USS TOPEKA CLG-8

Reunion Association Newsletter

Volume 20, No. 3 **November 2009**

Officers:
John Reynolds, Chairman, Board of Directors; John Reynolds, President;
Dudley Cass, Secretary-Treasurer;
Ruth & Dudley Cass, Reunion Chairman;
Kathy Spatz, Newsletter Editor; Ken Noble, Web Master

FROM THE PRESIDENT

If you missed the Chicago reunion you missed a great one. The Bakers did a marvelous job, and we all had a great time. Many thanks to the Bakers who worked tirelessly to make this among one of the best, and they succeeded. It was great visiting my old boot camp. You could see how times have changed since 1942. The place where my old barracks stood is now a condo. The old mess hall still stands, and of course the grinder where we all spent many miserable hours. Since all the new uniforms are now in effect it was hard to imagine sailors in cammies. They all look like Marines with a blue tint in there cammies. Thanks also go out to Dudley Cass who always takes care of all necessary financial matters. That's a big job and takes up a lot of his time. Getting us all on the bus on time etc. is a chore that kept him busy every day. Thanks Dudley. Everybody got their food on time and it was all good. The diner cruise was one of the best. The service and food was excellent.

The business meeting went well. Next year we will meet in San Francisco at the Double Tree Hotel. Ruth and Dudley are setting this one up. They have been working on it and have already got us an excellent price on the rooms, $119 a night which includes breakfast every morning. You can't beat that with a stick. The hotel is near the BART so we can get into the city very easy. No problem getting to the hotel. They furnish shuttle service to and from the hotel. It will be a great time and I will be looking forward to seeing you all there in September. Any ideas for 2011? Bring them to the next meeting.

JR

NEW MEMBERS (since June 2009)

Don Milligan RD2 65-68 Fresno, CA
Zane Lloyd SK3 59-62 Diamond, OH
Kenneth Much, EN3 60-61 Waupaca, WI
Robert Wildey SFP3 59-63 Mocksville, NC
Dennis Hannon FTG3 68-69 Parker, CO
Thomas Parsons SK2 65-68 Goose Creek, SC
Ron Breen CPL 65-67 Weyers Cave, VA
Harvey Stradley QM3 65-69 Northeast Harbor ME
Paul Dietze YN3 63-66 Shinglehouse, PA
John Johnson GMG3 67-69 Lakeland, FL
Jon Bass SN 65-65 Lithia Springs, GA
Darryl Bonds MM2 63-67 Boca Raton, FL
Ted Daniels FT3 65-67 Uniontown, OH
George Soriano TN 65-69 San Diego, CA
James Craven QM1 65-67 Avondale, AZ
Vernon Crete QM3 65-66 Castro Valley, CA
Evan Haney QMSN 66-68 Seminole, OK
Reginald Alexander BTFN 67-69 Saint Louis, MO

TAPS

Clinton Reed SN 62-64 Cleveland, OH
Dennis Trone LT 63-65 Petersburg, IL
William Niles LT 62-64 Clinton, WA

Chicago 2009 Reunion Attendees

(Compiled 10/9/09)

Ray & Robin Adams
Joan Anderson
Jesse & Catherine Aragon
James & Carol Ayres
Gary & Pat Baker
James & Sharon Bennett
John Blaeser
Robert Bond
Ronald Breen
Harvey Bridges
George & Elizabeth Cafego
Dudley & Ruth Cass
Pat & Jackie Clymer
Jack & Jill Connery
Jerry Craig
Walter Crane
William & Patricia Crum
Lawrence & Sherri Fields
Ronald Greuel
Michael & Carol Hight
Harold & Diane Jackson
Daniel & Cyndi Johansen
Ruth Judge
Max & Linda Kaster
John & Beth Keepper
John & Mary Keith
Calvin & Joan Ladd
Roger Lauer
Thomas & Martha Lee
Lawrence & Helen Merkner
Charles Minks
Daniel & Sharon Moore
Loy Nix
Gary & Linda Noland
Robert Ohm
Larry Patriquin & Althea Sheaff
James Pflieger
John & Mary Reynolds
Linda Roberts
Donna Seaton
Patty Sharp
Ronald & Clare Smart
Shanda Snodgrass
Raymond & Kathy Spatz
Jimmy & Rita Starr
Thomas Stumpf
Jack & Jean Timmons
Ernesto & Kiyomi Villamil
Richard & Ellen Wallace

Weldon & Ellen Zimmerman

Thank you to all who attended the 20th reunion in Chicago and helped to make it a success. See you in San Francisco.

Gary & Pat Baker

USS NEW YORK (LPD21)

THE COMMISSIONING

A history-making event
The commissioning of USS NEW YORK on November 7, 2009, in Manhattan, will mark a significant milestone with its entry to the U.S. Navy fleet and an opportunity to show appreciation to the men and women who have chosen to go in harm's way to protect and defend the American way of live.

