Museum of Augusta Military Academy News

March - 2023

Chairman's Note

March 1, 2023

Dear Alumni and friends,

As we enter the end of the first quarter of 2023, we have more events and projects on the calendar than ever before.

On February 2, AMA Alumni Foundation member Gordon Metz met with the Augusta County Special Permits Committee in a public hearing to formally request a Special Events Permit for the AMA Museum. This permit is vital to us in order to continue all of our special events, including holding Alumni weekend events on the campus. I am happy to report that our permit request was approved unanimously.

Amy and the Museum staff are preparing for our first big yearly event, the Second annual Spring Festival on May 13. There will be a Classic Car Cruise-in held on the campus this year, so we expect a much larger crowd to attend this very cool event. As usual, we will have Craft people, food trucks and events for our younger visitors.

April will be a busy month as the new Music at the Museum our newest venue, will be held one Sunday per month until it wraps up in September. Our Noble legends speaking tour will commence on April 19.

The Foundation Board Executive Committee will be holding a weekend retreat on March 24-26 at John Arthurs home in Henrico N.C. The topic to be discussed, will be the long term sustainability of the AMA Museum.

I will present the committee's findings and recommendations to the full board for discussion at our April 29,2023 Zoom Meeting, and I will share a full

report with all of you in the May 2023 Museum Newsletter.
I would like to remind everyone to please send a donation to the museum as a show of your support. Every dollar you send us is a tremendous help to defray operational costs.

Team effort.

Douglas W. Pennock
Chairman
AMA Alumni Foundation, Inc.

Foundation Board News

2023 AMA Alumni Foundation, Inc. Annual Election Nomination Announcement

Last year, changes to the AMA Foundation By-Laws were approved, thus solidifying the annual AMA Alumni Foundation Board member election procedures. As a result, on-line electronic voting procedures were permanently approved, with the “cycle” for annual elections occurring in the spring (i.e. April elections).

In accordance with By-laws: Section 4.3. *Terms*: *Each Director shall be elected for a three-year term, starting with the date of the annual meeting at which they are elected, and until their successors have been duly elected and qualified, or until their death, resignation, or removal. The Board of Directors shall be divided into three classes with staggered terms, with each class as nearly equal in number as may be (i.e. four).* Accordingly, one-third of the Directors' terms of office shall expire/rotate each year. The following four board members term expires this year, and all four have expressed their desire to continue on the Board:

Frank Williamson '60 Jorge Rovirosa '70
Garry Granger '71 Tom Del Valle '73

New nominees:

Jeff Wenzel '69, Victor Gomez '69, Herb Meher '72-'73, Lee Ramsey '73, Phil Bentley '83

Additionally, during the January 7, 2023 Foundation Board Meeting, the Board unanimously approved the addition of four (4) board director positions, increasing it from 13 to 17, to take effect in this 2023 election cycle. As such, there are a total of eight positions / vacancies up for consideration.

As specified in By-laws Section 4.4 *Nomination of Directors* (Revised 08 January 2022), the call for nominations shall take place no less than sixty (60) days prior to the designated annual election start date. Notice shall be provided all members via AMA website posting, electronic mail and social media outlets. Nominations are welcome and encouraged for those wishing to become involved in the governance of the AMA Alumni Foundation. In addition to the four incumbents, any AMA Alumnus or qualified members may present a nomination for a qualified candidate, or may nominate him/herself, for the position of Director. By-laws Article II Membership, Section 2.1 & 2.2, delineates board member qualifications, which can be accessed / downloaded **here**. Nominations

must be received no later than thirty (30) days prior to the designated annual election start date, with no exceptions. Nomination "window" formally opens NLT **Friday, January 27, 2023** and will close on **Monday, March 27, 2023.**

Appropriately, the Election Committee is preparing an electronic ballot to enable on-line voting utilizing Google Forms. If you currently receive the AMA Email newsletter, a link will be sent to your email, where you will cast your ballot. If you DO NOT currently receive the AMA Email newsletter and wish to participate in this election, you must add your email to the monthly email distribution list by clicking **here**. Voting will open/commence no later than **Wednesday, March 29th, 2023** and voting will end at **Noon (Eastern DST) Thursday, April 27, 2023**. This election process will be publicized on the museum newsletter, via email announcement, posted on the AMA website, and posted on the social media/Facebook sites.

