



# BATTLE OF THE BULGE ASSOCIATION®

**2024 BOBA REUNION | ST. CHARLES, MO**  
**Friday, September 20 – Tuesday, September 24, 2024**

## PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

We welcome members of the 87th INFD and 8th ARMDD, who will serve as co-sponsors, and encourage other groups to join us as well.

Did you know that St. Charles, MO was founded in 1769 and served as the first state capital from 1821-1826? In 1804, Lewis and Clark considered this settlement the last “civilized” stop before they headed upriver to explore the western territory that the United States acquired from France in the Louisiana Purchase. Join us for the 42nd annual BOBA Reunion and find out what makes this region so special! All aboard the free St. Charles Trolley, this 40-minute loop makes 7 stops. See [www.StCharlesTrolley.com](http://www.StCharlesTrolley.com) for more information.

### FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 2024

We will begin on Friday evening at our host property, the Embassy Suites, St. Charles with a “Taste of the Region.” Enjoy such delicacies as gooey butter cakes, toasted ravioli and other craft beers and wines of the region at our opening reception. After being welcomed by Jim Gormley, president of the Gateway Chapter, we will hear from Dr. George Despotis, physician and WWII author, as he introduces our honored veterans, including some from the region. He will tell us about Lyle Bouck, who was in charge of the Intelligence and Reconnaissance Platoon, 394th Infantry Regiment, 99th INFD, which was the most decorated platoon of WWII for action defending a key road in the vicinity of the Losheim Gap, on the first morning of the Battle of the Bulge.

Both before and after the official presentation, we have the pleasure of welcoming Myra Miller, Founder of Footsteps Research, who will work with her assistant to see if she can access any information about your veteran’s service record (free of charge). As a licensed researcher at NARA St. Louis, she has access to some back files that may provide information about your veteran, even if you have been told the “records burned up in the fire.”

### SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 2024

Saturday will begin with a wreath laying ceremony at the **Battle of the Bulge Monument** in Jefferson Barracks Park and Cemetery overlooking the Mississippi River. With assistance from the Jr. ROTC and a small squad of 2nd Rangers in uniform, our veterans will place a wreath. We will conclude with a Grand salute



Jefferson Barracks Cemetery

& Taps in memory of our fallen heroes.

Next will be a stop at the **POW-MIA Museum** (donations accepted). Additionally, we will have a windshield tour of **Jefferson Barracks Cemetery**. We will have a step on guide for each bus tell us about the historical significance of this national cemetery. It includes both Confederate and Union dead. World War II casualties introduced a new focus to the cemetery as the central repository for group interments resulting from national disasters, when individual remains cannot be identified. Three WWII Medal of Honor Recipients rest here.

Lunch will be at the **Royale Orleans Restaurant**. We will enjoy an Italian themed buffet while being entertained by background singing of WWII-era songs and a program being planned by the Gateway Chapter.

After returning to the hotel for a quick rest, we will leave for the **Smartt Airfield** where the Commemorative Air Force will host a hangar dance in the beautifully restored WWII hangar. Flying overhead will be the B-25 Mitchell “Show Me,” a TBM-3 Avenger, an L-3S, and PT-17 Stearman, all WWII military planes. There is the opportunity for 40 people sign up for the VIP Experience, which includes food, beverages, hat, and a commemorative coin. Others who want to attend will pay a reduced price and purchase food and beverages separately.

### SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 22, 2024

Prior to the **Open Board Meeting**, Myra Miller and her assistant will again help you track your veteran’s service information. As for the meeting, please be present to make your views known for the future of our important organization. After a box lunch in the Hospitality Room, and the drawing of the raffle prizes (you do not have to be present to win), we will have

**3 educational sessions.** Refer to the Reunion Program for the titles of each presentation and the presenters. Sunday evening will be our **annual banquet**. With the presentation of the colors and other invited guests, we welcome again our keynote speaker Myra Miller, PhD.

### MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 23, 2024

“See you in St. Louis, Louie!”, located near the confluence of the Mississippi and the Missouri Rivers, St. Louis hosted 1904 World’s Fair and the Olympics, becoming the first non-European city to host the games. Our first stop will be the **Gateway Arch**, a 630-foot-tall monument, the world’s tallest arch and Missouri’s tallest accessible structure. Building began in 1963 and the arch opened in October 1965. While we will not be able to go to the top of the arch, we will have time for a photo opportunity. Next is a visit to the **Soldier’s Memorial Military Museum**. Dedicated by Franklin Delano Roosevelt in 1936, the Museum opened on Memorial Day of that year.

The **St. Louis Zoological Park** was opened in 1910 and is home to over 160,000 animals and remains one of the top-ranking zoos in the country. The Flight Cage was constructed by Frank Baker in 1904 for the World’s Fair and currently houses 20 different species of North American birds. This tour will be self-led.

Our time together will be coming to an end but not before having one last chance to have a taste of St. Charles. For those that want to join us, we will take the hotel shuttle to one of the local restaurants on **historical Main Street, St. Charles**. Located along the Missouri River, this street is known for its historic architecture, specialty stores and antiques, lovely parks, various restaurants and a monument to Lewis & Clark.



Historic Main Street, St. Charles

# REUNION PROGRAM

## FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 2024

4:00 PM – 7:30 PM	Registration (outside Hospitality Room)
4:00 PM – 10:30 PM	Hospitality Room Open
4:00 PM – 6:00 PM	Research your veterans records – Myra Miller, Footsteps Researcher & Producer
5:30 PM – 7:00 PM	Manager’s Reception (Atrium)
6:00 PM – 8:00 PM	“Taste of the Region” Reception (Hospitality Room)
8:00 PM – 10:00 PM	Research your veterans records – Myra Miller, Footsteps Researcher & Producer Dinner on your own

## SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 2024

6:30 AM – 10:00 AM	Complimentary Hot Breakfast with Cook to Order Breakfast
8:30 AM – 9:00 AM	Registration and Hospitality Room Open
9:00 AM – 9:15 AM	Bus loads for sightseeing
10:00 AM – 11:00 AM	Wreath laying at Jefferson Barracks Park and Cemetery at BOBA Monument
11:00 AM – 11:45 PM	Visit the POW-MIA Museum (donations accepted)
11:45 AM – 12:45 PM	Windshield tour of Jefferson Barracks National Cemetery with guide
1:00 PM – 3:00 PM	Luncheon at Royale Orleans
3:15 PM – 3:45 PM	Bus loads at Royale Orleans and returns to Embassy Suites
3:45 PM – 10:30 PM	Hospitality Room Open
5:30 PM – 7:00 PM	Manager’s Reception (Atrium)
5:00 PM	Bus loads for Hangar Dance with Big Band Orchestra (Smartt Field)
5:45 PM – 8:30 PM	Hangar Dance with Big Band Orchestra (40 people VIP Experience, General Admission)
8:45 PM	Bus returns to Embassy Suites

## SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 22, 2024

6:30 AM – 10:00 AM	Complimentary Hot Breakfast with Cook to Order Breakfast
8:30 AM – 10:00 AM	Late Registration and Hospitality Room Open & Research your veterans records
10:00 AM – 11:30 AM	Open Board Meeting (Portland Room)
11:45 AM – 1:00 PM	Box Lunch – 2nd Ranger Battalion Reenactors exhibit (Hospitality Room)
12:30 PM – 1:00 PM	Drawing for raffle (Hospitality Room)
1:00 PM – 2:00 PM	Christmas 1944 and Life as the Daughter of a POW Presenters: Barbara Mooneyhan, Diane Husk (Portland Room)
2:15 PM – 3:15 PM	POW-MIA Experience – Video of Lt. Blassie’s Journey Home (told by his sister) Presenter: Paul Dillon, Curator, POW-MIA Museum (Portland Room)
3:30 PM – 4:30 PM	Mail Delays during the Battle of the Bulge Presenter: Jim Triesler – (Portland Room)
5:30 PM – 7:00 PM	Manager’s Reception
6:00 PM – 6:30 PM	Reception outside Windsor Room (drinks paid by consumption)
6:30 PM – 7:00 PM	Opening remarks by invited guests & Presentation of Colors (Windsor Room)
7:00 PM – 8:30 PM	Banquet at the hotel – Myra Miller, speaker (Windsor Room)
8:30 PM – 8:45 PM	Retiring of Colors and Flag Folding Ceremony
8:45 PM – 10:30 PM	Hospitality Room open

## MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 23, 2024

6:30 AM – 10:00 AM	Complimentary Hot Breakfast with Cook to Order Breakfast
8:30 AM – 10:00 AM	Hospitality Room open
9:15 AM	Bus loads for Sightseeing
10:30 AM – 11:00 AM	Stop at St. Louis Arch and Cathedral for photo opportunity
11:00 AM – 12:00 N	Soldier’s Memorial Military Museum
12:30 PM – 2:00 PM	Lunch at The Boathouse at world-famous Forest Park
2:00 PM – 3:30 PM	Forest Park – St. Louis Zoological Park (self-guided)
4:00 PM	Bus Returns to hotel
4:00 PM – 10:30 PM	Hospitality Room Open
5:30 PM – 7:00 PM	Manager’s Reception
6:00 PM – 8:00 PM	Dinner at Restaurant along the River on Historic Main Street, St. Charles Hotel Shuttle – individual pay

## TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 2024

6:30 AM – 10:00 AM	Complimentary Hot Breakfast with Cook to Order Breakfast Depart or stay longer and enjoy the beautiful city of St. Charles!
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**IMPORTANT:**  
Please continue  
to check the website  
for the most  
up to date information!



# 2024 BOBA REUNION • ST. CHARLES, MO

## BOBA REUNION REGISTRATION FORM

**DEADLINE FOR REGISTRATION FOR REUNION: MONDAY, AUGUST 19, 2024**

There are two options for registering for the reunion: **Complete this form with check (preferred method to avoid extra charges) OR register online at [www.battleofthebulge.org](http://www.battleofthebulge.org) (Click on the “Attend Reunion” and complete the Registration Form.)** Registration for the reunion must be received no later than August 19, 2024. There is no penalty for canceling up to two days before your scheduled arrival for the hotel but we ask if you cancel the events, that you donate your registration fees to the Reunion Fund.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Additional Guests \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Division, Regiment, etc \_\_\_\_\_

Check here if you need a wheelchair  Check here if you will be using your own wheelchair  Motorized?  Yes  No

**IMPORTANT: Please indicate No. of Persons attending free events as well!**

**Registration Fee** (All attendees must pay the Non-Refundable Registration Fee)

	No. of Persons	Cost per Person	Total Cost
Adult/Older Child	_____	\$75	_____
Child (6 and Under)	_____	Free	_____
Late registration fee after August 19 - add \$20 per person	_____	\$20	_____

### Friday, September 20, 2024

Evening “Taste of the Region” reception in the Hospitality Room \_\_\_\_\_ \$20 \_\_\_\_\_

### Saturday, September 21, 2024

Bus Transportation for Jefferson Barracks, luncheon	_____	\$45	_____
Wreath laying at Jefferson Barracks Park	_____	Included	_____
Windshield tour of Cemetery & POW-MIA Museum	_____	Donation	_____
Buffet Luncheon Royale Orleans (coffee, tea, water included)	_____	\$35	_____
Bus Transportation for Hangar Dance	_____	\$25	_____
WWII Hangar Dance and VIP Experience (limited to 40 guests)	_____	\$50	_____
WWII Hangar Dance General Admission (food on your own)	_____	\$25	_____

