

The Abilene AGGIE

July, 2014



Official Publication of the Abilene A&M Club, Inc.

NEXT MEETING July 2, 2014 • 12:00 PM • ABILENE COUNTRY CLUB

Howdy!

June was a very busy and productive month for our Club. We successfully produced a golf tournament, held a coach's night and presented the first two Class of '43 White Belt scholarships. I would like to say, "Thank You," to the Board and Club members for their dedication and hard work on these projects.

On **July 4th**, we will observe one of the most important holidays in the world, **American Independence Day**. It will only be celebrated in America, and in fact be viewed with disinterest to disdain in the rest of the world. However, I do not think we would recognize the world today if it did not exist. Everyone loves a national holiday, but what are we really celebrating? The original 13 colonies had been at war with Great Britain for over a year, and on July 2, 1776, the Continental Congress passed a resolution declaring the colonies to be sovereign and independent states that had formed a new nation, the **United States of America**. The resolution declared the colonies and newly formed nation were no longer a part of the British Empire, nor were they subject to rule by the Crown or Parliament. Two days later, on July 4, the congress voted to ratify and publish the text of a document that explained why the colonies declared independence. That document would later be known as the **Declaration of Independence**. It was primarily authored by Thomas Jefferson, and contained one sentence that for over 200 years has influenced and shaped our world. It says, "*We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.*"

That single, simple sentence identified Americans as citizens, not subjects, and has served as the foundation of freedom around the world. That sentence was the cornerstone on which the greatest nation in the world was built and has served as its guiding principle from its beginning. Sadly, freedom is not free. It was bought then and continues to be paid for with the blood of men and women who are willing to die so that others may be free. I take great pride in the fact that many of those who have risked their lives and shed their blood for freedom around the world hail from a land grant college that was established in Texas a short 100 years after 13 colonies declared independence. I take a greater pride in knowing the men and women of that college stand willing to answer the same call of patriotism that was born in the 1770's. I take the most pride in being an American who had the freedom to attend a University where excellence, commitment, honor and duty are ways of life, a University defined by students willing to defend American values instead of protesting those who do, a University named **Texas A&M**.

Gig 'em,
J. Clay Deatherage '84

UPCOMING
EVENTS

BOARD of DIRECTORS MEETING
July 17, 2014 • 11:45 AM • Abilene Country Club

All Regular Club & Board Meetings are at Noon at the Abilene Country Club

JULY HAPPY HOUR

July 17, 2014 • 5:30—7:30 PM • Barley-Hoppers Draft House • 721 South 1st, Abilene, TX 79601



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2014 Abilene A&M Club Calendar

July

July 2 - Regular Club Meeting—General Ramirez, Speaker

July 17 - Board of Directors Meeting

July 17 - Aggie Happy Hour

August

August 6 - Regular Club Meeting—Jim Burkheart, Junction Boy, Speaker

August 21 - Board of Directors Meeting

August 21 - Aggie Happy Hour

September

September 3- Regular Club Meeting

September 3 —Enrollment Workshop for High School Counselors

September 5—10, FRY BOOTH WHOOP!

September 18 - Board of Directors Meeting

September 18 - Aggie Happy Hour

October

October 1—Regular Club Meeting, Scott Jarvis, Speaker

October 16 - Board of Directors Meeting

October 16 - Aggie Happy Hour

SEPTEMBER 5 - 13 FRENCH FRY BOOTH

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Introducing our July Speaker

Joe E. Ramirez, Jr. '79, Brigadier General, USA (Ret), Commandant, Texas A&M Corps of Cadets

Brigadier General Joe Ramirez is a native of Houston, Texas and graduated from Stephen F. Austin High School in 1975. He attended Texas A&M University and joined the Fightin' Texas Aggie Band in the Corps of Cadets, where he commanded the B Company "Streetfighters" his senior year. He received his commission in the 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 from the platoon and battery level up to battalion, brigade and division level. He commanded B Battery, 2nd Battalion, 41st Field Artillery in Bad Kissingen, Germany, the 1st Battalion, 41st Field Artillery at Ft Stewart, Georgia, the 1st Cavalry Division Artillery at Fort Hood, Texas, and was the Deputy Division Commander for the 2nd Infantry Division in the Republic of Korea. He was also the Deputy Chief of Staff for United States Central Command during Operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom.

General Ramirez holds a Bachelor's of Science Degree in Physical Education from Texas A&M (1979); 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, Meritorious Service Medal, Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, Global War on Terror Expeditionary Medal, Korean Defense Service Medal, Humanitarian Service Medal, and the Parachutists Badge.


Class of '76

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Abilene A&M Club Class of '43 White Belt Scholarship Program

With the exception of Muster, the scholarship program is our Club's most important project and it is the one that requires the most effort and commitment. The Abilene A&M Club is blessed with members who are Aggies in the truest sense of the word, they honor the traditions and excel at giving back to the Aggie family. The Abilene Club was one of the original A&M Clubs as it was chartered prior to 1945. In 1952, Abilene A&M began cooking and selling French fries at the West Texas Fair & Rodeo, a tradition began and a legend was born.

