



Sound Off!

Association of Military Musicians

Website: www.milmusicians.com

2018/2019 Officers

- Karen Mayfield—President
- Judy Kessler—Vice President
- Allen Lawless—Treasurer
- Tom Zale—Secretary

Serving AMM:

- Allen Lawless—Little Rock Reunion Host for 2019
- Rickey Lumpkin—Chaplain
- Bill Von Kamp—Librarian
- Walt Nail—Historian
- Allen Lawless—Webmaster
- Vernon L. Williams—*Sound Off!* Editor

2019 Reunion at Little Rock is Coming



Allen Lawless
Little Rock
Reunion Host

At the Columbus, GA reunion this past September, the attending membership voted to have the 2019 reunion in Savannah, GA. Karla and Jamie Hillen agreed to put together a memorable event and worked hard to obtain an agreement with a downtown Savannah hotel (and many others in the area). But the cost factor was simply too much for many AMM members, and it was feared that despite the Hillens' hard work, attendance would be severely impacted due to cost.

Therefore, AMM officers made the difficult decision to turn away from Savannah and seek other venues. After a flurry of emails, proposals, and phone calls, AMM officers selected the following site:

- Location: Crowne Plaza hotel
- Address: 201 S. Shackleford Rd., Little Rock, AR 72211
- Dates: 5-8 September 2019
- Hotel room rate: \$125.35 per night, taxes included.
- Breakfast coupons can be purchased for \$8.
- You can book your room directly via [THIS LINK](#). (or call 1-844-740-0881 & ask for the AMM rate)

Little Rock

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I had previously announced a registration fee of \$75 per person, but since the 106th Army Band declined our request for music support for the dinner and dance, I fear that we will run into the red at that rate. As each reunion is supposed to be self-supporting, I'm afraid we're going to have to look at a registration rate of \$80 per person. The additional monies will be used to obtain the services of a DJ.



President's Message



Karen Mayfield
President

I would like to welcome all our members, new and old to our organization. Every one of us is here thanks to our love of music. We have all made many friends while we served and it's nice to get together and reminisce about old times. The fun really begins when we have our rehearsal, for those of us with the guts to play! Recently we have been playing along with the local community bands which is fun for all of us.

The Association of Military Musicians is a dues based organization which elects officers to ensure that our organization can continue to be in existence. Elected officers are President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer and Historian. Other volunteers within the organization include our Newsletter Editor, Recruiting team - active duty, retired, national guard, former military.

Keep in touch on facebook, join us at our next reunion and bring your horn! Let's have fun this year; meet old friends and make new ones!



Newsletter Editor



Vernon Williams
Editor

Welcome to our second issue in this year's (Volume 28) planned four newsletters. The publishing schedule calls for newsletters to appear in December, March, June, and December.

This issue continues our new *Spotlight on History* column with a look back at the 5th Army Band and the funeral of President Dwight D. Eisenhower (see pages 4-6). We have several members who have served with the 5th Army

Band over the years.

Another new column makes its debut in the June issue—*News from Serving Military Bands Across the Globe*. This column will appear occasionally when I encounter interesting and unusual stories about military bandmen currently serving in bands in the armed services. More on this new column in the next issue.

This issue also provides each of you with full details on the 2019 Reunion in Little Rock, Arkansas. Allen Lawless will be our host, and the reunion will be at the Crowne Plaza Hotel on September 5-8. Please read all about it on page 1 and the continuing story on page 7. Allen has produced a wonderful reunion plan. I look forward to seeing all of you there.



2019 Reunion ~ Mark Your Calendars

The 2019 AMM Reunion will be in at the Little Rock. Crowne Plaza hotel on South Shackleford.

- 5-8 September.
- Room cost per night is \$125.35, including taxes
- Breakfast buffet available for \$8
- Registration cost per person \$80.

See page 1 for full details and Allen Lawless' plans for an exciting reunion for us this summer.



The Army Band plays Christmas music at the Tan Nhut Airbase during the holiday season. 22-29 December 1970. Courtesy of the U.S. Army Center of Military History .

Treasurer's Report



Allen Lawless
Treasurer

As of 8 March 2019, the AMM checking account has \$9,256.21. The Paypal account has \$474.52. Routine expenses since the last newsletter include purchasing durable ID cards for the three new Lifetime members we have, who are Leonard Levy (formerly of the 4AD Band); Ed Ellis (formerly of lots of bands) and Jason Morgan, who is a new member who recently retired from Army bands. Congratulations to all three who have

made the commitment!

