



Sound Off!

Association of Military Musicians

Website: www.milmusicians.com

2021 Reunion at Augusta, Georgia News

<p>2020 / 2021 Officers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Karen Mayfield—President • Walt Nail—Vice President • Judy Kessler—Treasurer • Tom Zale—Secretary
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<p>Serving AMM:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Walt Nail—Augusta Reunion Host for 2021 • Rickey Lumpkin—Chaplain • Bill Von Kamp—Librarian • Vernon L. Williams—Historian • Michael Nail—Webmaster • Vernon L. Williams—<i>Sound Off!</i> Editor
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Walt Nail
2021 Augusta Reunion Host

35th Anniversary Reunion, Augusta, GA 2021

While writing this, it is my hope that this Covid thing will be all over next September, that everyone has been vaccinated and everyone is still excited about coming to next year's reunion. We are going on the assumption that that will be the case.

The dates for next year's reunion (still the 35th) will be the 16th to the 19th of September at the Hilton Garden Inn (the same as was supposed to be this year). Please put these dates in your calendars and remember to make your reservations at the hotel AFTER the 1st of the year.

Our schedule will basically be the same as it was supposed to be this year. We have been asked again to play for the opening of the Arts in the Heart Festival on Friday, September 17th.

Information on hotel costs for the reunion is posted on our Reunions page on our web site (www.milmusicians.com).

We will be offering the option to buy a reunion T-shirt (S,M,L,XL \$12 - XXL, \$14 & XXXL, \$15.) The money for these can be included with your Registration fee which will remain at \$75 each.

As always I strongly encourage you to register early (if there is changes then your registration fee will be FULLY refunded.

Because we had to cancel this year, it will be that more exciting to see your old friends and comrades next year. !!

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Our Augusta Reunion Hotel for 2021

President's Message



Karen Mayfield
President

Hello Everyone,

All of us have been affected by the horrible pandemic COVID-19. Please think about friends and loved ones in your life and make sure you reach out to them and let them know you are thinking about them. Also, if you know of anyone in our organization who has been affected by the

pandemic and needs some cheering up, please let us know. We all need to help cheer up anyone who needs it.

This year, the board decided to put a hold on our normal rotation for elections due to the pandemic and the fact that we would not have a reunion this year. This coming year we will have elections for all positions, while the position of president and treasurer will be for one year to get back in line with our by-laws. If we are unable to have our reunion in 2021, we will have elections electronically, for those who have the capability or via mail for all others. Once a decision has been made regarding the reunion, we will let everyone know how we will handle the 2021 elections.

I'd like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!!! Be Safe and I hope to see everyone at our 2021 reunion.

Karen Mayfield
President



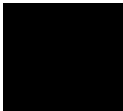
Treasurer's Report



Judy Kessler
Treasurer

I have temporarily assumed the position of treasurer. Our only expense in the last six months was to set up our new web page. Michael Nail is our new webmaster and is busy with updates, continuing the great work that Allen Lawless contributed over the last few years.

GREAT NEWS: With all that's going on this year, the board has unanimously decided that we would not charge dues. More details on this will be available soon on our website under the membership tab.



Newsletter Editor



Vernon Williams
Editor

Usually the December issue has a photographic coverage section of our reunion in September. That was the plan for this year as well—until the pandemic changed everything. The reunion had to be cancelled, and most of us have been hunkered down in our homes for the duration. So this issue will not have our usual look back to our reunion. Instead, we continue our

quest to celebrate those who served in military bands during our time in the military and also those who set the stage for each of us in the long tradition of military music across the ages. History is filled with the extraordinary stories of military musicians serving in times of war, and in times of peace. So there is no limit to the story of the military musician—we just have to make the journey and let history reveal the most astonishing and remarkable stories of music in the military. I hope you enjoy a few of these images in this issue from our military band past.

