

## Onarga Military School Alumni Association

# THE ONARGOSY

### Volume 28 – Issue 1 - No. 101 – Summer-Fall 2025

As proposed and accepted at the 2024 Business Meeting, the frequency of publishing *The Onargosy*, is changed from quarterly to semiannually. This edition of *The Onargosy* begins as a Summer-Fall edition issued in July. The next edition will be a Winter-Spring issued in January. Also, TAPS Announcements, updated Birthday Lists will be posted quarterly to our Association Website as notices are received and collected. Alumni, Former Cadets and Faculty Listings were recently updated on our website.

### *Annual Fall Reunion*

Our Association's traditional reunion will be **Saturday, 12 October 2024**, on the Nexus-Onarga Academy campus in Onarga, Illinois.

All alumni, former cadets, former instructors and staff, family and friends are encouraged to step back in time to gather, to socialize, and to share experiences, as well as interact with the Nexus-Onarga community during this day.

Members may submit recommendations, comments, and/or concerns about the Reunion or any relevant topic(s); please email/mail your thoughts to any of the Association Officers or Board Members for discussion and consideration soonest.

Any Class can gather their members and celebrate at the Reunion, as all classes are now 50 years beyond their graduation year. The following classes celebrate a big milestone this year: **1970 - 55 years; 1965 - 60 years; 1960 - 65 years; 1955 - 70 years; and 1950 - 75 years.**

**SATURDAY MORNING BREAKFAST OPPORTUNITY:** The Onarga Lions Club may hold an early morning pancake breakfast in the dining room of the Onarga Academy. All Reunion attendees are invited to participate. Confirmation for this event is pending.

**BANQUET Details:** This year our banquet will again be at the Shagbark Golf Club, Onarga, Illinois. A cocktail hour, cash bar, will begin at 5:00 PM followed by dinner at 6:00 PM. The Banquet cost is \$35.00 per person. Print, complete and mail 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 Tuesday, October 1, 2024. After this date, phone John Friebe at 1+210 550-1703 to register/coordinate a late RSVP.

# Onarga Military School Alumni Association

**LODGING:** The three most convenient lodging options nearest Onarga are in Gilman, Illinois, with room rates advertised 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  
- Reservations: 815-265-7283
3. Budget Host Inn, 723 S. Crescent St, Gilman, Illinois 60938  
- Reservations: 815-265-7261

**ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING:** Our ByLaws required we hold an Annual Business Meeting that we conduct during the Reunion. To encourage wider participation for members unable to physically join us on-site, we intend to invite members to connect to the meeting via a communication video link using the NEXUS-Onarga Microsoft Teams application. Connection instructions with a hyperlink will be emailed to members with electronic addresses on file.

FURTHER REUNION DETAILS can also be found on our Association [website](#) along with the Banquet Reservation form to print and mail along with your check to our Secretary/Treasurer.

## Association Gifts

Our organization exists to connect OMS alumni, former cadets & faculty, and to perpetuate the legacy of OMS by supporting the Nexus-Onarga Family Healing mission with monetary donations. We do that by providing an annual \$500 contribution that supports a special dinner for the residents, and a contributing a monetary gift for each Resident's Christmas present that Nexus provides. Members should know that these gifts are well-received, and recognized in the Nexus-Onarga letters to our Association, their newsletters and Facebook (FB) postings. The latest Nexus-Onarga Family Healing FB post on July 4 at 8:21 PM follows:

### Happy Fourth of July!

**Our Dietary Services team fired up the grill today to give our youth a full 4th of July cookout feast, thanks to the generosity of the Onarga Military School Alumni Association! We are grateful for their continued commitment to support our mission and make a difference in the lives of our youth.**

**Have a safe celebration and watch for our 35th anniversary float in Onarga's 4th of July parade on Saturday!**

**Find out more about the ongoing campus project of the OMS Alumni Association here: [www.nexusfamilyhealing.org/Nexus-Onarga/OMS-brick-project](http://www.nexusfamilyhealing.org/Nexus-Onarga/OMS-brick-project)**

# Onarga Military School Alumni Association

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

We are thrilled to report that **thirty-two\*** memorial bricks have been purchased for our OMS Memorial Brick pathway. There is plenty of room remaining to transform blank bricks into a walkway of engraved bricks. **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 be a permanent presence on campus? Then, come to the Reunion to see your installed, engraved paver! AND, your purchase is a 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 brick orders to process a delivery]

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

\*Bricks remembering/honoring: Mike Gattone; Carlos Sucharetza; Robert 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; Steve Denney; Doug Gossett; Byron Tull; Jesse Hammer; Rodney Wright; Eric Farber; Boris Trutenko; Michael Marecek; Roger Bonner; Ted Bartlett; Danny Alberson; Maj Dwight Reed; LtCol Hutchins; Thomas Mylin; Steve Templeton, Maj Jim Hobbs, Mathieu Galbraith.

