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HOUSTON AGGIE

Houston's Aggieland Connection



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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.

Houston Aggie, P.O. Box 27382, Houston, Texas 77227-7382
www.HoustonAgs.org

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Submissions are encouraged and should pertain to news/information relevant to Houston Aggies. Send to:
Houston Aggie, c/o deborah lawson '92
P.O. Box 940082, Houston, Texas 77094-7082
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.

Because the Houston Aggie Magazine is sent via bulk mail, it is not forwarded or returned. Please remember to update your address on the website: www.HoustonAgs.org.

Editor: deborah lawson '92



A big shout out to all the Aggies who played a huge part in the MDA Fill the Boot Campaign for the Waller Volunteer Fire Department.

On 19 September 2015, Kevin Wood '91 and five of his buddies collected donations for the Waller Volunteer Fire Department's MDA Fill the Boot Campaign in front of Buc-ee's on Hwy 290 at 8am. When they stopped at noon, they had collected over \$3,200, the majority by 10 am - when the Aggie traffic ended.

"Car after car of Aggies were giving more money than I ever expected. Please let me know how I can tell them all how much I appreciate the help."

WHOOOP!



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ALL \$\$ RAISED GOES TO SCHOLARSHIPS

Spiced Mocha Coffee

for Liz...for old times sake...

- 1/2 cup instant coffee
- 1 cup non-dairy creamer
- 1 cup instant cocoa
- 1/2 cup sugar
- 1/2 teaspoon cinnamon
- 1/4 teaspoon nutmeg



Mix all ingredients together. Add 3-4 heaping tablespoons of mix to a mug of hot water.

Makes approximately 3 cups of mix. For a great holiday gift, divide into 1 cup portions and give with a mug.



As
my
term as
President
comes to an end,
I have been reflecting
on the purpose I chose to
serve the Houston A&M Club. I
initially joined the club to meet new
friends who shared my love for our Univer-
sity. I participat-

ed in a number of social
events and chaired Coach's Night in 2013 and
2014 prior to serving on the Board.

**Through my involvement, I learned of the good works
that the Houston A&M Club brings to the community and to
students following in our footsteps in College Station.

Many of our
members volunteer with the
Houston Food Bank and Habitat for Humanity. In addition,
Houston Aggies founded C.A.M.P. (Caring Aggies Mentoring Program)
in 2005, which offers long-term mentoring from third grade through high
school graduation. This program saw its first high school graduate this year, as
well as its first

student accepted to A&M.

**Our community support extends to local Aggies currently
enrolled in Texas A&M University. The Houston A&M Club provides for 8 endowed
scholarships and an additional 41 scholarships through the Texas A&M financial aid office.
Our ability to maintain our annual contributions is due to the commitment from our members.

With- out their generosity each year, we would be
unable to continue to provide
funding for these students.

**I ask that you consider donating to the Houston A&M Club and aid us in continuing
our commitment to the future of Texas A&M University. Your donation is tax deductible for 2015 if made
before the end of the year. Please visit our website at www.houstonags.org and click DONATE. We appreciate your
support of the Houston A&M Club.

**In closing, allow me to introduce our incoming President, Amy Blaase '03. I wish her luck towards a successful year. Please
provide her with the support I've been grateful to receive over the past year.

Thanks and gig 'em!
Julie Williams '04

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The Date!*

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LIFE'S A JOURNEY ENJOY THE RIDE."

The Houston Aggie Moms are journeying down the road from their first meeting of the year – the traditional “Howdy Meeting” – through their holiday lunch, straight into their biggest event of the year - the annual Crazy Auction. This year's Crazy Auction is “A Journey through Texas” at the beautiful, historic Julia Ideson Public Library on Friday, 5 February 2016. If you've never participated in the crazy auction, you're missing out on a wild night of Aggie fun and a special performance by the Singing Cadets!



Leading the pack is this year's President, Beverly Krell. Beverly graduated with a degree in Secondary Education and has been working in her husband's dental practice for the past 32 years. Beverly is married to Dr. Bill Krell '72, and they have two children - Lauren and William, both class of '14. Lauren graduated with a BS in Psychology with a Neuroscience minor, and is returning to A&M in January to work for her SC in Nursing, as part of the Second-Degree BSN Program. William graduated with a BA in Petroleum Engineering, and is currently serving in Afghanistan as a Specialist with the Texas Army National Guard. (Whoop!) The Aggie Network looks forward to William's return in May 2016.



The Houston Aggie Moms are a diverse group of women bonded by their children's current – and past – involvement with Texas A&M. “We have a lot of fun during our meetings and special events, and are continually working to unify our talents and abilities to create scholarships, provide Care Packages, support libraries, and multiple other student organizations throughout campus.”

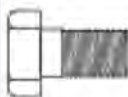
Beverly is blessed to be serving this Club with a wonderfully talented Board of Aggie Moms. We are all looking forward to an exciting year!

MORE INFO AT: HOUSTONAGGIEMOMS.AGGIENETWORK.COM

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Blake Virgilio	'08
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Daniel Greco	'12
Ron Roberson	'13
Evin Hirschi	'13

Well Ags, our first annual Clay Tournament, on October 1st, was a huge success! Thank you so much to the more than 100 Aggies who came out and participated in this event; it couldn't have been so successful without you. We had lots of great prizes, food, beer, and dessert at American Sports and Shooting Centers. We were definitely blessed by some awesome weather, and generous vendors.

Thank you so much to our vendors who graciously provided for us. We look forward to many more years of this event, while growing bigger and better each time. If you'd like to sponsor or be a part of this event next yaer, please email

*stephanie.gafford@dalecarnegiehouston.com
for more information.*

On September 24th, the Aggies had an awesome event at Athena Gun Club! Not only did our members receive 1/2 off their lane prices, but we got to experience Athena's simulator for free, in a hands on demo mode.



