

San Antonio, TX

Home of the Alamo and Site of the

25th VHPA Annual Reunion

2 – 5 July, 2008

The 2008 Annual Reunion, the 25th, will be held in San Antonio at the Marriott Rivercenter. Located on the famous "River Walk", the hotel is bordered by a major shopping center on one side and the River Walk on the other. The location offers attendees a multitude of shops, restaurants and historic sites that are all within walking distance. While the hotel boasts several quality restaurants, you will have your choice of everything from McDonalds to Hooters.

If you want a more detailed view of the area, check out their website:

<http://www.thesanantonioriverwalk.com/>

Tuesday, 1 July, will be the first day that registration will be open for the early arrivals and we will have a location for the Early Birds to gather and kick off the first informal event. There are no special activities planned and for those that would like to see a bit of San Antonio on their own, the Alamo is just a few blocks away; easy walking distance.

Wednesday the Reunion will officially start with tours available in the morning and our First Time Attendee and Welcome Receptions that evening. The Welcome Reception will include a dinner buffet but, in response to member feedback, there will be no scheduled entertainment that could interfere with the intent of the reception.

There will be two tours offered this year:

Tour #1

Highlights of San Antonio/Market Square

Tour time 9 am – 2 pm

Price: \$25 per person

Begin with a guided tour of the city, where you will discover how San Antonio captures the spirit of Texas. Now the eighth largest city in the United States, the city has retained its sense of history and tradition, while carefully blending in cosmopolitan progress. Afterwards you will proceed to Market Square, which from early morning until late at night, is alive with activity. Visitors browse through the 32 shops at "El Mercado," an area patterned after an authentic Mexican market. In addition, there are 80 specialty shops in Farmers Market Plaza. Market Square is also the scene of many Hispanic festivals where food and beverage booths spring up alongside the Guadalajara lamps

and the strains of mariachi music blend with the excitement of Mexican dances.

Tour #2

Sins and Saints

Tour Time 9 am – 2 pm

Price \$55 per person (includes lunch)

Explore centuries of the history and culture when you visit the missions of San Antonio. Your tour begins with a visit to 2 of San Antonio's 5 wondrous missions. Mission San Jose, known as "the Queen of Missions", was founded in 1720 and became the largest and best known of the Texas Missions. Considered a model for future missions, it is noted for beautiful carvings in the church and the famous "Rose Window" is considered one of the finest pieces of Spanish Colonial ornamentation in the country. Next stop Mission Concepcion. This handsome church looks essentially as it did 200 years ago. From 1731, religious festivals were held as friars strove to replace traditional Native American ritual by the demonstration of Christian ideals. Remnants of wall and ceiling paintings in the surviving rooms of the mission's convento have been conserved.

The final stop on this tour will be Buckhorn Saloon and Museum. Formerly on the grounds of the Lone Star Brewery, the Buckhorn features a massive collection of over 3500 specimens of horned game animal trophies from all over the world. The museum has 2 stories of the most exotic collections from cowboy memorabilia and fish from the 7 Seas to a Wax museum of Texas History. And don't forget about the cold beer at an authentic Cowboy Saloon!! You can even take your beer into the museum as you are touring! Private lunch at the Buckhorn Museum included.

These same tours will be available on Thursday to accommodate those that would like to do both.

Thursday we move into the first full day of events. The schedule will include the two tours, mini reunions, War Story Contest and the Historical Presentation Forum. In addition there will be four special activities: Golf in morning, a luncheon with B.G. "Jug" Burkett, co-author of ***Stolen Valor***, the first session of the Poker tournament and in the evening, by popular demand, Vince Vance and the Valiants. Those that saw them in Dallas will want to see them again, those that missed the opportunity, sign up before we sell out. The concert will start later in the evening, 9 pm, and does **not** include dinner.

Friday, the 4th of July will start with the chance to march in the 4th of July Parade in New Braunfels, TX. Members will be taken by bus to the parade site and then be given the opportunity to do a little local site seeing. We will include lunch after the parade. The city is, in its own rite, a tourist attraction

and, if we were not participating in the parade we had considered making it one of the tour options that we offered.

