

NAVY NUCLEAR WEAPONS ASSOCIATION

“KEEPERS of the DRAGON”©™

NNWA Bulletin



June 2018



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Gray Dragon: John Cummings

President's Message

Fellow Dragon Keepers;

I do not know about you but the older I get the faster time seems to be speeding up. We are rapidly approaching reunion time in St. Louis. John Hawkins has put a lot of effort in setting up the reunion and it sounds and looks like we should have a great reunion. Elsewhere in the newsletter John Hawkins has an article better describing the reunion plans.

The association was contacted this past winter by the USS Hornet Museum. The ship is in Alameda, CA. The current plans are to open the SASS spaces for tours. Shipmate GMTCM Tom Grabow has visited the ship to start their education process. Through the efforts of our shipmate Tonie Lewin and his contacts at Defense Threat Reduction Agency (DTRA) in Albuquerque posters showing a picture of and describing the B101 (Lulu) and the Depth Bomb version of the B57 were provided. Later this summer the Historian and others will sort out some our memorabilia and help with the Hornet's efforts to expand the SASS tours.

A great amount of effort has gone in the establishment of two association programs, the Access database program and the Personal History program. The Access program lists everyone that we are aware of which were ever in the nuclear weapons program. We currently have 2,294 individuals listed. Of these we have duty stations listed for 901. If you are attending the reunion this year, please take a moment to check out your information. Also, while you are perusing your information please make sure that we have your rank at time of discharge or retirement from the USN. We frequently are notified of a shipmate

passing and have no record of the individuals rank at time of leaving the service.

All of us receive a request of personal history upon joining the NNWA. Unfortunately, many of us set the form aside and it gets buried on the corner of our desk and winds up as scratch paper. Since this program consisted of seventeen binders of paper the decision was made to computerize our historically records. Bethany Gray has volunteered to assume responsibility for this program. Bethany will be available to show you what information you submitted. We will also have blank forms if you would care to set down with a glass of wine and fill out a historical form and turn it over to Bethany.

This will be my last newsletter article. I will not be standing for election this year. It has been an honor and privilege to represent such a fine group of individuals.

See you in St. Louis!

Tom Salisbury
NNWA President

Vice-President's Message

Shipmates,

The annual reunion is fast approaching. If you haven't registered please consider it. Time is running out. If you can't make the entire week just come for a part of it.

We always have a great time. As I age my memory fades but conversations with shipmates bring back many memories I've forgotten. It's the only place you can talk about a job very few had.

Hope to see you in St. Louis.

Until next time,
Bob



Secretary's Message

Fellow Weaponeers,

The association's annual reunion in St. Louis looks to be shaping up to be another good one. John and Maggie Hawkins have really went above and beyond to see that we have a great hotel and that there are good tours set up.

If you enjoy micro-brews, Urban Chestnut Brewing Company offers a self-guided tour at their Grove Brewery and Bierhall free of charge. Ten stops lead you through the Bierhall, Fermentation Hall, and Packaging Hall, each featuring aspects of the brewing process. They are located about 20 minutes from our hotel at GROVE BREWERY & BIERHALL, 4465 Manchester Avenue | St. Louis, MO 63110. The reunion coordinator tells me that there are several craft/microbreweries and nice bars down around the ball park as well.

As far as its nuclear weapons history, St. Louis based Mallinckrodt Chemical Company became the first industrial-scale producer of purified uranium and uranium metal in the United States. Uranium purified by Mallinckrodt was used at the University of Chicago - Chicago Pile-1, the first nuclear chain reaction, operated by Enrico Fermi. Mallinckrodt also contributed uranium to the Manhattan Project, producing fissionable materials used in the atomic weapons detonated

over Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Between 1942 and 1957 Mallinckrodt purified over 50,000 tons of uranium on the banks of the Mississippi River in downtown St. Louis, Missouri.

The U.S. Navy had a presence in the area as well, flying activities by naval personnel began as early as 1925 with the formation of an aviation unit by a group of Naval Reserve officers. In 1930 the Navy established a Naval Reserve Air Base.

Re-designated as a naval air station on 1 January 1943, NAS St. Louis served as a training base during WWII and also hosted ferry and transport command activities. Sharing facilities with civil aviation, NAS St. Louis served as a reserve base until it was deactivated in 1958, with the airfield eventually converting to commercial traffic and being renamed St. Louis Lambert International Airport.

