

aoshs Quarterly

The American Overseas Schools Historical Society
704 West Douglas Avenue, Wichita, KS 67203-6104

Fall 2015

www.aoshs.org
overseasschools@aoshs.org



A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

by Gayle Vaughn-Wiles

The summer has been eventful. I was recuperating from surgery during the months of May and June in Jacksonville, Florida. I followed my doctor's orders and was released to travel at the end of June. As a result, I was able to attend the DoDDS Reunion in Oak Brook, Illinois. Harry Stine and his committee did a great job and I commend them on all their work. Since the DoDDS Reunion and the American Overseas Schools Historical Society are two different organizations I continue to stress the importance of membership in the American Overseas Schools Historical Society.

In my comments to the members who attended the AOSHS Annual Meeting held on July 17, I reminded the membership of the importance of getting involved and asking other DoDDS folks to join our organization. AOSHS continues to move forward. We have been actively seeking locations to display our memorabilia and to update our skills for retrieving archival documents. We just recently signed a Memorandum of Agreement with Museum of the American Military Family (MAMF) at the Bataan School in Albuquerque, NM. Folks can go online at www.aoshs.org and go to our Online Memorial & Kiosk (under memorials) to look for status of bricks and pavers for different deceased educators. Two Tom Drysdale Scholarships were offered this year for Academics and the Arts. The AOSHS members are also vital components. We have 852 paid members and I would like to see us reach 1000 by this time next year. It sounds simple but as usual, I need your help! I would like for each of you to discuss AOSHS with a nonmember and get

them interested in joining. Remember annual membership dues are \$25 but a 2-year membership is ONLY \$45. That is a real bargain. Can I count on your support to increase our membership within the next year? I sure hope so. The membership forms are in the Quarterly. Make a copy to keep in your purse or in your car so you will be ready to help me in a moments notice with the membership goal! Danke!

I am thoroughly committed to all the AOSHS goals and I want to serve the board and the membership as we face challenges. The Board of Directors are uniquely talented people and they bring so much to the table that it humbles me. The staff in the Wichita Office never cease to amaze me as they support our mission and goals. We have regular volunteers in our office who come weekly to do their tasks. What can I say other than you can count on me...can I count on you?

From the DODEA Facebook page—

"DoDEA wishes the Museum of the American Military Family and Learning Center well today as they open a new exhibit titled, Schooling with Uncle Sam...In extending best wishes to the exhibit creators, Director Tom Brady said: 'Over our long history, the central character and mission of the Department of Defense Education Activity (DoDEA) has been excellence in education, success for all students, and a deep and abiding commitment to military and civilian families. The history, challenges, and achievements showcased in the exhibit will help us all to see those values and commitment come to fruition as we follow, with great pride, the many successes of our graduates, former students, employees, and indeed the entire school system.'"

The AOSHS Memorial Program

Memorial Program

You may purchase a brick or paver in your own name, as a gift in memory of a friend or loved one, or a school. Write to the Memorial Program address or the e-mail address below for the correct order card(s). You may include a 300-word biography and a photo along with the check when you submit your order. The selection of bricks/pavers appears below.

Memorial Fund

You may organize a fund for a deceased friend or loved one. The fund will be announced in two issues of the Quarterly so that others may contribute. When the fund closes in six months, you will receive an accounting and determine which item the fund will purchase. Write to the Memorial Program address or the e-mail address below to request a Memorial Fund Form, or print the form at www.aoshs.org/kiosk; just click on Memorial Program.

Donate

You may also donate to an already established fund by sending a check payable to the AOSHS Memorial Fund at the address below. Please note the honoree's name on the check's memo line:

**AOSHS Memorial Program, Attn: Dee Edwards,
P.O. Box 370962, Las Vegas, NV 89137**
[Don't forget to indicate the honoree's name]

Memorial Program for Alumnae/Alumni

We have had many names added to our Those No Longer with Us paver, where friends or loved ones have sent a donation to remember a special person in their lives, but did not wish to purchase a brick or start a memorial fund.

Though this began as an educator remembrance, several of those recognized are alumni. Because of the increase in donations for this fund, we feel it appropriate to create a second paver specifically to recognize alumni. If friends wish to remember a deceased former student, send the honoree's name, school, and year of graduation (if appropriate), and it will be included in alphabetical order on the kiosk page, which can be viewed by going to www.aoshs.org/kiosk, then clicking on the Interactive Kiosk link, and following directions.

To remember an alumna/alumnus in this way, send a check payable to the AOSHS Memorial Fund at the address below.

