

# USS SAM HOUSTON VETERANS' ASSN.

## 2024 REUNION-INFORMATION PACKET



**SSBN/SSN 609**

**CALL TO THE  
7<sup>th</sup> BIENNIAL REUNION**

**★ Buffalo, N.Y. ★**

**10–12 Sep 2024 (Tues.–Thurs.)**

**Buffalo Airport Hotel**

**4600 Genesee St. Cheektowaga, N.Y. 14225**



I am pleased to issue this “**2024 Reunion-Information Packet**” (RIP) of the USS Sam Houston Veterans’ Assn. (SHVA). All veterans of the boat, members of Special Forces who served aboard, Associate Members, and their guests are invited to attend our 7th Biennial Reunion arranged for 10–12 September in the Buffalo, N.Y. area. The reunion begins with a group tour on Tues. morning 10 September and ends after our Banquet & Auction late on Thurs. evening 12 September. **The weather in Buffalo during our reunion is expected to be fair as we will be well ahead of the time that Buffalo’s severe winter weather usually begins.**

The host hotel is the ***Buffalo Airport Hotel*** located in Cheektowaga, an eastern suburb of Buffalo. It is about a 30-min. drive from downtown Buffalo and about a 1.5-mi. ride from the Buffalo Niagara International Airport Terminal. The hotel provides complimentary-24/7, airport-shuttle service that also serves Amtrak’s Buffalo Depew St. Station. The reduced guest room rate is available from 06–16 September for those who desire to arrive early and/or stay afterward. As usual, the Reunion Committee has arranged for a Hospitality Space during the reunion along with group tours of some interesting and diverse venues in the Niagara Falls and Buffalo areas on Tues. and Wed. 10 and 11 September. Guest room check-ins begin at 4:00 p.m. Pets are not permitted at the hotel.

If you have relatives/friends in or near the Buffalo area or would travel there otherwise, this SHVA reunion might serve as a mini family reunion or friendly get-together. These non-SHVA members can take advantage of our reduced guest room cost and participate in any SHVA group activities and our Hospitality Space 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! But these family members/friends must register and complete a Reunion-Registration Form (RRF) as required for SHVA members if they will not be included in a guest room reservation of a member or will not be staying at the Buffalo Airport Hotel. The requirements for SHVA members as indicated on the RRF also apply to non-SHVA members who will be registering.

If knowing who has registered for the reunion is important to you, contact me (Howard Dobson) as specified in this packet. I’ll send you a list of current registrants, or you can ask about specific members. Moreover, you can attempt to persuade a member to attend if he/she has not registered instead of your deciding not to attend the reunion. Attend the reunion and make new friends within the USS Sam Houston family.

This RIP details the activities of the reunion and includes a RRF that you must complete and mail with your payment to register. The designated individual of the Reunion Committee (Howard Dobson) must ***receive your completed RRF and payment no later than Sat. 03 August***. You must complete one form for each guest room reservation made with the host hotel. Include all individuals who will be associated with a guest room reservation. If you will not be staying at the host hotel, you must complete one form that includes everyone in your group.

This reunion is an à la carte event, i.e., you decide which day(s) you will attend and which group activities on those days you and/or your guests will participate in.

**Brad Lawrence** [IC2(SS), Gold, 1972-1973] will be taking professional portraits before our Banquet on Thurs. evening 12 September and candid shots elsewhere. Those pictures will be included in a 2024 Reunion-Memory Book.

### **WILL YOU AND/OR YOUR GUESTS HAVE SIGNIFICANT MOBILITY CONCERNS?**

- **If you are contemplating attending this reunion, you should notify the hotel immediately so that an Accessible Room will be reserved for you. If you determine later that you cannot attend, you can cancel the reservation without being charged if you notify the hotel at least 24 hours—local time at the hotel—in advance of your scheduled arrival time.**
- **If you are contemplating attending this reunion and you require or might require a coach with a chair lift, please inform me immediately via phone or email. I will use this advance notice to reserve a coach(es) with a chair lift. Because coaches with chair lifts lose two passenger seats, the capacity is reduced by one person.**

# IMPORTANT PRELIMINARY INFORMATION

*Registrations for the reunion and reservations for hotel guest rooms are independent processes; you must make your guest room reservations by contacting the hotel as described herein. If you will be staying at the host hotel, reserve your room before completing the included RRF. The form requests that you include your Reservation Confirmation ID.*

## GENERAL:

Completed RRFs must be received by the deadline of 03 August. *This Cutoff Date occurs one week before the Cutoff Date of 10 August for hotel guest room reservations.* The deadline for reunion registration is necessary so that compliance with requirements imposed by the Catering Dept. at the hotel and the coach company can be met. The hotel, coach company, and some tour venues require “final counts” about two weeks in advance. Tour venues might also require that admissions fees be paid in advance or, at least, accurate attendance be provided. Moreover, I need time to complete some final tasks that cannot be performed before all registrations have been received.

If you plan to attend the reunion but cannot meet the registration deadline, call me as soon as practicable before 03 Aug 2024 so that I can account for your attendance at venues of your choice. If you contact me after the deadline, I’ll be able to inform you if coach seating is available and which venues, if any, can accommodate you. In all cases, you will have access to our Hospitality Space.

**The Cutoff Date for REUNION REGISTRATION is Saturday 03 August.** Send your completed RRF with full payment by check or money order payable to “USS Sam Houston” to the designated member of the Reunion Committee (Howard Dobson) mentioned on the RRF. This individual must receive your completed form and payment by the Registration-Cutoff Date for guaranteed participation in venues selected. Allow 5 days for delivery through regular mail (USPS First-Class Mail). Reunion registrations and payments received after the Registration-Cutoff Date might be returned based upon available vacancies and a willingness of the hotel and/or tour operator and venues to include you after their contracted Cutoff Dates.

- Full refunds for cancellations of reunion registrations will be made if cancelled by 03 August. Afterward, refunds cannot be guaranteed for reunion registrations. I’ll try to refund you. This might result in a partial refund as I will have made advance payments for the coach and some tour venues.
- The **Registration Fee** applies to each person included on the RRF. This fee is \$25 for each person.
- The **Hotel-User Assessment Fee** applies ONLY to those who will NOT be staying at the host hotel for whatever reason. This fee is \$15 for each person and is in addition to the Registration Fee of \$25 required for each person.

