



[www.HoustonAgs.com](http://www.HoustonAgs.com) Second Quarter 2018

# HOUSTONAGGIE

Houston's Aggieland Connection



The Houston A&M Club is the largest association of former students in the world. HAMC is run by volunteers and funded entirely by donations. Please ask your employer about matching your contributions to the Houston A&M Club.

Membership is **FREE**, but registration is required each year to ensure that our records remain current.

The HAMC is a tax-exempt, non-profit organization recognized under section 501(c)(3). Our Federal Tax ID# is 76-015741.

**HoustonAggie, P.O. Box 19534, Houston, Texas 77224**  
**[www.HoustonAgs.org](http://www.HoustonAgs.org)**

The HoustonAggie Magazine, published four times per year (in March, June, September, and December), is the official publication of the HAMC and is free to all members. Opinions expressed are not necessarily those of the HAMC or the editor. Content may not be reprinted without the permission of the editor.

Submissions are encouraged and should pertain to news/information relevant to Houston Aggies. Send to:

**HoustonAggie, c/o deborah lawson '92**  
**P.O. Box 940082, Houston, Texas 77094-7082**  
**[deborahlawson@aggienetwork.com](mailto:deborahlawson@aggienetwork.com)**

Submissions may be edited for length, grammar, accuracy, or for any other reason. Articles may also appear on the HAMC's website. Please contact the editor for additional information, including deadlines.

For information on advertising in the HoustonAggie, please contact Elizabeth Hamburg '07 at **[elizabethhamburg@aggienetwork.com](mailto:elizabethhamburg@aggienetwork.com)**.

Because the Houston A&M Club's mail is sent via bulk mail, it is not forwarded or returned. Please remember to update your address on the website:

**[www.HoustonAgs.org](http://www.HoustonAgs.org)**.

Editor: deborah lawson '92

Sponsors: Elizabeth Hamburg '07

## From the Executive Director's Desk

### 10 years!

2018 marks 10 years of working with the Houston A&M Club. I think I've done almost everything with the club from VP of Public Relations, Coach's Night co-chair, Newsletter co-editor, Director, and now Executive Director.

When the opportunity to become an employee of the club popped up four years ago, I knew I couldn't pass it up. To continue doing many of the things I had been doing for the club (at different times) - and more - was a perfect scenario.

My favorite aspect of this job is the people. I get to meet amazing Aggies every week and work with a phenomenal team of Aggies who volunteer their time and talents to serve the Aggie and Houston community. What a gift!

I also love mentoring current students through our intern program, connecting Aggie companies with our members through corporate sponsorship, and helping raise money for scholarships.

If you'd like to get more involved in the Houston A&M Club, I'd love to chat about the many opportunities to do so. As individual Aggies, we can accomplish so much more together.

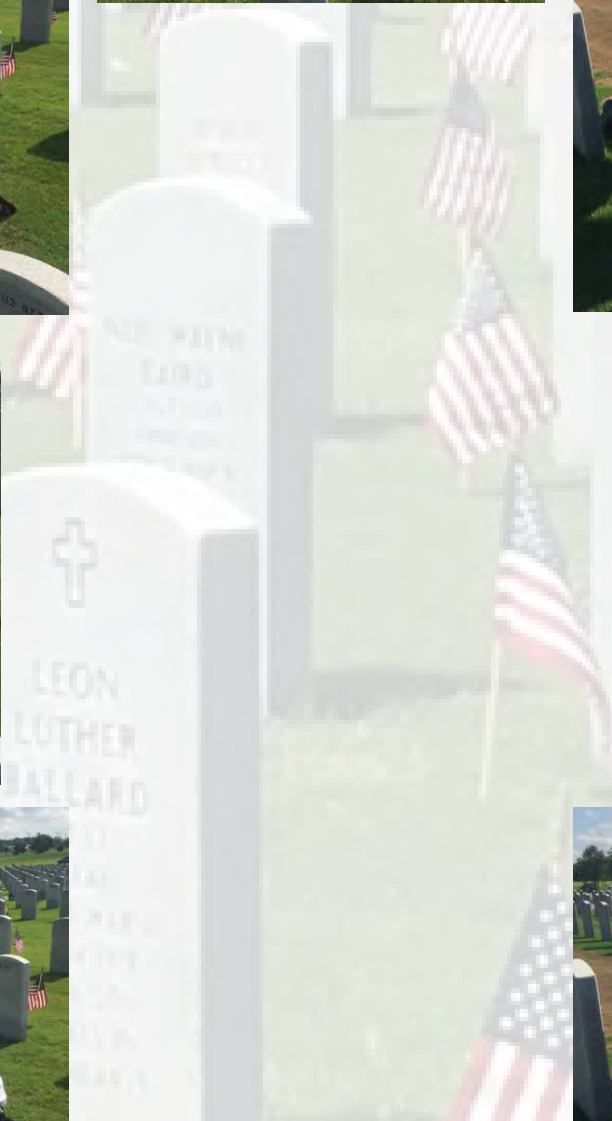
**[elizabethhamburg@aggienetwork.com](mailto:elizabethhamburg@aggienetwork.com)**



# Flags for the Fallen

**MEMORIAL DAY 2018**





NORMA  
ANITA  
LEDESMA





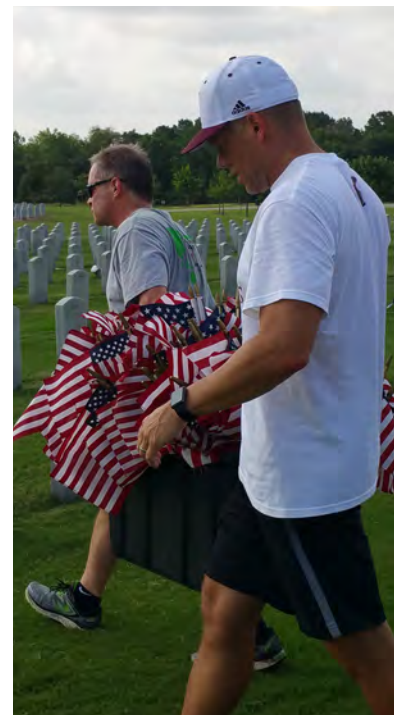


In 2008, Jim Thorpe '78 was named Volunteer of the Year for his service to the community. Ten years later, Jim leads the Houston Aggie Volunteers.

