

55th Reunion Gala Aboard the Midway Museum

April 27, 2017 Progress Update

Summary:

- Previously, the Gala Committee recommended and the Full Committee approved:
 - o A One Hour Flight Deck Reception, followed by
 - o A Hanger Bay Dinner in a Food Station Format
 - o The format was chosen to maximize mixing

- Subsequently, the Gala Committed revisited the Midway to evaluate the venue in light of the above decision. It concluded:
 - o Since Midway is the venue for the first Reunion event, sufficient structure is needed to welcome the class, introduce special guests and provide direction regarding subsequent reunion events.

 - o The Midway's hard steel deck and the long distances between the parking lot, the flight deck reception, and hanger bay dinner venue, suggests that most attendees may want a more relaxing, seated dinner, rather than what is arguably an extension (however enhanced) of the flight deck reception in the hanger bay.

 - o Standing for three hours or more on the Midway's cold steel deck would be fatiguing and even painful.. Of course there will be chairs for everyone at a Food Station dinner, but that format was chosen to motivate greeting & meeting which is best done on foot.

 - o A seated dinner would be a better format should we decide to light up the evening with professional USO style entertainment.

Decision:

The Gala Committee recommended, and the Full Committee agreed: to change the format of the Hanger Bay Dinner from Food Stations to a seated Buffet ... with an option for entertainment

Flight Deck Reception Overview:

- Commence Slightly Before Sunset
- Duration one and one-half hours
- City & Harbor Views
- Four No-Host Bars

- Beer, Wine, soda and water, with tray passed Hors d'oeuvres
- Twenty-five Belly Bar Tables; twenty-five Cocktail Tables, and chairs for 50% of the attendees.
- Lighting still being evaluated
- Total cost TBD

Hanger Bay Buffet Dinner Overview:

- The "seated" format provides comfort & safety ... enables folks to get off their feet
- Multiple buffet tables will minimize time in line.
- Salad would be pre-set on the tables so each guest would have a starter while waiting for access to the buffet.
- Two No-Host Bars would be available
- Good format for an emceed program and entertainment.
- Catering cost is \$16 per person cheaper than Food Stations ... for a comparable quality meal.

Entertainment Overview:

- Entertainment would be constrained to 30 minutes
- It would be timed to commence with the serving of desert.
- Under Consideration: A USO show reminiscent of the Bob Hope War Zone Tours and hosted by a Bob Hope look-alike.*
- Such a show would link together Bob Hope, the Class of 1963,s and its Vietnam War Memories. Though subtle, it would add to the significance of being on the Midway.

ADA Considerations:

- Elevators are available from the parking lot to the hanger bay; and from the hanger bay to the flight deck. These are small capacity lifts and accordingly would not be accessible to every classmate & guest.
- We are investigating the leasing of wheel chairs to ferry attendees requesting assistance from the hanger bay elevator to the flight deck elevator and back again.

*** Bob Hope entertained the Midway Crew in the Gulf of Tonkin in 1972 during his last Vietnam Era Tour.**