USS TOPEKA CLG-8

Reunion Association Newsletter

Volume 16, No. 1 February 2005

Officers:
Jerry Judge, Chairman, Board of Directors; John Reynolds, President;
Jack Timmons, Secretary-Treasurer; Ray Spatz, Reunion 05 Chairman;
Kathy Spatz, Newsletter Editor; Ken Noble, Web Master

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Don Nellis served his country well, and we will miss him. Aboard Topeka he was known as the "Gun Boss", and his leadership was as good as it gets. He understood a lot about human nature and he had the respect of all those who served with him. He had a brilliant career as a Navy Seal before we were privileged to know him as Baka Hachi's Weapons Officer. He loved life and always had a smile and a good story to tell. After retiring he continued his leadership among us by bringing together all his Topeka shipmates in San Diego. Because of his efforts the Topeka Reunion Association was born, and we have continued to enjoy each other's friendship as we meet each year in different parts of the country. After leaving Topeka he went on to have his own command aboard the destroyer Mansfield. He then earned his 4th stripe and was later assigned to a repair ship as its skipper. Who will ever forget his stellar performance as Maxine Andrews of the Andrew sisters in the fantail frolics at our San Diego reunion, and the repeat performance in Topeka, Kansas? We wish you God's speed skipper, fair sailing, and may the wind always be at your back.

John Reynolds

USS TOPEKA REUNION ASSOCIATION

What do we do?
We have a reunion each year. Each reunion is in a different part of the country. The locations rotate from the East Coast to the Central States to the West Coast.
Each reunion has a host. The host is usually eager to show off his home location. He and others make arrangements at the city he nominated two years earlier and was voted as the preferred choice the pervious year. He makes the hotel choice and arrangements. (Usually looking for a quality location at the best possible price.) Tours are offered to points of interest in the local area. Arraignments are made for the golfers in our group.

The 2006 reunion is scheduled for San Diego. We do need a presentation for 2007. That reunion should be in the central United States.

LAUGHLIN

There will **not** be a "mini" reunion in Laughlin this year. Please contact Ruth or Dudley Cass for information on future Laughlin reunions.

GOLFERS

Anyone interested in playing golf at the reunion in New York City? Please contact me so I can arrange some golf times for you. There is an outstanding course under the Throgs Neck Bridge with a view of the Manhattan skyline. Sounds like a plan!

2005 DUES ARE DUE

Dues of $15 for 2005 are due and should be sent to Jack Timmons, 2661 Poinsettia Dr., San Diego, CA 92106-1121. Checks should be made payable to the USS Topeka Reunion Association.

If you have not paid your dues for 2005, please take care of this matter. Dues are used to pay for the printing and mailing of this newsletter three times a year, printing and mailing the annual directory of members, the costs of maintaining the web site, postage of letters and some "upfront" reunion expenses.

If you are interested in saving money, you can pay $60 to cover dues for the next five years (saves $15) and you will get a new directory in January each year.

This is the only dues reminder you will see in this newsletter. The address label on newsletters will indicate whether or not your dues have been received.

Please send your dues to Jack Timmons

NEW MEMBERS (SINCE NOVEMBER)

Robert L. Pedan LTJG (67-69) Bay Village, OH
James W. Freeman SMSN (68-69)
Hendersonville, NC
Alexander Plattowski YN3 (59-62)
Williamstown, NJ
Richard Barnard RMSN (60-61) Fremont, CA
Charles Van Vlack PFC (68-68) Grove City, OH
Joseph Hickman LT (66-68) Folly Beach, SC
John J. Blaeser SH3 (61-66) Clermont, FL

TAPS

R. Tom Fleming, Jr. LT (61-62) 1/31/05
Jack Wilferd SMCS (59-64)
Wally Nugent 1st LT (60-61) 2000
Joe L. Humme RD3 (68-69) 7/31/04
James (J.C.) C. Oehler CWO2 (66-68)
Don Nellis CDR (63-64) 12/20/04
Donald Roland Cusson AG2 (64-68) 11/01/04

