



# aoshs QUARTERLY



704 W Douglas Ave  
Wichita, KS 67203



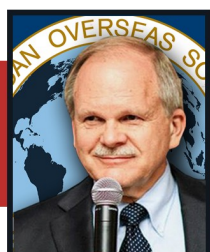
316-265-6837



office@aoshs.org



aoshs.org



## A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

FRANK ROEHL

It's AOSHS Raffle time!

The **DoDDS XXVII Reunion** in **Reno, NV** is just around the corner. **AOSHS** will host its annual raffle in the **Hospitality Room**, and we encourage everyone attending the reunion to contribute or donate. The success of the raffle depends on the items you donate. The more items we receive, the more money we can earn for the **AOSHS Scholarship Program**.

Simply bring your donations to the raffle tables in the Hospitality Room by **Tuesday, July 15th**, and we will take care of the rest. This even is a great fundraiser for AOSHS, and with your help, we will have plenty of items to tempt you and your friends to buy tickets.. You can purchase raffle tickets in the Hospitality

Room, place them in the bag for the items you would like, and then cross your fingers that you will win. The more tickets you buy, the better your chances of winning.

Questions?

Contact **Margy Roehl** at **margy.roehl@gmail.com**. We hope everyone goes home a winner!

*This event's success depends on your participation. Please remember to include your raffle donations when packing your bags and bring a few extra dollars to try to win some treasures!*

**AOSHS Mission:** "AOSHS will collect, record, maintain, and preserve relevant American Overseas Schools' memorabilia and historical documents, provide research opportunities for same, and establish exhibits to inform interested person about the unique overseas school experience."

Hope to see you in Reno!

REMEMBER,  
WE NEED  
**YOU**  
TO HELP  
MAKE IT  
HAPPEN



# AOSHS Financial Summary Report

Ron Harrison

	May-2025
AOSHS Assets (Not including building and furnishings)	1,022,863
Reserved Operating Funds (Reserved for contractors, 80% of non-personnel costs, scholarship fund and Endowment Fund)	907,098
Non-Reserved Assets (Available for operations & unpaid obligations)	115,765
Unpaid Obligations	—
Non-Reserved Assets (After obligations are paid)	115,765

## BRAT Memories

Greg Alderete, former military BRAT who lived in Germany and Belgium.

If you ever lived on a U.S. military base in Germany during the Cold War, you know the truth: some of the most uniquely American experiences unfolded far from American soil. Halloween, of all things, became not just a celebration—but a spectacle.

We lived in “stairwells”—concrete apartment blocks housing up to 18 families each, stacked floor by floor like miniature vertical villages. Multiply that by dozens of buildings in every kaserne, and on October 31, those silent gray structures transformed into something out of pure fantasy.

At dusk, the magic began. Hordes of little goblins, ghosts, witches, stormtroopers, princesses, and pumpkin-headed beasts spilled out into the night. Pillowcases in hand, they moved in waves, from stairwell to stairwell, chasing candy and the thrill of the moment. Costumes ranged from store-bought PX classics to masterpieces sewn from ingenuity and imagination.

But it wasn’t just about the costumes or the candy. Entire buildings went all in. Families worked together to create elaborate haunted graveyards on the lawns—cardboard tombstones and blood-smeared warning signs, red lights casting eerie shadows, and hidden speakers howling like wolves from the trees. Figures lurked in the darkness—creatures rigged on pulleys, mannequins that sprang to life, and teenage volunteers in full ghoulish makeup who would leap out with a roar, sending shrieks echoing down the block. It was Halloween as immersive theater.

For us parents, there was a ritual of our own. We’d gather at the base of the stairwell, pooling our candy, handing it out by the bucketload, and pouring mugs of hot Glühwein —German mulled wine—for those thoughtful enough to bring their own cups. Neighbors chatted in a mix of English and German. Children laughed. Strangers became friends. For one night, duty and distance faded, and community took center stage.

## A BRAT'S Memory –*continued*

There was something surreal about it all. Here we were, thousands of miles from home, living in a military outpost surrounded by foreign soil—and yet Halloween, of all things, anchored us. It reminded us of who we were and gave our kids something to hold on to. Our German neighbors often joined the celebration, intrigued by this loud, colorful American tradition playing out in the shadows of old European towns.

In hindsight, it was a small kind of diplomacy—this shared night of imagination and delight. A moment

where the rigid world of deployments and TDYs gave way to joy, creativity, and connection.

