

50th Company OC 24-69 Reunion
Huntsville, Alabama
October 5 - 7, 2025
(with an option for an extra day)

Reunion Schedule



Reunion Schedule

Hilton Garden Inn Huntsville (South Redstone Arsenal)

301 Boulevard South SW, Huntsville, Alabama 25802

Telephone: (256-881-4170)

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 5, 2025

Arrival and Registration:

The Hotel is four miles south of downtown Huntsville, conveniently located off Memorial Highway (U.S. Hwy 231) at Boulevard South. There is plenty of free parking. Bring your luggage in with you when you check in. (The Hotel has baggage carts available in the lobby.) The guaranteed room availability time is 6:00 PM, but if your room is available earlier you will have access.

If you have to wait for your room, there is plenty of room for your luggage in the **Park Place Ball Room** where you will find the 50th Company welcome table. Note: We have this space for our exclusive use during our stay. This includes for our buffet breakfasts, cocktail hours and programs on Monday and Tuesday, a Buffet Sampler dinner on Monday and our Gala Dinner the following evening. The space is also available to us just for hanging out.

4:00 PM to 8:00 PM: The **Welcome Table** will be staffed by members of the reunion planning committee. Stop by after registering for your room. We will answer questions and hand out ID badges, schedules, list of attendees, street maps, and a Huntsville Visitor's guide.

3:00 – 7:00 PM: Feel free to mix and mingle with classmates in the Ball Room and greet new arrivals. Snacks and soft drinks will be provided. Those who would like a stronger imbibition are welcome to purchase

beverages from the hotel's Garden Grill & Bar and bring them into the hospitality area.

There is no formal group dinner on Sunday. Please make your own arrangements, either in the hotel or other restaurants in the area which would require a car to get to. Don't be shy about linking up with your 50th Company classmates. If you would like some dinner companions, just ask around.

Please Note: Except for the Reunion Banquet and Program, there are no "formal" reunion events. Everything is optional. There is plenty to do in the Huntsville area, and classmates and spouses are free to arrange their own activities, individually or (preferably) in groups. Below, we have provided suggestions of things to do, including three optional group visits to sites the Planning Group has recommended. There is much more information online. Most of our classmates will have cars, so if you are without "wheels" and need a ride to see something that interests you, check around. Carpooling is encouraged.

MONDAY, OCTOBER 6, 2025:

Visit to the U.S. Space and Rocket Center

One Tranquility Base, Huntsville, AL 35805. Tel: 256-837-2400 or 1-800-637-7223. Web Site: <https://www.rocketcenter.com/>

7:00 – 8:30 AM: Buffet Breakfast in the Park Place Ball Room

The warm buffet breakfast includes grits and cheese and is offered Monday through Thursday morning. There is no additional cost for the breakfasts.

8:50 AM Meet in Ball Room and organize carpools

9:00 AM: Cars Depart for the US Space and Rocket Center

The five-star rated Space and Rocket Center is Huntsville's primary tourist attraction. (Your reunion fees will cover the \$29.00 per person admission price and the show at the Center's Planetarium.) There is plenty to see and do for the whole day, but you may leave at any time.

9:20 AM: Enter through the main entrance, pass through the gift shop, and gather at the Ticket Desk where Brian Flora will distribute our day passes.

(You will also exit through the gift shop, so consider waiting until you are ready to leave before doing your shopping.) Upon arrival, we will be greeted by Mike Stallcup who worked for NASA for 33 years and is now a senior docent at the Space and Rocket Center. He will give us an introduction/overview of the Center's two buildings and the planetarium and then turn us loose to explore the exhibits.

Lunch: Please make your own arrangements. The "Galaxy Grill," in the main Museum building looks good. There are other luncheon spots in the area, but this would require you to go by car. (Your ticket entitles you to return to the Space and Rocket Center.)

4:30 PM: Suggested departure time if you are still at the Center, which officially closes at 5:00 PM. Return to the Hilton Garden Inn.

Afternoon Cocktails, Dinner and Program at the Garden Inn

5:00 – 7:00 PM: Cocktail Reception in the Park Place Ball Room.

