

Howdy!

On behalf of The Association of Former Students, thank you for serving as Muster Chair for your local Aggie Muster ceremony. On April 21, your community of Aggies will join over 40,000 fellow Aggies in more than 300 Musters worldwide as we come together to celebrate this honored tradition.

Aggie Muster ceremonies are a unique expression of each individual community, and no matter what format is chosen for your ceremony, we know that your Muster will be a meaningful experience for those in your community. Muster is a day celebrating the camaraderie and the friendships, the triumphs and the defeats, the legacies and the impact that Texas A&M University has made, and continues to make, in all of our lives. It is also a time to honor those Aggies, those friends, family members, and classmates, who are no longer among us. Muster can be as simple or as elaborate as you feel appropriate, but whether your Muster is modeled after our Campus Muster or adapted to accommodate your local needs, know that you are perpetuating something that is bigger than a single event, larger than your own local Club or Muster Group-- you are perpetuating the essence of the Aggie Spirit.

The Muster Staff at The Association of Former Students gladly offers you their support as you plan your Muster. This Muster Handbook will serve as your guide in planning every aspect of your Muster. The Association also has numerous online resources (including an online version of this Handbook) available for your use. Please feel free to contact us by email or by telephone. The Muster Staff and the entire Association of Former Students team wish you the best of luck with your Muster ceremony. We are here to help, so please do not hesitate to contact us with any questions or concerns that may arise.

Thanks and Gig 'em,



Scott Jarvis '00
Coordinator of Club Programs



Misti Müller '11
Muster Student Assistant



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THE MUSTER TRADITION

Century-old roots provide the basis for Muster as Aggies know it today. It has changed, yet the Spirit in which it was established remains the same. Since the founding of Texas A&M, every Aggie has lived and become a part of the Aggie Spirit. What we feel today is not just the camaraderie of fellow Aggies, it is the Spirit of hundreds of thousands of Aggies who have gone before us, and who will come after us. Muster is how that Spirit is remembered and celebrated, and it will always continue to unite Texas A&M and the Aggie family. A&M may change, but the Spirit never will.

In the Beginning...

Aggies gathered together on June 26, 1883, to live over again their college days, the victories and defeats won and lost upon the drill field and in the classroom. By April 21, 1903, this annual gathering evolved into a celebration of Texas Independence on San Jacinto Day. These early meetings included field games and banquets for Aggies to reflect and celebrate their memories of Aggieland. *“Let every alumni answer a roll call,”* wrote the Former Students. It was not until 1922, however, that April 21 became the official day of events for all Aggies; thus, the annual tradition of Muster was born. The March 1923 Texas Aggie urged, *“If there is an A&M man in one hundred miles of you, you are expected to get together, eat a little, and live over the days you spent at the A&M College of Texas.”*

Bigger and Better...

Still remembering and honoring the time spent in Aggieland, the tradition of Muster has grown in strength, in meaning, and in spirit. By 1929, the meetings had spread worldwide, and in 1942 Aggie Muster gained international recognition. Twenty-five men, led by General George Moore '08, Mustered during the Japanese siege of the Philippine island of Corregidor. Knowing that Muster might soon be called for them, these Aggies embodied the commitment, dedication, and friendship that is the essence of the Aggie Spirit. They risked their lives to honor their beliefs and values. That small group of Aggies on an outpost during World War II inspired what has developed into one of our greatest traditions.

Today...

Muster is celebrated in more than 300 locations worldwide, with the largest ceremony taking place on the Texas A&M campus in College Station. The ceremony brings together more Aggies worldwide on one occasion than any other event.





TRADITIONAL MUSTER PROGRAM



“Aggie War Hymn”

- See “Poems & Songs.”

Invocation

- Appoint one of your group members to give the invocation.
- See “Poems & Songs” section.

The Muster Tradition

- See the Muster Tradition page for the history of Aggie Muster.

Program

- Guest speaker, video, or other special feature of the program.
- See “Speaker Coordination” section or Video Order Form for more information.

“Roll Call for the Absent”

- See “Poems & Songs.”

Calling the Roll Call for the Absent

- See Muster Planning Guide.

“In Memoriam”

- See “Poems & Songs.”

“The Spirit of Aggieland”

- See “Poems & Songs.”

Closing Remarks

- Usually given by the Muster Chair. A traditional closing and an alternate closing are provided for your use.

GETTING STARTED...

Muster Information Form

You can provide The Association of Former Students with all of your Muster information by filling out one important form, the Muster Information Form. This form is only available online at <http://www.AggieNetwork.com/muster>, and can be found under “Muster Chair Resources”. Next, follow the on-screen instructions for filling out the form and it will walk you through the rest of the process. Please fill this form out before January 15 to ensure that your information is as updated, particularly your email address.

