

USS SAM HOUSTON VETERANS' ASSOCIATION



SSBN/SSN 609



CALL TO THE FOURTH BIENNIAL REUNION

15 – 17 September 2016

(Thursday morning through Saturday evening)

**Sheraton Reston Hotel
11810 Sunrise Valley Dr
Reston VA 20191**

All veterans of the boat, members of Special Forces who served aboard, Associate Members, and their guests are invited to attend the *USS Sam Houston Veterans' Association (SHVA)* fourth biennial reunion arranged for 15-17 September 2016 in Reston, Va., a suburb of Washington., D.C. In our Hospitality Room, socialize and share photos, memories, and memorabilia that you bring. Your Reunion Committee has also arranged for group tours of some attractions in the area. Also, bring an item for an auction.

If you have relatives in or near the area, the SHVA reunion might serve as a mini family reunion. Your relatives can take advantage of the hotel's discounted guest room rates and participate in the group's venues. This includes the Hospitality Room where photos, scrapbooks, and other memorabilia will help your guests develop a deeper appreciation of your military service. The telling of sea stories will let them know what your Navy life was *really* like!

This packet details the venues of the reunion and includes a Reunion-Registration Form that you must complete and mail with your payment if you plan to attend. The designated individual of the Reunion Committee must **receive your form and payment no later than Saturday, 30 July 2016**. You must complete one form for each guest room reservation made with the host hotel. Include all individuals staying in each guest room. If you will not be staying at the host hotel, you must complete one form that includes all persons in your party. The reunion is an a la carte event; i.e., you decide when you want to attend and in which venues you and your guests will participate. **Brad Lawrence** [IC2(SS), Gold, 1972-1973] will be taking professional portraits before our banquet on Saturday, 17 September and candid shots elsewhere. Those pictures and a Reunion-Memory Book will be available for purchase about two months after the reunion.

IMPORTANT PRELIMINARY INFORMATION

Registration for the reunion and guest room reservations are two independent processes; you must make your hotel guest room reservations by contacting the hotel. If you will be staying at the host hotel, reserve your room before completing the included Reunion-Registration Form. The form requests that you include your Reservation Confirmation Number.

GENERAL:

- **The cutoff date for REUNION REGISTRATION is Saturday, 30 July 2016.** Send the completed Reunion-Registration Form with payment by check or money order payable to “USS Sam Houston” to the designated member of the Reunion Committee mentioned on the form. This individual must receive your form and payment by the cutoff date for a guarantee of all costs mentioned. Allow 5 days for delivery through the mail system. Reunion registrations and payments received after the cutoff date might be returned based upon available vacancies and a willingness of the hotel and/or tour operator to continue to offer services at the discounted prices after the contracted cutoff dates.
- Full refunds for cancellations of reunion registrations will be made until 13 August 2016. Afterward, no refunds will be made for reunion registrations.
- The *Registration Fee* applies to each person being registered for the reunion. This fee is \$20 for each person being registered on the Reunion-Registration Form.
- *A Hotel-User Assessment Fee applies ONLY to those who will NOT be making guest room reservations at the Sheraton Reston Hotel. This fee is \$15 for each person and is in addition to the \$20 Registration Fee required for each person.*

The **Registration Fee** applies to each registrant. This fee covers snacks, candies, and nonalcoholic beverages for the Hospitality Room, group insurance for the event, banquet meal for a speaker, nametags, and a host of other incidentals.

The **Hotel-User Assessment Fee** applies to each registrant who will not be staying at the host hotel and is in addition to the Registration Fee. This fee covers our various meeting room setups and cleanup fees, ice, cups, napkins, and utensils for the Hospitality Room, bartender’s fee, etc. that the hotel provides. The costs of these items/services are included in the guest room cost paid by those who stay at the host hotel.

THE HOTEL:

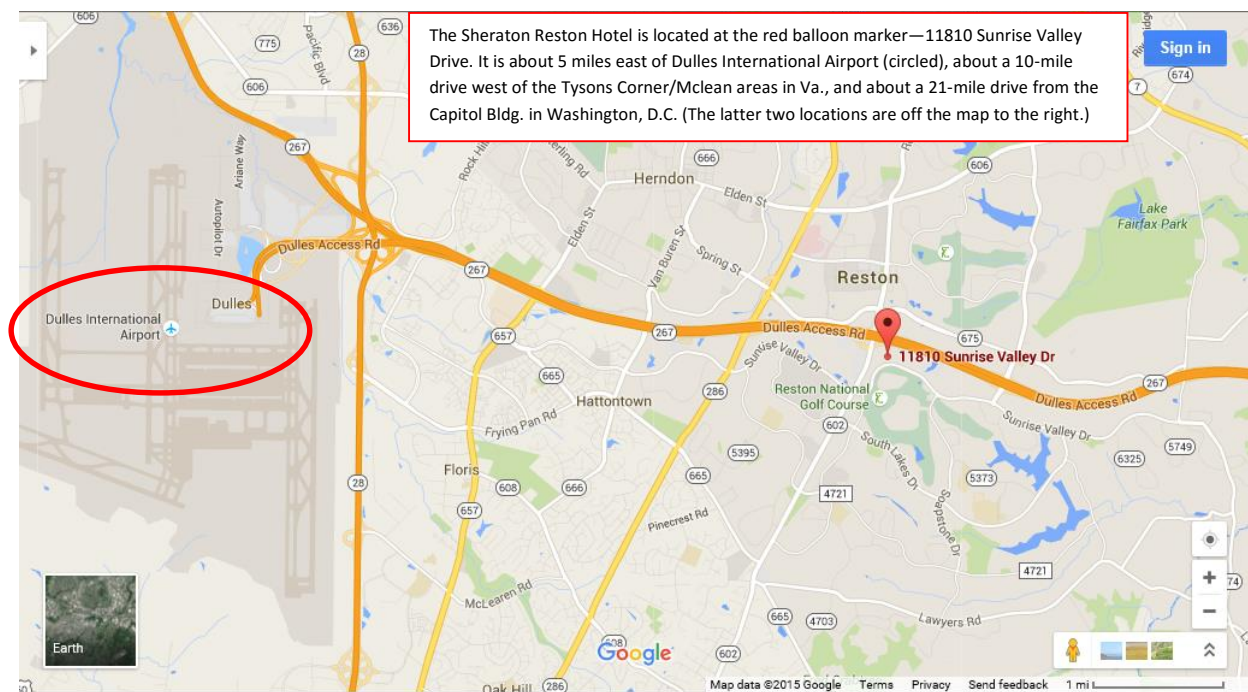
- **The cutoff date for GUEST ROOM RESERVATIONS is Saturday, 13 August 2016.**
- **Reunion registrants must make their guest room reservations with the hotel.**
 - Call the hotel at 703-620-9000 or call the hotel’s National Reservation Line at 800-561-9186.
 - **Mention that your reservation is for the USS Sam Houston reunion.** The base room cost is \$99/night for single and double occupancy. *With current taxes (12%) applied, the total cost becomes \$110.88/night.*
- The hotel is pet-friendly and without a fee. Restrictions apply; call the hotel for details.
- If you plan to attend the tour on Thursday, 15 September, you might wish to arrive in the area by Wednesday evening, 14 September, because the coach will depart the hotel at 9 a.m. on Thursday.
- The hotel is offering the discounted guest room rate from 12 – 19 September. This might be convenient for those who wish to arrive before the reunion and/or stay afterward.
- Cancellation of your guest room reservation will result in full refund only if you notify the hotel at least 24 hours prior to your scheduled arrival date. Otherwise, you might incur a one-night’s guest room cost plus tax through your guaranteed method of payment on file.
- Call the hotel at 703-620-9000 if you wish to mail a package there ahead of your arrival. (Mailing a large item for the auction might be a good way to get it to the hotel.)

REUNION VENUES:

- **Walk-ins for the reunion CANNOT be accepted for group meals and tours** because of hard-number totals provided in contracts in advance of the reunion to the hotel for our group meetings and meals and to the tour operator for coach seating and admission tickets for attractions.
- Most tour attractions will involve walking but probably not excessive for those who are relatively mobile. Most attractions will be ADA-Compliant or Handicapped-Accessible except for those at military installations where entry into military equipment is permitted (e.g., ships, aircraft, and battle tanks).
- Attire during all reunion activities is casual (shorts, T-shirts are OK) except for the taking of professional portraits before the banquet and attending the banquet itself on Saturday evening, 17 September. Attire for these latter two events is “business casual” or better. You may wear your uniform if you have it—and it fits!

