, who are passionate about the Academy and dedicated to the preserving AMA's legacy.

If you're interested or know someone that wants to join the Legacy Preservation Corps, contact Jim Belcher Jr. at:
540-256-1676
Belcher.LegacyPreservation@AMAalumni.org

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 November

Victor Gomez '69

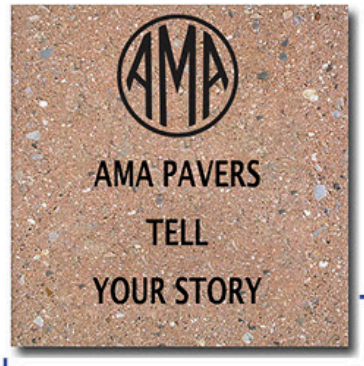
Visitors in November

75

Museum Volunteer

Do you want to be a Volunteer Docent for a weekend? Please sign up by calling Chris at the museum at:

540-428-3007



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

* contact museum for custom size and placement of graphic, additional charges may apply

Punctuation marks and spaces count as characters!

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

You may purchase these and many more items at the PX

NOTE:

The PX online store is currently under construction. We are in the process of migrating to a new provider which has proved to be more complicated than we expected.
In the meantime, please call Chris at the museum Tuesday-Sunday from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm at 540-428-3007 to place an order.
Thank you for your patience.

CHARLES S. ROLLER
III
RIFLES

AUGUSTA MILITARY ACADEMY
BAND

AMA

AUGUSTA MILITARY ACADEMY

AUGUSTA MILITARY ACADEMY

AUGUSTA
MILITARY
ACADEMY

-New-

Car Windshield Sun Protector

We all remember our AMA blanket. It kept us warm and it was a little bit scratchy. This new version is even warmer and softer than a newborn baby's gluteus maximus!

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, 2022

Dear Readers,

It is time to take inventory of my 2022.

I've had a very interesting year. 2022 began pretty much the way most new year's start in Puerto Rico, because we celebrate the longest Christmas holiday in the Solar System. The Fiestas begin Thanksgiving, and end somewhere between January 31 and February 8. When one runs a business down here, the last week of November marks the commencement of "Fiesta de Navidad season", which means that you may as well come to terms with the fact that your company productivity will reduce by 20%. Monday morning sick calls are the norm, actually they are hangover calls but you get the drift. That combined with the incessant reminder of the news media and government that COVID was still the scourge of the earth and alive and well in our lives, made running a business exponentially more difficult. BTW, has anybody noticed that the press is no longer tolling the bell of COVID oblivion? I guess it just ran its course? Amazing!

I retired in March and began a new chapter in my life. I had a hip replaced in April, Trudy and I took a one-month trip in July that included visiting friends and saying goodbye to an old friend, plus stop at AMA for a work weekend to boot. I actually cut the trip short by three days because I had never taken off so long. Well off from work, but when you sleep in hotels, friends' houses, rent a car and eat in restaurants three times a day a vacation from retirement can be exhausting! Actually, a buddy of mine summarized my sudden need to cut the trip short as a bad case of "Homeitis"... Sleeping in my bed again was wonderful.

We returned to the Valley in September for Reunion 2022, which as I stated in a previous Newsletter, was a really good one!

In early November, I went to Dallas and then to New Mexico and spent some quality buddy time with Tom Del Valle, telling stories, laughing and shooting long range guns in the High Plains in the middle of Gods Country. I had three "firsts" on that trip. First time in New Mexico, first time to see a native Antelope and the first time I saw Tumbleweed in action... The wind was blowing over 50 MPH for a couple days so the damned things were supercharged! And finally, Trudy and I flew to Boston for Thanksgiving weekend to spend it with our youngest son Shawn. It has been 8+ years since we last shared Thanksgiving dinner with him, so this year was very special.

Anyway, after five plus months of relaxing and having fun, I'm about to embark on a new career, or two… This retirement thing is way overrated and I need to get back into the game! AMA will still be one of my important priorities, but I expect that my agenda will be filling up in the near future.

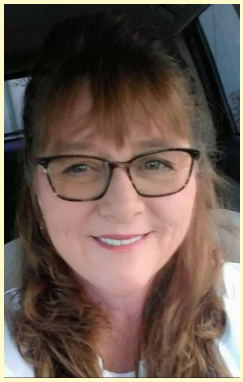
And as is customary, I am sitting here today, at the tail end of November and once again, for the commencement of The Great Puerto Rico "Fiesta Navidad". Thank God that for the first time in 45 years, I won't be hearing the excuse, "Jefe, "hic", "I am sick today Monday…. again, okey?" …….

