



# Starscope

*The Official Newsletter of the*

## **U.S.S. Constellation CVA/CV-64 Association**

**The Alumni Association of the United States Ship Constellation**

**Website: [ussconstellation.org](http://ussconstellation.org)**

*Spirit of the Old. Pride of the New!*

**April, 2024**

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*If you know of anyone who has a change of address, telephone number, e-mail address, or cell phone, please contact Richard Swain (432) 694-0227 [membership@ussconstellation.org](mailto:membership@ussconstellation.org)*

**Also**

***Check out the Our Fallen Shipmates Web page.***

***Many of our fallen shipmates have their obituary listed. Click on the shipmates' name to read it in the top panel to the left of the names. If you know of a fallen shipmate, and he is not listed, or if any of the listed information is wrong, please let the webmaster know***

***[webmaster@ussconstellation.org](mailto:webmaster@ussconstellation.org)***

**TO ALL CONNIE SHIPMATES – MARCH 2024**

**March 31, 2024**

**Hi Shipmates,**

**It is about that time again for the Spring Mini Reunion. This year's Mini Reunion will be held in Midland, Texas. All members of our Association are welcome to attend. We have a great 3 days planned – April 23<sup>rd</sup> – April 26<sup>th</sup>. The hotel is La Quinta – (432) 694-1200. Make your reservation before April 12<sup>th</sup>.**

**If you have any questions about the oil business, Midland has the Petroleum Museum. We are going to have a guide who has drilled and restored many wells in the Permian Basin. In addition to the Petroleum Museum, Midland is home to the Museum of the Southwest which includes a planetarium with a Dome Show, and the original boyhood home of George W. Bush. We are planning to attend a minor league baseball game between the Midland Rockhounds and the Corpus Christi Hooks.**

**Big Spring is about 40 miles to the east off of the I-20 freeway. Big Spring used to have the Webb Air Force Base. This was a training base used during the later part of WW-2 and Korea. After the base closed, the town folks opened the Hanger 25 Museum. The museum has a display of many of the airplanes which were used at the base. There is also a Vietnam Memorial in Big Spring which we plan to visit.**

**Odessa is the Rabbit Town of the area. There are 31 painted jackrabbits scattered around the city. The city also has a replica of Stonehenge on the campus of the University of Texas Permian Basin, and the Presidential Archives and Leadership Library which features the George H. Bush family home.**

**Check out our website for more information:  
[www.ussconstellation.org/2024-mini-reunion.html](http://www.ussconstellation.org/2024-mini-reunion.html)**

**Also, be sure to check the website for information on our 2024 reunion in August in Colorado Springs.**

**Hope to see Y'all in April!**

**May you enjoy bright sun, fair winds, and calm seas,**

**Richard Swain, President  
USS Constellation (CVA/CV 64) Association**



**USS CONSTELLATION CVA/CV-64 ASSOCIATION  
TEXAS MINI REUNION - 2024  
Midland, TX  
April 23, 24 & 25, 2024**

**La Quinta**

2606 North Loop 250

Midland, Texas 79707, Phone 1-432-694-1200

**(Arrival day Tuesday, April 23 - Departure Day Friday, April 26)**

Front Desk 1-432-694-1200 (USS Constellation Group set up by Jeanette Swain with Marissa)

**Group Rate: \$89.00 + taxes (Total is \$304.28 with taxes)**

**Complimentary Hot Breakfast!!**

**Cut off Date for that rate is Friday, April 12, 2024**

**Make your reservation today!**

**Things to do in Midland/Odessa!**

Oil Museum with precious stones and race cars (Senior-\$8)

Museum of the Southwest (Adults-\$10 Seniors-\$5)

Minor League Baseball Game-Midland Rockhounds hosting Corpus Christi Hooks (Dougout-Sr \$14-Wed)

Hanger 25 and Vietnam War Memorial (Big Spring)-Free

Special sites in Midland and Odessa

**Taste of West Texas: Mexican, American, Texas Bar-b-Que, Oilfield Burgers & Ribs**

**Friday - Departure Day!**

**Safe Travels! See you in April!!**

**(Questions or concerns: Call Jeanette Swain @ 432-935-4961)**



# USS CONSTELLATION & HORNET 2024 REUNION

## Colorado Springs, CO | August 19-24, 2024

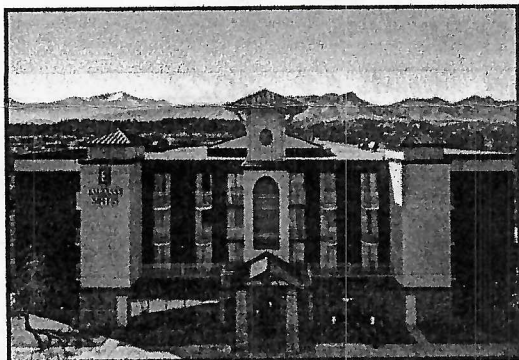
### WELCOME TO THE SPRINGS!

