



48th Assault Helicopter Company

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www.48ahc.org



Greetings Fellow Blue Stars,

The Kentucky Derby may be over but the race to Louisville is still on and we're headed toward the finish line. The Mint Juleps will still be flowing and Whiskey Row will be doing more than a brisk business when we hit town. It's time for our Annual summer reunion and it promises to be a hoot! As of April 1st, the total VHPA registration is at 1,080 adults. The VHPA estimates the final attendance at 1,725. Just a little perspective, there were 1,477 adult attendees in San Francisco and 1,787 in New Orleans. As of the same time, the number of Blue Stars registered is 26 (not including spouses, significant others, family members & friends). I expect there will be further registrations as we head toward the finish line. We have 4 FNG's headed to Louisville who have never attended a reunion. There are many others who have indicated they will be headed to Louisville but won't be formally registering with the VHPA. Typically, we can anticipate a dozen or so more who will drop in. I've spoken with at least that many who are in that category.

It's hard to believe that a year has passed since our last summer reunion. Without a doubt, as I get older, time gets shorter, both literally and figuratively. It seems like yesterday that our son Matt started his freshman year in high school and next week he'll be finishing up his 1st year. What a fast year this has been! This year we lost several more Blue Stars. While time has been kind to many, the delayed effects of our exposure to Agent Orange have taken its toll on more and more of us. If you're sitting on the fence or have reservations about attending a reunion, it's time to put it all behind you and join your brothers in a celebration of your service to our country and to renew old friendships. Once again, we will be reuniting twice this year. The first being our summer gathering in Louisville and again in November in San Antonio, TX. More on San Antonio later.

Louisville 2014!!!

Festivities begin on July 1st and run through July 5th with the closing banquet. Once again, the VHPA has provided us with a TOC exclusively for the use of the Blue Stars. I have not been given the room name or location yet but it will be posted in the registration area. I'm hoping that we will be able to occupy the TOC somewhere around noon on the 1st and have it through the 5th. However, the tentative schedule that I received shows all of the Unit TOC's as being available starting on the 2nd. Be sure to check the status in the VHPA registration for the time the TOC will be available & location. Our **Mini Reunion** is scheduled for Thursday, 7/3 beginning at 1300. Our mini will be held in the TOC.

Primary Hotel: This year's reunion's festivities will be held at the **Galt House** located at **140 N. Fourth St, Louisville**. Reservations can be made by calling **800-843-4258** or **502-589-5200**. The rate for Deluxe room in the Rivue Tower is \$109. Suites are available in the Suite Tower for \$129. Be advised that the last time I checked, the Galt House was fully booked. Yeah, I missed it too – I'm in the Marriott. However, there are adjacent overflow hotels that still have rooms available. Best bet is to try the Galt House 1st. If no joy, see if you can be added to the wait list. If you are unable to score a room at the Galt House, please consider the following:

- **Hyatt Regency Louisville, 311 S. Fourth St.:** This hotel is connected to the Galt House via an all-weather, air conditioned skywalk called the **Louie Link**. The standard King or Double bed room is \$119. Reservations can be made by calling 1-888-421-1442 or through the online link: <https://resweb.passkey.com/go/vietnamhelicopterpilotsassn>
- **Marriott Courtyard Louisville Downtown, 100 S Second St:** Located directly across Market St from the KFC Yumi Center which is directly behind the Galt House. The rate for a standard King or Double bed room is \$129 or \$179 for a King Suite. Reservations can be made by calling 1-502-562-0200.

Please remember to mention the Vietnam Helicopter Pilots Association room block when making reservations. If you're planning to attend the reunion or even thinking about it, make your room reservations **NOW!** It'll be easier to cancel a reservation than it will be to try to get a room later.

And the Activities...

There are many activities that have been scheduled during the Louisville Reunion. The Jim Beam tour is at the top of my list! As far as scheduling goes, I tried to schedule our "formal" mini reunion during the best window offering the fewest conflicts with scheduled activities that I thought folks might attend. Of course that's impossible but hopefully it'll work for most of us. If you have a conflict with a scheduled activity and our mini, remember, we'll have the TOC going through the reunion period and we'll see you there.

