

USS TOPEKA CLG-8

Reunion Association Newsletter

Volume 20, No. 2

June 2009

Officers:

John Reynolds, Chairman, Board of Directors; John Reynolds, President;
Dudley Cass, Secretary-Treasurer; Gary Baker 2009 Reunion Chairman;
Kathy Spatz, Newsletter Editor; Ken Noble, Web Master



FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear friends this is a very special reunion.

We are celebrating our 20th year of joining our hearts and spirits together as the USS Topeka Family. As a result of your faithfulness over the last 20 years we have gained some extra finances that the Board would like to share with you. We have also received a \$1,000 contribution from our dear shipmate Dick Ramsey, who passed away and left this in his will for us to enjoy. Because of all this we are able to make this reunion a special bargain you can't refuse. For \$70.00 you will be able to enjoy the Friday night buffet, the Saturday night banquet, an open bar for 4 days, and breakfast & lunch snacks. What a deal! Not to mention that our wonderful reunion coordinators have been able to negotiate rooms for the amazing price of only \$90.00 a night. Maybe you are not able to be at all the days, but if you can make some of the days there is a pro-rated fee for only the days you can attend. We hope you will all join us for this great 20 year reunion.

Join us also for some wonderful tours. I am especially looking forward visiting Great Lakes Naval Training Station to see if I can find the barracks that I was assigned to in Aug. of 1942. Also among some of our plans will be a visit to Cantigny Estate Tour, The Spirit of Chicago Dinner Cruise, and The City of Big Shoulders Tour. It will also be a real hoot to just shop around the loop and enjoy the friendship of the local gentry. Maybe you can find that man that danced with his wife. Well I hope I have convinced you to join us for this special time. We will have a great time, and lot's of fun.

See you there.

JR

NEW MEMBERS (since March 2009)

John Kolenda BM1 (65-67) Chesapeake, VA
Patrick Jones FTM2 (59-62) Memphis, TN
Chris D'Anna ETN3 (67-68) Park City, MT
John Richardson SK3 (63-66) Chandler, AZ

TAPS

Grady Germany SA (66-68) Riverside, CA
William Sache SF1 (60-63) Watertown, MA
A "Gus" Carella CWO (67-69) Ballston Spa, NY
Robert Farwick FA (59-63) Cincinnati, OH



ANNUAL DUES

Annual dues, for the calendar year, are \$20 or \$80 for five years. Although dues are requested, they are not mandatory. The dues, however, are used to cover expenses such as the preparation and mailing of letters, newsletter and directories, "upfront" reunion expenses, and the cost of maintaining the TOPEKA website on the internet. Dues should be sent to Dudley Cass, 3028 Bonita Woods Drive, Bonita, CA 91902-2019

DID YOU KNOW...

As noted in the March 2009 newsletter, the January 2009 version of the Topeka Directory had errors. For those who received the January 2009 version, a revised March 2009 Topeka Directory is available, on request, to Dudley Cass, Secretary/Treasurer.

CHICAGO REUNION

Hotel Room rate for Chicago Reunion reduced.

The Four Points Hotel Chicago O'Hare, "due to the rough economy", has reduced the room rates from \$110 to \$90 per night for the 2009 Topeka Reunion. When you make your reservations by calling 847-671-6000 or 800-325-3535, be certain to mention that you are with the USS Topeka Reunion Association and confirm the \$90 per night rate.

Guest Rooms

Step into total comfort in one of our 295 well-appointed guest rooms or Executive King Suite. Newly installed soundproof windows will insure your stay is as quiet as it is relaxing. Enjoy that first cup of freshly brewed coffee or tea in the serenity of your own room. All rooms also feature dual-line telephones with Internet Access available.

At Four Points by Sheraton, even the breathing is easy. As part of our focus on Simple Pleasures(SM), this hotel has smoke-free guest rooms. Giving you one less thing to worry about when you travel

WHO IS COMING TO CHICAGO

(As of the publishing of this newsletter)

Jack Timmons	Michael Hight
Daniel Johansen	Gerald Harnisch
Gary Baker	Ronald Smart
Matthew Snodgrass (guests of G. Baker)	
James Ayres	"Bill" Crum
Gary Noland	"Bud" Zimmerman