#### Welcome to Colorado Springs - the Home of the U.S. Air Force Academy

The "Springs" is located at the eastern foot of the Rocky Mountains. It lies near glacier-carved Pikes Peak, a national landmark featuring a cog railway leading to its 14,115-foot summit. The city's Garden of the Gods Park features iconic red-sandstone formations and mountain views. It is also home to venerable Air Force Academy. Come and join us for what is sure to be a terrific time in *The Springs*!

### HOTEL INFORMATION

We will be staying at the newly renovated, **Embassy Suites** Hotel located at 7290 Commerce Center Drive, Colorado Springs, CO 80919. The hotel room rate is just **\$155** plus tax per night. The room rate includes a hot breakfast buffet, served daily and 2 free drinks nightly, during reunion dates.



For those of you who choose to arrive early or stay late, the same room rate is available three days prior and three days after, based on availability. Make your hotel reservations NOW to insure the best availability. You may cancel without penalty up to 72 hours in advance.

The most reliable way to make hotel reservations is to click here. Enter your travel dates and follow the prompts. Or you may try and reach or message Veronica, the Reservation Manager, directly at the hotel (Mon-Fri only, from 9-4 MST). Call Veronica at (719)-599-9100. Request the USS Hornet

/Constellation group rate of \$155/night. If not busy the front desk may also be able to help. All rooms are Suites. Mountain View rooms are an extra \$40 more per night. Reservations are due by July 23.

Note: a limited number of 2 bedded suites available. If you need one, book now! If you have any problems getting a room at the group rate, especially if you are coming in early or staying late, please call Military Reunion Planners (MRP) at 817-251-3551. We can resolve *most* hotel issues.

### AIRPORT TRANSPORTATION & PARKING

Colorado Springs (COS) is the closest to the hotel. IF you are renting a car, consider flying into Denver as it's often cheaper and only about an hour away. You will need to make arrangements for a ride to the hotel, from either airport, as there is no shuttle. Uber is probably your best bet.

For those who are driving, the hotel offers plenty of free parking. If you need specific directions call the hotel's front desk (719) 599-9100 for assistance or click here.

**Travel safely and we will .... See you in The Springs!**





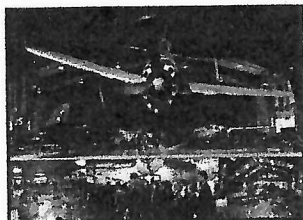
## UNITED STATES AIR FORCE ACADEMY

Thursday, August 22 (9:30am-1:30pm)

Set in a scenic region at the foot of the Rocky Mountains and situated at an altitude of 7,163-feet, stands the youngest of the four service academies. Among the features are a Scenic Overlook of the campus, a B-52 Bomber, a Visitor Center with a movie that shows *the first year of a cadet*, including a huge gift shop and exhibit area. Your local guide will bring the past, present and future into focus as you enjoy a mostly riding tour of the campus. Note: the Chapel is under renovation but there is still lots to see.

## ALTERNATIVE TOUR: NATIONAL MUSEUM OF WWII AVIATION

Thursday, August 22 (9:30am-1:30pm)



The National Museum of World War II Aviation is world class. This museum has a new layout with several individual sections that covers different conflicts and the planes that served them. Enjoy a guided, walking tour, conducted by ex-veterans, anxious to answer your questions about this truly *fantastic* museum, which is extremely well done. There is also a fabulous gift shop for shoppers. Don't miss it! PS - Bring a snack and comfortable walking shoes. Lunch will be on your own once we get back to the hotel.

## COUNTRY WESTERN SHOW AND BBQ AT THE FLYING W RANCH

Thursday, August 22 (4:30am-9:00pm)

With its humble beginnings as a mountain cattle ranch in 1947, the *Flying W* is a living symbol of Western Heritage. What began with eleven guests in 1953, has grown to more than 1,400 nightly visitors, making the Flying W Ranch one of the most popular destinations in the state of Colorado. A western spread of smoked meats with all the "chuckwagon trimmings" is followed by a western stage show performed by the world-renowned Flying W Wranglers, the second longest-running western performance band in the world. Their three-part-harmonies of time-honored tunes of the open range, their superb instrumentation, and their clean bunkhouse humor have delighted over seven million people from around the world.



## USS CONSTELLION MEMBERS MEETING

Friday, August 23 (10:00am in the Hospitality Room)

## LIVE MURDER MYSTERY SHOW AT THE HOTEL

Friday, August 23 (1:00pm)

Join your friends at the hotel after lunch and come to find out that a murder has been committed! Will you be able to figure out *who dunnit*? Enjoy this live theater, immersive murder mystery experience, where YOU become part of the story. Professional actors involve you in the investigation of clues and people of interest. This will be your chance to be in a real-life detective story where the true killer could be any one of our shipmates ... or even you

## FAREWELL BANQUET DINNER

Friday, August 23 (Free Cocktails begin at 1800/ Dinner at 1900)

Join your friends for your Banquet Dinner at the Hotel. We will begin in the Atrium at 1800 for 2 complimentary drinks before dinner at 1900 followed by a plated banquet dinner.

