

# AAMI Military Newsletter

Issue #1 October 2016

The contents of this issue include:

➔ **Introducing you to AAMI**

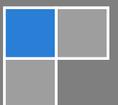
➔ **The advantages of AAMI's  
online program**

➔ **The benefits of joining the  
funeral service profession**

➔ **How do 92M's benefit from  
the AAMI program**

➔ **Current military student  
profiles**

➔ **A guide to joining AAMI**



# *Announcing the first issue of the AAMI Military Newsletter*

## Welcome



Everyone at American Academy McAllister Institute wishes to welcome you to our first Military Newsletter. We would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your service to our Country.

Our vision for this ongoing newsletter is to present information and articles that explain AAMI's degree in Funeral Service as well as the Funeral Service profession as a career.

Future editions of the newsletter will include industry news, developments and funeral director editorials.

Additionally, we will highlight industry trends and present commentary from members of AAMI's faculty, Funeral Homes, Military Commanders, Education Center Directors and members of the Veterans Administration and other Veteran Organizations.

Each issue of the Newsletter will profile service members and veterans who are currently students at AAMI.

## Introducing you to AAMI

Founded in 1926, AAMI has a rich history as both a pioneer and a leader in funeral service education. AAMI is the only funeral service program accredited by the American Board of Funeral Service Education (ABFSE) that is also approved and authorized in 44 states.

AAMI is a not-for-profit, private, single-purpose academic institution that is Veterans Administration and Military Career Advancement Account approved and has an Memorandum of Understanding with the Department of Defense that enables the institution to provide special tuition rates for active duty service members, retired military personnel, those serving in the National Guard, Reserves and military spouses.

We offer our Associate Degree in Occupational Studies (AOS) in Funeral Service both online and on campus. AAMI's online program is organized to provide instruction and student services WORLDWIDE.

AAMI's objective is to educate students so that they may reach their full potential and achieve success in their goal of having a career in the funeral service profession.



As a leader in funeral service education for 90 years, AAMI provides for and supports the educational needs of the funeral service profession by staying on the cutting edge of the industry's requirements.

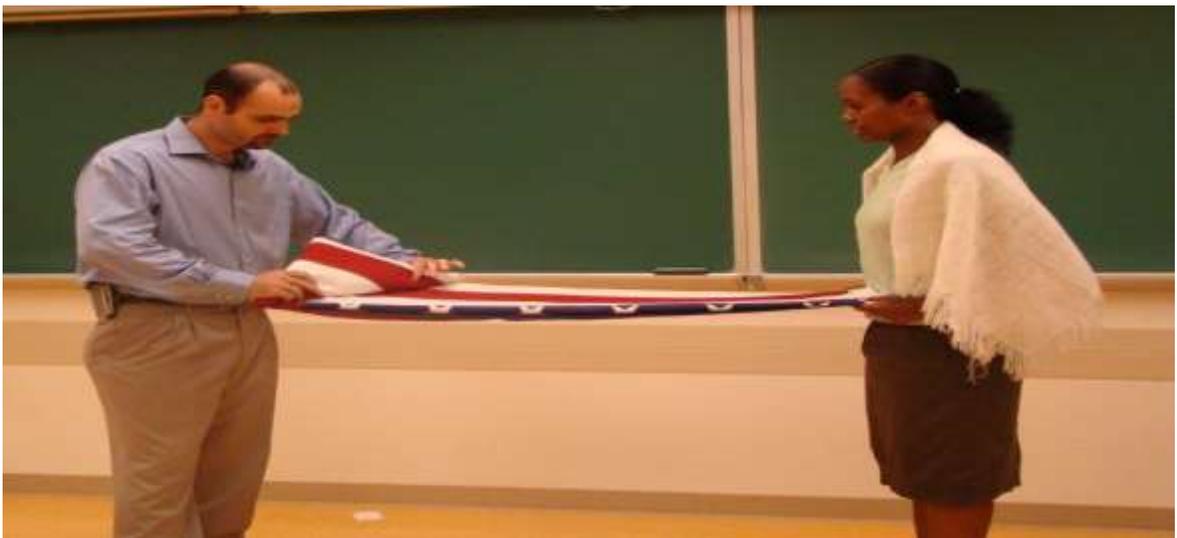
AAMI's greatest strengths are preparing students for academic success in their courses, exams and other requirements leading to licensure and readiness for a career as funeral service professionals.

AAMI has an extensive Alumni network in the Funeral Service Profession across the USA. AAMI will ASSIST retired and retiring service members in connecting with these Alumni for the purpose of gaining introductions to potential EMPLOYMENT and career opportunities.

## The advantage of AAMI's online program

In 2006 AAMI launched its comprehensive online program, giving active service men and women, as well as veterans, the ability to study across the globe as long as they have an internet connection. The features of the online program include:

- ✓ User friendly interface
- ✓ Accessible; anytime, anywhere, as long as you have an internet connection
- ✓ No required login dates and times other than for specific tests
- ✓ Flexible access to your course professors
- ✓ A variety of communication options, connecting you with faculty and your fellow students



## The benefits of joining the funeral service profession!

The Funeral Service Profession has accomplished a shift in focus from death and the dead to a genuine concern for life and the living.

