

# RED WARRIOR VIETNAM ASSOCIATION 2010 REUNION ANNOUNCEMENT

November 14, 2009

Dear Fellow Red Warriors,

In case you haven't heard, the Association's next reunion is scheduled to take place in St. Louis, MO, at the Hilton's Chesterfield DoubleTree Hotel and Conference Center from Thursday through Sunday, 2-5 September 2010. The DoubleTree Hotel is located at 16625 Swingley Ridge Road in Chesterfield, a suburb on the western side of St. Louis. (It is the same place at which the 2008 reunion was held.)

## REUNION REGISTRATIONS

It is very important that if you know you are going to attend, you submit your registration as soon as possible. Because the hotel can only seat 300 in the ballroom, we are only selling seats to the first 300 paid registrations (Red Warriors and guests). We are expecting to be sold out before the registration deadline of 1 July 2010.

The registration fees for this reunion, which **do not** include the room rates, will be \$175.00 per Red Warrior and \$125.00 per guest (note that these are the same prices as the 2008 reunion). Registration fees will cover the cost of all breakfast meals, dinner meals, the group photograph CD, the reunion memorial DVD, shirts for Red Warriors who did not attend the 2005 and 2008 reunions, hats for all Red Warrior attendees, and reunion overhead/operating costs. (Lunches will be "on your own." There are a couple very good bars/restaurants right at the hotel, and many more within the five mile shuttle radius.) The deadline for reunion registration is 1 July 2010, or 300 paid reservations, whichever comes first. This will give the reunion committee time to make all the final arrangements with the hotel and other vendors.

If you are attending for the first time, or if you are ordering a replacement T-shirt for yourself or one or more for a guest, it is imperative that we receive the correct T-shirt sizes on your registration form. FYI - the T-shirts are 100% cotton and subject to shrinkage when washed. It is suggested the normal wearing size be increased by one size.

Based on feedback from emails and phone calls, we are expecting another record turnout for this reunion. For those of you who have attended a previous Association reunion, we ask that you help us get the word out to all the Red Warriors you know. For the "first-timers," Welcome!

**Please note that a reunion reservation is not complete until it is paid in full. Also, due to our contractual obligation with the hotel, there can be no refunds after 1 July 2010.**

## REUNION GUESTS

Some former members of the battalion, relatives of Association members, and even strangers have asked if they can attend our Association reunions. The reunion

committee discussed this several years ago and came up with the following:

Our reunions were designed and are intended to commemorate and to allow us to honor the Red Warrior tour of duty in Vietnam, July 1966 through November 1970. Lifetime membership in the Red Warrior Vietnam Association was automatically extended to all members of Task Force Warrior (1/12th Infantry, B Battery 4/42d, and 1<sup>st</sup> Plt, B Co, 4<sup>th</sup> Eng). The reason that some former members of the battalion didn't receive an invitation from us is because they weren't members of the Task Force and thus did not serve in Vietnam, not because they weren't Red Warriors.

A Task Force member can bring any guest or any number of guests he wants. In doing so, the Red Warrior acknowledges that he is his guests' sponsor and assumes full responsibility for them. He further is expected to submit their registrations with his, along with the appropriate registration fees. Since many guests will not know the other attendees, and may not understand the significance of what we are saying and doing, we felt it was only appropriate that all guests be sponsored and escorted. If a sponsor wants his guest(s) to be issued an Association shirt and hat, fees and shirt sizes must be submitted with the guest registration so that they can be ordered and issued at in-processing. Hotel reservations are individual responsibilities. Our whole purpose with our sponsorship program is to insure that all invited guests are properly taken care of and provided for. The bottom line is, if a Vietnam Red Warrior would like to sponsor a guest or guests at an Association reunion, we encourage it.

#### GENERAL INFORMATION

Our theme for this reunion is the battalion's involvement in the Battle for Hill 875, Thanksgiving 1967. Two other popular events will be repeated for this reunion: the presentation of the Association's battalion colors at the opening ceremony, and the separate company dinners on Friday night. We are also moving the closing ceremony to the ballroom Saturday night following the banquet, so that more attendees can participate.

The reunion support team will begin arriving on Wednesday, September 1<sup>st</sup>, 2010, and will finish setup on the morning of Thursday, the 2<sup>nd</sup>. By noon, the reception stations will be open and ready to begin in-processing. From noon on, the Red Warrior hospitality room will also be open. We will have the memorabilia exhibit set up for everyone to look at, along with a special mortar exhibit. If anyone has any Vietnam memorabilia they would like to bring and share, please do so. Several did this at the 2008 reunion, and greatly enhanced our display. Please let me know if you plan on bringing something so that I can coordinate the exhibit space for you.

I will also have my Association historical research center set up. If you have photographs that you would like to share, please bring them. Our photo archivist, Jim Daniels, will want to see them.