Please note the honoree's name on the check's memo line and include a note requesting that this person be honored on the Alumni Memorial Page

e-mail: memorialprog@aoshs.org

Note: e-mails must include AOSHS in the subject area

Type of Bricks and Pavers Offered In the Program	Size (in inches)	Characters/Line (includes spaces)	Maximum Lines	Total Characters (includes spaces)	Cost
Ceramic Brick	4 x 8	15	2	30	\$100
Ceramic Paver	8 x 8	15	5	75	\$250
Medium Granite Paver	8 x 8	15	5	75	\$500
Large Granite Paver	16 x 16	25	11	275	\$1000
Premium Granite Paver	24 x 24	35	17	595	\$2500

MEMORIAL FUNDS

First Announcements

Frances May Riley March 21, 1926 – March 4, 2015

Frances lived a life of service to others. She loved children and her friends. She spent most of her time with them--either teaching them, traveling with them, or entertaining them. She loved people and was a friend to all. She had many obstacles in her life, including polio, which left her unable to walk. She was not able to have children of her own, but that didn't stop Fran. She learned to walk and move again, and she counted all of her nieces and nephews and their children as her own. They brought years of joy into life; she brought joy to them. Frances held a Bachelor's degree in Education and a Master's degree in Urban Studies. She earned degrees and or additional course work from Biola Bible College, York College, Universities of Kansas, Southern California, Omaha, Maryland, Long Beach State, Troy State, Fresno State, and Michigan State. She taught elementary school in Nebraska, Kansas, California, and Alaska. While working with the Department of Defense Dependent Schools, she was assigned to schools in Okinawa, two locations in Germany, Libya, Turkey, England, Morocco, and Spain. After retirement from DoDDS, Frances taught high school subjects at Central Adult School in Fresno until 2001.

Second Announcements

DAVID MILLER BENSEN -----January 29, 1931-September 12, 2014

David, a native New Yorker, joined the US Navy after graduation from high school. When he left active duty, David earned his BS in Elementary Education and MS in Elementary Administration from Hofstra University. He taught elementary school in Uniondale, NY, prior to a 27-year career with the Department of Defense Dependents Schools. He was Principal in schools in Turkey, Okinawa, Germany, Morocco, and Japan. Later, he worked in the DoDDS Superintendent's Office in Japan and Korea. In 1991, he retired to North Carolina. David taught GED classes for Central Carolina Community College, volunteered with the Chatham Education Foundation and the American Red Cross during his retirement years. David loved to travel, and his many collections attest to this fact. He was an avid woodworker and always had at least one project going in craft shops on military bases around the world. Later he worked out of the "Right Angle Woodshop" in his garage in Fearington Village, Pittsboro, North Carolina. He was the "go to guy" for anyone who needed lamps, chairs, or just about anything fixed. David is survived by his wife of 55 years, Vidabeth, son Michael Bensen, daughters Anne Watkins and Beth Bensen-Barber, and Kimi Mischke, and six grandchildren.

CAROLYN WILBER July 30, 1938-August 26, 2014

Carolyn was born in Hollywood, California and graduated from Beverly Hills High School in 1956. She earned a degree in Math from Pomona College in 1960, and began her teaching career at Pomona High School. Her love of travel soon brought her to DODDS, when she began teaching in the Philippines in 1969. At the end of her third year with DoDDS, Carolyn transferred to Germany, assuming teaching positions at Kaiserslautern, Bitburg, and Ramstein High Schools. She returned to the Orient to teach at Kadena HS for two years. After a year in the States earning her MA in Computer Science, Carolyn completed her DoDDS career at Soesterberg HS in the Netherlands. She retired to Scottsdale, AZ in 1993. Carolyn's love of travel carried into retirement; she routinely left Arizona for "foreign ports". She was a breast cancer survivor, and even through this, her main interest was keeping in touch with former students and friends. She enjoyed entertaining guests, and was in preparation for another trip when she collapsed at her home, her heart giving out. Carolyn was known as a fun-loving, gregarious friend who provided many happy memories as a teacher, colleague, or traveling companion. She served as the AOSHS Memorial Fund Manager for 13 years.

WARREN VAN ZEE, PORT ORCHARD, WA April 9, 1932-October 19, 2014

After receiving his BA and MA in elementary education, Warren worked for school systems in Washington before joining the Department of Defense Overseas Dependent School System. He and his family moved to Europe, serving for 31 years in a variety of positions. His early positions included teacher/counselor at Kaiserslautern ES, Nellingen ES, and Patch Barracks Schools. He was Principal of Oberammergau and Murnau Schools, and Curriculum Advisor at the DoDDS Superintendent's Office in Wiesbaden. He also served as Supervising Principal in Giessen, Assistant Superintendent in Naples, and Principal at Mannheim High School. Warren's last position with the DODDS schools was that of Superintendent of Schools in Spain and Italy. He received his PhD in Education from the University of Southern California while living in Giessen. After retirement, Warren served on the Port Orchard, WA, City Council, and was active with the Kiwanis and other local civic organizations. Warren is survived by his wife of 64 years, Joanne, daughter Camilla Dombrowski, and son, Kenneth Van Zee. He was very proud of his two grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

INCREASING MEMBERSHIP by Jill Abbot

Every organization depends on the support of its membership. The American Overseas Schools Historical Society, or AOSHS for short, has been very fortunate in that we have very supportive members. However, a large majority of our membership consists of retired personnel, and as the memorial service showed at the recent DoDDS reunion in Oakbrook, Illinois, too many of our members are no longer with us. If you were not at the reunion, where many attendees join or renew their membership with AOSHS, then please take the opportunity to send in your renewal to AOSHS, 704 W. Douglas Ave., Wichita, Kansas, 67203. We now have a two-year special offer of \$45, as well as yearly dues of \$25. We especially would like to increase membership and awareness with the active DoDDS personnel. If you have friends and former colleagues

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who are still actively teaching, please encourage them to become AOSHS members. As more schools close or downsize, it's important to preserve their artifacts, and the need for added members and funds become more important. Many members also send in tax-deductible donations in addition to their memberships. Please consider this opportunity, as the taxable year draws to a close. Last, but not least, consider AOSHS in your last will and testament. It is a fitting legacy to your teaching career.