Your Journey to Reston, Va.

DRIVING



The Sheraton Reston Hotel is located at 11810 Sunrise Valley Drive in Reston, Va. Parking is free in a large, adjacent, lighted, outdoor lot and includes parking of unoccupied motor homes while attending reunion venues at the hotel or off site.

TRAVEL VIA PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION

If you will be traveling to the reunion by air, train, or interstate coach and you plan ONLY to attend the reunion, you will not need to rent a car. The hotel offers complimentary, airport-shuttle service for Dulles International Airport. If you will fly to Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport or will arrive in Washington, D.C. via rail services or interstate coach, the hotel’s shuttle service is NOT available for pickup at your arrival location. Using the Washington Metrorail (hereafter called the “Metro”) will be the fastest and most economical mode of ground transportation to get you close enough to the hotel for pickup by its complimentary shuttle.

Arrival by Air: Dulles Airport

After you retrieve your luggage upon arrival at Dulles, call the Sheraton Reston Hotel at 703-620-9000 and proceed to Curb 211 outside of the Baggage Claim area for pickup by its complimentary shuttle. It operates 24/7 for transportation to/from the Dulles Airport. **Travel via the Metro is not involved if you arrive at Dulles Airport.**

Arrival by Air: Reagan Airport

After you retrieve your luggage upon arrival at Reagan Airport, I recommend using the Metro to get you close enough to the hotel for pickup by its complimentary shuttle. Follow signs to the Metro Station. If you arrive via Southwest, Frontier, or Sun Country airlines, you will have the greatest distance to walk to the Metro—about a 15-minute walk at a typical pace while dragging luggage. Because the Metro has many trains with no rigid schedule, you need not rush. A subsequent section deals with using the Metro.

IMPORTANT: Plan your arrival at the Reagan Airport to be no later than 8:00 p.m. This will allow you sufficient time to use the Metro to get you to the Metro station where the hotel's shuttle can pick you up. That shuttle does not operate after 10:30 p.m. for pickup at the Metro Station.

Arrival by Train at Washington's [Amtrak] Union Station)

Travel by Amtrak might be a good alternative to travel by air with the advantage of a lower cost in exchange for a longer ride. After your train ride, I recommend using the Metro to get you close enough to the hotel for pickup by its complimentary shuttle. Follow signs to the Metro.

If you have not traveled by train for decades, many improvements have occurred. Comfort leads the list even if you choose coach seating and not berthing. Coach seats recline and have foot rests, leg rests, and plenty of leg room. Small pillows are distributed in the late evenings (no charge) for additional comfort on long-distance trains. Each seat row has at least two electrical outlets. The price of coach seating might be cheaper than the cost of driving and more comfortable but with a trade-off, again, being a longer ride. Berthing is available and sells out fast; so, reserve many months in advance! If you are interested in travel by train, contact Amtrak, your travel agent, or me, Howard Dobson (Reunion Planner), at 302-764-1197 for more information on Amtrak.

NOTE: Seniors (62+) receive a 15% discount on the base (coach) rail fare. AAA members receive a 10% discount for up to 6 persons under one membership. Discounts do not apply to berthing. Although bedrooms are expensive, the price includes complimentary meals; morning wake-up coffee, tea, and juice; a newspaper; and bottled water.

IMPORTANT: Plan your arrival at Amtrak's Union Station to be no later than 8:30 p.m. This will allow you sufficient time to use the Metro to get you to the Metro station where the hotel's shuttle can pick you up. That shuttle does not operate after 10:30 p.m. for pickup at the nearby Metro station.

Interstate Coach (Greyhound Lines, Megabus, BoltBus, et al.)

Interstate coaches use the upper level of Amtrak's Union Station in Washington, D.C. as a depot. Refer to the text of the blue "Note" and the "Important" red text in the Union Station section above as these apply to travel via Interstate Coach.

DEALING WITH THE METRO

The Metro system is by far the fastest, least costly, and most convenient mode of ground transportation to the Sheraton Reston Hotel from Amtrak's Union Station or the Reagan Airport. I am confident that you will feel safe using the system. Violence and theft are practically nonexistent because of full-coverage, video surveillance and Metro Police patrolling many of the platforms and randomly riding on the trains. But, you must be aware of some quirks of the system for your experience to be uneventful. Do NOT be discouraged solely by a glance of the amount of information provided in this section about the Metro; it is not complex—just thorough. Of the 11 pages dedicated to the Metro, 6 of those pages contain primarily pictures and other graphics.

The Metro consists of six rail routes (or lines) that are a combination of subway, surface, and elevated tracks. Each line is identified by a color AND the final station for a direction of travel. For example, the Red Line to *Shady Grove* or the Red Line to *Glenmont*. Lines are interconnected at nine locations called "Transfer Stations." Only one Transfer Station will connect all six lines; the other eight Transfer Stations have partial transfer capabilities. Thus, one might have to transfer more than once to reach a final destination. Only one transfer will be needed if you will travel from [Amtrak] Union Station or Reagan Airport Station. During the day, trains operate frequently—maybe a 10-minute wait for a specific train. In the late evening, one might wait for 30 minutes. The Metro's hours of operation follow:

Mon.-Thurs.:	5 a.m. – midnight
Fri.:	5 a.m. – 3 a.m.
Sat.:	7 a.m. – 3 a.m.
Sun.:	7 a.m. - midnight

Because the hotel's "local-area" shuttle service is restricted to 7 a.m. – 10:30 p.m., plan your travel such that you will be at the Metro's [Amtrak] Union Station no later than 8:30 p.m. or the Reagan Airport station no later than 8:00 p.m. This assures sufficient time to pick up your luggage, walk to the Metro station, wait for the appropriate train, arrive at the final Metro-station destination—the Wiehle-Reston East Station, and walk for 10 minutes to the shuttle pickup area. Your total travel time on board the Metro will be about 50 minutes. (The word *Wiehle* is pronounced "wheel-ee.")

The Red Line serves the Union Station while the Reagan Airport Station is served by both the Blue Line and the Yellow Line. When traveling, you must refer to a Metro System Map to determine the end-point station for the direction of travel on the required line color regardless of whether you will transfer from that line or not. You will be transferring trains if you board the Metro at either [Amtrak] Union Station or the Reagan Airport Station. Therefore, you must determine the required direction of travel and seek the particular train platform for that direction. Some stations have single platforms that serve both directions of travel. In this case, tracks will exist on both sides of that platform. Some platforms will serve only one direction of travel—such platforms will have only one track for one direction of travel. Many system maps and other helpful postings are located throughout each station. Each train car has system maps posted adjacent to its front and rear doors (not near the center doors). For this reunion, you will need to transfer once, and the Transfer Stations will be different from your initial Red, Yellow, or Blue train boarding. Transfer details are in its own subsequent section.

You've just read the basic stuff about the Metro. The box below identifies some idiosyncrasies about the Metro that you need to be aware of with subsequent sections on how to deal with each.

- Weather: have a sweater or light jacket readily available should chilly weather be forecasted. Also, an umbrella might be desirable if rain is anticipated.
- Fare: you must purchase a Smart Card from a vending machine.
- Metro System Map: make a copy of the annotated Metro System Map (page 15) and keep it handy during your travel on the Metro.
- Direction of Travel: take care to ensure that you are on the correct platform for the Line Color **AND** direction.
- External Train Identifiers: The Line Color and end destination are displayed on the outside of each car of a train. The color of the display also matches the color of the line.
- Station Announcements Aboard Trains: determining the train's next station stop while on board will likely be problematic.
- Transferring: you must transfer train lines to arrive at the Metro station near the Sheraton Reston Hotel. ***Your ultimate destination is the Wiehle-Reston East Station on the Silver Line.***

The Weather:

You will be exposed to the outdoor air temperature at the Reagan Airport and Wiehle-Reston East Metro Stations. These stations have overhead coverage; so, you will likely not be exposed to rain except with heavy rain and high winds. You will be exposed to the weather for about 5 minutes when walking from the Metro's Wiehle-Reston East Station to the hotel's shuttle pickup area. An umbrella might be beneficial during rain. The shuttle's pickup area is within a parking garage, but a chilly temperature will be felt.

