

USS TOPEKA CLG-8

Reunion Association Newsletter

Volume 15, No. 1

March 2004

Officers:

Jerry Judge, Chairman, Board of Directors; John Reynolds, President; Jack Timmons, Secretary-Treasurer; Max Kaster, Reunion 04 Chairman; Kathy Spatz, Newsletter Editor; Ken Noble, Web Master



FROM THE PRESIDENT

A great big USS Topeka thank you to our new Newsletter editor. We have been blessed by Kathy Spatz who has stepped up to the plate to be our new editor.

Jack Connery has retired after 14 years of faithful service to the reunion association. Jack has given yeoman service and a lot of wisdom to the association through this communication link and also the excellent publication of the Baka Hachi. Jack has been with us since the very beginning, and we all owe him a debt of gratitude for his many years of faithful service to the association. So I know you will join in with me in saying "thank you and well done" to a great shipmate, and also a big thank you to Kathy our new editor.

Hope to see you all in August at the Charleston reunion. When you see Jack and Kathy there thank them in person. It will mean a lot to these two wonderful people.

John Reynolds

NEW MEMBERS (SINCE NOVEMBER)

Gary Herschman RD2 (67-69) Bedford, NY
Ronald Szdlowski MR2 (60-61) Conway, SC
Jeffery Lyons EMFN (65-66) Las Vegas, NV
Robert Balko SN (59-63) Morrisdale, PA
Richard Knight MMFN (64-65) Streetman, TX

BINNACLE LIST

Ike Roberts (65-68) Hixson, TN
J. W. Perkins (63-65), Megargel, TX

TAPS

James W. Wilson, President, USS Topeka (CL 67) Association, May 5, 2003

John Peterson, SN (1960-62), July 25, 2003, Port Orchard, WA.

George Williams, MM3 (1961-65), Jan.8,2004 Ontario, CA.

Bob White, LT (1963-64), December 11, 2003, Joplin, MD





LETTERS

Dear Ed:

I got the newsletter today, and saw that it had been sent to my old address. I thought for sure that I had sent you a change of address, but probably forgot. A senior moment, dontchaknow. Here it is, and I appreciate all the work you have done editing the newsletter, and a fine job well done.

And, once again, thank you so much for the fine effort you put forth on these publications, and here's hoping your replacement does a fine job as you have done. Onward to better things!

Donald Altamirano (63-65)

Dear Ed:

I was able to purchase a 14 x 18 inch canvas print of the USS Topeka (not framed or matted) on eBay for \$24.99 plus shipping. The prints are available now as a "Buy Now" item (no bidding). I purchased this as a "SURPRISE" birthday gift for my husband, Ray. Merry Christmas and a peace filled 2004!

Melissa McHugh (59-63)

Dear Ed:

Sorry to see in the current newsletter (received today) that you are stepping down as editor after 12 years. Thanks for all your hard work and devotion and expertise. I can't imagine anyone else doing nearly so well, or doing it so long. It is an important task, and it means a lot to a lot of people. I am amazed that you have kept up your enthusiasm for the job all this time, and it is understandable that it has finally gotten tiresome for you.

Gene McWhorter (62-64)

Dear Topeka Members,

Ray and I want to thank all of you who attended the Portland reunion and signed our letters and petitions for the 9/11 Coalition Families. They were tremendously appreciated and the coalition continues their fight to have an appropriate memorial for their lost loved ones.

Kathy and Ray Spatz

Dear Ed:

Congratulations, Kathy, on accepting the position of Editor of the Topeka Reunion newsletter. I hope you will find the task interesting, rewarding and not too frustrating. I enjoyed the job for about 12 years, but it was getting to be tiring for me. It was definitely time for someone else to take over. I sincerely hope you enjoy it as much as I did.

I will continue working with you as you get your feet on the ground, and will run any interference necessary with our printer and mail house here in Tulsa.

Congratulations again, and good luck.

