

GENERAL REUNION INFORMATION

Last updated 27 NOV 2018

Please continue checking vhpa.org for updated information, tour/event schedules, descriptions and pricing.

ONLINE REGISTRATION (ORRA) WILL BE OPEN JANUARY 7, 2019

MOST TOURS ARE CAPACITY CONTROLLED

Registering early is highly recommended to get on your preferred tours.

Who Can Attend the Reunion - As a general rule anyone who is “dues current” in the VHPA can register, order tickets, etc. simply by paying the Reunion Registration Fee. All who served in the Vietnam War as helicopter pilots must not only be a member of the VHPA but also be current with respect to their annual membership dues as of the first day of the Reunion to register. Anyone who was not a pilot is also welcome to attend as long as they are a “dues current” subscriber to the VHPA Aviator magazine. Exceptions are vendors, specifically invited performers/speakers, Gold Star Family guests and Non-Registered Banquet Guests; these people do not have to be a subscriber to attend. Anyone wishing to purchase a ticket for any of our events must pay the Reunion Registration Fee.

As a general rule, since VHPA Membership and Subscriber dues expire on the last day of the month, someone who is dues current when they register, could be non dues current on the 1st day of the Reunion (28 May 2019). Because of this, the VHPA Reunion Registration software is “forward looking” with respect to the dues status.

Please understand, all Reunion Attendees (anyone who pays the Registration Fee) are treated as equals. A VHPA Life Member, a former enlisted man, the widow of a deceased Vietnam Vet, a good friend – are treated equally once they pay the Registration Fee. The one exception is that only VHPA members can attend the Annual Business Meeting.

The bottom line – Who Can Attend This VHPA Reunion? Answer – anyone who pays the Registration Fee and is “dues current” as outlined above and their invited guests.

Reunion hotel – Kansas City Marriott Downtown, 200 West 12th Street, Kansas City, MO 64105.

Reunion hotel reservations: There are at least three ways to make your hotel reservations while insuring that you receive the VHPA Group Rate of **\$127 plus tax** over the dates of **23 May 2019 thru 3 June 2019**. **Cutoff date for the hotel rate is 26 April, 2019.**

Please consider the following:

- Via the Reunion’s personalized website, go to: <https://book.passkey.com/go/vhpa2019>.
- Via www.vhpa.org, then Reunion Information and use the reserve your hotel room link.
- By calling the hotel’s reservation line at **(877) 303-0104**. You need to mention **“VHPA 36th Annual Reunion 2019”**. **PLEASE DO NOT CALL THE HOTEL DIRECTLY or MARRIOTT’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. SuperShuttle is offering an exclusive VHPA discount of \$6 off airport transportation. Please note this is ride share transportation. Discount code is valid May 19th – June 9th, 2019.

Use Link: <https://group.supershuttle.com/group-page/vietnam-helicopter-pilots-association-36th-annual-reunion/>

Or Call 1-800-258-3826 and please mention group code LLVPG.

Note: There is a \$3 fee for making a reservation over the phone with an agent.

Taxi service will cost an estimated fare of \$45 - \$50 each way.

Parking - VHPA has negotiated \$10/night for self parking for registered Hotel guests.

Internet Access - 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 - The Vendor Area has been a huge success for the past several years! If you are interested in becoming a Vendor for R2019 please go to 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. If you know of anyone that you think would be an asset to the Reunion Vendor Area be sure to let them know or contact VHPA HQ to give us the info and we will be happy to give them a call.

This will be the sixth year Witness To War (WTW) has sent at least one Interviewer to record and collect Oral Histories. As we have done in the last two years, we will be signing attendees up for 90-minute slots ahead of time. Please contact VHPA HQ for details about how to sign up prior to coming to KC so you fit this history preserving events into your Reunion schedule.

Volunteers - The South Missouri 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, South Missouri Chapter, gets "first shot" at the Duty Roster. If you are interested in volunteering you can contact Ken Sherfey of the South Missouri Chapter at 913-748-69096 or ksherfey@kc.rr.com or contact HQ at 800-505-8472. In February 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 are welcome to volunteer.

