

# GENERAL REUNION INFORMATION

Last updated 13 MAY 2017

Please continue checking this site for updated info

**Reunion hotel:** JW Marriott, 10 S West St, Indianapolis, IN 46204

**Reunion hotel reservations:** There are at least three ways to make your hotel reservations while insuring that you receive the VHPA Group Rate of **\$119 plus tax** over the dates of **June 27 thru July 8**. **Cutoff date for the hotel rate is June 1, 2017.**

Please consider the following:

- Via the Reunion's personalized website, go to: <https://resweb.passkey.com/go/VHPAIndy>.
- Via [www.vhpa.org](http://www.vhpa.org), then Reunion Information and use the reserve your hotel room link.
- By calling the hotel's reservation line at **866-704-6162 or 877-303-0104**. You need to mention **"VHPA 34th Annual Reunion 2017"**. **PLEASE DO NOT CALL THE HOTEL DIRECTLY or MARIOTT'S CENTRAL RESERVATIONS NUMBERS.** You MUST speak to a Passkey Agent.

**Transportation from the Airport:** The hotel does not offer a shuttle to/from the airport. VHPA suggests the Go Green Shuttle. The cost is \$10 per person each way. The shuttle departs Indianapolis Airport every hour and half hour from Zone 7. Service hours are 5:00 am – 11:00 pm seven days a week. The first shuttle arrives at the airport at 5:30 am and the last shuttle departs the airport at 11:00 pm. The JW Marriott is the last stop on the route, Stop #9. You can book the Go Green shuttle online via [www.goexpresstravel.com](http://www.goexpresstravel.com) or call 800-589-6004. Major credit cards are accepted online and on the shuttle; major credit cards and cash are accepted at the Go Green kiosk or with the Go Green attendant at the airport. **CASH CAN NOT BE ACCEPTED ON THE SHUTTLE.**

**Parking:** VHPA has negotiated a 20% discount for parking at the hotel. The 2017 prices with our discount are \$32 for self parking and \$36 for valet parking.

Parking is very limited around the hotel and government buildings nearby so we have negotiated better rates with a nearby parking lot called GATE TEN Events & Parking to provide an alternative for car and RV parking. The rate for a car/truck/SUV will be \$15/day and RV parking is \$40/day. They do provide multi day discounts. Gate Ten will provide a shuttle to the JW Marriott and back to your car or RV when you need it. RV parking does provide overnight sleeping but does not include any sewer, water, or electrical needs. All parking with Gate Ten provides entry, exiting, and overnight privileges. You can use the Gate Ten link at <https://squareup.com/store/GateTen> or call (317) 737-2036 to reserve your spot. So if you need access to your vehicle frequently during the day - parking in the underground hotel parking garage might be right for you but plan on about \$35 per day.

**Internet Access:** The VHPA has negotiated free internet for attendees in their sleeping rooms. The hotel will provide a special code to access the internet when you check in.

## Dress Code:

- The dress code is casual for this Reunion, with the following reminders and suggestions:
- It is a good idea to wear your Reunion lanyard so other attendees can recognize that you are with VHPA.
- At the Closing Banquet, many men wear a suit and tie with the ladies wearing a nice dress. You will even see Dress Blues.

**Vendor Area:** If you are interested in becoming a Vendor for this year's reunion please go to [www.vhpa.org](http://www.vhpa.org) and download the Vendor/ Book Seller/ Exhibitor Contract, Waiver and Vendor/Book Seller/Exhibitor Policy Rules & Regulations. Complete the forms and mail, fax or email to VHPA HQ.

**Volunteers:** The Ohio River LZ Chapter is this reunion's Host Chapter and as such will organize the volunteers. Volunteer opportunities are organized around stations and then shifts with the number of volunteers needed for that shift. Sounds like a Duty Roster! We've found that 3-hour shifts will not take up much of your time or make you too tired. Additionally we can guarantee everyone is trained on their duties. Needless to say but WE GREATLY APPRECIATE having volunteers! Not only do we avoid the cost of hiring local convention bureau temps but we get a chance to interact with each other while performing the tasks EXACTLY as a VHPAer would have it done. As is our tradition, the Host Chapter, Ohio River LZ Chapter, gets "first shot" at the Duty Roster. If you are interested in volunteering you can contact

Dan Gulley, of the Ohio River LZ Chapter at 812-725-3099 or [dan.gulley@att.net](mailto:dan.gulley@att.net) or contact HQ at 800-505-8472. In early January the Duty Roster is loaded onto the Reunion Information page at VHPA.ORG for the rest of us to “join in on the fun”! Instructions for how to volunteer at that point will be posted on the website. BTW, husband and wife teams can volunteer.

## GLOBAL INFORMATION

**Reunion T-Shirts:** This year the reunion t-shirts are maroon with a large reunion logo on the back and a small VHPA logo located on the front.

