

50th Company OC 24-69 Reunion

Santa Fe, New Mexico

Sun-Tues, September 13-15, 2026

(with an option for an extra day, Sept 16)

Reunion Schedule



Hilton Sante Fe Historic Plaza
100 Sandoval Street, Sante Fe, New Mexico 87501
Telephone: (505-988-2811)

Reunion Points of Contact: Brian Flora (919-741-8330), Scott Davis (714-264-0176), Lou Lallo (916-792-6669), Brian Walrath (440-773-7185), Peter Nowlan (802-279-7088), Mike Eberhardt (205-475-3815), Craig Biggs (512-304-5212), and Rodney Shortell (804-389-5235)

Sunday, September 13, 2026: Arrival and Check-In

The hotel is in the center of Santa Fe's historic downtown district; the main entrance is off of Sandoval Street, and the gated parking lot surrounds the hotel. Bring your luggage in with you when you check in (baggage carts available in the lobby) and mention that you have parking spaces reserved at a special group rate (\$20). The guaranteed room availability time is 4:00 PM, but if your room is available, you will have earlier access.

If you have to wait for your room, there is plenty of space for your luggage in the **Mesa Ballroom** where you will find the 50th Company welcome table. We have the Sections A and B of the Ballroom reserved for our exclusive use during our stay. This includes cocktail hours, dinners and programs on Monday and Tuesday, and just for hanging out.

4:00 PM to 8:00 PM: The 50th Co 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, reunion schedules, street maps, and the official *Santa Fe Visitor's* guide.

4:00 – 7:00 PM: Mix and mingle with classmates in the Ballroom and greet new arrivals. Feel free to purchase beverages from the hotel's Cafe Bar and bring them into our area.

Please make your own arrangements for dinner, either in the hotel or other restaurants in the area, many of which are within walking distance. Don't be shy about linking up with other classmates. If you would like dinner companions, just ask around.

Please Note: Except for the Reunion Banquet on Tuesday evening, there are no “required” reunion events. Everything is optional, and you are free to make your own schedule. That said, we have provided suggestions of things to do, including three optional group visits to sites the planning group has recommended. The schedule has many suggestions, but there is much more information about things to do in Santa Fe and the surrounding area online, in the Official Visitors Guide handed out at the welcome desk, and on the 50th Company website. Many of our classmates will have cars, so if you are without “wheels” and need a ride, check around.

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 2026:

7:00 – 8:30 AM: Buffet Breakfast in the Hotel Restaurant.

The warm buffet breakfast is offered Monday through Thursday morning and was negotiated as part of the room package, so there will be no additional cost for the breakfasts. You will receive breakfast vouchers when you check in; these will be included inside your key card packets. There is no reserved seating for 50th Company, but the staff assures us that there will be enough room for everyone. She will ask to have the Ortiz restaurant lounge available to accommodate any overflow seating if needed.

9:00-11:00 AM: Guided Walking Tour of the Historic District

To begin our program in Santa Fe, and to orient us a bit, the Reunion Committee has arranged a ninety-minute walking tour of the city’s historic district. The tour, conducted by volunteers trained by the NM History Museum, is covered by our reunion fees.

Depart Hotel at 8:45. The tours start at the entrance to the NM History Museum, a 10-to-15-minute walk from the hotel. Address: 113 Lincoln Avenue.

We have a large group. For safety reasons we will divide into groups. You will have an audio device. Meet your docents at the Lincoln Avenue entrance outside in the covered area to the left of the blue door. We will divide into three groups. Departures will be staggered at 15-minute intervals. After the walking tour, continue to explore Santa Fe on the way back to the hotel.

Lunch: Please make your own arrangements. There are dozens of interesting eateries in the historic district.

2:00 PM: Optional Group Visit to the NM Military Museum

The Military Museum (1050 Old Pecos Trail is a mile southeast of Downtown. They are expecting a visit by 30 or so of us, and there is no entrance fee. (Please let Brian Flora know if you intend to go.) Gather in the hotel lobby and form up in carpools for a **1:45** departure from the hotel. Parking is available on site at the Museum.

If yet another Military Museum isn't your thing, just up the road is "**Museum Hill**," right off Camino Lejo drive. It is home to the Santa Fe Botanical Garden and four world-class museums: Indian Arts & Culture; International Folk Art; Nuevo Mexico Heritage Arts Museum; and the Wheelwright Museum of the American Indian. There is plenty of parking.