Reunion T-Shirts - Honor & Pride is this Reunion's "Official Reunion T-shirt" contractor as he has been for over a decade. This year's Reunion T-shirt will be a gray color with VHPA logo on left front and a large version of the Reunion Logo on the back. You are welcome to order as many as you wish with a Reunion Registration until 19 April 2019. All orders after 19 April 2019 are subject to inventory on hand at the end of the Reunion. If we have a supply of the shirts you requested, we will mail them to you; if not we will refund your T-shirt money. All cancellations made prior to 19 April 2019 come with the option to have the T-shirt mailed to you **after the Reunion** or having the amount paid for the T-shirt refunded. There is a \$5 shipping & handling fee per shirt when HQ mails the T-shirts.

Please know it is possible to order Reunion T-shirts even if you do not plan to attend the Reunion. Simply contact VHPA HQ and tell them you only want a "Reunion T-shirt order". The shirts will be mailed to you after the Reunion.

Cutoff date to order a T-shirt is 19 April 2019

S, M, L & XL - \$18 XXL - \$19 XXXL - \$20

Primary Attendee (Member or Subscriber) Registration - The registration fee for the member is \$40 through 3/15/2019 and \$50 thereafter.

Adult Guest Registration - The registration fee for the guest is \$40 through 3/15/2019 and \$50 thereafter.

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.

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.

Cancelling a Reunion Registration - The VHPA Member or Subscriber who made the Reunion Registration is known as the Primary Registrant (PR). A PR may cancel all or portions of his or her registration any time prior to the reunion by contacting HQ via US Mail at 2100 North Highway 360, Suite 907, Grand Prairie, TX 75050, Email to HQ@vhpa.org, Phone at 800-505-8472 or Fax at 817-200-7309. It is important to note that reunion registration cancellations and hotel reservation cancellations are completely separate business processes. The PR is responsible for both processes. PRs cannot assume that when they cancel their hotel reservation that the hotel will notify HQ to cancel the reunion registration or vice versa.

Reunion Refunds - The Executive Council establishes the official cancellation date (OCD) for each reunion. **The OCD for R2019 is Friday, 19 April 2019.** Only cancellations received by HQ by close of business Central Daylight Time (normally 3pm) on the OCD (including those via US Mail) are considered for refunds, unless covered by Guarantee Refund Insurance (GRI) described below. It is important to note that the following reunion registration items are non-refundable even with purchase of GRI: registration fees, dues payments, directory orders, donations or voluntary contributions plus any event designated as non-refundable. There are zero nonrefundable events for R2019. For cancellations after the OCD, the GRI fee is non-refundable. As a general rule, HQ starts processing refunds about two weeks after the reunion ends. No refunds are processed until after the reunion is over. For PRs receiving a refund, there is a two step process. First, the PR receives a letter and/or a statement from HQ outlining the details of the refund including the amount. Normally this correspondence is sent from HQ by US mail but it can be via email. Second, the PR receives a check via US mail from the VHPA's bank. The goal is to complete the entire refund process not later than one calendar month after the reunion ends. Any clerical errors in the details of the refund should be brought to the attention of HQ.

Guarantee Refund Insurance (GRI) Program - As part of their initial registration transaction a PR may enroll in the Guarantee Refund Insurance (GRI) program by paying a fee calculated at 10% of event ticket purchases. If GRI is purchased with the initial registration, the GRI fee will be added to any paid events added to member's registration. As mentioned above, registration fees, dues payments, directory orders, donations or voluntary contributions are not included in this calculation. The GRI program allows the PR to receive a refund for himself/herself and/or their guests that have to cancel or have their reunion travel plans interrupted for any of the following reasons:

1. Sickness or injury of PR, a traveling companion or members of immediate families, which is diagnosed and treated by a physician or requires hospitalization during the time of the reunion.
2. Death of PR or immediate family member.
3. PR's involvement in a traffic accident, en route to the reunion that causes you to miss the reunion or a particular event.
4. PR's home is made uninhabitable by a natural disaster such as fire, flood, earthquake, hurricane, or volcano prior to or during the time of the reunion.
5. PR is recalled into active duty by the military that causes you to be unavailable to attend the reunion.
6. PR is served a subpoena or called to serve for jury duty during dates of the reunion.
7. PR is quarantined during dates of the reunion.