The VHPA scheduled activities can be viewed by going to the VHPA website at www.vhpa.org and clicking on the **Reunion Information** link. To attend any of the scheduled activities listed on the VHPA website, with the exception of the Closing Banquet on July 5th, you will be required to register through the website. You not will be required to register if you just plan to attend the reunion, mini reunion, hang out with us or attend the banquet. To the best of my knowledge, you **do not** need a VHPA member to sponsor you if you do need to register. If you only plan to attend the Closing Banquet, you do not have to register either. You need only to indicate this by selecting the **Non-Registered Guest at Banquet** block on the form provided on the website and submitting your payment. The cost for attending the Closing Banquet as a non-registered guest is \$68. If you attend the banquet, you will also be asked to indicate a meal preference and a seating preference. Be sure to indicate that your seating preference will be with the 48th AHC Blue Stars (that is if you want to sit with us ☺). You will also be asked to confirm your seating preference when you pick up your tickets at the registration area. Seeing what we have in registrations to date, I expect we'll be filling at least 6 tables.

Our reunion and TOC is open to all who served with the 48th or an attached Unit and it's FREE! Whether you were a pilot, crewmember, in maintenance, admin desk jockey whatever – doesn't matter. Everyone is welcome!!! Our (the Blue Stars) activities come with no cost attached. The TOC is provided to us at no cost for the period. All we need is people to fill the room! That's why we need to see everyone's smiling face there. In order to be able to retain a TOC year after year, we need to show we have the folks gathering there. While our numbers have dwindled over the past few years, the Blue Stars were by far, the best represented Unit at the reunion. Help us keep it that way! Our TOC is self-stocked - meaning that we depend on attendees to bring beer, wine, soft drinks, snacks or whatever to share with your buddies. It has worked well in the past and I'm sure it'll continue to work for us. There's never been a shortage of beverages. The only thing I'd like to ask is that if anyone who is driving can help out by bringing a cooler or two, that'd be great. Since we'll have a TOC once again, anyone desiring to bring any memorabilia to share is encouraged to do so.

The Blue Star Aviation Association

Once again, we're hoping to have a raffle during our reunion. I say "hoping" because we depend on **YOU** to help us out and contribute a raffle prize to the cause – US! Please help and donate a raffle prize. We may also try a 50/50 raffle this year.

The funds raised go directly to our Association. We basically have two main Association accounts. The first and primary is our "**General Fund**" into which annual dues and some contributions are deposited and generally used to support our reunion and some other activities. As a side note, I'm happy to report that we recently contributed \$350 to the NJ Vietnam Veterans Memorial. In recognition of our contribution, a paver with "48th AHC Blue Stars" will be set around a Huey that was dedicated last month at the Memorial. Our other fund is our "**Fire Mission Fund**". This fund has been supported solely by contributions from our members earmarked for the Fire Mission Fund. The fund is used to support sending floral arrangements to Blue Star members who have made their last flight. Unfortunately I don't have the exact number of arrangements sent out over the years on hand, but sadly enough, it has been too many. Our "Fire Mission Fund" is dangerously low. We need your help to build this fund back up so we can continue honoring Blue Stars who pass.

I'd also like to ask all to renew their annual membership in our Association by sending in their annual dues. It's only \$25 and you all know it goes to a great cause – the Blue Stars. We'd be more than happy to share our financial records to anyone who may be interested. I will also be making the Annual Treasurers Report during our short business meeting at the mini.

I have attached a short form at the end of this Newsletter that you can complete and send it along with your dues and/or contributions to Bobby Schulze, our Association Treasurer. **AND...** a couple of years ago we started a "**buy your buddy a beer**" fund that is used solely for just that – buying your buddy a beer at our reunion. You can also use the same form for sending a contribution to buy your buddy a beer☺.

www.48ahc.org

Once again, kudos to Logan Weiler, our webmaster. If you haven't stopped by the website in a while, do so. Logan recently updated it and it's quite impressive. I encourage all to send Logan pictures, stories, etc you'd care to share with all.

