RAJA 2025 PORTLAND, MAINE JUNE 4 – JUNE 8, 2025

Welcome to Portland, Maine, the 2023 National Food City of the Year and a top-25 US tourist destination! RAJA events will be held in the Holiday Inn By The Bay in downtown Portland. We have reserved a block of 60 rooms at the Holiday Inn. Please make your reservations by going online via RAJA 2025 (Holiday Inn Portland) or calling 1-207-775-2311, option 0 and providing the agent the group code JAZ or event name (Retired Army Judge Advocates Association 2025 Meeting) to get the RAJA room rate of \$239 (plus tax). That rate is also available 3 days before and 2 days after the scheduled dates. The Holiday Inn has an in-house restaurant, and other nearby local breakfast options offer two distinct vibes: Marcy's Diner and C2 Restaurant and Bar.

Plan to arrive on Wednesday, June 4, to take advantage of all this vibrant city has to offer. On Thursday you can play golf that morning or take a trolley tour or walking tour of the heart of Portland. The banquet will be held on Saturday evening, June 7, so your check-out date should be Sunday, June 8. Both self-parking and valet parking have in/out privileges and are at a group rate of \$15 per day. Parking is both within the building and in the neighboring garage. Away from the hotel, parking in downtown Portland is very limited, so walking or Uber is suggested.

TRANSPORTATION

The Portland International Jetport is served by nine airlines with Boston's Logan Airport, 2 hours drive from Portland, being the primary alternative. The hotel provides airport shuttle service from the Jetport – call when you have your bags as it only is a 10-15-minute drive. Amtrak Downeaster service runs five times daily between Boston, Massachusetts and Brunswick, Maine with stops in Portland for those who like to explore by train.

ACTIVITIES

THURSDAY, JUNE 5

Golf

The Society of RAJA Golfers will convene at the Bath Golf Club at about 8:30 on Thursday, June 5. 2024 greens fees were \$55 for golf and cart. Updated golf and club rental fees and the opportunity to choose your golf partners will be provided when RAJA registration is complete and the player roster assembled. The Golf Tsar, Allan Toomey, will gladly answer any questions you may have regarding the outing. atoomey@sc.rr.com or 803-622-7720 (call or text).

<u>Trolley Tour or Walking Tour and/or Shopping</u>

As an alternative to golf, a Trolley Tour or one of two Walking Tours are possible — the companies request you book online and invite you to mention you are with RAJA because they will make efforts to group RAJA members together if possible.

Portland Discovery Land & Sea Tours (207-774-0808) offers 1 hour 45 minute narrated trolley tours for approximately \$45 at 11:30 am and 1:30 pm. Walking tours are by Maine Day Ventures (207-233-7485). An "Old Port Culinary Walking Tour" is at 10:30 am for 3 hours, cost \$140. "Portland's Historic Walking Tour, A Daily Walk Through Time" is a 2-hour tour beginning at 10 am with veteran pricing of \$37. You are on your own to make reservations for these events. They are not included on the RAJA registration form.

For the shoppers in the group, there are a number of boutiques on Commercial Street near the Wharfs and on Fore Street – a cobblestone street. On Commercial Street take the time to enjoy a local delicacy – a potato donut at The Holy Donut.

<u>Icebreaker</u>

The traditional RAJA icebreaker will begin at 6:00 PM on June 5 in the Holiday Inn's CT/RI (Connecticut/Rhode Island) room. There will be plenty of seating and food, so you shouldn't need to plan to go to dinner afterwards. Drinks are pay-as-you-go. Dress is casual.

FRIDAY, JUNE 6

Business Meeting

The annual business meeting and TJAG presentation will start our day at 8:00 am in the CT/RI (Connecticut/Rhode Island) room. A traditional continental breakfast buffet will be provided.

