

**50th Company OC 24-69 Reunion  
Springfield, Illinois  
October 6 - 9, 2024  
(with an option for an extra day)**

**Reunion Schedule**



# Reunion Schedule

## **President Abraham Lincoln Hotel Springfield (a DoubleTree by Hilton)**

701 East Adams Street Springfield, Illinois 62701

**Telephone:** (217-544-8800)

**Reunion Points of Contact:** Brian Flora (919-741-8330), Scott Davis (714-264-0176), Bob Hines (270-312-8456), Lou Lallo (916-792-6669), Brian Walrath (440-773-7185), Peter Nowlan (802-279-7088), and Mike Eberhardt (205-475-3815).

**Sunday, October 6, 2024, Arrival and Parking:** The Hotel's main entrance is at Adams and Seventh Street. For check-in there is temporary (20-minute) parking for four cars on the front drive near the entrance. (Garage parking for us is free, but you get the instructions and a parking pass when you check in.) Park on the front drive or on the street, but avoid spots marked as "reserved." Bring your luggage in with you when you check in and let the agent know that you are part of a reunion group that has parking included in the rate and ask for a parking pass. He/she will answer questions about how the parking garage system works.

After checking in and dropping your luggage off in your room (or temporarily storing it in the first floor Lincoln Room), park your vehicle in the BOS Parking Garage, adjacent to the Hotel. The entrance is on Seventh Street. During your stay you may leave and enter the garage multiple times. Each time you enter the garage, push the button on the machine at the entrance gate and pull a ticket. This gets the entrance bar raised. (Note: You will need this date/time-stamped ticket with you when you exit the garage.) When you exit, scan the entry ticket, and the machine will prompt for payment. Once prompted, scan the parking pass you received from the front desk. The parking pass works for multiple exits, but to exit you will also need the entry ticket you pulled when you last entered.

## **SUNDAY, OCTOBER 6, 2024: ARRIVAL AND REGISTRATION**

Check in at the hotel reception desk when you arrive on Sunday afternoon, but please note that the guaranteed room availability time is 4:00 PM. If your room is available, you may have access earlier. In any case, you will be able to hang out with classmates in the **first floor Lincoln Room** which the hotel has designated for our exclusive use during the three days of the reunion. The entry into the Lincoln Room is just off the lobby. There is plenty of room for the temporary storage of luggage if you have to wait for your room to be readied. This is where you will find the 50<sup>th</sup> Company welcome table.

**2:00 PM to 8:00 PM:** The **Welcome Table** will be staffed by members of the reunion planning committee. Check in after registering for your room and parking in the garage. We will answer questions and hand out packets with ID badges, schedules, list of attendees, street maps, and a Springfield Visitor's guide.

**3:00 – 11:00 PM:** Feel free to hang out in the **Lincoln Room** which will serve as our hospitality suite and be open for informal meetings and socializing. Snacks and soft drinks will be provided. Those who would like something stronger are welcome to purchase beverages from the hotel's restaurant and tavern (The Globe), which is in the lobby area, right across from the Lincoln Room, and bring them into the hospitality suite. We encourage you to mix and mingle as the classmates gather.

**There is no formal group dinner on Sunday.** Please make your own arrangements, either in the hotel or in nearby restaurants. Don't be shy about linking up with your 50<sup>th</sup> Company classmates. If you would like some dinner companions, just ask around.

## **MONDAY, OCTOBER 7, 2024:**

### **Suggested visits to the principal Lincoln Sites**

#### **7:00 – 8:30 AM: Breakfast in the Lincoln Room**

The "Springfield Breakfast" (warm buffet) is offered on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday as part of the reunion package.

**Tours and Sites:** Except for the Reunion Dinner, there is no formal reunion program. Classmates and spouses are free to arrange their own activities, individually or (preferably) in groups. Many sites are in downtown Springfield, including two “must-sees” within easy walking distance of the hotel. Most of our classmates will have cars. If you are without “wheels” and need a ride to see something, check around.

