

Onarga Military School Alumni Association

THE ONARGOSY

Volume 29 – Issue 2 - No. 103 – Summer-Fall 2026

Celebrating America's 250th Birthday

2026 ANNUAL REUNION

Saturday, **October 10, 2026** is the date for our annual OMS Homecoming Reunion get-together in Onarga, Illinois. There is a No-Host "Banquet" this year, which means that interested attendees will decide whether to dine together early Saturday evening at a local restaurant of their choosing.

A REGISTRATION FORM is required to identify attendees to the campus, and obtain a headcount for the Onarga Academy Luncheon, school tour(s), and meeting support.

Gilman still provides the closest lodging options nearest Onarga. They are:

The Super 8 Motel by Wyndham:
1301 S. Crescent St, Gilman, Illinois 60938
Reservations: 815-265-7000

Motel 6:
834 Hwy 24 West, Gilman, Illinois 60938
Reservations: 815-265-7283

Budget Host Inn:
723 S. Crescent St, Gilman, Illinois 60938
Reservations: 815-265-7261

The Onarga Lions Club and NEXUS Onarga may hold an early morning fundraising **Pancake Breakfast** in the OMS Hall cafeteria. All Reunion attendees are invited to participate. Confirmation for this event is pending.

At noon, NEXUS-Onarga hosts a **BBQ Luncheon** for the visiting OMS Alumni.

Our Annual Business Meeting will be conducted in the Education Room of the Auditorium Building at 2:00 PM on October 10, 2026. Attend to learn how our Association is fairing, progress made 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, 2026.

REMINISCING/TALL-TALE TELLING: Pictures and other memorabilia will be on display in the Auditorium Alumni Room. The Onarga Historical Society also welcomes visitors to their museum located at 611 W. Seminary St, Onarga, IL 60955 for an historic glimpse of Onarga's past, as well as their OMS memorabilia collection.

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FLIGHT SIMULATION PROJECT STATUS

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 has provided the \$5000.00 start-up system investment.

Project implementation is well underway. The flight simulation room was rehabilitated and populated with the three equipment suite. Staff orientation and training has been on-going for system full capability, operation and demonstration by this September.

The opportunity to view the Flight Simulation Room and demonstration will follow the BBQ Luncheon.

The project lead is Alumnus **Ken Butterly, OMS '64**

Honor a Classmate, Patron, Teacher - BUY A BRICK

We report that **thirty-five*** memorial bricks are installed in the OMS Memorial Brick pathway since its inception, with a few orders pending. 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 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, George Friebe, Robert Avery, & William McCracken.** ***Expand the list - Add your brick prior to the next report!***

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
7 Casimir Kowalski
12 Douglas Hummel
12 Patric Irgens
14 Del Angelo
18 Thomas Mylin
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
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
18 John Guisto
19 Edward Chandler
21 Stu Marty
22 Charles Stewart
27 Towner Clark
28 George Gannon

Birthday Wishes continue on next page

Onarga Military School Alumni Association



Happy Birthday . . .

OCTOBER

1 Philip Suzuki
2 Edward Galor
4 Randy DeLordo
9 Jon Ogilvie
11 Ronald Hofstetter
13 Michael Lynch
15 Mathieu Galbraith
15 Robert Prichard
18 Raymond Sisco
19 Thomas Trempel
20 Robert Ibbotson
22 Peter Arndt
29 Royce Campbell
29 Louis Mallers

NOVEMBER

1 Blaire Dillon
1 Ronald Sturgeon
5 John Hesler
6 David Swisher
10 David Richardson
11 Paul Elsing
12 John Olson
16 David Suzuki
22 George Stefaniuk
24 Lawton Lamb
26 Fred Zawojewski
28 James Fritts
28 Alan Jackson
29 Dale Leonard
30 James Stanek

DECEMBER

1 Richard Greco
7 Jeffrey Zarit
8 John Friebe
8 Dennis Murphey
12 Michael Maniszko
13 Vincent Coss
15 Ron Loveless
15 Steve Templeton
16 Dean Cesal
16 Jeff Thiede
17 Chris Frederick
18 Richard Milburn
22 James Miner
24 Jarol Lilly
28 Claude Hogan, Jr



TAPS



We regret to inform the membership of the passing of the following OMS Alumni.

Name	OMS Class	DOD	Place
Jack Holmes Moehling, Sr	`52	16 May 2026	Midlothian, VA
Jose Gonzalo Valadez	`56	3 Jun 2026	Tumwater, WA
James Douglas Dickerson	`66	18 Jun 2026	Lancaster, OH

Onarga Military School Alumni Association

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 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 Friebe	`57	johnfsc74@aol.com
Treasurer	John Friebe	`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

Onarga Military School Alumni Association

Reunion Registration Form

Saturday - October 10th 2026

NAME _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Please register myself and _____ guest(s) identified by name below as attendees to the 2026 OMS Alumni Association Reunion.

Guest #1 _____

Guest #2 _____

Guest #3 _____

Also, please X-mark your interest in participating in the listed events:

	Member	Guest #1	Guest #2	Guest #3
BBQ Luncheon	☐	☐	☐	☐
Flight Sim Demo Visit	☐	☐	☐	☐
Annual Business Meeting	☐	☐	☐	☐
No-Host Evening Dinner	☐	☐	☐	☐

Please email or mail the completed reservation form no later than **Saturday, October 3, 2026**:

By email: johnfsc74@aol.com

By USPS:

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