

# The COMBAT INFANTRYMEN'S ASSOCIATION

## 2018 Convention/Registration Information Changes?? Yes indeed, please read and heed!

The 2018 Combat Infantrymen's Association annual convention will be held Thursday October 18 – Sunday October 21 at the WESTIN WASHINGTON DULLES AIRPORT HOTEL located at 2520 Wasser Terrace, Herndon, VA 20171.



The Westin was selected because of the many amenities offered – amenities not offered by other Washington, DC hotels. Since the Westin is primarily a corporate hotel, it is less busy on weekends and therefore offers unbeatable rates - \$89.00 a night plus tax - including breakfast. *Please be aware of a notable change in procedure this year. **You must call and make your own room reservations.** Guidance on how to do that is found below and on page 6.* Other Westin features include complimentary airport shuttle service to/from Dulles International Airport, free automobile parking, refrigerator in every room. Complimentary shuttle service to and from Dulles International Airport runs every half hour. Reservations are not necessary, just wait curbside at the hotel shuttle pickup point. Or you can use the courtesy phone near the baggage claim area or call the hotel directly at 703-793-3366. Carryover Convention rates for days before or after the Convention dates (Oct 18-21) are strictly on a space available basis. The Westin is a corporate hotel, busy during the week and not-so-busy weekends so it is possible that rooms will not be available. The quicker you make your reservation the more likely you are to find a room. The Westin has only limited RV/Campers parking (the parking area is a covered deck, so accommodations are size dependent.) When you make your room reservation, ask about camper or RV parking if you are driving one to the Convention. **Special note:** One of the main highways into the hotel is a toll road where the exit is unmanned (or unwomaned) – you must have the correct change, a nominal amount, like fifteen cents or a quarter. If you do not have the correct change you can still pass through the toll-booth, but the camera will “getcha” and eventually you will get a bill for the toll fee plus a fine (\$15.00) for failure to pay the toll. Ask Larry, he knows first-hand!

**If staying in a local campground:** RV/Camper Convention attendees are responsible for finding their own campground and for providing their own transportation to and from the Westin.

**Please Read and Heed Information:** We'll repeat this for anyone not able to attend last year's Convention in Columbus, GA, “Several things have changed since the Albuquerque (2016) Convention that will impact this year's registration. First things first. At the end of 2016 Larry & Brenda Eckard decided the time was right for them to retire, so they did. Consequently, Premier Convention Services (the management company that handled the CIAssoc conventions for 20 years) also closed. Blue Badge Editor Larry Eckard and his wife Brenda will continue to handle the Convention on a volunteer basis until you fire them and

look elsewhere. Please note the changes that have resulted from their retirement.

- 1) Room Reservations:** You must call the hotel and make your own room reservations. You may begin making your lodging reservations upon receipt of this packet. You can do this on line at the link below, by calling the hotel direct at **571-485-4313** or the national reservation desk at **1-866-932-7062**. When making your reservations be sure to tell the person taking your reservation that you are with the **Combat Infantrymen's Association** and be sure you make reservations at the right **Westin (Westin Dulles Washington Airport)**. Below is the on-line link: (Press the "Control Key and click").

<https://www.starwoodmeeting.com/events/start.action?id=1711308164&key=B8492E4>

Room rate is much lower than last year; this year's rate is \$89.00 plus tax – which comes to slightly less than \$100.00 per night.

- 2) Credit card usage:** You may use your credit card to pay the hotel and the CIAssoc.
- 3) Only one option is being offered:** The All-Inclusive Option (includes tours) will be offered. If there is anything you cannot participate in, you may opt out. See the Registration Form.