Another exciting development... Logan has been beta testing a 48ahc.org email address that is available through our webserver. Basically, we can have individual email addresses such as mine, joker90@48ahc.org if you so desire. I will have more info available soon for anyone who is interested. There'd be no charge for this email service. If you are interested, please send me an email with your requested email address.

WARNING ORDER

8th Annual Blue Star Fall Reunion - San Antonio, Texas

Well now.... Can you believe this is the 8th Annual Fall Reunion already? From small beginnings, we have progressed to being able to say that our Fall Reunions have become much larger than our summer reunions. As you know, the Fall Reunion is a strictly a Blue Star reunion. Last year's gathering in Gettysburg was our largest EVER! Visit our website, www.48ahc.org and just take a look at our group photo. Our numbers were amazing. Pat Coleman and Janet Gay did one heck of a job putting this one together. We can't thank Brock Nicholson and the North Carolina Chapter of the VHPA enough for hauling the Huey's and the Loach up to Gettysburg. We made quite a splash with the public and were featured on the local nightly news and in the local paper. It'll be hard to top that one but we have some folks that are working on doing just that.

We will be holding our 8th Annual Blue Star Fall reunion November 5th through the 9th in San Antonio, TX. I know, quite a departure from all but the 1st all Blue Star reunion that was held at Ft. Rucker. All have been held on the east coast and the furthest south we've been is Savannah. Bobby Pierce, Pat Ewing, Chuck Walton and the supporting cast of their spouses have taken the bull by the horns and volunteered to host this one for us. They've done a lot of searching and scratching finding a great venue for us and have put in countless hours in developing a program. Our Fall Reunion has pretty much taken on a life of its own and a lot of information needs to be put out. Due to cost (postage) considerations, I generally need to limit my Newsletters to 3 double sided pages. Cutting our Fall Reunion info short would be an injustice. I will start sending out 2 Newsletters this year. Basically, one covering the **Summer Reunion** with some preliminary info on the Fall reunion (this one) and another with more specific information on the Fall Reunion and an After Action Report on the Summer reunion . With that said, here's your **Warning Order** info for the Fall Reunion.

The Basics: A full reunion agenda is still being developed by the reunion committee as I write this Newsletter. More specific information, costs and signup sheets are being developed but here's what we have so far.

The Fall Reunion will be held at the **Drury Inn and Suites River Walk, 201 N. Saint Mary's St, San Antonio, TX November 6th through the 9th**. Room rates are \$115 per night plus tax for a standard room. Suites are available at a higher but reduced rate. Parking is available for \$10 per night. To view the property and check out the amenities, go to <https://www.druryhotels.com/PropertyHotelServices.aspx?Property=0005>

The hotel is 8 miles from the airport and located on the famous San Antonio River Walk. In order to secure reservations, go online to

<http://www.druryhotels.com/Reservations.aspx?groupno=2209688> or call 1-800-325-0720 and ask for the "48th AHC Blue Star" group rate or use group Number 2209688.

Reservations may be made at any time up and including the beginning of the reunion. However, reservations made after **October 5, 2014** will be on a space available/rate available basis.

Here's a thumbnail sketch of what we have so far:

11/6: Check-in meet & greet at the TOC.

11/7: Museum Tours at Ft. Sam Houston. We will also try to have a group photo op at the Alamo after the museum tour.

11/8: Free time. **Banquet** will be held in the evening. A short business meeting will also be held after the banquet to choose a site for the 2015 Fall Reunion.

11/9: Breakfast & farewell

Currently the estimated cost for the museum tour is \$20 per person (bus transportation included) and \$35 for the banquet. The banquet will be a BBQ style buffet.

