

TWICE DELAYED BUT NEVER DISMAYED!

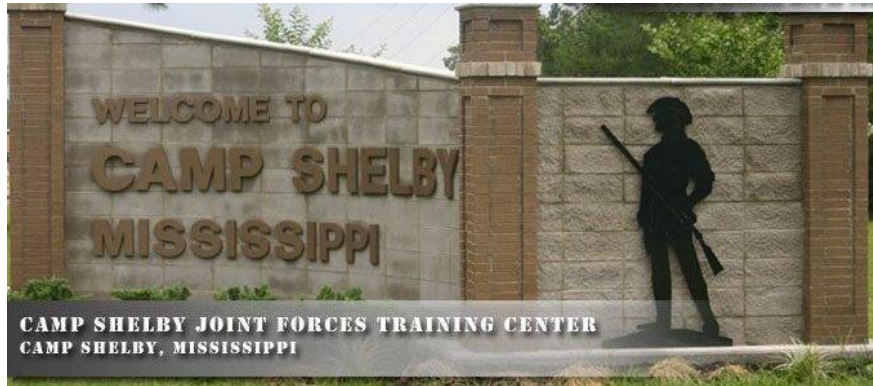
Join us at Camp Shelby where it all began – VETERANS DAY WEEKEND 2021!

A Reunion of Remembrance

Honoring our beloved 65th Veterans

10-15 November 2021

67th Reunion



We will conclude our 75th Anniversary Reunions with a celebration honoring our beloved 65th Veterans with a reunion you will not want to miss. In August 1943, the 65th Infantry Division was activated at Camp Shelby, Mississippi, becoming the first of only two units to be activated at Camp Shelby in its 100+ year history. Division training began and was conducted over the vast training facilities afforded them at the base. The 65th then departed the base by train on December 26th, 1944, for parts unknown.

The 65th Infantry Division holds an esteemed place in the annals of the history of Camp Shelby. The personnel at the base over the past year have devoted their time and talents to making our 2021 Reunion a very special event for our veterans, our attendees, and for Camp Shelby.

If you have not attended a 65th Reunion, then this is the one for you to attend. If you have not attended a reunion in a while, this is the one time for you to return. To all, join us for what we plan to be a reunion you will not forget!

We will again be joined by Veterans of the 71st Infantry Division and their family members as our guests. As you may know the 71st and 65th Infantry Divisions Associations have had joint reunions for a few years. We look forward to having them with us once again this year.

TRANSPORTATION CONSIDERATIONS DURING THE REUNION:

Personal cars will be allowed to be used during the reunion EXCEPT FOR THE “THEN AND NOW BASE TOURS”. These are guided tours, and the number of participants will be limited per tour. VANS WILL BE PROVIDED FOR TRANSPORTATION. The base tour will be visiting sites normally not available to the public and personal cars cannot be used.

Personal cars and the vans will be used to travel to and from Hattiesburg for the Veterans Day events is encouraged (we will caravan to Hattiesburg).

Camp Shelby maps will be provided at registration with places such as the Museum, Base hotel, All Ranks Club, Consolidated Dining, and the PX clearly marked.

(schedule subject to change – final schedule available at registration)

WEDNESDAY: 10 NOVEMBER 2021

REGISTRATION AND INFORMAL GET TOGETHER

Your Executive Board and Reunion Committee encourages everyone to arrive on Wednesday if possible, in anticipation of Special Hattiesburg and Camp Shelby Veterans Day 2021 Events!

Registration: Our treasurer, Sibyl Ream, will be available starting at 4:00 p.m. in the base hotel lobby to provide for you all the information you will need for the reunion. **At registration you will be asked to sign up for a time for your Guided Base Tour and a Guided Armed Forces Museum Tour.**

Get Together: 6:00-10:00 pm we will informally gather at the All Ranks Club located next door to the Base Hotel to say hello and enjoy the food and drinks. This will be a Dutch treat gathering and no reservations will be necessary.

THURSDAY: VETERANS DAY 2021 – 11 NOVEMBER 2021

HATTIESBURG, THE VFW, AND CAMP SHELBY 2021 VETERANS DAY EVENTS

The 40th Hattiesburg Veterans Day Parade and Commemoration Ceremonies will be honoring our 65th and 71st Veterans in Downtown Hattiesburg.

Throughout the 100-year history of Camp Shelby, the city of Hattiesburg has been a home away from home for hundreds of thousands of soldiers who have trained at Camp Shelby. They continue that support with their largest parade of the year organized by the local VFW Post. The parade concludes at the Veterans Park in downtown Hattiesburg where a Commemorative Ceremony will be held. Our 65th and 71st Veterans will be recognized.