QUARTERLY PUBLISHING SCHEDULE ...As the name indicates, the QUARTERLY is published four times a year. Material submitted for publication should reach the editors by: January 15; April 15; August 15; and October 15. We'd really appreciate your contribution

The Cadets of the Bataan Military Academy posted the colors proudly, and just as proudly, Dr. Circe Olson Woessner, founder and Executive Director of the Museum of the American Military Family, gave them the order to cut the ribbon and open "Schooling with Uncle Sam." Some 40 friends and supporters of the Museum rose to applaud the gesture, led by an enthusiastic Brigadier General Andrew Salas, Adjutant General of the New Mexico National Guard. They then spread out to look at artifact cases and displays and a series of exhibit panels telling the story of the elementary and secondary schools operated by the U.S. Defense Department around the world since the end of World War II.

"Schooling with Uncle Sam," housed in the Botts Auditorium of the Albuquerque Special Collections Library, itself on the National Register of Historic Places, is the first public exhibit about this remarkable and unique school system.

"Schooling" co-curator (Dr. Woessner) and Dr. Allen Dale Olson told the audience that some 15 million adults have attended these schools over the years and that nearly all of them went to three, four, maybe five different schools on the way to graduation, that 50 % of them lived at or near the poverty line, and in spite of all the moves, 97% of them actually graduated. The exhibit focuses on a wide range of school-related topics and experiences, from buildings and supplies to academics and sports.

The highlights of the exhibit are statements of students and teachers, some telling what it was like in the early days, others what living in a host country was and is like. Typically, a DoD student will have lived in a foreign country by the time he or she reaches fourth grade.



Former DODDS teacher Bill Swift and Ole Olson

Artifacts include school yearbooks from places like Berlin, Heidelberg, Tachikawa, Okinawa, and varsity letter jackets from Frankfurt and Karlsruhe. There are report cards, diplomas, teachers guides, school rules, and curriculum guides, similar to what one would find in a neighborhood school at home, except that these items bear names like Vienna, Paris, London, and address special courtesies and behaviors expected in cultures different from those at home. A photo of General Colin Powell bears a caption in his own words telling how, as a Colonel, he was appointed President of the post school board. Important contributions to the exhibit came from the *American Overseas Schools Historical Society* and the *Overseas Brats* --organizations of teachers and students who worked in and attended Defense Department Schools.

Today the school system is known as DoDEA – Department of Defense Education Agency – and is headed by a civilian educator with a central office staff in Washington, D.C., and in Peachtree, Georgia. School Directors oversee programs on Army, Navy, and Air Force installations in Europe, the Middle East, the Far East, the Atlantic Islands, and in the US.

The Museum of the American Military Family and Learning Center presents: Schooling with Uncle Sam

A special exhibit about military children attending school on bases and posts around the world and the teachers who taught them.

Created by Dr. Allen Dale Olson and Dr. Circe Olson Woessner, with the help of hundreds of former DOD Teachers and Students.

Special Thanks to:
American Overseas Schools Historic Society,
Home Depot, and Dominic Ruiz Photography

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE EDUCATION AGENCY (DoDEA)

The United States Defense Department (DoD) operates 30 schools for elementary and secondary students worldwide.

- 30 are in the United States, Puerto Rico, and Cuba.
- 17 are in Germany, Italy, Portugal, Spain, Belgium, the Netherlands, Turkey, Ireland, and England.
- 49 are located in Okinawa, mainland Japan, Guam, and Korea.
- One school is virtual.

The Headquarters of the Department of Defense Education Agency (DoDEA) is in Peachtree City, Georgia, and has undergone many administrative changes since its original establishment in October 1964. Dependents schools were operated by the Department of Army, Navy, and later the Air Force, depending on where they were located.

When school opened for the 1964-1965 school year, there were 16,000 students in pre-kindergarten through high school and more than 15,000 employees in twelve nations, seven states, and two territories operating with a budget of \$1.4 billion.

DoDEA is managed by a Director who reports to a Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense. Additionally there are Area Directors for the American Schools, the European Schools, and the Pacific Schools, all of whom oversee District Superintendents responsible for local principals and their schools.

There is really only one story to tell about the Dependents Schools. From the first days, classroom teachers and school principals have worked long hours in tough situations against incredible requirements to create the school system American kids deserve and need.

