



REVETMENTS

The Official Journal of The Tan Son Nhut Association



JULY 2018 SPECIAL REUNION EDITION

OK everyone! Time is running out. Don't wait until the last minute. Reunion dates are:

Thu Sep 20 – Sun Sep 23.

[Make your hotel reservation FIRST!](#)

Hope Hotel & Richard C. Holbrooke Conference Center

Wright-Patterson AFB, OH

(937) 879-2696

When making your reservation, be sure to say: “**Tan Son Nhut Association**” to get the discounted rate of \$109.00+Tax. A full hot breakfast buffet is included each day of your stay. The reduced rate is available 3-days prior and 3-days after the reunion. All reservations must be made by **Aug 27, 2018** to get the TSNA special rate. Rooms at a tour hotel may not be available after August 27, 2018.

[Some notes about the hotel](#)

It is located just off of Hwy. 444 at Wright-Patterson AFB, Gate 12A. You will not have to go thru gate security as there is an access road to the right, just prior to entering the gate.

The hotel website is: www.hopehotel.com Use this site for hotel information only.

Do Not use the hotel website for making reservations! I repeat, it is for informational purposes only. All reservations must be made by phone as shown above.

The hotel has a restaurant & bar (Packy's) as well as a fitness center, outdoor patio, business center, etc. There is no swimming pool at the hotel. Sorry.

There is no scheduled airport shuttle service to/from the hotel. Rental cars are available at the airport. You will either need to take a taxi located at the airport (approx. \$45.00 one way,) call Uber, or, make prior arrangements with someone you know will be attending the reunion to pick you up. It is about a 20 to 30-minute drive between the airport & hotel, depending on local traffic.

When arriving at the hotel, after entering the parking lot, stay to the left as if you were going to the back of the hotel. Just follow the posted signs. (I will try to put up a couple of signs with the TSNA logo on them showing the way.)

PLEASE READ! There is plenty of activity taking place in the Dayton area during the time that we will be there. Hotel rooms are going to be at a premium. Our contract only allows the hotel to hold rooms for us until Aug 27, 2018. After that date, they will be released to the general public. This is a privately-run hotel on Air Force property, but is contracted to the Air Force to house military students attending classes at the Air University at Wright-Patterson AFB. I strongly encourage you to make your hotel reservations ASAP! I have stayed at this hotel many times and it has always been nearly fully booked.

[Next, Register for the reunion](#)

Use the form on the following page to complete the registration process. The form is also available on the TSNA website, under the REUNION tab.

TAN SON NHUT ASSOCIATION REUNION REGISTRATION

September 20 - 23, 2018

NAME: _____ GUEST NAME: _____

STREET ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

TEL:(____) _____ EMAIL: _____

SPECIAL NEEDS? _____

REGISTRATION FEES

Number Attending: _____ x **\$75.00** = \$ _____

Pre-Order Reunion Video: QTY: _____ x **\$15.00** = \$ _____

Total Remittance: \$ _____

PAYMENT MUST BE MAILED NO LATER THAN: August 31, 2018

Mail check to: **TAN SON NHUT ASSOCIATION P.O. BOX 236**
PENRYN, PA 17564-0236

Note: If not paying the full registration (**\$75.00**) then the following fees apply:

Access to hospitality suite (includes snacks & beverages): **\$12.50** daily

Friday Banquet Dinner: **\$37.50**/person (Cash Bar not included)

Additional charges (TBD) for tours; transportation; outside activities; etc.

HOTEL INFORMATION

HOPE HOTEL & RICHARD C. HOLBROOKE CONFERENCE CENTER

Bldg. 823, Area A, Gate 12A

Wright-Patterson AFB, OH 45433-5000

(937) 879-2696

Reservations must be made by telephone. Mention “**Tan Son Nhut Association**” when making reservation.

Do not say: “TSNA.”

