

Guantanamo Bay Association

A 501 (c) (7) Organization

www.gitmobay.org

July 2022

Summer again here in St Augustine and weatherwise it feels much like being back in Gitmo, but that's about the only similarity. While it's only a short walk for me to enjoy a nice sandy beach, yet for some strange reason I'd much rather be sitting on the rocks at Windmill Beach with a cool beverage in hand watching the waves roll in. Do I miss it, without doubt! I find it strange that after so many years later that I still have such vivid memories of my time in Gitmo. Hands down my best (ever) duty station during my twenty-year naval career.

Not much in the way of new business here at GBA HQ, we've hit the annual summer slowdown with one exception. In late May I received notification that the owner of the print shop, who we have been using for the past twelve years to print our newsletter, decided to close his business and retire. Never for a second did it occur to me that it would be as difficult as it was to find a replacement print shop. Yes, there are the big box stores such as Office Depot, Staples etc. who do this type work, but I'd much rather do business with a small locally owned and operated business. Hopefully I've found such a place and we'll see how things work out. Change is a difficult thing to deal with especially at my age. Never in my wildest dreams did it ever occur to me that I'd being doing this long enough to see my printer retire, maybe it's time for me to consider hanging up my keyboard. Any takers out there?

On the subject of printing the newsletter the suggestion box is open for any thoughts you might like to share with me. I've given some thought to going back to doing the printing in house like I did back in the dark ages. If the GBA were to buy a good quality laser printer and do our own printing there would be a significant savings to the Association, however there is the labor issue. I'm not willing to undertake another JOB, my plate here in the GBA is pretty full. If somebody is willing to undertake this then let's talk.

Glancing at my calendar it reminds me of how quickly the past three months seems to have gone by. A good thing when compared to what we dealt with during the pandemic. Barbara and I managed to get out of the house and hit the road (and air). The first week of May we flew to St Paul, Minnesota to bid farewell to a very close friend and shipmate who lost his battle with cancer. While in St Paul we spent an afternoon visiting with one of our good GBA friends. It's always a treat seeing and catching up with GBA homies. Also, in May we caught up with Hank and Janice Babin (FTG 69-72) for lunch one afternoon in Orange City, Fl. Hard to believe that I've known these folks since the early 60's. Our most recent adventure was an over night trip to Silver Springs to ride the glass bottom boats, kind of another bucket list item. We had a picture-perfect day for seeing flora and fauna...we even got to enjoy some liquid sunshine as we arrived at the park. Go figure, no rain for months or until we ventured out of town – what luck!

While Barbara and I were out hitting the highway it looks like our Prez and VP are doing the same. Prez John is visiting out west and VP Joe and Donna may be cruising – again. With upper management unavailable for comment I guess I'll have to make something up for them in their absence. Maybe a good ole sea story??

Happy Independence Day



GUANTANAMO BAY ASSOCIATION

Washington DC – REUNION

October 12 - 16, 2022

NAME OF ATTENDEE _____ Name Tag Name _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY, STATE & ZIP CODE _____

TELEPHONE NUMBER(S) _____

E-MAIL ADDRESS _____

SPOUSE/GUESTNAME _____ Guest Name _____

DATES AT GITMO _____ UNIT/COMMAND _____

WHAT DATES WILL YOU ARRIVE/DEPART? _____/_____

SPECIAL DIETARY REQUIREMENTS Y/N. Please provide details _____

Hotel Information:

**Westin Washington Dulles Airport
2520 Wasser Terrace
Herndon, VA 20171
866 932-7062 (mention Gitmo reunion)**

Standard Guest Rooms: **\$113.00 + tax.**

Rates shown are per night, reservations made **after September 21th** subject to space available – no guarantees.

* Breakfast included for up to 2 persons per room

* Free onsite parking

REUNION FEE'S ARE PER PERSON. Mail checks to:

Guantanamo Bay Association
232 Majorca Rd
Saint Augustine, Florida 32080

Mail your reunion fees as soon as possible and NO LATER THAN September 28, 2022

Reunion activity fees **DO NOT** include hotel cost.

Feel free to call Mike Warman 407 323-3632 with any questions or concerns.

