

## **General Information:**

**Preparation**—I encourage you, and anyone attending with you, to read this document before beginning the online registration process. By reviewing this information in advance, you can ensure you do not miss any important details, avoid confusion, and make informed choices about which reunion events to participate in, helping you get the most out of your reunion experience.

## **Online Registration Process**

- A simple, intuitive process will help you select the reunion events you want to attend during the reunion.
- Important *registrant* information:
  - In the *Personal Cell Number* field: Enter your personal cell number. I will use it to provide you with updates and reminders throughout the reunion weekend.
  - In the *Preferred Name for Nametag* field: Enter your first name or nickname only.

## **Registration Fees**

- The BR registration fee is \$275. The guest registration fee is \$150. Widows of BRs are exempt from paying registration fees.
- If you cannot attend the reunion but still want to purchase reunion favors, select the \$12 registration fee to cover shipping and handling costs.

## **Arrival and Sign-In**

- When you arrive at VMI, check in at Marshall Hall (located behind the superintendent's office in Smith Hall) anytime during these periods:
  - Thursday and Friday: **9 a.m.–4:30 p.m.**
  - Saturday: **8–9:30 a.m.**
- Each BR will receive:
  - A white 50th Reunion polo shirt
  - A 50th Reunion Yeti cup
  - A special challenge coin
  - Other ordered merchandise

## **Reunion Favors**

- If you order favors by the **March 6** merchandise deadline, you will receive them during check-in. Anyone who registers after the deadline will receive their items in the mail post-reunion.
- You can order additional polo shirts and/or Yeti cups.
- You will have an opportunity to order additional challenge coins post-reunion (date to be announced).
- Ladies may order a special 50th Reunion polo shirt.

**Common Meeting Area**—A 50th Reunion banquet room gathering space will be available at the Best Western Hunt Ridge for meetups and socializing.

## **Bus Transportation**

- A continuous shuttle loop will run between the Best Western Hunt Ridge and VMI:
  - **4–10 p.m.** Friday
  - **8 a.m.–10 p.m.** Saturday
- A dedicated bus will provide transportation to and from the class social Friday afternoon.
- Additional bus transportation details will be published as the reunion approaches.

**Thursday, April 23:** If you arrive early in Lexington, the day is yours to enjoy the surrounding area. There are plenty of things to do. If you have not been back in a while, a great place to start for sightseeing recommendations is the Lexington Visitor's Center at 106 E. Washington St. or <https://lexingtonvirginia.com/>. You can also check out the New Market Battlefield and/or Staunton, Virginia (<https://visitstaunton.com/>). And, of course, there is always the VMI Bookstore, the VMI Museum, and the Jackson House to visit. I recommend you visit the VMI Archives located in the library to review the documents preserved in your cadet personnel file.

The activities planned for Thursday are:

1. **Golf Tournament** (Cost is \$43/person)
  - Hosted by Dexter Gilliam and Dyke Davies at Ashley Plantation Country Club, 919 Greenfield Street, Daleville, VA 24083 (north of Roanoke).
  - Please arrive at the country club between **10:30–11 a.m.**
  - More information will be available as the reunion approaches.
2. **Horse-Drawn Carriage Rides** (Cost is \$20/person)
  - Three time slots available: **11 a.m., 12:30 p.m., and 3:30 p.m.**
  - There is a maximum of 15 participants allowed per ride session.
  - Meet across the street from the entrance to the Visitor Center of Lexington.
  - Parking is available at the corner of Varner Lane and Washington Street.
3. **Catered Supper and Fellowship**
  - Hosted by the Mullen's at their home (550 Adair Hill Drive, Rockbridge Baths, VA).
  - Dress is casual.
  - Beginning at **6 p.m.**
  - Beverages: Water, tea, and lemonade provided. BYOB if you prefer something stronger.

**Friday, April 24:** The activities planned for Friday are:

1. **Wives' Brunch**
  - Hosted by Margaret Haberman at her home (30 Stone Ledge Court, Lexington, VA)
  - **9:30–12:30 a.m.**
2. **"Your VMI Suit of Armor"**
  - Presentation by Col. Keith Gibson '77
  - **10-11 a.m.**
  - Gillis Theater, Marshall Hall
3. **Clay Shooting** (Cost is \$50/person) (see **Enclosure 1**)
  - Hosted by Grigg Mullen at Shenandale Gun Club, 852 Little Calf Pasture Hwy., Swoope, VA.
  - **10 a.m.–2 p.m.** Meet Grigg at the 50th Reunion banquet room at 9:45 a.m.
  - More information will be available as the reunion approaches.