We had over 50 Aggies show up to this event which created an environment where we could talk, laugh, shoot and enjoy our passion. Athena was a wonderful sponsor who welcomed us with open arms. Their convenient location off of I-10 and Beltway 8 provided the perfect Thursday afternoon happy hour. If you haven't been before, I highly encourage you to get out and visit their shop, shooting lanes, and wide array shooting accessories. Huge thanks to Athena Gun Club and all our Aggies who showed up to shoot!

On October 22, the Aggies took a quick two step down south to throw a happy hour at the Redneck Country Club this fall season. No matter what part of town you are in, if you are looking for a fun, safe, tasteful, and exciting night to get out on the dance floor or have a few drinks with friends, this is the place to go! The Redneck Country Club offered up their facility for us to gather with fellow Aggies while chowing down on some of their delicious cooking, drinking a few cold ones, and sharing some good ol' Aggie stories. The best part was, they allowed our Happy Hour to be open to anyone and everyone - no membership required. For those that didn't get a chance to make it out, don't worry, we will be back in 2016 with them!



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Meet the Real Commandant

Joe E. Ramirez, Jr. '79, Brigadier General, USA (Ret.)



On Monday, December 14th, Brigadier General Joe Ramirez, once again, joins the Houston A&M Club for lunch at the H.E.S.S. Club. You've no doubt read his bio on the Corps website, but this is your chance to meet the real man, the myth, the legend.

Brigadier General Joe Ramirez is a native of Houston, Texas and is a graduate of Texas A&M University, where he was a member of the Texas Aggie Band in the Corps of Cadets. He received his commission in the United States Army Field Artillery from Texas A&M in 1979 as a Distinguished Military Graduate.

During his 31 years of military service, General Ramirez commanded soldiers around the world and served in leadership positions in various joint and operational commands. He was the Deputy Chief of Staff for United States Central Command during Operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom, and was the Deputy Division Commander for the 2nd Infantry Division in the Republic of Korea. His most recent assignment was Deputy Director for Strategy, Plans, and Policy for US European Command in Stuttgart, Germany.



Battery Commander, B Battery, 2-41
 Field Artillery, 3d Infantry Division,
 Bad Kissingen, Germany, 1987.
 Mission Accomplished!
 Rock of the Marne!

General Ramirez holds a Bachelor's Degree in Physical Education from Texas A&M (1979); a Masters Degree in Management from Webster University, St. Louis, Missouri (1993); and a Masters Degree in Strategic Studies from the United States Army War College, Carlisle, Pennsylvania (2000).



His numerous military awards include the Distinguished Service Medal, Defense Superior Service Medal, Legion of Merit, Korean Defense Service Medal, and the Parachutists Badge.



Wishing a Happy Veterans Day to two of my favorite veterans: my Dad, MSG Joe E. Ramirez, and my son, CPT Jason Ramirez. Both combat veterans - my father in Korea, where he was shot 5 times and was a POW for 33 months, and my son in both Iraq and Afghanistan. BOTH great Americans. Three generations of our family have served our country in the military, and we are proud to have done so. We are "The Land of the Free," because we have always been "The Home of the Brave" - and these are two of the bravest. God Bless our veterans, especially my Dad and my Son, both of whom make me proud every day. Happy Veterans Day.

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I began my career at Village in 1984, in a temporary position. After weeks I decide to stay with the company . . . because it was fun. I needed more education, and returned to night school at the University and earned a Masters Degree in Accounting.

In 1988, I became the manager of twenty-one Village employees. In 1993, I purchased the company from my parents. Along the way I became a master Plumber, and working directly with customers I realized first-hand the importance of doing the job right, respecting the customer and their home.

Today, Village Plumbing & Home Services has grown, and we provide complete plumbing, heating and air conditioning services at an affordable price. Our uncompromising commitment to the highest possible levels of integrity, technical expertise and super customer service is the cornerstone of my company. We've even earned The Cleanest Techs in Town, not only in our way we treat each customer's home and leave their homes cleaner than when we arrived.



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Monica (Wark) Ryan '83



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Honor our Fallen Aggies with a Wreath for the Holidays

On December 12th, Houston Aggie Volunteers and students from the Caring Aggies Mentoring Program are once again laying wreaths on the graves of our fallen Aggie heroes for the holidays. Among those wreaths will be at least 40 marking the final resting places of those beloved Aggies who made the ultimate sacrifice.

An estimated 15,000 people will pass through the gates of the Houston National Cemetery to pay their respects and place more than 60,000 wreaths. Our heroes will be honored with a ceremony complete with a 21 gun salute, echo Taps, a bagpipe troop, and a Coast Guard fly-over. For an entire month, the gardens of stone will be wrapped in holiday elegance. Then, in January, an estimated 1000 volunteers will remove all traces of the season as a new year dawns.

Wreaths Across America is a non-profit organization dedicated to honoring and thanking our veterans for their service and sacrifice. Their mission: "Remember, Honor, and Teach."

Seeking Aggies at Houston National Cemetery

The HAMC is collecting names of Aggie heroes interred at the Houston National Cemetery, to ensure they each receive a wreath. If you know of any other Aggies to include, please e-mail Lara Sterzing '92 at lsterzing@yahoo.com with name, class year, and birth date, and/or date of passing, if known.

Wilbur Hughes Synnott '39
Col. Lawrence Hale Connevey '42
Col. Louis E. Holder, Jr. '42
Dr. William Francis Egan '43
Richard W. "Rip" Collins '45
Arvid Kenneth Hassinger '43
William "Bill" Miley '43
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