Her bow, from the wreckage of the World Trade center, embodies the strength and determination of the people of New York, not only to recover, but to take the fight to the enemy.

HAPPY THANKSGIVING

San Francisco Reunion
September 14-18 2010

At our Chicago reunion, the members of the Association selected San Francisco as the site for the 2010 reunion. Ruth and I (Ruth and Dudley Cass) are acting reunion coordinators for the San Francisco reunion. It is 500 miles from San Diego, where we live, to San Francisco and that makes the job a bit more complicated. Hoping someone in the San Francisco or nearby area can volunteer to help in this effort.

Made a short visit (12-14 Oct) to San Francisco to check out the hotel we have been working with and to get more information about public transportation. We got there just in time for the first major rain storm of season for SFran.

The date for the reunion is Tuesday Sep 14 thru Saturday Sep 18 2010. The hotel is the Doubletree Hotel San Francisco Airport, 835 Airport Blvd. Burlingame, CA 94010, 17 miles from downtown SFran, and 2 miles south of the SFran airport on Airport Blvd. The hotel provides 24/7 shuttle service (free) to and from the airport.

The hotel room rate is $119 per night, single or double occupancy (plus 11.5% room tax) and includes a full breakfast buffet at no extra charge Wednesday thru Saturday morning. The $119 room rate is available for 2 days before/after the reunion date, subject to availability. The sleeping rooms are large, well furnished, have very comfortable beds, and an excellent guest-controlled heating/AC system. The fifth floor has smoking guest rooms – the rest of the hotel interior is non-smoking. Handicap rooms/wheel chairs are available.

Our Hospitality room is the 1350 sq ft Presidential Suite, which is very nicely furnished and decorated and has a wet bar. Banquet/buffet/business-meeting rooms on first floor and open out to the courtyard where smoking is permitted.

The hotel restaurant is excellent. We had breakfast, lunch, and dinner there and were pleased with the menu, prices, and quality of food and service.

With advance notice, free RV parking (no hookups, limited number) is available nearby for hotel guests. Auto parking for guests is $5 per day. A jogging/walking trail along the bay shore is just back of the hotel, as well as a golf driving range.

Airport Blvd, a short "hotel circle" containing about 8-10 large hotels and Benihana and Elephant Bar restaurants, is East of Hwy 101 along the bay - West of Hwy 101 is the Burlingame residential and business area.

Burlingame is a small town with lots of "mom-and-pop" stores and restaurants. A Burlingame shuttle bus (free) runs every 45 minutes from/to the "hotel circle" to the Burlingame business district for those who will enjoy the small-town atmosphere for a leisurely walk and eating or shopping near our hotel.

We will be offering bus tours to downtown and other areas near SFran, but I'm sure we have members who will want to "do-the-town" on their own. For those, there is a BART station located at the airport, which provides excellent transportation to downtown SFran. It takes 32 minutes to go downtown to the Embarcadero station on Market Street. Costs $8.10 one way regular rate – Senior Rate (65+) is just over $3. BART runs about once an hour.

The Embarcadero is near the Oakland Bay bridge and near the heart of the downtown area. For 75 cents, seniors can take the MUNI F trolley out to the Fisherman's Wharf, which is one of the tourist favorites of San Francisco - lots of shops, restaurants, and near the famous cable cars of SFran. Double-decker tour buses operate out of Fishermans Wharf for tours of the city – you can get off anywhere along the route and then reboard a later bus to continue the tour.

The bus tours tentatively planned are a SFran City Tour – including Golden Gate Park, a harbor dinner-cruise, a Golden Gate Bridge – Sausalito – Muir Woods tour, and a Napa Valley winery tour.

More reunion information, details, and registration form, will be in our March newsletter.

USS TOPEKA REUNION ASSOCIATION
C/O KATHY SPATZ
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SOUTH HEMPSTEAD, NY 11550-8012

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SHIPS STORE

Most of the merchandise will be available in San Francisco. 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.

Ladies Shirts	
White	$19.00
Cardigan Baby Blue	$20.00
Scoop Neck Blue	$16.00
V-Neck L. Pink & Pistachio	$16.00
Polo 2003	
Navy/White XL, XXL	$20.00
White/Navy XL, XXL	20.00
Navy w/pocket XXL	20.00
Polo 2005	
Navy M, L	$19.00
Med Blue L	19.00
Red w/pocket M	21.00
Men's Shirts	
Dessert Moon	34.00
Nike Blue	
31.00	
Jackets	
Red Jackets	$36.00
Ping-Canvas	$48.00
Assorted items available	
Ball Caps	$12.00
Cold Drink Holders	4.00
Coffee mugs w/Topeka emblem	5.00
Topeka Note pads (5 pack)	4.00
License Plate Holder	3.00

Chicago 2009, another memorable USS Topeka Reunion.
I have attempted to show as many folks that space will allow. Enjoy!

TOPEKA
REUNION