**Cutoff date to order a T-shirt is June 09, 2017**  
**S, M, L & XL - \$18    XXL \$19    XXXL \$20**

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**Primary Attendee (Member or Subscriber) Registration** - The registration fee for the member is now \$40.

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**Adult Guest Registration** - The registration fee for the guest is now \$40.

**Please remember that each person 21 years and older who wants/needs an event ticket and/or a Reunion name badge and lanyard must pay the registration fee.**

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**Under 21 Guest Registration** - The registration fee for someone under the age of 21 years is \$15.

**Please remember that each person 21 years and older who wants/needs an event ticket and/or a Reunion name badge and lanyard must pay the registration fee.**

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**Mini-Reunions: 1 July through 5 July** - Keeping in mind that one of the primary reasons for our Reunion is to reconnect with past compatriots from your RVN unit and flight school. The best way to meet up with unit members is to schedule your own Mini-Reunion. If your unit does not have a Mini-Reunion, why not take the initiative to start one up, or you could combine with other sister units you are familiar with if you wish. In addition to specific units and flight classes, we’ve had Mini-Reunions for such subjects as tandem rotor, Dust-off, Operation Lam Son 719, anyone who was stationed at Soc Trang, VHPA chapters, anyone interested in radio controlled aircraft models. Really there are no rules! Mini-Reunions are typically scheduled in 4-hour blocks and are available for booking on most days during the Reunion. You can also request a second four-hour block. However, this second block will be granted on a space available basis with priority for the particular space given to units requesting only one block. Due to decreased usage and increased expenses, the Reunion no longer provides AV equipment for Mini-Reunions. Once your Mini-Reunion is scheduled the details will appear on the webpage. You still should make an effort to get the word out to your buds. Use your directory to contact members (encourage them to re-up with the VHPA if they are not dues current), write a short article for the VHPA Aviator, and schedule early so we can list your unit in articles such as this.

**Unit TOC (Tactical Operation Center):** If you have a big group that you know is coming (say approximately 20 registrants), then we invite you to schedule a TOC. A TOC is a specific Mini-Reunion room given to your group for all day or for several days. This is like a super Mini-Reunion. Since the group is going to “hang out” in the same room for several days, they can bring almost anything into the room (AV stuff, displays, etc.).

*It is easy to schedule a Mini-Reunion or TOC. Complete the Mini-Reunion Request form available at VHPA.ORG and email it to Sherry Rodgers at [Sherry@vhpa.org](mailto:Sherry@vhpa.org) or call 800-505-8472 or mail the completed form to HQ in Grand Prairie, TX.*

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**KIA/MIA Gold Star Breakfast Sponsorship - \$15**

Use this item to make a contribution to the Gold Star Family Breakfast organized by Julie Kink. Effectively you are paying the price of the meal for a Gold Star Family member. This item was added to the VHPA Reunion Registration form at the request of VHPA Members attending the Annual Business Meeting during the 2010 Reunion in San Diego. Thank you for your generosity.

**FRIDAY, JUNE 30, 2017**

**O’Club: 30 June – 4:00pm-8:00pm / 1 July – 4 July -11:00am – 11:00pm / 5 July - 12:30pm – 11:00pm**

In the tradition of a Vietnam unit’s Officer’s Club you can get a beer and shoot the breeze with your buddies. The O’ Club will again be part of ‘ground zero’ – meaning the Vendor Area, Ballrooms, Registration and Pre-registration, and the O’ Club are all within hand grenade range. The O’ Club prices are generally \$0.50 to \$1.00 below the Hotel Bar prices. For the record, the O’ Club inclusive prices are: Domestic Beer \$5.25, Imported Beer \$7.25, House Wine \$8.00, Cocktails \$8.00, Soft Drinks \$4.00 and Bottled Water \$2.75.

**SATURDAY, JULY 1, 2017**



**Indianapolis City Shuttle: 1 July 12:00pm – 6:30pm, 2 July thru 4 July – 10:00am – 6:30pm & 5 July - 12:00pm – 5:30pm - \$20**

The downtown area offers many attractions like museums, monuments, shopping and unique restaurants. A daily shuttle service will be provided from the JW Marriott and around downtown Indianapolis with scheduled stops at the Monument Circle, Mass Ave, Virginia Avenue, Lucas Oil Stadium, the Indianapolis Zoo, American Legion Mall, Veterans’ Memorial Plaza and more. We will even make special trips to the Indianapolis Motor Speedway. We want you to enjoy getting around town, seeing unique shops, and dining at all the different choices downtown has to offer. There will be a tour guide on each shuttle bus to answer any questions, provide recommendations, and give all the interesting history and facts Indianapolis holds. This ticket does not include any attractions or admissions, it is for the shuttle only to get you around town and can be used as many times as you would like during the reunion. A detailed shuttle schedule and maps will be available on-site at the reunion. Also, a list of negotiated discounted admission prices to different locations will be provided.

