“Softly Call the Muster ...”— Aggie Muster 2017

Friday, April 21st

5:30 pm—Social Hour
6:30 pm—BBQ Dinner

Washington County Fairgrounds

Events Center

1305 East Blue Bell Road
Brenham, Texas 77833

Speaker: Dukie Childs ‘53

Cost: $15 per person

RSVP by April 17th

washingtonaggieclub@gmail.com
Woodrow “Woody” Free ’56

Brigadier General (Retired) Woodrow “Woody” A. Free was born on July 30, 1933 to Arthur B. and Cora (Harris) Free. He attended Brenham schools and graduated from Brenham High School in 1952. He attended Texas A&M University, where he graduated with a double major in Agricultural Education and Animal Husbandry in 1956. He was commissioned as a 2nd Lieutenant into the Armor branch of the United States Army.

After his initial tour of active duty at Ft. Knox, Kentucky, he continued in the Army Reserves for the next 36 years. His most notable assignments were with the 420th Engineer Brigade headquartered in Bryan, Texas. He served in various capacities with the brigade and its subordinate units in Texas, Oklahoma, Arkansas, and Louisiana. His service culminated with being named the Commanding General of the brigade from 1987-1991. He was well respected by the officers and soldiers of the brigade. His civilian career included working as the assistant county agent in Jefferson County, Texas, from 1958-1961 and Brenham Chamber of Commerce Manager from 1961-1968. In 1968, he began a career as a Department of the Army civilian with the 420th Engineer Brigade in Bryan, Texas, where he continued until he retired in 1993.

Woody married Joan Tiaden on January 11, 1959 at Salem Lutheran Church. Woody and Joan loved to travel with their good friends Dick and Barbara Dietzman. They also loved to go to dances and play 42 with their friends and family. Woody was a loving husband, father, grandfather, and great-grandfather. He was devoted to his church family at the First Christian Church in Brenham where he was a lifelong member.

James Hickey ’87

James Lee Hickey was born in Washington, D.C. on March 14, 1960 to his parents Robert and Juanita Hickey. He was confirmed into the Methodist Church and became a full member as a teenager. While at Texas A&M, he worked his way through college, earned a Corp of Cadets scholarship, and worked on Bonfire. He graduated with two engineering degrees (Petroleum and Industrial) and went to work for Erikson Telecommunication Co. in Dallas, Texas.

James (Jim) Hill ’44

James J. (Jim) Hill led an extremely active life. Jim was born on June 5, 1921 in Somerville, TX. He joined Company E, 36th Division of the Texas National Guard unit in Caldwell, Texas during his senior year at Somerville High School. After serving one year of a three year enlistment he was given an honorable discharge when he enrolled as a student at Texas A&M College Corps of Cadets where he would have graduated in the Class of 1944. Jim left A&M at midterm of his second year and went to work at Kelly Field in San Antonio, Texas. He later transferred to Elmendorf Field near Anchorage, Alaska. He came back from Alaska and entered the Army Air Corps at Kelly Field. His unit was later sent to Tinker Field in Oklahoma for B-29 training. Jim’s unit, the 25th Air Depot Group, 20th Air Force was sent to the South Pacific island of Guam. He received an honorable discharge after serving his country for almost three years in World War II as a sergeant. Jim then returned to Texas A&M and graduated in June of 1950 with a degree in Accounting.

Jim earned his private pilot’s license in 1947 while at Texas A&M. At the age of 83 he was still flying his own plane. Jim retired from Exxon Mobil Co. after 35 years as an accountant. He then permanently relocated to his family ranch in Washington County where he raised Herford/Brangus cross cattle. Jim was an active polka dancer and held many private dances over the years where he danced with his longtime companion, Mary Pate. He had many friends he met throughout his life; however, some of his favorite memories were of his time working in Alaska as project auditor for the Alyeska pipeline project during his career with Exxon Mobil. He was a member of Graham Lodge No. 20 A.F. & A.M., Houston Scottish Rite Bodies, Arabia Temple Shrine-AAOMNS, Sons of the Republic of Texas, and American Legion Post 455.
Emma GarnePg“Deedle” D’Albini Knapp Garnett was born on April 7, 1937 to Charlotte Belsey Knapp and Marcial A. C. Knapp in Comfort, Texas. Emma graduated from Lamar High School in Houston in 1955 and continued her education at Sacred Heart Dominican College in Houston where she studied nursing. On June 14, 1958, she married John Sullivan Garnett at St. Vincent de Paul’s Catholic Church in Houston. Emma and John began their married lives in Houston and also lived in Austin before finally settling in Brenham in 1961. There, Emma and John raised four children.