I'll discuss more on this in the Webmaster's Update section, but there were purchases made of \$149.99 to transfer the web site's hosting (milmusicians.com) from Godaddy to Blue Host. A software purchase of \$39.50 was also needed for the site, and the Newsletter Editor was reimbursed \$42.04 for expenses associated with the January newsletter. The Treasurer is owed \$35.54 to date for administration and postage costs incurred since September.

AMM now has 115 dues-paid members, which is about 10% more than we've usually carried in the past few years. We did lose 16 members due to non-payment of dues. We always have a few who don't renew, but despite my efforts to remind those who may have forgotten (recovering about 10 along the way), we wound up losing more than normal.



Top: Ft. Totten Army Band, circa 1890. Courtesy Bayside Historical Society, Bayside, New York. Below: 2018 Reunion, Courtesy of Karen Mayfield



Spotlight on History ~ The 5th Army Band and the Eisenhower Funeral, 1969

The 5th Army Band and President Dwight D. Eisenhower's Funeral, April 2, 1969

By Vernon L. Williams

President Dwight D. Eisenhower died on March 28, 1969, triggering an operational plan that had been in the works for some time. Below are some sections from the plan that illustrate what part the 5th Army Band (76 bandsmen) played, and how the funeral in Abilene, Kansas unfolded. Excerpts from the operational plan are in italics.

Bob Bakke, a piccolo player and band librarian, remembers getting early notification in 1968 of the role that the band would play when the former president died. "We practiced the music every quarter so we would be prepared to leave for Abilene, Kansas in the event of his death in a T-minus so many days."

A little more than a month before General Eisenhower's death, Headquarters, Fifth U.S. Army, located at Fort Sheridan, Illinois, had published a final version of OPLAN KANSAS under which the funeral ceremonies for the former President would be carried out in Abilene. In accordance with this plan, a

provisional detachment, commanded by the deputy commanding general of the Fifth Army and manned by troops from various units and installations within the Fifth Army Area, was set up on 29 March to complete arrangements and then to conduct the ceremonies scheduled for 2 April in Abilene.

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Ted McDowell, saxophone, wrote in his journal about the final days leading up to the Eisenhower funeral. 26 March 69: "We rehearsed Operation Kansas and picked up dress blues, raincoats today." 28 March 69: "Ike died. Looks like we pull out." 29 March 69: "The whole post attended a formation in the gymnasium for the formal announcement of Ike's death. Afterwards the band rehearsed the music & marching procedures to be used. We finished at noon."

Ted Wanack, trombone, remembered that "we were selected, I believe, due to our close proximity to Kansas and Ike's past relationship to 5th Army during WWII. We were notified two weeks or so before his death, and began our re-



Top: The Eisenhower family pictured on the front porch of the family home in 1926 when all the brothers were home. Bottom: The 5th Army Band marches past the front porch where the Eisenhowers posed forty-three years earlier. At Left: Funeral train arrival at Abilene, Kansas, April 2, 1969.



hearsals for the funeral procession. Cadence would be at approximately three miles per hour or somewhere around 100 bpm, rather than the standard 120. Our processional music consisted mostly of favorite hymns chosen by Eisenhower, along with selected standard marches."

Ted McDowell wrote in his journal about the day the band left Ft. Sheridan. 30 March 69: "Reveille at 0430—aargh—

We travelled TWA first class from Chicago to Forbes AFB at Topeka, with four neat stewardesses. It was an exclusive, chartered flight. From Forbes, we took commercial busses to Camp Forsyth, an extension of Fort Riley."

On April 1st, the day before the funeral, the band "had a dry run in fatigues with all the

(Continued on page 5)



Clockwise from top, left: 5th Army Band during the Eisenhower funeral, positioned to the front, left of the Eisenhower Museum; diagram of band's position from the Operation Kansas Plan; CWO-4 Erling H. Erlandson, bandmaster, 5th Army Band; pallbearers carry casket into the Place of Meditation. All photographs, unless otherwise noted, are courtesy of Eisenhower Library.

(Continued from page 4)

service honor guards.” The base had laid out the parade route that simulated the actual route in Abilene so the ceremonial units were able to practice before the funeral train arrived in Abilene. The time for practice and rehearsals was over.