**Note: A VHPA shuttle map with stops plus a list of restaurants and museums will be provided on site.**

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**Early Bird Gathering with Entertainment: 1 July – 7:00pm – 11:00pm - NC**

This social gathering continues the long standing tradition of having an appointed place and time for everyone who comes “early” to the Reunion to meet and greet others. Since the room is configured with lots of tables and chairs, you can sit, stand, and walk around as you see fit. The O’Club is in the Prefunction Area right outside the JW Grand Ballroom and the Early Bird Gathering is in the JW Grand Ballroom 6. We’ll position other cash bars to make certain no one has to stand in a long line.

About one hour after the Early Bird Gathering kicks off, *The Chilly Winds* will entertain us with Classic Songs of The Kingston Trio and 60s Folk Era music.

**Note: No food is provided at this gathering.**

**SUNDAY, JULY 2, 2017**

**KIA/MIA Gold Star Breakfast: 2 July - 7:30am – 9:00am - \$15**

Gold Star Family Breakfast is a traditional VHPA reunion event organized by Julie Kink. This is an opportunity to recognize our Gold Star families. All are welcome to attend. These families are extremely appreciative of the fact that their loved ones did not die alone and that we care about them and remember them like a brother.

If you would like to sponsor guests for the breakfast you can use the Event Sponsorship section under Voluntary Contributions in [Step 2](#) of the online registration.

If you would like to invite KIA/MIA Gold Star family members who will not be registering for the Reunion, please call VHPA HQ to provide their names and contact information so we can have Name Badges prepared for them.

Julie Kink often writes something like the following as a separate article in The Aviator: “As aviators who have seen combat, most of you remember someone from that long-ago time who didn't make it back from Vietnam. A few of you have connected with the families of your fallen buddies, either through the Family Contacts Committee or by other means, to share with them a memory or two, perhaps a photo, most of all, the knowledge that their loved one was never forgotten. Have you thought of inviting them to attend the VHPA reunion, and particularly, the Gold Star Family Breakfast, with you? As a sister of a fallen Vietnam helicopter pilot, I remember the first time I sat down with veterans who served with my brother, who was killed while flying C 1/9 Cav scouts at age 19. The experience of being with men who could tell me more about his life and his service was powerful. I learned that not only are we families of the fallen welcome at veterans' reunions, we are welcomed “warmly” by those who knew our loved ones and shared their last days. You might have wondered previously: "Should I invite John's family to a reunion? What in the world would they do there, among 600+ of us rowdy pilots? Would they feel out of place?" For the past few years, there's been an event designed especially to bring Gold Star Families (families of the deceased) together with pilots in remembrance and celebration of the lives we lost: the Gold Star Family Breakfast. We are still working out the details but we know this year, as in the past, the breakfast will be a fitting time for you to share great stories about the lives of the guys we lost, with their families, and the rest of us. For family members, reunions provide a great opportunity to experience, firsthand, the camaraderie that our loved ones shared with veterans who have never forgotten them. Have you been sending Christmas cards to John's family all these years? Been calling Harry's mom on the phone at Mother's Day just to brighten her day? Have you been emailing back and forth with Bob's brother for years, but just never got a chance to shake his hand? This is the opportunity to do that. Invite them to attend the reunion and bring them to the Gold Star Family Breakfast. I'm happy to answer questions about the breakfast, as details get confirmed, or about how to connect with a buddy's family. Little sister, Julie Kink sister of WO David Kink C Troop 1/9th CAV KIA 8-3-1969. I am also a member of VHFCN Family Contacts Committee. Visit [www.VirtualWall.org/contacts](http://www.VirtualWall.org/contacts) or email me at [Kink100@att.net](mailto:Kink100@att.net).

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**Breakfast #1 ~ “How the VHPA Works”: 2 July - 7:30am – 9:00am – \$15**

This is the first of four breakfasts with speakers offered at this Reunion. Several VHPAers will make 5-minute presentations about important subjects that the membership doesn't normally know about. Examples are: VHPA President John Shafer and the VHPA's Annual Budget, Gary Roush and the VHPA On-line Directory, Tom Kirk and The Aviator, Mike Law and The VHPA Calendar, Art Jacobs and The Reunion Site Selection. If you've ever wondered “How does the VHPA do that”? Well, this is your event!

Enjoy the JW Marriott's breakfast buffet fare including assorted whole fresh fruits, assorted pastries, scrambled eggs, crisp bacon strips, breakfast potatoes, orange juice, coffee & hot tea. We've scheduled each breakfast to conclude prior to most other Reunion tours or events for the day.