### Sunday, September 22, 2024

Open Board Meeting	_____	Free	_____
Box Lunch in Hospitality Room	Turkey _____ Veggie Wrap _____	\$30	_____
Battle of the Bulge historical programs (3 sessions)	_____	Free	_____
Reception – Windsor Room (individual pay)	_____	Free	_____
Banquet with Military Honors & Special Guests – Keynote Speaker: Myra Miller	_____	_____	_____
Salmon _____ Chicken _____ Vegetarian _____	_____	\$60	_____

### Monday, September 23, 2024

Bus Transportation for all day	_____	\$45	_____
Drive by St. Louis arch for photo opportunity	_____	Included	_____
Soldier’s Memorial Military Museum	_____	Included	_____
Box lunch at The Boathouse, located at Historic Forest Park	_____	_____	_____
Turkey _____ Pulled Pork _____ Mediterranean Veggie _____	_____	\$30	_____
St. Louis Zoological Park (Self lead)	_____	Included	_____
Dinner on Historic Main Street, St. Charles (Hotel Shuttle)	_____	Individual Pay	_____

HELP SPONSOR A VETERAN OR LEGACY REUNION EXPERIENCE \_\_\_\_\_

HELP SUPPORT THE *BUGLE* PUBLICATION \_\_\_\_\_

**TOTAL** \_\_\_\_\_

Mail this form and check (payable to BOBA) to: Battle of the Bulge Association, Inc.®, P.O. Box 330, Mechanicsville, VA 23111-0330  
Or, to pay with a credit/debit card or PayPal, register online at [www.battleofthebulge.org](http://www.battleofthebulge.org), click on “Attend Reunion”

# BOOK YOUR HOTEL ROOMS TODAY!

## EMBASSY SUITES BY HILTON, ST. CHARLES, MO

### FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 20 – TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 2024



Embassy Suites by Hilton – St. Charles, MO

Two Convention Center Plaza

Saint, Charles, MO 63303

1-636-946-5544

Weblink: [BATTLE OF THE BULGE ASSOCIATION](#)

\$169 – Standard suites for single or double (group rate available 3 days prior or following reunion dates) Link for reservations below.

#### [BATTLE OF THE BULGE ASSOCIATION](#)

#### **DEADLINE FOR BOOKING WITH OUR DISCOUNT IS SEPTEMBER 5, 2024**

- Handicapped rooms available upon request (based on availability)
- Complimentary hot breakfast buffet with made to order items
- Nightly managers reception with beer, wine, cocktails and light refreshments
- Complimentary wireless internet in guestrooms and meeting rooms
- Complimentary self-parking
- Indoor pool and fitness center
- On-site restaurant & room service

While there is no complimentary shuttle from/to the airport, taxis and Uber are available from St. Louis Airport.

## WE NEED YOUR HELP!

The Battle of the Bulge Association® is planning its 42nd Annual Reunion to be held in St. Charles, Missouri in September 2024. We want to honor in grand style the few remaining heroes from this important World War II battle who are still able to travel, and provide financial assistance for any that want to attend. They are in their late 90s and early 100s, as this battle was fought almost 80 years ago. Please help preserve their legacy in appreciation for the freedoms they guaranteed through their sacrifice.



BOBA Veterans at Reunion in New Orleans, 2023

### HOW CAN I HELP?

- \$2,500.00** Sponsors banquet with visiting dignitaries from Belgium & Luxembourg
- \$2,000.00** Sponsors transportation for wreath-laying ceremony and city tours
- \$1,750.00** Sponsors a WWII Veteran to attend reunion, with transportation
- \$1,250.00** Sponsors a WWII Battle of the Bulge Veteran to attend all events
- \$500.00** Helps as partial sponsor for the Opening Reception
- \_\_\_\_\_ Any amount will help offset costs for all events

#### **Make your tax-deductible donation to:**

Battle of the Bulge Association®, Inc. (BOBA); P. O. Box 330; Mechanicsville, VA 23111-0330

[www.battleofthebulge.org](http://www.battleofthebulge.org)

*Please note that this is a donation to the reunion*

Battle of the Bulge Association®, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) organization