NOTE: If you do not have internet access, you can fill out the Information Form and the Address Labels Form in the “January” portion of the Muster Planning Guide.

Publicity

Information regarding A&M Club or Muster groups will be publicized on our website, (www.AggieNetwork.com), and in *Texas Aggie* magazine. Also, promoting Muster through local newspapers, radio, and TV is strongly encouraged. A sample news release is provided in the March section of this handbook to help you in this area. Please note that, due to space restrictions, only the Muster Chair contact information will be listed in the *Texas Aggie*.

Invitations and Mailing Labels

The Association will continue its service of printing and mailing invitations for Muster groups. This will count as an A&M Club’s once-a-year mailer. Non-chartered A&M Clubs and Muster Groups will be billed for postage costs.

Please note that Muster Invitation Deadlines have changed:

Musters taking place outside of Texas will need to send in their Invitation Form by January 15, so that their Invitations can be processed and sent out first because of the extended time needed in the mail. All Invitation Forms for Texas Musters are due by February 1. Please see the Invitation Order Form in the February portion of the Muster Planning Guide for more details.

Also, in order to keep our Mailing List for your area as updated as possible, please encourage members of your Club or Muster to update their contact information on AggieNetwork.com. The Association needs your support as Muster Chair to encourage Former Students to keep in touch with the Aggie Network, so we can keep our records as accurate as possible.

***Mailing labels are always a sensitive issue, since many non-chartered Muster Groups are held within A&M Club boundaries. The Muster Staff wants to ensure that every Aggie knows about their local Muster, and we also want to eliminate any confusion resulting from Musters that have previously taken place and which will not be held this year, due to conflicts with local A&M Club Musters. Therefore, The Association must be notified of your intent to hold an Aggie Muster by January 15, so that no Musters in one area will conflict. If we are not notified, the mailing labels will be sent to the next closest Muster or A&M Club.**



GETTING STARTED...

Videos/DVDs

A variety of videos and DVDs are available and will be provided to Clubs and groups on a first-ordered, first-served basis. Many groups show a video in place of a Muster speaker.

Video can be ordered by filling out and returning the Video Order Form in the March portion of the Muster Planning Guide to The Association before March 1, or by filling out the online Video Form, which can be found at <http://www.AggieNetwork.com/muster>, under “Muster Chair Resources”. Also, please return all videos after Muster.

Speaker List

The Association maintains a list of former and current students who have volunteered their time to speak at a Muster ceremony. The list can also be found on our website, <http://www.AggieNetwork.com/Muster>, under “Muster Chair Resources”. Please contact the speaker directly to make arrangements. More Muster speaker instructions along with a sample speaker confirmation letter are provided in the March portion of the Muster Planning Guide.

Roll Call for the Absent List

A list of Aggies who have passed away and are to be honored at Muster will be posted in Microsoft Excel format at <http://www.AggieNetwork.com/Muster> in early April. This list will be sortable by City, State, and Class Year. Many families will contact the chair directly in order to make arrangements for their honoree. If you do not have internet access, please contact the Muster Staff and we will mail you a list. If you would like to contact the families personally, a “Sample Letter to the Families” is provided in the March portion of the Muster Planning Guide.

Report Form

We want to know about your successful Muster! **Please return the Muster Report Form in the April portion of the Muster Planning Guide before May 1.** You can also include any pictures or interesting stories for possible inclusion in *Texas Aggie* magazine. Please do not write on the pictures, but send a separate sheet with the names and Class years of those in the photo.



MUSTER PLANNING GUIDE

This Muster Planning Guide provides a month-by-month guide regarding the planning process for your Muster ceremony. We realize that all Musters are unique, so we try to focus on the elements of the ceremony that are relatively common to all Musters. Items listed in italics are forms that need to be returned to The Association of Former Students.

January

Confirm Muster location

January 15 - Return Muster Information Form

January 15 - Return Muster Invitation Form (for Non-Texas Musters)

February

Begin making speaker arrangements

February 1 - Return Muster Invitation Information Form (for Texas Musters)

March

March 1 - Return Video Order Form

Send letters to families of the deceased

March 15 - Copy of speaker confirmation letter due to The Association

April

Confirm travel and lodging arrangements with your speaker

Plan Roll Call Ceremony

Send press release to local media outlets

Return Muster Report Form to The Association by May 1

*“No occasion can be more sacred than one where we honor those who have honored us...
The other significance of Aggie Muster is to remind us of our duty as Aggies to the past, present,
and future. We are the beneficiaries of the tireless and unselfish sacrifices of those we honor today.”*

