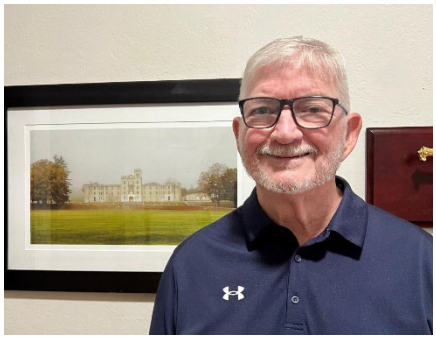
Museum of Augusta Military Academy News

AUGUSTA MILITARY ACADEMY ALUMNI FOUNDATION NEWSLETTER

Special Reunion Issue

THE AMA MEMORIAL



Chairman's Message

Douglas W. Pennock '72

July 15, 2026

Dear Fellow Alumni and Friends,
I am sending this mid-July Reunion Newsletter as a friendly reminder that many of you have not yet registered for our annual gathering.

The years continue to pass quickly, and there may come a time when some of us are no longer able to make the journey and enjoy the fellowship of old classmates and AMA brothers. Rather than putting it off for another year and telling yourself, “I’ll make it next time,” I hope you will consider making this the year you return.

Herb, Lee, Jeff, and the entire Reunion Committee have planned a wonderful weekend filled with camaraderie, shared memories, and opportunities to reconnect with old friends.

I sincerely look forward to seeing you in September and sharing another memorable AMA Reunion together.
Also, do not forget to purchase a five-pack—or more—of raffle tickets for your chance to win the classic **M1A** rifle being offered this year. For the firearms collector, it would make an excellent addition to a collection. For someone who has never collected firearms, it could be the perfect piece with which to begin—or a very special gift for a collector in your family.

Sincerely,
Doug Pennock
Chairman

America's 250th Birthday

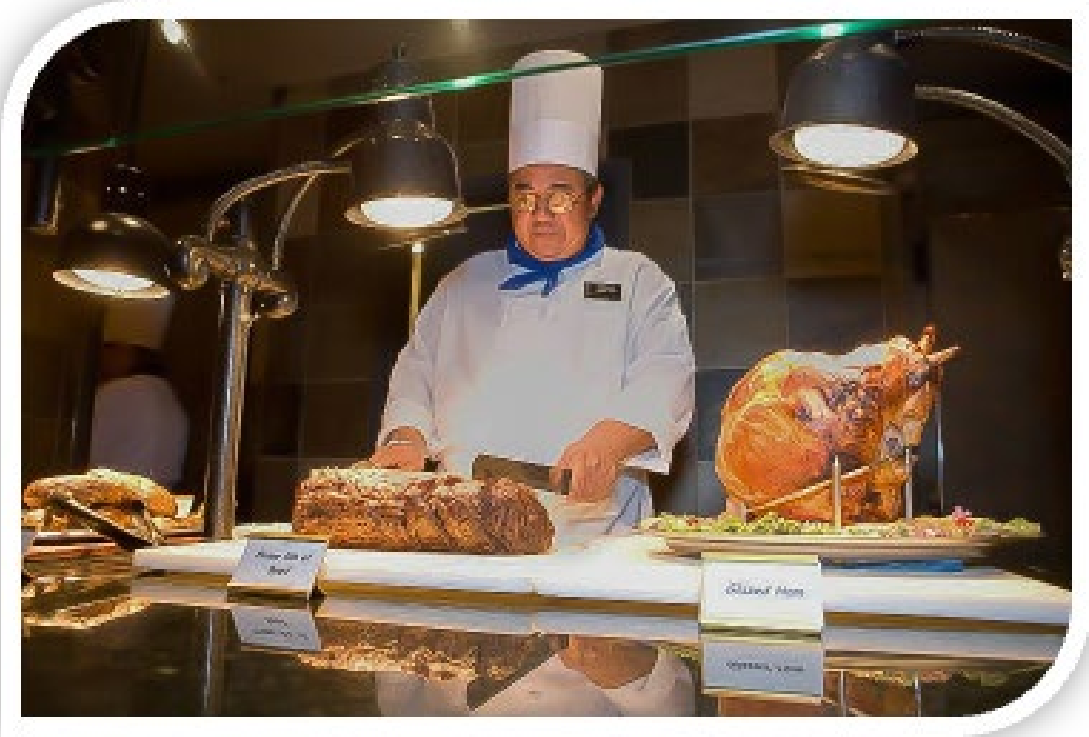
1776 – 2026

"I WANT YOU AT THE REUNION!"

