



West Point Class of 1958 Savannah 2006 Reunion

15 December 2005

It is with great pleasure that we invite you to Savannah, Georgia, the **"Hostess City of the South"** for the USMA class of 1958 reunion for 2006. Come visit America's first planned city and walk in the squares that were in General James Edward Oglethorpe's plan when he arrived here in 1733. *Conde' Naste Traveler* has included Savannah in the "Top 10 U.S. Cities to Visit."

The reunion is scheduled for registration 14 May 2006 and departure on 17 May. Reunion information is posted on the class website at: www.west-point.org/class/usma1958. The reunion hotel is the Hilton Savannah DeSoto, located at 15 East Liberty Street, on the corner of Bull Street. Our official group name is "West Point Class of 1958 Savannah Reunion". It may be reduced to West Point Class Reunion if you call for your reservation. The toll-free line for the hotel is (800) 426-8483. The national Hilton toll-free line is (800) HILTONS. Our group's three-letter code for making reservations online at <http://www.hilton.com/> or <http://www.desotohilton.com/> is WPC. When you get to the "View Rates" page, enter that code at the bottom of the page in the "Special Accounts (Optional)" line titled "Group/Convention Code."

The base room rate is \$124.00 for one or two guests, plus \$10 each for additional guests. There is currently a 12 percent tax and an occupancy fee of \$0.30 per night. These rates also apply for three days before and after our blocked dates of 14, 15, and 16 May 2006 if rooms are available. Contact us if you are told there are no rooms available for those periods. We have a reduced self-parking rate of \$5.00 daily. For self-park in the underground garage, continue east on Liberty Street beyond the hotel main entrance to the end of the hotel. If you stay at another hotel, parking is \$12 per day.

When you check in, be sure to confirm your planned departure date. Leaving before your registered departure may result in a \$50 per day charge. Reservation cancellations may be made up to 4:00 pm on day of arrival.

The Gray Line Savannah Airport Express serves the Hilton Savannah DeSoto. You may make a reservation in advance giving your flight information and paying with a credit card at www.lowcountryadventures.com (hotel identified as DeSoto Hilton online) or (912) 629-0551. You can also buy a ticket at the north baggage claim area upon arrival at which time you will be told when you can expect the van. Current price for two passengers round trip is \$39 plus tax and perhaps a fuel surcharge. Taxi fare at this time is \$25 for two people one way. If driving on I-95, take I-16 to Montgomery Street (Exit 167B) then, at the end of the exit ramp, right on Liberty Street for three blocks.

The hotel is giving us a **complimentary suite for three nights**. We will conduct a raffle to give that suite, **valued at \$299 per night**, to a reunion attendee. **A ticket to enter the raffle costs \$25**. The drawing to award the suite will be held **21 April, one week after replies are due**. If you are the winner and have already made a room reservation, that reservation can be cancelled.

Two possible RV Parks are Rivers End Campground on Tybee Island (912-786-4126) and Skidaway Island State Park (912-598-2300).

The general schedule of events is included in this package. An updated schedule reflecting any changes will be included in the registration packet. A continental breakfast and the class meeting are scheduled for Monday morning. Wives and guests are encouraged to attend the breakfast to be ready for the day's activities. The Memorial Service will be in the St. John's Episcopal Church located across the square from our hotel. The Parish House for the church served as General Sherman's headquarters when he arrived in Savannah in December 1864. The Class Dinner on Tuesday will feature two area favorites-Low Country Boil (potatoes, smoked sausage, corn, and shrimp cooked together) and Pulled Pork BBQ. As you might guess, **casual dress is appropriate for dinner**.

Golf will be at the Club at Savannah Harbor, home to the PGA Champions Tour Liberty Mutual Legends of Golf, www.theclubatsavannahharbor.com. Additional information is on the registration form. Jae will coordinate details.

We are offering the following tours. The tours include transportation and entrance fees. Driver/Guide gratuities are not included. More information about the tours is included in this package and on the destinations' websites. Times for the tours are given on the reunion schedule. If the minimum number for a tour is not reached, those who signed up will be notified and you will receive a refund at registration.

Monday Morning-Ft. Pulaski (Robert E. Lee's first assignment in 1829) and Tybee Island Museum and Light Station on Ft. Screven on Tybee Island.

Monday Morning-Historic District Overview-This is a tour with ON/OFF privileges at 14 locations and admittance to one house or other museum. This tour is offered in the morning for those who do not wish to go to Fort Pulaski and Tybee Island. You may want to complete the basic 90-minute tour for continuity, then take your time exploring points of interest at the various stops and the museum you have selected.

Monday Afternoon-Historic District Overview-This is just the basic 90-minute tour. This tour is offered at this time in the afternoon to give those who went on the Fort Pulaski/Lighthouse tour an opportunity to have lunch and still get a tour of the historic district.

Tuesday Morning-The Mighty Eighth Air Force Museum. The museum, which opened in 1996, is located in nearby Pooler, GA, named after Robert W. Pooler, one of three members of the USMA class of 1815 from Georgia. One former member of the Eighth Air Force is Savannahian BG Robert F. Travis, USMA class of 1928, for whom Travis AFB was named after his death there in an aircraft accident in 1950.

If you arrive early or wish to stay through Wednesday, you may want to see "Jukebox Journey", a show of popular music and professional choreography from the 40s to the present in the refurbished c. 1818 Savannah Theater, one block from our hotel. The original announcement mentioned we would try for a special show of Jukebox Journey. We decided a special show was not feasible. However, because this is a great show you may want to consider arriving early or leaving late so you can see a 3:00 pm Sunday matinee or an 8:00 pm Wednesday show. The cost is \$30. There is no show on Monday and Tuesday. <http://www.savannahtheatre.com/>

The Chatham Area Transit (CAT) system has a free shuttle, generally running every 20 minutes between 9:00 am and 9:30 pm that covers the Historic District and has a stop just outside the hotel. See www.catchacat.org. Maps of the CAT route and of the Historic District will be in the registration packet and in the hotel lobby.

We can offer assistance with finding locations for group dinners. You may also get restaurant information online at www.savannahmenu.com and on the enclosed sheet describing businesses in the vicinity of the hotel.

Please register by 14 April. Early hotel reservations will be very helpful to us because we have an opportunity 60 days in advance to reduce our block of 150 rooms if it appears we will be falling short. Missing our block number by more than ten percent can result in a penalty. Registration refunds may be made until **27 April**. Changes in tours and activities cannot be made after registration.

Future communication will be by e-mail and through CCQs. If you use e-mail but are not on the class roster and wish to be included send us your e-mail address.

/X/
Roger Waddell, A-1
(912) 786-6616
Roglaurwad@aol.com

/X/
Jae Stanton, L-2
(912) 598-3798
Jaestan@comcast.net