We didn't just bring Halloween to Germany. We built it from the ground up—in stairwells, parking lots, laundry rooms, and lawns turned into cemeteries. And in doing so, we gave our children a little magic to hold onto in a world defined by uniforms, orders, and temporary homes.

It was more than trick-o-treating. It was a memory that still howls in the dark, warmed by wine and wrapped in laughter.

## AOSHS Archives Support National Military Museum

Joel Hansen

One of the Objectives of the **American Overseas Schools Historical Society (AOSHS)** is to promote and share the legacy and history of the **DoD schools** that got their state years ago in numerous locations around the world including the continental **United States**. It has always been a desire to provide a top-quality museum that displays memorabilia and shares the past, present, and future of not only the school system but also the stories of the individuals that have participated in administering, teaching, or learning in the classrooms since **1946**. Today, this museum is in **Wichita, Kansas**.

Over the past two years, personal visits by the Board of Directors plus ongoing communications have taken place with the **National Museum of the United**

**States Army (NMUSA)** located at **Fort Belvoir, Virginia**. This has been an interesting process of working with the administrators of an extremely large and relatively new facility that is the cornerstone of all **36 official Army museums** around the globe. Our goal was to have some substantial presence in the museum.

*And Now, AOSHS is proud to announce that **WE ARE IN!*** To describe “our presence” may be a bit challenging. To start, in the very first section of the Army Museum is an exhibit that shares brief biographical information of outstanding soldiers/individuals who have done something significant in their lives for the **U.S. Army**. It consists of more than 50 free-standing pylons, in military style formation, with a photo and short story of the

individual etched on a block of stainless-steel measuring approximately seven feet high by two feet wide. It is an extremely impressive entry point to the massive museum.

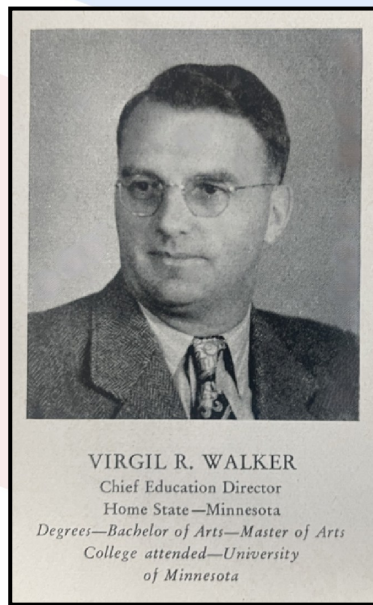


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## AOSHS Archives Support National Military Museum –*continued*

AOSHS was asked to provide information about an important individual in the history of DoD schools. As our selectee, AOSHS has provided biographical information on **Major Virgil Walker**. In 1945, Major Walker was the individual chosen, through the direction of General **Dwight D. Eisenhower**, to start a school system that operated in occupied countries following **World War II**. General Eisenhower and his staff realized the importance of reuniting families with service members in these countries to support the mission. Schools were an integral part of this endeavor's success.



Even though it appears Major Walker's submission to the

museum to be a minor impact to the enormous size of the Army Museum, the museum leadership saw it as a starting point to the beginning of a larger exhibit about **DoDEA** schools. What we have provided has taken a great deal of research and numerous trials, but we are extremely proud of this first step.

Since the NMUSA is the central point of reference for all Army Museums in the world, we are expecting to share AOSHS stories and memorabilia with many other Army (and other service) museums around the world.

### WANTED



AOSHS wants your **CLASSROOM PHOTOGRAPHS** from elementary and middle schools for the Archives. They may be donated or loaned, and they will be scanned and made available for viewing through the AOSHS website. If donated, they will be placed in the Archives. If loaned, they will be returned to you.

AOSHS WANTS YOUR PHOTOS TO PRESERVE THE HISTORY OF  
DOD SCHOOLS AROUND THE WORLD!

Please send your photographs to:

**AOSHS**  
704 W Douglas Ave  
Wichita, KS 67203

For donations, please include a  
*Property Donation Form*, found at:

[aoshs.org/forms/](https://aoshs.org/forms/)



# Curator's Corner

by Adam Gossman



As the years go by, some of us are fortunate enough to carry with us memories of where we have been; what we have done; the people we have met, loved, and lost. Unfortunately, as time goes by, our physical bodies change and our ability to access these previous memories changes as well.

If you are reading this, your memories are very important to us.

What you did for your classroom, how that one teacher was such a pain, the smell of the locker room after you won the big game...all of these can translate into a great story. A great story that I am called to preserve.