6:30 PM: "Words of Welcome and Wisdom" from Lou Lallo (10 mins)

6:40 PM: "Sweet Home Alabama" Remarks by Mike Eberhardt (10 mins)

6:50 PM: Our Visit to Burritt on the Mountain, Robin Eberhardt (10 mins)

7:00 Please be seated for dinner. Seating is Open.

7:00 – 9:00 PM: Sampler Buffet Dinner

The Buffet Dinner offers three different entrees, sides and salads, deserts and beverages (including a bottle of red and white wines at each table). The meal is covered by the reunion fees. Enjoy!

9:00 PM: "50th Company Mystery Video" Ken Scott Burns

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 7, 2025:

Suggested morning group Visit to "Burritt on the Mountain" and a self-guided afternoon visit to Downtown Huntsville, with an optional visit to the Huntsville Art Museum.

7:00 – 8:30 AM: Warm Buffet Breakfast in the Park Place Ball Room.

9:00 AM: Carpool to Burritt on the Mountain. (Meet at 8:50 in the Ball Room to sort out who's riding with whom.)

9:30 AM to Noon: Tour of Burritt Mansion and Museum

Burritt on the Mountain is an open-air museum whose grounds are on Round Top Mountain, overlooking the city of Huntsville. Physician William Burritt returned to Huntsville after his wife's death in 1934 and designed an eccentric mansion (Classical Revival Style, sorta) surrounded by 167 acres where he would farm and raise goats in his retirement. Having no heirs, he donated his house and property to the city to establish a museum. The museum began purchasing rural log houses and barns that were in danger of demolition and relocating them to the grounds. Today, twelve 19th century structures have been fully restored and are part of the Museum.

Burritt on the Mountain; 3101 Dr., SE; Huntsville, AL. Tel: 256-536-2882

Website: www.burrittonthemountain.com

We have arranged for docents and will come up with some sort of group/senior/veteran discount on the admission price.

Lunch: Please make your own arrangements, based on where you will spend your afternoon. For example, if you intend to make the suggested visit to the Art Museum in downtown Huntsville (see below), there is a nice Italian eatery (*Pane & Vino*) on the premises.

Afternoon: Suggested visit to the Huntsville Museum of Art

Address: 300 Church St. SW; Huntsville, AL 35801 Tel: 256-535-4350

Entry Fee: \$10.00 for seniors.

The permanent collection has a strong focus on 19th and 20th-century American art, particularly from the Southeast. It includes over 400 works by influential 20th-century artists, as well as a distinctive selection of contemporary works in wood, fiber, metal, clay, and glass.

The collection honors the region's heritage with works by Alabama artists and artists from the region and celebrates American women artists through

with works by women active from 1850 to 1940. Complementing these are unique collections of South American, Asian, African, and European art, sterling silver animals, Japanese and European prints, and other treasures that invite visitors to explore connections across cultures and time periods.

Bonus points if you can find the stunning Dale Chihuly glass sculpture!

Or Downtown Huntsville/Big Spring International Park

If you are not interested in the Art Museum, consider taking some time to explore downtown Huntsville. Park in the Museum of Art Parking lot. There is a serene park (Big Spring International Park) featuring a limestone spring, cherry trees, and colorful koi fish. The Visitors Center says it is perfect for a “peaceful stroll through paths with statues and water features or capturing Instagram-worthy moments in front of the iconic red Friendship Bridge.”

4:00 PM: Be back at the Hotel and get ready for the Reunion Banquet in the Ball Room. It begins with cocktails at 5:00 and includes Company photos at 6:30.

Tuesday Evening, October 7, Reunion Banquet and Banquet Program in the Park Place Ball Room.

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

5:00 – 7:00 PM: Cocktails in the Park Place Ball 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 and guests.

7:00 PM: Please be seated in the Ball 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.

--**“A Tribute,”** a Poem, by 50th Co. Poet Laureate, Brian Walrath.

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

--**A 50th Company Toast** offered by Bob Arnold.

7:30-8:30 PM: Plated Banquet Dinner. Bon appétit!

8:30 – 10:00 PM: The Evening Program

--**“The Next Chapter in Space Exploration – Back to the Moon”** Presented by Michael Stallcup, retired NASA engineer and Senior Docent at the Space and Rocket Center.

--**50th Company Retrospective Video:** Scott Davis.

--**Awarding of the Coveted 50th Company FUBAR Award:**
Scott Davis.

