

GENERAL REUNION INFORMATION

Last updated 30 Oct 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 AT A LATER DATE.

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

VHPA REUNION & HOTEL REGISTRATION IS ANTICIPATED TO OPEN IN MAY 2025

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 (20 AUGUST 2025). Because of this, the VHPA Reunion Registration software is “forward looking” regarding dues status.

Reunion Hotel Info: Marriott St. Louis Grand, 800 Washington Avenue, St. Louis, MO 63101

The VHPA Group Rate is **\$132 plus tax per night** over the dates of **20 AUGUST 2025 thru 23 AUGUST 2025 (based on hotel availability)**. The VHPA room rate has limited availability pre & post reunion dates.

The cutoff date for the hotel rate is 27 JULY 2025.

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

Transportation from/to the Airport: Several options for transportation from/to the St. Louis airport are: Uber, Lyft, taxi and the St. Louis MetroLink Light Rail.

To use the Light Rail, follow the MetroLink signs throughout the Airport to the Light Rail platform. VHPA members will be using the RED LINE from/to the airport/hotel. Tickets can be purchased at the boarding platform via ticket vending machines. Exit the Light Rail at the Convention Center Station for the Marriott St. Louis Grand, the hotel is about a block away. The estimated Light Rail time from/to the Airport/Hotel is 30 minutes.

For more information visit: <https://www.metrostlouis.org/metrolink/>

Parking: VHPA has negotiated a 40% discount off the 2025 hotel self parking rates.

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.

Wheelchair/Scooter Rentals – Wheelchair and scooter rentals can be booked with Mobility City St. Louis. They will deliver and pickup to the hotel for a fee. Reservations need to be made 6-8 weeks in advance.

For more information: Visit <https://stlouismo.mobilitycity.com> or call 636-434-2860.

Vendor Area: If you are interested or know of anyone interested in becoming a Vendor for R2025 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 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 St. Louis so you can fit this history preserving event into your Reunion schedule.

Volunteers: The South Missouri 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, The South Missouri Chapter, gets "first shot" at the Duty Roster. If you are interested in volunteering, contact 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 small thru 3XL. The shirt design & color is still in the works. You are welcome to order as many as you wish with your Reunion Registration by July 25 or until sold out.

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.**

Attendee (Member/Subscriber or Guest) Registration - The early registration fee is **\$40** through 19 August and **\$50** beginning 20 August.

Please remember that each person, regardless of age, who wants/needs an event ticket and/or a Reunion name badge and lanyard must pay the registration fee.

17 & under Guest Registration - The registration fee for someone 17 & under is **\$20**.

Please remember that each person, regardless of age, 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/her registration **by notifying HQ by close of business (3:00pm Central Time) Friday, 25 July 2025**. Please contact HQ by email at HQ@vhpa.org or phone at 800-505-8472. **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/her registration with GRI **by notifying HQ by close of business (3:00pm Central time) Friday, 08 August 2025**. Please contact HQ by email at HQ@vhpa.org or phone at 800-505-8472. 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 this year's reunion is Friday, 25 July 2025 without GRI and Friday, 08 August 2025 with GRI.** Only cancellations received by HQ by close of business (3:00pm Central Time) on the OCD 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: 21 August through 23 August - 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!

It is easy to schedule a Mini-Reunion. 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. Thank you for your generosity.

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.

O'Club: 20 August - 4:00pm-9:00pm / 21 August-22 August - 11:00am-9:00pm / 23 August - 12:30pm-9:00pm

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.