The profession offers stability of employment in a time-honored vocation that continues to increase in prestige from year to year.

The modern day funeral profession makes it possible for you to capitalize on your special skills, in such areas as service planning and public relations as well as many facets of business management.

The profession represents a wide range of career options once you have gained your professional experience such as:

- Business Ownership
- Casket Manufacturing
- Funeral Financing
- Floral Services
- Printing
- Chemicals
- Teaching at AAMI



## How do 92Ms benefit from the AAMI program?

To aid those who serve as 92Ms, (Mortuary Affairs Specialists) the online program has been customized to include a modular format, structured to complement their military training and their day-to-day operations. Through participation in the program, the 92Ms will be able to:

- obtain additional knowledge that will enhance their abilities to provide for those fallen comrades through improved comprehension and appreciation of death and grief
- gain improved awareness and qualifications that will enable them to offer greater service and comfort to bereaved families and comrades
- envision and obtain the proficiency for a career in the funeral service profession

The following are some key aspects regarding your participation in the AAMI program:

- The start of each Semester is an entry point to the full program
- The option to suspend the program due to deployment with no disadvantage
- Up to 4 years to complete the program
- The AAMI associate degree is 69 credits



## Military Student Profile 1

*My name is **Kayla Griess**, I have been in the Army for 9 years and I am currently a Staff Sergeant. My MOS is 92m (Mortuary Affairs) and I have completed one combat tour to Iraq.*

*I am 27 and I am married with 2 kids, my little girl is 2 months old, and my son is 5.*

*I work for Military Funeral Honors and I have done so for the past 4 years. I was the Western Region of Oregon team leader, until I moved to Central Oregon. I am working on building a team out here since 1 in 7 people that live in Central Oregon are Veterans, and they are not getting the proper respect at their funerals.*

*This job is what made me want to be a funeral director. It has been fulfilling to work with families during their toughest moments in life, and if I can ease their burden a little bit, it makes being a funeral director worth it.*

*I have wanted to be a funeral director since the first month I started with Military Funeral Honors. The only problem with that was, the only school that offered a Mortuary Science degree in my state was 3 hours away from me. I put off the dream of getting my degree for 3 years.*

*After talking to a funeral director one day about how I wanted to be one, but getting to school every day was a problem, she suggested I do online school. I started doing research that day to find the best school that suited me. That's when I stumbled upon AAMI. I liked that AAMI had a physical campus; it made it seem more reputable. Knowing that it has been a school for over 90 years convinced me that this was where I needed to be. It also didn't hurt that this school is VERY Military friendly! It has been so hard to find a school that not only gives you a discount on tuition, but also has a representative that understands how TA and the GI Bill work.*

*I can't say enough how much I love this school, and how amazing the teachers and staff have been over the past year.*

## Military Student Profile 2

*Hello, I am **Sergeant First Class Daryl L. Cossey** and I was born in Savannah, Georgia in September of 1981. I joined the United States Army in February of 2002 and I have been proudly serving my country for 14 years and 8 months. I attended Basic Combat Training at Ft. Jackson, SC and Advance Individual Training (AIT) at Ft. Lee, VA on a career path to become a 92M Mortuary Affairs Specialist.*

*Since joining the Army, I've been on 5 combat tours in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom, Operation Enduring Freedom, Operation Freedom's Sentinel, and Operation Inherent Resolve, with my last tour ending in January of 2016. I'm currently stationed at Ft. Lee, VA, serving as a Mortuary Affairs Platoon Sergeant for the 54th Quartermaster Company (Mortuary Affairs).*

*I've always had the desire and urge to help others, whether it was being there for someone to talk to, give words of advice or something as simple as opening a door, I enjoy helping others. That passion, along with my curiosity of the unknown, steered me in the direction of wanting to know more about the life of a funeral director. My curiosity came to me when I was around 12 years old and my grandfather, whom I was really close to, had passed away. The funeral director in charge of my grandfather's funeral was so attentive to each and every one of my family's needs. He looked, sounded and dressed so professional that it immediately drew me in, to the point where I wanted to be just like him. As I grew older, I continued that drive, I helped out in local funeral homes with a high school friend that had the same dreams as mine.*

*I later joined the military as a Mortuary Affairs Specialist in hopes of gaining a degree in the field of funeral services while serving my country at the same time.*

*Unfortunately, I found out after attending AIT, that my Military Occupation (MOS) doesn't directly link up with funeral service and I would have to attend a traditional college in order to receive my degree in funeral services. Of course this was a minor setback, but I was determined to pursue my dreams. Because of the nature of my job and deployments, it became harder and harder to pursue this dream. But that's when I discovered American Academy McAllister Institution of Funeral Services (AAMI).*

*When I first started searching for funeral colleges, I had one stuck in my mind that I wanted to attend, especially being from GA and only hearing of this one prominent school in Atlanta that will remain nameless. But that school couldn't meet my needs, it didn't cater to the active duty military lifestyle.*