#### ROOM RESERVATIONS

Room reservations can be made in one of two ways. The first is to visit the [www.redwarriors.us](http://www.redwarriors.us) web site, go to the News page, click on the link for reunion hotel room reservations and follow the step-by-step instructions. The second is to call the Doubletree Hotel at 1-636-532-5000, 8am to 4pm weekdays only, ask for "In-House

Reservations,” and tell them you would like to make a room reservation for the Red Warrior Reunion being held there in September 2010. It is very important you tell them which **nights** you want to stay in the hotel, not days. You can start making your reservations anytime you want, the sooner, the better. If you have a problem with either method, please call me immediately at 815-369-2330 so that I can help.

At the 2008 reunion, several Red Warriors shared a double room with another Red Warrior and were able to cut their room costs by half. If you are interested in doing this, please say so in the comments block on the bottom of your reunion registration form. As requests to share rooms come in, I'll contact the others wanting to do same and pass along the contact info. Of course if you and a friend already know you want to share a room, go for it. Just make sure the hotel knows who the other Red Warrior is in the room with you.

Our coordination plans with the DoubleTree have provided us with an initial block of 135 rooms to be set aside for the reunion so that we can keep everyone in the same place. As soon as you know you are coming, please make your reservation. I will check with the hotel periodically to find out how reservations are progressing.

Room rates are \$87 plus tax per night (not per day). The rooms are truly outstanding and this is a super deal! (This is the same price as the 2008 reunion.) The facilities and services can be reviewed at [www.doubletree.com](http://www.doubletree.com). For those so inclined, the hotel's health club, pool, tennis and racquetball courts are professional class and available at no charge.

### TRANSPORTATION

Individuals flying into St. Louis have the use of the hotel's free shuttle service. The hotel has asked me to provide them with a flight-arrival schedule so that they can plan and manage the shuttles' availability (this worked very well in 2008 for us). As soon as you know your flight number, its arrival time, and the number of passengers to be picked up, please send it to me.

The airport has two shuttle pickup points, which are based on which airline one uses. All connecting airlines except Southwest use the main terminal. The shuttle point in the main terminal is at entrance MT-18. Southwest uses the airport's east terminal. The shuttle point for the east terminal is at entrance ET-15. Since there is more than one DoubleTree Hotel in St. Louis, make sure you get on a shuttle marked "Chesterfield DoubleTree."

The free shuttle service is also available throughout our reunion for our use within a five-mile radius of the hotel, and back to the airport on Sunday morning. The phone number for the shuttle service is 1-636-532-5000. When the operator answers, ask for the "Bell Stand."

Due to the exorbitant cost of bus rentals, our daily off-site excursion transportation needs will be met and filled through attendee car-pooling, like we did so well at the 2005 and 2008 reunions.

## REUNION ITINERARY

Day One: Our reunion will officially begin on Thursday, the 2<sup>nd</sup> of September 2010, at 1500, with an opening ceremony in the hotel's ballroom, the Red Warrior hospitality room. Our battalion colors with guideons will be presented. Following the ceremony, there will be a business meeting with announcements. Our buffet barbeque dinner, eaten in the hospitality room, will begin as soon as the business meeting is concluded. The evening menu will consist of BBQ pulled pork; BBQ chicken; fruit; potato salad; baked beans; buns, dessert (chef's choice), iced tea, water, coffee and a cash bar.

Dress for the opening ceremony will be our Red Warrior T-shirts, new Association black hats, and blue jeans. For those Red Warriors who were unable to attend our 2005 or 2008 reunions, your shirts will be issued to you during in-processing at the reception station. It is imperative that we get Red Warrior T-shirt sizes on the registration forms so that we can order the correct number of appropriate sizes. For those who want to order extra "uniforms," the cost for more T-shirts is \$11.00 each and for more hats is \$10.00 each. If you order additional shirts, don't forget to include the size(s). The hats come with a "one-size-fits-all" strap. Monies for the additional shirts and hats should be included with the registration fees. We are anticipating placing our orders for the shirts no later than the 1<sup>st</sup> of July 2010, so this is also the deadline to be assured of receiving a shirt in your size. We will not be able to exchange T-shirts for a different size at the reunion, as there will be no extras.

