

# GENERAL REUNION INFORMATION

Last updated 07 DEC 2021

DUE TO THE CUT-OFF DATE FOR ITEMS TO BE PLACED IN THE JAN/FEB ISSUE, THE INFORMATION BELOW IS PRELIMINARY INFORMATION THAT MAY BE SUBJECT TO CHANGE. FINAL REUNION DETAILS WILL BE LISTED AT [VHPA.ORG](http://VHPA.ORG) IN EARLY FEBRUARY 2022. PLEASE BE SURE TO CHECK THE WEBSITE FOR THE MOST CURRENT DETAILS.

HOTEL RESERVATIONS WILL OPEN ON JANUARY 3, 2022

VHPA REUNION REGISTRATION IS ANTICIPATED TO OPEN FEB 1 TO MID-FEB 2022

**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 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 1<sup>st</sup> day of the Reunion (26 MAY 2022). Because of this, the VHPA Reunion Registration software is “forward looking” regarding dues status.

**Reunion hotel:** Tampa Marriott Water Street Hotel & Marina, 505 Water Street, Tampa, Florida 33602.

**Reunion hotel reservations:** There are at least three ways to make your hotel reservations while ensuring that you receive the VHPA Group Rate of **\$129 plus tax per night for single, double, triple, or quad** over the dates of **26 MAY 2022 thru 29 MAY 2022 (based on availability)**. **The cutoff date for the hotel rate is 25 APRIL 2022.**

Please consider the following:

- Via the Reunion’s personalized website, go to: <https://book.passkey.com/go/vhpa2022>
- 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 **(888) 627-8405**. You need to mention **“Vietnam Helicopter Pilots Association”**. **PLEASE DO NOT CALL THE HOTEL DIRECTLY or MARRIOTT’S CENTRAL RESERVATIONS NUMBERS.** You MUST speak to a Passkey Agent.

**Transportation from/to the Airport:** The hotel does not offer a shuttle to/from the airport. There are several options for going to and from Tampa International Airport: Members can take a cab and request the flat fee cab rate of \$30 to and from Downtown and the Airport. Otherwise, average cab fares start at \$2.50 for the first 1/8 mile and then \$2.40 for each additional mile. Members may prefer Uber or Lyft and pricing will fluctuate. Blue One Transportation is the hotel’s preferred shuttle and is offering VHPA a discounted flat rate of \$15.00 Per Person, each way. Please call (813) 282-7351 to pre-book your airport pickup and drop-off. Mention our group name of Vietnam Helicopter Pilots to receive the \$15 price. Our members can also call once you arrive at baggage claim but Blue One would recommend and prefer our members to pre-book so that they can have transportation readily available. They will also track your flight so they are aware if you have any flight issues/delays.

**Parking:** VHPA has negotiated a discounted price of \$21 per day for valet parking. The adjustment will be made on your final hotel statement.

**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:** If you are interested or know of anyone interested in becoming a Vendor for R2022 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. 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. **Space is limited this year so be sure to send your form in early.**

**Oral History Interviews:** Mike Law will be available to record and collect Oral Histories. As we have done in past years, we will be signing attendees up for slots in advance. Please contact Mike Law via email at [mglaw@earthlink.net](mailto:mglaw@earthlink.net) or visit [www.vhpa.org](http://www.vhpa.org) for details about how to sign up prior to arriving in Tampa so you can fit this history preserving events into your Reunion schedule.

**Family-Friendly and Local Attractions:** There are plenty of things to do around Tampa for everyone to enjoy no matter the age. We recommend bringing the kids and grandkids to all Reunions to see what the VHPA is all about and to check out the things to do around the city. **Many attractions are within walking distance of the hotel or just a FREE trolley ride away. The Teco Streetcar is FREE for everyone and has a stop right outside the hotel.** On the water, Pirate Water Taxi is available right outside the hotel. Ticket prices vary and are an ALL DAY PASS.

The following is a list of a few attractions that we recommend visiting, but **are not** included in our tours and may be within driving distance:

Ybor City has options like breweries, dining options, sightseeing, and the occasional loose chicken crossing the street. Also, there is the Florida Aquarium, Tampa Bay History Center, water sport rentals right outside the hotel, Sparkman Wharf for all your food needs, Busch Gardens, Museum of Science, Dinosaur World, Glazer Children's Museum, Zoo Tampa, and much, much more...this is only to list a few.