The GRI program covers only specific VHPA events and fees, and does not cover cancellation costs that might be associated with hotel rooms, airfares, rental cars, and other non-VHPA generated expenses. PR's enrolled in the GRI program and needing to take advantage of the program's features are encouraged to contact VHPA HQ either by email or at the HQ desk at the host reunion hotel as soon as possible in the event of cancellation.

Mini-Reunions: 28 May through 31 May - 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 or call 800-505-8472 or mail the completed form to HQ in Grand Prairie, TX.

KIA/MIA Gold Star Breakfast Sponsorship - \$20

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.

O'Club: 27 May – 4:00pm-8:00pm / 28 May – 30 May -11:00am – 11:00pm / 31 May - 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.

TUESDAY, 28 MAY 2019

Fort Leavenworth and Carousel Museum #1: 28 May – 8:30am – 4:00pm - \$55

Hop on your coach bus and head to the “First City of Kansas”! We will pick up our tour guide and head to Fort Leavenworth for a tour of the oldest active military post west of the Hudson River. Your tour will feature the Oregon and Santa Fe Trails, a drive by and stories of the Haunted Homes and buildings of Fort Leavenworth. Drive through the National Cemetery, established by President Abraham Lincoln in 1862. It is one of the first 14 national cemeteries and is the final resting place for 23,000 veterans from every war since 1812. Tour the nationally-recognized Buffalo Soldier Monument, which was dedicated in 1992 by General Colin Powell to the memory of the 9th and 10th Cavalry Regiments comprised of black soldiers. Visit the Frontier Army Museum, which is the home of personal artifacts of General Henry Leavenworth, an exhibit depicting the history of African-American servicemen, the Buffalo Soldiers, and many other intriguing galleries and memorabilia from 1804-1917. Then VHPA guests will enjoy lunch with “Harvey Girls” in the historic 1888 Union depot. Lunch will include a half clubhouse sandwich, cup of chicken pot pie soup, pasta salad, dessert and coffee/ice tea. Before heading back, VHPA can take a ride on a restored 1913 wooden carousel and get a behind the scenes tour of the C.W. Parker Carousel Museum.

Capacity: This event is limited to 100 participants.

Arabia Steamboat Museum Tour #1: 28 May – 9:40am – 11:45am - \$25

The Arabia Steamboat Museum is home to a true time capsule of frontier life in the 1800s. When the mighty Steamboat Arabia sank near Kansas City on September 5, 1856, she carried 200 tons of mystery cargo. Lost for 132 years, its recovery in 1988 was like finding the King Tut’s Tomb of the Missouri River. Remarkably preserved clothes, tools, guns, dishware and more were found and all of Arabia’s cargo was transformed into the Arabia Steamboat Museum, a top Kansas City attraction. For our VHPA Guests, this will be a partially guided and a partially self-guided. The Treasures of the Steamboat Arabia will connect all VHPA Guests to American history in a new and exciting way.

Capacity: This event is limited to 54 participants.

American Jazz & Negro Leagues Baseball Museum #1: 28 May – 12:10pm – 2:45pm - \$30

VHPA Guests will enjoy exploring both of these museums that offer a glimpse of history and heritage of KC. The sights and sounds of a uniquely American art form come alive at the American Jazz Museum and the Negro Leagues Baseball Museum (NLBM) recreates the look, sounds and feel of the game’s storied past. The Museum includes interactive exhibits and educational programs as well as the Blue Room, a working jazz club, and the Gem Theater, a modern 500-seat performing arts center. Today, scholars, students, musicians, and fans are drawn here to learn about the legends, honor their legacy, or simply enjoy the best music America has to offer. Celebrating the artistic, historical, and cultural contributions of jazz, the American Jazz Museum includes: Rare photos, album covers, memorabilia, and personal items telling the stories of jazz legends Louis Armstrong, Duke Ellington, Ella Fitzgerald and Charlie Parker. More than 100 recordings of the greatest jazz ever played. The Negro Leagues Baseball Museum has video presentations and memorabilia in the 10,000 square-foot multimedia exhibit chronicle the history and heroes of the leagues from their origin after the Civil War to their demise in the 1960s. The museum is laid out as a timeline of the Negro Leagues and American history. Exhibits include hundreds of photographs, historical artifacts and several interactive computer stations. As the centerpiece of the NLBM, the Coors Field of Legends features 10 life-sized bronze sculptures of Negro Leagues greats positioned on a mock baseball diamond as if they were playing a game. Don’t miss out on two of the top museums in KC.