Harbor Queen Boat Tour of Casco Bay

Experience the iconic lighthouses and sights of Portland Harbor and the picturesque waterway known as Diamond Pass as we make our way through Casco Bay cruising past Civil War Forts, villages and Victorian cottages and get a glimpse into Island Life. The Harbor Queen departs from Long Wharf at 10:30 am with boarding at approximately 10:00 am for a 2-hour cruise for \$50/person. Uber is suggested to get up and down the hill from about \$5 a trip. Only snacks and drinks are available on the boat.

We are on our own for lunch and dinner with no lack of choices, but try to book ahead if possible.

SATURDAY, JUNE 7

Maine Maritime Museum Tour

We will be up and out early for a 40-minute drive up the coast to the Maine Maritime Museum in Bath. We will depart the hotel NLT 7:30 am. Group A will board a boat at 9 am and at 10:30 am have a shipyard grounds tour. Group B will board the boat at 10:15 am after a 9 am shipyard grounds tour. Please indicate your preferred group and all efforts will be made to accommodate your request, but know that the museum requires passenger manifests for each outing before the day of departure, so flexibility is appreciated. Groups will be divided by bus. In addition to the shipyard grounds, there is a museum with a charming gift shop. The grounds are walkable and wheelchairs are available upon request. A box lunch will be served on the grounds at 11:30 am. Lunch choices are a chicken salad sandwich, hummus wrap, or ham and cheddar sandwich. Given we have two buses, there is the chance one might depart early, but if not we will bus back to the Holiday Inn approximately at 3:00 pm arriving NLT 4:00 pm.

Banquet

The cocktail hour will begin at 5:30 pm outside the meeting room. Drinks are pay-as-you-go. Dinner will begin at 6:30 pm. Dinner choices include maple-glazed salmon, Statler chicken breast, and eggplant parmesan. Meals come with a variety of accompaniments and dessert! Red and white wine will be provided. Dress for dinner is casual.

As always, a hospitality suite will be available. Please see the schedule of events for hours of operation.

RAJA Refund Policy: The registration deadline is March 31, 2025. Due to financial commitments with our contracted vendors, no refunds will be provided after that date.

We look forward to seeing you. If you have any questions, please contact Phyllis Corrigan at PMCorrigan41@icloud.com, 603-528-3724, Pauline Lancaster at sfgplancaster@gmail.com, 317-750-5392 or Mike Chapman at mike.chapman@rajaassn.org, 703-550-6004. Mike's cell is 703-403-7891.

Please return to the <u>meeting information page</u> on the RAJA website to complete and print the registration form.

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS RAJA 2025 – Portland, Maine

June 4,	Wed	lnesd	lay
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3:00 – 6:00 pm Registration	in hotel lobby. Hotel check-in time is 3:00 pm
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8:00 – 10:30 pm Hospitality Suite open. Follow the signs.

June 5, Thursday

10 am – 1:30 pm Trolley or Walking Tours (varies with tour)

Lunch on your own

9:00 – 5:00 pm Shopping/Sightseeing throughout the Old Port

2:00 – 5:00 pm Registration check-in.

6:00 – 8:00 pm | Icebreaker Reception – CT/RI Room. 8:30 – 10:30 pm | Hospitality Suite open. Follow the signs.

June 6, Friday

10:00 am Muster at Long Wharf for Harbor Queen Boat Tour

8:00 – 10:30 pm Hospitality Suite open

June 7, Saturday

GROUP A*

9:00 am Board boat for Boat Tour.

10:30 am Shipyard Tour.

11:30 am Box Lunch at the Hospitality Tent.

3:00 pm Latest departure for hotel.

GROUP B*

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7:30 am	Group B Departs for Maine Maritime Museum.
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9:00 am Shipyard Tour.

10:15 am Board boat for Boat Tour.

11:30 am Box Lunch at the Hospitality Tent.

3:00 pm Latest departure for hotel.

^{*} If you have a preference for Group A or B, please note that on the registration form.

5:00) – 6:00 pm	Cocktail Hour; (CT	7RI Room.

6:00 – 8:00 pm Banquet

8:30 – 10:30 pm Hospitality Suite open

June 8, Sunday Depart (Check-out time is 11:00 am)