In honor of Memorial Day, Jim rallied volunteers to help put out, and then later collect, over 70,000 flags at Houston's National Cemetery.



**Thank you to the Volunteers who honored our Vets at Houston's National Cemetery**







Join the Houston Aggies when we lay wreaths for the Christmas holidays.

Sponsor a wreath to honor an Aggie veteran.







In January, Houston Aggie Volunteers competed in the Houston Food Bank's scanning challenge, where teams from various organizations scan items donated by local grocery stores for bragging rights as Fastest Scanner in the South.

9 teams scanned 33 pallets (18,240 items) in just 2 hours!!

The Aggies, making up 5 of the 9 teams, scanned 11,683 items, earning 5 of the top 6 spots! (! denotes an Aggie team total)

**Good afternoon,**

I'm on the email list for Houston Aggies due to completing an online graduate certificate through the Bush School, and was curious if the Houston Aggie Magazine or any of the alumni newsletters have a section for outstanding alumni to be highlighted. I work at the Harris County Sheriff's Office, and my former supervisor is a law enforcement lieutenant currently attending the FBI National Academy, which is a prestigious recognition in the law enforcement profession due to the professionalism and leadership qualities that serve as the grounds for nomination to attend. I don't know what year he graduated from A&M, but his name is Thomas (Tommy) Diaz. He's also a proud Aggie who retained the history and traditions of A&M after his graduation; both of us and another sergeant attended the TAMU GIS Day in 2015, and Lt. Diaz gave the sergeant a tour of the College Station campus with a history lesson about A&M, while I manned our Organization Exhibit table in the library.

Over the past several years that I worked with him, he has always exemplified the best qualities of A&M. His leadership has been an inspiration for me in both my career and personal life, so I wanted to see if there was an appropriate avenue to recognize his accomplishments (especially his upcoming graduation from the FBI National Academy).

**Sincerely,**

**Sarah McDaniel (received graduate certificate in 2015)**





### **TAMU Cheer Squad wins National Championship**

Nearly a week since we have returned from Daytona Beach, and it is finally starting to sink in! Countless hours in the gym, late nights, early mornings, and endless determination... still getting sand out of our shoes a week later, but man was the work WORTH it!!"

from the official TAMU\_CHEER Instagram feed

The Texas A&M Cheer Squad is an all-girl intermediate competitive cheerleading team that attends several competitions throughout the fall and spring semesters, practicing Sunday, Monday, and Wednesday nights, and hosting several fundraising and team bonding events throughout the year.

The organization does not cheer at any athletic department events or represent itself as an official spirit organization. Its sole purpose is to provide the participants with the opportunity to compete in the Collegiate Division of state and national competitive cheerleading competitions.



If you would like to nominate someone for the Outstanding Houston Aggie award, please contact William Wade '76 at [wwade@airmail.net](mailto:wwade@airmail.net).

Please include your reason for nominating the individual, as well as their contributions to their community, industry, the Houston A&M Club, and Texas A&M.





You did it!  
*Congratulations*







## A Night with President Young

presented by

**Barnett Gershen '69**

hosted by Nellie and Courtney



**CALDWELL**  
COMPANIES

Caldwell Companies is a fully-integrated real estate services and development firm providing commercial and residential development, office, industrial, retail and land brokerage and property management. We are committed to the practice of doing business with a true sense of purpose - building community.

**713.690.0000**  
CaldwellCos.com

**Doing it right. Right now.®**

DEVELOPMENT INVESTMENT BROKERAGE MANAGEMENT

Houston ■ College Station ■ The Woodlands

Fred Caldwell	'82
Susan Caldwell	'82
Ronnie Hale	'82
Flint Risien	'82
Sandy Kelly	'87
Peter Barnhart	'93
Clint Cooper	'99
Jerry Hlozek	'00
Brent Houser	'01
Brandi Ring-Cooper	'03
Nick Terry	'04
Travis Smith	'04
Jack Russo	'05
John Ginder	'05
Miranda Hadamik	'06
Spencer Striegler	'06
Jessica Claros	'07
Todd Johnson	'08
Clay Roper	'08
Blake Virgilio	'08
Hunter Grimes	'10
Daniel Greco	'12
David Claros	'12
Ron Roberson	'13
Evin Hirschi	'13
Drew Stewart	'13
Yi Xue	'14
Miranda Waller	'14
Tayler Slocum	'15
Larson McQuary	'16

**Downtown Lunch has MOVED.**

Join us on the first Wednesday of each month  
at High Noon at  
**Aggie-owned Pizzitola's Bar-B-Cue** for  
Chef's Special family-style BBQ.





**Love Fosters Hope.** Since 2009, **Jose de Leon '06** has worked with Love Fosters Hope and Teen Reach Adventure Camp to provide a safe place for teenagers in the foster care system to grow and thrive at summer camps for teenagers, ages 12-15, in and around Montgomery County. Jose also volunteers with Bridge, a camp for teens ages 16-19 who have, or soon will, age out of the foster care system.



"These foster teens arrive at camp nervous, cautious, and with lots of emotional baggage," says Jose, "but leave with smiles, a knowledge that they are cared for and loved, and a renewed sense of hope." It's that hope that drives Love Fosters Hope volunteers to share their hearts to change the present

and future for kids who deserve far better than their past. "Together, through love, we can change the face of foster care."



**"Many of these girls have never had the opportunity to attend a high school dance or prom, much less own a formal dress. It goes without saying that lives are truly changed at camp....and it's not just the teens."**



**Giving a new meaning to "home."** Jose met his wife Melissa at camp, in 2011, when they both volunteered. Often, camp is the only "home" these teens have ever known, and the volunteers who make it possible become their family. The week-long camps strive to provide the "intentional care" that is often missing from a foster kid's daily life. Days are jam-packed with swimming, arts and crafts, outdoor games, talent shows, a challenge course, and eating delicious home-cooked meals. At all times, the kids and their achievements are celebrated. Seven years later, Jose and Melissa are still involved with Love Fosters Hope, attending camps, serving on the camp planning team, and helping with the Run for Hope, and sharing their love and hope with the next generation, their 3-year-old daughter, Eva.

