



21 December 2020

DEAR CLASSMATES, WIVES, FAMILY MEMBERS AND FRIENDS,

Greetings once again from the HH Team! We hope you all are doing well and enjoying the holiday season as best you can during these crazy times. As you might imagine, planning a reunion in the middle of a pandemic can be somewhat challenging, to say the least! In spite of that, the HH Team continues to navigate around the recurring obstacles to put together a safe and memorable 55th Plus One Reunion for you to enjoy. That has required us to be extremely flexible as we made periodic adjustments and changes to the numerous plans that we have had in the works since taking on this job. We thought three tries would be a charm, but it actually took four! We have one last important adjustment to make to ensure the success of our reunion. See below:

CHANGE OF DATE: This is to let you know that we have decided that it would be best to make one final change of date! Our first concern has been the health and safety of our classmates, widows and family members. For this reason, we have rescheduled the reunion to now take place from **1 – 4 July 2021** (with a limited number of rooms available on 30 June for early arrivals). By delaying the reunion until mid-summer, we allow more time for everyone to receive the vaccine, making attendance more comfortable for those who might have had concerns in that regard. We were also finding Covid restrictions that were in place for the spring time frame in Arlington Cemetery, and the limited numbers that are currently permitted in the Army Museum, as well as at the Vietnam Wall, were making it more difficult to put together the very special itinerary that we had envisioned for you.

THE GOOD NEWS is that by delaying the reunion for two months, and juggling the dates, we were able to put all the pieces of the puzzle back together again and make it work! The Renaissance and Residence Inn Capital View had availability for the July 4 weekend, and very generously agreed to honor the incredible rate of \$119 plus tax per night that they had previously given us for our April dates. Arlington Cemetery will be open back up by then, and we have confirmation in hand for a Wreath Laying Ceremony at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier on Friday morning, July 2, at 11:15 am.

Dave Hopkins and his Memorial Committee have adjusted to the change and have put together a deeply meaningful service for Friday afternoon back at the hotel. We will be

privileged to have Terry Ryan and the West Point Alumnae Glee Club perform at the Memorial Service, making it even more special for us all! For Saturday we are on track and eagerly looking forward to our tour and dinner at the brand new National Museum of the United States Army. That appears to be on everyone's bucket list, and will be yet another big highlight for our 55th Plus One!

GOLF TOURNAMENT: While the reunion begins on Thursday, July 1st, those classmates and their ladies coming in for the traditional pre-reunion '65 Golf Tournament will want to arrive on Wednesday for Thursday play. With the change of date for the reunion, Bruce is once again working on the details and location for the tournament. Bruce asks that you please contact him to let him know if you plan to join in the competition and fun! bbgclarke@aol.com

HOTEL REGISTRATION will open on January 10th. A reminder letter will be sent out just prior to that date. At that time, hotel registration information will be posted on our AOG Website that can be found at <https://www.westpointaog.org/1965reunion>.

SPECIAL OPPORTUNITY: Our reunion officially ends on Sunday morning, July 4th. However we are going to check with our sales person at the hotel when she returns from the holidays to see if we can add a limited number of rooms into our contract for Sunday evening. This would be a nice option should anyone want to extend their stay in order to watch the Fourth of July fireworks that are always so spectacular in DC! We will have further information on this option in the reminder letter that will come out prior to the opening of Hotel Registration on January 10th. If you think this is an option you would like to take advantage of, please email Jim Harvey so we will have an idea of the number of rooms we should commit for on Sunday evening. jimjune@cox.net or 757-288-6684.

AOG IS IN FULL SUPPORT of our change in venue and change of date. They will be bringing a team of four dedicated and enthusiastic event planners to our reunion to ensure that *this very first off-site reunion* is a huge success for all. We expect our AOG reunion website will catch up with all the changes that have been made, and be updated soon.

In the meantime please feel free to contact either Jim and June Harvey or Bill and Nancy Hecker with any questions that you might have.

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