Jack Connery (62-64)

2004 Dues are Due

Dues of \$15 for 2004 are due and should be mailed to Jack Timmons, 2661 Poinsettia Dr. San Diego, CA 92106-1121. Please make checks payable to the USS Topeka (CLG-8) Reunion Association, Inc.

Dues are used to pay for the printing and mailing of this newsletter, printing and mailing the annual directory of members, the costs of maintaining the web site, postage for letters and some of the "upfront" reunion expenses.

A 2004 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 five years (Saves \$15) and you will receive a new directory in January each year.

Should you want to send a little extra with your dues payment, the extra amount will be included in an annual donation to the Armed Forces Home-Gulfport (the former Naval Home) after the reunion. The address label on each newsletter will indicate whether or not you have paid your dues.

MILITARY HUMOR

Four retired Navy Master Chiefs are walking down a street in Milwaukee. Then they turn a corner and see a sign that says "Old Timer's Bar "... ALL DRINKS 10 CENTS!"

They look at each other, and then go in. The old bartender says in a voice that carries across the room, "Come on in and let me pour one for you, what'll it be, Gentlemen?"

There seems to be a fully stocked bar, so the men all ask for a martini.

In short order, the bartender serves up 4 iced martinis and says, "That'll be 10 cents each, they

can't believe their good luck. They pay the 40 cents, finish their martinis, and order another round.

Again, four excellent martinis are produced with the bartender again saying, "That's 40 more cents, please." They pay the 40 cents, but their curiosity is more than they can stand. They've each had two martinis and so far they've spent less than a dollar.

Finally one of the men couldn't stand it any longer and asks the bartender "How can you afford to serve martinis as good as these for a dime apiece?"

"Here's my story. I'm a retired tailor from Brooklyn, and I always wanted to own a bar. Last year I hit the lottery for \$25 million and decided to open this place. Every drink costs a dime, wine, liquor, beer, all the same."

"Wow. That's quite a story" says one of the men.

The four of them sipped at their martinis and couldn't help but notice three other guys at the end of the bar who didn't have a drink in front of them, and hadn't ordered anything the whole time they were there.

One man gestures at the three at the end of the bar without drinks and asks the bartender, "What's with them?"

The bartender says, "They're retired Air Force Chiefs, they're waiting for Happy Hour.

Submitted by John Keith (1959-60)

CHARLESTON FOR 2004



THE TOWN AND COUNTRY INN AND CONFERENCE CENTER

Welcome to the Town & Country Inn & Conference Center. Set just minutes away from historic downtown Charleston, our facility offers 124 handsomely appointed guestrooms, Low country cuisine at the acclaimed Trotters Restaurant and Lounge, an elaborate fitness center, two pools and even racquetball courts

ATTENTION

When you call to make your hotel reservations, it is very important that you identify yourself as a member of the USS Topeka Reunion Association. If you take an AARP rate, or a travel club (i.e., Auto Club Rate or similar), or any other discount rate our association does not get credit for your room nights. We need all our room nights to be able to guarantee items given by the hotels remain free as stipulated in the contract. That includes the free use of the Hospitality Room. Please don't increase our costs to save a few bucks on a hotel rate. The rates we have negotiated are very competitive.

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

First Class Prst.
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 Permit # 2146



NAMES AND TELEPHONE NUMBERS

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 Jerry Judge, Chairman, 68 E. Sierra Way, Chula Vista, CA 91911; 619-422-0761. Email RAJTR@cox.net

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Ship's Store
 Linda Roberts, 7315 Valley Lane, Hixson, TN 37343-2207; 423-842-5147. Email IJLRob@aol.com

SHIP'S 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 Charleston. 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

White or gray with navy trim
 Beige with black trim; sizes M,L \$28.00

Polo Shirts 2002

Beige w/pocket, sizes M, L, XL, XXL \$30.00
 Yellow, Blue w/o pocket, sizes M,L,XL,XXL \$30.00

New style Nylon Jackets

Navy/Burgundy trim; Hunter green or Royal blue, both with Navy trim \$46.00

New Jackets

Navy/Beige and Beige/Black \$35.00

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

Close out on assorted shirts \$25.00

Charleston SC 2004 Reunion Highlights

Reunion Dates: Wednesday, August 11, 2004 through Saturday, August 14, 2004, with most folks departing on Sunday, August 15, 2004. Try booking airlines early, quoted rates are high.

