



**CHAPLAIN (MAJ) JOSEPH HUGHES,
USA (Ret)**

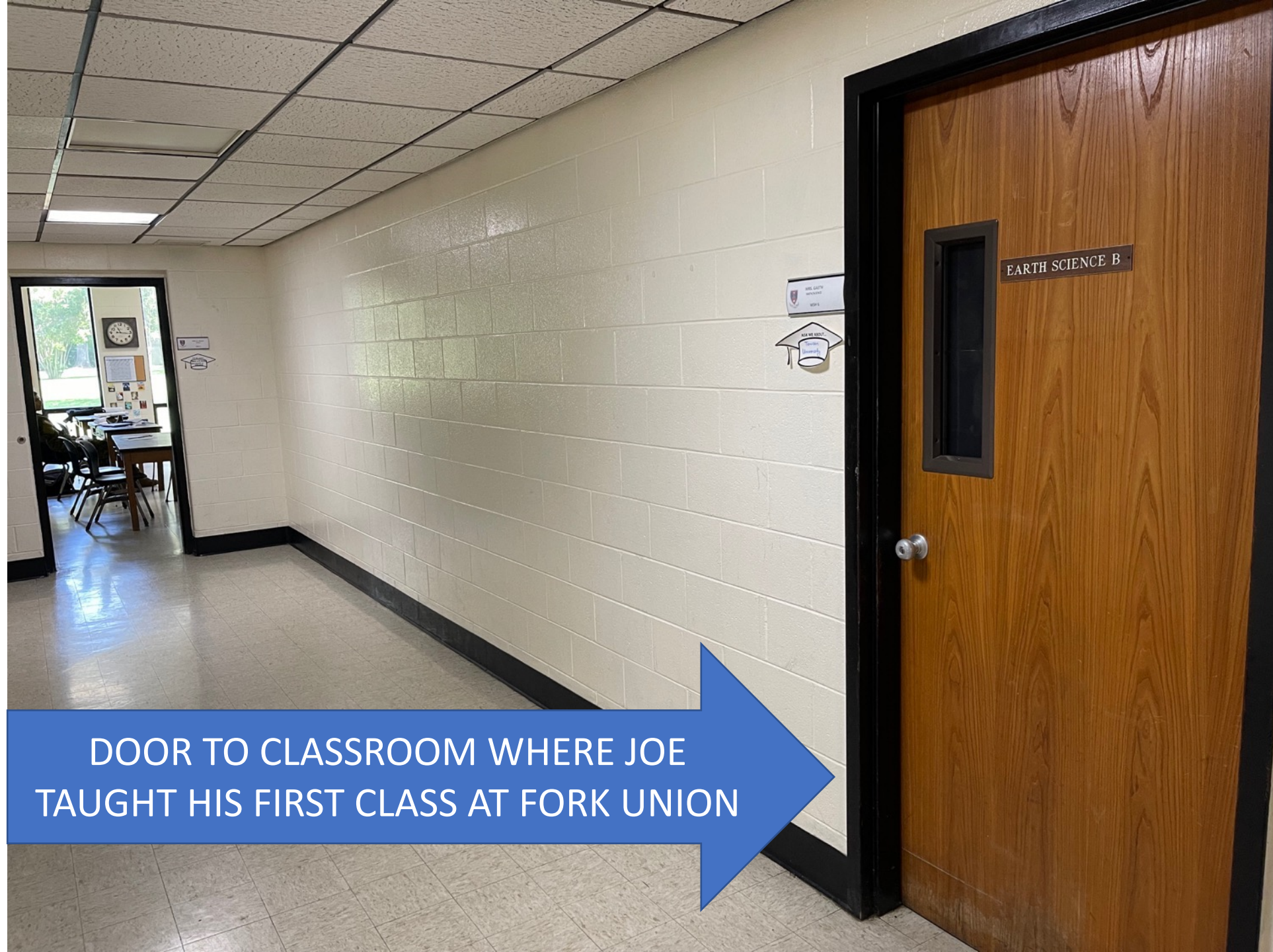
**VISIT TO FORK UNION MILITARY
ACADEMY
MAY 20, 2024**





FORK UNION
MILITARY ACADEMY
1898

**INSIDE THE
SCIENCE
BUILDING
WHICH HOUSED
THE
PLANETARIUM
AND
CLASSROOMS.**



**DOOR TO CLASSROOM WHERE JOE
TAUGHT HIS FIRST CLASS AT FORK UNION**



**FORMER
LOCATION OF
PLANETARIUM.
AND I WAS TOLD
THIS
ERRONEOUS
REASON:
2 EARTHQUAKES
AND WATER
LEAK LED TO IT'S
REMOVAL;
FOUNDATION
BECAME
UNSTABLE.**

