



## Remembering our brothers who have passed from this life

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### **LEAVEL, VALLIE PORTER '39 "V.P."**

V. P. Leavel, former President of the AMA Alumni Association and chairman of the committee which built AMA's new infirmary in the mid 1970's, died 21 June 2006 at Avante Nursing and Rehabilitation Center in Waynesboro at age 87.

Leavel was active in the affairs of the AMA Alumni Association from the date of its founding in 1970. A cofounder of American Standard Homes Corporation, he arranged to have both preliminary and final plans for the new infirmary prepared at no cost to the alumni association. In 1974, Leavel pledged his company to construct the infirmary with no profit to the company. He made many trips to Fort Defiance for consultations and site planning. V. P. led a four year fund raising campaign to secure the necessary \$50,000 to pay for the construction cost, a considerable obligation for the fledgling alumni association to undertake. Four years later in 1978, the project was completed and Leavel, then President of the AMA Alumni Association, held the bank loan papers on high as the late **Mickey Gordon, '39**, applied a flame to the documents to signify that the infirmary debt had been paid in full by AMA alumni.

In the meantime, Leavel paid to have one of the Big Barracks rooms renovated, leading other alumni to follow suit. New lockers and a new window and door were installed together with new study tables, wall mouldings and fresh plastering. In recent years, V.P. had attended the annual alumni reunions accompanied by his son, **Scott '78**. He received the AMA Alumni Medal in 1999.

In World War II, Leavel served in Europe with the 94th Division, earning a Silver Star for heroism while serving as an artillery forward observer in Germany. He also served with distinction in the 2nd Chemical Mortar Battalion in Korea during the Korean War. After his military service, he moved to Martinsville, VA, where he co-founded American Standard Homes. He later moved to Fort Worth, Texas, then came back to Virginia.

At Augusta four years, he was First Sergeant of D Company and Secretary of the Cotillion Club. Leavel was on the advertising staff of both the *Bayonet* and the *Recall*, and The *Recall* also named him Best Dancer. He was a close friend of **Jacob "Jack" Manch '38**, and served as Best Man when Jack married Lee Mathis.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Nancy Ann, and his sisters, Louise Hiner and Arnesa Whitlock. He is survived by two sons: Porter Leavel and **Scott Leavel, '78**, of Kitty Hawk, NC; two daughters, Tighe Leavel of Rockaway Park, NY and Tracy Leavel Barry of Fort Worth; and five grandchildren.

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