**Volunteers:** The Florida Chapter is the Host Chapter this year 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, 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 VHPA'er would have it done. As is our tradition, the Host Chapter, Florida Chapter, gets "first shot" at the Duty Roster. If you are interested in volunteering you can contact Tom Rountree of the Florida Chapter at 352-362-4104 or [trountree@tampabay.rr.com](mailto:trountree@tampabay.rr.com) or contact HQ at 800-505-8472. BTW, husband and wife teams are welcome to volunteer.

**Reunion T-Shirts** - T-shirts will be a tan color this year and will come in sizes small thru 3XL. You are welcome to order as many as you wish with your Reunion Registration until the cutoff date that will be determined at a later date.

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 only". **The shirts will be mailed to you after the Reunion.**

**Primary Attendee (Member or Subscriber) Registration** - The early registration fee for the member is TBD through 30 April and TBD beginning 01 May.

**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.**

**Adult Guest Registration** - The early registration fee for the member is TBD through 30 April and TBD beginning 01 May.

**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 TBD.

**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.**

**Canceling 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 Friday, 29 April 2022** by contacting HQ via US Mail at 1601 E Lamar Blvd, Suite 117, Arlington, TX 76011, Email to [HQ@vhpa.org](mailto: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 R2022 is Friday, 29 April 2022.** 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 the purchase of GRI: registration fees, dues payments, directory orders, donations, or voluntary contributions plus any event designated as non-refundable.** 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. No refunds are issued back to credit cards. The goal is to complete the entire refund process no 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 the 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 him/her 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 the dates of the reunion.
7. PR is quarantined during the 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 need 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: 26 May through 29 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. 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 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.). **NO OUTSIDE FOOD OR DRINK IS ALLOWED IN THESE ROOMS**

*It is easy to schedule a Mini-Reunion or TOC. Complete the Mini-Reunion Request form available at [VHPA.ORG](http://VHPA.ORG) and return by email to Sherry Rodgers at [sherry@vhpa.org](mailto:sherry@vhpa.org) or mail the completed form to HQ at the address listed on the form. **Space is limited this year so get your request in early!***

#### **KIA/MIA Gold Star Family Sponsorship**

Use this item to make a contribution that will purchase Gold Star Breakfast & Closing Banquet tickets for Gold Star Family members... Thank you for your generosity. If you would like to purchase a ticket to the Gold Star Breakfast for yourself, please go to the Gold Star Breakfast event to sign up.

**O'Club: 26 May -11:00am – 11:00pm / 29 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.

**THURSDAY, 26 MAY 2022**

**J.C. Newman Cigar Factory Tour #1: 26 May – 11:30am – 1:45pm**

This tour is a top to bottom exploration of El Reloj, the only cigar factory still in operation in Cigar City. Founded in 1895, J.C. Newman Cigar Company is a four-generation family business and is the oldest family-owned premium cigar company in the United States. VHPA guests will go through the process of cigar making by hand and on antique cigar machines, the Newman family legacy, the history of Cigar City, watch old cigar films in an interactive theater, browse rare cigars and gifts in the factory store, and much more. Three stories high, and one city-block long, this historic cigar factory will please cigar enthusiasts, history buffs, and those with interests in manufacturing and technology.

**Capacity: This event is limited to 54 participants.**

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**St. Petersburg City Tour w/Lunch #1: 26 May– 11:45am – 5:45pm**

Join your Tour Guide, Todd, from Travel Is Fun Tours to discover all about St Petersburg, Florida - We're not just a suburb of Tampa! See some of the more than 500 beautiful Murals painted in each Years SHINE festival that attracts artists from all over the World. Find out how a coin toss determined the name of the city, learn about the founders and early history of St Petersburg, and learn about the very first commercial airline flight. We'll also visit St Petersburg's Iconic Pier and have a great lunch (included) at Doc Ford's. Did you know over 100 movies have been filmed in the St Petersburg area? We'll find out about those too! Plus we'll visit St Petersburg's affluent neighborhood Snell Isle. We think you'll go home with a deep appreciation for the Sunshine City and want to come back!