AMA Alumni Reunion • September 10–12, 2026

An Announcement from Your Reunion Committee

New for the **Hospitality Room** on Thursday evening, September 10th, we have added a carving station featuring **roast beef** and **ham** carved by the hotel chef. Hot hors d'oeuvres and snacks will also be available along with soft drinks, water, and adult beverages.



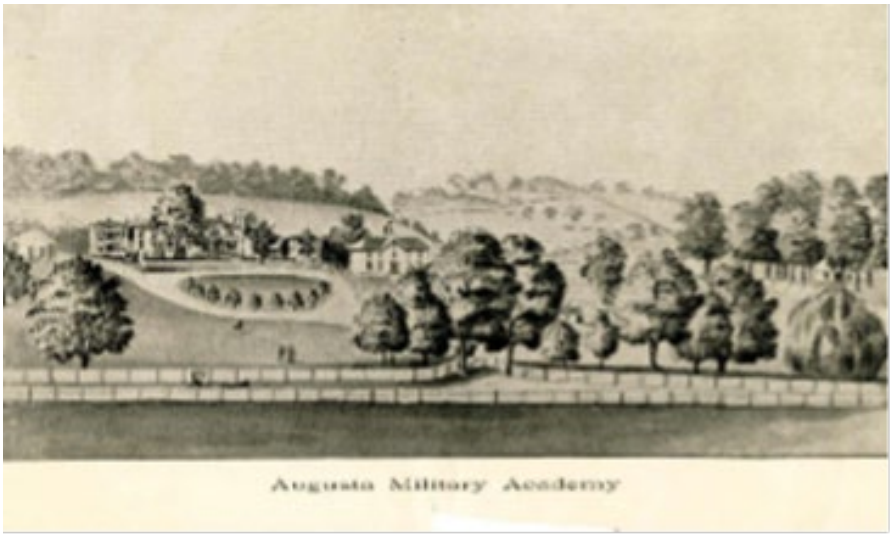
It's not just a Reunion; it's a FUN Package!

All wrapped up and waiting in the Beautiful Shenandoah Valley.

Games of chance

Rifle Raffle, Tower of Power, 500 Guaranteed! And a drawing for a free weekend for 2 at the Hotel 24 South, plus free reunion registration for 2027!

AMA Museum open all weekend



Hospitality suite open Thursday, Friday and Saturday with Roast Beef and Ham Carving Station Thursday evening.

Snacks, and plenty of beverages all Free!
Lots of free time to see historic sites in the Valley
Ladies Time Out
Golf and Sporting Clays
Quality time with old friends and making new friends

AMA Alumni Reunion Weekend…where FUN is a tradition!
September 10, 11, 12, 2026

QUICK LINKS

[Register for Reunion 2026]

[Buy Rifle Raffle Tickets]

[Reunion Sponsorship]

[AMA Memorial Sponsorship Donor Agreement]

[Museum General Fund Donation]

AMA Alumni Reunion

September 10 - 12, 2026

Honoring the Classes of:
'46, '51, '56, '61, '66, '71, '76, and '81

Headquarters Hotel Hotel 24 South (Stonewall Jackson)

Call 540-885-4848 to make your reservation. Tell them that you are with the AMA group to get your $127 per night rate

Register HERE

Become a Reunion Sponsor

For the past several years, our Alumni Weekend has been fully funded by the generosity of our own. That says a great deal about the kind of men that AMA produced.

If you would like to help sponsor one of this year's events or venues, we would be grateful. Every contribution, regardless of size, plays a role in making the weekend something we can all be proud of.

Sponsors will be recognized throughout the reunion.

Please click HERE to sponsor an event

Below is a list of this year's sponsorship opportunities.

You may sponsor a portion of the venue or the entire venue. Your choice.