**Note: Breakfast #1 and this year's KIA/MIA Gold Star Family Breakfast are scheduled at exactly the same times; so you must choose which one to attend.**

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**Aviation Trail #1: 2 July – 7:30am – 6:00pm - \$46**

This is a private, custom tour for the VHPA escorted by an experienced local guide on each bus. Dayton is *The Birthplace of Aviation* – a heritage that began with the invention of the airplane by Wilbur and Orville Wright in 1903 and continues on to today’s aerospace projects of the future now under development at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base. The official Aviation Trail has sixteen stops including a suite of museums, parks, National Park Service locations, memorials, etc. This VHPA Tour visits at least five of these. The **National Museum of the United States Air Force** has more than 360 aerospace vehicles and missiles and thousands of artifacts on display in more than 19 acres of indoor exhibit space. The much anticipated Fourth Hanger is open. Have lunch (on your own) at the museum’s restaurant. You visit the **Wright-Dunbar Interpretive and Aviation Trail Visitor Center** that includes the **Aviation Trail Parachute Museum** and is adjacent to **The Wright Cycle Company**. These are National Park Service buildings. Not only was the airplane invented here in Dayton but also the free-fall parachute! Additionally the bus will stop for a quick visit to the **Huffman Prairie Flying Field Interpretive Center**. After their historic first flights at Kitty Hawk, NC in late 1903, the Wright brothers continued the development of their invention at Huffman Prairie field in 1904 and 1905. Later from 1910 to 1916 The Wright Company operated a flying school at Huffman Field.

Visit the website at: [www.nationalmuseum.af.mil](http://www.nationalmuseum.af.mil) for more information and <https://www.nps.gov/daav/index.htm>

**Capacity: Each tour is limited to 100 participants**

**Note: Be advised this tour includes about a 2-hour bus ride EACH WAY from the hotel to Dayton. Each bus will have a restroom onboard.**

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**Historic Dayton Tour #1: 2 July – 7:30am – 6:00pm - \$56**

This is a private, custom tour for the VHPA escorted by an experienced local guide on each bus. Dayton is one of America’s great places for innovation, engineering, and industrialization. The aviation industry basically started here as the Wright brothers moved from building bicycles to manufacturing airplanes. National Cash Register and Delco (Dayton Engineering Laboratories Company) were the pioneering “grandfathers” of many companies like IBM and General Motors. This tour includes at least three venues. At the Carillon Historical Park you will meet the “founding fathers” of Dayton (Wilbur and Orville Wright, Col. Edward Deeds, Charles “Boss” Kettering and John Patterson) in an amazing 4D Theater production, have lunch (on your own), visit 25 historical buildings (many staffed with “period actors”), see historic treasures such as the 1905 Wright Flyer III, a 1935 B&O steam locomotive, the first automobile self-starter and more. A six-person golf cart is available to help get to various buildings. The bus will travel through Woodland Cemetery and Arboretum as the guide tells you stories of the famous Daytonians. Finally, you will visit the VA Museum and the fully renovated, gorgeous Protestant Chapel at the National Soldiers Home (Dayton VA Medical Center).

**Capacity: Each tour is limited to 100 participants**

**Note: Be advised this tour includes about a 2-hour bus ride EACH WAY from the hotel to Dayton on I-70. Each bus will show a promotion/introduction video on the way to Dayton. Each bus will have a restroom onboard.**

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**Lucas Oil Tour: 2 July – 12:30pm – 2:30pm - \$8**

There's no better way to add a dose of adrenaline to your next Indianapolis visit than a behind-the-scenes tour of this state-of-the-art sports mecca. The tour will give our members an up-close and personal look at all the stadium has to offer. The tour will last approximately one hour to one hour and fifteen minutes and include visits to the playing field, an NFL locker room, Lucas Oil Plaza, the press box, and numerous other areas (depending on availability) that are generally inaccessible to the public. You will also be guided by a knowledgeable Lucas Oil Stadium Tour Guide who will showcase all the stadium's features and amenities and answer any questions. This is a walking tour so please be sure to wear comfortable shoes.

Visit the website at [www.lucasoilstadium.com](http://www.lucasoilstadium.com) for more information.

**Note: TRANSPORTATION IS NOT INCULDED. Lucas Oil Stadium is about 2 blocks from the JW Marriott and is connected by a skywalk or you can purchase City Shuttle tickets and ride the shuttle to the stadium.**

**Capacity: Tour is limited to 150 participants**

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**Indianapolis Motor Speedway Twilight Tour #1: 2 July – 5:45pm – 9:00pm - \$43**

Come see the Indianapolis Motor Speedway like you never have before. You will enjoy an approximate two hour behind-the-scenes look at the roads of the Speedway with a professional guide to answer any questions. The Twilight Tour will take you on the track at Turn 4 and the famous "Yard of Bricks", into a Gasoline Alley garage, up to the top level of our Pagoda, onto Victory Circle, and through our Media Center. To top the tour off, it will conclude with an exclusive peek of a popular outdoor course that twists its way through the infield of the Speedway. Bring your cameras because you won't want to miss the beautiful sunset vantage points of the track and city from high above.