**Capacity: This event is limited to 54 participants.**

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**Tampa Water History Tour #1: 26 May– 12:00pm – 1:30pm**

Our members will learn about how this city grew from a Spanish outpost to the fastest growing city in Florida. This tour takes VHPA guests step by step through the evolution. As you cruise along the waters in a roomy vessel, history unfolds all around you. These guides will have little known facts about the city and share them with you. Many locals have said, "I have lived here all my life, and I did not know that about Tampa." When you leave this tour, you will know more than most of the locals! Being one of the picturesque harbors in Florida, Tampa harbor abounds with history on all sides. The waterfront features museums, shipyards, and million dollar homes. See the Pirate ship, Gabriella, up close and learn our pirate history. Ask the guides, "What's a pirate beard in Tampa?" You will be surprised by the answer. View the most beautiful building in Tampa, The Plant Hotel. Learn how Tampa became a city, and who made it happen.

**Capacity: This event is limited to 50 participants.**

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**Zubrick Magic Theatre Show w/Dinner: 26 May – 2:00pm – 7:15pm**

Illusionists Chris & Ryan Zubrick conjure up an exhilarating blend of sleight-of-hand; family-friendly comedy and breathtaking grand-scale illusions in a 70-minute private performance for VHPA guests. Conveniently located in downtown St. Petersburg, Florida, VHPA guests will take a 40 minute bus ride to the Zubrick Magic Theatre where this performance will guarantee to stretch smiles and drop jaws. VHPA guests will be walking away scratching their heads in disbelief saying, "How did they do that?!" This show has been ranked one of the top things to do around Tampa and received numerous awards. After the show, guests will take the bus over to Dr. BBQ for dinner. Dr. BBQ offers "new American barbecue" and sizzles with global flavors. Owner, Roger Perry, created these exclusive recipes by drawing on inspiration from his travels and the local tastes of St. Petersburg.

**Capacity: This event is limited to 90 participants.**

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**J.C. Newman Cigar Factory Tour #2: 26 May – 2:15pm – 4:30pm**

This tour is a top to bottom exploration of El Reloj, the only cigar factory still in operation in Cigar City. Founded in 1895, J.C. Newman Cigar Company is a four-generation family business and is the oldest family-owned premium cigar company in the United States. VHPA guests will go through the process of cigar making by hand and on antique cigar machines, the Newman family legacy, the history of Cigar City, watch old cigar films in an interactive theater, browse rare cigars and gifts in the factory store, and much more. Three stories high, and one city-block long, this historic cigar factory will please cigar enthusiasts, history buffs, and those with interests in manufacturing and technology.

**Capacity: This event is limited to 54 participants.**

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**Tampa Water History Tour #2: 26 May – 3:00pm – 4:30pm**

Our members will learn about how this city grew from a Spanish outpost to the fastest growing city in Florida. This tour takes VHPA guests step by step through the evolution. As you cruise along the waters in a roomy vessel, history unfolds all around you. These guides will have little known facts about the city and share them with you. Many locals have said, "I have lived here all my life, and I did not know that about Tampa." When you leave this tour, you will know more than most of the locals! Being one of the picturesque harbors in Florida, Tampa harbor abounds with history on all sides. The waterfront features museums, shipyards, and million dollar homes. See the Pirate ship, Gabriella, up close and learn our pirate history. Ask the guides, "What's a pirate beard in Tampa?" You will be surprised by the answer. View the most beautiful building in Tampa, The Plant Hotel. Learn how Tampa became a city, and who made it happen.

**This event is limited to 50 participants.**

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**Movie: 26 May – 5:00pm – 6:30pm**

Exact movie showing TBD

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**Early Bird Gathering: 26 May – 7:00pm – 9:00pm**

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.

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



**Golf Outing at Summerfield Crossings: 27 May – 7:00am – 3:30pm**

This year we will play at Summerfield Crossings Golf Club at Riverview, FL. Your golf ticket includes bus transportation, green fees, carts, scorecards, complimentary range balls, one Power Pack, and lunch.