The **Registration Fee** applies to each person who will attend the reunion. This fee covers the cost of snacks, candies, and nonalcoholic beverages for the Hospitality Space, Event Insurance, meal for a Banquet guest(s), nametags, and a numerous variety of other incidentals.

The **Hotel-User Assessment Fee** applies to each attendee who will not be staying at the host hotel and is a fee in addition to the Registration Fee. This fee covers costs related to our meeting room setups and cleanups, ice and water stations, bartender’s fee, etc. that the hotel provides during the reunion. The reason that this fee does not apply to those who stay at the host hotel is that a portion of their guest room cost is applied to these hotel-provided items/services.

## THE HOST HOTEL:



Buffalo Airport Hotel



"The Yard" at the Hotel

- Reunion registrants must make their guest room reservations with the hotel directly. Guest room reservations and reunion registrations are unrelated and independent processes.
  - Call the hotel at 716-634-6969 to make your guest room reservation. Mention that your reservation is for the USS Sam Houston Reunion. Do NOT use any other method such as a national-reservation system or 3rd-party booking website. **If you do NOT make your guest room reservation with the hotel directly, you will not be entitled to any special arrangements and perks arranged for our reunion.**
  - *The Cutoff Date is 10 August for making your guest room reservation.*
  - Below is the contracted guest room cost. The base price is subject to taxes and fees. These total 13.75% at the time of issuing this RIP. (Taxes can change as they are government-established.)

CONTRACTED GUEST ROOMS	BASE PRICE	OUT-OF-POCKET COST
Standard Double Queen or Single King	\$119.00/night	\$135.36/night

- Your guest room reservation includes a hot-breakfast buffet for each person registered in a guest room. ***Cooked main breakfast items (e.g., eggs, meats, potatoes) are not prepared with microwave ovens.***
- The hotel has a limited number of suites. The cost of these rooms is not established under the contract with the hotel.
- Each guest room reservation is subject to a \$100.00 Incidental Hold at check-in on your guaranteed method of payment (credit/debit card). The hold minus any incidentals assessed is released at checkout.
- The hotel is extending the contracted guest room cost for 3 days before and after our reunion: 06–16 September. This is convenient if you want to arrive early and/or stay afterward.
- If you plan to attend the tour on Tues. 10 September, you might wish to reserve a guest room for Monday evening 09 September as the tour coach will board on Tues. at 9:00 a.m.
- Parking at the hotel is free and can accommodate dead parking for 2 motor homes.
- The hotel’s complimentary-24/7, airport-shuttle service also serves Amtrak’s nearby Buffalo Depew St. Station. The shuttle does **NOT** serve Amtrak’s Buffalo Exchange St. Station or the Metro Transportation Center which is the station for local-bus and interstate-coach service.
- Cancellation of your guest room reservation will not result in a charge if you notify the hotel at least 24 hours—local time at the hotel—prior to your scheduled arrival date. Otherwise, you will incur a one-night, guest room cost plus taxes that will be paid through your guaranteed method of payment.
- Call the hotel at 716-634-6969 if you wish to mail a package to the hotel ahead of your arrival. A date for which mail pieces can begin to be accepted will be provided. Mailing a heavy/bulky item or numerous small ones for the auction might be a convenient means for getting those items to the hotel.
- Depending upon the weather, temperature, and availability, we might have our meetings in “The Yard” and be permitted to socialize there if another group has not reserved the area.

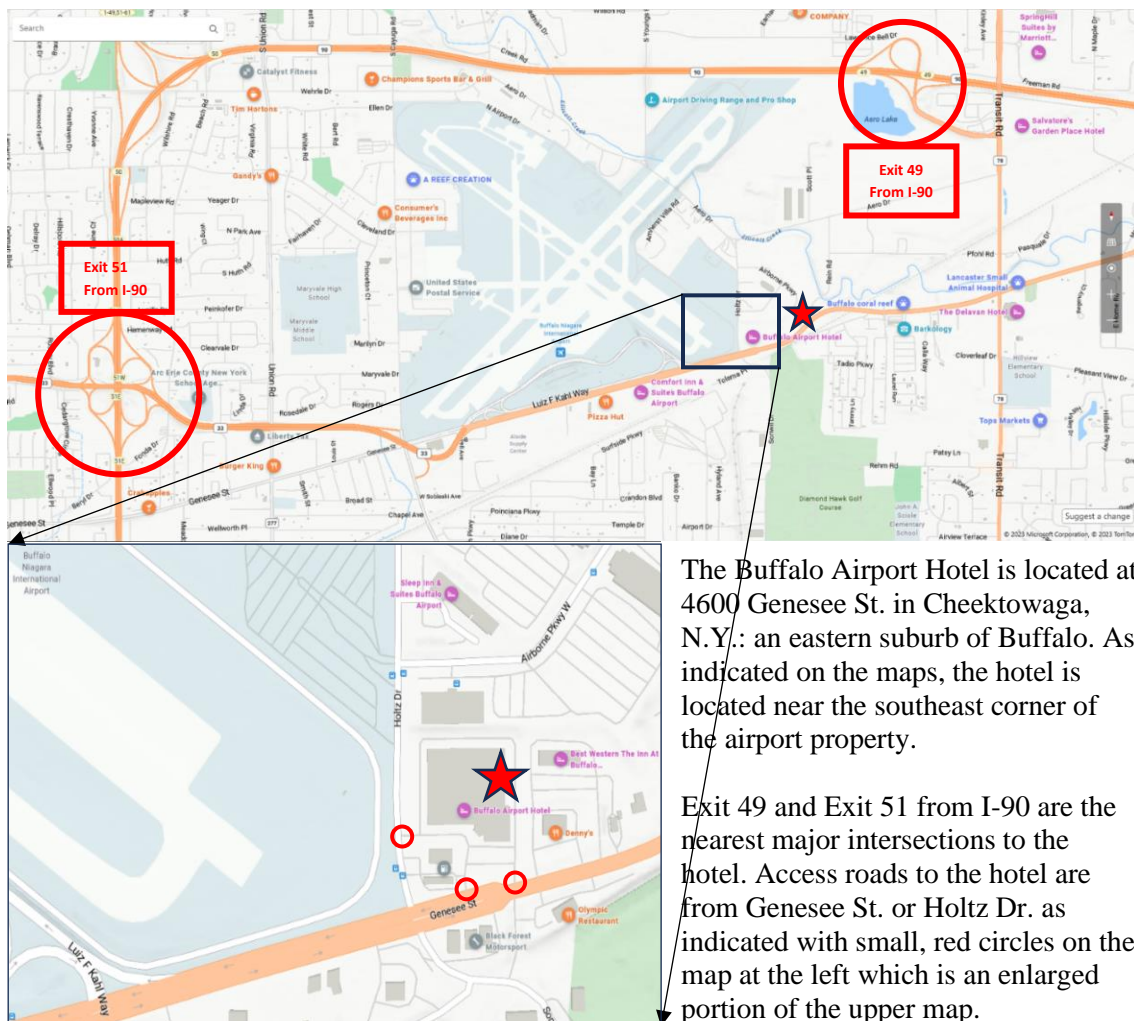
The Hospitality Space at the hotel will be set up by late afternoon on Mon. 09 September. After you have arrived at the hotel on whatever day you will arrive, come to the Hospitality Space to receive your Welcome Packet and socialize with others. Bring an item for our auction that will follow our Banquet on Thurs. 12 September.