--James W. Aston '33



JANUARY

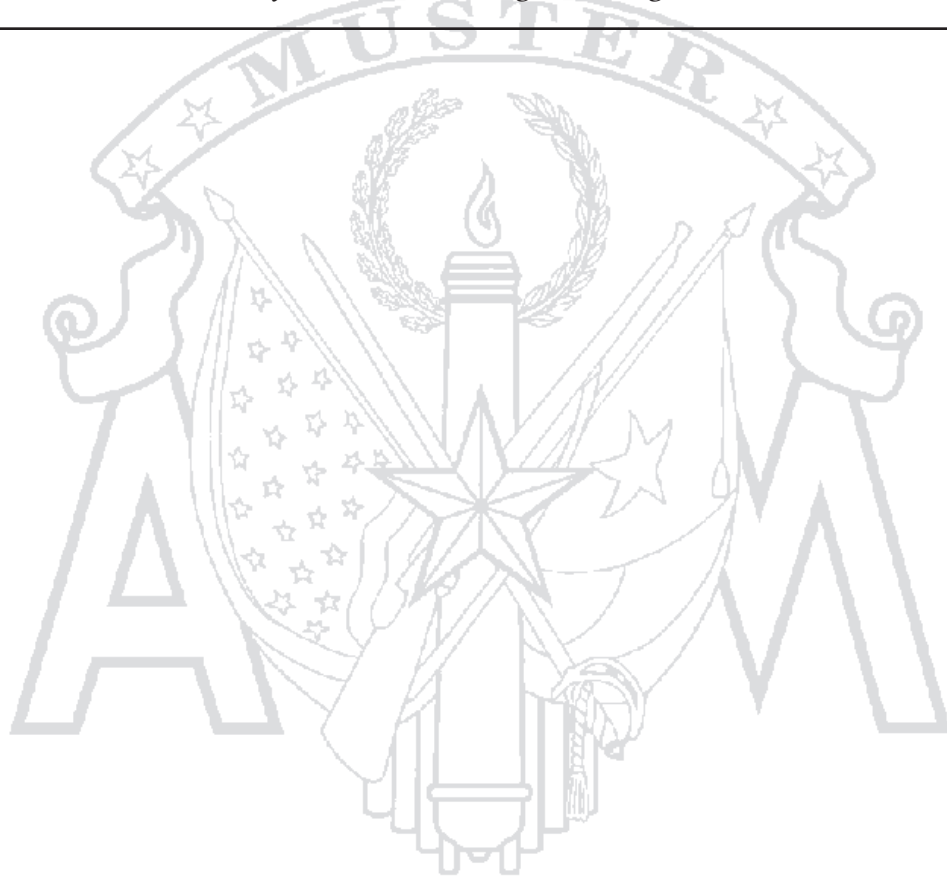
THINGS TO DO :

- ☐ Confirm Muster Location

NOTE: Only fill out the following forms if you choose not to use our on-line Muster Information Form

- ☐ **Jan. 15** - Return Muster Information Form
- ☐ **Jan. 15** - Return Muster Invitation Form (for Non-Texas Musters)
Sheet located in the February portion of the Handbook
- ☐ Return Address Label Order Form (*This can be done up until a few weeks before Muster*)

Mid-January: The Association begins mailing address labels



MUSTER INFORMATION FORM

Please consider filling out this form at www.AggieNetwork.com.

In order for your Muster to be listed in the March issue of the *Texas Aggie* (delivered at the end of February) you **MUST return this form by January 5**. Since information is constantly being updated, only Chair contact information will be listed in the magazine. **If The Association is not notified of your intent to hold an Aggie Muster by January 5, your Muster's name will not appear in the Texas Aggie magazine.**

This form can also be submitted online under "Muster Chair Resources" and "Forms"

Muster Information

MUSTER GROUP NAME

AND LOCATION: _____

MUSTER CHAIR: _____ CLASS YEAR: _____

MAILING ADDRESS: _____

PHYSICAL ADDRESS: _____

DAYTIME PHONE: _____ EVENING PHONE: _____

FAX NUMBER: _____ EMAIL ADDRESS: _____

CLUB WEBSITE: _____

Event Information

DATE: _____ TIME: _____ LOCATION: _____

TYPE:

☐ MEAL/PROGRAM ☐ PROGRAM ☐ FORMAL

☐ INFORMAL ☐ VIDEO

☐ GUEST SPEAKER: _____

****Please return Video Order Form by February 15.***

Note: Since many Musters have significant changes before April 21, only the Chair contact information will be listed in the *Texas Aggie*.

