



# 71<sup>st</sup> Annual Reunion

## San Antonio, Texas

### October 15 – 19, 2025

#### 71<sup>st</sup> Annual Reunion

*Submitted by President Joan Pratt,  
daughter of Seymour Pratt (261HQ I&R)*

The calendar may say Spring but your reunion team has been hard at work planning the October 2025 71<sup>st</sup> annual reunion of the 65<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division Association in San Antonio, Texas. While the early years were a chance for our 65<sup>th</sup> Veterans to renew friendships and share their war time experiences, with the loss of so many Veterans, they and those that can still attend reunions have entrusted the future of the Association to our Legacy members.

The Legacy members once consisted of the children of 65<sup>th</sup> Veterans, but now grandchildren and even great-grandchildren have joined us at reunions. Some nieces and nephews have also attended. With a mission to preserve and promote the history and legacy of the 65<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division, our purpose is to afford opportunities for Veterans of the 65<sup>th</sup> Division and their families to make and renew contacts, and to serve as a central source for information and education concerning not just the 65<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division, but its subordinate and attached units.

This 71<sup>st</sup> reunion will be held in San Antonio (*Spanish for St. Anthony*), Texas. In 2024, the city was the 7<sup>th</sup> largest city in the United States. Parts of it are located in three different counties. One of them is Bexar which is pronounced Bear. In addition to the places we will visit, the city and surrounding area offer a plethora of historical, cultural, and entertainment venues. From the heights of the Tower of the Americas to a cruise on the San Antonio Riverwalk, to a day trip to Fredericksburg with its German roots and the wonderful National Museum of the Pacific War (*think Admiral Nimitz and George H. W. Bush*), where advanced tickets are advised, there is something for everyone. You just might want to spend more time in Texas.

The San Antonio International Airport is about ten miles from the hotel and although it could take

two days to drive from the north to the south of Texas, the highways have many more sights along the way to see. Our hotel is the Holiday Inn Riverwalk at 217 North St. Mary's Street. For more information visit our website [www.65thDiv.com/Reunions](http://www.65thDiv.com/Reunions). Reservations can be made by calling 210-224-2500 or online at [www.ihg.com](http://www.ihg.com). Mention group code IDA. Room rate will be honored three days prior and post reunion subject to availability, so make your reservations as soon as possible. The hotel offers:

- ◆ Breakfast buffet is available for \$20 per person.
  - ◇ Monday-Friday: 6:30 to 11:00 AM
  - ◇ Saturday-Sunday: 6:30 AM to NOON
- ◆ A 10% discount is offered at the Windows on the River Restaurant.
  - ◇ Dinner hours: 5-10 PM
- ◆ Self Parking is \$20 per night





**Registration deadline is Friday, September 12<sup>th</sup>**

*During hospitality hours the room will be open to browse the displays and visit with our invited guests.*

### **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 – October 15**

To get events started, the Executive Board will meet at 12:45 PM. The hospitality room will be open from 2-5 PM and will reopen at 6:30 PM for registration and informal visiting until 9:30 PM.

#### **Thursday – October 16**

Following breakfast on your own in the restaurant on the second floor, we will have a short opening program from President Joan Pratt to introduce the activities of the reunion. Then we will board a bus for a short trip to Fort Sam Houston for our scheduled visits to the Fort Sam Houston Museum and the U.S. Army Medical Center of Excellence (MEDCoE).



We will be going through the lunch line at the Fort's Rocco Dining Facility and have a chance to visit with soldiers in training.

After lunch we will board the bus to finish the Fort Sam Houston tour. Lastly, we will gather at one of the Fort's chapels for our Remembrance Service.

We will then return to the hotel for our evening mixer, where heavy hors d'oeuvres will be served. The mixer will be followed by the annual Membership meeting. The hospitality room will be open from 5:30 to 9:30 PM.

#### **Friday – October 17**

After breakfast, we will begin with programs featuring author, Kevin Hymel and Command Sergeant Major (CSM) Gan. Mr. Hymel is currently a contract historian at Arlington Cemetery. CSM Gan is the Command Sergeant Major United States Army North (Fifth Army) and Senior Enlisted Leader, Fort Sam Houston and Camp Bullis. He is a combat engineer by training and very familiar with combat bridge building.



Lunch will be on your own and then we'll reconvene at the Alamo.

The Alamo is close by and we will walk or provide rides for those needing mobility assistance. You will have tour options at the Alamo—guided or self guided tours are available.

Return to the hotel is at your leisure and dinner is on your own. That evening the hospitality room will open at 6:30 PM. At 8 PM, a slide presentation of the Europe tour will be shown. The hospitality room will be open until 9:30 PM.

#### **Saturday – October 18**

After breakfast, starting at 9 AM we will be back in the hospitality room with more presentations from author, Kevin Hymel and Historian Steve Schell. Steve will continue the 65<sup>th</sup> history at Camp Lucky Strike and take us to the front lines.

Lunch on your own will give you a chance to enjoy the flavors of Texas. At 2:15 PM, we will gather in the lobby before walking river side for our



narrated cruise on the Riverwalk. Along the way we will learn about Texas and San Antonio histories while taking in the sights along the riverbanks.

Back at the hotel you will have time to visit or catch a quick nap before gathering in the lobby for our stroll to our casual banquet at Pinkerton's BBQ. They have validated parking for those who want to drive and we will accommodate those that need a ride. We don't have any special occasion to celebrate and most everyone enjoyed the informal get together last year, so we will try it again. Pitmaster Grant Pinkerton was born and raised in Texas and takes great pride in his quality meats and his sides are made daily from scratch. Served family style will be a variety of meats and sides to give you a taste of Texas.



