

NAVY NUCLEAR WEAPONS ASSOCIATION

“KEEPERS of the DRAGON”©™

NNWA Bulletin



June 2020



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NNWA Board Members 2019-2020

| | | | |
|----------------|--------------------------|--------------|--|
| President | Bob Fischer | 386-569-5586 | president@navynucweps.com |
| Vice President | Bethany Gray | 360-620-0098 | vicepresident@navynucweps.com |
| Secretary | John Gray | 360-895-3188 | secretary@navynucweps.com |
| Treasurer | Donald Schultz | 352-259-1403 | treasurer@navynucweps.com |
| Chaplain | Ed Deitzler | 619-275-2733 | chaplain@navynucweps.com |
| Master-at-Arms | Kris Hobbs | 619-733-6896 | maa@navynucweps.com |
| Historian | Julien (Lindy) Lindstrom | 505-999-0519 | historian@navynucweps.com |
| Webmaster | Ray C. Margeson | 607-732-0579 | boardmember2@navynucweps.com |
| Storekeeper | Dwight Chipperfield | 308-760-6273 | boardmember4@navynucweps.com |
| Director | John Hawkins | 239-540-1830 | boardmember1@navynucweps.com |
| Director | Denice Young | 405-875-8453 | boardmember6@navynucweps.com |
| Director | Charlie Behymer | 520-360-9989 | boardmember3@navynucweps.com |

Service Officer: Denice Young

Gray Dragon: John Cummings

President's Message

Fellow Dragon Keepers,

It's been a rough few months for all of us. I hope the Coronavirus stayed away from you and yours. I'm sure we are all tired of sheltering and would like to get out. I venture to the grocery store and Home Depot once a week with mask on.

Jacksonville is opening slowly. We have limited seating in restaurants and the beaches and parks are open. Hopefully it won't backfire and we end up back where we started.

As of this writing the reunion in Colorado Springs is still happening. I think by the end of September we should be OK for travelling and hotels. Chip and Shelly Chipperfield have a great reunion planned. Details are in this newsletter.

Folks we need board members. Two board members have been in the same position for several years. I encourage you to consider running for the board. You will not be assigned an officer position for two years. As a Director you will learn how the board and association work. Without a complete Board of Directors the association will not be able to function.

Fran and I hope to see your smiling faces in Colorado

Bob Fischer
NNWA President



Vice-President's Message

Fellow Members,

The president has expressed his desire to clarify the eligibility requirements for Regular membership; specifically in the NNWA By-Laws, Article IV Section 2. Currently Article IV, Section 2 reads:

“SECTION 2. ELEGIBILITY - The REGULAR MEMBERSHIP in the Corporation shall be limited to: present or former Navy and Marine Corps personnel, Navy Civil Service personnel or Support Contractor personnel who:

A. Have had duties requiring the inspection, loading, operational use, support, assembly, or disassembly of nuclear weapons, or

B. Who were attached to a Naval or Marine Corps command and whose primary responsibility with Nuclear Weapons includes any of the following:

1. Depot, Intermediate or Local Level Maintenance, Repair or Storage of Nuclear Weapons, or

2. Nuclear Safety, Nuclear Security or Personnel Reliability Program (PRP) management.

C. Excepted from eligibility are duties solely involving guard force or reaction force activities.”

It is proposed that Article IV, Section 2 be changed to read:

“SECTION 2. ELIGIBILITY - The REGULAR MEMBERSHIP in the Corporation shall be limited to: present or former Navy and Marine Corps personnel, Navy Civil Service personnel or Navy Contractor Support personnel who:

Secretary's Message

A. *Were attached to a Naval or Marine Corps command and whose primary responsibility with Nuclear Weapons included or includes any of the following:*

1. *Depot, Intermediate or Organizational Level Maintenance of Nuclear Weapons, or*
2. *Nuclear Weapons Safety, Nuclear Weapons Security, Personnel Reliability Program (PRP) management, Nuclear Weapons Supply, Nuclear Weapons Administrative Support, or Nuclear Weapons Technical Inspections.*

B. *Exempted from eligibility are duties solely involving accident/incident response, aircraft loading teams, aircraft pilots, guard force or reaction force activities, ordnance handling teams, submarine crew members, and transshipment teams."*

This proposed change will be voted on at the Annual Business Meeting of the association membership to be held at 1000 2 OCT 20. Absentee or proxy votes are not allowed so all members are highly encouraged to attend the reunion and vote on this proposed bylaws change.