PLEASE REMEMBER TO BRING A JUG OR TWO OF WINE FROM YOUR AREA OF THE COUNTRY. IT HAS PROVEN TO BE A LOT OF FUN TO SHARE WITH OTHER REUNION ATTENDEES IN OUR HOSPITALITY ROOM. ALSO, FOR OUR BEER DRINKERS, PLEASE PICK UP A COUPLE SIX PACKS OF YOUR LOCALLY MADE BREW TO SHARE.

I would like to reserve the following activities for:

Name _____

Spouse/Guest _____

Agenda and Activities – prices are per person	Yes	No	Number	Total Due
Tuesday October 11, 2022 EARLY BIRD – Socializing Time with your shipmates/friends Dinner on your own				
Wednesday October 12, 2022 Registration \$25 per person 0800 - 1600 in hospitality room 1700 Dinner in hospitality room \$15 per person Live Auction in Hospitality Room <i>donations needed</i>				
Thursday October 13, 2022 0900 – 1600 DC tour \$35 per person * <i>Memorial service</i> **Dinner on your own				
Friday October 14, 2022 0900 – 1200 Udvar- Hazy air/space museum \$35 per person 1400 – 1600 Arlington Cemetery \$35 per person Both tours (55 seats available) \$50 per person Lunch on your own **Dinner on your own**				
Saturday October 15, 2022 0800 Coffee & Pastries in hospitality room (freebie) Business meeting 0900 - ?? Banquet \$45 per person 1700 – 1800 Cash bar 1800 Dinner served				
Sunday October 16, 2022 Farewells – <i>see you next year in Savannah 2023</i>				
Reunion tee shirts for sale - include size & color (blue or gray)				

Make checks payable to Guantanamo Bay Association

Total activity fees _____

Contact information for this year's organizer: Mike Warman mwarmanfl@gmail.com 407 323-3632

Membership and Communications

New and returning members:
April - July 2022

M. Fuller*
D. Mella*
M. Forton*
R.Haines
F. Keller**cm*
J. Streit
D. D'Abreu
B. Gray*
W. Gazar*
D. Munson

E. Alliston*
G. Hayward
O. Angeli
R. Gorman*\$\$\$
W. Weiss
J. Rich
C. Chubb
C. Chapman
E. Edgar*
R. Haner

*two + year membership

BOLD = new members

CM = charter member

\$ = donation

Please take note of the DATE next to your NAME on the newsletter address label. The expense of printing and mailing our newsletter continues to increase. We rely on membership dues, please stay current.



**If I missed listing your name or made some other
please let me know.**

A very special shout out goes to Richard Gorman for his **ENORMOUS** cash donation. Also, I want to acknowledge Jim Doyle for his contribution of a 100 (roll) of first-class postage stamps.

Thanks, guys, for your support – it is certainly appreciated. **ED aka Mike**



I received notification of the passing of Joseph Ensko, of Brockton, Massachusetts. Joe served as the chief of police at Navsta. No other details were provided.

Joseph Ensko, HTC 62-65 (RIP shipmate)

Bring on the Pilot, cast off the lines,
Wait for the flooding tides.
Haul up the anchor, lay off the shore
Open the topsails wide.
Make fast the hatches, cargo secure,
Close up the wind to lea;
Slide from the harbour, let out the log
Make for the open sea.
Hold tight the rigging, stand by the bridge,
Ride on the surging foam,
Until the vessel, voyage completed,

Turns again, bound for home.
I am the vessel, mine is the ship.
Buffeting thought Life's gales.
Hope is the steerage, Faith is the hull,
Charity firms my sails.
When on the shoreline, God checks my log,
Looks at my manifest;
Pray that His Mercy grants me safe harbour
Laying my sails to rest.

Here is a little more detailed overview of what to expect at this year's reunion.

Wednesday October 12

Pick up your reunion information packets at the registration desk in the hospitality room. Around 1400 once we see that most if not everyone has arrived, we'll do a "stand up tell us who you are and when you were there" meet and greet. Next on the agenda will be dinner (1700) in the hospitality room...no menu yet but we're thinking about something southern this time like maybe Mexican themed. No decision has been reached on how we plan to conduct this year's auction. Several options are on the table and I'd love to hear your thoughts.