Capacity: This event is limited to 54 participants.

Wagon Tour of Historic Independence #1: 28 May – 12:20pm – 5:00pm - \$56

Take a trip back in time and travel the same streets of Historic Independence, Missouri as the early pioneer settlers, Frank and Jessie James and President Harry S. Truman all from the comfort of a horse drawn covered wagon. On this wagon ride and city tour VHPA guests will see sights like the location of Harry S Truman’s first job and the court house Truman helped rebuild. Hear the history of Quantrill’s Raiders, Independence Civil War battles, how Wild Bill Hickok got his name and of course Frank and Jesse James! The tour is highlighted with a visit to the historic birthplace of Bess Truman, as well as following a portion of the actual Sante Fe Trail! This tour will also include time at the National Frontier Trails Center and the 1859 jailhouse that held Jesse and big brother Frank James. The wagon seats are padded on the bottom and be aware that there are a few steps to get into the wagon. Extra steps can be added to make this process easier if needed.

Capacity: This event is limited to 54 participants.

KC Brewery, Distillery and Wine Tour #1: 28 May – 1:00pm – 5:00pm - \$69

The best of all worlds! Barley Bus will pick up VHPA Guests and take them on a private tour to visit a local brewery, winery & distillery. All stops will include behind the scene tours of each facility, samples at each stop to taste the spirit of Kansas City, and light snacks/water. This is your opportunity to get an exclusive, behind-the-scenes look at the places and people making some of KC's best beer, wine & liquor! This is a tour you don't want to miss and will be a small capacity tour so register early!

Capacity: This event is limited to 42 participants.

Kansas City Gangster Tour #1: 28 May – 4:00pm – 5:30pm - \$35

This Gangster Tour features an interactive look at the Pendergast era from 1920 to 1945. You’ll learn about and see how the “Pendergast Machine” controlled the political system and the very fabric of life in Kansas City. This tour highlights infamous crimes like the Union Station Massacre, shows the locations of speakeasies and gambling halls and explains how liquor flowed freely during prohibition. The homes and workplaces of crime bosses and the sites of major turf wars are also featured on this tour. Sounds like an “offer” our VHPA Guests can’t refuse.

Capacity: This event is limited to 54 participants.

Early Bird Gathering: 28 May – 7:00pm – 10:00pm - 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.

Note: No food is provided at this gathering.

WEDNESDAY, 29 MAY 2019

Golf Outing at Shoal Creek Golf Course: 29 May – 7:00am – 4:00pm - \$140

This year we will play at Shoal Creek Golf Course. Your golf ticket includes bus transportation, green fees, carts, score cards, complimentary range balls, one Power Pack, and **BREAKFAST AND LUNCH**. Rental clubs (Taylor Made M2 clubs) including 2 sleeves of balls are available for \$50/round.

The Power Pack rules are carried forward from previous VHPA events. Additional Power Pack tickets (\$20 each) 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 (from the tee only) per side (total of 4 per team member). Mulligans are for each player and cannot be used by another team member.
- One "Get-Out of Hazard Free" per side (total of 2) per 18 holes. Place ball where it last traveled before entering the hazard or OB, no penalty. Used for sand traps, water, and Out of Bounds with no penalty.
- Move up one tee box once (1) per side (total of 2) per 18 holes except on Par 3's.

Visit <http://www.shoalcreekgolf.com/> for details about the course.

Capacity: This event is limited to 54 participants.

