



HMM-265 Veterans Association, Inc.

January 7, 2018

Fellow Marines,

A while back John Long and Tim Bastyr sent an all-hands email to gauge the interest in having another off-year mini-reunion in 2018. There was enough interest to go forward and several suggestions that we reprise the 2014 doings in Savannah. It was a great venue, we had a good time, and it was reasonably priced, so let's get together at the downtown Savannah Embassy Suites May 1-4, in on Tuesday and out on Friday.

The Savannah Embassy Suites Historic District is a great venue. Only three years old, each two-room suite is about 530 square feet with either a king or two doubles (choose when reserving), two flat screen HDTVs, pull-out queen sleeper sofa, dining table with four chairs, wet bar, microwave, mini-fridge, coffee maker, and free wi-fi. The room rate is \$189 plus 13% state and \$4.00 state and local taxes for a total of \$217.57. However, that includes two full cooked breakfasts and a free two-hour cocktail bar and snacks every day. A similar breakfast at another hotel was going three years ago for \$16. The value of the cocktails and snacks depends on how much you drink and eat in two hours; we expect that most of us will get our money's worth. The atrium lobby is large and beautifully furnished, with scattered groupings that invite people to sit and visit in small groups.

Parking is scarce in Savannah and hardly any of the hotels offer free parking. Embassy Suites offered us \$10 self-parking in 2014, which was half the regular price (still negotiating on that). If you are flying in, we suggest that you not even rent a car unless you have specific plans that call for one. Virtually everything you will want to do and see is contained in an area about ten blocks long and three blocks deep along the river. There is almost no free parking anywhere in the Historic District. There are free trolleys and buses roaming the entire Historic District as well as inexpensive ones with tour guides. Save the car rental fees, parking fees, and general hassle.

The State of Georgia has some odd ideas about booze, one of which manifests itself in its rules on serving alcohol in hospitality rooms. As it was explained to us, all alcohol served in the hotel must be provided by the hotel and served by hotel personnel, except in spaces rented for sleeping. Therefore, we have reserved the two bedroom presidential suite at \$419 daily (plus taxes) and will use the dining and living room areas as our hospitality room. Two couples will take the bedrooms at the group rate, which will leave \$41 (plus taxes) per day to be paid by the reunion. Given Georgia law, it was the best we could do. The presidential suite is on the fifth floor, so you might want to request the fifth floor when you make your hotel reservations and

when you check in.

We are not scheduling any group activities because so many of you have already done Savannah, perhaps several times. Also, the tours to see Savannah are plentiful, easy to arrange, and inexpensive. If you are a compulsive planner you can go online, choose your tour(s), and buy tickets at a reduced price. Or, if you prefer, you can let the concierge at the hotel help you fill your days.

We should have all of the details in place in a week or so and will get out the registration form and payment instructions. In the meantime, pencil in the dates on your calendar. We hope to see you there.

Semper Fi!

Chuck Johnson