

R2010 Details for the Public

last updated 21 May 2010

Getting there and getting around

Reunion hotel: The San Diego Marriott Hotel & Marina, 333 West Harbor Drive, San Diego, CA 92101 619-234-1500. By agreement between the hotel and the VHPA, we are using the Passkey System to make, modify and cancel hotel reservations. It is important to know that calls directly to the hotel or any of Marriott's regular toll free reservations numbers result in the caller being asked to use the Passkey toll free number. There are two ways to use Passkey:

- Online via the VHPA Booking Website in Passkey. You can paste the following link in a browser to get to the Passkey Website.

https://resweb.passkey.com/Resweb.do?mode=welcome_ei_new&eventID=1577959

The VHPA Registration Website has a link to this Passkey Website once you complete your Reunion Registration process.

- Toll Free Passkey reservation line is 800-266-9432. Callers say they want to make a Passkey reservation and need to mention any number of keywords such as "VHPA" or "VHPA Reunion" so the agent can find the contract.

Vicinity Around the Hotel: The hotel is sandwiched between the San Diego Convention Center and the Hyatt hotel. West Harbor Drive is to the front and a large marina to the rear protected by the embarcadero. The hotel Concierge provides a walking map to the famous Gaslamp Quarter and to Seaport Village on the embarcadero. Literally there are more than 100 restaurants and shops within easy walking distance from the hotel. There is also a large grocery store, Ralph's, three blocks from the hotel. On check-in you will also receive a San Diego Visitor's Guidebook that has details for the greater metropolitan area. If you are not into walking there is a liberal supply of Pedal Cabs all around the hotel and the downtown area. The San Diego Trolley (light rail system) Convention Center Station is immediately in front of the hotel.

Overflow Hotel: (Added on 18 May) Since the Marriott is nearly sold out, we arranged for the Hilton San Diego Gaslamp Quarter to be an overflow hotel. It is located at 401 K Street, San Diego 92101. This is two short blocks from the Marriott. Call 619-231-4040 or 800-HILTONS.

Official Airline: We have two options:

- American Airlines: For the period June 26 – July 11, 2010 for travel to San Diego, CA, the Promotion Code is **6460AR**. Receive a 5% discount off the lowest applicable eligible published air fare. The percentage discount can be booked online at www.AA.com for American Airlines and American Eagle flights only. At this time there is no ticketing fee for reservations made and ticketed on www.AA.com. Reservations may also be made via telephone by calling the Meeting Services Desk at 800-433-1790 from anywhere in the United States or Canada and refer to the Promotion Code. There will be a separate ticketing charge

of \$20.00 USD per ticket for tickets purchased via the phone or \$30.00 USD per ticket for tickets purchased at the airport. This amount is subject to change.

- United Airlines: For the period June 27 – July 8, 2010 for travel to San Diego, CA, the Promotion Code is **586QG** from the domestic 48 States, Hawaii, and Canada. Receive a 5% discount off the lowest applicable eligible published air fare or a 7% to 10% discount for over 30 days advanced ticketing for certain booking codes. The percentage discount can be booked on-line at www.UAL.com for United Airlines, United Express, and United code share flights operated by Island Air or Great Lakes only. Reservations may also be made via telephone by calling the Meeting Services Desk at 800-521-4041 from anywhere in the United States or Canada and refer to the Promotion Code.
- Please know that we tried to obtain a similar program with Southwest Airlines and were told they do not discount off their already low fares.

Official Rental Car: We have two options:

- Avis has special rates available from seven days before to seven days after the Reunion. The Avis Worldwide Discount (AWD) number is **G028272**. Call Avis directly at 888-754-8878 or by using the link provided below.

https://www.avis.com/AvisWeb/reservation/ReservationsInitializer?&AWD_NUMBER=G028272

- Hertz has special rates from June 23 through July 12. Cars can be picked up from any corporate Southern California location (including the Marriott's lobby) and returned to any other Southern California location! Use hertz.com or 800-654-2240 and the CV# **022L2989**.

Airport to Hotel: The airport is 3.1 miles from the hotel. The hotel does not provide shuttle service. For less than \$10 you can take a taxi or for even less than that a shuttle van to the hotel. The VHPA arranged for a group discount via Cloud 9/SuperShuttle. There are several ways to arrange for a ride. First, go to www.supershuttle.com and use the group code **PXE6Z**. Second, call 800-258-3826. You can book your return trip as well. Once you have booked your ride, here is how it works. After collecting your luggage, take the sky bridge or cross walk over to the ground transportation islands. Look for the island with a blue sign overhead that reads 'Shuttles for Hire.' Show the driver your reservation with the discount. Warning – the drivers MAY GET snippy with you if you just walk up and demand the discount. They are supposed to honor it but ... so use the phone or website.

