

**REUNION 2011
JUNE 3, 4, 5
RAMADA INN
SEEKONK, MASSACHUSETTS**

The Association is looking forward to its annual reunion in Seekonk, Massachusetts, twelve miles east of Providence Airport. So what is so famous about Seekonk, MA? Glad you asked. From our hotel you can walk to a building that housed a store which is considered to have served as the model for the Walmart retail chain. The store's name was Ann & Hope and spearheaded discount retailing in our region of the country. Ironically, Ann & Hope is now out of business, driven to bankruptcy by, you guessed it, Walmart. Nevertheless, the Seekonk area is a bustling business district which contains many shops, stores and restaurant, all in close proximity to our hotel. More on this later.

We have acquired special room rates for anyone who will be attending. To obtain this special rate, mention that you are attending the Alpha Association Reunion and use the Group Code, CG0639.

You can get to their website and make your reservations online by googleing (is that even a word?) Ramada Inn, Seekonk MA. You can make phone reservations by calling: 508-336-7300.

The rates for the rooms are:

Rates for standard rooms start at \$84.15 per night and go up to \$152. 15 per night, not including the dreaded 'T' word.

Features that are provided by the Ramada Inn include:

Largest Indoor Heated
Pool in the area!
Complimentary
Newspaper Delivered
24 hour Business
Center
Lounge/Restaurant in
hotel with room service
Putting Green/Shuffle
board

Iron and Ironing Board every room
Coffee Maker in every room
Meeting Rooms Avail. up to 300
Same Day Valet Laundry
Pets Accepted - \$10/day in smoking rooms only.
(Yes, Fred Berardi can bring along Chip, The
Wonder Dog!)
Complimentary wireless high-speed Internet
Moen Massage Shower heads, coffee maker, hair
dryer. Free Parking at Property

Many members will be arriving early on Thursday (some even arrive on Wednesday) so if you can, get there early and stay late. The official reunion will begin on Friday afternoon as attendees will be trickling into our function room. Our first meal will be served at 6PM.

SHIRTS AND HATS LEFTOVER FROM LAST YEAR

We still have a few golf shirts and hats that we will be selling at this year's reunion. Purchase early for best choices. The prices for the shirts are \$25.

FEES TO ATTEND

Over the course of the last ten years were able to keep the fee to attend the reunion to \$75. Unfortunately, with the costs continuing to rise each year, we were not able to maintain that price and are now forced to raise the figure to \$100. each per veteran and his significant other (\$200 per couple). Children, (or grandchildren), older than 18 years old may attend for \$75. per

person and younger than 18 may come free. Any other friends will be charged the \$100. fee. Even at these prices, the collection will only cover the expenses for the meals and hotel meeting rooms. It's still a steal at this price. Meals will include all meals from dinner on Friday through breakfast on Sunday. For those attending, but not dining with us, there is no charge.

WHO WILL BE THERE?

In addition to our usual association friends, this year, we are once more honored by the presence of some of our friends from the 2/77th artillery who participated in the Battle of Suoi Tre.

WHERE TO REGISTER AND SEND FEES

Use the one page form that I have included in this newsletter. To those who have opted out of the hard copy edition of ALPHA'S PRIDE you may get the form online at:

<http://alphaassociation.homestead.com/files/registration2011.pdf>

Register and send your reunion fee to me no later than May 15th. Make all checks out to ALPHA ASSOCIATION. I will forward all the checks on to our Treasurer as soon as I update our attendee list which will be updated daily online as required at this site:

<http://alphaassociation.homestead.com/files/attendees2011.htm>

If you want a photo badge, the photo and registration must be in our hands by May 1st. ALL ATTENDEES MUST REGISTER BY MAY 15th.

BADGES FOR REGISTERED ATTENDEES

I make up badges for all the folks who attend our reunions. In the interest of recognizing some members who, in some cases we haven't seen in decades, I decided long ago to add a photo of what we looked like back in 1967. This has worked out very well. I post the pictures on our website that I am using their badge to show them that:

1. Yes, indeed I have a picture of them and
2. If they prefer to submit a better picture they may do so.

In addition, last year I asked the ladies to send me pictures showing what they looked like during the period of 1967. If you are attending, and I do not have a picture of you, please submit one to me so that I can show how you looked when we were all young.

WHAT'S THE AGENDA FOR THE WEEKEND?

This year's tournament is being named in honor of Honor Roll members, Donald Evans, our CMH recipient and Joe Noel, our first casualty in Vietnam who is buried in nearby Coventry, RI. Everyone is encouraged to join in. The golf schedule for the 2011 Alpha Reunion is as follows: It is being played at the [Swansea Country Club](#) in Swansea, MA. Thursday and Friday. Tee time start at 10:00 AM. We will meet in the hotel lobby at 9:00 AM and proceed to the golf course. Thursday will be a practice day while Friday is the actual tournament.

If anyone wants to play they can email Sam Babcock at this address: bluecrabing@sbcglobal.net
He will be keeping track of all the players and give you further details.

Optional Tour, Friday 11:30Am to 4PM:

For those who will not be golfing, I've organized a visit to Battleship Cove in Fall River where we will be touring the world's largest naval ship exhibit. On site is the battleship USS MASSACHUSETTS, the submarine, USS LIONFISH, the destroyer, USS JOSEPH P. KENNEDY, PT boats, '617' & '796, and the Soviet built Missile Corvette HIDDENSEE, the world's only exhibited example of this communist attack ship.