*And then I came across AAMI. On their website it mentioned that they accepted military and as I looked further, it also mentioned online classes available. This almost looked too good to be true, a school outside of the military's traditional selection of colleges that accept military, and they offered online courses.*

*Thus far my experience with AAMI has been nothing but exhilarating and incomparable to say the least. The staff is a pleasure to work with and my instructors have all been outstanding. The classes are all challenging, just as the instructors said they would be, but they are designed to help pass both the state and the national board.*

*I must say that AAMI's online educational program is the best solution to any active duty military service member wishing to pursue a degree in funeral services while still serving their country.*

## Military Spouse Student Profile 3

*In this essay I would like to discuss in brief a little about myself, family life and my desire in wanting to become a funeral director. First off, my name is **Brittany L. Cruz**, I am a 29 year old military spouse and mother of three beautiful children; Jonathan 9, Eva 8 and Jordan who is 4 months old. My husband, Jose is in the Navy and has been serving for the past 9 years. His NOS (Navy Occupational Specialty Code) is Advanced Dental Lab Technician. We are currently stationed in Camp Lejeune, North Carolina. As for myself, I work in retail until I obtain my Funeral Directors licensure.*

*In 2015 I found out I was pregnant with my daughter, Jordan. She decided to come in this world in 2016 on her brother Jonathan's 9th birthday; she is now 4 months old. On a whim I woke up one day and said to my husband, "You know what, I think I'm going to finally submit my application to AAMI today." I did and here we are.*

*I have been around the funeral business my entire life. My mother has had her license for 33 years and all throughout my life I have been in and out of several funeral homes. I have assisted on numerous services and I have seen my mother work with an abundance of families in a heartfelt manner. I eventually want to be that person that one can call on when they experience a tragedy in their life, when they are stumbling through the tough trials of losing a loved one and when they are cringing through tribulations. I want to be the source of a greater outlook on this particular experience because, losing a loved one is never easy.*

*In conclusion, I decided to select AAMI as the mortuary school where I obtain my qualifications for mortuary service because I've heard nothing but great things about this institution. I met several funeral directors who went to school at AAMI and they are all exceptional funeral directors, my mother included. Also, this Institute offers online courses and that best suits me and my situation.*

*My experience in the organization is well versed. Like I've stated previously I have been exposed to this business for my entire life. I am very knowledgeable, professional and sincere. I am excited that I am finally taking the proper steps in obtaining my license and also eager to learn more in this field. I'm also anxious to grow in this profession and eventually passing this love of helping others in their unfortunate time in life to my children as my mother has passed it along to me.*

*I hope to serve families that have lost loved ones by providing this valuable service to them, which means so much more to me than just fulfilling an educational and personal goal.*

## Conclusion

Everyone at AAMI looks forward to our continued relationship with all military service members, veterans and spouses of those serving in our armed forces. We would welcome recommendations for articles that could be included in our subsequent issues.

It is hoped that all of you reading this newsletter will recognize its value and be proactive in forwarding it to others across our military community. Your assistance in doing this will give AAMI the best opportunity to help many others who would wish to consider a career in the funeral service profession.

To gain further information on AAMI, our program, the specific 92M customized structure and entering the funeral service profession, please review page 12 of this newsletter or contact

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**Thank you to everyone who contributed to this first issue.**

## Your guide to joining AAMI

### ADMISSIONS REQUIREMENTS

- ✓ View our full presentation at  
[https://mail.funeraleducation.org/Military\\_Presentation\\_June\\_2016.mp4](https://mail.funeraleducation.org/Military_Presentation_June_2016.mp4)
- ✓ Visit [www.funeraleducation.org](http://www.funeraleducation.org) or
- ✓ Complete the application using our online form at  
<https://sonis.funeraleducation.org/studapp.cfm>

**Note 1:** No application fee is required for service members

- ✓ Schedule a one-on-one interview with one of our admissions team members, over the telephone or online via Webcam
- ✓ Provide an official high school transcript and an official transcript from each college attended, if applicable
- ✓ Supply all additional supporting documentation, details of which will be supplied with the application acknowledgement receipt

**Note 2:** To support you through the admissions process, a dedicated advisor will be assigned to you

### TUITION FUNDING

- ✓ For those on active duty using Tuition Assistance, a copy of your most recent orders must be provided
- ✓ For retired service members using the GI Bill, you will need to supply a copy of your DD214 and a copy of your letter of eligibility from the VA
- ✓ Spouses entering under the GI Bill benefit program will need to supply a copy of the service member's most recent DD214 and the applicable letter of eligibility from the VA
- ✓ Financial Aid is also available for those that qualify

### REQUIREMENTS TO BE AN ONLINE STUDENT

- ✓ Access to a computer 24/7 with internet capability
- ✓ An appropriate email address to communicate with faculty, students and staff
- ✓ Further information about browser and computer requirements can be found at [www.funeraleducation.org](http://www.funeraleducation.org) Click on Online Program, then Associate Degree-Get Started!, then Technical Requirements