



6918th RSM/SS Hakata Japan

Where has time gone? Jan. 02 fifty one years ago, I did, as every one of you have done, by raising my right hand and saying "I solemnly swear that I will support and defend the [Constitution of the United States](#) against all enemies, foreign and domestic; that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the same; and that I will obey the orders of the President of the United States and the orders of the [officers](#) appointed over me, according to regulations and the [Uniform Code of Military Justice](#). [So Help Me God](#)." Was it the right thing to do? I thought so then and I KNOW so now! What we didn't know then was if we would ever make it home alive with the Cold War and Vietnam at their most volatile points in history. We didn't know then that we were going to spend at least two years in Japan, a place that most of us knew nothing about. We didn't know then that we were going to meet and befriend some high caliber folks that would become not just our best friends for two years but our comrades and brothers for the rest of our lives. We didn't know then that along with their spouses, we would become THE 6918TH FAMILY, not unlike our biological families who are there when we need someone to lean on, someone to listen when we need to talk, someone to feel for us when we are hurting, and someone to pray for us when we need it. We didn't know then that fifty or sixty years later we would still be getting together by phone, mail and email, and we certainly didn't know then that we would be gathering for reunions every couple of years. Sadly, we also didn't know then that after fast forwarding ahead to now, there would be so many of us meeting our Maker at such a rapid pace. We are indeed Family and we do indeed miss our brothers when we lose them. We feel badly because, just like our biological family, we didn't give them a call or drop them a line when we were thinking of them, (or we didn't go to a reunion when we were able). How strikingly evident that is with, Don Dickson, our brother and 2017 reunion Chairman's untimely passing. Our Fallen Eagle count now, just **since the first of the year is at 13**, and **since the 2015 reunion it**

is **41**, and since we began keeping records it is **519**.

The long opening paragraph came to be because I was wondering if the reunions were worth the effort our dedicated few extend to make them happen. I just wish I were literate enough to express it without so many words. But those are my feelings (Stan's) and yes it is worth it! Now here is the lowdown on what's happening at the ho-down in September!



**6918th RSM/SS Alumni
2017 Reunion
September 21st – 24th
Colorado Springs, Colorado**

Registration Fees

Below is the link to pay your registration fees online. The registration fee has increased due to the higher costs of operations, including our use of **Armed Forces Reunions** to assist us with reunion planning. The 2017 fee is \$125 per person. Registration fees are paid through **Armed Forces Reunions, on-line or by mail**, using guidance in the link below. Also paid there are tour fees and pre-purchased raffle tickets. Raffle tickets will also be sold at the reunion. If you do not wish to register online, you may print the form and mail it with your check as shown on the form.

The online registration cut-off date is 8/17/17!

<https://afr-reg.com/6918RSM-2017>

Hotel Registration

The 2017 reunion will be held at the Hotel Elegante', Colorado Springs, CO. The discounted group room rates are also offered for the three days prior, and three days after the reunion. Room rates are \$109.00 per night (plus taxes), which includes a breakfast buffet, or a plated breakfast (including eggs, meat, potatoes, toast, coffee and juice) per guest, each day. Breakfast tickets provided during your hotel check-in—please make sure you receive enough breakfast tickets for your entire stay.

NOTE: This breakfast perk is for our 6918th guests registered at the Hotel Elegante' only!

Those wishing to make registrations for **only the 3 days** of the reunion (9/21-9/24) only, please use this link:

<https://www.reseze.net/servlet/SendPage?hotelid=1410&skipfirstpage=true&page=1626099>

Those wishing to take advantage of the locked in rate for part or all of the 3 days before and/or the 3 days after the reunion, or those who would like a refrigerator and/or microwave in their room, or who have any other special needs or requests-- you must call the hotel directly to make your registrations.

Call: The Hotel Elegante' at: 719-576-5900 let them know you are with the 6918th RSM/SS Reunion.

Special notice from the hotel: **Early Departure Fee:** In the event a guest has reserved a guest room within the group's block and checks out prior to the guest's reserved checkout date, an early departure fee of \$75.00 will be charged to the guest's individual credit card. **This fee will be waived in case of medical or family emergency.** Guests wishing to avoid this fee **must** advise Hotel at or before check-in of any change in the scheduled length of stay.

Arrival in Colorado

Colorado Springs: Once you have landed and collected your luggage, you can call the hotel at: **719-576-5900** to take advantage of their free airport shuttle service. Give them your name and inform them you are checking in with the 6918th RSM/SS Reunion. Be sure to tell them the name of the airline you arrived on. They will let you know where/when you will be picked up. **Denver:** You will need

to schedule your own shuttle service from the Denver airport to the Hotel Elegante'. Here are a couple of links to check out.

