

USS TOPEKA CLG-8

Reunion Association Newsletter

Volume 13, No. 1

February, 2002

Officers:

Dudley Cass, Chairman, Board of Directors; John Reynolds, President; Jack Timmons, Secretary/Treasurer; Ken Noble, Reunion 02 Chairman; Jack Connery, Newsletter Editor; Ken Noble, Web Master



FROM THE PRESIDENT

After listening to the President speak recently it becomes apparent how important real leadership is to the accomplishment of the mission. Having spent years in the military we can all look back on the many times we have seen leaders rise to the top and bring the mission to a successful conclusion.

Through my years in the Navy I have seen many good leaders, but one that stands out in my mind more than the others I have served under was Captain Jack Mansfield. I think we all learned to have great respect and admiration for him as skipper of the Topeka. I believe it is because he always genuinely respected everyone in his command and made us all feel an important part of the task at hand.

Yes, he was a great skipper and he will be greatly missed by all hands.

John Reynolds



As Katharine Lee Bates viewed the summit of Pike's Peak, she was inspired to pen the lines to her famous poem, "America the Beautiful." Join us in Denver August 21-24 and we'll see what she saw.

GO WEST YOUNG MAN!

Well, some of us will be going west. Others will be going north, south and east. It's time to start thinking about deployment again, and this year's cruise to Denver for the August 21-24 annual get-together of Topeka sailors, wives, girlfriends and friends.

The registration form and reunion highlights information are contained in this newsletter. Complete the registration and return it to Jack Timmons, and put the date on your calendar (in ink). This will be the 13th time we have met, and Chairman Ken Noble promises that this one, like all the others before it, will be the best one yet.

Come join with us and share your favorite sea stories.

NEW MEMBERS (SINCE DECEMBER)

"Jim" (James) Farmer FTM2 (63-66) Aledo, TX
Paul Smith BM3 (64-66) Crystal Lake, IA
Robert Nebel EM3 (65-68) Milwaukee, WI
Jim Dawson CPL MARDET, (63-65) Canyon Lake, TX
"Doug" Crow YN3 (66-69) Olympia, WA
Daniel Callihan GM (60-61) Rialto, CA
Robert Fleming MM3 (59-63) Hamilton, MI
Wayne Lord YN3 (66-69), Virginia Beach, VA
Donald Wellman FTGSN (68-69) Liverpool, NY
Thomas Myers MM3 (64-66) St. Louis, MO
Richard Greenberg, LT (MC) (67-68) North Easton, MA
John Love SN (67-69) St. Matthews, SC
Michael McIntire SN (62-65) Malvern, PA
"Mike" Berry ETN2 (61-65) Henderson, NV
James Linnen FTG2 (66-68) Mount Sinai, NY
John Melone ET2 (62-63) Hacienda Heights, CA
Douglas Tennison MM3 (61-65) Sylmar, CA
Warren Rice GS2 (59-61) Salisbury, NC
Frank Witezak MM3 (67-69) Hanover Park, IL
Harold Gee SGT, MARDET; (61-63) Mesa, AZ
George Styskal SN (67-69) Lincoln, NE
"Bob" (Robert) Mullin MM2 (66-69) Gresham, OR
David Knapp FTG2 (63-65) Poway, CA
Eric Jansson CS2 (67-68) Christchurch, New Zealand,
Richard Butler ETN3 (62-64) Chula Vista, CA
Kenneth Arps EM3 (67-68) Kaukauna, WI
Joe Hummel RD3 (68-69) Pittsburg, PA
Don Baker IC3 (59-60), Orange, CA
"Jimmy" Gapusan TN (66-69), Goose Creek, SC
James McBean SN (66-68), No. Ft. Meyers, FL
Harvey Kammerer PN2 (68-69), Reston, VA.

LAUGHLIN DATES SET

Dates for the West Cost "Mini" reunion are March 10-11 in Laughlin, Nev. Dudley and Ruth Cass have arranged a package deal of \$99 for two people, which includes two nights at the hotel and tickets to the show, "Spirit of Ireland Dancers." This show is similar to the River Dancers.

If you are not staying at the hotel, you can get show tickets separately. If you don't want the package deal, Riverside room rates are \$25 for standard room and \$35 for a view of the river. When making reservations for the package, including the show, ask for the "Ruth Cass" table. Call the Riverside at 800-227-3849.