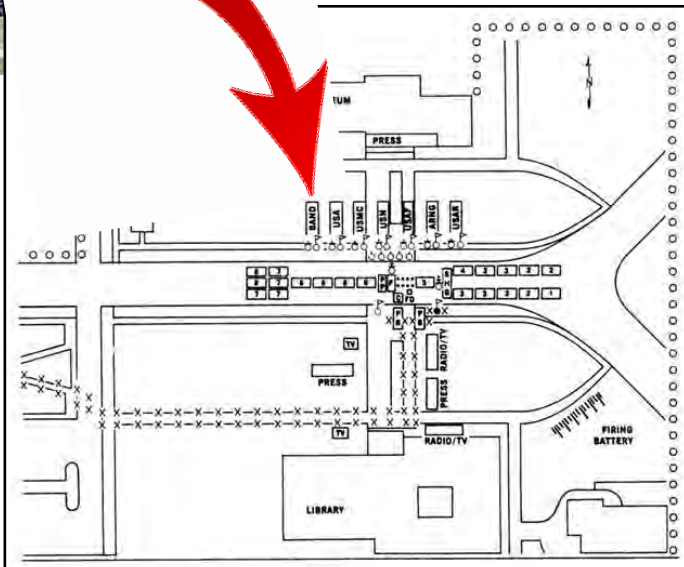
Early the next morning, the funeral train arrived with President Eisenhower’s casket and his family. The entourage waited on board at the Abilene rail station while the 5th Army Band and the ceremonial procession assumed their positions nearby.

On Abilene’s North 3d Street, a block and a half north of where the train stood, the military escort units assembled in march order facing east, the first direction the procession would take. These units included the commander of troops and his staff of five; the Fifth Army Band; a company each of the active Army, Marine Corps,

Navy, and Air Force; and a company each of Army Reserve and National Guard troops.

The funeral train arrived in Abilene from Washington, D.C. in the early morning hours of 2 April 1969. Security and honor guard personnel took their posts on the train where President Eisenhower remained until 10:00 a.m.

During the last half hour before 1000, the honorary pallbearers who had participated in the Washington ceremonies assumed positions at the door of the funeral car; just before the beginning of the ceremony, the members of the Eisenhower family took their places. President Nixon, Mrs. Nixon, and their daughter Tricia had arrived from Washington at the airport in Salina, west of Abilene, traveled to Abilene by helicopter, and to the train by car.



Promptly at 1000, with all participants in position, the body bearers that had traveled in the train from Washington brought General Eisenhower’s casket to the door of the funeral car, where they halted.

At the siding, the smaller Ft. Riley band (29 bandsmen) provided music for the transfer of the funeral party from the train to the procession that would move through Abilene to the Dwight D. Eisenhower Library grounds.

The procession followed North 3d Street for three blocks eastward, turned south on Buckeye Avenue as far as South 4th Street, and then turned east again on South 4th to enter the Dwight D. Eisenhower Library grounds. The route was lined on both sides by an Army street honor cordon of 10 officers and 720 enlisted men.



As the procession formed and moved to the library grounds, a toll was played on the carillon in the Place of Meditation, the bell sounding at five-second intervals. When the military escort reached the grounds, the escort commander, the commander of troops and his staff, the Fifth Army Band, each company commander and guidon bearer, and the left platoon of each company



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turned east on South 4th Street to proceed to the library building.

The escort units marched to positions on the Eisenhower Museum grounds opposite and facing the library steps. There the Fifth Army Band would play, and the troop units would render their salutes through the remainder of the ceremonies. The cortege halted on South 4th Street with the hearse at the walkway to the library. Already in seats on the library mall facing the steps were some 500 invited guests. Also in position before the arrival of the procession was a joint honor cordon, which lined the walkway from the street to the library steps and then continued west from the library to the Place of Meditation.

After the cortege arrived at the library, the Eisenhower family and other participants left their automobiles and took positions for the ceremony. The Fifth Army Band sounded ruffles and flourishes and played "Hail to the Chief." When the band began the hymn "A Mighty Fortress is Our God," the body bearers removed the casket from the hearse. The procession made its way to the library steps, with General Mock, the escort commander, leading the way, and followed by the special honor guard, national color detail, clergy, body bearers and casket, personal flag bearer, members of the Eisenhower family, the Presidential party, other mourners, and the honorary pallbearers in that order. Former President Johnson, who flew from Texas to Salina, had meanwhile joined the



official party.

When the body bearers reached the top of the steps, they placed the casket on a locked movable bier and dressed the flag that draped the casket. The national color detail and personal flag bearer moved to either side of the casket, where they remained throughout the funeral service. After the Eisenhower family and others in the procession had been taken to seats behind the casket, the body bearers left the casket and went inside the library.