Thursday morning: We depart Camp Shelby via car caravan for Hattiesburg for the parade which will step off at 10:00 followed by the Veterans Park Ceremonies. Arrangements will be made for lunch for the veterans and their care giver. Attendees may enjoy any one of several restaurants in Hattiesburg before returning to Camp Shelby.

Thursday afternoon: Guided Armed Forces Museum tours will be available. This museum has special importance to our Association because the Association was instrumental in helping make the Museum come to fruition. W.B. “Sandy” Sanders (261HQ!) was on the Foundation Board of Directors. Many other 65th Veterans were active with the Museum. In addition to Sandy Sanders, Lynn LaBarre (265A), Jay Piccinati (265A), and John Bosch(765ORD) were long time members of Association’s Camp Shelby Museum Committee.

Thursday Registration: For those attendees who were unable to arrive on Wednesday, late registration will be available on Thursday afternoon.

Thursday Evening Meet and Greet. For first timers and all returning reunion attendees this will be the perfect time to renew friendships and create a new family of friends. Those who are regular reunion attendees will confirm that we all have an extended family that, until you attend a reunion, you did not know existed – the family of 65th Veterans, their descendants, and extended family members. Our veterans and attendees have always enjoyed a pizza night and we will have Papa John’s baking fresh pizzas right at the hotel.

Hospitality: The base hotel lobby will serve as our hospitality area and place to visit with each other.

Personal Memorabilia: We invite and encourage everyone to bring your picture albums and any personal memorabilia to share with everyone. There will tables available in the hotel lobby. Sharing of memorabilia is always one of the highlights of our reunions.

BASE HOTEL LOBBY



FRIDAY: 12 NOVEMBER 2021

Friday morning: THEN AND NOW TOUR: CAMP SHELBY AS IT WAS THEN AND WHAT IT IS NOW!

Since our first site visit to Camp Shelby, the personnel there, led by former Special Programs Officer, Col. Mark Prine (Ret.), have been planning a base tour that will encompass sites dating back to the base's early years during World War I through its varied mission today. Over the last several months the base has experienced some significant construction. As a result of this construction, sites dating back to World War I and II have been discovered. The archivists at the base are being notified and they have discovered and documented some very interesting sites of significance – some significant to the time when our 65th was at the base.

At the time of this writing final details and sites for the tour are not complete, but we can share with you that among some of the WWII and 65th era sites we will visit are the site of the 65th barracks; division commanders housing; the departure location where the division boarded the trains to depart on 26 December 1945; training sites; gym; sand table building; etc. Recently the base was informed that they will be able to erect historical markers to clearly identify sites of historical significance. It is their goal to have these markers erected in time for our reunion.

Camp Shelby is currently serving multi missions and continues to serve as a primary training site for National Guard, Reserve, and active-duty units. This includes training from allied countries. The base served a significant role in training units during the Middle East conflicts dating back to 1990 prior to the Desert Storm. Training facilities, including the National Drone Training Center, Urban Warfare training site, and others will be included in the tour. Some equipment demonstrations are tentatively scheduled for Sunday afternoon.

Transportation for the Base Tours will be provided by vans. We will have app. 12 attendees per van with a historian as a guide for each group. Lunch will be served for us at the Base Dining Facility. We thought about handing out MRE's and stopping to picnic but thought better of it!

All Veterans, caregiver, and family members will be asked to tour at the same time if possible.

Friday afternoon: SPECIAL PRESENTATION AND VETERAN'S ORAL HISTORY PANEL, Armed Forces Museum Grand Gallery

After Lunch we will convene in the Grand Gallery, Armed Forces Museum, for a two-part session that you will not want to miss.

Award winning documentarian, Kane Farabaugh will preview for us his documentary "*Requiem for a Knight*" (working title) which chronicles the exploits of the 65th Infantry Division during their heroic march across Germany culminating with the final days of combat and VE Day in Austria. Kane will also be filming during our ***Reunion of Remembrance***. Footage of our events and interviews from our reunion will be included in the completed documentary.

Following Mr. Farabaugh's presentation, Tommy Lofton, Director of the Armed Forces Museum, will be the moderator for a discussion among our 65th Veterans and 71st Veterans about their personal experiences during the Rhineland and Central Europe Campaigns as well as their time training at Camp Shelby. Prior to coming to the Armed Forces Museum, Tommy was on the staff at the World War II Museum in New Orleans and conducted many interviews with WWII veterans while associated with that world class museum.