Hotel: The Town and Country Inn & Conference Center, 2008 Savannah Highway, Charleston, SC 29407. Sleeping Room Rates for King/Double Queen are \$82.00 Single or Double the quoted rates are quoted exclusive of prevailing local lodging tax, currently 12%. Quoted rates are offered, based on availability, to our attendees Saturday, August 07, 2004 through Saturday, August 14, 2004.

Make Your Own Hotel Reservations. Hotel Reservation **Deadline is July 15, 2004.** Please make reservations much earlier. Phone Number for Registrations: **1-800-334-6660.** Identify yourself as being a member of the USS Topeka (CLG-8) Reunion Association to receive the contracted rates. **Check-in time is 3 PM hotel time; checkout is 12-noon hotel time.** All reservations will be guaranteed with individual credit cards. Credit card number guarantee or first night's room and tax deposit (\$91.84) for all individual guest reservations. In the event of a no show, one night's room and tax will be posted to that credit card. Room rate includes free full American buffet breakfast in the Trotters Restaurant for each guest per day for the dates of the reunion only. The Town and Country Inn & Conference Center is perfectly located, minutes away from historic downtown Charleston, SC. It is 9 miles from Charleston AFB/International Airport (CHS). Drive time is 15 minutes. The hotel has 124 handsomely appointed guest rooms and suites. Low Country cuisine is available at the acclaimed Trotters Restaurant & Lounge. There is a fitness center, two pools and racquetball courts. All rooms have ironing boards & hair dryers. **Parking is free.** RV Parking is available on premises. Hookups are not available.

Airport Transportation: There is **no** Complementary Airport Shuttle and no easy public transport from the Airport to the Hotel. Taxi typical minimum is \$15 plus tips. Senior discounts are available with some cab companies, ask the driver.

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: All tours leave from the Town and Country Inn & Conference Center.

August 11, 2004-Wednesday-Tour "A" Combination Land and Sea Tour: Bus loads at Town & County Inn and **departs at 11:45 AM Sharp.** Return to the hotel at **2:45 PM.** This 3-hour tour starts with a 90-minute bus tour cruising the historic districts. Enjoy your visit as our licensed guide drives you through narrow streets lined with townhouses of colonial planters. In a relaxing atmosphere they narrate over 300 years of American history as you can see where generations of patriots lived, worked and worshipped in some of America's oldest religious buildings. Fascinating stories of the American Revolution and the War Between the State will capture your interest. Your tour includes a 5-minute stop at the Battery (harbor overlooks). Bus takes you to the boat for a trip out to Fort Sumter for a one-hour tour of the Fort where the "War of Northern Aggression" really began. There are several steps to negotiate at Fort Sumter. **Cost \$25 per person.**

Thursday, August 12, 2004-Tour "B": Middleton Place Tour (Gardens, House, Plantation Stable Yards). Bus(s) load at the Town and Country Inn and **depart at 9:00 AM Sharp.** Middleton Place is one of South Carolina's most enduring icons - a proud survivor of the American Revolution, Civil War, changing fortunes and natural disasters. First granted in 1675, only five years after the first English Colonists arrived in the Carolinas, This historic landmark has history, dramas, beauty and educational discoveries for everyone. For over two and a half centuries, these graciously landscaped gardens have enchanted visitors from all over the world. **Planned return to the hotel at 1:00 PM. Cost** including bus, licensed guide (the driver) and gate fee to site which includes grounds and teas room: **\$55 per person.** There are air-conditioned areas at this site. An additional fee of \$10 per person to get into the house is not included.