## REUNION-ACTIVITIES PRELIMINARIES:

- **Walk-ins for the reunion CANNOT be accepted for group meals and tours** because of precise attendance numbers having been provided to the hotel in advance of the reunion for our group functions, to the tour operator for our coach service, and to some tour venues.
- Most venues involve walking but probably not excessively for those who are relatively mobile. Most venues will be ADA-Compliant/Handicapped-Accessible except for certain types of equipment (e.g., ships, aircraft, and battle tanks, etc.) and structures (e.g., lighthouses, antique homes, etc.).
- The 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 on Thurs. evening 12 September. “Business casual” or better is requested for the latter two occasions. Wear your uniform if you have it—and it fits!

## Your Journey to the Buffalo Airport Hotel

### DRIVING



## ARRIVAL VIA PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION

If you will be traveling by public transportation ONLY to attend the reunion, you will not have to rent a car.

### ➤ Travel by Air

The Buffalo Niagara International Airport (code: BUF) is your destination. At the time of issuing this RIP, the following carriers serve the airport:

- ◆ American Airlines
- ◆ Delta Air Lines
- ◆ Frontier Airlines
- ◆ JetBlue Airways
- ◆ Southwest Airlines
- ◆ Sun Country Airlines
- ◆ United Airlines

Call the host hotel at 716-634-6969 for pickup by its complimentary-24/7 shuttle after you have retrieved your luggage. You will receive details about the pickup location.

### ➤ Travel by Train

- **Amtrak's Buffalo Depew Station is your destination.**
- **Do NOT choose Amtrak's Exchange St. Station in Buffalo. The hotel's shuttle does NOT serve it.**

Travel by Amtrak might be a good alternative to travel by air or car. One trade-off might be a lower cost for a longer ride. If you have not traveled by train for decades, many improvements have occurred. Comfort leads the list even if you choose coach seating for the journey, i.e., not reserving a private room. Coach seats recline and have footrests with ample leg room. On long-distance trains—those whose routes require 24 hours or more to traverse their routes—have coach seats with leg rests, window curtains, and complimentary pillows and blankets. All seating is dual, not three. Each two-seat row has two electrical outlets. The price of coach seating for two people will probably be significantly less than that for driving, and the ride will probably be more comfortable. Business Class seating has wider seats and more leg room. ***When private rooms are available, they sell out many months in advance; reserve a room as early as possible should you desire one. Five room options exist; one of which is an Accessible Bedroom. All rooms are expensive!*** Private rooms are only available with trains that serve the far west, south, and southeast and serve Chicago or New York City. 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. I travel by Amtrak often.

Before you contact anyone regarding travel by Amtrak, I recommend that you consider travel by train only if you reside in the northeast or Mid-Atlantic sections of the country and have convenient access to Amtrak service. Transfers will be necessary either in Boston or New York City depending upon your initial boarding station. The most advantageous use of train travel would occur if you would board your first train in states north of Mass. or in cities between Wash., D.C. and New York City—the busiest portion of Amtrak's Northeast Corridor (NEC).

#### ***Boarding at Stations North of Boston***

The journey begins with travel to Boston's North Station. A transfer of stations is then required. You and your luggage must get to Amtrak's Boston South Station. You'll be on your own to accomplish this. Amtrak does not provide shuttle service. The stations are about 1.5-miles apart via roads. The easiest mode of travel will be a taxi or ride share. If you are familiar with the MBTA (Boston's subway system), this mode of travel between stations might be convenient. The continued travel segment is described in the following section. Checked luggage is not available on any trains.

### ***Boarding at Amtrak's South Boston Station***

Boarding your first train at Boston's South Station might have the advantage of not requiring a transfer of trains at New York City. To accomplish this, you must board the one train daily that originates at Boston's South Station and terminates at Albany, N.Y. At Albany, the passenger cars are coupled to another train that originated in New York City and terminates at Toronto, Canada with stops at Buffalo en route. A few other trains from Boston's South Station will require travel to New York City. There, you and your luggage must transfer to a train that terminates in Toronto or Chicago. Layovers in New York City vary up to 1.5 hours. Amtrak's Penn Station in New York City is modern and comfortable. Checked luggage is not available on these trains.

### ***Boarding at Stations South of Boston and North of New York City***

Unless you take the one train from Boston's South Station mentioned in the previous section, you must travel to New York City and transfer trains there. The latter portion of the previous section describes the travel segment between New York City and Buffalo.

### ***Boarding at Stations South of New York City***

This option includes boarding at any Amtrak station in the eastern and southern states and includes cities as far south as New Orleans. One can travel from the south/southeast to New York City or Chicago based on the boarding station without the need to transfer trains for this segment of travel. But you must transfer trains at New York City or Chicago to complete the journey to Buffalo. Layovers vary. You would have to retrieve any checked luggage in New York City or Chicago because checked luggage is not available for the continued journey to Buffalo. The subsequent section contains important information concerning long-distance trains.

### ***Boarding at Stations Elsewhere in the Country***

Travel by Amtrak is not a convenient option for those who reside elsewhere in the country. Unless your initial boarding station would be Chicago's Union Station, you must take trains to get there—wherein lie a few inconveniences. You will undoubtedly require transfers and layovers. A layover of 12–24 hours at Chicago's Union Station in the wee hours of the morning is not unusual—and the air temperature within that station will likely be uncomfortable! You would have to retrieve any checked luggage at Chicago. The layover might necessitate a stay at a hotel in Chicago. Also, all long-distance trains operate every other day which might necessitate that you arrive a day before the reunion and/or stay a day afterward if you wish to participate in the entire reunion. You might be aboard a long-distance train for more than 24 hours. Checked luggage is not available on trains that depart Chicago and terminate in Boston or New York City—the routes that serve the stations in Buffalo. The next section has important information concerning long-distance trains.

