

Onarga Military School Alumni Association

THE ONARGOSY

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2020 Alumni Reunion

The Coronavirus (COVID-19) impact on our lives continues to affect what we do, where we go, and how we interact with associates, friends and family. Daily progress reports on beating this pandemic any time soon are worrisome. Infection risks, rates, and recovery projections vacillate regularly depending on different regional sections across our country. There is no way to predict the risk conditions in October for holding a safe gathering.

Therefore, after consultation, the Association Officers and Onarga Academy agreed to not hold the annual Association Reunion this October on campus. This decision is to ensure the health of our members, the Academy staff and residents, and surrounding local community, businesses, and health services. We regret any inconvenience caused by this choice, and hope that travel, lodging and dining services will eventually become more convenient and safer to use in the future. Plan to return to this traditional event in October, 2021. Note, this decision does not preclude individuals wishing to visit the campus; contact Mike Tilstra, Onarga Academy, to coordinate your visit.

Memorial Proposal – *Status*

The response of interest in the proposed Memorial program was underwhelming. The three members who did comment preferred the Brick option. In review, the purpose of this program would allow alumni and family members to permanently recognize on the campus an individual or group of classmates, patron, family member or special event remembrance.

The memorial bricks would form or align a new walkway from the East Seminary Street sidewalk to the existing memorial bench area that allows easy public access. The price for each brick would cover a pre-determined tax-deductible donation amount for Onarga Academy plus the cost of the brick, the engraving, and

Onarga Military School Alumni Association

installation. For reference, existing Memorial Brick Programs cost from \$200 to \$300 per brick with three lines of 20 characters each.

The time period to submit your interest and/or comment on instituting this program is extended until 31 December 2020. Please respond by email to Mark Hayden (mkhayden06@comcast.net).

Association Website

The Association's online presence at OnargaMilitarySchool.com recently updated the **Cadet Roster** and **Faculty Listing**. Members may submit appropriate stories, photos or class information to post. Please email or snail mail your item(s) to the President or Secretary for review and posting by our Webmaster

Onarga Academy

For your information, Nexus, the resident organization that operates on the Onarga campus, adopted a new name as described below. The Onarga Academy is identified in the group as Nexus - Onarga Family Healing.



Thank you for being a part of our Nexus family. For over 45 years, Nexus and our network of agencies have focused on healing children's trauma, breaking cycles of harm, and reshaping futures. We believe **every child** is worth it — and **every family** matters.

We're excited to announce our Nexus family is coming together with a new name, a refreshed brand, and greater integration of our services to better serve our youth, families, and communities. As a valued member of our family — you're one of the first to see our new look!

As **Nexus Family Healing**, we are stronger together.

We invite you to join us on our journey.

Connect with us at nexusfamilyhealing.org.

ILLINOIS

Nexus-Indian Oaks Family Healing
Nexus-Onarga Family Healing

MARYLAND

Nexus-Woodbourne Family Healing

MINNESOTA

Nexus-FACTS Family Healing
Nexus-Gerard Family Healing
Nexus-Kindred Family Healing
Nexus-Mille Lacs Family Healing

NORTH DAKOTA

Nexus-PATH Family Healing

Onarga Military School Alumni Association

Happy Birthday . . .

To all the alumni listed below – *HAPPY BIRTHDAY* – if by chance your Birthday is in one of these three months and you are not listed – we do not have it on file – please send your birth date to the Secretary to complete your directory listing.

JULY

2 Ross Braatsch
4 Charles Knell
7 Casimir Kowalski
7 Kent Montavon
8 Walter Heck
12 Douglas Hummel
14 Del Angelo
14 Ronald Westergren
18 Robert Sheridan
19 James Dickerson
21 William McCracken
22 Joseph Milos
22 Allan Zitella
23 Lawrence White
24 Carl Landgren
25 Keith Torgerson
26 Michael Adams
26 Robert Gillfillan
31 Steven Dunbar

AUGUST

1 Darrell Davis
2 Jack Donohue
2 Robert VanBrussell
11 John Hays
11 Eugene Valenta
15 Raymond Kasperski
15 Jan Nelson
23 Albert Liska
24 Michael Erickson
24 Max Newman
27 Keith Sheffield




SEPTEMBER

1 Wes Marshall
4 Ted Schmidt
5 Harry Carlson
8 Richard Earp
18 John Guisto
19 Kerry Adams
19 Edward Chandler
19 Andre Holtzman
21 Stu Marty
22 Charles Stewart
24 Robert Flannery
26 Michael DeShon
27 Towner Clark
28 George Gannon
28 Ivan Pivaroff
28 Roy Wiley


Onarga Military School Alumni Association

50th Graduation Anniversary

The Senior Class of 1970 recognizes their 50th year since graduation. When the school year ended, discontent about the Vietnam War and rioting on major college campuses was a game changer. 16 of the 18 members are shown below; members are encouraged to reconnect (ZOOM!), reminisce and remember when; then, share your stories with us. Congratulations and Cheers!