Allen Dale Olson, Executive Officer, DoDEA



Greater Stuttgart DoDDS High Schools Alumni Association

Since we first heard of the new High School opening at Panzer Kaserne, we have deliberated allowing this new school into our alumni association. Now that the school's name has been finalized as Stuttgart High School, we have decided to include the current and future students of Stuttgart High School into our Association. The Association will change its name from the Stuttgart / Ludwigsburg American High School Alumni Association to the "Greater Stuttgart DoDDS High Schools Alumni Association". This name change will include all of the high schools in the Greater Stuttgart Military Community, including the original Stuttgart American High School located at Robinson Barracks, the Pattonville buildings known as both Stuttgart American High School and Ludwigsburg American High School, the buildings known as Patch American High School and Patch High School, and the new Stuttgart High School.

by Jesse Easter '90 and Patricia Hein '76

It was a beautiful fall day in Wiesbaden, Germany. One of those days that makes you glad to be alive. Little did I, or anyone for that matter, know that the events of today were to change my life and the world forever.

One of my adjunct duties as an Education Specialist for the Department of Defense Dependent Schools (DoDDS) - Europe was to coordinate the DARE program in our schools. A major task was to set up and monitor a two-week training course for security police officers from the three major branches of the military services. They would then return to their bases to teach DARE in our schools. At this time the Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD), which had founded the DARE program, provided the instructors. The entire cost of the training and support was provided by the Department of Defense Education Activity (DoDEA) through a contract with the LAPD.

The 2001 DoDDS-Europe DARE Training class was composed of 36 security police officers from military bases throughout Europe and Bahrain. Two British Bobbies also attended. When additional security police officers needed to be trained, the British were kind enough to open their doors and accepted our people into their DARE training classes at no expense to DoDEA. All we had to do was get the trainees to the British training site. This cooperation continued for a number of years. There were also 8 LAPD training officers headed by Officer Scott Gilliam assisted by Officer Chuck Williams. In addition, some of the trainees and instructors had brought along spouses.

The training was in the Ramada Hotel, a civilian hotel which was located about half-way between the DoDDS-Europe Headquarters at the American Arms complex in Wiesbaden and Wiesbaden Air Base. September 11th was a Tuesday and we were in the 2nd day of training. The day proceeded normally. It looked like we had another good group of trainees. They had, for the most part, been assigned the task of school DARE Officer by their local unit commanders. A few had volunteered. It didn't take the LAPD DARE Instructors long to bring everybody on board. They were enthusiastic about the prospect of being DARE officers.

It was late afternoon and I needed to return to my office to take care of some administrative tasks and pick up needed training supplies. When I arrived, I noticed that the parking lot, usually full at this time of day, was virtually empty. As for guards, we hadn't had any for some time. We didn't even have guard shacks. The fence around the American Arms was an old wire fence designed mainly to keep out the curious and not to stop a determined terrorist. Ours was an open complex with a hotel and restaurant in the front part that hosted, each Sunday, large numbers of German citizens who wanted to enjoy an American brunch. These people and many other non-ID card holders were allowed to freely come and go as they pleased if they had business within the complex or wanted to patronize the bar and restaurant. This was to soon change. I entered the rear part of the complex where the DoDDS-Europe offices were located.

The main lobby was empty. I took the elevator up to the 4th floor to my office. In the hallway I ran into Harvey Gerry. Harv was serving as Special Projects Officer for the Director. I asked him what was up as no one was around. He told me about the attack in New York. At first I thought he was kidding, but the serious look on his face told me otherwise.

I discussed the situation with him and what needed to be done as far as my DARE training group was concerned. I realized I needed to immediately do whatever I could to insure the safety and welfare of the staff, their dependents and the trainees. In addition, I needed to get information on how to get these folks back to their homes.

I returned to the hotel. As I was pulling into the parking lot, my wife, Brigitte, called wondering what was happening and sounding very concerned. I told her that everything would be OK, watch the TV for news and not to expect me home too early. In fact, I had a feeling that it was going to be very late before I was able to return home. I immediately went into conference with the hotel General Manager. As I recall, I believe his name was Dieter Gollarz. Herr Gollarz assured me all was being done to insure the security of the hotel and the guests. He stated that since the hotel was American-owned they had in place procedures for such alerts.

He asked if I noticed that there was no longer any large floor ashtrays or wastebaskets around, to protect them from bombs. Additionally, he had notified the *Polizei* who would provide hourly vehicle and foot patrols around the hotel grounds. Satisfied with what was being done, I returned to the classroom where a discussion was being held on the situation.

I informed the class of the steps being taken for their security and advised them to contact their commanders to determine if they were required to return to their bases. Surprisingly, there was little concern expressed by the class members. Being well-trained military personnel, they knew-- or could guess-- what would happen. However, there was a great deal of anxiety among the LA police staff members. One even expressed an emotional desire for his side arm that they were not allowed to bring with them. For a police officer, I guess having a pistol in hand does bring some sense of security. One of the officer's wives was a supervisor of flight cabin attendants for one of the airlines flying out of LA. She was very emotional and beside herself with concern, wanting to return as soon as possible to Los Angeles. Again, I told everyone that the safest place in the world right then was at this hotel because Germany was not the target and the German security people were (and still are) among the best in the business. Once everyone was settled, I decided to drive over to the base (Wiesbaden Army Airfield) to check with my contact.