The Fare:

You must purchase a "Smart Card" before you can access a Metro station's platform. This plastic card is the only means of paying fares for travel on the Metro. It is akin to a debit card—you place money into an account that is linked to the card. When you ride the Metro, the fare for that trip is deducted from the account. The card readers at turnstiles deduct money from the account based upon your entrance and exit stations and the time of day (peak or off-peak fares). The main issue with acquiring a Smart Card is that it can only be purchased from what might appear to be the most complex ticket machine on the planet! Your best bet is to consult a uniformed Metro worker who is always available to assist or ask any of the local commuters for help—and there will probably be hundreds of them around you! You cannot purchase your Smart Card from a ticket agent or pay your fare with cash. Moreover, each person travelling must purchase a Smart Card; **one card cannot be shared for simultaneous travel with others.**

I recommend that you purchase a card with a value (an amount of money applied to the card) that will suffice for your anticipated travel while in the area. Refer to a chart later in this section for suggestions. The remaining value on a card is briefly shown on a display atop the electronic turnstiles that you must pass through when entering/exiting a station; you'll probably not notice that display. The card machines will also display the remaining value on a card, but you must challenge it to do so! You can also manage your card via the Internet, but I do not recommend this. After you return home from the reunion, I will request that you send me your Smart Card if you don't intend to visit the area again—at least any time soon. I can place whatever value is left on your card onto my personal "Senior Smart Card." This cannot happen if you register your card via the Internet; so, do not add an excessive amount to your card. I am in the Washington, D.C. area occasionally and can put your unused balance to good use.

Once you use your card to enter a Metro station, only exit the system at your intended destination—the Wiehle-Reston East Station on the Silver Line. Otherwise, you will be charged for “intermediate” travel in addition to being charged a new fare to your final destination if you re-enter a station that you should not have exited. Your fare is based on where you enter and where you exit. Thus, in the unlikely event that you would become hopelessly lost on the system for 8 hours before you arrive at the Wiehle-Reston East Station but did not exit the system, you would be charged the same fare as one who did not become lost.

If you purchase enough fare to cover your return trip after the reunion, you will not have to deal with a card machine again. You can add value to a card after its initial purchase at any of the card machines in a 4-step process. At the time of issuance of this packet, the peak fare from Reagan Airport or Amtrak’s Union Station to the Wiehle-Reston East Station (your destination station) is \$6.90; the off-peak fare is \$4.60. The travel time is about 50 minutes. Peak fares are in effect weekdays from opening to 9:30 a.m. and from 3 – 7 p.m. and on weekends from midnight to closing. Off-peak fares apply at all other times. If you are mathematically inclined, you can figure out with confidence the amount of money to place on your Smart Card if you can estimate when you will be entering the Metro station upon arrival for the reunion and departure afterward. If you want a quick and easy amount to place on the card at its initial purchase, consider applying one of the values in the following list:

- Weekday arrival & weekend departure: \$15 (peak fare at arrival and off peak for return home).
- Weekday arrival & departure: \$17 (peak fare for both rides).
- Sat. arrival & Sun. departure: \$13 (off-peak fares for both rides).

The amounts shown in the above list include a one-time, \$2.00 fee for the “empty” Smart Card.

You will not be able to access a Metro station if the value on your Smart Card is less than \$2.70; you will have to revisit one of those card machines to add value to your card. If your card has this minimum amount but insufficient money for your trip, you cannot exit a station and must add more money to your card at one of those *%^\$#@ card machines that is within the station. This will happen if you will use the Metro for your own touring or shopping in the area and you do not place sufficient value on the card at its initial purchase or afterward.

Do not be concerned about a senior discount because the effort involved in obtaining a “Senior Smart Card” will more than offset the discount received for your short-period usage of the Metro. One can only obtain a “Senior Smart Card” (not a regular Smart Card) from a ticket agent who is located within the Metro Center Station ONLY. Forget about a senior discount.

Metro System Map:

An annotated Metro System Map is on page 15. **Print a copy of the map and keep it handy during your travel on the Metro.** This copy might be needed to preclude problems associated with the next two quirks of the Metro. The Information Booths at Metro stations have free pocket maps, but they are usually out of stock.

Keep the following circumstances in mind:

- Only the Red Line serves the [Amtrak] Union Station.
- Only the Silver Line serves the Wiehle-Reston East Station—your ultimate Metro destination.
- Both the Yellow Line and the Blue Line serve the Reagan Airport Station.

If you arrived at the Reagan Airport or Union Station, you might have realized that you must transfer to the Silver Line somewhere in the process to get to the Wiehle-Reston East Station. This situation is covered in detail in a subsequent section.

Direction of Travel:

You need to board the proper train line [color] in the proper direction of travel. Metro System Maps are plentiful and posted in the vestibules at all stations and on station platforms, but the copy of the annotated map on page 15 will be most advantageous. If you board a train traveling in the wrong direction, **DO NOT PANIC**; simply get off at the next station and board the next train traveling in the opposite direction. Boarding incorrect trains will not increase the cost of your Metro trip provided that you depart the Metro only at your intended departure station. The fare system tallies only between your entrance and exit stations.

When boarding and disembarking trains, be aware of the following safety concerns:

- **A small gap exists between the train and platform; be aware.**
- **Boarding and exiting are swift; be ready to move.**
- **You might not be able to board a crowded train; wait for the next one.**
- **Do NOT use your arm, leg, or other body part to attempt to hold open a train's door. If you become inadvertently trapped between closing doors, DO NOT PANIC. The doors will reopen to free you. An interlock prevents the train from moving unless all of its doors are fully shut.**
- **When inside the train, avoid standing/moving when the train is arriving at a station; you might lose your balance. If you are a slow-moving person, leave your seat before the train departs the prior station and hold onto to the grab bars. Again, don't use your body to attempt to hold open a train's doors. If necessary, get off at the next station and take the next train in the opposite direction.**

Travel from [Amtrak] Union Station:

Using the Metro from [Amtrak] Union Station is a somewhat simple process because only the Red Line serves this station. This station has one platform with two tracks—the platform serves both directions of travel. You will need to travel in a direction convenient for transfer to the Silver Line. For your travel to have only one transfer to the Silver Line, you must transfer at the Metro Center station (refer to the map). Thus, you must travel in the direction to the Shady Grove Station on the Red Line and depart the Red Line train at the Metro Center Station.

The Metro Center Station is a Transfer Station, and things can become confusing at Transfer Stations because they have tracks on multiple levels. You must follow signage in Transfer Stations carefully to ensure that you get to the proper platform and board the correct train in the correct direction. Don't be afraid to ask for help. You will have boarded a Red Line Train at Union Station and must transfer to the Silver Line headed in the direction of the Wiehle-Reston East Station. **THE WIEHLE-RESTON EAST STATION IS NOT ONLY YOUR FINAL DESTINATION BUT ALSO THE LAST STATION FOR THE SILVER LINE TRAVELING IN THAT DIRECTION.** Proceed to the lower level of the Metro Center Station for transfer to the Silver Line. The lower level has one platform that serves both directions of travel for the Blue, Silver, and Orange Lines. Ensure that you board the Silver Line headed toward the Wiehle-Reston East Station. If you board an incorrect train, simply take another back to the Metro Center Station to correct the mistake.

Upon arrival at the Wiehle-Reston East Station, proceed to the upper level (follow the crowd) and scan your Smart Card at an electronic turnstile to exit. Follow signs for the “North Entrance.” You will take a covered walkway above an expressway (Dulles Access Road) and be exposed to the weather. You will exit the walkway on the roof of a building. Walk toward a structure primarily of glass. Enter its door and proceed to the garage in the lower level. Continue walking straight ahead then cross a narrow road at the end of the island on which you will be walking. The sidewalk beyond the road that you cross is the hotel’s shuttle pickup area—the “Park & Kiss” Area. From your direction of entry, signage does not identify the area as such. Call the hotel at 703-620-9000 for pickup by its shuttle.

