

# THE ONARGOSY

Volume 26 – Issue 4 - No. 96 – Winter 2023



## [2023 Alumni Reunion Report](#)

On 7 October, 20 participants including 13 alumni met in Onarga for another Reunion gathering. Onarga Academy hosted the early bird Onarga Lions Pancake Breakfast, and for our Reunion group, provided their traditional BBQ lunch. Mid-morning, the Academy-sponsored JROTC members demonstrated drill movements, and afterward, gathered around alums' **Carlos Sucharetza** OMS '58 and **Mark Hayden** OMS '67 to gain



ONARGA ACADEMY JROTC



CARLOS RECRUITING

# Onarga Military School Alumni Association

insights on military life. Participants socialized around memorabilia displays in the Campus Auditorium throughout the day. The annual Business Meeting was conducted in the afternoon, and the traditional Banquet was attended by ten alumni, one former faculty, their guests, and **Shane Cultra**, President, Grand Prairie Seminary (GPS).



FRONT ROW: MICHAEL LYNCH, CHUCK STEWART, DENNIS SAFFRIN, KEN BUTTERLY, PHIL SUZUKI  
MIDDLE ROW: JERRY BYRD, CARLOS SUCHARETZ, GEORGE FRIEBEL, ERIC FARBER, DOUG HUMMEL  
BACK ROW: JIM MILLER, DAVID BENNIS, MARK HAYDEN  
NOT PICTURED: RANDY DELORDO



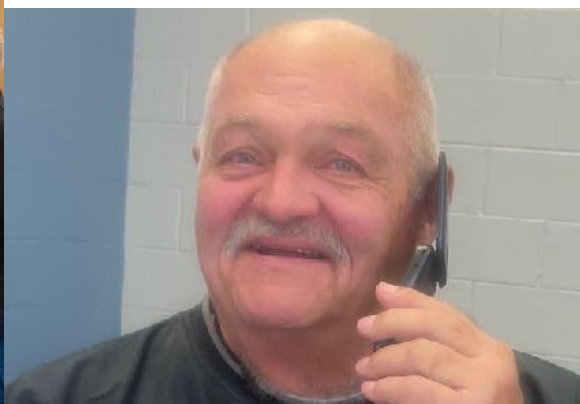
CARLOS SUCHARETZ, OMS '58 & JIM MILLER, FAC



(LEFT TO RIGHT) JERRY BYRD OMS '62,  
RANDY DELORDO, OMS '64 & MICHAEL LYNCH OMS '64



(LEFT TO RIGHT) MARK HAYDEN OMS '67, CHUCK STEWART OMS '67,  
DAVID BENNIS OMS '65 & GEORGE FRIEBEL OMS '62



DOUG HUMMEL OMS '66-GIBSON CITY, IL



# Onarga Military School Alumni Association



**THE THREE AMIGOS: RANDY DELORDO, OMS '64-GILMAN, IL,  
SHANE CULTRA, PRES GPS-ONARGA, IL & JIM MILLER, FAC-ONARGA  
IL**



**CARLOS & MARLENE SUCHARETZA, OMS '58 -  
WILLOUGHBY, OH**



**ERIC & KAY FARBER, OMS '61 - ISTANBUL, TURKEY**



**GEORGE & ELDORA FRIEBEL, OMS '62 - MURRAY, KY**



**DENNIS & CAROLE SAFFRIN, OMS '63 - ELMA, NY**



**JERRY BYRD, OMS'62-SIDNEY, IL & MICHAEL LYNCH OMS'64-ALLEN, TX**

# Onarga Military School Alumni Association



DAVID BENNIS, OMS '65 & MS R. GEIGER-FREEPORT, IL



CHUCK & ROSANNE STEWART, OMS '67 - CHICAGO, IL



MARK & SUSAN HAYDEN, OMS '67 - STAFFORD, VA

---

## BUSINESS MEETING NOTES

The Onargosy Frequency - discussion about changing from quarterly to semi-annual (Dec & Jun); most present expressed retain quarterly newsletter and/or issue monthly memo announcing birthdays and TAPS notices.

Comment: Tabled for further discussion with Membership.

Membership involvement - increase participation through quarterly ZOOM meetings, and consider a hybrid On-site/Zoom Annual Meeting.

Comment: Assn Officers to research cost, platform, hosting and other technical concerns.



# Onarga Military School Alumni Association

Artifact Donations - Members and surviving relatives offer to send/donate uniform items, insignia, yearbooks, pictures, et al., to the current on-site memorabilia collection. There is no viable system to receive, preserve and protect these items, yet.

Comment: A proposal to establish a custodial management agreement among OMSAA, GPS, OA and the Onarga Historical Society is being drafted for discussion and coordination. Hold all new items until further notice.

2024 Reunion - 12 October 2024; Mark your calendars for next year's OMSAA Reunion/Business Meeting/Banquet on campus in Onarga, Illinois.

## ONARGA ACADEMY WEIGHT ROOM UPGRADE

The Nexus-Onarga exercise-weight room, located in the Major Hobbs old Music/Band Room in the Gymnasium is inadequate for proper preparation for students to train and compete in the Illinois State High School (ISHS) level activities. The target costs to upgrade the aging gym equipment is as much as \$20,000 or more. The school is soliciting contributions to help with the purchase of new equipment. The purchase of Memorial Bricks is one way to help, but many bricks must be sold to achieve that monetary goal. Still, one-time donations are acceptable. More information is forthcoming to describe this project. In the meantime, Brick sales can help - what a deal; you get a memorial, and the donation goes to funding this project.



