



AIR WEATHER ASSOCIATION

Serving the Present – Remembering the Past – Air Force Weather

NEWSLETTER



Volume 25

December 2022

AWA looks to the future!

Greetings fellow AWA members! ‘Team AWA’ has been hard at work preparing for next April’s reunion. The energy levels are high as we all look forward to seeing old friends and reconnecting. A few months ago, we shared a strategic vision, seeking your feedback regarding the Association’s future. Is there still interest? Can we emerge from the COVID standdown, stand up another reunion and continue on? Are there members willing to step up and fill in as others serving faithfully need to step back? The answer to all of these is a resounding "YES!". AWA was born out of a special camaraderie among us. Hard to define, but it’s there and always has been from the earliest days of weather service. A willingness to go above and beyond and work hard, focused on an always challenging mission. This reunion will constitute a roll call and a new dawn—a new beginning for AWA. We are always looking for good ideas and people willing to contribute. Thank you for your service, and we appreciate that you are still serving. Please join us in April!

Newsletter Contents:

AWA looks to the future!	page 1
AWA Reunion 2023	page 1
AWA Reunion 2023 Agenda	pages 1 – 2
In Memoriam	page 3
AWA Membership, Directors and Website ...	page 3 – 4
AWA Reunion Registration Form	pages 5 – 6

AWA REUNION 2023

Plan now to join many other AWA members, their spouses and guests for the next long awaited Air Weather Association reunion, **Wednesday 26 April to Sunday 30 April 2023 in our Nation’s Capital, Washington DC.** The reunion hotel will be the

Holiday Inn Washington Dulles at 45425 Holiday Drive, Dulles, VA 20166.

Please reserve hotel rooms by **March 25, 2023** to obtain the AWA Reunion discount daily rate of \$159 + tax (currently 14.0%). The discounted room rates will be available 2 days pre/post the reunion.

Make room reservations by phone with Holiday Inn reservations, 1-800-HOLIDAY (1-800-465-4329). Be sure to mention our group affiliation: **AWA Reunion 2023**. Room reservations can also be made online at hidullesairport.com. Click on the ‘Book Now’ icon. Select your dates and under ‘rate preference’ select ‘Group Rate’ and enter **AWA** in the blank.

Guestroom rate includes a coupon for the daily Standard Hotel Breakfast Buffet (two guests per room), complimentary shuttle service to/from Dulles Airport, complimentary self-parking, and free wireless Internet access. Room cancellation policy is by 6:00 pm the day of arrival.

If problems with room reservations occur, please e-mail Tom Accola at: taccola@cfl.rr.com or call him at 321-544-3107 (cell).

AWA REUNION 2023 Agenda

During the reunion period, all attendees are most welcome to enjoy the hotel amenities and the AWA hospitality room, enjoy the many tours available throughout the Washington DC area and/or choose the optional planned group tours shown in the agenda and on the registration form.

Wednesday, 26 April 2023 – Primarily the arrival day for most attendees.

The AWA reunion registration and information desk opens at 3:00 pm in the Hospitality Room. [NOTE: The AWA desk will be open each day. All reunion attendees staying at the hotel or commuting need to check-in at the AWA desk as soon as possible

to confirm their registration and receive their nametags and welcome packet. A bulletin board will be nearby to post messages, activity changes and general information.]

Thursday, 27 April 2023:

6:00 am Complimentary breakfast begins on the 1st floor for AWA registered hotel guests; ends at 9:30 am.

8:00 am The AWA reunion registration and information desk opens in the reunion hospitality room.

9:00 am Bus begins loading for the trip to Sterling Weather Forecast Office. Learn how weather data is collected, processed, and disseminated to forecasters. May also hear about weather radio and the radiosonde balloon launch process. Return to the hotel around 11:30 am.

1:00 pm Bus begins loading for a trip to Breaux Winery. Includes bus ride through the beautiful countryside, history, and wine tasting. Return to the hotel around 5:30 pm.

Evening: Reunion attendees and others may wish to have dinner with friends. There are a couple of restaurants at the hotel. AWA Hospitality room will be open until 10:00 pm.

Friday, 28 April 2023:

6:00 am Complimentary breakfast begins on the 1st floor for AWA registered hotel guests; ends at 9:30 am.

8:00 am The AWA reunion registration and information desk opens in the reunion hospitality room.

9:00 am Bus begins loading for the trip to Arlington National Cemetery. Tour includes a hop on/hop off tram ride through the cemetery with stops at Kennedy Gravesite, General Pershing Gravesite, Arlington House, and the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. Return to the hotel around 2:00 pm. Please note: Food is not allowed on the Arlington tour.