As Lou noted in a late June message to the Company, that Brian Flora and his wife Kay have suggested an optional list of special Springfield sites that they have visited and recommend to the classmates and spouses. On Monday morning Brian recommends a self-guided visit of the Lincoln Museum. In the afternoon he suggests a guided tour of the Lincoln Home where President Lincoln lived for 17 years, raising his family, practicing law, and learning to be a pretty darn good state, and then federal, politician. Both sites are within easy walking distance of the hotel.

**9:00 AM: Meet in the Lincoln Room and head Out on foot for the Lincoln Museum,** three blocks away. (Address: 212 North 6<sup>th</sup> St, at the corner of Jefferson Street.)

**9:30 - 11:30: Tour of the Lincoln Museum:** All 43 of the reunion attendees have signed up for the self-guided Museum tour, which consistently gets Five-Star ratings. Please spend the morning exploring the Museum’s exhibits and absorbing the fascinating story of Abraham Lincoln, one of our truly great Presidents. Sit down and rest as you need to. Brian will write a check covering the admission fee so we can save time and get a special (1/3<sup>rd</sup> off) group rate at (\$10.00 per person.) He will ask for checks to cover admission fees (and other recommended donation fees) from classmates, to be mailed to him in advance, or given to him at the reunion.

**Lunch:** Please make your own arrangements. The “Lincoln Café” at the Museum looks good. It has several lunch options (hot and cold sandwiches, soups, pizzas, salads). Check out the menu on-line. Return to the Hotel and meet in the Lincoln Room no later than 1:00PM.

**1:00 PM: Head out on foot for the Lincoln Home National Historic Site, two blocks away.** Check in at the Visitors Center, 426 South 7<sup>th</sup> Street. (We need to check in by 1:25 PM.)

**1:40 - 3:00 PM: Guided tour of the home where Lincoln lived** from 1844 to 1861, when he left for Washington to fulfill his destiny. The tour provides a look into Lincoln's life as a family man, while exploring his rise as a successful lawyer and politician. (Note: We have 41 classmates and spouses signed up, and the tours, which last around 25 minutes, are limited to 15 persons. Some juggling of time slots for three tours will be required.) There is no entry fee, but donations to support the house's upkeep and maintenance are strongly encouraged. Brian suggests a \$5.00 donation from each classmate. He'll write out a check and has asked for donations from those who have signed up.

**5:00 – 7:00 PM: Meet in the Hotel's Lincoln Room for Cocktails, Introductions, and a PowerPoint Presentation on Lincoln's Twenty-Day Funeral Pageant.**

**At 5:45 PM Lou will introduce our four first-time reunion attendees and spouses:** Bob Arnold and Judi Adel, Mike Myers, Tom and Carolyn Lankford, and Rodney and Kim Shortell.

**At 6:00 PM: "Mourning Lincoln":** Brian Flora will offer a fast-paced PowerPoint presentation on Lincoln's three-week funeral pageant, which lasted from his assassination on Good Friday, 1865 to his burial in Springfield's Oak Ridge Cemetery on May 3rd. A special funeral train took him, and his son's remains from Washington D.C. across the country, with frequent stops along the way (including full-blown funerals in eleven major cities), before bringing him back to Springfield, his final resting place.

**Dinner: There is no group dinner on Monday.** Please make your own arrangements, either in the hotel or in nearby restaurants. If you would like some dinner companions, just ask around. Don't be shy.

**Tuesday, October 8, 2024**

**MORNING: SUGGESTED VISIT TO THE LINCOLN TOMB AND MEMORIAL IN OAK RIDGE CEMETERY.**

**AFTERNOON: SUGGESTED AFTERNOON VISIT TO EITHER THE ILLINOIS MILITARY MUSEUM OR TO THE "EDWARDS PLACE HISTORIC MANSION."**

**7:30 – 9:00 AM: Breakfast Buffet in the Lincoln Room.** The cost of the buffet is included in the registration fee.

**9:10 AM:** Gather at the Hotel Main Entrance and **Carpool to The Lincoln Tomb in Oak Ridge Cemetery.**

**9:40 -- 10:10 AM: Guided Tour of the Lincoln Mausoleum and Memorial** (1500 Monument Ave). There is no fee, but donations are strongly suggested. Brian Flora suggests a donation of \$5.00 from each participating classmate.

