

# **THE ONARGOSY**

**Volume 24 – Issue 4 - No. 88 – Winter 2021**

## **Reunion Report**

This year's Alumni Reunion was held 9 October in Onarga, Illinois, on the Onarga Academy (OA) campus. Alumni, former cadets representing the OMS classes '57, '58, '60, '61, '62, '64, and '67, along with one former faculty member made the journey to Onarga. Most were accompanied by spouses and significant others who affectionately suffered hearing (again) many old yarns and anecdotes about "mil school" life.



Attendees were treated to a drill exhibition by the newly formed Junior ROTC group. OA instructor Sean Kelley, SSGT USA (Ret), organized resident clients who expressed an interest in learning leadership and military skills. With Onarga Academy's support, he was able to obtain uniforms and instructional resources to establish

an independent unit. It was motivating to see a military presence return to the campus. Let's hope it remains and sustains itself through resident-client interest, organizational support, and official recognition.

Onarga Academy also hosted a delicious luncheon BBQ for the attendees prior to them convening in the Auditorium for the Association's annual business meeting. Afterwards, members met on the north side of campus to take group pictures before enjoying a leisurely afternoon.



The Banquet was held that evening at The Gilman Door Bar and Grill (formerly the Red Door) now owned and operated by Randi Spiess. In fact, our Banquet was the first official event at this new restaurant. The food was delicious, the service efficient, and the decor imaginative. We decided to reserve this venue for our 2022 Reunion banquet.

# Onarga Military School Alumni Association

## OMSAA 2021 Reunion Attendees Group Picture

October 9, 2021



Front Row - Left to Right:

Mark Hayden '67, Charles Stewart '67, George Friebel '62, Gerald Byrd '62

Back Row – Left to Right:

Jim Miller [Faculty], Carlos Sucharetza '58, Floyd Brooks Prep '61, John Kenton '62, John Friebel '57,  
Allan Zitella '64, Bob Flannery '61, Randy DeLordo '64, Byron Tull '60

Attending, but not in picture:

Michael Lynch '64



Reunion Photographers (wives)

Left to Right

**Rosanne Stewart** (wife of Charles Stewart '67), **Susan Hayden**, (wife of Mark. Hayden '67), **Gloria Tull** (wife of Bryon Tull '60), **Marlene Sucharetza** (wife of Carlos Sucharetza '58), **Mary Jane Bryd** (wife of Gerald Bryd '62), **Eldora Friebel** (wife of George Friebel '62), **Sue Kenton** (wife of John Kenton '62)

# Onarga Military School Alumni Association



## OMSAA 2021 Reunion Attendees by Name:

Floyd Brooks Prep 61	Nenana, AK.	Gerald Byrd 62	Sidney, IL.
Randy DeLordo 64	Gilman, IL.	Bob Flannery 61	Ft. Myers, FL.
George Friebel 62	Murray, KY	John Friebel `57	San Antonio, TX.
Mark Hayden 67	Stafford, VA.	John Kenton `62	Tinley Park, IL.
Michael Lynch 64	Allen, TX.	James Miller [Fac]	Onarga, IL.
Charles Stewart 67	Chicago, IL.	Carlos Sucharetza 58	Willoughby Hills OH.
Byron Tull 60	Schaumburg, IL.	Allan Zitella 64	Medinah, IL.

## OMSAA 2021 Reunion Attendees by State:

### Alaska

Floyd Brooks Prep 61

### Florida

Bob Flannery 61

### Illinois

Gerald Byrd 62, Randy DeLordo 64,  
John Kenton `62, James Miller [Fac],  
Charles Stewart 67, Byron Tull `60  
Allan Zitella 64

### Kentucky

George Friebel 62

### Ohio

Carlos Sucharetza 58,

### Texas

John Friebel 57, Michael Lynch 64

### Virginia

Mark Hayden `67

# Onarga Military School Alumni Association

## BUSINESS NOTES

At the Business Meeting, your Association presented Onarga Academy a \$500.00 check to support the annual Special Dinner for the resident-clients.

On 1 December, your Association sent a monetary donation to Onarga Academy to provide each resident-client a Christmas gift of \$30 cash as along with the following message:

“May this Season’s Blessings and Peace live in your heart; know you are never alone, and are loved by those who guide and care for you.”

In accordance with the Association By Laws, the members in attendance elected the appointed President, **Mark Hayden** OMS `67, to continue to serve a full term as President; and nominated and elected **Charles Stewart** OMS `67, to serve a full term as Vice President. There were no opposing candidates for these positions, and both votes were unanimous.

### New Business:

1. A discussion covered the progress on constructing the Memorial Brick walkway and the need to identify a vendor to provide and engrave bricks. Action with Onarga Academy is underway to complete this project.

2. The President noted that the memorabilia room contains a plethora of files, yearbooks, photos, trophies, uniform items and paraphernalia, which need to be thoroughly inventoried and catalogued, sorted, categorized, refurbished or, if unserviceable, disposed.

a. Your leadership is investigating methods to hire expert assistance to help organize these materials in order to streamline a review process that can efficiently account and classify this collection. Membership suggestions and input is solicited.

b. In conjunction with the Onarga Historical Society, your Association purchased archival portfolio books to protect and display selected OMS photographs.

c. A member recently returned 16mm film reels that captured OMS sports teams during their winning seasons. An action is underway to determine whether it is feasible to digitize these films, and produce copies for interested members.

d. The OMS trophy cases were moved from the gymnasium to the Auditorium foyer hallway. Filling them with the OMS trophies is next step.