Another highly recommended option for the afternoon would be the five-star **Georgia O'Keeffe Museum** (217 Johnson St., two blocks from the hotel). Often referred to as the "Mother of American modernism," O'Keeffe was an American painter who gained international recognition for her modernist paintings of natural forms, including landscapes inspired by Santa Fe and northern New Mexico where she lived. There are around 140 of her paintings displayed at the museum. The museum recommends that you book tickets in advance (google: okeeffemusuem.org) to ensure you get a time slot that is convenient. I believe the admission price includes an audio tour.

Monday Afternoon Cocktails, Dinner and Program in the Hotel's Mesa Ballroom

(Cocktails and Dinner are covered by the Reunion Fees.)

5:00 - 9:00 Open Bar

5:00 - 6:30: Cocktails and Conversation

6:30 - Please be seated for our plated dinner. Seating is Open.

6:30: Dinner is Served. Bon Appétit!

The Dinner offers three different entrée options with sides, salads, desserts and beverages. Be sure to ask for the entrée you ordered. If you don't remember what you ordered, ask Brian Flora. Enjoy!

8:15 – 8:45: “Going Back to Vietnam” Classmate Mike Gilpin (aka “Crash Colonel”) was one of ten Vietnam veterans who recently participated in a very special return visit to that country. He and the others were trailed by camera crews and participated in the creation of a documentary film on what it was like, “going back.” Lou interviewed Mike by Zoom and Scott Davis put together a 30-minute video on the documentary which is scheduled for release in the coming months.

9:00 – 9:30 “OCS Perspectives: 1968, a Look at the Year We Joined,” a video by 50th Company's very own Ken Scott Burns.

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 2026:

7:00 – 8:30 AM: Buffet Breakfast in the Hotel Restaurant.

Morning: Guided Group Tours of the N.M. History Museum

The New Mexico History Museum has welcomed us to spend the morning with them. The basic “Telling New Mexico” history tour lasts about an hour and our Historical Museum Guru and senior Museum Docent Roy Snable, also recommends an additional visit to another gallery which deals with New Mexico's fascinating role in WWII. Think the Bataan Death March, Navaho code speakers, Japanese internment camps, the USS New Mexico (the only Pacific Battleship that missed Pearl Harbor), the development of the Atomic Bomb, and more.

9:45 Depart on foot for the N.M. History Museum (113 Lincoln Avenue), a fifteen-minute walk from the hotel. Come into the museum and gather in the lobby. Senior Docent Roy Snable will give us a five-minute orientation. We will be divided into three groups and sent out in different directions.

Scott Davis and Brian Flora will purchase the tickets which are covered by the reunion fee. The museum tickets are good for the whole day, so you have readmission rights if you leave for lunch and want to return for.

Lunch: Again, please make your own arrangements, preferably with other classmates and spouses. There are dozens of interesting restaurant/café options within walking distance of the History Museum

Tuesday Afternoon: Non-Group Visits in the Santa Fe Area

There is still plenty to do in the historic district:

- See what you missed the previous afternoon (the **Georgia O’Keeffe Museum**; the **Botanic Garden**; the **Museums on Museum Hill**; the **Military Museum**).
- Drive across the Santa Fe River on the Paseo De Peralta going southeast and take the first fork left onto Canyon Road. Find parking and then stroll along **Canyon Road with its world-class galleries** and boutiques. Along a half-mile stretch it claims to have the highest density of galleries in the U.S. Art pieces range from contemporary to traditional, Western, to Native American, to abstract all housed in charming adobe buildings.
- **IAIA Museum of Contemporary Art** (108 Cathedral Pl) It houses holds the U.S.’s premier collection of contemporary art from Native Americans, First Nations, and other Indigenous peoples. The collection includes paintings, sculpture, ceramics, jewelry, photography, textiles, cultural arts, new media, and installations.
- **The New Mexico State Capitol (“The Round House”):** The Walking tour included a short visit to the building, but if you are interested in learning more about the amazing artwork and how the legislature works, there are free guided and self-guided tours. (Call 505-986-4589 for more information or to arrange a guided visit.) It is a six-block walk from the hotel; if you drive there is free parking in a garage at 420 Galisteo St. Website: nmlegis.gov/visitors
- **The New Mexico Museum of Art** (107 Palace Avenue, across the street from the History Museum). There are over 20,000 works of art on display, and much of the focus is on artists from the Southwest. Docent tours are offered daily from 10:30am to 2:00pm and are free with admission. www.nmartmuseum.org/visit/

Tuesday Evening, September 15, Reunion Banquet and Program in the Mesa Ball Room. (Dress Code for the event is casual, as you choose to define it.)

5:00 PM: Cocktails and Conversation in the Mesa Ballroom.

6:15 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.

6:45 PM: Please be seated in the Ball Room dining area. The seating is open.