At the Provost Marshall's Office, everyone was busy climbing into their "battle rattle" (combat gear) to take up their patrol positions. I was informed by my local DARE Officer that we were in Condition Two (Condition One meaning all-out war) and to advise my class to stay where they were until the situation cleared. He also told me that no one was going anywhere as all flights had been grounded and rail transportation was also being halted. Rail service was to resume a few hours later, but flights in and out of world airports were grounded for 3 days.

I returned to the training site at the hotel. Most of the military trainees had been able to contact their superiors and three were requested to return to their duty stations. They were able to do so since they had driven to the training site. The remaining trainees were told to remain in the DARE class. The decision was then made to continue with the class. As a result, the vast majority of the trainees were able to complete the course. Eventually, all were able to return to their units and most of the trainees were to serve in the Second Gulf War in the invasion of Iraq.

In reflecting back, my most vivid memories are those of the reactions of the people. There was a calm, professional approach by the members of the military. There was concern on the part of the Los Angeles police officers for the safety and welfare of their home city. But my most vivid memory is of the German people and how they came by the hundreds and placed candles and flowers at the front gate of the American Arms Complex and at Wiesbaden Air Base. Their sorrow and mourning for our people and the United States were greatly appreciated by our military communities and will never be forgotten.

It did not take long for security measures to be initiated. Military guards were immediately posted around all installations. These were eventually replaced by contract security people. No longer could the Germans enter the American Arms (unless escorted by an ID card holder). Where once there were no fences, large fences and gates were constructed around all American bases and housing areas. German security began to round up all known suspected terrorists. Two recruiters for El Khaida were arrested in the same apartment complex, near our home, that Brigitte and I lived in when we were first married. From that point on life changed for everyone. We were at war.

Meet Lee Davis by Lani Donahoe

Lee has been an active, participating, loyal supporter of the Archives since its inception in the mid-1980's and the AOSHS organization since its establishment in 1995. Lee served as AOSHS' first Vice-President from 1995-2001, serving along with Dr. Tom Drysdale, who was the first AOSHS President. Lee is an AOSHS Charter Member, a Life Member (with card number 00002) and a Partners' Circle Member. He served as an AOSHS Historical Records & Publications Consultant in 2003, and again, as a Consultant in 2008.



He was named the 2006 Volunteer of the Year, along with Bruce Taft, for their outstanding contribution to Historical Records & Publications. Lee was also the 2007 Volunteer of the Year, along with his family, for their Total Family Support. Lee continues to serve as 'Historian Advisor' with the AOSHS Board. His attendance at DoDDS Reunions, AOSHS General Meetings and Board Meetings is always enthusiastically appreciated and welcomed. Friends may write a letter to Lee at 2224 S. Periwinkle, Mesa AZ 85209. He would like to receive your letters!

Photo of Lee Davis at the DoDDS Reunion, Oak Brook/Chicago, IL, July 2015

Mr. Tom Brady, Director, Department of Defense Education Activity (DoDEA), announced the selection of Dr. Dell W. McMullen as the new Director of DoDEA Schools in Europe.

As the Director of DoDEA Schools in Europe, Dr. McMullen will have oversight of the 66 schools located in the United Kingdom, Germany, Belgium, the Netherlands, Italy, Spain, Bahrain, and Turkey that serve more than 28,000 children of U.S. military and eligible Department of Defense civilian personnel families stationed throughout the European theater. For the past five years, Dr. McMullen has been the District Superintendent of DoDEA Schools in the Kaiserslautern, Germany District serving more than 10,000 students in 20 schools. During that time, she also served as the Senior Civilian Leader for DoDEA Europe Schools during School Year 2011-2012.

Dr. McMullen has more than 40 years of experience as an educator and school administrator. Prior to joining DoDEA schools she was a teacher and school principal in Muscogee County School District in Columbus, Ga. She joined DoDEA Schools in 1987 as the principal of Frank R. Lloyd Elementary School at Fort Benning, Ga., and went on to serve as the Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum for the Fort Benning Community Schools and later was selected as the District Superintendent of DoDEA's Georgia/Alabama District. Mr. Brady cited Dr. McMullen's vast experience in education and in serving military families as important attributes in leading DoDEA's schools in Europe

Update on Mary Moon (by her brother Frank) *The photo right was taken at her brother Frank Moon's home on Memorial Day. We used her wheel chair to transport her to the downtown park for the program, and then to our home (across the street) for our family gathering...23 of us! Mary had opportunities to hold both of her great nieces, which thrilled her immensely.*

Her phone purposely does NOT have an answering machine on it. So, it will ring and ring! As you can imagine, it takes her considerable time to maneuver her wheelchair into position to get to the phone, so please be patient...and let it ring! If she doesn't answer the phone, perhaps she is out of her room for activities and/or meals.

