Museum of Augusta Military Academy News

July - 2023

The Barracks June 25, 2023

Chairman's Note

July 1, 2023

Dear Alumni and friends,

The AMA Alumni Foundation Board held our annual summer meeting/work weekend June 23-25. The board meeting was held on Friday June 23, at the 29th Division Museum in Verona. The meeting began at 0915 hrs. and was adjourned at 1230 hrs. All 17 voting members were present, 12 in person and 5 via Zoom teleconference.

Standing active Committee Chairs gave a report outlining their accomplishments and future projects. Herb Maher and Lee Ramsey gave a detailed Reunion 2023 status report and urged everyone to please register early. Board Treasurer Gary Cripps presented the year-to-date financial report. He reported that even though donations in 2023 have increased over 2022 year to date, we are still operating in the red. The future of the museum operation operating hours and structure to determine the best / most sustainable path forward for our museum was discussed in great detail.

The board has decided to commence a strategy which is to digitize the museum collection and records, and in tandem, will begin gathering information on how to transform the museum from “brick and mortar” to “Virtual” before the expiration of our lease on October 30, 2028.

A complete financial report and the map to achieve our museums digitizing and Virtual construction will be shared with all members at our annual Members meeting at Reunion 2023.

After the board adjourned, we all drove to a nearby restaurant in Verona and had lunch. After lunch, John Arthur took the lead on the work portion of the weekend and set up various tables at our Verona storage facility where Cadet files were reviewed and were

cleared of all medical records and non-historically significant documents. All deleted documents were shredded at the warehouse site by AMA Foundation Board members. It is important to note that this very slow and tedious process must be repeated on every cadet file that we hold in our possession before we can have them scanned. As I stated before, our intention is to scan all of the museums historically significant documents as part of our complex plan to convert the AMA Museum into a virtual one.

It took 8 people 8 hours (64-man hours!) to review and edit less than 8% of our Cadet files! There is a huge amount of work still to do! Moving forward, we are planning to have Cadet files work weekends throughout the upcoming months and years. All Alumni are welcome to join in.

I wish everyone a safe and happy Independence Day 2023 celebration!

Team effort.

Douglas W. Pennock
Chairman
AMA Alumni Foundation, Inc.

AMA Alumni Foundation Board meeting and work weekend
June 23-25, 2023

Jorge Rovirosa '70, deep thought as he spent some time inspecting memorial bricks

Friday Night Relaxation

Some of the Foundation Board members gathered at the front patio of the Hotel 24 South after dinner to relax and share some camaraderie.

(L-R)
Gordon Metz '68, Marc Aronson '68, Jorge Rovirosa '70, John Arthur '75, Garry Granger '71, Gary Cripps '71, Lee Ramsey '73 and Tom Del Valle '73

Front (L) Doug Pennock '72 and (R) Gary Cripps '71 having Saturday morning breakfast with Warren Fleming '72 Back (L) and Bill Evans '72 (R)

(L-R) Doug Pennock '72, Tom Del Valle '73, Garry Granger '71, Lee Ramsey '73

1557

Directors at Work

All hands on deck! AMAAF Directors spent many hours reviewing and cleaning up Cadet records at our Verona Mini Warehouse site.

(Front to back)

John Arthur '75, Jorge Rovirosa '70, Brett Thompson '75, Garry Granger '71, Marc Aronson '68 (partially hidden) and Lee Ramsey, '73

Friday Evening Dinner in Staunton

(L-R)

Gordon Metz '68, Garry Granger,'71, Jorge Rovirosa '70, John Arthur '75, Doug Pennock '72, Marc Aronson '68, Gary Cripps '71, Tom Del Valle '73 and Lee Ramsey '73

Garry Granger '71 surprise birthday celebration on Saturday June 24, 2023. Garry said that the last time he celebrated his birthday at AMA,

was his 13th the summer of 1966 when he was attending Summer School at Augusta.

