

# HMM-265 VETERANS ASSOCIATION, INC.

May 3, 2021

Fellow Marines:

We announce with pleasure that your Reunion 2021 Registration Form now is available on our web site, [hmm-265.org](http://hmm-265.org). Navigate to Next Reunion/NOLA 2021 Registration Form. Download and/or print the form, fill it out and mail, along with your check, to our squadron Treasurer Gary Kerr at the address provided. We're anticipating a great time in this fabulous city.

A schedule of events is also available on the site for your review, as are the complete menu for the Marine Corps Birthday Banquet and other pertinent information.

Our web site also contains some great information on New Orleans attractions, provided by the folks at the Convention and Visitors Bureau and other sources. Things to do and see, great restaurants to visit, and tours of the city and surrounds are all there.

Don't forget to register at the Crowne Plaza and arrange for transportation to and from New Orleans as early as possible. Without doubt, there's going to be a huge pent-up demand for travel as the year wears on and as we beat back Covid-19 through vaccinations and other preventative measures. Handily, Crowne Plaza has a free shuttle from and to the airport. Check when booking your room for details.

We are contractually obligated by the Crowne Plaza to remind everyone of the hotel's strict no-smoking policy. Consequences are a \$250 cleaning charge added to your room fee. This applies to the hospitality suite and all events within the hotel. Thanks for your compliance.

We'll kick things off Monday evening at 4:00 with an opening night reception in our hospitality suite, located in the Club Lounge on the 4th floor. We'll have some delicious hors d'oeuvres from 5:30 to 7:30 PM and a cash bar from 4:00 for your imbibing pleasure. Registration will occur at this time, as well. Pick up your name tag(s) and other items of interest, have a few drinks, and greet your old and new squadron buddies with a few good mostly true stories.

Tuesday morning will be our General Meeting in Grand B, which will include election of officers by the Board of Directors. President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, and three Directors at Large will be selected. Currently, all officers presently serving are running for re-election with the exception of Treasurer Gary Kerr, who has decided to step down after more than 8 years of service. If you are a member of the Association, are capable of performing the duties of Treasurer, and would like to serve your Association in this volunteer position, please let us know and we'll add your name to the slate. If you don't want to be Treasurer, any member is free to run for any other position as well. Officers/Directors' two-year terms begin at the close of business Friday, 12 November 2021.

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Our traditional Memorial Service will follow the General Meeting after a short break. Squadron member Fr. Timothy M. Gahan will be officiating. LCpl. Timbo was a squadron clerk, messman, gunner and courier in 1966-67. He was discharged in 1968 and commissioned in 1970 after graduating from college. He was an infantry officer and retired in 1994 as a Colonel. Following the death of his wife, Timbo entered seminary and was ordained a Roman Catholic priest in 2007. He currently serves as a supply priest in the Diocese of Austin.

Tuesday afternoon, time has been allotted for a visit to the world-famous World War II museum, located about a mile from the hotel in the Convention/Warehouse/Arts District at 945 Magazine St. (although the main entrance is on Andrew Higgins Dr.) You can arrange for this trip at your own discretion with veterans'-discounted tickets purchased through their web site [nationalww2museum.org](http://nationalww2museum.org), by email to [info@nationalww2museum.org](mailto:info@nationalww2museum.org), or by calling 504-528-1944. If Tuesday afternoon is inconvenient, book your visit during any free-time hours. The museum is open 9-5 every day except Thanksgiving, Christmas Eve, Christmas, and Mardi Gras days.

On Wednesday afternoon, Timbo has arranged for a guided tour at 2:00 of St. Louis Cathedral down by Jackson Square. World famous, St. Louis is the oldest Cathedral in North America. Following our tour, Rev. Gahan will celebrate mass at 3:00. All are welcome.

The Birthday Banquet and celebration will begin at 6:00 with a cocktail hour in Grand Gallery followed by dinner in Grand D at 7:00. After dinner, we will celebrate 246 years of Marine Corps service to America in a ceremony hosted by Vice President Steve Benckenstein (who intends to become world famous following his ceremony). We're also working on a guest speaker to fill out the evening.

Thursday's highlight is an afternoon jazz cruise on the Mississippi aboard *City of New Orleans*. An important feature of this vessel, other than great music, is her several bars. Board at 2:00, sail 2:30 to 4:30 from the riverboat docks.

Regarding event transportation, New Orleans is an easy city to get around. You can walk almost anywhere. Plus, there's plentiful and varied transportation for those who prefer or require it. Uber, Lyft, taxis, trolleys, horse-drawn carriages and other private/public conveyances are available to get you from one place to another. Arrange for you or your group at your discretion.

Another amenity to our reunion hopefully will be the presence of interviewers from the Veterans History Project, headquartered at the Library of Congress in DC. You should check this program out at [loc.gov/vets/vets-home](http://loc.gov/vets/vets-home), or Google "veterans history project." Details are being worked out since the Library is still in pandemic mode, everyone's teleworking and no one is currently travelling. We'll send an update when things are firmed up and you can schedule an interview.

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Finally, the hooch will be open daily and, with the exception of opening night, fully stocked with a variety of beverages and snacks. Hours will be listed on your events schedule, but the suite generally will be closed during group activities.

We've arranged for plenty of free time to enjoy the city and its many attractions. We hope everyone will take full advantage and, as they say, "laissez les bon temps rouler!" Looking forward to seeing many old and new faces in the Crescent City.

Semper Fi,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Bob Basye', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Bob Basye  
President