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

Wednesday, October 8, 2025

Farewell and Safe Travels to Those Who are Leaving.

7:30 – 9:00 AM: Group Breakfast. Farewells to those who are departing. Thanks for coming and safe travels as you return home. Hotel check-out time is 11:00 AM.

Wednesday, October 9, 2025: Program Suggestions for Those who have stayed the extra day.

There is plenty left to do in Huntsville. Please consult the visitor’s guide in your welcome packet or go online and Google things to do. Consider the fantastic Huntsville Botanical Garden, rated sixth best in the country. Mike and Robin Eberhardt recommended it but said the spring and summer blooms will have to wait until next year. They also noted that the Bridge

Street Town Center has a variety of shops and restaurants. Our suggestion is that we start with a group visit to the Veterans Memorial Museum.

Wednesday Morning

Group Visit to the US Veterans Memorial Museum

2060A Airport Road, Huntsville, AL Tel: 256-883-3737

This relatively small museum consistently gets five-star reviews from visitors. The exhibits of memorabilia, artifacts, and military equipment range from the American Revolutionary War to present day. Included in the collection are many rare and important artifacts including the oldest surviving military jeep: the “Ford Pygmy.” The outdoor display has more than 30 historical military vehicles from World War I to the present. Our host, Randy, graduated from OCS in 1975.

10:00 AM: Depart for the Veterans Museum

10:30 AM: Introduction to the Museum by our docent Randy, followed by a self-guided tour of the collection.

Lunch: Please make your own arrangements, based on where you will spend your afternoon.

Wednesday Afternoon: The Lowe Mill ARTS Center

There is a site that intrigued Kay and me, the Lowe Mill ARTS and Entertainment Center. 2211 Seminole Dr. SW; Huntsville, AL
Tel: 256-533-0399

With a focus on visual arts, this huge historic (cotton) factory building has been redeveloped into 152 working studios for over 200 artists and makers, 7 galleries, a theatre, community garden, and performance venues. It claims to be country’s largest privately owned arts facility. It comes alive in the evenings and on the weekends but has some things going on during the weekday. There are artist galleries and workshops to visit while the artists work on their creations. If you see a studio with an open door, please walk in, talk with the artist, watch them work, and learn something new. You can

browse craft studios, watch live performances, shop Vertical House Records, or sip artisanal tea at Piper & Leaf. Kay and I are going to give it a look-see.

Farewell Dinner Wednesday Evening

Mike and Robin Eberhardt and several others have suggested Rosies Cantina, a casual Tex-Mex place that has told us they could handle a group of 20 or so in a semi-quiet area that would allow conversation. The location is close to our Hilton Garden Inn and social media ratings are very good. (The price of the dinner is not covered by the reunion fee.)

Rosies Cantina; 7540-A South Memorial Parkway, Huntsville, AL 35802
Tel: 256-382-3232.

Thursday, October, 9 Departure Day:

7:30 – 9:00 AM: GROUP BREAKFAST.

Farewell to all. Safe Travels to All! Checkout time is 11:00 AM.

2025 Huntsville, Alabama - Reunion Attendee

Bob Arnold (2nd PLT) and Judi Adel

Craig Biggs (5th PLT) and Jill Carter

Don Cramer (3rd PLT)

Scott Davis (5th PLT) and Liz

Jim Durkin (2nd PLT)

Mike Eberhardt (2nd PLT) and Robin

Brian Flora (4th PLT) and Kay Kuhlman

Bob Fullmer (5th PLT) and Judy

Mike Gilpin (3rd PLT) and Nancy
Chuck Granner (3rd PLT) and Sherry
Bob Hines (2nd PLT) and MaryAnn
Terry Hummel (6th PLT) and Wanda
Bill Knudsen (6th PLT)
Clarence Kugler (2nd PLT) and Ali
Louis Lallo (3rd PLT) and Suzie Plecas
Tom Lankford (3rd PLT) and Carolyn
*Mike Myers (3rd PLT)
Peter Nowlan (2nd PLT) and Kathy
Steve Porter (3rd PLT)
Rodney Shortell (5th PLT) and Kim
Ken Sutton (6th PLT) and Debbie
Bill Thouroughgood (2nd PLT) and Joy
Brian Walrath (2nd PLT) and Dace
James Zack (2nd PLT) and Yvonne