10:30 am Bus begins loading for the trip to the National Mall. You will be dropped off at a Circulatory Bus stop with a ticket to ride to the many monuments (Vietnam, Korea, WWII, Lincoln Memorial, etc) and museums (Smithsonian, Art, American History, etc) that you can enjoy at your pace. Lunch on your own at nearby restaurants or food trucks. Return to the hotel around 4:00 pm.

Evening: Part of the basic reunion package -

6:00 pm Cash bar reception

7:00 pm AWA reunion buffet dinner at the hotel in the Loudoun Ballroom.

Saturday, 29 April 2023:

6:30 am Complimentary breakfast begins on the 1st floor for AWA registered hotel guests; ends at 10:00 am.

8:00 am The AWA reunion registration and information desk opens in the reunion hospitality room.

9:00 am Bus begins loading for the trip to the National Mall. You will be dropped off at a Circulatory Bus stop with a ticket to ride to the many monuments (Vietnam, Korea, WWII, Lincoln Memorial, etc) and museums (Smithsonian, Art, American History, etc) that you can enjoy at your pace. Lunch on your own at nearby restaurants or food trucks. Return to the hotel around 2:15 pm.

10:30 am Bus begins loading for ride to Udvar-Hazy. Highlights of the docent led tour will include World War II aircraft and Human Spaceflight. A Shake Shack restaurant along with pre-packaged salads/sandwiches are available on site for lunch on your own. Return to the hotel around 4:00 pm.

Evening: Part of the basic reunion package -

6:00 pm Cash bar reception

7:00 pm AWA 2023 Reunion Banquet at the hotel in the Loudoun Ballroom. Dinner entrée choices are on the reunion registration form.

Sunday, 30 April 2023:

6:30 am Complimentary breakfast begins on the 1st floor for AWA registered hotel guests; ends at 10:00 am. Attendees are welcome to join in wishing each other safe travels until we meet again.

After breakfast, the AWA Reunion 2023 adjourns.

The reunion registration form is on pages 5 – 6. Please complete both pages of the form and mail it to AWA Board member and reunion chairman, Tom Accola, with a check for payment of fees as soon as possible, but not later than **31 March 2023**. His address is on the form. Also, save a copy of the form for your reference.

If you need more information or want to discuss attendance at particular functions, please call Tom Accola or Al Mongeon. Their contact information is on the form. And, as usual, the AWA reunions are great opportunities for members to meet and enjoy the great

camaraderie shared in Air Force Weather. If you are in the local Washington DC area, please stop by the reunion hotel even if you can't attend the scheduled events. Help in manning the AWA check-in and information desk is also needed. If you can spend time at the desk during the reunion period, please let Tom Accola or Al Mongeon know. **If you wish to attend the reunion, but cannot attend all the scheduled dinners on the basic reunion package, please call or e-mail Tom or Al and special accommodations will be worked out.**

◀ IN MEMORIAM ▶

These deceased AWA members and spouses have been reported to the AWA Board of Directors since January 2021.

<i>Rank</i>	<i>First Name</i>	<i>Last Name</i>	<i>Year</i>
Maj	Richard C	Bagby, Jr	2021
Lt Col	Kerry Arthur	Bartels	2021
Col	Dan Gordon	Bellue	2021
----	Max J.	Bokelman	2021
Lt Col	Frank	Bower	2022
Col	Ronald R.	Brown	2021
Lt Col	David A	Bush	2022
----	Pao-Chu "Sue "	Carle	2021
Col	Robert Marcus	Chamberlain	2022
Col	Richard Craig	Clayton	2022
Lt Col	Ralph Dempsey	Crago	2020
Lt Col	Thomas "Tom"	Damon	2022
----	Betty Sue	Davis-French	2021
Lt Col	Robert	Demichaels	2021
Lt Col	Gerald	Dittberner	2022
Col	Charles Allan	Egolf	2021
Lt Col	Steven Leland	Erickson	2021
Lt Col	Glenn L.	Fuller	2021
Col	John "Jack"	Haneklau	2021
Lt Col	Robert E.	Introne, Jr	2021
BGen	Albert John	Kaehn, Jr	2021
Lt Col	Raymond "Buzz"	Kandler	2021
Lt Col	David S.	Lydon	2021
Col	Daniel B.	Mitchell	2018
SMSgt	David George	Nelson	2017
Col	Edward "Pete"	Peters, Jr	2021
MSgt	David Peter	Pigors	2021
Capt	James R.	Raudy	2021
Col	John	Reames	2022

CMSgt	Earl	Rook	2021
Lt Col	David Earl	Smart	2021
----	Albert W	Starbird	2021
Maj	Stanley W.	Tkach	2021
Col	Joe	Tucker	2022
MSgt	Bobby Joe	Vance	2022
Col	Richard J.	Vogt	2021
----	Susan M. (Bon)	Walden	2021
Col	William S.	Weaving	2021
CMSgt	Eugene Martin	Weber	2022
Maj	Kenneth Lee	Wells	2021
----	Dale Curtis	Whiteside	2021
----	Cheryl Lee	Wilson	2022

Please report departures to the AWA Locator, Al Mongeon at lightning6b@gmail.com Obituaries submitted will be posted on the AWA website www.airweaassn.org in the departures section.

