



The Cousins Celebrating 50 years



Greetings Cousins!

Happy New Year and welcome back to the nation's capital, as we celebrate 50 years of family! This year's theme, "**Honoring our Past, Acknowledging our Present, Embracing our Future**" will hopefully set the tone as we embark upon new ideas, new challenges and new goals. If we are to thrive for another 50 years, we must be intentional as we look forward, and demonstrate a willingness to move from our comfort zone. Remember the men and women who sat around that dining table in Pittsburg, PA, they made a conscious decision to celebrate family! And so, we continue.

Plans for this reunion weekend start with accommodations. Our DC Chapter negotiated some of the best terms we have seen in a very long time, right across the bridge in Arlington, VA at the Sheraton Pentagon City Hotel (900 S. Orme St.). Room rates are only \$104/night, (king or two double beds; plus, taxes and fees). Reservations are available by calling **1-800-325-3535**, or online through the Cousins room block, <https://book.passkey.com/e/50041752>. The hotel is located 10 minutes from Reagan National Airport and just a 10-minute ride across the 14th St. Bridge, to the heart of Washington, DC.

All reservations must be guaranteed by a first night's room deposit, or guaranteed with a credit card. Only a limited number of rooms are available at this price-point, so please **MAKE YOUR HOTEL RESERVATION EARLY!!** When the room block is gone, it's gone and the rate may increase. In addition to a great room rate, we negotiated: (a) \$17/day parking rate with in and out privileges; (b) \$10 voucher towards the daily **breakfast buffet**, with king rooms receiving 2 vouchers daily and double rooms receiving 4 vouchers daily (your final cost for the breakfast buffet = \$8).

There are numerous activities for you to enjoy during your visit. Great restaurants for dining, shopping for you fashionistas (Tanger Outlet, National Harbor), museums (Native American, Bible Museum), historical sites and monuments galore (Washington, Vietnam Veteran, MLK Jr.). Our traditional events, the banquet and prayer breakfast are on the agenda, along with a few added features that we hope will be pleasing. A tour of the **National Museum of African American History and Culture** will be the highlight of our Saturday activities. We have contracted for only two buses. If we receive enough registrations early, we may secure a third bus. Again, we ask that you please register **early!**



**NATIONAL MUSEUM OF AFRICAN
AMERICAN HISTORY AND CULTURE**

Gold, festive attire, or formal wear is strongly encouraged for Friday night's banquet. 50 years is quite an achievement, so let's celebrate the gold! Chicken, beef and salmon are all on the menu, but you can only select one as your entrée (vegetarian option also available; check registration form for prices).

In keeping with our theme as we "embrace the future", 2020 will kick off with new experiences for the reunion. Cousins who are small business owners with products to sell will have an opportunity to showcase their merchandise at our **Business Expo!** Tables with important information on health topics will also be available. Cousin Sheila Blamo, National Vice Chair, is spearheading this effort, so be on the lookout for additional announcements on the Cousin's Facebook page and website.

This year for the first time, registration payment by **PayPal** is available to all cousins as an option. If you have a PayPal account, you may go to the DC Cousins account at thecousinsofdc@gmail.com. Please note Pay Pal charges a 2.2% fee when you use a credit or debit card. If submitting by check, make payable to **Nat'l Cousins Family Reunion-DC Chapter**. Regardless of payment type, you **must** mail Registration Form and Souvenir Book Contract to Sheila Hawkins, 11436 Plenty Gates Court, Waldorf, MD 20601. In addition, **PLEASE SEND YOUR COMPLETED FORMS BY EMAIL BEFORE MAKING YOUR PAY PAL PAYMENT!!** Submit forms to shawkins@perkinscoie.com.

Cousins arriving Thursday will have an opportunity to visit the MGM Grand Casino and Entertainment venue. In addition, a golf outing is being organized as well as a youth outing for Friday afternoon. The Sheraton offers free shuttle service to metro and Fashion Centre at Pentagon Mall.

Be a part of this historic anniversary, by placing an ad in the Souvenir Book and purchasing a tee shirt. Contracts for both can be found in your registration package. Finally, we are asking **ALL** cousins to bring photos for posting in the hospitality suite. Eight boards, one for each branch of the family for mounting pictures. We will photograph and archive these pictures for a future family photo journal.

Again, please register early and take advantage of our awesome room rate. Mail your payment for the souvenir book contract and tee shirt contract, to the address on the form, or use technology and pay via PayPal. A new scholarship application is also in your package, for those families with graduating high school seniors.

We love you and look forward to your arrival in June!

Let's Stay Together,

DC Chapter Cousins