**10:10 – 11:00 AM: Other Oak Ridge Memorials.** Feel free to visit the Illinois WWII Memorial, Korean War Memorial, Vietnam Veterans Memorial, and Purple Heart Memorial, all located near the Lincoln Tomb.

**Lunch:** Please make your own arrangements.

**1:30 PM: Meet in the Lincoln Room and organize carpools for the short drive to The Illinois Military Museum** (1301 N. Macarthur Blvd, Springfield IL) **OR the Edwards Place Historic Mansion** (700 N. 4<sup>th</sup> Street, Springfield IL) Note: both venues are ten minutes away from the hotel by car; both have parking. The Military Museum has no entry fee; the Edwards Place site charges a \$5.00 admission fee; attendees should pay individually as they check in. (Note: 14 classmates and spouses have signed up for the Military Museum; 22 have signed up for the Edwards Place Historical Mansion.) There are plenty of rides going to both venues, so ask around for a ride.

**1:45 PM: Carpool to your respective sites; tours begin at 2:00PM.**

**4:00 PM: Be back at the Hotel and get ready for the Reunion Banquet** in the Lincoln Room. It begins with Cocktails at 5:00 PM.

**Tuesday Evening, October 8, Reunion Banquet and Banquet Program in the Lincoln Room.**

**Dress Code for the dinner is casual,** as you choose to define it.

**5:00 – 7:00 PM: Cocktails** in the Lincoln Room.

**6:30 PM: Company Photos.** Gather for Company group photos. The first group photo will be of classmates only. The second will be a group photo of classmates plus spouses. The third will be a photo of the four first-time 50<sup>th</sup> Company reunion attendees and spouses.

**7:00 PM: Please be seated in the Lincoln Room dining area.** The seating is open.

### **7:00 PM: Pre-Dinner Program**

--**A Hearty Welcome from Lou Lallo**, Reunion Planning Group Chair, who will then introduce the “Missing Man Table.”

--**“Missing Man Table” Video**, provided by Scott Davis, will help us remember and honor classmates who are no longer with us.

--**Invocation/Blessing** by our 50<sup>th</sup> Company Padre, Mike Eberhardt.

--**A 50<sup>th</sup> Company Toast** offered by Craig Biggs.

**7:30-9:00 PM: Banquet Dinner Buffet. Bon appétit!**

### **9:00 – 10:00 PM: The Evening Program**

--**“With Malice Toward None and Charity for All...”** President Abraham Lincoln speaks about his hopes for a post-Civil War America.

--**50<sup>th</sup> Company Retrospective Video:** Scott Davis.

--**Awarding of the Coveted 50<sup>th</sup> Company FUBAR Award:**  
Scott Davis.

--**“Changes, Changes”** a Poem, by 50<sup>th</sup> Company Poet Laureate, Brian Walrath.

--**Closing Remarks and a Round of Thank-Yous** by Lou Lallo.

## **Wednesday, October 9, 2024**

### **Farewell and Departure to Those Who are Leaving.**

**7:30 – 9:00 AM: Final Group Breakfast.** Farewells by Lou Lallo. Thanks for coming and safe travels to those heading home. Hotel check-out time is 11:00 AM.

## **Wednesday, October 9, 2024: Program Suggestions for Those Who are Staying the Extra Day.**

There is plenty left to do in Springfield. Please consult the visitor's guide in your welcome packet or go online and Google things to do in Springfield, Illinois. Unfortunately, the wonderful Illinois State Museum (Art and Natural History) is closed for renovations until November.

**Wednesday Morning:** Brian Flora and Kay suggest a **Visit to Frank Lloyd Wright's Dana-Thomas House**, an architectural gem in his iconic Prairie House style. (Wright, as he liked to tell folks, was America's greatest architect ever.)

