

Onarga Military School Alumni Association

THE ONARGOSY

Volume 29 – Issue 1 - No. 102 – Winter 2025-Spring 2026

Happy New Year - 2026!

This edition highlights events and happenings of the past three months.

Annual Fall Reunion

Our Association's traditional reunion was held **Saturday, 11 October 2024**, on the Nexus-Onarga Academy campus in Onarga, Illinois. Attendees came as far away as northern New York, Arizona, Virginia, Ohio and, of course, from around Illinois. Nexus-Onarga Academy rolled out their Welcome red carpet to host our campus activities. The joint Onarga Lions-Nexus Pancake Breakfast was popular with local residents and a few early riser members. By mid-morning, reunion attendees showed up to gather in the Auditorium's NOA-Wiley Conference Room to greet, meet, & view OMS memorabilia, reflect on OMS days and share stories. At noon, we meandered to the Education Building connected to the Gymnasium for a delicious BBQ lunch hosted by Nexus-Onarga residents. Building tours and a preview of a space for the Flight Simulation Project followed. Our requisite Alumni Group Photos occurred just prior to convening our Annual Business meeting. The Banquet at the Shagbark Country Club was the climax to this day of camaraderie and storied memories for those attending.



FRONT ROW (L TO R): KEN BUTTERLY '64, DENNIS SAFFRIN '63, PHIL SUZUKI '66,

BACK ROW (L TO R): CARLOS SUCHARETZA '58, MARK HAYDEN '67, BOB LEWIS '66,
& CHUCK STEWART '67

NOT PICTURED: RANDY DELORDO '64, BILL FESSELMAYER '64, DOUG HUMMEL '66,
& MICHAEL LYNCH '64



(L TO R): MARLENE SUCHARETZA, ROSE BUTTERLY, ROSANNE STEWART,
CAROLE SAFFRIN, & SUSAN HAYDEN

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(L TO R) SUSAN HAYDEN, JANICE LEWIS, BOB LEWIS '66, CAROLE SAFFRIN, MARLENE SUCHARETZA, CARLOS SUCHARETZA '58, ROSEANNE STEWART, CHUCK STEWART '67, SHANE CULTRA (GPS REP), KEN BUTTERLY '64, ROSE BUTTERLY, MICHAEL LYNCH '64, BILL FESSELMEYER '64, DENNIS SAFFRIN '63, RANDY DELORDO '64, CHERYL RABE, & MARK HAYDEN '67

Significant actions from the Annual Business Meeting:

- OMSAA presented \$500 Special Meal Donation to Jamie Kozma, Nexus-Onarga Executive Director
- Annual Dues remain set at \$20; Life Membership cost remains at \$150.
- Annual Holiday Gift Amount - continues at \$40 per resident
- Association allots \$5000.00 to acquire a Flight Simulator Suite/Capability Site for the Nexus-Onarga Grand Seminary School. **Ken Butterly** presented Project Overview and Implementation proposal.
- **2026 Reunion set for Saturday, 10 October 2026.** Due to declining attendance, leadership proposes restructuring the event.
- TAPS Roll Call and Moment of Silence held for past members.
- Attendance: **11 Alumni (3 on-line); 6 guests of members.**

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FLIGHT SIMULATION PROJECT

This project is the foundation for a High School Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics (STEM) - Based Flight Simulation Group (FSG@) capability. The goal is to introduce students to aviation, engineering, and STEM concepts using affordable and realistic flight simulation technology. The program offers a safe, cost-effective way to inspire career pathways in aviation and aerospace while developing teamwork, leadership, and technical skills. OMSAA provides the \$5000.00 start-up system investment.

Subsequent to the October 2025 presentations to our membership, and in coordination with Nexus-Onarga, the Project has been reframed with an alternative approach that fits the school's current strengths. Rather than starting with a full STEM-driven classroom, we will focus on creating a flight simulation room; i.e., a dedicated space for engagement, skill-building, and exposure to aviation principles, without the extensive structure required for a formal STEM program at this time.

The physical space identified across from the Gymnasium old locker room supports this approach with minimal modification, keeping costs and complexity low while still providing students a meaningful hands-on experience. After some adjustments to the original proposed equipment configuration and operating procedures, this direction offers real value and flexibility — and can support up to three simulators.