Travel from Reagan Airport Station:

Boarding a train at the Reagan Airport Station will not be complex as the station has one platform that serves both directions of travel for both the Yellow and Blue Lines (two tracks). Prefer the Blue Line, but you may board the Yellow Line to avoid foul or chilly weather. If you board the Yellow Line, your total ride might be a little longer because your Transfer Station will be in downtown Washington, D.C.—in a direction somewhat away from your ultimate destination, but this will not be a problem. Your Transfer Station with either line will be underground, and you will not be exposed to the weather. Whichever line you will choose, you will need to travel in a direction toward the required Transfer Station. The direction of travel with the Blue Line will be to Largo Town Center; the Yellow Line will be to Fort Totten. But, the sign at the stairs for the platform for the Yellow & Blue Lines at the Reagan Airport Station will state “To Mt Vernon Sq/7th St-Convention Center via Washington, D.C.” *You might be viewing the Metro System Map and notice that you can transfer from the Yellow Line to the Blue Line at the Pentagon Station. But, this will be of no advantage to you because the Blue Line train that you would transfer to would be the next Blue Line train to have arrived at the Reagan Airport station where you were! Besides, this option will require a three-train transfer as opposed to two; the fewer transfers, the better.*

The Transfer Station for the Blue line will be the Rosslyn Station; if you take the Yellow Line, the Transfer Station will be the L’Enfant Plaza Station. At either of these Transfer Stations you must transfer to the Silver Line in the direction of the Wiehle-Reston East Station which is the last station on the Silver Line and your final Metro-station destination.

Metro Station Announcements Aboard Trains:

While aboard a Metro train, you will undoubtedly NOT know what the next station will be despite announcements being made over the train’s PA system. The following five factors are responsible for this problem:

- Noise generated by the rails
- Noise generated by the train’s motors
- The announcer speaks simultaneously with an automated safety message when the doors are open
- PA system cuts in and out
- Poor diction of the announcer

Take my word: ALL FIVE OF THESE FACTORS WILL SIMULTANEOUSLY PREVENT YOU FROM UNDERSTANDING WHAT IS BEING ANNOUNCED. The worst one is the diction of the announcers; they all sound if they are speaking into a tin can; it’s horrible! Although each train car has Metro System Maps posted at each end of the cars, you might not be able to sit or stand near one. This is why I suggest having a copy of the map from this packet with you—it’s your best defense against missing a station. You can also consult a passenger. All stations have signs which identify that station and are readable through the train’s windows. But by the time you see the sign, you probably won’t have enough time to exit the train. **DON’T PANIC IF YOU MISS A STATION**; simply get off at the next station and board the next train in the opposite direction. Once you board the Silver line, the Wiehle-Reston East Station is the last station—everyone will disembark, and you will notice the signs with the station’s name through the train’s windows.

Pictures That Might Be Pertinent to Your Metro Experience.



Typical Card-Vending Machine.
Styles and colors vary.



Typical sign within the Reagan Airport that directs
travelers to the airport's Metro Station.



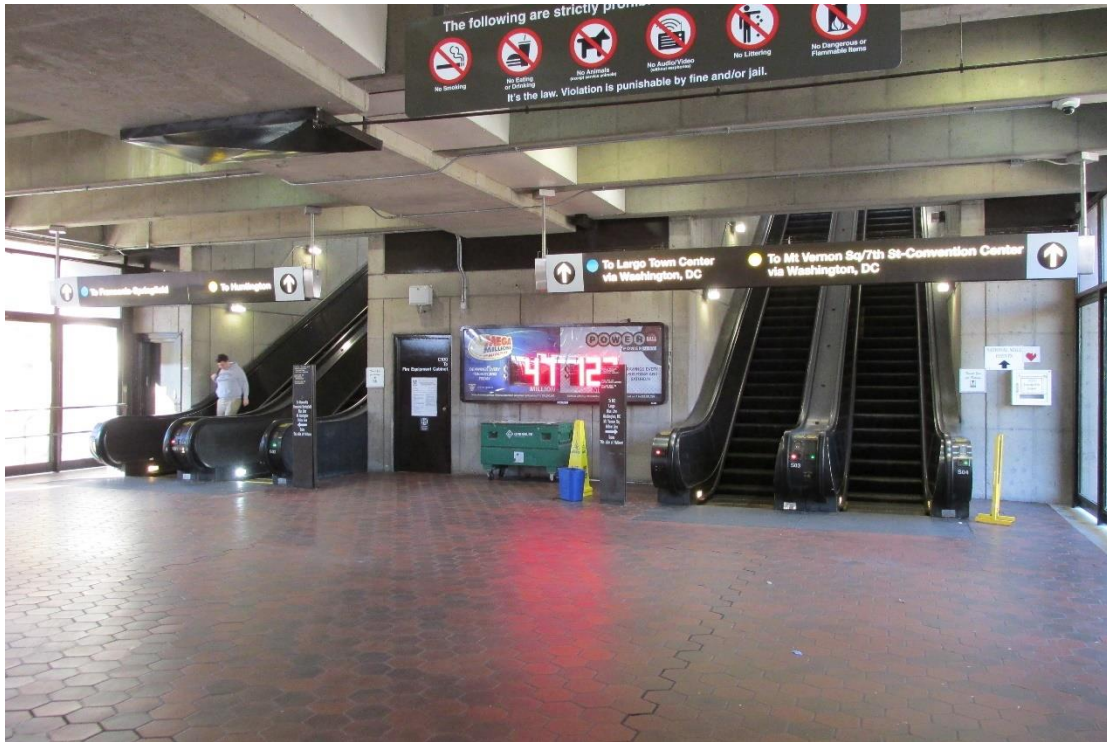
The entrance to the Metro Station at Reagan Airport.



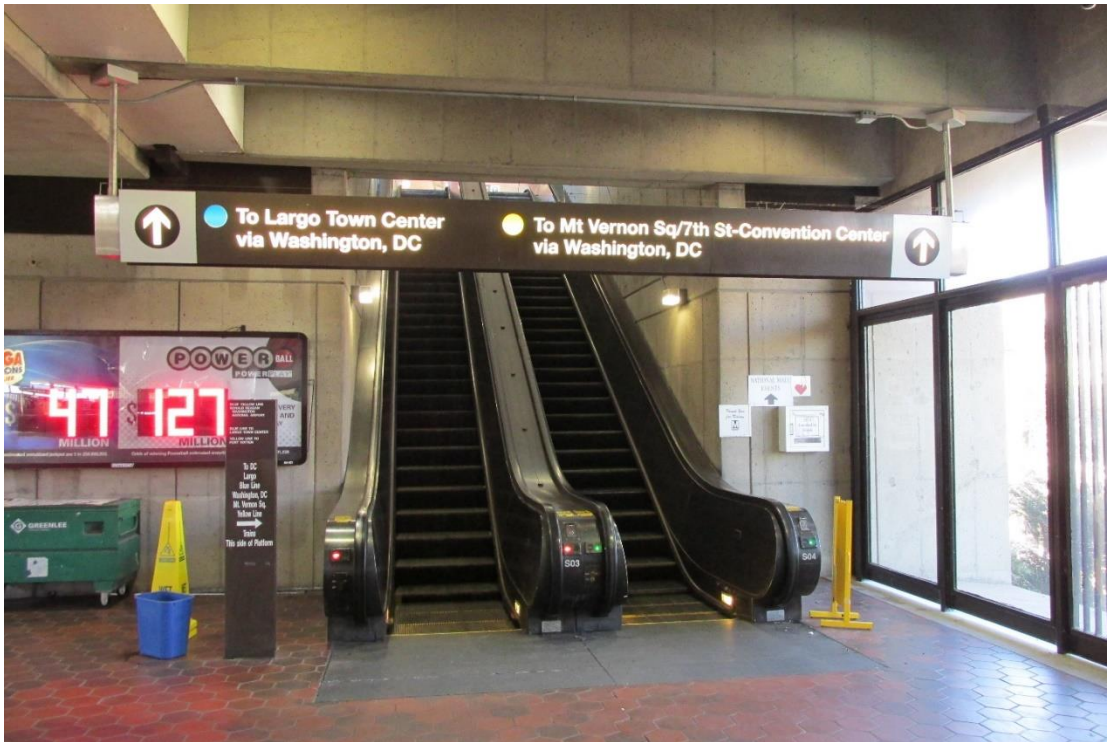
**The vestibule of the Metro Station at Reagan Airport.
Card-vending machines are there, and electronic turnstiles are beyond the machines.**



The Information Booth at the Metro Station at Reagan Airport and electronic turnstiles. Notice ample signage in the area. The train platform is on the upper level.