4. **Walking Tour of Lexington, W&L, and VMI (see Enclosure 2)**
  - Hosted by Evan Haberman.
  - **10 a.m.–12 p.m.** Meet at the Visitor Center of Lexington.
  - Tour ends at VMI near Old Barracks.
  - Parking tip: Park at VMI and walk a half mile (10 minutes) to the visitor center.
  
5. **Virtual Tour of Post**
  - **11 a.m.** Marshall Hall, Gillis Theater.
  - A great alternative if you do not have time for the Corps Physical Training Facility and Aquatic Center tour in the afternoon.
  
6. **Lunch Options**
  - **11:30 a.m.–1:30 p.m.:** Crozet Hall, open seating downstairs (Cost is \$11/person).
  - **12:30 p.m.:** Devils Backbone Brewing Company, 50 Northwind Lane, Lexington. (Cost is \$30/person).
  
7. **Horse-Drawn Carriage Rides** (Cost is \$20/person)
  - Time slots: 11 a.m., 12:30 p.m., and 3:30 p.m.
  
8. **Post Tour of the Corps Physical Training Facility and the Aquatic Center**
  - **1–2:30 p.m.**
  - Meet at the CPTF via the bridge over U.S. Route 11.
  
9. **1st Class Cadet Leadership Panel**
  - **3 p.m.**
  - Marshall Hall, Gillis Theater
  - Highly recommended it: You have an opportunity to ask candid questions and hear honest answers from cadets.
  
4. **Informal Class Gathering at Outpost 1839<sup>1</sup>**
  - **4–10 p.m.**
  - 1102 Glasgow Hwy, Buena Vista, VA (see Enclosure 3 for driving directions)
  - Bus transportation will be available to and from the event.
  - Dress is casual. Activities: Music, optional cornhole competition, and wine tasting hosted by local wineries followed by a catered supper.

<sup>1</sup>*Outpost 1839 replaces the previously planned McKethan Park gathering.*

**Saturday, April 25:** The activities planned for Saturday are:

**Uniform is your 50th Reunion white polo shirt!**

1. **8–9:30 a.m.:** Enjoy a quick breakfast (e.g., Breakfast sandwiches, pastries, coffee) at Marshall Hall.
2. **9–9:30 a.m.:** You will have the opportunity to visit your rat rooms during this time. Background: For security reasons, alumni can no longer enter barracks unescorted beyond the first stoop. The Commandant’s Office coordinated this timing. If you want to visit your rat room, meet outside the arch at Old Barracks at 8:45 a.m. 1st Class cadets will be there to escort us up to the fourth stoop.
3. **10:20 a.m.:** The class photo will be on the front steps of Preston Library. The inclement weather location for the class picture will be Memorial Hall (formerly known as J.M. Hall).
4. **10:30 a.m.:** The reunion parade and Old Yells in barracks. After the Old Yells, there will be a combined '76-'26 photo taken near the sentinel box.
5. **12 p.m.:** Lunch
  - Available in Crozet Hall on the upper level.
  - The Class of 1979 will sponsor it. It will have a tailgate flare to it. Maybe your dyke will be there!
6. **12–2 p.m.:** If you have the time after lunch, stop by Moody Hall. Most of the building will be empty, but Moody Hall has been the heart of alumni gatherings since we graduated. You will have the opportunity to bid farewell one last time before it is torn down. Refreshments will be available.
7. **2 p.m.:** The new superintendent (Lt. Gen. David Furness '87) will give our class his presentation on the “State of VMI” at Gillis Theater, Marshall Hall. It will be his first 50th Reunion celebration, so I know he is looking forward to doing it. It is a chance to hear updates from VMI and ask questions. I encourage you to attend—if I could make this check formation, I would!
8. **5:30–8:30 p.m.:** The 50th Reunion honored class supper!
  - Hosted by the VMI Alumni Agencies.
  - The guest speaker will be Jim Dittrich.
  - Uniform:
    - Men: Coat and Tie
    - Ladies: Cocktail attire

*The carriage rides previously scheduled for Saturday afternoon is cancelled.*

**Sunday, April 26:**

1. **10 a.m.:** Razz Waff will lead the class memorial service for our lost BRs at Memorial Hall (see **Enclosure 4**).
2. Following the service, a brunch will be available at Crozet Hall (open seating downstairs) until **1 p.m.** (Cost is \$11/person).