Hotel to Airport: If you didn't book your return trip via Cloud 9/SuperShuttle, check with the Concierge Desk or the Bell Captains at the front door for the van schedule. They run about every 15 minutes and cost about \$7 per person.

Amtrak to/from Hotel: The Santa Fe Amtrak Station (also known as the America Plaza Transfer Station for the San Diego Light Rail system) is less than one mile from the hotel. From the Santa Fe Station you can take a taxi, shuttle, or Light Rail Orange Line train two stops to the Convention Center Station that is immediately in front of the hotel.

Parking: WARNING!! Overnight hotel parking is \$22 per night for self-parking and \$32 for valet. Parking near the hotel is less but not by much. Even the SoCal members don't have a cheaper answer to this challenge.

RV Parking: Recommend starting with the Mission Bay RV Resort. Go to www.missionbayrvresort.com or call 858-270-4300. Their park is about 8 miles from the hotel. Another is Campland on the Bay RV Park. Go to www.campland.com or call 800-422-9386. It is close by Mission Bay, is more expensive and more crowded. Many people like it better because it has a restaurant, a private beach and a swimming pool.

Power Scooter: For anyone wishing to rent a power scooter, wheel chair, etc. while you are in San Diego. Please call 888-441-7575 or www.scootaround.com/rentals/s/sandiego/.

Tours and Buses: Unless otherwise noted all tours begin at the 'coach loading point' near the fountain in front of the hotel. While the Concierge Desk or the Bell Captains at the front door will point this location out to you, it is easy to find. Exit the front door of the hotel, take a left and walk down the hill. The Fountain is on your right and the bus loading point is in the parking lot access driveway before you reach Harbor Drive.

Reunion Sponsorship

This year for several good reasons, the VHPA Executive Council is encouraging "sponsorships." For example – pretend that you attended the Memorial Service during the 2009 Reunion in Philly and you think that it is a good idea to have someone sing a hymn and play a keyboard at this event. You call Tom Payne – the OIC for this event. Tom says he likes your idea but it is going to cost \$250 and this wasn't included in the Reunion Budget. You say, "OK I'll donate \$100 for this. How do I do that?" For example, your boss or your company would like to "buy 100 guys a beer at the Reunion." How could they do that? The two best ways to make a Sponsorship donation is to put the amount in the Reunion Sponsorship area (in the Voluntary Contributions sidebar) on your registration form and/or contact HQ to make the donation. Please contact Moon Mullins at hpilot1963@aol.com or 570-643-5036 for more details and Sponsorship opportunities.

Reunion Information

www.vhpareunion.org Contains information about all the official events, mini-reunions, etc.

www.vhpasocal.org For what to do in your spare time between official VHPA Reunion events, the Southern California Chapter advises that they are planning a number of their own events in San Diego to coincide with the VHPA Reunion. The Chapter invites all interested VHPA members to visit their website, www.vhpasocal.org, or to contact Mike O'Neil at 619-948-5326 or cobra10@cox.net for details. The VHPA as an independent organization has had no role or participation with the Chapter in this effort, all credit for planning and offering such activities goes to Mike and the SoCal Chapter.

Reunion Dress Code

California casual is the dress code for this Reunion with some obvious reminders and suggestions as follows:

- A jacket and long pants are a VERY GOOD idea whenever you go out on the water. Remember the USS Midway is high over the water. The first thing the SoCal local guys have to say is “Bring a jacket!” This applies to the Harbor Cruise as well.
- Many men wear a suit and tie with the ladies wearing a nice dress to the Closing Banquet. You will even see Dress Blues.
- It is always a good idea to wear your Reunion lanyard.
- Since the area around the hotel is near the ocean, the outdoor temperatures will be just about perfect night or day. However, Ramona Airport where we will fly in the helicopters is about 30 miles from the water. It can be HOT waiting to get in the helicopter and then BREEZY during the flight.

Reunion Events

Ground Zero for this Reunion is the 3rd Floor in the South Tower. Please know that the Lobby Level is also the 2nd Floor. So once you get to Starbucks in the South Tower, take the escalator up to the 3rd Floor. Registration, the Vendor Room, the Keg Beer Room, the unit TOCs, the Early Bird and Welcome Receptions, most of the Mini-Reunions, the Annual Business Meeting, the WSC/HPFs, etc. will all happen on the 3rd Floor of the South Tower. Most of these events will be in various sections of the Marina Ballroom.

Vendor Room: Marina ‘G’ – Opens at 1 p.m. on Wednesday, June 30th and from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily through Sunday, July 4th. Anyone desiring to be a Vendor or to recommend a Vendor should contact Woody McFarlin at 770-218-1704 or woodymcfarlin@gmail.com.

