Howdy Ags!

Well it's been a very busy time in my life. We remodeled my parents' house and moved during spring break. I paused for Aggie happy hour at Pappy Slocums on St Patrick's day. The turnout was incredible. My son got married on the 26th. Just before the wedding, my new daughter in law's grandfather, John Landry, passed away. So rehearsal dinner on Friday, wedding on Saturday, wake on Easter, and funeral on Monday. Whew!

The Aggie sports teams have been busy too. Men's basketball made it to the sweet 16. The women made it to the NCAA tournament as well. The baseball team is cruising right along With a #1 ranking after beating LSU. Whoop!

My point this month is as I write this at the last possible moment is that busy people get things done. Muster is upon us. Let's get busy and invite some fellow Aggies that haven't been with us lately. See you there and Gig 'em.

Whip out Ags!
Andrew Turnbull '84
2016 Abilene A&M Club Calendar

April, 2016

April 6 - Regular Club Meeting
April 10 - Scholarship Application Review, TBA
April 17 - Scholarship Interviews, 1:00 pm St. Paul UMC
April 21— Board Meeting & Aggie Happy Hour Cancelled in honor of Aggie Muster

April 21 - Aggie Muster—5:00 pm, Joe Allen’s Lytle Bend

May, 2016

May 4 - Regular Club Meeting
May 19 — Board Meeting
May 19 — Aggie Happy Hour

June, 2016

June 1 - Regular Club Meeting
June 17 — Board Meeting
June 17 — Aggie Happy Hour
3rd Annual Coach’s Night is Comming

Aggie Muster
Joe Allen’s Lytle Bend Ranch in Potosi
Introducing our April Speaker

Reverend Billy W. Libby ‘58
Chaplain (COL), USA, Retired

Rev. Billy Libby received a Bachelor of Arts (Liberal Arts) degree from Texas A & M University in 1958, a Master of Divinity degree from Drew Theological School, a Master of Arts (US Diplomatic History) degree from Kansas State University and has Doctoral Studies (ABD) at the University of Maryland.

His other education and training includes US Airborne Course, US Army Chaplain Advanced Course, US Army Organizational Effectiveness Officer Training Course and Executive Program in Human Resources Development at Columbia University. He received diplomas from the Air War College (Seminar Program) and the National War College.

His significant military experience and assignments include Brigade Chaplain, 24th Infantry Division, Germany, 1964-1967; Brigade Chaplain, 101st Airborne Division, Viet Nam, 1967-1968; Faculty and Director of Training at the US Army Organizational Effectiveness Training Center (OETC); President, US Chaplain Board, Ft. Monmouth, New Jersey, 1982-1985; National Defense University, Ft. McNair, Virginia, 1985-1989. He served as an interim civilian instructor at NDU after military retirement.

He retired from active duty as a Chaplain (Colonel) at Ft. Meade, Maryland in 1990.

Rev. Libby served as the Associate Pastor of St. Paul United Methodist Church, Abilene 1991-1996 and continues there as a teacher today for an adult church school class. He has served on the faculty and staff at McMurry University in Abilene where he teaches Religion and History (1996- present).

He and his deceased wife have three grown children.

Welcome Bill!
Texas A&M Muster Memorial to Honor Aggies Who Defended Corregidor Island during World War II

By SAM PESHEK sam.peshek@theeagle.com

The last time Bob Epstein stood on Corregidor Island, he became a treasured part of Texas A&M University history. On Tuesday, exactly 69 years after he posed with 127 fellow Aggies for the iconic 1946 Muster photo in front of a makeshift block-T flag, he will return for the first time to help dedicate a memorial to Aggies who defended the island under heavy Japanese artillery fire during World War II.

Epstein, 92, said he drove across the four-mile wide, tadpole-shaped island, nicknamed "The Rock", at the mouth of Manila Bay in the Philippines in a jeep in order to be part of the 1946 Muster and hasn't missed one since. "It's getting to be a little emotional as I've begun to relive those moments," Epstein, Class of '44, said. "It's going to be a rather moving thing. The muster tradition at Texas A&M is probably the most powerful tradition that we have and we've got a lot of them. I wouldn't miss it for anything."

Today, Corregidor is a lush location with a sweeping view of the bay. The damaged buildings and barracks that survived Japanese bombings still stand and heavy artillery installations are still in place, giving it much the same feel it had when mortar rounds pummeled the island a mere six hours after the attack on Pearl Harbor.

According to A&M historian John Adams, who will deliver the Muster speech from Corregidor, the American and Filipino troops stationed on the island had been all but forgotten after a considerable portion of the U.S. fleet was destroyed in Hawaii. "They were left out to dry and it was very tragic," Adams said. "They couldn't get to them." The allied forces in the area held out for four months, from December 1941 to the first week in April 1942, until the Japanese overran troops at Bataan and forced them to seek refuge in Corregidor's tunnel system. From April 8 onward, allied troops were shelled around the clock and fought back as much as their limited supplies would allow them.