NOMINATION AND VOTING TIMELINES

- **Friday, January 27, 2023**: Nomination announcement made on email, website and social media. All those desiring to be nominated should contact John Arthur **john.arthur@cdg-1.com** / 757-650-6309 via email or telephone call. Please include Gordon Metz **gordonrmetz@gmail.com** on email.
- **Monday, March 27, 2023:** The nomination deadline / window formally closed.
- **Wednesday, March 29, 2023:** Election electronic voting commences (30-day window).
- **Thursday, April 27, 2023:** Electronic voting ends at NOON (EST)**.** Results provided to Chairman and Board members.
- **Saturday, April 29, 2023:** Special Zoom Board meeting with new members to conduct elections for Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer.

Monday, May 1, 2023: The election results and the newly-elected Board Officers (Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer) announced in the Museum Newsletter

Staunton High School History Class visits the AMA Museum

Coach Jarrett Hatcher's Staunton High School history class visited the museum on Friday, February 17. Brett Thompson '75 joined Chris, Autumn and Amy to help lead Museum Tours

Update your contact information!

Please update your contact information HERE

We will never share it with anyone outside the AMA organization.

AMA Legacy Scholarship Season

Deadline to submit has ended

The AMA Foundation will be offering two $2,000 and one $1,000 Scholarships for 2023!

The AMA Legacy Scholarship ($2,000), (restricted to AMA descendants), funded by Marc Aronson '68

The *Guilliams Virginia Tech Scholarship ($2,000), 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.

The Louise McVey Leonard - Robert P. Leonard Memorial Scholarship ($1,000) is funded by Bill Mcvey '60 in honor of his Aunt and Uncle who paid the tuition for him to attend AMA for 6 years and 4 years at VMI.

*And the "window" for the **AMA Sports Hall of Fame Class of 2023** nominations closed on the 28th of February. This year, our Sports Hall of Fame (SHOF) Committee will be considering six candidates. They are:*

- William J. Lane '42: Basketball & Baseball
- *Raymond H. Stanton II '62: Football & Basketball*
- Watson *Hill Ellett '63; Football, Basketball, Baseball & Track*
- *Bruce Reyngoudt '70: Football & Lacrosse*
- *Michael Kidd '72: Rifle*

- 1972 Lacrosse Team

The nomination packet development research has commenced by the SHOF Committee, with the goal to complete their task and announce the results in early May. The SHOF induction is scheduled during the annual reunion, with the induction ceremony occurring during lunch on Saturday, September 9. Many thanks to all who took the time to reach-out and nominate deserving individuals and teams! Any questions can be addressed to SHOF Committee Chairman John Arthur, 757-650-6309 or

john.arthur@cdg-1.com

REUNION 2023

September 7-9 2023

It’s never too early to talk about Alumni Reunion 2023.

Reunion Committee Co-Chairs Herb Maher and Lee Ramsey along with perennial Alumni Reunion planner Steve Trent, are hard at work to make this year’s reunion even more memorable than last year's. We will continue to focus on offering everyone outstanding food and lots of low stress time to give everyone the opportunity to relax and enjoy catching up with old friends.

Reunion 2023 Headquarters Hotel will again be the Hotel 24 South in Staunton (Stonewall Jackson). The special AMA Reunion 2023 rate will be $123.00 per night plus taxes. The hotel rate includes parking.

All reunion events with the exception of Saturday lunch and bus tour will be held at the hotel. To reserve a room, call the hotel directly at 540-885-4848 and make sure that you ask for the AMA Reunion rate..

Please mark the dates on your calendar.

Springfield 1903

Gun Raffle 2023

Ø Springfield 1903 rifle. Caliber 30/06
Ø Serial Number 838XXX
Ø Manufactured in 1918. "High Number" rifle.
Ø Swept back bolt, that post production, had a serial number engraved on the body. Number does not match rifle SN.
Ø Stock is military with no cracks or defects other than normal wear. No proof marks.
Ø Rifle has not been customized or sporterized.
Ø Rifle has been examined by a gunsmith and test fired – deemed safe and fully functional.

Total value of the weapon is roughly $1,000 and will be considered NRA Very Good - Good condition at auction.

The rifle will have a new leather sling. Also included, are a cleaning kit and manual placed inside the storage area in the butt.

Use the form on our website to purchase your chances to win.

(https://amaalumni.org/spring-2023-raffle/)

The cost is $25 per chance per item, or five chances for $100. On the form, if you so choose, you can add an additional amount to help us cover the cost of the payment processing. There is no limit on the number of chances you may purchase.