I hope to see you this fall in St. Louis!
All the Best,
John

Treasurer's Message

As Treasurer and keeper of the roster, let me welcome our 9 new and reinstated members since the last newsletter. They are:

William Kemp	Ronald Curtis
Donald Misner	Thomas Petersen
Earl Schattenbere,Sr	Jerry Franks
Lee Bandy	Craig Adams
Robert Corthell	

We now have 822 members listed on the roster: 460 in good standing, 50 Life Members (spouses of deceased members), 9 Associate Members, 4 Heritage Members, 299 Past Members (members with unpaid for three or more years), 112 members with dues in arrears, one Honorary Member (NAAV), and one Gray Dragon, who is relieved of annual dues.

Past members do not receive newsletters or reunion information until their dues are brought up to date. Membership is \$10.00 per year. Past members may be reinstated by sending the \$10.00 reinstatement fee plus \$10.00 for each year of dues you wish to pay. This is an effective policy because of the cost of mailing newsletters and reunion information.

If you are unsure whether your dues are up-to-date and you receive your newsletter by mail, check the date in the upper right corner of the mailing. It shows the month and year to which your dues are paid. If you receive your newsletters electronically and wish to know your dues date, log onto our website. The dues date will be listed in the date column on the right of your name on the membership roster.

Some members find it convenient to pay their dues several years in advance. This can save you postage and the Treasurer, Secretary, and Web Master a considerable amount of time in processing payments.

The current membership is posted on our website. You may need a password to access certain parts of the website. The Web Master can provide you with the password. Members not on-line can request a hard copy of the roster by calling or writing:

Donald Schultz
573 Beaulieu Loop
The Villages, Florida 32162

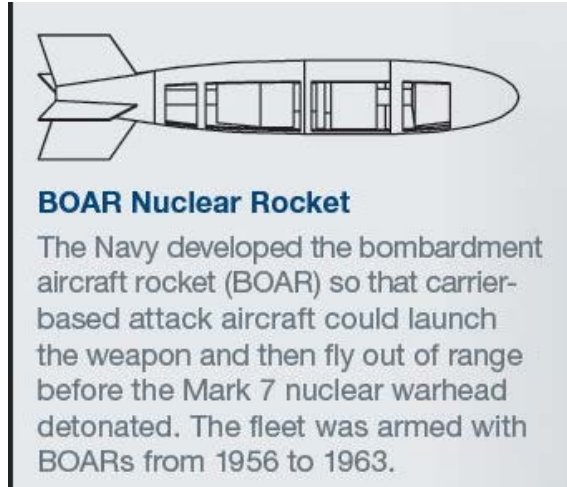
Home Phone: 352-259-1403

For NNWA's survival, it is imperative that we keep our roster up to date. Please review the roster and notify the Treasurer, Web Master, or any Board Member of any changes in your status.

We now have \$25,904.18 on deposit with Wells Fargo with NO outstanding debt.

If you plan on attending the 2018 Reunion in St. Louis, your dues must be current.

Donald K. Schultz
Treasurer and Keeper of the Roster



NNWA MAA

RAFFLES, DOOR PRIZES, AND GIFT EXCHANGE

Raffles: During our days/nights at the reunion, the MAA and Deputy will be floating around the Hospitality Room selling tickets for the 50-50 drawing at the Dinner Dance. The tickets are \$1.00 for one or \$5.00 for 6, \$10.00 for 12, and a special \$50.00 will get you 75 tickets. At the Dinner Dance drawing, 50% of the money to the winner, and the other 50% goes back to the Association to help defray costs associated with the Reunion.

Door Prizes: The Dinner Dance door prizes vary by location. The prizes are determined by the Reunion Host. Each person gets one ticket upon entering the Dinner Dance.

Gift Exchange: The Gift Exchange is a gift representing your locale. Each person or couple is encouraged to bring your gift(s) to the Dinner Dance. During the Dinner Dance, we will be calling people up to choose a new gift. The price range for the gifts is up to \$20.

Dinner Dance Drawings: The drawings will be coordinated by the Host and MAA. The drawings will begin at the completion of dinner. The goal is to have all drawings completed within an hour.