# Onarga Military School Alumni Association

## Membership STATS

As of 30 Sep 2021, there are 65 Life Members, 36 current dues paying members, 55 members in arrears, and 50 non-paying alumni/former cadets on the rolls, for a total of 206 Spartans. Hence, we have at least 101 active members.

The Onargosy quarterly distribution is sent to 114 members (to include 8 non-paying) and two former faculty with valid email addresses, and is mailed by US Post to 43 dues-paying members and two former faculty.

## PRESIDENT'S PONDERINGS

It has been 102 years since the first cadets enrolled in BrigGen Bittinger's fledgling military school. OMS successfully operated for 52 years until its last full class of students graduated. That Class of 1971 reached its 50th anniversary this year; unfortunately, no surviving class members traveled to Onarga to celebrate with other attendees, which is interesting.

Our mission is to perpetuate our organization until the day of the "The Last Cadet".

Our challenge is to sustain our Association, maintain its resources, continue to commemorate OMS heritage, and motivate alumni and former cadets to support, participate and/or join as members as they age, and their interest and abilities wane.

## **OMS INFLUENCE AND LEGACY**

**JIM MILLER**, Faculty `60s, shared a copy of his article, "The Birth, Death, and Resurrection of High School Smallbore; Fifty Years and Counting," published in *The Illinois Shooter* summer 2021 issue. Jim mentions his time as an OMS biology teacher and part-time rifle team coach, and how the riflery program subsequently evolved in the local public school community. When OMS closed after the 1970-1971 school year, its rifle program and range equipment eventually moved to the Gilman High School after it received its National Rifle Association (NRA) Club-affiliation charter in December 1971. Jim goes on to describe in detail the interesting trials and tribulations to implement a youth marksmanship program within the local area that would foster proper shooting, safety skills, competition and sportsmanship, and instill community pride and respect.

A Well-Done salute to you, Jim, on your long-term contributions to this program.

# 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 month, then your birthdate is not on file – please send your birth date to the Secretary to complete your directory listing.

JANUARY	FEBRUARY	MARCH
3 James Beedy	1 Ray Rinderer	1 Steve Sholty
4 Robert Lewis	6 Albert Kuhlman	5 Frederick Koller
5 Richard Suzuki	10 Tom Leasure	6 Robert Rice
10 William Akerly	12 Alan Welsch	8 Kenneth Butterly
10 Steve Denney	14 John Carlsten	11 Vince Tamburrino
10 Gerald Enright	14 John Kenton	12 Harry Seidman
10 Keith Harrison	18 Bernie Quick	13 John Judd
19 Ted Joslyn	21 David Bennis	15 Rodney Wright
20 Michael Duncan	22 James Kinne	19 Adam Kachler
20 Dennis Saffrin	23 Frederick Zoes	20 David Reichmann
22 Eric Farber	25 Gerald Byrd	23 Charles Meyer
23 Marvin Stringer	25 John Peart	24 Thomas Gillis
23 Raul Vega	29 Gordon Hall	29 Ronald Caruso
24 Bruce Ingham		29 Jimmy Phillips
26 David Olmstead		
29 Kenneth Kauffman		
31 Donald Collins		

# Onarga Military School Alumni Association

## TAPS

I regret to inform the membership of the passing of our fellow alumni and former faculty members. We convey our deepest condolence to their family and classmates.

Name	Class	DoD	Place
William H. Vickers	`46	21 Sep 2019	Pueblo, CO
Byron C Wyche (FAC)	`69-70	21 Jun 2020	Norwood, MA
Gerald M. Stringer (FAC)	`64-65	18 Jan 2021	Oak Lawn, IL
Wallace Patterson	`48	21 Feb 2021	Glenview, IL
Walter J. Heck	`56	26 Mar 2021	Jupiter, FL
Gregg R. Dodson	`57	5 Jul 2021	Mattoon, IL
Harry W. Carlson	`51	22 Jul 2021	Palatine, IL
John H. Sellers	`50	26 Jul 2021	St Joseph, IN
Michael J. DeShon	`61	12 Aug 2021	Sycamore, IL
Cloyde Richard Earp	`66	15 Aug 2021	Kewanna, IN
Luis James Valverde (FAC)	`52-57	29 Aug 2021	Boise, ID
Danny D. Alberson	`66	15 Sep 2021	Kokomo, IN
Darrell L. Davis	`44	2 Dec 2021	Palo Alto, CA

# Onarga Military School Alumni Association



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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	Charles Stewart	`67
Secretary	John Friebel	`57
Treasurer	John Friebel	`57
Director	Steve Denney	`57
Director	Tom Leasure	`66
Director	John Egan	`68

Onarga Academy Liaison: Jamie Kozma, Exec Dir

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Alumni  
Association