I have agreed to assume the role of historian for our organization. Walt Nail, who was there at the beginning over thirty-five years ago when military musicians organized the AMM and our first reunion events, has requested to step down as historian. Walt continues to serve us as our vice-president and our 2021 reunion chairman. He just wants someone else to carry the archive boxes back and forth to the reunions. I am looking forward to continuing to serve AMM as the newsletter editor and as historian.

So I hope that you enjoy this issue devoted to military bands that reach back across the history of music and American military history.



*400th WAC Band
welcoming home the
Henry Ford to San
Francisco Port, Nov.
1945. (US Army
Women's Museum)*



Spotlight on History

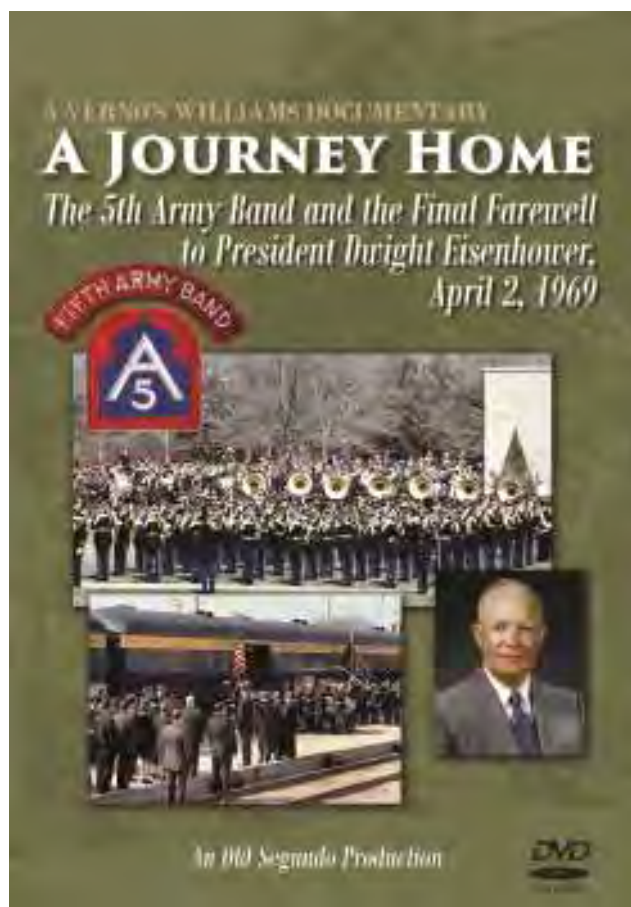
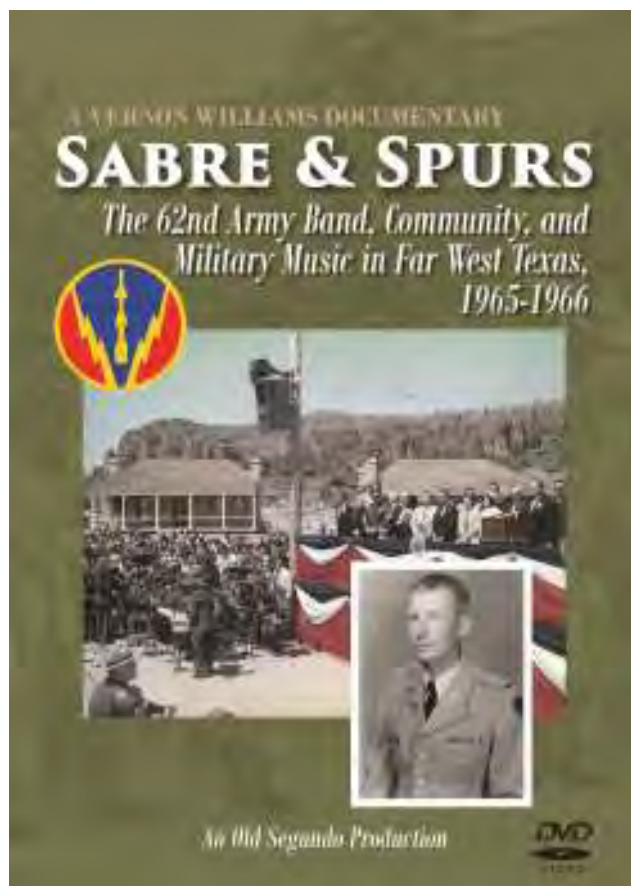
New Documentaries Coming on Bands