Please return to:

The Association of Former Students
Attn: Muster
505 George Bush Drive
College Station, TX 77840-2918

Phone #: (979) 845-7514

Fax #: (979) 845-9263

Submit online at AggieNetwork.com/Muster

ADDRESS LABELS ORDER FORM

If you would like a set of self-adhesive mailing labels for former students in your area, please complete the information requested below. These will be the most current addresses we have in our database.

Self-adhesive labels will be sent only if The Association receives this form. Labels can be ordered throughout the year, but please allow **3-4 weeks for delivery** to have them in time to use for your Muster. **Requests may be mailed, faxed or emailed, but we cannot process orders over the phone.**

Please encourage Aggies in your area to keep their contact information updated with The Association of Former Students at <http://www.AggieNetwork.com>, so that these lists may remain as accurate as possible!

Muster Information

MUSTER GROUP NAME: _____

MUSTER CHAIR: _____

MAILING ADDRESS: _____

DAYTIME PHONE: _____

EMAIL ADDRESS: _____

Select One and List Below

☐ Texas Musters

**Order by county in alphabetical order only.*

☐ National Musters

**Order by zip code designations, in numerical order only.*

☐ International Musters

**List the country and all APOs and FPOs in numerical order only.*

Please return to:

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Attn: Muster
505 George Bush Drive
College Station, TX 77840-2918

Phone #: (979) 845-7514

Fax #: (979) 845-9263

Submit online at AggieNetwork.com/Muster

FEBRUARY

THINGS TO DO :

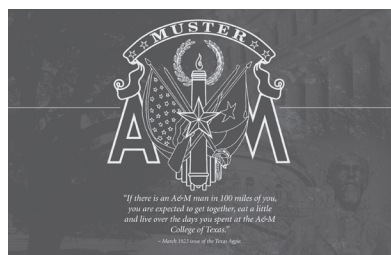
- ☐ **Feb. 1** - Return Muster Invitation Form (for Texas Musters)
- ☐ Begin making speaker arrangements.



MUSTER INVITATION INFORMATION FORM

Return before January 15 (Out-of-State) or February 1 (In-State)

The Association is offering professionally designed Muster invitations for use by A&M Clubs and Muster groups. The new invitations are designed to be effective and efficiently mailed in the postal system. We will print and mail Muster invitations for chartered A&M Clubs at no cost (this will count as your once-per-year mailing), while non-chartered A&M Clubs and Muster groups will be charged for postage. **NOTE : Clubs outside of Texas must have their Invitation Form turned in by January 15 so that their Invitations can be printed and mailed out as soon as possible. Texas Clubs must have their Invitation Form in by February 1.**



Front



Back

Muster Information

MUSTER GROUP NAME: _____

DATE OF MUSTER: _____

TIME OF MUSTER: _____

GUEST SPEAKER *(Only if having a speaker)*: _____

LOCATION: _____

COST: _____

CONTACT INFORMATION FOR MUSTER CHAIR: _____

RSVP DATE: _____

** For A&M Clubs and Muster groups that choose to provide their own invitations, please refer to the "Address Label Order Form" and the "Muster Supplies Order Form" for ordering information.*

Please return to:

The Association of Former Students
Attn: Muster
505 George Bush Drive
College Station, TX 77840-2918

Phone #: (979) 845-7514
Fax #: (979) 845-9263
Submit online at AggieNetwork.com/Muster

MUSTER SPEAKER COORDINATION

1. Check out www.AggieNetwork.com/Muster for a list of available Muster speakers.
2. Select and make arrangements with your speaker as soon as possible, as many speakers are committed at very early dates.
3. Once you have selected a speaker, send them a confirmation letter and send a copy of that letter to the Coordinator of Club Programs, including your speaker's name and address. It is important to include financial arrangements in this letter in order to prevent any misunderstandings. **Your confirmation to The Association must be made in writing or by email, not by telephone.**
4. Following the speaker confirmation, the Former Student Programs staff will mail a speaker packet to your speaker. The packet will include statistics on Texas A&M, the Corps of Cadets and a sample Muster speech.
5. Ask for a speaker bio that you can use when introducing your speaker.
6. Confirm arrangements again with your speaker in early April.



MARCH

THINGS TO DO :

- ☐ **March 1** - Return Muster Video Form
- ☐ **March 15** - Copy of speaker confirmation letter due to The Association.
(Please consult the Online Speaker List at <http://www.AggieNetwork.com/Muster> if you need assistance locating a Speaker for your Muster.)
- ☐ Send letter to families of deceased.