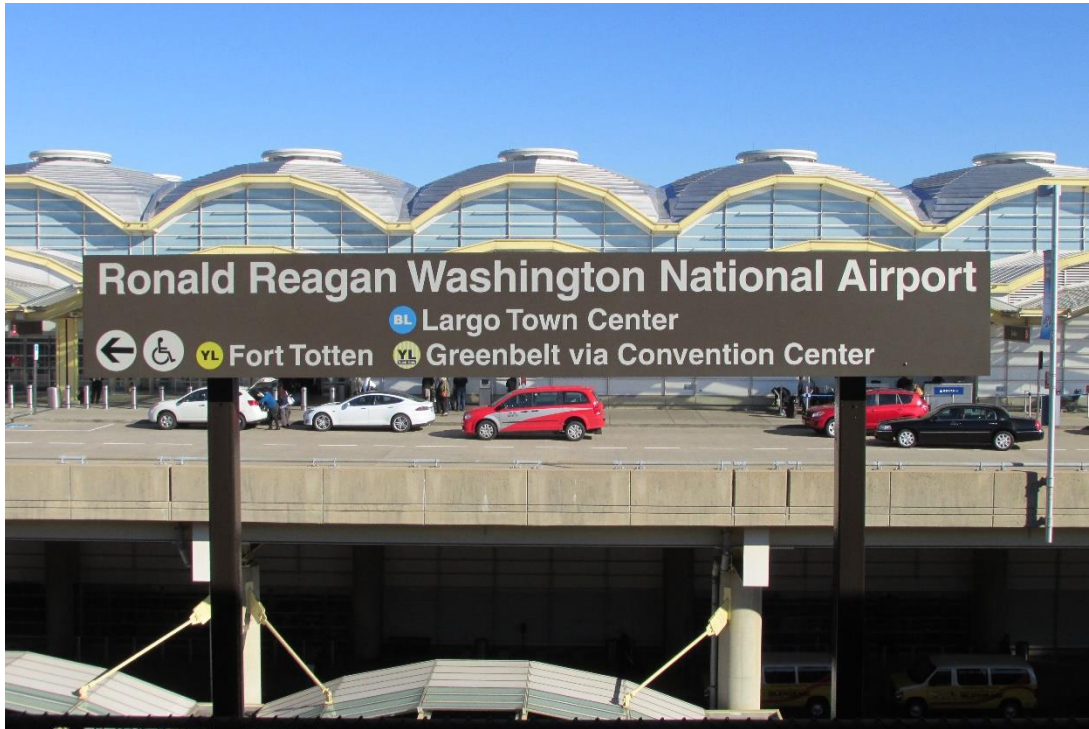
A view of the Reagan Airport Metro Station beyond the turnstiles. Two sets of escalators lead to/from the single train platform above. Prefer the set on the right as you will board a train that arrives on that side of the platform.



The right set of escalators to and from the platform at the Reagan Airport Station. The sign above these escalators indicates that the Yellow Line is headed toward Mt. Vernon Sq. (not the actual end-point station) and the Blue Line is headed toward Largo Town Center. Either train on this side of the platform is for you; BUT PREFER THE BLUE LINE.



When you arrive onto the Metro platform at the Reagan Airport Station, the track for the required direction of the Blue or Yellow Line is on the airport-terminal side of the platform. You should have a view similar to that shown here.



A CLOSE-UP OF THE SIGN AT THE TRACK FOR YOUR DIRECTION OF TRAVEL
Notice that this sign specifies the actual end-point station (Fort Totten) for the Yellow Line.
(The Greenbelt Station is also mentioned and applies to rush-hour service only.)
NONETHELESS, PREFER THE BLUE LINE TO LARGO TOWN CENTER.

- ### Legend
- RD** Red Line • Glenmont / Shady Grove
 - OR** Orange Line • New Carrollton / Vienna
 - BL** Blue Line • Franconia-Springfield / Largo Town Center
 - GR** Green Line • Branch Ave / Greenbelt
 - YL** Yellow Line • Huntington / Fort Totten
 - SV** Silver Line • Wiehle-Reston East / Largo Town Center

- ### Station Features
- Bus to Airport
 - Parking
 - Hospital
 - Airport
- ### Connecting Rail Systems
- VRE
 - AMRC



Red Arrows show travel via the Red Line from Union Station to Metro Center. Transfer Station to the Silver Line.

Blue Arrow shows travel via the Blue Line from Reagan Airport to Rosslyn. Transfer Station to the Silver Line.

Yellow Arrow shows travel via the Yellow Line from Reagan Airport to L'Enfant Plaza. Transfer Station to the Silver Line.

Gray Arrows show travel via the Silver Line from each of the three Transfer Stations to the destination: the Wiehle-Reston East Station.

Metro Rail Operating Times

Mon-Thu
5am-midnight

Fri
5am-3am

Sat
7am-3am

Sun
7am-midnight

Times are approximate

Metro is accessible.

Map is not to scale

ARRIVAL AT UNION STATION:
 Take the Red Line toward Shady Grove with transfer at the Metro Center Station to the Silver Line toward Wiehle-Reston East Station—also your destination station.

ARRIVAL AT REAGAN AIRPORT (Preferred):
 Take the Blue Line toward Largo Town Center with transfer at the Rosslyn Station to the Silver Line toward Wiehle-Reston East Station—also your destination station.

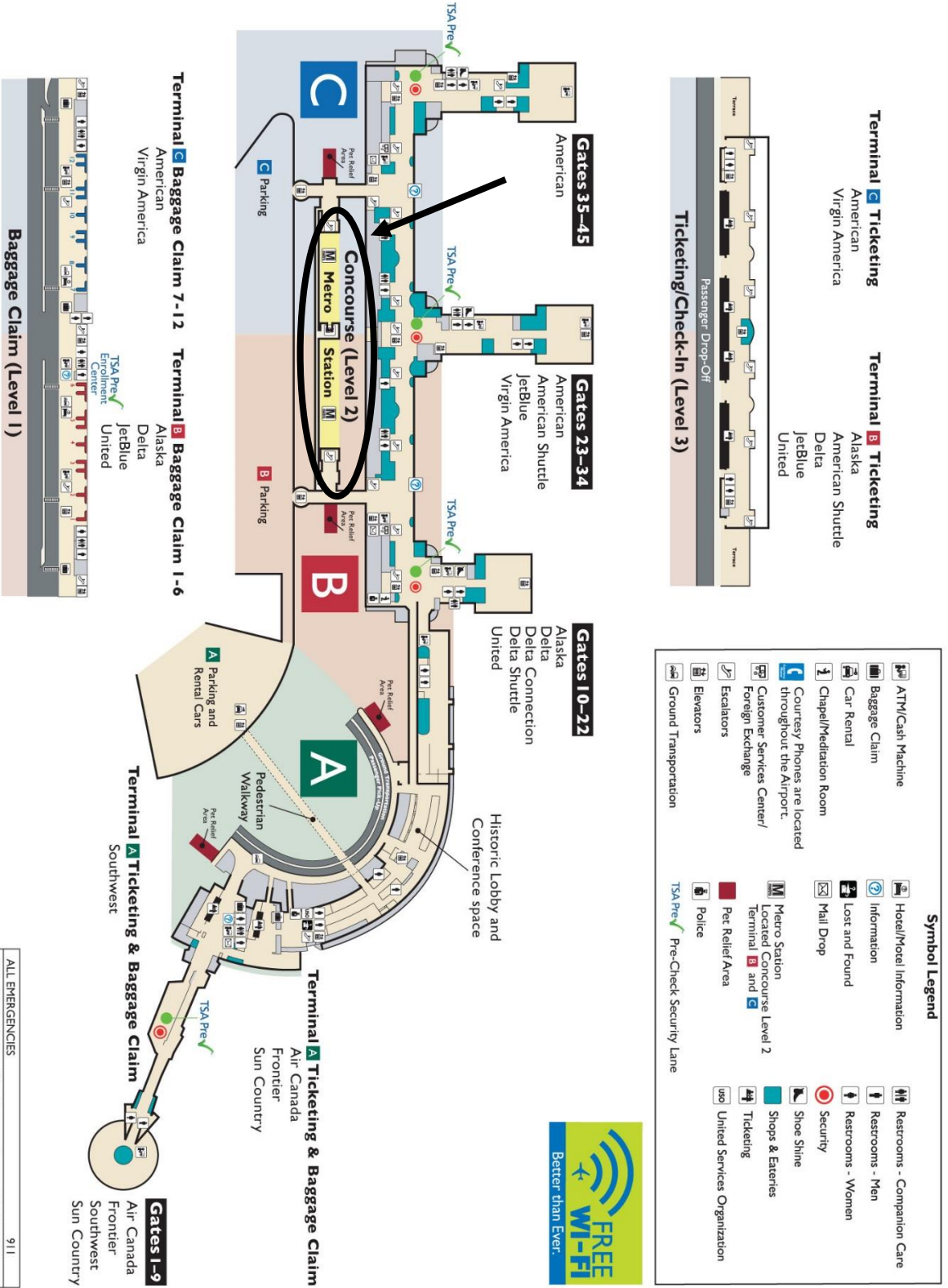
ARRIVAL AT REAGAN AIRPORT (Alternate):
 Take the Yellow Line toward Washington, D.C.; on the platform, signage will indicate “Fort Totten.” At the L’Enfant Station, transfer to the Silver Line toward Wiehle-Reston East Station—also your destination station.

