

## Onarga Military School Alumni Association

# THE ONARGOSY

**Volume 26 – Issue 2 - No. 94 – Summer 2023**

### *Annual Fall Reunion*

The traditional reunion is scheduled over the holiday weekend of **6 – 8 October 2023**, on the Onarga Academy campus in Onarga, Illinois. All alumni, former cadets, former instructors and staff, family and friends are encouraged to take a step back in time to gather, to socialize and to share experiences, as well as engage with the Nexus-Onarga community during the Reunion.

Mark your calendars, submit your reservation form and payment, and reserve your lodging for this year's Reunion. Details follow:

**Saturday, October 7, 2023**, is the date for our annual OMS Reunion get-together and evening social hour and banquet. 50 living alumni from the following classes celebrate a milestone this year. Any Class can rally their surviving members to gather and celebrate at the Reunion, as all classes are now 50 years beyond their graduation year.

1968 - 55 years; - 18 Alumni

1963 - 60 years; - 17 Alumni

1958 - 65 years; - 7 Alumni

1953 - 70 years; - 2 Alumni

1948 - 75 years - 6 Alumni

**BANQUET Details:** Our banquet will be at the **103 East Bar & Grill**, Buckley, Illinois. A cocktail hour, cash bar, will begin at 6:00 PM followed by dinner at 7:00 PM. The Banquet cost is \$25.00 per person. Complete and send your Reservation Form along with your check, made payable to **OMS Alumni Association**, to John Friebe at the address listed on the form to arrive Not Later Than Saturday, September 30, 2023. This date is the last day to make reservations. A reservation form is at the end of the print edition, and also available on our Association Website to download, print and mail in.

**LODGING:** The three most convenient lodging options are in Gilman, Illinois, with room rates advertized between \$70-\$90.

1. The Super 8 Motel by Wyndham at 1301 S. Crescent St, Gilman, Illinois 60938  
- Reservations: 815-265-7000
2. Motel 6, 834 Hwy 24 West, Gilman, Illinois 60938 - Res: 815-265-7283
3. Budget Host Inn, 723 S. Crescent St, Gilman, Illinois 60938  
- Reservations: 815-265-7261.

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## *SATURDAY MORNING BREAKFAST OPPORTUNITY:*

The Onarga Lions Club intends to hold a pancake breakfast in the dining room of the Onarga Academy. All Reunion attendees are invited to participate.

## *BUSINESS MEETING:*

Our annual business meeting will be held in the Auditorium Building at 2:00 PM on October 7, 2023. Attend to learn how our Association is fairing, progress on our projects, and to voice your opinions, concerns or appreciation. Members can send agenda item(s) for discussion by email or snail mail to **Mark Hayden** to arrive not later than September 30, 2023.

## *REMINISCING/TALL-TALE TELLING:*

Pictures and other memorabilia will be on display in the Auditorium Alumni Room. The Onarga Historical Society welcomes visitors for an historic glimpse of Onarga's past, as well as some OMS memorabilia.

### **Grand Prairie Seminary (GPS) Milestone**

Many educational institutions have occupied the GPS Foundation's Onarga campus since its founding in 1863. The current resident organization, Nexus-Onarga Family Healing, identifies its education unit as the **Grand Prairie School**.

To help commemorate the GPS 160 year occasion, OMSAA encourages each member to contribute **a favorite memory of your time spend as an Onarga Military School (OMS) cadet**, as well as **share how your attendance at OMS influenced your personal growth and/or professional life**.