AWA MEMBERSHIP

AWA is an all-volunteer, nonprofit Veterans association. Lifetime membership is still only \$20.00. We now have over 5,600 (present and past) members. Membership is open to civilian and military personnel who serve, or have served, in a USAF/USAAF weather unit including aerial reconnaissance or a weather training unit, regardless of AFSC/MOS, and to the surviving spouse. Membership is Lifetime. No annual dues. Please help recruit new members.

The membership applications can be copied from the AWA website at www.airweaassn.org or contact your volunteer board of directors at AirWeaAssn@aol.com and we'll send you applications.

Please also help keep the AWA database current. If you have any changes to your name, last rank held, spouse's name, mailing address, telephone number or e-mail address, send changes to: Al Mongeon at lightning6b@gmail.com or AWA, c/o Al Mongeon 3927 Fair Ridge Dr, Unit 401, Fairfax, VA 22033. The AWA Board of Directors also needs help in finding lost members. The list is posted on the AWA website. If you know anyone on the list, please ask them to send in their current information or let us know about them.

AWA WEBSITE NEWS

Thanks to Jim DeCarufel, the AWA volunteer webmaster, the AWA website www.airweaassn.org is

being updated often with news, upcoming events, member roster (for member's only), and sadly a growing list of departures. In the section on Reports you will find many publications on the history of Air Force Weather. The AWA Newsletters are also posted on the site as are photos from previous reunions, membership application forms and much more.

All members are invited to send news/articles for posting on the website to AirWeaAssn@aol.com or jimdecarufel@yahoo.com. Also, contact Jim if you need the username and password to view the member roster.

AWA is now on Facebook with Joseph Tabaco and Jim DeCarufel as administrators. Join us at www.facebook.com/airweaassn. Also join Air Force Weather on linkedin.com.

tel: 404-405-1649

The AWA Board needs more members. Please consider volunteering. We'd appreciate hearing from you.

AWA Board of Directors

Currently, the members of the all-volunteer AWA Board of Directors are:

J. Kevin Lavin

Chairman Emeritus

Rich Bensinger

Interim Chairman

email: richard@richardbensinger.com

tel: 703-402-0287

Tom Accola

Reunion chairman, Newsletter Editor

2504 Tuscarora Court, West Melbourne, FL 32904-8089

email: taccola@cfl.rr.com

tel: 321-544-3107

Al Mongeon

AWA Locator, Maintains database and roster

email: lightning6b@gmail.com

tel: 352-777-4624

David Wilson

email: nosliw94@charter.net

John Hahn

email: jhawnwx@gmail.com

tel: 484-631-6567

Jim DeCarufel

Webmaster of www.airweaassn.org

email: jimdecarufel@yahoo.com

tel: 703-431-3488

Don Farrington

Treasurer

email: cdfcfs@aol.com

**** AIR WEATHER ASSOCIATION 2023 REUNION REGISTRATION FORM ****

April 26-30, 2023 in Washington DC

Reunion Headquarters: **Holiday Inn, Washington Dulles**, 45425 Holiday Drive, Dulles, VA 20166

Reservations: 1-800-HOLIDAY; Hotel Direct: 703-471-7411

Name of AWA Member: _____

Address: _____

E-Mail: _____ Telephone No.: _____

ALL MEMBERS WANTING TO ATTEND MUST MAIL IN THIS REGISTRATION FORM WITH PAYMENT POSTMARKED BEFORE *31 MARCH 2023. Please complete both pages of this form, fill out your check or money order made payable to "AWA Reunion" covering all fees, and mail both by 31 March to:

AWA Reunion, Tom Accola, 2504 Tuscarora Court, West Melbourne, FL 32904-8089

DO YOU OR YOUR GUEST(S) HAVE ANY DISABILITY OR DIETARY NEEDS THAT REQUIRE SPECIAL ATTENTION? Please inform us on a separate piece of paper and submit it with this form.

AWA REUNION PROGRAM

BASIC REUNION PACKAGE: (HOW MANY x \$\$\$ = \$TOTAL)

April 26-30, 2023: **EVERY ATTENDEE HAS TO SELECT THIS PORTION OF THE PROGRAM**

Hospitality Room (daily) + Registration fee + Friday and Saturday evening dinners _____ x \$135.00 = \$ _____

On Friday evening, a Buffet dinner will be provided.