Registration: Marina Foyer. Opens at 1 p.m. on Wednesday, June 30th and from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily through Sunday, July 4th.

Honor Keg Beer Room: The Green Room on 3rd floor South Tower. Hours basically from 9 a.m. until late from Wednesday, June 30th until just before the Closing Banquet. In the finest traditions of an “Officer’s Club” from Vietnam your Reunion Lanyard is your ticket to this room. We’ve arranged to have keg beer and friendly faces available. Contact Kenny Bunn at 205-919-8989 or bunn@vhpa.org if you have questions and/or want to help staff this room. \$3 is the “suggested donation” per beer.

MOC (Mobile Officers’ Club): Continuing their ten-year tradition the Northern California Chapter’s MOC will be parked on Marriott Hall Drive (between the North Tower and Marriott Hall that will host the Closing Banquet). The MOC is virtually always open and a good place to have a smoke, a beer, and good conversations. Contact Mike Nord at 916-684-0245 or outlaw27@msn.com if you have questions and/or want to make a donation.

Wednesday, June 30th

Early Bird Reception: Marina ‘D’ & ‘E’ from 7 p.m. until whenever. Find your unit’s table, bring your unit banners to hang up, join with the SoCal guys (plus the VHPA Executive Council members and Committee Chairs), be prepared to meet old friends and

to make new ones. Cash bars only – no food so please eat your evening meal before coming to socialize. The Honor Keg Beer Room will be in a near-by room. For information about bringing a banner, reserving a table, etc. contact Dan Ferguson at 510-376-9155 or ferguson@vhpa.org.

Thursday, July 1st

Golf – Sea N’ Air Course on Coronado Island: Buses leave from the bus loading point (near the fountain on Harbor Drive) at 11 a.m. Includes lunch plus two drink tickets. Plan to be back to the hotel about 6:30 p.m. Go to seanairgc.org. Contact Bob Whitford at 760-445-7071 or bwhitford@roadrunner.com.

San Diego & Old Town Tour: Buses leave from the bus loading point (near the fountain on Harbor Drive) at 10:30 a.m. return to the hotel about 2:30 p.m. This tour is a great introduction to San Diego. Highlights include some of the most famous sites of San Diego including the Gas-Lamp Quarter, La Jolla, Coronado, Balboa Park, and Old Town. Board your coach for a narrated tour of San Diego and experience the many diversified and unique areas of this beautiful city. Your tour includes the vibrant downtown, the *Gas-Lamp Quarter*, with its old world buildings, and the *Embarcadero*, offering a wonderful harbor view. Ride through famous *Balboa Park*, home of the *San Diego Zoo*; *La Jolla*, known as the jewel of the Pacific, and see the historic landmark *Hotel Del Coronado*. You’ll get off the bus in *Old Town*, discovered by Juan Rodriguez Cabrillo in 1542, and often considered California’s birthplace. Here you will find the history and energy of the original settlement of the city of San Diego brought to life by history-tellers, free museums, historic displays, plaques and time lines. Lunch will be on your own in *Old Town*, where you’ll find many restaurants and cafes to choose from. After lunch, explore the village and discover superb shopping and many small galleries. This will be a great day out!

USS Midway Audio Tour I: Buses leave from the bus loading point (near the fountain on Harbor Drive) at 12:30 a.m. return to the hotel about 5:00 p.m. This self-guided audio tour of the USS Midway offers 25 restored aircraft and 60 exciting exhibits from the powerful engine room to the Conning Tower & Bridge. She was firing Tomahawk Missiles during the Liberation of Kuwait and now the *USS Midway* begins her final tour of duty in the heart of downtown San Diego's waterfront area. One of the true icons of the U.S. Navy in the latter half of the 20th century, she is a modern marvel. This is the most modern warship available for general touring today. You will take a look back at the history of America’s longest serving Aircraft Carrier through many of the museum exhibits. The *Midway Museum* tour is a self guided audio tour which allows you to tour at your own pace. Elevator access is available to 75% of the exhibits. The tour will take you through the hangar deck and up onto the flight deck. There is a gift shop and café on-board.

Harbor Sightseeing Cruise: Buses leave from the bus loading point (near the fountain on Harbor Drive) at 3:45 p.m. and return to the hotel about 6:45 p.m. Enjoy a 2-hour, fully narrated, harbor tour, including Harbor & Shelter Islands, Point Loma, Cabrillo National Monument, North Island Naval Air Station, the Submarine Base, the Coronado Bridge & much more. Board your yacht and embark on a 2-hour Harbor Tour. This is a fully narrated tour, which passes by awesome Naval Bases (there are usually warships in

port), the munitions bunkers, and attack helicopters. You will also sail under the *Coronado Bridge*, to *Point Loma* to see the *Cabrillo Monument*. Snacks, drinks and bathrooms are all available on-board.