- More than 45 million people visited Chicago in 2007!
- Chicago's nicknames include: The Windy City, the city of Big Shoulders, the Second City, and The City That Works.
- The "Historic Route 66" begins in Chicago at Grant Park on Adams Street in front of the Art Institute of Chicago.
- Chicago is home to eleven Fortune 500 companies, while the rest of the metropolitan area hosts an additional 21 Fortune 500 companies.
- The first Ferris wheel made its debut in Chicago at the 1893 World's Columbian Exposition. Today, Navy Pier is home to a 15 story Ferris wheel, modeled after the original one.
- Chicago's downtown area is known as "The Loop." The nickname refers to the area encircled by the elevated ("L") train tracks.
- The game of 16" inch softball, which is played without gloves, was invented in Chicago.
- In 1900, Chicago successfully completed a massive and highly innovative engineering project – reversing the flow of the Chicago River so that it emptied into the Mississippi River instead of Lake Michigan. Each year, the Chicago River is dyed green to celebrate St. Patrick's Day.
- The Art Institute of Chicago has one of the largest and most extensive collections of Impressionist and Post-Impressionist paintings in the world.
- Chicago was one of the first and largest municipalities to require public art as part of the renovation or construction of municipal buildings, with the passage of the Percentage-for-Arts ordinance in 1978
- The Chicago Cultural Center is the first free municipal cultural center in the U.S. and home to the world's largest stained glass Tiffany dome
- When it opened in 1991, the Harold Washington Library Center, with approximately 6.5 million books, was the world's largest municipal library.
- The Lincoln Park Zoo, one of only three major free zoos in the country, is the country's oldest public zoo with an estimated annual attendance of three million.

**REDEDICATION OF THE USS TOPEKA
CLG-8 SHIPS BELL**

On May 6th, 2009 a rededication of the USS Topeka (CLG-8) ships bell was held at her new home, in Constitution Plaza at Topeka High School.

The Mayor of Topeka, was represented by the City Manager, and a mayoral proclamation was read, designating this historic and patriotic event.

In attendance were three crew members, Charles Beardsley, Robert Bond, and Jimmy Starr.

Beardsley donated the original commissioning pennant to the Marine Corp ROTC program at Topeka High School. CWO Curtis Kelly, who heads up the ROTC program, stated that this pennant will be prized and displayed and flown only on very formal military functions.

The complete ROTC cadet program attended in uniform, along with various members of the armed forces. Dr. Linda Wiley, Principal of Topeka High School, was in attendance. Dr. Wiley was very instrumental in making this dedication happen. We can all be assured, our bell will be perpetually maintained long after we are all gone.

Submitted by Robert Bond



**Charles Beardsley, Robert Bond and
Jimmy Starr**

**Active Members by State, and
Percentage of Total Active Members
(956). (Submitted by Dudley Cass)**

State	Number	% of Total
CA	194	20.29%
TX	55	5.75%
FL	53	5.54%
NY	33	3.45%
WA	33	3.45%
PA	30	3.14%
VA	30	3.14%
OH	29	3.03%
MO	28	2.93%
CO	26	2.72%
MI	25	2.62%
OR	24	2.51%
IL	22	2.30%
AZ	21	2.20%
GA	21	2.20%
SC	21	2.20%
NJ	19	1.99%
MN	18	1.88%
WI	18	1.88%
IN	17	1.78%
MA	17	1.78%
NC	17	1.78%
TN	17	1.78%
MD	15	1.57%
NV	15	1.57%
OK	15	1.57%
KS	14	1.46%
LA	12	1.26%
AR	11	1.15%
NM	10	1.05%
CT	9	0.94%
IA	9	0.94%
UT	9	0.94%
ME	8	0.84%
MS	7	0.73%
MT	7	0.73%
HI	6	0.63%
KY	6	0.63%
ID	5	0.52%
NE	5	0.52%
NH	5	0.52%
SD	4	0.42%
WY	4	0.42%
AL	3	0.31%
WV	3	0.31%
AK	2	0.21%
RI	2	0.21%
DC	1	0.10%
DE	1	0.10%
ND	0	0.00%
VT	0	0.00%
TOTAL	956	

Only states we don't have members in are Vermont, and North Dakota

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NAMES AND TELEPHONE NUMBERS

Board of Directors

John Reynolds, 916 Esplanade #107, Redondo Beach, CA
90277; 310-540-7817; Email canrc@verizon.net

Board Members: Dudley Cass, Jerry Craig, Jack Connery,
Ken Noble, Ray Spatz, Dan Moore, Jack Timmons

President

John Reynolds, 916 Esplanade #107, Redondo Beach, CA
90277; 310-540-7817; Email canrc@verizon.net

Secretary-Treasurer

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Ships Store

Linda Roberts, 7315 Valley Lane, Hixson, TN 37343-2207;
423-842-5147; Email jlrob@aol.com

SHIPS STORE

Most of the merchandise will be available in Chicago. 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

USS TOPEKA (CLG8) REUNION ASSOCIATION INC.
2009 CHICAGO REUNION HIGHLIGHTS
Reunion coordinators: Gary and Pat Baker

The great city of Chicago is welcoming us to see its many magnificent attractions. Chicago is famous for its fabulous architecture, its museums, parks, the zoo, Navy Pier and of course Soldier Field just to mention a few.