**MATT DRAT BRIEFING GROUP ON PROJECT**



**ATTENTIVE LISTENERS**

# Onarga Military School Alumni Association

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY . . .

To all the alumni listed below – **HAPPY BIRTHDAY** – alumni & former cadets, if your Birthday is in one of these three month and it is not listed, then your born date is not on file – please send your birth month, day, and year 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	12 Harry Seidman
10 Gerald Enright	14 John Kenton	13 John Judd
10 Keith Harrison	18 Bernie Quick	19 Adam Kachler
19 Ted Joslyn	21 David Bennis	20 Michael Duncan
22 James Kinne	20 David Reichmann	24 Thomas Gillis
20 Dennis Saffrin	23 Frederick Zoes	29 Ronald Caruso
22 Eric Farber	25 Gerald Byrd	29 Jimmy Phillips
23 Marvin Stringer	25 John Peart	
23 Raul Vega	29 Gordon Hall	
24 Bruce Ingham		
26 David Olmstead		
29 Kenneth Kauffman		
31 Donald Collins		

**An Honor Brick makes a great Birthday gift!**

# Onarga Military School Alumni Association

## Memorial Pathway

Our pathway has twenty-two (22) bricks dedicated to cadets, family and staff members. Funds collected from this program support the Weight Room upgrade discussed above. Order Bricks on this link:

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

### **Order a Commemorative Brick today!**

This program allows alumni, former cadets, family members & former faculty, and community members to permanently honor or memorialize an individual or group of classmates, patron, family member or special remembrance on campus.

The memorial brick pathway is a public access from the East Seminary Street sidewalk to the existing Memorial Bench area. The price per Memorial Brick is still \$200 for three lines of 18 characters each. This amount includes a tax-deductible donation amount to Onarga Academy, and the costs for the brick, the engraving, and installation.

The pathway is ready for your memorial contribution!

### **LET'S FILL UP THE PATH WITH INSCRIBED BRICKS!**



RECENT BRICKS

# Onarga Military School Alumni Association

## TAPS

**I regret to inform the membership of the passing of our fellow former cadets and alumni.**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Year</b>	<b>DOD</b>	<b>Place</b>
<b>Harold Eugene Engstrom</b>	Prep `44 -`45	25 Jul 2013	Mtn Home, AR
<b>Keith Graham Harrison</b>	Soph `65 -`66.	12 Jan 2023	Holt, MI
<b>Ronald Thomas Westergren</b>	`57	19 Jun 2023	Bowling Green, KY
<b>Albeon Gains Anderson Jr</b>	`60	2 July 2023	Rocky Mount, NC
<b>Rodney Lee Wright</b>	`64	29 Nov 2023	Champaign, IL



During our Business Meeting, we presented \$500.00 to Nexus-Onarga Academy to use to host a Special Dinner for the resident-students.

The Association gifted from our Holiday Fund, \$30 per Nexus-Onarga resident this Christmas. There are 73 boys currently in residence for Christmas 2023.

On behalf of the Association's Officers, we wish all members and their families a very Merry Christmas and Best Wishes for good health, prosperity, and happiness in the 2024 New Year!



**AND HAPPY NEW YEAR**



# Onarga Military School Alumni Association

## Association Website

Members may submit appropriate stories, photos or class information to post. Please email or snail mail your item(s) to the President or Secretary to review for posting by our Webmaster.

The Secretary requests all Alumni members, former cadets, and former faculty who may have a new residence to update their new contact addresses (email/postal mail) and primary telephone number with him soonest for our OMSAA Membership Directory. As a note, our annual directory is off-line, and a hard copy is mailed annually in October with your dues notice.

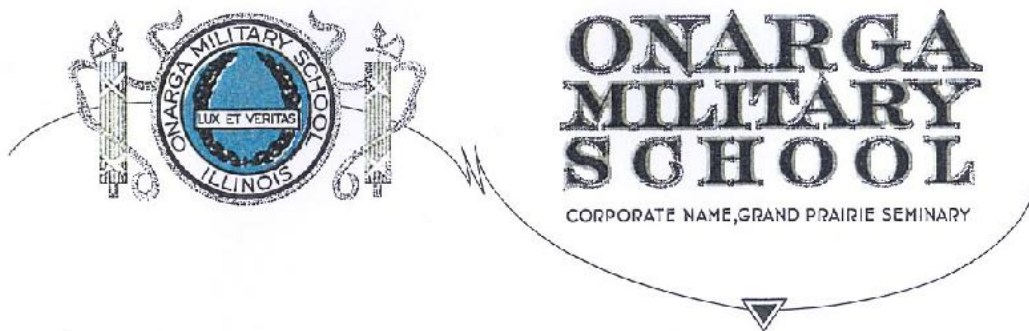
\*\*\*\*\*

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

Onarga Academy Liaison - Jamie Kozma, Exec Dir

# Onarga Military School Alumni Association



## Alumni

### Association

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

**ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED**



**OMS EMBLEM BRICKS LOCATED IN EACH CORNER**

**HONOR A CLASSMATE, PATRON, TEACHER - BUY A BRICK**