As spring turns into summer I hope this finds everyone weathering through these "Tough Times" in good spirits. If anyone is feeling down due to COVID 19 just think of all the good times shared in the past of how we all survived much worse in the Navy being out to sea for months on end. Family and God come first. Friends are here to support one another. Reach out! We are here to answer any questions you may have.

I am looking forward to seeing everyone at the NNWA 2020 Reunion at Colorado Springs hosted by Chip & Shelly Chipperfield.

R/
Bethany Gray
NNWA Vice President

Fellow Weaponeers,

Thanks to the diligent efforts of a couple of our board members – particularly John Hawkins – we have signed up 51 new members since January 2019.

I am asking that new members consider serving on the Board of Directors to help chart the course for the future of our organization. When we were on active duty, having new personnel rotate into a command brought in fresh ideas and perspectives on how to get things done. Serving on the BOD is like that - new members bring new ideas. Long serving members can step aside and let the "new blood" take over.

How do you get to be a board member? Volunteer yourself to an existing BOD member via email, phone, or in person. Then that member will ensure your name is placed on the elections ballot at the next reunion's Annual Business Meeting. Assuming you are elected the term will be for a two year period. Some people serve only one term – others stay on for ten years. It is up to the individual.

You will likely serve as a Director for at least one year so you can become familiar with the workings of the BOD and the organization. Starting the 2nd year on the board you can express interest in one of the other officer positions. Specific officer positions are filled at the BOD meeting immediately following the Annual Business Meeting by consensus of the BOD members.

Board Members do not have to attend every reunion, we understand that is just not possible, so we all cover for each other. Items at the reunion requiring a vote are carried by the majority of the BOD in attendance. We actually conduct most business over the course of the year via email. We do leave each reunion with a "to do" list of items

to improve the organization, how it operates, and to make our reunions better.

Hopefully this answers most questions about how to serve the NNWA as a board member. If you have any other questions feel free to ask any of us – we are here to help.

Again – I encourage any member who has not served on the BOD to consider it – it takes members serving on the board to keep our organization running.

We hope to see you all in Colorado Springs!

All the Best,
John

Treasurer’s Message

As treasurer and keeper of the roster, let me welcome our new and reinstated members since the last newsletter. We have 15 new and reinstated members since the last newsletter. They are:

| | |
|------------------------|------------------|
| Christopher Haynie | Todd A, Dahkle |
| Timothy S. Ledford | John C. Glenn Jr |
| Gregory L. Householder | David Burkhart |
| David Steward | Arthur Tack |
| Roger C. Martin | Kerry Shiparski |
| John Hopper | James Bass |
| Bill Ooten | William Beard |
| Donald Clairmont | |

We now have 1014 members listed on the membership roster; 461 members in good standing; 59 life members (spouses of deceased members); 494 past members (members with unpaid dues for three years); 97 members with dues in arrears; and one reciprocal member (NAAV).

Past members can be reinstated by sending the \$10.00 reinstatement fee plus \$15.00 for a total of

\$25.00. They will then be reinstated as a new member.

If you are unsure whether yours dues are up to date and you receive your newsletter by mail, look at the date in the upper right corner of the mailing which shows the month and year to which your dues are paid. If you receive your newsletter electronically, log onto our website and check your membership status there in the Membership Roster. The dues date will be listed in the date column to the right of your name on the membership roster.

Beginning in January 2020, NNWA Membership dues were increased to \$15.00 per year. Any dues received in the incorrect amount will be returned to the sender.

The current membership roster is posted on our website. Members not on-line can request a hard copy of the roster by calling or writing:

Donald Schultz
573 Beaulieu Loop
The Villages, FL 32163
Phone: 352-259-1403

Please review the roster and notify the Treasurer or any board member of any changes in your status.

Currently, we have \$26,613.60 on deposit with Wells Fargo Bank.

When making a payment to the NNWA, please make checks payable to NNWA Treasurer, or Donald Schultz NNWA Treasurer, or Donald Schultz. The bank will not accept made out any other way. Please ensure that when sending money to the NNWA that it is the correct amount.

Donald K. Schultz
Treasurer and Keeper of the Roster

Chaplain's Corner

Greetings Everyone,

Just a short note to wish you all well and hope that you are coping well with this situation that we are all in at the present. I hope you are all looking forward to the upcoming reunion in Colorado Springs, I know that I am. I am sure that most things will be different than they are right now. We just have to adapt to what will be the new norm.