Day Two (Friday, 3 September) will begin with breakfast at 0700 running through 0900 in the Red Warrior hospitality room. The morning meal will consist of eggs, breakfast potatoes, bacon, sausage, Danish, muffins, fresh fruit, cereal, yogurt, coffee, hot tea and orange juice. Following breakfast everyone should make their way over to the Great Room for the taking of company pictures. Dress for the photo sessions will be our official uniform: black hats, red T-shirts and blue jeans. HHC will be first up at 0930, followed in turn by each company alphabetically. Optional trips for the remainder of day will include the local world-class zoo, which has free admission. Information about the zoo and its programs can be viewed at [www.stlzoo.org](http://www.stlzoo.org). There are also several large malls nearby in case anyone wants to check them out. For those who just want to hang around the hotel and talk or reminisce, the Red Warrior hospitality room will remain open throughout the day as a private lounge. You should plan your day so that you have time to prepare for the separate company dinners, which will begin at around 1730. There will be five company break-out rooms, which will be identified once we begin the reunion. The meal will have a Mexican theme and will consist of tomato salad with cilantro, red onions and herbs; roasted corn salad; crispy nacho chips, salsa, and guacamole; seasoned ground beef; chicken fajitas; warm flour tortillas and crispy taco shells, refried beans; Spanish rice; grilled vegetables; assorted desserts; iced tea, water, coffee and a cash bar. Company coordinators will plan a program for their respective company's dinner, which could include something such as individual photos with your company guideon. Dress for the day and evening is casual.

Day Three (Saturday, 4 September) again begins with breakfast in the Red Warrior hospitality room. Dress for the day will also be casual. Our optional planned day trip this day is to a very popular local park known as "Grant's Farm." The park admission is free. The park's programs are numerous and can be viewed at [www.grantsfarm.com](http://www.grantsfarm.com). The hospitality room will also be available all day up until the time the hotel staff needs

to begin setting up the room for the banquet. Cocktail hour for the banquet will begin at 1700 in the lobby outside the ballroom. At 1800 "Mess Call" will be sounded and the ballroom opened for company seating (so that the hotel staff can set up the serving lines in the lobby). At 1830 the Association President will bring the assembly to order and initiate the evening's program. The Thanksgiving menu includes tossed salad; sliced roast turkey; sliced ham; cornbread dressing; mashed potatoes; sweet potatoes; green beans; buttered corn; rolls; pecan, pumpkin, apple pie and chocolate cake; iced tea, water, coffee and a cash bar. The banquet should conclude around 2200. Dress for the banquet has ranged from casual to Dress Blues in the past. A coat and tie wouldn't be out of order, and the wearing of appropriate military awards is strongly encouraged. Following the banquet, the Association will conduct its closing ceremony.

If you need help with organizing your military medals or ribbons, determining what is appropriate, and/or are looking for a place to get replacements ones, contact me and I'll help you.

Day Four, our day of departure, is Sunday morning (5 September). It will start with an early hearty breakfast in the Red Warrior hospitality room to facilitate those with early flight times. The hotel shuttle will be available throughout the morning to move people back to the airport so that they can catch their flights. Those who are planning to stay over Sunday night for a little R&R can do something together Sunday afternoon and evening.

#### OTHER INFORMATION

There will be at least one more newsletter sometime around July-August 2010 letting everyone know the final day-by-day schedule and any new events/activities. We will also have a better grasp on the number coming and be able to share with those who want to know if "so-and-so" is coming.

We are looking for individuals to recognize for their valor and heroism who were not recognized in Vietnam. If you know of anyone who fits these criteria, please let me know. We have an honorary award we have created for such a need, but we need candidates. If you're not sure, call me, please.

If you would like to carry your company guidon during the opening and closing ceremony, please let me know. Our flag detail will need twelve (12) flag bearers. I will contact the ones we had in 2008, but Phil Menendez, our Color Sergeant, may need more. The reception and in-processing crew in 2008 did a superb job. Norm and Mary Goodin will be looking for your help again this year.

At the 2008 reunion, we needed two electric scooters for Red Warriors who had mobility issues. If you need mobility assistance, please let us know. It is not a problem to get the scooters again, just add a comment on the bottom of your reunion registration form. Help us help you.

If you are coming by RV and are self-contained, the hotel says you can park your rig in the rear parking lot. The hotel does not have any RV services to offer. If you would like to stay in an RV campground, let us know.

My wife Mary is still working on her scrapbook of Red Warriors who attend the

Association reunions. She calls it, "Young and Old." Specifically, she asks that if you have a picture of yourself in Vietnam, please bring it with you so she can scan it in and add it to the scrapbook. She also will be taking pictures of everyone she doesn't already have to complete the "old" part of each person's entry. The scrapbook will be there for all to look at.

Since the 2008 reunion, our list of those we know who have passed on (or "joined the advance party") has grown to 53. We have now posted this list on our web site. Please take time to review it, and if you know of any names that should be on the list and are not, let me know immediately.

If you have any questions about the reunion, please don't hesitate to either call me at home (815-369-2330) or send me an email at [thearmypast@mchsi.com](mailto:thearmypast@mchsi.com). If you have a computer or access to one, please visit the Association's web site at [www.redwarriors.us](http://www.redwarriors.us) and read through what we have posted about the reunion. There is much more there than what I have room for in this newsletter.

This is a reunion you won't want to miss! I hope to see you there.

Respectfully Yours,

Roger Hill  
Reunion Coordinator