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.

--**“Fiftieth Turns Eighty,”** a Poem by Company Poet Laureate, Brian Walrath.

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

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

7:15-8:30 PM: Plated Banquet Dinner. Bon appétit!

8:30 – 10:00 PM: The Evening Program

--**Keynote Remarks:** “*The Manhattan Project in New Mexico – The Birth of the Bomb*” by Roy Snable, Senior Docent, NM History Museum.

--**The Coveted 50th Company FUBAR**, awarded by Scott Davis.

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

Wednesday, September 16, 2026

7:30 – 9:00 AM: Buffet Breakfast in the Hotel Restaurant.

For those who are departing, thanks for coming and safe journeys.

Wednesday Program Suggestions for those classmates and spouses (40 or so) who have stayed the extra day.

There is plenty left to do in Santa Fe. Please consult the visitor's guide in your welcome packet or go online and Google things to do Fe if you'd like to take continue to explore Santa Fe.

However, New Mexico is known for its scenic landscapes and interesting sites to visit. Consider venturing forth on a daytrip into the natural beauty of northeastern New Mexico. Link up with classmates and spouses to carpool out to various sites.

Some suggestions:

- Visit Albuquerque, an hour away. It's a day's visit in itself. There is more than enough to see and do.
- Visit Los Alamos, 45 minutes distance. Think Manhattan Project and the creation of the Atomic Bomb.
- Visit Taos, another day visit. Take the high road going, do a guided tour of Taos Pueblo that touches on the culture, history, and Native American people who have been using the Pueblo for over a thousand years, visit the Kit Carson home and museum, etc. Drive the Low Road back to Santa Fe along the Rio Grande.
- Check the Santa Fe "Official Visitors Guide" (which you will receive upon arrival) page 114-119 for suggestions for less ambitious day trips. Please, research your options and do your own thing.

Wednesday Evening:

Farewell Buffet Dinner in the Stiha Room of Santa Fe's iconic La Fonda Hotel on the Plaza.

Please Note: The wine and drinks will be covered by the reunion fees, and Lou will host a farewell toast. However, the dinner is not covered. Scott Davis will pay for the dinner and will ask participants to reimburse him on a pro rata basis. If anyone wants to opt out of the dinner, let Brian Flora know immediately.

La Fonda on the Plaza is a historic hotel, located at 100 E. San Francisco Street and Old Santa Fe Trail in downtown Santa Fe. It is a three-block walk down San Francisco Street from the hotel. The site of the current La Fonda has been the location of various inns since 1609. *La Fonda* simply means "the inn" in Spanish, but the hotel is known as "the *grand dame* of Santa Fe's hotels." It's worth coming early and taking some time to look around at this historic Santa Fe gem.

6:00 – 7:00 PM: Open Bar in the second floor Stiha Room.

7:00 PM: Please be seated for Dinner. The Seating is open. Proceed, by table, to the buffet stations on the edge of the Mezzanine and serve yourself. Be mindful of those coming after you, but you are encouraged to return for seconds once everyone is served.

8:15 PM: Farewell Champagne Toast Hosted by Lou Lallo: He would like to say goodbye to all who came to Santa Fe and to invite all who are able and inclined to come to 50th Company's 2027 Reunion, wherever it may be. It is also a chance to say farewell to those who might not be able to make it next year, for whatever reason.

Thursday, September 17 Departure Day:

7:30 – 9:00 AM: Final Buffet Breakfast in the Hotel Restaurant.

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

2026 Santa Fe, NM - Reunion Banquet Attendees

Bob Arnold (2nd PLT) and Judi Adel
Richard Bardsley (1st PLT) and Alice
Craig Biggs (5th PLT) and Jill Carter and
Daughter Kerry Collie-Watson
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
Bill Knudsen (6th PLT) and Liz Coleman
Clarence Kugler (2nd PLT) and Ali
Louis Lallo (3rd PLT) and Suzie Plecas
Gary List (1st PLT) and Jill,
Mike Myers (3rd PLT) and Diane
Peter Nowlan (2nd PLT) and Kathy
John O'Shea (2nd PLT) and Mary Ellen
Steve Porter (3rd PLT) and Phyllis
Rodney Shortell and Kim
Ken Sutton (6th PLT) and Debbie
Brian Walrath (2nd PLT) and Dace
Dennis Wolfard (5th PLT) and Marti and
Daughter Stephanie Shivar
James Zack (2nd PLT) and Yvonne
Gary Zittlow (1st PLT) and Anne

Special Guests of 50th Company OCS

NM History Museum Senior Docent Roy Snable and Spouse Lori