

# USS TOPEKA CLG-8

## Reunion Association Newsletter

Volume 15, No. 3

November 2004

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

While in NY Mary and I had a wonderful experience, thought I would pass along to you.

We visited The Intrepid Sea-Air-Space Museum at pier 86, which is located at 12th Ave. and 46th Street. It is very easy to get to by subway. There are so many things to see you can spend the whole day there and really enjoy yourself. It is the world's largest museum. Unlike most museums, which are buildings filled with artifacts, the Intrepid is the artifact. The decks of the ship are hallowed ground where men fought and died for the ideals of this nation. This *"it happened here"* experience makes the visit an adventure through history. In addition to the carrier there is also the submarine Growler and the Concorde all for the same price of about \$7.00. On the flight deck there are over thirty aircraft that tell the story of aviation. While in the ship's hanger deck a variety of exhibits honor our heroes and give the public a glimpse of the high tech hardware being developed to defend our future. There is a nice theater on the ship that presents a documentary of the ship in action during WWII, Vietnam, and other battles and interesting action shots the ship experienced during her history. You can climb inside a flight simulator and fly a plane, get into a revolutionary submarine, and get into an A-6 intruder cockpit and follow the progress of our American astronauts as they work in space. All of this helps make Intrepid, *"not your typical museum"*

We are looking forward to going there again during our next reunion.

We hope you will all join us.

John Reynolds

### NEW MEMBERS (SINCE JUNE)

Bob Gemma RD2 (60-63) Meriden, CT  
Kenneth Buquet LCpl (61-63) Chase, MI  
Thomas E. Phillips BMSA (65-67)  
Bellmawr, NJ  
Terry Kane SN (60-61) Truth or Consequences, NM  
Eugene W. Peppard BM3 (64-66)  
Moreno Valley, CA  
Charles Thompson EM3 (63-66) Fitzgerald, GA  
Ray Gray CNY3 (65-69) Westminster, CO  
James S. McDougal BT3 (61-65) Vinita, OK  
Gary Reed YN2 (60-61) Las Vegas, NV  
Walter F. Ortmann EN2 (66-69) Belleville, IL  
Fleming Stevens MT2 (60-62) Richmond Hill, GA  
Ben Limcaoco (64-66) Virginia Beach, VA  
Wilfred Peregrino (66-69) Goose Creek, SC  
Robert Brown FTG2 (67-69) Forest Hill, MD  
Ray Adams CPL (65-67) Downers Grove, IL  
David (Blondie) Berg SN (67-68)  
Mission Viejo, CA  
Otto J. Meyers III SH3 (62-66) Savannah, GA  
Joseph M. Hale RD2 (61-63) Edna, TX  
Bruce Hotaling CS3 (67-69) Valley Stream, NY  
William Lieberg SK3 (64-66) Clovis, CA

### TAPS

RONALD KROLCKI 8/08/04

## LETTERS

Hi Kathy and Ray,

Enclosed photo of our President and Mrs. President at Charleston Airport, Sunday, August 15<sup>th</sup>, 2004 about 10:00am. Looks like both of them had too much party! Hope this one gets in the newsletter.

Thanks , Jerry Pennington



The following email was forwarded to our Webmaster. Does anyone have any information on this incident?

MR. CAREY...

I can't remember dates or location, an event happened aboard ship. A fuel line was cut loose too soon and started to whip around. It hit a crewmember and he went overboard. I was the one behind the line. Trying to find anyone who might have some information on this matter. Just happened to locate your name. Thought you might be able to help, thanks,  
Ron Lamison

## NICKNAMES OF CRUISERS

(AS LISTED IN THE U.S. CRUISER SAILORS ASSOCIATION)

USS BILOXI CL-80	Busy Bee Lucky Lady
USS BROOKLYN CL-40	Mighty B
USS CHICAGO CA-136	The Big Shot The Mighty Chi
USS HORNE CG-30	The Dirty Thirty (1)
USS LEAHY CH-16	Sweet 16
USS LOS ANGELES	The Glamour Queen of the Pacific
USS MACON CA-132	The Friendly Macon (2)
USS SAINT PAUL CA-73	Ship of the Presidents (3)
USS TOLEDO CA-133	Toodledo Maru
USS TOPEKA CLG-8	The Baka Hachi (4)
USS WORCESTER CL-144	The Big E (5) The Bloody E

- (1) Not a term of disrespect, but rather because of the long periods of time she spent at sea.
- (2) Because she never fired a shot in anger
- (3) Because nine heads of state visited on board.
- (4) So-named by the Japanese for the enthusiasm and spirit of the crews
- (5) In recognition of her many engineering "Red E" awards.