TAPS

Of all the military bugle calls, none is so easily recognized or more apt to render emotion than the call Taps. The melody is both eloquent and haunting and the history of its origin is interesting and somewhat clouded in controversy. In the British Army, a similar type call known as Last Post has been sounded over soldiers' graves since 1885, but the use of Taps is unique to the United States military, since the call is sounded at funerals, wreath-laying and memorial services.
Taps began as a revision to the signal for Extinguish Lights (Lights Out) at the end of the day. Up until the Civil War, the infantry call for Extinguish Lights was the one set down in Silas Casey's (1801-1882) Tactics, which had been borrowed from the French. The music for Taps was adapted by Union General Daniel Butterfield for his brigade (Third Brigade, First Division, Fifth Army Corps, Army of the Potomac) in July 1862.
Daniel Adams Butterfield (1831-1901) was born in Utica, New York and graduated from Union College at Schenectady. He was the eastern superintendent of the American Express Company in New York when the Civil War broke out. A Colonel in the 12th Regiment of the New York State Militia, he was promoted to Brigadier General and given command of a brigade of the 5th Corps of the Army of the Potomac.

During the Peninsular Campaign Butterfield distinguished himself when, during the Battle of Gaines Mill and despite an injury, he seized the colors of the 83rd Pennsylvania and rallied the regiment at a critical time in the battle. He was awarded the Medal of Honor for that act of heroism. As the story goes, General Butterfield was not pleased with the call for Extinguish Lights, feeling that the call was too formal to signal the days end, and with the help of the brigade bugler, Oliver Wilcox Norton (1839-1920), wrote Taps to honor his men while in camp at Harrison's Landing, Virginia, following the Seven Days battle. These battles took place during the Peninsular Campaign of 1862. The new call, sounded that night in July, 1862, soon spread to other units of the Union Army and was reportedly also used by the Confederates. Taps was made an official bugle call after the war.

EDITORIAL

New York City, Manhattan, and the Big Apple whatever you call her she is an outstanding place to visit. It does not matter how you like to spend your vacation when you come to this grand city you will fulfill those desires.

As you browse over the reunion highlights you will find some exceptional tours to begin your visit to New York City. These tours will bring you into Manhattan where you will be able to take a slice out of the Big Apple. Experience Rockefeller Center, Times Square, Macy's, Ground Zero and much, much more. If you want to see more of the city I recommend purchasing a CityPass. With this pass you can visit six New York attractions for just $45.00. This pass is good for nine days commencing when you first use the pass. Check it out at www.citypass.com.

The Statue of Liberty/Ellis Island tour will bring you into the lives of the 17million immigrants that passed through these gates to America. A short breathtaking boat ride across New York Harbor takes you to the "Lady in the Harbor," an amazing bronze sculpture, which stands 151 foot tall on a 80 foot pedestal! Just another short boat ride will take you to Ellis Island. I have visited both sites numerous times and have been in awe each time. You could actually spend an entire day at Ellis Island alone.

Of course what would a visit to New York City be without visiting the Intrepid? The Intrepid is located on the Hudson River in Manhattan. Explore her massive decks while enjoying the panorama skyline of Manhattan.

Of course there is a boundless amount of attractions, not to mention the shopping! With only three days to schedule tours my task has not been effortless. I struggled with the belief that everyone has different interests ranging from the Empire State Building to the numerous museums available in this grand city. I offer my resources and knowledge to anyone planning on attending the reunion. If you have any personal requests or questions please contact me at any time. I will be happy to help.

Please plan on attending the 2005 USS Topeka reunion in New York City, register early, arrive early and stay as long as you are able.

Kathy Spatz, Editor

STATUE OF LIBERTY

Located on 12-acre Liberty Island in New York Harbor, the Statue of Liberty was a gift of international friendship from the people of France to the people of the United States and is one of the most universal symbols of political freedom and democracy. The Statue of Liberty was dedicated on October 28, 1886 and was designated a National Monument on October 15, 1924. The Statue was extensively restored in time for her spectacular centennial on July 4, 1986. Liberty Island is federal property located within the territorial jurisdiction of the State of New York.

USS INTREPID

Launched in 1943 the USS Intrepid, CV-11 served the United States Navy for 31 years. Nicknamed the "Fighting I", she proved both and resolute.

Throughout the Pacific Campaign of World War II, the Intrepid suffered seven bomb attacks, five kamikaze strikes and one torpedo hit; yet the ship continually returned to action after repairs earning her the reputation among the enemy as the "The Ghost Ship."