### ***Subsequent Comments About Amtrak***

Checked luggage is a free service and is only available on “long distance” Amtrak trains. These are trains that require more than 24 hours for travel between their origins and terminations. Checked luggage is not available with any trains that serve Buffalo as these trains are not long-distance trains. But the unavailability of checked-luggage service for an entire journey to Buffalo will likely not be problematic.

All this said, travel by Amtrak might be feasible if you reside in the western or southern areas of the country and you have plenty of time, lots of extra money, and you would prefer some fantastic views of the countryside, mountains, and plains instead of the tops of clouds or have a strong desire to avoid the idiots who drive on our roads.

#### **NOTES:**

- *Be aware that if you check your luggage on any long-distance train, you must remember to retrieve it at New York City or Chicago, as applicable. Your next train cannot accommodate checked luggage. Do not assume that Amtrak functions as the airlines regarding the transfer of checked luggage. If you inadvertently forget to retrieve your luggage, you will be at the reunion while your luggage remains at the transfer station!*
- *If you will travel by Amtrak, purchase a fare to the Buffalo Depew Station, NOT the Buffalo Exchange St. Station. The hotel's shuttle does NOT serve the Exchange St. Station located in downtown Buffalo. Arriving from the east, the Depew Station is first upon arrival at Buffalo; it is the second station if arriving from the west. If you make a mistake, don't panic; take a taxi or ride share to get to the host hotel.*
- *Travel by Amtrak from states within the northeast area of the country or states in the Mid-Atlantic region would be most feasible. These states comprise Maine, Vt., N.H., Mass., R.I., Conn., N.Y., N.J., Pa., Del., Md., Wash., D.C., and some cities in eastern Va. But travel from all stations that do not originate from either Boston, New York City, or Wash., D.C. will require a train transfer at one of these latter three stations except for the one train daily that originates at Boston's South Station.*
- *If you board your first train at New York City or transfer to a train there for travel to Buffalo, no further trains transfers will occur. Ensure that you have retrieved any checked luggage if you had a prior transfer at New York City.*
- *Senior Citizens (62+) and military veterans always receive a 10% discount. But the discount applies ONLY to the base fare, i.e., the coach fare upon which the costs of upgrades/options are added. Thus, the discount does not apply to the portion of the additional fare related to Business Class seating or berthing. Although berthing is expensive, it includes 3 complete meals, morning coffee, tea, and juice, a newspaper, bottled water, and turn-down service.*
- *Occasionally, Amtrak offers specials such as "15% discounts," "Buy One, Get One Free," and "Buy One, Get One 50% Off". But these specials usually have restrictions related to locations (states), train routes, destinations, hours of travel, and/or dates.*

#### ➤ **Travel by Interstate Coach: (Greyhound et al.)**

Greyhound and Trailways serve the Metro Transportation Center (aka Niagara Frontier Transportation Authority {NFTA}) located at 181 Ellicott St. in Buffalo. The hotel's shuttle does NOT serve this facility; you'll need to use a taxi or ride share for travel to the host hotel.



## SHOULD YOU PURCHASE TRAVEL INSURANCE?

Travel/Traveler's/Trip Insurance provides coverage for certain medical expenses, trip cancellations or interruptions, lost luggage, flight/rail accidents, and numerous other losses that can occur during travel. Some airlines and Amtrak offer this optional insurance on their websites during checkout when purchasing tickets. If an airline's website does not offer travel insurance when purchasing tickets, you can search the Internet for travel insurance companies. A good start is with the website [www.travelinsurance.com](http://www.travelinsurance.com). You'll find numerous travel insurance companies there. Many credit cards now include travel insurance at no charge; check with your card issuer to learn how to activate the insurance. Credit cards also include insurance at no charge for rental cars. Again, check with your card issuer.

In essence, the cost of this insurance is relatively cheap when compared to its benefits—as is the case with all insurances. In most cases, a “basic” travel insurance plan will cover most of the common, adverse incidents associated with travel via public carriers—and those incidents are plentiful. Ever been stuck at an airport? Missed connections or a cruise? Needed a hotel room because of travel problems? Required a rental car because of problems? Lost luggage? The list is long! Although travel insurance cannot prevent the incidents from occurring, it can help ease the pain. A basic travel insurance policy will probably cover incidents that might cause you to change your itinerary because of certain emergencies which could involve—even situations related to someone who is not traveling with you! These policies are worth their costs, and I recommend that you consider purchasing this insurance whenever you travel by plane, train, or coach.

A real situation occurred a few years ago with the president of Military Reunion Network (MRN) who travels frequently and always purchases travel insurance. She needed round-trip travel between Everett, Wash. and Laughlin, Nev.

**Airfare: \$373.49**

**Travel Insurance: \$23.49.**

The first leg of her journey would be a flight via Alaska Airlines from Everett, Wash. to Las Vegas, Nev., and second leg—Las Vegas to Laughlin—was by rental car. Her journey to Laughlin went off without a hitch. This would not be case for her return trip. The plane was scheduled to land at Everett at 11:49 p.m. The airport is 14 miles from her home; thus, the late arrival would not have been an issue. But during the return flight, the plane was diverted to Portland, Ore. due to fog. Portland is about 300 miles from her home! Seattle, Wash. would have been closer to her home, but it was also socked in. The plane landed in Portland at 12:30 a.m.; so, her journey home would have to wait until morning.

She stayed at a hotel that night: **\$149 + tax**. The airline did not cover the cost of the hotel because the issue was weather-related. But the airline offered her a morning flight from Portland to Everett via San Francisco, Calif. with her arrival time at Everett being 2:30 p.m. on the next day. If she would rent a car, she could be home after a 5-hour drive. She opted and paid for a rental car.

She filed an insurance claim for the hotel and the rental car, and the insurance reimbursed her in full. Insurance did not refund her unused plane fare from Portland to Everett because the airline did so.

Has this real incident convinced you to purchase travel insurance for any of your long-distance travels?