➔ The Green Line and the Orange Line are not involved with your travel via the Metro.

TERMINAL MAP

Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport

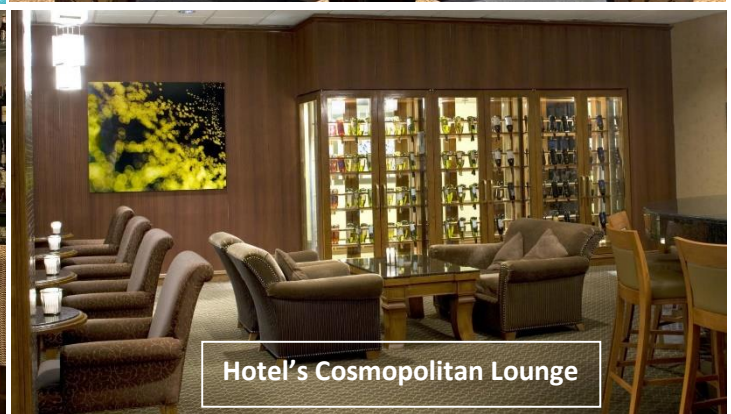
NOTE: The black arrow and oval show the location of the Metro Station.



Information effective 10/15 and is subject to change without prior notice.

ALL EMERGENCIES	911
Police/Fire/Ambulance (Non-Emergency)	703-417-2400
Police Station (Non-Emergency)	703-417-8560
Airport Information	703-417-8000

The Sheraton Reston Hotel



The *Sheraton Reston Hotel* is located at 11810 Sunrise Valley Drive in Reston, Va. The nearest intersection is Exit 10 of the Dulles Toll Road (Rt. 267) and the Reston Parkway. This full-service hotel offers the amenities that we have enjoyed during our past reunions. These include free on-site parking that includes unoccupied RVs; on-site restaurant and lounge; restaurants within walking distance; complimentary shuttle to a nearby mall—the Reston Town Center, the Metro, and other nearby locations; complimentary high-speed Internet; business center; Sheraton Sweet Sleeper™ Beds with pillow-top mattresses; and much more. The discounted room rate is \$110.88 a night (\$99 room cost plus 12% taxes) and applies from 12 – 18 September for the convenience of those who wish to arrive early or stay later. Visit the hotel's web site at www.sheratonreston.com for more information about the hotel, its amenities, and its surroundings.

AN IMPORTANT COMMENT CONCERNING STAYING AT THE HOST HOTEL

Staying at the host hotel is much more than a matter of convenience from a planning perspective; it prevents the SHVA from incurring severe financial penalties. The SHVA, through a legal contract with the host hotel, has reserved a block of sleeping rooms for our reunion attendees. This block of rooms was established 18 – 24 months in advance of the reunion. Failure to fill the rooms can result in the SHVA having to pay for unfilled guest rooms. Additionally, the SHVA might have to pay for our Meeting Rooms during the reunion if the room block is not filled. Meeting rooms typically cost \$400/day!

Your cost to attend this reunion does not include extra money for payment related to unfilled rooms in the room block and/or fees related to our use of meeting rooms.

The only way to have your guest room reservation with the host hotel applied to the guest room block is to book your room directly with the host hotel or through its national reservation system. You must mention that your reservation is for the USS Sam Houston Reunion so that your reservation will be applied to the guest room block and ensure that you will get the discounted room rate. Booking your room at the host hotel through Internet-based agencies such as Travelocity, Orbitz, Expedia, Hotels.com, trivago, and a myriad of others will not result in your reservation being applied to the contracted guest room block. So, book your guest room at the host hotel directly with the host hotel OR its National Reservation Line.

Hotels require firm commitments well in advance of planned events. They are in business to make money and do so by filling guest rooms and booking meeting rooms. They attempt to book multiple events simultaneously based upon available space. Hotels can only manage their space through firm agreements in advance—through legal contracts; they cannot maximize use of their space based on wishy-washy, oral promises. Groups incur severe financial penalties for cancellations or failure to fill the contracted guest room blocks. Hotels lose money when a contracted number of guest rooms are not filled and/or hotels reserved a meeting room for a group that later needs a smaller room. The hotel loses money because it might have declined business long ago for the larger meeting room for another group. This becomes the basis for the imposition of financial penalties on groups that do not fill guest room blocks and/or meeting room reservations. These and many other situations confront military Reunion Planners solely as a result of the inability to ascertain accurately the attendance at reunions a year or two in advance.

The higher the number of rooms in the guest room block, the lower the guest room rate and the lower the cost of group meals during those events. Those who arrange corporate events at hotels can provide accurate attendance well in advance of the events because attendees (i.e., employees) are paid to attend those events. Therefore, they can receive the best guest room rates and meal costs. Reunion Planners cannot predict the actual attendance at reunions that will occur 18 – 24 months in the future; thus, the best deals are not achievable. On the other hand, those planners cannot decide on desired reunion periods then inform their groups and expect to find a hotel with those dates available only two weeks before a desired period. So to be safe, prudent Reunion Planners underestimate attendance to avoid financial penalties and contract with hotels to ensure that the reunion periods are firmly established. Underestimating does not result in the lowest guest room rate and the best meal costs but allows the planners to contract with hotels for the desired reunion periods well in advance of the planned reunions. Hotels can usually accommodate a higher attendance than that specified in contracts, and this situation has no financial penalties. The result is that one does not get the best deals, but the groups do not incur severe financial penalties if attendance falls short.

**For these reasons,
I request that all reunion registrants
who intend to stay at public lodging
reserve their guest rooms at the host hotel.**

**Call the Sheraton Reston Hotel directly at 703-620-9000
or its National Reservation Line at 800-561-9186
no later than 13 August 2016 to make your guest room reservation.**

Details of the Reunion Venues

Your First Mates/partners and other guests are encouraged to attend the reunion as activities are chosen such that they will be part of the reunion and not merely tagalongs. All-day group tours of some attractions in the area help accomplish this. *The reunion is an “a la carte” event which means that you attend on the days you desire with optional participation in the group activities being offered on those days.* If you choose not to participate in an activity, you may “do your own thing.” You can hang out in the Hospitality Room, enjoy a meal at a nearby restaurant, tour and shop the area on your own, or visit relatives and friends in the area.

Our Hospitality Room will be available from 7 a.m. – 11 p.m. from Thursday through Saturday. Reunion check-ins will occur in this room; you will receive a Welcome Packet.