Breakfast w/Speaker John Clark: 29 May – 7:30am – 9:00am - \$20

John Clark was born in 1940 in Columbia, Missouri and commissioned through the Air Force ROTC program at the University of Missouri-Columbia on June 5, 1962. Clark graduated from Undergraduate Pilot Training and awarded his pilot wings at Reese AFB, Texas. He flew C-130 Samaritan transports with the 12th Aero Medical Transport Squadron at McGuire AFB from October, 1963 to June, 1965. Clark then completed RF-4C Phantom II Combat Crew Training and served at RAF Alconbury, England, from June, 1965 to October, 1966. He was assigned to the 11th Tactical Reconnaissance Squadron in October, 1966 flying combat missions in Southeast Asia out of Udon Royal Thai AFB, Thailand. On March 12, 1967, Clark was forced to eject over North Vietnam. He was immediately captured and taken as a Prisoner of War. After spending 2,170 days in captivity, he was released during Operation Homecoming February, 1973. He recovered from his injuries at Scott AFB Medical Center, Illinois, and then returned to college through an Air Force Institute of Technology assignment at the University of Missouri-Columbia in October, 1973. Clark then served as an instructor pilot at Vance AFB, Oklahoma, before leaving active duty on June 10, 1977. He spent time in the Missouri Air National Guard before joining the Air Force Reserve, retiring January 1992.

Enjoy the Kansas City Marriott Downtown's Kansas City Breakfast Buffet including assorted chilled fruit juices, seasonal fresh fruit & berries, scrambled eggs, Grilled Ham Steak, BBQ Brisket Hash, BBQ Aioli, three cheese hash brown casserole, buttermilk biscuits & country gravy, assorted breakfast pastries, regular & decaffeinated coffee and assorted teas. We've scheduled each breakfast to conclude prior to most other Reunion tours or events for the day.

Fort Leavenworth & Carousel Museum #2: 29 May – 8:30am – 4:00pm - \$55

See Description on Tour #1 on 28 May..

Capacity: This event is limited to 100 participants.

Kansas City Trolley Tour #1: 29 May – 9:00am – 10:30am - \$30

Get acquainted with the popular sites, local favorites and hidden treasures that Kansas City has to offer during a fully-narrated, guided tour aboard authentic, air-conditioned trolleys with padded seats! Some of the things you'll experience on this Trolley Tour are 15 miles of Kansas City's beautiful sites like art museums, fountains and statues. - Kansas City's vibrant history and culture. This is a great way for our VHPA Guests to learn where to go for sites to visit, history regarding the city and great restaurants to enjoy cuisine from around the world including Kansas City's famous BBQ! Don't miss out on this exciting tour of the BEST KANSAS CITY HAS TO OFFER!

Capacity: This event is limited to 60 participants.

Quilters' Hamilton Outing: 29 May – 9:00am – 4:00pm - \$25

Board a VHPA coach bus headed to the Missouri Star Quilt Company in Hamilton, Missouri for a fun day shopping for that unique fabric you need for your next quilt. Missouri Star Quilt Company was founded by the Doan siblings in support of their mother Jenny Doan's dream, and in tribute to her talent as a quilter on YouTube. It has grown into a \$20,000,000 per year business that owns 21 buildings in Hamilton and is part owner of three restaurants. Of the 21 buildings, 12 are currently dedicated to quilting fabric and quilting related items/notions. Missouri Star has become the largest employer in Caldwell County, with over 300 employees. Hamilton has become a must visit mecca for dedicated quilters. For history buffs, there is a museum dedicated to Hamilton's very own J.C. Penney, who began the "American Department Store". The town has done a really nice job on the museum as a great tribute to the boyhood home of J.C.Penney. Hamilton has something for everyone. For the men who might accompany their significant other, there is a "man cave" where you can watch sports on TV, play a game or two of pool, read and visit other travelers from around the state(s). Lunch will be at your own expense and is available at places like The Blue Sage, Hank and Tank's BBQ, J's Burger Dive, Mama Hawks Kitchen, and many more.

Capacity: This event is limited to 54 participants.

WWI Museum and Memorial #1: 29 May - 9:40am – 1:15pm - \$26

VHPA Guests will be mesmerized at The National WWI Museum and Memorial as it is the only American museum solely dedicated to preserving the objects, history and personal experiences of a war whose impact still echoes in the world today. The National WWI Museum holds the most diverse collection of World War I objects and documents in the world and will take VHPA Guests on an epic journey through a transformative period and share deeply personal stories of courage, honor, patriotism, and sacrifice. This will be a self-guided tour through one of the largest collections of WWI artifacts in the world with interactive displays, thought-provoking films and eyewitness testimonies. From the first shots fired in 1914 to the last attempts at peace in 1919, this award-winning museum offers a global perspective of "The War to End All Wars," and includes firsthand accounts from the battlefield and home front alike. This will include entrance to all exhibits and galleries EXCEPT Liberty Memorial Tower or Wylie Traveling Gallery and those are available for purchase at the museum.