This has proven to be a fun weekend for several years. Happy Hour is held daily in the Cass room (BYOB) and in most years 10-15 Topeka sailors show up.

Contact Dudley and Ruth for more information.

HOTEL UPDATE INFORMATION

To update information on the Reunion Highlights page, the Hotel Reservations Desk is open 8-5 p.m. (MST) Monday through Friday. Call 800-327-2242 to the hotel direct. Calling outside of those times will get you Hilton's nationwide reservation service. They can assist you, but you must specify the Hilton Denver Tech South because there are two other Hilton properties in Denver. Also, be sure and specify the USS Topeka Reunion Association.

2002 DUES ARE DUE

Dues of \$15 for 2002 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 2002, please take care of this matter. Dues are used to pay for the printing and mailing of this newsletter four times a year, printing and mailing the annual directory of members, the costs of maintaining the web site, postage for letters, and some "upfront" reunion expenses.

The current 2002 Directory will be mailed to you after the dues have been received. 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.

Please send dues to Jack Timmons

Should you want to send a little extra with your dues payment, the extra amount will be included in an annual donation to the Navy Home in Gulfport, MS, after the Reunion each year.

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

LOOK AT THAT NEW MEMBERS LIST

Look at that new members list on the front page. Thirty-one of them since December. They are coming out of the woodwork. If we keep that up, we'll find them all.

How did we find them? Someone was poking around <www.classmates.com> to see if he could find an old buddy he went to high school with. He did not find his friend, but did find that in addition to high school listings, the website has a military section. He found the Topeka and all the names of those who had registered, many of which are not in our database.

Jack Bock (62-65) put the effort into contacting these former Topeka sailors and many of them have responded. Maybe we will see some of them in Denver.

Thanks Jack.

TOPEKA SAILORS GIVE AGAIN

All of us can remember those times aboard when we were asked to give - - labor to rebuild a school in the Philippines, blood for the Red Cross, or perhaps for a favorite charity back home.

At the Atlanta Reunion General Meeting, a motion was made to make a donation to the American Red Cross for the disaster relief fund for the victims of the September 11, 2001, Attack on America. The membership voted to provide \$250 from our Treasury, and at the Saturday Night Dinner, Ike Roberts passed his cap around and collected another \$405 for that cause. So on October 18, 2001, Jack Timmons sent a check for \$655 to the American Red Cross. Topekamen have not changed over time.



One of the optional tours at the Denver reunion will include the Air Force Academy, nestled in the foothills of the Rockies.

THE AMERICAN SAILOR

Ed Note: The following was provided by Loy Nix (59-62) and was published in the Towline, publication of the Fleet Tug Association. Share this with your grandkids. Another paragraph could be added because of events over the past year, so we continue to leave our mark on history.

Hear my voice America! Though I speak through the mist of 200 years my shout for freedom will echo through liberty's halls for many centuries to come. Hear me speak, for my words are of truth and justice, and rights for man. For those ideals I have spilled my blood upon the world's troubled waters. Listen well, for my time is eternal - yours is but a moment. I am the spirit of heroes past and future. I am the American Sailor.

I was born upon the icy shores at Plymouth, rocked upon the waves of the Atlantic, and nursed in the wilderness of Virginia. I cut my teeth on New England codfish, and I was clothed in southern cotton. I built muscle at the halyards of New Bedford whalers, and I gained my sea legs high atop the mizzens of Yankee clipper ships.

Yes, I am the American Sailor, one of the greatest seamen the world has ever known. The sea is my home and my words are tempered by the sound of paddle wheels on the Mississippi and the songs of whales off Greenland's barren shore. My eyes have grown dim from the glare of sunshine on blue water, and my heart is full of star-strewn nights under the Southern Cross. My hands are raw from winter storms while sailing down round the Horn, and they are blistered from the heat of cannon broadside while defending our nation. I am the American Sailor, and I have seen the sunset of a thousand distant lonely lands. I am the American Sailor. It was I who stood tall beside John Paul Jones as he shouted, "I have not yet begun to fight!" I fought upon the Lake Erie with Perry, and I rode with Stephen Decatur into Tripoli harbor to burn the Philadelphia. I met Guerriere aboard the Constitution, and I was lashed to the mast with Admiral Farragut at Mobile Bay. I have heard the clang of Confederate shot against the sides of the Monitor. I have suffered the cold with Perry at the North Pole, and I responded when Dewey said, "You may fire when ready, Gridley," at Manila Bay. It was I who transported supplies through submarine waters when our soldiers were called "over there." I was there as Admiral Byrd crossed the South Pole. It was I who went down with the Arizona at Pearl Harbor, who supported our troops at Inchon, and patrolled dark deadly waters of the Mekong Delta.