I had some one ask me the other day, "What do you really feel like being cooped up because of the Covid-19"? I replied, "Not much different than being cooped up on the CVA-19 during Viet Nam. Didn't get to go anywhere much than either and when you did go somewhere, there was no telling what you might catch so you had to make sure you had PPE same as now".

To those of you that I was able to telephone or email during all this, I want to say that it was a pleasure to meet some of you for the first time and for others, thanks for kindling an old friendship. I hope that others of you did use some of this time constructively to get in touch with past shipmates to see how they are doing. Our Gray Dragon is still kicking but not quite as much as before. He has now been moved to assisted living and his memory, like a lot of us, is not quite the same anymore.

Take care everyone and wear those masks. Be safe and if there are any of you or your family members that are currently working on the front lines I thank you very much for all that is being done. And I thank those of you that are helping the food banks, homeless vets, those out of work and all that might need assistance right now. It takes all of us to stand together to get through this. We have to have each other's backs. That is what we have been used to.

See you in Colorado,
Chaplain Ed

Historian's Message

Before the St. Louis reunion all the memorabilia inventory was drastically reduced. All Documents and Publications that had been scanned, including all cruise books, and not wanted returned by the donors, were boxed up and sent to other Navy historical groups. The item count went from 229 to less than 40. The new inventory will soon be available on the NNWA Website. Any additional items that are discovered will be added when found.

Continuing with my conversations with Steve Kasunic, original member of the Manhattan Project at Los Alamos:

Steve was a mechanical engineer assigned to the gun-type weapon, the 25 Project. He had an engineer's understanding of the chemical and physical properties of the elements, but soon learned all about the nuclear properties of Uranium. He was fascinated and after the war he dug into the history of element 92.

For many years the main use of Uranium was as the source of Radium, one of its decay products. The element itself was used primarily to color things like paint, glass, dinnerware and dentures, giving them the slightly off-white tint of natural teeth. It was not until the later 1930s that the value of Uranium for energy, or a weapon, made it priceless.

Uranium deposits are scattered around the world. The US and Canada have the largest supply in the Western Hemisphere. In Europe, it's Belgium and Czechoslovakia. There are a few other countries as well, but the Russians have never made public how much they have. The richest source on the planet was in the Belgian Congo, at the Shinkolabwe mine, owned by the Belgian company Union Miniere.

Many minerals are economical to retrieve at purities of only 1% or 2%. The Uranium ore from

Shinkolabwe was an astounding 65% purity. The mine had long been the source of most of the world's Radium, and even the tailings after the Radium was removed were 20% pure.

When Hitler began the war the German A-bomb program, such as it was, started. When France was invaded, Belgium was also occupied. The directors at Union Miniere headquarters were pressured into sending the 1000 tons of Uranium ore they had on hand to Germany. They also wanted the ore from Africa. But the manager of Shinkolabwe, Edgar Sengier, was a confirmed anti-Nazi, and was determined that the Germans would get as little of his ore as possible. And he took steps to see that through.

With the start of the Manhattan project, General Groves was determined to get every gram of Uranium in the world under his control, or at least that the Germans would get as little as was humanly possible.

He learned that Edgar Sengier was in the US and sent officers to see him, to learn what it would take to get his ore. Sengier told them that he had stored 1200 tons of it in a warehouse on Staten Island for two years waiting for the US to ask for it.

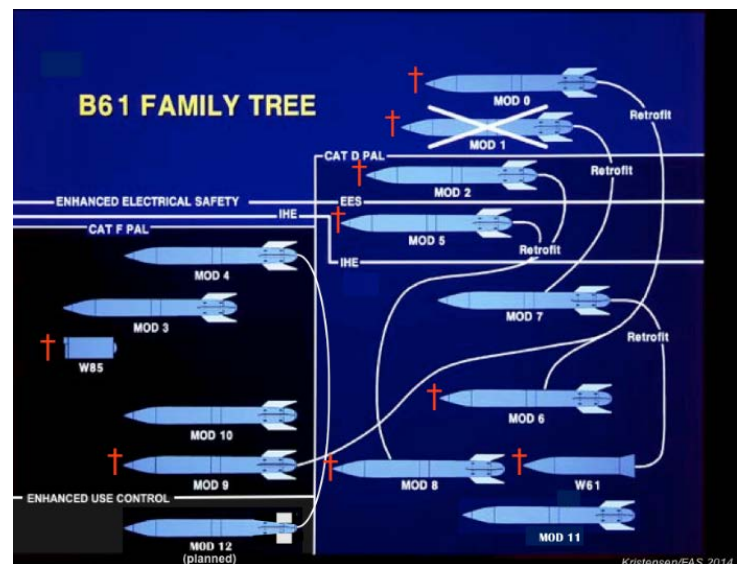
Shinkolabwe sent all the ore they could dig out throughout the war. Secrecy was at its peak during this process, with the OSS deeply involved. The mine was 1500 miles from the nearest Atlantic port, and the ore was first moved by train for 500 miles. It was then loaded on barges and traveled down the Congo River for 600 miles, where river rapids required it travel the rest of the way on trains again before loading on ships.