You must pre-register (i.e., select on the Registration Form) for the Welcome Reception of Thursday evening, the group buffet dinner on Friday evening, our banquet on Saturday evening, and for participation in either of the group tours. You are on your own for breakfast each day; breakfast is not included in the guest room cost. For those who will take the tour on Thursday, lunch will be on your own at the Food Court in Amtrak’s Union Station in Washington, D.C. For the tour on Friday, lunch will be on your own at your choice of one of three restaurants within National Museum of the Marine Corps.

A synopsis of the reunion venues follows. Details of each event are contained in subsequent sections of this packet.

2016 REUNION VENUES

Thursday, 15 September

7A – 11P *Breakfast on your own*
Hospitality Room open;
reunion registrations
8:45A *Board coach for Tour A*
(Must pre-register and pre-pay)
9A *Coach departs for Tour A*
Lunch on our own at Union Station
5P *Coach returns from the tour*
6:30 – 7:30P *Hotel’s Welcome Reception*
(Must pre-register [no cost])
Supper on your own

Friday, 16 September

7A – 11P *Breakfast on your own*
Hospitality Room open;
reunion registrations
8:45A *Board coach for Tour B*
(Must pre-registered and pre-pay)
9A *Coach departs for Tour B*
Lunch on our own-Marine Museum
5P *Coach returns from Tour B*
6 – 8P *Group Buffet Dinner*
(Must pre-registered and pre-pay)

Saturday, 17 September

NO OFF-SITE GROUP ACTIVITIES THIS DAY.

Breakfast on your own
7A – 11P Hospitality Room open;
reunion registrations
9 – 10A Board of Advisor’s Meeting
(SHVA officials only)
11A – 1P *Lunch on your own*
1 – 3P SHVA Business Meeting
(Optional guest attendance)
4:30 – 6P Professional portraits
6:30 – 8P *Plated Supper Banquet*
(Must pre-register and pre-pay)
8 – 10P Auction

Sunday, 18 September

Breakfast on your own
7 – 9:30A Hospitality Room clean up
12N Hotel checkout deadline if departing

DETAILS OF THE VENUES AT THE HOTEL

Nonfood Venues

Hospitality Room (7 a.m. – 11 p.m. daily)

This is our “room to mingle” and will be available during most active hours of the reunion—even during tours for those who will not be participating. Free coffee, tea, sodas, bottled water, snacks, and candies will be available along with displays of memorabilia, items for auction/raffle, and items for sale. So, bring your USS Sam Houston memorabilia and an item for auction.

The SHVA does not have a traditional Ship’s Store as with most other naval-reunion groups, but a minimal variety of items will be available for sale. Other Sam Houston-related items are available directly from vendors. These vendors serve as our Ship’s Store by marketing certain items that are specific to the boat and/or the SHVA. What is unique with these vendors is that they will accept orders from individuals, have no minimum quantities to order, and will ship directly to individuals. The use of vendors eliminates a burden of getting a large number of items to and from our reunions. If you are interested in a particular item, consult Howard Dobson (Reunion Planner) during the reunion.

Please do not bring your own “culinary masterpiece” for sharing in the Hospitality Room UNLESS the item is nonperishable AND does not require heating. The hotel does not permit the serving of certain foods in the Hospitality Room. These are primarily types of foods available from its restaurant. Snacks and candies are permitted but must be contained in single-serve packages or containers. Please contact Howard Dobson if you wish to bring something for consumption and are unsure if it is appropriate for the Hospitality Room.

The SHVA does not authorize the bringing, selling, or serving of personal alcoholic beverages by any reunion attendee in the Hospitality Room or meeting rooms. Reunion registrants may purchase alcoholic beverages from the restaurant/lounge or service bars at the hotel for consumption in the Hospitality Room or in rooms during group meals.

Hospitality suites that reunion registrants might establish elsewhere in the hotel are neither endorsed by the SHVA nor affiliated with it. Therefore, the SHVA, its officials, and members of the Reunion Committee accept no responsibility or liability for incidents stemming from the use or abuse of alcohol by reunion attendees

All public areas of the hotel are designated nonsmoking areas. The SHVA, its officials, and members of the Reunion Committee are neither responsible nor liable for incidents stemming from smoking violations by reunion attendees.

Reunion Check-In (daily)

Reunion check-in is independent of hotel check-in and will occur in the Hospitality Room. You will receive your Welcome Packet that includes nametags, tickets for your pre-registered venues, and other items. You will also be informed of any changes to reunion venues. The schedule of reunion venues will be on the backs of your nametags. Just flip the badge to view it.

Board of Advisors' Meeting (Saturday, 9 – 10 a.m.)

This is a meeting of SHVA officials and others specifically invited. It precedes the Business Meeting of the veterans of the boat to preview topics to be presented at the Business Meeting and any other subjects related to the management of the SHVA. This meeting might occur on an earlier day if circumstances warrant and space is available.

SHVA Business Meeting (Saturday, 1 – 3 p.m.)

This is a meeting for all veterans of the boat; guest attendance is optional. This is a great time for your First Mates and other guests to visit the Reston Town Center for shopping and lunch. This meeting concerns business matters of the SHVA. This includes but is not limited to elections of members of the Board of Advisors and the selection of host cities for future reunions. We settle our options for a potential cruise reunion in 2018 and select a location for our 2020 reunion. At the 2014 reunion in Seattle, the members suggested that the 2018 reunion be on aboard a cruise ship departing from a port in California. Everything about the 2018 reunion is subject to discussion and change.

Professional Portraits (Saturday, 4:30 – 6:00 p.m.)

Brad Lawrence, our Ship's Photographer, will be taking professional portraits of the reunion attendees. Attire should be at least "business casual" or you may wear your military uniform. The taking of the portraits will precede the Saturday evening banquet. Brad will also produce a Reunion-Memory Book. Thumbnails of the portraits will be included in the memory book along with candid shots and other noteworthy ones. Standard-size prints of the portraits, their electronic files, and the memory book will be available for purchase as individual items about two months after the reunion. If you do not attend the reunion, but would like to purchase a memory book, you may do so. An article in a post-reunion newsletter will describe how one can purchase a Reunion-Memory Book.

NOTE:

The reunion venues stated in this packet were accurate at the time of issuance of this packet but are subject to last-minute changes. You will receive an up-to-date schedule when you check in at the Hospitality Room.

Food Venues

IMPORTANT: All group meals require pre-registration; i.e., paid for when submitting your Reunion-Registration Form. You will NOT be able to pay at the reunion.

NOTE 1: You are on your own for breakfast each morning.

NOTE 2: Taxes and gratuities are included in the price of each group meal.

Hotel’s Welcome Reception (Thursday, 6:30 – 7:30 p.m.)

“Chef’s Choice of Complimentary Snack Items”

Attire is casual.

No cost, but must pre-register

Group Buffet (Friday, 6 – 8 p.m.)

“Deluxe Deli— assemble your own culinary delights”

Attire is casual.

Cost: \$45.00/person

- ◆ Thinly sliced gourmet deli meats: hickory-smoked turkey breast, lean roast beef, and smoked ham
- ◆ Assorted deli cheeses
- ◆ Potato salad
- ◆ Fruit salad
- ◆ Assorted gourmet breads and rolls
- ◆ Mayonnaise, mustard, ketchup, and horseradish
- ◆ Green leaf lettuce and dill pickle
- ◆ Potato and vegetable chips
- ◆ Fresh-baked cookies
- ◆ Coffee, tea, iced tea

Plated Banquet (Saturday, 6:30 – 10 p.m.)

Attire is “business casual” or better or wear your military uniform!

<p>Chicken Marsala With Pearl Onion and Mushrooms</p> <p>Cost: \$38.00/person</p>	<p>Pan-Seared, Salmon Filet With Orange Teriyaki Ginger</p> <p>Cost: \$47.00/person</p>	<p>Open-Fire-Grilled, Marinated, Flank Steak With Chipotle Adobo & Grilled Onions</p> <p>Cost: \$47.00/person</p>
<p>Each entree is served with a classic Caesar salad with crisp Romaine, Reggiano Parmesan, and herb croutons Garlic mashed potato Fresh rolls and butter, coffee, and hot or iced tea. Monogrammed sheet cake.</p>		

The banquet involves many venues of which the meal is but one.