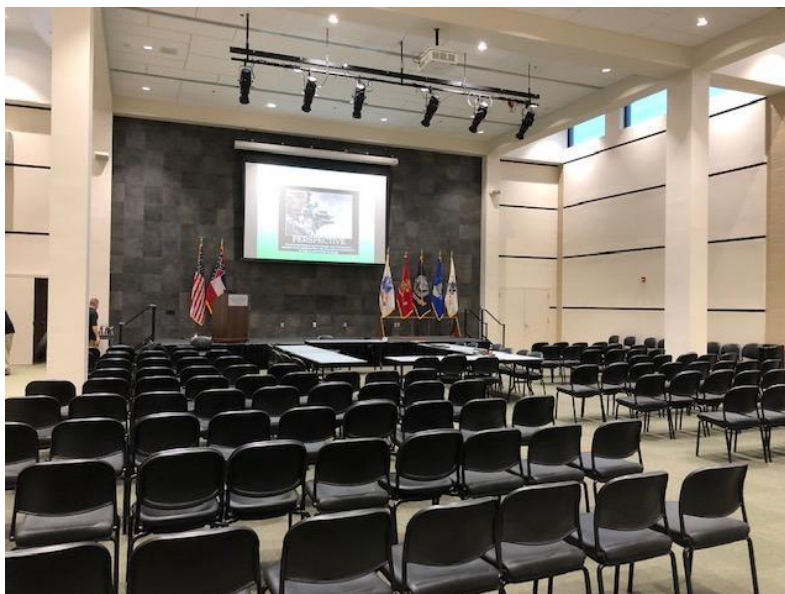
Following this session Guided museum tours will be available to those who registered during registration. This also will be a good opportunity to tour the static displays outside museum on your own.

Friday night Mixer: CATERED DINNER AT THE GRAND GALLERY, ARMED FORCES MUSEUM

Featuring Southern Style Barbeque Dinner with all the fixins' and special program.

Our Friday night mixer will be in the Grand Gallery of the Armed Forces Museum. Given the location of our reunion in the South we thought a good ole' Southern Style Barbeque with all the fixins' would be a good change of pace. The program for this evening is to be determined. Update will be posted on Facebook and the 65thdiv.com website.

Grand Gallery, Armed Forces Museum



Saturday: 13 NOVEMBER 2021

Our Saturday Ceremonies and Memorial Service as well as our photo session will be memorable for all of us. We ask all to dress accordingly and appropriate for the weather forecast for the day.

We have extended formal invitations to several dignitaries including government and military officials as well as state veteran's organizations. In addition to the French Consul or his designee, and we expect to be joined by quite a few invitees for our Saturday ceremonies.

REMEMBERING THE EXPLOITS OF OUR 65TH INFANTRY DIVISION AND THE MEN WHO SERVED

Saturday Morning Ceremonies: We will literally return to where it all began! All attendees, except for our 65th and 71st Veterans, we will return to the museum area (parking will be available around the museum). Our honored veterans and a caregiver will travel by special motorcade to near the museum area at which time they will be joined by marching units, including a color guard and the 41st Army Band. They will then continue to the Camp Shelby Parade Ground. The Parade Ground is where, on 16 August 1944, the 65th Infantry Division was activated with General Stanley Reinhardt in Command.

The highlight of our *Reunion of Remembrance* will be the ceremonies commencing on this historic parade ground. The Camp Shelby Parade Ground is the same parade ground that has been the site of all significant ceremonies since the very beginning of the base over 100 years ago.

Two of our 65th Veterans, Art Newell and Norvin McClure, have been informed they have been awarded the French Legion d'honneur. Much thanks to 65th Assoc. Honorary Member, Eric Montgomery, for his continued assistance in helping our veterans attain this recognition. Art and Norvin will be presented with the French Legion d'honneur by French Consul General Vincent Hommeril, who is the top Republic of France official overseeing diplomatic duties in the South Eastern Region of the United States. We will also be acknowledging all 65th and 71st Veterans who have received this honor.

Immediately following the Legion d'honneur presentation we will reenact the 65th Infantry Division Inactivation Ceremony that was held on 31 August 1945 in Europe. As we all know, our famed 65th has never been an active unit in the United States Army since that date. At the location of the 65th Activation Ceremony we want to reenact the Inactivation Ceremony that was held in Europe in August 1945.

Saturday Lunch: Following the parade ground ceremonies we move to the Armed Forces Museum Grand Gallery for lunch. We will be joined by invited dignitaries to thank them for their contributions to the ceremonies and Memorial Service to follow.