## **AN IMPORTANT COMMENT CONCERNING BOOKING 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 because of a few reunion attendees desiring to save a few dollars. The SHVA, through a legal contract with the host hotel, has reserved a block of guest rooms for our reunion attendees. This provides the hotel a guaranteed guest room revenue and reserves meeting rooms for our events at the hotel. The block of guest rooms is established about 18 months in advance of the reunion. Failure to fill the rooms in the block can result in the SHVA having to pay for all unused guest rooms. Additionally, the SHVA will likely be required to pay for its Meeting Rooms during the reunion if the guest room block is not filled. Meeting Rooms typically cost \$400 – \$600/day! *Your cost to attend this reunion does not include extra money for payments related to unfilled guest rooms in the room block and/or the fees for our Meeting Rooms.*

***The only way to have your guest room reservation applied to the contracted guest room block is to book your guest room as specified in this packet. 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 that you will receive the contracted guest room cost and other negotiated perks such as free parking, free breakfast, etc.***

Hotels require firm commitments well in advance of events. They are in business to make money and do so by filling guest rooms and renting meeting rooms. They attempt to book multiple groups simultaneously by managing available guest and meeting rooms. Hoteliers can only manage hotel space through firm agreements in advance—contracts that are legally enforceable. They cannot manage space based on wishy-washy, oral promises. Groups incur severe financial penalties for cancellations and failures to fill the contracted guest room blocks. Also, attendance at group meals lower than the contract counts also incurs financial penalties. These and many other situations confront Military Reunion Planners solely because of the inability to ascertain accurate attendance at reunions when contracts need to be signed. But the higher the number of rooms in the guest room block, the lower the guest room cost and the lower the cost of group meals during those reunions. In contrast, those who arrange corporate events at hotels can provide accurate attendance well in advance of the events because attendees are being paid to attend those events. Hotels can often accommodate a higher attendance than that specified in contracts, and this situation has no financial penalties.

One of the keys to a successful reunion is that all reunion registrants follow instructions that their Reunion Planners provide. This includes making hotel reservations within the block of rooms negotiated by the Reunion Planner. But at least one member of the group will probably consider **Going Rogue**. The idea is fueled by the thought "I bet that I can get a better deal for a hotel room!" Then off to third-party, hotel-booking websites he/she goes: Booking.com, Hotels.com, Priceline, Expedia, Travelocity, or TripAdvisor—among a host of others.

Hotel Revenue Managers anticipate hotel occupancies and related revenues. Often, they focus on predictions for at least next 6 months out. They then allocate to third-party, hotel-booking websites unused guest rooms for sale at discounted costs. Revenue Managers adjust the number of allocated rooms according to fluctuating changes in the hotel's business levels.

(cont.)

## **AN IMPORTANT COMMENT CONCERNING BOOKING AT THE HOST HOTEL (cont.)**

A few adverse factors not mentioned earlier become apparent or develop when reunion attendees make guest room reservations through third-party, hotel-booking websites:

1. **A hotel's guest room reservation is with the booking website, NOT with the hotel as one might expect.** Hotel-booking websites forward guest room reservations to hotels in the registrants' names. Registrants are subject to the booking website's policies that include guest room cancellations and refunds, NOT to policies of the hotel that are related to same topics. An attendee may get a great guest room cost through a booking website, but the fine print states, "no date changes are allowed" and "refunds for guest room cancellations are not provided." All disputes and concerns related to guest room reservations are resolved through the third-party website, NOT between the guests and the hotels.
2. **Guest rooms booked through third-party, booking websites cannot be associated with any events occurring at the hotels.** These websites provide hotels with guests' names and the names of the booking websites ONLY. Even if the guests mention that their reservations are associated with specific events at the hotels, the reservation systems have no means of connecting guest room reservations to any events occurring at the hotels. Another adverse situation occurs if hotel guest rooms become oversold: those who used booking websites are the first to be relocated to other hotels for a night or two. This increases the chances of missing morning activities or, worse, a departing tour coach. Reunion attendees who use booking websites are not eligible for perks negotiated by Reunion Planners such as breakfast vouchers, Welcome Receptions, free/discounted parking, and in-room, welcome gifts. What's more is that circumstances such as reunion updates and emergency information might not be relayed in a timely manner to reunion attendees who used booking websites.
3. **Guest room reservations made through booking websites also have a negative impact on the entire reunion.** Reunion Planners commit to a specific number of guest rooms for a reunion and receive concessions from hotels based on the corresponding guest room revenues. The concessions range from complimentary meeting spaces; some free, suite upgrades; a Welcome Reception, and more for the entire group. When reunion attendees use booking websites, the reunion's Guest Room Block might not be filled. In this case, the hotel has every right to reduce/eliminate concessions offered since the revenue anticipated from the group's Guest Room Block would fall short.

**For these reasons, I request that all reunion registrants  
who will require public lodging during the reunion  
reserve their guest rooms at the host hotel.**

I thank you in advance for your understanding of and cooperation with this important matter and making guest room reservations with the host hotel as described herein if you will need public lodging during the reunion.

*Howard Dobson*  
Chairman & Reunion Planner

# 2024 Reunion Schedule

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

Our Hospitality Space will be available on Mon. from 4:30–11:00 p.m. then on Tues. through Thurs. from 6:30 a.m.–11:00 p.m. Reunion check-ins will occur in this room. You will receive a Welcome Packet that includes your name badge(s), tour tickets, banquet ticket(s), and varied important and supplemental information.

You must pre-register, i.e., indicate on the RRF, to participate in any group event. These events comprise the group tours on Tues. and Wed. and our Banquet on Thurs. evening. The hotel is providing a complimentary, hot, breakfast buffet for all reunion attendees registered in guest rooms. Lunches during the group tours on Tues. and Wed. are “prepay” as arranged with preselected restaurants. The cost of the tours is all-inclusive.

The tentative reunion schedule follows. It is accurate at the time of issuing this RIP but is subject to change. The final schedule will be printed on the back of your name badge(s). Brief information about each tour venue begins on p. 16.

## Mon. 09 September

4:30–11 P Hospitality Space available.

## Tues. 10 September

6:30–8:30 A Complimentary hot breakfast  
in the hotel’s restaurant.  
7:00 A–11 P Hospitality Space available.  
Reunion check-in.  
9:00 A Board coach for Group Tour Tue.;  
**PRE-REGISTRATION REQ’D.**  
9:15 A Coach departs.  
Lunch Tour cost includes the meal  
at a preselected restaurant.  
5:00 P Tour coach returns (time approx.)  
Supper On your own.