Capacity: This event is limited to 54 participants.

WWI Museum and Memorial #2: 29 May – 11:10am – 2:45pm - \$26

See Description on Tour #1 above.

Capacity: This event is limited to 54 participants.

Kansas City Trolley Tour #2: 29 May – 2:00pm – 3:30pm - \$30

See Description on Tour #1 above.

Capacity: This event is limited to 60 participants.

Kansas Belle Dinner Train: 29 May – 4:50pm – 10:30pm - \$80 Adult; \$70 Teen (14-18 Yrs) \$60 Child (13 & under)

Reminisce as you travel onboard the Kansas Belle Dinner Train in 1940's Era decorated cars, all of which have their own unique and distinct personalities, and let your mind wander as you listen to the music of the 1940's Big Band Era. Enjoy a 3 course dinner on this 22 mile round trip train ride departing from Baldwin City Depot and relax while enjoying breathtaking views. Roam from car to car and view era related memorabilia. Dinner does not include alcohol but there will be bars for our guests to purchase. This is a dinner every guest will truly remember and enjoy. This will be a popular event that is sure to sell out so register early!

Note: You must make a meal selection of either beef or chicken.

Child plate will consist of chicken nuggets and teen plate will be a smaller portion of adult entree.

Capacity: This event is limited to 150 participants.

THURSDAY, 30 MAY 2019

KIA/MIA Gold Star Breakfast: 30 May - 7:30am – 9:00am - \$20

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 or email me at Kink100@att.net.

Enjoy the Kansas City Marriott Downtown's Classic Breakfast Buffet including assorted chilled fruit juices, seasonal fresh fruit & berries, house made almond granola parfait, scrambled eggs, crisp bacon strips & sausage links, breakfast potatoes, buttermilk biscuits & country gravy, assorted dry cereals, assorted breakfast pastries, breads & muffins with butter & preserves, regular & decaffeinated coffee and assorted teas. We've scheduled each breakfast to conclude prior to most other Reunion tours or events for the day.

Kansas City Trolley Tour #3: 30 May – 9:30am – 11:00am - \$30

See Description on Tour #1 on 29 May.

Capacity: This event is limited to 60 participants.

Kansas City Gangster Tour #2: 30 May – 9:30am – 11:00am - \$35

See Description on Tour #1 on 28 May.

Capacity: This event is limited to 54 participants.

Kansas City BBQ – 30 May – 11:30am – 1:30pm - \$65

The KC BBQ luncheon will give everyone a chance to sample the various styles of KC BBQ. Whether you like ribs, brisket or pulled pork, you are sure to find something finger lickin' good. Come with an empty tummy and plan to not only eat, but learn about Kansas City style BBQ. During the luncheon we will be entertained by the College of the Ozarks Chorale. They are known for their patriotic songs, and the college itself is a great supporter of veterans. This will be a highlight of the reunion that you will surely remember.

Wagon Tour of Historic Independence #2: 30 May – 12:20pm – 5:00pm - \$56

See Description on Tour #1 on 28 May.

Capacity: This event is limited to 54 participants.

WWI Museum and Memorial #3: 30 May - 1:25pm – 5:00pm - \$26

See Description on Tour #1 on 29 May.

Capacity: This event is limited to 100 participants.

Quilter's Show & Tell: 30 May – 2:00pm – 4:00pm – NC

This special meeting continues the tradition started at least seven years ago to present wonderful hand-made, American flag themed quilts to VHPAers and possibly local area veterans.

KC Brewery, Distillery and Wine Tour #2: 30 May – 2:00pm – 6:00pm - \$69

See Description on Tour #1 on 28 May.

Capacity: This event is limited to 42 participants.

Kansas City Trolley Tour #4: 30 May – 2:30pm – 4:00pm - \$30

See Description on Tour #1 on 29 May.

Capacity: This event is limited to 60 participants.