Checkout is through PayPal. It may take a minute or two for the transfer to the PayPal page. Be patient and do not close your browser while waiting. There is an option to use a credit card once you get to the PayPal site. If you'd prefer to pay the museum directly, simple close your browser once you reach the PayPal Site. Print your email purchase confirmation and send that and your check to the museum.

You must be 21 years or older to participate in this raffle.
This raffle is void where prohibited by law.

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 February

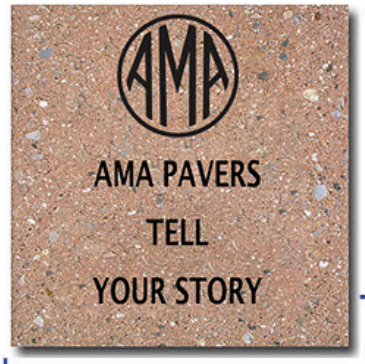
Brian Miller '67
Jeff Wenzel '70
Victor Gomez '69
Charlie Pascale '69

Visitors in February

90

Museum Volunteer

***B*e a Volunteer Docent for a weekend? Please sign up by calling Chris at the museum at: 540-248-3007**



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

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

Augusta Military Academy

CROSSLAND
AUGUSTA MILITARY ACADEMY
AD ASTRA PER ASPERA
1865

AMA

AMA

AMA blanket

NEW!

17 oz. Mug

Only $12.00 plus tax and shipping

Doug Pennock's Viewpoint

March 1, 2023

Dear Readers,

Over the past few years, I have had the pleasure of publishing this Newsletter. This edition will be number 60, excluding any special editions that may have been sent. I hope that my efforts have kept some of you a little amused, or at least informed on matters AMA.

Whenever I sit at my computer to write this column, it seems that most every time, my storyline is derived from some decade's old memory of my years at AMA. Some people could say that I am living in the past, and possibly that may be the case for a few minutes of the day, but I mostly live in the current moment, and am very thankful for what I have today. A wonderful family, a roof over my head, nourishment whenever I want it and a handful of real friends. Just a handful.

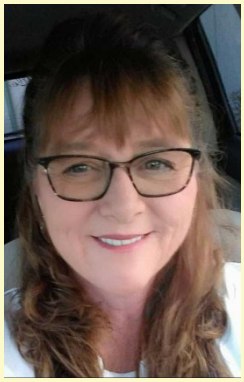
The thing is, that my very closest friends in that handful, happen to be AMA brothers. What an incredible stroke of luck that we are all members of
such a special fraternity! Fifty plus years later, and we are still poking fun at each other, sharing our joys and our tears.

So, yea, sometimes I think about what my life would have turned out to be without having attended AMA. I will never know the answer to that question, but I feel pretty confident that my parents decision to send me there was spot on.

That said, please excuse me while I pick up my cell phone and call one of my non-sibling brothers.

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

March 1, 2023

A New Chapter

As we leave the grip of winter and move forward to awakening of Spring, we are starting yet a new chapter. We are moving into the time of year where everything is new again. The trees and flowers have new sprouts and blossoms, and the grass will soon be renewing itself weekly! We are moving in the new or next chapter of 2023.

Our new chapter begins with our new season of events. April 16, 2023, is the kick off to our new series, Music at the Museum. We have a great little local band that has agreed to come one Sunday per month from April to September and play music for all who gather here at the museum from 1 pm to 4 pm. We are excited about this new program and our hope that it will attract many from the community not only to come and listen to music but also come in and tour the museum. Our Noble Legends Series kicks off on Wednesday, April 19, 2023 and the Spring Festival and Cruise In is scheduled for May 13, 2023. A full listing of the events will be listed in the newsletter and is also published on the website at www.amaalumni.org.

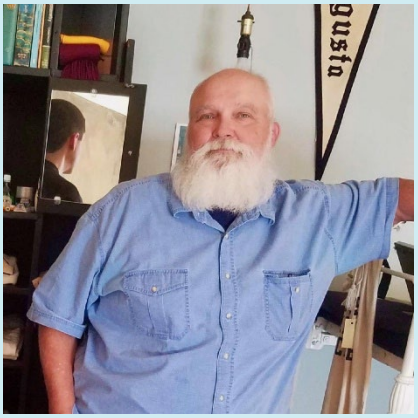
Last month I wrote about the Apollo 11 trip to the Moon and that there were over 300,000 or 400,000 people that participated in the program in a wide variety of tasks. The program was a success and that was as a result of a team of people working together to achieve a common goal, to land a spacecraft with astronauts on the moon.