(Continues on next page)

Charleston SC 2004 Reunion Highlights (continued)

Thursday August 12 2004 – Tour “C”: Evening Harbor Cruise. Bus departs at 6:00 PM. Cruise embarks at 6:30 PM at Patriot’s Point. Underway 7:00 PM. This is a three-hour dinner cruise and harbor tour. Return to the hotel 10:30 PM. Enjoy a delicious meal as you cruise by the city’s beautiful and historic Battery homes, under the magnificent Cooper River bridges, and alongside the Port Terminals. The **Spirit of Carolina** features year around climate controlled dining salons, open observation decks, and a full service galley. Handicap-accessible restrooms are available. Experience a fabulous three course gourmet meal prepared to order onboard, tableside service, your favorite beverages, live entertainment and dancing. Menu selection will be made on board and always have Traditional Charleston She-Crab Soup and Spirit line Salad. Entrees always include choices of Grilled Beef Tenderloin, a Fresh Catch of the Day seafood selection, and a chicken dish, which might include Honey bourbon Glazed Stuffed Chicken. Sometimes the entrée choices include Sautéed Carolina Crab cakes or Low Country Shrimp and Grits. Assorted deserts not included in tour price are \$4.00. A vegetarian choice can be made available upon prior request. Dress is “Nice Casual” and High Heeled shoes are not recommended. **Cost: \$60 per person** including bus transportation to and from the embarkation point.

Friday, August 13, 2004 Tour “D” Patriots Point Tour, USS Yorktown, and Patriot’s Point Naval and Maritime Museum. – Half-Day tour. Bus loads at Town and Country Inn and departs at 9:00 AM sharp; with return **before 1:00 PM.** Patriots Point is home of USS Yorktown (CV-10) The Fighting Lady. The first USS Yorktown sank at the battle of Midway in June, 1942. Moored next to Yorktown is USS Laffey (DD-724) a WWII destroyer that survived Japanese kamikaze attacks off Okinawa on radar picket station #1 in April 1945. Also moored alongside is US Coast Guard cutter INGHAM (WHEC-35) which fought in convoy battles of the North Atlantic & sank a German U-boat. Also alongside is diesel attack boat USS CLAMAGORE (SS-343). After the ship tour, the buses can drop individuals off if they desire at 12:00 Noon at the famous Market in downtown Charleston for lunch/shopping and get back to the hotel on your own. The Bus(s) will return to the hotel by **12:45 PM. Cost \$45 per person** including admission to the USS Yorktown.

Friday Evening- August 13: No Host Cocktail Hour 6:00 PM. - (Dining Room location TBD) Buffet Dinner 7:00 PM. Featuring **Southern Fried Chicken, Beef Burgundy, Ham Steak** and Pineapple rings, Scalloped Potatoes, Rice Pilaf, String beans Almandine, buttered kernel corn, Salad with choice of dressings, rolls and butter, coffee or tea. Desserts are bread pudding and lemon cake. Hospitality Suite will be closed from 6:00 PM until after the dinner

Saturday Morning August 16: 9:00 AM Reunion Association Business Meeting. Room location will be announced. We have no members of the Board intending to retire, so current board members may/will be nominated for reelection. Presenters for the two previously proposed sites for the 2005 reunion (Midwest Reunion) and 2006 Reunion should be prepared to make a good presentation. Nominations will be accepted for the 2007 Reunion, which should be another East Coast Reunion. The 2006 reunion location was tentatively decided to be San Diego at the 2003 Portland Reunion. Hospitality Room Closed. **Board of Directors Meeting:** Held upon completion of the Business meeting to elect the President and Secretary/Treasurer and to conduct what ever 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 14: No Host Cocktail Hour 6:00 PM. Location will be announced. Banquet Dinner 7:00 PM. The dinner menu includes choices of **Prime Rib of Beef** or **Filet of Salmon** with dill sauce. There is Garden Salad with choice of dressings, Roasted New Potatoes, Vegetable of the day, Rolls/butter, Coffee/Tea. Dessert will be Pecan Pie. The wine service will include choices of Delicato Chardonnay, White Zinfandel and Cabernet Sauvignon and Merlot. The Hospitality Suite will be closed from prior to 6:00 PM until after the dinner. Please come to the 2004 Charleston, South Carolina Reunion and have a good time with our shipmates and other long-term friends.