**SOLO OUT**

Visit the website at [www.indianapolismotorspeedway.com](http://www.indianapolismotorspeedway.com)

**Capacity: Each day is limited to 110 participants**

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**1st Time Attendee Reception: 2 July – 7:00pm – 8:00pm - NC**

This is a special reception for those attending a VHPA reunion for the first time. Besides meeting other first time attendees you will visit with members of the VHPA Executive Council and various VHPA committee chairmen in an informal setting. After a brief presentation about the history of the VHPA and the way the VHPA operates there is time for Q&A and one to one conversations. For example - maybe you want to meet and speak with the VHPA President or the Editor of The Aviator? Maybe you have a question about how the annual financial audit is conducted? Maybe you have a photo that you'd like to see published in the VHPA Calendar? Now is a good time to have these conversations! While the primary audience is VHPA members, their guests and friends are also welcome. A cash bar is available in this reception.

**Note: At the conclusion of this reception, you are welcome to join the Welcome Reception already in progress.**

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**Welcome Reception with Entertainment: 2 July – 7:30pm – 11:00pm - NC**

Traditionally this reception was the first official event for everyone to get together FOR SURE at a Reunion. Now it is just a "get together" at an appointed place and time for everyone who attends the Reunion. Please don't be concerned about the word "reception" ~ there will be NO RECEIVING LINE and NO FORMALITIES. The room will be configured

with lots of tables and chairs so everyone can sit and talk. We'll position cash bars to make certain no one has to stand in a long line. You are welcome to bring a unit sign or guidon so people will know where "your table" is located. We CANNOT hang unit banners over the tables at this Reception, sorry.

About one hour after the Welcome Reception kicks off, *Wayne Young and The New Legendst* band will take the stage near the dance floor. For those who don't wish to have the music interrupt their visiting, additional tables and chairs are available in the O' Club at the other end of the Ballroom.

**MONDAY, JULY 3, 2017**

**Breakfast #2 ~ "Helicopter Medal Of Honor Tribute": 3 July - 7:30am – 9:00am – \$15**

This is the fourth and final breakfast with speakers offered at this Reunion. The Memorial Service, schedule to begin at 9am in a room adjacent to where this breakfast is held, is primarily a time to honor the several hundred VHPA members and potential members who passed away since the 2016 Reunion in Reno. To help us reflect on the "bond of brotherhood" that is so important to many of us, VHPA Member Dave Hansen will review several ideas about patriotism, camaraderie, and even reconciliation that are critical themes in our special brotherhood.

Enjoy the JW Marriott's buffet breakfast fare including sliced watermelon wedges, assorted sliced fruit breads, scrambled eggs with diced ham and cheddar cheese, sausage links, hash browns, orange juice, coffee & hot tea. We've scheduled each breakfast to conclude prior to most other Reunion tours or events for the day.

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**Aviation Trail #2: 3 July – 7:30am – 6:00pm - \$46**

See Description on July 2

**Capacity – Each tour is limited to 100 participants**

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**Historic Dayton Tour #2: 3 July – 7:30am – 6:00pm - \$56**

See Description on July 2

**Capacity – Each tour is limited to 100 participants**

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**Dallara Indy Car Factory Tour #1: 3 July – 8:30am – 12:30pm - \$45**

Come check out the 202,000-square-foot facility that is the destination for race-enthusiasts, and those who are brand new to the sport, to get their fill of all things Indy Car! Our members will have their photo taken with an Indy Car. The photo will be printed and framed on site during the event and it will appear that you are on the front stretch at the famous "Yard of Bricks".

After your photo session, the Dallara Indy Car Factory is offering VHPAers the chance to explore 20,000 square feet of interactive and hands-on exhibits centered on the engineering and technology of the world's fastest sport! This tour will include a guided Factory Tour where you will see actual Indy Cars being made. You will have the opportunity to get the feel of what it's like to race at the famous 2.5-mile oval when you sit behind the wheel of an Indy Car race simulator and race using iRacing!

**SOLD OUT**

After learning the elements of building an Indy Car and testing your driving skills in a racing simulator, feel the rush of adrenaline as you strap on a helmet and slip into our Street-Legal Indy Car 2 seater and get to physically drive a race car yourself.

Visit the website at: <http://www.indycarfactory.com/> for more information.

**Capacity – Each tour is limited to 50 participants**



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**Golf Outing @ Brickyard Golf Course: 3 July – 9:30am – 5:00pm - \$150**

This year we will play the Brickyard Crossing Golf Course. Buses depart the hotel at 9:30am. Golfers should be back at the hotel by 5:00pm. Your golf ticket includes bus transportation, green fees, carts, score cards, status board scores, complimentary range balls and lunch. Rental golf sets of 2016 Taylor Made Clubs includes 2 sleeves Logo Balls are available for \$70/round.