One of Emma’s passions in life was the Brenham Fortnightly Club where she served as president, first vice-president, second-vice president, chairman of the home decorating contest, chairman of the fine arts department and as a member of its board of directors. She also served on the State Board of the Federation of Women’s Club where she served as co-chair of the Hallmark division. The Brenham Fortnightly Club honored her as its Woman of the Year.

Emma was a lifelong supporter of the arts and served as the area representative for the Opera of Performing Arts and was a guild charter member of the Texas A&M University OPAS which is a service organization dedicated to bringing performing arts to the students of Texas A&M University. She was also a co-founder of the Brenham Community Theater and Brenham Chorale. In addition, Emma was a member of the Brenham Art Club and was appointed to the building committee. Her artwork won numerous ribbons at the county fair and area art shows. She served as a Trustee of Herman Sons Sister Lodge #11, was involved in the Washington County Historical Society, Barrington Historical Society, Shufflers Dance Club, and the Wednesday Bowling league. She served on the Brenham Library board of directors and as vice president of the Brenham PTO. In recognition of Emma’s endless volunteer hours to make Brenham a better place, she was named Woman of the year in 1975 by the Washington County Chamber of Commerce.

Emma was an avid supporter of Brenham school activities and did not miss any of her children’s activities. She participated in and directed numerous plays including several Junior and Senior plays at Brenham High School. She was an enthusiastic supporter of the Brenham Maifest and looked forward to the parade every year.

Tennis was Emma’s passion. She was a member of the Brenham Tennis Association and a director of the Brenham/Bellville Youth Tennis Tourney. She will be remembered by many students that she mentored in the game of tennis. In addition to playing tennis, she served as an umpire and a line judge for collegiate tennis matches at Texas A&M. Emma was a Little League umpire, coached softball teams and served as a Cub Scout leader.

She was a member of St Mary’s Catholic Church and taught several years in the CCD program. She also helped establish the CCD program at Blessed Virgin Mary Catholic Church in Old Washington and was instrumental in the renovation of the church building.

Emma yearned to earn a college degree and, at the age of 60, she enrolled in Texas A&M University, where she planned to major in studio art. When she learned that the University did not offer a studio art degree, she moved to the Theater Arts department. She found acting with younger students to be quite rewarding and she starred in several student run plays on campus. In the year 2000, she graduated with a bachelor of arts degree in performing arts. In 2005, she earned a second bachelor’s degree in English from Texas A&M.

Two college degrees were not enough, so after a brief stint at Prairie View A&M, she enrolled in Sam Houston State University to pursue her passion in studio art. In 2010, at the age of 70, she earned her third college degree. She was honored by Sam Houston University as their oldest graduate. Her skill as an artist was rewarded when Sam Houston State hosted two art exhibits at the Lowman Student Art Gallery to show off her works of art, including a series of paintings on the history of Greek theater inspired by her fine arts classes at Texas A&M. She was thrilled to participate in a local exhibition of her works at Design II in Brenham.
Paul Francis LaRoche, Jr. passed away on December 2, 2016 at the age of 93. He was born on August 23, 1923 in Dallas, Texas to Paul and Estelle (Keyes) LaRoche. He was baptized in 1935 at East Dallas Christian Church. After graduation from Crozier Technical High School, he entered Texas A&M University in 1941. During his time at Texas A&M, he was a proud member of the Fighting Texas Aggie Band. He graduated with a degree in Chemical Engineering in 1945 after serving in the U.S. Army in the 10th Mountain Division during World War II. On May 14, 1949 he married Ruth Adele Dallmeyer. He worked in Houston for 17 years as a sales representative for Power Specialty Company, a chemical processing equipment firm. During this time he was an active member at Faith American Lutheran Church in Bellaire, where he was confirmed in 1949.