The three clergymen then conducted a religious service for the former President. During the service, a gust of wind characteristic of the Kansas plains blew the flag from the casket. It was quickly retrieved and put back by nearby military officers. Two body bearers then returned to hold the flag in place during the remainder of the service.

At the conclusion of the funeral rites, the other body bearers returned to the library steps, and the team lifted the casket from the bier. At that point, the military escort troop units presented arms, and the Fifth Army Band sounded ruffles and flourishes and played the national anthem, "Army Blue," and the hymn "Lead Kindly Light." At the first note of "Army Blue," General Mock began the march to the Place of Meditation. The procession formed behind him in the same order that was followed when the casket was brought from the hearse to the library.

Because the chapel was small, those attending the burial service, besides the Eisenhower family and the ceremonial participants, were limited to the Presidential party and eighty other persons designated by the family. Whereas the funeral service had been covered by television, the burial rites were not. An audio system had been installed, however, which allowed the public to hear the final proceedings.

When the procession reached the Place of Meditation, the escort commander, special honor guard, clergy, national color detail, and personal flag bearer entered and moved directly to their ceremonial positions around the crypt. The body bearers followed next, placed the casket on a movable bier, and continued to the crypt, where the casket was put on the lowering device. The personal flag bearer, honorary pallbearers, the Eisenhower family, Presidential party, and invited guests then entered in that order for the burial service.

When everyone was in position, the former Army Chief of Chaplains, Canon Miller, read the burial rites; he paused, however, before pronouncing the benediction. At the pause, the site control officer for the chapel signaled the battery of six howitzers manned by two officers and thirty-six enlisted men from Fort Riley to deliver a 21-gun salute. The battery, in position just east of the library, fired the rounds at five-second intervals. The benediction was then pronounced.

On the grounds just outside the chapel, the firing party discharged three volleys on a signal from the site control officer. Immediately after the last volley, the bugler blew taps. While the Fifth Army Band played "West Point Alma Mater," the body bearers folded the flag that had draped the casket of the former President. One of the bearers handed the flag to the escort commander, General Mock. At that moment, on a signal relayed by the site control officer, the band stopped playing. General Mock then presented the flag to Mrs. Eisenhower, concluding the final rites for General Eisenhower. As the band played "America the Beautiful" and followed it by "The Old Rugged Cross," the Eisenhower family and the Presidential party were escorted from the chapel to their cars.

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The band reversed its route back to Ft. Sheridan, enjoying the TWA flight to Chicago.



Top: The Army had "gold-plated mouthpieces custom made for all brass players so all would look alike. Taxpayer money, of course—even had our names imprinted on each mouthpiece." Courtesy of Ted Wanack. Left: 5th Army Band on station during the ceremony. Courtesy of Eisenhower Library. Below: Interior of TWA charter flight enroute back to Chicago from Topeka. Courtesy of Ted McDowell.



2019 Reunion Continued

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Little Rock is the capital city of Arkansas, of course, and features all of the amenities and opportunities you would expect in a medium-sized city. There is no shortage of activities of all types – outdoors and indoors. In fact, Arkansas calls itself the “Natural State” due to its unspoiled beauty throughout the state. Hot Springs, a tourist mecca, is but an hour away. The Ozarks are further north, perhaps 2-3 hours by car. Lots of things to do in the city for those who don’t want to travel far.

Access to Little Rock is easy. The airport is serviced by Delta, Southwest, and other airlines. Atlanta is a favorite hub, but there are many other flights in and out of this smaller, but modern airport. Access by highway is also easy. Located about 90 minutes east of Memphis along I-40 and about 5 hours northeast of Dallas along I-30, Little Rock is only the third time that a reunion has been planned west of the Mississippi.

As it stands now, there are no other structured activities planned beyond the dinner dance. Speaking of the dinner dance, I am tentatively planning a 2-entrée buffet consisting of a beef dish and a chicken dish, along with all the trimmings. More on that to come.



Important Note: *Walt Nail is requesting everyone to send photos from the 2018 reunion (especially the group photos) in the form of either discs or thumb drives or even plain photos to him so he can preserve them in our historical files. His mailing address is: Walter Nail, 4635 Brittany Dr., Evans, Ga 30809*



Top: 13th Infantry Regimental coat of arms. Left: The 13th Infantry Band at Fort McGrath, Batangas, Philippines, 1916. The band remained in the Philippines during World War I and never saw service in European combat operations.