Early March: The Association will begin mailing videos

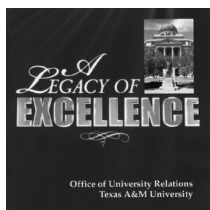


VIDEO ORDER FORM

Return before March 1

MUSTER NAME: _____ MUSTER CHAIR: _____

The Former Student Programs Video Library is usually able to accommodate most groups wanting a video, although a “first choice” may not always be available. Priority will go to Muster Groups without a speaker. **Videos are on loan only** and are reserved on a first-ordered, first-served basis, with a limit of one per Muster group. ***Please check the video you wish to select.***



 “A Legacy of Excellence”
 Length: 12 Minutes
 Former Student Perspective
 on life at Texas A&M.



 “Aggie Impact”
 Length: 14 Minutes
 Current Student Perspective
 on life at Texas A&M



 “The Spirit Continues”
 Length: 15 Minutes
 Current Student Perspective on
 life at Texas A&M



 “1998 Big 12 Champs”
 The entire 1998 football game,
 for which Dat Nyugen won
 the Vince Lombardi Award.



 2006 Aggie Football
 Texas A&M vs. t.u.



 “Welcome to Aggieland:
 Anthem”
 Length: 2 Minutes

Please return to:

The Association of Former Students
 Attn: Muster
 505 George Bush Drive
 College Station, TX 77840-2918

Phone #: (979) 845-7514

Fax #: (979) 845-9263

Submit online at AggieNetwork.com/Muster

SAMPLE SPEAKER CONFIRMATION LETTER

(print on Club or Muster letterhead)

Date

Speaker Name
Address
City, State Zip

Dear _____ :

Thank you for accepting our invitation to speak at the (Club name or Muster Group name) Muster on April 21, Year.

Our Muster will begin at (time), with your portion of the program scheduled for approximately (time). We would like your presentation to be on (subject) and around (number) minutes. Our meeting will be a (describe type, whether dinner or ceremony only, formal or informal). It will take place at (place name and address). (Include map if necessary.)

The (Club name or Muster Group name) is looking forward to seeing you on April 21.

If you have any questions or need more information, please feel free to contact me at (day-time phone).

Sincerely,

(name and class year)
Muster Chair
(Club name or Muster Group name)

cc: Director of Club Programs
The Association of Former Students
ATTN: Muster
505 George Bush Drive
College Station, TX 77840-2918



SAMPLE LETTER TO FAMILIES OF THE DECEASED

(print on Club or Muster letterhead)

Date

Family Name

Address

City, State Zip

Dear ____ :

Each year on April 21, Aggies around the world gather to honor their fellow Aggies who have passed on during the year. Muster is one of Texas A&M University's greatest traditions and serves to bring Aggies together to remember and celebrate victories and defeats while at Aggieland. It is a time for all Aggies to unite in love and devotion to Texas A&M.

This April 21, the (Club Name or Muster Group Name) will gather at (time) at (place) to honor the memories of fellow A&M men and women whose deaths prevent their answering the Roll Call at this annual Muster. The Roll Call is a symbolic roster of all students and former students whom death has taken from our ranks, but whose memories live on in our hearts.

In honor of your lost loved one, we cordially invite you to join us at our Muster ceremony. If you have any questions or would like additional information, please contact me at (contact information)

Sincerely,

(name and class year)



APRIL

THINGS TO DO :

- ☐ Send Press Release to local media outlets.
- ☐ Mail Muster Report Form.
- ☐ Confirm travel and lodging arrangements with your speaker.
- ☐ Plan Roll Call Ceremony.

Early April: Roll Call available on www.AggieNetwork.com/Muster



CALLING THE ROLL CALL FOR THE ABSENT

****PLEASE NOTE: If you or a Club member would like to report a name to be added to Roll Call, please go to <http://www.aggienetwork.com/class/silvertaps.aspx>. Your email will be sent to the Records Department at The Association for consideration.****

The Roll Call, the most important part of the ceremony, is representative of the true meaning of Aggie Muster. We suggest you read the poem "Roll Call for the Absent" prior to the Roll Call and read "In Memoriam" after. Both are provided in the "Poems & Songs" section. Names of those former students from your area, as well as any other special requests, should be called.

"In this ceremony we honor the memories of fellow A&M men and women whose death prevents their answering Roll Call at this annual Muster. The Roll is a symbolic Roll Call of all students and former students whom death has taken from our ranks, but whose memory lives on in our hearts. As each name is called, a comrade will answer: Here!"

Roll Call

1. _____ Class of _____
2. _____ Class of _____
3. _____ Class of _____
4. _____ Class of _____

After all the names are read, you may choose to play the sound of a gun volley followed by Silver Taps (available on the "Sounds of Muster" CD).

Candlelight Service

Purchase one tall, white candle for the head table and a small candle for each deceased Aggie to be honored. One small candle holder will be needed for each candle.