American Jazz & Negro Leagues Baseball Museum Tour #2: 30 May – 3:10pm – 5:45pm - \$30

See Description on Tour #1 on 28 May.

Capacity: This event is limited to 100 participants.

VHPA/Texas Tech Legacy Presentation: 30 May – 5:30pm – 6:30pm – NC

This is an “annual report” seminar covering all the activities related to the VHPA’s eventual migration to the Vietnam Center and Archive (VNCA) at Texas Tech University in Lubbock. Steve Maxner, the VNCA Director, will provide details of a wonderful announcement that becomes “official” on 1 Jan 2019, summarize the accomplished for the last couple years (for example the VNCA has added more than thirty (30) VHPA related Collections to the Virtual Vietnam Archive (VVA)), and describe the future plans of the VHPA : VNCA relationship. Mike Law will report on specific Projects (for example how deceased VHPA member and author, Tom Marshall’s huge collection was added to the VVA) and how VHPAers can contribute oral histories, photos, memorabilia, and published manuscripts to the VHPA’s Archive within the VVA. Gary Roush will report on how the VHPA’s Died After Tour (DAT) database will “fold” into the VNCA. There will also be demonstrations on how you and the public to use the VVA to “see” your individual and the VHPA’s Legacy.

1st Time Attendee Reception: 30 May – 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.

Welcome Reception: 30 May – 7:30pm – 10:00pm - 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.

FRIDAY, 31 MAY 2019

Pre-Memorial Service Breakfast: 31 May – 7:30am – 8:45am – \$20

This is the third and final breakfast offered at this Reunion. The Memorial Service, scheduled to begin at 9am is primarily a time to honor the several hundred VHPA members and potential members who passed away since the 2018 Reunion in Atlanta.

Enjoy the Kansas City Marriott Downtown's Classic Breakfast Buffet including assorted chilled fruit juices, seasonal fresh fruit & berries, house made almond granola parfait, scrambled eggs, crisp bacon strips & sausage links, breakfast potatoes, buttermilk biscuits & country gravy, assorted dry cereals, assorted breakfast pastries, breads & muffins with butter & preserves, regular & decaffeinated coffee and assorted teas. We've scheduled each breakfast to conclude prior to most other Reunion tours or events for the day.

Memorial Service: 31 May – 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 Atlanta there were 274 names on the roster!

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 John Powell or by contacting VHPA HQ.

Spouse/Guest Event – BBQ Sauce Competition: 31 May – 9:45am – 12:45pm – \$69

Board a coach bus and head to the Culinary Center of Kansas City where VHPA Spouse/ Guests are taking BBQ Sauce to a whole new level! Trade the typical outing in for the heat of the kitchen and get fired up at this smokin' fun competition brimming with culinary adventure and fun. First, head into the kitchen with your fellow VHPA Spouses and Guests and enjoy a tasty grilled appetizer prepared by one of our CCKC chefs, then listen up as a BBQ Pro gives you the low-down on exactly how to create your own personalized Kansas City-style BBQ sauce. Then it's into the kitchen as teams start designing and building their own customized BBQ Sauce complete with a clever moniker and packaging. The clocks will be ticking and the judges waiting to choose a winner! Each guest will be able to take home their own homemade BBQ Sauce.

Capacity: This event is limited to 100 participants.

Annual Business Meeting: 31 May – 10:00am – 12:30pm – NC

The Annual Business Meeting (ABM) is when we conduct the official business of the association. On Friday 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.

Arabia Steamboat Museum Tour #2: 31 May – 1:10pm – 3:15pm - \$25

See Description on Tour #1 on 28 May.

Capacity: This event is limited to 85 participants.

Closing Banquet: Registered Adults – 31 May – 5:45pm – 10:30pm - \$75

This ticket is for an adult banquet meal (Dual plated entrée w/chicken & beef) 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 Sorensen to the new one, Art Jacobs 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.

Closing Banquet: Registered Child <10 – 31 May – 5:45pm – 10:30pm - \$25

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!

Closing Banquet: Non-Registered Guest – 1 May – 5:45pm – 10:30pm - \$85

This ticket is for an adult banquet meal (Dual plated entrée w/chicken & beef) 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.

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