Museum of Augusta Military Academy News

January - 2023

Chairman's Note

January 1, 2023

Dear Alumni and friends,

I hope that everyone had a Merry Christmas and a wonderful Holiday Season.

Many of you will receive this newsletter on January 1st of 2023, so, Happy New Year to everyone, and I hope your favorite team wins one of the never-ending college bowl games!

2022 was both challenging and satisfying for the AMA Foundation leadership team. We continue to take in less funds than we spend on the Museum operation, but there has been a very encouraging response from our Alumni and friends with an impressive uptick in this years donations. We are now waiting for the results of our fundraising efforts in the fourth quarter of 2022. Responses from our various grant requests should start to come in during the months of January and February 2023. We will keep everyone apprised. Fingers Crossed.

The AMA Alumni Foundation and Association Boards will hold a combined meeting on Saturday January 7, 2023, at Hotel 24 South (Stonewall Jackson) in Staunton. The meeting's agenda will focus on the matter of a merger between the two organizations. This significant shift in the leadership and the governance of our organization, will be discussed and will be voted on by both boards. If the merger is approved and ratified by both boards, the AMA Museum organization will genesis into the New Year with a consolidated and single leadership organization!

My hope is that the streamlined, merged organization, will be made up by a combination of the current alumni that today serve on both boards. My expectation is that moving forward, we will be able to work more effectively as one cohesive unit for the benefit of the AMA Museum and our Alumni.

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!

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 December

Victor Gomez '69

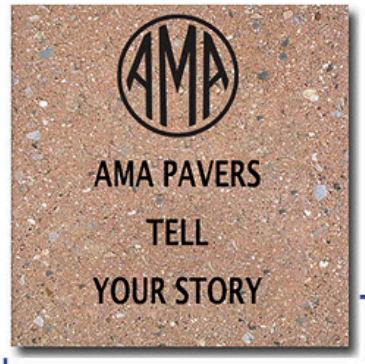
Visitors in December

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 NOW OPEN!

CHARLES S. ROWLEY
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

January 1, 2023

Dear Readers,

2023 has arrived.

My hope for this New Year is that for the sake of everyone that lives on our beautiful blue marble, that the weather behaves, inflation dissipates, we Americans can get along, the war between Russia and Ukraine comes to an end quickly, permanently and in a manner that will guarantee the safety and security to the entire region. I hope that rising tensions in Asia subside and that the worlds Super Powers and not so Superpower leaders practice and employ reason, wisdom and restraint in their day-to-day decision-making.

It seems to me, that as long as I have had the consciousness of what was happening around me, the world and our country have always been smack in the middle of some sort of turmoil or conflict.

On the he day I was born in June of 1953, there was a war raging in Korea. Shortly after that, relations between the US and the Soviet Union became so frosty, that it soon was referred to as the Cold War. We even had a missile crisis that nearly accelerated into Nuclear Armageddon right in my backyard in the western Caribbean! All of that turmoil, and I had not yet turned ten!

I was drilled by my teachers in elementary school to kneel under my school desk in case a nuclear bomb went off in my neighborhood, and by the time I was enrolled into AMA in 1966, we were engaged in a war in Southeast Asia. The list goes on and on as it has for thousands of years.