**Cancellations:** Since you are making your own room reservations the Westin rooms cancellation policy will apply. Check with them for that information. For the tours, full payment to the tour company must be made on **October 1, 2018**, therefore, cancellations for tours received after **September 30, 2018** cannot be honored – *that means no tour refunds after September 30<sup>th</sup>* (tour company policy, not ours). For hotel provided functions (food and beverages) cancellations will be honored until October 4, 2018, except if guaranteed numbers have been provided to the vendor or payment already made. There will be **NO REFUNDS – for any reason** - for hotel sponsored functions after October 4, 2018. *Unexpected emergencies DO happen; protect your investment. Trip Cancellation Insurance is HIGHLY recommended. See your local insurance agent.*

**Special Note: We recognize the Convention costs have steadily increased despite our best efforts to control them. This year we were able to locate an exceptional hotel that mainly caters to weekday corporate business with weekends not very busy. Also, meal prices were getting out of control and the Westin has created special Military Convention meal packages – not as elaborate or as many choices as we have had in the past, but sufficient and much less expensive. We can't promise these rates every year, but we can promise the effort will be made. Larry & Brenda**

# Combat Infantrymen's Association 2018 Convention Itinerary

## Wednesday October 17

Early bird arrivals, no planned activities, no hospitality room

## Thursday October 18

**12:00 Noon: Registration Begins and Hospitality Room Opens**, stocked with coffee, soft drinks, fruit, and other munchies. Due to liability considerations, private alcohol is not permitted in the hospitality room.

**3:00 PM: Executive Board Meeting** (location to be announced on site)

**5:00 – 6:30 PM: Welcome Reception.** National Commander's welcome remarks, announcements, and introductions. A Cash bar and a Fajita Buffet will be served after the remarks. The Fajita buffet should suffice for your dinner; if not dinner is on your own. *Cost of the Reception/Fajita Buffet is included in the All-Inclusive Option. Please note that to receive the excellent room rates, we do have a food and beverage sales minimum therefore, we strongly encourage everyone to participate in all food and beverage functions.*

## Friday October 19

**6:30-8:30 AM: Breakfast** is in the hotel restaurant with coupons provided. Eat at your leisure keeping in mind when the tour departs. *Cost of breakfast is included in your room rate.*

**8:00 AM:** Information/Registration Desk opens.

**8:45 AM Load-up ~ 9:00 AM: Depart** for an exciting day in Washington, DC. First stop is Arlington National Cemetery for a tram tour of the cemetery and a stop to witness The Changing of the Guard at the Tomb of the Unknown. While at the Tomb of the Unknown at 11:15 AM, our group will be privileged to participate in a wreath laying ceremony in which a Combat Infantrymen's Association wreath is placed on the Tomb. What a privilege this will be! Following the ceremony, we'll be off to lunch (on our own). Following lunch, we'll do a short riding tour of the major monuments -stopping at selected ones as time permits, returning to the Westin around 4:00 PM (Busses are rented in 8 hr increments and your Planning Czar could not justify another 8 hours and the additional bus rental fee). To keep the quoted rates, we must have a minimum of 40 persons. Less than 40 it will be necessary to adjust the tour price. Also, the Arlington cost is based on using a public tram, we are looking into the cost difference between a private and public tram, so bring a few extra dollars in case we can get a private tram and must charge you a couple of dollars more!!! *Cost of this tour (based on 40 people) is included in the all-Inclusive Option. Less than 40 persons, the cost will be adjusted to make up the difference. Maximum participation is encouraged. Gratuity for the guide/driver is not included.*

**10:00 AM:** Hospitality Room opens if there are any Friday arrivals.

**6:00 PM: Social Hour** with a cash bar

**7:00 PM:** Enjoy a "tasteful" evening featuring Pulled Pork BBQ and the trimmings. *Cost of the Buffet is included in the All-Inclusive Option. Please note that to receive the excellent room rates, we do have a food and beverage sales minimum therefore, we strongly encourage everyone to participate in all food and beverage functions.*

## **Saturday October 20**

**6:30-8:30 AM: Breakfast** is in the hotel restaurant with coupons provided. Eat at your leisure. *Cost of breakfast is included in your room rate.*

**8:00 AM:** Association Officer's "last minute details" meeting

**9:00 – ????:** Annual Business Meeting. All currently paid up members are encouraged to attend the meeting. Support Group members are invited to "sit-in" the meeting but will not be able to vote. There is no charge for CIAssoc or support Group members to attend the meeting, but you must show a current membership card. Meeting agenda will be distributed later.