Thanks to 62 years of commitment and plain ol' hard work the fry booth is still going strong and is the primary funding mechanism for our Scholarships. Recently, as a result hard work and outstanding Club support, we were in a position to expand our scholarship contributions. After weighing the options the Board determined the greatest need was financial assistance for upperclassmen. There are numerous scholarship opportunities for incoming freshmen, however the majority of them only provide assistance for a period of one semester to two years. Providing assistance to upper classmen definitely helps them stay in school after some scholarships have been exhausted. Additionally, they are trying to balance academics, jobs and participation in activities that benefit the community and provide the critical leadership and communications skills that potential, future employers appreciate. The program allows us to review their track record and invest our hard earned money in students that have proven to be Good Aggies. It also allows us to honor a very unique group of Aggies that epitomize the dedication to duty we all strive to achieve. The Class of '43 understood the extraordinary circumstances of the time and willingly accepted their responsibility to serve our Country.

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2014 Class of '43 White Belt Scholarship Recipients

It is with great pride we introduce the first Abilene A&M Club Class of '43 White Belt Scholarship Recipients

Dylan Byerly is the son of Daniel and Kristi Byerly from Hamlin. He is a member of Company D-1 in the Corps of Cadets, was selected as the outstanding freshman in his company and regiment. He will be a member of Parson's Mounted Cavalry in the fall. His eventual goal is to join the Fort Worth Fire Department. Off campus he is involved in Aggies for Christ.

Ryan Conyer is the son of Martin and Sharon Conyer of Abilene. He is a Biomedical Science major with a 3.87 average. He plans on attending medical school after he receives his undergraduate degree. Ryan has expressed leadership skills by working with teenage boys through the ASSIST program and Young Life. He also would like to lead medical care missions in the future.

Did YOU Know?

Aggies from the Classes of '63-'66 are the only four Classes that can choose -- even today -- whether they want "A&M College of Texas" or "Texas A&M University" on their Rings.

When A&M's name changed Aug. 23, 1963, students were allowed to choose individually. Those Aggies still have that option when they get a replacement Ring (or buy a Ring for the first time, if they did not get one before now). Records since the Association's Ring ordering system went entirely digital show that most '63-'66 Aggies ordering a new or replacement ring from 2003 through 2014 stuck with the old name, but the tendency to do so lessened with each Class: 81 percent of the Class of '63 got "College," but only 46 percent of the Class of '66 chose the original school name.



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GOOD BULL

Scholarship Fund Projects!

Our annual **Golf Tournament** was held on **Friday, June 6th** at **Diamondback Golf Course**. Bobby and his crew did a fantastic job as always.

Nick, Trey and their committee hosted an outstanding **Coaches Night** on **Tuesday, June 17th**, at the **Abilene Woman's Club**. Look for this one to get bigger and better each year.


Ms. Ally Ogdee, who was selected as the second recipient of the Abilene A&M Club's Boot and Ring award for outstanding service to our Club recently order her **Aggie Ring**. Look for more information on Ally and the Boot and Ring program in next month's newsletter.

Got any Good Bull? Send it to us!



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Abilene A&M Club Silver Taps

It is with deep regret that we acknowledge the passing of our fellow Aggies

Capt. William Allison '55 - February 6, 2014

Mr. Carroll Chapman '53 - March 13, 2014

Mr. C. Barber '47 - February 22, 2014

Ms. Ashley Nicole Stephenson '16 - May 27, 2014

Please notify the Club of the passing of any members of the area's Aggie family so that we may express our condolences and ensure the Association is notified

Prayers and Concerns

Please notify us of any prayer requests or concerns regarding our Aggie Family

Memorial Contributions

There are many ways to honor departed family members and friends. Should you select a memorial contribution that embodies the Aggie Spirit as a method to celebrate the life of a loved one, the Abilene A&M Club will consider it an honor to help ensure your wishes are met.

Local Club options include the Senior Ring & Boot Fund, the Freshman Scholarship Fund and the Class of '43 White Belt Scholarship Fund. If your preference is one of the numerous organizations on campus or an affiliate of the Aggie network, please do not hesitate to contact us for assistance.

ABILENE A&M CLUB, INC.

P.O. Box 884, Abilene, TX 79604

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I want to help with:

- ☐ Scholarship Selections ☐ Muster ☐ French Fry Booth ☐ Golf Tournament ☐ Board of Directors

Optional Reveille Donations:

(above & beyond dues)

- ☐ \$25 ☐ \$50 ☐ \$100

Golden Reveille Donations:

- ☐ \$250 ☐ \$500

I wish to be acknowledged:

- ☐ in the Newsletter \$75.00/ yr ☐ on Aggie Football Radio \$ 400.00/ yr ☐ at the Golf Tournament

Total Paid: \$ _____

Statement of Purpose: Primary functions of the Abilene A&M Club are serving as the focus of all organized alumni activity in the Abilene area, and providing scholarship funds for deserving area students who are attending Texas A&M. The Club currently offers scholarships funded by your Membership Dues, Reveille Donations, Newsletter Sponsorships, the Aggie French Fry Booth at the West Texas Fair, A&M Football on radio and the annual Golf Tournament. Donations may also be made directly to the Abilene Community Foundation Texas A&M University Scholarship Fund (tax-deductible) which is a perpetual fund using only the income generated for scholarships.

BECOME A MEMBER TODAY!

The Abilene Aggie

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