**Providing more than just the essentials.** LFH even ensures that their kids experience the most iconic teenage rite of passage – PROM! The girls get to shop for dresses, shoes, and jewelry, which they get to take home and keep. The staff helps with hair and makeup. They then take a limo to a fancy dinner where the male volunteers serve the meal. After which, they dance the night away along with camp staff and a DJ!



At the end of 2017, more than 16,000 children had spent their year in Texas's broken foster care system, more than 2,500 of them in the Greater Houston area. 40% of those kids are between the ages of 10-21. But there is hope on the horizon, and Aggies are there to help.

**Plumbing • Air Conditioning  
Appliance Repair**

**Village**  
SINCE 1946  
PLUMBING  
-and- AIR

**AGGIE 100**

Monica Ryan '84  
President & Owner  
MP122 TACLB34739E

VillagePlumbing.com  
**713-REPAIRS**  
737-2477

## **CARROLL** | *Trusted Advisors*

Business Insurance - Health and Benefits  
14906 FM 529 RD. HOUSTON, TX 77095

David A. Carroll, CIC, CRM '80  
David B. Carroll, CIC '08  
Scott Hunter, CIC '05  
Andrew Keller '13 Kelsey McCabe '15  
Darnella Rodriguez '15 Courtney Guess '16  
Glenn Scott '16 Holly Jensen '16

281.656.3000

www.carrollins.com





## Love and Hope alone are not enough.

Working with these teens is one of Jose's greatest joys, and they have impacted his life forever. But, as with all things, there is a price attached, so Jose helps raise the money that funds the Love that Fosters the Hope. For the last three years, Jose and his business partner **Chaz Lewis '07**, owners of Venturi Engineers LLC, have designed the traffic control plan for the annual Run for Hope, a one-mile fun run and 5K/10K race at Market Street in The Woodlands.



**Up, up, and away!** Jose and Melissa were joined by The Woodlands Aggies for the gala fundraiser – Night of Hope – that helps send teens to camp, assists them with needs throughout the year, and raises child abuse awareness.



If you are interested in learning more about Love Fosters Hope, the camps, the mentorship program, the Run for Hope, the Night of Hope gala or would like to know how to get involved you can find more information at: [www.lovefostershope.org](http://www.lovefostershope.org).

If you are interested in learning more about Teen Reach Adventure Camps, you can find more information at: [www.teenreach.org](http://www.teenreach.org).

Did you know that there is a state law that covers tuition and required fees at state supported colleges and universities for current or former foster care students? Texas A&M is proud to be a part of the College Partnership Program that helps foster kids prepare for adult living.

For more info on:

College financial assistance to students who are currently or were formerly in the conservatorship of TDFPS, please visit: College for all Texans at [tx.ag/CollegeforAllTxns](http://tx.ag/CollegeforAllTxns).

A&M's Foster Care waiver visit: [tx.ag/sbswaivers](http://tx.ag/sbswaivers).

A&M's Preparation for Adult Living State Services, please visit: [tx.ag/tamuPAL](http://tx.ag/tamuPAL).





# President's Welcome

2018 HAMC President, Stephanie Gafford '12, welcomed Aggies to Houston Muster with this invitation:

For those not yet plugged into the Aggie Network in the Houston area, please know that an opportunity awaits you, whether you desire to:

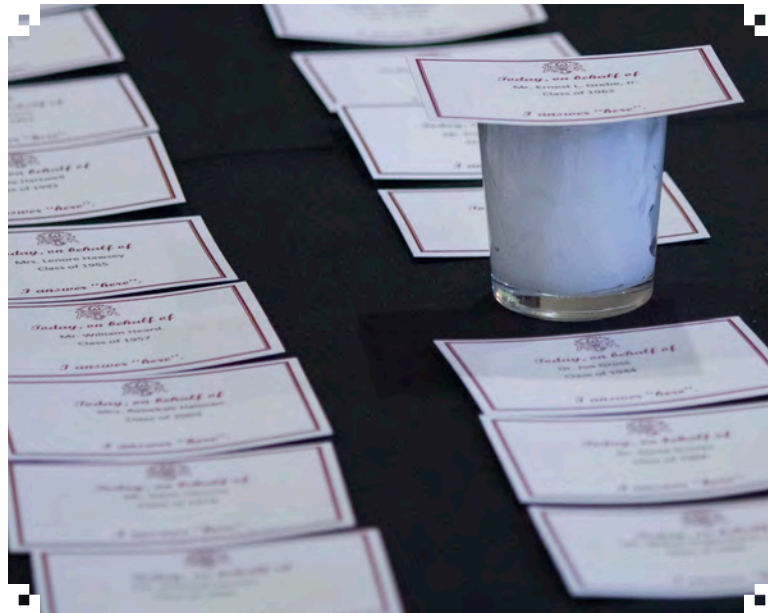
- simply network with other Aggies at a monthly lunch,
- help with the Houston Food Bank,
- work on a Habitat for Humanity project,
- volunteer with Coach's Night, or
- be a role model for grade students thru CAMP, our Caring Aggies Mentoring Program.

Or perhaps you desire to be an officer or chair one of these many activities? If any of these appeal to you, we would be honored to have you join us.

We don't have dues to join our organization. Instead we humbly ask for your donation in order to support our greater cause. Your donations allow us to provide scholarships to Houston area Aggies, to put on events such as Muster, to give back to student organizations on campus, and ultimately, to spread the Aggie Spirit. The Aggie Network is not an imagination – it's very, very real. Aggies before us created it, now we must keep it going. It's time you get involved.

If you are looking for an opportunity, please see me or any of our officers. We have also mailed out our yearly Membership drive campaign. If you have received this, I kindly ask for your participation in mailing it back to the Club, with or without any necessary changes. It is very much appreciated, and helps drive our Club forward.