Memories of 2018 Reunion at Columbus



Memories of 2018 Reunion Continued



2018 Reunion pictures on pages 3 & 8-9 are courtesy of Karen Mayfield.

Webmaster's Report



As mentioned in the Treasurer's report, I made a decision to drop Godaddy as the host for the web site (milmusicians.com). Godaddy quoted a rate of \$400 to code in the desired SSL certification, which was patently absurd. Along the way, Godaddy's increasing costs and aggressive marketing strategies were off-putting, and I was easily able to transfer the site's hosting to Blue Host under another veteran's organization (Berlin U.S. Military Veterans Association).

It sounds complicated, but essentially it boils down to we're able to save hosting costs by piggy-backing on this other account. Two web sites sit under this account, which are separate. The AMM site features a host of capabilities for less than half of what Godaddy was charging. Unlimited bandwidth metering, unlimited web sites, unlimited SSD storage, a free SSL certificate – all the kind of stuff that makes a web developer drool.

Well, I'm no web developer but I can see a good deal when it's in front of me.

I do have to say that we're taking advantage of introductory offers out to three years. When those three years expire, the costs will rise. And when that time comes, we may wind up transferring the hosting again depending on cost.

Just tryin' to be a good steward of your money!



Bylaws Committee Report



Per the current Bylaws, AMM President Karen Mayfield appointed Tom Zale, Judy Ostrander-Kessler, and Allen Lawless to review the current Bylaws and propose changes to the membership. This information is provided to you at least 90 days prior to the next reunion, again per the Bylaws. The amended document accompanies this newsletter, in the form of a separate 5-page document. We invite you to look

through the document and should you have concerns or questions, please contact Allen Lawless.

The Bylaws Committee operated through a simple analysis document which broke the Bylaws down into sections and reviewed each section for errors, inconsistencies, and other content issues. This is a summary of substantive changes of what they propose:

- Article VI – Officers.
 - ◊ Change the terms of office of the officers from one year to two years. To provide continuity, the four officers will be split up such that the President and Secretary will be on the ballot for even-numbered years and the Vice President and Treasurer will be on the ballot for odd-numbered years.
 - ◊ Change “Entertainment Chairman” to “Reunion Host.” The title change was adopted in 2014, but Article VI was overlooked.
- Article VII – Duties of Officers.
 - ◊ Delete the President’s appointment of the Vice President. The Vice President will be elected rather than appointed. This change follows a practice that AMM has done over the past several years.



In addition to these changes reviewed and approved by the Bylaws Committee, an additional request for change was submitted by a Lifetime member. The change has not been incorporated into this particular revision presented here because of the substantial changes that would have to be incorporated throughout the document.

Additionally, we would like your feedback on this proposal for future consideration.

The member proposes that the venue of future reunions no longer be determined by the attending membership at the current

reunion. Rather than those members in attendance determining for members who cannot attend, he proposes that the entire membership vote on presentations made for reunion venues in the future. In this manner, irrespective of the member’s ability to attend a given reunion, he/she has a voice in selection of venues for future reunions.

This proposal has several ramifications:

- It substantially changes the venue selection process that has been in place since the advent of AMM (1986).
- It no longer would “reward” those who take the time, expense, and logistics of traveling to the current reunion by being able to vote for future reunion (s).
- It provides those members in good standing who cannot attend the current reunion with a voice that they currently do not have.
- It requires that a formal system be set up to obtain proposals for reunion venues and ensure that those proposals meet certain criteria (TBD, but largely patterned after Appendix I to the current Bylaws) before submitting those proposals to the entire membership for a vote. **This process should not be underestimated.** The amount of work involved is significant and it would likely fall to the Secretary to manage, organize, and proctor the vote, though that very point would also be part of any change adopted.

I encourage you to please read the current, proposed Bylaws and consider this extra proposal. You can contact me with your thoughts, suggestions, and even complaints. Email is best, as I don’t do the phone or text unless someone holds a gun to my head.

Send your comments or feedback to: Allen Lawless by email at: ar_lawless@yahoo.com.



The Little Rock Nine

Association of Military Musicians

AMM's Mission

The Association of Military Musicians is a fraternal organization that strives to preserve the proud tradition of military music. Military musical ensembles don't just play marches and ceremonial music—today's audience demands much more than that, and with panache to boot!

Membership is open to any and all who have served in a military musical organization, whether a band, orchestra, fife & drum corps, or a vocal group.



**5th Army Band
Fort Sheridan, Illinois**

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