This year, our Sports Hall of Fame Inductees are:

- William J. Lane '42: Basketball & Baseball
- Watson *Hill Ellett '63; Football, Basketball, Baseball & Track*
- *Bruce Reyngoudt '70: Football & Lacrosse*
- 1972 Lacrosse Team

Each inductee will be recognized at the Saturday lunch at the September reunion.

Congratulations to everyone that was selected!

ALUMNI Reunion 2023

Sharing Past Memories.... Making New Ones

September 7-9 2023

REGISTER HERE

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 the Dynamic Aviation 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..

List of registered Alumni

Larry Reed `69 and wife Geri
Jeff Wenzel `70
Marc Aronson `68
Jorge Rovirosa `70 and wife Kiki
Garry Granger `71 and wife Becky
Larry Nicholson `75 and wife Debbie
Herb Maher `72-'73 and wife Anne
Phil Bentley `83
Doug Pennock `72 and wife Trudy
Tom Del Valle `73
Doug Driscoll `72 and wife Anita
Don Studer, faculty 69-84
Luis Marien `73
Ainsley Bloomfield, (former intern)
Lee Ramsey `73 and wife Karen
Brett Thompson `75

Message from the Reunion Committee

- When we invited faculty to our annual reunion in September 2021, it became clear that there are a number of former AMA faculty members with attachments to Augusta as strong or nearly as strong as those of us former cadets. Many of these instructors spent the major part of their lives working for and in some cases living with AMA cadets, and the Reunion Committee has decided that we would like to make the inclusion of former faculty a reunion tradition going forward. And we also think their participation in the reunion should be on those of us who benefited from their dedication and knowledge.

- To that end, it has been decided to invite all the former faculty for whom we have contact information to Saturday's Founders Day Ceremony and "Mission Barbeque" lunch in the gymnasium. This would enable those faculty who can attend to enjoy a day's fellowship with alumni and return home in time for dinner.

- To accomplish this without dipping into our already strained finances, we're asking those former cadets who appreciate the education these faculty members gave to us to donate $50 to cover meal costs for the luncheon. You can donate for as many faculty members as you'd like. (You can also donate $50 to defray the cost of a Saturday evening dinner for a VIP guest.) You'll find information on donating on the registration form in this

newsletter. If you've already sent in your registration, you can send a check directly to the Foundation and indicate "Faculty Meal(s)" or "VIP Meal(s)" in the Memo Line.

- **We're working from a contact list compiled by museum staff a couple of years ago and updating contact information as we can. If you have kept in touch with any former faculty member and can provide us with any current contact information, including mailing address, email address and/or phone, please email to doug.whatzup@gmail.com. If you know of any faculty member deaths, that information would be helpful as well.**

- **These surviving former faculty are an even older bunch than us alumni, and they contributed to our lives in ways that many of us have come to appreciate more and more as we grow older. They have as much right to enjoy the reunion as we do, so please help make that possible.**

Springfield 1903

Rifle 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.

The value of this weapon is roughly $1,800 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 fee. 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.

MUSEUM

DOCENT DUTY

THANK YOU!

To those who volunteered in June

Brian Miller '67

SET UP YOUR MONTHLY DONATION HERE

Work Weekend Volunteers

Marc Aronson ‘68
Jorge Rovirosa '70
Jeff Wenzel ‘70
Garry Granger ‘71
Doug Pennock ‘72
Lee Ramsey ‘73
Tom del Valle ‘73
John Arthur ‘75
Brett Thompson ‘75

