

THE BATTALION

THURSDAY

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106 YEARS AT TEXAS A&M

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Twenty-five years ago, Reagan Brown, Class of '73 spoke before a group of Aggies on the campus of Texas A&M University. The date was April 21, and the occasion was Aggie Muster. "I feel a sense of reverence as I look over the campus and feel the presence of those who walked this hallowed ground," he said to the audience before him in 1975. "How great the sacrifices. How glorious the deeds. How magnificent the dreams."

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"The greatest tribute you can pay to any Aggie is the promise that they will be remembered once they have passed, and that their name will be called and answered for at Muster," said Lisa Eubanks, chairperson of the Muster Committee and a senior English major. Aggies know that through the tradition of Muster, they will always be remembered by fellow Aggies. Their name will be called. A comrade will answer "here."

Tomorrow, Reagan Brown's name will be on the Muster roll call of the absent. "Being an Aggie, he knew this would come someday," said Bryan Brown, Class of '98, Brown's grandson. "I know this is something he would really like, and it is a great honor."

The tradition of Muster dates back to 1883. With roots more than a century old, the annual event has developed into one of Texas A&M's most honored traditions. On April 21 each year, Aggies gather around the world to remember the Aggies who have passed in the previous year and to relive college days together.

"It really brings home what the whole deal is all about," Brown said. "The Aggie family will unite at more than 400 locations worldwide for the 2000 Aggie Muster Friday. Though thousands of miles will come between some Aggies, they will all honor in the memory of those who have passed on."

"If there is an A&M man in 100 miles of you, you are expected to get together..." urged the March 1923 Texas Aggie, the Association of Former Students' magazine. Although A&M is not the same University it was 100 years ago, the tradition is still revered in much the same way as when it originated.

Randy Matson of College Station is the speaker for this year's Muster

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Story by Brady Creel • Photo illustration by Ruben DeLuna, Guy Rogers, Gabriel Ruens

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