Visit for details <https://www.summerfieldgc.com/course/> about the course.

**Capacity: This event is limited to 55 participants.**

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**Breakfast: 27 May – 7:30am – 9:00am**

This is the first of three breakfasts offered at this Reunion. The exact menu is TBD.

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**Tampa Water History Tour #3: 27 May – 9:15am – 10:45am**

Our members will learn about how this city grew from a Spanish outpost to the fastest growing city in Florida. This tour takes VHPA guests step by step through the evolution. As you cruise along the waters in a roomy vessel, history unfolds all around you. These guides will have little known facts about the city to share with you. Many locals have said, "I have lived here all my life, and I did not know that about Tampa." When you leave this tour, you will know more than most of the locals! Being one of the picturesque harbors in Florida, Tampa harbor abounds with history on all sides. The waterfront features museums, shipyards, and million dollar homes. See the Pirate ship, Gabriella, up close and learn our pirate history. Ask the guides, "What's a pirate beard in Tampa?" You will be surprised by the answer. View the most beautiful building in Tampa, The Plant Hotel. Learn how Tampa became a city, and who made it happen.

**Capacity: This event is limited to 50 participants.**

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**J.C. Newman Cigar Factory Tour w/Columbia Group Lunch #1: 27 May – 9:15am – 2:00pm**

This tour is a top to bottom exploration of El Reloj, the only cigar factory still in operation in Cigar City. Founded in 1895, J.C. Newman Cigar Company is a four-generation family business and is the oldest family-owned premium cigar company in the United States. VHPA guests will go through the process of cigar making both by hand and on antique cigar machines, the Newman family legacy, the history of Cigar City, watch old cigar films in an interactive theater, browse rare cigars, and gifts in the factory store, and much more. Three stories high, and one city-block long, our historic cigar factory will please cigar enthusiasts, history buffs, and those with interests in manufacturing and technology.

After the tour, the bus will take our guests over to Columbia Restaurant for a group dinner like never before. Columbia Restaurant is the oldest restaurant in Florida and the largest Spanish restaurant in the world. Situated in Ybor City “Cigar Capital of the World”, the Columbia draws off its history and the unique culture of the area to create an experience that will make for fond memories. VHPA guests will also enjoy a 15 minute private Spanish Flamenco Show, the traditional dance of Spain. The music, the colorful costumes, and the passion of the dance will transport VHPA’ers to the famous Flamenco cafes of Barcelona and Madrid. This buffet will include signature Spanish Main dishes, Cuban bread and butter, Columbia’s Original 1905 Salad, side dishes, dessert and freshly brewed coffee, iced tea, and soft drinks.

**Capacity: This event is limited to 54 participants.**

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**Writer’s Panel: 27 May – 9:30am – 11:00am**

The panel is back and more informative than ever!!! Learn from VHPA members who are successful authors. They’ve told some of their stories, so if you don’t, who will? In the session, led by award and best-selling VHPA Life Member Marc Liebman, you’ll learn about how to get started. This session will be split into a short presentation on how to break down the process of writing a book into bite sized chunks. So you can get started. Then, you can ask the members of a panel of successful VHPA authors about their experience writing their books, finding a publisher, and selling them.

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**John and Mable Ringling Museum #1: 27 May - 9:30am – 3:30pm**

The Ringling celebrates the legacy of circus owner and art collector, John Ringling, and his wife, Mable. It combines outstanding art and circus museums with a historic mansion and theater, occupying beautiful grounds and gardens in Sarasota, Florida. VHPA Guests will take a 45 to 60 minute bus ride to Sarasota where you will be given free rein to explore the Art and Circus Museums and Bayfront Gardens at your leisure. The Ringlings’ historic mansion, CA’D’ZAN, was built to resemble a Venetian Gothic Palace and is onsite to tour, as well. This tour will require lots of walking as the museum is large and spread out. Lunch is available onsite and IS NOT included with the ticket.