Reunion dates: Wed September 16th through Saturday September 19, 2009. Most people will plan to depart on Sunday the 20th.

Hotel: Our hotel is the beautiful newly remodeled (2008) Four Points by Sheraton. It is located at 10249 W. Irving Park Road at Mannheim Road, Schiller Park, Il. 60176 Room rates for kings, doubles and king wheel chair accessible is \$110 per night there is an 11.5 sales tax and occupancy tax added. These rates (which are a very good rate negotiated by Ruth Cass) are good Tuesday September 15th through Saturday September 19th. There is a free self parking lot for the registered guests. The hotel runs a shuttle from O'Hare airport. For those of you coming in to Midway airport, Midway is about 18 miles SW of the hotel. Cab fare runs about \$50 to \$75 one way or you can use Airport express 800-654-7871 which runs between Midway and O'Hare and then take the hotel shuttle. Check in time is 3:00 PM check out time is 12:00 PM. We have a very nice 675 sq. ft. hospitality room for our use Wednesday through Saturday evening. You will make your own reservations. The rooms will be released on August 25, 2009. To make your reservations call 847-671-6000 or 800-325-3535. Please make sure to tell them you are with the USS Topeka to insure room rates.

Reunion Schedule: We recommend that you plan to arrive on Tuesday because we have a full schedule of events Wednesday through Saturday.

Tours: Wednesday Sept 16th; Tour A - Great Lakes NTC Tour 10:00 AM - 2:30 PM. Our motor coach will pick us up at the hotel entrance at 10 AM. We will enjoy a tour of Great Lakes, an important advanced Navy training center. Many of you went through your basic training at this facility. We will see historic buildings designed by Jarvis Hunt, a noted architect who used the motif of the bow of a sailing ship in his buildings. We will be met by a representative from Great lakes on arrival and enjoy our tour and then have lunch (which is included) in the Port O'Call restaurant with its magnificent view of the lake. A photo ID is required (driver's license OK) for all passengers and a list of all participants is required by Great Lakes by September 7, 2009. Cost on this tour is \$49 per person.

Thursday Sept 17, Tour "B" Cantigny Park 10:00 AM - 3:00 PM

We will be picked up at the front entrance of the hotel at 10:00 AM for an escorted tour of Cantigny, the country estate of Colonel Robert R McCormick, former editor and publisher of the Chicago Tribune. We can tour the 35 room mansion filled with European antiques, paintings, rare books and Asian art. The house is set in manicured gardens with a rose collection, numerous formal designs and the Idea Garden. Visit the First Division Museum which portrays the history of the 1st Division, the Big Red One, of the US Army. Lunch is on your own at the Cantigny Cafe. Cost of this tour is \$35 per person.

Thursday Sept 17; Tour "C" Spirit of Chicago Dinner Cruise 5:30 PM - 11:00 PM

We will be picked up at the hotel for a drive to Navy Pier where the Spirit of Chicago is docked. We will view the incredible Chicago skyline from the large picture windows of our ship as we enjoy a fabulous dinner cruise on Lake Michigan. From the ship we will view Chicago's

magnificent skyline, voted one of the top ten most spectacular views by the Society of American Travel Writers. We will have a bountiful delicious meal of creative salads, entrees and desserts prepared fresh daily on board while enjoying engaging entertainment and lively music. The beautiful vessel which was built specifically for viewing the Chicago skyline has three enclosed decks plus an open-air deck to explore. Dress for the dinner is dressy casual - no shorts and T-shirts. Final count for this tour is due by August 10, 2009. Cost of the dinner cruise and transportation to and from Navy Pier is \$105 per person.

Friday Sept 18; Tour "D" City of Big Shoulders Tour 10:00 AM - 4:00 PM

Enjoy an interesting, fully-narrated driving tour of the City of Big Shoulders. Our certified tour guide will point out historic and significant sights. We will see some of the tallest buildings in the world and be whisked up in the fastest elevators to the observation floor of the John Hancock Building for breath-taking views of the city. We will discover why Chicago is called the windy city and why its river flows backwards. We will see its fabulous outdoor art, the Magnificent Mile and the landmark Water Tower which survived the great fire. We will hear stories of Chicago's colorful past and be surprised by the exciting, diverse beautiful city of today. We will visit Navy Pier, one of Chicago's top attractions. It was once used for shipping and naval training and even a university but now has been converted to a shopping, eating and entertainment complex. Lunch is on your own at Navy Pier with about a dozen different options to choose from including Capi's Italian, Bubba Gump Shrimp Co., Joe's BeBop Cafe and Dock Street Cafe to name a few. Cost on this tour is \$46 per person.

