Museum of Augusta Military Academy News

Important Edition

Chairman’s Message

July 12, 2025
Dear friends,

After nine years of preparing this Newsletter, you might agree that I don't often ask you for money. That said, every July, we publish and send a formal letter to raise funds for the AMA Alumni Foundation.

We are currently mailing this year’s letter, and once again, all costs for printing and mailing over 1,200 letters will be covered by several members of the Board. Marc Aronson '68 is again

covering part of the cost, and is the person printing, folding, and mailing all the letters.

I am sharing this year's ask letter with all of you today in the hope that many of you will once again, or even for the first time, find it in your heart to help the AMA Foundation continue our work to preserve our school's legacy and history.

You can also support by becoming a sponsor for this year's Alumni Reunion, which will be held September 4-6. Remember to purchase a five-pack of Rifle Raffle tickets!

Sincerely,

Douglas W. Pennock,
Chairman

AMA ALUMNI FOUNDATION, INC.
- Fort Defiance, Virginia -

July 1, 2025

Dear fellow Alumni,

Last year at this time, I wrote to you asking for support for the AMA Alumni Foundation to help cover our museum's operating costs. Your response was once again outstanding and generous! The money we raised last year significantly helped reduce our operating deficit for the 2023-24 fiscal year. Thank you to everyone who sent us a donation!

As you are aware, late in 2023, the AMA Alumni Foundation Board voted unanimously to restructure and reduce our administrative payroll expenses. This difficult cost-saving decision enabled us to operate the Museum through June 2024 without once dipping into our savings account! I am pleased to report that we were able to finish FY 2024 at break-even, and as of June 30, 2025, we remain slightly in the black. With your help, we will continue or improve this trend all the way to December 31, 2025, and beyond! With that being said, it is worth noting that we have observed a significant decrease in donations in 2025. If this trend continues, we may not finish the year in the black. You may register for Reunion 2025.

We had a very well-attended and successful Alumni reunion in September 2024, and we hope that Reunion 2025 will also be a success. However, the early registration trend indicates that we are already 50% behind last year's pre-registration numbers.

Tom Del Valle's fundraising committee is still actively seeking grant opportunities, despite understanding that grants are no longer available to support administrative costs, such as payroll and utilities. The grants we have received must be allocated to specific items and projects, such as computers, digitizing files, and tourism promotion activities. The first two-line items align perfectly with the board's decision last week to begin the challenging process of transforming our museum into a virtual museum.

Giving is as easy as setting up a monthly donation via PayPal or a credit card, online, or by mailing a check. You may log on to our Museum Website at **www.amaalumni.org** to set up a *monthly or one-time donation, or call Rich or Chris at the Museum at 540-248-3007.

I hope you find it in your heart to help keep the museums' lights on. One visit to the museum will undoubtedly convince you that it is well worth keeping open!

I look forward to seeing you at this year's Alumni reunion, September 4-6, 2025!

Cordially,

Douglas W. Pennock '72
Chairman

*Please see the attached list of recurring Museum operating expenses. You may want to sponsor a specific line item.

AMA Alumni Foundation Overhead Sponsorship 2025-2026

Line item	Estimated Annual cost	Estimated Monthly cost	Monthly Sponsorship
House Repairs and Maintenance 4 Sponsors	**$5,000**	**$417**	**$104**
Museum Rent 1 Sponsor	**$1,200**	**$100**	**$100**
Electric & Bulk Gas 4 Sponsors	**$5,000**	**$417**	**$104**
Phone and Internet 4 Sponsors	**$5,800**	**$483**	**$121**
Insurance/ Liability / Workmans Comp 2 Sponsors	**$3,000**	**$250**	**$125**
Legal - Tax prep - Bookkeeping 10 Sponsors	**$12,000**	**$1,200**	**$120**
Office Postage/shipping/& handling 3 Sponsors	**$3,500**	**$292**	**$100**
Payroll 20 Sponsors	**$48,500**	**$4,042**	**$202**
Total Museum overhead excluding Reunion	**$84,000**	**$6,783**	

We can cover 100% of our museums overhead (excluding payroll) if only 28 individuals pledge to sponsor one or more of the direct overhead costs listed above.