In November 1962, he purchased the former Ollie Miller Chevrolet Company located at the corner of Stone and Market streets and moved to Brenham with his wife Ruth and their two children, Linda and Paul. He moved the dealership to its present location in 1965. As owner of LaRoche Chevrolet Buick GMC Cadillac, he greatly enjoyed the automobile business and visiting with his customers and went to work every day until the age of 88.

He was very interested in the future of Brenham and Washington County and became active in civic and church activities. He served as President or a Director of the Washington County Chamber of Commerce, Brenham Industrial Foundation, Washington County Industrial Development Corporation, Brenham Wholesale Grocery Co., Brenham National Bank, and Washington on the Brazos State Park Assn. He chaired fundraising campaigns for Kruse Memorial Lutheran Village and Brenham State School. He was also very active at St. Paul’s Evangelical Lutheran Church and served on many committees including church council, and was a member of the choir for many years. In recognition of his efforts in the community, he was named Washington County Chamber of Commerce Man of The Year in 1984.

Paul and Ruth enjoyed traveling with life long friends they made through General Motors and also with their many local friends. Paul always enjoyed a good golf game even though he had the worst swing in Washington County! He would always recount his weekend golf game on Monday, by bragging about his “prodigious” drives. Everyone who knew Paul recognized his love for socializing and entertaining, whether it be with the “Birthday Group”, an evening at the Country Club, an impromptu dinner with family or just a drink with a friend.

When asked what his favorite memories of his PoPo were, grandson Rocky said “the day I told him I had been accepted to A&M and the day I received my Aggie ring. PoPo was there and gave me the ring, and he had the biggest smile on his face!”(PoPo also shed a few tears that day, realizing that his Grandson named after him was getting his Aggie ring. He said several times “I’m just so overwhelmed!”)
Paul LaRoche ‘45 (continued)

Paul is preceded in death by his parents, his wife Ruth, sisters-in-law Elvera Dallmeyer Muery and Jane Stevens LaRoche and brothers-in-law Sam Muery and Luther Utesch.

He is survived by his daughter Linda LaRoche Blum and husband Darrell class of ‘74, son Dr. Paul F. LaRoche III class of ‘75 and wife Charlotte, 6 grandchildren Catherine Blum Kenjura class of ‘01 and husband Matt, Emily Blum Lee and husband Warren, Ben Wagner and wife Misti class of ‘97, Cole Wagner class of ‘05 and wife Annette class of ‘06, Dr. Lauren LaRoche Neumann and husband Travis, and Paul F. (Rocky) LaRoche IV class of ‘12 and wife Kelcie class of ‘13, 12 great grandchildren, brother William E. LaRoche class of ‘48, sister-in-law Dorothy Utesch and husband Rowland Ball class of ‘45 and numerous nieces and nephews.

Jim Plummer ‘77

Jim Plummer was born Sept. 7, 1955 in Houston to Alson Quincy (AQ) and Betty Cantrell Plummer. The Plummer family moved to Brenham in 1964, and Jim was a graduate of Brenham High School in 1973. During his high school career, Jim was a member of the school golf team. Following high school, Jim attended Texas A&M University, and he was a very proud graduate in 1977 with a degree in accounting.

Jim was admitted as a Certified Public Accountant in 1980, and to the Texas Society of Certified Public Accountants in 1989. He joined his father, AQ Plummer, in operating Plummer & Plummer, CPA’s, in Brenham until his father’s death in 2009. Following that, he was a sole practitioner in Brenham providing accounting services.

He was a member of the Texas State Society of CPAs. Other memberships included the Texas Elks Association, of which he was a past state president, and the Brenham Elks Lodge, where he was a member for 38 years and a past Exalted Ruler. He received the highest honor of the Texas Elks State Association in 1998 when he was named Texas Elk of the Year. He was also a member of the National Speakers Association, and was National Chapter Member of the Year in 2014.

Jim was a very generous and caring man who frequently donated his time, money, and services to help those in need. He was also very active in charitable activities, including being a Platinum member of the Elks National Foundation where his donations benefited veterans, youth activities, scholarships, and those with special needs. Jim will be greatly missed by the many people whose lives he touched.