As you begin the "Roll Call for the Absent," lower lights and light the tall candle. One person may be assigned to represent each deceased Aggie. As each name is called, the candleholder comes forward and lights the small candle from the large candle, then places it on the table and steps aside. The people lighting the individual candles should remain standing at the front of the room until the reading of the list is completed.

Another approach is to have one person lighting all the small candles from the tall candle as each name is called.

Giving the small candles to the family and friends of the deceased after the ceremony adds a special touch.

*Candlelight service developed by Jack Fritts '53, Past President of
The Association of Former Students.*



TIPS FOR SUCCESSFUL PRESS RELEASES

- Print the press release on Club or Muster letterhead.
- Send the press release approximately two weeks in advance. *Before sending the press release to your media outlet, call and ask to whom it should be directed.*
- Put a headline on the press release. A title will let the staff know what the release is about without having to read much of the text. This will also help the staff to identify which newspaper the information belongs in. For example:

**Brazos County A&M Club Celebrates Muster
Aggies Gather to Honor Those Who Have Passed On**

- At the end of the press release, skip a line and center three number signs (# # #). This indicates the end of the press release.
- If the press release is more than one page, skip a line after the last line on the first page and center the word “more” in parentheses. This indicates there is more than one page to the press release.
- Two or three days after sending the press release, call the paper to make sure they received it. This allows plenty of time to send a new one if something happened to the first press release and also gives you an opportunity to answer any questions regarding the event.
- For the post-Muster press release you might offer to send a picture to run with the article.



PRE-MUSTER SAMPLE PRESS RELEASE

(Print on Club or Muster letterhead)

Contact:

(Your Name)
(Daytime phone)

For Immediate Release

(The date you wish article to run on)

AGGIES UNITE FOR DISTINCTIVE TRADITION

Date:_____ City:_____

Former students of Texas A&M University will assemble in (city) on April 21 for the annual Texas Aggie Muster to honor all Texas Aggies who have passed away within the last year, announced Muster Chair (name).

Various Muster activities, including (activity) and (activity), will begin at (time) at the (place) in (city). All former and current students, their families, and friends of Texas A&M University are invited to attend, (name) said.

The Texas Aggie Muster tradition, which spans more than a century, will be observed in more than 300 locations around the world. These Muster gatherings are held in many unique places ranging from battleships and foxholes during World War II to ballrooms and steak-houses today.

Over the years, Aggie Muster has grown to be one of Texas A&M's most revered traditions. Muster honors the memories of A&M men and women whose deaths prevent them from answering Roll Call at this year's Muster. The Roll Call is a roster compiled of all former and current students who have died over the past year. As each name is called, a friend or family member will answer "Here!" symbolizing that their memory lives on in the hearts of Aggies everywhere. Muster is more than just a ceremony; it is also an annual way for Aggies to renew the loyalty and unity which constitute the foundation of their friendship for each other as well as their love and devotion for their school.

For more information regarding the Texas Aggie Muster held in (city), please contact (Muster Chair) at (contact number), or by email at (email). Additional information about Texas Aggie Muster and other Texas A&M Traditions and Programs can be obtained by contacting The Association of Former Students at 979-845-7514 or by visiting their website at www.AggieNetwork.com.

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POST-MUSTER SAMPLE PRESS RELEASE

(Print on Muster or Club letterhead)

Contact:

(Your Name)
(Daytime phone)

For Immediate Release

(The date you wish article to run on)

AGGIES UNITE FOR DISTINCTIVE TRADITION

Date: _____ City: _____

Former students of Texas A&M University gathered with their friends and family in (city) on April 21 to celebrate one of Texas A&M's oldest and most revered traditions, the annual Texas Aggie Muster. They gathered together in remembrance of their fellow Aggies who have passed away within the last year.

Give a short summary of your Group's activities, including anything that was well received. If a Special Speaker attended your ceremony, please mention it here as well.

Texas Aggies around the world pride themselves on their unwavering loyalty and devotion to their university and their fellow Texas Aggies. This strong sense of pride is embodied within all Aggies and is rooted in traditions, such as Aggie Muster, which is more than 100 years old and spans the globe, with more than 300 Musters held worldwide this year.

Muster is much more than a solemn remembrance of those who have passed. It is a special time during the year that Aggies throughout the world unite in Spirit to renew their loyalty and devotion, not only to the Aggie Family, but also to the endless Aggie Spirit as well.

For more information regarding the Texas Aggie Muster held in (city), please contact (name) at (phone number), or by email at (email). Additional information about Texas Aggie Muster and many other Texas A&M traditions and programs can be obtained by contacting The Association of Former Students at 979-845-7514, or by visiting their website at www.AggieNetwork.com.