Documentary film production has been a part of my professional life as a historian for over twenty years. Most of my film work has focused on the air war in the European Theater of Operations in World War II. Other films deal with related military history topics such as the U.S. Marines in the age of empire or the Army chasing Pancho Villa in Mexico just before our entry into World War I, to name just two. In both of those cases, military bands were a part of that history, but my films told little of that part of the story. But in 2017, I produced my first documentary on military bands, *The Eighth Army Band: A Musical Tradition Across Two Cultures*. Some of you watched the film with me at my first AMM Reunion at Columbus, Georgia in 2018. It was fun watching it with you since some of the musicians in the film were in the room watching it with us. At the time I had no intention of doing any other band documentaries, but it appears that is about to change.

The pandemic has stopped my research and interviews on two other film projects on Army bands, effectively delaying their completion by at least a year or so. Production on the two documentaries (illustrated at right) were well underway when the Covid-19 virus stopped them in their tracks. The interviews have all been completed for *A Journey Home*, bandsmen who played with the 5th Army Band and had the opportunity and privilege of traveling to Abilene, Kansas to say a final farewell to President Dwight Eisenhower in 1969. Many of the men who will appear in the documentary are members of AMM, including First Sgt. Paul Stevens with whom I had a wonderful afternoon visit and interview at his home in Colorado Spring last year.

Sabre & Spurs will remind many of you of the experiences that you had in garrison bands during your time in military bands. The 62nd Army Band was based in far West Texas during the early months of the buildup and escalation of the Vietnam War. So the 62nd did the traditional community appearances like Concert Under the Stars, local school concerts, and military parades for the missile school graduations, retreats, funerals, and retirements. But during the mid-1960s, the band traveled by convoy or by air, doing an extensive recruiting schedule at high schools stretching out across most of West Texas and New Mexico. This will be a film about community and military music across the rural landscape in the American west. I am looking forward to the journey.

Vernon Williams



Spotlight on History: 50th Army Ground Forces Band



On Oct. 18, 1945, the 50th Army Ground Forces Band was constituted and activated at Fort George G. Meade, Md. The next day, it was transferred for a short duration to Camp Pickett, Va., returning to Fort Meade on April 16, 1946. On Nov. 14, 1946, the band was transferred to Fort Monroe. It was redesignated as the 50th Army Band on May 15, 1947.

On Dec. 19, 1952, the 50th Army Band was allotted to the Regular Army. On June 24, 1972 the 50th Army Band was designated as the U.S. Continental Army Band. Shortly thereafter, on Sept. 30, 1972, the Continental Army Band and California's 69th Army Ground Forces Band were consolidated at Fort Monroe to form the current organization.

On Feb. 15, 2006, the Band was redesignated as the U.S. Army Training and Doctrine Command Band, signifying its important role in support of the mission of TRADOC. Today, under TRADOC's flag, the band's soldiers continue the honored tradition of service established by the 2nd Coast Artillery Band and the 69th Army Ground Forces Band – musical and ceremonial support of the trainers of Amer-

50th Army Ground Forces Band, Ft. Monroe, Virginia, Christmas, 1948. Carl Howell, later the First Sergeant of the 62nd Army Band in the 1960s, is seated in the front row, second from the right. *(Courtesy of the Howell family)*

ica's Soldiers, and bringing their stories to the American people.

