

Our 60<sup>th</sup> Reunion Material  
Charleston, SC  
The Loutrel Hotel  
26-29 February 2024

**Update # 2**  
17 July 2023

### **Date and hotel change.**

Jim's WHS website carried some information about the reunion that has changed. I had to change the dates by one day to get a better rate and a nicer hotel. Initially I thought we would be at the Mills House 27-29 February 2024, and I relayed that on one of the weekly chats that Jim Maloney holds. Jim also posted that information on the web site he runs. However, I found a better place and a better deal at a hotel named The Loutrel, 26-28 February 2024. You can look for yourself by clicking on the link below.

<https://www.theloutrel.com/>

\$324 for a king or two queens, but that includes breakfast, free snacks and beverages in your room or in the club area, wi-fi, bikes, a roof top bar (for our reception weather permitting) or a club-mezzanine area, and a bar/eating area on the first floor. The Loutrel is in the historic area, next to the "market area," and within a 6 square block area of it, there must be over 100 restaurants and bars. You will like it.

The link for making a reservation is

<https://reservations.travelclick.com/114109?groupID=3867837>

One has a choice between a king bed or two queen beds. The lady I have dealt with is named Robin Boozer, Sales Director, and she is the one to contact if you have any issues or plan to arrive early or stay late.

[rboozer@theloutrel.com](mailto:rboozer@theloutrel.com)

### **Activities**

The tentative plan for the reunion focuses on getting together allowing classmates to talk and to share memories. To that end we will have a ice-breaker the evening we arrive (the 26th). Right now the plan is for that to be in the hotel, either in the mezzanine club area or the roof top bar depending on the weather. I'm hoping for another venue in a special place, but it is under major renovation and the question is open as to whether the work will be done by February. Wednesday the 27th and Thursday the 28th daytime activities are left open so you can converse with whom you wish and see what you want on your own.

We are right in the center of the historic area, so you can walk everywhere and will not need a rental car. You can take tours on the horse and carriage concessions or get a ride/tour on a bicycle-rickshaw. If there is demand, I can give or make arrangements for a walking tour of some of the highlights. Such a tour would take about two hours and involve about 3 miles on foot. The weather should not be an issue. The Loutrel is not far from the Charleston museum, and there are a couple of historic mansions one can tour (admission charge) downtown as well. These homes are about a half-mile south and below Broad Street in the residential area of Charleston. You will go by them if we do a walking tour. The homes are examples of wealthy 18th/19th Century architecture and furnishings (Nathaniel Russell House, Edmondston-Alston House), and one was owned by a signer of the Declaration of Independence (Heyward-Washington House). You can google them, and I think the admission is discounted if you get tickets for two of the houses.

The Charleston Aquarium and the new International African-American Museum (IAAM) have great exhibits and are within walking distance from the Loutrel—3 blocks or so. Both places charge admission, and information is given at the web site links.

<https://scaquarium.org/>

<https://iaamuseum.org/>

In the next block over from The Loutrel is the market area, the open shed former vegetable market where everything is now sold. If you want a really unique and valuable souvenir, buy one of the “sweetgrass baskets” hand-made by the local African-American ladies. The baskets are expensive, but they will last more than a lifetime and are a true piece of American folk art or craft. The Smithsonian has examples in its galleries.

For military buffs, one can walk to Liberty Square (next to the Aquarium and IAAM) and take the tour boat to Fort Sumter. The tour boat is the only way to get to the fort, and there is a charge. Slight discount for vets and seniors. Takes about 3.5 hours to go out and back and to see the fort. Be advised it does not look like the drawings of 1861 one sees in the history books. It was bombarded later in the war and only the lowest level has been rebuilt. The fort is not only famous for the opening shots of the Civil War, but after its capture by the Confederacy in April 1861, the Union tried vainly for the next four years to take it back by a naval assault and later an amphibious attack. Both failed spectacularly. Next came a successful Union effort to reduce it to rubble by artillery bombardment from the near-by islands which were only taken after hard fighting by the Federals in 1862-63. The movie *Glory* depicts one of the failed assaults on the islands as the Union troops tried to close on the fort. Not only did Union artillery smash Fort Sumter, but the gunners turned their sights on Charleston and tried to level the “hellhole of secession.” The area where the Loutrel is was just beyond artillery range. Details at

<https://www.nps.gov/fosu/index.htm>

For those interested in more modern conflicts, take the water taxi from Liberty Square across the harbor to the aircraft carrier *USS Yorktown*, which served from World War II through Viet Nam. The vessel is *Yorktown II*, as number I was lost at Midway. The *Yorktown* in our harbor was commissioned in 1944 and was later rebuilt with a slant deck and catapults to handle jet aircraft. Lots of aircraft to see and one can go anywhere on the ship. Tied up next to the carrier is the *USS Laffey*, the destroyer that “refused to die” after being struck by a dozen or so Japanese kamikaze planes at Okinawa in 1945. A staggering number of crew were killed or horribly burned, yet the vessel made it back across the Pacific to the states for rebuilding and later rejoined the fleet. Allow a day for each major site: Fort Sumter and the carrier/destroyer. For information on the *Yorktown* and the *Laffey*, see

<https://www.patriotspoint.org>

Dinner the evening of 27 February, a Tuesday, is left to you. There is no shortage of restaurants near the Loutrel. On Wednesday the 28th, we will take the Daniel Island Ferry from the Maritime Center (next to the Aquarium and IAAM) to Daniel Island at about 5:30 PM. There is both enclosed and covered space on the ferry, and you should have a good view of the working part of our harbor plus you get to go under our famous new Cooper River Bridge (8 lanes) and the Wando River Bridge (4 lanes). The ferry will take us up Ralston Creek on Daniel Island to my neighbor’s dock, and you can walk from there across the street to our house where we will have a closing reception with finger food. The ferry will return to the Maritime Center 8:30 PM, and for those who may be still hungry, there is plenty of time to find a place to eat.