The Power Pack rules are carried forward from previous VHPA events. One (1) Power Pack is included with your golf registration. A Power Pack ticket cost \$20 and can be purchased at the HQ Registration Desk in the hotel with cash or credit card. Cash is required to purchase an individual team member Power Pack at the golf course. Included in the Power Pack Bonuses are the following: Two each Mulligan’s off the tee only for each 9 hole side (total of 4 per team member). Mulligans are for each player and cannot be used by another team member. One each “Get-Out of Hazard Free” per 9 hole side (total of 2) per 18 holes – Place ball where last traveled before entering the hazard or OB, no penalty. Used for sand traps, water, and Out of Bounds with no penalty. Use of the most forward tee, one (1) per side (total of 2) per 18 holes- Not available on Par.

Visit <http://www.brickyardcrossing.com/Home.aspx> for details about the course.

**Capacity: 100 participants**

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**Writer’s Workshop: 3 July – 10:00am – 12:00pm - NC**

The Writer’s Workshop is organized by John Penny, the VHPA book reviewer. Meet VHPAers who have managed to wind their way from idea to manuscript to published novel, history work or autobiography: Tom Philips – co-author of *Leave No Man Behind, The History of Combat SAR*, Rex Gooch, author of *Ace – The Story of LTC “Ace” Cozzalio*; Bill Reeder, author of *Through the Valley*; Phil Marshall – the author of *DMZ Dustoff Vietnam, Dustoff & Medevac Vietnam, and Helicopter Rescues Vietnam Vols. I - IV*; Tom Kirk – the VHPA Aviator Managing Editor; and Marc Liebman - author of *Big Mother 40, Render Harmless, Cherubs 2, Forgotten and Inner Look*. All have taken different routes getting their books published. Rex and Phil went the self-publishing route for their books. Tom Philips went through an agent to get his book on the history of combat SAR published while Bill and Marc worked directly with a publisher to get their books to market. In the workshop, you will have the opportunity to ask them questions about:

- How to get started outlining a book;
- Writing a book proposal and query letter;
- Benefits, costs and pitfalls of self-publishing;
- Working with editors, proofreaders and publishers;
- Key terms you need to include in a contract; and
- Marketing the finished work.

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**Dallara Indy Car Factory Tour #2: 3 July – 12:00pm – 4:00pm - \$45**

See Description on July 3 AM tour.

**Capacity: Each tour is limited to 50 participants**

**SOLD OUT**

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**Quilter’s Show & Tell: 3 July – 2:00pm – 4:00pm – NC**

This special meeting continues the tradition started at least five years ago to present wonderful hand-made, American flag themed quilts to VHPAers and possibly local area veterans. At the 2017 Reunion the group plans to present eight (8) quilts mostly to reunion attendees who are Vietnam veterans versus the five (5) that were presented in Reno. Each year there is a “little twist” in the selection process. This year one of the guiding points – the recipient (or suitable proxy) must



be able to attend the presentation portion of the Show & Tell. Following the presentations, each quilter will have the opportunity for a show and tell of their quilt blocks or projects, either completed or in progress.

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**Mind Tripping #1: 3 July – 3:00pm – 4:30pm - \$10**

The Mind Tripping Show is the longest running live theatre show in Indianapolis and they are coming to the JW Marriott. This event will be an intimate, interactive, theatrical show that will shock, startle, and create laughter for our members as you witness the impossible. You will experience Mind Reading, Influence, Psychological Illusions, and Comedy that will all come together to create a fantastic event of delightful fun. Have your perceptions challenged and your expectations turned upside down with Christian & Katalina, the #1 Husband & Wife Comedy Mind Reading Show. You will laugh as much as you will be amazed. It is as funny as it is mind blowing. Experience an event of head scratching, hilarious, mind bending enjoyment. Check out the website for videos and clips.

Visit the website at: [www.mindtrippingshow.com](http://www.mindtrippingshow.com)

**Capacity: Each day is limited to 150 participants**

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**Indianapolis Motor Speedway Twilight Tour #2: 3 July – 5:45pm – 9:00pm - \$43**

See Description of July 2 tour.

**Capacity: Each tour is limited to 110 participants**

**SOLO OUT**

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**Take Me Out to the Ballgame #1: 3 July – 6:45pm – 10:00pm - \$25**

Enjoy a good old fashion baseball game at beautiful Victory Field in Downtown Indianapolis. Victory Field has been named the “Best Minor League Ballpark in America” by Sports Illustrated and Baseball America! The Indianapolis Indians (affiliated with the Pittsburgh Pirates) will be playing the Louisville Bats (affiliated with the Cincinnati Reds). Your ticket for this event will include a shaded reserved box seat for the game plus two \$5 Tribe Tokens that can be redeemed at any concession stand, concourse kiosk, vendor or gift shop. Game starts at 7:05pm.