Saturday afternoon Memorial Service and Wreath Laying Ceremony:

After lunch we will proceed to the WWII era Chapel adjacent to the Museum. Camp Shelby Post Chaplain LTC Antione Barlow, and our own Barbara DuBois Russell, Parchment Chair, will officiate our Memorial Service. This non-Denominational Service with appropriate music by a brass ensemble from the 41st Army Band and vocalist will conclude with our Taps Ceremony.

World War II Era Chapel



At the conclusion of the Memorial Service, we will proceed to the 65th Infantry Division Monument for a Wreath Laying Ceremony, Taps, and missing man flyover by L Bird airplanes. L Birds were used during WWII for reconnaissance and as artillery spotters.

65th Infantry Division Monument



The 65th Monument was the first monument to be placed in front of the Armed Forces Museum.

The monument was dedicated in September 1984 during the association's annual reunion held in Hattiesburg.

Screening of "The Greatest Honor": Kane Farabaugh will be hosting a screening of his Emmy Award winning Documentary, *The Greatest Honor*, featuring 65th Veteran John Amm and other 65th Veterans. This documentary premiered at the WWII Museum during our Association's 2015 Reunion. The screening will be in the Grand Gallery following the Wreath Laying ceremony.

Saturday evening Gala Banquet– After returning to the base hotel or your cabin, you will have some time to rest a bit and prepare for the evening's festivities. At 6:00 pm we gather at the All Ranks Club and Deck for a cocktail hour and conclude our day's activities with a Gala Banquet. Please make your meal selections on the registration form found in this issue. Our honorees for the evening will be our 65th Veterans joined by Veterans of the 71st with special recognition of all Veterans who have received the French Legion d'honneur. Music will be provided by the Jazz Combo from the 41st Army Band and entertainment will be announced at a later date. A cash bar will available throughout the evening.

Transportation for all Saturday activities will be by personal car and vans. As mentioned earlier the Parade Ground/Museum area is rather easy to locate from the lodging area on base. (see base map)

Sunday: 14 November 2021

ASSOCIATION BUSINESS MEETINGS AND DEMONSTRATIONS

Sunday morning Business Meeting - Our 65th Infantry Division Association Annual Business Meeting will be held in the All Ranks Club. We want to encourage all to attend this meeting. We hope that if you are not a Legacy member, you will consider becoming a member. All may attend however voting will be limited to those members in good standing.

Sunday afternoon Armament and Equipment Demonstrations including hands on Lazer Range firing – Camp Shelby has a significant inventory of Abrams tanks as well as other Army equipment including Bradley Fighting Vehicles. We will be able tour a static display of an Abrams tank and Bradley Fighting Vehicle. Pending qualified personnel availability, we also hope to have a live fire demonstration of some equipment. Camp Shelby is a National Drone Training Site, and we will be able to see several drones used in training and hopefully be able to have a demonstration.

For those who wish to fire weapons on the Laser Range, a schedule will be arranged during the reunion.

In addition to current military equipment, Camp Shelby and the Armed Forces Museum has one of the largest vintage military equipment on display in the country.

Additional times for Guided Base and Museum Tours may be scheduled if needed.

Sunday evening – the All Ranks Club will be available for dinner and we also will provide a list of Hattiesburg restaurants for your consideration.

We realize some attendees may choose to depart on Sunday afternoon in order to get home for work, school, or other obligations on Monday. That is the primary reason for the adjustment in the reunion from what has been the case in recent years.

Monday: 15 November 2021

An optional Grab and Go Breakfast will be available with check-out no later than 9:30 a.m.

The 65th Infantry Division Association Executive Council and 2021 Reunion Committee are grateful to the personnel at Camp Shelby for their enthusiastic support and efforts to make this a *Reunion of Remembrance*:

Col. Mark Prine (Ret.) – former Special Projects Officer

Tommy Lofton – Director, Mississippi Armed Forces Museum

Chaplain Terry Partin, former Post Chaplain

Chaplain LTC Antione Barlow, Camp Shelby Post Chaplain

Melissa Koski – Programs Manager, Miss. Armed Forces Museum

David Williams – Lodging Manager

Hope Watkins – Housing/Reservation Manager

Kimberly Hatten – All Ranks Club Manager

2nd LT Michael Needham – Camp Shelby Public Affairs

and

Chief Warrant Officer, Casey Kirk, and SSG Jacob Mitchell – 41st Army Band, Mississippi National Guard

David McKee – Mississippi Chapter, Military Vehicles Preservation Association