Visitors in June

125

Museum Volunteer

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

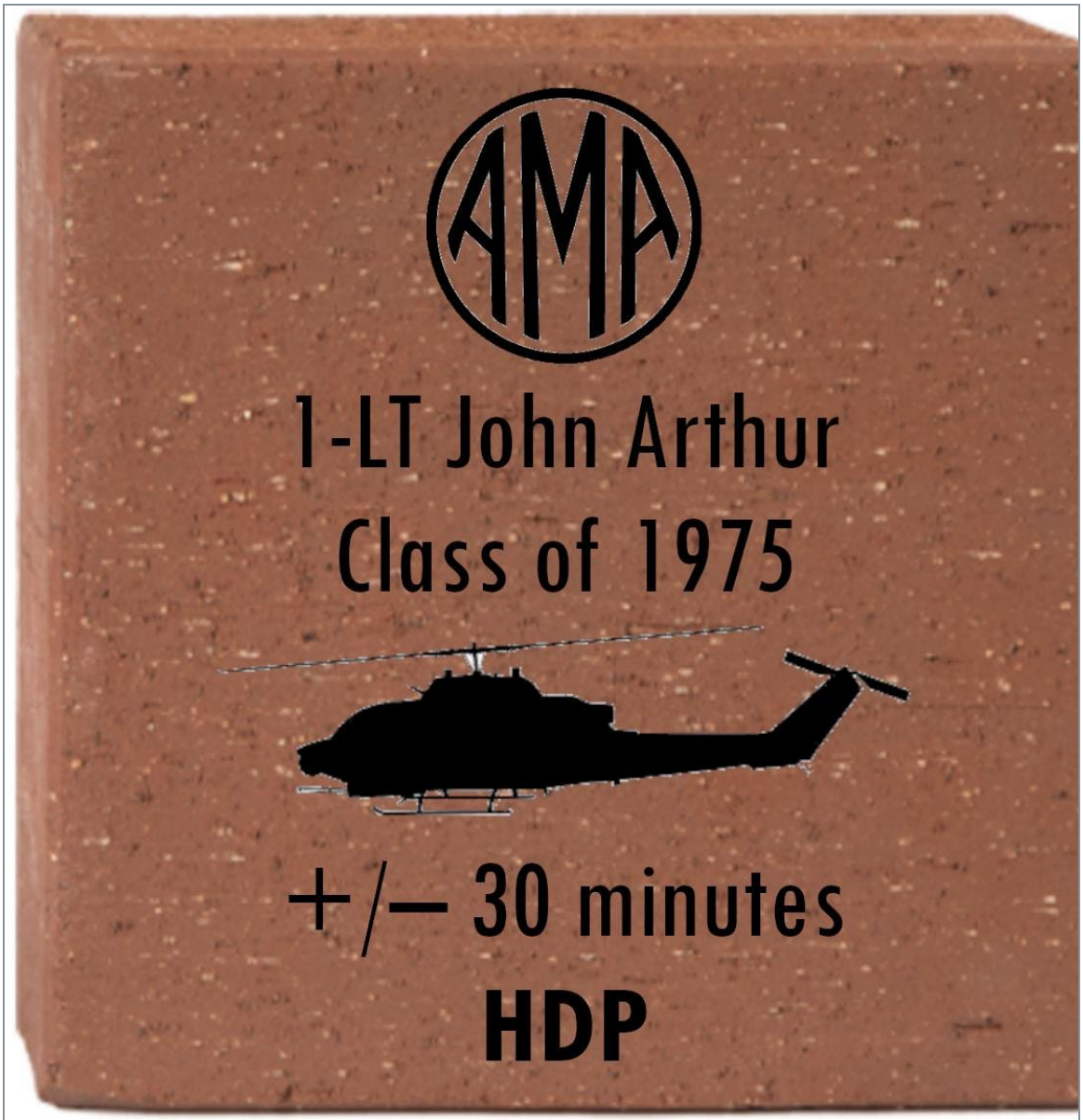
Purchasing a Paver Brick allows you to recognize anyone you knew while attending AMA

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 at the PX

CHARLES S. ROWLEY
III
RIFLES

AUGUSTA MILITARY ACADEMY
BAND

AMA

AUGUSTA MILITARY ACADEMY

AUGUSTA MILITARY ACADEMY

AUGUSTA
MILITARY
ACADEMY

17 oz. Mug

Only $12.00 plus tax and shipping

Just arrived to the PX!