**Note: Transportation is not included. The ballpark is directly across the street from the JW Marriott.**

**Capacity: This event is limited to 70 participants**

**TUESDAY, JULY 4, 2017**

**Breakfast #3 ~ “Your Personal Legacy”: 4 July –7:30am – 9:00am – \$15**

This is the third of four breakfasts with speakers offered at this Reunion. We will review in some detail how any VHPAer can insure that his history, opinions, memorabilia, etc. can be preserved for both your family and the collective legacy of the VHPA. Our young friend, Martin Madert, of the *Witness to War Foundation* will describe how they are dedicated to capturing the stories of individual combat veterans and then preserving them via venues like the Library of Congress. We

will also review the VHPA's relationship with The Vietnam Archive at Texas Tech that offers VHPAers additional legacy preserving options.

Enjoy the JW Marriott's breakfast fare including fresh fruit salad, mini cinnamon & pecan rolls, scrambled eggs, sausage patties, Potatoes O'Brien, orange juice, coffee, & hot tea.

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**American Huey Museum: 4 July – 7:30am – 3:00pm - \$118 with VHPA transportation - \$84 with your own transportation**

The American Huey Museum is located about 90 miles north of Indy at the former Grissom Air Force Base. Today we will leave the hotel early to spend most of the “Day with the Hueys” ~ two restored flyable UH-1Hs plus one restored flyable UH-1B joined by VHPA member Peter Bales’ restored OH-6A LOH flown in from Wisconsin plus the “First Hounds” from the Michigan area. The "First Hounds" are a group of living historians that portray Charlie Company - 1st Battalion - 27th Infantry Regiment - 25<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division ("C" co. 1/27 Inf. 25th ID.), the Wolfhounds, during the Vietnam War. Their goal is to accurately portray a 1967 infantry squad "in country". They team with the four helicopters mentioned above to perform a Combat Assault Reenactment (CAR) near the American Huey Museum's hangers to

rescue a downed US Air Force pilot. You will also tour the Museum, have “hands on” experience with at least the H Models, see plenty of Vietnam Era artifacts, attend a briefing about the Museum's new facilities, interact and even have lunch with the “First Hounds”, and much more. The ticket price covers the food and support infrastructure for our group, travel and event expenses for the “First Hounds” and the LOH, costs to “open” the museum, event insurance, plus fuel and blade time expenses to put on the CAR. You will also have an opportunity to become a member of American Huey 369 Organization.

For the several thousand who witnessed the CAR in Louisville during the 2014 Reunion, yes ~ these are the same group of “players” – Hueys (crewed by mostly Vietnam vets), LOH, and Wolfhounds. The UH-1B restored gunship is a most welcomed addition as is the Museum's ability to “play” at home with long term friends and brothers in arms! The VHPA will use special wristbands to identify those entering the museum and the buffet lines as having paid. Those traveling on the VHPA buses will exchange their VHPA tickets for a wristband. Those traveling by POV should exchange their VHPA tickets for a wristband prior to leaving the hotel.

Because we need accurate counts for the caterer, only a limited number of tickets will be available for purchase at the Museum door. Please know you CAN NOT purchase a food only ticket.

Visit the website at: <http://americanhuey369.com/>

**Capacity: Limited to 300 participants**

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**Mind Tripping #2: 4 July – 2:00pm – 3:30pm - \$10**

See Description on July 3.

**Capacity: Each tour is limited to 150 participants**

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**Take me out to the Ballgame #2: 4 July – 5:45pm - 10:00pm – \$30**

See Description on July 3 but the Indians are playing the Columbus Clippers on this date. You will also enjoy a spectacular view of the fireworks. The game starts @ 6:05pm.

**Capacity: This event is limited to 175 participants**

**WEDNESDAY, JULY 5, 2017**

**Pre-Memorial Service Breakfast: 5 July – 7:30am – 8:45am – \$15**

This is the fourth and final breakfast with speakers offered at this Reunion. The Memorial Service, scheduled to begin at 9am in a room adjacent to where this breakfast is held, is primarily a time to honor the several hundred VHPA members and potential members who passed away since the 2016 Reunion in Reno. To help us reflect on the “bond of brotherhood” that is so important to many of us, VHPA Member Dave Hansen will review several ideas about patriotism, camaraderie, and even reconciliation that are critical themes in our special brotherhood.

Enjoy the JW Marriott’s breakfast buffet fare including assorted whole fresh fruits, assorted pastries, scrambled eggs, crisp bacon strips, breakfast potatoes, orange juice, coffee & hot tea.

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**Memorial Service: 5 July – 9:00am – 9:30am – NC**

The Memorial Service has been part of the “Reunion’s Fabric” for at least ten years. It has evolved into the perfect setting / opportunity to reflect and remember our fallen brothers and friends. Since the KIA/MIA Gold Star Family Breakfast is dedicated to our KIA/MIA brothers, this Memorial Service is dedicated to those who passed away after their service in Southeast Asia with SPECIAL EMPHASIS on those who have passed SINCE THE LAST VHPA REUNION. The VHPA often uses the term DAT (Died After Tour) to refer to those who served in Southeast Asia during the Vietnam War era, survived the War, and then passed away.

