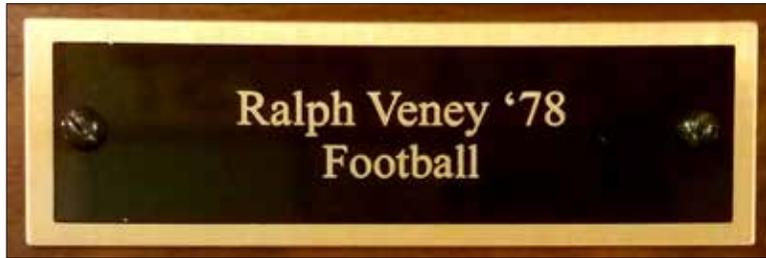


2019 Sports Hall of Fame

Ralph Veney, '78

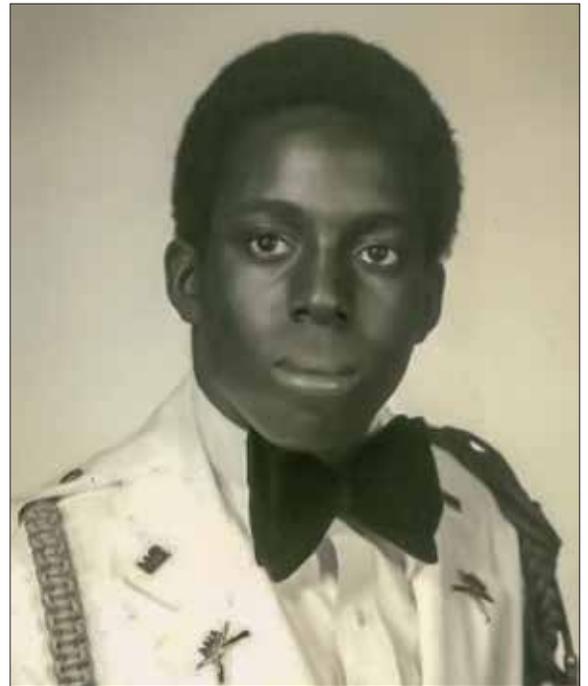


Ralph Veney was a cadet at AMA for his senior year of High School. He attended AMA from 1977-1978 and graduated in 1978. In addition to working in the kitchen as a dishwasher after each meal to help pay his way, he played in the band, carried the banner for the Roller Rifles, and was an assistant manager for the basketball team.

Ralph was the starting running back on the football team. He started and played the entire game for most of season. He was the right tailback, the safety on defense, returner on the punt receiving team and kick-off return team, and was Leading Rusher and Outstanding Offensive Player.

“During the end of season awards banquet, Coach Joe Stephenson made an inspiring speech about hard work and determination. I had no idea he was going to call my name as the Most Valuable offensive player until he said, just before calling my name, that the award was going to the person who was most inspirational to “us little guys”. He then called my name and presented me with the trophy. To have him inspire me was the real story. It erased any doubt I had in my mind as to what I could accomplish in life. I learned more about the importance of teamwork and the importance of a strong work ethic and determination. Whenever faced with the least bit of doubt or insecurity as an Army soldier or Department of the Army Civilian, I often reflect back on those days and the sound of Coach Joe’s voice, only second to God, to get me to reach for the stars and gain the victory.”

Ralph could not be at reunion due to a previously scheduled trip. His son, **Josh**, accepted his award for him, paraphrasing, *“My father was given to excel on and off the field at AMA. So the values that you have gave him are the same values that he taught me and my brother and by extension has led my family and I to where we are now.”*



Ralph Meredith Veney’ 78, was a “quiet” cadet, dedicating himself to working hard to gain the trust and confidence of the Coaching Staff, his fellow teammates and classmates. Ralph had to make many sacrifices to come to AMA, as his family was not financially able to support his desires to attend. COL Livick personally approved his acceptance allowing Ralph to work daily in the Mess Hall, receiving pay washing dishes. He was a very good cadet and student athlete who earned the respect of the administration, teachers and fellow cadets!! Ralph went on to earn an Associates Degree in General Studies from Northern Virginia Community College and a Bachelors Degree in Business Management from the University of Phoenix!



Left: 1978 Football team, Ralph’s number was 35.

Below: 1978 Basketball team; Ralph was team manager.

