



70th Annual Reunion Hudson Valley, NY September 25 – 29, 2024

70th Annual Reunion

*Submitted by Sibyl Ream, daughter of
William B. Sharp (259F)*

It's that time of year again! The 65th Infantry Division Association has been holding annual reunions continually since 1955. In the early years, our 65th Veterans would gather to share their stories of war time experiences and continue friendships that had been formed during training and on the battlefields of Europe.

The Association is now comprised of a limited number of living 65th Veterans but mostly the children and grandchildren of the 65th Infantry "Greatest Generation". Our purpose is to maintain the legacy and the history of these men through educational focused programs during the reunions.

The 70th annual reunion will be held in the Hudson Valley region of New York where we will be able to visit sites where our Veterans spent time just prior to their departure for Europe in January 1945. Our hotel is located in Poughkeepsie, New York, midway between the core of the New York metropolitan area and the state capital of Albany. Besides the planned site visits, there are a multitude of historical sites in the area; the Franklin D. Roosevelt Historical site, the Vanderbilt Mansion, the Culinary Institute of America, and the Walkway over the Hudson site are just a few of the area offerings.

Access to Poughkeepsie can be made via air travel into Albany or Newark with travel via car or train to Poughkeepsie.

Our hotel is the Holiday Inn Poughkeepsie located at 2170 South Road, Poughkeepsie, New York. More information is available via the booking link on the website at www.65thDiv.com/Reunions. You may also book by calling 1-800-465-4329. Book your reservation as soon as possible to guarantee availability.

- ◆ Buffet breakfast is \$10/person in the Hudson's Bar and Grill.
 - ◇ Monday – Friday 6:30 – 9:30 AM.
 - ◇ Saturday and Sunday from 7 – 10 AM.
- ◆ Self-parking is free.
- ◆ Room rates will be honored 3 days prior and post reunion, subject to availability.

Registration deadline is August 22, 2024.

Reunion Schedule by Day:

This schedule is subject to change. The most current schedule will be available on the website and at the reunion.

Wednesday—September 25

The Executive Board meeting will kick off the annual reunion at 1 PM. The informal "meet and greet" will take place in the hospitality room from 2 – 5 PM. The hospitality room will reopen at 6:30 PM with the reunion registration available until 9 PM.

Thursday—September 26

Following breakfast in the Hudson's Bar and Grill we will have a short opening program to introduce the activities of the reunion. We will then



board a bus to head to West Point for our scheduled site visits. We will be visiting the Christl Arena, named for our own 65th Infantry Veteran, Distinguished Service Cross recipient, 1st Lt Edward Christl, Jr. (868FA) and hear some of his story. We will visit the West Point Cemetery and see the final resting place of General Stanley E. Reinhart, commander of the 65th Infantry Division during WWII.

A buffet lunch is included at the West Point Club.

Following lunch, we will board the bus and take a bus ride to Camp Shanks, located in Orangeburg, New York on the Hudson River. The camp was the largest U.S. Army embarkation camp used during World War II. Camp Shanks served as a staging area for troops departing the New York Port of Embarkation for overseas service during World



War II. This is where the Veterans were prior to boarding ships to Europe in January 1945. Here we will be able to visit the small museum and hear a presentation about the history of the camp.

After the tours, we will return to the hotel where dinner will be on your own. We will reconvene in the hospitality room for some evening programs.

The hospitality room will be open until 9 PM.

Friday—September 27

Breakfast is available in the Hudson's Bar and Grill beginning at 6:30 AM.



Friday will be a long day of travel as we head to Albany to visit the USS Slater, the only surviving destroyer escort from WWII that is still afloat. The Slater was one of the escort ships that accompanied our troops across the Atlantic, headed to Europe. We will enjoy a tour of the ship and visit the museum located there.

Following our visit to the USS Slater, we will have free time in the Albany area and have lunch on your own. You will be able to visit some of the historical sites in Albany, including the State Capitol building which has served as the seat of the government for New York since the 1880s. The building was built by hand of solid masonry over a period of 32 years. It's a marvel of the late 19th century architectural grandeur.

Following the return trip to the hotel, the hospitality room will open at 5 PM. At 6 PM, an optional Mexican fajita buffet will be served. The Membership meeting will follow dinner at 7 PM. The hospitality room will be open until 9 PM.

Saturday—September 28

Breakfast is available in the Hudson's Bar and Grill beginning at 7 AM.