A roster of all DATs (known to the VHPA) since the last Reunion is printed in the program. In Louisville there were 284 names on the roster! In Washington, 327 and in Reno, 229.

The brief Memorial Service is patterned after a traditional grave-side service many of us experience at a National Cemetery. It begins with the Posting of the Colors and we all repeat the *Pledge of Allegiance*. There is an opening prayer and we all sing the *Star Spangled Banner*.

Traditionally a local pastor or a VHPAer delivers a short message. Often *Taps* is played or a special musical arrangement is presented. We all sing *God Bless America* as a closing hymn. A Closing Prayer is offered.

It is important to note that no financial donations or contributions are requested or accepted during the Memorial Service.

Questions concerning this event should be directed to VHPA Executive Council Member Art Price or by contacting VHPA HQ.

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**Spouse/Guest Event – “The Dinner Detectives”: 5 July – 10:30am – 12:30pm - \$57**

We all want to know “whodunit?” and our guests are about to find out with a morning event full of twists and surprises. You never know who you can trust. The Dinner Detective Show is the largest interactive murder mystery comedy show in the United States and they are coming to the JW Marriott to help solve our case! The Dinner Detective Murder Mystery Show has been voted one of the best dinner shows around so come join the fun. While you help solve a hilarious murder case, you will enjoy a fantastic meal. Just beware, the killer is hiding somewhere in the room, and you may find yourself as a Prime Suspect. Keep your eyes and ears open and never turn your back. The audience member that gives the best correct answer of “whodunit?” before the killer is revealed will walk away with a stellar prize package.

Visit their website at: [www.thedinnerdetective.com/indianapolis/](http://www.thedinnerdetective.com/indianapolis/)

**Capacity: This event is limited to 100 participants**

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**Annual Business Meeting: 5 July – 10:00am – 12:30pm – NC**

The Annual Business Meeting (ABM) is when we conduct the official business of the association. On Wednesday morning you will hear committee chairmen give reports on their activities over the past year and you will have the opportunity to vote on administrative issues plus elect our next two Executive Council members. This is a good time to learn about the workings of the VHPA behind the scenes and to influence the future direction of our association.

Only VHPA Members in good standing (meaning the former pilot is dues current and HQ has a valid mailing address for him in the database) may attend. You must present your ticket at the door. VHPA Members in good standing who are not attending the Reunion can also attend the ABM but must obtain a ticket from the Registration Desk.

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**Closing Banquet: Registered Adults – 5 July – 5:45pm – 10:30pm - \$70**

This ticket is for an adult banquet meal (beef, chicken or fish) plus the dance band for someone who has also paid the adult reunion registration fee.

The highlight for most reunion attendees is our closing banquet. This is the only “dress up” occasion of the reunion. It is a celebration of our time together opening with a tribute to our missing men and closing with the change of command from our current president, John Shafer to the new one, Mike Sheuerman after the meal.

For those who just want to visit after the closing remarks, please know you can stay at your table until 11 pm. Cash bars remain open until they are no longer needed.

For those who want to dance or listen to music, the 8-piece Uptown Band featuring Butch Kaufman will perform for us in the Ballroom. The dance band has a current copy of the *Official VHPA Song List*. A smaller ensemble from the band, probably a trio, will perform during cocktails, 5:15-5:45 pm. As per the finer Reunion traditions, following the VHPA President’s closing remarks the full band will play a 90-minute set, take a 15-20-minute break, and conclude with a 45-minute set. Those who want to visit with their friends without having to talk over the music and dancing are welcome to use the tables and chairs in the O’Club at the other end of the Ballroom.

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**Closing Banquet: Registered Child <10 – 5 July – 5:45pm – 10:30pm - \$16**

This ticket is for a "kid's meal" for the closing banquet. A word of warning is appropriate here. This meal is designed for children under the age of 10 years old. Trust us when we say that this meal will NOT MAKE a teenager happy at all!

A few years ago the only meal option available was an adult meal for children. Rather expensive indeed. While this price is still rather high for a "kid's meal" it is much more attractive than paying for an adult meal for a 10-year old!

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**Closing Banquet: Non-Registered Guest – 5 July – 5:45pm – 10:30pm - \$80**

This ticket is for an adult banquet meal (beef, chicken or fish) plus the dance band for someone who has **NOT PAID** the adult reunion registration fee. Please review the Non-Registered Banquet Guest (NRBG) details in the Reunion Information at [www.vhpa.org](http://www.vhpa.org).

A non-registered guest enjoys all the features/details described in the registered adult narrative above.