After dinner, we will return to the hotel to enjoy dessert and entertainment from a local mariachi group and have time to visit until the hospitality room closes at 11 PM.

### Sunday – October 19

We will finish packing up items in the hospitality room and all too soon it's time to say "until next year." The area offers much more than we could see in our short time together so hopefully your schedule allows you to check off more Texas bucket list adventures.

### Dietary Needs:

Dietary restrictions and/or special needs will be accommodated to the best of our ability. Please be sure to make these requests clear on your registration form. Register early so we have time to try and fulfill your needs.

**See Y'all in San Antonio, Texas!**

### Author Kevin Hymel

*Submitted by Jackie Hanson, daughter-in-law of Maynard Hanson (565Sib)*

**Kevin Hymel** is an accomplished author, historian, and military expert known for his works on military history, particularly World War II.



Kevin Hymel has a deep interest in General George S. Patton, one of the most iconic and controversial figures of World War II. He has written books that delve into Patton's approach to combat, his relationship with his soldiers, and his ability to inspire those around him.

This is of significant interest to the Association as the 65<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division served in Patton's Third Army in the European Theater.

Charlie Gemeinhardt reviewed the first two volumes of his three-volume set on Patton in previous *Halberts*.

- ♦ Patton's War: An American General's Combat Leadership, Volume I: November 1942–July 1944 (Volume 1)—Halbert Volume 63, 2022, page 88.
- ♦ Patton's War: An American General's Combat Leadership, Volume 2: August–December 1944 (Volume 2)—Halbert Volume 65, 2024, page 82.
- ♦ His third volume will be available later this year and hopefully we will see Charlie's review in next year's *Halbert*.

The movie and book titled *The Six Triple Eight* are based on an article that Kevin Hymel wrote in February of 2019.

Netflix movie info: *The Six Triple Eight* is inspired by the first and only Women's Army Corps unit of color to serve overseas in WWII. Despite facing racism and sexism—and grueling working conditions—they were committed to serving their country with honor and distinction. Given an extraordinary mission and united in their determination, these unsung heroes delivered hope and shattered barriers."



I recommend that you take the time to read Kevin Hymel's books and to watch the movie . . . it will be time well spent.





# Military City USA



## Joint Base San Antonio Fort Sam Houston

- **Brooke Army Medical Center**
- **Camp Bullis**
- **Fort Sam Houston**
- **Lackland Air Force Base**
- **Martindale Army Airfield**
- **Randolph Air Force Base**



## Schedule at a Glance

### Wednesday, October 15:

Breakfast..... Restaurant\* ..... 6:30 – 11:00 AM  
 Hospitality Setup..... Skyline Atrium ... 9:00 AM – NOON  
 Lunch..... On Your Own ..... 11:30 AM  
 Board Meeting ..... Bolero Room ..... 12:45 – 5:00 PM  
 Hospitality ..... Skyline Atrium ..... 2:00 – 5:00 PM  
 Dinner..... On Your Own ..... 5:00 – 6:30 PM  
 Hospitality ..... Skyline Atrium ..... 6:30 – 9:30 PM  
 Registration..... Skyline Atrium ..... 6:30 – 9:30 PM

### Thursday, October 16:

Breakfast..... Restaurant\* ..... 6:30 – 8:30 AM  
 Opening Program ..... Skyline Atrium ..... 8:30 AM  
 Load Bus..... Hotel Lobby..... 8:45 AM  
 Ft. Sam Houston..... Tours ..... 9:15 AM  
 Lunch..... Rocco's ..... NOON – 1:00 PM  
 Ft. Sam Houston..... Museums ..... 1:15 PM  
 Ft. Sam Houston..... Chapel ..... 2:45 PM  
 Load Bus..... Chapel ..... 3:30 PM  
 Mixer..... Skyline Atrium ..... 6:00 PM  
 Membership Meeting ..... Skyline Atrium ..... 7:00 PM  
 Hospitality ..... Skyline Atrium ..... 5:30 – 9:30 PM

**\*Restaurant is the Windows on the River Restaurant on the second floor and the breakfast buffet is \$20.**

### Reminder:

**Final itinerary will be available at the reunion.**

### Friday, October 17:

Breakfast..... Restaurant\* ..... 6:30 – 9:00 AM  
 Speakers..... Skyline Atrium..... 9:00 AM  
 Lunch..... On Your Own ..... NOON – 2:00 PM  
 Alamo ..... Meet at the Alamo..... 2:15 PM  
 Alamo ..... Tour On Your Own ..... 2:30 PM  
 Dinner..... On Your Own ..... 5:00 – 6:30 PM  
 Hospitality..... Skyline Atrium..... 6:30 – 9:30 PM  
 Europe Slides ..... Skyline Atrium..... 8:00 PM

### Saturday, October 18:

Breakfast..... Restaurant\* ..... 6:30 – 9:00 AM  
 Speakers..... Skyline Atrium..... 9:00 AM  
 Lunch..... On Your Own ..... NOON – 2:00 PM  
 Rio Cruise..... Meet Group..... 2:15 PM  
 Rio Cruise..... Sightseeing ..... 2:30 – 3:30 PM  
 Hospitality..... Skyline Atrium..... 4:00 – 5:00 PM  
 Banquet..... Meet in Lobby..... 5:30 PM  
 Banquet at Pinkerton's BBQ..... 5:30 – 8:30 PM  
     Walk to Pinkertons ..... 5:30 PM  
     Dinner ..... 6:00 PM  
 Hospitality..... Skyline Atrium..... 8:00 – 11:00 PM  
 Entertainment..... 8:30 PM

### Sunday, October 19:

Breakfast..... Restaurant\* ..... 6:30 AM – NOON