



**HMM/VMM-265
Veterans Association**



May 25, 2023

Fellow Marines:

It is with pleasure I announce that the registration form for Reunion Tucson 2023 is available at <https://hmm-265.org>, along with a schedule of events. Just select the "Next Reunion" tab on the home page and you'll find them there. Since it would be very difficult to print a hard copy from the website we will follow this with a separate email for each of those documents in .pdf format. If you're receiving this letter by mail, the registration form is included in the envelope along with the schedule of events.

We are at the Desert Diamond Hotel and Casino from November 8th to 12th, which is very near Tucson International Airport, and the hotel provides shuttle service to and from the field from 6:30 AM to 10:30 PM 7 days a week. Once you've picked up your bags call the hotel at 520-342-3100 or 3060 and you'll be given instructions and a pickup time.

Registration begins at 4:00 on Wednesday in the hooch, located in suite 441 on the fourth floor, south tower, followed by a welcome reception in the lobby bar featuring hors d'oeuvres, and then we'll continue on for the rest of the evening back in the hooch. This reunion, our hooch is hosted by board member Neal Purdue.

Thursday morning is the general meeting and memorial service. That afternoon we'll visit the PIMA Air & Space Museum, free transportation provided by the hotel. Today, the entry fee to the museum for seniors/veterans is \$16.75, payable at the door. We have a 45 minute walking guided tour scheduled at the beginning of our visit. Last shuttle back to the hotel is at 5:00 PM. The \$3 fee for this event is on the registration form if you care to participate. The museum provides no allowances for mobility disabilities regardless of whether you take the guided tour. However, the Desert Diamond has a vendor who provides wheelchairs, scooters, etc. if you decide you need one. Inquire at registration.

Friday we'll tour Tucson sights, such as the Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum, the Titan Missile Museum (lots of stair climbing), downtown Tucson, home of the University of Arizona, San Xavier Mission, the Alfie Norville Gem and Mineral Museum, Biosphere 2, Saguaro National Park, and PIMA if you missed it Thursday. We're arranging with Desert Diamond to provide free transportation to the Desert Museum, departing at 8:30 AM with a return at 11:30 AM, and San Xavier Mission, departing at 1:00 PM returning at 2:00 PM. Otherwise, you must provide your own transportation to these sights. Uber and Lyft are available. Those who drove may wish to car pool.

We'll cap off Friday evening with our Marine Corps Birthday Banquet and celebration, hosted by Vice President Steve Benckenstein. Cocktail hour begins at 6:00 PM. Menu selections are on your registration form. Dress is mess dress/black tie if you prefer.

Saturday, we'll tour the fascinating old west town of Tombstone, home of the gunfight at the OK Corral. This will not be a guided tour; rather, you're free to wander and explore Tombstone at your leisure. Reenactments of the famous shootout between the Earps with Doc Holiday and the Clantons are held

several times during the day. Have lunch and/or drinks at one of the old west restaurants or bars. See what the OK Corral actually looked like. On the way back to Desert Diamond, we'll make a stop at Boot Hill Cemetery, final resting place of the losers in the gunfight. Also, Tombstone was a silver mining town, and features the work of many artisans in this field.

A few other points:

Desert Diamond will accommodate as many of us as possible on the same floor as our hooch. However, there are only 15 standard rooms available, so register early if you desire a room on the 4th floor, south tower. You must arrive early or no later than Wednesday the 8th to be placed on this floor.

For your name tag, please denote your duty assignment and years of service with the squadron following your name, and if the person accompanying you is a guest or spouse. My name tag, for example, will read "Bob Basye, Pilot, 1968-69" and my wife's, "Anne Marie Basye, spouse of Bob Basye." Name tags will also have a code on the back denoting your banquet meal selection for use by the wait staff. Examples are posted on the web site, if you're interested.

We're reinstating the availability of squadron apparel – ball caps, T-shirts, and polo (golf) shirts – featuring the squadron logo. Hats are adjustable one size fits all, shirt sizes from Small to 5XL. Your reunion package fee will include a T-shirt and you will be able to purchase other apparel at the reunion. Separate from this letter you will receive an order form for advance purchase of apparel for delivery at the reunion. The order form will also be posted on the web site. Details of how to purchase apparel following the reunion will be announced there.

That's about it. We're looking forward to a fabulous get-together this November in Tucson. Hope to see everyone there!

Semper Fi,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bob". The signature is stylized with a large, bold 'B' and a long, sweeping underline that extends to the right.

Bob Basye, President
HMM/VMM-265 Veterans Association, Inc.