Reception for 1st Reunion Attendees: Marina 'D' from 7 to 8 p.m. VHPA President Gary Roush and Secretary/Treasurer Tom Payne (along with the rest of the Executive Council and several VHPA Committee Chairman) provide a special welcome to all 1st Timers. They will present a brief history of the VHPA and will answer questions. Immediately following this reception, we simply open an air wall to join the Welcome Reception.

Welcome Reception: Marina 'D' 'E' and 'F' from 8 p.m. until whenever. Because more people are involved, this will be an "expanded version" of the previous night's Early Bird Reception. Find your unit's table, bring your unit banners to hang up, join with the SoCal guys (plus the VHPA Executive Council members and Committee Chairs), be prepared to meet old friends and to make new ones. Cash bars only – no food so please eat your evening meal before coming to socialize. The Honor Keg Beer Room will be in a near-by room. For information about bringing a banner, reserving a table, etc. contact Dan Ferguson at 510-376-9155 or ferguson@vhpa.org.

Friday, July 2nd

KIA/MIA Gold Star Function: Coronado room on Level 4, South Tower from 8 a.m. This traditional function usually involves a breakfast and a program conducted by Julie Kink. It is totally supported by donations. Please contact Julie at 651-439-2268 or kink100@att.net with questions.

Annual Business Meeting: Marina 'D' and 'E' from 10 a.m. until 12 a.m. This event is open to dues current VHPA members only and a ticket is required. Someone who hasn't registered for the Reunion can obtain a ticket from the VHPA Registration Desk. VHPA President Gary Roush will conduct this meeting. Besides electing officers and conducting other official business (such as reviewing the Audit Report), all Committee Chairman present brief reports. Please contact our Secretary/Treasurer Tom Payne at 918-298-5132 or bandit32@cox.net for more details.

Spouse/Guest Event: San Diego 'B' from 10 a.m. until about 1 p.m. This traditional "ladies function" is always scheduled at the same time as the Annual Business Meeting. In addition to the lunch buffet a professional pastry chef provides a hands-on session for baking and decorating cupcakes including the recipe for Fondant Icing. She writes: "Cupcakes are the best because they let you have that moment of cake, but on a personal level. You never feel like you ate too much with a cupcake. Cupcakes don't care if you're into vanilla, chocolate or any possible combination of the two. Cupcakes are good both ways. If you have to feed a group, cupcakes make everyone feel like they got their fair share. Depending on how you decorate them, cupcakes can go from casual to formal, from simple to elaborate. During this event you will learn how to make fondant icing from scratch and then try your hand at decorating your own cupcake. Recipe for Fondant Icing will be provided, so when you go home you can make your own fondant and decorate cupcakes for your friends and family. Of course you will take with you the

cupcakes you decorate during the event.” Please contact Dianna Law at 303-988-7797 or mglaw@earthlink.net for more details.

Guest Speak Luncheon: Marina ‘F’ from about noon until about 2 p.m. Since everyone leaving the Annual Business Meeting is usually interested in lunch and talking with their friends, the Reunion added this luncheon with the same Spouse/Guest Event menu. VHPA Members Jim McLaughlin and Ron Bower are the Guest Speakers. The subject is the **Vietnam Memory Map Project** as illustrated on the cover of the 2009 Membership Directory. If recording, preserving, and displaying information about a KIA or a helicopter incident is important to you, this luncheon will show you where and how the VHPA plans to move these ideas to the next level. You will walk out of this luncheon proud to be a member of the VHPA! Please contact Mike Law at 303-988-7797 or mglaw@earthlink.net for more details about the luncheon and Ron Bower at ron@bowerhelicopter.com for details about the Vietnam Memory Map Project.

Poker Tournament I: From about 1 p.m. until about 5 p.m. The proceeds from this traditional event go to the VHPA Scholarship Fund. Contact Pat Ewing at 817-451-6626 or bluestar114@yahoo.com for more details.

War Story Contest/Historical Presentation Form I: Marina ‘D’ from 2 p.m. until about 5 p.m. Contact Jim Fulbrook at 703-385-2999 or jfulbrook@verizon.net for more details.