Beautiful Wendell August Forge metal serving tray

$50.00

(Limited quantity)

THE PX ONLINE STORE IS NOW OPEN!

SUMMER SALE!!!!

All AMA branded merchandise will be sold at a *20% discount for June and July 2023

***The 20% discount does not apply to the Wendell August Forge Serving Tray**

Doug Pennock's Viewpoint

July 1, 2023

Dear Readers,

Whenever I travel to AMA from my home in San Juan, Puerto Rico, it usually takes me 12 to 13 hours of travel time each way. I leave my house at about 0600 hrs. drive to the airport, kiss my wife goodbye and in short order, I'm in the TSA-Pre queue, which now a days is the same length as the regular TSA queue. I throw my backpack and carry-on luggage on the X-ray belt and I always have that lagging concern that I left something in the backpack that could get me in trouble with the Feds. A bullet, a full magazine a handgun or you know, a nail clipper.

I usually take the 4-hour flight from San Juan to Charlotte NC with a connection to Richmond Va. Let me clarify that the 4-hour flight could be lengthened substantially by a FAA software crash, weather

somewhere over the northern hemisphere or even a bogus mechanical failure that the pilot decided to make up because he is upset that his last raise was only $100,000 a year. Inevitably. My connection airport arrival gate and departure gate are one county away from each other, so I speed walk, (which is no longer that easy to do) to make the connection at gate Z-99.

The flight to Richmond is so short that the pilot takes off, reaches cruise altitude of only 25,000 feet and immediately begins his decent. The whole dance still takes about an hour though.

Richmond Byrd Field is a small airport, so the zoo like qualities you have at Charlotte airport are not present there. Yet when I get to my car rental dispatcher person at Avis or Hertz, I feel like I hit a time warp slow down. Things in the islands can be slow, but trust me, Richmond airport car rental personnel have a leg up on Marley's Car rental in Jamaica! No problem Mon!

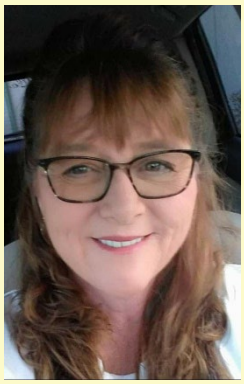
I can usually make the drive to Staunton from Richmond in about an hour and a half, traffic permitting. But of course if there is some sort of fender bender on the interstate as I drive towards my final destination, I will most likely ignore the Waze GPS App when it tells me to take the next exit to reroute me in order to save time. Ok, everyone that is reading this also ignores the GPS App suggestions, right?

At the end of the day, every time I return to the Valley for a Board meeting, Alumni reunion or just a visit and Docent duty at the museum and I have the opportunity

to spend time with people I really care about, the long road I take to and from Ft. Defiance is always well worth it.

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

July 1, 2023

Here we are at the beginning of July already! We are over that halfway mark of 2023!
We are just a tad over two months before we are celebrating Reunion 2023. For those of you who are following the AMA group on Facebook, I will be posting updates of those who have registered. If you have not registered yet, I encourage you to do so soon. If you go to the AMA website, you will see in the top banner REUNION, click there and you can register for the reunion and also book your hotel reservations at Hotel 24 South with a direct link.

Congratulations! Autumn Hitt, our intern, graduated from High School on June 4. Autumn has plans to attend Blue Ridge Community College beginning in the fall. Autumn has done a fantastic job sharing the AMA

story with our guests. She has been a true asset with helping to plan and prepare for our events at the museum. Congratulations Autumn and sincerest BEST WISHES for a bright future ahead.
As we celebrate the birthday of our great nation, please take just a moment from the picnics and fireworks and reflect on America and how she became such a wonderful and great nation. Please remember those who took their challenge to leadership seriously and the courage of all those men and woman who sacrificed time from family and even their lives to bring America to the place we are today. Remember those in your prayers that are away from their families now holding the line for each of us every day and ask God to continue to bless America! I hope that you all have a safe and wonderful 4th of July. Safe travels to those on the road!