The mine provided 2/3 of all the Uranium the Manhattan Project needed, and Canadian and US mines most of the rest. In May 1945 some was even taken from a surrendered German U-Boat which had been transporting it to Japan.

Shinkolabwe finally played out and was abandoned. By the early 1960s Oak Ridge had produced nearly all the U-235 the US needed and that process was largely shut down.

The war ended, but Steve Kasunic had one more tale to tell.

I hope to see you all in the Springs,
Jay Lindstrom



MAA Message

Be safe and arrive safe in Colorado Springs, enjoy and bring your bucks for the tic - tic - tickets!

Kris

Webmaster Message

At long last - we have finally achieved a quarter of a million hits on the NNWA website.

Ray

Service Officer's Message

Denice Young serves as the NNWA Service Officer. She regularly posts information regarding

veteran's benefits on the NNWA website. Denice encourages members to contact her with questions and concerns regarding their service related benefits. Her email is:

serviceofficer@navynucweeps.com

Upcoming Reunion Information

**NNWA 35th Annual Reunion
Colorado Springs, CO
28 SEP – 3 October 2020**

Hello All,

I hope you are all well.

Shelly and I have been working with Military Reunion planners on our 2020 reunion in Colorado Springs. Providing the COVID 19 pandemic passes and we are able to get together below is what we have scheduled.

Colorado Springs is a beautiful place. I look forward to seeing more of it. Remember it is high country. This time of year the weather may be really nice. Or, it might be really snowy. So keep an eye on the weather forecast and pack your cloths accordingly.

We look forward to another great reunion and good times. Reunion will be held 28 September through 03 October. The link to the reunion website is:

<https://militaryreunionplanners.com/SR/index.php?folder=NNWA2020COS>

The proposed 2020 Reunion Itinerary:

Monday, September 28:

- Main Arrival Day. Registration & Hospitality Open
- 1800 Group Buffet Dinner at the Hotel

Tuesday, September 29:

- 0900 Colorado Springs City Tour
- Lunch on Own
- 1400 Free time at hotel

Wednesday, September 30:

- 0900 Tour of Air Force Academy.
- Lunch at the Academy with cadets in mess hall.
- Free time at the Hotel
- Iron Springs Chateau Melodrama Group Dinner & Show

Thursday, October 1:

- 0930 Cripple Creek Excursion
- 1630 Return to hotel – Dinner and Evening on your own

Friday, October 2:

- TBD NNWA Business Meeting
- 1800 Cocktail Hour from the Cash Bar
- 1900 Banquet Dinner

Saturday, October 3:

- Group Farewells & Departure

Dwight and Shelly Chipperfield

Future Reunions

The 36nd reunion of the NNWA in 2021 will be held in:

| | |
|-----------|---|
| Region: | Central US |
| Location: | TBD |
| Host: | The BOD and the Military Reunion Planners (MRP) |

The 37nd reunion of the NNWA in 2022 will be held in:

| | |
|-----------|----------------------------------|
| Region: | Eastern US |
| Location: | Tidewater, VA |
| Host: | Jim Harris, the BOD, and the MRP |



NAVY NUCLEAR WEAPONS ASSOCIATION

Colorado Springs, CO | September 28 – October 3, 2020

Welcome to Colorado Springs - the Home of the U.S. Air Force Academy

The “Springs” is located at the eastern foot of the Rocky Mountains. It lies near glacier-carved *Pikes Peak*, a national landmark and the highest navigable road in America with the summit topping out at 14,114 feet. The city's *Garden of the Gods* Park features iconic red-sandstone formations and mountain views. It is also home to venerable Air Force Academy.