Guy Spiller ‘63

Guy Spiller was born on March 4, 1941 in Evansville, Indiana to Frances and Horace Spiller. As a wildcatter, Horace moved his young family to Austin, Texas when Guy was just a few years old. It was in Austin, Texas that the Spiller family would remain and where Guy and his 5 younger siblings would be raised. Guy attended high school at St. Edwards but was already being recruited for Aggieland by his grandfather, R. E. Caldwell, class of 1913. Guy shared a special bond with his grandparents Robert and Estelle Caldwell, and would choose to follow in his grandfather’s footsteps when he entered Texas A&M College in 1959.
Guy Spiller ‘63 (continued)

Guy was a proud member of Company B of the Corp of Cadets. (We’re pretty sure that he never fully revealed all of the shenanigans that he and his fellow Corp buddies were involved in. Although, he did show his daughters where these activities took place when he gave them a midnight tour of the Quad on the night before Kimberley’s dorm move in August 1989.)

Before Guy’s graduation, he would proceed to have one of those “Aggie only” experiences which would unknowingly touch future generations of his family. After filling his car with gas, Guy proceeded to wash his hands in the filling station restroom. He left and realized just a few miles down the road that his Aggie ring was not on his hand. He returned to the filling station, but his ring was nowhere to be found. Now, Guy knew that his father would be furious with him, so he decided to work extra hours and save all of his money to replace his Aggie ring, and he did. Flash forward to Christmas of the same year, Guy (wearing his new Aggie ring) unwraps a small package which was placed under his parent’s Christmas tree. And guess what it was…Guy’s original aggie ring sans the diamond. His father had quite a grin on his face when he told Guy this story “An Aggie saw a mechanic was wearing this ring, and upon conversation realized that this gentleman had not actually attended Texas A&M, so he offered to purchase the ring. He paid the mechanic and returned the ring to Texas A&M who then returned it to us.” Well, the gig was up, Guy’s dad knew he had lost his ring and Guy now had 2 Aggie rings.

In 1993, upon Kimberley’s graduation from Texas A&M, Guy donated his original ring along with its “lost and returned” story to the Sam Houston Sanders Corp of Cadets Center where it is still on display. Following his burial at the Aggie Field of Honor on August 3, 2016, his family visited the Corp Center to show his grandchildren his original Aggie ring. During their visit, Corp Commandant, Joe E. Ramirez, Jr. ’79, was conducting a walkthrough and stopped to visit the family. Upon hearing of Guy’s passing he presented Betsy with his military challenge coin. This small but kind act left an everlasting impression on the Spiller family, one that the Corp Commander will never know. You see, Guy was an avid coin collector. The family knew immediately that Guy was still with them and felt a peace about his passing and burial. A peace in Aggieland, a place that held so many wonderful memories for Guy and Betsy.

Guy and Betsy were married for 50 years. He was a 1963 graduate of Texas A&M University and a graduate of St. Mary’s University School of Law. He was a landman and attorney in San Antonio, Texas where he and Betsy lived for 45 years.
Guy Spiller ‘63 (continued)

Guy is survived by his wife of 50 years, Betsy Hoover Spiller; daughter, Kimberley Spiller Behrens ’93, her husband Keith ’93 and their children Ashton and Emmie; daughter Heather Spiller Hare, her husband Jimmy and their daughters Harper and Ava; and son, Horace G. "Trip" Spiller III, his wife Jacky Galitzky Spiller and daughter Abby Galitzky.

Guy had a special place in his heart for Brenham and Washington County. He spent a lot of time in the area with TAMU buddies during school breaks. Following Kimberley and Keith’s move to Brenham in 2010, he and Betsy spent much time visiting, attending several Maifest celebrations and Washington County Fairs. Following Guy’s death, Betsy moved to Brenham in February 2017 to be closer to her grandchildren and the Aggie Field of Honor.

Flint Scott ‘85

Flint Lee Scott, “Flintstone”, as his many friends lovingly called him was born on May 11, 1962 at Seton Hospital in Austin, Texas. He was adopted at birth from The Home of the Holy Infancy by Betty and Freddy Scott and was raised in Burton, Texas where he attended school all 12 years.

