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## AFMA Now on the World Wide Web!

With the inauguration of the AFMA Website <http://www.afmusic.org> — on March 1<sup>st</sup>, the Air Force Musicians Association is now a part of the World Wide Web!

As is the case with all websites, the AFMA website is now and always will be a work in progress. Items will be added or updated each month, so the content available on March 1<sup>st</sup> is more an introduction and an indication of things to come rather than being a “completed” project. In fact, that is the strength of any good website — it is constantly changing, constantly evolving.

Initially, the AFMA website features eight “pages” — Home, History, CODA, Links, Reunion, Photos, Merchandise and Contact Us. The history page has a brief history of our organization, which traces its roots back to 1980.

In the CODA section we plan to include past issues of our newsletter, starting with the very first newsletter of any kind we have on file — Retiree Bulletin 6-82 — and then start working our way forward.

“Links” will contain direct connections to the websites of all current Air Force Bands as well as links to other organizations and businesses which should be of interest to our members. The “Reunion” page will cover our reunions — past, present and future.

“Photos” will help us tell the story of past AF musical organizations and accomplishments, and is one of the many areas where each member can be of assistance by making photographs (with full IDs) available for publication on the AFMA website.

Our AFMA Reunion Coordinator is working on the creation of AFMA merchandise — golf shirts, hats, etc., — and those items will be advertised on the website when they become available.

So there you have it, your AFMA website — in its infancy now, but ready to grow and prosper with your help.

The AFMA Website:

<http://www.afmusic.org> — visit your website today!

## Pennsylvania Honors Col. Howard

The State of Pennsylvania honored the memory of one of its native sons when on November 20<sup>th</sup>, 2004, Governor Ed Rendell signed into law Act No. 120 designating “Spur Road” in Lancaster County as “Colonel George Howard Boulevard.”

Col. Howard Boulevard is the four-lane roadway leading from Route 272, a major artery in the area, to the Pennsylvania Turnpike and runs approximately four miles. It serves as the gateway from the PA Turnpike (old Exit # 21 — new Exit # 286) to the numerous attractions in the Lancaster County area.

Col. George S. Howard was the Commander & Conductor of The USAF Band and the AF’s Chief of Bands & Music from 1944 to 1963. Additionally, he was the conductor of the Metropolitan Police Band in DC, and served as President of the American Bandmasters Association, the National Band Association and the John Philip Sousa Foundation during his career.

This singular honor for Col. Howard was requested by the Supervisors of East Cocalico Township to honor “a local hero who never forgot his roots,” according to Supervisor **Woody Schwartz**.

“Col. Howard brought The Air Force Band to Reamstown (Howard’s home town) just before he retired, and to the people in this area, that was monumental,”

continued Schwartz. “The township felt we wanted to do something to honor his memory.”

Thanks to numerous articles in the Ephrata Review newspaper in nearby Ephrata, PA throughout Col Howard’s 20-year AF career and well into his retirement, the entire area was able to keep up with the accomplishments of it’s native son. And in the Historical Society of the Cocalico Valley in Ephrata is located the *Colonel George S. Howard Room*. The Society also holds the majority of his papers.

State Representative **Thomas C. Creighton** introduced the bill naming the highway in honor of Col. Howard in the PA House, with a companion bill in the Senate introduced by Sen. **Noah Wenger**.

While Colonel Howard Boulevard now serves mainly as a connecting road, the town is hoping to extend water lines to that area. When that happens it is hoped that the location will make the boulevard a major retail artery for that portion of the county.

The bill became effective 60 days after it was signed into law, and according to Supervisor Schwartz, a former airman in SAC, “We have ordered the signs.” Hopefully, the next issue of CODA will have a photo showing the highway’s designation as “Colonel George Howard Boulevard.”

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