Nexus-Onarga would like to use these personal vignettes to highlight the significant value OMS brought to the community and larger society. Each of us, no matter how long we attended, made an impact in some positive way among the student population, the local community, our family, and friends, which guided us toward being a productive citizen. **Please participate and share your thoughts.**

We request you compose your descriptive paragraph(s), and email or mail it to **Renee Sier** to either respective address below at your earliest convenience.

email: [rsier@nexusonarga.org](mailto:rsier@nexusonarga.org)  
US Mail: Nexus-Onarga Family Healing  
Attn: Renee Sier, Communications Coordinator  
110 North Locust Street  
Onarga, IL 60955

# Onarga Military School Alumni Association

## Class Ring Mystery

Does any of our membership recognize this OMS class ring? It was found on the banks of the James River near Richmond, Virginia, on/about 2008. The only markings are a very vague jeweler's mark and STERLING impression. A thorough search of School Yearbooks and Onargosy Newsletters revealed a likely purveyor. In the earliest reference on file, the **1922-1923 Purple & Gold Yearbook**, its Advertiser listing shows "*Spies Bros Manufacturing Jewelers, Makers of O. M. S. Class Rings, 27 E. Monroe St., Chicago*". There is no mention of the 1923 class having received any class rings; so there is no confirmation that this ring is from that year. If anyone can offer additional information about this style class ring for GPS or OMS, please share.



**OMS CLASS RING**

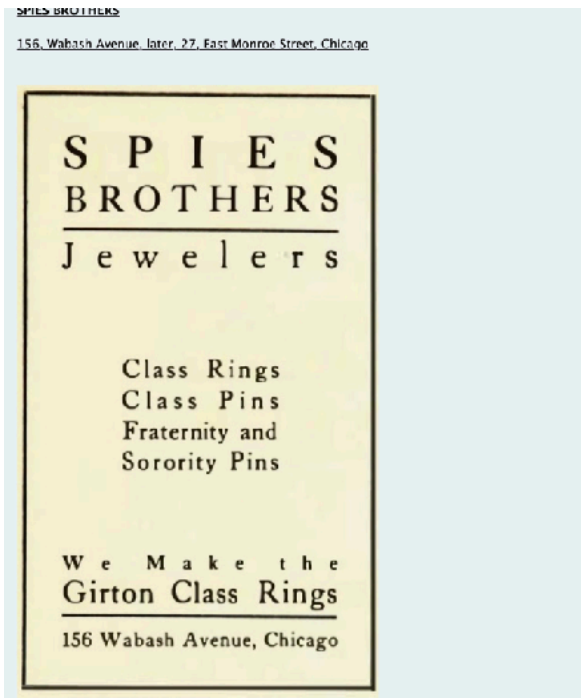


**ART DECO STYLE RING**



**INSIDE STERLING IMPRESSION**

# Onarga Military School Alumni Association



**SPIES BROS - 1878-1948**



Spies Brothers - Chicago - 1919



Spies Brothers - Chicago - 1921

Established in 1878.

Mark detail:



## INTERNET SEARCH RESULTS

### HONOR A CLASSMATE

Many spaces remain in our OMS Memorial Brick pathway to transform blank bricks into a walkway of engraved pavers. **BUY A BRICK** for yourself, to honor or memorialize a classmate, patron/family member, or a staff/faculty member. What better way than to have your name permanently on campus? And, then, come to the Reunion to see your installed, engraved paver! Further, your purchase is a full tax-deductible contribution that directly supports the Nexus-Onarga mission to help young boys prepare for life's challenges. [Note: the vendor requires at least five bricks to process an order]

Order site: <https://www.nexusfamilyhealing.org/Nexus-Onarga/OMS-brick-project>

\*Current Bricks remembering/honoring: **Mike Gattone; Carlos Sucharetza; Bob Gillfillan; Randy Chester; Gordon Miller; Bob and Ann Hayden; John Chiminello; Arnold Zarit; Bob Flannery; Charles Stewart; Wilma Jones; Kenneth Kauffman; John Friebe; Grand Prairie Seminary; Alfredo Macz; and Jesse Hammer.**