After World War II, the modernization of the Intrepid to an angled flight deck enabled the carrier to accommodate jet aircraft. During the 1960's, the Intrepid served as a prime recovery vessel for NASA, picking up both Mercury and Gemini capsules.

USS TOPEKA REUNION ASSOCIATION
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Linda Roberts, 7315 Valley Lane, Hixson, TX 36743-2207; 423-842-5147;Email ILJRob@aol.com

SHIPS STORE

These items are available from the Ship's Store, order now and come to the reunion already dressed out. Most of the merchandise will be available in New York. All orders should be sent to Linda Roberts at 7315 Valley Lane, Hixson, TN 37343-2207. Linda's phone number is 423-842-5147. Include $5.00 shipping with each order and make checks or money order payable to the Reunion Association and send to Linda with your order.

Polo Shirts 2000	
Grey 2M, Beige 1M	$25.00
Polo Shirts 2002	
Yellow XL only, Blue XL and XXL	$25.00
Ivory with pocket, XL only	$25.00
Polo Shirts 2003	
Navy M, XXL, White/Navy M, XXL	$26.00
Navy/Tan with pocket XL, XXL	$26.00
New style Nylon Jackets	
Navy 2XL; Hunter green 1 M or Royal blue 1 L	$35.00
Micro fiber 2003 Jackets	
Navy/Beige and Beige/Black	$36.00
Assorted items available	
Ball Caps	$12.00
Key Chains	3.00
Cold Drink Holders	5.00
Coffee mugs w/Topeka emblem	6.00
Topeka Note pads (5 pack)	5.00
License Plate Holder	4.00

USS TOPEKA (CLG-8) REUNION ASSOCIATION, INC.
New York City, NY 2005 Reunion Highlights

Rev 2.20.05 KS

Reunion Dates: Wednesday, August 10, 2005 through Saturday, August 13, 2005, with most folks departing on Sunday August 14, 2005. **Please send your Reunion Registration forms in Early**.

Hotel: **Courtyard by Marriott LaGuardia, Airport/NYC** 90-10 Grand Central Parkway, East Elmhurst, NY 11369. Guest Room Rates are $90.00 Double. The quoted rates are quoted exclusive of prevailing local lodging tax, currently 8.63%. Quoted rates will be offered, based on availability, to our attendees three days before August 10 and three days after August 13, 2005. Individual parking is $1.00 per hour or a maximum of $13.00 overnight for overnight guests.

Make Your Own Hotel Reservations. Courtyard by Marriott LaGuardia, Airport/NYC Deadline for reservations is Monday, July 18, 2005. To receive the contacted rates, you must identify yourself as being with the USS Topeka (CLG-8) Reunion Association. All reservations will be guaranteed with individual credit cards.

Phone Number for Registrations: Call 718-446-4800 and ask for USS Topeka (CLG-8) Reunion Association Rates. Check-in time is 3:00 PM; checkout is 12:00 PM (noon).
The Courtyard by Marriott LaGuardia Airport hotel is more than just 288 spacious hotel rooms and suites. This is a full service hotel located directly across from one of the country's busiest airports at LaGuardia. Just 8 miles from the epicenter of the world, New York City, it offers views of the Empire State Building and the surrounding city attractions. This hotel is rated AAA 3 Diamonds and Mobile Travel Guide 3 Stars. The Hotel offers a fitness center, swimming pool and a business center.
Airport Shuttle: A convenient complimentary shuttle service is offered every 15 minutes to and from LaGuardia Airport for hassle-free door-to-door service.

Reunion Schedule: We recommend you plan to arrive on Tuesday, because there are plenty of things you will want to do on Wednesday through Saturday. Most will plan a Sunday departure.

Tours: Reservations must be made with your Reunion Registration to guarantee your choices. **August 10, 2005-Wednesday-Tour "A": New York Orientation Tour –Four-Hour tour**. Bus(s) load at **Courtyard by Marriott LaGuardia** at 7:15AM and depart at 7:30 AM sharp**. "A Slice of the Big Apple."** See all the sights that make the City so special. Rockefeller Center, Times Square, Macy's, Chinatown, SoHo, Greenwich Village, Little Italy and so much more. There will be several photo opportunity stops on this tour. Cost $60 per person. Requires a minimum of 20 persons.