Saturday morning activities will include programs from our members. We will learn about the numerous methods and routes of travel our Veterans took from the time they left Camp Shelby, Mississippi until the time they set up camp in France at Camp Lucky Strike. How did they travel? What routes did they follow? What difficulties did they encounter before they engaged in battle at the Siegfried Line?

Lunch on Saturday will be on your own before we board the bus to enjoy a Hudson Riverboat Tour in the afternoon. The tour is approximately 1.5 hours.



We will enjoy clear views of the historic Hudson River lighthouses, waterfront mansions, and other notable sites aboard the Rip Van Winkle II 90-minute Sightseeing Cruise. As we relax on the cool shaded

deck, we can visit the beverage and snack bars for tasty refreshments. An experienced guide will point out millionaires' estates, picturesque Hudson River lighthouses and quaint, sleepy villages surrounded by the natural beauty of vineyards, orchards and scenic preservation sites.

We will return to the hotel to prepare for our casual banquet gathering at Mahoney's Irish Pub in Poughkeepsie. We will be bused to the location where we will enjoy a true Irish buffet. This will be a change from our "Suit and Tie" banquets from the past. As we have not scheduled any formal program



this year the decision was made to have a much more casual evening meal together. Our entertainment for the evening is the "Amerscot Highlander Pipe Band" which includes Tony Acquisto, husband of Legacy member, Susan Acquisto.

After dinner, we will return to the hotel for more hospitality time to visit and explore the multitude of shared books and photos that are on display. The hospitality room will remain open until 11 PM.

Sunday—September 29

Breakfast is available in the Hudson's Bar and Grill beginning at 7 AM.

This will conclude the 2024 Hudson Valley, New York reunion.

Dietary Needs:

Dietary restrictions and/or preferences will be accommodated as needed to the best of our ability. Please communicate them on your registration form so the reunion team can coordinate. Register as early as possible so that we can make sure your dietary needs are requested.

Schedule at a Glance

Wednesday, September 25:

Breakfast.....	Hudson's Grill	6:30 – 9:30 AM
Hospitality Setup.....	Hospitality Room ...	10 AM – NOON
Lunch.....		NOON
Board Meeting		1 – 4 PM
Hospitality	Hospitality Room.....	2 – 5 PM
Dinner.....	On Your Own	5 – 6:30 PM
Hospitality	Hospitality Room.....	6:30 – 9 PM
Registration.....	Hospitality Room.....	6:30 – 9 PM

Thursday, September 26:

Breakfast.....	Hudson's Grill	6:30 – 8:00 AM
Opening Program	Hospitality Room	8:00 AM
Load Bus.....	Hotel Lobby.....	8:15 AM
West Point Tour	West Point	9:00 AM
Lunch.....	West Point Club... Noon –	1:30 PM
Load Bus.....	West Point	1:45 PM
Camp Shanks	Orangeburg Library.....	2:45 PM
Piermont Pier	Pier Stop.....	4:30 PM
Load Bus.....	Pierpont Pier.....	5 PM
Dinner.....	On Your Own	6 – 7 PM
Hospitality	Hospitality Room.....	7 – 9 PM

Friday, September 27:

Breakfast.....	Hudson's Grill.....	6:30 – 8:30 AM
Load Bus.....	Hotel Lobby.....	8:30 AM
USS Slater Tour	Albany, NY.....	10 AM
Lunch.....	On Your Own.....	Noon – 3 PM
Tours.....	On Your Own.....	Noon – 3 PM
Load Bus.....	State Capitol.....	3 PM
Hospitality.....	Hospitality Room	5 – 9 PM
Mexican Mixer	Hospitality Room	6 PM
Membership Meeting.....	Hospitality Room	7 PM

Saturday, September 28:

Breakfast.....	Hudson's Grill.....	7 – 8:30 AM
Programming.....	Hospitality Room	9 – 11:30 AM
Lunch.....	On Your Own.....	NOON – 1 PM
Load Bus.....	Hotel Lobby.....	1:15 PM
Hudson River Cruise	Sightseeing.....	2 – 4 PM
Load Bus.....	Cruise Stop	4 PM
Load Bus for Banquet.....	Hotel Lobby.....	5:30 PM
Banquet at Mahoney's		6 – 8:30 PM
	Cash Bar.....	6 PM
	Dinner	6:30 PM
	Entertainment	7:30 PM
Hospitality.....	Hospitality Room	8:30 – 11 PM

Sunday, September 29:

Breakfast.....	Hudson's Grill.....	7 – 10 AM
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Reminder:

Final itinerary will be available at the reunion.