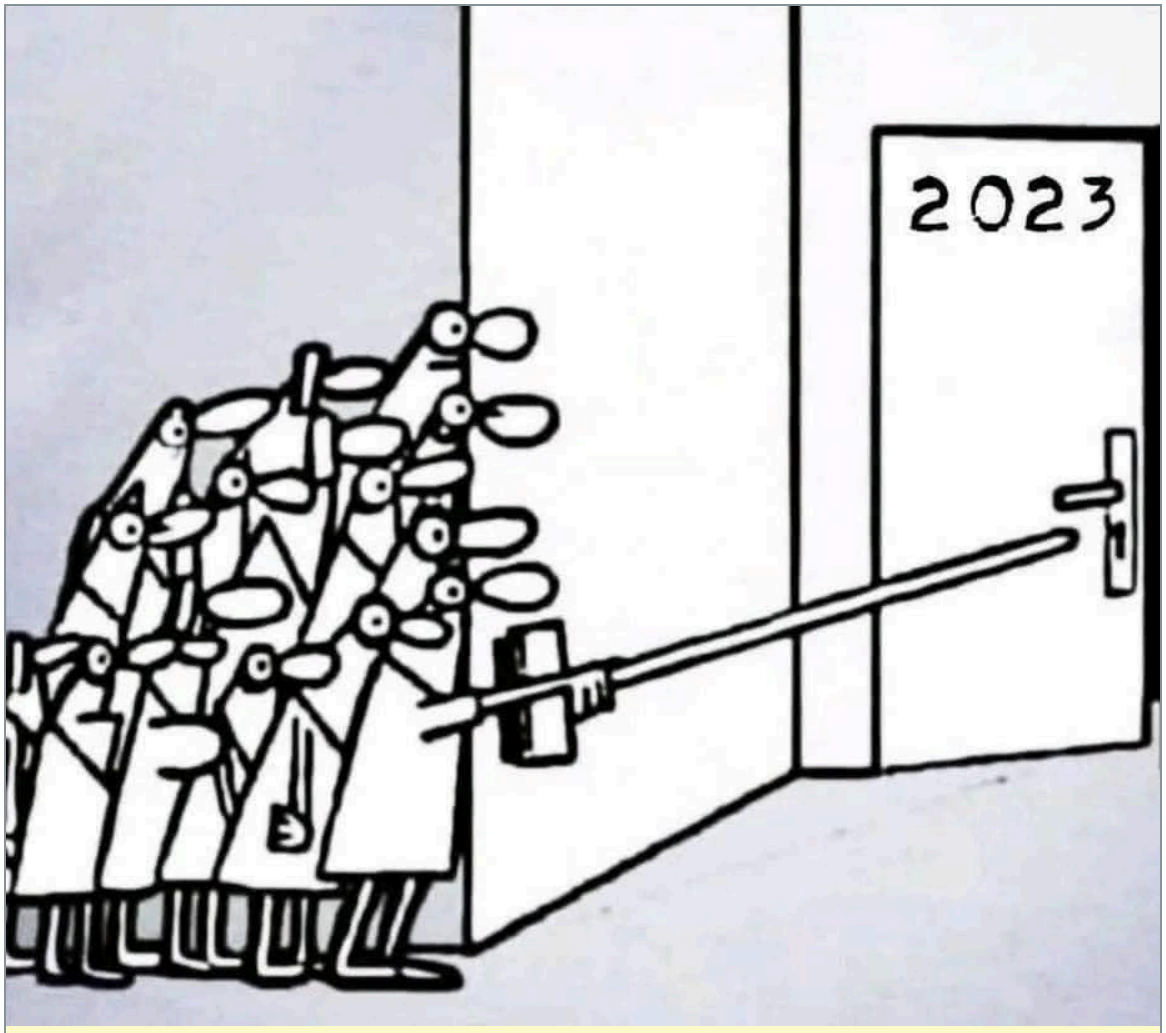
AMA was founded after a war that nearly tore our country apart. But from the day “The Professor” Charles S. Roller began teaching young Civil War veterans that the pen is mightier than the sword, our school became a beacon of optimism to many. The Professor and his fellow educators believed that if enough young men were well educated in classic pedagogical curriculum, but above all, the disciplines that make a man a thinker, open minded, principled and a caring leader. That man would be able to make a positive mark on Augusta County, the State of Virginia, The United States of America, and maybe even the little island of Puerto Rico.

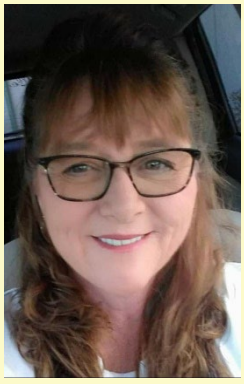
So, this year, in which I will graduate into my 70'th decade as a resident of the blue marble, I still do worry about the unimaginable horrors that affect so many around our planet. Yet, I am buoyed with the knowledge that we who had the privilege to have been taught those wonderful attributes so many years ago, have passed them on to our children and in many respects our loved ones, friends and acquaintances, and that by doing so, we may all help move the needle back into the green arc.

Happy New Year!

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

January 1, 2023

HAPPY NEW YEAR! I hope that you all had a wonderful holiday season well spent with family and friends.
The weather here in the Shenandoah Valley is typical winter. COLD and always a chance of SNOW. The staff and I are keeping warm with the many projects we have ongoing and forecasted for the new year.

The PX online has been revamped and now up and running. I encourage you to stop by the PX on the website using this link: PX / Gift Shop of the museum of Augusta Military Academy (ama-px.myshopify.com) We have added a wonderful book about one of our AMA Alumni, Lt. Col. Jacob Manch. The book is written by Charles Culbertson, a local writer and historian.
We are already working on the events scheduled for 2023. We have a great line up of events and plenty of opportunities for anyone wishing to donate their time and volunteer.