Registration	$1,500.00
Hospitality Suite	$1,500.00
Band Company Breakfast	$1,000.00
Friday Banquet	$6,400.00
Saturday Breakfast	$2,300.00
Saturday Lunch	$4,200.00
Saturday Dinner	$6,400.00
Flowers	$500.00
Reunion General Fund	Any Amount

Reunion 2026 Sponsors

Category	Cost	Sponsors	Pledge	Status	Paid	Date
Registration	$ 1,500	Doug Pennock '72	$ 1,500	Paid	$ 1,500.00	4/25/26
Hospitality	$ 2,100	Steve Trent	$ 1,500	Paid	$ 1,500.00	6/19/26
		Bill Mc Vey	$ 600	Paid	$ 600.00	5/15/26
		Brett Thompson	$ 300	Paid	$ 300.00	6/18/26
Band Breakfast	$ 1,000	Doug Driscoll '72	$ 500	Paid	$ 500.00	2/19/26
		Joe Gallehugh '70	$ 500	Paid	$ 500.00	4/28/26
		Frank Roach '69	$ 250	Paid	$ 250.00	5/17/26
Friday Dinner	$ 6,400	Class of '67	$ 3,200	Paid	$ 3,200.00	4/14/26
Saturday Breakfast	$ 2,300	Lee Ramsey '73	$ 2,300			
Saturday Lunch	$ 4,200	John Arthur '75	$ 2,500	Paid	$ 2,500.00	6/1/26
Saturday Dinner	$ 6,400	Marc Aronson '68	$ 3,200			
		Anonymous	$ 1,500	Paid	$ 1,500.00	4/29/26
		Tom Del Valle '73	$ 2,000	Paid	$ 2,000.00	6/1/26
		George Mineff	$ 500	Paid	$ 500.00	6/15/26
Flowers	$ 500	Jim Mitchell '76	$ 500			
Reunion General Fund	$ 2,000	Doug Driscoll '72	$ 500	Paid	$ 500.00	2/19/26
		Herb Maher '72	$ 500	Paid	$ 250.00	6/3/26
		Jeff Wenzel '70	$ 3,250	Paid	$ 3,250.00	6/27/26
		Doug Pennock '72	$ 300	Paid	$ 300.00	6/30/26
		Bj d'Orsay '70	$ 205	Paid	$ 205.00	6/4/26
		Frank Roach '69	$ 500	Paid	$ 500.00	5/17/26
TOTAL	$ 26,400		$ 26,105		$ 19,855.00	

Introducing …

$500 Guaranteed!

The all-new drawing at
the 2026 AMA Alumni Reunion

Win $500 CASH!

$5 per ticket, cash or credit card

Drawing Saturday after dinner

Springfield M1A
50th Anniversary Rifle

Watch the Video

This year, we are offering a very special rifle for our annual Rifle Raffle.
In celebration of the 50th Anniversary of the Springfield M1A version of the iconic semi-auto M14, Smithfield Armory produced a limited production of 1,974 units. This beautiful collector's rifle includes a handcrafted wooden display case, laser-engraved operating rod, a certificate of authenticity, and additional accessories.

Tickets are on sale. Ticket prices are $25 per single or $100 for a five-pack. You may purchase your tickets online HERE, or you can send a check to the Museum at: PO Box 100, Ft. Defiance, VA 24437-0100

22" BARREL

The G.I. 22-inch carbon steel barrel on the M1A 50th Anniversary rifle wrings all available performance out of the 7.62 round.

MATCH-GRADE APERTURE REAR SIGHT

The match grade non-hooded rear sight features a small .052" aperture, ½ M.O.A. windage adjustments, and 1 M.O.A. elevation increments.

ARMY TECHNICAL MANUAL

Like M1A rifles from 50 years ago, a reproduction M14 Army TM-9-1005-223-12 technical manual is included.

TWO-STAGE TUNED TRIGGER

M1A CLEANING KIT

OD GREEN SLING

ENGRAVED OP ROD

Each 50th Anniversary M1A features an engraved 1 of 1974 operating rod, symbolizing its unique place in history.

SHENANDOAH Valley BEST

HARRISONBURG MEDIA GROUP

2026

“Please Don’t Think I’m Nagging”

By Jeff Wenzel ‘70

Shining shoes, cleaning brass and your rifle, chores that most of us didn't enjoy, so we just blew them off until the last minute.

Lots of things fill our days. Family, friends, those lovely grandkids; those garden weeds don't pull themselves!
Okay, let's cut to the chase. It is time to register for the 2026 Reunion and make your hotel reservation.

Your Reunion Committee has been hard at work to have another great reunion experience for you. Help us out. We need to know who will be in Staunton. So many moving parts!

Please register today at **https://amaalumni.org/2026-reunion/**.
Thanks for reading my "gentle nudge".

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

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**
1640 Lee Highway
P.O. Box 101
Fort Defiance, VA 24437