## Wed. 11 September

6:30–8:30 A Complimentary hot breakfast  
in the hotel’s restaurant.  
7:00 A–11 P Hospitality Space available.  
Reunion check-in.  
9:00 A Board coach for Group Tour Wed.;  
**PRE-REGISTRATION REQ’D.**  
9:15 A Coach departs.  
Lunch Tour cost includes the meal  
at a preselected restaurant.  
5:00 P Tour coach returns (time approx.)  
Supper On your own.

## Thurs. 12 September

### **NO OFF-SITE GROUP ACTIVITIES**

6:30–8:30 A Complimentary hot breakfast  
in the hotel’s restaurant.  
7:00 A–11 P Hospitality Space available.  
Reunion check-in.  
9–11 A Board of Advisors’ Meeting  
11 A–1 P Lunch on your own.  
1–3 P Veterans’ Business Meeting.  
(Optional guest attendance.)  
4:30–5:45 P Professional portraits.  
(Location TBD.)  
6:15–6:30 P Seating for the Banquet & Program.  
**PRE-REGISTRATION REQ’D.**  
8:00–9:30 P Auction follows the Banquet.

## Fri. 13 September

6:30–8:30 A Complimentary hot breakfast  
in the hotel’s restaurant.  
10 A Hospitality Space clean up.  
11 A Hotel checkout deadline if departing.

# DETAILS OF ACTIVITIES AT THE HOTEL

## Nonfood Activities

### Hospitality Space (7:00 a.m.–11:00 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. Sodas, bottled water, snacks, and candies will be available along with displays of memorabilia, items for auction/raffle, and items for sale. The hotel will have coffee and tea available 24/7 in its lobby. Its restaurant hours are noon–10 p.m. with the bar closing later according to business activity. Bring your memorabilia and an item for our auction. Avoid items that might be too large to fit in a mid-size suitcase. Consider mailing large/heavy items or numerous small ones to the hotel for convenience. **Call the hotel at 716-634-6969 for mailing instructions.**

The SHVA does not have a traditional Ship’s Store as do most other military-reunion groups, but a minimal variety of items will be available for sale. Other USS 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 about these vendors is that they will accept orders from individuals, have no minimum-order quantities, and will ship directly to the customer. The use of vendors eliminates the burden of transporting many such items to and from our reunions and maintaining stock elsewhere. 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 Space UNLESS the item is nonperishable AND does not require heating. The hotel does not permit the consumption of certain foods in the Hospitality Space. These items are usually major items served at its restaurant. Snacks, candies, and nonalcoholic beverages are permitted but must be contained in single-serve packages/containers. Please contact Howard Dobson if you wish to bring something for consumption and are unsure if it will be appropriate for the Hospitality Space.

**The SHVA does not authorize the selling or serving alcoholic beverages in the Hospitality Space by any reunion attendee at its reunions. Reunion registrants may purchase alcoholic beverages from the restaurant/lounge or service bars at the hotel for consumption in the Hospitality Space or in rooms during group events.**

**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 participating in such hospitality suites.**

**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 Space. You will receive your Welcome Packet that includes a name badge(s), tickets for your pre-registered venues, and other items that might include details of nearby local venues not involved with the reunion. You will also be informed of any changes to reunion activities. The schedule of reunion activities will be on the back of the name badge—just flip the badge to view it.*

### **Board of Advisors' Meeting (Thurs. 9:00–11 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 other matters related to the management of the SHVA. This meeting might occur on an earlier day if circumstances warrant, space is available, and all registered SHVA officials have arrived.

**The time during this meeting and the subsequent Business Meeting might be an ideal time that your First Mate/partner and other guests might find feasible for visiting local businesses/attractions.**

### **SHVA Business Meeting (Thurs. 1:00–3 p.m.)**

**This is a meeting for all veterans of the boat; guest attendance is optional.** This meeting concerns business matters of the SHVA. It includes but is not limited to elections of members of the Board of Advisors and the selection of potential host cities for future reunions.

### **Professional Portraits (Thurs. 4:30–5:45 p.m.)**

**Brad Lawrence**, our Ship's Photographer, will be taking professional portraits of the reunion attendees. Attire should be "business casual"; you may wear your military uniform. The taking of the portraits will precede the Thurs. evening Banquet. Brad will also produce a Reunion-Memory Book. The portraits will be included in the memory book along with candid shots and other noteworthy photos. He will provide you at no charge the electronic files of any pictures/graphics in the memory book for your personal use. If you do not attend the reunion but would wish to purchase a memory book, you may do so. An article in the first post-reunion newsletter or a "Membership Memo" will describe how one can purchase a "2024-Reunion-Memory Book."

*Please be wearing your Banquet attire for your portraits and make every effort to have your portraits taken by 5:45 p.m. so that the subsequent Banquet can begin at its scheduled time.*

# Group Meals

## IMPORTANT:

- All group meals require pre-registration, i.e., indicated on the RRF and paid for in advance. You will NOT be able to register and pay for any group meal at the reunion.
- Your guest room reservation includes a complimentary, hot-breakfast buffet for all registered guest room occupants during your stay including breakfast on Fri. morning 13 September after the reunion.
- The price stated for our banquet buffet is the out-of-pocket cost which includes the current Sales Tax and the hotel's Service Charge that total 30.875%.
- If you have special dietary requirements, you must specify such in the appropriate location on p. 2 of the RRF. The Catering Dept. at the hotel will provide food items suitable to the diet/dietary restrictions that you specify.
- Our contract with the hotel requires the EXCLUSION of nuts and MSG from all food served to our group.

### Banquet Buffet (Thurs.: 6:15–9:30 p.m.)

#### Salmon & Turkey Buffet: \$45.00

- ◆ Filet of Salmon w. Lemon Butter Dill Sauce
- ◆ Sliced Roasted Turkey, Stuffing, & Gravy
- ◆ Vegetable Medley
- ◆ Macaroni & Cheese
- ◆ Creamy Mashed Potatoes
- ◆ Salad
- ◆ Rolls & Butter
- ◆ Coffee, Tea, & Water
- ◆ Dessert: Monogrammed Sheet Cake