The Master at Arms (MAA): This will be my last Reunion as your MAA. I've had a great time "maintaining order" during the festivities and selling raffle tickets. I'm sure the new MAA will keep up the good traditions of maintaining order.

Ron Moran, WTCM, (Ret.)
NNWA MAA

Historian's Message

NNWB#2

Historian's Corner.

The week before the reunion I will be in Indiana, most likely with Tom Salisbury and any other board member who may volunteer, to do a final inventory and sorting of memorabilia to box up and bring to all the reunions. As I understand, all documents, publications, group photos, W-Division photos from cruise books, etc., have been scanned and will be available on the computer in the Ready Room. Nearly all the rest will be donated to various museums and other associations.

First item – a sad note for all the old steamers. The Caravan East is no more. It closed for ever late last year and the building has been demolished. On the bright side, a Branch City Library will be constructed on the property. Insert your own joke here.

Continuing with my conversations with Steven Kasunic, original Los Alamos employee and project engineer for the Hiroshima bomb. Steve would readily talk about anyone who worked on the Hill. He said repeatedly that every one of them, technician to Nobel Laureate, was just a regular guy. "All but one" he said.

He listed them in the order that he was involved with them. First was CDR William Parsons. Before the Manhattan Project was even conceived the scientists on the steering committee knew the Gun-Type weapon was the most practical design to use. And, where better to get expertise on guns than at the Naval Gun Factory in Washington, DC. Parsons was a physicist there and became the obvious choice to head that project's design and assembly. He had his pick of personnel there, and his first choice to accompany him to Los Alamos was Steve Kasunic. The two had already been working together for a year and got on exceptionally well. Parsons knew he could leave as much of the engineering as possible to Steve while he attended to all his other duties. And Steve knew that there were two types of physicists – theoretical and experimental. It was extremely rare to find one good in both areas. Parsons was one, and Enrico Fermi was the other best known one. Both of them trusted Steve's abilities and listened to his ideas on any matter that came up, and would back him up. Parsons was the type of leader who would be the first to do any risky chore, and from the beginning said he would be the one on the first strike mission to do the final in-flight assembly of the bomb.

Selecting Robert Oppenheimer to direct the efforts on the Hill was the best choice Gen. Groves could have possibly made. Though he had not won the Nobel Prize (and never would) he had the total respect of everyone in the Project, even those who already had, like Fermi, Ernest Lawrence and Neils Bohr, who was a god to nearly every physicist in the world. Oppie had the best interests of everyone on his mind, from the most complicated scientific problems on down to the selection and availability of groceries at the base

commissary, and improvements in the almost primitive housing. He set the work week at 60 hours with every Sunday off, and there was at least one party every weekend, and saw to it that as many wives who wanted to work had a job. His intellect was astounding and he was well known to be able to find a minor math error in long, involved equations that was delaying progress on a critical matter. But his own math skills were another matter – his fingers could not keep up with his brain, and an aide had to accompany him everywhere just to correct his arithmetic. He was a pure theoretician and, as Steve said, he was a total klutz. Whenever he came around on an inspection tour and even looked like he was going to pick up a wrench a mechanic or engineer would have to jump in.

Gen. Groves was every bit the autocrat that he was reported to be. He had to be. He was in charge of the biggest engineering project the world had ever seen, and had to deal with countless prima donna types who come from academia. But, it was his way or the highway, and he removed many scientists who could not, or would not, fit into the project. He was not above using his physical size (6'2" and nearly 300 pounds) to intimidate people. He had virtually unlimited financial resources and all the power to go with it to get his job done, but would never waste a cent. He never tolerated delays or indecision. When he had to choose which of three methods of U235 separation to use (magnetic, thermal or diffusion) he immediately said they would use all three (and did). He would question every method of doing anything with an engineer's eye and direct (not recommend) improvements. Kasunic met and talked him numerous times in the General's office, and, as fellow engineers, they respected each other's abilities. But Steve resented the fact that Groves never once gave him one of the many Hershey bars he kept in a box in his desk.

Steve enjoyed dealing with Enrico Fermi – he said he was the most enthusiastic person on the Hill. He was the equal of any physicist, experimental or theoretical and a top notch mechanic. Many of the

scientists were not adept at working with new people and tended to work alone. But Steve said the best were those who came from Lawrence's CU Berkeley Radiation Lab. Lawrence was in charge of the U235 separation part of the project and only once came to the hill, but his influence there was great. He had trained his folks to work in teams, consisting of scientists, chemists, engineers and technicians. Everybody got the chance to speak his mind, and everyone was listened to. These teams went through problems like a chain saw.