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

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**Vietnam Center & Archive Videos #1: 27 May– 11:00am – 12:00pm**

While the VHPA has been working with the *Vietnam Center* and Sam Johnson *Vietnam Archive* at Texas Tech University (VNCA for short) for more than a decade, things ‘took off’ starting in 2015 when we were able to hire first one, then two and, for a time, three students to work exclusively on our legacy items and collections. Recently we developed four short tutorial videos specifically to address VHPA’ers questions and to show how you can add your pieces to our collective ‘mosaic history’ of helicopters in Southeast Asia during the Vietnam War. We will also provide a ‘sitrep’ on our most recent accomplishments plus our two new initiatives.

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**Columbia Group Lunch: 27 May – 11:15am – 2:00pm**

Our guests will head over to Columbia Restaurant for a group dinner like never before. Columbia Restaurant is the oldest restaurant in Florida and the largest Spanish restaurant in the world. Situated in Ybor City “Cigar Capital of the World”, the Columbia draws off its history and the unique culture of the area to create an experience that will make for fond memories. VHPA guests will also enjoy a 15 minute private Spanish Flamenco Show, the traditional dance of Spain. The music, the colorful costumes, and the passion of the dance will transport VHPA’ers to the famous Flamenco cafes of Barcelona and Madrid. This buffet will include signature Spanish Main dishes, Cuban bread and butter, Columbia’s Original 1905 Salad, side dishes, dessert and freshly brewed coffee, iced tea, and soft drinks.

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

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**J.C. Newman Cigar Factory Tour w/Columbia Group Lunch #2: 27 May – 11:15am – 4:00pm**

This tour will start with a bus ride over to Columbia Restaurant for a group dinner like never before. Columbia Restaurant is the oldest restaurant in Florida and the largest Spanish restaurant in the world. Situated in Ybor City “Cigar Capital of the

World”, the Columbia draws off its history and the unique culture of the area to create an experience that will make for fond memories. VHPA guests will also enjoy a 15 minute private Spanish Flamenco Show, the traditional dance of Spain. The music, the colorful costumes, and the passion of the dance will transport VHPA’ers to the famous Flamenco cafes of Barcelona and Madrid. This buffet will include signature Spanish Main dishes, Cuban bread and butter; Columbia’s Original 1905 Salad, side dishes, dessert and freshly brewed coffee, iced tea, and soft drinks.

After lunch, the bus will take our guests for a top to bottom exploration of El Reloj, the only cigar factory still in operation in Cigar City. Founded in 1895, J.C. Newman Cigar Company is a four-generation family business and is the oldest family-owned premium cigar company in the United States. VHPA guests will go through the process of cigar making by hand and on antique cigar machines, the Newman family legacy, the history of Cigar City, watch old cigar films in an interactive theater, browse rare cigars and gifts in the factory store, and much more. Three stories high, and one city-block long, our historic cigar factory will please cigar enthusiasts, history buffs, and those with interests in manufacturing and technology.

**Capacity: This event is limited to 54 participants.**

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**Tampa Water History Tour #4: 27 May – 12:30pm – 2:00pm**

Our members will learn about how this city grew from a Spanish outpost to the fastest growing city in Florida. This tour takes VHPA guests step by step through the evolution. As you cruise along the waters in a roomy vessel, history unfolds all around you. These guides will have little known facts about the city to share with you. Many locals have said, "I have lived here all my life, and I did not know that about Tampa." When you leave this tour, you will know more than most of the locals! Being one of the picturesque harbors in Florida, Tampa harbor abounds with history on all sides. The waterfront features museums, shipyards, and million dollar homes. See the Pirate ship, Gabriella, up close and learn our pirate history. Ask the guides, "What’s a pirate beard in Tampa?" You will be surprised by the answer. View the most beautiful building in Tampa, The Plant Hotel. Learn how Tampa became a city, and who made it happen.

**Capacity: This event is limited to 50 participants.**

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**American Victory Ship #1: 27 May – 2:15pm – 4:45pm**

One of the country’s most historic icons, American Victory was built in 1945 in only 55 days and is now one of only 4 fully-functioning vessels in the USA having served in WWII, Korea, and Vietnam. Aboard the American Victory Ship and Museum, VHPA Guests can come aboard a fully-functioning 1940s era steamship. Experience an unforgettable voyage of discovery and relive history by visiting cavernous three level cargo holds, radio and gyro rooms, hospital, galley, weaponry, steering stations, flying bridge, signaling equipment, wheelhouse, mess halls, engine room, crew cabins, lifeboats, and cargo equipment, then gaze upon photographs, uniforms, medals, documents, and naval equipment. This will include a ticket for admission, the bus ride to be dropped off directly at the front entrance, and is self-guided. There is a café on site for food purchase.

**Note: This tour has no air conditioning, requires lots of walking, and is not handicap accessible. There can be as many as 55 steps to access all areas of the ship.**

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

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**Movie: 27 May – 3:00pm – 4:30pm**

Exact movie showing TBD

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**StarShip Dinner Cruise: 27 May – 6:30pm – 9:30pm**

Set sail on the waterways of Tampa Bay with Yacht StarShip and delight in a different kind of dining experience! Our members can expect unmatched service, exquisite views, and a delicious, freshly-prepared dining experience. Enjoy stunning sunsets, bright city lights of Downtown Tampa, breathtaking views, and entertainment as you sip and savor your way through dinner and cocktails. This private dinner cruise will pick up and drop our members off at the dock right outside the hotel. The dinner buffet will include salad, beef, chicken, and salmon entrees, mash potatoes, seasonal vegetables, dessert, coffee, and tea. DJ entertainment will be onboard with a dance floor for VHPA guests to dance the night away. Don’t forget the camera for spectacular views of Tampa lit up at night.

**Capacity: This event is limited to 300 participants.**

## SATURDAY, 28 MAY 2022

### **KIA/MIA Gold Star Breakfast: 28 May - 7:30am – 9:00am**

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.

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). The exact breakfast menu is TBD.

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### **John and Mable Ringling Museum #2: 28 May – 9:30am – 3:30pm**

The Ringling celebrates the legacy of circus owner and art collector, John Ringling, and his wife, Mable. It combines outstanding art and circus museums with a historic mansion and theater, occupying beautiful grounds and gardens in Sarasota, Florida. VHPA Guests will take a 45 to 60 minute bus ride to Sarasota where you will be given free rein to explore the Art and Circus Museums and Bayfront Gardens at your leisure. The Ringlings' historic mansion, CA'D'ZAN, was built to resemble a Venetian Gothic Palace and is onsite to tour, as well. This tour will require lots of walking as the museum is large and spread out.

**Note: Lunch is available onsite and IS NOT included with the ticket.**

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

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### **St. Petersburg City Tour w/Lunch #2: 28 May – 9:30am – 3:30pm**

Join your Tour Guide, Todd, from Travel Is Fun Tours to discover all about St Petersburg, Florida - We're not just a suburb of Tampa! See some of the more than 500 beautiful Murals painted in each Years SHINE festival that attracts artists from all over the World. Find out how a coin toss determined the name of the city, learn about the founders and early history of St Petersburg, and learn about the very first commercial airline flight. We'll also visit St Petersburg's Iconic Pier and have a great lunch (included) at Doc Ford's. Did you know over 100 movies have been filmed in the St Petersburg area? We'll find out about those too! Plus we'll visit St Petersburg's affluent neighborhood Snell Isle. We think you'll go home with a deep appreciation for the Sunshine City and want to come back!

**Capacity: This event is limited to 54 participants.**

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### **American Victory Ship #2: 27 May – 9:45am – 12:15pm**

One of the country's most historic icons, American Victory was built in 1945 in only 55 days and is now one of only 4 fully-functioning vessels in the USA having served in WWII, Korea, and Vietnam. Aboard the American Victory Ship and Museum, VHPA Guests can come aboard a fully-functioning 1940s era steamship. Experience an unforgettable voyage of discovery and relive history by visiting cavernous three level cargo holds, radio and gyro rooms, hospital, galley, weaponry, steering stations, flying bridge, signaling equipment, wheelhouse, mess halls, engine room, crew cabins, lifeboats, and cargo equipment, then gaze upon photographs, uniforms, medals, documents, and naval equipment. This will include a ticket for admission, the bus ride to be dropped off directly at the front entrance, and is self-guided. There is a café on site for food purchase.