We will be leaving the hotel by bus at 11:30 AM and will arrive at the cove in time to board the USS MASSACHUSETTS and be served lunch in the Officer's Wardroom of the ship. The lunch will consist of fresh fruit with sherbet, roasted turkey sandwiches with lettuce and tomato, chunky potato salad, dill pickle, potato chips, frosted cake, and a choice of beverage. We then will then tour the battleship and board the other ships moored in the cove.

Following that, we will walk the short distance to the [Fall River Marine Museum](#) where will see displayed a number of exhibits of maritime history of the region including over 150 scale models and 30,000 photographs. Incorporated in the collection are two mock ups of ships that were used in Hollywood productions. The first, donated by Twentieth Century Fox, is the scaled ship they used for the 1953 movie, 'TITANIC'. The second, donated by Turner Broadcasting is the scaled ship used in the 1935 production of 'MUTINY ON THE BOUNTY'.

I was able to negotiate a package that includes transportation to the site from our hotel, lunch on board the MASSACHUSETTS, and admittance to the Battleship Cove and Marine Museum tours for the price of \$30. per person. If you want to join us, indicate this on the registration form enclosed or online: [Registration 2011](#)

FRIDAY DINNER MENU

<i>Roast Sirloin of Beef</i>	<i>Choice of Chicken</i>	<i>Meatballs</i>	<i>Ziti with Marinara Sauce</i>
	<i>Choice of Potato</i>	<i>Choice of Salad</i>	<i>Rolls</i>
<i>Assorted Pastry</i>			<i>Coffee</i>

Friday Evening, 7:30 PM:

The attendees will assemble in the Banquet Hall for a short program that will include a welcoming back segment, an introduction of new attendees, and a two slideshows. One is a historical encompassing the first decade of Alpha Association activities and reunions. Socializing follows the meeting.

SATURDAY MORNING BREAKFAST MENU

<i>Chilled Orange Juice</i>
<i>Fresh Scrambled Eggs</i>
<i>Choice of Two Meats (ham, bacon or sausage)</i>
<i>Homefries</i>
<i>Muffins or Danish</i>
<i>Coffee, Decaffeinated Coffee and Tea</i>

This will be served on both Saturday and Sunday

Breakfast will be served starting at 7:30AM. At 9AM we will be boarding buses for a visit to nearby St Peter and Paul Cemetery, where Joe Noel is interred. After a period at the gravesite, we will once more board the busses to travel to nearby Hope, RI where we will view the plaque that was dedicated in Joe's honor in 1967.

Upon returning to the Ramada Inn we will be enjoying lunch, which will consist of a Sandwich Buffet, See below.

SANDWICH BUFFET

*Baked Imported Ham, Slice Turkey Breast Slice Roast Beef Swiss Cheese
Choice of Potato Salad or Potato Chips Cole Slaw Pickles and Olives
Assorted Breads Assorted Pastry Coffee*

Saturday Ceremony:

Saturday afternoon consists of the Ceremonial segment of our weekend. Our MC will once more be Allyn J. Palmer, Commander, A/2/12, 1966-67. The observance will begin with the playing of the National Anthem followed by an invocation by Gary Brenley, A/2/12 veteran from 1966-67.

Our next order of business is the setting of the table for A/2/12's MIA from the Vietnam Conflict, Gene Handrahan. He is the only MIA from the 2/12th Infantry Regiment and we will honor his memory during this ceremony.

The lighting of the Flames of Remembrance candles will commence with the request for veterans to come forward in turn to recognize their fallen Brothers. Honor Roll family members (family members of our fallen brothers) lead the lighting.

An Honor Roll slideshow follows, in recognition of those who paid the ultimate price from our Company.

Speakers will now address the group, including Chris Migliaro, A/2/12's recent Commander, and Richard Evans, brother of CMH recipient, Donald Evans.

This segment will be followed by the announcement of the winners of the Donald Evans/Joe Noel Memorial Golf Tournament. Larry Walter will be the presenter.

This will be followed by the acknowledgement of the Board Members who give up their time and talents to see that the association remains informed and solvent while making the reunions enjoyable and accessible to all our veterans.

Finally, the annual photo shoot will take place in the parking lot.

SATURDAY DINNER MENU

<i>Roast Sirloin of Beef</i>	<i>Baked Ham with Pineapple</i>	<i>Choice of Chicken</i>
<i>Baked Ziti with Marinara Sauce</i>	<i>Meatballs</i>	<i>Choice of Potato</i>
<i>Choice of Salad</i>	<i>Vegetable Medley</i>	<i>Rolls</i>
<i>Assorted Pastry</i>		<i>Coffee</i>

Saturday Evening Social and Sock Hop 7:30PM until?

Last year, we had so much fun at the 60s dance that we had, we decided to carry the show east for those who didn't make last year's party. Like last year, we are encouraging the attendees to dress up as silly as we looked back in those days, when we thought we actually looked hip. This year I will be giving a \$50. prize to the couple with the most convincing appearance from the 50s and 60s. Hey, that's a lot of Bingo cards!

There will be a cash bar in the hall for those that may need some encouragement to dance and join us when we have our traditional singing competition between the ladies and the men.

Sunday Morning, 8:00 AM to 9:30 AM

Sunday morning the attendees will share a breakfast together and begin saying their final goodbyes for the weekend. It's a sad time for most of us, but a rewarding period as we are once more allowed the opportunity to renew old friendships and in some cases forge new ones. By noon time, everyone will be on their way back home after sharing a memorable weekend with the good people of Alpha Association.