

25th Beirut Remembrance: Important Pre-registration Information

The attached pre-registration form will provide 25th Remembrance planning committee members with information they need to prepare for the upcoming October event. BVA members and families planning to attend should fill this out completely and get it back to the address noted at the bottom of the form as soon as possible. Pre-registration cost is \$16, which helps defray administrative costs of the registration site and for the costs of the goody bag and all items included in the **goody bag** – **there will be one goody bag per individual or family registering (see more info below).**

IMPORTANT NOTE: You do not have to pay for pre-registration (\$16) if you do not want the goody bag or its contents. However, please fill out the name, address, phone, email portion of the form and mail it in so we have an idea how many may be attending. Also, you must fill out the bottom “Banquet and/or Pre-Registration Form” and pay accordingly if you wish to secure reservations for the banquet meal and program.

It is important to fill out the attached pre-registration form, if:

- If you wish to reserve seats at the banquet dinner (\$35 per person) and program – there are only 630 seats available on a first-come, first-served basis. Once they are filled, there are no more. The banquet dinner is being held at Goettge Gymnasium located on Camp Lejeune. No host Cocktails (cash bar) will be from 6 to 7 p.m., available only to those who have dinner tickets; dinner seating will be at 7 p.m.; the program will begin at 7:45. (Note: cash bars will continue to serve drinks through dinner and the program.)
- If you wish to obtain a **goody bag** and have it ready for you when you check in at the registration area, which will be in the Jacksonville USO, located at 9 Tallman Street in Jacksonville, 910-455-3411. Registration will be opened October 21, noon to 6 p.m. and October 22, 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. There will be one goody bag per individual or family. The cost of goody bags will include one 25th Remembrance t-shirt (size of your choice). Additional t-shirts can be ordered at pre-registration cost of \$12 for sizes small to double XL, \$14 for XXXL. Identify required shirt sizes on the form. (T-shirts will cost slightly more if purchased at the event.) The goody bag will also include one commemorative 25th coin, a commemorative brochure, a copy of the October 2008 Leatherneck issue which has an article about Beirut and other items as they come available.

T-shirts and other commemorative items will be on sale at the USO and during other times at the event.

Hotels: as previously reported, five hotels have been secured, as listed below. At press time the Holiday Inn Express and Comfort Suites reported no availability on Oct. 22 and 23. The Innkeeper reported 31 rooms still available and America’s Best and Extended Stay had rooms still available. You must tell them you are with the BVA registering for the 25th Remembrance to get special group rates. You cannot get the group rate by registering on-line; you must call at the numbers shown below:

The **Comfort Suites** (Headquarters Hotel) (phone 910-346-8900); \$75/night plus tax.

The **Holiday Inn Express** (910-347-1900); \$75/night plus tax.

The **Innkeeper** (910-938-0800); \$70/night plus tax.

Extended Stay America (910-347-7684); \$76/night plus tax.

America's Best Value Inn (910-455-6888); \$55/night plus tax.

Hospitality suites will be hosted by the BVA at the Comfort Suites and Holiday Inn Express from 8-11 p.m. October 21, 22, 24 and 25. These are provided as an after-hours, central place to gather for camaraderie. Beverages (both alcoholic and non-alcoholic) and snacks (pretzels, chips, etc.) will be available at no cost but attendees may BYOB and snacks if desired.

The Command Post and event registration area will again be at the Jacksonville USO, located at 9 Tallman Street in Jacksonville, 910-455-3411. This is where attendees can check in and get their Remembrance goody bag, join the BVA, register for raffle giveaways, purchase spirit wear items, meet and greet other attendees and get updated information about activities. Volunteers are needed to help staff positions and for other tasks during registration. Volunteers interested in helping at the registration can call the BVA president, Randy Gaddo, at 770-629-2613.

At press time, the daily schedule was as follows:

Tuesday, Oct. 21: noon to 6 p.m., registration and other activities at the USO.

Wednesday, Oct. 22: 10 a.m. to 8 p.m., registration operations at the USO. Annual membership meeting and election of board members/appointment of officers, 3 to 5 p.m. at a location to be determined and announced soon.

Thursday, Oct. 23: 6 a.m., Candlelight Vigil at the Beirut Memorial; 10:30 formal Remembrance Ceremony at the Beirut Memorial; 2 p.m., Military Order of the Devildogs Remembrance Ceremony, Camp Geiger; 7 p.m. Remembrance Banquet.

Friday, Oct. 24: The BVA is planning a golf outing with the Wounded Warriors Battalion. The format will be a four-person scramble, pairing Beirut Vets with Wounded Warriors. A lunch will be provided afterwards. Place: Paradise Point Golf Club, Camp Lejuene; Time: 8 a.m.; Cost: \$40 greens fee with cart, payable at course on date of play. To reserve a spot, contact Mike Clepper at (717) 249-0609 by September 30, 2008. (The Wounded Warrior Barracks, officially known as Maxwell Hall, opened at Camp Lejeune in November 2005. It is named after LtCol. Timothy Maxell, a wounded Marine, who started the project to help returning wounded Marines help each other mend. A west coast WWB has also been activated and the WW Battalion was formed to help provide funding and support for the barracks.)