I am the American Sailor and I wear many faces. I am a pilot soaring across God's blue canopy and I am a Seabee atop a dusty bulldozer in the South Pacific. I am a corpsman nursing the wounded in the jungle and I am a torpedoman in the Nautilus deep beneath the North Pole. I am hard and I am strong. But it was my eyes that filled with tears when my brother wend down with the Thresher, and it was my heart that rejoiced when Commander Shepherd rocketed into orbit above the earth. It was I who languished in a Viet Cong prison camp, and

it was I who walked upon the moon. It was I who saved the Stark and the Samuel B. Roberts in the mine infested waters of the Persian Gulf. It was I who pulled my brothers from the smoke filled compartments of the Bonefish, and wept when my shipmates died on the Iowa and White Plains. When called again, I was there, on the tip of the spear for Operations Desert Shield and Storm.

I am the American Sailor. I am woman, I am man, I am white and black, yellow, red and brown. I am Jew, Muslim, Christian, and Buddhist. I am Irish, Filipino, African, French, Chinese and Indian. And my standard is the outstretched hand of liberty. Today I serve around the world, on land, in the air, on and under the sea. I serve proudly, at peace once again, but with the fervent prayer that I need not be called again. Tell your children of me. Tell them of my sacrifice, and how my spirit soars above their country. I have spread the mantle of my nation over the ocean, and I will guard her forever. I am her heritage and yours,

I am the American Sailor.

SHIP'S STORE REPORT

The following items are available. Please add \$5.00 for shipping. If you are on the Internet, there is an order form on the Topeka web site.

If you have any suggestions about new items to introduce in Denver, let Jill Connery know as soon as possible. Summer is coming! Time to stock up on a shirt or two. Everyone liked them last year. We also have a great quality jacket which is selling well.

The license plate covers let people know you were on Topeka and will help in finding "lost" shipmates.

Old Style Shirts:

Adult shirts, green, S, XXL	\$22.00
Adult shirts, red, XL, 2XL	22.00

New Style Polo Shirts

White, or, Gray w/Navy Trim, Beige w/Black Trim; Sizes , M, L, XL, 2XL	28.00
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New Style Nylon Jackets

Hunter Green or Royal Blue, both w/Navy trim	
Sizes M, L, XL, 2XL	46.00
Ball caps	10.00
Key Chains	3.00
Ship's Plaque (new design, w/name)	30.00
Cold drink holders	5.00
Topeka note pads (5 pack)	5.00
License Plate Holders	4.00

SECURITY OF DD214

In times past, veterans have been encouraged to register their DD214 at the local courthouse to provide for its security. This may not be such a good idea anymore.

With the exception of certain documents closed by the courts, records at courthouses throughout the country are readily available to the general public. Those of you that have recorded your DD214 at the courthouse should be aware that your documents are not fully secure and are available to anyone who wishes to scrutinize them, and can contribute to having your identity stolen.

Recently, it was brought to BUPERS (PERS-62) that someone was using information available on a retiree's DD214 that was registered at a local courthouse to assume the members' identity for fraudulent purposes.

If this applies to you, you may want to reconsider. How about a safety deposit box? Or file it with the VA, the American Legion or Fleet Reserve, or the Retired Officers Association. For more information on ID fraud, visit www.consumer.gov/idtheft or call the Federal Trade Commissions Identity Theft Hotline toll free at 1-877-438-4338.

Courtesy: Shift Colors

NAMES/TELEPHONE NUMBERS

Board of Directors

Dudley Cass, Chairman, 3028 Bonita Woods Dr., San Diego, CA, 91902, 619-267-3123. Members Don Anderson, Jack Connery, Jerry Judge, Ken Noble, Jerry Pennington.