**10:00 AM:** After careful consideration, based on history plus the excessive cost of a bus and guide for a ladies tour/excursion, the decision was made to offer a Ladies (including Support Group ladies) Brunch in the hotel. Cost for this event is not included in the All-Inclusive Option price. Use the reservation form (backside) to register for the Brunch.

**///The Remainder of the day - until 6:30 PM - is free.///** Relax, lounge in the hospitality room, or explore on your own. Near the hotel there is a METRO Station that will take you to city central and DC's attractions. Also, highly recommended is a visit to the near-by Udvar-Hazy Air Space Museum. It is a companion museum to the National Air and Space Museum. Admission to the museum is free, but there is a \$15.00 parking fee if you drive. It is close enough to the Westin that the hotel shuttle van will take you there, but you must notify the front desk or concierge to make a reservation. At the museum you will find hundreds of aircraft and spacecraft on display in two massive hangars, including a Lockheed SR-71 Blackbird, the Boeing B-29 Superfortress *Enola Gay*, and the Space Shuttle *Discovery*. View aircraft flying in and out of Dulles International Airport from our Observation Tower. Watch restoration specialists restore artifacts in the Restoration Hangar. It is a great and inexpensive way to spend a Saturday afternoon.

**6:30 PM: Photo session and Social Hour.**

**7:30 PM: The Combat Infantrymen's Association Banquet.** Enjoy tonight in a more formal setting. Coat and tie recommended for the gentlemen and corresponding dress for the ladies, or if you can still wear a complete and correct uniform, please do so. With exception of the "Special Guests" table, there will be open seating, sit where you like, with whom you like. The CIAssoc Memorial Service will be part of the banquet program. *Cost of the banquet is included in the all-Inclusive Option. If you cannot participate in this activity, you may opt out. See the Registration Form.*

## **Sunday October 21**

**6:30 – ?? AM: Breakfast** will be in the hotel restaurant – with breakfast coupons provided. Eat at your leisure during the restaurant's normal breakfast serving hours. *The cost of breakfast is included in the room rate.*

Office Use Only: Dep Rec'd \_\_\_\_\_ / Payment Method \_\_\_\_\_ / Date Rec'd \_\_\_\_\_

### 2018 Combat Infantrymen's Association Convention

Please complete both sides of this form and return it with your deposit (or full payment) on or before, September 17, 2018

Make your check out to "Combat Infantrymen's Association"

Mail to: Combat Infantrymen's Association Convention Manager, PO Box 11044, Hickory, NC 28603

Phone: 828-490-9303 (Leave message)

#### Attendee Info

Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_ First Name: \_\_\_\_\_ MI: \_\_\_\_\_

Spouse or Guest Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Primary Phone (home or cell): (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

#### Emergency Contact Info

If there should be an emergency during the Convention and we need to contact a member of your family, who should it be?

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

#### Name Tag Info

The all-Inclusive Option contains a Washington, DC city tag. If this is your first Combat Infantrymen's convention or if your nametag walked away during the years you are encouraged to order a new one. Name tags are \$7.75 each and not included in the convention cost; don't forget to add the cost to your balance on the reverse side of this form. The name tag is sturdy white plastic engraved with your name, rank, a CIB, and the years served. Spouse or guest name tag will have the guest's name only. **IF YOU COMPLETE THE INFORMATION BELOW – YOU WILL BE CHARGED FOR AND RECEIVE A NAME TAG.** To insure name tag accuracy, please print legibly the following information:

Name for your nametag: \_\_\_\_\_ Name for guest name tag: \_\_\_\_\_

Highest rank while with Combat Infantrymen's: \_\_\_\_\_ Years served: \_\_\_\_\_

#### Cancellation Policy

By submitting this registration form, I understand and agree that I am making my own lodging reservations and the Westin Washington Dulles Hotel cancellation policy will apply. For the tours, cancellations received after **September 30, 2018** cannot be honored (tour company policy, not ours). For hotel provided functions (food and beverages) cancellations will be honored until **October 4, 2018**, except if guaranteed numbers have been provided to the vendor or payment already made. There will be **NO REFUNDS – for any reason** - for cancellation requests received after **October 4, 2018**. ***For your protection so you do not lose your investment, Trip Cancellation Insurance is highly recommended. See your local insurance agent. Premier Convention Services does not offer this service.***

**Signature Required:** \_\_\_\_\_

#### Special Needs

When you call the Westin to make your room reservations, be sure to mention any special room requirements that you may have.