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MUSTER REPORT FORM

Return before May 1

Muster Information

MUSTER GROUP NAME
AND LOCATION: _____

20__ MUSTER CHAIR: _____ CLASS YEAR: _____

Muster Event Information

DATE: _____ TIME: _____

LOCATION: _____

TOTAL NUMBER ATTENDED: _____

FORMER STUDENTS: _____

GUESTS: _____

SPEAKER: _____ TITLE: _____

PLEASE COMMENT ON THE EFFECTIVENESS OF YOUR SPEAKER AND ANY-
THING YOU INCLUDED IN YOUR PROGRAM THAT WAS WELL RECEIVED:

PLEASE NOTE YOUR IDEAS AND SUGGESTIONS FOR NEXT YEAR'S MUS-
TER AND WAYS THE ASSOCIATION CAN BETTER SERVE YOU: _____

Next Year's Muster Chair Information

20__ MUSTER CHAIR: _____ CLASS YEAR: _____

MAILING ADDRESS: _____

DAYTIME PHONE: _____ EMAIL ADDRESS _____

Please return to:

The Association of Former Students
Attn: Muster
505 George Bush Drive
College Station, TX 77840-2918

Phone #: (979) 845-7514

Fax #: (979) 845-9263

Submit online at AggieNetwork.com/Muster

POEMS & SONGS



THE AGGIE WAR HYMN

First Verse

All hail to dear old Texas A&M
Rally around Maroon and White
Good luck to dear old Texas Aggies
They are the boys who show the real old
fight
That good old Aggie spirit thrills us
And makes us yell and yell and yell
So let's fight for dear old Texas A&M
We're goin' to beat you all to
Chig-gar-roo-gar-rem
Chig-gar-roo-gar-rem
Rough Tough! Real Stuff! Texas A&M

Hullabaloo, Caneck! Caneck!
Hullabaloo, Caneck! Caneck!

Second Verse

Good-bye to Texas University
So long to the Orange and the White
Good luck to the dear old Texas Aggies
They are the boys that show the real old
fight
"The eyes of Texas are upon you . . ."
That is the song they sing so well
So good-bye to Texas university
We're going to beat you all to
Chig-gar-roo-gar-rem
Chig-gar-roo-gar-rem
Rough Tough! Real Stuff! Texas A&M

THE SPIRIT OF AGGIELAND

Some may boast of prowess bold
Of the school they think so grand
But there's a spirit can ne'er be told
It's the spirit of Aggieland

Chorus

We are the Aggies-the Aggies are we
True to each other as Aggies can be
We've got to FIGHT boys
We've got to fight!
We've got to fight for Maroon and White

After they've boosted all the rest
Then they will come and join the best
For we are the Aggies-the Aggies are we
We're from Texas AMC

***Second Chorus*

T-E-X-A-S A-G-G-I-E
Fight! Fight! Fight-fight-fight
Fight Maroon! White-white-white
A-G-G-I-E
Texas! Texas! A-M-C
Gig'em Aggies! 1! 2!3!
Farmers fight! Farmers fight!
Fight! Fight!
Farmers, farmers, fight!

***NOTE: The Second Chorus is
traditionally deleted at Muster.*



INVOCATIONS

Muster Invocation

Our Father, as Aggies come together in all parts of the world, we pause to praise Thee for the many material and spiritual blessings of past years.

We are humbly grateful for our Aggie heritage and the comradeship we enjoy.

Strengthen this sense of our God-given love and friendship. May it spread to men and women of all schools, nations, and races, and bring people of the world into a new bond of friendship and peace.

Fill with Thy presence the circle of our friendship that is broken by an absence in our roll call. May we have a reverent appreciation for the great examples and sacrifices given by those of us whom we honor by silver taps.

Bless the inspiration of this occasion that we may be strong in body, keen in mind, friendly in society, and religious at heart.

Through Thy grace, we pray. Amen.

Alternate Muster Invocation

As A&M former students come together in all parts of the world, we pause to acknowledge the many blessings that have come our way the past years.

We are humbly grateful for our Aggie heritage and the comradeship we enjoy because of our love of our University.

We desire our sense of fellowship to spread to people in all schools and nations in order to bring the men and women of the world into a new bond of friendship and mutual understanding.

In our fellowship, we pause to remember those who are absent. May we have a deep appreciation for the great examples and sacrifices given by those of us whom we honor by silver taps or by silent mourning. We wish for strength to try to do our tasks better, in service to humanity, our nation, our University, and our associates.

May this occasion inspire us to be strong in body, keen in mind, and friendly in society.