The one person Steve Kasunic did not care for was Edward Teller. He called him a blowhard and despised him. Teller thought he had the most brilliant mind in the whole project (Neils Bohr included) and was very insulting to everyone on the project – even Oppie, except when he needed something. He actually contributed very little to the development of the two bomb designs, and wanted to work only on his "Super." But Teller never came up with the key to the thermonuclear system, and left the Manhattan Project a few years later. It was the Polish scientist Stanislaus Ulam who found the secret – radiation implosion - but Teller immediately jumped in and claimed the discovery as his own. His career took off. Kasunic would nearly spit Teller's name whenever it came up.

More of the Los Alamos story in the next NNWB.

To be continued,
Jay Lindstrom

Service Officer's Message

Chuck Weber serves as the NNWA Service Officer. He regularly posts information regarding veteran's benefits on the NNWA website. Chuck encourages members to contact him with questions and concerns regarding their service related benefits. His email is:

serviceofficer@navynucweps.com

Upcoming Reunion Information

NNWA 2018

St. Louis Reunion

24 – 28 Sept 2018

The 2018 reunion in St. Louis will be upon us sooner than you realize. Like last year in San Diego, we have used the Military Reunion Planners (MRP) to set up the hotel, tours and banquet. As was the case last year, your completed reservations and monies are mailed to the MRP. This group has been very effective in dealing with any questions and/or issues that have arisen.

To access the reunion registration form plus tour and banquet information and hotel information, please go to our website:

www.navyneweps.com

Hotel reservations can be made online or by contacting the hotel at 314-878-1500 advising them you are with the NNWA group.

If your flying in to St. Louis, transportation to and from Lambert Field in St. Louis is available and provided free of charge by the Sheraton Westport Lakeside Chalet.

If you're driving, the hotel is just off of Highway 270.

I visited the Sheraton Westport Lakeside Chalet in April and was very satisfied with the hotel and surrounding plaza. Every staff member I met was eager to please and were very courteous.

They have two restaurants on site, the Lucerne Restaurant and the Lucerne Lounge. Additionally, weather permitting, the Tiki Bar poolside might be available.

I met several of the staff and the hotel convention coordinator who was always available for questions and to show me around. He assured me that the hotel would not let us down.

The plaza area adjacent to the hotel, has several varied establishments from sushi to Italian and a smoothie facility and also a Pizza establishment.

The tours that we have set up should be quite interesting. The tours take in many of the old historical areas of St. Louis and offer the opportunity to lunch in down town St. Louis.

The Gateway Arch is something that I did in the mid 70's and is quite an experience for old and young alike. And of course, a trip to St. Louis wouldn't be the same without a tour of the Budweiser Brewery which includes a visit to the Clydesdale Stables built in 1855. The St. Louis City tour includes a drive through a nine block Historic area with many night spots, shops and restaurants.

And as at previous reunions on the night of the dinner dance, there will be a gift exchange. If you wish to participate, please bring a gift from your home state to exchange with someone else. It should be a gift somewhat symbolic of the area in which you live. Please keep the cost of the item under \$20.00 and remember the size is a factor for those who are flying into St. Louis.

Can't wait to see some of my old shipmates and members as well as some members who I have yet to meet from all over America.

The countdown begins as soon as you submit your registration.

SEE YOU IN ST. LOUIS!

John Hawkins
Reunion Coordinator

NAVY NUCLEAR WEAPONS ASSOCIATION 2018 REUNION

ST. LOUIS, MO / SEPT 23-29, 2018

Meet & Greet: MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 24 (6:00PM)

Come greet everyone and kick-off this year's reunion! A Group welcome dinner will be served at the hotel

St. Louis City Tour: TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 25 (10:00AM-3:00PM)

This city tour is a great way to get an overview of this very diverse city. You will learn "there is more than meets the Arch". Tour highlights include a visit to the *Cathedral Basilica of St. Louis*, whose interior is covered with 83,000 square feet of mosaics, Forest Park, Home to the St. Louis World's Fair, historic St. Charles, where Lewis & Clark put in and much more. A stop will be made to get lunch on your own. Bring your camera!