DETAILS OF THE GROUP TOURS

Tour A—Thursday, 9 a.m. – 5 p.m. (board coach at 8:45 a.m.)

- *Smithsonian National Air & Space Museum (Chantilly, Va.)*
- *National Museum of the Marine Corps (Triangle, Va.)*

- **Package Price: \$35/person**
- **Price includes tip for the coach driver**
- **Lunch on your own at a restaurant within the Marine Corps Museum**

Brief Description

Depart the Sheraton Reston Hotel via coach. The first location is the Smithsonian's Udvar-Hazy Center in Chantilly, Virginia that is the companion facility to the museum on the National Mall in Washington, D.C. Opened in 2003, its two huge hangars—the Boeing Aviation Hangar and the James S. McDonnell Space Hangar—display thousands of aviation and space artifacts, including a Lockheed SR-71 Blackbird, a Concorde, and the space shuttle Discovery. The Center also offers the Donald D. Engen Observation Tower which provides a 360-degree, bird's-eye view of Washington Dulles International Airport and the surrounding area. Udvar-Hazy Center is also home to the Mary Baker Engen Restoration Hangar where preservation of the National Air and Space Museum's collections takes place. A glassed-in mezzanine provides a view of restoration projects in progress.

Our second destination is the National Museum of the Marine Corps. Docents will divide us into groups for personalized tours of the museum. The museum is a lasting tribute to U.S. Marines—past, present, and future. Situated on a 135-acre site adjacent to Marine Corps Base Quantico, Virginia, and under the command of Marine Corps University, the Museum's soaring design evokes the image of the flag-raisers of Iwo Jima and beckons visitors to this 120,000-square-foot structure. We will have guided tours of world-class interactive exhibits that use the most innovative technology to surround visitors with irreplaceable artifacts and immerse them in the sights and sounds of Marines in action.

Tour B—Friday, 9 a.m. – 5 p.m. (board coach at 8:45 a.m.)

- *The U.S. Capitol Building & its Capitol Visitor Center*
- *The U.S. Navy Memorial*
- *The World War II, Korean, and Vietnam Veterans Memorials.*

- **Package Price: \$40/person**
- **Price includes tip for the coach driver**
- **Lunch (and shopping) on your own at [Amtrak's] Union Station**

Brief Description

NOTE: The tour of the U.S. Capitol Building involves about an hour of walking—do not register for this tour if extended walking is inconvenient for you. As an alternative, you may return to the Capitol Visitor Center that has areas where you may relax.

Depart the Sheraton Reston Hotel via coach. Our first stop will be the U.S. Capitol Building and its Capitol Visitor Center. Guided tours of the historic Capitol begin at one of the Capitol Visitor Center's orientation theaters with a 13-minute film, "Out of Many, One," which will take you on a journey through our country's struggle to establish the world's first truly representative democracy and introduce you to the magnificent building that houses our Congress. Once inside the historic Capitol, visitors will see the Crypt, the Rotunda, and National Statuary Hall. The tour will begin and end at the Capitol Visitor Center.

After the tour of the U.S. Capitol Building, the coach will take us to nearby [Amtrak] Union Station where we will be on our own for lunch at one of the many restaurants of the Food Court within the station. Depending upon the time you take for lunch, you might have time to shop at the stores within the station.

After lunch, our next location will be the U.S. Navy Memorial. This is where the SHVA has a Commemorative Plaque displayed that was dedicated in October 2013.

We will then visit the three war memorials mentioned and conduct our Memorial Service on the grounds of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial if weather permits.

2016 SHVA REUNION-REGISTRATION FORM

15 – 17 September 2016, Sheraton Reston Hotel, Reston, Va.

(Please print legibly with names as you want them to appear on the reunion name badges.)

Reunion Registrant's Name (first, initial, last): _____

Street: _____

City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____

Home Phone: _____ E-Mail: _____

Cell phone number while at the reunion: _____

Specify years aboard the boat (e.g., 1969-1972): _____ Crew(s): _____

Highest Rating/Commission on board: _____ Div.: _____

In Case of Emergency (name and phone): _____

Guest 1 Name (first, initial, last): _____

Guest 2 Name (first, initial, last): _____

Guest 3 Name (first, initial, last): _____

Guest 4 Name (first, initial, last): _____

Registration Fee: \$20/person (Required for all—even if you are not staying at the host hotel.).....\$ _____

Hotel-User Fee Assessment: \$15/person (Additional fee ONLY if you are NOT staying at the host hotel.)...\$ _____

**YOUR PARTICIPATION IN THE FOLLOWING ACTIVITIES IS OPTIONAL.
TO PARTICIPATE, YOU MUST SELECT AND PAY NOW FOR THOSE ACTIVITIES BY SATURDAY, 30 JULY 2016.
YOU WILL NOT BE ABLE TO PAY FOR THESE AT THE REUNION.**

GROUP MEALS:

Welcome Reception (Thursday, 15 Sep)

Must pre-register to attend even though this venue has no cost.....Quan.: _____ Complimentary = **No Charge**

Deluxe Deli Buffet (Friday, 16 Sep)

Thinly sliced gourmet deli meats with cheeses, et. al.....Quan.: _____ @ \$45/person = \$ _____

Banquet (Saturday, 17 Sep) Indicate quantities of each entrée below:

Chicken Marsala.....Quan.: _____ @ \$38/person = \$ _____

Salmon Filet.....Quan.: _____ @ \$47/person = \$ _____

Flank Steak.....Quan.: _____ @ \$47/person = \$ _____

GROUP TOURS:

Marine Corp & Smithsonian Air & Space Museums (Thursday, 15 Sep).....Quan.: _____ @ \$35/person = \$ _____

Capital Bldg., U.S. Navy Memorial, and war memorials (Friday, 16 Sep).....Quan.: _____ @ \$40/person = \$ _____

TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED: \$ _____

→ **CONTINUED ON THE NEXT PAGE.** ←

2016 SHVA REUNION-REGISTRATION FORM (continued)

You may participate in whichever group activities that you wish, but you must pay for them by the deadline of Saturday, 30 July 2016. Ensure that you have correctly indicated your selections on the previous page and keep a copy of both pages of this form for your records. You must pay in advance because the SHVA must commit—with hard numbers—to the hotel's Catering Dept. and the Destination-Management Company (tour operator) well in advance of the reunion. The SHVA is then obligated by contract to pay for the counts that it provides.

Don't forget to make your hotel guest room reservation with the host hotel by the deadline of 13 August 2016. Call the hotel at 703-620-9000 or its National Reservation Line at 800-561-9186. Ensure that you ask for the USS Sam Houston Reunion rate. Record your Reservation Confirmation Number below.

The Reservation Confirmation Number I received is _____.

I will check in at the host hotel on September _____ and check out on September _____.

**PROVIDE INFORMATION IN THIS BOX
ONLY IF YOU AND YOUR GUESTS ARE NOT STAYING AT THE SHERATON RESTON HOTEL.**

(Requires payment of the Hotel-User Assessment Fee \$15/person in addition to the Registration Fee.)

I am staying at _____

During the reunion, I can be reached at the following phone number: _____

Refer to the note on page 18 for advice about staying at the host hotel.

Are you a "Local"? Yes No (circle one). If not, what is your intended mode of travel to and from the reunion?

To: Car Air Train (Amtrak) Interstate Coach
From: Car Air Train (Amtrak) Interstate Coach



Do you or your guests have any disability or dietary restrictions that require special attention at the hotel or on tours? If so, please specify.

If you require an ADA (Accessible) room or other special arrangements at the hotel, reserve early and inform the hotel as it has a limited number of ADA (Accessible) rooms.

This completed form with a check or money order payable to "USS Sam Houston" must be **RECEIVED** by the Reunion Planner no later than 30 July 2016. Allow 5 business days for delivery by first class postal mail. One form must be completed for each hotel guest room reservation made or for each group not staying at the host hotel.

Mail this completed form with payment to:

**USS Sam Houston Veterans' Assn.
c/o Howard Dobson
28 Colony Blvd
Wilmington DE 19802-1402**

If you have questions about the reunion or must cancel your reunion registration, please contact Howard Dobson.

Phone: 302-764-1197 or E-Mail: howardvaldobson@verizon.net