As the **Curator** at the **American Overseas Schools Historical Society (AOSHS)**, I organize and digitize physical objects. With our board of directors, I also work to display some of these objects for people and groups that happen to visit our

location in **Wichita**. When people have questions about something related to these things or any of the schools or the people associated with those schools, I do my best to answer them.

While your physical and monetary donations are essential to our growth and operation, please do not forget the value of your memories. They are special to us! Your written musings allow us to share your memories, with your permission, in our **Quarterly**.

AOSHS exists because of the **DoDDS/DoDEA** story, the story that continues. Your memories, the memories of your teachers, your students, your colleagues, all make up this story. We need to preserve them in our archive!

What you can Do:

- You can visit our website at **[www.aoshs.org](http://www.aoshs.org)**. Click the Support button at the right hand side of the page and

select “Share a School Memory” (the fourth option in the drop down). Type in your name and other information, and type your memory in the box. Submit, and you are done

- Another way you can help me curate our Story is to email me. My email is **[adam@aoshs.org](mailto:adam@aoshs.org)**.
- You can also call me at **316-202-8281**; if I do not answer feel free to leave a detailed message there.

As I said, sometimes recalling memories is not as easy as it used to be. You might need some help getting started. Visit our Memories page to read some of those memories that have been shared. **[www.aoshs.org/collections/memories](http://www.aoshs.org/collections/memories)**

Whenever you donate anything to AOSHS you have an option to put “limitations” on who can see it and to what extent. This would also apply to your memories. If you just want to share about how you chugged a beer in your school mascot uniform, I am happy to chat with you!

Please let me know if you have any questions. My email is **[adam@aoshs.org](mailto:adam@aoshs.org)**.



If you are not already a member of the **AOSHS FB group**, you can request to join here:

**[www.facebook.com/groups/169980156354700/about/](http://www.facebook.com/groups/169980156354700/about/)**

RECOGNIZING THOSE WHO

DONATE

TO AOSHS

AOSHS wishes to recognize this quarter’s donors who support the Museum and Archives and our operating fund. While membership fees are definitely the backbone of our funding, member donations are vital to carrying out and expanding the work of the Society.

The annual recognition program runs from the current DoDDS Reunion (Reunion XXXVI in Lexington, KY, July 12, 2024) to the beginning of the DoDDS Reunion the following year (Reunion XXXVII).

Donors within the Support Levels have their names published in the *AOSHS Quarterly* the quarter that their donation was received, or if missed, the following newsletter. Please let us know if we missed including your donation so we can correct that error. **All donors for the year will be recognized for the final time in each Fall issue**, and to all of you who found it in your hearts and pocketbooks to support the AOSHS mission, ***WE THANK YOU!***

DONOR SUPPORT LEVELS

Supporters

Those who donate from \$25 to \$99

Friends

Those who donate from \$100 to \$249

Pacesetters

Those who donate from \$250 to \$499

Sponsors

Those who donate from \$500 to \$999

Patrons

Those who donate from \$1,000 to \$1,999

Benefactors

Those who donate \$2,000 or more

SUPPORTERS

John Carpenter  
Dayle Cessna  
Lourine Massie  
Chuck Yahres

FRIENDS

Kenneth Goldstein  
John Haga  
Barbara Laney  
Mitchell & Melissa Mounsey  
Rodney Shiroma

PACESETTERS

Ryan Cressman

PATRONS

Ann Bamberger

BENEFACTORS

Robert “Lucky” Moore Estate  
Doris J. Speer Estate

We Thank You!



# IN MEMORIAM



## LINDA GREER

September 12, 1945 – October 12, 2024

Linda Greer of St. John's Michigan passed away peacefully on October 12 of 2024. Linda was born in Vamp Kilmer, NJ, to Ken and Helen Greer on September 12, 1945. Linda graduated from the St. Johns High School in 1963 and went on to marry Richard Cressman. They had one son, Ryan Cressman. She graduated from Michigan State University with a master's degree in education. Teaching was her passion, and she taught in Michigan public schools early on and then joined the US Department of Defense (DODDS), enjoying a career in Okinawa, Japan and Berlin, Germany, where she spent 30 years teaching and mentoring. During that time, she traveled most of the world and spent time learning about and enjoying other cultures. She retired in 2006 and resided in Burlington, Vermont for several years before returning to her hometown of St. Johns to be near her family who loved her very much!

Linda was preceded in death by her parents Ken and Helen Greer. She is survived by her son Ryan (Sarah) Cressman, granddaughter Morgan (Will) McSweeney, grandsons Corrington Cressman and Wesley Cressman, and great granddaughter Sutton McSweeney, along with her brother Regan (Fran) Greer, and sister Shannon Greer Spooner.