Gateway Arch: WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 26 (10:00AM-3:00PM)

Of course, no visit to St. Louis is complete without a stop at the 630-foot *Gateway Arch*, which is also home to the *Museum of Westward Expansion*. You will have the opportunity to take a tram ride to the top of the Arch or just relax and enjoy a film on how it was built and stroll through the museum. There will be time for lunch on your own at *Casino Lumiere*. **Please note:** *The tram ride is not wheelchair accessible, and is not recommended for those who suffer from claustrophobia or fear of heights.*

Budweiser Brewery Tour and St. Charles: THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 27 (10:00AM-3:00PM)

Come see how "America's beer" is brewed! You will observe the 7-Step Brewing Process, the Brew Kettles, Beechwood Aging Cellars and packaging plant. A highlight may be the world-famous Budweiser Clydesdales in their historic stables built in 1885. Enjoy free samples at the end of your tour. Spend the rest of your day in the charming colonial town of St. Charles, and explore more than 100 shops & restaurants. Lunch is on your own.

NNWA Business Meeting: FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 28 (10:00AM)

Check your itinerary at registration for specific room location. There is no need to pre-register for the meeting.

Farewell Banquet Dinner: FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 28 (6:00PM)

Join your friends for the Banquet Dinner at the Hotel. Cocktails will be available from the cash bar at 1800; dinner will be served at 1900. Please make your entrée selection on the reservation form.

CANCELLATION INSURANCE

Protect yourself from unforeseen expenses caused by illness, injury or any other events that may impact your travel plans. MRP Tour Cancellation Insurance allows you to receive a refund of tour and banquet expenses. Note: This does not cover hotel cancellations. If you do not purchase cancellation insurance, all tour and banquet monies are **non-refundable** 6 weeks prior to the start of the reunion.

Important Reunion Notes:

- Tours may be cancelled if a minimum of 30 people per bus is not met. In this instance full refunds will be given.
- Please understand that a certain amount of walking is necessary in order to view and explore attractions. Please consider your limitations and note any special needs on your reservation form.
- Be sure to bring photo identification (like a driver's license) to all events.
- Tour times are always subject to change up until tour time. A final itinerary is available at check-in.

All Reservations Are Due By August 13, 2018. Late reservations will be accepted on a space available basis with a non-refundable \$15 per person late fee. Please make a copy of your order prior to mailing. Note tour times are subject to change. Should you need additional information call our offices Monday through Friday CST at 817-251-3551 or email us at info@MilitaryReunionPlanners.com. Requests for refunds must be made in writing and postmarked no later than the reservation due date. No refunds will be made after this date unless you have purchased *Tour Cancellation Insurance*. Cancellation Insurance expires at 11:59 pm the day **before** the reunion start date. Please note there is a refund processing fee of \$10 per person. Your cancelled check is your receipt as well as proof of purchase. For written confirmation of your reservation please send a self-addressed, stamped envelope with your cancellation request. A \$25 return check fee applies. MRP will not be held liable for failure of vendors to provide contracted services or any injuries/accidents that may occur during the reunion.

NAVY NUCLEAR WEAPONS ASSOCIATION 2018 REUNION St. Louis, MO ~ September 23-29, 2018

Welcome to St. Louis



[St. Louis](#), Missouri was defined as a world-class city when they hosted the 1904 World's Fair. This city's key role in the development of America's west is evident today in its diverse attractions and cultural experiences. St. Louis' history extends from the fur trade, Lewis and Clark to the World's Fair and beyond. Today, the city offers many museums, restaurants and wonderful shops. Your reunion tour program will offer several opportunities to experience St. Louis' top attractions. Planned tours include a visit to the [Gateway Arch](#), the [Budweiser Brewery](#) as well as a stop in nearby [St. Charles](#). The NNWA Reunion will provide many wonderful chances to catch up with your friends and family, while exploring the place where the ice cream cone, iced tea and hot dogs were invented. For those of you interested in an RV park, please [click here](#) for those close to St. Louis.