Friday evening, September 18th, there will be a cocktail mixer starting at 6:00 PM with dinner buffet at 7:00 PM. Dinner will be held in the Buckingham room and it will be a "Taste of Chicago" with Chicago style hotdogs, Italian beef with peppers, Maxwell Street Polish Sausage, homemade chips, coleslaw assorted cookies and brownies.

Saturday Sept.19; Reunion business meeting at 9:00 AM with group pictures directly following. The rest of the day is on your own to do whatever you wish, visit one of the museums, go to the zoo, go shopping on the magnificent mile or just visit with old friends. There will be a cocktail hour starting at 6:00 PM and dinner at 7:00 again in the Buckingham room. Dinner choices will be Prime Cut New York served with mushrooms and Au Jus, Baked Salmon Filet served with dill sauce, Chicken Marsala with mushrooms, chives and a marsala wine sauce or Pasta Primavera for our vegetarian entree. Children's plate will be either chicken fingers or mini burgers. Dinner will include a fresh fruit cup, Caesar salad, green beans almondine, double baked potato and cheesecake with strawberries for dessert. We will have nice selection of wines with dinner including a Chardonnay, White Zin, Cabernet Sauvignon and Merlot.

Hospitality Room: We will have the hospitality room open daily starting at 7:00 AM with coffee, donuts, bagels, juice, toast and fresh fruit. We will be open until midnight except during the Friday night and Saturday night doings. Alcoholic, non-alcoholic beverages, coffee, water and snacks will be provided. This will be from Wednesday through Saturday, also where we need to go for registration, the ship's store, photos, cruise books etc.

This is our 20th anniversary and should be a fun, exciting time for everyone.

If you have any questions contact Gary or Pat Baker at 1240 Lonesome Pine Lane, Billings, Mt. 59105. Phone 406-252-4546. E-mail address pbaker@bresnan.net

We hope to see you all in Chicago

USS TOPEKA (CLG-8) Reunion Association, Inc. Registration Rev. 2/25/09
20th Annual Reunion, Chicago, IL, SEPTEMBER 16-20, 2009

Name _____ Number in party _____

Staying at the Four Points Hotel Chicago O'Hare? _____
 What nights? Check: Tue ___ Wed ___ Thu ___ Fri ___ Sat ___ Sun ___ More? y/n
 Emergency Contact: Name _____ Phone (____) _____
 Any Handicap and/or Special Dietary Requirements? _____

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

20th Anniversary Special!!

This is our 20th Reunion. To commemorate this special event, the Reunion Association is taking care of the fixed costs, and Hospitality Room costs, from funds left over from previous reunions, and \$1000 contributed in the will of Richard Ramsey, who died last year. All you pay for is the Friday Buffet and the Saturday Banquet, and the tours you take. Enjoy!!

Reunion Fee: The Reunion Fee includes the costs of the Friday night Buffet Dinner, and the Saturday night Banquet. Reunion Fee (per person) for adults attending all four days: \$70. For those not attending all four days: \$5 for Wed; \$5 for Thu; \$27 for Fri; \$43 for Sat. Adult Guests/Teens/Children at Friday Buffet Dinner: \$27/27/13; at Saturday Banquet Dinner: \$43/33/16.

Days Attending	Number Attending	Price (Per Person)	Cost
<u>Members, All four days</u>	_____	\$70	\$ _____
<u>Members, Not all four days</u>			
Wednesday	_____	\$5	\$ _____
Thursday	_____	\$5	\$ _____
Friday	_____	\$27	\$ _____
Saturday	_____	\$43	\$ _____
<u>Adult Guests/Teens/Children.</u>			
Friday Buffet: Adult Guests	_____	\$27	\$ _____
Teens	_____	\$27	\$ _____
Children	_____	\$13	\$ _____
Sat Banquet Adult Guests	_____	\$43	\$ _____
Teens	_____	\$33	\$ _____
Children	_____	\$16	\$ _____
		Reunion Fee Total	\$ _____

Banquet Entrée Choices (give number)

Prime Cut New York _____ Baked Salmon Filet _____ Chicken Marsala _____
 Pasta Primavera (Vegetarian) _____
 Child's Plate: Chicken Fingers _____ or Mini Burgers _____

(CONTINUED ON REVERSE SIDE)