While I know what we are doing here isn't rocket science and we aren't planning a historic trip to the moon, we are working collectively to preserve the history and the story of AMA. That history involves each one of you! Your time as a cadet here is THE AMA STORY. As we work together as a team, we are sharing the story, YOUR STORY, with our visitors and our community. We are working as a team to give back to the community that AMA has been a part of for over 100 years!
WE WANT YOU ON OUR TEAM to work with us on the new chapter of events for 2023. We need volunteers. I understand that many of our Alumni live out of town, but that's ok! If you cannot be here to physically donate your time, you can share your talent! If you are saying, "well, I am not so talented", that's ok too! We are looking for people who are willing to contribute by sponsoring an event. Your sponsorship in ANY amount will help us participate with our community through actively engaging programs (i.e. Noble Legends) and events (Music at the Museum, Spring and Fall Festivals) that are educational and family friendly.
Interested? Want more info? Please contact me at the museum at 540-248-3007 or send me an email to museum@amaalumni.org. I would love to share with you how your participation in this new chapter will help us as we move forward to preserving the legacy of AMA.

Amy Hensley
AMA Museum Administrator

---

vanBreemen's Expressions



March 1, 2023

History and Facts

by: Rich vanBreemen
AMA Museum Curator

As some of you may (or may not) know, we have been very busy scanning and posting all copies of the Bayonet and Recalls we have in our possession, for all to see. I recently won an auction of some AMA Bayonets from 1906, 1908 and 1911. Donating them to the Museum, my first step was to scan them (you can find them on our web page) and of course read them during the process.

The early Bayonets (a practice later continued in the RECALL) contained an article in which the writers would fabricate a story about some of the cadets in a future time and what they would be doing. In the November 1911 Bayonet, an article titled, “A Dream”, goes on to talk about the adventures of 11 cadets, traveling across our country. The article describes “Vet” Gallagher being in Chicago and recruited by Frank Chance to play for the Chicago Cubs and how the rest of his posse wish him well.

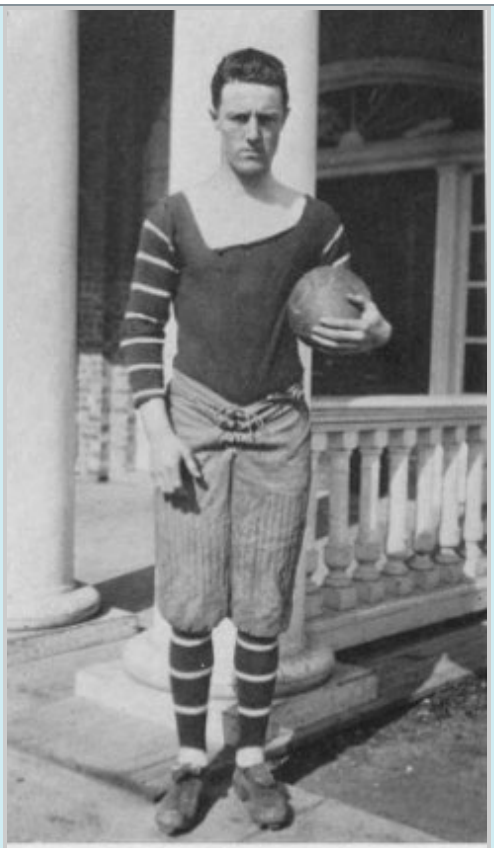
Being a Chicago native and (sadly) a Cubs fan, I had to look into this. Frank Chance was, in 1911, a famous first baseman for the

Chicago Cubs. John C. “Vet” Gallagher was a shortstop for AMA, who would have been a Junior at the time of this writing. I had to know – did “VET” actually play for the Cubs? Interestingly I found that, at Wrigley Field, there is a portion of the park called GALLAGHER WAY but investigation showed no connection to “VET”. What I DID discover was a fantastic story about a man’s life, his lengthy association with AMA and something no one remembers.

John C Gallagher was born in February 1892, in Pittsburg, PA - 6 full years before the Spanish American War! In 1908 he attended AMA and spent the next 5 years excelling as a cadet and a sports legend. That 1911 Bayonet was filled with stories of his exploits on the football field.

J. C. GALLAGHER
Commissary Quartermaster

AMA-1908-1913, Commissary QM (Cadet Capt.)