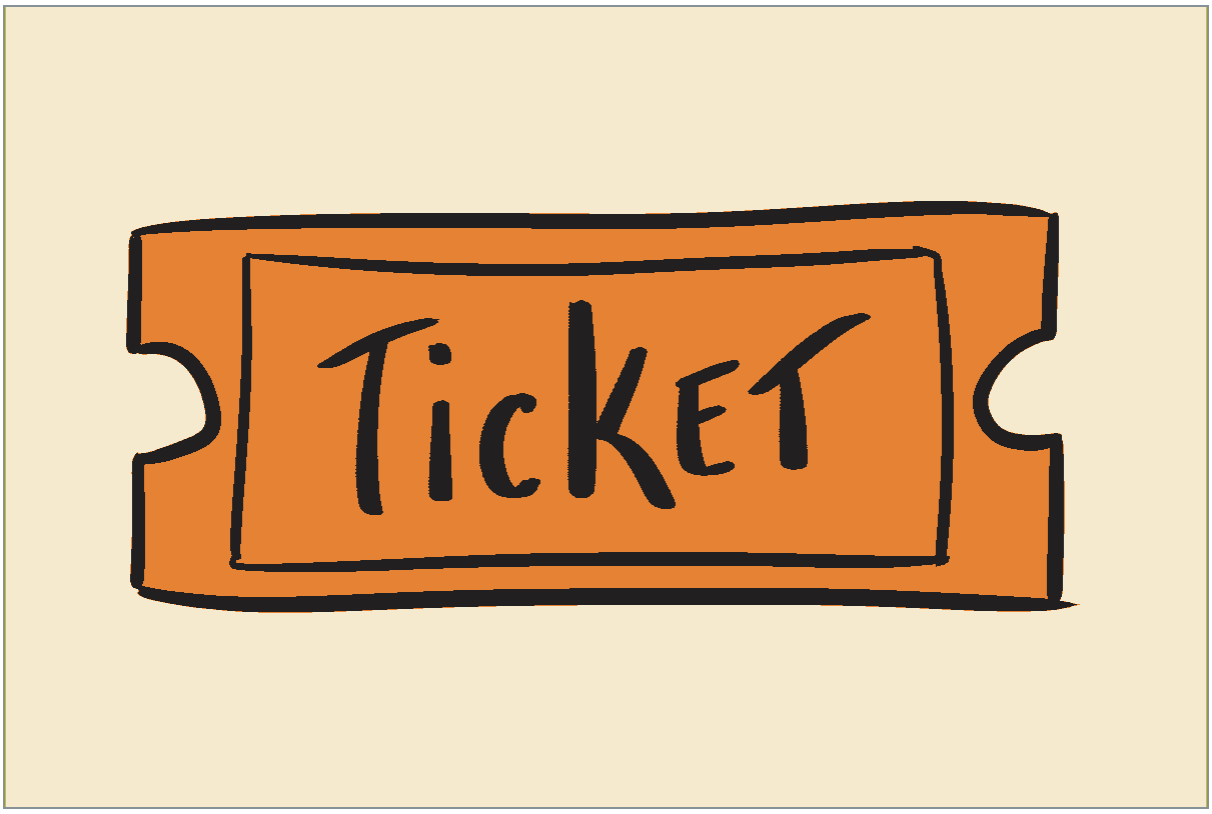
AMA Alumni Reunion
September 4-6 2025

Honoring the classes of
'45, '50, '55, '60, '65, '70, '75, and '80

Headquarters Hotel
Hotel 24 South (Stonewall Jackson)

Call 540-885-4848 to make your reservations now, and be sure to tell them that you are with the AMA group so you can get the Reunion group rate of $125.00 per night, which includes covered parking.

Please use our new and easy Reunion 2025 registration
HERE


Ticket

Springfield Armory M1A Rifle

RIFLE RAFFLE 2025

This year, we will be offering a unique and historically significant weapon for raffle. This beautiful and brand-new out-of-the-box weapon is a semi-automatic rifle that Springfield Armory, Inc. made. The rifle is chambered to fire a .308 cartridge and is based on the M14 platform for the civilian and law enforcement markets in the United States.

The cost is $25 per chance, or five chances for $100. If you check the box on the purchase form, you can authorize an additional 5% to help us cover the cost of the payment processing fee. There is no limit on the number of chances you may purchase.