	Dale Edwin Atkinson May 25, 1952 -- OMSAA		John Gregory Booth Aug. 31, 1951 -- Jan. 25, 2004
	John Leighton Campbell, Jr. Dec. 4, 1950 -- Searching		Ronald Orrin Caruso Mar. 29, 1951 -- OMSAA
	Bruce Alan Chase Jun. 27, 1952 -- Searching		Robert Stanley Howard Jan. 13, 1952 -- OMSAA
	Kenneth M. Kratschmer May 1, 1951 -- Searching		Michael S. Maniszko Dec. 13, 1950 -- OMSAA
	Carlos B. Palenzona Searching		Steven Allan Selburg Sep. 2, 1951 -- Dec. 11, 2004
	Keith Allen Sheffield Aug. 27, 1952 -- OMSAA		Joseph Bedell Stuntz Oct. 22, 1951 -- Jun. 26, 1975

Onarga Military School Alumni Association

	<p>Thomas A. Trempel Oct. 19, 1951 -- OMSAA-Life</p>		<p>Janko Vukasan Vukotich, II Searching</p>
	<p>Alan Daryl Welsch Feb. 12, 1952 -- OMSAA-Life</p>		<p>Michael Joseph Wright Aug. 28, 1952 -- Apr. 6, 2001</p>
<p>No Picture Available</p>	<p>John Ernest Bess, III Sep. 7, 1951 -- Mar. 30, 2009</p>	<p>No Picture Available</p>	<p>Phillip Glenn Dikeman Apr. 5, 1952 -- OMSAA</p>

President's Notes

The most enjoyable moments I have at gatherings is when members regale us with their stories and anecdotes about OMS and time spent in the Cadet Corps. No matter the generation, we all seem to share the same type experiences and situations to some degree. The humor, the life lessons, the heartfelt feelings, and even the challenges are worth repeating to help memories stay alive.

Ted Schmidt, OMS`44, shared how he was "pre-ordained" to attend OMS. He agreed to share this with you. Enjoy!

"I am one of the last members of the class of 1944. Colonel Bittinger still ran Onarga, and the Captains were Frazier, Stienecker, Davis, Ludwick, Homer, and Wright."

"Captain Claude Ludwick was a Phi Delta Theta fraternity brother of my father when both attended Knox College. As they were graduating and wondering what to do in life, Ludwick was offered the job of coach at Onarga. Dad promised him that if he took the job, he would send him his first born. Guess who that was--and that was how I got to Onarga. Dad also recommended an uncle of mine, Alexander MacKay, who graduated with the class of 1928."

"PS: Ludwick was expecting an athlete, and I never even turned out for football!"

Onarga Military School Alumni Association

TAPS

Day is done, gone the sun
From the hills, from the lake,
 from the skies.
All is well. Safely rest.
God is nigh.

Go to sleep, peaceful sleep
May the soldier or the sailor,
 God to keep.
On the land or the deep,
Safe in sleep.

Love, good night, must thou go,
When the day, and the night need you so?
All is well; Speedeth all
To their rest.

Thanks and praise, for our days.
‘Neath the sun, ‘neath the stars,
 ‘neath the sky.
As we go, this we know.
God is nigh.

Fades the light; and afar
Goeth day, and the stars shineth bright,
Fare thee well; day has gone,
Night is on.

I regret to inform the membership of the passing of our fellow alumni and classmates.

Name	Year	DOD	Place
Edmund Holden Behn	`34	28 November 1976	Stillwater, MN
Leroy Daniel Langhamer	`35	8 September 1950	Palatine, IL
Melvin Douglas Foster	`58	1 March 2020	Cullman, AL
Andrew J. Westerhoff, Sr	`65	12 April 2020	Bourbonnais, IL
Richard Howard Stephens, Jr	`62	23 May 2020	Armstrong, IL
John M. Chiminello	`61	3 June 2020	Monterey, CA

Onarga Military School Alumni Association



The Onargosy is published on a quarterly basis for and about the happenings of the OMS Alumni Association. The Onargosy will contain both official and unofficial information. Officers of the OMS Alumni Association are –

President	Mark Hayden	'67
Vice President	Robert Sheridan	'67
Secretary	John Friebel	'57
Treasurer	John Friebel	'57
Director	Steve Denney	'57
Director	Tom Leasure	'66
Director	John Egan	'68
Onarga Academy Liaison	- Mike Tilstra	

Onarga Military School Alumni Association



Alumni Association

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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED