

GENERAL REUNION INFORMATION

Last updated 24 MARCH 2024

DUE TO THE CUT-OFF DATE FOR ITEMS TO BE PLACED IN THE REUNION FLYER, THE INFORMATION BELOW IS PRELIMINARY INFORMATION THAT MAY BE SUBJECT TO CHANGE.

FINAL REUNION DETAILS WILL BE LISTED AT VHPA.ORG IN MARCH.

PLEASE BE SURE TO CHECK THE VHPA WEBSITE FOR THE MOST CURRENT DETAILS.

VHPA REUNION & HOTEL REGISTRATION IS ANTICIPATED TO OPEN IN EARLY MARCH

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 1st day of the Reunion (14 MAY 2024). Because of this, the VHPA Reunion Registration software is “forward looking” regarding dues status.

Reunion Hotel Info: Nugget Casino Resort, 1100 Nugget Avenue, Sparks, NV 89431

The VHPA Group Rate is **\$99 plus tax per night** over the dates of **13 MAY 2024 thru 18 MAY 2024 (based on availability)**. **The cutoff date for the hotel rate is 19 APRIL 2024.**

Information for booking hotel rooms will be emailed to you with your reunion registration receipt & itinerary.

Transportation from/to the Airport: The hotel offers a shuttle to/from the airport. Follow the signs directing you to the shuttle pickup area. The shuttle departs the airport every 20 minutes.

Parking: Parking at the Nugget is complimentary.

Internet Access: Wireless internet is complimentary throughout the hotel.

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.

Scooter Rentals – The hotels does have scooters for rent – the price is \$40/day.

Vendor Area: If you are interested or know of anyone interested in becoming a Vendor for R2024 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. **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 mikelaw1943@gmail.com or visit www.vhpa.org for details about how to sign up prior to arriving in Reno so you can fit this history preserving event into your Reunion schedule.

Volunteers: The California Chapter North 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, The California Chapter North, gets "first shot" at the Duty Roster. If you are interested in volunteering contact Sherry Rodgers with HQ at sherry@vhpa.org or 800-505-8472. BTW, husband and wife teams are welcome to volunteer.

Reunion T-Shirts – The T-shirts for this year will come in silver with no front pocket and in sizes small thru 3XL. You are welcome to order as many as you wish with your Reunion Registration until the cutoff date below.

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.**

S - XL - \$19 XXL - XXXL - \$21

Primary Attendee (Member or Subscriber) Registration - The early registration fee for the member is **\$40** through 10 May and **\$50** beginning 11 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 **\$40** through 10 May and **\$50** beginning 11 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 **\$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.

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 Monday, 12 April 2024** by contacting HQ via US Mail at 1601 E Lamar Blvd, Suite 117, Arlington, TX 76011, 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.**

Guarantee Refund Insurance (GRI) Program - It is important to note that the following reunion registration items are non-refundable even with purchase of GRI: the GRI itself, reunion registration fees, dues payments, or voluntary contributions, cancellation fees, plus any event tickets designated as non-refundable. A PR may only cancel all or portions of his or her registration with GRI **any time prior to Friday, 03 May 2024** by contacting HQ via US Mail at 1601 E Lamar Blvd, Suite 117, Arlington, TX 76011, Email to HQ@vhpa.org, Phone at 800-505-8472 or Fax at 817-200-7309.

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.

Reunion Refunds - The Executive Council establishes the official cancellation date (OCD) for each reunion. **The OCD for R2024 is Monday, 12 April 2024 without GRI and Friday, 03 May 2024 with GRI.** 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. **It is important to note that the following reunion registration items are non-refundable even with purchase of GRI: the GRI itself, reunion registration fees, dues payments, donations or voluntary contributions, cancellation fees, plus any event tickets designated as 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 (Chase 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.

Mini-Reunions: 15 May through 17 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. **NO OUTSIDE FOOD OR DRINKS ARE ALLOWED IN THESE ROOMS!**

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 DRINKS ARE ALLOWED IN THESE ROOMS!**

It is easy to schedule a Mini-Reunion or TOC. Complete the Mini-Reunion Request form available at VHPA.ORG and return by email to Sherry Rodgers at sherry@vhpa.org or mail the completed form to HQ at the address listed on the form.

KIA/MIA Gold Star Family Sponsorship - \$30 - Use this item to support costs of events for Gold Star Families to attend events. 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. **PLEASE NOTE: This item does not provide you with a ticket to the Gold Star Breakfast, it helps to provide events for Gold Star Family Members.** Thank you for your generosity.

O'Club: 15 May thru 16 May -11:00am – 11:00pm / 17 May - 12:30pm – 4:30pm - 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.

Reno Shuttle: 15 May thru 16 May – 10:00am – 5:00pm & 17 May – 12:45pm – 5:00pm - \$25
The heart of the "Biggest Little City in the World" is located just about 10 minutes from the Nugget. The downtown area offers many attractions, casinos and unique restaurants, all within 6 city blocks. Daily shuttle service will be provided from the Nugget to downtown Reno with scheduled stops at the Nevada Art Museum, the National Automobile Museum, downtown Casino's, local eateries/breweries, Nevada Historical Society and Sparks Heritage Museum. **This ticket does not include any attractions or admissions, it is for the shuttle only and can be used as many times as you would like during the reunion.** A detailed shuttle schedule and maps will be available on-site at the reunion.

NOTES: This is the only transportation to National Auto Museum which is a must see attraction in Reno.

Visit <https://automuseum.org> for more information about this museum.

WEDNESDAY, 15 May 2024

Golf Outing at: 15 May – 7:15am – 3:30pm - \$140

This year we will play the Lakeridge Golf Course in Downtown Reno. Lakeridge Golf Course is one of the oldest and most acclaimed courses in Reno, Nevada. This course has gorgeous views of the skyline and the surrounding mountains, it is playable for wide-ranging skill levels but still a challenging layout and you don't want to miss its unforgettable signature hole. Please see www.lakeridgegolf.com for details about the course.

Your golf ticket includes bus transportation, green fees, carts, scorecards, complimentary range balls, one Power Pack, and lunch. Golf clubs can be rented for \$30.

Capacity: This event is limited to 50 participants.

Video Presentation #1 – Rex Gooch – Ace & the Battle of Phu My: 15 May – 9:00am – 10:00am – NC

Rex Gooch, member and author, will give an audio/video presentation on First Lieutenant Ace Cozzalio and his heroic actions in the Battle of Phu My on January 25, 1969. In this battle, Lieutenant Cozzalio flew the OH-6 scout helicopter to destroy an NVA machine gun bunker that held an Infantry Company of over 90 Soldiers pinned down for over two hours. For his heroic actions, Cozzalio was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross. This presentation highlights Ace Cozzalio's recent induction into the Army Aviation Hall of Fame and the Medal of Honor recommendation that is presently in the Army chain of command for review and approval.

Writer's Group: 15 May – 9:00am – 12:00pm (Actual meeting duration may vary depending on activities that day) – NC

I am looking forward to another "meeting of the minds" at this year's reunion and VHPA Writers Sessions. Maybe even dinner if anyone is interested. I hope to see everyone from the previous years sessions return and some new faces as well. After all, who else is there to tell our story but us?

I have exchanged emails with VHPA member, author Gary Bridges and am excited to pass on word that he is making great headway on getting his screenplay *Cost of Valor* into a feature film. I surely do not want to break any news before he does, so look for a piece in the Aviator soon. I hope I got the story right!

I also hope we might have the opportunity for individual authors to present a short, 4-5 minute reading from their work at our meeting.

I have something to tell everyone about as well. The West Warwick Library in Rhode Island was awarded state arts funding to hold a Veterans Anthology Writing Project which included a several month-long series of writing modules and workshops with 10 Veterans. The award stated "...to assist in honing creative writing skills. Participants write and polish fiction or poetry, after which the staff at West Warwick Public Library Press will purchase and publish the collection." I was happy to be included." Is your state doing the same or similar? Let us know!

Your homework, find out if there are similar opportunities in your area and let us all know. It's about time the world gets to see the war through our eyes, as we saw it.

Contact me: PilotAuthor@gmail.com or tomintxk@gmail.com

Lake Tahoe Sightseeing Boat Tour #1: 15 May – 9:30am – 3:30pm - \$135

Travel to Tahoe City and board the Tahoe Gal, established in 1977 as the first Tahoe Cruise line on the North Shore. Enjoy a historic trip along Lake Tahoe's lovely West Shore and view some of the most lavish real estate California has to offer! During our captain's live narration, you learn fun facts about Tahoe's early tourism. The most popular attraction on this cruise is the Kaiser Estate — the famous home of the Godfather II. Once the boat docks back in Tahoe City, members will be given time to enjoy the town and lunch on their own.

Capacity: This event is limited to 100 participants.

NOTES: This trip will be about an hour and fifteen minute bus ride each way.

Purchase of lunch IS NOT included in price of event.

Pyramid Lake & The Grid Fallon #1: 15 May – 9:30am – 5:30pm - \$150

Depart Reno and travel north to Pyramid Lake, one of the largest lakes in the state of Nevada and home to the Lake Paiute Tribe. Covering over 125,000 acres, the scenery is spectacular, and the color of Pyramid Lake changes from shades of blue or grey, depending on the skies above. Visit the Museum, and learn about the local Paiute Tribe through history, culture and insight of these fascinating indigenous people, with displays, exhibits, and presentation. Following our visit, we travel to Fallon for our hosted buffet lunch at the Grid, veteran owned by Paul Picotte, a helicopter gunner for the Navy. At The Grid, members will enjoy a tasting of beer and whiskey and a brewery tour. Lunch will include BBQ chicken, sliced tri-tip, green salad, macaroni salad, corn on the cob, assorted drinks/water, and brownies for dessert. There will be a bar open for members to purchase a cocktail, wine or beer. Members will be joined by Pilots & Aircrewmen from the Naval Aviation Warfighting Development Center Helicopter Weapons & Tactics Instructor Course from NAS Fallon. After the brewery visit, we will transition to Fallon Municipal Airport. Seawolf will bring a H60 helicopter for a static display, pending aircraft availability. The visit will culminate with a fly over from the Grid's owner in a Russian fighter trainer. Return to Sparks in the late afternoon.

Capacity: This event is limited to 100 participants.

NOTES: Purchase of lunch IS included in price of event.

There is a \$50 Non-Refundable fee for this event.

Historic Truckee & Lake Tahoe Tour #1: 15 May – 9:30am – 5:30pm - \$150

See the best of the Lake Tahoe area all in one tour! Depart from the hotel in the morning and travel over the Sierra Nevada's and arrive in the Lake Tahoe basin. Learn all about the history, facts and legions of the largest and second deepest Alpine Lake in North America. Travel along the Truckee River to Donner Memorial State Park, for a photo stop at the site of the Donner Camp, where members of the ill-fated Donner Party were trapped by weather during the winter of 1849-1847. Next, we will make a fun and enchanting visit to the historic town of Truckee, with boutiques, bars, ice cream shops, museums and more. On to Tahoe City; visit the infamous Fanny Bridge and Gatekeepers cabin, located on the banks of the Truckee River and Lake Tahoe. Travel continues along the eastside of Lake Tahoe with plenty of picture stops along the way. Return to Reno via Carson City, Nevada's State Capitol to view the capitol grounds and the historic homes located here. A stop will be made in Washoe Valley at the infamous Chocolate Nugget Candy Factory for a nice afternoon treat or ice cream.

Capacity: This event is limited to 100 participants.

NOTES: Purchase of lunch IS NOT included in price of event but time will be allotted.

There is a \$50 Non-refundable fee for this event.

Video Presentation #2 – Pamela Fullerton – Remembering CPT Scott Alwin: 15 May – 10:00am – 11:00am – NC

Honor in the Air is a documentary for all who love Aviation, the Military, and the Heroes who have flown in service to our nation. The film focuses on the life of Captain Scott R. Alwin, a helicopter pilot who served five tours during the Vietnam War with the 68th AHC (1967-1972). Scott, a Wisconsin native and one of 16 siblings (all preacher's kids), was awarded more Combat Air Medals than any aviator in military history from any branch of service. He was also awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross, Silver Star, multiple Bronze Stars, Purple Hearts and the Vietnam Cross of Gallantry. The story also reflects the true valor and determination of those with whom Scott fought and serves as an example to be shared with our children and grand-children and as a touchstone for all of us who want to honor the unsung heroes in our own lives. The story is told thru interviews with fellow veterans, siblings, archival film, and personal letters.

The in-person introduction by HIA Co-producer, Pamela Fullerton and contributor, Penny Alwin Kleinhans, reveals the behind-the-scenes story of Scott's life, his accomplishments, and the making of the documentary. It's an interesting glimpse into the creation of a flyer's passion. There will be a Q & A after the film.

Virginia City & Historic Railway Tour #1: 15 May – 10:00am – 5:00pm - \$135

Take a trip back in time with a visit to Historic Virginia City. During its heyday Virginia City's mining proceeds amounted to millions of dollars, equaling billions today. Every inch of this picturesque, Victorian-era town celebrates this colorful history. Guest can stroll the authentic board sidewalks to Old West saloons, shops, museums. Enjoy a no host lunch at one of the many restaurants located here. Board the historic V&T Railroad, for your 30-minute train excursion to Gold Hill. Hear all about the history and legions of the Comstock from the comfort of your seat. We depart for Carson City the state capitol of Nevada, for a driving tour of the historic district, drive by the Governor's Mansion, Bliss Mansion and much more. We return to the hotel with a delightful stop at the Chocolate Nugget, known for its exceptional candies and ice cream.

Capacity: This event is limited to 100 participants.

NOTES: Purchase of lunch IS NOT included in price of event.

There is a \$50 Non-refundable fee for this event.

Reno Shuttle: 15 May – 10:00am – 5:00pm

The heart of the “Biggest Little City in the World” is located just about 10 minutes from the Nugget. The downtown area offers many attractions, casinos and unique restaurants, all within 6 city blocks. Daily shuttle service will be provided from the Nugget to downtown Reno with scheduled stops at the Nevada Art Museum, the Auto Museum, downtown Casino’s, local eateries/breweries, and the Wilbur May Museum. **This ticket does not include any attractions or admissions, it is for the shuttle only and can be used as many times as you would like during the reunion.** A detailed shuttle schedule and maps will be available on-site at the reunion.

NOTES: This is the only transportation to National Auto Museum which is a must see attraction in Reno.

Visit <https://automuseum.org> for more information about this museum.

Video Presentation #3 – Art Jacobs - The OSS in Vietnam, Vanderbilt Lecture Series: 15 May – 11:00am – 12:15pm – NC

How the U.S. assistance to Ho Chi Minh shaped future events, and the impact it had on the war we flew in 20 years later. Learn some of the new and surprising details about the operations and "adventures" conducted in Southeast Asia by the OSS (and later the CIA), along with the unintended consequences of that top secret political intrigue.

Video Presentation #4 – Joe Ponds – The 600 m.o.l Black Pilots in Vietnam: 15 May – 1:00pm – 2:00pm – NC

The Presentation’s topic is based on a book entitled ‘*The 600 m.o.l. – Black Helicopter Pilots in Vietnam*’ written by Dr. Joe Ponds, and is a Presentation aimed at sharing information about a population of men who engaged in military service to their country with duties involving aviation. The era that this Presentation addresses is one during which there was considerable racial turmoil in America. So, these were brave and stalwart men who entered into a professional career field where they were not readily embraced, a career field that was dominated by white males. The Presentation is the story about the U.S. military’s *600 m.o.l. – Black helicopter pilots* who experienced combat duty in Vietnam, some making the ultimate sacrifice of giving their lives, and who certainly have a place in U.S. history. It is also a story of the uncommon fortitude, perseverance, and triumph of black men who were often compelled to fight multiple battles against multiple enemies simultaneously (the enemy overseas and racial discrimination at home). This Presentation also includes exclusive information regarding several of the infamous Tuskegee Airmen’s service in Vietnam as helicopter pilots. *The 600 m.o.l.* Presentation is perhaps one of the greatest stories that was never told, at least up to now.

Video Presentation #5 – Annual Vietnam Center and Archive (VNCA) Presentation: 15 May – 2:00pm – 3:00pm – NC

Continuing the 'tradition' we established at the 2023 Reunion, we will have an up-to-date status on **ALL** the Collections donated by VHPAers (plus VHPA friends and interesting Collections that contain Southeast Asian helicopter details) **as a handout sheet** plus an update on the two main Volunteer Opportunities we can do at home (Photo Captioning and Document Transcriptions). This information is especially helpful because some of the archival queues are several years old even with the VHPA paying for student helpers. The 'fun part' of the annual Presentation is a 'cameo peek' at some of the new items recently received by the VNCA plus listening to specifics about what the VNCA would like to have. Finally, we will encourage you to sign up for tutorial sessions during the Reunion to help you learn more about the VNCA and how to access it from your home. Naturally, expect to receive an update on the capital construction effort for the Museum - the future home of the VNCA and the VHPA's role in this project.

Video Presentation #6 – Mike Adkinson – Gunship Pilots return to target after 56 years: 15 May – 3:00pm – 4:00pm – NC

This MEMORY TOUR PRESENTATION is provided by two former US Army helicopter pilots who recently returned to the original area of operations. The 116th AHC was one of the most decorated units in Vietnam and it served as a positive example of what many organizations experienced. Mike Adkinson became a Stinger gunship pilot in Cu Chi in November 1966 and remained there until February 1969. On 29 February 1968, he pulled pitch with co-pilot Gene Humphrey who was being certified as an aircraft commander. Called out to help an infantry unit in contact, their aircraft became the target as they entered the area. Gene took a direct hit in the leg and his day was over. Like many friendships, Mike and Gene maintained contact and 56 years later they revisit places of significant memory in Vietnam. The visuals and stories in this presentation serve as a tribute to all Vietnam helicopter pilots and the many lasting friendships which evolved from the thousands of crews who came together and experienced a standard for teamwork that has added value throughout their lives.

Video Presentation #7 – Art Jacobs - The OSS in Vietnam, Vanderbilt Lecture Series: 15 May – 4:00pm – 5:15pm – NC

How the U.S. assistance to Ho Chi Minh shaped future events, and the impact it had on the war we flew in 20 years later. Learn some of the new and surprising details about the operations and "adventures" conducted in Southeast Asia by the OSS (and later the CIA), along with the unintended consequences of that top secret political intrigue.

Welcome Reception W/Vegas Showgirls: 15 May – 7:00pm – 9:00pm - NC

Traditionally this reception was the first official event for everyone to get together FOR SURE at a Reunion. This year's reception is not only a social get together, but brings a piece of the Vegas with a Meet and Greet of Showgirls, a small performance and lots of picture opportunities with some iconic costumes. Cash bars will be positioned to make certain no one has to stand in a long line.

THURSDAY, 16 MAY 2024

KIA/MIA Gold Star Breakfast: 16 May - 7:30am – 9:00am - \$30

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 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 or email me at Kink100@att.net.

Video Presentation #8 – Mike Adkinson – Gunship Pilots return to target after 56 years: 16 May – 9:00am – 10:00am – NC

This MEMORY TOUR PRESENTATION is provided by two former US Army helicopter pilots who recently returned to the original area of operations. The 116th AHC was one of the most decorated units in Vietnam and it served as a positive example of what many organizations experienced. Mike Adkinson became a Stinger gunship pilot in Cu Chi in November 1966 and remained there until February 1969. On 29 February 1968, he pulled pitch with co-pilot Gene Humphrey who was being certified as an aircraft commander. Called out to help an infantry unit in contact, their aircraft became the target as they entered the area. Gene took a direct hit in the leg and his day was over. Like many friendships, Mike and Gene maintained contact and 56 years later they revisit places of significant memory in Vietnam. The visuals and stories in this presentation serve as a tribute to all Vietnam helicopter pilots and the many lasting friendships which evolved from the thousands of crews who came together and experienced a standard for teamwork that has added value throughout their lives.

Writer's Group: 16 May – 9:00am – 12:00pm – (Actual meeting duration may vary depending on activities that day) - NC

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Your homework, find out if there are similar opportunities in your area and let us all know. It's about time the world gets to see the war through our eyes, as we saw it.

Contact me: PilotAuthor@gmail.com or tomintxk@gmail.com

Nevada State Railroad Museum #1: 16 May – 9:30am – 12:30pm - \$40

The Nevada State Railroad Museum preserves the railroad heritage of Nevada. There are two big stories - the building of the first transcontinental railroad between 1863 and 1869, and the Virginia and Truckee Railroad (V & T), born during the Comstock era to haul ore and supplies for the mines in Virginia City. There are 65 locomotives and cars in the museum collection. Over half of them were built before 1900. Much of the museum equipment was obtained from Hollywood studios, where they were often featured in movies and television. Museum activities consist of operation of historic standard gauge and narrow gauge railroad equipment, including train rides and handcar rides.

Capacity: This event is limited to 100 participants.

Pyramid Lake & The Grid Fallon #2: 16 May – 9:30am – 5:30pm - \$150

Depart Reno and travel north to Pyramid Lake, one of the largest lakes in the state of Nevada and home to the Lake Paiute Tribe. Covering over 125,000 acres, the scenery is spectacular, and the color of Pyramid Lake changes from shades of blue or grey, depending on the skies above. Visit the Museum, and learn about the local Paiute Tribe through history, culture and insight of these fascinating indigenous people, with displays, exhibits, and presentation. Following our visit, we travel to Fallon for our hosted buffet lunch at the Grid, veteran owned by Paul Picotte, a helicopter gunner for the Navy. At The Grid, members will enjoy a tasting of beer and whiskey and a brewery tour. Lunch will include BBQ chicken, sliced tri-tip, green salad, macaroni salad, corn on the cob, assorted drinks/water, and brownies for dessert. There will be a bar open for members to purchase a cocktail, wine or beer. Members will be joined by Pilots & Aircrewmembers from the Naval Aviation Warfighting Development Center Helicopter Weapons & Tactics Instructor Course from NAS Fallon. After the brewery visit, we will transition to Fallon Municipal Airport. Seawolf will bring a H60 helicopter for a static display, pending aircraft availability. The visit will culminate with a fly over from the Grid's owner in a Russian fighter trainer. Return to Sparks in the late afternoon.

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NOTES: Purchase of lunch IS included in price of event.

There is a \$50 Non-refundable fee for this event.

Historic Truckee & Lake Tahoe Tour #2: 16 May – 9:30am – 5:30pm - \$150

See the best of the Lake Tahoe area all in one tour! Depart from the hotel in the morning and travel over the Sierra Nevada and arrive in the Lake Tahoe basin. Learn all about the history, facts and legends of the largest and second deepest Alpine Lake in North America. Travel along the Truckee River to Donner Memorial State Park, for a photo stop at the site of the Donner Camp, where members of the ill-fated Donner Party were trapped by weather during the winter of 1849-1847. Next, we will make a fun and enchanting visit to the historic town of Truckee, with boutiques, bars, ice cream shops, museums and more. On to Tahoe City; visit the infamous Fanny Bridge and Gatekeepers cabin, located on the banks of the Truckee River and Lake Tahoe. Travel continues along the eastside of Lake Tahoe with plenty of picture stops along the way. Return to Reno via Carson City, Nevada's State Capitol to view the capitol grounds and the historic homes located here. A

stop will be made in Washoe Valley at the infamous Chocolate Nugget Candy Factory for a nice afternoon treat or ice cream.

Capacity: This event is limited to 100 participants.

NOTES: Purchase of lunch IS NOT included in price of event but time will be allotted.

There is a \$50 Non-refundable fee for this event.

Video Presentation #9 – Annual Vietnam Center and Archive (VNCA) Presentation: 16 May – 10:00am – 11:00am – NC

Continuing the 'tradition' we established at the 2023 Reunion, we will have an up-to-date status on **ALL** the Collections donated by VHPAers (plus VHPA friends and interesting Collections that contain Southeast Asian helicopter details) **as a handout sheet** plus an update on the two main Volunteer Opportunities we can do at home (Photo Captioning and Document Transcriptions). This information is especially helpful because some of the archival queues are several years old even with the VHPA paying for student helpers. The 'fun part' of the annual Presentation is a 'cameo peek' at some of the new items recently received by the VNCA plus listening to specifics about what the VNCA would like to have. Finally, we will encourage you to sign up for tutorial sessions during the Reunion to help you learn more about the VNCA and how to access it from your home. Naturally, expect to receive an update on the capital construction effort for the Museum - the future home of the VNCA and the VHPA's role in this project.

Virginia City & Historic Railway Tour #2: 16 May – 10:00am – 5:00pm - \$135

Take a trip back in time with a visit to Historic Virginia City. During its heyday Virginia City's mining proceeds amounted to millions of dollars, equaling billions today. Every inch of this picturesque, Victorian-era town celebrates this colorful history. Guest can stroll the authentic board sidewalks to Old West saloons, shops, museums. Enjoy a no host lunch at one of the many restaurants located here. Board the historic V&T Railroad, for your 30-minute train excursion to Gold Hill. Hear all about the history and legions of the Comstock from the comfort of your seat. We depart for Carson City the state capitol of Nevada, for a driving tour of the historic district, drive by the Governor's Mansion, Bliss Mansion and much more. We return to the hotel with a delightful stop at the Chocolate Nugget, known for its exceptional candies and ice cream.

Capacity: This event is limited to 100 participants.

NOTES: Purchase of lunch IS NOT included in price of event.

There is a \$50 Non-refundable fee for this event.

Reno Shuttle: 16 May – 10:00am – 5:00pm

The heart of the "Biggest Little City in the World" is located just about 10 minutes from the Nugget. The downtown area offers many attractions, casinos and unique restaurants, all within 6 city blocks. Daily shuttle service will be provided from the Nugget to downtown Reno with scheduled stops at the Nevada Art Museum, the Auto Museum, downtown Casino's, local eateries/breweries, and the Wilbur May Museum. **This ticket does not include any attractions or admissions, it is for the shuttle only and can be used as many times as you would like during the reunion.** A detailed shuttle schedule and maps will be available on-site at the reunion.

NOTES: This is the only transportation to National Auto Museum which is a must see attraction in Reno.

Visit <https://automuseum.org> for more information about this museum.

Video Presentation #10 – Joe Ponds – The 600 m.o.l Black Pilots in Vietnam: 16 May – 11:00am – 12:00pm – NC

The Presentation's topic is based on a book entitled '*The 600 m.o.l. – Black Helicopter Pilots in Vietnam*' written by Dr. Joe Ponds, and is a Presentation aimed at sharing information about a population of men who engaged in military service to their country with duties involving aviation. The era that this Presentation addresses is one during which there was considerable racial turmoil in America. So, these were brave and stalwart men who entered into a professional career field where they were not readily embraced, a career field that was dominated by white males. The Presentation is the story about the U.S. military's **600 m.o.l. – Black helicopter pilots** who experienced combat duty in Vietnam, some making the ultimate sacrifice of giving their lives, and who certainly have a place in U.S. history. It is also a story of the uncommon fortitude, perseverance, and triumph of black men who were often compelled to fight multiple battles against multiple enemies simultaneously (the enemy overseas and racial discrimination at home). This Presentation also includes exclusive information regarding several of the infamous Tuskegee Airmen's service in Vietnam as helicopter pilots. **The 600 m.o.l.** Presentation is perhaps one of the greatest stories that was never told, at least up to now.

Video Presentation #11 – Pamela Fullerton – Remembering CPT Scott Alwin: 16 May – 1:00pm – 2:00pm – NC

Honor in the Air is a documentary for all who love Aviation, the Military, and the Heroes who have flown in service to our nation. The film focuses on the life of Captain Scott R. Alwin, a helicopter pilot who served five tours during the Vietnam War with the 68th AHC (1967-1972). Scott, a Wisconsin native and one of 16 siblings (all preacher's kids), was awarded more Combat Air Medals than any aviator in military history from any branch of service. He was also awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross, Silver Star, multiple Bronze Stars, Purple Hearts and the Vietnam Cross of Gallantry. The story also reflects the true valor and determination of those with whom Scott fought and serves as an example to be shared with our children and grand-children and as a touchstone for all of us who want to honor the unsung heroes in our own lives. The story is told thru interviews with fellow veterans, siblings, archival film, and personal letters.

The in-person introduction by HIA Co-producer, Pamela Fullerton and contributor, Penny Alwin Kleinhans, reveals the behind-the-scenes story of Scott's life, his accomplishments, and the making of the documentary. It's an interesting glimpse into the creation of a flyer's passion. There will be a Q & A after the film.

Video Presentation #12 – Rex Gooch – Ace & the Battle of Phu My: 16 May – 2:00pm – 3:00pm – NC

Rex Gooch, member and author, will give an audio/video presentation on First Lieutenant Ace Cozzalio and his heroic actions in the Battle of Phu My on January 25, 1969. In this battle, Lieutenant Cozzalio flew the OH-6 scout helicopter to destroy an NVA machine gun bunker that held an Infantry Company of over 90 Soldiers pinned down for over two hours. For his heroic actions, Cozzalio was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross. This presentation highlights Ace Cozzalio's recent induction into the Army Aviation Hall of Fame and the Medal of Honor recommendation that is presently in the Army chain of command for review and approval.

Veteran's Quilt Presentation & Quilter's Show & Tell: 16 May – 2:00pm – 4:00pm – NC

This special event is **free and open to all reunion guests**. Our quilting program, a tradition started on or before 2010, is divided into two sessions. The **first, and our most important**, is the presentation of personalized American flag themed quilts to randomly selected VHPA aviators. After our presentation program, quilters and other interested attendees are invited to remain for the "show and tell" session where quilters display and discuss their on-going and finished masterpieces. Also, during this session we will have a sneak preview of the quilting blocks being donated for inclusion in next year's quilts.

Lake Tahoe Dinner Cruise: 16 May – 3:00pm – 9:30pm - \$150

Board the award-winning M.S. Dixie II, one of the largest cruising vessels in South Lake Tahoe. M.S. Dixie II is built in the traditional Southern style of the steamboats that once cruised on the Mississippi River. Built upriver on the Mississippi and transported in sections to Zephyr Cove, she made her first launch on Lake Tahoe in 1994. This grand replica paddlewheeler is 151' long and 33' wide, and has three climate controlled decks. Your 3 hour cruise offers non-stop photo opportunities that will surely delight everyone. Sit down to enjoy a delicious dinner, with your choice of beef, chicken, or fish. After and before dinner relax and enjoy the spectacular views. This is sure to be a wonderful evening out; don't miss it!

Capacity: This event is limited to 300 participants.

NOTES: This trip will be about an hour and fifteen minute bus ride each way.

There is a \$50 Non-refundable fee for this event.

FRIDAY, 17 MAY 2024

Pre-Memorial Service Breakfast & Memorial Service: 17 May – 7:30am – 8:30am - \$30

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 2023 Reunion in San Antonio, TX.

Memorial Service: 17 May – 8:30am – 9:30am - NC

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

Spouse/Guest Event: 17 May – 10:00am – 11:30am - \$55

This will be a fun filled event for our ladies of VHPA with laughter and friendly competition. In Trivia Event will begin with offering the ten categories of questions to the ladies. Each table rates their confidence in each category, essentially betting on their ability to answer the questions. This is a great way for our ladies to compare backgrounds and to share details about themselves. Also, it allows everyone to appreciate the differences that give them a leg up on the competition.

Capacity: This event is limited to 100 participants.

Annual Business Meeting: 17 May – 10:00am – 12:30pm - NC

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

Only VHPA Members in good standing (meaning the former pilot is dues current and HQ has a valid mailing address for him in the database) may attend. 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.

Nevada State Museum: 17 May – 12:45pm – 4:15pm - \$50

The Nevada State Museum is a place to explore the historic, cultural and natural heritage that defines the region through people and place. Housed in the former United States Mint, the Nevada State Museum tells the state’s history from prehistoric times to the modern-day. This historical building houses a wide variety of historical and contemporary exhibits on the history of the Silver State. Exhibits include the former Carson City Mint, Nevada’s Changing Earth Exhibit which explores the state’s geologic history, Under One Sky, a Native American exhibit from their perspective and in their own words, and America’s largest exhibited Columbian mammoth found in Nevada’s Black Rock Desert. Guests will be given the time to explore this museum on their own.

Capacity: This event is limited to 100 participants.

Reno Shuttle: 17 May – 12:45pm – 5:00pm

The heart of the “Biggest Little City in the World” is located just about 10 minutes from the Nugget. The downtown area offers many attractions, casinos and unique restaurants, all within 6 city blocks. Daily shuttle service will be provided from the Nugget to downtown Reno with scheduled stops at the Nevada Art Museum, the Auto Museum, downtown Casino’s, local eateries/breweries, and the Wilbur May Museum. **This ticket does not include any attractions or admissions, it is for the shuttle only and can be used as many times as you would like during the reunion.** A detailed shuttle schedule and maps will be available on-site at the reunion.

NOTES: This is the only transportation to the National Auto Museum which is a must see attraction in Reno.

Visit <https://automuseum.org> for more information about this museum.

Closing Banquet: Registered Adults – 17 May – 6:00pm – 10:00pm - \$75

This ticket is for an adult banquet meal (Beef or Chicken) 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.

DOORS OPEN AT 5:30pm and PROGRAM BEGINS AT 6:00PM

Closing Banquet: Registered Child <12 – 17 May – 6:00pm – 10:00pm - \$35

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!

Closing Banquet: Non-Registered Guest – 17 May– 6:00pm – 10:00pm - \$85

This ticket is for an adult banquet meal (Beef or Chicken) 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.

DOORS OPEN AT 5:30pm, PROGRAM BEGINS AT 6:00PM