Yea Baby!!!!

Merry Christmas, Feliz Navidad y'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

December 1, 2022

As we come to the end of 2022 we can look back and enjoy many memories that were made and successes we have achieved. The Museum of Augusta Military Academy was recognized for the FIRST TIME by the community as Shenandoah Valley Best Attraction and Best Museum for 2022. What a wonderful achievement for our little museum. Our community outreach was successful in hosting a Spring and Fall festival and we had a great second season for the Noble Legends Speaker Series. We have hosted the USAF Heritage America Winds and we had a great FIRST food drive for the Blue Ridge Area Food Bank. We collected 234 pounds of food that provided 195 meals for local residents in need. WSHV Channel 3 news, the local television station expressed interest in the community outreach and events and came out to the museum TWICE in one month! Reunion 2022 was held in September and a wonderful time was had by all who attended! This year we have collected from several of you handmade Christmas ornaments and we have them displayed on the tree in the Maggie Bell Parlor. Thank you to everyone who shared an ornament! These ornaments will be a cherished part of the AMA Legacy.

Rich, Chris, Autumn, and I have many ideas and goals we are working on for 2023. We have already set dates for the Spring and

Fall festivals, the Noble Legends series and we are hoping to add Music at the Museum, details will come later.
EACH ONE OF YOU are a part of the wonderful successful year we have achieved and the museum staff, and I appreciate your kind words of support and for those who have participated either by volunteering or by making donations. This is a great TEAM EFFORT! On behalf of the museum staff, MERRY CHRISTMAS and best wishes for a fantastic NEW YEAR!

Amy Hensley
Administrative Director
The Museum of Augusta Military Academy

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vanBreemen's Expressions

December 1, 2022

A Tale of 2 Welches

By: Rich vanBreemen

In the course of my duties, I am challenged with a myriad of tasks. One of them is to find out why USPS mail gets returned as undeliverable. I have a stack of returned envelopes that I am slowly working through. Frankly, if they are from a class prior to 1940 I assume they are deceased and I take that route to find the truth. If you ever wonder why TAPS lists alum that passed many years ago, this is part of it.

Recently, I was searching for a Rick Welch ’67. Normally that would be cut and dry except you guys had a bad habit of not using your legal names here. A search of our database turned up only one Richard Welch……..but he was class of 1937, not 1967.

Digging through our database of the other twelve Welches that attended AMA, I finally found “Rick” whose real name is Frederick, class of 1967. I updated his record (#12512) with his class photo and any other information I could find in our digitized archives.

Frederick "Rick" Welch '67

Then I began my online search. Thankfully, he is alive and well and I was able to track down what I hope is his correct address and phone number (no email). Rick, who is a US Navy Vietnam veteran, now lives in Annandale, Virginia. If any of you are his classmates, drop him a note and let him know he is missed at AMA.

Well, heck, since I found the record for the other Richard Welch ’37 in the database, I should update it. Our records had him listed as “UNKNOWN” which simply means AMA had lost track of him. I found his graduation photo from the digitized Recalls and placed that in his record. I was able to determine that after AMA (where he excelled as a cadet) he went to WV University to study law, following in his father’s footsteps. I found photos of him in his college yearbooks and he was again a model student. Then the trail turned cold and I quickly discovered he had died in January of 1941 – having just turned 21 years old three weeks prior.

This is the sad part of my job and I entered what I had into his records. However, I was unable to come up with anything definitive as to WHY this young man, with such promise and a bright future was gone. I’m the inquisitive type so I banged away on the keyboard for quite a bit more time than it probably warranted. I say that and instantly regret that thought; everyone deserves to be remembered, if even for just a moment. So, I enlisted the help of BJ who has access to some records I presently do not. He was able to supply me with the newspaper obituary which was quite helpful, but still left me with questions.

A few more inquiries and web searches and I was finally able to find his official death records. The sad ending of Richard Adams Welch, Jr, AMA class of 1937 was encephalitis caused by influenza. His records have been updated (#12516) and that mystery solved. Now I can move on to the next envelope.

Richard Adams Welch Jr. class of 1937

The Bayonet Gallery

HERE

The Museum Newsletter is written and prepared by Doug Pennock and edited by Trudy Pennock

SHENANDOAH VALLEY

BEST

2022 WINNER

HARRISONBURG RADIO GROUP

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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