

Hill 4-11

Vietnam Veterans Association

Founded 1984
June 2003 Newsletter

ATLANTA REUNION 2004 DATE CHANGE

New date, July 23, 24, & 25, 2004. Due to scheduling conflicts we have been forced to change weekends for our 2004 reunion. There several large conventions in Atlanta the week we wanted to be there. As a result, our hosts could not find accommodations at a reasonable price. The choice was either change the dates or go out into the suburbs. Going out to the suburbs, would have placed us far from the popular attractions, without the convenience of a nearby MARTA transit station. By changing dates, we managed to get a hotel in downtown Atlanta for a price competitive or better than outside the city.

The headquarters hotel is the Renaissance Atlanta Hotel Downtown. The rate is \$89.00 plus tax (14%) single or double. I think you will agree this is a very good rate for a downtown hotel in a major city. There is an adjacent parking garage connected to the hotel lobby by a covered walkway. Self parking is \$10 per day; valet parking is available for \$17 per day.

The hotel features 503 guest rooms, two restaurants, cocktail lounge, pool, fitness center, and more. Want a beer? The Rathskeller, an authentic German Bierstube offers a selection of more than 50 domestic and imported beers.

There is a MARTA station located across the street from the hotel. If you are flying to Atlanta, transportation via MARTA from Hartsfield International to the hotel is \$1.75, (taxi fare approx \$24).

The hotel has set aside a block of rooms for our members at the \$89 rate. It is essential you make your reservations early. We have already been assigned a meeting room for use as a hospitality suite and a banquet room. If hotel reservations indicate a better than anticipated attendance (we hope), we may need to change to bigger rooms. Also we may need to request additional rooms be set aside at the special rate. The deadline for reservations at the \$89 rate is 22 May 2004. If you call after May 22 you may not obtain the negotiated room rate. To make reservations call the Renaissance Atlanta Hotel Downtown reservations department at: (888) 391-8724 or (404) 881-6000. Ask for the Hill 411 Association room block, to get the special rate.

Banquet arrangements, business meeting and memorial service schedules are incomplete at this time. Information and a banquet reservation form will be included in a future newsletter.

We had a big turnout of members from the Lone Star state at San Antonio. We hope to welcome a large contingent of southeasterners in Atlanta. It is all coming together, all we need is YOU!



A TASTE OF THE PEACH – This page was designed for the visitor who wants a taste of Atlanta's highlights, while concentrating on local landmarks.

CARTER CENTER Georgia's only U.S. President (so far!), Jimmy Carter, will be remembered as a great humanitarian. Visit the Carter Presidential Center, home to memorabilia and presidential papers from his administration. Stroll the library, admiring this tribute to the U.S. Presidency and one of Georgia's most famous citizens and a Nobel Peace Prize Winner. Also enjoy the lovely Japanese gardens surrounding the center.

TURNER FIELD This world-class stadium is home to the Atlanta Braves and hosted the 1996 Olympic Track and Field events. Tour the Museum and Hall of Fame.

GEORGIA DOME Home to the Atlanta Falcons will impress you. This showplace features a fiberglass roof that weighs 68 tons and is strong enough to support a fully loaded truck. Take a behind-the-scenes tour of this 71,500-seat stadium, the locker rooms and the press box. Flexible enough to accommodate many size groups, you can enjoy a party in a private luxury suite or on the field itself.

ATLANTA ART MUSEUM Designed by architect Richard Meier, creates a unique and contemporary atmosphere. Ascend the spiraling levels to view art treasures from sculpture, paintings and decorative arts. The Atrium affects a most cultured setting for dinner or a reception.

FERN BANK MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY The Great Hall of this museum with its Victorian, glass-crowned roof and terraces is a perfect site for an evening reception or seated dinner for a large group. The fascinating exhibits feature nature's wonders such as sea life, dinosaurs and foliage native to the South. A showing in the state-of-the-art IMAX Theater tops the evening.