The 11-month Implementation Plan began this past November with steady progress toward full capability by 1 September 2026. The project lead is Alumnus **Ken Butterly, OMS '64**.

OMSAA MEMBERSHIP STATS

As of 31 December 2025, we have **164** identified members; **47** are Life Members; **7** are Life-Plus Members; **13** are currently Paid-Up Members for 2025-2026; **54** are members with past paid dues; **43** are listed alumni or former cadets who have never paid annual dues.

On 1 December 2025, OMSAA donated \$2,200.00 to Nexus-Onarga Academy for the 2025 Holiday Gift Fund for 55 Residents.

As of 31 December 2025, **22** members have generously contributed \$3235.00 to support our OMSAA Holiday Gift Fund.

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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 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 Nexus-Onarga letters to our Association, their newsletters and Facebook (FB) posts.

Honor a Classmate, Patron, Teacher - BUY A BRICK

We are thrilled to report that **thirty-five*** memorial bricks have been purchased for our OMS Memorial Brick pathway since its inception. There is still 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, or anytime, 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.

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 Friebel; 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, George Friebel, Robert Avery, & William McCracken. ***Grow the list - Add your brick prior to the next report!***

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🎈 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. 🎂

JANUARY

3 James Beedy
4 Robert Lewis
5 Richard Suzuki
10 William Akerly
10 Steve Denney
19 Ted Joslyn
20 Michael Duncan
20 Dennis Saffrin
22 Eric Farber
23 Marvin Stringer
23 Raul Vega
24 Bruce Ingham
26 David Olmstead
29 Kenneth Kauffman
31 Donald Collins

FEBRUARY

6 Albert Kuhlman
10 Tom Leasure
12 Alan Welsch
14 John Carlsten
14 John Kenton
18 Bernie Quick
21 David Bennis
22 James Kinne
23 Frederick Zoes
25 Gerald Byrd
29 Gordon Hall

MARCH

1 Steve Sholty
5 Frederick Koller
8 Kenneth Butterly
12 Harry Seidman
13 John Judd
19 Adam Kachler
24 Thomas Gillis
20 David Reichmann
29 Ronald Caruso

Birthday Wishes continue on next page

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🎈 Happy Birthday Wishes 🎈

APRIL

2 Cary McCarville
 3 Carl Kohlhoff
 5 Eugene Barrick
 12 David Westfall
 15 Glen Sylvester
 18 John Zarndt
 19 John Adams
 20 Edward Bourk
 23 Chico Hernandez
 25 Jay Johnson
 28 John Egan
 28 William Fesselmeyer
 30 Carlos Sucharetza

MAY

2 Ben Schramski
 3 Gregory Jennings
 7 David Allers
 7 Jack Snoddy
 9 John Cripliver
 10 Lynn Long
 13 Robert Sklar
 23 George Friebel
 24 Victor Whitney
 25 Dale Atkinson
 29 Jerold Greco

JUNE

2 Bruce Campbell
 4 Jack Brewton
 4 Mark Hayden
 10 Kenneth Baierle
 10 Thomas Christos
 19 Larry Stamberger
 21 William Hudson
 22 David Goldfein
 22 Gervase Stockmann
 24 Matthew Johnston
 24 Richard Stern
 25 Michael Striebel
 26 Charles Hoyer



I regret to inform the membership of the passing of the following former cadet, and the First Lady of OMS, wife of the Late OMS Superintendent, Col Leslie E. Adams.

| Name | OMS Year | DOD | Place |
|-----------------------|---------------|-------------|-------------|
| William Terry Workman | Cadet '50 | 18 Aug 2025 | Lincoln, NE |
| Anneliese W. Adams | '52-'71 (FAC) | 8 Dec 2025 | Clifton, IL |

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Association Website

The Association's online presence is at 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.

The Onargosy is published on semiannually in January and July 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 | mkhayden06@comcast.net |
| Vice President | Charles Stewart | ^ 67 | chuckste@comcast.net |
| Secretary | John Friebel | ^ 57 | johnfsc74@aol.com |
| Treasurer | John Friebel | ^ 57 | johnfsc74@aol.com |
| Director | Steve Denney | ^ 57 | sdenneysr1@me.com |
| Director | Tom Leasure | ^ 66 | tom@tslrefrigeration.com |
| Director | John Egan | ^ 68 | je337pilot@aol.com |
| 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