Speaking of getting involved, we have a number of people that have put in many hours to make sure we have a successful Muster this year. At this time I would like to recognize our Muster Chair and Committee and say



a heartfelt thanks to each of them for their efforts. Your time spent is greatly appreciated, and we thank you.

And finally as I yield this podium to our next speaker, let us all please remember that freedom isn't free. And tonight while we sleep comfortably in our beds, our soldiers (many of whom are Aggies) are in harm's way to insure that we are free to elect our own leaders and worship God as we believe. Please say an extra prayer for all of our military and ask that they come home safe and victorious.

Thanks and gig 'em!  
Stephanie Gafford '12



**PACER ALLOYS, INC.**  
8881 Scranton Street  
Houston, Texas 77075

Business (713) 644-9191  
FAX No. (713) 644-8745

REX REYNOLDS '61

**MOBILE FASTENERS**

BOLTS - NUTS - WASHERS - SCREWS - RIVETS - ROD - ANCHORS - DRILL BITS  
STAINLESS - BRASS - GALVANIZED - COATED - NYLON - SPECIALS

H.F. "BUDDY" BEAMAN '59 PH# 713-946-3853  
1509 Alabama FAX# 713-946-4427  
South Houston, TX 77587 MobileFastenersHouston.com

**KIKIS MAJEWSKI & COMPANY, PC**  
Certified Public Accountants  
Sharon G. Majewski, CPA '81  
Richard P. (Rick) Majewski, CPA '81  
9720 Cypresswood Drive, Ste 250 Houston, TX 77070  
Office: 281.580.6750 • Fax: 281.580.6777  
www.kikiscpa.com

**GRACO MECHANICAL**  
Mechanical Contractors  
Commercial - Industrial

Dick Graves '51 Jimmy Graves '77  
5910 Schumacher (713) 978-7000

Dr. Kristin Marcum, Class of 2003

**The Center for ENT**

Audiology Allergy & Sinus  
Balloon Sinuplasty Snoring & Sleep

713.795.5343 • centerforent.com

**NEC**

SIGNAGE + ARCHITECTURAL PRODUCTS

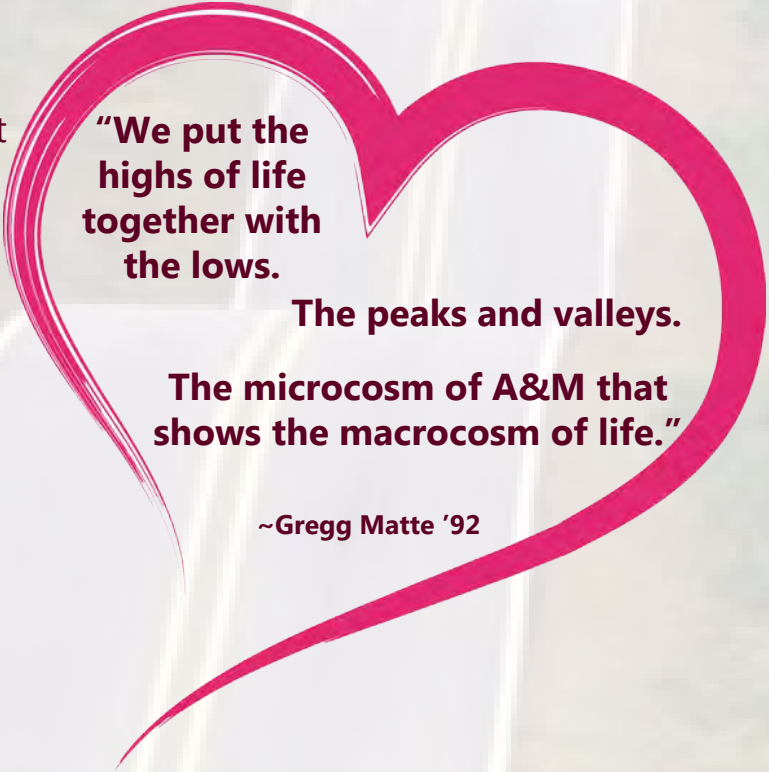
Sherman H. Hink, P.E.  
Class of '51  
1122 Lauder Road  
Houston, Tx 77039  
P 281 987 1144  
F 281 987 9443

necsignsandproducts.com



Thank you to our wonderful speaker, Gregg Matte '92, Sr. Pastor at Houston's First Baptist Church, who so eloquently reminded us that life is all about the highs and the lows, and without one, we couldn't truly appreciate the other.

Gregg, you have a tremendous Aggie Story. Thank you for sharing this special day with us. We will hold in our hearts what you said about lighting a candle as each name was called. "It's not just a candle melting, but a piece of your heart."



**"We put the  
highs of life  
together with  
the lows.**

**The peaks and valleys.**

**The microcosm of A&M that  
shows the macrocosm of life."**

**~Gregg Matte '92**

The Houston A&M Club was honored to share Muster 2018 with guest speaker Gregg Matte '92. Gregg is the senior pastor at Houston's First Baptist Church. Under his leadership, this historic church, founded in 1841, has moved to the cutting edge of ministry and experienced tremendous growth.

Before coming to Houston in 2004, Gregg founded Breakaway Ministries at Texas A&M — the largest college Bible study in the nation. What started with twelve participants in his apartment grew to a weekly gathering of thousands of students each Tuesday night.

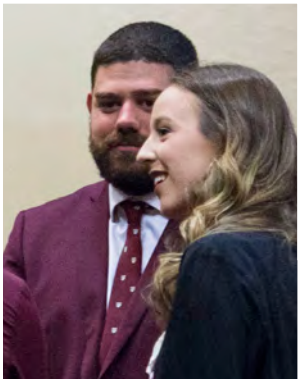
Gregg holds a Bachelor's degree in marketing from Texas A&M and a Master's degree from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. He is an author of numerous books, the latest being "Unstoppable Gospel." Gregg has received the "Outstanding Alumni Award" from Texas A&M's Mays Business School. He was the first pastor, and youngest person, to receive the honor in the history of the award.

Most importantly to Gregg, he is a husband to Kelly, and together they have a son, Greyson '01 and daughter, Valerie '08.









