



### Speak Softly and Carry a Big Stick

The Augusta Military Academy (AMA) Cadet Corp mourns the passing of our brother **“Cadet Lou Suter”** of Lancaster PA, who passed on Friday, May 28, 2021. Born in Lancaster, PA, Cadet Suter was the son of the late Roy E. and Helen Hatfield Suter. The term **“speak softly and carry a big stick and you will go far”** was a phrase often used by **President Theodore Roosevelt**. The AMA of Fort Defiance Virginia 1972 football teammates labeled Cadet Louis Suter with this term because of his mild mannerisms and hard-nosed work ethics on and off the football field. When meeting and talking with Cadet Lou Suter you always felt that you were in a comfort zone while admiring his peaceful personality. Cadet Lou Suter was a first class cadet and he admired AMA and embraced its mission statement. **That mission, as set forth by AMA founder Charles S. Roller, (the founder of AMA), was to ensure all cadets put family first and strive to be the best they could be.**

Cadet Suter had been on a journey for the past 21 months, after being diagnosed with acute myeloid leukemia. During this time, he battled bravely, with great courage, conviction and a great sense of humor. This determination reminded **Doug Kopp (Cadet and lifelong friend)** of Cadet Suter’s courage to overcome obstacles and win his battles as he had demonstrated on the football field.

Cadet Doug Kopp informed us that Cadet Suter was a proud graduated of J.P. McCaskey H.S. in Lancaster, PA before attending Augusta Military Academy. At J.P. McCaskey Cadet Suter was the starting linebacker, known for his toughness and hard-hitting abilities. While attending J.P. McCaskey, Lou often talked about his favorite art class that he and other football players attended. It was taught by one of the assistant football coaches. This class was very special to Lou because he and his teammates didn’t do much but laugh and listen to the marching band practice yet they still were able to receive a passing mark of C.

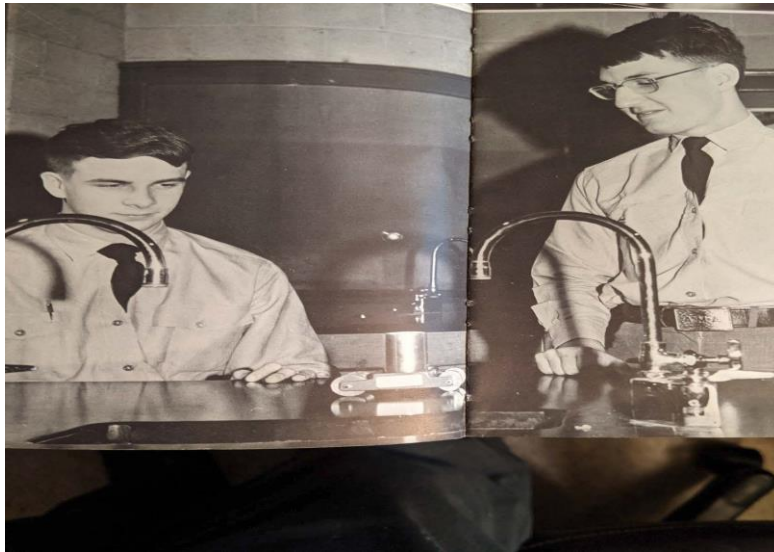
Cadet Suter found out about Augusta Military Academy from his head football coach at J.P. McCaskey high school. He vowed to get any of the seniors into college who wanted to continue their education and play football. On his own time, he drove Lou Suter and Doug Kopp to Virginia and they were accepted at three military schools as post-graduates to improve their grades and continue playing football. Each selected AMA because of its welcoming introductions, belief in family values, the pride in self-preservation and the homey atmosphere they felt during the welcoming tour.

**Cadet Lou Suter #24 and Cadet Doug Kopp #11**



In 1971 Coach David Holtsclaw was commissioned to recruit football players to help strengthen AMA football program. The AMA 1972 Football program was unique because it was the first time it was staffed with players from all nationalities. Cadet Suter was the starting slotback and outside linebacker and his hard-nose hitting skills became very noticeable among the entire team members.