On April 21, 1942, Gen. George Moore, Texas A&M University Class of 1908, ordered that the Muster tradition of reminiscing on times at A&M with Aggies nearby be upheld. The first account of the 1942 Corregidor Muster told a story of Aggies practicing yells and singing songs celebrating Texas independence in defiance of Japanese artillery raining down around them. "They must have sung that Aggie fight song which has echoed over many gridirons," the article read. "And under the circumstances they might have forgotten old grudges to sing The Eyes of Texas.
The glamorized story wired stateside by a reporter gave Americans a reason to be optimistic about the war in the Pacific, and brought Aggie Muster international attention. "That fueled the mystique," Adams said.

The real circumstance under which Muster was recognized on the island was more serious than the article indicated. Bill Hamilton, Class of '40, said he and the 26 other men on the list were dispersed throughout the island taking cover. Hamilton, 97, said nobody could leave their artillery positions because they were under attack and would have risked being killed if they gathered.

"The Japanese were shelling from Bataan from just over five miles of water all around," Hamilton said with help from his son, also named Bill. "He didn't understand the importance of it at the time, it was just another thing to do."

American and Filipino troops held the island until May 6, when the Japanese invaded and took them prisoner, dispersing them to camps throughout the region. Hamilton spent two-and-a-half years in Camp Cabanatuan in the Philippines, and survived the rest of the war despite being transported from camp to camp under incredibly harsh conditions. He was liberated from a camp in Manchuria at the end of the war and sent back to the U.S. on a flight to Dallas. Hamilton is not able to make the trip to the island, and has not been back to Corregidor since being taken prisoner.

U.S. troops recaptured the region near the end of the war and Epstein was stationed on the island. The Aggies that gathered in front of one of the tunnels on Corregidor for the 1946 photo treated it no differently than any road trip for a football game at the time. "We didn't set out to do anything," Epstein said. "We didn't know we were going to cause all this ruckus. A bunch of us got out to Manila just the way we did for a Corps trip to play Baylor in Waco."

Epstein said he held on to an original copy of the photo from the 1946 Muster and hung it in his office. "People would ask if I knew any of these people," Epstein said. "I tell them I am one of them. That's real life."

The new memorial, situated on a prominent spot on the drill field, will feature plaques containing the names of the 27 Aggies who held the island and 61 other Aggies who fought in Bataan. A 3-foot-wide seal cut into four different pieces will be lowered into the center of the memorial during Muster.

The quick jeep ride across the island while in his youth pales in comparison to the flight he is prepared to take as he gets on in age, but the distance does not matter to Epstein. "I would do the same thing today," Epstein said. "This is one Aggie tradition that I think is beautiful. We have admirers from our greatest competition, and they say there is nothing like it in the world."
Did You Know

The first rodeo arena at TAMU was designed by F.C “Jack” Kingsbery ’45 of Santa Anna. Jack as a charter member of the National Intercollegiate Rodeo Association even raised the funds to build it where Olsen Field at Blue Bell Park now stands. In later years he and wife Evelyn became charter members of the NIRA Alumni Association and helped raise funds for rodeo scholarships.

Jack was instrumental in starting the “Aggie Rodeo” and the Aggie Rodeo club. In 1949 the group went from a club to what is now the Aggie Rodeo Team. There are a few items held in the Cushing library including Aggie rodeo programs from 1939 to 2002.

After serving in the Army Air Corps in England during WWII he was active in the Saddle and Sirloin club, NIRA and the rodeo club. In later years he ranched, raised quarter horses and owned Mogford Manufacturing in Uvalde. Jack designed such ranch equipment as calf cradles, revolving saddle display racks and steel gun safes.

Jack also wrote two best-selling books about his experiences in the cattle business and as a cowboy. “Cowboy Wrecks & Rattlesnakes” and “Yes, I’m Still Alive.” Jack passed February 25, 2016 but his rodeo legacy at TAMU lives on. HERE.

Roxanne Schoen ’74

GOOD BULL

It is a new year Ags. Please take the time to renew your Club memberships and newsletter ads. Our Club is one of the top A&M Clubs in the world. It is well renown for it long standing commitment to A&M through its scholarships and innovative programs. Ags y’all are the backbone of the Club. Your dedicated support, commitment and generosity allows the Abilene A&M Club to stand above the rest. Please contact Marla Hanks if your ad needs updating.

Got any Good Bull? Send it to us!
Abilene A&M Club Silver Taps

There will be lists of all Aggies that have passed in the last year at Muster.

Please check the lists and designate Ags you would like included in the Club Roll Call

Prayers and Concerns

Dub Pritchett ’44 is recovering from a recent illness at Wisteria Place here in Abilene. He says the therapists are trying to kill him but he is determined to be back in our midst soon.

Please keep these Dub, Mary and their family in your prayers.

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.
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**Name (please print):**

**Spouse's Full Name (If Any):**

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**Annual Dues:**

- [ ] $35/yr Individual
- [ ] $35/yr Aggie couple

**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!**