President

John Reynolds, 916 Esplanade, # 107, Redondo Beach, Cal., 90266; Telephone 310-540-7817; E-mail: canrc@hotmail.com

Secretary-Treasurer

Jack Timmons, 2661 Poinsettia Dr., San Diego, CA, 92106-1121; 619-224-8928; E-mail: JETimmons@aol.com

2002 Reunion Coordinator

Ken Noble, 613 Fairfield Ln, Louisville, CO 80027; 303-665-7468; Email Topeka@usstopekacgl8.org

Newsletter Editor

Jack Connery, 9814 E. 83rd Pl., Tulsa, Ok., 74133; 918-459-8918; Fax 918-459-9758; E-mail JJConn@AOL.com.

Ship's Store

Jill Connery, 9814 E. 83rd Pl., Tulsa, Ok., 74133, 918-459-8918; Fax 918-459-9758; E-mail JJConn@AOL.com.

Web Master

Ken Noble; 14019 Summer Bay Lane, Broomfield, Co., 80020; 303-410-7150. Topeka@usstopekacgl8.org

USS Topeka Website

<http://www.usstopekacgl8.org>

USS TOPEKA (CLG-8) Reunion Association
C/O Jack Connery
9814 E. 83rd Pl.
Tulsa, OK 74133



DENVER 2002 REUNION HIGHLIGHTS

Reunion Dates: Wednesday, August 21, 2002 to Sunday, August 24, 2002.

Hotel: Hilton Denver Tech South, 7801 East Orchard Road, Englewood, CO 80111-2508.

Rates are \$79.00 (single or double occupancy.) (Plus Sales tax of 6.7% and local Occupancy Taxes of 3% for a total of 9.7% taxes.) Guaranteed Room Rates are good from Sunday, August 18, 2002 through Sunday, August 25, 2002.

Make your own hotel reservations. Deadline for hotel reservations is July 18, 2002. To receive the contracted rates, you must identify yourself as being with the **USS Topeka Reunion Association**. The hotel will continue to accept reservations July 19 or later based on hotel availability.

Phone number for reservations is: Call 1-800-327-2242. This is a direct line. Do not call the Hilton Worldwide 800 number, They will not be aware of the Reunion Rates. The Hilton Denver Tech South is conveniently located at the Denver Tech Center just 15 minutes from Downtown at the corner of I-25 and Orchard Road (exit # 198 off the I-25), and 35 minutes from the Denver Airport. Hilton Denver Tech South has 305 comfortable guestrooms. All rooms feature private balconies, air conditioning, cable TV, ESPN, HBO, AM/FM radio-alarm clock, working desk, two phones with modem hook-up, complimentary morning newspaper, iron and ironing board, in-room coffee makers, and hair dryers. When you are in the mood to exercise, take advantage of the indoor/outdoor pool, health club, and dry sauna. There are jogging trails nearby for walkers and runners. Restaurants, Lounge/Bar/Nightclub are onsite. Dry-cleaning/Laundry service and guest laundry facilities. Business services are available. Advise the hotel of any handicap requirements when making reservations.

Airport shuttles. Super Shuttle service is available. Roundtrip transportation from the airport to the hotel and return is \$27 (cost subject to change) when you identify your self as members of the USS Topeka Reunion Association.

Reunion Schedule: We recommend you plan on arriving Tuesday, because there are plenty of things you will want to do Wednesday through Saturday

Tours: It is planned to have all tours leave from the Hilton Denver Tech South Hotel. Reservations for the tours should be made with your Reunion Registration to guarantee your choices. Requests made after July 10, 2002 will be attempted. **Book early.** Tickets can be sold onsite based on seating availability. All tours are planned to be with Gray Lines of Colorado. Again, if you want to be on a tour, book with your reunion registration. **Book Early.**

Wednesday, August 21, (8:00 AM – 6:15 PM) "Tour A" on your Reunion Registration Form

