



HMM-265 Veterans Association, Inc.

February 24, 2024

Fellow Marines:

Belated Greetings for the New Year! I hope everyone arrived safe and happy.

I have three subjects to discuss in this message: Location announcement for our 2025 Reunion; a quick survey question regarding reunion attendance; and, introduction of squadron merchandise sales via our web site by credit card, or, by mail if you prefer.

First, I'm pleased to announce San Antonio, Texas as the venue for Reunion 2025. Although I have never been there, I'm told San Antonio is a beautiful city with many attractions, and your Board of Directors agreed. Plus, its moderate climate should provide pleasant weather during mid-November as we again meet over the Marine Corps Birthday on the 10th with a banquet and celebration. Further details will be made available as they are arranged. Hope to see everyone there.

Which brings me to my survey question: If you did not attend our Tucson reunion last year, we really need to know, "Why not?" We had only 37 Marines, spouses and guests in Tucson, slightly more than half of our typical gathering of around 65 people, a 43% drop. We were, and still are, baffled. If this trend continues, it makes it much harder for our meeting planner, Don Duszynski, to sell our group to prospective hotels. That means the possibility of higher room rates and/or fewer discounts for other amenities such as food and meeting space, or even being rejected outright as too small a group.

So, please take this opportunity to share, in general terms, why you did not attend Reunion Tucson. Just hit "Reply", and let 'er rip. It's an open microphone to say whatever you want about our reunions, past and future, and your past and projected participation therein. If you want to sound off about something else then just have at it. We will summarize the replies into another all-hands email and snail-mail and also post them on the website. If you're receiving this by mail, send your answer to me personally at the return address on the envelope. It'll be a great help to us in planning.

Lastly, we are pleased to announce the availability of squadron merchandise on our web site. A catalog of available items, consisting mainly of polo shirts, T-shirts, hats, and coffee mugs, plus a few remaining challenge coins and lapel pins, is posted on hmm-265.org. The order form is also there with instructions on how to place and pay for an order, plus there's a list of items in stock for immediate shipment. If you receive this by mail, a copy of the catalog and order form are enclosed. Kudos to webmaster Chuck Johnson for all his hard work at making this happen.

I'm looking forward to San Antonio and to hearing from all of you . . .

Semper Fi,

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