Room Rate: **\$109.00 + Tax** (includes breakfast)

NOTE: This special room rate is available three days prior and three days after the reunion

ALL HOTEL RESERVATIONS MUST BE MADE BY: AUGUST 27, 2018!

All questions should be directed to:

Joe Kricho , Director of Reunion Planning 67vietvet68@gmail.com Please put: “TSNA Reunion” in the Subject Line

Guest Speakers

This year we have scheduled two speakers, so far.

On Friday, our banquet speaker will be Guy Dennis Gruters. Guy served in Vietnam, flying both fighter (F-100) & reconnaissance (O-1) aircraft missions, and completed over 400 combat missions. After being shot down over North Vietnam (twice!) he spent five years as a POW. Among his awards are two Silver Stars and two Distinguished Flying Crosses.

On Saturday, our speaker will be Navy Commander (Ret) Joseph Stewart. CDR Stewart spent most of his career in Anti-Submarine Warfare operations, both as a pilot, and as an instructor. He has taught both at the Naval Post Graduate School, and the Air Force Institute of Technology. He is an active volunteer in both his community, with military veterans, and in advocacy groups for Alzheimer's research. He is the brother of TSNA member Jim Stewart.

Some Friday Activities

Friday morning, at 09:15, we will hold a Rededication Ceremony for our Memorial Bench, that the Association dedicated in 2012, in the Memorial Gardens of the National Museum of the U.S. Air Force. We will have the Wright-Patterson AFB Honor Guard, Wreath Presentation, and a few appropriate words from our President. We will be commemorating the 50th Anniversary of the Tet Offensive of 1968 and will be dedicating this service to the four 377th Security Policeman who made the ultimate sacrifice on January 31, 1968, defending Tan Son Nut.

National Museum of the US Air Force: Fourth Hangar

In June of this year, the new fourth hangar of the museum was dedicated. This new hangar is devoted primarily to experimental, as well as, Presidential aircraft. Last year, I was given a personal tour by one of the museum directors. I think that you will find this a truly great addition to the museum, with new displays, as well as newly refurbished aircraft.

<http://www.nationalmuseum.af.mil/Expansion.aspx>

"Memphis Belle"

I am sure that most of you are familiar with the story of Memphis Belle. There has been at least one book, as well as a movie, of the truly inspiring story of this aircraft and her crew. I won't go into those details here, but I'm sure that you will want to see this aircraft, now that it has been restored to what she was, on the day that she completed her last combat mission over Europe.

<http://www.nationalmuseum.af.mil/Upcoming/Boeing-B-17F-Memphis-Belle-Exhibit-Opening-May-17-2018/>

"Pinning" Ceremony

At our Friday evening banquet, we will have a ceremony whereby all of the Vietnam Veterans present, will receive a pin, commemorating their service in Vietnam. This ceremony will be conducted by TSNA member Jim Stewart, and his brother Navy CDR (Ret.) Joe Stewart. The pins were originally struck as pins commemorating the 50th Anniversary of the Vietnam War.

http://www.vietnamwar50th.com/cpevents/?F_d=09%2f20%2f2018&F_country=US&F_s=OH&F_et=c&F_m=09&F_y=2018&EventId=16230

Awards Ceremonies

During our Friday Banquet, in addition to the presentation of awards to members and non-members alike, we will also be announcing the recipients of this year's Scholarship recipients. That is no typo. This year, we will be awarding two scholarships, the second being our newest scholarship honoring our recently deceased Treasurer, Carol Bessette. By a special action of your Board of Directors, this scholarship was approved unanimously.

I think that you would agree that we have a fabulous Friday in store. Now, on to Saturday.

"Dawn Patrol"

On Saturday, we are in for a real treat. Historic & replica World War I aircraft will be flying in to the Museum. In addition, there will be historic reenactors, encampments, as well as the aircraft being on display, as well as flying demonstrations. We will be providing shuttle bus service between the hotel and the museum, between 08:30 and 13:00. This is expected to draw huge crowds from the surrounding area. (This is just another reason to make your hotel reservations ASAP.)