**Grow the list - Add your brick to the next report!**



TAPS



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


Name	OMS Year	DOD	Place
Leonard E. Scheppler	***	12 July 2017	Bourbonnais, IL
Alan Thomas Sklad	`64	4 July 2020	Phoenix, AZ
Phillip Glen Dikeman	`70	22 July 2023	Decatur, IL
Andre Edwin Holtzman	`49	19 Sep 2023	Broken Arrow, OK
Paul Gross Collins	`51	26 July 2024	Seal Beach, CA
Marc Denman Cappell	`57	2 Aug 2024	Naples, FL
Charles Anthony Vera	`68	6 Apr 2025	Chicago, IL
Jimmy Dean Phillips	`54	7 May 2025	Bloomington, IL
Andrew Wray Fazio	`52	20 May 2025	Naples, FL

**\*\*\*Former Cadet - attended `47 - `49**

# Onarga Military School Alumni Association

## Happy Birthday Wishes



To all the alumni listed below – **HAPPY BIRTHDAY** – if by chance your Birthday is in one of these six months and you are not listed, please send your birth date to the Secretary to complete your directory listing. 

### JULY

2 Ross Braatsch  
3 Jim Mager  
4 Charles Knell  
7 Casimir Kowalski  
12 Douglas Hummel  
12 Patric Irgens  
14 Del Angelo  
18 Thomas Mylin  
19 James Dickerson  
21 William McCracken  
22 Joseph Milos  
22 Allan Zitella  
23 Lawrence White  
25 Keith Torgerson  
26 Michael Adams  
31 Steven Dunbar

### AUGUST

2 Jack Donohue  
2 Robert VanBrussell  
6 Jose Valadez  
11 John Hays  
11 Eugene Valenta  
15 Raymond Kasperski  
15 Jan Nelson  
19 Kerry Adams  
23 Albert Liska  
24 Michael Erickson  
24 Max Newman  
27 Keith Sheffield

### SEPTEMBER

1 Wes Marshall  
4 Ted Schmidt  
18 John Guisto  
19 Edward Chandler  
21 Stu Marty  
22 Charles Stewart  
27 Towner Clark  
28 George Gannon

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Birthday Wishes continue on next page

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OCTOBER	NOVEMBER	DECEMBER
1 Philip Suzuki	1 Blaire Dillon	1 Marc Chappell
2 Edward Galor	1 Ronald Sturgeon	1 Richard Greco
4 Randy DeLordo	5 John Hesler	7 Jeffrey Zarit
9 Jon Ogilvie	5 Bill Sass	8 John Friebe
11 Ronald Hofstetter	6 David Swisher	8 Dennis Murphey
13 Michael Lynch	10 David Richardson	12 Michael Maniszko
15 Mathieu Galbraith	11 Paul Elsing	13 Vincent Coss
15 Robert Prichard	12 John Olson	15 Ron Loveless
18 Raymond Sisco	16 David Suzuki	15 Steve Templeton
19 Thomas Trempel	22 George Stefaniuk	16 Dean Cesal
20 Robert Ibbotson	24 Lawton Lamb	16 Jeff Thiede
22 Peter Arndt	24 Terry Workman	17 Chris Frederick
27 Jack Moehling	26 Fred Zawojewski	18 Richard Milburn
29 Royce Campbell	28 James Fritts	22 James Miner
29 Louis Mallers	28 Alan Jackson	24 Jarol Lilly
	29 Dale Leonard	28 Claude Hogan, Jr
	30 James Stanek	

## 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.

# Onarga Military School Alumni Association

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*The Onargosy* is published on a semiannual 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 Friebe1</b>	`57	<a href="mailto:johnfsc74@aol.com">johnfsc74@aol.com</a>
Treasurer	<b>John Friebe1</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



## Alumni Association

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

**ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED**

OMS ALUMNI ASSOCIATION  
Banquet Reservation Form  
Saturday - October 11<sup>th</sup> 2025  
**Shagbark Golf & Country Club**  
1262 N. 640 E. Road, Onarga, Illinois 60955

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

I would like to make banquet reservations for myself and \_\_\_\_ guest(s) identified by name below. The cost per person is \$35.00.

Enclosed is my check made payable to the **OMS Alumni Association** for (\$35.00 per reservation X total \_\_\_\_ reservations (people) = \$\_\_\_\_\_(dollars).

Attendee's name: [Please Print Legibly]    Circle DINNER CHOICE\*

1) \_\_\_\_\_ PORK CHOP or SHRIMP or CHICKEN BREAST  
Sponsor's Name

2) \_\_\_\_\_ PORK CHOP or SHRIMP or CHICKEN BREAST  
Guest's Name

3) \_\_\_\_\_ PORK CHOP or SHRIMP or CHICKEN BREAST  
Guest's Name

List additional attendees' names and their dinner choice on the back of this sheet.

Mail this completed reservation form along with your check no later than  
**Saturday, October 4, 2025.**

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 COUNTRY CLUB;  
IF YOU HAVE A LATE RSVP, PHONE **JOHN FRIEBEL** AT 1+210 550-1703.

\*Each Dinner includes a Baked Potato, Dinner Roll, Dinner Salad & Dessert