Amy Hensley
AMA Museum Administrator

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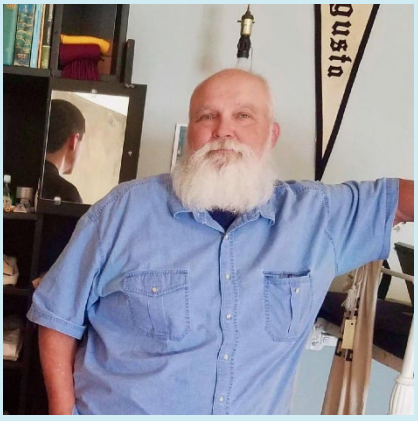
vanBreemen's Expressions



July 1, 2023

Keep the Change

by: Rich vanBreemen

The phrase, “Keep the change.” is one we have probably all used in our lives. Most often referring to someone keeping the monetary difference between the cost of an item or service and the currency tendered. So, you can see that change can really mean DIFFERENCE between what is and what will be.

A few months ago, my newsletter contribution was about how things are always changing. Specifically, the article focused on some exhibit changes within the museum. Those changes – the Trigger & Camp Kannata exhibits – were rather significant and have thus far been well received. Hang on, there are more new exhibits in the works as well as upgrades to existing displays.

Change is a scary thing for most people. While often needed, as well as desired, abandoning what is consistent and comfortable can be upsetting. That applies to the museum and is exhibits as well. Given that our museum tells the history of the school and its people for over 100 years, there is a LOT of room for interpretation on how to tell that story. If we were a museum say, on the nuclear power industry, there are only a few ways you can describe splitting an atom while not blowing yourself up. The exhibits and the story would be pretty straight forward. However, our story is much convoluted and fluid. Therefore, there is often more than one way to tell that story.