**Enclosure 1 (Clay Shooting Instructions)**

1. Meet at the hotel in the 50th Reunion banquet room at 9:45, then depart for Shenandale Gun Club (about 50 minutes away).
2. A course consisting of 50 shots will be conducted. Several club members, including some recent VMI graduates, will be present to help.
3. Cost is \$50/person, shells included. Bring your own shells and it's \$25/person. Note: Grigg will need to know what gauge you shoot to order ammo.
4. If you bring your own shotgun, it needs to fire at least 2 shots without reloading. Double barrels, pumps, or semi-automatic are fine. Single barrels aren't.
5. Grigg can provide loaner guns.
6. We should be back at the hotel by 14:00.

## Enclosure 2 (Lexington Walking Tour – Itinerary)

1. Listen to a short overview of Lexington's history.
2. Brief walk in Lexington, noting key architecture and history.
3. Tour Washington and Lee campus, highlighting its founding and key ties to VMI, including sports history.
  - Identify architectural styles on the lawn.
  - Tour Lee Chapel: examine Valentine Statue of Lee and Lee's crypt.
  - Visit Washington Hall; discuss Washington's link to W&L.
  - Refer to Peale's portrait and "Washington Crossing the Delaware" painting.
4. Walk over to VMI and discuss its founding, including the reasons behind it, the date it was established, and the people involved.
  - Discuss architecture.
  - Explore the history of four parade ground cannons and the howitzer at Limit's Gate.
  - Learn about the Lafayette cannons and the Washington statue on the parapet.
  - See Civil War cannon balls in Barracks from Hunter's raid.
5. 12:00 Head to Crozet Hall or Devil's Backbone for lunch.

## Enclosure 3 (Suggested Driving Directions to Outpost 1839)

Best Western Plus Inn at Hunt Ridge  
25 Willow Springs Rd, Lexington, VA 24450

### Take VA-39 E to US-11 S

- 1 min (0.3 mi)
- ↑ 1. Head toward State Rte 1015  
217 ft
  - ↪ 2. Turn right onto State Rte 1015  
367 ft
  - ↶ 3. Turn left onto VA-39 E  
0.2 mi

### Take I-81 S and US-60 E to State Rte 608/Forge Rd

- 7 min (6.3 mi)
- ↪ 4. Turn right onto US-11 S  
0.3 mi
  - ↗ 5. Turn left to merge onto I-64 E toward I-81  
0.8 mi
  - ↪ 6. Keep right to continue on Exit 56, follow signs for I-81 S/Roanoke and merge onto I-81 S  
2.9 mi
  - ↪ 7. Take exit 188A to merge onto US-60 E toward Buena Vista  
2.4 mi

### Continue on State Rte 608/Forge Rd. Take W 10th St to US-501 S/Magnolia Ave in Buena Vista

- 5 min (2.3 mi)
- ↪ 8. Turn right onto State Rte 608/Forge Rd  
0.6 mi
  - ↶ 9. Turn left onto State Rte 745/Paxton Dr/Paxton House Dr  
0.4 mi
  - ↶ 10. Turn left toward W 10th St  
236 ft
  - ↑ 11. Continue onto W 10th St  
1.2 mi
  - ↪ 12. Turn right onto US-501 S/Magnolia Ave
    - [Continue to follow US-501 S](#)
    - [Destination will be on the right](#)
- 4 min (2.8 mi)

Enclosure 4 (**Memorial Service Program**)

***Prelude***

Start Audio/Visual Scroll  
Light Candles  
Seat Guests

***Call to Worship***

Welcome  
Opening Prayer  
Opening Hymn

***Remembering Lost BRs***

Reading of Names  
Taps  
Bagpipes (Amazing Grace)  
Prayer of Remembrance  
Message (**Razz Waff**)

***Redemption/Rejoicing***

Scripture Reading  
Prayer of Redemption  
Hymn of Redemption  
Message (**VMI Chaplain**)

***Closing***

Jubilee Message (**Dexter Gilliam**)  
Benediction  
VMI Doxology