Please list any dietary requirements: \_\_\_\_\_

## 2018 Combat Infantrymen's Association Convention Worksheet

This is different than 2017 and years past so please read carefully. There is only one All-Inclusive Option. The All-Inclusive Option contains the Events/Activities listed below. Please note this option does not include lodging. You will need to make your room reservations separately by calling the hotel direct at **571-485-4313** or the National toll free number **1-866-932-7062**, When calling either number be sure to tell the person taking the reservation that you are with the **Combat Infantrymen's Association** Convention and use Group Code Or you can make your reservation on line by clicking on the link below. (Press the "Control Key and click")

<https://www.starwoodmeeting.com/events/start.action?id=1711308164&key=B8492E4>

You can use your credit card for your room reservation and/or the All-Inclusive Option. Room rate is \$89.00 plus tax. Be sure you are making a reservation at the right hotel – Westin Washington Dulles Airport! The All-Inclusive package contains the following activities for each person:

a) Thursday evening welcome reception/fajita dinner buffet; b) Friday Arlington Cemetery/DC tour; c) Friday pulled pork BBQs dinner buffet; d) Saturday banquet; e) Washington, DC city tag; e) **Pro-rated cost of postage, printing, hospitality room items, gratuities, and miscellaneous admin expenses.** Items above and below highlighted in yellow are not deductible

Cost for the entire All-Inclusive Option is only **\$250.00** per person; **\$500.00** per couple

You may deduct the events/activities that you cannot participate in. I wish to deduct the following activities/events from the all-inclusive option:

Thursday, October 18: <b>Welcome Reception &amp; Fajita buffet:</b>	@ \$35.00 per person X # persons _____	... = \$ _____
Friday, October 19: <b>Arlington Cemetery/DC tour:</b>	@ \$90.00 per person X # persons _____	.. = \$ _____
Friday, October 19: <b>Pulled Pork Dinner Buffet:</b>	@ \$35.00 per person X # persons _____	... = \$ _____
Saturday, October 20: <b>Banquet dinner (NY Strip):</b>	@ \$60.00 per person X # persons _____	..... = \$ _____
Washington, DC <b>City tag</b>	@ \$4.75 per tag X # tags _____	... = \$ _____
<b>Printing and Postage</b>	@ \$5.00 per person:	<b>This item is not deductible</b>
<b>Hospitality Items, clean-up, set-up fees</b>	@ \$20.00 per person:	<b>This item is not deductible</b>

Total deductions      \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Subtract deductions from your selected option @ \$250.00 or \$500.00 for your option cost      **\$ \_\_\_\_\_**

**Add nametag (not included in All Inclusive Option) @ \$7.75 per tag X # \_\_\_\_\_ tags ..... \$ \_\_\_\_\_**  
**Add Ladies Saturday Brunch (not included in All Inclusive Option) @ \$20.00 per person X # persons ..... \$ \_\_\_\_\_**

**TOTAL CONVENTION COST... \$ \_\_\_\_\_**

Amount Enclosed: **\$ \_\_\_\_\_**

The deposit of \$100.00 per person (or full payment) must accompany this application. The full balance is due on or before **September 17, 2018**.

Payment Method: Make Checks Payable to: Combat Infantrymen's Association

Personal Check # \_\_\_\_\_ Money Order \_\_\_\_\_ Amex \_\_\_\_\_ Discover \_\_\_\_\_ MasterCard \_\_\_\_\_ Visa \_\_\_\_\_

Premier Convention Services is authorized to bill the below listed credit card in the amount of \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Name as it appears on Credit Card: \_\_\_\_\_

Billing Address if different than address above: \_\_\_\_\_

Account #: \_\_\_\_\_ Exp Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Security Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

*Check here if you want us to automatically bill your remaining balance to this same account on: September 17, 2018 \_\_\_\_\_*