Her church women's group (UMW) continues to meet at the Care Center, so Mary can participate in their monthly meetings. She occasionally leads their Bible Study, and enjoys their visits, and fellowship. The local churches take turns having Sunday afternoon worship services, and a weekly Bible Study at the Care Center, which she attends regularly. Church luncheons and bazaars are a "big hit" with her, and we can wheel her to all of the churches here in town! My wife takes Mary to their "Study Club" meetings when the meetings are close-by, and every Saturday, her 'old' morning coffee group continues to come to the care center so she can participate in the conversation!

One of the bright spots of her day is when I bring the mail to her (at breakfast time) and help her get the cards and notes out of the envelopes. So...please keep the correspondence coming. We are thankful that our daughter, Deb Oelkers, (Mary's niece), lives and works in this community and visits her faithfully. Mary's siblings also phone and make visits.

Thank you for your visits, notes, gifts, and especially your friendship with Mary. She continues to receive mail at her regular address: PO Box 356 Hayfield, MN 55940. Her phone number remains the same: 507-477-3430. If you'd like, you can send her an email using her brother Frank's address: frankbettymoon@gmail.com
Sincerely, Frank & Betty Moon



Mary Moon w/Finnegan (Karen Hill's dog) June 12, 2015



Deb Oelkers, (niece)

Mary

Kay Moon (niece)

The DoDDS Worldwide Reunion really begins months before the actual event with communications from the committee, negotiations with the selected hotel, and the planning necessary to create a world-class event. After months of anticipation, the day comes to depart for Chicago.

Tuesday, the 14th, found Reunion committee members, along with several AOSHS Board members, converging on the Oak Brook Marriott to oversee the final preparations for Reunion XXVII. There is a slight feeling of panic as the team sees all they have to do before the big day, but they dig in and by Wednesday evening, we can say with relief, we are ready for the onslaught! The AOSHS Board met on Wednesday afternoon for their bi-monthly board meeting and to review their role in the Reunion.

Thursday started slow as DoDDS alumni drifted to Registration to pick up their packets and the critically important pass to all activities – the nametags! As background noise, there is a constant hum as old friends renew their acquaintances and compare notes on the past year or years. But what we all have been waiting for finally happens – the reception preceded by a musical program by the Choral-Aires, a group consisting of 35 members which is about one third of the Chicago based organization.

The reception was very well organized, with a cash bar and food enough for the entire 470 attendees. Drinks and plates in hand, the DoDDS revelers continued their search for old friends, and along the way, met many new ones.

Friday found some 150 educators in the AOSHS annual meeting where President Gayle Vaughn-Wiles reviewed the status of the organization. Following the AOSHS meeting Friday morning, attendees had the opportunity to learn more about FEHB and Medicare Benefits from subject matter expert Paula Jakub with her assistant Stefon Nicely. They also presented material on the upcoming changes to take effect in the coming year. Later in the day, AOSHS continued with a forum focused on the memorial program, the bricks and pavers, and a possible location to display memorabilia in Albuquerque, NM.

One of the highlights of every reunion are the mini-reunions, where attendees can get together to reminisce about their time in various locations. Over the years, more and more of these sites have made their way onto the closure list. This is a consequence of U.S. military transformation to a smaller, focused force overseas. From France to the Philippine Islands, and Japan to Germany, DoDDS educators had tales to tell and memories to share.

Saturday saw some 156 attendees board three buses for a city tour of the real Chicago. Participants reported they had excellent drivers and guides. The tour was arranged through *About Tours* with Bobbi Decker as our local DoDDS contact.

Saturday evening, we entered the beautifully decorated Grand Ballroom for cocktails and the banquet and you could feel excitement in the air. We couldn't wait to see more old friends and catch up on what happened over the years; even over the 3 days of the reunion! One of the most poignant events of the banquet is hearing of the friends and acquaintances who passed away during the previous year. When Harry Stine, the leader of the reunion committee and master of ceremonies for the banquet, introduced the "In Memoriam" part of the program, the Grand Ballroom fell into a somber silence while seeing the list of friends and colleagues displayed in a tasteful and touching slide show. This moving presentation was put together by Suzanne Bachman (suzanne_bachman@hotmail.com).

Finally next year's event location was announced through a thought-provoking slide presentation depicting well-known local locations. The DoDDS Reunion XXVIII will be held in Spokane, Washington with the official dates of 14-17 July 2016. We will be housed in the Davenport Grand, which is part of the Davenport Collection and the Marriott family. For more information contact Harry Stine (harry.stine@yahoo.com).

With breakfast on Sunday, we all took the opportunity to say good-bye to friends, old and new, and celebrate a wonderful DoDDS worldwide reunion. See you in Spokane next year for another great time!

Faye Abrell, Memory, Frankfurt, Germany: 1946 – 1947

I was with the “delayed” first group of some 120 teachers. We sailed from New York on the ship “George Washington” the first week of October 1946. We were delayed because of the New York boat strike. The first two groups waited for us in Frankfurt. My orders got sent to Bloomington, Illinois, instead of Indiana. I was corresponding with one of the three Indiana teachers selected and found she had her orders. I phoned and was told to proceed without orders. Things worked out well in New York.