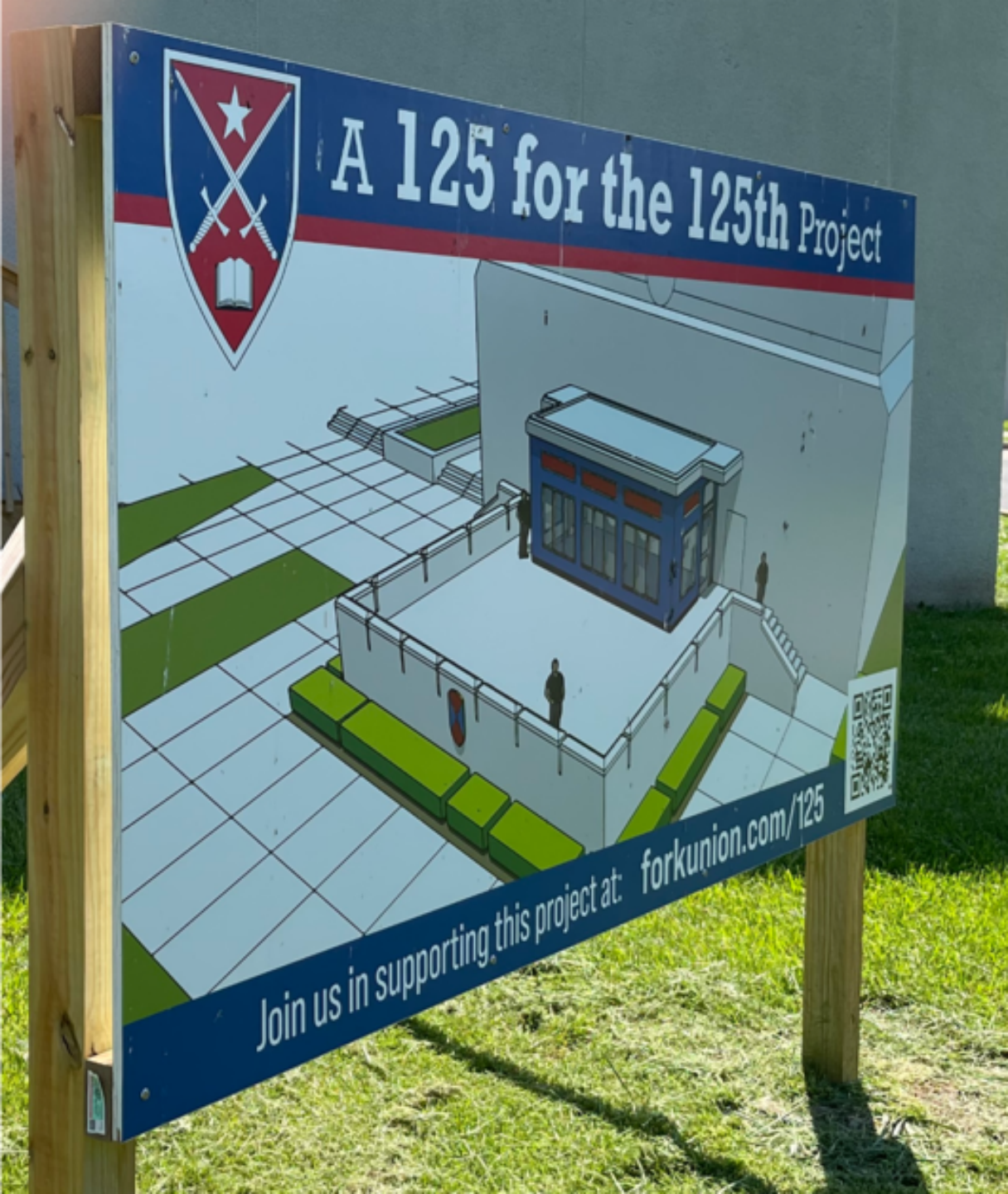
**THAT IS NOT WHY THE PLANETARIUM WAS
REMOVED. EARTHQUAKES HAD NOT ONE THING
TO DO WITH IT'S REMOVAL.**

**ALSO: EXAMINATION OF THE GOVERNMENT'S 100
YEAR FLOOD PLAIN MAP CLEARLY INDICATES THAT
THE ACADEMY DOES NOT SIT ANYWHERE NEAR A
FLOODED AREA.**

The trustees wanted to retain the Planetarium; but due to substandard previous repairs to the dome, done during a previous president's tenure, the leaking progressed. No effort was made to contact the Alumni or Friends of the Academy to ascertain if someone would come forward and provide the funds for a quality, and not 'contractor grade' repair.

An article written by the former President in August 2023, just before it was taken down, states that the equipment didn't work; which is another surprise. Was Spitz Corporation contacted? What was their recommendation? Who was the Instructor assigned to the Planetarium? Certainly he would have been aware of needed repairs. Was Earth Science and Astronomy or Physics not being taught? Again, no effort was made to inform anyone before the date of an article, August 2023, written by the former President, when the demolition took place.

Currently, the Academy has some notion of replacing the area previously occupied by the Planetarium next to the Science Building with an outdoor seating area for the Cadets. This is an unfortunate loss of a valuable teaching building; very few colleges and even fewer high schools have a Planetarium. This is so regrettable.



**THEY WANT TO REPLACE
THE PLANETARIUM WITH
THIS.**

**THERE IS NO WAY I WOULD
CONTRIBUTE ANY MONEY FOR
THIS.**

**MY TRIP TO THE ACADEMY IN 2024 ALSO REVEALED ANOTHER
BUILDING TORN DOWN: MEMORIAL HALL.**

**WHY WAS MEMORIAL HALL TORN DOWN? I WAS NOT GIVEN
ANY REASONABLE EXPLANATION; NOTHING ABOUT
EARTHQUAKES, FLOODING, LEAKS, ETC.**

WAS NO RENOVATION RECOMMENDED?

**FORMER
LOCATION OF
MEMORIAL HALL,
BUILT IN 1941.
IN FOREGROUND:
THE CORNERSTONE
FROM THE
BUILDING.**

**I WAS GIVEN NO
REASONABLE
EXPLANATION
OF WHY IT WAS
TORN DOWN.**