USS Midway: Remember rule #1 – Bring a jacket because it is cool on the flight deck when the sun goes down. Remember rule #2 – We are going to time sequence the bus loading at the hotel to avoid all 1,000 of us standing in line. The plan is to issue **a bus loading ticket** AND **a Midway boarding ticket**. We’ll provide more details on these two tickets at a later time. Buses start leaving from the bus loading point (near the fountain on Harbor Drive) about 6:00 p.m. and basically circle to the hotel until about 11:00 p.m. Visit www.midway.org for a visual taste! The USS Midway is the Number 1 attraction in San Diego (it eclipsed the famous Zoo several years ago) and you will enjoy it in very special ways:

- Wings and Rotors Museum (www.wingsandrotors.org) will land their restored UH-1B. It will shut down and be wheeled to join the five helicopters on permanent display on the flight deck. An active-duty Naval Helicopter Squadron may provide an SH-60 Seahawk “escort” for the Huey.
- VHPA Founder, Larry Clark, plans to bring a newly restored HA(L)-3 Seawolf UH-1B to the Reunion. If at all possible Larry will also land this UH-1B on the Midway, so we could have two Hueys landing during the program.
- A special program featuring Navy helicopter pilots who flew in and off Vietnam during the war.
- A BBQ meal cooked on the flight deck. There will be several serving areas to minimize waiting in line. Cash bars.
- Docents will provide below deck tours to two special areas – the History of the Navy Helicopter Exhibit and the restored Helicopter Ready Room plus the Junior Officers Berthing area - where the helicopter pilots bunked. (During a catered

event like ours, only the top two decks plus the tower are open. These docents help us experience the helicopter side of the Midway. Since it takes about four hours to get the 'full experience' we've arranged separate Audio Tours for Reunion Attendees on July 1st and 3rd.)

- Light entertainment featuring a USO Band.

Saturday, July 3rd

Coronado Parade: (Updated on 21 May) Old Towne Trolleys start leaving from the Trolley pickup point (across the street from the Marriott) at 7:30 a.m. and return to the hotel about 3:00 p.m. All those who purchase the VHPA ticket for the Coronado Parade will exchange them for an Old Towne Trolley ticket prior to boarding the Trolley. The Old Towne Trolley ticket is valid on any Trolley for the entire Reunion visit. This is a special offer for VHPA attendees as you can tour San Diego and disembark the bus and spend time at any of the 11 stops along the route. We have a limited number of tickets available so purchase them early. Since San Diego is such a military supporting community the Coronado Parade is very special indeed. The SoCal Chapter and the Distinguished Flying Cross Society participate in this parade every year. They invited any and all VHPAers to join them. Over 100,000 people are expected to participate or view this parade. Warning! Traffic over the Coronado Bridge is closed early for this event, this is why we chartered the Trolleys. Contact Mike O'Neil at 619-948-5326 or cobra10@obrealty.net for more details.

Helicopter Museum and Rides: (Updated on 21 May) Buses start leaving from the bus loading point (near the fountain on Harbor Drive) at 9:00 a.m. and return to the hotel about 2:00 p.m. The Ramona Airport is home to the Classic Rotors Museum (www.rotors.org) which has a flyable CH-21. The Wings & Rotors Museum (www.wingsandrotors.org) plans to position their flyable UH-1B at Ramona for this event. Helistream Helicopters plans to position a flyable Super Huey (Bell 205A++) at Ramona for this event. 12-minute flights in the Super Huey are possible. Additionally, Larry Clark plans to position his restored UH-1B at Ramona but it can't accommodate riders. Finally, Al Doucette plans to display and possibly fly some special (built from scratch) radio controlled helicopters (including a CH-21) near the Classic Rotors Museum's building. Contact Dick McCaig at 619-987-8123 or skyeman@cox.net for more details.

- Basic Museum Tour option – includes bus transportation, lunch w/drink, entrance to the Classic Rotors Museum plus 'photo opportunity' access to the helicopters mentioned above. Anyone planning to fly in a helicopter during this event must purchase a Basic Museum Tour ticket. If ever you want to give your family members an "up close and personal" helicopter experience – this is the event for you!!
- Overseas Aircraft, the company Larry Clark works for, is going the extra, extra mile to restore a UH-1B (tail number 327) that actually served with HA(L)-3 in Vietnam. The restoration effort plans to be completely accurate down to the smallest detail – instruments, weapons, seats, EVERYTHING. After the VHPA

Reunion, they will fly it to Oshkosh for the EAA fly-in and air show and then to the main HA(L)-3 Reunion in November 2010 in Charleston, SC.