We arrived at Bremerhaven and took the train down to Frankfurt. Our first meeting was aboard Hitler’s yacht on the Rhine River trip. The 65% damaged Frankfurt was unbelievable. My assignment was at Frankfurt Headquarters Command in the military compound. After assignments and some nights at the hotel, I was taken by a German man driving a jeep to my apt. building that was half bombed away. The old school building across the street was where I taught 4th grade. There were trees around the building and a playground.

Soon our principal decided to go home. I was asked to take the principal’s job. Having not chosen to be a principal, because I preferred teaching, I hesitated. I did offer to take it temporarily until they could get someone. They did, but would be happy for me to continue. I thanked them, but said I would be glad to return to my fourth grade class.

AOSHS and the Museum of the American Military Family (MAMF) announce a joint venture to share space at the MAMF’s new location in Albuquerque, NM. MAMF has signed a multi-year lease for the 2nd floor of the Bataan Military Academy. The long awaited AOSHS bricks and pavers will find a home there. They will be wall-mounted as to allow potential future moves.

AOSHS recognizes that MAMF’s actions to move forward demonstrate an excellent organization to partner with. Timing for the memorabilia and yearbooks will be an October, 2015, arrival in NM. We are in the process of evaluating and purchasing display modules and choosing which items in Wichita to ship to NM. We are also working on getting the first bricks & pavers installed before the end of 2015.

Initial research regarding “display cases” gave us a bit of sticker shock, so we are offering a sponsorship opportunity. Anyone who makes a specific contribution of \$400 or more, will be recognized on one of the modules.

Chris Kyrios

Early in a meeting, our Colonel Superintendent asked us to remember the status in service for the fathers of our students. One brave teacher spoke for us, saying American teachers could not consider rank, and we would be wrong if we did this. We didn’t hear of this again.

My German teacher usually found I hadn’t studied because of my duties and some weekend travel, but she took me to places with information, so I could take my class. She went on some trips with classes like to an old fort dating to 400 A.D. However, the Estonian refugee lady who came to class daily to give a German lesson found the students could get the language quite quickly, while I prepared for my work. All Germans wanted to speak English. That first year it was easier to meet German people if you had letters of introduction. I did-- from Indiana University friends. I got to know Dr. Beutler and family, curator of the Goethe Museum, and saw some things he had in their apartment that had been saved in the caves. I saw them when I returned to German in 1967, as well as a few others I had gotten to know well (and saw Germany remarkably rebuilt).

We had hoped for more contact with German schools than we had, but there were some exchanges.

I had hesitated to accept the invitation of my superintendent to be interviewed for the job for which I was selected from a good many applicants, and I have never regretted that decision to go to Germany.

Our food, furnished by America and well-cooked by the Germans, was good. It was the coldest winter for 50 years, but we found that field coats kept us warm while teaching. All our children’s parents invited us for dinner. On one such occasion, a mother told me her son said upon their arrival, “The German children next door, I can’t understand what they say, but they laugh just like we do!” Good Observation.

I had opportunity to travel to most countries in Europe, which, later, I could not have afforded to do. Some of us decided to come home on the last ship in August, and I was able to go to some countries we had not visited. All of these experiences, I believe, were valuable in my following years of teaching.

Nonprofit Membership Program: AOSHS welcomes new members to join using this form.
Please feel free to pass it along to friends and colleagues

NOTE: Effective August 1, 2009, the Individual Life Membership Program was discontinued. With the cost of operations continually on the rise, this seemed to be one of the economic moves to help us stay operational. Once we become life members, many of us forget that donations are still needed to help keep us afloat. {Those of us who are life members are, of course, grandfathered in – ALL existing life memberships are still in place. The program simply has been closed to *future*, new life memberships.

So please do not forget to send in a donation — use your birthday as a reminder, for example. For those of you who have an annual membership, please renew on time. Your renewal date is listed on the address label of the *Quarterly*. You also may pay ahead. Just be sure to indicate that on the form. Dues may be paid by check, money order, or credit card. Use the form as well to update your information. It's important to keep us informed about address changes, as the newsletter is not usually forwarded.]

American Overseas Schools Historical Society, Inc.
Nonprofit Membership Program
704 West Douglas Avenue, Wichita, KS 67203-6104

PLEASE NOTE: This address is for **tax-exempt MEMBERSHIP DUES, ILMP, AND DONATIONS ONLY.**

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AOSHS Board of Directors August 2014

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Chris Kyrios, Relocation Research Email kyriosc@yahoo.com	Kelley Germaine, Records/Tech Liaison Email kelley.aoshs@gmail.com
Nancy Bresell Email ncbresell@hotmail.com	Tina Calo, Past President (Advisor) Email doddsdolly@yahoo.com