**Attire for the banquet is “business casual” or better,  
or you may wear your military uniform!**

*The Banquet involves various activities of which the meal is but one.*

*Our Auction will follow the Banquet.*

# DETAILS OF OPTIONAL TOURS

- THE TOUR COSTS ARE ALL-INCLUSIVE.
- **A PASSPORT IS NOT REQUIRED; WE WILL NOT BE ENTERING CANADA.**
- OUR TOURS REQUIRE PRE-REGISTRATION, I.E., INDICATED ON THE RRF AND PAID FOR IN ADVANCE. YOU WILL NOT BE ABLE TO REGISTER FOR TOURS AT THE REUNION.
- PARTICIPATION IN BOTH TOUR DAYS MIGHT BE LIMITED TO THE CAPACITY OF ONE COACH: 56 PEOPLE. OTHERWISE, THE COST TO TRANSPORT THE OVERFLOW—EVEN 1 PERSON—WOULD BE \$1600 EACH DAY! BUT SOME ATTENDEES WILL HAVE CARS AND HAVE VOLUNTEERED TO TRANSPORT AN OVERFLOW. SHOULD THE NUMBER OF TOUR REGISTRATIONS EXCEED THE CAPACITY OF ONE COACH, PARTIAL REFUNDS TO PARTICIPANTS WHO WILL RIDE IN CARS AND REBATES AND COMPENSATION FOR DRIVERS WILL BE PROVIDED ACCORDINGLY. NONETHELESS, COMPLETE YOUR RRF AS SOON AS PRACTICABLE.

**IMPORTANT:** If a scooter is required for your mobility and/or that of your guests and a chair lift is required for the tour coach, you must indicate such in the Group Tours section on p. 1 of the RRF. This information affects the number and type coach(es) to be reserved.

If you desire more information about any venues scheduled, they have websites. I have included their URLs (web addresses) where each venue is discussed.

## **Group Tour Tues. 9:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m.: Niagara Falls Area**

 **Package Price: \$120/person.** 

**NOTE:** Board the tour coach(es) by 9:00 a.m. for departure at 9:15 a.m.

### **Venues:**

- **Maid of the Mist**
- **Lunch at the Hard Rock Café**
- **Platter's Chocolate Factory**
- **Herschell Carrousel Factory Museum**



## Descriptions

### **Maid of the Mist:** <http://www.maidofthemist.com>

The Maid of the Mist boat tour, a quintessential Niagara Falls experience, lasts approximately 20 minutes. During this exhilarating ride, we'll get up close to the American Falls, the Bridal Veil Falls, and the iconic Horseshoe Falls. Before boarding the boat, we'll receive a complimentary, souvenir rain poncho. Additionally, our ticket includes admission to the Observation Deck which extends over the Niagara Gorge and offers breathtaking views of all three falls. Elevators at the Observation Tower provide access to the gorge's base where we'll board a boat to get up close and personal with the falls.

### **Hard Rock Café—Niagara Falls:** <http://www.hardrockcafe.com/location/niagara-falls-usa>

We'll have an early lunch at 11:30 a.m. because we'll be on a tight schedule for the remaining venues. Our group reservation has a limited menu that will be included in your Welcome Packet.

### **Platter's Chocolate Factory:** <http://www.platterschocolates.com>

You can expect to learn about the chocolate-candy production, the history of Platter's Chocolate Factory, and the historic Wurlitzer Building. Some of the significant areas we'll visit are:

- *The Pouring Room:* This is where the molded candies in orange chocolate, milk chocolate, dark chocolate, dark-orange chocolate, and white chocolate are made.
- *The Kitchen:* The candies—caramels, jellies, creams, brittles, nuts, popcorn, our famous sponge candy, and so much more—are cooked there.
- *The Bakery:* Watch bakers whip up their homemade pastries, muffins, home-style cookies, and beautifully decorate their shortbread cookies.
- *The Enrobing Line:* This is where all candies from the kitchen are processed. The cooked candy is placed on an enrobing line and heads down the line to get covered in creamy chocolate.

After the tour, we can poke around the store and seating areas to view some fantastic pictures that showcase the Wurlitzer Building in its prime and Mr. Platter himself in the basement of his house where it all started. There is also a great picture of Roger Urban who purchased Platter's Chocolate Factory in 1973 and owned it until he passed away in 1992. His son Joe is at the helm today and working with almost 100 team members (including family) to make the business "Western New York's Sweetest Destination."

### **Herschell Carrousel Factory Museum:** <http://www.carrouselmuseum.org>

The Herschell Carrousel Factory Museum, operated by the Carousel Society of the Niagara Frontier, is a premier, national-historic site and community resource for family recreation and learning that fosters an appreciation for the unique heritage of the carousel and related industries in the Niagara Region.

Through educational, cultural, and recreational programming, visitors experience the places, people, stories, and artifacts associated with the production of carousels, band organs, and amusement devices.

## Group Tour Wed.: 9:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m.

 **Package Price: \$115/person.** 

**NOTE:** Board the tour coach(es) at 9:00 a.m. for departure at 9:15 a.m.

### Venues:

- **Vidler’s 5&10**
- **Lunch at the Anchor Bar**
- **Buffalo and Erie County Naval & Military Park**
- **Buffalo River History Tour**

### Descriptions

**Vidler’s 5&10:** <http://www.vidlers5and10.com>

It all started in 1930. Today, the third generation of the Vidler family runs the store which has become a local landmark and destination for shoppers from near and far. The store is easily recognized by its red-and-white awning; gingerbread trim; hand-painted, gold leaf signs; and the colossal “Vidler [statue] on the Roof.” Inside are the original wooden floors; big, open counters (the same ones that Grandma . . . and Great Grandma browsed); and a store chock full of every kind of merchandise imaginable.

Many happily surprised customers say, “I can’t believe how BIG this store is!” It is an old-fashioned, five-and-dime store and so much more. With two levels occupying four connected, 19th-century buildings, the many counters overflow with a wide variety of merchandise. From nostalgic candy, novelty toys, and kitchen gadgets to the newest items for the recreational shopper. The distinctive shops feature crafts, jewelry, candles, and seasonal decor. It’s the largest 5 & 10 variety store you’ll ever visit. One can spend hours discovering unique items. Vidler’s is a one-of-a-kind shopping experience.

**Anchor Bar:** <http://www.anchorbar.com/locations/buffalo-ny/>

It’s the “Home of the Original Buffalo Wings”! On 04 Mar 1964, Dominic Bellissimo was tending bar at the now famous Anchor Bar in Buffalo, N.Y. Late that evening, a group of Dominic’s friends arrived at the bar with ravenous appetites. Dominic asked Teresa, his mother, to prepare something for his friends to eat. The result seemed to be chicken wings—the part of the chicken that usually went into a stock pot for soup!