# COKINOS



UT★Physicians  
A Part of UTHealth

DEPARTMENT OF  
CARDIOTHORACIC &  
VASCULAR SURGERY





# Roll Call

FOR THE ABSENT



In many lands and climes, this April day  
Proud sons of Texas A & M unite.

Our loyalty to country, school, we pay,  
And seal our pact with bond of common might.

We live again those happy days of yore,  
On campus, field, in classroom, hall, at drill.  
Fond memory brings a sigh--but nothing more:  
Now we are men, and life is one great thrill!

On fortress isle one year ago today,\*  
A group of gallant Aggies, led by Moore,  
Held simple rites which to us all doth say:  
The spirit shall prevail o'er cannon roar!

They thought of home and all we hold most dear:  
Where are they now--those boys we knew so well?

Ask of the winds, let smile repress a tear,  
Think only of their glory when they felal!

Corregidor! forever more a hallowed name  
To countless sons of Texans yet unborn;  
Symbolic like, it stands for deathless fame:  
A shrine sublime till Resurrection morn!

Softly call the muster,  
Let comrade answer, "Here!"  
Their spirits hover 'round us:  
As if to bring us cheer!  
Mark them "present" in our hearts,  
We'll meet some other day.  
There is no Death, but Life Eterne  
For heroes such as they!

Dr. John Ashton, Class of 1906, wrote this poem, originally titled "The Heroes' Roll Call," in 1943 at the request of E.E. McQuillen, Class of 1920, The Association of Former Students' secretary. Varied versions have emerged over the years, but this version is as Dr. Ashton originally wrote it in honor of the Aggie defenders of Corregidor during World War II. \* In the third stanza, it was intended that each year, the number of years since the 1942 Corregidor Muster would be inserted.



Mr. Charles Daniel '33 - Mr. Rufus Beard '35 - Mr. Charles Aschbacher '37  
- Mr. Earl Bowman '37 - Mr. Woodrow Cochran '37 - Mr. Irvin Birnbaum  
'39 - Lt. Col. William A. Hamilton, Jr. '40 - Mr. John Lester '41 - Mr.  
Robert Kruse '41 - Mr. James W. Lain '42 - Col. Edward L. Bale Jr. '42 -  
Mr. William Pena '42 - Mr. Weston Dickerson '43 - Mr. Ralph Eads '43 -  
Col. Howard Herron '43 - Lt. Col. George Swilley '43 - Mrs. Connie Gordon  
'43 - Mr. Holt Daniels '44 - Dr. Clarence Dube '44 - Dr. Joe Gross '44  
- Mr. Milton Gugenheim Jr. '44 - Mr. David Leff '44 - Mr. Ralph Watts  
'44 - Mr. Charles McKim '45 - Mr. Homer Boone '46 - Mr. Charles  
Cusack '46 - Mr. Theo Willis '46 - Mr. Louie J. Barbe, Jr. '46 - Dr.  
Agile Redmond, Jr MD '46 - Mr. Arthur Frederick Dieterich, Jr '46 - Mr.  
Douglas Smith '47 - Mr. William Smith '47 - Mr. Alexander James "Jim"  
McLaurin '47 - Mr. Ben Cordell, Jr '47 - Ms. Lilian Sorrels '47 - Mr.  
Robert Casey '48 - Mr. Robert Collins '48 - Mr. Richard K. Epps Jr. '48 -  
Mr. William Forsyth '48 - Mr. William Holleman '48 - Dr. Monroe Neff '48  
- Mr. Ben Thigpen '48 - Mr. William "Ben" Adair '48 - Mr. John Arenas  
'49 - Mr. William Menger '49 - Mr. Lloyd Nelson '49 - Mr. John Wier  
'49 - Mr. William Bradshaw '50 - Mr. Roy Lee '50 - Mr. Nelson  
Millender '50 - Mr. Gustave A. Mistrot III '50 - Col. Carlos Urrutia '50  
- Mr. Robert Lee Smith '50 - Lt. Col. Charles Alsmeyer '51 - Mr. Donald  
Andrews '51 - Mr. Donald Burns '51 - Mr. Herbert Klein '51 - Lt. Col.  
Robert Imholz '52 - Mr. Harold Miller '52 - Mr. John Overly '52 - Mr.  
Duane A. Boenig '52 - Mrs. Bobbie Jarvis '52 - Mr. James Kelly '52 -  
Mr. Theodore Dinerstein '53 - Mr. William Hightower '53 - Mr. Joel  
O'Berry '53 - Mr. George Rush '53 - Lt. Col. Arthur Bowdoin '53 - Dr.  
Jack Harris '53 - Mr. Thomas Dollahite '54 - Mr. Taber L. McMordie Jr.  
'54 - Mr. Edward Peterson '54 - Mr. John Purcell '54 -



Col. Leo Draper '54 - Mr. Claiborne Sample "Bill" Hightower '55 - Mrs. Nancy Kimmey '55 - Mrs. Lenore Hawsey '55 - Mr. Donald Driggs '56 - Mr. Frank Goldstone '56 - Mr. Arthur Holliday III '56 - Mr. Homer Thornhill '56 - Mr. William Heard '57 - Mr. Robert "Bob" Mills '57 - Mr. George Kelt, Jr '57 - Mr. Richard M. Drake '57 - Mr. John Mueller '58 - Mr. Patrick Sumner '58 - Dr. Weldon H. Newton '58 - Mr. Theodore C. Batek '58 - Mr. Donald Browning '59 - Mr. John W. Moore III '59 - Mr. Larry Wilmesmeier '59 - Dr. Billy Ray Smith '59 - Mr. William Chapman '60 - Mr. Ray Epps '60 - Mr. Olan Hunter '60 - Mr. James Giles '61 - Mr. Ernest L. Grebe Jr. '62 - Mr. Merion H. McDonald Jr. '64 - Mr. Thomas Morgan '64 - Mr. Kenneth Verrett '64 - Mr. R. Eccles '65 - Mr. Arthur McFerrin '65 - Maj. William Joel Stewart '65 - Mr. Ronald E. Stuart '65 - Mr. August Bering '66 - Dr. David Groves '66 - Mr. Kern Kelly '67 - Mr. Alberto Volpe '68 - Mr. Edwain Staples II '68 - Dr. James Woodley '68 - Mr. Ricardo Garza '69 - Mr. Jesse Hildenbrand '69 - Mr. Keith Mullins '69 - Mr. Robert Bowling '70 - Mr. Jimmy Coe '70 - Dr. Gary Hall '71 - Mrs. Melanie Dennis '71 - Mr. Davis Hincey '73 - Mr. Gerald Burger '74 - Mr. Rayford Marshall '74 - Mr. Herbert Smith '74 - Mr. James Allen Mobley '74 - Miss Berylene Boseck '75 - Mr.