# The Chief

Here we are  
We've all come back  
We veteran folks  
From the Topeka Track

We were so young  
All of us  
The seaman from "A" school  
Fresh off the bus

When muster was called  
We had no clue  
Who was our Boss  
And would he be true

It didn't take long  
For us to find  
This man called Chief Judge  
Would treat us just fine.

There were missiles to test  
And work to be done  
And with some guidance from you  
We soon got it done

Get the job done... was all he would say  
Even when some of us... had gone astray  
Work hard and I'll back ya... we used to hear  
Month after month, year after year

Some times we just wanted  
To just jump in the water  
But Chief Judge would say...  
Let me handle Ensign McQuarter

Ensign McAffe wanted us to clean up the place  
And very soon after... you could eat off our space

Lt. Kerschner was sure he was the boss  
So for many days we thought we were lost  
But then came the light  
When Chief Judge set them right

My men of the Fifth  
Are not to be messed with  
Leave them alone and watch them shine  
Enemy be damned...no one gets left behind

Even when liberty was all on our mind  
The job came first... and we'd come to find  
Cold beer was waiting...as well as the wine

Fun was to be had  
We knew it was true  
But first the missiles  
Had to be true blue

When we took on purple  
We were all so green  
So... work together men  
And keep your esteem

This is serious stuff  
And none shall you drop  
Our 5<sup>th</sup> Division  
Will remain on top

When bitch and moan was all we could do  
He made it so clear  
The Navy comes first...  
Next... come's you

Once again, we were so young  
And we had no clue,  
Now we thank God...  
We looked up to you

You served and protected  
Not just the Navy  
But all of us  
With all of your savvy

You showed us the way  
And made us better men  
Without taking credit  
Way back then...

Though you seldom took credit  
We know the truth  
You owe it all  
To your dear wife Ruth

We've all done well, with some early guidance from  
you  
So tonight we honor... all that you do  
Early positive influence was all we wanted  
A helping hand was how it all started

This poem is coming to an end  
But what I say is true  
We men of the 5<sup>th</sup>  
Are much less without you!

God Bless You

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

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## NAMES AND TELEPHONE NUMBERS

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**Secretary-Treasurer**  
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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.

<b>Polo Shirts 2000</b>	
Grey 2M, Beige 1M	\$25.00
<b>Polo Shirts 2002</b>	
Yellow XL only, Blue XL and XXL	\$25.00
Ivory with pocket, XL only	\$25.00
<b>Polo Shirts 2003</b>	
Navy M, XXL, White/Navy M, XXL	\$26.00
Navy/Tan with pocket XL, XXL	\$26.00
<b>New style Nylon Jackets</b>	
Navy 2XL; Hunter green 1 M or Royal blue 1 L	\$35.00
<b>Micro fiber 2003 Jackets</b>	
Navy/Beige and Beige/Black	\$36.00
<b>Assorted items available</b>	
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