## TOUR CANCELLATION INSURANCE

Protect yourself from unforeseen expenses caused by sickness, injury or any other causes that impact your travel plans. This insurance enables a refund of tour & banquet expenses (less processing fee) up midnight before the start of your reunion. Without cancellation insurance all money received is non-refundable 6 weeks prior to the reunion.

**ALL RESERVATIONS ARE DUE BY JULY 8, 2024** There is a \$20 p.p. surcharge for orders taken over the phone. Should you need additional information call our offices Monday through Friday CST at 817-251-3551 or email us at



## Reunion Reservation Form

[HOME](#)
[TOUR INFO](#)
[RESERVATION FORM](#)
[ROSTER](#)
[HOTEL ROOMING LIST](#)

# USS HORNET & CONSTELLATION 2024 REUNION

## Tour/Event Reservations are due by July 8, 2024

### Pay Online

To pay online using a credit card, please fill out the following form, and complete the payment instructions that follow.  
Note: A 3.75% processing fee will be added to all credit card orders.

### Pay By Check

To pay by check, download the form [here](#) and mail the completed form with your check to Military Reunion Planners, PO Box 1588, Colleyville, TX 76034.

## EVENT ITEMS

Date	Event	Cost	Qty	Total
	Reunion Registration Fee: (Per person/non-refundable)	\$45 pp		
Mon 8/19	Welcome Reception at the Hotel (Indicate Number (QTY) Attending)	Included		
Tue 8/20	Riding City Tour of The Springs & Garden of the Gods	\$55 pp		
Tue 8/20	Group Pasta Buffet Dinner at the Hotel – All are Welcome	\$45 pp		
Wed 8/21	Pike's Peak Cog Rail Excursion & Manitou Springs	\$110 pp		
Wed 8/21	Alternative: Old Colorado City & Manitou Springs	\$40 pp		
Thu 8/22	United States Air Force Academy	\$50 pp		
Thu 8/22	ALTERNATIVE: National WWII Aviation Museum	\$60 pp		
Thu 8/22	Country Western Show & BBQ at the Flying W Ranch	\$102 pp		
Fri 8/23	Live <i>Murder Mystery</i> Theater at the Hotel	\$35 pp		
Fri 8/23	Farewell Banquet Dinner – make selection below			
	London Broil with Mushroom Sauce	\$60 pp		
	Honey Garlic Salmon	\$60 pp		
	Vegetarian	\$60 pp		
	Non-refundable Late Reservation Fee: (if submitted after July 8)	\$15 pp		
	Tour Cancellation Insurance: Protect Your \$\$\$ (Non-Refundable)	\$20 pp		
	TOTAL:			

**Please provide the following information**

\*Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Spouse: \_\_\_\_\_

Enter the number of guests: \_\_\_\_ (Excluding spouse)

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_

State: \_\_\_\_\_

Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

\*Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

\*Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Emergency Contact: \_\_\_\_\_

Emergency Contact Phone:

Crew of the USS :

Years with the Ship :

Is This Your First Reunion? :

Special Needs (Mobility, Dietary, etc) :

Do you need a Wheelchair Lift to get on a Bus? :

**Submit And Pay**

After you click "Submit And Pay" you will be prompted to complete payment in order to confirm your reservation.

Reservations are **NOT** confirmed until payment is received by MRP. Call 817 - 251 - 3551 if you have questions or to confirm receipt of your payment, change, or cancel your reservation.

The roster of those registered will be updated and available to view within 24 hours of registration. Please check for confirmation at that time.

### **Important Notes Regarding Your Reservation: Please Read!**

- Reservations submitted after the due date shown above (late reservations) are *non-refundable* and are accepted on a space available basis with payment of a non-refundable late fee.
- Refund requests must be made in writing and postmarked before due date above. There is a refund processing fee. Credit card orders subject to an additional \$15 per person credit card refund processing fee.
- No refunds after the due date shown above, unless you have purchased *Tour Cancellation Insurance*
- *Tour Cancellation Insurance* covers both tour events and meal functions. Registration Fees are non-refundable unless otherwise noted.
- Cancellation Insurance expires at 11:59 PM the day before the reunion starts. No refunds are given after midnight even if Cancellation Insurance was purchased.
- Name Tags not provided guests, unless Registration Fee is paid.
- Tour buses are not guaranteed handicap accessible
- Keep a copy of your reservation form for your records. Hand written forms are not valid.
- Your cancelled check is your receipt and proof of purchase. For a written confirmation please provide a self-addressed, stamped envelope.
- There is a \$25 return check fee for insufficient funds (NSF)
- Tours may require a minimum number of people in order to operate.
- Full refunds given for any event cancelled by MRP except due to Acts of God.
- MRP will not be held liable for failure of vendors to provide contracted services or any injuries/accidents that may occur during the reunion.
- For more information call MRP weekdays, from 9-5 CST at 817-251-3551 or via email: [info@militaryreunionplanners.com](mailto:info@militaryreunionplanners.com)



**EXCELLENCE IN REUNION PLANNING**