Hotel Information



Events start on Monday, September 28 and run through Sunday, October 3. We will be headquartered at the full-service Hotel Elegante which is located at 2886 S Circle Dr, Colorado Springs, CO 80906. The hotel room rate is just \$129 + tax per night and includes a full, hot breakfast buffet during the reunion dates. The most fool-proof way to make room reservations is online. If you prefer to call the hotel, call Lenea at 719-576-5900 Mon-Fri from 9-4 pm MST. The group rate is good 3 days before and after the reunion, based on availability. If you

have any trouble getting a room at the group rate, please call MRP (Mon-Fri, 9-4 CST) at 817-251-3551 or email Info@MilitaryReunionPlanners.com.

Airport Transportation & Parking

If you are flying to the reunion, the closest airport is Colorado Springs (COS). The hotel has a complimentary airport shuttle service, with reservations highly recommended. If you are flying to COS, please call the hotel at 719-517-5900 a day before your arrival to schedule a pick-up. It would be a good idea before you leave for the airport to remind them of your arrival time and confirm shuttle arrangements. Call again when you land to confirm pickup time. For those of you driving, the hotel has plenty of free parking. For directions, call the hotel.

Travel safely and we will ***See you in The Springs!***



NAVY NUCLEAR WEAPONS ASSOCIATION 2020 REUNION

Colorado Springs, CO | September 28 – October 3, 2020

Colorado Springs City Tour including Garden of the Gods Tuesday, September 29 (9:00am-2:00pm)



Begin your day with a guided tour of the City of Colorado Springs, a city of unparalleled natural beauty. A highlight will be our visit to the famous “Garden of the Gods,” one of the most photographed natural wonders in the United States. The 1,350 acre park at the foot of Pikes Peak features fantastically shaped sandstone formations that jut from the earth at crazy angles. Our guide will tell us all about “GOG,” Pike’s Peak, early pioneers, and more.

Tour of the United States Air Force Academy Wednesday, Sep 30 (9:00am-2:00pm)

Your tour of the Air Force Academy will include a history of the AFA, parade grounds, static displays, the Air Force Chapel, barracks, Mess Hall, and the visitor center. Lunch will be included. Note this tour and attractions are subject to any post-COVID Virus restrictions in place at the Academy. MRP reserves the right to make a substitution for this tour should that the Academy not permit visitation.



Iron Springs Chateau Dinner & Show Wednesday, Sep 30 (5:30-10:00 pm)



Ready for some good, old-fashioned, fun? Your evening will begin with a three course meal of your choice (please make your selection on the reservation form). A cash bar is available. Immediately following dinner, the *Melodrama* will begin (audience participation is strongly encouraged).

“Honesty Always Wins...or...This Mine is Mine” - This production is a hilarious adventure where you’ll boo the villain, cheer your hero, and *ooooo and ahhhh* your lovely heroine. The melodrama is followed by a sing-along intermission and a fun-filled Vaudeville style Anniversary “1960 to Now - 60 years of Fun!” musical revue with crazy costumes, songs, dances and jokes! Audience participation is a must, so after dinner go upstairs and be prepared to be nice and loud and have a good time! Note: a cash bar is available on-site.

Cripple Creek Excursion

Thursday, Oct 1 (9:30am-3:30pm)

The historic town of *Cripple Creek* sits on the southwest slopes of majestic Pikes Peak, and more than 100 years ago, this community attracted tens of thousands of gold-seekers to its hillsides in search of their fortunes. The gold mines are an important part of Cripple Creek’s very colorful history. You will begin your tour at the historic train station where you may choose to take the *Cripple Creek & Victor Narrow Gauge Railroad* for a scenic train trip. Or, you may choose to begin at the *District Museum* located adjacent to the train station, one of the many very hospitable casinos, or just stroll through the historic town where you will find unusual shops as well as places for lunch on your own.



Membership Meeting at the Hotel
Friday, Oct 2 (TBD)

Farewell Banquet Dinner
Friday, Oct 2 (7pm)

Please make entrée selection on the reservation form. Cocktails served at 6pm and dinner begins at 7pm.

Event Cancellation Insurance

Protect yourself from unforeseen expenses caused by illness, injury or other causes that may impact your travel plans. Tour Cancellation Insurance allows you to receive a refund of tour and banquet expenses. Please note there is a \$10 per person processing fee. Cancellation Insurance expires at 11:59pm the day **before** the reunion begins. No refunds are given the day of the reunion (beginning at midnight), **even** if you purchased cancellation insurance. Should you need to cancel your reservations please contact our office immediately by calling 817-251-3551, Monday through Friday between 9:00am-4:00pm CST or email us at info@MilitaryReunionPlanners.com. If you did not purchase cancellation insurance please note all tour and banquet monies become non-refundable 6 weeks prior to the reunion.