Noble Legends Speaker Series will begin in April, the Spring Festival is scheduled for May 13th. We have something new that is planned for this year, Music at the Museum. This will take place once a month on Sunday afternoons and we will have a local music group/band come and play for a few hours. I will have a full list of events published on the website under EVENTS by the end of January.

The staff and I are looking forward to a GREAT NEW YEAR and we hope that you will be able to stop in and visit! If you would like to volunteer to help out with docent duty or any of the events, please contact Chris Correa at 540-248-3007 or via email at volunteer@amaalumni.org.

Best Wishes for the New Year!

Amy Hensley
Administrative Director
The Museum of Augusta Military Academy

vanBreemen's Expressions

January 1, 2023

WHAT IF

By: Rich vanBreemen

2022 comes to a close and we celebrate the successful travels of planet Earth, completing another orbit around our sun to an arbitrary spot in space. The plethora of holidays are mostly behind us and we utter a collective sigh of both relief and depression. At least, that's my take on things.

This is often a time of reflection and remembrance on the year we just, somehow, survived. Truth be told, 2022 was not a bad year as far as the Museum of the Augusta Military

Academy is concerned. A lot of positive things took place and several major improvements or upgrades were installed in the museum itself. Don't believe me? Come down to the museum and see for yourself.

That leaves us with looking ahead to 2023. The staff at the museum has a number of things planned, some you may be aware of and others that are "hot of the presses"! I won't bore you with details today as you nurse that New Year's party hangover, but suffice it to say, you will be pleased. But as I alluded to before, this is a usually a time of reflection and introspective thinking. So, here's mine.

What IF????? What if, we had plenty of funds to operate the museum without constantly looking over our shoulder for the Grim Reaper? What if, we had plenty of Alum volunteer help to do docent duty, help maintain the building and assist with research and database chores? What if, we were able to make contact to ALL of the alum and let them know what an awesome place you have helped build here? What if, we were able to engage the many local DAY STUDENTS still in the area and welcome them into the fold, instead of them still feeling like outsiders? What if, we were able to know that the landlords of the property had our backs and supported us? What if, we had a better working relationship with the Augusta County Historical Society and they of us? What if, the other small museums in the area joined with us in a consortium of not-for-profit museums and shared ideas and resources? What if, we could get out the message to the local population that AMA was not just a school for out-of-town boys, but an integral part of our community then and NOW???? What IF?????

Seems like a pipe dream and yet, I feel it in my heart that we are damn close to making this a reality. Your museum staff

strives to make these things happen every week and the real surprise here is that NONE of us have a tie to AMA other than we got bit by the bug that you guys got to live.

In the big scheme of things, Earth will continue to circle the sun and end up at the same arbitrary place in space. The alum of AMA will eventually pass on and so will the physical school.
However, that time is unknown to any of us but in the interim, shouldn't we try our best to let folks know that "we" were here, "we" made a difference in the area and in people's lives and they in us? We still think we can, ... only IF.

Rich vanBreemen
AMA Museum Collections Curator

TAPS

Reported deaths of AMA Alumni, Faculty and Friends since October 2022

Towers, Lewis C. ‘32
Born: 8/18/1916-Died: 2/9/2007

Crosby, Raymond D. Jr. ‘41
Born: 2/2/1929-Died: 9/14/2009

Sykes, Luther W. ‘48
Born: 11/27/1927-Died: 11/6/2010

Elliott, Larry P. MD ‘50
Born: 10/16/1931-Died: 9/20/2016

Willoughby, William ‘50
Born: 1/14/1933-Died: 3/27/2015

Burn, Stephen Van Ripper ‘60
Born 1/6/1942-Died 11/2/2018

Douglas Mickey Allen ‘62
Born: 1/22/1942-Died: 10/13/2012

Gillespie, William Wayne ‘63
Born: 12/23/1940-Died: 12/31/2000

Grove, Robert Joseph ‘66
NOTE: Short time AMA cadet – graduated FMS 1970
Born: 2/11/1952-Died: 1/7/2014

Harrington, Steven Michael ‘73
Born: 3/2/1954-Died: 6/10/2018

Rader, Alden Dodge Jr.
Born: 8/26/1946-Died: 11/9/2021

The Bayonet Gallery

HERE

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

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.

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