Pike's Peak, the Air Force Academy, and Garden of the Gods. Depart the Hotel at 8:00 AM. Tour enters the United States Air Force Academy via the North Gate with the first stop at the B-52, "Diamond Lil". Here we exit the coach for a walk around this plane that was the workhorse of the Air Force until it was replaced by the B-1 Bomber. Then it is on to a scenic view pullover to visit the Academy Sports fields and campus proper. Next the tour will include a visit to the Barry Goldwater Visitor Center for restrooms and official Academy gifts. We will then tour the Air Force Academy Chapel, the most visited manmade tourist attraction in Colorado. Lunch planned at the Academy Club or Arnold Hall. Departing the Academy, we next visit the 1400 acre Garden of the Gods Park with beautiful spectacular sandstone formations. If we did not have lunch at the Academy, we can have a lovely lunch at the Garden of the Gods Trading Post. We'll use the restrooms and then off to catch the 1:20 PM train up the Pike's Peak Cog Railway for a journey to the top of the mountain at an elevation of 14,100 ft above sea level. Bring a sweater/jacket and water to drink on this exciting adventure. The train returns to Manitou Springs at 4:30 PM for a Bus ride back to the Hilton Hotel in Denver. Lunch at the Air Force Academy is not included.

Price: \$63 per adult. Includes tour guide, lunch at the Trading Post and ticket on the Pike's Peak Cog Railway.

Thursday and Friday Tours – see the next page!

DENVER 2002 REUNION HIGHLIGHTS

Tours: (continued): All tours leave from the Hilton Denver Tech South Hotel

Thursday, August 22 (8:00 AM- 6:00 PM) "Tour B" on your Reunion Registration Form -

Rocky Mountain National Park Tour. Depart the Hilton Hotel at 8:00 AM. Heading west towards the mountains, through Idaho Springs before climbing the Berthoud Pass. One of our first stops is at the summit of Berthoud Pass for restroom and pictures. Then we drive through Winter Park and Granby before stopping for lunch (Lunch is on your own) in one of Grand Lake's restaurants. After lunch, we enter the Rocky Mountain National Park for the awe inspiring trip over Trail Ridge Drive. Highest point on this tour is on Trail Ridge Road at an elevation of 12,138 ft above sea level. The motorcoach makes several stops in the park for pictures and comfort stops before arriving in Estes Park for shopping. Then we head back to town via Lyons and Boulder and back to the Hilton in Denver by 6:00 PM.

Price: \$50.00 per adult, includes tour guide and admission to the Rocky Mountain National Park.

Friday, August 23 (1:00 PM to 5:30 PM) "Tour C" on your reunion registration form.

Denver Mountain Parks. Depart the Hilton Hotel at 1:00 PM. Travel to the Red Rocks City Park with stops at the Amphitheater and Trading Post. The Amphitheater is a popular venue for performers and audiences due to its nearly perfect acoustics and beautiful mountain scenery. (No performances are known to be scheduled at the time of our tours.) Time is allowed for picture taking and getting refreshments. We will go west up Bear Creek Canyon along the route of pioneer stagecoaches to the town of Evergreen for shopping and restrooms. Next we will visit Lookout Mountain with entrance to the Buffalo Bill Museum and inspection of the last resting place of Buffalo Bill Cody. We depart Lookout Mountain via the Lariat Trail emptying into Golden before returning to the Hilton Hotel by 5:30 PM. Tour Guide and Admission to the museum is included in the tour cost.

Price: \$25 per adult, includes tour guide and admission to museum.

Friday, August 23 Evening: No Host Cocktail Hour 6:00 PM, followed by a Buffet dinner at 7:00 PM.

Featuring the "Wild West Buffet." Country Potato Salad; Creamy Cole Slaw; Barbecue Chicken, Barbecue Pork Ribs; Texas style chili; Sweet Molasses Baked Beans; Corn on the Cob; Cornbread Muffins; Peach Pie for dessert. Coffee and Tea drink selections.

Saturday, October 13: Reunion Association Business Meeting at 9:00 AM, followed by group pictures.

On your own the rest of the day.

For the evening: **No Host Cocktail hour at 6PM, followed by sit down dinner banquet and a short program at 7:00 PM.**

Dinner menu includes choices of Prime Rib, Salmon, or vegetarian plate (chef's choice). Salad; Baked potato with sour cream & chives; Chef's choice of vegetable; Butter and rolls; Cheesecake w/ strawberries; coffee and tea drink selection.