Arthur Rice '75 - Mr. Marvin Biersdorfer '76 - Mr. Paul Blann '76 - Mr. Fredrick Novak '76 - Mr. Paul "Pete" Shaffer '76 - Mrs. Susan Archer '77 - Dr. Terence Cozad '77 - Mr. Matt Willis '77 - Mr. Douglas Gates '78 - Mr. James Wilkinson '78 - Mr. Jimmie F. Strand '78 - Mrs. Deborah McNeill '81 - Ms. L. Cormier '82 - Mr. Mark Six '83 - Mr. Joseph DeBakey '84 - Dr. Jill Mutschler-Fontenot '84 - Miss Susan Diederich '85 - Mr. Todd Eads '85 - Mr. John Ellisor '85 -



Mr. Mark Oppermann '85 - Mr. Jeffery Pelt '85 - Mr. Gerald Frentz '86  
 - Miss Beth Myers '86 - Mr. David Smithart '86 - Mr. Dale Crockett '87  
 - Mr. Philip Reed '88 - Ms. Lisa Kohanski '89 - Mr. David E. Ward '89  
 - Mr. Michael Edward McKnight '89 - Mrs. Kristi Knox '90 - Mr. Kerry  
 Linares '91 - Mr. Phil Hanusch '92 - Mr. Lee Hartwell '92 - Mr. Bob Hess  
 '92 - Ms. Yolanda "Lana" Medina '93 - Mr. Chad D. Clayton '95 - Mr.  
 Michael Abraham '96 - Mrs. Leah Oberlin '96 - Mr. Michael Parker '98  
 - Ms. Tara McDowell '99 - Ms. Flo Hannah '00 - Mrs. Rachel Shupe '01  
 - Maj. David Williams '02 - Mrs. Rebekah Heiman '03 - Ms. Laura Schilling  
 '03 - Mr. Jason Eric Bush '03 - Miss Leah Buentello '04 - Mr. Luke Wade  
 '06 - Mr. Nathan Foyil '07 - Miss Ebony Lanier '07 - Mr. Nathan Davis  
 '08 - Mr. Christopher Reece '08 - Mr. Christopher Cappelli '09 - Mrs.  
 Lauren Rupe '09 - Ms. Brooke Gibbs '10 - Mr. John W. Holden Jr. '10 -  
 Mr. Jason Hoffman '11 - Mrs. Jessica Batchelor '13 - Mr. Bradley Daniel '13  
 - Mr. Dalton Mustard '13 - Mr. James Cossey '14 - Mr. Matthew Retzloff  
 '14 - Mr. Anthony R. Brown '16 - Mr. Jacob Cole Nagode '16 - Ms.  
 Megan Howe '17 - Ms. Caroline Killian '18 - Mrs. Agnes Stanley AM



# Muster

SATURDAY, APRIL 21ST

Bayou City Event Center

10 AM - 12 PM

doors open @ 8:30 AM

Gregg Matte '92, Sr Pastor  
Houston's First Baptist Church







"The Last Corps Trip" has been recited at Muster every year for as long as most can remember, but its history may not be as well known. Here is the short version:

The poem was written by P.H. "Buddy" DuVal, Jr. '51. It was during the fall semester of his junior year in Ag-gieland, and the football team was enjoying their first winning season in some time. The next game on the schedule was out of town; thus, the cadets were leaving campus en masse, in the traditional exodus known as Corps Trip.

Back in the classroom, Mr. DuVal's professor noted empty seats, and said something to the effect of: "If you guys were going on a one-way trip to hell, you'd leave a week early." This got Mr. DuVal thinking: "what if they had a different destination?"

From there, the verses came to him one at a time, over time, until one day, he sat down and wrote it out. His "Ol' Lady" and other fellow cadets found out about the poem, and they liked it. They recited it at private events and at Dinner with the College President. It was published in The Battalion, and was first read in public at the 1949 Bonfire by Head Yell Leader, Red Duke.

The popularity of this iconic poem has grown over generations, and today, it is literally carved in stone on campus, along the pathway to the Bonfire Memorial.

Thanks to Steve Loomis '75 for this campusology and his recitation of The Last Corps Trip.

**RAPP &  
KROCK**  
A Professional Corporation  
ATTORNEYS AT LAW

**Bradley W. Rapp '88**  
brapp@rappkrock.com

1980 Post Oak Blvd., Ste. 1200  
Houston, Texas 77056

**Kenneth M. Krock '93**  
kkrock@rappkrock.com

Telephone: 713.759.9977  
Facsimile: 713.759.9967

www.rappkrock.com

**Gershen Consulting** offers personalized consulting and advisory services, including:  
Growth, Sales, Marketing, Strategic Planning, Executive Recruiting, HR Strategy, Exit Strategy, and more.

Please call us for more information:

**855-GERSHEN**

2621 Persa, Houston, TX 77098  
bgershen@gershenconsulting.com



www.gershenconsulting.com

TEXT **RAIL** TO **52886** TO  
STAY INFORMED

### A HIGH SPEED TRAIN FOR TEXAS

Texas' high-speed train between Houston and North Texas will have a stop in the Brazos Valley, providing quick and easy access for Bryan/College Station passengers.

www.texascentral.com





## "The Last Corps Trip"

It was Judgment Day in Aggieland  
And tenseness filled the air.  
All knew there was a trip at hand,  
But not a soul knew where.

Assembled on the Drill Field  
Was the world-renowned Twelfth  
Man,  
The entire fighting Aggie Team  
And the famous Aggie Band.