J. C. GALLAGHER Captain

Capt. & Full Back/Football, Right Guard Basketball, Capt. & Shortstop/Baseball, Valedictorian, Best Athlete

As you recall, Major Roller (Big Boy) was coach of the AMA football team and he would have certainly had a warm spot in his heart for such an outstanding example of what AMA could produce. It is "probably" why John C.'s next stop was as a cadet at VMI, Roller's Alma mater. For unknown reasons, after completing his RAT year, John withdrew from VMI (still listed as Class of 1917 – withdrew) and

apparently walked across the lawn to attend Washington & Lee University (W&L).

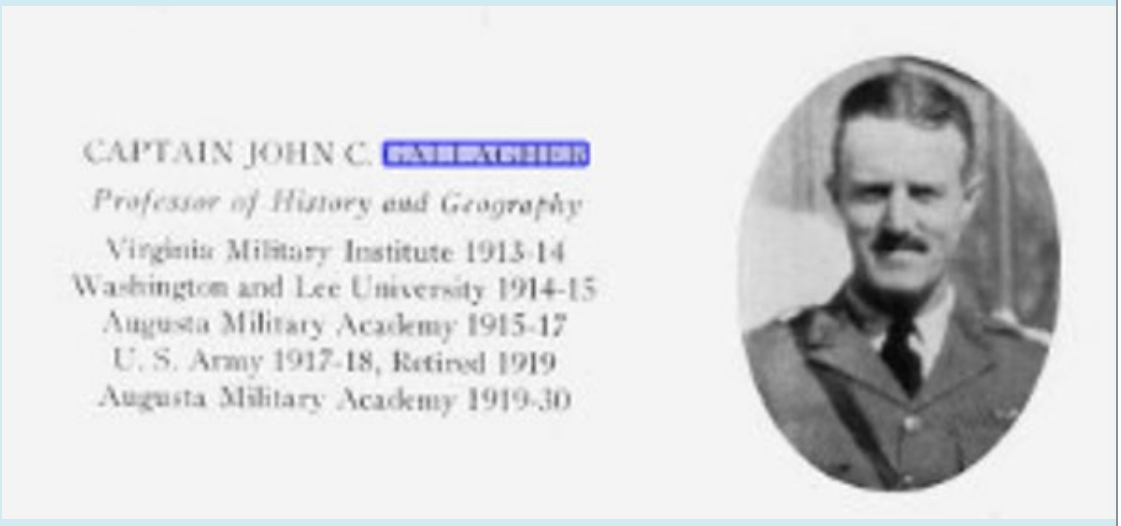
W&L records are a little sketchy, but he left school in 1915 and was recruited to play major league baseball! At this point I was beginning to think that the DREAM article in the 1911 Bayonet was about to come true. WELLLLLLLL, kind of. It is true that in 1915, John was recruited to play pro ball, but that was for the (short lived) Federal Baseball League. More specifically for the Baltimore Terrapins as shortstop. The history of the League and the team would fill another whole Newsletter article, but in short, the both folded in 1915. John was, as the saying goes, up a creek without a paddle. Enter his old mentor, Major Roller.

From 1915 to 1917, John C. returned to AMA as an instructor of History, Geography and Math. Apparently, school and sports weren't his only hobbies because in 1915 he had a daughter, Evelyn Glasper, born out of wedlock. Here is a photo of John helping to coach football at AMA around 1917. Standing next to him, but cropped out of the photo is Major Roller.

Remember that for all of John's post AMA life, WAR had been raging across Europe and in 1917, Woodrow Wilson finally, threw our "hat into the ring". America joins the war and with it, so do Major Roller and young John C. Gallagher. While Roller was traipsing about France with the Red Cross, John was doing his part as a First Lieutenant with the 1st Pioneer AEF, from 1917 to 1919. In 1919 he is discharged from the Army and returns to AMA for the next chapter of his life.

For the next 11 years, he worked as a Professor of History and Geography at AMA. In 1921, he marries Elizabeth Caldwell of Staunton, VA. Despite the published claims that "AMA Instructors

are single, college educated men", John C. defies the odds and is back at AMA with none of the credentials – other than being a man. I believe this to be a testament to the high regard, Major Roller must have held his former apprentice.



The 1930 Census shows him as an AMA instructor living in Middle River VA. Sadly, on October 28, 1929, the Stock Market crashes (Black Monday) and even rural AMA is drawn into the Great Depression. We know from other documents that many cadets were pulled from school, their parents having lost their fortunes. This caused the Roller brothers to enact major cuts to the Faculty and Staff and it would appear that Captain John C. Gallagher felt those cuts. At the end of the 1930 school year, 38-year-old John leaves AMA, a place that he called home for nearly half his life.