August 11, 2005-Thursday-Tour "B ": Statue of Liberty/Ellis Island Tour- Day Tour. Bus(s) load at **Courtyard by Marriott LaGuardia** at 7:45AM and depart at 8:00 AM sharp; with estimated return 2:00PM The Statue of Liberty has been welcoming visitors to our shores for over 110 years. Another short boat tour brings you to Ellis Island Museum, which pays tribute to those brave individuals who fled oppression to find freedom. Visit the Baggage & Registration Hall. Cost $70 includes transportation, admission, boat ticket, licensed tour guide, tax and gratuities. Requires a minimum of 20 persons.

AUGUST 11,2005-THURSDAY-TOUR "C": NY SKYLINE DINNER CRUISE- 2-½ hour EVENING TOUR. Depart the **Courtyard by Marriott LaGuardia** at 6:15pm for the Worlds Fair Marina to board the Skyline Princess for a **"Magical Skyline Dinner Cruise".** NYC skyline dinner cruises feature personalized seating for our group and includes a dinner buffet menu, dessert, coffee,

Tea, disc jockey entertainment and a full cash bar for all beverages. See views of the Manhattan skyline, the Statue of Liberty and more. Return to hotel is estimated at 11:00 PM. Dinner Cruise cost is $70.00 per person.

August 12, 2005-Friday-Tour "D": Intrepid SEA-AIR- SPACE MUSEUM- Morning tour. Bus(s) load at **Courtyard by Marriott LaGuardia** at 8:00AM and depart at 8:30 AM sharp. Return is estimated at 1:00 PM. Tour Cost is $40 per person. Requires a minimum of 20 persons.

Friday Evening- August 12: 6:00 PM - No Host Cocktail Hour. Poolside Bar-B-Queue Dinner - Dinner following. Snacks include Tortilla Chips and Salsa. Sides include Red Bliss Potato Salad, Grilled vegetable salad, Cole slaw, Garden Greens salad with dressings. Entrees include choices of Grilled Bar-B-Q chicken, Grilled hamburgers, Cheeseburgers, Hot dogs. Assorted Hoagie, Hamburger and Hot Dog Rolls. Corn on the cob, Relish Tray and condiments. Desserts include watermelon and fruit salad. Pitchers of Iced Tea and Lemonade. We will have exclusive use of the pool area during dinner. Hospitality Suite will be closed from 6:00 PM until after the dinner

Saturday Morning August 13: 9:00 AM Reunion Association Business Meeting –location to be determined. Ruth and Dudley Cass are the Reunion Coordinators for the 2006 San Diego Reunion. Presenters should be prepared to make good presentations for the Midwest 2007 Reunion. Cal and Joan Ladd offered to present information for a Minnesota Reunion, and Dan Moore offered to present Indianapolis for 2007. Nominations will be open for sites for the 2008 reunion. If the normal rotation were to be resumed, that reunion would be on the West Coast.
Hospitality Room Closed during the business meeting.

Board of Directors Meeting: Held upon completion of the Business meeting or at the discretion of the Chairman of the board to elect the President and Secretary Treasurer and to conduct whatever other business needs to be brought before the Board.

Saturday Morning – Time to be determined: Group Photos. Rest of the day on your own.

Saturday Evening, August 13: No Host Cocktail Hour at 6:00 PM.- Banquet Dinner at 7:00 PM. Appetizer includes Fresh Field Greens with Balsamic Vinaigrette. The dinner menu includes choices of **Prime Rib of Beef Au Jus or Key West Salmon.** Chef's choice of vegetables. Roasted Red Bliss or baked potato. Pitchers of assorted sodas. Coffee, Tea, Decaffeinated coffee there is a **vegetarian option** available as well. Dessert will be New York Cheesecake.The wine service will include choices of Robert Mondavi Coastal Chardonnay, Robert Mondavi Cabernet, Robert Mondavi Merlot, and Meridian Sauvignon Blanc. The Hospitality Suite will be closed from prior to 6:00 PM until after the dinner.

Please come to the 2005 New York City, NY Reunion and have a good time with our shipmates and other long-term friends.

USS TOPEKA (CLG-8) Reunion Registration Form

New York City, New York - August 10-13, 2005 (Aug 14 departure for most)

Rev.2.20.05KS

Name _____ Plank owner? ____ Number in Party _____

Staying at the Courtyard by Marriott LaGuardia, Airport/NYC (Yes/No) _____

Emergency Contact: Name_____

Phone number (_____) _____.