**Note: This tour has no air conditioning, requires lots of walking and is not handicap accessible. There can be as many as 55 steps to access all areas of the ship.**

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

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**Tampa Water History Tour #5: 28 May – 10:00am – 11:30am**

Our members will learn about how this city grew from a Spanish outpost to the fastest growing city in Florida. This tour takes VHPA guests step by step through the evolution. As you cruise along the waters in a roomy vessel, history unfolds all around you. These guides will have little known facts about the city to share with you. Many locals have said, "I have lived here all my life, and I did not know that about Tampa." When you leave this tour, you will know more than most of the locals! Being one of the picturesque harbors in Florida, Tampa harbor abounds with history on all sides. The waterfront features museums, shipyards, and million dollar homes. See the Pirate ship, Gabriella, up close and learn our pirate history. Ask the guides, "What's a pirate beard in Tampa?" You will be surprised by the answer. View the most beautiful building in Tampa, The Plant Hotel. Learn how Tampa became a city, and who made it happen.

**This event is limited to 50 participants.**

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**Movie: 28 May – 10:00am – 11:30am – NC**

Exact movie showing TBD

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**Ed Fletcher's Early Bird Theatre w/Lunch: 28 May – 10:15am – 3:15pm**

VHPA guests will take a bus ride to Ed Fletcher's Early Bird Theatre for a comedy play "The Long Weekend". This play is wicked wit and uproarious comedy by Canada's favorite playwright Norm Foster! Two couples come to a cottage where they discover fantastic truths and hilarious deceptions. The truth and lies of a friendship come to the surface during a weekend visit. There are plenty of surprises along the way in this biting comedy of manners. Before the show starts, enjoy a lunch to include: Virginia Baked Ham, Carved Top Round Roast Beef with Au Jus and Horseradish, Salmon Almondine, Seasonal Chicken Entree, and Meatballs in Marinara Sauce or Baked Ziti. Rounding out the menu we have our side selections which include Seasonal Rice, Mashed Potatoes, and Vegetables. After lunch, enjoy coffee and your choice of dessert as you prepare for the show.

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

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**Zubrick Magic Theatre #2: 28 May – 1:15pm – 5:00pm**

Illusionists Chris & Ryan Zubrick conjure up an exhilarating blend of sleight-of-hand; family-friendly comedy and breathtaking grand-scale illusions in a 70-minute private performance for VHPA guests. Conveniently located in downtown St. Petersburg, Florida, VHPA guests will take a 40 minute bus ride to the Zubrick Magic Theatre where this performance will guarantee to stretch smiles and drop jaws. VHPA guests will be walking away scratching their heads in disbelief saying, "How did they do that?!" This show has been ranked one of the top things to do around Tampa and received numerous awards.

**Capacity: This event is limited to 90 participants.**

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**Vietnam Center & Archive Videos #2: 27 May – 2:00pm – 3:00pm**

While the VHPA has been working with the *Vietnam Center* and *Sam Johnson Vietnam Archive* at Texas Tech University (VNCA for short) for more than a decade, things 'took off' starting in 2015 when we were able to hire first one, then two and, for a time, three students to work exclusively on our legacy items and collections. Recently we developed four short tutorial videos specifically to address VHPA's questions and to show how you can add your pieces to our collective 'mosaic history' of helicopters in Southeast Asia during the Vietnam War. We will also provide a 'sitrep' on our most recent accomplishments plus our two new initiatives.

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**Quilter's Show & Tell: 28 May – 2:00pm – 4:00pm**

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

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**Tampa Water History Tour #6: 28 May – 4:00pm – 5:30pm**

Our members will learn about how this city grew from a Spanish outpost to the fastest growing city in Florida. This tour takes VHPA guests step by step through the evolution. As you cruise along the waters in a roomy vessel, history unfolds all around you. These guides will have little known facts about the city to share with you. Many locals have said, "I have lived here all my life, and I did not know that about Tampa." When you leave this tour, you will know more than most of the locals! Being one of the picturesque harbors in Florida, Tampa harbor abounds with history on all sides. The waterfront features museums, shipyards, and million dollar homes. See the Pirate ship, Gabriella, up close and learn our pirate history.