And out in front, with Royal Guard  
The reviewing party stood.  
St. Peter and his Angel staff  
Were choosing bad from good.

First he surveyed the Aggie team  
And in terms of Angel swore:  
"By Jove, I do believe I've seen  
This gallant group before.

I've seen them play since way back  
when,  
And they've always had the grit.  
I've seen 'em lose and I've seen  
'em win,  
But I've never seen 'em quit.

No need to tarry here,  
Deciding upon their fates;  
'Tis plain as the halo on my head  
That they've opened Heaven's  
gates."

And when the Twelfth Man heard  
this,  
The let out a mighty yell  
That echoed clear to Heaven,  
And shook the gates of Hell.

"And what group is this upon the  
side,  
St. Peter asked his aide,  
"That swelled as if to burst with  
pride  
When we our judgment made?"

"Why Sir, that's the Cadet Corps  
That's known both far and wide  
For backing up their fighting team  
Whether they won, lost or tied."

"Well then," said St. Peter,  
"It's very plain to me  
That within the realms of Heaven  
They should spend eternity.

And have the Texas Aggie Band  
At once begin to play  
For their fates too we must decide  
Upon this crucial day."

And the Drum Major, so hearing  
Slowly raised his hand  
And said, "Boys, let's play The  
Spirit  
For the last time in Aggieland."

And the Band poured forth the  
Anthem  
In notes both bright and clear,  
And ten thousand Aggie voices  
Sang the song they hold so dear.

And when the band had finished,  
St. Peter wiped his eyes  
And said: "It's not so hard to see  
That they're meant for Paradise."

And the Colonel of the Cadet  
Corps said  
As he stiffly took his stand:  
"It's just another Corps Trip, boys,  
We'll march in behind the Band."



**Lindsey Kruse**  
**Fightin' Texas Aggie Class of 2000!**  
**832-259-7983**  
**lkruse@elixirpowersolutions.com**

## Howdy Ags!

I would love an opportunity to help you  
save on your energy costs. I represent  
several retail providers including  
Reliant Energy, StarTex Power, Green  
Mountain, Cirro Energy and others. I  
can help you find a custom plan that  
best benefits your commercial or  
residential property.  
Gig 'Em!



Thank you for helping make  
Muster a success!



Bunty Keo,  
General  
Manager





# Doug Pitcock '49 Texas A & M Hotel and Conference Center

Born to Cuban-born parents in Florida, Alex Cabanas '98, moved to The Woodlands in 1979 and started on a path that would ultimately lead him to the front porch of what will soon become "A&M's Guest House."

## WELCOME TO THE GUEST HOUSE!

As his high school years came to a close, Alex visited Rice and the Naval Academy, but thanks to a 3rd generation Aggie best friend, Alex only applied to A&M. He was accepted - early decision - moved into Moses Hall, and through two degrees (undergrad and masters in Finance) has never looked back.

**Selfless Service:** Even then, selfless service was more than a core value to Alex. The volunteer leadership bug bit him hard: Bonfire, Big Event, Fish Camp,

Muster, and College of Business Fellows. Alex served as Class Agent for ten years, returning to campus as often as possible to reconnect with professors and friends. He continues to give back as a mentor for Horizons, an Aggie organization that helps high capacity students prepare for jobs in investment banking, finance, and consulting by guiding and supporting current Sophomores and Juniors (or Seniors with one more summer left) through the internship recruiting process.

**It started with a typewriter:** Alex's parents, Burt and Hermys, started Benchmark in 1980, with the dream of providing the finest in guest-dedicated hospitality across the U.S. and points beyond. Little did they know that a 1987 proposal would one day be their son's Aggie Moment.

**"We can't call this A&M's living room; that's already taken. So we'll be the 'guest house' for everyone coming to Bryan/College Station."**

### KEEP SMILING.



**JOHN M. COOK, DDS, '67**  
Cosmetic & Reconstructive Dentistry

7500 SAN FELIPE  
JOHNCOOKDDS.COM | 713-974-4700

**Save \$100 - ZOOM! Pro Teeth Whitening**

**PIZZITOLA'S BAR-B-CUE**  
PIT-STYLE BARBQUE Since 1935

**JERRY PIZZITOLA '64**



**A CHAMPION THEN AND NOW**

1964 SWC Champions

2010 Best BBQ Joint

[www.pizzitolasbbq.com](http://www.pizzitolasbbq.com)

1703 Shepherd Drive Houston, TX 77007

Mon.-Sat. 11am to 8pm  
Closed Sunday

Tel: 713-227-2283  
Fax: 713-861-7600



**Greater TEXAS**

★ FEDERAL CREDIT UNION ★

[gtfcu.org](http://gtfcu.org)

**AGGIELAND**

CREDIT UNION®

[aggielandcu.org](http://aggielandcu.org)



As part of Benchmark's initial bid for the A&M hotel project, Alex showed the Chancellor's office a typewritten letter from 1987 in which his father talked about creating a hotel and conference center in Bryan/College Station. **"Benchmark's been talking about this venture for 30 years."** That dedication clearly struck a chord with the decision-makers, as they asked Benchmark to sign on for the hotel management piece of the project.

Committed to the school we hold so dear, Alex was thrilled to share his awesome news: **"We've already hired over 80 people in advance of our August opening, of which over 50 are current Aggie students."**



**Perfect timing:** Next time you visit B/CS, be sure to ask Alex how he met his wife. It all started when the same friend who brought him to A&M introduced him to Heather Hettick '98 at a party their freshman year. A year later they started dating. Now, 23 years and two sons later, they're still singing karaoke together.

We're providing great job opportunities for current students and former students. We're also beginning to provide internships, learning and research opportunities, and soon, new educational tracks for Aggies.