STONE MOUNTAIN PARK Enjoy a scenic drive to Stone Mountain Park, a lovely 3,200-acre recreational park that is the site of the largest mass of exposed granite in the world! First stop at Memorial Hall for an overview of the history of the mountain, featuring the world's largest bas-relief carving dedicated to the Confederate leaders during the Civil War. Enjoy your choice of the Park's attractions, sip a mint julep on the lawn of the Antebellum Plantation, take an old-fashioned riverboat cruise around Stone Mountain Lake, or take a trip to the mountain top on a modern Swiss Cable Car Sky lift. Enjoy a delicious Southern buffet at the Inn, heap your plate high with Southern cooking and dance a jig with a Bluegrass band, and shop in historic Stone Mountain Village. From May to September, see the fabulous Laser Show for a spectacular finale.

WORLD OF COCA-COLA Visit the World of Coca-Cola Pavilion, which houses priceless Coke memorabilia and advertising. Sample Coke products from around the world or take a taste-test from an authentic "soda jerk."

CNN CENTER Visit CNN Center and get a behind-the-scenes look at the electricity and excitement of the newsrooms of CNN and Headline News. Founded by Time Magazine's Man of the Year, Ted Turner, CNN has changed the way the world gets its news.

ATLANTA ZOO A variety of strolling entertainment adds to the wonder of the animal encounters and special exhibits. Perfect for a small or large group that wants to take a walk on the wild side. Stop by the **CYCLORAMA**, an emotion-packed sight and sound presentation about the 1864 Battle of Atlanta, a major Civil War event.

ATLANTA BOTANICAL GARDENS The Garden features 15 acres of outdoor display gardens, the Upper Woodland showcasing five acres of shade-loving ornamentals from around the world and the 10-acre **Storza Woods** with natural undergrowth and walking trails. Across the Flower Bridge is the two-acre **Children's Garden**, which has been designed as a "wellness" garden. The **Dorothy Chapman Fuqua Conservatory** houses rare and endangered plants from tropical rainforests and desert regions. The **Fuqua Orchid Center** houses a **High Elevation House**, a **Tropical Display House** and a **Center for Education and Conservation**. The **Japanese Garden**, small but exquisite, is one of the oldest areas of the Garden. The meditation garden contains the "three old friends" typically found in a Japanese garden: pine and/or stone which symbolize longevity and age, bamboo which is symbolic of resilience in the face of adversity and blooming fruit trees which represent youth and renewal of life. Meticulously pruned Virginia Pines give the illusion of great age and shade a number of dwarf conifers and Japanese maples. Other specimens include the Weeping Japanese Apricot, which blooms in the depths of winter, three *Stewartia pseudocamellia*, a weeping *Styrax japonica* and black bamboo.

HISTORIC BUCKHEAD Explore the exclusive residential area of North Atlanta known as Buckhead. Drive by beautiful mansions, including the Governor's Mansion. Visit the Atlanta History Center, featuring the Italian Renaissance style Swan House and rustic plantation style Tullie Smith House. The Museum features permanent and visiting exhibits showcasing Atlanta's progression from a railroad hub to an international city. A highlight is a viewing of the largest collection of Civil War artifacts in the Southeast.

UNDERGROUND "ATLANTA" Visit the spot where Atlanta sprouted up around the railroad and where it first rose from the Civil War ashes. Initially, Atlanta thrived because of the railroads, until the tracks threatened to choke the city like steel Kudzu. But Atlanta rose above the problem, literally. Viaducts were built over the tracks, and virtually all the traffic and commerce moved upwards, the original center of the city was all but forgotten. Now fully restored, Underground is the most popular visitor attraction in Georgia, where this year, millions of people will receive a true Atlanta experience. Explore six blocks, twelve acres and three levels of shopping, restaurants and entertainment. Browse through famous name stores, exclusive boutiques, galleries and shops with a distinctive Atlanta feel. Then feast at your choice of over 20 eateries featuring fare from all over the globe. And you'll have no trouble satisfying your taste for music and fun at the many entertainment venues and night spots. You can also take in a variety of street performers, historical sights and special celebrations.

2006 REUNION YOUR CITY, USA

Yea, I know we are still a year away from Atlanta. But, it is not too early to start thinking about the following get together. Give it some thought. If you think you might be interested in hosting the 2006 reunion, contact Dick Hill at the return address on this newsletter, or President Greg Smith at 712 Ridgelawn Trail Batavia, IL 60510-8683. A site will be selected at the business meeting in Atlanta.

Hill 4-11 History and Dues Payment Form

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