- **(Updated on 21 May)** Previously the Reunion Committee offered rides in the “museum helicopters” (the CH-21, OH-58, and UH-1B). For liability insurance reasons we had to withdraw that option. However both Classic Rotors Museum and the Wings & Rotors Museum will put on an “air show” of sorts. They will start up the CH-21 and the UH-1B, bring them to a hover, fly around a little, then shut down again. You will be able to go inside the helicopters, put people in seats, take pictures, etc. All those who purchased CH-21, OH-58, or UH-1B ride tickets will be offered a ride in the Super Huey and a refund of the price differential.
- **(Updated on 21 May)** Helisteam is a commercial helicopter company licensed to carry passengers. They will provide about 12-minute flights around the Ramona Airport area for those who purchase a ticket from the VHPA.

Balboa Park 4 Museum Tour I: Buses leave from the bus loading point (near the fountain on Harbor Drive) at 9:30 a.m. and return to the hotel about 4:30 p.m. San Diego’s renowned urban cultural center, Balboa Park is home to 15 major museums, lovely gardens, and many other cultural and recreational attractions. Your day pass allows you to select 4 of the Parks’ Museums that interest you the most. Spend the day at *Balboa Park* - a special place where you can experience San Diego’s natural beauty, wonderful art and culture and stunning Spanish Revival architecture. Your motor coach will take you to the *Air & Space Museum*. You may choose to visit the museum or board the free tram at the museum to begin your day at an alternate attraction. Your pass provides complimentary admission to any 4 museums you choose. Some of the other options include the *Museums of Art, Photography, International Culture, San Diego History, Automotive, Sports, Model Railroad, Natural History, the Science Center, Japanese Friendship Garden* and much more. This is the “Smithsonian Museum of the west”. Be sure to stop by the visitor’s center, which includes an exceptional gift shop featuring regional maps, books, apparel, and much more. You will be provided a list of available museums, as well as a tram map to help you plan your day. The park offers restaurants for lunch on your own. The motor coach will depart from the *Air & Space Museum* at 4:00pm to return to the hotel.

San Diego Zoo I: Buses leave from the bus loading point (near the fountain on Harbor Drive) at 9:30 a.m. and return to the hotel about 4:30 p.m. San Diego Zoo is home to many rare and intriguing creatures from nearly every region of the world. With more than 4,000 animals representing 800 species, the zoo is home to a diverse collection of animals, many of which are rarely seen at other zoos. Spend the day at the famous *San Diego Zoo*, where you will have plenty of time to visit some of the most popular attractions, as well as personal places of interest. Don’t miss Mei Sheng, the second baby panda born at the *San Diego Zoo*, this is truly one of the most unique and most beloved species on the planet - and very few are ever seen outside their native habitat in northern China. Don’t miss the zoo’s *Absolutely Apes* exhibit, where you will see eye to eye with the gorillas, and the expansive rain forest habitat, where orangutans and siamangs live and play together just like in the wild. Your zoo pass includes the 40-minute narrated tour on a double-decked bus, covering about seventy-five percent of the Zoo. Your tour ticket also includes use of the Express Bus, double or single-decked buses that allow guests to

hop on and off at five different stops throughout the Zoo. The Express Bus passes by the designated stops every 20 minutes or less and is great for quick transportation to the different exhibits. You may also take an “airborne” shortcut over the treetops. This aerial transportation also offers a spectacular view of the Zoo and surrounding *Balboa Park*. The Zoo offers many restaurants for lunch on your own. The restaurants offer a variety of choices including all-American favorites and tasty treats from around the world. There are numerous lifts and moving sidewalks to help get you through the park, however *there is obviously still a fair amount of walking required at the Zoo*.

USS Midway Audio Tour II: Buses leave from the bus loading point (near the fountain on Harbor Drive) at 10:45 a.m. return to the hotel about 2:15 p.m. This self-guided audio tour of the USS Midway offers 25 restored aircraft and 60 exciting exhibits from the powerful engine room to the Conning Tower & Bridge. She was firing Tomahawk Missiles during the Liberation of Kuwait and now the *USS Midway* begins her final tour of duty in the heart of downtown San Diego's waterfront area. One of the true icons of the U.S. Navy in the latter half of the 20th century, she is a modern marvel. This is the most modern warship available for general touring today. You will take a look back at the history of America's longest serving Aircraft Carrier through many of the museum exhibits. The *Midway Museum* tour is a self guided audio tour which allows you to tour at your own pace. Elevator access is available to 75% of the exhibits. The tour will take you through the hangar deck and up onto the flight deck. There is a gift shop and café on-board.

Private Luncheon Cruise: A special private 2-hour lunch cruise on San Diego Bay. Board your luxury yacht at the Marriott Hotel's dock at 11:30 a.m. and embark on a narrated cruise featuring an all you can eat lunch buffet. You will return to the hotel about 2:15 p.m. Enjoy the afternoon on board a beautiful re-created turn-of-the-century coastal steamer, with luxurious interiors and spacious salons. The climate-controlled boat offers three decks, four salons, and a raised sun deck providing spectacular views of the *San Diego Harbor* & skyline. Enjoy a buffet luncheon while viewing 25 scenic miles of San Diego's magnificent skyline. This is a private cruise just for the VHPA. Don't miss this wonderful opportunity to spend time with your family and friends.