Please buy tickets through our new and easy Stripe credit card account HERE.

If you'd prefer to pay via phone, please get in touch with Jeff Wenzel at:

Mobile 352-445-4967 or email jgraveswenzel@gmail.com

You must be 21 years or older to participate in this raffle.
This raffle is void where prohibited by law and in the following States:
Delaware, Maryland, New York and Washington and Washington DC.

Reunion 2025 Sponsorships

Your AMA Reunion Committee has been working diligently since the day after the 2024 Reunion, organizing a new format and events for Reunion 2025. We are trying to continue to significantly improve the overall quality of the reunion experience each year. In order to make it affordable for as many alumni as possible, we are opening certain events to sponsorship opportunities to help offset some of the costs. Excess sponsorship donations will be rolled over to the AMA Foundation as a donation. Click HERE to sponsor an event.
All Sponsors will be recognized at all events and venues. Here are the events/needs and the sponsorship amounts we are seeking:

Reunion 2025 Sponsorship Opportunities

Event/Activity	Sponsorship Amount	Partial Sponsorship
Registration	$1,500.00	5 @ $300
Hospitality Suite	$1,500.00	5 @ $300
Band Company Breakfast	$1,000.00	5 @ $200
Friday Banquet	$6,400.00	6 @ $1,000
Saturday Breakfast	$2,300.00	5 @ $500
Saturday Lunch	$4,200.00	7 @ $600
Saturday Dinner	$6,400.00	6 @ $1,100
Flowers	$500.00	2 @ $250
Reunion General Fund	Any Amount	

General Fund: Any Amount

Acknowledgement of sponsors:

1. Signage at the event
2. Names mentioned with thanks during the event

To all Alumni and Readers

Today, we are 50% behind on registration and 33% behind on reunion sponsorship compared to this time last year. If you're thinking about joining your fellow alumni for Reunion 2025, please register now. Consider sponsoring all or a portion of a reunion event; sponsorship revenue plays a crucial role in helping to cover the Museum's operating costs.

THANK YOU!

Reunion 2025 Sponsors

Category	Cost	Sponsors	Pledge	Status	Paid	Date
Registration	$ 1,500	Doug Pennock '72	$ 1,500	Pledge	$ 500.00	2/14/25
Hospitality	$ 1,500	Steve Trent	$ 1,500	Pledge		5/3/25
Reunion General Fund	$ 2,000	Jeff Wenzel '70	$ 1,000	Paid	$ 1,000.00	2/13/25
		John Chichester '55	$ 160		$ 160.00	5/31/25
		Brian Miller	$ 200		$ 200.00	6/24/25
		Brett Thompson '75	$ 170	Paid	$ 170.00	6/24/25
		Larry Reed '69	$ 420	Paid	$ 420.00	2/21/25
		Anonymous	$ 500	Pledge	$ 500.00	2/13/25
		Anonymous	$ 1,000	Paid	$ 1,000.00	6/30/25
Band Breakfast	$ 1,000	Anonymous	$ 500	Pledge	$ 500.00	2/13/25
		Anonymous	$ 500	Pledge	$ 500.00	2/13/25
Friday Dinner	$ 6,400	Class of 1967	$ 3,000	Paid	$ 3,000.00	5/28/25
		Carl Riedell '63	$ 1,000	Pledge		6/6/25
		Anonymous	$ 1,404	Pledge		6/26/25
Saturday Breakfast	$ 2,300	Jeff Wenzel	$ 500	Paid	$ 500.00	5/14/25
Saturday Lunch	$ 4,200		$ -			
Saturday Dinner	$ 6,400	Marc Aronson '68	$ 3,200	Paid	$ 3,200.00	1/29/25
		Bill McVey '60	$ 600	Paid	$ 600.00	3/10/25
Flowers	$ 500	Elizabeth Andrews	$ 500	Paid	$ 500.00	4/21/25
TOTAL	**$ 25,800**		**$ 17,654**		**$ 12,750.00**	

The Museum Newsletter is written and prepared by Doug Pennock.
Trudy Pennock and Marc Aronson '68 edit it.

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 a paid staff. Former cadets volunteer their time and talent most every month. 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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