Teresa had deep fried the wings and flavored them with a secret sauce. The wings were an instant hit, and it didn’t take long for people to flock to the bar to experience this new taste sensation. From that evening on, Buffalo Wings became a regular part of the menu at the Anchor Bar.

The phenomenon created in 1964 by Teresa Bellissimo has spread across the globe. Although many have tried to duplicate Buffalo Wings, the closely guarded, secret recipe is what makes Teresa’s creation the proclaimed “Best Wings in the World.”

Our group reservation has a limited menu that will be included in your Welcome Packet. And yes, Buffalo Wings are on the menu!

**Buffalo and Erie County Naval & Military Park:** <http://www.buffalonaivalpark.org>

We will conduct our Memorial Service at the park’s beautifully manicured, Monument Gardens. Afterward, you will have a short period to visit the three naval vessels and the museums.

The park is the country’s largest inland naval park. Located on Buffalo’s Waterfront, this unique family destination features four decommissioned naval vessels that served in a variety of military conflicts in our nation’s history. The cruiser “Little Rock, CG 4” is the last surviving vessel from the Cleveland-class light cruisers. The destroyer “The Sullivans, DD 537” is the first ship in the U.S. Navy to be named for more than one person and is one of only four remaining ships of the Fletcher-class destroyer. The submarine “Croaker, SSK 246” is a Gato-class submarine on the National Register of Historic Places. PTF 17 is one of only 20 fast-patrol boats from the Nasty-class to be built. It was used as a high-speed, reconnaissance-and-patrol craft during the Vietnam War.

The park also features a museum, an Outdoor Exhibit Yard, and a Maritime Simulator.

**Buffalo River History Tour:** <http://www.buffaloriverhistorytours.com>

One of Buffalo’s best cultural experiences is this 90-minute, narrated cruise on the nearby portion of the Buffalo River. We will travel along the waterway that made Buffalo one of the biggest and richest cities in the world. You will see some of the magnificent structures that drove the city’s growth. Hear the story of the Erie Canal and Buffalo’s history as the largest grain port in the world. Experience the nation’s largest collection of standing grain elevators from just a few feet away. Learn about Buffalo’s Scoopers—residents and immigrants alike—who worked the docks and mills to feed the nation and the city’s gilded economy.



# 2024 SHVA REUNION-REGISTRATION FORM

10–12 September 2024; Buffalo, N.Y. Area

(Please print legibly. Show names as you want them to appear on your Reunion Name Badges.)

Member/Registrant's Name (first, initial, last): \_\_\_\_\_

Street: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Land-Line Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Number(s) While at the Reunion: \_\_\_\_\_

Years Aboard the Boat (e.g., 1969-1972): \_\_\_\_\_ Crew(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Highest Rank/Rating on board: \_\_\_\_\_ Assignment/Div: \_\_\_\_\_

Emergency Contact (provide a 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: \$25/person

Required for each registrant.

Number of persons being registered to participate.....Quan.: \_\_\_\_ X \$25/person = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

## Hotel-User Assessment Fee: \$15/person

Additional fee for each registrant ONLY if that person(s) is NOT staying at the host hotel.

(Refer to p. 3 of the RIP for information about this fee.)

Number of persons being registered who are not staying at the host hotel.....Quan.: \_\_\_\_ X \$15/person = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

YOUR PARTICIPATION IN THE FOLLOWING ACTIVITIES IS OPTIONAL.  
TO PARTICIPATE, YOU MUST SELECT AND PAY NOW FOR THE ACTIVITIES THAT ARE BEING REGISTERED.  
YOU WILL **NOT** BE ABLE TO REGISTER AND PAY FOR THESE ACTIVITIES AT THE REUNION.

## GROUP TOURS:

Group Tour Tues.: 10 Sep: .....Quan.: \_\_\_\_ X \$120/person = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

If you and/or your guest(s) require a coach with a chair lift, enter the number of people:

Group Tour Wed.: 11 Sep: .....Quan.: \_\_\_\_ X \$115/person = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

If you and/or your guest(s) require a coach with a chair lift, enter the number of people:

## GROUP MEALS:

Banquet Buffet: 12 Sep (evening): .....Quan.: \_\_\_\_ X \$45/person = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**NOTE: If you and/or your guest(s) require a special diet (e.g., Vegan, Vegetarian, Keto, etc.), you MUST specify such in the Handicap Symbol-section on the following page.**

TOTAL PAYMENT ENCLOSED (sum of the yellow highlighted entries): .. \_\_\_\_\_

CONTINUED ON THE NEXT PAGE.

## 2024 SHVA REUNION-REGISTRATION FORM (continued)

You and/or your guests may participate in whichever group activities desired, but those activities must be paid for by the deadline of Sat. **03 Aug 2024**. (Using our Hospitality Space does not require pre-registration.) Ensure that you have correctly indicated your selections on the previous page and keep a copy of this completed RRF your records. You must enclose full payment with your completed RRF.

Don't forget to make your guest room reservation directly with the Buffalo Airport Hotel at 716-634-6969. Ensure that you ask for the "USS Sam Houston Reunion Rate." Record your Reservation Confirmation ID below.

The Hotel-Reservation Confirmation ID that you 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 BUFFALO AIRPORT HOTEL.**

**Requires a payment of the \$15/person Hotel-User Assessment Fee 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 P. 3 FOR INFO ABOUT THE HOTEL-USER ASSESSMENT FEE.**

☞ **REFER TO THE NOTE ON PP. 9 & 10 FOR BOOKING YOUR STAY 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:** Drive  Air  Train (Amtrak)  Interstate Coach

**From:** Drive  Air  Train (Amtrak)  Interstate Coach



Do you and/or your guests have any disability or dietary restrictions that require special attention at the hotel or on tours? If so, please specify below. (Examples: wheelchair/scooter; vegetarian, vegan, keto diets, etc.). Group meals will **NOT** contain nuts or MSG.

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

If you require an ADA/Accessible Guest Room or other special arrangements at the hotel, reserve early and inform the hotel as it has a limited number of ADA/Accessible Rooms. You are not charged when you make your reservation.

Your completed RRF with a check or money order payable to "USS Sam Houston" must be **RECEIVED** by the Reunion Planner no later than 03 Aug 2024. Allow 5 business days for delivery by USPS First-Class Mail. One form must be completed for each hotel guest room reservation or for each group that is 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, must cancel your guest room reservation, and/or must cancel your reunion registration, please call Howard Dobson at 302-764-1197 or email him at <howardvaldobson@verizon.net>.**