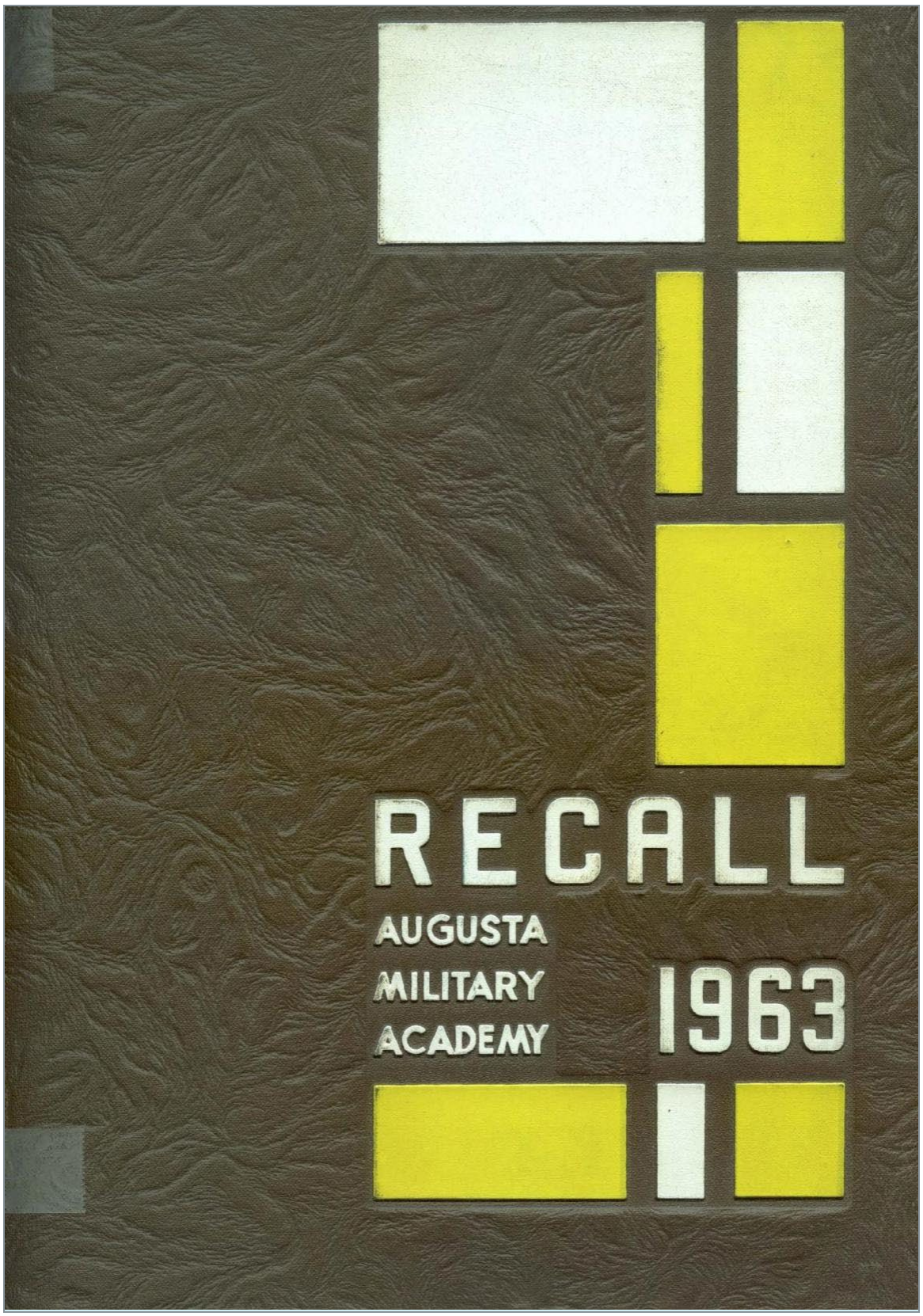
Telling the story is exactly the point. Everything we have on display – as well as how and what we display – it is simply reinforcement and impetus to the story telling. By storytelling, I do not mean “Once Upon a Time” or “There I was” kind of thing. I mean the who, what, where, when why and HOW kind of story for each participant. And each story is different – even if it

occurred at the same time and place as another's story. This can be a complicated endeavor or we can make it simple; the choice is ours.

Recently, the museum staff sat down to discuss changes in the museum exhibits. You would think three people with similar expectations of the museum's purpose would be in lockstep on HOW to go about it. You couldn't be further from reality than if you thought unicorns lived on the dark side of the moon After a fair amount of back and forth on the subject, Chris summed it up best when he pointed out that the exhibits act as a springboard for him and Autumn when giving tours. What is there and where it is in the museum is less important than the stories the items invoke.

It is with that in mind, I am giving you all fair warning to expect to see changes in the museum on your next visit AND that somethings will be exactly as they have been for years. I for one, am not a fan of "change just for the sake of change", but I am not opposed to change if it is of benefit to the story. Some new items will appear – some old ones will disappear. New exhibits are in the works and HOW they will be displayed is more cutting edge than past exhibits. All the while, we do this with the knowledge that anything we do has to be sustainable and accomplished within our limited budget as the future of the museum may change as well. Not an easy task, but with your support and the hard work of the entire museum staff, I predict good things to come about and I believe you will be both supportive and appreciative of those efforts. By the way, unicorns do live on the dark side of the moon - which is why you've never seen one.

by: Rich vanBreemen
Museum Curator


RECALL
AUGUSTA
MILITARY
ACADEMY
1963

60 YEARS AGO

Read the 1963 Recall
HERE

The Recall 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.

Augusta Military Academy Museum | 540-248-3007
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