During the day there will be mini reunions, the Historical Presentation Forum and the second session of the Poker Tournament.

This year, we are leaving one night open. Friday evening is yours. There are numerous restaurants and activities along the River Walk to see and enjoy. For those that like fireworks, there are some provided by the city and, if you want to put your own group together, the local military bases offer 4th of July activities.

Saturday, the final day of the reunion will kick off with the annual business meeting. This is your chance to let the Executive Counsel bring you up to date on the state of the VHPA and to vote on who will be your next Vice President and Junior Member-at-Large. While the pilots are in the business meeting, we will have the Spouse and Guest Brunch. This year we are scheduling the return of one of our most successful presenters, a Face Reader. This is an opportunity for your spouse to learn how to read your body language. While initially used during the process of jury selections, the art of face reading has multiple applications, including the ability to tell when one is “stretching” the truth. Pilots beware. If your wife attends, your life may never be the same.

In the afternoon, there will be two seminars that were so successful in Phoenix that we were asked to do it again: the veterans Benefit’s Seminar and the Women’s Seminar.

The evening, and the Reunion, culminates with our Annual Banquet. Seating will be done the same way we did in Phoenix. If you have a seating request, let us know when you register and we will do our best to accommodate. Once you arrive at the hotel, we will be able to finalize your seat assignment.

Remember to bring your tickets!!!

Sunday is departure day.

Some administrative notes:

- There are two Marriott hotels located on the River Walk; The Rivercenter (ours) and the Riverwalk. Should you enter the wrong one, they will direct you across the street to the correct site.
- There is shuttle service available from the airport to the hotel. If you are traveling alone, the least expensive. If you are with someone, it is less expensive if you take a taxi. There is no “per person” charge.

- Parking at the hotel is expensive, \$21 per night. There is a public garage across the street that charges \$18.
- The first three floors of the hotel, the ones we will be using for the reunion events, are going through a renovation process. The process will be completed by the time we arrive.
- We expect to be able to room all attendees in the Marriott Rivercenter. The Marriott Riverwalk is our “overflow” site.
- Room rates for the reunion are \$115 per night.
- We have a limited number of renovated rooms with balconies and a view of the River Walk available at the Marriott Riverwalk for \$135.
- On line registration is scheduled to be available the first part of January and is the recommended registration method for members to use.

San Antonio 2008
REUNION SCHEDULE

Tue – 1 July - Early Arrival

1 – 5 pm Pre Registration
8 -12 pm Early Bird Gathering

Wed – 2 July – Arrival Day)

Tours - AM
9 am – 8 pm Registration
6 - 7 pm First Time Attendee reception
7 – 11 pm Welcome Reception (Buffet)

Thu – 3 July

Tours - AM
9 am – 6 pm Registration
7:00 am – 2:00 pm Golf
8-12 Mini Reunions
11:30 am – 1pm Luncheon w/ Jug Burkett (250 max)
1–5 Mini Reunions
1 – 5 Poker (\$25)
1 -3 War Story Contest
3:15 - 4:30 pm HPF Special Documentary Presentation
9:00 – 12:00 pm Vince Vance

Fri – 4 July

9 am – 6 pm Registration
9:30 am – Noon 4th of July Parade
8 am - 12 Mini Reunions
1 – 5 Poker (\$25)
1 - 5 pm Historical Presentation Forum
1 – 5 pm Mini Reunions

Sat – 5 July –

9 am – 12 noon Registration
8:00 am – 9:15 am KIA/MIA Gold Star Family Breakfast
10:00 am – 12:00 Annual Business Meeting
9:30 am – 12:00 Spouse & Guest Brunch
1-3 pm Veterans Benefit's seminar
1-3 pm Women's Seminar
1–5 pm Mini Reunions
3:15 - 4:30 pm HPF Special Documentary Presentation II
5:45 doors open Final Banquet

Sun – 6 July –

Departure Day