## HERE'S WHO CAME

Don Anderson ET2 62-64 Woodbridge, VA  
"Al" Andres FTG2 62-64 Township, PA  
Gary Baker FT2 63-65 Billings, MT  
Robert Bond DK3 62-64 Mobile, AL  
Gayne Campbell TN3 59-61 Montoursville, PA  
Dudley Cass LTJG 61-64 Bonita, CA  
Jerry Craig FTM2 66-69 Cartersville, GA  
Paul Dworznik ETR2 59-63 Parama, OH  
Donald Everitt SM3 60-63 Pittsburgh, PA  
Matt Fitzpatrick FTM3 63-65 North East, MD  
Jimmy Gapusan TM 66-69 Goose Creek, NC  
John Goodlett CYN3 63-67 Colton, CA  
Steven Hall SFFN 65-67 Toledo, OH  
Harvey Hershkowitz CYNSN 64-66 San Diego, CA  
Michael Hight RD2 60-62 Avon Park, FL  
Harold Jackson, JR BT2 63-67 Pleasantville, PA  
Terry Jones GMG3 67-69 Golden, CA  
"Jerry" Judge FTSC 63-66 Chula Vista, CA  
Max Kaster ETNSN 59-60 St. Mathews, SC  
John Keepper LTJG 61-65 Lake Bluff, IL  
John Kehoe LTJG 61-63 Wellesley, MA  
John Keith RD1 59-60 Portland, OR  
Weslie King LT 61-64 Springfield, VA  
Calvin Ladd MM3 63-66 Minnetonka, MN  
Thomas Lee GMT3 60-62 Cassopolis, MI  
Ben Limcaoco TN 64-66 Virginia Beach, VA  
Benjamin Luistor TN 64-66 Riverside, CA  
Martin Meier CSSN 67-69 Hanahan, CS  
Dan Moore GMM3 63-67 Elkhart, IN  
Loy Nix GMM1 59-66 Estill, GA  
Ken Noble RD2 59-63 Broomfield, CA  
Joe Nolan SMC 64-66 Cumming, CA  
Gary Noland FTG3 64-66 Orangevale, CA  
Larry Partiquin FT2 61-64 Barrington, NH  
Jerry Pennington RD3 63-64 Fallbrook, CA  
Wilfred Peregrino TN 66-69 Goose Creek, SC  
"Jim" James Pflieger LTJG 62-65 Helam, PA  
Robert Plake HT1 59-61 Indianapolis, IN  
Richard Ramsey GMCM 62-64 Lutz, FL  
John Reynolds FTM1 61-66 Redondo Beach, CA  
Isaac Roberts IC1 65-68 Hixson, TN  
Ronald Smart RD3 59-62 Turlock, CA  
Frank Spacek BT2 59-62 Maspeth, NY  
Raymond Spatz CS3 67-69 So. Hempstead, NY  
Jimmy Starr GS2 60-61 Topeka, KS  
Jack Timmons LTJG 64-65 San Diego, CA  
Tracy Tipton SFM2 64-67 Mason, OH  
Leonard Van Gemert ET1 63-65 Myakka City, FL  
Richard Wallace SMSN 60-63 Halifax, MA  
Dillon Wooton LTJG 61-63 Goldsboro, NC

## CHARLESTON WAS FUN FOR ALL

Max and Linda Kastor, reunion hosts, found a perfect location at the Town and Country Inn and Conference Center for the 2004 Topeka Association Reunion site. Fifty Topeka Shipmates, many joined by wives, girlfriends and family members, began arriving prior to the reunion dates to begin to share memories of events while serving on the USS Topeka (CLG-8).

The planned tours began on Wednesday with a combination land and sea tour. We visited historic Charleston districts and saw where generations of patriots lived, worked and worshipped. After a quick stop at the Battery, which overlooks the harbor, we continued the tour by boarding a boat for the trip out to Fort Sumter. Fort Sumter is where the "War of Northern Aggression" really began.

Our next tour, on Thursday, brought us to Middleton Place. Middleton Place, a carefully preserved 18<sup>th</sup> century plantation with 65 acres of America's oldest landscaped gardens. We viewed a rice field, slave chapel and the stable yards where Ray Spatz got to meet a milk cow.

Our evening harbor cruise on Thursday, was a dancing and eating frenzy for all that attended.

Friday's tour took us to Patriots Point, the USS Yorktown an aircraft carrier, the Laffey a destroyer, and the Coast Guard Cutter Ingham. All were able to board and tour these ships. These tours seem to generate many memories and stories to share among Topeka shipmates.

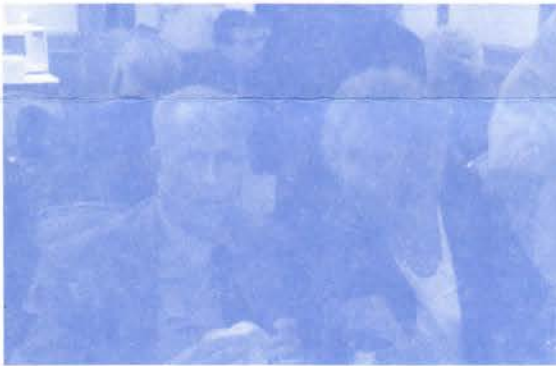
The Friday evening cocktail hour and buffet dinner was enjoyed by all that attended. We enjoyed a scrumptious buffet of southern fried chicken, beef burgundy and ham steak with all the trimmings to go with it.

The Saturday evening banquet included a tribute to Jerry Judge with a poem read by Matt Fitzsimmons. That poem, written by FTs is included in this newsletter. The evening's speaker was Jim Reece MCPO (SS) a retired USN. We all enjoyed a marvelous sit down dinner of Prime Rib or Salmon with (my favorite) pecan pie for dessert.

If not for Charlie, hurricane that is, all was a success. Unfortunately some that drove departed early, we are just glad they all came. Charleston's reunion

was a definite success and for all that attended and those not able to, we hope to see you in the Big Apple in 2005.





U.S.S. TOPEKA (CLG-8)



15<sup>th</sup> Annual Reunion  
August 11 - 14, 2004  
Town & Country Hotel  
Charleston, South Carolina