ALL RESERVATIONS ARE DUE BY AUGUST 17, 2020. Late reservations will be accepted on a space available basis with a non-refundable \$20 per person late fee. Please make a copy of this information for your records. Should you need additional information call our offices Monday through Friday at 817-251-3551 or email us at info@MilitaryReunionPlanners.com. Requests for cancellations and refunds must be made by email or in writing to MRP, P.O. Box 1588, Colleyville, TX 76034, and postmarked before the due date. No refunds will be made after this date unless you have purchased *Tour Cancellation Insurance*. Sorry, no refunds will be given for any reason beginning at midnight the day of your reunion. Please note there is a refund processing fee of \$10 per person. For written confirmation of your cancellation please send a self-addressed, stamped envelope with your request to our office. Your cancelled check is your receipt as well as your proof of purchase. A \$25 return fee will be charged for NSF checks. MRP will not be held liable for failure of vendors to provide contracted services or any injuries/accidents that may occur during the reunion.



NNWA 2020 REUNION RESERVATION FORM

Mail this completed form with a check payable to: MRP, Box 1588, Colleyville, TX 76034

| DATE | TIME | EVENT | COST | QTY | TOTAL |
|--------------|-----------|--|---------|-----|-------|
| | | Reunion Registration - Members | \$45 pp | | |
| | | Reunion Registration – Spouse/Guest(s) | \$20 pp | | |
| MON 9/28 | 1800 | Pizza Party at the Hotel | \$1 pp | | |
| TUE 9/29 | 0900-1400 | Colorado Springs City Tour | \$49 pp | | |
| WED 9/30 | 0900-1400 | Tour of Air Force Academy including lunch | \$55 pp | | |
| WED 9/30 | 1730-2200 | Iron Springs Chateau Melodrama Dinner & Show – make entrée selection below | | | |
| | | Old Fashioned Pot Roast | \$75 pp | | |
| | | Herb Roasted Chicken Breast | \$75 pp | | |
| | | Baked Salmon Filet | \$79 pp | | |
| THU 10/1 | 0930-1530 | Cripple Creek Excursion | \$44 pp | | |
| FRI 10/2 | 1800 | Farewell Banquet Dinner – <i>make entree selection below</i> | | | |
| | | Grilled Angus Steak with Peppercorn Demi Glace | \$49 pp | | |
| | | Chipotle Lime Chicken Breast with Black Bean Salsa | \$45 pp | | |
| | | Non-refundable Late Reservation Fee (If registering after August 17, 2020) | \$20 pp | | |
| | | Tour Cancellation Insurance: Protect your \$\$ (Fee is non-refundable) | \$25 pp | | |
| TOTAL | | | | | |

>>> PLEASE PROVIDE THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION:

NAME (As you want it to appear on badge): _____

SPOUSE: _____ GUEST: _____

ADDRESS: _____ CITY: _____ ST: _____ ZIP: _____

PRIMARY PHONE: _____ EMAIL ADDRESS: _____

EMERGENCY CONTACT: _____ PHONE NUMBER: _____

OF NNWA REUNIONS ATTENDED: _____

LIST ANY SPECIAL NEEDS (ex. dietary, wheelchair lift, etc.): _____

RESERVATIONS ARE DUE BY AUGUST 17, 2020

- There will be a 10% surcharge for orders taken over the phone. Please have your order ready before calling MRP.
- Reservation money is non-refundable after due date unless Tour Cancellation insurance is purchased above.
- Insurance holders are eligible for a refund less processing fee until Midnight before the 1st day of the reunion.
- Insurance ends once the reunion begins – notification in writing/email must be received prior to start of reunion.
- Late reservations are accepted on a space available basis with a non-refundable \$15 per person late fee.
- Watch for an email confirmation of your order and online roster update as your proof of payment.
- Changes not possible online including cancellations. Email/Mail notice for cancellations required.
- To register and pay by check please print this form and mail it with a check to: MRP, Box 1588 Colleyville, TX 76034
- Cancellations subject to \$10 pp processing fee and any credit card charges imposed by carrier

Call or email MRP if you need to add, cancel, or modify your reservation at 817-251-3551 or email info@MilitaryReunionPlanners.com. MRP agents are available weekdays from 9-4 CST. Voice Mail is 24/7
You must leave a voice message to receive a call back. Thank you for using Military Reunion Planners, LLC.