It's here that we lose track of John. I have been unable to pin down any definitive records of the next 10 years until he reappears in 1940 in Norfolk, VA. He is now divorced from Elizabeth (as of 1932) and at some point, in the near future, is remarried to one Rebecca Emory, a women 18 years his junior! I guess once a hound dog always a hound dog!

What we can piece together is that John was a successful employee of the Norfolk Naval Shipyards, a job which would have been very stressful and necessary during the World War 2 years. He stays at this nearly up to the time of his death, March 30, 1952; he was 60 years old.

Here is his obituary from the Virginian-Pilot, March 31, 1952, p. 19.

John Carroll Gallagher, 60, husband of Mrs. Rebecca Emory Gallagher, died at a Norfolk hospital yesterday at 6:25 p. m. He had been in failing health for the past year. Mr. Gallagher resided at 911 Brandon Avenue, East Manor Apartments.

He was a native of Pittsburgh, but had been a resident of Norfolk for about 12 years. He was a supervisor at the Naval Supply Center, Naval Base, where he had been employed for about nine years.

He was a member of the Ghent Methodist Church and of both the VMI and Washington and Lee Alumni Associations. He was a veteran of World War I.

In addition to his wife, he is survived by a stepdaughter, Miss Mary Rebecca Ford, of Norfolk, and three sisters, Mrs. Thomas Rose, of Baltimore, and Mrs. Tracey Ast and Miss Margaret Gallagher, both of Pittsburgh.

Funeral services will be conducted at the Cox Funeral Home tomorrow at 3:30 p. m. by Dr. A. B. Clarke, pastor of Ghent Methodist Church, and the Rev. George W. M. Taylor, of Lekies Memorial Methodist Church. Burial will be in Forest Lawn Cemetery.

I promised you a fantastic story about a man's life and his lengthy association with AMA. I hope this has accomplished that. What I have not yet delivered is the "something no one remembers" part. Here you go - John C. Gallagher was a member of the Baltimore Terrapin baseball team in 1915. Another young member of that team, who was traded off early for financial reasons, and someone John may have had dealings with, was George Herman "Babe" Ruth Jr.

Babe went on to play for the Boston Red Sox and later the NYC Yankees where his fame was made. John C. Gallagher's life covered decades of this country's most turbulent and also successful years. Getting to know about him helps us to know more about our world at large. How many other fantastic journeys await us in between the pages of those old Bayonets? All you have to do is go look for yourself.

BAYONET

Published by the Cadets of the Augusta
Military Academy, Fort Defiance, Virginia
M C M V I I

Read the April 1907 Bayonet
HERE

The Bayonet Gallery
HERE

TAPS

Stephen Peter Speciale AMA
1943-2023

The Speciale Family would like to announce the passing of their father Stephen (Steve) Peter Speciale at the age of 80 years.
He passed quietly on February 18 around 5 PM. The family would like to thank the wonderful healthcare providers at Laurelbrook Nursing home and Hearth Hospice. These people are true angels working in our community.

Steve was born in New York city in 1943. He is a graduate of Augusta Military Academy, in Fort Defiance, VA. Later his salesmen career moved his young family to Ohio. In 1977, he moved his family to Spring City where he owned and operated several local businesses.

Steve was salesmen with an entrepreneurial spirit. He was a passionate angler and hunter. Some of his talents included beautiful penmanship, painting, playing guitar (self-taught), as well as being a published military fiction author. His death was preceded by his mother Madeline Tramontano Speciale, his father Stephen Speciale and his grandson Nicolas Speciale of Austin, Texas.
He is survived by his three sons, Stephen Anthony (wife Tammy), Ben Michael (wife Kim) and Joseph Robert (wife Kelly) Speciale, his grandchildren Jeremy Speciale, Stevie Speciale, Natalie Speciale, Abigail Speciale, Hannah Speciale Bice (husband Barrett) and Lauren Speciale as well as his sister Madeline (husband Chuck) Barlow in San Diego, CA. The family will have a celebration of life for Steve Speciale at Vaughn Funeral Home, in Spring City, TN on April 8 from 1 to 3:00 PM.

In lieu of flowers, the family is asking for donations (Go Fund Me link below) to provide fishing tackle and access for kids in Spring City, TN to fish on Watts Bar Lake.

https://gofund.me/4e7c63a4

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.

Augusta Military Academy Museum | 540-248-3007
| Museum@AMAalumni.org | http://www.amaalumni.org
1640 Lee Highway
P.O. Box 101
Fort Defiance, VA 24437