Poker Tournament II: From about 3 p.m. until about 7 p.m. The proceeds from this traditional event go to the VHPA Scholarship Fund. Contact Pat Ewing at 817-451-6626 or bluestar114@yahoo.com for more details.

War Story Contest/Historical Presentation Form II: Marina 'D' from 3 p.m. until about 6:30 p.m. Contact Jim Fulbrook at 703-385-2999 or jfulbrook@verizon.net for more details.

Dinner on your own – The Reunion Committee designed this evening for units, friends, families, etc. to enjoy some quality time together. If you want to organize a meal in a private meeting room at the hotel – Do it! We have at least a dozen rooms you can pick from. Want to go out – Do it! The hotel Concierge can provide a map of the famous Gaslamp Quarter and to Seaport Village on the embarcadero. Literally there are more than 100 restaurants and shops within easy walking distance from the hotel. On check-in you will also receive a San Diego Visitor's Guide book that has details for the greater metropolitan area. If you are not into walking there is a liberal supply of Pedal Cabs all

around the hotel and the downtown area. Contact Tom Crosby at 858-486-6535 or tcrosby@juno.com for more ideas, details and suggestions.

Movie Night: Marina 'D' from 7 p.m. until about 9 p.m. We'll have popcorn and beer plus the Audio Visual equipment needed for the War Story Contest/Historical Presentation Form. Want to watch *In The Shadow of the Blade* with other Vietnam helicopter pilots and get the 'behind the scenes details' from Gary Roush? We also plan to show *Above the Finest* produced Bob Boudreaux and Mike McDonald for the 2nd VHPA Reunion in 1984. Contact Gary at 607-936-3687 or webmaster@vhpa.org for more details.

Sunday, July 4th

Memorial Service: San Diego 'C' from 8 a.m. until 9 a.m. This service has been gaining momentum during the last few Reunions as people gather to remember and pay tribute to those we've lost recently. The NYC Police Emerald Society Bagpipers will support this event. Contact Gary Rossome at ghostrider17158@yahoo.com or Tom Payne at 918-298-5132 or bandit32@cox.net for more details.

Sunday Brunch: San Diego 'B' from about 9 a.m. until 11 a.m. Most everyone enjoys a Sunday Brunch! This one can be with some of your best friends or someone you just met at the Memorial Service.

Temecula Winery & Lunch Tour: Buses leave from the bus loading point (near the fountain on Harbor Drive) at 9:00 a.m. return to the hotel about 3:00 p.m. Spend the day in Temecula Valley, home to over 25 award-winning wineries. The day begins at one of Temecula's finest wineries offering many award winning wines. Begin with a tour of the winery, meet the winemaker and learn about the winemaking process. Following the tour, relax in the tasting room and sample some of the wines made on the premises, followed by a light sandwich lunch. Then, board your coach for the short drive to downtown Temecula. Learn about the history of this quaint California town and how it has grown over the years. Following the tour, there will be time to stroll along the wooden boardwalks and shop the specialty boutiques, antique stores and art galleries. Whether you are a history buff, antique collector, or window shopper; enjoy a step back in time in this town reminiscent of our historic "Golden West" in the 1880s.

Balboa Park 4 Museum Tour II: Buses leave from the bus loading point (near the fountain on Harbor Drive) at 9:30 a.m. and return to the hotel about 3:30 p.m. San Diego's renowned urban cultural center, Balboa Park is home to 15 major museums, lovely gardens, and many other cultural and recreational attractions. Your day pass allows you to select 4 of the Parks' Museums that interest you the most. Spend the day at *Balboa Park* - a special place where you can experience San Diego's natural beauty, wonderful art and culture and stunning Spanish Revival architecture. Your motor coach will take you to the *Air & Space Museum*. You may choose to visit the museum or board the free tram at the museum to begin your day at an alternate attraction. Your pass provides complimentary admission to any 4 museums you choose. Some of the other options include the *Museums of Art, Photography, International Culture, San Diego History, Automotive, Sports, Model Railroad, Natural History, the Science Center, Japanese Friendship Garden* and much more. This is the "Smithsonian Museum of the

west.” Be sure to stop by the visitor’s center, which includes an exceptional gift shop featuring regional maps, books, apparel, & much more. You will be provided a list of available museums, as well as a tram map to help you plan your day. The park offers restaurants for lunch on your own. The motor coach will depart from the *Air & Space Museum* at 3:00 p.m. to return to the hotel.