Hotel Information

We are holding group space from Sunday, September 23 through Saturday, September 29. We will be staying at the [Sheraton Westport Chalet St. Louis](#), located at 191 Westport Plaza Dr., St. Louis, MO 63146. The hotel room rate is **\$135.00** plus tax per night, based on single or double occupancy, including a **complimentary breakfast buffet**. For those who choose to arrive early or stay late, the same room rate is available 3 days before and 3 days after the official reunion dates, based on availability.

[Click here to make hotel reservations on-line](#) or call **888-233-9527** between 9am-5pm PST. MRP has negotiated numerous amenities for you but only those booking under **Navy Nuclear Weapons Association** are eligible for amenities that may include free breakfast, discounted parking, internet, etc. Booking through another channel like [reunionhotels.com](#) disqualifies you and your party from group amenities). Please mention that you are with the Navy Nuclear Weapon Association Reunion to assure you are associated with your group. The published hotel check-in time is 4:00pm. Make your reservations **NOW**: you can cancel up to 24 hours prior to arrival **without penalty**. The hotel is holding a limited number of rooms until the group block is full or **September 3, 2018**, *whichever comes first*. Don't delay! If you have any trouble getting rooms at the group rate even if they say the hotel is sold out, or have questions on the program call MRP @ 817-251-3551 or email: Eileen@MilitaryReunionPlanners.com



Airport Transportation & Parking

The closest airport is St. Louis International Airport (STL). For those of you driving, the hotel is extending complimentary self-parking. If you are flying to the reunion, the Sheraton Chalet Lakeside Hotel offers complimentary shuttle service, 6:30am-11pm, to and from the airport. [Click here for driving directions](#).

Travel safely and we will

Meet you in St. Louis!



[Excellence in Reunion Planning](#)

NNWA 2018 REUNION RESERVATION FORM

>>> [Click here to make reservations on-line](#) OR mail this completed form with a check payable to:
MRP, Box 1588, Colleyville, TX 76034

DATE	TIME	EVENT	COST	QTY	TOTAL
		Reunion Registration - Members	\$40 pp		
		Reunion Registration – Spouse/Guest(s)	\$15 pp		
MON 9/24	1800	Meet & Greet	\$1 pp		
TUE 9/25	1000-1500	Event A: St. Louis City Tour	\$45 pp		
WED 9/26	1000-1500	Event B: Gateway Arch	\$39 pp		
THU 9/27	1000-1500	Event C: Budweiser Brewery Tour and St. Charles	\$29 pp		
FRI 9/28	1800	Farewell Banquet Dinner – <i>make entree selection below</i>			
		Grilled Flat Iron Steak	\$55 pp		
		Herb Grilled Salmon with Chardonnay Cream Sauce	\$55 pp		
		Non-refundable Late Reservation Fee (If registering after August 13, 2018)	\$15 pp		
		Tour Cancellation Insurance: Protect your \$\$ (Fee is non-refundable)	\$15 pp		
TOTAL					

>>> PLEASE PROVIDE THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION:

NAME (As you want it to appear on badge): _____	
SPOUSE: _____	GUEST: _____
ADDRESS: _____	CITY: _____ ST: _____ ZIP: _____
PRIMARY PHONE: _____	EMAIL ADDRESS: _____
EMERGENCY CONTACT: _____	PHONE NUMBER: _____
# OF NNWA REUNIONS ATTENDED: _____ LIST ANY SPECIAL NEEDS (ex. dietary, wheelchair lift, etc.) _____	

RESERVATIONS ARE DUE BY AUGUST 13, 2018

- Reservation money is non-refundable after due date unless Tour Cancellation insurance is purchased above.
- Insurance holders are eligible for a refund less processing fee until Midnight before the 1st day of the reunion.
- Insurance ends once the reunion begins – notification in writing/email must be received prior to start of reunion.
- Late reservations are accepted on a space available basis with a non-refundable \$15 per person late fee.
- Watch for an email confirmation of your order and online roster update as your proof of payment.
- Changes not possible online including cancellations. Email/Mail notice for cancellations required.
- To register and pay by check please print this form and mail it with a check to: MRP, Box 1588 Colleyville, TX 76034

Call or email MRP if you need to add, cancel or modify your reservation at 817-251-3551 or email info@MilitaryReunionPlanners.com. MRP agents are available weekdays from 9-4 CST. Voice Mail is 24/7
You must leave a voice message to receive a call back. Thank you for using Military Reunion Planners, LLC