Flint was baptized at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Brenham and later received his first communion on March 30, 1972. He graduated from Burton High School with honors in 1980. Throughout his school days, he was a member of Greenvine 4-H Club and later in FFA with many fair projects and showing registered Brangus cattle. Flint received numerous scholarships and attended Boys’ State. He received his Associates Degree from Blinn College and went on to receive his Bachelor of Arts Degree in Mechanized Agriculture from Texas A&M where he earned membership on the Dean’s List. Flint worked for Claydesta Communications and later at Brentex Mills.

To say that Flint bled Aggie maroon is an understatement, and he lived to watch all college sports on TV. He loved to hang out with his many buddies playing dominoes and cards. Flint was very gregarious and always had a big smile when he greeted you, and he was the first in line at Santa Fe Café when they served turkey and dressing for lunch.

Do you have a departed Aggie to add to this year’s Roll Call? Please e-mail us or speak to the registration desk on April 21st.

washingtonaggieclub@gmail.com
Dukie was born and raised in Jacksonville, Texas. Fish Childs entered Texas A&M in the Fall of 1949. His class was the last class to live at the Annex. He graduated from Texas A&M College in August 1953 with a degree in Mechanical Engineering and has a Master’s Degree in Personnel Administration from The George Washington University. During his years at Texas A&M, Childs was a member of the Corps of Cadets, a terrific P Head, Company Commander of an all Fish Infantry Company and a Senior Yell Leader. He was a charter member of the Memorial Student Center Student Committee. Not many people know of the time he “met” L.G. Dupree on the Baylor campus. And the reason is that it was a stupid and naïve thing to do and he praises God he was able to get out of Waco with his life and boots.

Upon graduation from A&M, Childs was commissioned a Second Lieutenant of Infantry in the Regular Army. Childs served over 21 years in the U.S. Army primarily as an Infantry Unit Commander. He had two tours of duty in Vietnam and commanded the 2nd Battalion of the 506th Airborne Infantry, 101st Airborne Division in combat. (This is the Battalion that was home to the “Band of Brothers” rifle company.) He is a qualified paratrooper, a Ranger and received several combat decorations including the Bronze Star for Valor and the Distinguished Flying Cross. His military career culminated at West Texas State University in Canyon, Texas where he served as the Professor of Military Science. He retired as an Infantry Lieutenant Colonel in 1974. In Canyon, Childs served as marketing officer for the First National Bank for four years. He was an active member of several civic organizations including serving as President of the Canyon Chamber of Commerce. In 1978, Childs and his family moved to Tyler, Texas where he was Senior Vice President for marketing at Heritage National Bank. In 1986, Childs began a new career as instructor in the School of Business and Director of Continuing Education at the University of Texas in Tyler. He retired as Business Officer of Jacksonville College in Jacksonville, Texas in 1994. Civic organizations have been a top priority of service for Childs. He has been a Rotarian for over thirty-five years and served in two separate clubs, the Rotary Clubs of Canyon and Tyler. Childs has served in various capacities at the club and district level and was District Governor of District 5830 in 1994-1995. During that year, he initiated the first RYLA program for the District. He gained the nickname “One O’clock John” during his year as District Governor for the brevity of his speeches and desire that Rotary meetings be kept short and to the point. “One O’clock John” was a top-notch instructor from 1966 to 2011 at the Lone Star Presidents Elect Training Seminar which was responsible for training Rotary Club Presidents for the State of Texas. He has also served as President of the Smith County American Cancer Society and serves on the following boards: Goodwill Industries of East Texas, Tyler-Smith County A&M Club, East Texas Deaf and Hearing Council and the Tyler Independent School District. Childs was also on the Board of Trustees of East Texas Baptist University in Marshall and of San Marcos Baptist Academy. Childs is currently serving as a board member of the Paraguay Baptist Medical Center Foundation. Childs is an active member of Green Acres Baptist Church where he serves as a deacon and teaches a large adult Sunday school class.

He is married to Thelma Ruth Stephens of Leesville, Louisiana and they have three sons and six grandchildren. His oldest son, John Oakley, Jr. is a special needs boy who is cared for in Louisiana. Stephen his second son lives and works in Tyler and attended Texas A&M and was in the Fighting Texas Aggie Band. His third son Charlie lives in Houston and was a Yell Leader in 1983, almost thirty years to the date Childs was a Senior Yell Leader. Chris Childs, his oldest grandson, is a Special Forces Staff Sergeant who recently completed a tour in Iraq with his Special Forces Team.