Any Handicap and/or Special Dietary Requirements? _____

Names for Nametag(s) (if you have not previously received permanent nametags):

Reunion Fee: The Reunion Fee includes the cost of the Hospitality Suite, the Friday Night Bar-B-Queue Dinner, the Saturday Night Banquet, and all other fixed costs of the reunion. Reunion Fee for adults attending all four days Wednesday thru Saturday: $140. For those not attending all four days, $10 for Wednesday, $10 for Thursday, $50 for Friday, and $70 for Saturday. Children age 2 and under free. Children (3 to12) $20 for Friday and/or Saturday if attending the Buffet and/or Dinner Banquet, if the child's plate is selected. Otherwise, if the child elects to eat adult food, Teenager prices (defined below) apply. For Teenagers and children who eat adult food: $40 for the Friday Bar-B-Queue and $50 for the Saturday Banquet. No charge for children or teenagers unless attending the Friday Bar-B-Queue or Saturday Banquet. For the second year, there are provisions from Guests for the dinners only, and no use of the hospitality room. Adult guests are $40 for Friday Bar-B-Queue dinner and $65 for the Saturday Dinner and Program.

Days Attending	Number Attending	Price	Cost
All Four Days	_____	$140	_____
Not All Four Days			
Wednesday	_____	$ 10	_____
Thursday	_____	$ 10	_____
Friday	_____	$ 50	_____
Saturday	_____	$ 70	_____
Adult guest Friday @Bar-B-Q Only	_____	$ 40	_____
Adult guest Saturday @Dinner Only	_____	$ 65	_____
Children at Buffet (child's plate)	_____	$ 20	_____
Children at Banquet (child plate)	_____	$ 20	_____
Teenagers at Bar-B-Queue	_____	$ 40	_____
Teenagers at Banquet	_____	$ 50	_____

Reunion Fee Total _____

Banquet Entrée Choices (Give Number(s))

Prime Rib of Beef _____ Grilled Citrus Salmon_____ Vegetarian _____

Child's Plate (ages 3 to12) _____ Children Under 2 Free _____

(Continued on Reverse Side)

USS TOPEKA (CLG-8) Reunion Registration New York City, NY, 2005 (continued)

Group Events:	**Number**	**PRICE**	**COST**

August 10, 2005-**Wednesday-Tour "A" -New York City Orientation Tour**- Half day tour 7:35 AM to 11:30AM. Bus, tour guide, tax and gratuity included An air-conditioned Bus tour of New York City. See Rockefeller Center, Times Square, Macy's, Chinatown, SoHo, Greenwich Village, Little Italy and so much more. Several photo stops.

PRICE _____ **$60** _____

August 11, 2005-**Thursday - Tour "B"** –**Statue of Liberty& Ellis Island Tour-**departing at 8:00am sharp returning approximately 2:00pm.

PRICE _____ **$70** _____

August 11, 2005-**Thursday-Tour "C"-NY Skyline Dinner Cruise** departing from the Worlds Fair Marina at 7:00pm.

PRICE _____ **$70** _____

August 12, 2005- **Friday - Tour "D" – Intrepid Sea-Air-Space Museum-** Half Day Four Hour tour 8:30 AM to 1:00 PM. Bus, admissions, tax and gratuities included. See the Intrepid; submarine Growler, and destroyer Edson. Lunch is not included.

PRICE _____ **$40** _____

Tours Cost Total _____

Add: Reunion Fees from other side: _____

Reunion fees and Tours Cost: **Total Cost** _____

Deadline for payment of the above costs is June 30, 2004

While we want you to come, any registrations received past July 28 will be more difficult, since the Secretary/Treasurer is on vacation in Pennsylvania after August 3, 2005. There are deadlines that have to be met for the tours and a final payment is required on July 11, 2005.
Do the best you can. We will work with you to make your reunion a success.

Please make checks payable to: **USS Topeka (CLG-8) Reunion Association, Inc**. Please make a copy of the completed form for your files. Mail this form and the check for payment to:

Jack E. Timmons
2661 POINSETTIA DR.
SAN DIEGO, CA 92106-1121