<https://www.coloradoshuttle.com/prices-schedules>

<https://frontrangeshuttle.com>

Wheelchair Medical devices Rental - ScootAround rents both manual and power wheelchairs by the day and week. Please call (888) 441-7575 or visit www.scootaround.com for more details and to make reservations. **Things to see and do while in Colorado Springs:**

- Pikes Peak <http://www.pikes-peak.com/>
- Helen Hunt Falls <https://www.alltrails.com/trail/us/colorado/helen-hunt-falls-trail>
- Cripple Creek <https://www.visitcripplecreek.com/>
- Olympic Training Center <http://www.teamusa.org/about-the-usoc/olympic-training-centers/csotc/about>
- Old Colorado Historic District <http://www.visitcos.com/map-area-communities/old-colorado-city/>
- Glen Eyrie Castle <http://www.visitcos.com/things-to-do/history-and-heritage/landmarks/glen-eyrie-castle-in-colorado-springs/>
- Seven Falls <http://www.visitcos.com/things-to-do/history-and-heritage/landmarks/the-broadmoor-seven-falls-in-colorado-springs/>
- Will Rogers Memorial <http://www.cmzoo.org/index.php/about-the-zoo/history/will-rogers-shrine/>
- AFA football <http://www.goairforcefalcons.com/sports/m-footbl/sched/afa-m-footbl-sched.html>
- Pikes Peak Regional Air Show 23/24 Sept. Vintage aircraft & AF Thunderbirds. <http://www.pprairshow.org/>

Board of Directors Report

The board of directors will hold a formal board meeting at the 2017 reunion, as well as a public business meeting in our hospitality suite, currently scheduled for Friday, September 22nd, between 3-5 pm. The actual board meeting will discuss actions since 2015, and since the e-mail meeting held in 2016, corporate finances, contributions and donations, reunion activities, and plans for the future—to include

replacing at least two retiring board members. The board meeting time has not yet been formalized. The business meeting in the hospitality suite on Friday will share with the full membership who are present, the formal board meeting highlights, to include finances, future reunion planning and locations, changes to board membership, etc.

We know we are losing at least 2 sitting board members to retirement. Alumni members interested in serving on the 6918th Corporate Board should contact us immediately.

Fund Raising

Our dwindling “active” roster, because of our increasing “Fallen Eagle” roster, and our ages and health issues, have made it increasingly more challenging to stay afloat financially. Our fund raisers for the reunion have become more important. If you are unable to attend and would like to support your 6918th Family endeavor, we will graciously and appreciatively accept your tax deductible donation. If you are a family member of our “Fallen Eagle” and would care to make a memorial donation, we'll accept that also. And if you are attending and would still like to make a memorial or cash donation, we can take it. We also see a slight profit from our merchandise sales available on the public site: www.6918thhakata.com/base-exchange If anyone knows of a Corporation or business that you think would donate (either monetarily or items for the Raffles) to a veteran organization (501c19) like us, let me know and I'll contact them. Make checks payable to **The 6918th Corp.** and mail them to our treasurer: **Carol Farr 1102 W Harbour Towne Dr Lake Ozark, MO 65049-7215**

Silent Auction

A new idea of fundraising for us, this year, will be our 2017 Silent Auction. The following items were donated by Stan and Linda Freymuth. All artwork was “counted cross-stitched” by Linda, taking 80 to 120+ hours to complete each scene. She started the project in January 2016 after retirement and finished in February 2017. The frames, with non-glare glass, made by Stan, are authentic barn wood siding from the Freymuth dairy farm, a barn torn down by Stan while on leave before going to Japan in 1966. We will furnish the barn wood history to the

purchasers at the reunion.



Silent Auction

[Auction information here](#)

If you are not able to attend the reunion but would like to support the event, we are offering you the opportunity to snail mail or email us your bid, we will assign you a number; log your bid on the bid sheet that will accompany the item at the reunion. Being a silent auction, you will be handicapped by possibly being out bid by those attending. Before the reunion we will let you know if you are out bid and you can raise your bid. Once we begin our journey to the reunion, your last correspondence to us will be your final bid. We will furnish the packaging insurance and shipping if you are the high bidder and not attending the reunion. See below to choose your item number or description of each item you would like to bid on. Reunion attendees, we've listed the frame size, width first height second, so they will fit into your luggage.

Send silent auction bid correspondence to Stan

Freymuth: sfreymuth@charter.net or Call 636-379-8725

Stan Freymuth

8 Steiert St

Peters, MO 63376

**Also offered at the reunion will be several
NEW "6918th" BX items.**



[For Sale Table Information Here](#)

We have several other items donated by 6918th members that will be offered at the reunion for the raffle table. Donations include: Ladies scarfs, Sake glasses, Keesler T-shirt, Patriotic Window Decals, Magnetic Dart Board, USAF Flag, Books autographed by Danny Johnson, Books autographed by Tom Stephens, Candy Basket and more donated items not received yet. There will be a separate 'raffle' page established, and linked to the **2017 Reunion Anchor page** on Spokt.com, where you'll be able to view the raffle items. Without exception, with The 6918th Corp., you get something GOOD for your money. If you donate cash, it's a tax deduction. If you select a fundraiser item, you get it and a tax deduction. So, please help us on the fundraising whether you are or are not attending. We need YOU!



[Donations information here](#)

Summary

Get those reunion plans and reservations made right now, as the **cut-off date is 8/17/17!** As we age, and with retiring board leadership, it is entirely possible that this reunion could be our last big one—so please, plan to attend NOW, as none of us know what our expiration dates will be! ***See you in September!***