The band serves as an outreach asset for TRADOC. Members of the band are considered among the finest musicians in the U.S. Army band program. The band performs numerous concerts in support of local, regional and national events, including festivals and inaugurations. The band's various ensembles frequently travel throughout the country, performing several concert tours each year.

In addition, the band also serves as the primary ceremonial unit on Forts Monroe, Eustis and Story, supporting numerous military ceremonies, and performing for visiting American and foreign dignitaries.



The 50th Army Ground Forces Band Continues as the TRADOC Band

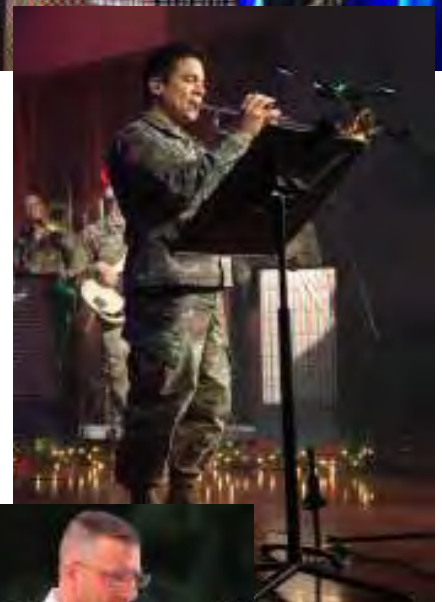


TRADOC Band Sgt. Maj. Terrina Anderson (top right) is impressed with the teamwork of band members and their commitment to work through any challenges that came up.

“It’s been awesome to see how the band planned for contingencies and adapted to changing circumstances,” said Anderson. “We tend to be more sensitive to the idea of alternatives in the winter time and this year with adding COVID-19 on top of that, it has been the greatest thing to witness how this team prepared and really adapted the mission. (excerpt from TRADOC Communication Directorate, December 15, 2020)



Despite the pandemic this season, the TRADOC Band carries out their mission in their virtual holiday show held on Dec. 10, 2020; Below, right: Lt. Colonel Treg Ancelet, bandmaster. (photo credits: U.S. Army)



Glimpses ~ From Serving Military Bands Across the Globe

Editor's note: Exercise TALISMAN SABRE 2017 is a continuing biennial combined Australian and United States (US) training activity, designed to train our respective military forces in planning and conducting Combined Task Force operations to improve the combat readiness and interoperability between the two respective forces

ENOGGERA, Australia— Soldiers of America's I Corps Army Band performed for Australian Army family members at their monthly family day event at the Gallipoli Community Centre while participating in Talisman Saber 17, July 16.

"We were looking for things to play to help with outreach," said Spc. Daniel Turchyn, an army musician, with America's I Corps Army Band. "It's a lot of what we do stateside. We get to see how they run things, and they get to see how we do things."

America's I Corps Army Band was assisting the local Australian Army band in their ongoing mission to build positive relations with the local community.

"The traditional role of the band is to honor the fallen, support troop morale, and community outreach," said Sgt. 1st Class Todd Borges, music performance team leader, with America's I Corps Army Band. "Due to the lower combat operation tempo, we are more free to engage with the local community."

America's I Corps Army Band performed at several events during Talisman Saber 17, including chapel services, a memorial service, and some local schools.



Glimpses ~ From Serving Military Bands Across the Globe

The Navy Region Northwest Band joined sailors and senior leadership from commands throughout Navy Region Northwest to visit the state capitol in Olympia for activities to celebrate Navy Day on April 3 last year.

Navy Day is an annual event convened in the Washington Senate and House Chambers in Olympia to honor the U.S. Navy and its personnel in the Pacific Northwest region.

These glimpses of the Navy Region Northwest Band performing in its outreach mission at the 36th annual Western International Band Clinic and other activities took place throughout the Seattle/Olympia region. *(U.S. Navy photos)*



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.



**403rd WAC Band
Charleston, South Carolina**

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