San Diego Zoo II: Buses leave from the bus loading point (near the fountain on Harbor Drive) at 9:30 a.m. and return to the hotel about 3:30 p.m. San Diego Zoo is home to many rare and intriguing creatures from nearly every region of the world. With more than 4,000 animals representing 800 species, the zoo is home to a diverse collection of animals, many of which are rarely seen at other zoos. Spend the day at the famous *San Diego Zoo*, where you will have plenty of time to visit some of the most popular attractions, as well as personal places of interest. Don’t miss Mei Sheng, the second baby panda born at the *San Diego Zoo*, this is truly one of the most unique and most beloved species on the planet - and very few are ever seen outside their native habitat in northern China. Don’t miss the zoo’s *Absolutely Apes* exhibit, where you will see eye to eye with the gorillas, and the expansive rain forest habitat, where orangutans and siamangs live and play together just like in the wild. Your zoo pass includes the 40-minute narrated tour on a double-decked bus, covering about seventy-five percent of the Zoo. Your tour ticket also includes use of the Express Bus, double or single-decked buses that allow guests to hop on and off at five different stops throughout the Zoo. The Express Bus passes by the designated stops every 20 minutes or less and is great for quick transportation to the different exhibits. You may also take an “airborne” shortcut over the treetops. This aerial transportation also offers a spectacular view of the Zoo and surrounding *Balboa Park*. The Zoo offers many restaurants for lunch on your own. The restaurants offer a variety of choices including all-American favorites and tasty treats from around the world. There are numerous lifts and moving sidewalks to help get you through the park, however *there is obviously still a fair amount of walking required at the Zoo*.

Quilt Show & Tell: From about 2 p.m. until about 4 p.m. We encourage anyone interested in quilting to bring their favorite quilt for the ‘show & tell’ session. Additionally we have arranged for Cheryl Raney, a professional longarm quilter, to provide a short seminar on T-shirt Quilting techniques. San Diego has a world-class quilter’s shop named Rosie’s Calico Cupboard. Cheryl teaches T-shirt Quilting classes at Rosie’s. The goal of this event is to take something special that happened quite by accident during San Antonio 2008 Reunion to the next level. During the San Antonio reunion three ladies were talking in the Vendor Room as their husbands looked around. They started talking about quilts. One lady said that she was almost finished with a quilt made from her husband’s collection of VHPA Reunion T-shirts. The others asked if they could see it. Ten minutes after she spread her quilt on an empty table and IMMEDIATELY there were more than ten ladies admiring her work. Contact Dianna Law at 303-988-7797 or mglaw@earthlink.net for more details and/or suggestions.

Closing Banquet: We can’t stress strongly enough how important it is to make your table seating preferences known to HQ as early as possible. A preference could be a unit such as B/1/9th Cav or a flight class such as 67-14 or a VHPA Chapter or the name of an individual (Howard Horton). We have lots of challenges here. About 1,200 people will attend this dinner. We want each to have a special memorable experience. We seat 10

people to a table. Some “lucky person” gets to assign everyone to a specific table. This “lucky person” will be at the Banquet Seating desk all during the Reunion to accommodate any last minute changes. Even with all this preparation, someone will come in on July 2nd with the news that he just purchased a ticket and he is now sitting with Howard Horton. The problem is Howard’s table already has ten people! Please – please make your seating preferences known to HQ as early as possible. Thank you.

Doors to the Marriott Hall ballroom open at 5:45 p.m. We guarantee the presentation of the colors will make you proud to be an American. Back by popular demand the NYC Police Emerald Society Bagpipers will again treat us to their very special tribute to the military services. Gary Roush’s last official act as President of the VHPA will be to welcome Woody McFarlin as the new President. After the meal the *Fantastic Diamond Band* presents an incredible tribute show that takes us through a musical journey of Neil Diamond's greatest hits that span the last forty years. You can enjoy the band for a while and then adjourn to the Coronado Terrace to watch the 4th of July Fireworks display fired from barges in the bay between the hotel and Coronado Island.

Fireworks: Even though during the summer, especially when there is a concert on the embarcadero, there are fireworks most every night in the bay between the hotel and Coronado Island; the 4th of July presentation is SPECIAL. The Coronado Terrace (on the roof top of the fourth level, South Tower facing the water) is a PERFECT viewing area. We’ll have cash bars and some live music so you can enjoy being outside. San Diego has an ordinance prohibiting amplified sound after 10 p.m. So by that time the fireworks will be over and so will be live music.

Monday, July 5th

Enjoy San Diego or depart for home.