Please come to the 2002 Denver Reunion and have a good time with your shipmates and long term friends.

USS TOPEKA (CLG-8) Reunion Registration FORM

Denver, Colorado, August 21-24, 2002

Name _____ Plankowner? _____ Number in Party _____

Staying at the Hilton Denver Tech South Hotel? _____ (Y or N)

Emergency Contact: Name _____

Phone(____)_____.

Any Handicap and/or Special Dietary Requirements? _____

Name(s) for nametag(s) (if you haven't previously received permanent Nametags):

Reunion Fee: The Reunion Fee includes the cost of the Hospitality Room, the Friday Night Buffet, the Saturday night Banquet, and other fixed costs of the Reunion. Reunion Fee for adults attending all four days: \$110. For those not attending all four days: \$10 for Wed; \$12 for Thurs; \$36 for Fri, and \$57 for Saturday. For children (12 and Under) \$19 for Friday and/or Saturday if attending the Buffet and/or Dinner Banquet, if the child's plate is selected. Otherwise Teenager prices (defined below) apply. For Teenagers: \$24 for the Friday Buffet and \$39 if attending the Saturday evening banquet. No charge for children and teenagers unless attending the Friday buffet and/or the Saturday banquet.

<u>Days Attending</u>	<u>Number Attending</u>	<u>Price</u>	<u>Cost</u>
All four days	_____	\$110	_____
Not all four days			
Wednesday	_____	\$ 10	_____
Thursday	_____	\$ 12	_____
Friday	_____	\$ 36	_____
Saturday	_____	\$ 57	_____
Children at Buffet (child's plate)	_____	\$ 19	_____
Children at Banquet (child's plate)	_____	\$ 19	_____
Teenagers at Buffet	_____	\$ 24	_____
Teenagers at Banquet	_____	\$ 39	_____

Reunion Fee Total _____

Banquet Entrée Choices (give number):

Prime Rib _____ Salmon _____ Vegetarian _____

Child's Plate (Ages 5 – 12): _____ Children under 5 free _____

(Continued on reverse side)

USS TOPEKA (CLG-8) Reunion Registration Denver 2002 (continued)

Group Events:

<u>Event</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Price</u>	<u>Cost</u>
Tour "A" - Pike's Peak & Air Force Academy and Garden of the Gods Wednesday - August 21 8:00 AM to 6:15 PM Includes bus, guides and admission. Lunch at an U.S. Air Force Academy Club is planned, but not included. Includes Cog Railroad to top of Pike's Peak.			
Price	_____	<u>\$ 63.00</u>	_____

Tour "B" - Rocky Mountain National Park Thursday - August 22 8:00 AM to 6:00 PM Includes bus, guides and admission to Rocky Mountain National Park. View summit of Berthoud Pass, drive through Winter Park and Granby before stopping for lunch at Grand Lake. Lunch on your own. Enter the Rocky Mountain National Park for the awe-inspiring trip over Trail Ridge Drive. Several stops for pictures and comfort stops before arriving in Estes Park for shopping. Finally return to Denver via Lyons and Boulder by 6:00 PM.			
Price	_____	<u>\$ 50.00</u>	_____

Tour "C" - Denver Mountain Parks. Friday August 23 1:00 PM to 5:30 PM Includes bus, guides, and admission to museum. Travel to Red Rocks City Park, with stops at the Amphitheater and Trading Post. Then up the Bear Creek Canyon to Evergreen for shopping and restrooms. Next visit Lookout Mountain with the entrance to the Buffalo Bill Museum and inspection of the last resting place of Buffalo Bill Cody. Depart Lookout Mountain, via the Lariat Trail emptying into Golden before returning to the Hilton Hotel by 5:30 PM.			
Price	_____	<u>\$ 25.00</u>	_____

Tours Cost Total: _____

Add : Reunion Fee (from other side) _____

Reunion Fee and Tours Costs: Total _____

Deadline for payment of above costs is July 10, 2002

Make checks payable to:
USS TOPEKA (CLG-8) REUNION ASSOCIATION, INC.

Please: Make a copy of this form for your files.

Mail this form and the payment checks to:

JACK E. TIMMONS
2661 POINSETTIA DR.
SAN DIEGO, CA 92106-1121