On Saturday evening, a seated banquet dinner will be provided – please make your selections (enter # of each)

_____ Flank Steak _____ Chicken w/Chardonnay Cream Sauce _____ Maple Glazed Salmon

SCHEDULE & OPTIONS TO ADD TO BASIC REUNION PACKAGE (please see more detailed information in the AWA Newsletter and in your unit/squadron association newsletters as applicable):

Wednesday, 26 April 2023 -- arrival day for most -- 3:00pm AWA Hospitality room opens for check-in and meeting old and new friends. Hospitality room will open by 8:00am daily Thursday through Saturday.

Thursday, 27 April 2023

9:00am – 11:30am Tour to Weather Service Office via bus (25 max) _____ x \$30.00 = \$ _____

1:00pm – 5:30pm Winetasting at Breaux Vineyards via bus (30 min/50 max) _____ x \$75.00 = \$ _____

Evening – Dinner on your own at hotel or local restaurants

Friday, 28 April 2023

9:00am – 2:00pm Tour to Arlington Natl Cemetery via bus (30 min/50 max) _____ x \$40.00 = \$ _____

10:30am – 4:00pm Tour to National Mall via bus (30 min/50 max) _____ x \$45.00 = \$ _____

7:00pm Buffet Dinner – Holiday Inn – Loudoun Ballroom – part of Basic Reunion Package

Saturday, 29 April 2023

9:00am – 2:15pm Tour to National Mall via bus (30 min/50 max) _____ x \$45.00 = \$ _____

10:30am – 4:00pm Tour to Udvar-Hazy via bus (30 min/50 max) _____ x \$30.00 = \$ _____

7:00pm Banquet Dinner – Holiday Inn – Loudoun Ballroom – part of Basic Reunion Package

Sunday, 30 April 2023

Since breakfast is included in the room fee each day, attendees can meet in the Hotel restaurant before departing.

Scheduled AWA reunion activities adjourn thereafter.

ENCLOSE CHECK or MONEY ORDER payable to "AWA Reunion" for GRAND TOTAL of: \$ _____

Please complete this page of the Registration Form also and make yourself a copy of both pages for your continued reference.
Print names below as you would like them shown on your reunion NAME BADGES.

Member _____ Spouse _____

Guest _____ Guest _____

Are you staying at the Reunion hotel (Holiday Inn, Washington Dulles)? (Check): Yes _____ No _____
Please call in your reservation to the Holiday Inn, using the reservation line at 1-800-HOLIDAY (1-800-465-4329) and provide the group affiliation: AWA Reunion 2023. You may also make your reservation online at hidullesairport.com. Click on the 'Book Now' icon. Select your dates and under 'rate preference' select 'Group Rate' and enter AWA in the blank. **Please make your reservation by 25 March 2023** to guarantee a room at AWA discount rates. **You MUST tell the hotel our Group 'AWA Reunion 2023' via phone or 'AWA' via online to get the rate.** Cancellation deadline for reserved rooms is 6 pm the day of arrival.

To help the reunion committee plan ahead for your arrival, please indicate your travel plans here.
Anticipated arrival date/time at hotel to check in/register at reunion desk _____

For the following statements, please check all appropriate spaces relating to your travel:
Arriving via Air at Washington DC _____ then, rental car _____ or shuttle/taxi _____
Arriving via RV/Motor home _____ Bus/Train _____ or Car _____
Local area resident commuting by car _____. Staying with local friends and commuting by car _____.
Do you have special transportation and/or housing requirements (please also inform the hotel when making your reservation)? Yes _____ Requirements are: _____

AWA REUNION REGISTRATION CANCELLATIONS ARE FULLY REFUNDABLE IF NOTICE IS RECEIVED BY 19 April 2023. Send cancellation notices to the Reunion Chairman Tom Accola by phone at: (321) 544-3107 or e-mail: taccola@cfl.rr.com. Cancellations received after 19 April and during the reunion time frame will be honored **IF** the space can be sold to a member on the space available list. The reunion committee will refund the total costs of the AWA Friday and/or Saturday evening dinner functions if cancellation notice is received by Tom Accola not later one (1) week prior to those functions.

*******DISCLAIMER*******
The Air Weather Association, its directors and committee members are not liable for any damages, injuries or inconvenience incurred to reunion attendees. The AWA volunteer directors & committee members have arranged the reunion and events solely for the enjoyment of AWA members and their spouses and guests. When you submit this form for registration you agree to be held personally responsible for damages and injuries resulting from your, your spouse's or guest's actions.

For further information, please contact Tom Accola at (321) 544-3107 or e-mail: taccola@cfl.rr.com or Al Mongeon at (352) 777-4624 or e-mail: lightning6b@gmail.com