# 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	AUGUST	SEPTEMBER
2 Ross Braatsch	2 Jack Donohue	1 Wes Marshall
3 Jim Mager	2 Robert VanBrussell	4 Ted Schmidt
4 Charles Knell	6 Jose Valadez	18 John Guisto
7 Casimir Kowalski	11 John Hays	19 Edward Chandler
7 Kent Montavon	11 Eugene Valenta	19 Andre Holtzman
12 Douglas Hummel	15 Raymond Kasperski	21 Stu Marty
12 Patric Irgens	15 Jan Nelson	22 Charles Stewart
14 Del Angelo	19 Kerry Adams	24 Robert Flannery
14 Ronald Westergren	23 Albert Liska	27 Towner Clark
18 Thomas Mylin	24 Michael Erickson	28 George Gannon
19 James Dickerson	24 Max Newman	28 Ivan Pivaroff
21 William McCracken	27 Keith Sheffield	
22 Joseph Milos		
22 Allan Zitella		
23 Lawrence White		
25 Keith Torgerson		
26 Michael Adams		
31 Steven Dunbar		

# Onarga Military School Alumni Association

## TAPS

No reports received of passed members this period.

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### Association Website

The Association's online presence is at [OnargaMilitarySchool.com](http://OnargaMilitarySchool.com). Check it out. Members are encouraged to submit appropriate stories, photos or class information to post, or publish in our newsletter. Please email or snail (USPS) mail your item(s) to the President, Vice President or Secretary for review and posting by our Webmaster.

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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	<b>Mark Hayden</b>	` 67	<a href="mailto:mkhayden06@comcast.net">mkhayden06@comcast.net</a>
Vice President	<b>Charles Stewart</b>	` 67	<a href="mailto:chuckste@comcast.net">chuckste@comcast.net</a>
Secretary	<b>John Friebel</b>	` 57	<a href="mailto:johnfsc74@aol.com">johnfsc74@aol.com</a>
Treasurer	<b>John Friebel</b>	` 57	<a href="mailto:johnfsc74@aol.com">johnfsc74@aol.com</a>
Director	<b>Steve Denney</b>	` 57	<a href="mailto:sdenneysr1@me.com">sdenneysr1@me.com</a>
Director	<b>Tom Leasure</b>	` 66	<a href="mailto:tom@tslrefrigeration.com">tom@tslrefrigeration.com</a>
Director	<b>John Egan</b>	` 68	<a href="mailto:je337pilot@aol.com">je337pilot@aol.com</a>

Onarga Academy Liaison - **Jamie Kozma, Exec Dir**

# Onarga Military School Alumni Association



**ONARGA  
MILITARY  
SCHOOL**

CORPORATE NAME, GRAND PRAIRIE SEMINARY

## Alumni Association

c/o Mark K Hayden  
52 Tavern Rd  
Stafford, VA 22554-8814

**ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED**

# Onarga Military School Alumni Association

OMS ALUMNI ASSOCIATION  
Banquet Reservation Form  
Saturday - October 7<sup>th</sup> 2023  
103 East Bar & Grill, 103 E Lincoln St, Buckley, Illinois 60918

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

I would like to make reservations for the following number of individuals \_\_\_\_\_ who will attend the banquet. Enclosed you will find my check made payable to the OMS Alumni Association at the cost of \$25.00 per reservation for a total of \_\_\_\_\_ reservations (people) and \$ \_\_\_\_\_ (dollars)

My guests names are:

1) \_\_\_\_\_ 2) \_\_\_\_\_

3) \_\_\_\_\_ 4) \_\_\_\_\_

5) \_\_\_\_\_ 6) \_\_\_\_\_

All reservations must be received with this form along with your check no later than Saturday, 30 September 2023.

Make Checks payable to **OMS Alumni Association** (please do not send cash) and mail to:

**John Friebe**  
**Secretary/Treasurer OMS Alumni Association**  
**9211 George Kyle St.**  
**San Antonio, TX 78240-3609**

NO RESERVATION SHOULD BE MADE DIRECTLY TO THE RESTAURANT;  
IF YOU HAVE A LATE RSVP, PHONE **JOHN FRIEBEL** AT 1+210 550-1703.