USS TOPEKA (CLG-8) Reunion Registration Form

Charleston, South Carolina, August 10-14, 2004 (Aug 15 departure for most)

Name _____ Plank owner? _____ Number in Party _____
 Staying at the **Town and Country Inn & Conference Center** (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 Buffet Dinner, the Saturday Night Banquet, and all other fixed costs of the reunion. Reunion Fee for adults attending all four days Wednesday thru Saturday: \$110. For those not attending all four days, \$10 for Wednesday, \$10 for Thursday, \$40 for Friday, and \$55 for Saturday. Children age 2 and under free. Children (3 to 12) \$22 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: \$33 for the Friday Buffet and \$33 for the Saturday Banquet. No charge for children or teenagers unless attending the Friday Buffet or Saturday Banquet. New this year by popular demand, there are provisions from Guests for the dinners only. Adult guests are \$35 for Friday Buffet dinner and \$45 for the Saturday Dinner and Program.

Days Attending	Number Attending	Price	Cost
All Four Days	_____	\$110	_____
Not All Four Days			
Wednesday	_____	\$ 10	_____
Thursday	_____	\$ 10	_____
Friday	_____	\$ 40	_____
Saturday	_____	\$ 55	_____
Adult guest Friday @Buffet only	_____	\$ 35	_____
Adult guest Saturday @Dinner only	_____	\$ 45	_____
Children at Buffet (child's plate)	_____	\$ 22	_____
Children at Banquet (child plate)	_____	\$ 22	_____
Teenagers at Buffet	_____	\$ 33	_____
Teenagers at Banquet	_____	\$ 33	_____

Reunion Fee Total _____

Banquet Entrée Choices (Give Number(s))
 Prime Rib of Beef _____ Filet of Salmon _____ Vegetarian _____
 Child's Plate (ages 3 to 12) _____ Children Under 2 Free _____

(Continued on Reverse Side)

USS TOPEKA (CLG-8) Reunion Registration Charleston South Carolina, 2004 (continued)

Group Events:

Number

PRICE COST

August 11, 2004-Wednesday-Tour "A" -Combination Land & Sea Tour- Half day tour 11:45 AM to 2:45 PM. Bus and guide included. First a 90-minute air conditioned Bus tour of historic Charleston. A stop at the Battery. Boat trip to Fort Sumter and a one-hour tour of the Fort. Lunch is not included. Boat trip back to catch the bus and return to the hotel.

PRICE _____ \$25 _____

August 12, 2004-Thursday - Tour "B" - Middleton Place Tour- Half day tour 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM, Bus and guide included. Fee includes admission to the grounds. There are air-conditioned areas on the grounds. Lunch not included. The additional \$10 fee to get into the historic house is not included.

PRICE _____ \$55 _____

August 12, 2004-Thursday Evening - Tour "C" – Evening Harbor Dinner Cruise. Bus departs the hotel at 6:00 PM to embarkation point at Patriots Pt. Embarkation at 6:30 PM. Underway at 7:00 PM on the Spirit of Carolina for a three hour cruise around the bay and a wonderful dinner on board. The dining salon is air-conditioned. Experience a gourmet meal prepared to order on board. Disembark at 10:00 PM and bus will return you to the hotel.

PRICE _____ \$60 _____

August 13, 2004- Friday - Tour "D" – Patriot's Point and USS Yorktown Tour- Half Day tour 9:00 AM to 12:45 PM. Bus and guide included, Yorktown tour fee included. Following the tour of the ship, the bus will take us to the famous Market in downtown. An Option to have Bus drop you off to shop and have lunch, but on your own to return. Lunch is not included. The bus will continue to the hotel to arrive 12:45 PM.

PRICE _____ \$45 _____

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 South Carolina after August 3, 2004. There are deadlines that have to be met for the tours and a final payment to the Cruise line is required on August 2.

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**