~Greg Stafford, General Manager



**98 Steps\* to Kyle Field:** Texas A&M Hotel and Conference Center's 250 guest rooms, decorated in Texas A&M's maroon and white, with accents of gray, will be open to the public in August. There is no membership required, but reservations are already open and booking fast. In addition to the luxurious guest rooms and typical amenities, guests of this hotel will have access to the roof-top swimming pool with poolside dining, a multi-level sports bar with indoor and outdoor space, a barista-served coffee bar, a wine bar, and the perfect view of Kyle Field. For more information or to book your room, please visit: <https://www.texasamhotelcc.com/>



**Benchmark**  
RESORTS & HOTELS

\* Or your class year!  
Official stats say 96 yards.

by deborah lawson '92

DISCREET, PROFESSIONAL  
**INVESTIGATIONS**  
RESULTING IN  
**COURT-ADMISSIBLE  
EVIDENCE**

- CORPORATE
- LEGAL
- INSURANCE
- FINANCIAL

BILL PELLERIN '85  
(713) 807-8811

bpellerin@texasinvestigators.com  
www.texasinvestigators.com

Serving  
HOUSTON, AUSTIN, CORPUS CHRISTI, DALLAS  
EL PASO, FT. WORTH, LUBBOCK, SAN ANTONIO



**BKD** LLP  
CPAs & Advisors

2800 Post Oak Boulevard  
Suite 3200  
Houston, TX 77056-6167  
(713) 499-4664 Fax (713) 499-4699

John W. Steffes, CPA '87 jsteffes@bkd.com

**BRAUN'S  
ROOFING  
INC.**

New Roofs • Replacement • Repairs  
Residential & Commercial

Skeeter Braun '85

**713.645.0505**

[www.braunsroofing.com](http://www.braunsroofing.com)





Forensic Engineers and Consultants

Gary Markham '71 · Ken Homfeld '74 · Jerry Mercer '75  
Bryan Stringer '80 · Robin Thomas '08 · Robert Scates '97  
Wes Jordan '85 · Tom Gregory '80 · Melissa Weynand '02  
Paul Anguiano '98 · Robert Dinjar '11 · Pablo Garza '06  
Tony Reyes '98

800-580-3228 | [www.rimkus.com](http://www.rimkus.com)



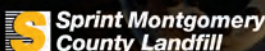
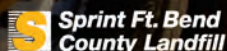
**Sprint  
Waste**

**Proudly Serving Houston and the  
Gulf Coast for More Than 40 Years!**

Joe Swinbank '74  
Rex Walker '84  
Will Swinbank '02  
Brant Van Houten '02  
Reagan Swinbank '03  
Josh Noworatzky '07  
Travis Ponder '11  
Dustin Brokmeyer '12

Jonathan Holub '12  
Michael Jacobs '13  
Chrissy Bonny '14  
Grant Oelsen '14  
Alyson Ludeke '16  
Kris Brander '17  
William Brod '17  
Logan White '17

[www.sprintwaste.com](http://www.sprintwaste.com)



**COKINOS**

**COKINOS | YOUNG**

Four Houston Center  
1221 Lamar Street, 16th Floor  
Houston, TX 77010

**713-535-5500 | [cokinoslaw.com](http://cokinoslaw.com)**

HOUSTON • SAN ANTONIO  
AUSTIN • DALLAS/FT. WORTH

**COKINOS**

**COKINOS ENERGY CORPORATION**

5718 WESTHEIMER, SUITE 900,  
HOUSTON, TEXAS 77057  
PHONE 713-974-0101

MICHAEL COKINOS '77 - PRESIDENT  
KEVIN COKINOS '84 - VICE PRESIDENT  
CHRISTOPHER COKINOS '87 - VICE PRESIDENT



# Morgan



Howdy! My name Morgan Cockrell, and I am a Communication Major and Business Administration Minor from Round Rock, Texas. My freshman year of college was spent at Texas State University, where I was originally a Theatre Major! I would frequently spend weekends at A&M visiting my oldest brother, and this is where I quickly learned that the place for me was in Aggieland! Transferring to Texas A&M was one of the best decisions I have ever made, and I haven't looked back since. For the past two years, I've had the privilege to be a part of this welcoming community of students and staff, where I've learned more than I ever thought I could. I currently hold a leadership position in MSC Town Hall, where I get to work with an amazing group of Aggies to bring music and entertainment to campus. Our goal is to bring together students and the College Station community to share in the joy of music and the aggie spirit. I have also previously worked at the Association of Former Students, where I helped to raise funds for student scholarships, organizations, research, and so much more. I learned so much from that opportunity, specifically that the Aggie Family is an actual family. I am excited to be interning at the Houston A&M Club, where I will be able to continue to serve my fellow aggies in whatever way possible. I am also excited to announce that I will be graduating this year in August! I cannot wait to see what the future holds beyond College Station, TX, and am comforted that a part of the Aggie family will be wherever I end up.

Alan Fisherman, '71  
Paige M. Cokinos, '78  
Alan Ponder, '80  
Koby Hackrad, '98  
Michael Maddux, '99  
Joe Bloodworth, '02  
Lindsay Ewart, '06  
James Lee, '07  
Bradford McKinney, '07  
Kyle J. Schielack, '08  
Nicole Edge, '08  
Ryan Gersch, '10  
Noah M. Mathews, '17  
Addie Hilliard, '18



[higginbotham.net](http://higginbotham.net)

As the largest independent insurance firm based in Texas, we strive for *excellence, integrity, leadership, loyalty, respect and selfless service* as your local broker.



**HIGGINBOTHAM™**  
Global Reach. Local Touch. Single Source.



# HIMC



## HOUSTON KICK OFF PARTY



**Frost**

BANKING  
INVESTMENTS  
INSURANCE

on behalf of

**THE HOUSTON A&M CLUB**

invites you to

**COACH'S NIGHT**

**MONDAY, JULY 16TH**

**NRG**

5PM  
COCKTAILS, SILENT  
AUCTION, MINGLING WITH  
YOUR FAVORITE AGGIES

7PM  
DINNER AND PROGRAM

Celebrate Aggie Football and  
welcome new coach Jimbo  
Fisher

save  
the  
date®



Details  
available  
at [www.  
HoustonAgs.  
org/CN2018](http://www.HoustonAgs.org/CN2018)



**CALDWELL**  
COMPANIES



**TEXAS CENTRAL**  
AMERICA'S BULLET TRAIN