

# Charleston Reunion October 14-17, 2016

## **HOTEL:**

Charleston Airport Embassy Suites Hotel, 5055 International Boulevard, North Charleston. Telephone (800) 362-2779 and mention group name **91st Bomb Group Reunion and code "91B"** to insure you are booked into our reserved block of rooms. Rates good 3 days before and after. Free shuttle from airport, free parking. You must make reservations prior to September 14, 2013. The 91BGMA is contracted to a certain number of room-nights so please help us out by planning your trip soon and making reservations.

## **REGISTRATION:**

A registration form is included in this RI and is also available at [www.91stbombgroup.com](http://www.91stbombgroup.com) under heading Upcoming Events. Registration forms need to be received as soon as possible to assist in planning and definitely return no later than September 10.

**EVENTS:** Note that due to hotel bookings and capacity, we were unable to get Wednesday- Saturday as usual. However, the planned days are still four, so travel days are just shifted.

**Friday, October 14** - Some of us are arriving early and will have rental vans. We plan to go to Patriot's Point that morning and see the aircraft carrier **Yorktown**. There is also a submarine, a destroyer and the Medal of Honor Museum.

Reception will open at 3:00 and there will be an evening ice-breaker in the hospitality suite.

**Saturday, October 15** - Day tour of **Mighty 8<sup>th</sup> Air Force Museum** in Savannah. The bus will take the group to the Museum, which is the only one dedicated exclusively to the 8<sup>th</sup> AF. The exhibits depict pre-WWII background, a Mission Experience demonstrating what a mission was like, the Gallery, with a restored B-17, various displays with artifacts and the Memorial Gardens. You can choose to have lunch at the Museum's English Pub and spend the afternoon at the museum ... or.... Take the bus into **Savannah** downtown for lunch, sightseeing or strolling the riverfront or old town square and houses.

The evening will be at the Hospitality Suite and there are numerous restaurants nearby for dinner.

**Sunday, October 16** - The morning starts with the **Business Meeting**. It is open to all registered attendees. *There is a ballot in this RI, which should be returned. Only FULL members may vote.*

You will have some time at the hotel for lunch ... or ... take the 12:00 **Historic City Tour**. The bus will drop you at the Old City Market for lunch, shopping, or, if you already had lunch, time to visit a museum or two. At 2:45, the bus tour continues with a licensed guide who will recount over 300 years of Charleston's long and colorful history from 1670 to present day with a blend of knowledge, wit, and humor. Topics discussed will include Charleston's role in Colonial America, the American Revolution, the southern Antebellum Era, and the Civil War. Landmarks you will see include the Battery, Rainbow Row, St. Michaels Church, the College of Charleston, and South Carolina's famed military academy the Citadel.

That evening is the **Banquet**. This is the climatic event where we have a chance for the entire group to be together. Your choice of meals this year is roast beef, chicken and snapper. AND as we did in San Francisco, WWII veterans and their spouses will not be charged for dinner. Afterwards, the Hospitality Suite will be open for sharing stories and reminiscing.

**Monday, October 17** - This is the day to see two major highlights of Charleston - Magnolia Gardens and Fort Sumter. **Magnolia Gardens** is considered one of the most beautiful gardens in the world. As you stroll with your private guide through the lush garden pathways, these unique landscapes will captivate you. After the gardens, you will board the Nature Train which will take you into part of the Audubon Swamp Garden, home to scores of water loving creatures, and past the newly restored Slave cabins which interpret African American life on the plantation. A boxed lunch will be provided.

The bus will then stop at the hotel to pick up or drop off folks and then proceed to the **Harbor Cruise and Fort Sumter** tour. As you cruise through Charleston's scenic harbor you will view the beautiful homes along the Battery, and watch local marine wildlife in their natural habitat. Upon arrival at Fort Sumter, your private guide, who is well versed in Civil War history and the history of Fort Sumter, will give you an informative introduction and take you on a very special tour of this famous bastion and its marvelous museum. (He was recommended by the 447BG, who had their reunion there in 2013 and thought him marvelous!).

You can save money by taking both tours. We do hope you stay for the Monday events after the Banquet. The Hospitality Suite will be open Monday evening and we hope you stay to help close out the reunion and give us feedback.