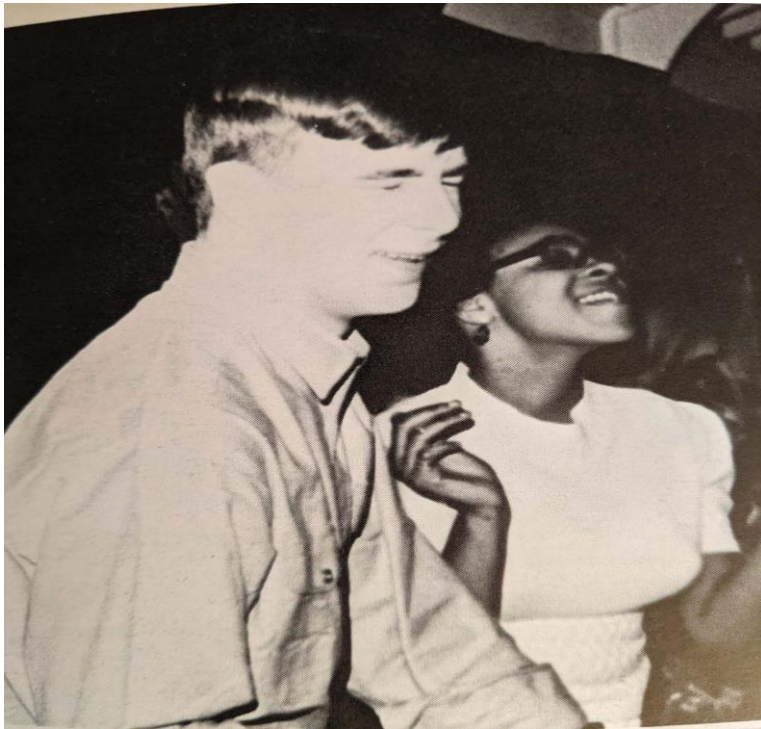
The 1972 football team was great, but the specialty of this team was the fellowship and love among all the different diverse players. The entire AMA Corp looked forward to coming to all of their games whether rain or sunshine because they supported the team members and hard-hitting Cadet Suter. Against Fishburne Academy, Cadet Doug Kopp completed a 90 yard touchdown pass to Cadet Suter which many believed would've been an AMA record. However, it was called back because the tight end was in motion. We gave the tight end lot stuff about that...good naturedly, of course. AMA won the game 55-13 and this was our last game at AMA, so it was inconsequential anyway, but still fun to rub in years later. Cadet Lou Suter also excelled at baseball while attending AMA.



After graduating from AMA, Cadet Lou Suter was accepted at Catawba College in Salisbury North Carolina. **Cadet Warren Fleming** often visited Cadet Lou Suter and remembers the great memory talks about our AMA football team and the AMA Corp. It became very obvious that Lou was missing the love of his life. Lou often talked to us about the love he had for Vicky while he was at AMA, but the love got even stronger while attending Catawba. In the fall of 1972, he made the decision to go after what he admired most in life which was being with his Vicky. After returning back to Lancaster, Cadet Lou Suter found a position at Armstrong World Industries at the Distribution Center, where he stayed for 38 years before retiring. Cadet Suter and Vicky were together for 45 happy years.

Years after he had graduated from AMA, he and Cadet Doug Kopp played together on a street hockey team they put together. It has been said that the team could always count on Cadet Suter to 'fake' an injury so the opposing team could catch a well needed breath. They would laugh a lot about those acts as they swallowed a few beers after the games. It came to pass while Cadet Doug Kopp was working as a defensive coordinator at a high school that played the high school where Lou's son played, history repeated itself. Cadet Suter's son ran all over Cadet Kopp's team while scoring 2 touchdowns and catching a whole bunch of passes. Cadet Suter's son was accepted and attended Millersville University, in Millersville, PA.

Cadet Lou Suter left a legacy at AMA and the Corp will always respect and support the offspring's of **Cadet Lou Suter's** family tree for life. AMA had a unique process of preparing its Cadets to be the best they could be and never give up. Cadet Lou Suter embraced AMA mission by becoming a consummate family man and putting his family first and foremost. Cadet Suter was always involved, supporting and helping his children Matt and Ashley, in whatever endeavor they chose to pursue. These strong moral and family values led him and Vicky to a successful marriage by keep moving forward no matter the obstacles. The Augusta Military Academy Alumina's salutes Cadet Lou Suter and will remember his gentle mannerism and peaceful personality.



Narrator/Editor Doug Kopp  
Author WarrenFleming