Office Staff & Volunteers

Quarterly: Co-Editors	Allen Dale Olson & Circe Olson Woessner	militaryfamilymuseum@comcast.net
Memories, Schools List	Les Burch	overseasschools@aoshs.org
DoDDS Overseas Rep	Jeff Martin	jmartin@aoshs.org
Educator/Alumni Database	TBD	tcalo@aoshs.org
Memorial Program	Dee Edwards	teddee@cox.net
Deceased List	Linda McCauley	llmccauley1947@gmail.com
Wichita Volunteer	Myrna Margraf	overseasschools@aoshs.org
Archives Manager	Ron Harrison	aoshsoffice@sbcglobal.net
Office Manager	Robert Webster	overseasschools@aoshs.org
Founder Emeritus	Tom Drysdale	

Overseas Regional Coordinators and Representatives

Coordinator	EUROPEAN AREA	
	Lucky Moore	luckymoore@eu.dodea.edu
REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVES		
Bavaria	Nancy Clayton	nancyclayton@eu.dodea.edu
Isles	Dana Jackson	danajackson@eu.dodea.edu
K-town	Scott Davis	gasthausdavis@hotmail.com
Ramstein	Jeff Pellaton	pellatones@t-onlineonline.de
Mediterranean	Noni Hoag	nonihoag@eu.dodea.edu

Coordinator	PACIFIC AREA	
Charles Kelker	Charles.kelker@pac.dodea.edu	DSN 644.5878
Regional Representatives		
Korea	Irby Miller	irby.miller@pac.dodea.edu DSN 738.68.26
Guam	Helen Bailey	Helen.bailey@pac.dodea.edu DSN 344.9579
Japan	George Mann	George.mann@pac.dodea.edu DSN 225.3940
Okinawa	Mark Honnold	Mark.honnold@pac.dodea.edu DSN 645.0252
Hawaii	Linda Connelly	llcmkc@yahoo.com

American Overseas Schools Historical Society Addresses

Office Manager/Archives Director	aoshsoffice@sbcglobal.net phone (316) 265-6837
Archives: <i>Alumni Database Info</i>	AOSHS Alumni Database, aoshsoffice@sbcglobal.net phone (316) 265-6837
<i>Educator Database Info</i>	AOSHS Educator Database, aoshsoffice@sbcglobal.net phone (316) 265-6837
<i>Memorabilia</i>	AOSHS Archives, 704 West Douglas Ave., Wichita KS 67203-6104
Contact the President	President, aoshsoffice@sbcglobal.net phone (316) 265-6837
Membership	AOSHS Membership, 704 West Douglas Ave., Wichita KS 67203-6104
Memorial Program	AOSHS Memorial Program, Attn: Dee Edwards, P.O. Box 370962, Las Vegas, NV 89137
Office/Archives Assistant/Wichita Office	AOSHS, 704 West Douglas Ave., Wichita KS 67203-6104
Web Site & Internet	www.aoshs.org
e-mail & Change of Address	aoshsoffice@sbcglobal.net phone (316) 265-6837

The American Overseas Schools Historical Society

...is a Kansas non-profit organization that collects, records, preserves, exhibits and provides research opportunity about historical memorabilia of the American overseas schools. Members promote global knowledge and understanding of this unique endeavor, thus adding a critical chapter to the history of American education.

This AOSHS *Quarterly* is published four times a year by the Society to enhance public understanding of the human effort, service, reward, and sacrifice in educating our American children and youth abroad.

AOSHS MEMBERSHIP is \$25.00 annually and includes four issues of the newsletter. Two years for \$45.00. To join, send dues to AOSHS, 704 West Douglas Avenue, Wichita, KS 67203-6104. A membership application form is provided elsewhere in this newsletter for your convenience.

DONATIONS to help preserve the *American Overseas Schools Archives* (AOSA) for posterity and historical research are appreciated and are tax deductible as allowed by the IRS. Donations may be sent to the above address.

READERS are ENCOURAGED TO SUBMIT short, factual ARTICLES of human interest regarding their experiences overseas. Articles printed may or may not reflect the opinions of AOSHS. Please submit articles preferably by e-mail to overseasschools@aoshs.org or by snail mail to: AOSHS, 704 West Douglas Avenue, Wichita, KS 67203-6104.

The AOSHS Policy

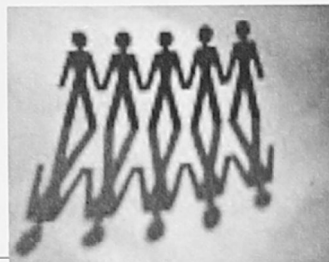
The Directors realize that to obtain all AOSHS objectives:

- 1) the strong support of the membership is absolutely essential and must be recognized;
- 2) that although the Society greatly appreciates and recognizes all donations and gifts, it will neither recommend nor encourage its members to obtain the services or products of any company; and,
- 3) the Society will not discriminate on the basis of lifestyle, race, sex, religion, or political affiliation.

Mary Muehring Circle Honors AOSHS Members' Philanthropy

The Mary Muehring Circle was established in 2002 to recognize philanthropists large and small who have included AOSHS in their estate planning. It is important to provide for the Society's future in a variety of ways. AOSHS honors all those who have made bequests through a will, trust, life insurance policy, or retirement plan. If you wish to include AOSHS in your estate planning, please contact:

President, AOSHS, 704 West Douglas Avenue, Wichita, KS 67203-6104



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