Other Goodies: there will be both long and short sleeve T shirts available. You can view the shirts and generate (print) an order form from our website. Pat Ewing graciously consented to model the long sleeved shirt while Chuck Walton got the modeling assignment for the short sleeved version (and if you believe that's Pat Ewing..... I have a bridge for sale - cheap ☺)!

Additional information about the Fall Reunion have been posted on our website. Go to our website and click on the **Reunion – NEW** link and click on the link for either the Louisville reunion or the San Antonio reunion.

We've established a "Beer for Buds" for this reunion also. It works similar to the one for the summer reunion. Pat Ewing has indicated he'll buy a lot of the beer but he'll also drink all

he buys so help us out here! I will be including an order form for the t-shirts and a reunion sign-up form in my next Newsletter.

The Blue Star Memorial Fund

At our Gettysburg reunion, we discussed the possibility of establishing a Blue Star Memorial Fund. Basically speaking, we have an opportunity to place a permanent Unit Memorial in the Army Aviation Museum located in Ft. Rucker, AL. Many units have already taken advantage of placing theirs there. We are in the process of establishing a Memorial Fund with the specific goal of placing such a Memorial at the museum honoring all those who served with the 48th Blue Stars and their attached units. Pat Coleman is currently heading this effort and is developing additional information. I hope to give everyone more specific information on our efforts, what we need to raise and how all this will work in my next Newsletter. I also hope to spread the word further to our current Blue Star brothers, [A Co 3-158 Blue Stars](#).

Now... A little about how we fund our Fall Reunion: Way back when, the Blue Star Aviation Association provided seed money to help establish a financial base to help cover some of the \$\$\$ required for deposits, etc. needed to secure a reunion facility. Since then, our Fall Reunion has evolved into being a self-supporting endeavor. The money raised through donations received and very successful raffles, has given us a sufficient cushion to help defray some of the costs for attendees. We hope to continue this with another successful Fall Reunion. We maintain a separate fund for our Fall Reunion activities. By separate I mean these funds are not comingled with other Blue Star Aviation Association funds nor does the Association ask for or expect to receive funds from this reunion activity. These funds are currently maintained and expenses tracked by Janet Gay. A summary of our expenses and receipts is available to anyone who wishes to take look. All you have to do is contact me and I'll make the documents available. We have full transparency for all of our funds. Please keep this in mind if you desire to make a contribution to either the Blue Star Aviation Association, our Fire Mission Fund, the Fall Reunion or to the Blue Star Memorial Fund. Our Fall Reunion makes no contributions to any Association fund and that's why we rely so heavily on annual membership renewals and donations to keep the Blue Star Aviation Association alive and healthy.

In Closing.....

Next year marks the 50th anniversary of the Blue Stars. While we're still concentrating on making our summer and fall reunions successful, please start thinking about making it to our 50th anniversary celebration. The VHPA reunion is scheduled to be held August 24th - 30th at the Washington Marriott Wardman Park, Washington, DC. We will be selecting a site for our Fall reunion during our business meeting in San Antonio. Those in attendance will get to participate in the selection. All we'll need is volunteers to offer a site for consideration with the understanding that we must have boots on the ground at that site to make it work. Give it some thought and start making your plans. We need YOU at the reunions to make it work!

If anyone has any questions, please feel free to give me a shout. Hope to see everyone in Louisville and San Antonio this year.

Carlos Cortez
Blue Star 237 & Joker 90

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Cell: 562-305-8461

(Over for Association Membership renewal & contribution from)

Blue Star Aviation Association

Membership Application and Membership Renewal

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Email Address: _____

Phone: _____

Call Sign (if any): _____

Dates Assigned to Blue Star: _____

Location (duty base) of Assignment: _____

MOS: _____

Comments:

MEMBERSHIP:	New	Renewal	Dues Enclosed: \$25.00
Contribution to the Blue Star Fire Mission Fund:			\$ _____
Contribution to the "Buy Your Buddy a Beer" Fund:			\$ _____
Total Enclosed:			\$ _____

Please complete this form and make checks payable to Bobby Schulze. Mail to:

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