*by Frank J. Malina '34
Paris, France*



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 pray,
and seal our pact with bond of common might.

We live again those happy days of yore
on campus, field, in classroom, dorm, at drill
Fond memory brings a sigh -- but nothing more;
Now we are men and life's a greater thrill,

*On Corregidor 65 years ago today
A band of gallant Aggies, led by Moore,
Held simple rites which led to us doth all to say:
The spirit shall prevail through cannon roar.

Before we part and go upon our way,
We pause to honor those we knew so well;
The old familiar faces we miss so much today
Left cherished recollections that time cannot dispel.

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 etern
For our old friends such as they!

by Dr. John Ashton '06

* The third stanza is original to the poem and had been deleted over the years. It was intended that each year, the number of years since Corregidor would be inserted.



IN MEMORIAM

We stood a little taller,
and a little prouder then
When we heard the call of Muster
and the Roll Call just begin.
We stood there all together
and wiped away the tears
When our names were called out softly
and answered with a "Here!"
... and so we've joined together
with our brothers of the past
To make our final resting place at
Aggieland our last.
We take a toast to our brotherhood
wherever they may roam,
For us the trek is over
Aggieland we're coming home.

by Lt. Col. David Harrigan '68



CLOSINGS

Traditional Ceremony Closing

Muster Chair motions for everyone to stand and then recites slowly (should be memorized):

“The (year) Texas A&M Muster at (place) is now complete. I charge you each to remain firm in your loyalty to your country and your God...To keep warm in your hearts your affection for each other and for our Alma Mater. The Muster is dismissed until April 21 (year), and may God be with us all until we meet again.”

Alternate Ceremony Closing

Muster Chair motions for everyone to stand and then recites slowly (should be memorized):

“The (year) Texas A&M Muster at (place) is now complete. I charge you each to remain firm in your loyalty to humanity and to your country. Keep warm in your hearts your affection for each other and for your Alma Mater. The Muster is dismissed until April 21 (year) , and may good fortune smile upon us until we meet again.”



AGGIE MUSTER DAY

We gather here to mark the day Aggies proudly stand.
To honor those who've gone before to the promised land.
Each name is called upon the roll, comrades answer "Here."
Trumpets sound their sad good-bye to those we held so dear.
All heads are bowed in silent pledge never to forget.
While rifles fire their last salute echoes answer yet.
To their mem'ry we'll be true; we will take their place.
One for all and all for one ever in Thy grace.
We'll meet again another day, reunion while we pray
To ask Thy blessing on each one on this Muster day,
Aggie Muster Day.

Mrs. Earl (Margaret) Rudder



SILVER TAPS AT A&M

You hear about the Aggie Band
And the Spirit of Aggieland.
But few have heard the Farewell Hymn
Of Silver Taps at A&M.

All day the flag flies at half-mast.
A sign to us of a solemn task,
To bid farewell to one who's gone
With Silver Taps, he's not alone.

The night is dark and very still.
Where Sully stands the area fills
With a silent crowd of those who care.
Their hearts all joined in silent prayer.

The Ross Volunteers, the honor guard,
Speak for us all as their guns discharge.
Twenty-one guns now blast the air
And fade away in the darkness there.

Then Taps blows loud from the tower near.
And twice again so faint, so clear.
Like rustling wings of a soul in flight,
Silver Taps fades in the night.

You stand spellbound, you scarcely breathe
With heavy heart you turn to leave.
Your Aggie friend no more you'll see,
Till Silver Taps is blown for thee.
Silver Taps at A&M
Will always be our farewell hymn.
To those who've gone to heights unknown
With Silver Taps, he journeys on.

by Mrs. Jeanette Hennigan



SILVER TAPS

Silently they gather, moving shadows
Under restless trees. Tight-lipped boys,
Full by day of rough, true comradeship,
Have nothing to say tonight.
Clustered in hundreds round the Old Main Building,
They come to bid last "Farewell"
To a fellow Aggie, whose footsteps
Will never tread the campus paths again.
Silently they wait, gazing far up at the dome
Rounded against the midnight sky.
The hour strikes, and four straight young figures
Move to the corners of the turret,
Raising silver trumpets to their lips.
And then, tearing at the heart as does no other sound,
The notes come clear, and sweet, and sad;
Silver Taps for one more Aggie who has gone
To join the bright Battalion in the sky,
Where brave young men need never die.
Then, as the last, long, unearthly note
Fades into the night, the cold, dark silence bursts,
And guns send forth their final, grim salute!
Stand at attention Aggies! Once more we honor them
The Silver Taps Battalion of Texas A&M.

Mable Clare Thomas
from Sunlight and Shadows



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 an 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 for us 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,
They 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 commence 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
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.”



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