Don't forget **we need donated auction items.**

Thursday October 13 DC city tour

Following breakfast, we will board our bus (approx. 0830). We will have an on-board tour guide who will provide a narrative as we view the US Capitol and other significant buildings and memorials. Our route will take us along embassy row to the National Cathedral where we'll only be able to do a drive visit. From there we will head to the War Memorials WWII, Korea, Vietnam where we'll disembark and have an opportunity to visit at your own pace. All of the memorials are close together on the National Mall. At a time (TBD) we'll board the bus for lunch at the Union Station* food court. Following lunch, we'll board our bus again and head to the Navy Yard to visit the Naval Museum, our allotted time 1400 to 1530. Following the Navy Yard its back to our hotel.

***Union Station lunch food court info:** <https://www.unionstationdc.com/pdfs/directoryMap.pdf>

<https://www.history.navy.mil/content/history/museums/nmusn.html>

****All visitors must have a valid photo ID to enter the Washington Navy Yard to visit the National Museum of the United States Navy.**

Please note that you will be responsible for your own lunch and dinner.

Friday October 14 Air Museum and Arlington tours

If you like things that fly then you're in luck because the Udvar Air/Space Museum has an excellent collection of air bourn vehicles including a space shuttle. Fortunately, it's only a short drive to the museum but time is critical.

Lunch on your own from approx. 1215 to 1315 = please be on time!

From our hotel to Arlington, it's maybe a 40-minute drive where we will meet our guide (scheduled for 1400). While at Arlington we will tour via an open-air shuttle. At 1515 we (the GBA) will be placing a Wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Solider. We are allowed to have 4 people participate in the wreath ceremony therefore if you're interested, please let me know. Our president, John O'Connor will be one of the four.

We are pleased to inform you this request has been approved. Your Public Wreath Ceremony time is 3:15 PM on Friday, 14 October 2022. PLEASE KEEP IN MIND YOU MUST CHECK IN WITH THE TOMB SENTINELS NO LATER THAN 30 MINUTES PRIOR TO YOUR CEREMONY TIME. Failure to check in with the Sentinels on time could lead to cancellation of your ceremony.

Saturday October 15 Business and Banquet

The annual business meeting will follow breakfast. Be there or run the risk of being elected or talked about – you have been warned. Now is a good time to start thinking about a reunion site for 2024.

Last but not least Saturday evening is our annual banquet. After dinner we'll hear from a (mystery) guest speaker who, I think you'll enjoy. Til then, mums the word.

Sunday and it's time to head home and to start thinking about next year in Savannah.

GUANTANAMO – TODAY

All non-active-duty personnel must have a current passport to get on NSGB. You must obtain passports for the entire family), before arriving. Visitors will need an "Area Clearance" before they can be granted entry to NSGB. This must be completed, signed, and approved at NSGB before you can board the plane.

All Permanent Change of Station (PCS) transportation for military and dependents is via military aircraft from Jacksonville, FL and Norfolk, VA.

Naval Station Guantanamo Bay is the forward, ready, and irreplaceable US Sea power platform in the Caribbean. We host and enable all branches of the U.S. military, plus several interagency and international partner organizations. We also provide an exceptional quality of life for our residents: Benefits for Naval Station Guantanamo Bay servicemembers, civilian employees, and their families include no-cost housing and utilities, plus access to most amenities and conveniences you would find on other military installations, including a Commissary, Navy Exchange, furniture store, gas station, hospital, dry cleaners, bowling alley, library, and sports complex. We have college courses available and a combined school for pre-K through 12th grade, as well as two Child Development Centers and a Youth Center.

If accepting an accompanied tour, pets (with some restrictions) may accompany employees, and employees may ship most household goods and a personal vehicle to NSGB at no costs to themselves.

Navy Federal Credit Union has an office conveniently located in the NEX atrium. This NFCU is a non-cash facility. However, members may obtain cash using bank checks at the NEX Customer Service. Community bank is also located in the NEX atrium and is a cash banking facility. There are 2 ATM's located in the NEX atrium.

Mail takes 1-3 weeks to be transported between the installation and the Continental U.S. Mailing fragile items is risky. Mail and package delivery also takes longer than at Continental United States locations

Car repair and maintenance is available, but parts are very limited. Also, repair facilities are limited and lack the proper equipment for models 1999 and newer. Only unleaded 87-octane gas and diesel fuel is sold here.