**8:45 AM:** If you have signed up, meet at the main entrance to the hotel to Springfield, IL). **Check in no later than 9:15 for a 9:30 guided tour.** (We have 28 classmates and spouses signed up for the tour.)

**9:30 – 11:00: Guided Tour of Frank Lloyd Wright's Dana Thomas House.** (Parking is available.) There is no entrance fee, but donations are strongly requested to help with the preservation of the building. Brian will write a donation check and has asked for a \$5.00 contribution from each classmate participating in the tour.

**Lunch:** Please make your own arrangements.

### **Wednesday Afternoon Suggestions:**

- **Lincoln-Herndon Law Office**, at 6<sup>th</sup> and East Adams, a block from the hotel. It also houses the Springfield Visitors Center.
- **Illinois State Military Museum**, if you missed it on Tuesday afternoon (1301 N. MacArthur Blvd., Springfield, IL)
- **Edward's Place Historic Mansion**, if you missed it on Tuesday afternoon (700 N. 7<sup>th</sup> St, Springfield IL) The guided tour is at 2:00PM.
- **Historic Route 66 (as in, get your kicks on) Sites:** There are several in Springfield. If you are a fan, go on-line and hunt them up.
- **Union Station** 500 East Madison Street (5th & Madison), adjacent to the Lincoln Presidential Library.



## **Wednesday, October 9 Reunion Dinner Arrangements**

**5:50 Anyone interested in one last gathering** should meet up in the Hotel Lobby for an easy walk to Maldaner's, a historic Springfield restaurant.

**6:00 Informal Dinner at Maldaner's** which offers "contemporary American fine dining in a casual setting." It's two blocks from the hotel at 222 S. 6<sup>th</sup> Street. (Note: the dinner is not part of the reunion package.)

Lou's parting remarks will conclude 50<sup>th</sup> Company's Fifth Reunion.

## **THURSDAY, OCTOBER 10, 2024:**

**DEPARTURE DAY** for those who stayed the extra day.

There is no breakfast covered by the reunion package.

Hotel check-out time is 11:00 AM.

Safe Travels to All!

# **50<sup>th</sup> Co Infantry OCS OC 24-69 Reunion Attendees**

## **Springfield, Illinois October 6 – 9, 2024**

*An asterisk (\*) signifies a 50<sup>th</sup> Co first-reunion attendee.*

\*Bob Arnold (2<sup>nd</sup> PLT) and Judi Adel

Craig Biggs (5<sup>th</sup> PLT) and Jill Carter

Don Cramer (3<sup>rd</sup> PLT)

Scott Davis (5<sup>th</sup> PLT) and Liz

Jim Durkin (2<sup>nd</sup> PLT)

Mike Eberhardt (2<sup>nd</sup> PLT) and Robin

Brian Flora (4<sup>th</sup> PLT) and Kay Kuhlman

Bob Fullmer (5<sup>th</sup> PLT) and Judy

Mike Gilpin (3<sup>rd</sup> PLT)

Chuck Granner (3<sup>rd</sup> PLT) and Sherry

Bob Hines (2<sup>nd</sup> PLT) and MaryAnn

Terry Hummel (6<sup>th</sup> PLT) and Wanda

Clarence Kugler (2<sup>nd</sup> PLT) and Ali

Louis Lallo (3<sup>rd</sup> PLT) and Suzie Plecas

\*Tom Lankford (3<sup>rd</sup> PLT) and Carolyn

\*Mike Myers (3<sup>rd</sup> PLT)

Peter Nowlan (2<sup>nd</sup> PLT) and Kathy

Charles Oliver (Arty OC11-70) and Susan

Steve Porter (3<sup>rd</sup> PLT)

\*Rodney Shortell (5<sup>th</sup> PLT) and Kim

Bill Snodgrass (2<sup>nd</sup> PLT) and Debbie

Ken Sutton (6<sup>th</sup> PLT) and Debbie

Brian Walrath (2<sup>nd</sup> PLT) and Dace

James Zack (2<sup>nd</sup> PLT) and Yvonne