Use the following link to learn more: <http://www.nationalmuseum.af.mil/Upcoming/Events/>

Saturday Speaker

Our special guest on Saturday will be Cdr. Joseph Stewart, USN, Ret. During his career, he has served as an Anti-Submarine Warfare Mission Commander; Aircraft Commander; Instrument Instructor and Check Pilot; Maintenance Test Pilot; and Maritime Patrol Navigator, all in the P-2 Orion aircraft. He has also as a member of the faculty at the Air Force Institute of Technology, Wright-Patterson AFB, OH, and the US Naval Postgraduate School. He has operated Naval Patrol Aircraft in all ocean areas of the world except the South Atlantic and Antarctica.

General Membership Meeting

This is the chance for all members to speak with, question, or comment to the Officers and Directors of YOUR Association. In addition to their annual reports, we will be announcing the results of this year's elections, as well as the selection of the location of our 2020 reunion.

2019

And, speaking of reunions, don't forget 2019. We will be in Little Rock, AR on Sep 12-15, 2019. We will be staying at the Four Points Sheraton at a rate of just \$96.00 + Tax. This is a newly renovated, full-service hotel, located conveniently to the Central Little Rock area. They provide complimentary transportation to/from the airport, as well as limited shuttle service to local attractions. Look for more detailed information in upcoming issues of Revetments.

2020

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To be announced at this years' reunion.

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS
Tan Son Nhut Association 2018 Reunion
September 19 – 23, 2018

GENERAL TRANSPORTATION INFORMATION: Please note that, our charter bus service will try and be as flexible as possible. If the schedule shows what appear to be conflicting activities, we will do our best to have the buses provide a limited shuttle service between the hotel and the NMUSAF, for those who might have other plans at that time. You will be provided with the latest information at check-in.

Wednesday, Sep 19, 2018

09:00 – 17:00	Hospitality Setup	Hospitality room
17:00 – 21:00	Early registration	Hospitality room

Thursday, Sep 20, 2018

09:00 – 22:00	Registration	Hospitality room
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Friday, Sep 21, 2018

06:00 – 09:00	Breakfast	Hotel restaurant
08:45	Buses depart for NMUSAF	Front of Hotel
09:15 – 09:45	Memorial Bench Rededication ceremony Includes Group Photo	NMUSAF Memorial Gardens
10:00 – 13:00	Museum Tour + Lunch	NMUSAF
13:15	Buses return to hotel	
10:00 – 16:00	“Veterans Voices”	Hotel

NOTE: Members will have their choice of staying at the NMUSAF, or, returning to the hotel to participate in “Veteran’s Voices”

17:00 – 18:00	Welcome Cocktail Reception (Cash Bar)	Hotel Ballroom
18:00 – 22:00	Banquet	Hotel Ballroom
	Welcome remarks	Association President Randall Brown
	Dinner	
	Guest Speaker	Capt Guy Gruters, USN, Ret. Former POW
	“Pinning” Ceremony	

Saturday, Sep 22, 2018

06:00 – 09:00	Breakfast	Hotel restaurant
08:45	Bus loading	Front of hotel
10:00 – 12:00	“Dawn Patrol”	NMUSAF
12:00 – 13:00	Lunch	NMUSAF
13:15	Buses return to hotel	
14:00 – 14:45	Guest Speaker	Cdr. Joseph S. Stewart II, USN, Ret.
15:00 – 18:00	Free Time	
16:00 – 17:00	Board Meeting	Board Room
18:00 – 19:00	General Membership Meeting	Hospitality Suite
19:00 – 19:30	Door Prize Drawing	Hospitality Suite
19:30 – 20:00	Silent Auction	Hospitality Suite
22:00	Hospitality Suite Closes	

Sunday, Sep 23, 2018

0600 – 10:00	Breakfast	Hotel restaurant
	End of Reunion	