Other benefits include:

Family housing comes with major appliances

- Access to on-base Department of Defense school and activity centers for teens and youth
- Employment opportunities for accompanying family members
- Very short commutes from housing to work sites, and free public transportation
- Cell phone (T-Mobile ONLY) and Internet service with speeds comparable to Continental U.S. locations
- One Funded Environmental and Morale Trip every two years based on eligibility, and two Unfunded Space Available trips per year, based on eligibility
- Weekly flights to the U.S. and Jamaica, both 'Space Available' military flights and chartered flights
- Free or inexpensive recreation like scuba diving, snorkeling, fishing, bowling, boating, and beach activities
- Free 22-hour Fitness Center
- Free nightly movie showings (first-run movies included).

Living and working at NSGB is not, however, for everyone. There is no access to the rest of Cuba, and transiting on and off base via air only may be difficult at certain times, and getting a seat on a particular flight is not always guaranteed. The weather is hot or warm all year long, with little change in seasons. While there is an on-base hospital, those with medical conditions requiring frequent visits or treatment may not find their particular services available. Security considerations can impact photography and other hobbies. And, owing to the location and challenges of delivery, grocery, dining, and shopping activities are fewer than those found in larger and less isolated places.

Life at Naval Station Guantanamo Bay offers adventure, challenge, and opportunity unequalled in any other locale.

Mission: Naval Station Guantanamo Bay is the forward, ready, and irreplaceable US sea power platform in the Caribbean. For more than a century, its presence has given decision makers unique options across the range of military and interagency operations.

It preserves America's strategic influence in the Caribbean by maintaining a deep-water U.S. Naval Station, and ensuring effective support across military and interagency operations.

History: Located on the southeast corner of Cuba, Guantanamo Bay's strategic location and topographic properties have made it a valued possession of maritime powers since the 15th century. Christopher Columbus landed at the Bay on his second voyage to the Americas, and it was later contested by the empires of England, France, and Spain.

In 1898, the Bay was taken by U.S. forces and their Cuban allies for use as a forward-operating base in their effort to wrest Spanish control of the island. In 1903 the United States leased 45 square miles of land and water at Guantanamo Bay, from the newly-independent Cuban government, to be used for fleet sustainment by the growing U.S. Navy.

A 1934 treaty reaffirming the lease granted Cuba and her trading partners free access through the Bay, modified the lease payment from \$2,000 in gold coins per year to the 1934 equivalent value of \$4,085 U.S. dollars, and added a requirement that termination of the lease requires the consent of both the U.S. and Cuban governments, or the U.S. abandonment of the base property.

Base relations with Cuba remained stable and did not significantly change until the Cuban Revolution in the late 1950s, with United States and Cuban relations steadily declining as Revolutionary leader Fidel Castro aligned with the Soviet Union. The United States severed diplomatic ties with Cuba in 1961, and in 1964 Castro cut off water and supply avenues to the base: since then, Naval Station Guantanamo Bay has been self-sufficient, with its own power and water sources.

During its long history the base's activities have at times included fleet training, ship repair, refueling and resupply, migrant operations, regional humanitarian relief and disaster assistance, search and rescue support, and detention operations. Today it remains the forward, ready, and irreplaceable U.S. sea power platform in the Caribbean, giving decision makers unique options across the range of military and interagency operations.

Population: Naval Station Guantanamo Bay serves about 6,000 Joint Services personnel, Department of Defense civilians, family members, contract personnel, local and foreign national employees.

We serve approximately 6,100 Joint Services personnel, Department of Defense civilians, family members, contract personnel, local and foreign national employees.

Location: Naval Station Guantanamo Bay (NSGB) is in the southeast of Cuba and has an excellent climate, a relatively short rainy season, and beaches with swimming, scuba diving, snorkeling, fishing, paddle boarding, kayaking, and boating opportunities.

The Leeward side houses all flight operations and the Windward side houses the larger portion of the base operations including the housing units, limited temporary lodging, schools, the NEX/Commissary (NEXMART) complex, and Fleet and Family Support Center. It also houses the major share of the recreation facilities, contractor sites, the Naval Hospital, and most other services.

The general cost of living reflects conditions in the Continental U.S. There are no private commercial stores available.

Naval Base Guantanamo Bay, Cuba uses the American dollar therefore there is no currency exchange requirements or availability. The base does not have a Welcome Center or USO.

Directions: This is an overseas location and there are no driving directions for arriving personnel and their families.

Base Transportation: Bus and car rentals are available in Guantanamo Bay. The bus route provides transportation to the downtown area, medical facilities, housing and the ferry landing. The Ferry provides transportation between the Windward and Leeward sides of the installation.