## SECOND ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Roy Albert Hall's** fund was opened by Nancy Bresell in January 2025. The fund currently totals \$50.

**Robert "Lucky" Moore's** fund was opened by Nancy Bresell in January 2025. The fund currently totals \$75.

**Thomas J. Winn's** fund was opened by Zuzana Plesa in December 2024. The fund currently totals \$100.

If you would like to contribute to these funds or start a new Memorial Virtual Remembrance to honor someone, please visit [aoshs.org/virtual-remembrances/](https://aoshs.org/virtual-remembrances/).

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## IN MEMORIAM

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Below are the latest notices we have received of those recently deceased. While we are pleased to provide this service to our membership, we realize that we may not know of other colleagues who have passed. You can help us by informing the AOSHS office when you learn of the passing of others. If you would like to purchase a Memorial Virtual Remembrance in honor of one of these or other colleagues, go to [aoshs.org/virtual-remembrances/](https://aoshs.org/virtual-remembrances/).



**GERRY ADAMS**

\_\_\_\_\_ — \_\_\_\_\_

**HEATHER BOLWAR**

October 14, 1973 – March 11, 2025

**GORDON GEORGE CARTNER**

May 15, 1933 – July 16, 2024

**ROSEMARY DEGAVAGE**

March 14, 1948 – April 17, 2025

**LINDA GREER**

September 12, 1945 – October 12, 2024

**JUDITH ANN LARKIN HAWORTH**

June 26, 1935 – February 22, 2025

**ETHEL MURPHY**

October 6, 1924 – December 11, 2023

**TED TURNIPSEED**

October 25, 1952 – May 1, 2025



# aoshs **DIRECTORY**

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

### AS OF DECEMBER 2023

Frank Roehl	President	frank@aoshs.org
Jamey Hansen	Secretary	jamey.h@aoshs.org
Ron Harrison	Treasurer	Ron@aoshs.org
Mary VanDeventer	<i>AOSHS Quarterly Publication</i>	mary@aoshs.org

## STAFF, CONTRACTORS and ASSISTANCE

Jaime Zajac	Office Manager
Adam Gossman	Contracted Curator
Kevin Frutiger	Contracted Digitization / Webmaster
Elizabeth Brace	Photographer
Monica Lange	CISR
Lesley McLeary	CPA/
(with Walter Pikul)	Personnel Accountant

## VOLUNTEERS

Gayle Vaughn-Wiles	Past President
Tina Calo	Incoming Obituaries
Richard Nell	Overdue Memberships
Winanne Murray & Susan Nordell	Donor Recognitions \$100-\$499
Myrna L. Margraf	Wichita Archive Volunteer
Chrystie Limes	Wichita Volunteer
Monique Margraf	Wichita Digitization Volunteer

## FOUNDER EMERITUS

**Thomas T. Drysdale, May 4, 1921 – February 28, 2013**

## The AMERICAN OVERSEAS SCHOOLS HISTORICAL SOCIETY (AOSHS)

**AOSHS** 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, two years for \$45.00, or five years for \$100.00. To join, visit our website at [www.aoshs.org/membership/](http://www.aoshs.org/membership/) where you can submit a membership form and payment online or download a membership form to send by mail.

**DONATIONS** to help preserve the AOSHS Museum and Archives for posterity and historical research are appreciated and are tax deductible as allowed by the IRS. Donations may be sent to **AOSHS, 704 West Douglas Avenue, Wichita, KS 67203.**

**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 [office@aoshs.org](mailto:office@aoshs.org), or by postal mail to: **AOSHS, 704 West Douglas Avenue, Wichita, KS 67203.**

### 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.

## AMERICAN OVERSEAS SCHOOLS HISTORICAL SOCIETY ADDRESSES

Office Manager  
  
Website  
Memorabilia  
Contact the President  
Membership  
Remembrance Program  
Email & Change of Address

AOSHS, 704 West Douglas Ave., Wichita KS 67203-6104  
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[aoshs.org](http://aoshs.org)  
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President, [office@aoshs.org](mailto:office@aoshs.org) Phone (316) 265-6837  
AOSHS Membership, 704 West Douglas Ave., Wichita KS 67203-6104  
AOSHS Virtual Remembrance Program, 704 West Douglas Ave., Wichita KS 67203-6104  
[office@aoshs.org](mailto:office@aoshs.org) Phone (316) 265-6837