

Motion Number 20081213

Name	Maker	Second	Aye	Nay	Abstain
Bird			X		
Hanavan	X		X		
Murphy			X		
Cunliffe		X	X		
Dimon			X		
Neumayer			X		
York			X		

Title: To Designate Branson, Missouri as the location for Reunion 2010

Text of Motion:

I move that the Board designate Branson, Mo as the location for our reunion from 20-25 October 2010 and engage Pam Brown of Gatherings Plus (see paragraph. 3 below) to make all arrangements identified above, and designate George Harmon as our "boots on the ground" reunion chairman.

Rationale or explanation:

A summary of my trip report to Branson with Alicia and George Harmon follows:

Wayne Brunz (535, 67) told George Harmon that he went to a B-52 reunion in Branson which was arranged through Pam Brown (417-338-4048) of Gatherings Plus (<http://www.gatheringsplus.com/>). Wayne said that the arrangements and services provided by Pam and her staff at Gatherings Plus (GP) were **OUTSTANDING**. George arranged for us to meet with Pam and the hotel contact point (Kristie) at Pam's recommended hotel, Lodge of the Ozarks (<http://www.lodgeoftheozarks.com/>).

Details we learned during these meetings and visits:

1. Lodge of the Ozarks

- 1.1. hosts 50 military reunions each year
- 1.2. positional reservation for the Association made by Pam for 20-24 Oct 2010
- 1.3. 190 rooms at \$105 per night which includes 12% tax
- 1.4. overflow agreement with hotel across the street
- 1.5. room rate good for \pm 3 days (before and after the reunion)
- 1.6. rates about \$5 lower in spring
- 1.7. elevators
- 1.8. 1 comp room night per 30 room nights (during the reunion)
- 1.9. restaurant
 - 1.9.1. complementary Continental breakfast (upgrade to breakfast buffet for \$6)
 - 1.9.2. open for lunch
- 1.10. Crystal Hall (62' x 76' - 47112 sq. ft.)
 - 1.10.1. location for banquet - seats 300+
 - 1.10.2. tables for 8
 - 1.10.3. red-white-blue table décor with centerpiece
 - 1.10.4. space for bar in the banquet room
 - 1.10.5. has U.S. flag and podium with microphone
- 1.11. The Club (62' x 68' - 4216 sq. ft.)
 - 1.11.1. being remodeled next year

- 1.11.2. location for Reception, War Room, and business meeting
 - 1.11.3. ok for us to bring our own snacks, beer, and wine
 - 1.11.4. local supplier available for beer and wine (will take resupply orders by cell phone during the reunion)
 - 1.12. Remington Room (19' x 33' - 627 sq. ft.) for Memorabilia Room
 - 1.13. Crystal Hall, The Club, and Remington Room provided by hotel at no cost
 - 1.14. hotel can provide refrigerator(s) in War Room
- 2. Restaurants within walking distance of the Lodge of the Ozarks
 - 2.1. Wendy's
 - 2.2. Plantation Restaurant (southern cooking)
 - 2.3. Gilley's Texas Café
 - 2.4. Starvin' Marvin's (seafood buffet)
 - 2.5. Pizza World
 - 2.6. Ruby Tuesday
 - 2.7. Domino's Pizza
- 3. Gatherings Plus (<http://www.gatheringsplus.com/> or www.bransonmilitaryreunions.com)
 - 3.1. contact point: Pam Brown (417-338-4048)
 - 3.2. handle all registration (Association, hotel, attractions)
 - 3.3. members register for reunion, hotel, and activities directly with GP
 - 3.4. can collect Association fees (registration and dues)
 - 3.5. send confirmation of registration to members
 - 3.6. 50% down from member at R-60 days and balance at R-30 days
 - 3.7. post current registration list on a website to be linked from our website
 - 3.8. GP staff to handle check-in for hotel and reunion registration
 - 3.9. provide registration packet for each member and include other materials we provide
 - 3.10. provide nametags (text in Word using Avery template), with graphics from us
 - 3.11. provide coolers for War Room
 - 3.12. provide loading lists for events and GP personnel to manage boarding and return
 - 3.13. provide color guard from College of the Ozarks (Army ROTC) in Point Lookout, MO
 - 3.14. can arrange for professional photographer to take group pictures to be delivered at the end of the banquet
- 4. Activities and attractions
 - 4.1. calendar of shows is published at beginning of each year
 - 4.2. over 75 shows and attractions in Branson
 - 4.3. Veteran's Museum (small, but interesting, e.g., names of KIAs from WWII, Korea, Vietnam, Gulf war)
 - 4.4. two manufacturer's outlet stores (Tanger and another)
 - 4.5. Historic Branson and Branson Landing mall
- 5. Possible schedule
 - 5.1. Oct 20 (Wed.)
 - 5.1.1. sign in
 - 5.1.2. reception
 - 5.2. Oct 21 (Thu.)
 - 5.2.1. optional morning show (9:30 a.m.), e.g., Yakov Smirnov
 - 5.2.2. optional afternoon show (2 p.m.), e.g., Six (singing brothers)
 - 5.2.3. optional evening show with dinner, e.g., Mickey Gilley
 - 5.3. Oct 23 (Fri.)
 - 5.3.1. optional morning show (9:30 a.m.), e.g., Buck Trent (banjo)
 - 5.3.2. optional afternoon show (3 p.m.), e.g., Dixie Stampede
 - 5.3.3. optional evening show with dinner (8 p.m.), Showboat Branson Belle
 - 5.4. Oct 24 (Sat.)
 - 5.4.1. business meeting (9:00-11:00 a.m.)
 - 5.4.2. shopping for ladies at Tanger outlet stores (9:00-11:00 a.m.)

- 5.4.3. optional tour of Veteran's Museum (1:00-2:30 p.m.)
- 5.4.4. group pictures (4:00-5:00 p.m.)
- 5.4.5. social gathering (6:30-7:00 p.m. pay-as-you-go bar)
- 5.4.6. banquet (7:00- 10:00 p.m.)
- 5.5. Oct 25 (Sun.)
 - 5.5.1. depart for home
- 6. Travel
 - 6.1. new airport in Branson opens in May 2009 (major airline announcements soon)
 - 6.2. follow new airport news at www.flybranson.com
 - 6.3. Springfield airport (40 minutes away) served by AA, NW, Continental, United

George Harmon (537, 69) has agreed to be our reunion planner and "boots on the ground" for a Branson reunion. He lives in Springfield, 40 minutes away.

9 Dec 2008 update: Pam Brown has obtained the commitment of the Lodge of the Ozarks to provide the banquet room, War Room, and Memorabilia Room described in paragraphs 1.10, 1.11, and 1.12 above.

Wayne De Lawter, our Association reunion planner, endorsed the selection of Branson in a message to me:

"Pat,

The hotel cost is \$6.60 less than the off-the-street walk-in rate. I imagine we could do a little better than that for 190 rooms even with all the other listed things, but frankly I don't think it is worth the negotiating and coordinating effort of any of our members. So I believe this plan that you've endorsed with that local coordinating firm is fine. It will take a lot of work off our volunteers. ... BTW, thanks for all your efforts in scouting out both Branson and Warner-Robins. Have a Merry Christmas.

Wayne"

I conclude that a reunion in Branson in 2010 is feasible and logistics factors are favorable. Therefore, I recommend that we approve Branson as the site of our 2010 reunion with Gatherings Plus acting as our agent in Branson.

Vote Result: Carried 14 December 2008