Ask the guides, "What's a pirate beard in Tampa?" You will be surprised by the answer. View the most beautiful building in Tampa, The Plant Hotel. Learn how Tampa became a city, and who made it happen.

**This event is limited to 50 participants.**

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**Welcome / First Time Attendee Reception w/College of the Ozarks Chorale: 28 May – 7:00pm – 9:00pm**

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. We’ll position cash bars to make certain no one has to stand in a long line. Once again 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.

**SUNDAY, 29 MAY 2022**

**Pre-Memorial Service Breakfast: 29 May – 7:30am – 8:45am**

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 2021 Reunion in Charlotte, NC.

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**Memorial Service: 29 May – 9:00am – 9:30am**

The Memorial Service has been part of the “Reunion’s Fabric” for at least seventeen 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.

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.

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**Spouse/Guest Event – Cactus Moon Succulent: 29 May – 10:00am – 11:30am**

Crystal Desi, Succulent Florist and owner of local plant shop Cactus Moon, will teach you how to make your own succulent garden out of a cigar box in this fun DIY workshop! Learn about the soil, care, upkeep, design, and more for these drought tolerant living arrangements. All materials are provided and guests will take home their creation! You choose your own souvenir cigar box (a variety of styles!) cacti, succulents and fillers (sand, gravel, rocks, moss, etc.). Bags will be provided to help transport your arrangement home on an airplane. Take home a piece of Tampa with this fun and creative take on a souvenir.

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

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**Annual Business Meeting: 29 May – 10:00am – 12:30pm**

The Annual Business Meeting (ABM) is when we conduct the official business of the association. On Sunday 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. This is a ticketed event and 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 HQ Registration Desk.

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**Henry B. Plant Museum: 29 May – 12:45pm – 2:45pm**

The Henry B. Plant Museum is housed in the 1891 Tampa Bay Hotel, the Victorian railroad resort that defined the elegant frontier, now a National Historic Landmark. Unlike most museums dedicated to lifestyles of the past, it contains the actual furnishings enjoyed by the first guests to visit here. The Museum accurately reflects the opulence of turn-of-the-century America and the vision of American transportation pioneer, Henry B. Plant. Then, guests will step back in time and enjoy a single character performance that will bring turn-of-the-century Tampa Bay hotel staff and guests to life. VHPA guests will enjoy a performance of Henry A. Dobson, Spanish-American Soldier, 1898. He will share his history of the army and Tampa with insight, honesty, and humor. Catch a glimpse of life at the hotel through the eyes of Henry A. Dobson.

**Capacity: This event is limited to 54 participants.**

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**American Victory Ship #3: 29 May – 1:30pm – 4:00pm**

One of the country's most historic icons, American Victory was built in 1945 in only 55 days and is now one of only 4 fully-functioning vessels in the USA having served in WWII, Korea, and Vietnam. Aboard the American Victory Ship and Museum, VHPA Guests can come aboard a fully-functioning 1940s era steamship. Experience an unforgettable voyage of discovery and relive history by visiting cavernous three level cargo holds, radio and gyro rooms, hospital, galley, weaponry, steering stations, flying bridge, signaling equipment, wheelhouse, mess halls, engine room, crew cabins, lifeboats, and cargo equipment, then gaze upon photographs, uniforms, medals, documents, and naval equipment. This will include a ticket for admission, the bus ride to be dropped off directly at the front entrance, and is self-guided. There is a café on site for food purchase.

**Note: This tour has no air conditioning, requires lots of walking and is not handicap accessible. There can be as many as 55 steps to access all areas of the ship.**

**Capacity: This event is limited to 54 participants.**

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**Closing Banquet: Registered Adults – 29 May – 5:30pm – 10:30pm**

This ticket is for an adult banquet meal 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 to the new one 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.

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**Closing Banquet: Registered Child <12 – 29 May – 5:30pm – 10:30pm**

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 12 years old. Trust us when we say that this meal will NOT MAKE a teenager happy at all!

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**Closing Banquet: Non-Registered Guest – 29 May – 5:30pm – 10:30pm**

This ticket is for an adult banquet meal 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.